In This Issue...

Much attention has been given to welfare reform both at the national level and here in Family Social Science. Accordingly, we highlight the work of Drs. Jean Bauer, Bonnie Braun, and Shirley Zimmerman in this area.

When an elderly family member moves to a nursing home or dies, families must decide who gets what—a decision most families contemplate with some consternation. Dr. Marlene Stum’s article, "Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate," integrates her research and outreach about inheritance of personal possessions in families.

Our featured alumnus for this issue is one of my favorite professors, Dr. Howard Barnes (1985). The center of this issue is a dedication to another one of my favorite people, our department secretary, Dorothea Berggren, who retired this spring after nearly 22 years of “mothering” all of us here in Family Social Science.

Don’t miss this opportunity to interact!

Welfare Reform

Action can occur fast when two family economists, Drs. Jean Bauer and Bonnie Braun, commit to untangling the mysteries of welfare reform for us. Over the past year Jean and Bonnie have teamed together to help a diverse group of people better understand what is happening with changes in Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Food Stamps, Child Support Enforcement, Supplemental Security Income, and many other programs as the result of new Federal legislative mandates. As policy educators, they presented the complex data and a family well-being framework to scores of leaders in communities across Minnesota and the nation.

First, they held a leadership forum sponsored by the College of Human Ecology last October. Next they worked with 70 Minnesota Extension Educators in welfare reform training sessions. The Extension Educators asked for a satellite broadcast so community leaders such as county commissioners, legislators, non-profit organizations and others would hear first hand about welfare reform from Jean and Bonnie. In January, the satellite conference, From Welfare to Well-Being, was beamed to communities in Minnesota and across the country. The interactive call-in portion of the conference dealt with questions from community leaders in Minnesota and other states about child care, jobs, food stamps, housing subsidies, and energy assistance. The satellite conference was video taped.

Jean and Bonnie continue to track the progress of welfare reform in the Minnesota legislature and in other states. They have demonstrated the importance of universities working in the public policy arena. They had leadership roles at a recent national conference sponsored by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and USDA in Washington, D.C. This meeting brought together 200 research and extension educators to develop a national plan of action for the well-being of children, youth, families, and communities. Their goals are to measure the social and economic implications of welfare reform on families and to monitor state and local responses to welfare reform.

Dr. Jean Bauer is Professor and Extension Specialist of Family Social Science and Dr. Bonnie Braun is Associate Dean for Outreach, College of Human Ecology, and an adjunct professor in our department.

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Dr. Bonnie Braun, with Cathy Wurzer (KTCA) and Dr. Jean Bauer
From Dr. Hogan, Department Head

Dear Friends:

We are claiming bragging rights this year — four members of our department received College of Human Ecology’s Excellence Awards! The CHE awards process is very competitive so it is a special honor to be chosen. Each awardee receives $1,000 and a certificate.

Dr. Sharon Danes received the Excellence in Research Award. She is addressing the issue of how family functioning and business practices jointly predict the viability of the business. Her research is financed with a USDA Rural Economic Development Grant.

Ms. Ramona Oswald, doctoral student, was awarded the New Teaching Excellence Award. She developed and taught a new course on feminism and families. Ramona is very committed to students as individuals, to new pedagogues and new content, and to creating learning environments for diverse students.

Dr. William Goodman received the McFarland Creative Teaching Award. He has high expectations for students, requiring them to use the computer for a variety of assignments, to attend department seminars, and to explore community resources beyond the campus. Also, graduate students evaluated him “exceptional” in a course that he taught for the first time.

Dr. Marlene Stum received the Contributions to College and Community Award for her work in the areas of aging, financing long term care, life and death health care decisions, and other issues related to family resource management. She has written publications used by trainers of health care professionals, participated in a satellite broadcast beamed into five states, and has presented in many classes.

This newsletter is filled with other special accomplishments which we joyously share with you. Dorothea Berggren has made such an important contribution to us that we featured her across two pages! Needless to say, we deeply appreciate the excellent work of our faculty, students, and staff.

Sincerely,
Janice Hogan

Welfare & Teen Pregnancy

Dr. Shirley Zimmerman asks the important question, “what is the relationship between how much states pay for Aid To Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and teen birth rates?” In light of the recent welfare reform legislation, the answer to this question has special relevance for policy makers. Dr. Zimmerman’s analysis of this question spanned a 30 year period, 1960-1990, and included all 50 states.

Despite the common view that AFDC payments serve as incentives for teens to have babies, Dr. Zimmerman’s analysis failed to support this cause and effect view. Indeed, (in one of her research models) teen birth rates were higher in states where AFDC payments were lower. When she controlled for both state and year, AFDC payment rates showed no teen birth rate effects.

Dr. Zimmerman also studied the relationship of poverty, population changes, racial composition, divorce rates, and unemployment rates on teen birth rates. States’ poverty and population change were related to teen birth rates; the other factors studied showed no significant effects.

Dr. Zimmerman would like attention to focus on addressing economic deprivation and social isolation due to mobility in considering teen birth rates, rather than on decreasing welfare benefits. She supports teen pregnancy prevention programs, job creation and expansion, education and training for workers, expansion of the earned income tax credit for low income families, increases in the minimum wage, and other initiatives to eliminate poverty. She also urges monitoring the actions of the 50 states and their efforts to effectively address the teen birth rate problem. Dr. Zimmerman will work with other researchers across the country to monitor changes and to sound the alarm “if states should take the low rather than the high road to welfare reform.”

In one family, grandma’s wedding ring was passed on to her son, then to his son. When that young man’s fiancé walked into a room full of relatives, his aunt stared at her ring finger and exclaimed, “How did YOU get mom’s ring?” Every family has tales about how personal possessions were divided when grandma moved to the nursing home or when dad died, and the impact this process has had on family members.

“Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate? Transferring Non-titled Personal Property” is the title of a consumer education program which serves as a model for linking research, program development, and outreach through the Minnesota Extension Service. Two years of research and piloting by a team of 5 county extension educators and myself has led to programming which is in great demand across the country. Newly developed resources include how-to materials, a video, workshops and speakers for consumers, as well as an educator’s “kit” for family life educators, attorneys, funeral directors, and other professionals involved in family inheritance issues.

Family members have been transferring property to future generations for centuries but very little is known about inheritance issues and their impact on families, especially regarding non-titled property. Non-titled property refers to personal property without a legal document (such as a title) to indicate who officially owns the item. Not only is there no research, there are few educational resources to help family members make informed decisions about transferring personal property. As far as we can tell our research and educational resources are a “first”. The interest being expressed suggests that we’re meeting an important need and filling a critical gap regarding families and inheritance issues.

Overall, our research suggests that there are six key factors to consider when planning for the transfer of non-titled property, and which are the focus of our educational resources: 1) Understand the sensitivity of transferring non-titled property, 2) Determine what you want to accomplish, 3) Decide what “fair” means for your family, 4) Identify the meaning of objects, 5) Recognize distribution options and the consequences of each, and 6) Agree to manage conflicts if they arise.

For information about existing resources on this issue call the University of Minnesota Extension Service at 624-4900 or 1-800-876-8636. Owners of personal property who want to plan in advance, or family members and personal representatives (estate executors) involved in the transfer of personal property have found the consumer information packet (EP-6686-MFS,$8) and video (VH-6692-MFS,$30) to be valuable decision making tools. If you are interested in teaching about this issue, an educators package (EP-6636-GE) is available for $75. (Shipping and taxes are extra). If you are interested in arranging a workshop or speaker contact Marlene at 612-625-4270.

Andrea says, “This is no ordinary yellow pie plate. This actually belonged to my great grandmother who spent a lot of time in the kitchen with her daughters baking pies. The tradition has continued on and the yellow pie plate is always on the table at family gatherings. I hope someday this yellow pie plate will be mine. It’s not just a piece of my past, it’s a piece of my living history.” What are the “pie plates” in your family? What tales can you tell about dividing and transferring personal possessions?

Dr. Marlene Stum
Best Wishes, Dorothea!

On Wednesday, April 2, 1997, many who have been a part of the Department of Family Social Science as students, staff, and faculty, gathered in McNeal Hall to celebrate. Dorothea Berggren, who had provided nearly 22 years of service to the department, was retiring. It was a time of toasting and cheer, feasting and frolic, memories and tears.

Department Head Jan Hogan was Mistress of Ceremonies. Emeritus professor Gerhard Neubbecke honored us with one of his famous poems. The “Back Yard Players” presented a hilarious skit! A Song of Tribute was performed by a choral ensemble, and toasts were offered by various faculty, Dean Mary Helseth, and current graduate student, Seonju Jang. Dorothea was presented with a bouquet of 22 pink roses, and other gifts including a check representing the appreciation we all feel for her. Jan concluded the ceremony by reading some of the memory messages from Dorothea’s admirers and by introducing Dorothea’s family.

Dorothea said, “In September, I would have been at the U for 22 years. I have mixed feelings about retiring. I’ve developed a real love and understanding for the College of Human Ecology, particularly the Department of Family Social Science. It’s been a good work experience and I’m really thankful for the time I’ve had at the college.”

Thank you, Dorothea, for all the things you have done for the department as a whole, and for each and every one of us. We will miss you dreadfully — but we wish you all the best! Take care.

“Genuinely concerned about each person you connect to. You have spent a lifetime meeting the needs of all around you. I hope your retirement brings many wonderful moments that meet your needs.”
-Linda Budd, Adjunct Professor

“Her caring in her grandparenting role made me wish that I could have her as a grandparent for my own child. I also know that because you are a special person your world will be friends and family who will enjoy sharing their time with you. My life will continue to be richer because I have had the opportunity to know you.”
-Bernadine Enevoldsen, Alumnus

“Dorothea Berggren— the person who has been the heart and soul of Family Social Science. ...she has been the voice and face of caring and concern.”
-Hal Grotevant, Faculty

“One of my cherished memories of Dorothea was the interview. ...[it] still makes me laugh! Dr. Hey joined us a little later and he asked “how do you feel about sex?” You said, “It doesn’t bother me.”
-Emma Haugen, Retired Administrator

“You are my emotional supporter. Whenever I feel isolated, if I saw you or talked to you, I was happy. I love your smile face and nice voice. You are a spirit of this department.”
-Seonju Jang, Doctoral Student

“...through the down times as well as the up, Dorothea has retained a wonderfully sweet competence and a respectful and decent way of dealing with others. ...there were ways that Dorothea made all of us and the members of our families her family... She constantly sees the best in people and by doing the brings out the best in them...”
-Paul Rosenblatt, Faculty

Dorothea’s real family
A Song of Tribute

to the tune of "The Brady Bunch"
lyrics by Cathy Haddelen

Here's a story of Dorothea Berggren Minnesota's where she's always staked her claim. She was destined to marry this man Willard, They had the same last name. Dorothea and her Willard had a family: Carol, Barbara, Lowell, then one more And the last of four children was Virginia, Named for the state where she was born.

Now Dorothea, she has worked in many places —
To Illinois and to Virginia she did roam.
But it was back in the state of Minnesota That she did find her home.

In 1975, the 16th of September, Dorothea came to work with us here in McNeal. She brought her smile, her warmth, and her good nature; Appreciation's what we feel.

Dorothea has now come to a decision: Twenty-two years of service is quite enough! As she moves on to her new adventure, Life in McNeal will get rough!

When she's gone we know that we will really miss her With Dorothea we have all been very blessed. But Dorothea, we do want you to know that We wish you all the very best!

CHORUS:
Dorothea dear,
This much is true
The song we sing is our tribute to you.

We miss you!
Alumni Update: Howard Barnes

Like many of us, Howard Barnes has had a life-long fascination with human relationships and how people interact. As an undergraduate student at Macalaster College, St. Paul, he worked at a home for emotionally disturbed children. As he came to know the children’s stories, it was clear that many were survivors of very difficult family circumstances. Macalaster had no family studies courses, but during his junior year, Howard took a course in developmental psychology from Dr. Jack Rossmann. The major paper for that course allowed students to pursue their interest. After reading Robert Blood’s work on marriage, Howard was hooked. This experience modeled an important principle in teaching: the most rewarding learning results from encouraging students to explore ideas. A few years later, Dr. Rossmann agreed to be the faculty sponsor of a family relations interim course Howard taught at Macalaster.

After earning his Masters at Kansas State University (KSU), Howard returned to pursue his doctorate and was appointed David Olson’s graduate assistant. Mentors here also included Janice Hogan, Hamilton McCubbins, and Paul Rosenblatt. Others, such as Shirley Zimmerman, Paula Berry, Dick Hey, and his student peers, helped create an atmosphere of active engagement between faculty and students, fostering an expectation of excellence and student achievements. Howard says that his sense of professionalism was shaped by his interactions with many folks in and out of class.

After graduating in 1985, Howard went back to KSU as an Assistant Professor in Human Development and Family Studies. Since 1992, he’s been at East Carolina University, as Associate Professor and Chair of Child Development and Family Relations. As of this fall, Howard will be in Cedar Falls, Iowa as Head of the Department of Design, Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa. Howard credits the “triple threat” focus at FSsuS for his many accomplishments, including his joy in watching students grow intellectually. He has received grants for both research and service projects. His research at KSU was recognized by Kappa Omicron Nu, and by the College of Human Ecology. Howard is currently serving a two-year term as chair-elect of the Education and Enrichment (EE) Section of the National Council on Family Relations. His major focus is on advancing the efficacy of family life education and the Certified Family Life Educator program.

Dr. Barnes’ advice to current graduate students is to be sure to finish their degree before becoming actively involved with an academic department. He’s seen many students leave full-time study for good job opportunities, and struggle to complete their degree. Trying to finish a graduate degree and launch a career at the same time places extraordinary strain on the student and anyone trying to live or work near them!

Mentoring ...

TERI NELSEN:

Dr. Barnes became a mentor to me while he was at Kansas State University and I was working on my undergraduate degree. He was the first professor to introduce me to family systems theory, and more importantly, really helped me to think about how I should parent my children. He supported my decision to pursue graduate school, and ultimately encouraged me to apply here for my Ph.D. When I was faced with the decision between the U of MN and another program, I called him for advice. Before I even had a chance to ask, he said “Go to the University of Minnesota!” In the ten years since I’ve graduated from KSU, Howard has always been willing to talk with me about the decisions I’m facing; I’ve greatly appreciated his wisdom, support, encouragement, and especially (at least in retrospect) the challenges he presented to me that have led to growth both as a person and as a professional.

JOSEPH RIED:

Howard was one of several professors at East Carolina University who encouraged Joe to apply to a doctoral program. Joe says, “[Dr. Barnes] wisely provided options and honest opinions of what I had to look forward to. His support and encouragement meant so much during that stressful time of balancing current practicum and class work, while flying around the country interviewing for Ph.D. programs. After being accepted to the University of Minnesota, Howard took me out to lunch to celebrate and to congratulate me on my acceptance. He provided many sound words of advice and care, especially about the weather!! I miss Howard and the faculty at ECU. I had joked with Howard about meeting him here in Minnesota when he returns as a faculty member — I am still waiting!!"
From Dr. Jim Maddock: Mental Health Practice Affinity Group

The overall goal of the Mental Health Practice (MHP) Affinity Group is to improve the education of students preparing for various professions as mental health practitioners serving children and families in the community. Its purpose is to increase interdisciplinary coordination among the University’s mental health practice programs and to improve flexibility in response to student and community needs. Since 1995, the work of the MHP group has been supported by funds from the Graduate School’s Interdepartmental Postbaccalaureate Education Initiative and, more recently, by a grant from the office of the Provost for Professional Studies. Programs currently participating in MHP Affinity Group activities are Marriage and Family Therapy (FSoS), Clinical Social Work (Social Work), Child Clinical Psychology (Child Development and Psychology), Counseling and Student Personnel Psychology, and School Psychology (both Educational Psychology).

In spring 1996, the MHP Task Force compiled and distributed a Guide to Graduate Courses in Mental Health Practice. Currently, the MHP Affinity Group is updating course information for the 1997-98 academic year; it will be distributed via the Internet and a printed addendum. We are also encouraging faculty in cooperating MHP programs, on an experimental basis, to permit qualified students from other programs to register for their courses via consent of the instructor even if these students have not taken some of the formal prerequisite courses within a particular department.

Between now and fall 1999 (when the semester system will be implemented), several MHP courses are being redesigned into modular form so that they may be cooperatively offered by faculty in several departments on a rotating or intermittent basis. This requires careful coordination among departments and collaboration by teams of faculty members. High on the list of possible courses are: Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in Mental Health Practice; Supervision of Mental Health Practitioners; Clinical Assessment in Mental Health Practice; and a Clinical Consultation Group sequence which will give students direct supervised contact with various types of clients.

While working on course redesign, MHP Group members continue to explore with community agencies — particularly those that already have linkages to the University — the possibility of developing interdisciplinary team practicum placements for MHP students in cooperating programs. Students involved would receive some combination of onsite supervision and oncampus supervision to meet accredited program requirements.

In addition to the courses listed above (all of which currently exist in more than one departmental program), the MHP Task Force is recommending the development of a new course that would be integrative across disciplines. Multisystems Approaches to Mental Health Practice would consist of sessions or modules on topics such as: “Coordination Among Systems in the Delivery of Mental Health Care,” “Multisystems Preventive Services,” and “Mental Health Practice in Managed Care Settings.”

The above is by no means a final list of our ideas or activities. The MHP Affinity Group welcomes input from additional faculty, graduates, and community professionals. Achieving our goals will be challenging, but also exciting — and the rewards could be significant.
CONGRATULATIONS!

Drs. Carolyn Tubbs and Virginia Zuiker have been invited to participate in the NIMH 1997 Summer Institute in San Antonio, Texas this June. This year’s theme is “Diversity and Families: Context and Process.”

David Dollahite (1988) was granted continued faculty status and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor effective fall semester 1997 at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Jane Tornatore received a Graduate Student Award from the Center on Aging on April 23, 1997.

Dr. Janice Hogan, Head of the Department, received the CHE Dean’s Award for Outstanding Service. Dr. Hogan also has accepted the two-year position as Chair of the Children, Youth and Families Consortium’s Advisory Council.

Bridgette Murphey, FSoS senior was elected vice president of MN Student Association for 1997-98.

Eileen LaFontaine and Amy Weinsheimer, seniors, are recipients of CHE Waller International Undergraduate Awards. Poonsuk Wachwahan, Ph.D. candidate, received a Waller International Graduate Award.

Yoav Lavee (1985), was awarded a sabbatical leave from the University of Haifa, Israel, to study at the University of Minnesota for the 1997-1998 academic year.

Jennifer Krantz, senior, received the Outstanding Student Award.

Interactions
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Is it $E=mc^2$, or $\Sigma=\mu_0^2$???
After 45 years of service to many students, statistics professor Dr. Donald MacEachern is retiring effective this June – really.

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