

HDFES

Department of Human Development & Family Studies

Communicator

Summer 2008



www.familystudies.uconn.edu

Photo by Preston A. Britner

Human Development & Family Studies Administration -

Department Head, Professor Ronald M. Sabatelli

Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies, Associate Professor Preston A. Britner

Associate Department Head for Undergraduate Studies, Associate Professor Jane A. Goldman

*HDFS Communicator
Summer 2008*



Photo by Lainie Hiller

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Save the Date!

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Honors and Awards

Associate Professor **Preston Britner**, Ph.D., received a funded *Work & Learn* research contract from the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services/The Office for Workforce Competitiveness, funded for \$75,000, May-December 2008. (Britner, Co-PI).

Assistant Professor **Edna Brown**, Ph.D., received a Faculty Large Grant from the UConn Research Foundation for \$1,030, to conduct research over the summer on the divorce experiences of black and white Americans, formerly married to each other. The funding allows her to prepare a grant proposal to conduct further analyses on the divorced individuals who participated in an ongoing larger longitudinal project that began in 1986 entitled "The Early Years of Marriage". Dr. Brown was involved in the design, recruitment and data collection of Years 14 and 16 of the project, which collected data from the married couples and for the first time data were collected from participants who divorced over the years. HDFS doctoral student **Artie Maharaj** is collaborating with Dr. Brown on several projects examining the social, psychological, and economic well being of these black and white divorced women and men.

Assistant Professor **Kathryn Libal**, Ph.D., has been awarded a Faculty Large Grant from the UConn Research Foundation for \$12,459. The grant is entitled "Analyzing Non-Governmental Politics, US Refugee Policy, and Iraqi Refugees." It provides support for her to conduct initial interviews with non-governmental organization representatives and US government and UN intergovernmental agencies concerning refugee policy regarding Iraqis over the past 25 years. Dr. Libal is interested in better understanding how refugee policy is shaped by shifts in national security priorities, US foreign policy, and changes in welfare provision to vulnerable families and groups (important after refugee resettlement). The research will "bridge" refugee policy studies and social welfare policy analysis.



Associate Professor **Marysol Asencio**, Ph.D., received the University of Connecticut Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center's Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award for 2008. Congratulations to one of HDFS' most popular professors!



Director of the Nancy and Ronald Rohner Center for the Study of Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection, **Ronald P. Rohner**, Ph.D., was selected by the American Psychological Association Division 52 - International Awards Committee to receive the "Outstanding International Psychologist Award from the U.S." for 2008. Dr. Rohner will be honored at the Division's awards ceremony in Boston, August 2008.

Faculty Updates

New Administrative Structure & Roles

As of July 1, 2008, the Department has shifted into a "leaner-not-meaner" administrative structure with three, rather than four, faculty in such roles. Professor **Ronald M. Sabatelli**, Ph.D., stays on as the Department Head with no change in duties. Associate Professor **Jane Goldman**, Ph.D., remains focused on undergraduate issues, but with the new title "Associate Department Head for Undergraduate Studies." Professor **Thomas Blank**, Ph.D., heading into a sabbatic leave this year, concludes his most recent term heading the graduate program. Associate Professor **Preston Britner**, Ph.D., shifts over into the new "Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies" role. This minor reorganization should clarify the logical point person for issues related to the undergraduate (Jane) and graduate (Brit) programs.

The Department would like to thank Tom for his efforts on behalf of graduate students and the program over the past two years, and we hope he has a productive and energizing sabbatical.

HDFS Professor and Department Head **Ronald Sabatelli**, Ph.D., received a letter of thanks from the sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta, Gamma Zeta Chapter. Dr. Sabatelli was recognized by the Chapter for the help, dedication and contribution that he's made to the UConn community and for making a difference in another person's life. They thanked him for being an educator who is passionate about what he teaches and at the same time truly cares about his students.

Selected Presentations

Britner, P. A. (2008, June). Discussion. In M. J. Nakkula (Organizer), *Mentoring adolescents: Promoting the intersection of educational, career, and psychosocial identity development*. Paper symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society, Quebec City, Canada.

Little, C., **Kearney, K.**, & **Britner, P. A.** (2008, June). Students' perceptions of self-concept, educational development, and their research mentoring experience in a summer mentoring program for gifted adolescents. In M. J. Nakkula (Organizer), *Mentoring adolescents: Promoting the intersection of educational, career, and psychosocial identity development*. Paper symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society, Quebec City, Canada.

Britner, P. A. (2008, June). *Removal, placement, and permanency: Bringing attachment theory, research, and practice to decisions about children's best interests*. Invited talk delivered as a Master Class to the New York City Family Court Judges' Association, New York, NY.

Mossler, D., Eigsti, I-M., **Britner, P. A.**, Joseph, T., & Weitzman, C. C. (2008, May). *Severity of deprivation predicts developmental outcomes in internationally adopted children*. Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.

Cunningham, M. D., **Sabatelli, R. M.**, & **Anderson, S. A.** (2008, June). *Shining a light on program quality: The role of state standards*. Paper presented at After School Partnerships for Success, a regional conference sponsored by the State of Connecticut, Department of Education, Hartford, CT.

Center News

The Center for Applied Research in Human Development

The Center for Applied Research in Human Development (CARHD) was recently reviewed by the University of Connecticut, Committee on Centers and Institutes. The Committee recommended to the Provost, who agreed and forwarded the recommendation on to the Board of Trustees, that the Center be renewed for another five years.

CARHD provides assistance to state and community-based agencies in the development, delivery, and evaluation of human service programs. For more information about the Center for Applied Research in Human Development go to www.familystudies.uconn.edu/centers/applied. Some current projects by the CARHD include:

Anderson, S.A., Kosutic, I., & Trachtenberg, J., & Palmer, K. Contract with UConn/New Haven GEAR-UP Project for Evaluation of Projects Results, September 2007-December 2010.

Anderson, S. & Sabatelli, R.M. Contract with State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management and Connecticut Consortium for Law and Citizenship Education, for evaluation of the School Attendance: Program and Evaluation Grants Initiative, July 2007-July 2008.

Anderson, S. & Sabatelli, R.M. Contract with State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management and Connecticut Consortium for Law and Citizenship Education, for evaluation of the Governor's Urban Youth Violence Prevention Program, January 2008-December 2009.

Anderson, S., & Sabatelli, R.M. Contract (MOU) with State of Connecticut, Department of Education for development of Best Practices, Quality Standards for After School Programs in Connecticut, March 2008-July 2008.

Center News continued...

Child Development Laboratories and Early Childhood Education

The Child Development Laboratories (CDL) were provided the opportunity to work with surrounding towns and area birth-three providers to include children with special needs in the CDL toddler and preschool programs. For the past two years the town of Bolton, CT has contracted with the CDL to provide a preschool experience for children in their town with special needs. These collaborations have excited and enriched everyone who has been involved. Such partnerships support the CDL's mission as a training site for students in the Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Program by broadening the scope of the fieldwork and student teaching practica.

Master Teacher in the CDL Preschool Program **Heather Leeman**, has worked with many children with special needs in her class. Heather has noted one glaring obstacle to the CDL's goal of becoming a truly inclusive center: the playground. While the current playground offers a variety of climbing structures and play equipment, much of it is not accessible to all children, including those with special, visual, or motoric needs. In order to address the issue, she began researching accessible playgrounds, which led her to "Boundless™ Playgrounds" (boundlessplayground.org). Heather began to work in collaboration with HDFS Professor and Director of Early Childhood Teacher Preparation **JoAnn Robinson**, Ph.D. and Executive Director of the CDL **Anne Bladen**, M.A., and together they have begun the process of raising awareness of the need for a Boundless playground.

In June, JoAnn passionately shared this vision and goal with those in attendance at the Family Studies Alumni Society (FSAS) Annual Meeting & Dinner. In her presentation, JoAnn explained that Boundless playgrounds create extraordinary playgrounds where children, with and without disabilities, can develop essential skills for life as they learn together through play.

Connecticut offers the highest number of Boundless playgrounds in the nation, thus far, currently with 25 community locations and five others in the works. Manchester, Somers, South Windsor, and Willimantic are just a sample of the nearby towns that have these playgrounds. As an inclusive lab school and learning center, it is essential that the CDL become part of the Boundless playground movement in Connecticut.

Boundless playgrounds is a non-profit organization that will help the CDL with fund raising, planning, and aligning with corporate sponsors. The cost to have one of these playgrounds is between \$30,000 and \$60,000 for the CDL site. The CDL hope to obtain more than half of these funds through corporate sponsors like CVS/Pharmacy and Hasbro/PLAYSKOOL. They also hope to partner with the FSAS to raise funds for this very important venture.

Future editions of the HDFS newsletter will include updates about the progress of this project and ways to participate in fundraising to support the goal of a Boundless Playground at the HDFS Child Labs. For further information on how you can help, please contact joann.robinson@uconn.edu



The Frederick G. Humphrey Center for Individual, Couple, and Family Therapy

The Humphrey Center for Individual, Couple and Family Therapy will be a participant of the UConn's Suicide Prevention Week initiative, which is being organized by UConn's Counseling and Mental Health Services. National Suicide Prevention Week will take place across the US from September 7 through 13, 2008. The goals of this event are to raise campus awareness of the signs of suicidal ideation and intent, to develop a first response line through campus training, to increase awareness of resources here on campus, and to promote individual and group empowerment to act on knowledge and concerns. There will be numerous activities throughout the week, including: art exhibits, movies, memorial candlelight service, online training opportunities, tabling, focus groups, numerous cultural events, and a keynote talk by national speaker and author, Ross Szabo on Tuesday, September 8th at 7:00p.m. at the Jorgensen Auditorium.

The Humphrey Center will be a sponsor of the keynote speaker and Clinic Director **Doris LaPlante**, LMFT, will be actively involved during the week long effort and will facilitate the screening of movies.

Center News continued...

Ronald and Nancy Rohner Center for the Study of Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection



Ariel Knafo, Ph.D.

In June, the first University of Connecticut Rohner Center Award was awarded to Ariel Knafo, Ph.D., for his Distinguished Contributions to Research, Theory, and Practice on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection. Dr. Knafo is currently assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel. His paper, entitled *Parental Discipline and Affection and Children's Prosocial Behavior: Genetic and Environmental Links*, co-authored with Robert Plomin of King's College London, England, was published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 90, 1, 147–164. This article was selected as the Outstanding Paper of the Biennium by the award Committee. For this, Dr. Knafo received a cash award of USD \$1000. The formal Award presentation by **Ronald P. Rohner**, Ph.D., Director of the Ronald and Nancy Rohner Center for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection took place at the Second International Congress on

Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection on July 3, 2008 in Rethymno, Crete, Greece, where Dr. Knafo gave a plenary address on his work at the Congress. For more information about the University of Connecticut Rohner Center Award please visit the International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection website at www.isiparweb.org.

HDFS Spring Lecture Series



Dr. Velma McBride Murry

In April 2008, HDFS' *Ruth Evelyn Parcells Foote '42 and Barbara Jones Johnson Foote '43 Lecture Fund* sponsored a seminar featuring speaker Velma McBride Murry, Ph.D., whose presentation was entitled, "Drawing on the Legacy of Dr. Marie F. Peters: The Protective Nature of Racial Socialization for African American Youths' Development and Adjustment".

Velma McBride Murry, Ph.D., is a Professor of Child and Family Development and Co-Director of the Center for Family Research at the University of Georgia. She received her doctorate in Human Development and Family Relations from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1988, and she has served on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the Risk, Prevention and Health Behavior Integrated Grant Review Panel. She is a co-Founder of the Study Group on Race, Ethnicity and Culture. Her work has been supported by National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institute

on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), and the William T. Grant Foundation. Her work focuses on understanding the significance of context in studies of African-American families and youth. She examines the impact of racism on family functioning and has elucidated the dynamics of this contextual stressor in the everyday life of African Americans. Her research on the ways in which family members buffer each other from the impact of the external stressors that cascade through African-American lives was one important stimulus for her subsequent focus on family intervention as a potential protection against the development of risky adolescent behavior. Dr. Murry's work has culminated into the development of the Strong African American Families (SAAF) intervention program that targets the prevention of early onset sexual behavior and substance abuse among rural African-American youth. Currently, Dr. Murry's work focuses on the implementation and dissemination of this preventive intervention for African-American youth and their families.



Pictured left to right:
Dr. Velma McBride Murry, Dr. James S. Peters, and Kimberley Bourne-Vanneck (HDFS graduate student).

Student Spotlights

Students Navigate Differences

Written by HDFFS Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) graduate student **Larissa Christensen**

During their first year in 2007/08, MFT graduate students explored multicultural concepts in their Cultural and Contextual Frameworks class with Professor **Sandra Rigazio-DiGilio**, Ph.D., Students created assignments to address different topics relating to equality, social justice, and difference, which they completed and shared with the class and community.

Eric Evenson and **Kim Bourne-Vanneck** wrote an inspiring letter that they hope to get published in the *Hartford Courant* regarding their experiences in working in a Hartford public school. They encouraged readers to think about what truly measures academic success and ability. Eric and Kim included their experiences with Hartford students and their great admiration for the children's creativity, artistic abilities, and personal strengths. Their letter challenged readers to examine the way we think about our educational policies, especially in relation to those such as "No Child Left Behind" and the consequences these have for our children's futures.

Other students addressed social issues such as current political stances on healthcare. Students **Kirsten Smolskis** and **Sara Tavela** researched the healthcare plans of presidential candidates Barack Obama, Hilary Clinton, and John McCain and inspired a discussion on how such plans impact American society.

Julie Aberegg tackled an issue regarding institutional inequality by researching the status of Marriage and Family Therapy accreditation in her home state of West Virginia. West Virginia is one of only two states in the US that does not recognize or license marriage and family therapists. Julie hopes to return home after her degree at HDFFS and inspire a movement to create more equality in healthcare services offered in West Virginia.

Sarah Thomas, **Maria Daskalopoulos**, and **Michael Redd** took the initiative to observe and experience the current conditions of the Frederick G. Humphrey Center for Individual, Couple, and Family Therapy and noticed that there were many things in need of repair. The students then drafted and sent a letter to the Clinic Director, **Doris LaPlante**, LMFT asking to become part of a renovation team to help improve the appearance of the Center for both employees and incoming clients.

Lastly, student **Megan Close**, led an activity that explored issues of privilege and inequality among individuals in the class. Megan instructed the class to stand in a line, shoulder-to-shoulder, across the span of the room. She presented a series of statements regarding privilege and inequality. Individuals who were able to agree to a statement of privilege were instructed to take a step forward, such as being able to agree to the statement "there were more than 50 books present in the house that I grew up in." Students were instructed to take a step back when they could agree with a statement of inequality such as, "I have been stopped and questioned by the police because of the color of my skin, body type, or appearance." After the statements were all read, students were able to see how they ended up in the room based on privileges and inequalities they had experienced in their own lives.

These activities may seem small in relation to tackling such tough issues such as social justice and equality, but they have challenged at least ten individuals to think about creating change. You never know when small change will turn into something bigger, when one voice will inspire many, or when one activity will inspire hundreds to reach out. Some of the biggest movements have been incited by the smallest ripples. Personal and social injustice is all around us. When will we be willing to take a stand against it? One voice, one letter, one class activity at a time.



*Pictured left to right:
Sara Tavela, Julie Aberegg, Sarah Thomas,
Kim Bourne-Vanneck, Maria Daskolopolous,
Kirsten Smolskis, Megan Close, Michael Redd,
Eric Evenson, and Larissa Christensen*

HDFS Honors Students are Student Life Award Recipients



Samantha Sherwood, B.A. '08, an HDFS major, received the Donald L. McCullough Leadership Award for 2008. Samantha was involved with the University of Connecticut Honors Council as president, vice president, academic committee chair, and leader for the Council's Alternative Spring Break trip to New Orleans, LA. As an Honors Board of Associate Directors' representative she elected board members to the National Collegiate Honors Council. Samantha has helped develop two honors initiatives and published her honors thesis in two venues. She won a student researcher award, was a finalist for the Harry S. Truman Fellowship, and was also a participant in UConn's highly selective Leadership Legacy Experience.



Colleen Deasy, B.A. '08, dual HDFS and English major, received the 2008 Individual Community Service Award for her involvement with the University of Connecticut Honors Program, through the Honors First Year Experience program and the Honors Council. She has also been involved as a tutor for the UConn Writing Center, and was a Community Assistant. Colleen wrote the grant application and pursued a partnership with a national non-profit organization called Jumpstart. She worked on this initiative and started the only Jumpstart site in the state here at UConn. Colleen also received the Peer Educators of the Year Award in recognition for her efforts to give the Jumpstart program its presence on campus. She recruited, trained, and supervised a group of volunteers for this program. Colleen is described as having a passion for Peer Education and the spirit to light a fire in the people with whom she works.

Next year Colleen will be going to graduate school for a degree in law and education.

Defenses

Doctoral candidate **Diane King-Shaw** presented her oral defense entitled, "Retrospective Accounts of Having Been Bullied in School: A Narrative Analysis", on May 6th. Members of her Advising Team were: Major Advisor, **Stephen Anderson**, Ph.D.; Associate Advisor, **James O'Neil**, Ph.D.; and Associate Advisor, Theresa McDowell, Ph.D.

Doctoral Student Jodie Comer passes the Connecticut Bar



Jodie Comer, M.A., JD, current HDFS doctoral student, recently completed law school at Quinnipiac University, subsequently acing the bar exam and was admitted to the Connecticut bar. After completing her MA degree in HDFS at UConn, Jodie chose to specialize in family law and headed to one of the few national programs with this focus. She is now back with us in order to complete her research training, so that she can conduct legally relevant research related to children's rights and legal competence. Working with her Ph.D. major advisor Associate Professor **Preston Britner**, Ph.D. and M.A. major advisor Associate Professor **Jane Goldman**, Ph.D., Jodie has written and presented on the roles of guardians *ad litem*, comparing attorneys vs. others, in representing children in custody and other cases. We're pleased to welcome Jodie back in the program!

Human Development & Family Studies majors 2008 Initiates for the University of Connecticut's Phi Beta Kappa.

Sarah Irene Brown
Jaclyn C. Conner
Colleen M. Deasy
Nicole Elizabeth Dick
Jenilee Catherine Frost
Julie Lynne Iwanicki
Kelly Lynn Kearny
Elizabeth Marie Liptak
Caryn Renee Love
Allison Ladd Marsh

Katherine Jade Matulis
Caitlin Elizabeth McGrory
Julia Lin Niedbala
Arminta Marie Patterson
Marissa A. Pilon
Catherine Ann Regan
Katie Ricker
Halley Lynne Robinson
Samantha J. Sherwood
Jessica Lauren Zager

Doctoral student **Kimberly Petrovic** recently served as the editor of a book entitled, "*Healthy Aging*". This book is part of a Massachusetts-based course on aging, geriatrics, and gerontology. The course is offered to professionals from various disciplines, including nursing, psychology, and social work.

Kimberly is also a reviewer for the nursing journal, "*Geriatric Nursing*", and continues to act as a preceptor for newly-graduated nurses employed in the hospital setting.

Congratulations 2008 HDFS Graduates!

Emily Adler
Gregory Akers
Stephanie Allgood
Doraly Alvarado
Hayley Andersen
Andrea Anton
Lindsey Arsenault
Holly Bailey
Jennifer Baldyga
Jennifer Barr
Laura Beeney
Lea Bishop
Mallory Bogart
Beata Bogusiewicz
Kimberly Brewer
Stephanie Bristow
Ashley Brock
Jessica Brown
Sarah Brown
Constanza Cabello
Shannon Callanan
Melissa Carolino
Jessica Caron
Mark Carpino
Katie Carroll
Jenna Caruso
Kathryn Chase
Rong Chen
Aram Cho
Amanda Cicarella
Kathryn Clark
Melissa Collier
Jaclyn Conner
Kristen Connolly
Alana Cosgrove

Jamie Cullen
Siobhan Curry
Kostandina Cyfeku
Gent Daniels
Stephanie Daniels
Marlyn Davila
Melissa Davis
Colleen Deasy
Danielle Decagna
Bailey Demko
Marissa Digangi
Gretchen Doggett
Lauren Donais
Maureen Doran
Bailey Dowd
Jennifer Dubois
Kelsey Dubuc
Amanda Dunbar
Sarah Dynia
Catherine Evans
Gina Fabro
Kelly Fitzpatrick
Thalia Forbes
Lauren Foster
Amanda Frederick
Jenilee Frost
Marcy Gaedeke
Brian Gagnon
Jessica Gallant
Shelly Garow
Laura Gilnack
Cheryl Goff
Kristina Gonzalez
Karen Grudzinski
Krista Gugliotti

Jessica Hall
Elisabeth Hauser
Sade Heard
Heather Herindeen
Dennis Hernandez
Chloe Himmelberger
Laura Hoke
Gregory Homewood
Tracy Honig
Edward Huydic
Julie Isafaj
Julie Iwanicki
Victoria Johnson
Daphney Joseph
Karen Kiselica
Megan Klein
Rachel Lamas
Emily Lapidus
Maureen Licciardi
Lauren Lombardi
Caryn Love
Ashley Loya
Monique Lupe
Eric Lurie
Lindsey Madden
Charlene Mancini
Lindsey Marco
Lauren Marques
Allison Marsh
Kyli Marshall
Katherine Matulis
Alaina McBride
Caitlin McGrory
Megan McHugh
Tonya Miller

Lauren Moldoff
Kelley Morse
Meghan Nanfeldt
Julie Newell
Catherine Nguyen
Yen Nguyen
Julia Niedbala
Erin O'Neill
Chelsey Palmer
Lindsey Pantera
Jacqueline Paoella
Monica Parker
Amanda Patterson
Arminta Patterson
Sara Patterson
Arnaldo Perez Jr
Valerie Perrotta
Jena Piascic
Alissa Pierre
Lourdine Pierre
Marissa Pilon
Leayn Pinette
Gina Pollicita
Amy Provost
Karla Quintanilla
Catherine Regan
Laura Regnery
Katie Ricker
Rosemary Rigakos
Jillian Robichaud
Halley Robinson
Shaun Robinson
Ludmila Rodrigues
Laura Rogalski
Marcelina Ropuszynska

Stacey Rosado
Sarah Rubelmann
Kellie Ryan
Joelynnae Sandolo
Elizabeth Schumacher
Christine Scialla
Samantha Sherwood
Jamie Silva
Gayle Silverstein
Mackenzie Smith
Meagan Smith
Sarah Stevenson
Andrea Stricker
Nicole Tandet
Christina Taryla
Rachel Tedesco
Lauren Thiele
Kassie Tillem
Michele Todaro
Kristina Tolles
Keyla Torres
Rachel Tuttle
Natalie Vatrano
Yanira Velez
Christie Vieira
Ashley Walker
Rachel Wawzyniecki
David White
Sarah Williams
Tracy Young
Allyson Zoppa
Kristin Zulkeski



HDFS Master of Arts Graduates

Pictured in the top row, left to right: Melissa Lujan, Ashley Crawford, Jennifer Barnett, Samaria Massoud, Sara Johnson, and Marina Vravecic.

Pictured in the bottom row, left to right: Heather VanDyke, Melanie Vartanian St. Germain, and Kristina Chase.

HDFS Ph.D. Graduates

Haneefah Al-Hagg, Joan Kearney, Diane King-Shaw

Alumni News

Highlights from the 2008 Family Studies Alumni Society Annual Meeting & Dinner



Professor Ronald Sabatelli & Gayle S. Carroll '97

The Family Studies Alumni Society (FSAS) held its Annual Meeting and Dinner on June 5, 2008 at the UConn Alumni House on the Storrs campus. The evening began with a reception where guests met old friends and new, and enjoyed the opportunity to view the HDFS Honors students' poster displays.

The meeting began with a warm welcome from HDFS Professor and Department Head Ronald Sabatelli, Ph.D, who then introduced FSAS President Jennifer Fairbanks '00. Jennifer presented a report about the yearly activities of the Society. She honored the past president, Cathy Foley Geib '92, and the Members who were stepping down from their positions; Beena Achhpal '00, Gayle Carroll '97, and Shirley Randazzo '77, '84. Jennifer then nominated Stephanie Rubenzahl '04, Anne Cremé '76, '82, and Karen Grudzinski '08 to the FSAS Board. FSAS Treasurer Gina Proia '03, '06, seconded this motion and a successful vote was held.

A special greeting was given by the UConn Alumni Association's (UCAA) Executive Director, Lisa Lewis. The FSAS worked in collaboration with the UCAA to organize this year's Annual Meeting & Dinner, and is excited about continued efforts which are sure to facilitate increased networking and membership for the FSAS.

Following dinner, HDFS Professor JoAnn Robinson, Ph.D., presented the 2008 Human Development and Family Studies Outstanding Student Award to Colleen Deasy '08, B.A. who was recognized for her many impressive efforts and outstanding achievements in human development and family studies.



Colleen Deasy '08 & Professor JoAnn Robinson

Faculty presentations were given in turn by HDFS professors: Associate Professor Anita Garey, Ph.D., spoke of the HDFS Honors Program; Associate Professor Jane Goldman, Ph.D., presented "Working to improve work/life balance at the University of Connecticut"; and Assistant Professor Kathryn Libal, Ph.D., enlightened the crowd with a media presentation entitled, "The Iraq War, Forced Migration, and Iraqi Families: A view from humanitarian organizations". Professor JoAnn Robinson Ph.D., HDFS Director of Early Childhood Education Training, explained about a need for a "boundless playground" which would be accessible for all children ages 2-5 years, including those in a wheelchair or other handicapping condition (see page 3).

The recipient of the 2008 Lorraine Wetherell Family Studies Alumni Society Distinguished Service Award was Keith Bellizzi '03, Ph.D., who was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting to receive the award. In Keith's absence, Professor



Professor Tom Blank

Thomas O. Blank, Ph.D., gave an enthusiastic overview of Keith's involvement and devotion to the study of cancer prevention, control, and survivorship. Until this summer, Keith was a Health Scientist in the Office of Cancer Survivorship at the National Cancer Institute where he conducted research and helped set the national agenda for cancer survivorship research. His research and publications focused on the quality of life of older cancer survivors; the role health behaviors play in attenuating late effects of cancer; resilience and growth in the aftermath of cancer; and caregiver and family issues. His work has received national and international recognition and has been featured in diverse media outlets. The Department of Human Development and Family Studies is thrilled to welcome Keith and his family back to Connecticut and to our program this fall.

Emeritus Faculty and Department Historian Irene Q. Brown, Ph.D., remembered alumni who passed away since the last annual meeting. It was a special conclusion to another successful Annual Meeting and Dinner.



Nancy Walsh '95 & Jeanne Kenney '82



Assistant Professor Kathryn Libal



Emeritus Professor Irene Q. Brown & Carolyn Lester '65



Associate Professor Jane Goldman

Family Studies Alumni Society President's Report 2007-2008

A summary of Jennifer Fairbanks' Annual Report for 2007-2008, of the Family Studies Alumni Society (FSAS), delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Society, June 5, 2008.

"The Family Studies Alumni Society (FSAS) is excited about our increased collaboration with the University of Connecticut Alumni Association (UCAA) that began this year and included the way we organized our Annual Meeting & Dinner. This collaboration is sure to result in increased networking, more active members and a continuation of well-organized events in the future. Now let me turn to a brief report on other activities of the past year.

It was a planning year for the second Ruzicka Project intended to bring to the campus a program that explores the intersection of Family Life and Global Warming. We expect to co-sponsor a two-part panel discussion of interest to our own faculty, students and the larger University community. Remarkably little systematic research exists so far on the intersection of these two important topics, so our program will be quite innovative. The first will be in September or early October 2008. Some faculty from HDFS, and other family scholars, will come together for a preliminary conversation. Later in the spring we plan to host a more developed program, growing out of the first session. We anticipate other University programs will join us to co-sponsor this program.

FSAS co-sponsored a Career Night with the Family Studies Undergraduate Committee (FSUC) earlier this spring. Two FSAS board members spoke at this networking event: Nancy Walsh '95, and Kathy Payne '94. Also guest speaking was Executive Director of Windham Regional Community Council, Jeffrey Beadles, and Social Work Supervisor for DCF, Stephanie Browder. FSAS looks forward to increasingly more collaboration with the FSUC. Our alumni are encouraged to communicate with us, if they are willing to speak at a future Career Night so that our students can be inspired by what you have accomplished professionally with your degree.

FSAS again contributed funds to the HDFS graduate students to cover conference expenses. A goal of FSAS is to increase our joint activities with current graduate students. We welcome more graduate alumni to join FSAS as active members, so our support of current graduate students can continue and even grow.

At last year's Annual Meeting, FSAS became aware of the Child Development Labs' need for a television and DVD player. The Board presented the Child Labs with both of these items in the fall of 2007.

Continuing our collaboration with the Child Labs, FSAS looks forward to a new fundraising event this coming fall, scheduled to coincide with the Cornucopia Festival during Family Weekend. One of our new board members researched whether this would prove to be a worthwhile venture. We are pleased that it looks to be an exciting day for all! Look in the next newsletter for details!

In conclusion, let me recognize and thank a few individuals who have been active members or officers on our Board, and conclude by inviting you to vote for three candidates who are willing to serve on the Board. I want to recognize and honor the work of my predecessor, Cathy Foley Geib '92, past president of the FSAS. Retiring from the Board after six years of service are: Gayle Stewart Carroll '97, and Shirley Randazzo '77 & '84, who have been our most valuable organizers of the Annual Meetings & Dinners in the past years. Also leaving the board is one of our Ph.D. graduates of 2000, Beena Achhpal, who has begun our important efforts to reach out to more graduate alumni. Here are the candidates for three Board positions: Anne Cremé '76, '82, Karen Grudzinski '08, and Stephanie Rubenzahl '04."



FSAS President
Jennifer Fairbanks

FSAS to Co-Sponsor Global Warming Event

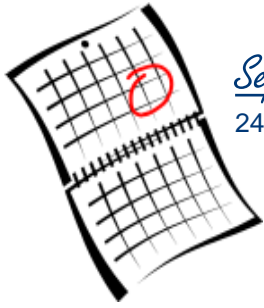
How will families be affected by global climate changes and how might families prepare for a future that will require them to reduce the carbon footprint they generate? These issues are the focus of a special program conjointly sponsored by the FSAS and the Family Studies Undergraduate Committee (FSUC).

So far the debate about global warming and global climate change has primarily involved policy makers, economists, and natural scientists. Family scholars, to date, have not been included in these discussions in spite of the fact that these anticipated climate changes most definitely will impact on the structure and experience of family life. Family scholars, because of their knowledge of family dynamics, family systems, parent-child, gender and generational relations, as well as family therapy and family policy, can cast new light on some of the "inconvenient truths" that future generations of families will confront. We invite you to join us for a session that will focus on the family and these environmental issues. This session will involve some of UConn's family scholars as well as specialists from other institutions.

The event will take place on Wednesday, September 24th, 2008, 7:00 p.m. at the Dodd Research Center, Konover Auditorium, University of Connecticut, Storrs CT. This program is co-sponsored by FSAS, HDFS, FSUC, and the Connecticut Affiliate of the American Association for Family and Consumer Sciences.

Please mark your calendars and look for information updates on the HDFS website (www.familystudies.uconn.edu) and the Family Studies Alumni Society website (www.familystudies.uconn.edu/alumni), and in the fall issue of the HDFS newsletter and in the press.

Save the Date



September 2008

24 "Dialogues on Family Life and Global Warming.
Part I: A Preliminary Conversation with Family
Scholars."

October 2008

4 Family Weekend & HDFS Watermelon
Scholarship Reception
25-26 Homecoming Weekend



Photo by Lainie Hiller

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