Grotevant Earns Award

Dr. Hal Grotevant, FSOS, is one of eight University faculty chosen to receive this year’s Award for Outstanding Contributions to Postbaccalaureate, Graduate and Professional Education. The prestigious award was presented at a ceremony on April 24 at the McNamara Alumni Center-U of M Gateway and results in his induction into the

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University’s Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

In the last three years alone, Dr. Grotevant has been the major advisor for nine graduate students and served as examining committee member for 27 graduate students in other departments at this and other universities. A keen observer, he quickly identifies preferred styles of learning and adapts his approach for the benefit of students. Dr. Grotevant is lauded by students and alumni for his dedication to the personal and professional best interests of his students. One such student writes, “If I had to give a grade to my graduate school experience, I would give it an A+. Hal would be the ‘+’ in the grade.” In three years he has authored 14 juried journal articles, served on the editorial boards for six journals and is the Director of Graduate Studies in Family Social Science. He is nationally recognized expert on adoption practices, adoptive families, and adopted children through externally funded research. Dr. Grotevant’s creative use of technology in course development is seen through course listservs and web pages for all his classes.

Faculty Profile: Kathryn Rettig

“I treat students as capable people, expect them to learn to think critically and to produce good quality work. It can be uncomfortable for people to continuously stretch their minds in that way but it’s exciting to see them meet those expectations!” Dr. Rettig reflects on 16 years teaching in the Department of Family Social Science where she has taught courses on such topics as family economics, decision-making, and values research and theory. “I am constantly learning and growing in my work with graduate students,” she states. Indeed, the lengthy list of articles, book chapters and professional presentations with students listed on her curriculum vitae is evidence that Dr. Rettig enjoys mentoring students.

Dr. Rettig describes her approach to both teaching and learning as integrative, in keeping with the multidisciplinary nature of her early education in home economics. Diversity is reflected in her previous work, which includes experience as a social worker, researcher, and parent education director. Her ability to broaden the thinking of students is visible in her Integrative Research course as Ph.D. students are assisted in clarifying their dissertation approaches and widening the range of options for research methods and writing.

In the last ten years Dr. Rettig has been a principal investigator of funded research projects regarding the economic consequences of divorce on women and children. She has testified in the State Legislature about direct and indirect costs involved in child rearing in addition to training attorneys and writing about gender equity in divorce proceedings. She is presently collecting data from 1999 di-
Rettig continued from page 1

vorce decrees in Minnesota in which minor children were involved, to determine income adequacy for men, women and children.

Dr. Rettig has also written with Dr. Ronit Leichter about end of life issues. Her course, Legal-Economic Controversies in Family Life, assists students to think critically about such ethical dilemmas as human cloning, surrogate birth rights, race matching in adoption, and euthanasia. "If we can become oriented toward education and prevention in teaching families about economics, decisions, and ethical issues, they can be empowered to think about their lives in a way that is satisfying."

Olson Scholarship Fund
The newly established Olson Family Social Science Fellowship Fund honors Dr. David Olson's career in family social science and marriage and family therapy and will be used to support a doctoral dissertation fellowship.

Contributions can be sent to the University of Minnesota Foundation, CM 3854, PO Box 7870, St. Paul, MN 55101-3854.

We thank the following contributors:
- Dr. Mary Jo Czaplewski
- Roberta Daigle
- Dr. Leni de Mik
- Dr. Deborah L. Fravel
- Dr. Mary E. Heitsley
- Dr. Richard N. & Miriam J. Hey
- Dr. Patricia A. Johnson
- Dr. Ramona Marotz-Baden
- Drs. Jack & Marty Rossmann
- Dr. Joyce & Ben Schultenover
- Dr. Gall A. Thoen
- Dr. Judy D. Tiesel

Olson symposium—participants came from Israel, Australia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Montana, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, and many other parts of the country. It was a smashing celebration of David's career by about 150 participants. Please check out our website to see photos and read abstracts from the event [http://fsos.che.umn.edu].

The day after the Olson event, April 8, we hosted the College of Human Ecology Centennial Celebration—another reunion of alumni and friends. It was exciting to talk with our first graduates of the doctoral program and to see them honored as distinguished alumni: Bob Staples (1971) from California and Australia, Ramona Marotz-Baden (1970) from Montana, June Henton (1970) from Alabama, and Diane Kieren (1969) from Alberta, Canada.

In September, we will honor the career of Professor Shirley Zimmerman. We hope you will join us for the event or will send a message to her [zimmerman@che.umn.edu].

The National Council on Family Relations is meeting in Minneapolis in November. This will give us an opportunity to meet colleagues and to invite you back to campus to meet the faculty and students.

Please feel free to call or write any ideas you have for our programs. We welcome feedback from you to strengthen our curriculum, student success, research agenda, and outreach.

Cheers,

Jan Hogan
New Books by Faculty

Parent Grief
Narratives of Loss and Relationship
Paul C. Rosenblatt


Family Social Science faculty have recently written two new books. *Parent Grief: Narratives of Loss and Relationship* by Paul Rosenblatt is a scholarly look at the process and sequelae of parent grief after the death of a child. This book grew out of his own life experience, his experience as a research consultant at the Minneapolis Children's Medical Center (now Children's Hospital, Minneapolis) his previous research on grief and loss, and what he has learned from his students. This is the study of 29 couples ranging in age from 33 to 68 years of age whose child(ren) have died from such causes as SIDS, stillbirth, home, farm, or motor vehicle accidents, congenital defects or chronic illness such as cancer and leukemia. Narrative analysis was used to study how parents struggle to find words for their experiences of loss and grief.

Rather than a depressing experience to hear and analyze so many stories of death and loss, Dr. Rosenblatt describes the process of data collection and writing as something which was “spiritually alive and exciting, to feel life in these people and meaningfulness of what they're doing now.”

A companion book, *Help Your Marriage Survive the Death of a Child* (in press, Temple University Press) is written for the general public and provides both insight and suggestions for ways that couples can cope with this difficult but all too common circumstance.

*Take Back Your Kids*, by Dr. Bill Doherty was born during a lecture following the publication of his book, *The Intentional Family* (1997, Avon Books). In describing how busy parents have become shuttling their children to sports events, music lessons and social gatherings in lieu of family time together, he suddenly stated, “We are starting to see our children merely as consumers of parental services, and parents as parental service providers.” Noting an overwhelmingly affirmative response from his audience, he consequently began to reflect more on the effects of the me-first, consumer culture into which children are initiated in many families.

*Take Back Your Kids* is written primarily for parents, but also provides insight for family scholars and therapists to create balance between parental authority and responsiveness to their children’s preferences. Topics include confident parenting for fathers, single parents, and stepparents; the role of respect and family participation for children, as well as peer and media influences. This book is a tool for parents to learn how to confidently act as role models and to become effective consultants in the development of their children’s beliefs, feelings, and values.

**Introducing Steven Pearthree!**

By Peter Dimock

The idea that children are consumers, and that the “customer” is always right, leaves parents struggling to set firm limits or tolerate angry protests if children’s requests are denied. Parents who believe they should have a peer-like, confidante relationship with their children become tentative and lose their ability to provide appropriate family guidance or leadership. “I worry that parents who resent being servants to their children will start to compete with them for who gets their needs met first,” Dr. Doherty writes.

Steve joined the college on October 26, 1999 as assistant to the Family Social Science department head, Dr. M. Jan Hogan. Before coming to the college, he worked in the College of Pharmacy in the Office of Student Services. As assistant, Steve supervises office personnel, schedules classrooms, handles budgets, and recently choreographed the move of FSOS graduates to the third floor of McNeal Hall. “My duties sometimes change hourly; I have to be flexible, but I like the diversity this brings to the job” says Steve.

http://fsos.che.unr.edu/
FSoS Undergraduate Students

Seven undergraduate students have been nominated by the faculty for the College of Human Ecology (CHE) Outstanding Student Award. We are proud of their scholarship and applaud their community contributions.

Adriana Taborda

Adriana began her academic career through community involvement. While a freshman she volunteered at the South Side Family School and served as a mentor for two elementary school girls. In this capacity she taught and promoted positive self esteem, self awareness and communication skills. During her freshman year she worked in Ecuador with Minnesota Studies in International Development (MSID). While living with a local family she helped to develop a program which addressed the needs of learning disabled children and worked in a women’s crisis center. She also wrote a creative self esteem workbook in Spanish for children ages 6 - 10. This year Adriana has worked in the Take Charge program based in Boynton Health Services. She visits schools weekly while learning community leadership theories. In addition, she is mentoring seven children from Henry High School, St. Paul, as part of a community project designed to reduce household accidents among young children.

Hillary Mercer

Hillary is a member of both the CHE Honors Program and Phi Upsilon Omicron. Through the support of the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Project grant, she worked with Dr. Jane Gilgun, School of Social Work, to both research violence prevention programs and develop a proactive prevention program for potential perpetrators of violence. As part of her Family Social Science internship Hillary worked in an in-treatment program sponsored by Volunteers of America for chemically dependent woman choosing to leave prostitution. She elected to remain on the project after her internship ended, designing and training a facility in the use of her mentoring program for women leaving prostitution. Under the supervision of Dr. Shirley Zimmerman, Hillary created a Capstone Project researching prostitution policies and their affects on families, particularly children of prostitutes. She has successfully made critical linkages between research, theory and application through her work with what is too often considered a throwaway population, unworthy of assistance or research. Hillary has been accepted at the Harvard School of Divinity to pursue graduate studies.

Amy Berg on her doctoral research entitled “Qualitative evaluation of the Passionate Marriage Couple Enrichment Weekend” by transcribing hundreds of pages of interviews and participating in team meetings to discuss theoretical interpretations of the data. She has worked as a community advisor assisting female dormitory residents and promoting residence hall programming. Another internship was at the International Women’s Rights Action Watch, where she researched the international status of women for United Nations Human Rights committee reports. In addition, Melissa has interned at Diversity Connections, an organization which promotes diversity awareness and promotion. Upon graduation she plans to pursue a graduate degree in Marital and Family Therapy.

Reed Reichwald

Melissa Sweeney

Melissa has completed three clinical internships and one research internship, far surpassing requirements for an undergraduate student. She assisted
Reed's research, scholarship and community service demonstrates his commitment to improving the lives of children through active involvement and role modeling. For two years he has worked as part of the Minnesota-Texas Adoption Research Project under the direction of Dr. Harold Grotevant. He has recruited other undergraduate students to work on the project, coded data, reviewed publications in the adoption field and traveled to conduct in-depth interviews with adoptive families as part of this longitudinal research. Reed works as a program counselor for Assisted Community Residence Homes by providing daily living assistance to developmentally disabled adults. He also chairs the Boy Scouts of America Troop and is a Cub Scout pack leader. In addition, he teaches Sunday School classes at a local Hmong church.

Reed has the distinction of being on the Dean's List for several academic terms and is also a member of the CHE Honors Program. He hopes to continue his education in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy.

Amanda Olsen

Amanda is pursuing a double major in Family Social Science and Spanish. Utilizing her fluency in Spanish, she has devoted three summers to Migrant 'ead Start as a bilingual aide. She studied abroad in Spain for five months and now continues to pursue her interest in culture and language through her involvement in the Tandem Conversation Club. Locally, Amanda is an In-home Respite Provider for Volunteers of America, often caring for a three year old child with cerebral palsy. She also volunteers at the Highland Mac-Groveland Family Center in St. Paul, and is receiving training at SafeJourney, providing services for battered women at North Memorial Hospital. Amanda is a member of the CHE Mentor Program, as well as the Honors Program.

Kathryn Som

Kathryn is a member of the CHE Honors Program and has been on the Dean's List since entering the college. She completed an internship at the National Council on Family Relations in Minneapolis. She created a database of all family related organizations and developed an organized system for locating family materials in such media as periodicals, internet and public resources. Kathryn is a volunteer advocate at SafeJourney, a domestic abuse prevention program. In this role she offers support, community resource referrals and educational options to individuals. Through her church Kathryn has developed and implemented a new ministry directed at addressing life stressors such as divorce, family communication difficulties, substance abuse and anger management issues.

She has mentored a small group of eighth grade girls for some time and also helped the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation raise funds for continued research. Upon graduation Kathryn plans to complete a master's degree in counseling and hopes to work with children, youth, and their families.

Ruth Koran

As a non-traditional student with four young children and a CHE honor student, Ruth has admirably balanced parenting responsibilities, academic and community responsibilities. Ruth has completed two internships in area high schools. She assisted teachers with grading and supplementary instruction such as providing parenting issues for teen mothers and presenting education about alcohol and drug use. Ruth is a CHE student ambassador, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, who has worked to promote students' successful transition into a 4-year college. She has also actively lobbied legislature on issues related to area school needs.

She has been the recipient of an impressive list of awards including the CHE Continuing Student Scholarship, the CHE internship grant, and the Twin Cities Home and Community Scholarship. Ruth is currently pursuing a double major in Family Social Science and Child Psychology. She hopes to enter the Secondary Teacher Education Preparation Program to earn a Master's in Education and teaching licensure.
FSOS News and Congratulations

Jean Bauer and Kathy Rettig, have been awarded funds from the Rural Families and Communities Initiative of the CHE Office of Outreach and the Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Bauer’s project is, “Rural Low Income Families: Tracking Their Well-Being and Functioning in the Context of Welfare Reform.” Dr. Rettig along with Dr. Lois Yellowthunder will study “The Economic Consequences of Divorce in Minnesota for Men, Women, and Children: Proposal for Data Collection in Two Rural Counties.”

The National Council of Family Relations has named Pauline Boss a Fellow. Fellows are nominated by peers and selected for their history of outstanding contributions to the field of family studies.

Martha Rueter has been awarded a University of Minnesota Faculty Summer Research Fellowship for the summer of 2000.

David Olson received a Distinguished Alumni Award from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, where he earned his bachelor’s degree.

Jim Maddock received the 1999 Rosemary Dummer Award from the Minnesota Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, in recognition of his significant contributions to marriage and family life and to family therapy in Minnesota.

Graduate Student Accomplishments

Amanda Siegenthaler, Ph.D. student, participated in the November ’99 NCFR conference in a pre-conference presentation with colleagues, “Higher Education Curriculum Enrichment Regarding Lesbian and Gay-Headed Families.” She also gave a presentation, “The Value of Children to Lesbian and Non-Lesbian Mothers” and with others, participated in a poster presentation entitled, “Minnesota Family Workshops: Themes in the Lives of Family Caregivers.”

Althea Dixon successfully defended her master’s thesis: “I don’t know: Qualitative interviews with white mothers of biracial children.” Dr. Paul Rosenblatt was her advisor.

Ciloue Stewart, Ph.D., successfully defended her dissertation, “Chinese-American families from Taiwan: A transnational study in filial connection.” Dr. Paul Rosenblatt was her advisor.

Terri Karis, Ph.D., recently won a Bush Leadership Fellowship to support her dissertation, “Racial identity constructions of white women in heterosexual black-white interracial relationships.” Her advisor was Dr. Paul Rosenblatt.

Kristi McGeorge, Ph.D. student, was awarded the McFarland Assistantship for 2000-2001. It carries a 50% assistantship that will allow her to focus on her dissertation topic, “Diversity in successful caregiving for Alzheimer’s Disease: Native American and Euro-American meaning and strategies that predict caregiver well being.” Her advisor is Dr. Pauline Boss.

Amy Berg, Ph.D., successfully defended her dissertation, “Qualitative evaluation of the Passionate Marriage Couple Enrichment Weekend.” Her advisor was Dr. James Macklock.

Beth Maddock Magistad, Ph.D., successfully defended her dissertation entitled, “Work/family plans of expectant and new parents: An inductive analysis.” Dr. Jean Bauer was her advisor.

Blong Xiong received the Henry T. Borow Dissertation Award for Research in Development, Education, and Urban Literacy for his research on Hmong-American Families.

Samantha Tucker has been selected as a recipient of the Twin Cities Home and Community Scholarship for the 2000-01 academic year.

Anna Galperin successfully presented her capstone project, “Analysis of Support Systems for Recent Immigrant Families from the Former USSR.” Her advisor was Dr. Virginia Zuiker.

Terah Venzant successfully presented her capstone project, “Identity Formation Variations in Multiracial Siblings.” Her advisor was Dr. Paul Rosenblatt.

The Waller Award for International Study and Research has been awarded to Karen Breimhurst, who will research attitudes and values regarding Romani education in the Czech Republic, and Brett Strangstalens, who will study Kenyan culture and family structures at Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya.

Alumni News


Jane Tornatore (Ph.D. ’97) Assistant Professor and Research Associate, Department of Family Practice and Community Health, School of Medicine, has accepted a post doctoral fellowship at the University of Washington and Veterans Affairs in Seattle, Washington where she will conduct research on community residential living for the elderly.

Manijeh Daneshpour (Ph.D. ’96) is the Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program at St. Cloud State University. She and her husband, Amir, now living in the U.S., recently welcomed a new baby into the family.

Pam Larson (Ph.D. ’96) of the Wilder Research Center recently participated in an evaluation of Children’s Initiative Family Centers of Saint Paul/Ramsey County. “The Family Centers continue to provide an added value to families and community towards improving children’s lives.”
Alumni Profile: Dr. Dale Hawley

"Early on in my graduate program in Family Social Science, my advisor, Dr. David Olson asked, 'What do you want to do?' I said, 'Teach. But probably not theory courses.' And can you believe, I ended up teaching family theory! It was probably my favorite course."

Dale Hawley (91) laughs as he reflects on the career path, which has brought him full circle back to Minnesota where he now serves as family minister at the Woodbury Church of Christ. He is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Family Social Science teaching course work on Parent-Child Relations and Research Methodology.

After graduating from Abilene Christian University with undergraduate degrees in Bible and history as preparation for a career in ministry, subsequent contact with families and their diverse needs prompted him to obtain a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. He completed a post graduate therapy program in brief therapy at the Brief Family Therapy Center in Milwaukee, under the supervision of Steve DeShazer and Elam Nunnally. Dr. Hawley worked as a therapist on a pastoral staff in Milwaukee during that time, later working as family minister at the Brooklyn Center Church of Christ.

Most recently Dr. Hawley was associate professor in the department of Child Development and Family Science at North Dakota State University. He taught courses in family theory, family therapy, family crisis and family wellness, and supervised marriage and family therapy students. During that time he provided consultation for missionary families living in Brazil and the Philippines. This renewed interest in ministry and missions influenced Dr. Hawley to accept his current position as family minister. In this capacity, he provides religious education, marriage enrichment, family life education and parenting seminars. Besides offering therapy to individuals and families of the church and community, he writes a weekly column in the church bulletin.

"There's another example of using research at an applied level for a specific population." Being able to assist individuals and families within the framework of a faith community provides a strong sense of purpose and meaning to his work. "Being able to work clinically as I am now is a good balance for academic work" he states, though he adds that he does not rule out returning to full time academic life at some point.

Dr. Hawley is the Religion and Family Life section chair of the National Council on Family Relations. He states that while this section's contribution potential is still evolving, there are opportunities to influence public policy and to formally recognize the importance that religion and spirituality exerts in families and society.

Dr. Shirley Zimmerman Retires

by Dr. Trish Olson

"My research and writings are designed to frame policy as it relates to families in different ways conceptually, and to provoke thinking about the relationship between social/public policies and families and their well-being." This has been the guiding professional philosophy of Dr. Shirley Zimmerman for many years.

Dr. Zimmerman has served as a consultant to statewide organizations with the Child Welfare Division of the Minnesota Department of Human Services and has been a social planning consultant to the United Way of St. Paul. She has been a caseworker for the Aid for Dependent Children (AFDC) program and was later the Assistant Director of Minnesota's Continuing Education in Social Work Department for 113 years.

Dr. Zimmerman has been a faculty member in the Department of Family Social Science for 18 years. While teaching courses on family policy, family policy research, and family policy from an international perspective, she wrote and used her own texts: Understanding Family Policy: Theoretical Approaches; Family Policies and Family Well-being: The Role of Political Culture; and Understanding Family Policy: Theories and Applications. She is currently completing her fourth book, Family Policy: Constructed Solutions to Family Problems. She has authored numerous articles, book chapters and other publications and has been a reviewer for several professional journals. Dr. Zimmerman was recently honored by being named the Helen LaBaron Hilton Chair in Family Policy, College of Family and Consumer Science, Iowa State University, 1998-1999.

Reflecting on her career Dr. Zimmerman says, "I have always stuck to the issue of poverty and growing income disparities. There are so many social implications, not only for families, but also the kind of society we live in. When you get to rock bottom issues, like poverty or not having food to eat I think it is important that others understand the positive role that government can and does play in family life."
The State of Family Policy at Century’s Turn

A conference honoring Dr. Shirley Zimmerman’s career and contributions to the Family field, sponsored by the Department of Family Social Science

Friday, September 22, 2000
University of Minnesota Gateway
200 Oak Street SE
Minneapolis, MN

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Maurice MacDonald, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Iowa State University of Science and Technology.

Local researchers, policy makers and community members will discuss family policy in Minnesota. The noon luncheon session will be a celebration of Dr. Zimmerman’s career.

For more information call (612) 625-1900 or visit our website at http://fsos.che.umn.edu

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@che.umn.edu.

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