Building community week by week
Series brings together faculty, staff, students and guests on a weekly basis

A “meeting of the minds” takes place each Wednesday throughout the school year in McNeal Hall. For years the Family Social Science Wednesday Colloquium has provided an opportunity for faculty, staff, students and friends of the department to come together to discuss current topics of interests. Research is shared, ideas are presented, discussions are had, and lunch is eaten.

In all its stages—it was formerly known as the Brown Bag Seminar—the colloquium series offers everyone an opportunity to take a break from their own work and come together for a chance to see some of the incredible research going on around them. The result is an expanse of both knowledge and community.

Diverse topics
The coordinator for the 2005-2006 series is Dr. Virginia Zuiker. She coordinates the series with a group of graduate students. Together they schedule topics and host presenters. A goal of the colloquium series is to highlight a diversity of topics with presenters from within FSoS as well as colleagues across and outside the university. Family issues are regularly explored in areas such as sociology, psychology, social work, and child development. It has become a regular occurrence for faculty from these units to share their work as part of the series.

“We take input from inside the department,” Dr. Zuiker shares, “and we then invite participants to come over and present their work on family research.”

Colloquium topics are varied. For example, during the 2005 fall semester, colloquia included family relationship models, childhood aggression, families and Hurricane Katrina, transracial adoption issues, and prostitution. Beyond specific topics, presenters also provide their insights about...
Spring 2006 Colloquium Schedule:

1/18: Dr. Cathy Jordan, Director, *Children, Youth and Family Consortium*

1/25: Dr. Paul Rosenblatt and John Barner, Topic: *Couple Relationships After One of the Partners Has Experienced the Death of a Parent*

2/1: Johnben Loy, grad student, Topic: *Work and Family*

2/8: Dr. Wayne Caron, Topic: *TBA*


2/22: Dr. Jodi Dworkin, Marjorie Savage and Kristin Schneider, Topic: *First Year Seminars for Parents*

3/1: Dr. Ann Garwick, School of Nursing, Topic: *Lessons Learned from Conducting Community-Based Projects*

3/8: Dr. Kathleen Hull, Department of Sociology, Topic: *The Grass Roots of the Marriage Movement*

3/22: Diane Wiese-Bjornstad, School of Kinesiology and Karin Lindstrom-Bremer, Topic: *TBA*

3/29: Pa Nhia Yang, grad student, Topic: *TBA*

4/5: Dr. Richard Lee, School of Psychology, Topic: *Cultural Socialization in Families with Adopted Children*

4/12: *TBA*

4/19: Kris Anderson, grad student, Topic: *Autism Spectrum*

4/26: Dr. Martha Reuter, Topic: *TBA*

5/3: Dr. Tai Mendenhall, Topic, *TBA*

Building community
Perhaps the greatest benefit to the colloquium series is the sense of community and departmental collaboration it creates. Day in and day out faculty and students are busy with their own work and class schedules—daily schedules that mean they rarely have time to just sit down and discuss ideas and issues. Our Wednesday Colloquium series provides us with this opportunity.

Former colloquium coordinator Dr. Paul Rosenblatt provides his thoughts on the series: “It’s a symbol that we aren’t all working in separate silos with no interest in what others are doing. Sometimes it teaches a lot of new and interesting things.”

Dr. Zuiker adds: “The colloquium is an avenue for all members of the department to share with the rest of the community their work in the area of family, which can encompass research, teaching and engagement.”

In a department defined by studying the family in all its many facets, research ranges from financial stability to adoption to grieving the loss of loved ones to marriage and family relationships. The weekly gatherings help shape the department and remind everyone that although there are many different areas of study, all the work in the department is done for a singular purpose: to increase our knowledge about family science and enhance the well-being of all families.

Added benefits
From the graduate student perspective, the colloquium series offers more than a source of learning and discussing family issues. In many ways, the colloquium is an opportunity for professional development.

Graduate student Heather Haberman has been attending the series for several years. “The colloquium has provided me a weekly ritual for intellectual conversation, exploration, and above all, a connection to my community. It also provides a comfortable environment for professional networking.”

A key component for each colloquium is the element of presentation. Most graduate students are early in their careers and their presentation experiences (i.e., data collection or developing a “scholarly voice”) and the work of various student groups.
From the Department Head...

Happy New Year!

Our 2005-2006 academic year has been a year filled with anticipation. We have been involved in discussions about how we will work in our new collegiate home as well as involved in decisions about the University of Minnesota’s strategic positioning plans.

This additional effort has been accomplished in tandem with daily departmental business – conducting family science research, engagement with university and community partners, and the teaching and learning enterprise. I am pleased to write that, by and large, our faculty, staff, and students have been able to balance the “change agenda” with the daily work that is so important to our productivity. As you will see in this issue of Interactions, many exciting activities are going on in Family Social Science.

Spring will be filled with events that “say good-bye” to our current collegiate home, the College of Human Ecology, and “hello” to our new – and as yet, unnamed – college. The Department of Family Social Science has flourished in the College of Human Ecology and we hold dear the growth and relationships we have had in this wonderful collegiate home. I believe that, for many of us here in FSoS, our “saying good-bye” will be ambivalent; we are excited to celebrate the college and our role in its success but we are also saddened to see this era end.

As we become more and more engaged in the business of “saying hello,” we remain hopeful that our sustained success as a unit focusing on family science will contribute to the success of our new college. We look forward to the university’s commitment to interdisciplinary work and the development of institutional structures that enhance the complexities of working across units within the university. Although Family Science has truly become a discipline since its inception, the answers to many of our questions and solutions to the problems we address about family are best examined with interdisciplinary lenses. We are excited about the possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration with colleagues from General College and the College of Education and Human Development.

We in Family Social Science appreciate your continued interest in the work we do and our future. I encourage you to keep up to date about our transition by visiting the FSoS website (http://fsos.che.umn.edu). We will provide new postings as information is available so that you, too, are aware of the U’s efforts in strategic positioning and the part that Family Social Science will play as the University of Minnesota expands efforts to be one of the top three research universities in the world.

My Best Wishes,

B. Jan McCulloch, Ph.D.
Professor and Department Head

FSoS faculty share their thoughts on Jan Hogan:

Few people realize the work it takes to close an academic unit, especially one that has 100 plus years of history that we don’t want to lose. Jan brings a unique perspective to the process as she has served as faculty, as department head in Family Social Science and as associate dean of the College. She is known and respected within the College, across the University and by alumni and donors of the College who not only care about preserving our history, but also care about how the spirit of human ecology can continue into the future. As one of the associate deans of the College, I feel privileged to work with Jan as we conclude our journey as the College of Human Ecology.

-Dr. Catherine Solheim
Associate Professor &
Associate Dean, Outreach
and Extension

“Jan has incredible depth of experience at this university, both as a faculty member and an administrator. She knows and can speak to the perspectives of students, alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and administrators. Her wisdom will be critically important to help us over the transition into our new college. I feel especially grateful for her willingness to serve in this way, just after she completed her last semester of teaching prior to retirement. Thanks Jan!”

-Dr. Hal Grotevant
Professor

Hogan (from pg. 1)
Within the College of Human Ecology, Hogan has received the Outstanding Faculty Award. She also received the President’s Distinguished Service Award in 2003. Hogan’s appointment runs until June 30, 2006. For more information on Jan Hogan, visit www.che.umn.edu or http://fsos.che.umn.edu/facultystaff/hogan.html

Hogan (from pg. 1)
Within the College of Human Ecology, Hogan has received the Outstanding Faculty Award. She also received the President’s Distinguished Service Award in 2003. Hogan’s appointment runs until June 30, 2006. For more information on Jan Hogan, visit www.che.umn.edu or http://fsos.che.umn.edu/facultystaff/hogan.html
Meet the new crop of grad students

Peggy Andrews is originally from Bexley, Ohio. She completed her M.A. in Human Development at St. Mary’s University in Minneapolis in 1999, and is currently enrolled in the FSoS Ph.D. program. Her work experience includes 15 years in Human Resources in both staff and consulting positions, as well as adjunct faculty appointments at St. Thomas University (Organization Development) and the University of Minnesota (The Work-Life Relationship). Her current research interests focus on maternal decision-making frameworks at the intersection between family caregiving and personal career satisfaction, and cross-cultural comparisons of national economics and policies, and their implications in the lives of working mothers.

Karen Kramer is a Ph.D. student from Haifa, Israel. She received her Masters degree in Organizational Sociology from the University of Haifa, Israel. She also holds a bachelor degree in Sociology, Anthropology, and Political Science. Her research interests include retirement and elders, life course, and social identity. She is also interested in quantitative research methods.

Laurelle Olsen was born and raised Minnesota and received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from North Central University in 2003. She then moved to North Carolina to obtain her Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy from East Carolina University. As a doctoral MFT student, her clinical placement is currently at the Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center, where she works with American Indian individuals, couples, and families. Her research interests include American Indian families and communities, cultural diversity, collaborative family healthcare, and families and mental health.

Trenton Peterson is a Minnesota native. He received his Master’s and Post Master’s Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy from Saint Mary’s University. Trenton is currently a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and has a practice in Anoka, MN. His research interests focuses on Native American couples living on the Reservation, including gay and lesbian couples and their experiences both historically and currently.

Libby Plowman is a native Minnesotan who grew up in Maple Grove. After graduating with distinction from St. Olaf College with a B.A. in English and Psychology, she engaged in a brief stint in the advertising industry. In Fall ’05, she entered the masters program in Family Science at the U. Her primary research interests include the effects of chronic illness in the family, sibling relationships, and individual development within the family context. Libby hopes to become a researcher and professor in Family Studies after completing her Masters and PhD.

Memory Roberts grew up in North Dakota, but has lived in Minneapolis for over 6 years and now calls it home. She received a B.S. from the University of Minnesota in Family Social Science. Her research interests include women’s self-esteem and body image, family policy, conflict resolution, military families, and assisted reproductive technologies.

Brooke Skinner received her B.A. from Macalester College in psychology and communication studies. She returns to Minnesota from North Carolina after receiving her MSW with a concentration in Direct Practice with Families and Children from UNC-Chapel Hill. She is a Licensed Graduate Social Worker. Brooke is currently pursuing her PhD with a Marriage and Family Therapy specialization. Her research interests include levels of openness in adoption, identity development of adopted young adults, and families affected by eating disorders.
Seohee Son is an international doctoral student from Korea. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Family and Child Welfare and her Masters degree in Family Resource Management from Sookmyung Women’s University in Seoul. Her current research interests are elderly parent–adult child relationships, family strengths, and the family welfare system.

Jason Wilde earned his B.S. in Computer Science with a Family Science minor from Brigham Young University. He returned to BYU for a master’s degree in Marriage, Family and Human Development after working for two years. He is now pursuing a Ph.D. in FSoS. His research interests include how to strengthen families in general, how parents teach their children about human sexuality, outreach programming, and Internet delivery of Family-Life Education.

Mary Woodward-Kreitz is a Licensed Psychologist and Certified Sex Therapist originally from the Chicago area. She received her B.A. from the University of Minnesota in 1985 with a combined focus in Psychology, Religious Studies and Women’s Studies, and received her MA in Educational Psychology from the UM-Duluth in 1991. Mary has worked in a number of research and clinical settings, including the U of M Medical School and Psychology Department and Stanford University’s Psychology Department. Currently, she maintains a clinical therapy practice in Eagan, MN. Mary has served as Adjunct Faculty in Psychology at Inver Hills Community College as well as Dakota County Technical College, and presently nationally in the area of sexual health. She is currently pursuing research interests in the combined application of qualitative and quantitative research methods and sexuality research from the perspective of family theory.

Julie Zaloudek resides in the Spooner, Wisconsin area with her husband and four children. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Music at UW - River Falls and her masters in Mental Health Counseling at UW - Stout. As a member of both the Christian community and the academic community, Julie is interested in bridging the gap between the two in order to enrich both. She hopes to develop her research interests in gender roles, marriage relationships, parent/child relationships, and sexuality issues within the Christian community. Julie currently serves as a Minister of Music and teacher at the United Pentecostal Church in Spooner.

Colloquium (from pg. 2)
ience is often relatively limited. The series offers them the opportunity to see many different types of presentation styles and also allows them to practice their own emerging presentation skills.

“‘It’s a time where you can bring your lunch and listen to someone present on a topic you might have an interest in, but not the time to research on your own.’ Dr. Zuiker said. “Graduate students and faculty can present their work before taking it to a conference and receive helpful feedback from a much smaller and more comfortable crowd.”

Looking ahead
Although the coordinators, presenters and topics change over time, the format for the hour long weekly colloquia has remained relatively the same over the years. The main themes of community and collaboration keep drawing participants back each week. Dr. Zuiker notes that the series is the result of all the participants, as well as the graduate students who help with coordination.

“We have a full schedule this year thanks to the hard work of our students. My thanks go to Jenet Jacob, Nicola Rodrigues, Peggy Andrews, Libby Plowman, Clinton Gudmunson, Kevin Green, Pa Nhia Yang, Jason Wilde ,and Christina Anderson.”

For a complete colloquium schedule, see the left side of page 2. All colloquia are held on Wednesdays from 12-1 in room 274 McNeal Hall. The series is open to faculty, staff, students and all interested persons.
FSoS/CEHD transition update

This Fall our department has been heavily involved in President Bruininks strategic positioning activities. As part of the university’s call for strategic restructuring, a new college will be created that integrates the Department of Family Social Science and the School of Social Work with General College and units currently in the College of Education and Human Development. Two university Task Forces were established to provide recommendations for this new collegiate unit. The Task Force most specifically focused on FSoS’s transition to this new college consisted of individuals from Family Social Science, the School of Social Work, and individuals currently in the College of Education and Human Development. As a member of this Task Force, Dr. Hal Grotevant experienced first hand the rewards and frustrations of “creating” a new collegiate home.

The group met about once a week from mid-September through the first of December. Over the past few months, the Task Force members have held focus groups with faculty and staff to ensure an open dialogue for the process. Some of these focus groups—10 in all—dealt with staffing concerns, research issues, student’s concerns and also the issues surrounding any possible changes to teaching and curriculum. This Task Force, along with all those involved in the university’s work around strategic positioning, is available to read on the web (http://www1.umn.edu/systemwide/strategic_positioning/index.html).

“We’ve made every effort to be very respectful to everyone involved,” Dr. Grotevant said. “We want to create this new college as smoothly as possible, while building on the strengths of each existing department.”

Deliverables include:
- Recommendations regarding optimal design, structure, and organization of the new college.
- Recommendations for a long-term strategic plan.
- Recommendations regarding areas of strength and comparative advantage.
- Recommendations on how to enhance multidisciplinary research both within the college and with other collegiate units.
- Other recommendations regarding a new college mission, models for promotion of public engagement and other factors related to the University’s goal of becoming a top three public research university.

Throughout the process, the Task Force met with the Deans of the three colleges that will be integrated into a new collegiate unit (College of Human Ecology, College of Education and Human Development, and General College). Members of the Task Force have tried to work with a process that enabled individual input while maintaining a “greater picture” perspective.

Dr. Grotevant iterates the importance of input from all parties throughout the process: “It’s time for people to be speaking up on all issues. Before any decisions are finalized from the top and before a new Dean is hired, all issues should be raised while there is still some flexibility.”

Buckman Opportunity

Are you involved in a non-profit organization? Interested in learning about fundraising and philanthropy? For the past three years, the Buckman Fellowship for Leadership in Philanthropy program has given CHE alumni, faculty, staff, and graduate students the opportunity to learn about fundraising, community relations, and philanthropy in the non-profit sector.

The Buckman Fellowship provides a $1,000 stipend and a flexible program designed to help Fellows complete a philanthropic project of their choice. CHE alumni, faculty, staff, and graduate students are encouraged to submit an application this spring for 2006-2007. For more information, visit http://www.che.umn.edu/donors/Buckman.html
News and notes

FACULTY NEWS
The “Learning the Language of Money Team” has been honored by the University of Minnesota Deans and Director’s Awards. Regional Extension educators on the team are Shirley Anderson-Porisch, Marshall; Becky Hagen Jokela, Cloquet; Sara Croymans, Morris; Lori Hendrickson, Grand Rapids; and Phyllis Onstad, Rochester. Extension faculty members included Jean Bauer, Marilyn Bruin and Patricia Olson. Other U of M team members are financial literacy program assistants Gabriela Burk and Antio Alba Meraz, and graduate student Carolyn Bird.

Bill Doherty appeared on NPR’s Day to Day program in August to discuss marriage education.

Sharon Danes was quoted in the Star Tribune October 1st discussing the crisis of family finances. As part of this discussion, she provided comments about a logical starting point to a remedy this crisis.

Bill Doherty was quoted in the Star Tribune on October 5th. He discussed the hazards of over scheduling kids and the need for sports free Sundays.

Jodi Dworkin’s research, which was utilized to forge a U of MN online course, “First-Year Seminar for Parents: Alcohol Use on Campus,” was featured in the Star Tribune, on October 5th.

The University of Minnesota has recently named Paul Rosenblatt as a member of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers. The mission of the academy is to celebrate teaching excellence, to foster the continued success of teaching and learning at the U of M, and to strengthen the resources necessary to do so.

Hal Grotevant has received funding of $100,000 from the William T. Grant Foundation to assist with the Minnesota-Texas Adoption Research Project.

Professor Emeritus Pauline Boss is featured in the December 5th issue of Time Magazine article on ambiguous loss during the holiday season.

Jean Bauer has been named a Fellow by the National Council on Family Relations. This NCFR confirmed this honor at their national conference in November.

Hal Grotevant was interviewed for an article in the APA Monitor, “Adopting a new American Family” that appeared the first week in December.

STUDENT NEWS
The Minnesota Student Council on Family Relations has announced their officers for the 05-06 school year. They are Kristin Schneider (President), Pa Nhia Yang (Vice President) and Holli Trombley (Treasurer).

Tina Wiens has co-authored a chapter, with Pauline Boss, in a new book series titled Military Life. The chapter, titled “Maintaining Family Resiliency Before, During and After Military Separation,” appears in part three of the four volume set which deals with the military family.

This past July, grad student Sara Lassig presented work at a conference entitled “The Clock Is Ticking for Rural America: A Behavioral Health and Safety.” Sara was reporting research from the Older Rural Women’s Medical Decision Making project she’s working on with Dr. Jan McCulloch. She entered her paper in the student competition and won 3rd place and a monetary award of $200. She also made it through the first round of the Gerontological Society of America’s Pre-Dissertation student competition. The research reported for this competition represents her thesis project, “Where Dementia and Love Collide: Husbands’ Lived Experience of Coping for a Wife with Dementia.” At the GSA meeting in November, she presented this work.

In July, grad student Liddy Hope appeared on KARE 11 television to discuss realistic body image issues for women dressing for the summer.

On July 14th Busisiwe Nkosi successfully defended in her dissertation. The title of her dissertation...
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

Our mission: to enhance the well-being of diverse families in a changing world through teaching, research, and outreach.

---

Sheikh received the Caleb Dorr Award to attend the 2005 National Council on Family Relations conference. The award for $200 was matched by Dr. Dan Detzner of General College. Khadija received this award for her work titled “Immigrant Family Strengths: A Quality Study on Hmong and Somali Families in the U.S.”

The College of Human Ecology Undergraduate Professional Experience Grants have been announced and three Family Social Science students received awards. Congratulations to Ka Vang, Mora Heras, and Katherine Wind.

On November 29th, Sara Lassig successfully defended her thesis titled “Where Dementia and Love Collide: Husbands’ Lived Experiences of Caring for a Wife With Dementia.”

In November, Pa Nhia Yang was awarded a College of Human Ecology Experience Abroad Award. She will visited Laos in December to study Hmong family systems and traditions.


project is “Household Food Security and Health Behaviors in Rural Communities of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.”

On August 29th Susan Wolfram successfully defended her dissertation titled “Predicting Contact Over Time Between Adoptive Parents and Birth Mothers in the Open Adoptive Kinship Network.”

On September 12th, Christine McGeorge successfully defended her dissertation titled “Caregivers’ Definitions of Successful Caregiving: A Phenomenological Study of Primary Family Dementia Caregivers.”

FSoS undergraduate Celi Marie Dean was crowned Miss Black USA at a pageant this past summer in Washington D.C. Her prize package included a $5,000 college scholarship and a trip to the Bahamas.

Undergraduate student Khadija

Dr. Gail Dubrow, Dean of Graduate School shakes hands with FSoS graduate Christie McGeorge as she walks across the stage at commencement on December 2nd.