Values

American Indian Women Speak

In October, Michelle Gordon and Jenny James, women from the Anishinabe (“Loving People”) Indian tribe, shared their personal perspectives on living within the “dominant” culture. The women were invited by Dr. Pauline Boss who, with family therapist Michelle Gordon, is doing research with the Anishinabe tribe and other Native American families in the Duluth area on issues of caregiving for elderly with dementia. The research is sponsored by a grant from the All-University Council on Aging.

The Indian women began by performing a ceremonial burning of Sage leaves to “bless” the gathering of FSOS folk. “One cannot understand the Indian culture without talking to every Indian individually,” Jenny said. “I am only one person; we are a diverse people.” Presently, there are 500 recognized and 200 unrecognized tribes in the U.S. Michelle mentioned that “one cannot talk about [the Indian] culture without talking about losses;” (e.g., land and spirituality). Other losses have come in the form of elders becoming more and more “silent” due to their fear of being shamed, a fear they learned as young children when, for many years, they were forced to attend boarding schools miles away from their own families. As a result, these elders, who are considered as holding “the highest honor in the tribe,” have significantly decreased their passage of family stories, the language, and certain rituals on to the next generations.

Both women emphasized the importance of each person to discover his/her own ethnicity; “each of you has a base; protect who you are.” Michelle suggested that while providing therapy to an Indian family, “gently encourage them to look at themselves as Indians,” i.e., how comfortable are they as Indians within the Indian culture, as well as within the “dominant” culture.
Challenges
by Georgui Kroupin and Susan Hartman, M.A.

[Georgui Kroupin, a current FSOS graduate student, has worked as a family therapist in Moscow for seven years. Susan Hartman, a graduate of the FSOS department, is currently co-director of CONNECT/U.S.-Russia, an organization which develops programs that are mutually beneficial to both countries.

Of the FSOS faculty, Drs. Olson, Boss, Doherty, Hogan, Maddock, Detzner, Danes, and Zimmerman contributed to a book released by Guilford Publications, Inc., entitled, Families Before and After Perestroika: Russian and U.S. Perspectives. A synopsis ensues of the past and current challenges that have influenced the former Soviet Union.]

Within the former Soviet Union over the past decade, a value conflict has existed between the psychological-psychotherapeutic community and “society.” Many became psychotherapists to escape from the “state-and-party” ideology, morality, and ethics; at the time, everything connected with “The State System” was considered rigid, controlling, and suppressive. Unfortunately (though predictably enough), initial positive emphasis on such alternative values of independence, freedom of choice, and relativism in the psychotherapeutic community often resulted in an ideology of the other extreme: amorphous, chaotic, and idealistic.

One of the consequences of this conflict was that the therapist’s role as an agent of social control was either ignored or carried out separately from the legal system of social control. The effects were detrimental, increasing the burnout rate of therapists and making therapy less effective. The absence of any legal regulations, e.g., malpractice, clients’ and therapists’ rights, contributed to the absence of cooperation between these two systems.

On a more contemporary note, the critical situation in Russia has significantly affected both families and the therapeutic community. With regard to the former, children, and sometimes able workers, are forced to stay at home because factories do not provide day care. In turn, the younger population is pressured to provide income for the rest of the family, a family which sometimes includes grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, and sisters. Also, families that are in need of splitting up due to detrimental relationship patterns cannot do so because of the lack of money within families.

Unfortunately, these recent changes in the political and economic climate in Russia have also seriously affected the psychotherapeutic community. Ideology and realities of market-oriented economy have forced many to abandon individual and family therapy for the sake of a more profitable career in managerial counseling and personnel assessment.

All said, above is a good illustration of the fact that any social phenomenon, in this case psychotherapy, can be effective only if it is accepted as a necessary and significant element in that society. One would only expect then, that given the history of therapy in Russia, its integration would result in a dynamic process of conflicts and contradictions.

On an individual level, this situation brings forth the necessity for every practitioner to find a personal solution of these conflicts and contradictions in a given societal environment and at a given moment in time. To find a personal position that would be acceptable from both pragmatic and ethical points of view is a challenge for every one of us, especially for individuals and families in the former Soviet Union.

Strengthening Families

In September, Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser was the guest speaker at the Children, Youth, and Family Consortium meeting. At the start of the meeting, Mr. Fraser was given the Consortium’s Second Annual Award for Outstanding Service to Children, Youth, and Families. Fraser, who did not seek re-election after thirteen years, discussed his vision of “Phases” that could be implemented within the political and societal realms to bolster families and their access to resources within the community.

Fraser believes that families need to participate in their own care, rather than merely be recipients of services. Another belief that underlies Fraser’s programs is that a child is the product of a family is a product of a community, such that connectedness to the community, through health care and other support services, for the family is essential in nurturing each child.

"Connectedness to the community... for the family is essential in nurturing each child."

-Former Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser

Mr. Fraser also discussed the importance of families having a sense of belonging and rootedness in the community; this might be achieved by “enriching the fabric,” whereby the communities organize cultural fairs.

Fraser emphasized that it is up to us, as social scientists and deliverers of service, to awaken public officials and identify to them each family’s plight in our communities, as well as what is required to meet those needs.
Inclusiveness: To Ignore or to Accept the Challenge?

By Tim Balke

The University of Minnesota administration has recently appealed to the University community that staff, students, and faculty be inclusive of all people from different backgrounds and cultures in order to eliminate discrimination and bigotry from campus life. I maintain that inclusion of gay and lesbian individuals, as well as people of other diverse backgrounds of color, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, etc., involves looking at many issues on both individual and societal levels.

One of the difficulties surrounding inclusion of gays and lesbians into the larger community is that many people still hold onto the common belief that all people are heterosexual. Part of this dilemma is the notion that the “ideal” or most basic unit of society is a heterosexual marriage and/or a biological, traditional, or “nuclear” family, and that all other family forms, (e.g., interracial, gay, adoptive, lesbian, single-parent, dual-income), are “deviant” or “abnormal.” I assert that we must challenge this assumption. Underlying this challenge is yet another even more difficult, yet essential, challenge: confronting our own individual values surrounding our definition of “family.”

The definition that each of us holds for what characterizes a “family” is influenced by our own life experiences, philosophy of life, ethnic/cultural background, and sexual orientation. I contend that redefining “family” requires that each of us reexamine our core beliefs and values underlying that meaning. Most people would agree that attributes of a “healthy family” are support, nurturance, care, love, adaptability, and promotion of individual growth, regardless of each family member’s biological/adaptive status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, etc.

If we can agree with this definition, would it not be possible to accept and appreciate the love and care that a lesbian or gay family gives to each of its members?

Being more inclusive of gays and lesbians does not only mean changing the language in our memos, conversations, policies, and curricula. It involves, most importantly, a process whereby each of us challenges our values and assumptions in order to incorporate into our own worldview many kinds of families different from our own. If each of us does not “walk our talk,” (e.g., we change the language in our conversations and curricula but do not incorporate inclusiveness into our value system), then there appears to be some level of hypocrisy. Why is inclusion important? Tremendous economic, health, and psychological consequences result from us excluding gays and lesbians in our heterosexual definitions of “marriage” and “family.”

The Family Social Science department, recognizing the seriousness of these implications, will be offering a course entitled, “Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Families,” (FSO 5240) during Summer Session I, 1994. The course will be taught by Drs. William Goodman and Cynthia Meyer. [For more information, contact the department at 625-1900.]

I maintain that in order to include gay and lesbian people into the field of family social science, we need to integrate into our own thinking and study of relationships the realities of gay and lesbian lives and families throughout the life course. A first step in this direction is for each of us to assimilate inclusiveness and the attitude of openness into our own value system - seeking to understand, suspending judgement of, and gaining empathy for the actualities of individual lives different from our own. Only then can each of us justifiably and accurately debate, recognize, and inform the larger community of the benefits surrounding inclusion of gays, lesbians, and people of other diverse backgrounds into the definition of family.

From The Department Head

Dr. Harold Grotevant

With this new year, Family Social Science begins a two-year celebration; and we invite you -- our alumni, colleagues, students, and friends -- to join us. Why celebrate? The United Nations has identified 1994 as the International Year of the Family, and 1995 marks our 25th anniversary as an academic department at the University of Minnesota. Reason enough!

To mark our celebration, we are planning special events in concert with the Twin Cities meetings of two of our major national organizations: the American Council on Consumer Interests (in March, 1994) and the National Council on Family Relations (in November, 1994). In 1995, the Minnesota Historical Society will also present a major exhibit on Minnesota families, and several of our faculty have been highly involved in the planning.

We conduct our teaching, research, and clinical and other applied family work in the midst of a visible (and audible!) national debate about “family values.” In this issue of Interactions, editor Tim Balke highlights numerous ways in which our professional work necessarily intersects with our values. Obviously, there are no simple answers in this arena; but we are committed to furthering the dialogue. Our ability to connect our scholarship with the needs of the people and families of our state, nation, and world is the key to our mission and a prime reason for celebrating our past, present, and future. Join us!
Health Care Reform: What “Family Values” Should Underlie It?

By Marlene Stum, Ph.D., William Doherty, Ph.D., and Shirley Zimmerman, Ph.D.

According to the Consortium of Family Organizations (COFO), "...the way health care is currently financed, organized, and delivered makes it very difficult to...support and strengthen family caregiving." Thus, many health care experts are proposing that President Clinton’s Health Care Reform package be “family-centered and family-friendly.” Donna Shalala, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, states that “much greater emphasis [should be] on the prevention of illness... throughout the family life cycle.” Implicit in her discussion was the end value of family well-being, a value that within the domain of family policy is primary.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, leader of President Clinton’s health reform task force, spoke at Northrup Auditorium in September, and explicitly outlined the six core values behind the Administration’s proposed package. They are Universality, Simplicity, Choice, Cost Effectiveness, Quality, and Responsibility.

“Family values” are implied in two areas of the Clinton administration’s health care reform program - in health economic security and in-home service. More explicit family-based principles need to be articulated and applied.

The COFO Family Policy Report of Winter, 1992, a document developed in consultation with many family professionals, offered three principles of family-centered health care. These can be considered in the list of many values underlying health care reform. The report states that “Health Care Policies and Programs...”

1. **Family Support:** “...should support and strengthen, not undermine, the constructive role of families in the promotion of healthy life-styles...”

2. **Family Partnership and Empowerment:** “...need to treat family members with respect as key consultants and partners...”

3. **Family Diversity:** “...need to recognize, understand, and respect the diversity of families in order to provide effective health services.”

Americans have built their current health care system without focused regard for families. In this magic moment, we have a chance to move families closer to center stage in the policy debate. However, focusing the health care reform dialogue on the direct and indirect costs and benefits for families, not only on all other government and private sector systems, will be a major challenge for citizens and family professionals. As health care is debated, it is essential that individuals and organizations involved explicitly state the core values of their proposals, and discuss how the plans to incorporate those values will influence the experiences of families as health care consumers.

In order to influence the health care reform on behalf of the families with whom we work and live, each of us must voice our hopes and concerns to each other, especially to our legislators. The ongoing debate over what core values should underlie health care must continue in order that each family’s needs be met.

Children’s Summit

Sponsored by the Children, Youth, and Family Consortium of the U of M, The Minnesota Children’s Summit was held at Earle Brown Center on October 28, 1993. The Summit brought together “front-line” service deliverers, researchers, and leaders from around the state to discuss (in a round-table format) the importance of pre-, peri-, and postnatal care, the significance of relationships within families, and the role and relation of competence to self-esteem, resilience, and problem-solving.

FSO& faculty members, Hal Grotevant and Pauline Boss, were a part of the Relationships Roundtable panel which discussed such items as the need for nurturing fathers, redefining parent/child relationships, and increased attention to violence. Dr. Grotevant stated that we need to “widen the lens,” and look at the family/child problems as intergenerational. He also saw communities acting as “surrogate parents or grandparents,” helping families with everyday life problems. Dr. Boss stressed that what causes problems with children is conflict and violence in the family and in the community. Dr. Boss stated that “we need to let teachers, community leaders, and judges, know that violence is not okay.” The entire day’s panels were videotaped, and a 30-40 minute video will be professionally produced for use with community and university audiences. For further information, contact the Consortium office at (612) 626-1212.

(L-R): Dr. Pauline Boss, Betty Cooke, Dr. Byron Egeland, Dr. Jane Gilgan, and Dr. Harold Grotevant at the Minnesota Children’s Summit.
Outstanding!

On November 2, 1993, the Alcohol and Drug Counseling Education Program (ADCEP) was awarded the Continuing Education and Extension (CEE) Outstanding Program Award.

The criteria used to evaluate the ADCEP program were timeliness and innovation, quality, adaptability, and promotion.

With regard to timeliness, ADCEP's overall goals of providing high quality instruction in the art of counseling and interpersonal relationships in the helping professions, and educating, training, and supervising alcohol and drug counselors, are "an excellent way of responding to current societal problems and training needs for students." These needs were met by ADCEP's innovation, namely the inception of a Master's program in 1991; this program was the first of its type in the state of Minnesota.

"A rich and substantial mix of scholarly and practical knowledge combined with the experiential components."

-- ADCEP Student

One ADCEP student, speaking to the quality of the program, sees it as a "rich and substantial mix of scholarly and practical knowledge combined with the experiential components." ADCEP surpassed the requirements to be adaptable in its ability to develop alliances with related programs at the U of M, programs which will ensure its own viability and creativeness.

Promotion of the ADCEP program occurs not only in class bulletins as an adjunct program, but primarily by "word of mouth" from ADCEP students and others who have taken courses from ADCEP faculty, described by one student as "generous in nature and high minded..."

The ADCEP program has been in existence for 25 years, starting within the School of Public Health, and moving to FSoS in 1982. We congratulate all who have worked on developing and making ADCEP what it is today!

Faculty

Jean Bauer, Sheila Craig, Kay Lovett, and Pat Stumme were recipients of the 1993 National Team Award for Financial Management Programs in Cooperative Extension given by the National Association of Extension Home Economics. The Financial Management Extension Program, developed by Dr. Bauer, is currently being used by Extension Educators to assist families in gaining control of their financial situations.

Dan Detzer was selected to be a mentor for the Bush Faculty Development Program on Excellence and Diversity in Teaching. Dr. Detzer is one of ten senior faculty selected from the University community to act as a Resource Teacher in helping new junior faculty enhance their curriculum and teaching. He will also help the faculty to effectively promote cultural diversity in the classroom.

Hal Groevent was elected Co-President of the Board of Directors of Adoptive Families of America (AFA). AFA is an educational and support organization for all members of the adoption triad.

At AASECT's 25th Anniversary Banquet, Jim Maddock and Gerry Neubeck were honored for their commitment to the field of sexology.

David Olson was a recipient of the 1994 AAMFT Cumulative Contribution to Family Therapy Research Award.

Awards continued on page 8
New Faces

Graduate Students

Tim Balke received his M.A. in CSPP from Educational Psychology last spring. After being in the engineering field for eight years, Tim changed his career goals three years ago. While in FSOS, he would like to study his interests of family violence, gender roles, adoption, and families of different cultures. He is supported by his partner and friend, Sharon.

Tim Barber, who is native to Minnesota, completed his undergraduate work within FSOS. His interests are gender role issues and the study of families cross-culturally. Over the past three years, Tim has become an active member of the African Violet Society of Minnesota; you might even see him at the Minneapolis Farmer's Market.

Lynn Heitritter has previous degrees in Nursing Technology (Associate) and Child Psychology (B.S.). She has served as a foster parent, a leader of a sexual abuse support group, a co-author, a volunteer children's tutor, and a licensed parent educator. Her previous experiences have guided Lynn's desire to study families in crisis. Lynn's nursing background has motivated her to pursue issues in public health related to families such as abuse prevention. Lynn has been married for 23 years and has two daughters.

Al Holloway received both his B.A. and Master's degrees within the field of social work. Al is currently employed as a social worker by Model Cities Family Development Center. Away from school, Al spends his time with his wife, Sherry, and his sons, Rashad and Jabari. Al's attention will be focused on addressing the needs of African-American adolescents.

Julia Loupe grew up in the Twin Cities area, and is happy to be back after spending some time at the University of Iowa. Julia has an undergraduate degree from the “U” in child psychology and women's studies. She is interested in grief and loss issues, childhood terminal illness, and gender roles. In her spare time, Julia rollerblades, bikes, listens to live music, and restores old furniture.

James Montoya is originally from Hawaii. He is married to Felila Tukufu, and they have three children, Jonathan, Rachael, and Victoria. James has a B.S. in Family Science and a Master's degree in Family Resource Management from Brigham Young University. His academic interests include family economics, resource management, theory development, and family work and relationships. In his spare time, James likes to read science fiction, write, and be with his family.

Teresa (Teri) Nelsen has lived in the Midwest most of her life. She received her B.S. from Kansas State. She then moved to MN and gained her Master of Education. She will be supported throughout her Ph.D. by her husband, Chet, and their three children, Chris, Jake, and Emi. Her interests are teenage pregnancy and parenting, as well as family sexuality.

Ciloue Cheng Stewart is 100% Chinese and was born and raised in Southern Taiwan. She received her M.S. in Counseling from the Education Department here at the “U.” Soon thereafter, Ciloue started her “intercultural close encounters” with her husband of five years. Prior to coming to FSOS, Ciloue worked as a counselor for five years at a local community college. Her areas of interest are the cultural mating mechanism within society, aging, and cross-cultural issues.

Ellen van Nood was born in Italy and has lived in Brussels, but she calls the Twin Cities her home. She received a B.A. from St. Olaf. When you talk to Ellen, she may tell you about her Dutch background and her frequent trips to Holland to visit her relatives. Ellen was recently married in May to Mark; they enjoy trying new foods and being outdoors. Her academic interests are ambiguous loss, grieving, adoption, multi-cultural issues, and gender issues.

Staff

Patricia Combs was born and raised in Minnesota. She graduated in June, 1992 from the “U” with a major in accounting. She has worked at the Center for Youth Development and Research, as well as within the Agriculture and Applied Economics Department. “Patti” enjoys hiking, biking, horseback-riding, and skiing. You will find Patti in McNeal 294 working as a Senior Accountant.
Theses, Dissertations, and Prelims

Bernadine Enevoldsen, Ph.D.,
"Factors That Influence A Rural Financial Manager's Satisfaction With Current Economic Well-Being and Ability To Achieve Success and Get Ahead." Advisor: Jean Bauer.

Anna Hagemeister, M.A.,

Joan Horbal, M.A.,

Judy Tiesel, Farrell Webb, and Lori Kaplan passed their written prelims within the past year. Lori also passed her preliminary oral this past fall.

Catherine Lally, Ph.D.,

Cheryl Leavitt, M.A.,

Marjorie Schaeffer, Ph.D.,

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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: ________________________________

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Degree and year: ________________________________

Current activities, achievement, comments: ________________________________

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The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance, veteran status, or sexual orientation.
Lori Kaplan was the recipient of $450 and the Graduate Student Paper Completion Award from the All-University Consortium on Aging (AUCA).

Peter Koffron, Human Relationships senior, was awarded the President’s Leadership and Service Award during Spring Commencement, 1993.

“Overview of the Literature of Pre-Retirement Planning for Women,” written by Marcie Parker and Christopher L. Hayes, was recently published in Women and Aging, volume 4(4), 1993, pp. 1-19.

Following a national search, Karen Schmid was appointed Assistant Dean, College of Social Sciences at St. Cloud State University.

Farrell Webb received the McFarland Assistantship for the 1993-94 school year.