Liz Wieling’s NIH K Award

This past year, FSoS Assistant Professor Elizabeth Wieling received some very impressive news. She was told that she would receive a prestigious grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to fund her research. The NIMH granted Dr. Wieling the K01 award for her work in culturally adapting an evidence-based parenting program for Latina single mothers.

The ‘K’ Award

The NIMH is a division of the National Institute of Health. As part of their work, the NIH presents the award to up-and-coming researchers in various fields. This type of award is highly prestigious as it is only granted to two or three researchers annually. The grant is designed to allow researchers the time and resources to hone their skills over the course of a period of time—anywhere from 1-5 years.

Ultimately, the award focuses as much on the processes of investigation as it does on specific project outcomes. In this case, the NIMH is interested in gaining a better understanding of the processes involved in developing culturally sensitive and effective preventive interventions for implementation with ethnic minority populations.

The NIH uses the ‘K’ award as a career development tool to create major league researchers. The award recognizes early career excellence—the award must be granted within seven years of the investigator earning a Ph.D.—and then connects these young researchers with seasoned mentors both in Family Social Science and in research centers across the country.

The NIH bases their selection of awardees on a number of priorities. The goal is to fund projects that fit within government initiatives (i.e., mental health, disparities between cultures/races, children’s issues). They also look for research that can be generalized across the country.

A special honor

This type of award is typically handed down in the medicine and psychology fields which makes it all the more special for Dr. Wieling. Rarely is this type of award granted in the family science field.

William Turner, an FSoS Professor and member of various NIMH review committees shed some light on the significance of this award: “Liz is doing translational research by taking how we view mainstream, white families and applying it to different cultures. The government is very interested in funding this type of research.” Dr. Wieling will receive release time from duties in FSoS to allow her the amount of time needed to focus on her research.

Addressing cultural discrepancies

As stated earlier, Dr. Wieling will use this grant to focus on the cultural adaptability of a pre-existing parental training program. Specifically, she’ll be focusing on how the Parent Management Training-Oregon (PMT-O) program can better fit the cultural characteristics of at-risk Latino/a families living in the Midwestern United States.

This type of mentored grant will aid Dr. Wieling in addressing six main goals. These goals are designed both to develop more effective research processes and to find applicable results to help improve parental training in Midwestern Latino/a communities.

See ‘K Award’-pg 6
From the Department Head...

Dear Colleagues, Students, and Friends of Family Social Science,

How quickly time flies! We are now finishing up our work for the 2003 calendar year and the Fall 2003 semester.

The national headlines, worries over the Minnesota fiscal situation, and our own necessary focus on the budget situation here at the University of Minnesota can be overwhelming some days. It is essential in times like these, however, to recognize and celebrate the many wonderful people here in Family Social Science (FSoS) and their accomplishments. As my familiarity with FSoS has increased, I am overwhelmed with the great promise in the department and the many wonderful things that faculty, staff, and students do to represent us so well in the College of Human Ecology, the University of Minnesota, and across the nation. Just a few Fall 2003 accomplishments are:

- Dr. Bill Doherty has launched work focused on Family Time that has been featured on Minnesota Public Television,
- Dr. Dan Detzner’s book, Elder Voices: Southeast Asian Families in the United States, is now available; this volume provides empirical findings across the life stories of Southeast Asian elders and explains findings within theoretical frameworks,
- Dr. Hal Grotevant spent a month in Norwich, England collaborating with colleagues at the University of East Anglia,
- Dr. Liz Wieling began the work on her 5-year career development K-Award from the National Institute on Mental Health,
- Dr. Jodi Dworkin provided expertise during the difficult days after a Minnesota community experienced teen violence,
- The Minnesota Student Council on Family Relations successfully launched the first FSoS Bizarre Bazaar Talent Show with proceeds providing support for the Crisis Nursery,
- Mr. Steven Pearthree chaired the search committee for the College of Human Ecology Chief Operations Officer,
- Dr. Wayne Caron (FSoS faculty member), Ms. Diane Hovey (FSoS alum- nus), and Ms. Gina Kelly (FSoS graduate student) are participating in the College of Human Ecology Buckman Fellowship Program, a program focused on foundation funding and philanthropy,
- 11 graduate students presented their work at national conferences such as AAMFT (American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy) and NCFR (National Council on Family Relations)-- See the News & Notes section in this issue for more details,
- 7 undergraduate students were recognized for their excellent scholarship – two receiving Lower Division Honors (Carly Emil and Kelli Jamison) and 5 receiving Upper Division Honors (Anna Doherty, Katherine Hardgrove, Heidi Schewe, Kristin Schneider, and Courtney Sonnek), and
- 3 graduate (Carolyn Bird, Karin Lindstrom Bremer, and Kristine Piescher) and 4 undergraduate FSoS students (Kalli Rae Hemb, Kristin Kleecker, and Sarah Ann Mandile) were inducted into the Alpha Chapter of Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society.

This is an especially meaningful time for many of us, regardless of our cultural and religious values. We are encouraged to remember those who came before us (individual family members and important leaders who made differences in our worlds) and to recommit ourselves in the dawning of a new year. At this special time, I hope that you will celebrate with me our many FSoS accomplishments. More importantly, I hope that you will be willing to commit your time and talents in creative ways to the department as we move forward. In the midst of the enormous change occurring in higher education, we will be required to be innovative in our efforts to maintain and improve the health of FSoS.

As change has been discussed among faculty and staff, I am pleased to let you know that FSoS is proactive in addressing issues that are important as we adapt to our changing environment. One area receiving attention is curriculum. Last year, a Task Force reviewed and recommended a revised Undergraduate Curriculum that is currently being integrated into our Fall 2004 scheduling. This year, we have a similar Task Force evaluating the FSoS graduate curriculum. The members of this group have an ambitious agenda and hope to provide an initial draft of their report in February. In addition, faculty and graduate students continue to increase their efforts to financially support FSoS scholarship. We have had an eight-fold increase in efforts to fund faculty and graduate research – an effort that is especially commendable in light of the many tasks individuals must accomplish during the year. On another front, our staff has committed efforts to the evaluation of joint efforts to keep the departmental running smoothly; they have discussed, evaluated, and shifted tasks to maximize the support they provide to FSoS faculty and students.

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 Chris Liakos, Department of 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 cliakos@che.umn.edu

B. Jan McCulloch, Department Head
Chris Liakos, Coordinator, Editor, and Layout

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As we begin 2004, several initiatives are currently in the planning/development stages that, I hope, will become news items in the next edition. These initiatives involve collaborations among faculty and students within the department, leadership roles for interdisciplinary collaborations at the U, international learning experiences for graduate students, and the introduction of new faces.

In closing, I wish for each of you a new year of great accomplishments. I believe the Department of Family Social Science begins the new year with the realization that the pace of change continues to increase – we remain committed to being proactive in our adaptation to this pace. In my short time here, I am humbled by the individual commitments provided by this diverse group for the collective good of Family Social Science.

My Best to All,

B. Jan McCulloch

Studying Rural Poverty: An Undergraduate Experience

Like most students, Tonya Miller came to the University of Minnesota unsure of what she wanted to study. She did, however, come to eventually find her passion in family social science. Now, at the end of her undergraduate career, her hard work and interest in rural poverty research is paying off.

After deliberating over possible majors in psychology and sociology, Tonya decided on joining Family Social Science in her junior year. Then while sitting in one of Dr. Virginia Zuiker’s classes, Tonya discovered a whole new field of interest. Once a semester, Dr. Jean Bauer serves as a guest lecturer in Dr. Zuiker’s course to discuss how everyday life is used to study society and set policy, specifically surrounding issues in rural poverty. This caught Tonya’s attention.

After attending this class, Tonya contacted Dr. Bauer looking for more information. She would soon join Dr. Bauer’s team of research interns. Then, this past spring, while working on Dr. Bauer’s Rural Families Speak project, Tonya decided to take another important step in her education in rural poverty.

In May, with the help of two graduate students, Kristy Piescher and Szu-Yi Peng, Tonya applied for the first Undergraduate Leadership Fellowship in Rural Poverty Research & Policy. The fellowship is offered by the Rural Policy Research Institute (visit www.rupri.org) and provides an array of support for undergraduates working in this field.

In June, Tonya was notified that she was one of six fellowship recipients from across the country. She began the fellowship in August by attending a three-day workshop at the University of Missouri-Columbia. This provided Tonya with an informal orientation on rural poverty issues and a chance to sit down with various leaders from across the country. In February, 2004, Tonya will return to Missouri where she—along with the other five fellowship recipients—will serve on an advisory panel to help design and improve future fellowship programs. The fellowship will conclude in March with a two-day national rural policy agenda-setting conference in Washington, D.C.

Meanwhile, Tonya is currently completing her fellowship paper. With data compiled through Dr. Bauer’s 14-state study, Tonya is discovering why low-income families make frequent residential moves. She has found that changing relationships and housing issues often force families to relocate. Dr. Bauer is assisting Tonya with some of the quantitative analysis.

Originally from South Dakota, Tonya has spent much of her time as a student working with Omegon, a local long-term mental health and chemical dependency treatment center. Along with her major in FSoS, Tonya is finishing up a minor in family violence prevention from the School of Social Work. She plans on attending graduate school next fall at the University of North Carolina to continue studying rural poverty issues.

My Best to All,

B. Jan McCulloch

 Coming Soon in 2004!!!

The FSoS website will be undergoing a major facelift in early 2004. The new site will offer much more user-friendly access to important

- faculty research projects and initiatives
- undergraduate and graduate course information
- news, events and updates around the department
- department contact information

and much, much more. So check back early and often in 2004 to see what’s new at FSoS!!!

http://fsos.che.umn.edu

http://fsos.che.umn.edu
Kristina Anderson is originally from southwestern Minnesota and currently lives in Hugo with her fiancé, Paul. She has earned a BA in Psychology and French from the College of St. Benedict and a MA in Counseling Psychology from the University of St. Thomas. Kristina served as a business analyst and software trainer for several years before getting her Master’s Degree. Her most recent job was providing in-home behavior therapy to children with autism, which coincided with her experience chronic illness or disability. In her spare time, she enjoys running, in-line skating and hockey!

Kara Erolin is a native Minnesotan and completed her MA in Counseling & Student Personnel Psychology program here at the University of Minnesota. She also has a BA in Psychology and BS in Speech Therapy, also from the U of M. Kara is primarily interested in research areas related to multicultural families, including culturally sensitive counseling strategies, diverse family forms, multicultural identity development, and intercultural adoption and relationships. Kara lives in South Minneapolis with her husband, Julius, and 12-year-old son, Chantz. Kara loves to travel all over the world. Unfortunately, her opportunities to travel will be limited for the next 5 years as she completes her Ph.D. program!

Herb Grant, originally from Alaska, lives in Minneapolis with his family. He has his Masters from the University of St. Thomas. Currently his interests are in multi-cultural and marginalized families, particularly families and mental health and urban American Indian families. Herb comes to the program as a licensed marriage and family therapist and has worked in the American Indian community in Minneapolis for the last seven years.

Kristina Anderson

Kara Erolin

Herb Grant

New Graduate Students!

Johnben Loy was born and raised in Malaysia. He received a BFA in Music from York University in Toronto, a BA in Psychology from McGill University in Montreal, an MBA from Cambridge University in England, and a Masters in Counseling from Tyndale Seminary in Toronto. Johnben has seven years of experience in business management with his family business, and twelve years of ministry experience in church-related contexts. His research/clinical interests are: family-owned businesses, Asian families, and integration of therapy and spiritual formation. When he is not working, he spends his time trying to convince his 2-year-old daughter to speak Mandarin. He also continues to dabble in music—playing jazz piano occasionally and singing operatic arias in the shower, both of which, he insists, are highly therapeu-
tic!

Stephanie Mosher comes to the Family Social Science Masters Program from the world of public television where she was a part of a production team that created regional historical, cultural and art documentaries. Now her areas of interests are focused on intergenerational and cross-cultural family narratives, as well as adoption research and policy. Stephanie is a native Minnesotan who tolerates the winter by making homemade soups, staying close to her family and friends and having a home painted in orange, yellow and blue.

Johnben Loy

Stephanie Mosher

Kara Erolin

Herb Grant

Kristina Anderson

New Graduate Students!

Justine Nelson-Christin spends four years conducting research and program evaluation at Wilder Research Center. Youth development and family strengthening programs were a few
of her projects. Before that, Justine studied Sociology, first receiving a BA at Macalester College in Saint Paul, and then receiving an MA at the University of Oslo, Norway. Two of her main interests of study in FSoS are family economics and adolescent development in the family context.

Melissa Odenbach grew up in the Twin Cities area and received her BA in Biology at St. Olaf College with concentrations in Women’s Studies and Environmental Studies. During her time at St. Olaf she spent semesters in Australia and India where she studied various environmental issues, conducted ecological studies, and taught science in an Indian village school. Melissa also attended the University of Minnesota-Duluth where she earned a BAS in Life Science Secondary Education and received a Minnesota 7-12 Teaching Certificate. Her interests include family adaptation to stress, effective family coping, family resilience, family as a support system for the individual, gender issues, and mental health issues particularly focusing on depression and anxiety. Melissa loves traveling, cooking, going out to eat, and spending time with her husband and two dogs.

Dorothy Rombo is originally from Kenya. Her education background includes a Bachelor of Education in Home Economics, and a Masters of Education in Educational Communication and Technology, both from Kenyatta University, Nairobi. Her professional experiences include teaching at Kenyatta University in the Department of Family and Consumer Science. She came to the Department of Family Social Science on an International Fellowship from the Ford Foundation. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Family Social Science while studying family dynamics across cultures. Dorothy is living here with her four children.

This course provides a survey of human development in a family context. Using life course theory and human development theories, the course addresses the interlocking paths of individual and family development, beginning with mate selection and birth of the child and continuing through the life cycle. The course addresses basic processes involved in physical, cognitive, language, social and personality development by interweaving historical, social and cultural factors as they relate to individual development.

The course is designed for undergraduates who seek a broad introduction to human development in family contexts across the entire lifespan. It is especially relevant for students interested in career paths that involve the provision of human services of many kinds.
First, she plans to explore how to adapt and expand the current PMT-O intervention methods to make them culturally sensitive and viable for at-risk Latino/a families. Secondly, Dr. Wieling plans to become better skilled in designing clinical approaches that will increase both recruitment and retention rates of Latinos/as participating in research trials. The third goal of the project is to develop sound methodological skills to test the program’s efficacy and effectiveness.

The fourth goal focuses on integrating the quantitative and qualitative methodologies in adapting the existing intervention program. The fifth goal is to extend the existing assessment used with Latino/as in order to increase its validity. Finally, Dr. Wieling plans to use this pilot data as a foundation for preparing and submitting R01 proposals to the NIMH to further test the findings of this study.

Moving on…

The R01 grant will be further down the road. Dr. Wieling will be eligible to apply for the larger R01 award after her current funding is completed. At the present, however, she is just beginning this exciting opportunity.

Dr. Wieling now has the advantage of exceptional funding, first-rate mentoring and support from a well-recognized government agency. Nevertheless, the ‘K’ award clearly benefits not only Liz Wieling, but also the Department of Family Social Science, the NIMH and most importantly, countless Latino/a families across the country.
News & Notes

FACULTY NEWS

Dan Detzner has accepted the position as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Curriculum at General College. He will be assuming his new role at the end of May 2004.


Hal Grotevant has recently been named a Fellow of the National Council on Family Relations. Congratulations!

STUDENT NEWS

On June 16th, Barbara Couden Hernandez completed the oral presentation of her dissertation. Titled “Marriage and Family Therapist Practice Patterns with Clients Using Psychotropic Medications,” the dissertation was a partial requirement of the completion of her Ph.D.

Jennifer Barnett, FSoS undergrad, received the College of Human Ecology Undergraduate Professional Experience Grant (UPEG). The grant totals $1,000.

FSoS undergrad Cassie Busse was named the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Player of the Week for October 19-25, 2003. Carrie is a senior on the Gopher Women’s Volleyball team.

Herb Grant presented at the Minnesota Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (MAMFT) conference this fall. The presentation was on the self of the therapist and the self of the supervisor in supervision.

Christina Robert had a poster presentation at National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) titled “Families with Children with Autism: A Qualitative Study.”

Yvette Perry presented two papers at this year’s Theory Construction and Research Methodology (TCRM) meeting at NCFR: “Developing Theory about Families and Technology: The Case of Cell Phones” with Bill Doherty and “The Ties that Matter: Towards a Reconceptualization of Adoptive Kinship” She also presented a poster based on the adoption TCRM paper above at the University of Minnesota, Community of Scholars Program Travel Grant Symposium on November 7th.

Kristen Holm presented a paper titled “Developmental Trends in Family Predictors of Adolescent Suicide: Stressors and Problem Solving” with Martha Reuter at the NCFR meeting.

Kristen Holm also presented a poster with Jerica Berge in October at American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) in Long Beach, California. The title of the presentation was “Psychotropic Medications for Depression and Anxiety: A Primer for MFTs.”

Jerica Berge also presented a research poster at the AAMFT titled “The influence of Marriage and Family therapy on high utilizers of health care.”

Heather Haberman and Susan Wolfgram presented their paper, “A Qualitative Study: A Lesbian Perspective on the Concept of Marriage”, at NCFR this year (the third author, Jennifer Connor, was not present at the conference).

Susan Wolfgram also presented with Catherine Solheim and Jan Hogan at the NCFR conference. Their paper was titled “The Working Poor: From the Economic Margins to Asset-Building,” at NCFR this year (other authors on the paper who were not present at the conference were Nicola Rodrigues and Busi Nkosi).

Cherie Collins, Tina Watson-Wiens and Aysem Karahan presented at the MAMFT conference in November. They led a 90-minute seminar titled: “Race, Culture, & Ethnicity in Self of the Therapist: The Great Conversation.”

Katy Daniels presented at the AAMFT. Her poster was titled “Fertile ground: Marriage and Family Therapists in Infertility Treatment.”

ALUMNI NEWS

David J. Bredehoft (PhD, 1983) recently published a trade book for parents and parent educators with Marlowe and Co. titled How Much is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likeable, Responsible and Respectful Children - from Toddlers to Teens. Bredehoft also recently edited a National Council on Family Relations book titled Family Life Education: Integrating Theory and Practice and was named “Certified Family Life Educator of the year” at the 65th Annual Meeting of the NCFR.

Make a gift...

You may make a gift to the Department of Family Social Science through the University of Minnesota Foundation. You may choose to designate your gift to any of the funds below:

- Friends of the Family Assistantship (3911)
- Shirley Zimmerman Fund (5487)
- David Olson Fellowship (5816)
- FSoS Strategic Initiative (2748)
- Jan Hogan Fellowship (5734)
- Family Caregiving Program (5995)
- Ambiguous Loss Project (5937)

You may also choose to memorialize a loved one by donating in their name. Visit www.foundation.umn.edu or call 612-626-8560 or 1-800-775-2187 for more information.

Thank you,
Family Social Science

Mission: To enhance family functioning in diverse settings through discovery, teaching, and outreach. We contribute to an understanding of families in a changing world that leads to development of strong families for future generations.