Letter from the Department Head

Greetings!

As we wind down 2012 and complete our 2011 Fall semester, I am grateful for the many ways our FSoS community contributes to families. In this issue, these contributions feature a wide range of FSoS colleagues – Dr. Pauline Boss’ (Professor Emeritus) new book – Loving Someone with Dementia; Dr. Sharon Danes’ (Professor) trips to Europe where she worked with international colleagues on a book chapter and where she gave the keynote address at the International Family Enterprise Research Academy, and Dr. Jean Bauer’s (Professor) new edited volume, Rural Families and Work: Context and Problems; an introduction to Dr. Susan Walker (a new Associate Professor joining FSoS this year), and Ms. Delgermend (Deggi) Tserendamba’s (a FSoS Undergraduate) summer Undergraduate Research Opportunity in Mongolia where she focused her research on Mongolian families and value transmission. It is amazing to see the wide range of topics addressing family issues by these and other FSoS community members – these features highlight our commitment to families across the lifespan, global families, parenting and family education, family business, and the work/family interface.

We also have news regarding a fresh way of providing you with “what’s going on in FSoS”. Beginning in January, we will migrate our current FSoS Interactions to a blog format. Why are we doing this? For a number of reasons but primarily, with this format, we will be sending monthly e-mails that provide you with updates 12 times a year instead of 3 and gets the exciting news about FSoS and our community out to you faster and more up-to-date.

I hope you will enjoy our more frequent ways of staying in touch. More information about the transition is on page 5 of this newsletter, and please contact Amanda Costello, the web and communications specialist, if you have questions. We want you to always have the opportunity to feel connected with us.

At this special time of year, all of us in FSoS wish you and the special people in your life peace and special time to celebrate the events that are special in your lives.

B. Jan McCulloch
Department Head, FSOS

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Keynote in Italy, collaborations in Sweden mark busy summer for Danes

The toll of crossing multiple time zones between Europe and the United States can wear down even the most seasoned traveler, but just one week after returning home from delivering a keynote address in Italy, Dr. Sharon Danes boarded another plane and flew back to the continent to collaborate with fellow chapter authors in Sweden.

Danes delivered a keynote address at the annual conference for the International Family Enterprise Research Academy (IFERA), held at the University of Palermo in Sicily, Italy, from June 28 through July 1, 2011. The keynote was entitled “Family Constructs in Family Business Research: Present and Future.”

“There are very few family scientists who research family businesses,” said Danes. IFERA is attended mostly by people from business schools, and Danes said that her being asked to keynote meant her work “has reached the next level of global recognition.”

Danes’ spoke about her research concentration at the intersection of family and business. When there is a time of high demand in a family-run business, who helps out and how are responsibility lines changed, blurred, or split between family responsibilities and business responsibilities? How is the flow of money from family savings to business expenses affected? “When families and business intersect, you need to look at family communication patterns as well as business management processes,” she said.

Danes also discussed her Sustainable Family Business Theory, which can be summarized as: family-run businesses are not successful unless the family has healthy family functionality as well as a financially healthy business. Danes noted that this does not mean there is an absence of tension in families, but that high tension families are able to address the tension in a healthy way.

“My time at the IFERA conference was wonderful,” she said. “I renewed and built on previous relationships, as well as made new ones, and discussed partnerships with fellow scholars from Finland, a French professor teaching in Canada, and a consultant from Malaysia.”

Since most of her previous work outside the U.S. has been centered in Central and South America, Danes was excited to spend additional time in Europe. Through the Road Scholar educational program, she traveled with her husband to Rome, Florence, and Venice. The program provided lectures on history and culture before going to museums and famous sites, making the excursion experience richer.

After returning to Minnesota for six days, Danes returned to Europe on July 9, this time to Sweden. Danes is the author of a chapter in the upcoming SAGE Handbook of Family Business.

“The book editors, funded by a Swedish family business, brought all of the chapter authors together to ensure continuity in the chapters,” said Danes. “It was a good way to work on content and get structural feedback beyond just the authors.”

Danes’ chapter features many of the same concepts from her IFERA keynote. The book features chapters by authors from across the globe, and will be published in 2012.

Dr. Danes’ article “Family Capital of Family Firms: Bridging Human, Social, and Financial Capital,” has remained in the top ten most-downloaded articles since its publication in the journal Family Business Review in 2009. In the article Danes redefined family capital as a concept and also tested the Sustainable Family Business Theory with longitudinal data.
FSOS faculty, grads have hand in ten of twelve chapters in new book on rural families and work

Using findings from the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES), Dr. Jean Bauer, professor of family social science, has edited a new book, “Rural Families and Work: Context and Problems” (Springer, 2011).

“I wanted both current and former graduate students to contribute to this, to showcase the work of young professionals” said Dr. Bauer. Six of the twelve book chapters have authors who are current or former Family Social Science graduate students. The book also features a chapter authored by Dr. Susan Walker, formerly of the University of Maryland, who joined the department faculty in July 2011.

The publisher didn’t want a book that was about the MAES project, so Bauer collected and wrote articles that used findings from the project to address larger issues surrounding rural families and work. Also featured is research done on rural families, specifically low-income rural families.

While the book is not directly about MAES, Bauer feels that it showcases the wealth of information gathered by the project, and can facilitate new scholarly development.

Accessibility and connectivity were both a priority for the publisher and Bauer, and extra time was invested in the project to effectively use the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) system. The DOI System provides a framework for persistent identification, managing intellectual content, managing metadata, linking customers with content suppliers, facilitating electronic commerce, and enabling automated management of media. DOI names can be used for any form of management of any data, whether commercial or non-commercial.

In the electronic copy of the book, there are links to sources at the end of each chapter, and chapters linked to articles.

DOIs were being added at different rates to the work, resulting in hours of adding and checking.

“The publisher made DOI use a priority,” said Bauer. “They are driven by open access publishing.”

Bauer presented a seminar and conference paper in Korea with two of her former advisees, Jaerim Lee (now at Seoul National University) and Seohee Son (now at Sookmyung Women’s University) this summer in South Korea. The topic was “Human capability theory related to families in poverty.”

There will be a symposium on the policies in the book that influence low-income working rural families at the 2011 National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) Annual Conference on Thursday, November 17th, at 3:00 PM. The book will also be showcased at the Springer publishing booth.

Undergraduate research in Mongolia: tradition and families

“Mongolia’s population is very small – only three million people. I know it’s possible to reach more families.”

Family Social Science senior Delgermendeggi Tserendamba is not just a pie-in-the-sky optimist. Her goals for helping families in her home country of Mongolia are as much grounded in research, study, and determination.

A participant of the 2012 Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), Tserendamba received funding to return to Mongolia during the summer of 2011 and conduct research with families. She spent two months conducting surveys with more than 200 participants across the country.

With the rising influence of the West in Mongolia, Tserendamba interviewed Mongolians of all ages to understand the gap between generations, and investigate ways that traditional values can be passed on.

“The older generation grew up while Mongolia was communist,” she said.

“Things were very homogenous, and the government took care of a lot of social needs, including child care. After communism fell in the 1990s, a lot changed. Now the younger generation is more concerned with money and status, and is facing problems like unemployment and rising alcoholism.”

Tserendamba feels that working with the younger generations in Mongolia will be the most productive way to effect change. She wants to examine the roots of the alcoholism and public intoxication that are common among young people, and them tools to improve their lives and increase mobility.

“Nobody is asking ‘What does it mean to be Mongolian?’” she said. “I want to create an understanding between generations to help everyone embrace Mongolian culture.”

Tserendamba will showcase her work at the annual UROP research conference in May of 2012. After her graduation in the spring, she intends on returning to Mongolia to work and be better prepared for eventual graduate work. “I want to have a good understanding of the people I want to help before I start graduate school,” she said.
Helping families understand dementia in loved ones, caregiving, and ambiguous loss

In August 2011, Pauline Boss, professor emeritus of Family Social Science, published “Loving Someone Who Has Dementia: How to Find Hope While Dealing with Stress and Grief,” a resource for family members and caregivers, and her third book on the subject of ambiguous loss.

“This book is for anyone who cares for somebody with dementia,” said Boss. “I worked hard not to pathologize caregivers. There is a difference between being depressed, which is pathological, and being sad, which is a normal part of this experience. Caregiving can be a long and sometimes traumatic process.”

Boss’ first book, Ambiguous Loss, named the experience and laid out the theory behind it. Her second book, Loss, Trauma and Resilience – Training for Professionals, was published in 2009 and was made to facilitate on-site training for care professionals and those who work with individuals suffering from dementia and their families. Boss found the demand for training in ambiguous loss theory was too great for her to personally attend to, which prompted the writing of the book.

For her third and most recent book, Boss wanted to be able to make something that family members could find useful while experiencing times of high stress. “The writing is accessible, but is all grounded in research. It is fine if you only want to read snippets here and there when you have the time.” The book does not address how to give care, but looks at relationships and the psychological journey of caregiving, so caregivers can stay strong despite illness and relationships which have been changed or compromised.

Boss’ work with ambiguous loss and family members of World Trade Center workers who were killed in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, found her invited back to the site for the memorial services to commemorate the tenth anniversary.

“My heart is with the working people of 9/11,” said Boss. “The cooks, the cleaners, the elevator operators, the people who made the towers work. They were kind of invisible in the coverage of the attacks, and much more attention went to people in uniform. They and their families represented a multitude of faiths and nationalities.”

Shortly after the attacks in 2001, Boss and several Family Social Science graduate students flew to New York City and began working with families, using a family meeting model for the physically missing that was developed with late Professor Wayne Caron.

Boss co-authored “Healing Loss, Ambiguity, and Trauma: A Community-Based Intervention with Families of Union Workers Missing After the 9/11 Attack in New York City,” published in the Journal of Marital and Family Therapy in October of 2003, remains one of the journal’s most accessed articles.

Parent and Family Education, Dr. Susan Walker join department

Susan Walker, Associate Professor in Family Social Science, presented the keynote address to kick off the 13th annual Arkansas Parenting Education Network conference October 19 in Hot Springs, AR. The title of Dr. Walker’s talk was Reaching the iParent: How the Changing World of Technology Impacts Parenting Education. In the talk to 650 early childhood, school-based, health care and other professionals this week, Susan shared results from the ongoing Parenting Education professional studies research project, that examines parents’ use of information and communication technologies and the roles that play in parenting.

Dr. Walker coordinates the Parent and Family Education professional studies degree program, which joined Family Social Science in the summer of 2011. Still in transition from their former home in Curriculum and Instruction, the following programs are now offered:

M.Ed. in family education: professional studies. This is available to those who are already licensed teachers or to those in educational roles who wish to enhance their professional skills and understandings. Many individuals choose to combine this M.Ed. degree program with a teaching license in parent education.

Parent and family education licensure program: This is available for those who wish to teach in and lead parent education programs in a variety of school and community settings. In Minnesota, the parent education licensure is required for those teaching in early childhood and family education (ECFE) programs. Though not required for licensure, students may choose to combine this program with an M.Ed. in family education, or an M.A. or Ph.D. degree program in FYC.

Certificate in parent education: An online post-baccalaureate program designed for those who wish to teach in and lead parent education programs in a variety of school and community settings that do not require a Minnesota teaching license.
Family Social Science website, news get interactive facelifts

In January 2012, the department of Family Social Science will launch a new website and news presence that will be easier to navigate for all visitors.

“We’ve been working with the college web team as well as our faculty, staff, and students to streamline the information and make sure that the site is getting visitors the information they need,” said Amanda Costello, web and communications specialist.

Interactions will also be changing. Instead of a PDF newsletter emailed three times a year, news will be posted to the FSOS News Blog continuously. You will be able to read FSOS news as it happens, instead of having to wait for the next issue of Interactions.

Don’t worry, said Costello, Interactions will still be in your email inbox. “We will be sending a short monthly newsletter to our email list to keep you up to date not only on the latest news, but also upcoming events."

If you have any questions or feedback about the changes, please contact Amanda Costello at acostello@umn.edu.

Roberta Daigle retired from her position as Student Support Services Assistant, and her years of dedicated service were celebrated by colleagues and friends alike on July 27, 2011 at an ice cream social. Roberta said she is “looking forward to deciding what to do with [her] time” in retirement, and selected the following quote by Henry David Thoreau for her invitation: “Pursue some path, however narrow and crooked, in which you can walk with love and reverence.”

Li, Sim present papers at conference in Kunming, China

Xiaohui Li and Charles Sim presented papers at the 9th Biennial Conference of Asian Association of Social Psychology in Kunming, China, from July 28th to 31st, 2011. The conference theme “Towards Social Harmony: A New Mission of Asian Social Psychology” of the conference gives priority to a healthy dialogue between Asian cultural traditions and globalization, and emphasized the dynamics of peaceful interaction among different cultures, society and social groups.

Xiaohui Li orally presented her paper, “Perceived Marital Resources and Marital Relationship Satisfaction among Chinese Couples,” co-authored with Dr. Catherine Solheim and Lin Shi. Charles Sim orally presented his paper, “Systemic Approach to Coparenting and its Effects on the Child.”
Student News

Jennifer Reinke received a LEND fellowship for the 2011-12 academic year. The University of Minnesota LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities) Program is an interdisciplinary fellowship program that trains future leaders who will serve children with autism and other neurodevelopmental and related disabilities and their families.

Emily Becher has been named an AAMFT Minority Fellow for the 2011-2012 academic year. The AAMFT Minority Fellowship Program’s objective is to expand the delivery of culturally competent mental health and substance abuse services to underserved minority populations, and to increase the number of doctoral level culturally competent ethnic minority Marriage and Family therapists.

Chris Mehus delivered the keynote address at the October 2011 commencement ceremony at St. Mary’s University. His master’s thesis was recognized as the best paper submitted in the last year.

Katie Brewton, Jessie Connell, and Jennifer Doty received the departmental Neubeck/Maddock Scholarship.

Jennifer Doty was awarded the Education and Enrichment section award at the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) annual conference in Orlando, Florida, for submitting one of the top three student proposals.

Faculty and Alumni News

Dr. Abigail Gewirtz received the Professional of the Year Award for 2011 from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota. The award recognizes a professional or staff person who provides high quality services, exemplifies best practices, and demonstrates commitment to and leadership in the field of mental health.

John Jankord was appointed to the position of Assistant Professor and Advisor in the Graduate Program in Addiction Studies at St. Mary’s University. Jankord is also an instructor in Family Social Science for two courses which are part of the Addiction Studies certificate.

Dr. Zha Blong Xiong was awarded the 2011 Minnesota College Personnel Association (MCPA) Lee Knefelkamp Research Award. This award encourages and supports student development and student affairs research done by professionals, practitioners, graduate students, and faculty.

Dr. Cathy Solheim will be participating in the 2011-12 Internationalizing Teaching and Learning Cohort Program sponsored by the Global Programs & Strategy (GPS) Alliance, the Center for Teaching and Learning, Instructional Development Services, and the Office of Information Technology.

Ronit Leichtentritt, an alumnae of the Department of Family Social Science, has returned this fall to conduct research with Paul Rosenblatt. Ronit is currently a Senior Lecturer at Tel Aviv University in the Bob Shapell School of Social Work and a member of the Gershon H. Gordon Faculty of Social Science.

Amy Seaverson received her master’s degree from London Metropolitan University and is now working in Shanghai, China, working at the Shanghai Children’s Medical Center for an NGO called Project HOPE.

FSOS Undergraduate Roundtable Update

The Family Social Science Round Table aims to make our group just that- A Round Table. We are comprised primarily of family social science majors and minors, but welcome anyone with an interest in volunteering and a desire to serve their community by helping families. We also strive to be a place where people can acquire great friendships and a great network within the FSOS department. This semester, our main volunteer event will be a Fall Festival at Sharing and Caring Hands (a homeless shelter in downtown Minneapolis.) This festival will include games, arts and crafts, and snacks. We wanted to do something to give kids in tough situations a chance to come and have some fun! We have volunteered with this organization many times in the past, and we enjoy having a relationship with them and being able to help there wherever we can. We also do small volunteer events. For October, we volunteered for H.O.M.E (Household Outdoor Maintenance for the Elderly), and we are beginning to plan our next volunteer event. We also enjoy getting together and having fun, so we also try to host around one social event a month. Overall, we are a group that enjoys getting engaged in the community and having fun!

News? Let us know!
Send your news to Amanda Costello at acostello@umn.edu to be included on the Interactions blog and e-newsletter.
**Recent Publications**

Jen Sampson and Janet Yeats’ article, “Take them or leave them: Involving difficult families in the organization process,” was published in the 2011 October/November issue of The Chronical: An Official Publication for the Institute for Challenging Disorganization.


