Hal Grotevant, Interim Department Head, and Jean Bauer, Associate Department Head, are inspired by the teamwork of these acrobatic rabbits at the Weisman Art Museum.

Dear Friends of Family Social Science,

"Promoting family well-being"... That's what we do in Family Social Science. In my new position as Interim Department Head, I have had the opportunity to talk about our department with students, administrators, community leaders, funders, and parents about what we do here. "Promoting family well-being," says it in a nutshell. We do it through teaching, research, and outreach efforts in four core areas of scholarship:

- family economic well-being
- relationships and development across the lifespan
- family diversity
- families and mental health

More than ever, these four areas speak to important needs of our society and our world.

We have highlighted several activities in the pages of this newsletter:

**The Minnesota – New York Ambiguous Loss Project** (special section, pages 4-5). Launched in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, this has been an exciting initiative, one that has made us feel that we were able to do something "real" for the families devastated by loss.

**Staff changes.** Elizabeth Wieling (page 2) has joined us as an Assistant Professor, and William Turner (see article in summer, 2001 issue) has joined us as Professor. Both Liz and William are in the MFT program. Patricia Olson has increased her appointment to assist with Jean Bauer's outreach work. Lorraine Haley, long-time graduate program administrative assistant, accepted a new position in the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community in the School of Social Work. We miss you, Lorraine! Michelle Lee has joined us as an Accountant and Roberta Daigle has moved to the position of Student Support Services Assistant.

The department has an energetic leadership team in place. I am especially grateful for the colleagueship of Dr. Jean Bauer, who is serving as Associate Department Head. We are reorganizing the department's support staff to meet the administrative needs of the 21st century: for accounting, website management, desktop publishing, and research grant development. As we hire new staff we have changed virtually all job descriptions. This important initiative will assist with the department's growing administrative needs.

**Funding initiatives.** As part of the University's Campaign Minnesota, we are striving to increase our funding for students and for strategic departmental initiatives. Enclosed with this newsletter is an envelope in which you can make a contribution to the work of the department. It names several fellowship funds to which you can contribute as well as our strategic initiative fund, which will allow us to respond to emerging issues in the family field with teaching, research, and outreach efforts. We are especially grateful for two new endowed graduate fellowships, one established by David Olson, and one established by Jan Hogan. We welcome your contributions to those fellowships as well as to other funds listed on the envelope.

Best wishes,

Hal Grotevant
Faculty News

Sharon Danes, Dan Detzner, and William Doherty are on sabbatical leave. Sharon and Dan’s sabbatical leaves are for the full year, and Bill’s is for the academic year.

At the University of Minnesota Extension Service conference held in October, the Minnesota Association of Extension Educators recognized the Dollar Works Program with the 2001 Team Award for the development, implementation, and evaluation of the program. Team members are Jean Bauer, FSOS Extension Educator; Pat Stumme, Freeborn County; Rosemary Heins, Anoka County; Shirley Anderson-Porisch, Lyon County; Kay Lovett, Olmstead County; Cindy Petersen, McLeod County; and Judy Keena, Communications and Technology Systems in Extension. In addition, they received an award from Epsilon Sigma Phi, the National Honorary Extension Fraternity.

Jean Bauer’s research project colleagues at the NC223 multi-state project have presented her with an award for “Persistent, Effective, Inspiring Service and Leadership as Chair of the NC 223 Research Project.” The multi-state project is entitled “Rural low-income families:

Tracking their well-being and functioning in the context of welfare reform.”

Jan Hogan contributed $100,000 to establish the Jan Hogan Fellowship that will support FSOS graduate students. David Olson and his wife Karen Olson, also contributed $100,000 to establish the Olson Marriage and Family Endowment. Both gifts are matched by the 21st Century Graduate Fellowship Endowment offered as an incentive for Campaign Minnesota. With these gifts, Hogan and the Olsons become members of the Trustees Society.

Paul Rosenblatt has been elected to be the next Director of Graduate Studies.

Hal Grotevant presented a talk entitled “Adopted Adolescents and Mental Health Risk” at Grand Rounds for the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Medical School on May 16, 2001, and he presented "Research Perspectives on Openness in Adoption" to the Minnesota State Bar Association Continuing Legal Education on November 1, 2001.

New Faculty Profile: Liz Wieling

My research interests involve the development of culturally sensitive and effective clinical interventions, cross-cultural therapy and supervision, inter-cultural couple relationships, and issues related to the status of women, including their mental health, family relationships, education, economic well-being, and political influence in the United States and abroad. For the past three years I supervised the delivery of in-home and school-based clinical services to a primarily low income Mexican-American population as part of a funded program called the Parent Empowerment Project. The goal of this program was to enhance parent-child relations and to decrease the possibility of future child/adolescent delinquency and school drop out.

I am currently interested in implementing the Oregon Social Learning Center’s Parenting Through Change Program with Latina single mothers in order to extend and adapt the model to the cultural characteristics of this population. In addition, I am working with the Centro de Investigación Familiar in Monterrey, Mexico, to develop collaborative research projects that will advance our understanding of how to improve clinical services to Mexican and Mexican-American families.

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.

Yvette Perry, Editor
Harold D. Grotevant, Interim Department Head
Roberta Daigle, Coordinator and Layout Designer

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.
Alumni Profile: Nicole Ross

Nicole Ross received her master's degree in Family Social Science in 1995 (Hal Grotevant, adviser) and her Ph.D. in Family Social Science in 1999 (Bill Doherty, adviser). During her graduate experience, Nicole served for several years as a research assistant on Hal's adoption research project. She also completed the marriage and family therapy sequence and developed expertise in conducting play therapy with children.

Following graduation, Nicole combined her expertise on adoption and her skill as a therapist by teaming with another mental health professional in the community to found the Post-Adoption Counseling Program of Generations: Resources for Families. The program recently moved to the Well-Family Clinic in St. Paul. Nicole specializes in working with adopted preschool children with emotional attachment or behavioral concerns. She also consults with couples considering adoption as a route to building their family.

She and her colleague are now both working for the non-profit organization, Wilder on an Achievement Plus federally funded project that has partnered with the St. Paul Public Schools to provide programs to improve the test scores of at-risk children. Nicole is working full-time providing in-school therapy for the children. She hopes to return to the adoption-specific therapy in the future. She says, "The opportunity to work on the adoption project really shaped my life. Prior to working on the project my husband and I had considered adopting an older child, but after working on the project I was influenced to adopt and develop open relationships with both my children's birth parents." In the future, besides returning to an adoption focus, Nicole hopes to conduct clinical-oriented research.

Her bio states: "In addition to her clinical and research experience, Nicole is an adoptive mother of two wonderful children (one joined the family as an infant and one at an older age) who themselves have open relationships with birth family members. She enjoys taking walks with her family (including a large dog), creating imaginative projects with her daughter, watching her toddler son explore his world, eating dense chocolate desserts, and restoring her old home with her husband."

Thus, Nicole has created a coherent personal and professional narrative, weaving together her research expertise, clinical training, and personal experience. She is a living example of the holistic approach inherent in human ecology.

Graduate Students

Jason S. Carroll successfully defended his dissertation on June 20, 2001. Jason's dissertation is entitled "The Ability to Negotiate or the Ability to Love: An Investigation of Interpersonal Competence in Marriage." Jason is now Assistant Professor at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

Cathey Huddleston-Casas has accepted a position at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, in the Department of Family and Social Sciences.

Marcie Parker, Ph.D., CFLE, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of The American Hospice Foundation in Washington, D.C. The Foundations' mission is to increase public awareness and professional knowledge about hospice, especially in the workplace, in the schools and in managed care organizations. The website is www.Americanhospice.org. Parker is Senior Qualitative Researcher with Optum in Golden Valley, Minnesota. She received her Ph.D. in Family Social Science in 1996.

Teri Nelsen, M.Ed., MS., LMFTT, has accepted a position at Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital with family support services as Assistant Director of the Argus Institute. Teri Nelsen is a FSosS graduate. She is in the process of completing a Ph.D. program at Kansas State.


Ramona Faith Oswald, a recent Ph.D. from Family Social Science, has won the prestigious Anselm Strauss award from the Qualitative Family Research Network of the National Council on Family Relations for the best qualitative family research journal article published in the past year (2000, in this case). Her paper, "Family and Friendship Relationships After Young Women Come Out as Bisexual or Lesbian," was published in the Journal of Homosexuality and was based on her master's thesis in Family Social Science.

Julie K. Kohler (FSos Ph.D., 2000) received the Jessie Bernard Award from the National Council on Family Relations at its annual meeting in November. The award is for the best paper on family written from a feminist perspective. Her paper, "The Anticipated Consequences of Covenant Marriage Laws for Women: Understanding Women's Perspectives," was based on her Family Social Science doctoral dissertation (Paul Rosenblatt, advisor).
Minnesota - New York
Ambiguous Loss Project

The University of Minnesota has teamed with the Service Employees International Union, 32-BJ, in New York City to provide mental health services to their 70,000 union members. Teams of Family Social Science faculty and graduate students traveled to New York City every other week for a six-week period. The team members worked with individuals, small groups, and large groups on issues of grief, ambiguous loss, and family stress resulting from the September 11, 2001 catastrophe at the World Trade Center. Ambiguous loss is particularly relevant to the situation in NYC because over 4,000 people are still missing in the rubble. In Professor Pauline Boss’ book, Ambiguous Loss: Learning to Live with Unresolved Grief, two types of ambiguous loss are defined: 1) when a loved one is psychologically present, but physically absent (e.g., the World Trade Center tragedy), and 2) when a loved one is physically present, but psychologically absent (e.g., dementia).

At the initial visit, Pauline Boss wrote a brief summary, “Coping with Ambiguous Loss,” for a union brochure that was translated and distributed to 70,000 union members and can be found on the project’s website, http://ambiguousloss.che.umn.edu/.

Summary of Trips to NYC
Trip 1 (September 16 - 18)

Professor Pauline Boss along with two Family Social Science graduate students, Christi McGeorge and Tai Mendenhall, responded to a request for help from the 32-BJ International Union in NYC. Dr. Boss met with the head of the union, Mike Fishman, to assess needs and to come up with a proposal for further University of MN involvement. Dr. Boss also wrote a brief summary of her ambiguous loss theory for a union brochure to be translated and distributed to the 70,000 union members. The graduate students, under Dr. Boss’ supervision, met with individuals and ran group sessions for the union members and staff in order to assist with their initial coping strategies.

Trip 2 (September 26 - 29)

A team of three graduate students (John Beaton, Christi McGeorge, and Beverly Wallace) and Prof. Pauline Boss and Liz Wieling returned to 32-BJ’s building on September 26th to continue to work with the union’s staff and members. They were people “who witnessed and experienced up close and personally the unsettling of all ‘our’ lives and our universe,” said Beverly Wallace.

“Overall the issues addressed seemed to differ slightly from our initial trip in that the individuals we met with seemed to be moving from shock and trauma to grief and loss. We were able to provide crisis counseling to many people.” This work is similar to in-home counseling, but could more accurately be referred to as in-office counseling.

“It was difficult to be in the presence of such pain, grief, and fear,” said Liz Wieling, “and yet it was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had - to be available and present with these workers during such a tragic time was a life changing experience.”
Trip 3. The team for this trip was comprised of three graduate students (left to right, Tai Mendenhall, Jerica M. Berge, and Kristen Holm) and was led by Professors William Turner and Pauline Boss.

Trip 3 (October 10 - 14)
The team for this trip was composed of three graduate students (Tai Mendenhall, Jerica M. Berge, and Kristen Holm) and was led by Professors William Turner and Pauline Boss. During this trip, counseling in the 32-BJ office building concluded, and work with families who are missing loved ones was initiated. On October 11, Pauline Boss conducted a workshop on ambiguous loss for 100 therapists in the New York City area. These therapists were from various agencies: the Roberto Clemente Center for Families, the Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy, the Ackerman Institute of Family Therapy, and the Central Labor Union of New York (AFL-CIO). On October 13, Professor Boss and the team from Minnesota, in collaboration with NYC therapists, hosted family meetings for families of the 32-BJ Union who have family members who are missing. Dr. Boss also conducted a meeting with eight to ten of the union families with missing persons sitting together, talking and getting to know each other. More than 40 family members attended these meetings, and ongoing meetings with the families are expected.

"The families that lost members in the World Trade Center brought the theory of ambiguous loss alive to me," said Jerica Berge. "I know that usually graduate students aren’t able to see a theory applied so directly that they learn didactically."

The participating graduate students agreed that they were able to apply their graduate education and experiences. According to Kristen Holm, "Graduate work and training in FSOS prepared me for my experiences in New York by providing a solid base...consist(ing) of clinical skills as well as training in ambiguous loss."

Christi McGeorge echoed a sentiment felt by graduate students and professors alike. "I will remember those trips for the rest of my life. It is a cliché, but they were life altering."

(Christi McGeorge; Additional contributors: Cathy Schulz, Pauline Boss, Tai Mendenhall, Jerica Berge, Kristen Holm, and Yvette Perry)

Photographed by Christi McGeorge

Coping with Ambiguous Loss
~ by Pauline Boss

If you have a family member, friend, or co-worker who is missing because of the September 11, 2001 catastrophe, here is some information that may help.

What is ambiguous loss?
A loss that remains unclear with no verification of the person’s status as alive or dead.

Why is ambiguous loss the most difficult loss to cope with?
Without clear information and certainty, even strong people become ambivalent and can’t decide what to do next. They don’t know if the missing person will be found, so their grief and coping processes are stilled; people are understandably stuck.

What might help?

• Gather as much information as possible.
• Talk to others about how you feel.
• Keep hoping, but at the same time, it’s okay to think about what to do if the missing person is never found.
• While it’s difficult to find meaning in this tragedy, keep talking with others about the stress of not knowing.
• Reach out to others; let others help you. Don’t be a “loner” right now.
• While living with ambiguous loss, do some daily activity, even a small one, where you feel more in control.
• In the short term, denial can be a useful coping mechanism, but in the long term, it is not.
• Honor the missing person in your own way.
• Know the situation is not your fault.

For further reading:
New Graduate Students

In addition to the usual questions about their personal, educational, and professional backgrounds, this year's cohort of new FS05 graduate students was asked to respond to a few different questions. Whether discussing what they see as the greatest challenge facing our family field during this decade, anticipating how one person in their family would describe them, or ruminating on the family nature of Charlie Brown, Snoopy and the rest of the "Peanuts" gang—their comments will help the rest of us get to know them better.

Carolyn Bird: I have had the opportunity to develop and conduct courses on financial education and consumer skill development. I enjoyed counseling families to develop proactive, preventative, or remedial financial plans. My research interests include resource management and family policy.

Liddy Hope: Though I have lived all over the U.S., I am most recently coming from Indiana - where I obtained my Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy.

On the personal side, I am recently married and the mother of a very daring 14 month little girl. This is the second time my wonderful husband has followed me for school, though this time he was able to transfer here—which was a big help. We have lived in Minnesota before and are very excited to be back among friends and family.

My name is Ana Memedovich, and I am from Serbia. My hometown is Belgrade where I lived for 21 years. I obtained my bachelor's degree from University of Minnesota this past spring. I am interested in researching and teaching on topics such as loss and trauma, violence and ethnocentrism, the effect of war on families, immigration and sense of self, etc. I live in Minneapolis with my 12-year-old daughter, Sasha, and my 7-year-old son, Mikhail.

I think the greatest challenge facing our family field during this decade may stem from the process of globalization or boundary reorganization that already has been taking place around the world. I believe it is crucial today, more than ever before, that we recognize the spectrum of diversity that we live in. As much as it is important to understand our differences, it is also important to deal with them in a diplomatic and ethically sensitive way. The point is to combine the diversity in ways that we all can benefit from.

My late father would, probably, be the person to pick to describe me because of all my family members (dead and alive) he was the only person that had something good to say about me. Ever! Seriously, I think he would describe me as someone with strong sense of self, curious, intelligent but with an attitude, talented and with a tendency to be eccentric at times, responsible and serious, sometimes lazy but always willing to help and care for those around me.

My name is Jessica Lynn Paulson. I am originally from Daggett, Michigan, a very very tiny village in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. I have two sisters, one older and one younger, both of whom I am very close to (we were all born within 4 years of each other). I graduated from Stephenson High School, Stephenson, Michigan. From there I went on to Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. I honestly chose to major in Family Studies by looking through the course bulletin and thinking that the classes sounded interesting (and not too difficult). I did work very hard and enjoyed the classes and professors immensely. My junior year I was honored as one of the "Most Promising Undergraduates" in the Human Environmental Studies Department. Just before graduation I was honored again as "Outstanding Senior" by the HEV Department (and also the sorority I belonged to). Currently I am working on the master's plan A but my long-range goals do include completing my Ph.D. after a few years of work in the field following my master's.

Hello, my name is Diana Rickert. I am a first year master's student interested in family policy, economics, and legal issues. Although I am originally from the deep woods of Sugar Camp, Wisconsin, I have resided in the Twin Cities for approximately four years as I pursued my undergraduate education. Recently graduating from this University with two bachelor's degrees, I have a background in Family Social Science and Child Psychology. As I have worked on a variety of research projects, my interests in the family field have become more focused upon women's issues and equality within the family. I hope to apply these interests in
the future through a career involving program evaluation surrounding policy and legal issues of families. In order to heighten my skills in these areas, I am interested in pursuing a Ph.D. or J.D. following my completion of this program.

From my perspective, the lack of recognition of diverse family structures is the biggest challenge facing the family field in this decade. Although research and academia have focused much energy upon diversity, society as a whole seems to be stuck in the notion of one traditional family structure. In order to break free from this oppressive pattern, professionals in the family field need to do more education of the public in the coming years.

Pang Foua Yang Rhodes: I was born in Laos, lived in the refugee camps of Thailand for a year, and immigrated with my family to the U.S. in 1976. My family ended up in a very small (and very Dutch) town in Iowa where I spent my formative years. When I went off to college, it was really the first time I had left home, physically and otherwise. In 1993 I received my B.A in Psychology from Brown University. I got married a year after graduating (another prize from Brown) and moved to Southern California. In the summer of 2001, I completed my M.S.M.F.T from Fuller Theological Seminary (Pasadena, CA). Somehow, I was able to convince my husband to leave the comforts of Southern California for the frigid winters of Minnesota, and here we are enjoying the changing of the seasons—so far. Our two Yorkies, Peanut and Jelly Bean, had no choice about the move, but they have taken very well to the large fields and forests that the Midwest provides.

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passion is life-change: healing, wing, becoming. As a result, I am primarily interested in clinical practice as a therapist. I derive much satisfaction in walking with people in the change-points of their lives. As for research, I want to be involved in the process more because there is a need for research in my areas of interest than because it is how I want to spend my time. My research interests fall into two main areas: cross-cultural/ multicultural counseling and integration of theology and psychology. My immediate research/dissertation interest is on the effects of acculturation on marital relationships in the Southeast Asian refugee communities. (Ask me again in two years, and I might have a different focus.)

If you were to ask my husband to describe me, he would most likely start by saying that I'm too complex to put into words. (Is that a good thing?) However, if pressed, he could pretty easily come up with some descriptors: visionary, compassionate, intuitive, faith-filled, somewhat pessimistic, perfectionist, and well groomed. I can live with that list, and he has learned to live with it as well.

My name is Christina Robert. I was born and raised in Rockville, MD, a suburb of Washington, D.C. I grew up with cherry blossoms in the spring and wonderful art exhibits at the Smithsonian Institution year round. Having grown up very close to our nation's capital, I believe that my friends and family would thus describe me as a true Washingtonian, a person with strong opinions who is not afraid to speak her mind!

I have an undergraduate degree in English and German from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, and a Master's degree in Counseling and Psychological Services from St. Mary's University of MN. Before coming to Minnesota, I spent four years studying and living in Germany, where I worked in psychophysiology research laboratory and spent a lot of fun time traveling around Europe. Currently, I am in the Ph.D. and MFT program in Family Social Science. My research and clinical interests include cross-cultural counseling, improving access of mental health services to minority groups and examining issues faced by families with children with special needs or mental health diagnoses. One of the greatest challenges that I see our society facing this decade is how we as a community will best meet the growing demands of mental health services provided to children and families and how to persuade insurance companies to cover these services in a comprehensive manner!

News and Congratulations Undergraduate Students

The Department congratulates the following FSOS students who were named to the College of Human Ecology's Dean's List for Spring Semester 2001: Shannon Accola, James Arthur, Naomi Baso, Heather Bicking, Jill Brueske, Sarah Burwell, Rebecca Cranston, Mary Fingerholz, Wendy Gartman, Marilee Krenik, Bethany Marks, Kristine Rudy, Saundra Rundles, Miranda Schneider, Stephanie Seurer, Courtney Sonnek, Triska Swanson, Carla Temple, Jessica Wagner, Jacquelyn Wendt.

FSOS undergraduates Sarah Menya and Robyn Boyum were selected to receive College of Human College Undergraduate Professional Experience Grants.

Amanda Olsen, FSOS undergraduate, is a recipient of one of this year's CHE Outstanding Student Awards.

The Department of Family Social Science website: http://fsos.che.umn.edu
Position Announcements

Department Head and Professor with Tenure

We are searching for candidates with vision, energy and enthusiasm to provide dynamic leadership to the department’s teaching, research, outreach, and service. The Department Head will maintain balanced leadership for teaching and learning, research and discovery, and outreach and service, and will exert visionary, dynamic, and effective leadership, including cross-disciplinary or interdepartmental collaboration. This is a full-time, 12 month annually renewable administrative appointment, with an initial appointment of 3 years; and a 9-month tenured faculty position in FSoS. Expected start date: June, 2003. Review of applications begins February 1, 2002 and will continue until the position is filled.

For complete position description and application instructions, go to:
http://fsos.che.umn.edu/employment/positions.html

Assistant Professor with Extension Appointment (tenure-track)

We are searching for candidates who will collaborate with county based Extension faculty in the youth and family program development area to design research-based educational programs for families and communities, with a special focus on families in transition, such as immigrant and refugee families, post-divorce, and unemployed or underemployed parent(s). The position also involves preparation of research and outreach grant applications and serving on the Graduate Faculty, including supervision of graduate students and research assistants. This is a full-time, 9-month, tenure-track appointment as Assistant Professor. Expected start date is August 26, 2002. Applications will be reviewed beginning February 1, 2002 and will continue until the position is filled.

For complete position description and application instructions, go to:
http://fsos.che.umn.edu/employment/positions.html

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