Letter from the Department Head

Greetings!

As we bring you, our supporters and friends, another issue of FSoS Interactions, I have chosen to focus this issue on a celebration of so many of the great things that have collectively made this a wonderful year. It is very true that we could have focused on the many difficulties the department has faced in light of major budget cuts. As you might expect, this was a daunting challenge for FSoS and one that required sacrifice across all of our departmental work.

HOWEVER, I am proud to say that, as usual, our faculty, staff, and students have been up to the challenge. I do not receive mountains of complaints in my office; I do not have to endure a lot of “whining.” What I do get to do is celebrate the continued excellent work and good will that is so characteristic of Family Social Science. I particularly wanted you to know, as we close this academic year, that even in light of extremely difficult times, faculty remain focused and productive in all areas of our scholarship and have been recognized for their contributions nationally and locally; our staff continue to provide excellent support for our work and have been recognized for their important service, and our students (both graduate and undergraduate) have continued to make timely progress toward their degrees and received recognition for their stellar performances.

As we look to the future—whether our lenses are focused on global, national, or local issues, we experience concern and stress about what is to come. It has been most rewarding for me, as FSoS Department Head, to see how faculty, staff, and students have remained committed to our mission even during these uncertain times. Because we are in the business of “family science,” there is no better time for us to be productive and committed to improving the well-being of diverse families. I hope you enjoy this celebratory recognition of our commitment to the future!

Family Social Science Newsletter

Web site wins award

The Family Social Science Web site received the Maroon award in the electronic media category of the University of Minnesota Communicators Forum Maroon and Gold Awards. The awards honor forum members whose work best embodies the University’s core values.

The judges praised the use of images and media on the site. They noted that the site has a clear interface, “represents many voices,” and conveys a clear message of what the department exemplifies.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION + HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

University of Minnesota

B. Ann McCullough
William Turner is leaving the University of Minnesota after serving for eight years as professor in Family Social Science. In July, he will begin a new position as Betts Chair of Education and Human Development in the Peabody College of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

He said he is excited about the new position for many reasons, one of which is that moving to Nashville “puts my wife and me back in the region where we are from.” In addition, he said, their daughter is a senior at Vanderbilt and is getting her degree in William’s new department; Morgan is pleased that her parents will be nearby.

Dr. Turner came to Minnesota from the University of Kentucky after Dr. Bill Doherty, who was director of the Marriage and Family Therapy program in Family Social Science at the time, asked him to consider a position in the department.

“There was no way we were going to move,” William said with a chuckle. However, a visit to the Twin Cities proved that the opportunities here were “extraordinary.” The Marriage and Family Therapy Program had a “stellar reputation,” he said, and the position fit well with the direction that he wanted to go in his research. The Twin Cities had several organizations that were known for their innovative work with African American families and mental health, and being here would allow him to become more engaged in that work and to use his research to evaluate it scientifically.

At the University, William has been able to work on a number of important issues with the University Northside Partnership and the NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center in North Minneapolis. He has also been able to take on leadership roles at the University in the areas of cultural diversity and mental health.

Last December, Dr. Turner concluded a prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship focused on health policy. He lived in Washington, D.C., where he served on then-Senator Barack Obama’s health policy team and was responsible for legislation involving mental health. He is excited that his work at Vanderbilt will allow him to build on his fellowship experiences and to be engaged in health policy research and work.

“William has long-term interests in the health and strengths of African American families,” said department head Dr. Jan McCulloch. “During his tenure with FSoS, he has continued this research focus and expanded his interest and expertise in health policy. He has also served as a role model for students of color and provided mentorship to many of our minority students.”

“He will be missed—he has represented Family Social Science in new national arenas, contributed to the department’s reputation as a collaborative, interdisciplinary unit, and provided the university with an experienced voice in Minneapolis’ African American communities. For all of this and a number of other reasons, we will miss having him as a member of our faculty. We, however, recognize that new challenges await him at Vanderbilt, and we wish him and his family our very best! We also hope he will return on occasion to keep us posted about all the things he is doing!”

Once again, a move will provide Turner with the opportunity to expand his work. The Vanderbilt department has “a great focus on community organizations and mental health and the ways that social scientists can contribute to those kinds of organizations,” he said. Nashville also will be a great environment to study the African American community because of its socioeconomic diversity.

Saying Goodbye...
And Hello...

Steven Harris to join FSoS as director of the Marriage and Family Therapy program

Family Social Science is delighted to welcome Steven M. Harris, Ph.D., LMFT, to our department. Steve has been appointed as professor in the department and will serve as director of the Marriage and Family Therapy graduate program beginning in August.

Steve comes to FSoS from Texas Tech University where, for the last 13 years, he has been involved with the training of master’s and doctoral students in Marriage and Family Therapy. He earned his master’s and doctorate degrees in Marriage and Family Therapy at Syracuse University and his bachelor’s degree in Family Sciences from Brigham Young University. At Texas Tech, he served for eight years as the College of Human Sciences’ Associate Dean for Academics and Student Affairs. He conducts research in Family Therapy ethics and professional identity, family violence, and more recently has focused his research activities on evaluating programs that aim to strengthen marriage and committed relationships among diverse populations in the state of Texas.

He is the author of more than 30 peer-reviewed articles, three instructional DVDs, a host of other professional papers and books, and has presented at many national professional conferences. His research has been funded by the Texas State Health and Human Services Commission, the Federal Administration on Children and Families, and the Texas State Attorney General’s Office. He enjoys teaching and has taught a variety of courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

He, his wife Becky, and children will move to the Twin Cities this summer.
Receiving awards and honors

**Assistant Professor Abigail Gewirtz** won the Rising Star Award from the Women’s Philanthropic Leadership Circle of the College of Education and Human Development. Rising Star Awards honor pre-tenure female faculty members in the College of Education and Human Development who have demonstrated leadership and creativity in an academic area as shown by research, teaching and service. The Women’s Philanthropic Leadership Circle was founded to engage interest in philanthropy and channel it into initiatives that support women’s leadership in education and human development.

Ph.D. student **Pa Nhia Yang** received the Women’s Philanthropic Leadership Circle Graduate Award, which is given to graduate students who demonstrate academic promise and leadership ability. The $1,500 award will support her participation in the Asian American Studies Conference in Hawaii. Her primary goal attending this conference is to develop professional connections with Asian American scholars.

Ph.D. candidate **Seohee Son** received a 2009-10 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from the University of Minnesota Graduate School. The purpose of the fellowship program is to give outstanding final-year Ph.D. candidates an opportunity to complete their dissertations within the upcoming academic year by devoting full-time effort to research and writing. Candidates must be nominated by their graduate program’s director of graduate studies to an all-University competition. At least 75 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships are awarded annually. Recipients of the fellowship in 2009-2010 will receive a stipend of $22,500 for the academic year, plus full tuition for thesis credits.

**Family Social Science undergrad Grace Peterson** received the Family Social Science Future Scholar Award from the College of Education and Human Development Alumni Society. The award recognizes academic performance and potential for making a significant contribution to the field of family social science.

**FSoS undergraduate students Annie Johnson and Lucia Yess** received the 2009 President’s Student Leadership and Service Award. Each year, this University-wide award recognizes the accomplishments and contributions made by outstanding student leaders. It is presented to approximately one-half of 1 percent of the student body for their exceptional leadership and service to the University of Minnesota and the surrounding community.

Honor Society members receive cords

FSoS Phi Upsilon Omicron honor society members, from left, Jaerim Lee (Ph.D.), Lynn Von Korff (Ph.D.), Julia Perkins (B.S.), and Dorothy Rombo (Ph.D.) received their honor cords at a ceremony on April 24. Not pictured are Christina Robert (Ph.D.), Annie Johnson (B.S.), Stephanie Bonsen (B.S.), and Laura Skubic (B.S.).

Continued on next page
Family Social Science faculty, staff and students received several 2009 awards from the College of Education and Human Development.

The Community Outreach and Engagement-Staff Award was presented to Sara Axtell, Community-Campus Health Liaison for Family Social Science. She was honored for her involvement in numerous multicultural, health-related initiatives and partnerships that have a large impact inside and outside the University. Judges noted that what was most striking about her nomination was her lasting accomplishments with diverse, underserved communities.

Ph.D. student Faten Khoury received the Community Outreach and Engagement Award-Student. Khoury is serving as director of clinical services in the Wayne Caron Family Caregiving Center. She stepped in at a very difficult time and kept the center running after her mentor Dr. Caron died. Her nominator wrote, “I consider Faten to be one of the most gifted clinicians and outreach/engagement scholars I have worked with in my 12-year faculty career. …What I admire most about her is her passion for social justice and avid commitment to political/social activism with clinical populations and with groups positioned at the margins of society.”

Susan Andre received the College Multicultural Recognition Award-Staff. Andre was responsible for communications in Family Social Science and is now serving on the College Web Design team. She was honored for heading up several projects that reflected her dedication and skill at communicating the FSOS department’s commitment to multiculturalism: the redesign of the FSoS Web site; the paintings by Iraqi artists she arranged to display in the FSoS office, and the international flag display she created to permanently decorate the corridor in McNeal Hall.

Annie C. Johnson, senior in Family Social Science, received the College’s award for Outstanding Student Leadership. In addition to an excellent academic record, she was recognized for her leadership skills as the co-president of the Family Social Science Roundtable Student Group and for serving as a Youth Running Mentor for the Bolder Options for African-American Youth, and as a Service Facilitator Substitute for the Lifeworks Services for Adults with Disabilities, Inc. Her nominator, Professor William Goodman, noted that her brief undergraduate experience is marked by over 25 different activities in which she led and/or served others.
Receiving awards and honors continued

Professor Paul Rosenblatt, has been honored by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) as a new fellow. NCFR is the primary academic organization in Rosenblatt’s field, and he has been a member since 1970. He is the cofounder and first co-chair of the Rural Families Focus Group and founder and first chair of the Grief and Families Focus Group.

Fellowship status in NCFR is an honor awarded to relatively few members of NCFR who have made outstanding and enduring contributions to the field of the family in the areas of scholarship, teaching, outreach or professional service, including service to NCFR. By definition, outstanding contributions are those that have had a broad impact on the field and are enduring over time. These contributions occur infrequently. No more than 1 percent of the number of members in NCFR will be awarded fellowship status in one year.

Catherine Solheim received a Community Partnership Award from the Office of Economic Opportunity of the Minnesota Department of Human Services for contributions to anti-poverty asset development and financial literacy work across the state of Minnesota. It was presented at the 2009 Financial Fitness Conference in Alexandria, Minnesota, on May 7, 2009.

Ph.D. student Jane Newell was awarded the 2009 Margaret Drew Endowment Fund Graduate Scholarship by the Phi Upsilon Omicron Alpha Alumni Scholarship Committee. She was presented with the $2,000 award at the Founder’s Day 100 Year Anniversary Luncheon in February.

FSoS graduate scholarship/fellowship winners for summer and next year

M. Janice Hogan Fellowship
Jinhee Lee
Libby Plowman
David H. Olson Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
Karen Kramer
David H. and Karen Olson Marriage and Family Fellowship
Jason Wilde
Shirley Zimmerman Fellowship
Peggy Andrews
Mary Ellen McFarland Assistantship
Bibiana Koh

Waller Summer Fellowships
Peggy Andrews
Kara Erolin
Chris Gonzalez
Bibiana Koh
Karen Kramer
Jinhee Lee
Sunmi Lee
Xiaohui Li
Amanda Matzek
Shuling Peng
Libby Plowman
Diana Samek
Jennifer Sampson
Seohee Son

Block Grant Summer Fellowship--Graduate School Funding
Laurel Davis
Juyoung Jang
Erica Kanewishcher

Many thanks to Virginia Zuiker, Awards and Scholarship Committee chair, and committee members, Shonda Craft, Abi Gewirtz, and Cynthia Meyer, for their thoughtful and conscientious work on the selection process.

If you can give your son or daughter only one gift, let it be enthusiasm.
– Bruce Barton
Multicultural potluck explores the stories behind the food

What do you have in your everyday meal? Do you eat by yourself, with family, or with friends? What did your mother or grandmother or other family member cook for you when you were sick?

In their work together this year, Professor Sara Axtell and Ph.D. student Tomoko Ogasawara developed an interesting discussion about food, health, and culture.

“We started with our early memories, family gatherings, and seasonal events related to what to eat and how to eat, Tomoko noted. “This eventually evolved into a great exchange about our cultural heritage, beliefs, and the spiritual meaning behind our food.”

Because many FSoS graduate students are far away from their homes, Tomoko and Dr. Axtell decided that holding a potluck could help spur a rich cultural exchange.

“At a potluck party, we often enjoy a variety of local and ethnic foods, but we rarely have a chance to get to know the stories behind these dishes,” Tomoko said.

The resulting event attracted students and faculty members who shared foods from Japan, Korea, Russia, Taiwan and the United States.

Among the offerings was Chinese zong zi, a type of rice dumpling that is wrapped in bamboo leaves. Shuling Peng, a Ph.D. student from Taiwan, explained that zong zi is the featured food at “Zong Zi Festival” (Duan Wu Jie), one of the three most important Chinese festivals. Duan Wu Jie was just celebrated in May and “some families in Taiwan still observed the festival by making a few bundles of zong zi for family members or relatives to eat,” Shuling said.

Another contribution was Tomoko’s soba-sushi, which was inspired by her memories of New Year’s Eve in Japan. “We call it the year-passing soba, since while eating soba with the family, we all hear 108 counts of the bells that temples all over Japan start to ring at midnight. No champagne or countdowns, but the bells and family talk around the table are my old sweet memories of the New Year’s Eve.”

Jaerim Lee, a Ph.D. student from South Korea, contributed cod

Continued on next page
and zucchini Jeon. Jeon, which refers to pan-fried vegetables, fish or meat in Korea, is one of the many required dishes for Jeh-Sa, an ancestral memorial ritual in South Korea. Jaerim explained that as the eldest daughter in the eldest son’s family, she well remembers being responsible for helping to prepare “a huge amount” of food for Jeh-Sa.

Another Korean student shared a very simple dish that is typically found in the lunchboxes of Korean children. She said that eating this food never fails to evoke warm memories of her mother and her school days.

Two people from the United States brought fried chicken, a mainstay of southern U.S. cuisine. The chicken was takeout, representing another American tradition.

“As an international student, the family stories of multiple U.S. sub-cultures were as interesting as those of Japan, Korea, Russia and Taiwan,” Jaerim noted.

Whether for a celebration or a lunchbox, Axtell said, we cherish the foods and dishes because we relate to them through our family rituals or family routines.

These students received their doctorate degrees in Family Social Science:

**Pang Foua Yang Rhodes**
Degree awarded: December 31, 2008
Dissertation Title: Intimate Partner Violence Among Hmong American Men and Women
Advisors: Daniel Detzner and Zha Blong

**Lynn Von Korff**
Degree awarded: December 31, 2008
Dissertation Title: "Pathways to Narrative Adoptive Identity Formation in Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood"
Advisor: Harold Grotevant

**Brooke Skinner-Drawz**
Degree awarded: April 29, 2009
Dissertation Title: "Adoptee Information Seeking: Changes between Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood and the Impact of Adoption Communicative Openness"
Advisor: Harold Grotevant and Gretchen Wrobel

**Christina Robert**
Degree awarded: April 30, 2009.
Advisor: Elizabeth Wieling

These students received their master’s degrees in Family Social Science:

**Katherine Brewton**
Degree awarded: December 31, 2008
Thesis title: "A Qualitative Analysis of the Stress and Coping Experience of Low-Income Rental Mothers Raising a Child with a Disability"
Advisor: Jean Bauer

**Diana Samek**
Degree awarded: April 30, 2009
Thesis title: "The Association Between Observed Family Communication Patterns, Sibling Closeness Perceptions, and Adoptive Status"
Advisor: Martha Rueter

**Stephanie Mosher**
Degree awarded: May 29, 2009
Advisor: Harold Grotevant

**Sheena Thao**
Degree awarded: May 29, 2009
Advisor: Zha Blong

These Ph.D students successfully defended their dissertations:

**Dorothy Owino Rombo**
Defense date: April 9, 2009

**Brian Willoughby**
Dissertation title: "Tracing Marital Attitude Change Among High School Students and Predicting Later Union Transitions"
Defense date: May 12, 2009

**Chelsea Petree** passed her master’s oral examination on June 4, 2009. Her thesis title is "Predictors of Adolescent Birth Control Use: the Roles of Mother-Adolescent Communication, the Mother-Adolescent Relationship, and Adolescent Attitudes."
Learning comes full circle for FSoS seniors on Portfolio Review Day

For undergraduate students majoring in Family Social Science, Senior Portfolio Review Day is a rite of passage. FSoS majors are required to complete either a research or field internship and then create a portfolio detailing the experience.

The portfolios are “all about reflection,” said Amanda Matzek, FSoS undergraduate student advisor. Putting them together helps the students “learn how to frame their internship experience, so that when they go to a job interview, they know how to present what they learned.”

Faculty members are invited to portfolio day, which gives them the opportunity to see how their students were able to apply their classroom learning to their internships, Amanda said.

This year, undergrads were also invited, which allowed them to learn from the example of other students, she explained.

“I’ve never come across a student who isn’t excited about their portfolio and what they’ve done.”

Above, the room was filled with seniors ready to explain their portfolios to interested faculty and students.

Below, Dr. William Goodman reviewed a student’s portfolio.

FSoS Roundtable officers elected

New FSoS Roundtable officers were elected for next year. They are Mary Yang, president; Mai Vang, secretary; Natalie Thao, treasurer; Megan Pieters and Lisa Miller, social coordinators, and Sarah Henely and Anne Hojan, volunteer coordinators.

The Roundtable is an undergraduate academic organization established to create a sense of identity within the Family Social Science Department. It also aims to provide networking opportunities and hands-on experience in community service and involvement, and to encourage socialization with peers and faculty. The Roundtable is led by FSoS seniors.
Faculty news

Professor Sharon Danes presented a paper, “Spousal Capital in Firm Emergence: A Gendered Perspective” with FSoS graduate students Amanda E. Matzek and Clinton G. Gudmonson at the Family Enterprise Research Conference in Winnipeg, Canada.

Professor Paul Rosenblatt and Ph.D. student Samantha Rieks published an article in the American Journal of Family Therapy, entitled “No Compromise: Couples Dealing With Issues for Which They Do Not See a Compromise.”

In April, Rosenblatt presented a paper at the annual Association of Death Educators and Counselors meeting in Dallas, Texas, entitled: “How African American Novelists Have Depicted Racism-Caused Grief in African American Families.”

On April 29, Rosenblatt was one of the seven experts in a teleconference broadcast from Washington, D.C., by the Hospice Foundation of America. Rosenblatt’s book, Shared Obliviousness in Family Systems will be published by State University of New York Press in July. For more information about the book, see the publisher’s Web page.

Student news

At the Asian American Studies Conference in Hawaii in April, Pa Nhia Yang presented a paper (co-authored with Cathy Solheim) on financial management in Hmong families.

Alumni news

Diane Hovey, who earned a Ph.D. in family social science in 1998, has published a book, Princess Sophia’s Gifts. Diane’s daughter Sonia suffered severe brain damage when she was 14 months old. Diane first wrote the fairy tale to read it to Sonia’s classmates so they would get to know her. The story provides a way to examine the gifts or personal strengths within everyone, especially those who are different.

Holly Carmichael, who earned her master’s degree in FSoS in 2007, has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in the Department of Social and Developmental Psychology at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. She plans to work with one of the principal scholars who influenced her thesis “The Timeliness of a Couple’s First Pregnancy: Impacts of Personal Perception and Spousal Projection on Marital Satisfaction.”

FSos alumna from South Africa presents colloquium

Dr. Busisiwe Nkosi presented a Family Social Science Colloquium on her work with the Amajuba Child Health and Well-Being Research Project in South Africa. Dr. Nkosi received her Family Social Science doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 2005 and is a senior researcher for the Amajuba project.

One of the project’s goals is to facilitate the development of a child welfare management plan among government and private agencies in the Amajuba district in South Africa. She showed a video titled, “Journey of a Child Accessing Government Services in Amajuba District, South Africa.” You may view the movie by clicking on the picture at right or going to this Web address: http://mediamill.cla.umn.edu/mediamill/display/30477.
FSoS Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship recipient displays her work at Showcase

FSoS department head Jan McCulloch, left, and Jean Bauer, director of graduate studies, visited with FSoS Ph.D. student Jaerim Lee at the Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Research Showcase in April. Jaerim created the poster behind them as a summary of research for her dissertation. She is investigating why grandmaternal child care is chosen in South Korean families. The topic is important in the context of increasing maternal employment, plummeting fertility, and the changing landscape of family policy in South Korea. The Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship is awarded to outstanding final-year Ph.D. candidate nominated by their graduate program directors in a University-wide competition.

Professor Danes receives two awards for papers

Professor Sharon Danes received the Laird Norton Tye Best Paper Award at FERC (Family Enterprise Research Conference) in Winnipeg, Canada, in April. The paper “Explorations of the Power Relationship Between Business-Owning Couples: Managing Decisions Through Collaborative Power Interactions” was the best of 64 papers submitted. She and coauthor Patricia Hedberg, associate professor at the University of St. Thomas, received a $2,000 award.

“Determinants of Family Business Resilience after a Natural Disaster,” a paper written by Professor Danes, Ph.D. student Jinhee Lee, and research associate Sayali Amarapurkar won the Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship’s John Jack Award. The award is given to the best paper dealing with entrepreneurship by women or minorities or under conditions of adversity. As leaders in their fields, the award winners are making an impact on government policy and on the development of small business and entrepreneurship. The John Jack Award is accompanied by a cash prize and was presented during the 23rd Annual Conference of the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship in Anaheim, California, last January.

Make a difference

Your gift is an investment in our collaborative learning community and your support will help us keep our community vital. With your donation we can continue to educate and support families, train students of all disciplines, and reach out to connect with and train professionals in your community.

Together, we can make a difference.

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)
- Neubeck Scholarship Fund (2191)
- Wayne Caron Memorial Fund (1938)
- Ott International Student Fellowship (1883)
- David H. and Karen Olson Marriage and Family Fellowship (1920)
- Family Stress and Resilience Endowment (7645)

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.
The four crab apple trees in full bloom across from McNeal Hall were a beautiful site this spring. The trees were planted about nine years ago when Professor Emeritus David Olson, then acting head of the department, suggested that faculty members donate funds to plant some trees in honor of three colleagues who were retiring. Today, this FSoS legacy offers beauty and shade to passers-by.