University Highlights Commitment to Children, Youth, and Families

This fall the University of Minnesota announced the establishment of the All University-Community Consortium on Children, Youth and Families. Within the University, the Consortium aims to acknowledge and better coordinate the impressive pool of talent across departments and programs interested in issues touching the lives of children, youth, and families. In addition, it hopes to connect this expertise with agencies throughout Minnesota that already serve children youth, and families and to create synergy in the service of achieving their goals.

The Consortium was conceptualized by University and community leaders over the course of the last several years. Last spring, the Consortium sponsored a panel which included researchers and community representatives like FSoS faculty member Pauline Boss and Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser, among others.

On Halloween, amidst the first significant snowfall of the season (which grew into a record breaking 28" in the Twin Cities), a Kick-Off Event was held at the Bell Museum of Natural History. The event was hosted by Consortium Chair Richard Weinberg, President Nils Hasselmo, Vice-President C. Eugene Allen, and Regent Peggy Craig. Special guests were children from Twin Cities schools who were treated to face painters, pumpkin decorators, and the music of the Golden Gophers band. Helen Kivnick from the School of Social Work treated the audience to a rendition of her song, "Hurrah for the Baby of Fall," which signalled an auspicious beginning for this long-awaited enterprise.

A detailed Action Plan has been drafted by the Consortium’s Steering Committee, and was recently distributed.

Consortium continued on page 7

Dear Readers:

There’s something special about autumn. In the academic year cycle, it brings fresh beginnings and raises hopes for the new year. It also accents realities and makes us face up to “unfinished business” that requires our attention.

This newsletter highlights several efforts that build new bridges between Family Social Science and other units at the University interested in family issues. Your special attention is directed to news of the All University-Community Consortium on Children, Youth and Families, and the new interdisciplinary doctoral minor on Interpersonal Relationships Research.

Both of these efforts spring in part from a desire to do a better job with limited resources. As you may have heard, the University of Minnesota has lost a significant share of its base budget from the State ($27 million) and has also pledged to reallocate approximately $60 million from lower to higher priority activities within the University over the next five years.

Grotenvand continued on page 2
Su Heads Major Study

Dr. Susan Su, who was recently appointed associate member of the graduate faculty in Family Social Science, is continuing her research in the department. Building from an initial collaboration with Dr. Richard Needle (currently on leave at NIDA), she recently secured funding in the form of a five-year grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse for her prospective longitudinal study on Vulnerability to Drug Abuse in High Risk Youth. Dr. M. Janice Hogan, currently serving as Associate Dean of the College of Human Ecology, is Co-Principal Investigator on the project.

The project examines how family environmental risk factors (parent with a diagnosis of substance abuse disorder or major depression) contribute to the onset and course of psychoactive substance use disorders, behavioral problems, and other psychiatric conditions in the adolescents. Mediating factors, which include parental marital disruption, predisposing childhood vulnerability factors, family interaction patterns, older sibling’s substance use, peer influence, school strain, and social competence, will also be examined.

The study is recruiting participants through the St. Paul-Ramsey Medical Center. The sample consists of 606 families with at least one child who is now aged 10-13 years. Families will be assigned to one of three groups, one of which is a comparison group in which no member of the family is diagnosed with substance abuse disorder or major depression. The Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-III-R is being used for the purposes of making initial diagnosis in year one. After this initial phase, parents and their adolescent children will participate in four follow-up phases during the Summers of 1992-1995 by completing self-report survey questionnaires. The NIDA grant runs through March of 1996.

Dr. Su’s project clearly ties together issues of substance abuse and the family environment which may help us to understand more about teenage vulnerability to substance abuse. In addition to Dr. Su, five graduate students from FSoS, Connie Noyce, Beth Robbins, Mary Seabloom, Mary Sutherland, and Judy Tiesel, as well as three graduate students from Psychology, are currently working on the project team.

Summer 1992 Classes

Plans are underway for a number of special summer courses offered by the Department of Family Social Science. They include:

“Interracial Family Life”
“Medical Family Therapy”
“Marriage and Family Therapy Techniques: Trance and Hypnosis”

The Department is also offering a study tour to Thailand, Singapore, and Indonesia, June 15-July 6, 1992. The class will be led by Dr. Pauline Boss and Dr. Richard Hey, Professor Emeritus.

For further information, call the Department of Family Social Science at: (612) 625-1900.
Pertaining more directly to her work with the Extension Service, Danes is beginning a project to explore children’s financial socialization. “I think it is important to understand how children think about money, what financial knowledge, skills and values they operate with at various stages in their development.” At the recent Minnesota Council of Family Relations Meeting, she presented some of her ideas in this area and received a favorable response.

Danes has written numerous journal articles and Extension publications, and has many professional meeting presentations to her credit. She is currently involved in co-authoring a chapter in the forthcoming *Families in the U.S. and USSR on the Threshold of the Twenty-first Century* (J. Maddock and J. Hogan, Eds., Guilford Press). She serves on many task forces including the College of Human Ecology’s International Committee. In 1989, Danes received the Minnesota Agri-Women President’s Award.

**New Directions for ADCEP Program**

The Alcohol and Drug Counseling Education Program (ADCEP) offered through Family Social Science and Continuing Education and Extension is expanding to meet the growing needs of its students. This education and training program became a part of FSOS in 1985 (when it moved from the School of Public Health), and since has grown to be a multi-faceted effort drawing students from across the University together around alcohol and drug issues, individual and family health, and counseling skills.

**Dr. Philip Colgan**, formally appointed in 1991, is the new Director of ADCEP. With a BA in philosophy, his interests took him to the University of Iowa as a fellow of the National Institute of Drug Abuse. From there he came to the U of M’s Medical School in the Department of Family Practice and Community Health and the Program in Human Sexuality where he worked as a therapist. In addition, he trained helping and health care professionals. His interests in the overlap of sexuality and chemical dependency continued to develop as he taught, wrote, and lectured locally, nationally, and internationally. After receiving his PhD from Minnesota’s Counseling Psychology Program he joined the Counseling Education Program.

Students in the Program come from all over the University, from family social science and home economics education, from genetics, business and public policy. Some take the counseling program while completing their B.A.’s, while others are already professionals who wish to enrich their careers.

Students can take courses without being formally admitted to the certification program. This past year, the Program finalized a cooperative agreement with the College of Human Ecology and the College of Education to offer a professional Master’s Degree with an emphasis on alcohol and drug abuse education. This greatly expands the programs’ horizons. “We’re very pleased about this because the field is developing in such a way that people need a Master’s.” Most people choosing the M.A. or M.Ed. route will be preparing for careers in a variety of educational settings.

Another important development in the program has been its emphasis on inclusiveness. “We have recognized the need to work with diverse populations, and developed our program with this integrated into each course. It is not a separate effort,” says Colgan. He believes this will help students to address the people they will work with as individuals carrying their own set of personal, cultural, and historical characteristics.

Applications to the Counseling Education Program are taken on a rolling basis each fall and spring. Further information about the program can be obtained from Dr. Colgan, Department of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108 or by calling (612) 625-3778.
Reed Larson: Visiting Scholar

The distribution of family time and emotion are the topics being investigated by Dr. Reed Larson, a visiting scholar from the University of Illinois who is spending the 1991-92 year in the Family Social Science Department. In Larson's research, participants carry electronic pagers for a week and report their activities and emotional states when signaled by the pagers at random times.

In his prior work he has used this Experience Sampling Method (ESM) with adolescents, and the findings demonstrate, among other things, that: -teenagers experience more frequent negative emotions than do children; -teenagers have both more daily highs and lows than adults; -and the time teenagers spend alone in their bedrooms often serves an important emotional restorative function.

Whereas much of the past work using the ESM has dealt mostly with individuals, Larson has expanded the use of this method to the study of families. During this year Larson is writing a book based on data from a study in which mothers, fathers, and their adolescent children were “beeped” at the same times during the study period. Preliminary findings show striking differences between family members in the organization of their time and emotion. For example, the study indicates that, on average, fathers are happier at home, while mothers are happier away from home. Adolescent’s emotions are often affected by their parents’ emotional states, but rarely is the reverse true. By spending the year in this department, Dr. Larson hopes to understand these findings in terms of family processes and dynamics.

Larson co-authored with M. Csikszentmihalyi Being Adolescent: Conflict and Growth in the Teenage Years (1984; NY: Basic Books). Some of his other publications include:


Dr. Wesley Burr (Brigham Young University) visits with Dr. Pauline Boss, Dudley Riggs, and Dr. David Olson at the FSOS Social held during NCFR.

Gage Named Director of CENSHARE

Dr. Geraldine Gage has been named Director of CENSHARE, The Center to Study Human-Animal Relationships and Environments. The purpose of CENSHARE is to promote understanding of the role of human-animal relationships in the welfare of individuals and families through both research and education. The Center, like the Family Social Science department, is multi-disciplinary in its focus with members from social and behavioral sciences, social work, veterinary medicine, animal science, public health and nursing.

Some examples of CENSHARE’s activities may illustrate how the center operates. Research is one aspect of the center. A current project is investigating how families adjust to the death of a pet. Sara Wright, Ph.D. (FSOS '85) is in the process of year long interviewing of families to gather information on the impact of such a loss on family relationships. Sally Sibbett, MSW, is evaluating the utility of dogs as adjuncts to group therapy with children who are grieving the loss of a family member through death or divorce. Education and information sharing is another aspect of the Center’s purpose. In 1988, CENSHARE sponsored a conference on “Pets and Children” with Dr. Robert ten Bensel, professor of pediatric medicine at the University of Minnesota Medical School, presenting the Sweat Family Lecture.

CENSHARE will add a valuable new dimension to the study of family life. The study center is supported primarily by research grants and private gifts. More information about CENSHARE can be obtained through Dr. Geraldine Gage in Family Social Science.
And, They Met in Denver...

Many FSoSS faculty and graduate students attended the 1991 annual conference of the National Council on Family Relations held in Denver, November 15-20. Most students drove in department-sponsored vans to Denver, others flew. The students comprised the largest contingent of University of Minnesota students at an NCFR conference in many years.

For most of the students this was their first trip to the Conference. They had a marvelous time both personally and professionally. Many students commented on the stimulating environment and how gratifying it was to be among family scholars with whom they had been acquainted previously only through reading the family research literature.

Judy Tiesel and Beth Robbins, both PhD students, were among the nearly 20 U of M students who attended the Conference. Tiesel reflected on her experience as a "professional coming of age."

"I realized that we can do this!" she said referring to students doing research and presenting at conferences. Robbins felt similarly. She was struck by the high regard and obvious professional respect for our faculty and program held among other family scholars.

Both believe that the department is preparing them very well for future careers in research, teaching, and practice. The Conference helped confirm that for them.

The Family Social Science Department sponsored a social on Monday night with faculty, students, alumni and guests, who included Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser. Conference session presenters from the department included faculty and students. A number of University of MN Alumniocial Science Alumni, graduates of Family Social Science, were highly involved in the conference program.

New Graduate Students Welcomed

Family Social Science welcomed nine new graduate students into the department last fall. They attended an orientation sponsored by second year students, a department pot-luck luncheon feast and a session with the faculty. Mary Helsley, Dean of the College of Human Ecology, was on hand to welcome the new students.

New FSoSS graduate students are (L-R back) Jane Bennet, Peg Plumbo, Monica Fraser, Jill Frost, and Farrell Webb; (L-R front) Mary Sutherland, Nicole Ross, Lori Kaplan, and Debbie Simmons (pictured below).

Faculty and students take a break to socialize at NCFR Conference.
Student Perspectives: Undergrads Learn Research Through "Hands-on" Experience

Undergraduates in the Human Relationships Major get a great deal of their education in the classrooms and libraries. However, they gain another level of knowledge from community internships and research opportunities. This "Student Perspectives" features undergraduates who are involved in a full scale research project. They work on the "Minnesota/Texas Adoption Research Project" headed by principal investigators Dr. Hal Grotevant (Family Social Science) and Dr. Ruth Mc Roy (University of Texas at Austin). This national study is exploring issues in differing levels of openness in adoption from the perspectives of the adoptive parents, the adopted children, and the birth mothers. Gayle Hasedalen, Jean Peterson, Gene Chelberg, Lynn Marrs, Chris Morin and Ann Johnson work on the project.

Gayle is married and has two children. This is her last year as an undergraduate and she plans to go on to graduate school in the School of Social Work to pursue a career in the area of health advocacy and medical family therapy. She became involved in the project after Dr. Grotevant talked to one of her classes. Having personal interest in the area of adoption and wanting some "first hand research experience" inspired her involvement. She has been coding transcripts from birth mothers and will begin working on coding of adoptive parent interviews next quarter. She explains, "This is the time you can apply all the theories and methods that have up to now only been learned in the abstract." Her experience with the project has been personally challenging and rewarding. Hasedalen believes it prepares her better for graduate school.

Jean Peterson, an honor's senior, has many areas of interest and experience including women's issues, family planning, and domestic violence. She heard of the project through a friend and was eager to get "exposure to being on the 'inside' of a project." She is an interview coder on the project and has been focusing on issues around "fear of reclaiming, security, and goodness of fit," being pursued by the research team. She felt that her involvement in the department other than in classes was minimal, but this allowed her to get more involved. "I have had the benefit of working with faculty who are sensitive and tuned in to the educational needs of undergraduates." Jean will begin law school at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul this fall. She is interested in incorporating her knowledge of adoption issues with law, planning to focus on the legal issues around various levels of openness in adoption.

Anne Johnson is a 22 year old senior. She is also receiving honors credit for her participation in the project. Currently, Anne's focus is in the area of "boundary ambiguity." She is considering how this might affect members of the "adoptive triad" (the adopted child, adoptive parents, and birth parents.) In addition, she helps to carry out other functions of the project from writing newsletter articles to general administrative tasks. "The research experience I am gaining on the project is perhaps the most rewarding experience of my undergraduate career," says Anne "...it has helped me solidify my interest in pursuing a career which is research oriented." She plans to gain further employment and graduate school experience as she works toward a research career in the family field.

Working on a research project has been an experience with both personal and career benefits for these students. At a large institution it is easy for undergraduates to go through school without being involved in research projects. But, learning by application helps both the investigators and the students and contributes to the body of scientific knowledge on the family. Additionally, this group will have experience that they can apply to future legal, social service, and research careers.

Baby Boomlet in FSoS

The Family Social Science department has been experiencing its own baby boomlet! Congratulations to the following new parents and welcome to their new babies!

Kathy and Pat Witherow, son, Christian Lee, born November 9;
Sue Keskinen and Dennis Cornhill, son, Nicholas, born November 27;
and Diane and Dave Wulf, daughter, Karen Elizabeth, born December 8.

And, there are more on the way!

Interactions, the newsletter of the Department of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota, is published twice a year.

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Your Comments are welcome. Please direct them to:

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New Faculty Publications

In addition to teaching, lecturing, research, and practice and other professional and personal obligations, the faculty in Family Social Science have been busy publishing books. Below are titles published since 1988 and ones that are in press or near publication.


IN PRESS:


What Are You Up To?

We would like to keep in touch with your current address and activities. Please drop us a line and fill us in! If you know the address of other alumni and friends who have moved, let us know that as well.

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

Degree and year: ______________________________________

Current activities, achievement, comments: _______________________________________________________________

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Faculty News Highlights

Paul Rosenblatt was selected as one of ten senior faculty university-wide to participate in the Bush Teaching Excellence Project. The faculty group will serve as mentors to new University of Minnesota probationary faculty.

Shirley Zimmerman was recently elected for a three year term to serve on the Assembly Steering Committee of the Twin Cities Campus Assembly. In addition to this she was the featured speaker at three recent conferences addressing family policy issues.

Consortium continued from page 1 to over 400 faculty soliciting their involvement. Goals in the areas of teaching, research, outreach, and advocacy have been outlined. For example, in the area of outreach, the Consortium hopes to be the community’s “gateway” to the resources of the University of Minnesota for issues concerning children, youth, and families. In addition, the Consortium plans to work in cooperation with the Minnesota Extension Service, whose mission it is to bring the University’s research knowledge to the people of the state.

College of Human Ecology representatives on the Steering and Executive Committees are Geraldine Kearse-Brookins (School of Social Work) and Hal Grotevant (Department of Family Social Science.)
Interpersonal Relationships Research:  
New Interdisciplinary Minor

The Intercollegiate Group for Research on Interpersonal Relationships has moved another step closer to its goal of offering an inter-disciplinary minor at the doctoral level for students interested in gaining in-depth expertise on the nature and course of human relationships and their development across the life span. The Board of Regents will consider final approval of the minor at an upcoming meeting. The program will examine the broader contexts in which relationships exist (cultures, communities, and families), as well as the role relationships play in individual development. Faculty from family social science, child development, social psychology, speech-communication, management, and nursing have been involved in the formulation of the program.

Students accepted into this program take courses in several disciplines outside their major and participate in an ongoing pro-seminar series and in methodological courses developed for the program. Seminar topics offered during 1990-91 included Assessment of Parent-Child and Family Relationships, Statistical and Methodological Issues in Relationships Research, and Development of Close Relationships. A recent seminar highlighted faculty members with expertise in areas of animal behavior and cultural anthropology, whose perspectives challenged participants to keep thinking broadly about relationship issues. Both graduate students and faculty members take part in the seminars.