Transition to Fatherhood

Dr. William Doherty has been awarded a major federal grant from the Maternal and Child Health Research Bureau for a three-year intervention study on the transition to fatherhood. Dr. Martha Erickson, Children, Youth and Family Consortium, and Dr. Ralph LaRossa, Georgia State University, are co-investigators in this study. Conducted in collaboration with HealthPartners, Inc., this study examines effects of an educational intervention with new fathers and mothers during the transition to fatherhood. Its main objectives are to increase father involvement with children, enhance the quality of father-child relationships, promote better co-parenting partnerships, and decrease parenting stress. Another objective is to determine factors that are associated with successful outcomes of the intervention, particularly, prenatal attitudes towards fathering, pre-birth relationship satisfaction, attitudes toward the pregnancy, family of origin experiences with fathering and co-parenting, and social support during pregnancy and after the birth.

Married or cohabiting couples who are first-time parents will be recruited from HealthPartners obstetrical clinics and randomly assigned to the educational intervention or a no-intervention control group during the second trimester of pregnancy. Assessments for both groups include self-reports of parents and in-home observations of parent-child interactions at intake, six, and twelve months postpartum. Child development functioning will be assessed at 12 months.

Fatherhood continued on page 2
Fatherhood continued from page 1

The intervention will consist of eight class sessions from the second trimester of pregnancy through six months postpartum. The first class is in-home, with the second through fourth classes in a group format once a month for the last three months of pregnancy. Four monthly postpartum group classes will occur for the first three months and another at six months postpartum.

It is believed that the transition to fatherhood is a life passage that sets the template for fathers’ involvement with their children and for the quality of co-parental relations between fathers and mothers. This study is unique in three ways that support and explore this transition. First, multi-method assessment is used within a theoretical framework to identify factors that contribute to responsible fathering. The factors, co-parental relationship, mother factors, father factors, child factors, mother-child factors, and contextual factors all exert influence on the father-child relationship.

Second, previous studies and intervention projects have focused primarily on either describing the transition to parenthood or on influencing the father-child relationship after the birth of the baby. While these approaches are valuable, this study attempts to influence the father-child relationship while fathers are in the process of developing their fathering identity and patterns of interaction.

A third unique feature of this study is that the intervention focuses on support of the couple relationship issues, not merely father-child interactions. The classes are designed for both of the partners in the couple to be present for all parts of the intervention. It is hoped that the validated effectiveness and ease of use will encourage the program to be widely utilized to support fathers and couples manage their transition to parenthood.

Rueter continued from page 1

Dr. Rueter most recently was a research scientist at the Institute for Social and Behavioral Research, Iowa State University, Center for Family Research in Rural Mental Health. She is the project director for a longitudinal study, “Critical Transitions in Rural Families at Risk,” and principal investigator of “Context, Comorbidity, and Development of Suicidal Behavior among Rural Adolescents,” both funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Rueter has been active presenting research findings and scholarly papers at such conferences as the NIMH, National Council on Family Relations, Society for Research on Child Development, Society for Research on Adolescence, the annual Midwest Health Psychology Conference, and the American Sociological Association. Drawing on her experience as an intern in the Iowa State Legislature, Dr. Rueter formerly taught family public policy in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Iowa State University. We look forward to public policy classes she will teach in the Department.

A native of Minnesota, Dr. Rueter attended Gustavus Adolphus College before obtaining a Master of Education degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1979. A Master of Science in sports psychology was earned the same year from Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Rueter spent a number of years working in Residence Life management before returning to Iowa State University where she was granted a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies, emphases in family public policy and political science.

In addition to these scholastic accomplishments, Dr. Rueter is an avid bicyclist. She also has the distinction of once owning and operating “Quarterstove Café,” a vegetarian restaurant.

Exploring all aspects of family life
Department of Family Social Science
University of Minnesota
http://fsos.che.umn.edu

Dear Friends:

This is a year of celebrations! We are turning the calendar to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Department, and the 100th anniversary for the College. With the leadership of Professor Kathy Rettig, our faculty are presenting a series of Centennial Seminars on Wednesdays: Shirley Zimmerman with An Historical Perspective on Family Policy, Pauline Boss with Ambiguous Loss, Paul Rosenblatt with Families and Bereavement Across Time, the first three seminars. We welcome you to join us for any of the seminars—the list is on the following page.

Our first big event will be a celebration of David Olson’s career on April 6-7 at the Radisson Hotel Metrodome, near campus. Please mark your calendar and plan to participate in this engaging conference, “Marriage and Family Systems: Looking to the Future.” The first keynote speaker is Froma Walsh, Professor and Codirector, Center for Family Health, University of Chicago, and author or editor of several important books (e.g., Strengthening Family Resilience, Normal Family Processes, and Spiritual Resources in Family Therapy). Alan Graddock from Australia and Yoav Lakey from Israel are also plenary speakers. David, a member of our faculty for over 25 years, has been a mentor and adviser to 30 doctoral students and instructor to hundreds of undergraduate students. While he officially retires from the University this year, he will continue to guide and
interact with students as well as continue his scholarship and the leadership of the company, Life Innovations, Inc.

The College of Human Ecology Centennial Celebration, A Journey Home, will follow David's celebration on Saturday, April 8, at the new University of Minnesota Gateway welcoming center. This day long party includes reunions, trolley rides, an ice cream social, tours of campus, a banquet with entertainment, and the recognition of distinguished alumni and friends.

In the fall, we will be celebrating Shirley Zimmerman's professional accomplishments with a family policy forum. Through Shirley's generosity in providing an endowment, we plan to have family policy forums more frequently in the future. Shirley and David are national and international scholars in the family field and both will continue to make significant contributions. We will miss their voices in our daily work at the University.

We look forward to celebrating with you at one or more of these events. Celebrations offer us the opportunity to renew friendships and build a shared vision for the future. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for our celebrations.

Sincerely,

Jan Hogan

FAMILY SOCIAL SCIENCE
Centennial Seminars
(1900-2000)

The Department of Family Social Science will host a weekly Centennial seminar from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m., Wednesdays, in room 274 of McNeal Hall. Each faculty will present his/her unique area of expertise within a historical context, highlighting theoretical, methodological, and practical contributions. The goal of the Centennial seminar series is to demonstrate diversity in families, paradigms, theories and methods, while encouraging ongoing discussion. The public is invited to attend. The schedule is listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>College Centennial Birthday Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Family Policy: An Historical Perspective (Shirley Zimmerman)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>Ambiguous Loss: From Missing in Action to Chronic Illness to Immigration (Pauline Boss)</td>
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<td>February 16</td>
<td>Families and Bereavement Across Time (Paul Rosenblatt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>Family Histories for Self-Understanding (William Goodman)</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>Families and Gambling (Philip Colgan)</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>Approaches to the Study of Family Businesses Over Time (Sharon Danes)</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>Families and Alzheimers (Wayne Caron)</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>Historical Perspectives on Acoption (Hal Grotevant)</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Historical Perspectives on 55 Years of Family Therapy (William Doherty)</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
<td>Family Economic Well Being in Historical Perspective (Jean Bauer)</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Gender Stereotypes and The Sexual Abuse of Males (Peter Dimock)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Social Capital From Historical Perspectives (M. Janice Hogan)</td>
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Faculty Awarded Research Grant

Drs. Sharon Danes and Martha Ruetter were awarded a $150,000 competitive research grant for their proposal, "Decision making and problem solving within farm family businesses during times of change and transition.” They will be analyzing video-taped group interviews and audio-taped individual interviews of 20 farm family decision teams composed of 60 individuals. Also being analyzed are survey data from 367 Minnesota farm couples and 503 farm women. The findings will answer the research questions about successful change, business viability, and role changes over time. Critically important is their commitment to develop an interactive website focused on the changing rural environment. The website will include their research findings with a chat room format to encourage interaction among the users. They will also disseminate their research findings through presentations and reports. The funding comes from the Rapid Agricultural Response Fund through an appropriation to the University of Minnesota and is administered by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station.
New Graduate Students

**Jerica Mohlman**

Jerica Mohlman is a graduate of Brigham Young University where she received a B.S. in Family Science and Psychology, and a M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy. Jerica has been an intake officer at the BYU comprehensive clinic and has participated in research projects and conference presentations on topics such as collaborative health care, creation and analysis of assessment instruments, and supervision effectiveness studies. She has also assisted in writing a parenting manual. Her career goals include clinical and academic placements with interests in collaborative health care, premarital issues, child play therapy, parenting, and identity issues.

**Kathrine Daniels**

Kathrine Daniels received a Masters degree in Human Development and Family Studies with a concentration on Marriage and Family Therapy from Colorado State University. As a former undergraduate and resident of Minnesota, she is very happy to return to the U of M to begin her doctoral program. Areas of interest include both academic and clinical foci: feminist research, sex therapy, and research involving gender sociology and relationship satisfaction.

**Kerry Kriener-Althen**

Kerry Kriener-Althen graduated from Iowa State University in 1995 with a M.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies (drawing from the three departments of Family Studies, Sociology, and Political Science). Her most recent job was that of evaluator for policy-driven social programs at the University of Tennessee, College of Social Work, Office of Research & Public Service in Knoxville. Kerry plans to enhance social program and policy evaluation skills through her research emphasis in the Ph.D. program. Kerry has many outside interests ranging from dancing with her husband to organic gardening.

**Kristen Holm**

Kristen Holm recently completed a Master's degree in Human Development and Family Studies with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy at Colorado State University. Kristen is interested in conducting research in the area of fatherhood, and has clinical interests in medical family therapy and play therapy. She enjoys hiking, downhill skiing and snowboarding. Kristen intends to learn how to cross-country ski and find other ways to enjoy the snowy winters in Minnesota.

**Mary Jo Bartl**

A Minnesota native, Mary Jo Bartl attended the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University. She later studied sociology at Loyola University in Chicago, where she worked at the Center for Urban Research and Learning on a participatory evaluation project for unemployed adults. She has worked at Wilder Research Center in St. Paul on projects dealing with housing, domestic violence, and juvenile delinquency. Most recently Mary Jo worked as a program evaluation specialist on the welfare reform project at the Minnesota State Legislative Auditor's Office, Program Evaluation Division.
Yvette Perry received a M.S. in Child Development and Family Studies, Purdue University. She has traveled extensively as her husband has served in the military. Yvette most recently worked as the director of the Family Child Care Program in the U.S. Army in Hamburg, Germany. She has served on committees of social service professionals working in military settings on such issues as domestic violence, childcare training, and legal intervention for family violence. Her current academic interests include family policy and parent-child interactions.

Sayali Amarpurkar received an undergraduate degree in psychology from D.G. Ruparel College, University of Bombay. She obtained a M.S. in Human Development from Nirmala Niketan College of Home Science, University of Bombay. She has worked as a child development specialist and counselor at the Institute for Psychological Health at Thané where she conducted a therapy group for children with ADHD and a psycho-educational support group for their parents. The interdisciplinary opportunities in the Family Social Science doctoral program correspond to Sayali’s goal to study families with special needs children, the aging population, and the societal challenges of women.

Change in Exam Process

By Hal Grotevant, Director of Graduate Studies

In our constant effort to improve the doctoral program, the graduate faculty have reviewed and revised the examining process. Gone will be the days of the 3-day written preliminary examinations in a closed room or the 2-week marathon take-home examination. The new written preliminary exam will consist of a critical review paper and the current special project. Faculty feel that this will more effectively tap the skills we want students to have when they leave. The preliminary oral exam will cover the two written documents mentioned above (as well as other related program work) rather than the current focus on the dissertation proposal. This change will allow students to advance to candidacy more quickly, register for dissertation credits, and become eligible earlier for an array of dissertation fellowships. The dissertation proposal will be approved in a separate meeting at a later time. Full details of the new process will be posted to the graduate program website by early 2000.

Students who enrolled before fall, 1999, will be given two years to decide whether to transition to the new plan or remain under the old one. Faculty hope that this new process will provide better evaluation of students' abilities and will pave the way for more efficient program completion.

FSOS Students Present at NCFR

Students participated in the 1999 National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference in Irvine, California in November. We appreciate the donations of our alumni which made it possible to sponsor many of these students at this conference. The students, co-presenters, and their topics are:


Dan Detzner & Blong Xiong: Research Update for Practitioners: “Intergenerational Relationships in Southeast Asian Refugee Families.”


Catherine Huddleston-Casas: “It Takes Two... to Divide Labor: Implications of a Couple Analysis Vs. a Gender Analysis Regarding Perceptions of Fairness in the Division of Household Labor.”

Hee Kyung Kwon: “Individual, Family Resources and Married Working Women’s Achievement Motivation at Work In Korea.”

Beth Maddock Magistad: “Family and Work Interfaces: An Exploration of Consumption Standards.”


Mindy Nakamoto: “Gender Differences in the Relation Between Adolescents’ Sexual Knowledge and Adolescent Perceptions of Parents’ Attitudes Toward Sexuality.”


Julie Kohler & Shirley Zimmerman: “The Congressional Debate Over the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA): An Examination of Competing Perceptions.”
Faculty awards and honors

Jean Bauer was appointed to the National Public Policy Committee of the Farm Foundation to represent the Association of Administrators of Human Sciences—National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. This 3-year appointment carries the responsibility to ensure that family-related policy issues are a part of the Farm Foundation’s agenda for partnership with family and community well being.

Sharon Danes was the principal evaluator for the High School Financial Planning Program. This program, along with it's directors from the National Endowment for Financial Education and USDA’s Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, was recognized by Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, at a ceremony on June 9, 1999 in Washington, D.C.

David Olson received a Distinguished Alumni Award from St. Olaf College in Northfield where he earned his Bachelor's degree.

Graduate student accomplishments

Mindy Nakamoto successfully defended her masters thesis entitled, “Gender Differences in the Relation between Adolescents’ Sexual Knowledge and Adolescents’ Perceptions of Parents’ Attitudes toward Sexuality Issues,” in June. Her adviser was Dr. Virginia Zuiker.

Michelle Johnson successfully defended her master's thesis entitled “Voices of Interracially Adopted Adults: African American Identity and Community Affiliation,” in August. Her advisor was Dr. Jan Hogan.

Joseph Reid successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis entitled “Effectiveness of a Family Asthma Education Program,” in November. His co-advisors were Dr. David Olson and Dr. Carolyn Tubbs.

Derek Gwinn successfully defended his master's thesis entitled “Analysis of Social Programs Participation and Employment Characteristics Among Food Stamp Eligible Parents,” in October 1999. His advisor was Dr. Jean Bauer.

Dr. Susan M. Jack successfully defended her dissertation entitled “The Social Construction of Chronic Anorexia Nervosa: A Qualitative Investigation of Patients, Parents, Therapists, and Psychiatrists,” in September 1999. Her advisor was Dr. William Doherty.

Raksha Gates and Julie Kohler are recipients of a spring 2000 graduate fellowship from Family Social Science. Each fellowship carries a stipend and tuition benefit.

Mindy Nakamoto was awarded the 1999-2000 Neubeck award to present at NCFR this year.

Barbara Couden, Julie Kohler, Hee Kyung Kwon, Beth Magistad, Christi McGeorge, Mindy Nakamoto, and SungEun Yang were awarded travel funds from the Family Social Science Alumni and Friends Fund. These funds are available to graduate students for travel to conferences to make presentations.

Blong Xiong and Ciloue Stewart passed their preliminary oral examinations. Both are “all but dissertation (ABD)” status.

Amy Berg, Cathcy Huddleston-Casas, Julie Kohler, Ed Kouneski, and Wendy Whelihan passed their preliminary written exams this fall.

Amy Berg and Wendy Whelihan have been awarded a Doctoral Disserta-
"There's not much difference between creating a diagnosis and treatment plan for an individual or an organization. The difference is that you're looking at 25,000 employees, not just one person," states one of our Family Social Science alumni, Dr. Steve Geiger, President of the Pecos River division, C on Consulting Worldwide. The firm is global human resource consulting and insurance firm with over 45,000 employees and annual revenue of over six billion dollars. "Aon" is the Gaelic word for "unity" and is reflected in the mission of its Change Leadership Practice of which Dr. Geiger is an integral part. Driven by a strong research base and expertise in interpersonal skills, Aon Consulting works with large corporations to improve employee satisfaction and job performance, increase job interest levels and skills development, and to enhance win-win outcomes when organizational change is required so that the organization's strengths and goals can be effectively realized. Dr. Geiger explains that when interpersonal or interdepartmental relationships work well, companies can optimize employee creativity and strengths.

Dr. Geiger reflected on how his experience as a Family Social Science student has contributed to his career in human resources. "The greatest gift from the program was in learning general systems. An organization is like a big family with all the reciprocal behaviors and subsystem coalitions influencing a diverse group of individuals." This valuable insight has been instrumental when working with companies experiencing employee dissatisfaction or management ineffectiveness requiring creative change.

Another formative feature of his Ph.D. education was learning how to understand and conduct research. Dr. Geiger cites a research class with Dr. Paul Rosenblatt in which research interpretation was likened to the experience of Alice in Wonderland, in which there is both uncertainty and delight in the exploration of findings. This metaphor stays with him today, he states, as he uses factor analysis, surveys and focus groups to capture courage and creativity in organizations.

Though Dr. Geiger has worked in the human resource field for nearly 20 years, he began his Ph.D. studies with a goal to work with law enforcement officers and their families. A licensed psychologist and police officer with an educational background in criminal justice and psychology, he completed an internship with the Los Angeles Police Department's Behavioral Science Service. Since that time Dr. Geiger has maintained strong ties to law enforcement, and currently serves as the Senior Clinical Psychologist for Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and Minneapolis police departments on a part-time basis.

"Family Social Science was very encouraging of personal growth and has afforded me with wonderful life experience from which both I and my family have benefited. The academic expertise and research tools have served me well in my practice of psychology, therapy, as a service provider, and now in my current capacity."

**A Salute to Dr. David Olson**

The Department of Family Social Science salutes Dr. David Olson for over 25 years of mentoring, research, theory development and innovative teaching at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Olson has a reputation for using highly creative teaching methods and effective communication to stimulate students' intellectual growth and professional development, as evidenced by countless letters to the department from students attesting to his impact on their lives.

Dr. David Olson has served as President of the National Council on Family Relations and president of the Upper Midwest Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. A licensed marital and family therapist and consulting psychologist, he is a fellow in both the American Psychological Association and American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. Dr. Olson has authored over 100 articles and chapters on various topics related to marriage and family life, and has edited 20 books. He has held editorial appointments on numerous family journals. Internationally known for the development of assessment instruments, his best known self-report instruments include FACES I, II, III & IV, PAIR, PREPARE, and ENRICH. These instruments have been translated into eight languages and provide the basis of over 600 studies. Dr. Olson's Circumplex Model of Marital and Family Systems is the theoretical foundation for over 1000 studies, of which 600 have been used to test hypotheses derived from the Circumplex Model. The PREPARE/ENRICH Couple Program has been used by over 1,000,000 premarital couples and is used by over 30,000 counselors and clergy throughout the United States and abroad.
Marriage and Family Systems: Looking to the Future

A conference in celebration of David Olson’s career
Thursday-Friday, April 6 - 7, 2000
The Radisson Hotel Metrodome, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Plenary Speakers
Froma Walsh, Ph.D.
Center for Family Health
University of Chicago

Alan Craddock, Ph.D.
Department of Psychology
University of Sydney, Australia

Yoav Lavee, Ph.D.
Center for Research and Study of the Family
University of Haifa, Israel

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

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Barbara Couden, Editor
M. Janice Hogan, Department Head
Roberta Daigle, Coordinator and Layout Designer

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