The age of technology has been coming to the study of families for some time, but advances come with greater speed today impacting the way we teach, research, and practice family social science. This issue of Interactions will highlight a few of these advances in the University of Minnesota’s Family Social Science Department. The department recently remodeled one of the seminar rooms and installed a one-way mirror to be used for clinical training and family research. New AV equipment will soon allow recording of families in a more naturalistic setting. We have also invested in new video equipment that is being used to record graduate student teaching interns at work and evaluate their classroom teaching. The Minnesota Extension Service has begun remote educational programming through satellite capabilities which will allow Extension Agents to get up to date training without leaving their county.

Dr. Dan Detzner discusses other innovations for teaching, Research Associate Cathy Schulz talks about computer technologies impacting the department, and we have an update on the Children, Youth and Family Consortium’s new Electronic Clearinghouse.

New Technologies and Family Research

By Cathy Schulz, Research Associate

Many faculty are currently conducting research which requires the use of networks, statistical packages and long distance communication. The University, the College, and the Department have all begun to respond to the growing technological needs of family researchers, administrative staff, and students.

Last fall, the University established electronic mail accounts for all faculty, staff, and students. This was a vital step that will enhance communication, facilitate the research process, and allow access to libraries worldwide. Ecologically, the goal is to reduce the flow of paper and ultimately save money, time, and energy.

FSOs has joined with the College office and the other departments in CHE in establishing a Local Area Network (LAN). Some of the features that are now available to faculty from their personal computers are: LUMINA, an electronic card catalog for Libraries of the University of Minnesota; GO-PHER, an especially versatile information service which combines features of an electronic bulletin board with full-text searchable databases; Telnet, a way to connect with other computers at the University and worldwide; and FTP, a quick and reliable way to transfer files between computer systems. Faculty are able to reduce the time involved in collaborative research, especially with those at other universities, in other states and countries. Researchers are able to share drafts of papers, bookchapters, programs, data, and research results - all of which results in greater productivity.

As a result of the LAN, faculty have convenient access to The Family Science Network, an electronic bulletin board with over 300 subscribers from various fields of family research. This service allows researchers to share information on job, conference, and research opportunities. It serves a proactive role by alerting subscribers to bills moving through the legislature that affect families.

Statistical packages for micro computers are another way that research has been facilitated. Packages such as SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Scixes) and SAS have been around for many years on mainframe computers. More recently, these powerful packages have been adapted to run on microcomputers - such as SPSS-PC+. This has had many benefits for faculty as they no longer must rely on the stability and operating hours of mainframe computer facilities, printing to remote locations, and in many cases magnetic tape storage of data and statistical programs.

As technologies develop and become available to us, the face of research continues to change.
Consortium Adds Computer Connections

The Children, Youth, and Family Consortium (CYFC) was established at the University of Minnesota in 1991. It is a University and community - local and statewide - collaboration whose mission is to pull-together resources which will support Minnesota's families and children. The CYFC offices have recently relocated to 12 McNeal Hall. In addition, new technologies have allowed CYFC to establish a new electronic clearinghouse. The Consortium Electronic Clearinghouse provides an on-line information service with 24 hour access. Soon they hope to add an electronic bulletin board and e-mail. The service is open to anyone who needs the information and can be accessed using a personal computer, modem, telephone line, and appropriate software. Through the Clearinghouse you can find a variety of information about children, youth, and family issues. Listed are classes and workshops, educational materials, informative articles, research updates, statistical data on children and families, names of speakers and consultants, educational and recreational activities for children, youth, and families, and a listing of “What’s Happening” at the CYFC and affiliated agencies or organizations. For additional information contact the CYF Consortium at (612) 626-1212.

Faculty Roles

By Daniel F. Detzner, Ph.D.

There is a growing body of literature on the influence of technology on families. Another aspect of technology and the family is emerging in college classrooms around the nation. The traditional roles of the faculty member as lecturer, expert, and source of wisdom to a passively receptive student audience is being challenged by the argument that the classroom must be re-structured to encourage active learning and engage students with materials, methods, and multiple ways of knowing. Many emerging technologies can facilitate this type of interactive learning if the college teachers of today and tomorrow accept it as another tool that can be used to enrich their courses.

In Family Social Science, we already see the widespread use of media to bring family issues from both popular culture and serious documentaries into classrooms. Many levels of family interaction, difficult or impossible to fully explain through lecture or text, can be portrayed using films. In the highly visual culture in which our students have grown up, it is not surprising that so many respond positively.

With the emergence of personal computers, new types of interactive learning are now becoming possible. Instead of being asked to study a table in a textbook, students can now be given a data set on a disk and be asked to construct a table that answers a series of questions posed by the instructor. By manipulating the data students come to know and understand it at a level beyond the superficial knowing of facts.

CD-ROMS, interactive videodiscs, and other emergent forms of multi-media teaching and learning are no longer technologies on the horizon. They permit students to access large data bases of verbal and visual information without leaving their computers. Technologies that some fear as cold and distant can be reframed as stimulating and interactive placing students in the role of self-directed learners who can teach themselves at their own pace with materials that are respectful of the diverse learning styles that students bring with them to our classrooms.

The faculty member of tomorrow will be much less likely to be hold forth with a live 50-minute lecture each class period but instead will be more likely to be the developer of educational materials to be used with supporting technologies. The restructuring of higher education means that there are likely to be fewer faculty members in the future and those who are hired will have to be much more productive than we are today with 20, 50 or even 100 students in our classrooms. Instead we will be developing educational materials for distance delivery to sights around the state, the nation, and globe.

There are many courses now taught at the University of Minnesota that utilize live interactive television with student participants at more than one remote site. The new four year degree programs at UM-Crookston rely on distance delivery technologies to strengthen curricula available on campus. The cutting edge of pedagogy in the decades ahead and the programs and colleges that will survive downsizing and increased productivity will be those that embrace the new technologies and use them to increase the impact of limited faculty resources.
Burton Keynotes
African American Families Workshop

Dr. Linda Burton of Pennsylvania State University visited the University in February for a series of talks. She was the featured keynote speaker at a workshop on African American Families. The conference entitled “African American Families: Mothering, Fathering, and Family Formation Among Adolescents” was developed by Dr. Philip Colgan of the Family Social Science Department and the Department’s Diversity Task Force. Dr. Burton’s visit was invited as the 1993 Bysted-Young lecturer, and other African American scholars followed, speaking about their research areas. Other speakers included William Allen, a doctoral student in Family Social Science, Dr. Rose Brewer of the Afro-American and African Studies department who holds adjunct appointments in Family Social Science, Sociology, and Women’s Studies, and Dr. John Taborn also of Afro-American and African Studies and Educational Psychology. Dr. Geraldine Brookins and Dr. Oliver Williams both of the School of Social Work were involved as introducer and panel moderator respectively.

The workshop was well received by both the University and the community. The audience of over 500 people was comprised of students, faculty, researchers, social workers, and a variety of other community service personnel.

Dr. Burton’s keynote focused on her research which explores adolescent pregnancy among urban African-Americans with regard to the context and processes of both neighborhood and family. She has employed life course, intergenerational, and ecological frameworks while using a primarily qualitative method. Relationships between generations are key concepts in her work which pushes us to question previous assumptions about the definitions of family and development. She has used this approach to study African-American adolescent childbearing in communities such as Los Angeles, Gospel Hill, and Harrisburg.

Sourcebook Is Available

Drs. Pauline Boss and Bill Doherty, two of the editors of the Sourcebook of Family Theories and Methods (1993, Plenum, $95.00) are ecstatic to see their work completed and in the hands of people across the country. Other editors were Drs. Ralph LaRossa, Walter Schumm, and Suzanne Steinmetz. The book takes a contextual approach to the theories and methods by discussing each with respect to the historical and social settings out of which they developed. They begin with the emergence of family theories and methods in the early decades of the Twentieth century and then take us through time to the present: WWI thru the Depression Era, the Depression Era thru WWII, the Post-WW II years, the 1960’s thru 1980’s, and then to the contemporary era of the 1980’s and early-1990’s.

An application section follows each theory chapter allowing the reader to bridge the theory-application gap without leaving the text. The book is a compilation of the recent work of over 150 family researchers, teachers, theorists, and practitioners. Plenum, the publisher, says the book is “an essential textbook for family life researchers to prepare their students for the future of family studies. Family therapists, psychologists, policy experts, social workers, and health care professionals will also benefit from the text as a useful sourcebook.”

Other University of Minnesota contributors include Dr. Jeffery Edleson, School of Social Work; Dr. Paul Rosenblatt, FSOS; and FSOS Alum Dr. Candyce Russell who is now at Kansas State University.
Family Social Science Group Travels To Winnipeg

As part of a formal exchange agreement between the University of Manitoba and the University of Minnesota, a group of faculty and students representing the Family Social Science department traveled to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada in late April. They took part in the First Annual Research Symposium on Child and Family Issues sponsored by the Department of Family Studies and the Office of the Vice-President for Research and External Programs at the University of Manitoba at Winnipeg. Faculty and students from Family Social Science here at Minnesota, along with those from Winnipeg, and North Dakota State University presented papers on a wide range of topics from conceptual and methodological issues in child and family research to emotions, ethnicity to family violence, family interactions, and parenting issues. Nine University of Minnesota students and faculty presented papers. Those attending included: Dr. Jean Bauer, Dr. Kathy Rettig, Janet Macy, Kathleen O'Donnell, Mary Sutherland, Manijeh Danespour, Vicky Tam, Jennifer Wing, Anna Hagemelster, Diane Hovey (DHA), Dr. Marc Wilson, and Karen Schmid.

Family Research In Panama

By Sharon M. Danes, Ph.D.

One of the major accomplishments of my winter quarter leave was getting a research project underway at the University of Panama. Dr. Maria Rubio is the collaborator and two graduate students, Eda Barsaloo and Vielka Portuzel, are research assistants. Panamanian lower income couples, whether legally married or free union, are the sample of focus for the study. The conceptual content pieces of the research include: couple decision making patterns, family patterns of participation in formal and nonformal market sectors, and discrepancy between the standard and level of living.

While in Panama, the content of the survey instrument was negotiated, segments of the questionnaire were either developed or translated - where established instruments were available, the instruments were pretested, and interviewers were trained. Data collection is currently underway. One of the difficulties we are experiencing is that a number of families are not willing to participate because they believe the study is politically motivated - stemming from lingering effects of the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989.

Almost a month of constant practice did wonders for my Spanish speaking skills. Whenever I work in a second language, I learn many new words and phrases. This experience renewed my respect for international students studying abstract concepts in a second language. Twenty years ago, I returned from living two years in Costa Rica. It was interesting to experience Latin culture again, but this time with much more life experience behind me and a research project to focus upon.
1994. Already?

It may seem a bit early to be discussing next year, but it will be a big year for families and for the department, so we thought we would start preparing you now. For starters, the United Nations has proclaimed 1994 the "International Year of the Family." "Building the smallest democracy at the heart of the family," is their motto. In conjunction with this proclamation, the National Council on Family Relations is focusing on international issues and justice for their 1994 Annual Conference which will be held in Minneapolis. Dr. Janice Hogan, professor of family social science at Minnesota, is spearheading some of the efforts at the national and international levels.

In addition, 1994-95 is the Family Social Science department's 25th Anniversary. Back in 1970 the department began as a major distinct from other social science disciplines and developed its own program of study. We plan to sponsor many events for the celebration of our birthday. Details will follow in upcoming issues of Interactions. If you have any memories of years past, we would like to hear from you as we plan for our 25th Anniversary Celebrations.

International Year of the Family

Each of the 15-20 task forces will study one issue and develop written positions with recommendations for policies, programs, curricula, and research. These will be published for legislators, family professionals, and others concerned with initiatives for families worldwide. There will be two keynote speakers, huddle sessions, and time to explore international data bases.

The book One World: Many Families is expected to be released by the time of the November, 1993 NCFR Conference. It will be required reading for the Summer Workshop.

"Building the smallest democracy at the heart of Society."

The United Nations has declared 1994 the International Year of the Family (IFY-94). A world forum, "Promoting Families for the Well-Being of Individuals and Societies" is being held in Malta, November 28-December 2, 1993. I have been invited to assist with a workshop on gender equity and families, a proposal initiated by the International Federation of Home Economists.

As part of IFY-94, the National Council on Family Relations is sponsoring three activities: a health policy forum at the 1993 NCFR Annual Conference in Baltimore which takes place in November, a 1994 summer workshop, and a book of essays. Dr. Dan Detzner is writing a chapter on immigrant and refugee families for the book, One World: Many Families (Karen Altermott, Editor).

A three-day workshop at the Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, North Carolina, from July 29-August 1, 1994 is being planned to promote continued international and multicultural understanding of families. The planning committee is chaired by myself and includes NCFR members from Australia, Belgium, Sweden, Canada, Israel, as well as others from the U.S. Letters of invitation have been sent to family professionals in Africa, South America, Europe, Asia, and other regions of the world.

By M. Janice Hogan, Ph.D.
Spring Brings Many Awards

Dr. Marlene Stum and Estelle Brouwer received a grant of $16,384 from the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for their research.

Dr. Kathryn Retig received the “Outstanding Contribution to the College and the Community” award from the College of Human Ecology. She continues her extensive research work on the economic well-being of women and children after divorce. Her work has influenced a great deal of change at the State level and has resulted in invitations to other states to address these issues at conferences for attorneys and others.

Dr. William Goodman, who among other things is the coordinator of the undergraduate program in FSoS, received the College of Human Ecology Excellence in Academic Advising Award this spring.

Among those on the department’s civil service staff to receive awards this spring were Ooi Le and Dorothea Berggren. Both were given the College of Human Ecology’s Civil Service Outstanding Performance Award. Le is the department’s senior accountant, and Berggren is principal secretary. Lorraine Haley, executive secretary with primary responsibility for the graduate program, was recognized for her five years of service to the College.

Student Awards

Carla Dahl, a doctoral student in the department, was given the College of Human Ecology Award for New Teaching Excellence. She has taught Dynamics of Family Relationships and Social Psychology of Close Relationships and has been the teaching assistant for many others.

Both Manijeh Danespour and Chiu Wan (Vicky) Tam were awarded Waller International Research Awards from the College of Human Ecology. Danespour plans to return to her native Iran for the summer and study the impact of war on families. Tam, who is from China, will travel to Hong Kong to conduct research on parent decision making about self-care arrangements for their children. Both are doctoral students who began in the department last fall.

Annelies Hagemeister was awarded the Women’s Club of Minneapolis Fellowship for the 1993-94 academic year. The award carries a $2200 stipend.

Farrell Webb received the 1993-94 McFarland Assistantship to support his doctoral work.

Theses and Dissertations Completed

William Allen, MA, “Being there: The perception of fatherhood among a group of African-American adolescent fathers.” His advisor was Dr. William Doherty.

Kathleen O’Donnell, MA, “Quality time during adolescence: The relationship between family time experience and positive family adjustment.” Dr. Harold Grotevant was her advisor.

Donkamol Vechbunyongratana, PhD, “Life satisfaction of middle generation Hmong husbands and wives.” Her advisor was Dr. Sharon Danes.

Celvia Stoval Dixon, PhD, “Predictors of life satisfaction for elderly African-Americans.” Dr. Marlene Stum was her advisor.

Marc Alan Wilson, PhD, “Family of origin acceptance and the display of emotion: Childhood emotional constraint and becoming a psychotherapy client.” His advisor was Dr. Harold Grotevant.

Special Thanks

The department extends a special thank you to Dr. Jean Bauer who took on the position of Acting Department Head this spring term while Dr. Harold Grotevant was on a single quarter leave to concentrate on his research efforts. Thanks for your work!

Crossing the Line

Graduate student Walter Bera has been busy helping students understand when they might be “crossing the line.” Bera, who is a licensed psychologist and marriage and family therapist, has been working in the area of sexual abuse and harassment for more than 17 years. He has trained clinicians, developed educational materials, and written articles all directed at stopping interpersonal violence in various forms.

Because he was receiving so many requests to do training in the area of preventing sexual harassment, he realized that there were few resources for preventing this form of violence in the first place. So, he teamed up with Fran Sepler and they designed “Crossing the Line,” an innovative classroom curriculum to educate students in junior high and high school about the issues of sexual harassment among students.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive says Bera. In just a little over a year since the initial pilot project the curriculum is being implemented in about 120 school districts nationwide. Bera plans to continue his work in this area and is glad the schools have been so receptive and eager to use the curriculum. From initial evaluations, the students seem to be learning about the issues and when they could be crossing the line from fun and flirting to harassment and even sexual assault. Hopefully, that will translate into behavioral change.
Other Department Happenings

Dr. Pauline Boss was in Switzerland in March as an invited keynote speaker for a conference on stress and chronicity in families. She was also invited to join the Advisory Board as a co-editor of the European journal entitled System Familie.

Dr. Bill Doherty recently published a book along with Susan McDaniel and Jeri Hepworth. Medical Family Therapy (McDaniel, Hepworth, & Doherty, 1992; Basic Books) addresses the growing branch of family therapy that deals with families who have a severely ill or disabled member. Their article “A new prescription for family health care,” was the lead article in the January/February, 1993 issue of Family Therapy Networker (Vol. 17, No. 1).

Constance Fabunmi continues her work related to war-trauma and families. She has given several talks and workshops on many topics in this area most stemming from her work in Nicaragua. In addition she will have a chapter in a soon-to-be published book in Spanish on mental health issues in Central America. She also is translating the book Ninos Traumatizados: Victimas de la Guerra for the same publisher. The book will then be used in other countries experiencing war, political conflict, and political repression where English is spoken.

Dr. David Olson served on the task force for the National Commission on Children which published the report “Strengthening and Supporting Families.” The task force chaired by John D. Rockefeller IV compiled their report including recommendations for prioritizing family concerns. Dr. Olson has also been named the recipient of the 1994 AAMFT Cumulative Contributions to Family Therapy Research Award. It is one of the two highest honors bestowed by the organization.

During March and April Dr. Kathy Rettig presented her work on the economic consequences of divorce to various audiences. In March she flew to Las Vegas, Nevada to talk to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, in April she was just across the street speaking at the Minnesota Home Economics Association annual meeting and then presented her work at the University of Manitoba at Winnipeg.

Interactions, the newsletter of the Department of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota, is published twice a year.

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What Are You Up To?

We would like to keep in touch with your current address and activities. Please drop us a line and fill us in! If you know the address of other alumni and friends who have moved, let us know that as well.

Name: ____________________________

Address: __________________________

__________________________________

__________________________________

Degree and year: __________________

Current activities, achievement, comments: __________________

__________________________________

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Marital and Family Therapy Program
Summer Institute

The MFT Program in the department of Family Social Science announces a special series of courses offered this summer as part of what we hope will become a regular institute. This summer five courses are being offered which are specific to therapeutic practice.

Four special topics courses will be offered in family therapy which include: Medical Family Therapy, Issues of Love and Money in Couple and Family Therapy, Family Systems and Alcohol and Drug Use, and Supervision of Marital and Family Therapy. Further information about these courses including registration and tuition can be obtained by calling (612) 624-2388.

In addition, the department will offer Ethical and Legal Issues in Marital and Family Therapy. Call (612) 624-3555 for tuition and registration information on this course.

Many other courses are being offered at all levels and include topics such as legal and economic issues, parenthood, death and other losses, aging, social psychology, ethnic and racial diversity, and more. Complete Summer Session Bulletins can be obtained by calling (612) 624-3555; Extension Course Bulletins are at (612) 624-2388.

In Memory

This issue of Interactions is dedicated in memory of Dr. Florence Ehrenkrantz, professor emeritus in the College of Human Ecology, Family Social Science department, who died of a stroke in May 1993 at her home in St. Paul. She was 83 years old.

Dr. Ehrenkrantz was born in Newark, New Jersey and earned a doctorate in physics from the University of California at Berkeley. She was an engineer for the War Department during World War II. She was a pioneer in home economics and a role model for women in higher education.

She began her teaching career at Iowa State University where she developed a research program on household equipment. She co-authored a widely used textbook about the application of the principles of physics to household equipment and materials, which were undergoing rapid technological change in the post-WW II years.

In 1957, Dr. Ehrenkrantz came to the University of Minnesota as head of the household equipment program. She was a member of the Family Social Science faculty from 1970 until her retirement in 1973.

She also studied in the Netherlands and was a member of both Phi Upsilon Omicron and Omicron Nu, national academic honor societies in home economics. She was also an active volunteer at Shalom Home in St. Paul during the years after her retirement.