Two new faculty members are onboard

We are pleased to announce the appointment of two faculty members:

Wayne Caron, Ph.D., Lecturer, whose scholarly interests include aging families, gerontology, and families dealing with Alzheimer’s disease.

Peter Dimock, MSW, Assistant Continuing Education Specialist, whose interests are alcohol and drug counseling, sexual abuse, men’s sexuality, and marriage and family systems.

Wayne Caron, Ph.D.

Dr. Wayne Caron is no stranger to the University, having walked these halls for more than 20 years. All of his degrees - a Ph.D. (1991) and an M.A. (1986) in Family Social Science and a B.A. (1982) in Psychology - were earned here.

Prior to joining the department this fall as Lecturer, he held a variety of teaching, research and clinical positions. For the last seven years, Caron served on the clinical faculty at the University of Minnesota, Medical School, Geriatrics Division. He also taught family therapy and family science courses at St. Mary’s University and the University of St. Thomas.

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Peter Dimock, MSW

Peter Dimock brings many years of experience as a therapist to his new responsibilities as teacher and clinical supervisor in the Alcohol and Drug Counseling Education Program. He is a licensed independent clinical social worker and has maintained a private practice the last 10 years. His specialty is working with individuals, couples, and families on issues related to post traumatic stress, addictive and compulsive behaviors, and sexuality concerns. In recent years, Dimock started to direct more energy toward teaching. He taught courses in ethics and cultural diversity as an adjunct faculty member at Concordia University. In addition, he provided training and consulting services to organizations, helping them to develop ‘diversity friendly’ team oriented work environments. He served as director of the Rape and Sexual Abuse Center in Minneapolis from 1989 to 1991, and he was a counselor at Pilot City Mental Health Center from 1976 to 1989, providing services to an economically disadvantaged, culturally diverse clinical population.

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Sharon Danes receives distinguished extension faculty award

Dr. Sharon Danes received the Dean and Director’s Award to Distinguished Extension Faculty at the recent Minnesota Extension Service annual conference. This award was established in 1982 under the leadership of Norman A. Brown, Dean and Director (1980-1984), to recognize excellence in performing the work of Extension. It carries a stipend of $1,000.

Danes got high praise from her colleague Dr. Kathy Rettig, who said she deserved this recognition “because of the importance and the quality of the projects that she has developed, and the local, national, and international reputation that she has established.”

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Caron Continued from page 1

Caron has worked as a family counselor with Hennepin County Family Court Services on cases involving child custody litigation and domestic abuse. He also served as project director on Dr. Pauline Boss’ five-year study of families and Alzheimer’s disease.

He is currently teaching courses on aging families and society and on family issues across the lifespan. In Caron’s view, the aging of U.S. society brings many “issues and opportunities for family life,” and he is committed to helping students acquire both “scholarly knowledge” and “practical tools for responding to the issues of aging in our everyday lives.”

Caron’s research interests are to study the effects of chronic illness on the elderly and family relations and to examine how families cope with caregiving tasks. His recent publications are oriented to developing a systemic approach to nursing home care, working therapeutically with persons who have Alzheimer’s disease, and assessing and treating behavior problems in dementia.

Dimock Continued from page 1


He is currently teaching courses on chemical dependency and the family, ethics in counseling practice, and clinical supervision. Dimock’s style is to create a classroom climate that encourages everyone to participate, he said, so that learning can be “relevant, challenging, and fun.”

Dimock’s research and clinical interests range from the effectiveness of various types of marriage and family therapy on relapse prevention to the impact of Web-based learning technologies on the teacher-student relationship. His recent publications include the article “Male Victims of Sexual Abuse: Characteristics and Implications for Treatment” in the Journal of Interpersonal Vio-

Danes Continued from page 1

One measure of quality is her success competing for funding. “The educational and research grants that she receives speak volumes!” exclaimed Dr. Jan Hogan, department head. Another is the popularity of her Minnesota Extension publications. They are used not only here but also throughout the country.

Danes research translates well into practical tools and programs. For Minnesota farm families, she documented the involvement of farm women in business decisions and the extent to which their off-farm employment is used to cover farm business expenses. “A key finding was the high level of personal isolation experienced by these farm women,” Rettig said. “About 45 copies of the video ‘Who nurtures the nurturer?’ have been sold to professionals, and more than 3,000 copies of the findings summary were distributed.” Danes also collaborated with Extension Educators to publish “Managing our family future,” which addresses decision making in transferring family businesses onto the next generation. Other publications include:

* a curriculum on divorce education, with fact sheets to collect information to ensure children’s financial security;
* training materials for families adjusting to a sudden loss of income; and
* publications instructing parents on ways to teach their children about financial issues.

Several of Danes’ publications can be downloaded from the FSSS website at: <http://fsos.che.umn.edu/outreach/>.

From the Department Head

Dear Friends:

This year promises to be full of news! We are very pleased to have a new position for a faculty member to focus on rural families and communities. The state legislators recognized the issues facing citizens in rural Minnesota and allocated special funds for faculty to address them. This new faculty member will add to the research agenda of Sharon Danes, Paul Rosenblatt, Jean Bauer, and other faculty whose research is about the well being of rural families.

We are honored to have Bill Doherty serve as President of the National Council on Family Relations. And to have Mindy Nakamota, our graduate student, serve as the chair of NCFR’s Focus Group on Sexuality! Our professors are active participants in other organizations, especially the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education, American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, and the American Gerontol-
ogy Association. Since national professional organizations play a major role in the certification or accreditation for our programs, students, and alumni, it is critical that faculty are engaged in their agenda.

We are launching a new series of professional development workshops in June. Our faculty will teach half-day sessions for professionals – Extension educators, social workers, family life educators, therapists, and public health nurses. These noncredit offerings are being planned with the outreach staff of the College of Human Ecology and University College. I would welcome your ideas for professional development options. Happy 1999!

Sincerely,

Jan Hogan

A new cohort of graduate students has landed

Nine new students entered the graduate program this fall. We extend a warm welcome to each one of them.

John Beaton

John and his wife Anna Marie recently moved to Minnesota from Guelph, Ontario. He has a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Guelph. His thesis focused on intergenerational conflict between grandparents and adult children. He is currently assisting Bill Doherty with research on spirituality, community, and therapy, and he has a clinical placement with Noel Larson to focus on developing his skills as a couples therapist.

Jason Carroll

Jason earned a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Brigham Young University. He and his wife Stefani are from Salt Lake City. Married for five years, they have two sons: Garret, age 3, and Austin, age 1.

Barbara Couden

Barbara, a former University instructor from California, is an experienced nurse, therapist, and teacher. She is a "Resolve Through Sharing" counselor for women who have experienced perinatal loss and an "Exceptional Cancer Patient Group" facilitator for persons diagnosed with terminal cancer. She is currently training with Gestalt Associates of Los Angeles through video teleconferencing. Her research interests include social awareness processes of religious families on issues related to domestic violence and child abuse. Barbara feels "most alive" when cooking and singing along with Puccini's La Boheme'.

Nita Fitzgerald

Nita attended the University of Wisconsin-Stout where she earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. She has been working as an in-home family therapist for the past five years. Nita is "keenly interested in becoming proficient at family research." She would like to focus on the study of clinically useful program evaluation tools and processes, the role of religion and spirituality in families, education and training programs for human service professionals, and goodness of fit processes in adoption matches. On weekends, Nita retreats to her home in rural Wisconsin to be with her supportive husband Tim.

HeeKyung Kwon

HeeKyung has bachelor's and masters degrees from Seoul National University. In Korea, she was a lecturer at Ulsan University and taught courses on families and society and family therapy. She also worked as a counselor for adolescents and families at a community social welfare center. HeeKyung became a Rotary Foundation Scholar this past year. Currently she is working with Virginia Zuerker. She plans to concentrate on family policy and family theories. She said: "I am so happy to be here, to have rich opportunities to be acquainted with a new culture, new people, and new challenges."

Christi McGeorge

Christi has a masters degree from Colorado State in Human Development and Family Studies with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy. Her thesis was an evaluation study of a premartial counseling program that she had implemented. She grew up near Phoenix and attended the University of Arizona in Tucson, earning a bachelors degree in Family Studies with a minor in Psychology. She also completed a two-year internship as a family therapist. Her research interests include feminist thinking, child abuse prevention, premarital counseling, and play
therapy. She is currently working with Pauline Boss, and she hopes to do more program evaluation research. Christi enjoys hiking, running races, and taking photographs.

Tai J. Mendenhall

Tai got his bachelor’s degree here at FSoS, then went on to earn a masters degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Kansas State University. He gained experience as a family therapist at KSU’s on-site clinic, at a domestic violence shelter, and with an in-home therapy provider. He is working at Family & Children’s Service and at Ramsey County Family Physicians clinic. Tai is a research assistant for Hal Groetvant. His interests include medical family therapy and collaborative health care, child sexual abuse, adoptive family issues, and long distance relationships. His birthplace is New Zealand, and in the native language “Tai” means “the ocean when it is peaceful and calm.”

Sharon Powell

Sharon moved to the Twin Cities a year ago from Nashville. With a bachelors degree in Sociology and a M.Ed. degree in Human Development Counseling, she spent the last four years dividing her time as a mental health counselor and a qualitative researcher. Sharon’s academic and research interests include family stress and children’s coping, family impact on child development, family poverty, and human ecology theory. When she is not reading her class assignments, Sharon enjoys shopping at garage sales, reading historical fiction and mysteries, trying out different ethnic food recipes, and playing Ultimate Frisbee with her husband Patrick.

Patricia Schaber

Patricia is currently a faculty member at the U of M Program in Occupational Therapy. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Occupational Therapy from the U of M and a masters degree in Pastoral Studies from the University of St. Thomas. Being a student and teacher, she finds it “stimulating to be on both ends of the classroom,” Patricia worked in the area of geriatrics for 13 years and hopes to continue her research on family involvement with institutionalized elderly persons. Her oldest daughter started college this fall. She also has two teenagers and a younger son. “Life has never had a dull moment,” she said.

Education online: Learning is enhanced with Web based materials

by Ed Kouneski

“To leave some kind of legacy, a lasting impression, and to build some momentum for a stronger, more visible course.” This is what Dr. David Olson had in mind when he decided to put FSoS 5200: Family Systems online this year. Olson has accelerated our progress toward online instruction.

“This is where the future is,” he said, “and if we don’t do this, who will?”

He has surely stepped out ahead of most University faculty in using Web based technology to enhance learning, and those who have worked with him on this project see no turning back.

Kevin Doll and Wendy Whelihan, the graduate student teaching assistants, are committed to using it. “Now that I see how the technology can work, I know I will incorporate it into my teaching,” Doll said. Whelihan added: “If I were teaching a course for the first time, I wouldn’t offer it on the Web, because my time would need to go into getting the content well organized for student learning. But the second time I taught the course, yes, I’d put it online.”

Olson knew that transferring course material to the Web would take more than a click, so he assembled this team last spring to get the course ready for the Fall quarter 1998. They learned much through this process and are eager to share what they have done. Of critical importance, they discovered, is making sure all of the technology is in place and working well, so that everything runs as smoothly as possible.

Olson advises instructors not to be intimidated, and to expect some mishaps in the beginning. “You have to see this as a process,” Olson said. “The first time you do it is not going to be perfect. It has to evolve, so keep tweaking it.” He doubts that you could ever stop finding ways to make a website easier to navigate through, or to expand its functions.

To view the course website from your own browser, go to: <http://courses.che.umn.edu/98so5200-1f/Default.html>. Once there, you can:

* Click and see the course syllabus, a list of assignments, the weekly calendar, and information on how to reach the instructor and TAs.
* Get research and writing tips and search databases for articles from Libraries Online.
Preparing to teach an online class takes a team to make it happen. Doctoral students Kevin Dell and Wendy Whelihan with Dr. David Olson and the computer.

- Go to a relationship resources page with links to some popular marriage and family sites.
- Take a sample exam, which tests your knowledge but also gives students practice with the technology. The exam is timed, scores are automatically calculated, and mistakes are displayed with the correct answer.
- Participate in a chat session by posting a message in response to questions raised by the instructor or comments made by other students.
- And finally, view all of the course lecture notes and slides.

What the students say

To get a reading on the effectiveness of this course and its use of the Web, an opinion survey was administered at midterm. Forty-three students responded. The table below highlights the features most liked, problems encountered, and improvements suggested.

Students most liked the opportunity to review the instructor's lecture notes and other course related materials. They also appreciated having ready access to grades. They gave a “thumbs up” to resources such as the online library, which guided them on how to research and write papers, and the chat room, which enabled them to interact with each other outside of the classroom. The sample exams were also well liked.

Features Most Liked:
- Availability of the lecture notes
- Access to grades
- Resources such as the library online and the chat room
- Sample exams
- Thorough information
- Easy to use
- Can hook up at home
- Good graphics

Problems Encountered:
- Accessing the site
- Confusing chat room layout
- Slow posting of grades and lectures

Improvements Suggested:
- Links to more resources
- Additional sample exams
- Introductory training sessions

On the down side, students reported problems accessing the website via modem, and the chat room got mixed reviews. Some found the chat room too “confusing” to figure out, and they had difficulty following the discussion threads. Some also complained that the lecture notes and grades were not posted as promptly as they would have liked.

Features they suggested would most improve the course website include more resource links to related sites and additional sample exams. Another suggestion was to offer training sessions at the start of the course, to more quickly build student confidence.

Easy to learn and a good idea

The ease with which students can learn to use the technology is one of the most important factors for instructors to consider before offering a Web based course. Here, student opinion was favorable, overall.

More than half (53%) of the class rated the course website as “easy” or “very easy” to learn to use, and more than a third (35%) found it “not too difficult.” Only 12 percent said it was “somewhat hard.”

Moreover, the class overwhelmingly supported the idea of investing more resources in Web based instruction. The vast majority (86%) of the students surveyed either “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that it would be a good idea to continue developing Web based courses.

Overall, students enjoyed the features of the website when the technology worked smoothly. It became frustrating for everyone, Olson said, when the server or the software programs malfunctioned.

It took much more work to develop the website and teach the course than Olson originally thought, although he believes that it was worth the effort. “The good news is the site gets better every week,” he said.

My impressions

I observed Olson's class several weeks before the midterm, and I was struck by the quality of the dialogue between the students and the instructor. Students knew the material well and were applying it with some sophistication. They were actively engaged with the content of the course, more so than they might have been in a traditional classroom lecture setting.

Olson noticed this too, but did not seem ready to attribute it to use of the Web. This would be difficult to prove, however, based on the survey we do
know that students liked this learning experience and want more of it.

So, if you are an instructor who dares to venture here: Make sure you get the support you need to keep your website tuned up and running smoothly. You may then find that the distance you and your students can travel is immeasurable.

The field;
• the importance of goal setting in the development of a financial management plan, understanding the influence of one’s sociocultural context and family of origin;
• the methods used to evaluate and recommend financial strategies to reach one’s goals throughout the family life cycle; and
• the communications and active listening skills required to be effective in counseling families.

FSDoS 5240: Family Financial Counseling is being offered Spring quarter 1999. For more information, call Virginia Zuiker, 625-4225, or send email to: vzuiker@che2.che.umn.edu.

Virginia Solis Zuiker

New course on family financial counseling

Dr. Virginia Zuiker has developed a new course on family financial counseling that will help students qualify to become accredited financial counselors.

The FSDoS program now meets the instructional standards of The Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education. Students who take both “Family Financial Management” and the new “Family Financial Counseling” course will be prepared to sit for the Accredited Financial Counselor (AFC) examination.

Piloted by Zuiker during Summer session 1998, the new financial counseling course focuses on the role of the financial counselor and examines how families cope with financial concerns in their daily lives. It also explains differences between financial counselors and financial planners and the types of community agencies and organizations that provide resources to people in need.

Course objectives are to learn:
• the basic terms and concepts of

It’s great to be home! All of my family – parents, siblings and spouses, nieces and nephews – live here so our daughter Emily, 11, will have a chance to connect and develop a history with them. It was much more difficult to do this from a distance. We were sad to leave Auburn, saying goodbye to wonderful friends, great working environments, and community roots that went deeper than we realized. But transitions bring opportunity, and we will all grow through this experience. Meanwhile, we are in our new home. Emily is doing well now in the 5th grade. My husband Moon is working in the soil testing lab on the St. Paul campus, and I’m enjoying my new role in the College of Human Ecology.

What were some of the highlights of your life (both personally and professionally) in the years since earning your Ph.D. in Family Social Science?

Professionally, I thoroughly enjoyed my teaching, research, advising, and extension responsibilities at Auburn. I feel most fortunate to have landed in a department that fully supported its junior faculty. It provided opportunities to collaborate with senior faculty on research and generally cared about colleagues’ successes. So, receiving a positive vote on tenure and promotion by respected peers was definitely a highlight. In addition, I was allowed to pursue my passion for international work and gave leadership to international efforts in the School of Human Sciences at Auburn. We instituted a 30-credit International Minor. It was wonderful to move these ideas forward and have them received positively by both students and faculty. I was also fortunate to receive the school’s undergraduate teaching award as well as a campus-wide teaching award given by the Auburn Alumni Association.

Personally, a highlight is my family, which includes my supportive spouse and wonderful daughter, who delights us a: each stage of her growth and development. Also, I consider my current state of good health a gift each and every day.

Tell us about the transition into your new role

Catherine Solheim

Welcome back Solheim

After nearly a decade, Catherine Solheim (Ph.D. 1990) has returned home to McNeal Hall. She accepted the position of Associate Dean for Extension with the Office of Outreach, College of Human Ecology, effective August 1998. Solheim had been Associate Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and Coordinator of International Programs in the School of Human Sciences at Auburn University.

We were curious to know more about her academic and family life, so we asked a few questions. Here is what she had to say.

What is it like for you and your family to be back in Minnesota?
Some days I learn so much and meet so many new people that my head "sours! And I’ve been mornousg the loss of autonomy and flexibility I had as a faculty member. But I’m enjoying the "big picture" thinking that goes with this job, and I’m energized by working with campus and field faculty to develop ideas and garner support for the Extension/outreach mission of the College.

Looking back, what would you say have been the most significant influences on you and your career?

Living and working in Thailand for two years and subsequently living and negotiating a Thai-Norwegian family journey has influenced me tremendously. It pushed me to examine my own culture and view things from as many different perspectives as I can get my head around. It heightened my awareness of social justice issues after comparing resource use here and there. And it helped me modify my cultural identity to incorporate some wonderful aspects of a culture so different from my own.

If you could tell others now planning careers in family social science the most important things for them to do, what would that be?

I’d urge everyone to take advantage of opportunities to experience life outside of one’s comfort zone. Being able to read culture and respect multiple perspectives is a critical component of what we do in family social science. International travel is wonderful but a cross-cultural experience can also occur in other ways and other places. Keep in mind that it’s an ongoing process—every time I think I might have gotten it, something hits me right in the face and I have to begin the work again. But that’s what makes life, and our work, so much fun!

FSoS news

Faculty awards and honors

Jean Bauer and colleagues from General College received $236,821 from the U.S. Department of Education for “Preserving the Role of Traditional Post-secondary Education in Welfare Reform.”

Jean Bauer, Sharon Danes, and Kathryn Rettig, along with other members of their team, were recipients of the University of Minnesota Extension Service’s Dean and Director’s Distinguished Team Award for their work with the Parents Forever Design Team - programming to assist divorcing parents to create a more positive environment for their children’s adjustment.

Philip Colgan was named Vice President on the Board of Directors of the International Coalition of Addiction Studies Educators.

Janet Macy was recognized for 40 years and Jean Bauer for 25 years of service in the U.S. Government.

Paul Rosenblatt and Dan Detzner were both invited to join the newly established Academy of Distinguished Teachers for a five-year term. The Academy is comprised of former winners of the Morse-Alumni Award.

Marlene Stum and the “Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate” team received the Harland Copeland Award for Excellence in Programming at the Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education (MACAE) annual meeting.

Shirley Zimmerman was awarded the 1998-99 Helen LeBaron Hilton Chair in Family Policy, College of Family and Consumer Sciences, Iowa State University.

Graduate student accomplishments

Amy Essau passed her Preliminary Oral in October 1998; Lynn Heitritter passed her written preliminary exams in September 1998.

Athea Dixon moderated a panel discussion on multiracial families and served on the planning committee for the national conference “Colorlines in the 21st Century: Multiracialism in a Racially Divided World,” sponsored by Roosevelt University in Chicago.

Monica Frazer successfully defended her masters thesis, entitled “Examining the Experiences of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.” (Faculty Advisor: Marlene Stum)

Cathie Huddleston-Casas, Julie Kohler, and Manfred van Dullen received the Neubeck Award for travel to present papers at the recent annual conference of the National Council on Family Relations.

Beth Maddock Magistad received a supplemental fellowship for doctoral dissertation fellows.

Alumni career advancement

Manijeh Daneshpour (Ph.D., 1996) is a faculty member at St. Cloud State University and director of a new Marriage and Family Therapy Program.

Lori Kaplan (Ph.D., 1994) is Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurological Sciences at the Rush Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at Rush Hospital/University in downtown Chicago.

Gretchen Stein (Ph.D., 1985), serving as United Way President, was recently acknowledged as one of the many community volunteers helping to raise and distribute funds for the St. Croix Area United Way in Minnesota.

Judith Urich (Ph.D., 1986) was honored by the Arkansas Senate for her nine years of volunteer public service. The citation said that her “tireless efforts were instrumental in making welfare reform a reality long before it became a political issue.”

In remembrance

Gail Dorothy Peterson (M.A., 1974; Ph.D., 1976) died of cancer in her home on July 30, 1998. Gail was in private practice as a psychologist with an office in Lost and Found Ministry in Moorhead. She also served as a psychologist with Lutheran Social Services in Minnesota and in North Dakota. Memorial services were held at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo where it was noted that Gail’s “counseling practice was based on a gospel of love and inclusion.”
INTERACTIONS is published twice a year by the Department of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota. It is distributed to alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the department. We welcome comments and news items, which you can send to Roberta Daigle, Family Social Science, 290 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108, or call 612/625-1900, fax to 612/625-4227, or email at rdaigle@che2.che.umn.edu.

Edward F. Kouneski, Editor
M. Janice Hogan, Department Head
Roberta Daigle, Coordinator and Layout Designer

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Tour FSoS the World Wide Web

The Web page of the Department of Family Social Science is updated regularly, so keep checking back with us for new features. We recently added:

- Information on alumni
- Resources for exploring career options
- Current news and events in the department and on campus
- Upcoming conferences and brown bag seminars
- New publications by faculty
- Course listings and syllabi
- Outreach-Extension educational materials and research summaries
- Links to U of M news service, libraries, computer technology support, and much more

So, go to <http://fso.s.che.umn.edu/> and explore!

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