Outreach: Where Families and Family Social Science Meet

Outreach Extends in Many Directions

The meaning of "outreach" for individual faculty in Family Social Science has expanded. Outreach has become a term which not only incorporates work of faculty with the Minnesota Extension Service, but also consists of those actions by resident faculty and students to reach out to specific populations in service of the outreach mission for the University of Minnesota: "To improve and enhance the quality of life, economy, and environment through the transfer and exchange of knowledge between the institution and society."

Faculty in the department provide communities with information from six main areas: 1) family and economic well-being, 2) family in therapeutic and applied educational settings, 3) family development across the life cycle, 4) international and cross-cultural emphases, 5) communicating family information through the media, and 6) family forms, communities, and policy development. This information is presented through in-depth seminars, congressional testimony, serving on boards, media appearances, and organizing satellite conferences.

In recent discussions, the Family Social Science faculty concluded that future outreach efforts will be affected by changing delivery and financing of many services impacting family well-being, including health and social services; increased diversity and globalization; faculty's and families' increased access to each other due to the current information and technology explosion; and decreased state funding for higher education.

Dan Detzner and Bong Xiong discussing their Bicultural Parent Education Curriculum at a FSOS Colloquium (see article on page 6).
Providing the 'Real-World' Connection for Students
by Constance Fabunmi and Philip Colgan, Ph.D.

The Alcohol and Drug Counseling Education Program (ADCEP) is a collaboration between Continuing Education and Extension and the Department of Family Social Science. The Program provides education and training to present and future helping professionals who recognize the importance of addressing alcohol and drug use issues in the context of family health. In this, it has a significant role in the University's efforts "to improve and enhance the quality of life, economy, and the environment through the transfer and exchange of knowledge between the institution and society."

In 1993, the Program received a University of Minnesota Outstanding Program in Continuing Education and Extension Award. This seems a fitting recognition of the outreach and 'inreach' efforts of the Program to address diverse audiences in helpful ways.

ADCEP fulfills its outreach mission in both intramural and extramural ways. Within the University, the Program offers the most complete formal training in counseling skills available. Undergraduate and graduate students from across the University take advantage of the three course sequence which focuses on the helping processes of professional counseling relationships. These classes are known for their instructional design which emphasizes self-reflection and personal growth as prerequisites for effective helping. Constance Fabunmi, the Clinical Supervisor, was recently awarded the College of Human Ecology's McFarland Creative Teaching Award for her efforts in these innovative teaching approaches.

Outside the University, the Program is noted as one of the foremost programs in the health service field. The emphases on family systems and chemical health have prepared Counseling Interns to work effectively in a number of settings where mental health care is provided, including schools, prisons, private and government agencies, culturally specific family service agencies, and chemical health treatment facilities. Ms. Fabunmi reports that in the past five years 173 interns have provided about 48,000 hours of service at 120 agencies.

Throughout these efforts, ADCEP maintains close community ties which help reinforce a 'real-world' connection between theory, education, and practice. Each year, specialists from health care fields deliver thirty different lectures focusing on the interplay among variables in diverse populations. In this way, we solicit community input into our training as well as providing students with the most current information regarding mental health care delivery.

The interweaving of theory, practice, and personal development throughout the training provides a rich balance for students in professional preparation. The mixture wouldn't be possible without the strong outreach orientation which guides ADCEP. The rewards are many: educated professionals, enlightened citizens, effective institutions, useful public policy, and most important, stronger, healthier families.

Commencement ... endings ... beginnings ...
by Hal Grotevant

Just a few weeks ago, I shook the hands of the Family Social Science majors in the graduating class of 1995. What a lively, proud, and competent group! The occasion gave me time for reflection, as I too am "commencening." On August 15, 1995, I will transition from being Department Head to being Professor in the department. Jan Hogan has been selected to be the next Head, and knowing this has made my transition easier. Jan has served both as Department Head and Associate Dean, and will bring all this accumulated wisdom and insight to bear on this next epoch in our department's history.

It hardly seems possible that my term as Department Head began over 5 1/2 years ago! During this period, many staff, faculty, and students have pulled together to improve the department and its programs in a number of ways. Here are a few highlights:

- The undergraduate program was completely transformed into the Family Social Science major. We hired a coordinator-extraordinaire (William Goodman), established an advising center, completely revised the curriculum, and encouraged the program's growth so that enrollment and credit hours are at an all-time high.
- Diversity and multiculturalism were reinforced as strong themes throughout the department: climate, curriculum, research, outreach. We held numerous bag lunches and seminars; obtained grants for curriculum transformation, including development of a new course on gay and lesbian families; hosted visits of African-American scholars Charles Willie and Vivian Jenkins-Nelson, Linda Burton, John and Harriette McAdoo; and co-sponsored the Hill Professorship of James Jackson.

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We encouraged development of research grant applications and hired an Executive Assistant to work directly with faculty. Submissions have increased dramatically over the last 5 years, laying the foundation for continued vitality and competitiveness in the research arena.

Faculty and graduate students have developed many interdisciplinary connections with other units on campus, especially with the Children, Youth, and Family Consortium; Center for Interpersonal Relationships Research; Center for Biomedical Ethics; Center on Aging; and Refugee Studies Center.

Faculty engaged in a large and diverse array of outreach activities, making our research knowledge available to the citizens of Minnesota, the nation, and the world.

To cap it off, we celebrated our 25th anniversary as a department and launched an endowed assistantship fund inspired by ideas of alumni.

It's been an exciting time to work with such talented colleagues, and I am especially excited to be transitioning into the role of teacher and researcher. To all readers of Interactions, thanks for your interest and continued support of the department and our programs.

As most of you know, this year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Department of Family Social Science. To recognize this achievement, a Friends of the Family Assistantship has been proposed by several alumni of our graduate program. The Assistantship has been designed similar to the Mary Ellen McFarland Assistantship, for which in the past two years there have been fifteen highly qualified candidates. Thus, the need is clear! Two recipients of the McFarland Assistantship tell of how receiving the extra money and time helped them:

"The breathing space provided by the McFarland Award created a turning point for me so I could enter the final stretch and attain my goal. It's unfortunate there aren't more awards available."

Judy Watson Tiesel

"The concentrated thinking, reading and interviewing which I did in that year stands out as the best learning I have gone in my 55 years. I believe that in that year my graduate experience peaked and I began to feel like a family scholar."

Janice Nadeau

Friends of the Family Assistantship

At the celebration last Fall, an anonymous lead gift of $10,000 toward the Friends of the Family Assistantship was announced, and since then, other faculty have made additional gifts. However, we have not yet reached our goal of $25,000.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please become a Friend of the Family today with either a gift of $50 or more, or a pledge of at least $250 which could be pledged over two years. Upon completion of the campaign, donors who become Friends of the Family will be invited to a celebration event at Eastcliff, hosted by President and Mrs. Hasselmo.

We thank you for your commitment and help!

Please complete and send this form (along with your check made out to the University of Minnesota Foundation) to the address below.

[Note: Please put "Friends of the Family" in the memo line of your check.]

University of Minnesota Foundation, Department of Family Social Science, Lock Box B, C-M-3854, St. Paul, MN 55107-3854.

Name ____________________________________________ Address ________________________________________________

City ___________ State ______ Zip __________

Telephone (Day) ___________ (Evening) ___________

E-mail __________________________________________

( ) I would like to give: $ ___________________________

( ) I would like to pledge: $ ______________________ ($250 or more) to be paid in 1995 and 1996.

Please send me reminders in ____________________________________________

DM95 GHEC NEWF (123-3911)
The Children, Youth, and Family Consortium
Electronic Clearinghouse:
A Pathway to University-Community Connections

The University’s outreach mission helped to guide the Children, Youth, and Family Consortium, the Center for 4-H Youth Development, the Minnesota Extension Service, and some FSOS faculty members when they created the Consortium Electronic Clearinghouse (CEC). CEC is an on-line distributive system providing research-based information related to the health, education, and well-being of children, youth, and families.

Specifically, CEC’s goals are to provide a forum for sharing the resources and expertise of the University of Minnesota with professionals and families in local communities, greater Minnesota, the United States, and the world; to make available the resources and expertise of communities, states and national organizations; and to create a user-friendly gateway to information on children, youth and families available elsewhere on the Internet. The Clearinghouse is available 24 hours a day through the Internet. One of CEC’s additional goals is to provide a model to others on how to integrate technology and information for their specific interest areas. Some of the information that is currently available on CEC includes:

- Community experts database
- U of MN departments and course work on children, youth, and families
- Kids Count Child Support report, documentation, and trend data
- Search Institute research reports and newsletter
- Federal Register articles on children, youth, and families
- Relevant 1990 Census data tables
- Children, Youth, and Family Consortium information and newsletters
- Literature reviews
- Calendar of events
- Links to databases, such as LUMINA, QUERRI, PENPages, and ERIC
- Brochures produced by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health

One of CEC’s most exciting projects is the development of “home pages” for the World Wide Web (WWW). Another exciting area on CEC is FatherNet, an electronic bulletin board which allows fathers to support each other in their parenting roles. FatherNet also gives interested persons from around the world opportunities to discuss with each other those concerns, policies, and programs which relate to fathers. FatherNet has been supported by Vice President Al Gore through his Father to Father program initiative.

A new venture that will soon be started for CEC is the idea of having “Champions” for each CEC theme area. These people will be familiar with the content and are part of a network of experts to guide development, recommend materials for inclusion, oversee the work of students, and promote the use of each theme area. These theme areas are meant to be dynamic, evolving collections of current materials which will highlight and showcase work at the University, the community, the Consortium, and other organizations around the nation. Current theme areas include:

- FatherNet - information on the importance of fathers
- AdoptINFO - research based adoption information
- Southeast Asian Family Issues
- Violence and Abuse
- Infants and Children
- Youth at Risk/Adolescent Behavior
- Parenting and Families
- MediaNET - positive and negative effects of media on children
- Families with Special Needs

Don’t resist using the Internet anymore. In fact, check out CEC on the World Wide Web at: http://www.fsci.umn.edu/cyfc/cyfc.html, and soon you won’t be able to take yourself away from the multitude of resources that are available on it. For further information, contact the Clearinghouse Coordinator Lori Bock: cyfcec@maroon.tc.umn.edu

Marlene Stum

The Minnesota Extension Service and Its Role in Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate? Transferring Assets of Elderly Minnesotans

The role of outreach in a land grant university such as the U of MN is to listen and observe, to identify public educational needs and opportunities, and form partnerships with the public and others in the University community to address them. It is the two-way exchange—from Minnesotans to the University and the University to Minnesotans—which will help keep research and teaching relevant. The people of the state appreciate faculty who can transform research into practical guidance for everyday living and work hand-in-hand in learning and trying to understand the complexities of problems facing individuals, families, and communities. Outreach is as essential today as it was years ago.

The Minnesota Extension Service (MES) is one type of outreach with a mission of involving people in improving their quality of life and enhancing the economy and environment through education, applied research, and the resources of the U of MN. MES serves as an educational bridge, with an office and county educators in all 87 counties, providing every Minnesota resident with access to a vast amount of information.

As a faculty member with an Extension appointment, my role is to provide leadership for program development in my subject matter of

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family economics and gerontology. My “students” might include some of the approximately 250 MES county educators, elders reading a caregiver newsletter or watching a local cable television program, or social workers in a nursing home being trained to help families make end-of-life decisions. Knowing that individuals have made more informed decisions about how to finance long term care, or have more accurately completed a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care are the types of impact my teaching is likely to accomplish.

Extension’s primary role is that of prevention education—helping make decisions and planning before a crisis occurs. As a faculty member with a primary focus on outreach, I have the opportunity and challenge of staying in touch with the lives of everyday Minnesotans who are increasingly diverse and complex, and of conducting quality research and educational programming.

Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate is an example of the type of work I conduct. While death is inevitable, few individuals have planned ahead regarding who should get the non-titled property such as Grandma’s yellow pie plate, the oak table, or family Bible. Individual elders, extended family members, attorneys, and too frequently, the courts are struggling to make informed decisions and to resolve conflicts over how to transfer this property. Collaborators with expertise in family economics, probate and estate law, inter-generational family decision-making and communication will work together to develop educational resources to assist those who are in need of making such decisions.

The “need” for research based educational materials in this area was identified by county educators listening to Minnesotans. The county educators then came to me as a content specialist and asked for help to identify relevant research or educational resources—a search found very little research and no materials. It’s an exciting project—everyone we talk with understands the issue—it seems as if every family has their “pie plate” and the stories that go with the transfer of belongings from generation to generation.

Outreach Efforts Beyond North America

During childhood and as young adults, people learn a significant amount from their parents. One of the things that Janet Macy, Associate Professor in FSoS, learned from her father was the importance of outreach. Macy’s father was one of Nebraska’s first agricultural extension agents and worked with the railroads and the U.S. Land Grant College Extension Service to create “Schools on Wheels.” In this program, he and others brought agricultural information to rural Americans in the early 1900s.

Little did Macy know that her outreach efforts would be similar to her father’s some nine decades later. During the Summer and Fall of 1994, Macy and her brother, Richard, traveled to Russia as part of Winrock International to share information on improving agricultural production, processing, and marketing to the millions of rural women and farm families there. Instead of using trains (as their father had done) to disseminate the information, the siblings utilized Radio Nadezhda (Radio Hope). Radio Nadezhda is the only independent radio station in the former Soviet Union which is devoted primarily to women. As can be seen in the station’s name, one of its missions is to provide hope to its people during Russia’s difficult transition to democracy and a free-market system.

Sharing information to people via the air waves is nothing new for Macy as she has been creating and broadcasting radio and television programs for farmers and consumers for 37 years. Throughout these years, she has realized that radio can be a powerful tool to supply communities with the information they need. With regard to her transmitting information in Russia, Macy says, “I cannot imagine a more powerful resource for reaching women and their families than this 17-transmitter radio station.” According to recent reports, Radio Nadezhda reaches 270,000 families on privatized farms, three million collective state farmers, and nearly 200 million Russian speaking urbanites throughout Asia and Europe.

One of the programs that Macy helped to develop was Up With the Roosters which is broadcast daily from 6:00 to 7:00 a.m. Being one of the most popular programs on Radio Nadezhda, it provides agriculture, weather, food, and consumer information to the urban and rural people of Russia. Macy states, “The purpose of the show is to encourage, inform, and enlighten the privatized farm women and others who are eager to hear success stories and inspirational anecdotes about entrepreneurs and the free market system.”

So, if you are ever in Russia or in a country nearby, tune your radio to AM 1044 or FM 104.2 and hear how one FSoS faculty member’s outreach efforts are truly on a global scale.

Janet Macy conducting interview for Radio Nadezhda in Moscow with Animal Nutritionist Vasily Brusova (center) and an interpreter (left).
Bicultural Parent Education Curriculum for Southeast Asian Families
by Blong Xiong and Dan Detzner

It has been twenty years since the first Southeast Asian refugee families came to Minnesota, an opportune time to examine resettlement progress and continuing adaptation problems of the 50,000+ who live here. During this period, Southeast Asians have become the fastest growing and poorest ethnic group in the state. Recent dramatic increases in adolescent delinquency, juvenile arrests, and gang activities of Southeast Asian youth have caused alarm in Twin Cities schools and neighborhoods and in suburban and rural communities where resettlement has occurred. Leaders of the Southeast Asian mutual assistance associations, teachers, and parents all agree that these overt delinquent acts, seldom seen in their homelands, have their source in the ongoing adjustment problems of families. Many adults have difficulty asserting their rights and responsibilities as parents in a social context they do not fully understand. Parenting in the United States requires bicultural skills and the ability to promote the growing independence of youth, both of which are foreign ideas in Southeast Asian cultures.

The overall goal of our Bicultural Parent Education Curriculum for Southeast Asian Families is to prevent, reduce, and resolve parent-child and intergenerational problems in the Southeast Asian community. The measurable objectives are: 1) To design culturally grounded parent education curricular materials for four Southeast Asian groups (Vietnamese, Cambodian, Lao and Hmong) using intergenerational focus groups and pilot testing with parents in specific settings (i.e., day care center, ECPE, etc.); 2) To develop this curriculum (six curricular modules that can stand alone, be used in combination, or as an integrated six sessions program) into an integrated package of fact/idea sheets, workbooks, videotapes, and other educational materials that address common parenting problems and solutions for use by organizations serving these communities; 3) To deliver this curricular package through training opportunities to every organization in Ramsey and Dakota counties with programs serving Southeast Asian families and two selected rural areas of the state; 4) To deliver these materials via channel 17, "Xev Koom Siab" or (Kay Kong Shia), a Hmong television show which serves Hmong in the Metro areas and that airs every Wednesday and Friday evening.

The focus of this research is to assess existing parent and family education programs for Southeast Asian families and develop a model program grounded in the experiences of parents and youth. Several stages of this project will occur simultaneously during the grant period from June, 1995 to June, 1996.

Stage I: A comprehensive review and summary of research literature on cross cultural parenting issues in Southeast Asian and other ethnic communities will be conducted.

Stage II: Focus group studies will be conducted on four Southeast Asian homogeneous parents' groups and four Southeast Asian homogeneous youth groups.

Stage III: Findings from homogeneous groups will be evaluated by two mixed Southeast Asian groups (a mixed parents' group and a mixed youth group).

Stage IV: Findings from homogeneous groups and mixed groups will be presented as a drafted curriculum for Southeast Asian professionals serving Southeast Asian children, youth, and families on which to evaluate and make comments.

Stage V: Pilot test the revised curriculum on specific parenting settings.

Stage VI: The Final Draft of the Bicultural Parent Education Curriculum for Southeast Asian Families.

The Minnesota Extension Service, along with the University of Minnesota, has been approved $54,000 to accomplish objectives 1-3 of this project for the duration of one year. For more information, contact Dan Detzner or Blong Xiong at (612) 625-0252.
News Briefs

Faculty

Pauline Boss has been appointed by the president of AAMFT, Dr. Marcia Laswell, to the Research Committee of AAMFT and appointed by the incoming president of AFTA Dr. Evan Imber Black, as chair of the AFTA Research Committee. Pauline has also been named as President-elect of NCFR for 1996; she will become President in 1997.

Jim Maddock presented the opening Plenary Address on “Sexuality Education: A History Lesson” at the 1995 Midcontinent Region Conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS) on June 2. Jim also traveled to Scandinavia in June where he met with clinicians and researchers who are using two of his written instruments with couples and with child sex abusers undergoing treatment. He presented a workshop on “Ecological Interventions into Organizational Systems” to public and private human service providers. As one of five co-principal investigators of the “Project for Interdisciplinary Postbaccalaureate Education in Mental Health Practice,” Jim and his team have received funding to institute a program that will change the nature of graduate education of students preparing for professions as mental health practitioners.

Paul Rosenblatt and Terri Karis are co-authors of a book with Richard Powell titled, Multiracial Couples: Black and White Voices. The book is scheduled for publication in July. Paul and Ramona Oswald have received funding from the Program Innovation Fund of Continuing Education and Extension to develop a course on Feminism and the Family.

Robert Yahne, FSOS Adjunct Professor and Richard M. Eastman, FSOS Professor Emeritus, are co-authors of the book, Literature and Gerontology: A Research Guide, which was published by Greenwood Press in June.

Shirley Zimmerman’s new book, Understanding Family Policy: Theories and Applications, will be released from Sage Publications in August, 1995. Dr. Zimmerman’s article entitled “Psychache in Context: States’ Expenditures for Public Welfare and Their Suicide Rates” will appear in the July issue of the Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease. In February, Dr. Zimmerman was a member of the National Research Initiative Task Force that met with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Deb Fravel, Ph.D. has accepted an offer as an Assistant Professor at Indiana University in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies.

Patti Herrington’s honors thesis was accepted for presentation at the Society for Research in Child Development in Indianapolis, Indiana, April, 1995.

Lori Kaplan, Ph.D., 1994, has accepted an NIA post-doctoral traineeship at Population Research Center at the University of Chicago beginning September, 1995.

Tai Mendenhall was asked to give a presentation on his work on the Minnesota/Texas Adoption Project at the National Council on Undergraduate Research in New York in April, 1995.

Marcie Parker, MA, MPA, CFLE has been named a Fellow in the Gerontological Society of America. Fellowship is recognition by peers in the Gerontological Society of America for outstanding contributions to the field of gerontology and represents the highest class of membership.

Peg Plumbo’s article, “Walking in Two Different Worlds or Walking in the World Differently: A Qualitative Study with American Indian Nurses,” was published in the June, 1995 issue of Journal of Holistic Nursing.

Deborah Simmons and Bill Doherty have an article published this month in the Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, titled “Defining Who We Are and What We Do: Clinical Practice Patterns of Marriage and Family Therapists in Minnesota.” Debbie was also on a panel at United Hospital where she talked to prospective parents and health professionals about marital and family dynamics in high-risk pregnancy. The workshop is about couple decision-making regarding whether to try another pregnancy after having experiencing problems in a previous pregnancy.

Jan Stevens Greenburg, Ph.D. 1987, has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Theses, Dissertations, and Prelims


Karen Kay Irvin, Ph.D., “Power, Control and Gender: Balance in Divorce Mediation,” Advisor: Jim Maddock.

Marcie Parker passed her prelim oral on May 25.


Jennifer Wing, Ph.D., “Parental Psychopathology and Adolescent Physical Health Symptoms and Depressive Symptomology: The Role of Personal, Family, and Community Resources,” Advisor: Jan Hogan.
Congratulations
Faculty

Pauline Boss has been awarded a Bush Sabbatical Supplement for the 1995-1996 academic year.

Dan Dzetner received a Summer Session Program Improvement Grant for a course he is developing for Summer, 1995 entitled "Southeast Asian Refugees: Children, Youth, and Families." Dan was also awarded a single quarter leave for Fall Quarter, 1995.


Jim Maddock and his wife, Noel Larson, had their book, Incestuous Families: An Ecological Approach to Understanding and Treatment, published in June by W.W. Norton Publishing Co. Jim has also been awarded a single quarter leave for Winter Quarter, 1996.

Kathy Rettig received a Certificate of Recognition and Thanks from the Department of Human Services for her work on the Commissioner's Advisory Committee for Child Support Enforcement. Kathy Rettig has been elected as the new Director of Graduate Studies for a three year term effective August 16, 1995.


Students

William Allen, graduate student in Family Social Science, was awarded a Bush Leadership Fellowship for 1995-1996. During the tenure of his fellowship, Bill will complete his dissertation research and the clinical requirements for the marriage and family therapy program. In addition, the fellowship will enable him to have research and therapy apprenticeships with several leaders around the country.

Deborah Fravel, Ph.D. received a Summer Session Program Improvement Grant for a course she is developing for Summer, 1995 entitled "Dynamics of Adoptive Family Systems."

Anna Hagemeister has been named the recipient of the Mary Ellen McFarland Assistantship for the 1995-1996 academic year.

Diane Hovey has been awarded a doctoral fellowship in rehabilitation research sponsored by the Minnesota Rehabilitation Research Training Program at the University of Minnesota. Diane will be trained to undertake a career and leadership role as a researcher in the field of rehabilitation.