

# Family News

The Alumni Newsletter of the  
School of Family Studies

Fall 2001



The colors of the beautiful Fall foliage were captured just outside our windows in SFS.

## New name and new procedures implemented for undergraduate major

Assessment tools aim to improve student learning

The School of Family Studies is no stranger to transitions and this Fall engages several. The name of the major was changed to Human Development and Family Studies (not "Relations") reflecting the full scope of teaching and research within the School. In addition, new admission procedures and assessment strategies have been put into place to meet the needs of the growing number of students interested in the Family Studies program.

The new application system for students wishing to enter Family Studies has been implemented to manage the rapid increase of majors. Students with a total GPA of 2.7 and above can come into the major at any point during the year. Students with a GPA below 2.7 will fill out an application and be evaluated for admission by a committee. Decisions for admission will be based on several criteria including space availability, the student's commitment to the welfare of children and families, and extenuating circumstances in the student's academic record.

The Undergraduate Academic Advising Center welcomed two new graduate advisors, Lily Konsevic and Diane Rosenblum, to work with some of these changes this Fall. They join Kathena Francis and Danielle Dicoscia in what promises to be a challenging year with a new student record system, PeopleSoft, that went into effect this Fall. PeopleSoft is a web-based registration and information system, which eliminates the rather outdated telephone system. The Center has also acquired three new computers to assist students in registering and printing their schedules.

Faculty and administrators are interested in assessing student characteristics as they enter, progress through, and exit Family Studies, and then as alumni, as they continue their service, education and careers. SFS's Educational Process Committee has been working on several assessment tools to learn more about students and their styles of learning. This assessment process will help

with curricular evaluation, student retention and performance, as well as student advising.

Students are beginning to use the new WebCT system, as they enter the School. Through WebCT they access four assessment tests that cover the following areas: student background/demographics; learning styles; critical thinking dispositions; and work values. A fifth test which addresses emotional intelligence is administered in the Center.

Information is provided to the faculty, so that professors and advisors may use it in order to improve teaching and learning outcomes. The goal is to devise a system to provide feedback to students based upon their profiles to maximize their potential with study techniques and for utilization of university resources.

With all of these changes, one thing remains constant, the commitment to a quality education for our students, both current and incoming, here in Family Studies.

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Contributors include: P. Britner, I. Brown, G. Caruso-Whitney, A. Jarrell, K. Martini, M.A. Neubeck, N. Rohner (photo credits), R. Rohner, N. Sheehan, C. Super, and A. Thompson

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# Letter from the Dean

Last academic year was distinguished in a number of ways, the most salient of which was the staggering increase in our undergraduate enrollment. One of our big efforts so far this year has been to manage changes in our undergraduate program which stem, in part, from this tremendous growth. But perhaps the hottest topic of discussion this Fall in the School of Family Studies has been the Division of Health and Human Development.

The Division will be an innovative collaboration among the Schools of Allied Health, Family Studies, Nursing, and Pharmacy. It is still in the planning stages but is expected to be in place for July 1, 2002. One of the foundational principles for constructing this new entity is that each of the four schools will continue to maintain its historic, administrative, budgetary, and academic identity and integrity, and each will continue to be headed by an academic dean. The Division will be managed by an executive committee consisting of the deans of the four schools. Because the structure is a collaboration, however, not a merger, the administrative authority for each School remains in the hands of its dean, who continues to report directly to the Chancellor.

The goals of this innovation are several. Most important, initially, is to centralize relevant functions of management and staff for greater efficiency. We have already identified a number of business functions, such as payroll and budget management, where we believe consolidation will yield savings without compromising service. Second, the Division provides a structure for reinvesting such savings back into the academic programs of the four schools; our success in doing that will

insulate us to a significant degree from the budgetary pain that is clearly on the horizon, given the legislature's recent failure to provide funds to maintain current activities, and the impending state-wide cuts being put in place by the Governor's office.

Further, the four deans are convinced that by working closely together, we can find ways to enhance the instruction, scholarship, service, and entrepreneurial activities of all the constituent Schools. We anticipate new opportunities for collaboration across the full range of intellectual, financial, and operational activities. The whole truly will be greater than the sum of the parts, but, critically, no part will lose its identity or fundamental independence.

It seems to me, however, after the initial shock of the announcement of an impending reorganization (especially during the formative phases where ambiguity is great), that given the goals and the structural safeguards, the Division offers a significant and stable improvement in the ability to pursue our traditional (and emerging) programs, while at the same time opening up important new opportunities to connect and collaborate with our colleagues in the health professions. Certainly the family is where physical and mental health are initially constructed, and where they are maintained throughout life by the loving care of parents, grandparents, and siblings, then spouses and grown children, indeed by the larger network of kin and community. Growing in that direction is an exciting challenge for the School.

With best wishes to all for the coming holiday season,

*"We anticipate new opportunities for collaboration across the full range of intellectual, financial, and operational activities"*

*Family News is published by UConn's School of Family Studies twice a year, in the Fall and Spring, along with a Summer supplement.*



*Please send any news/feedback, along with your name, address, e-mail, and class year to: UConn School of Family Studies, 348 Mansfield Road, Unit 2058, Storrs, CT 06269 (860) 486-3452 fax or kim.deely@uconn.edu*

## SFS Active Grants

### Stephen A. Anderson, Ph.D.

- *Title V Delinquency Prevention Program Evaluation* from the CT Office of Policy and Management
- *Teen Youth Centers Evaluation* from the CT Office of Policy and Management (with Ronald Sabatelli, Ph.D.)
- *Evaluation Component of New Communities Grant Project* from the US Department of Agriculture (with Carole Eller, Harry Mangle)
- *Evaluation of After School Arts Program* from the CT Commission on the Arts (with Rebecca Hennessey)
- *Evaluation of Underage Drinking Prevention Program* from the CT Office of Policy and Management (with Ronald Sabatelli, Ph.D.)
- *Evaluation of Parent Education Program for Separated and Divorced Parents* from the State of CT Judicial Branch

### Thomas O. Blank, Ph.D.

- *Aging Men Surviving Prostate Cancer: Personality Factors* from the National Institute on Aging at the National Institute of Health

### Preston A. Britner, Ph.D.

- *Review of Adolescent Services* from the State of CT Department of Children and Families
- *Strategic Plan and Performance Management Project* from the State of CT Department of Economic and Community Affairs (with Robert Gilmour, Ph.D.)

### Sara Harkness, Ph.D.

- *Center for Culture, Health and Children's Development* from the National Science Foundation (with Charles Super, Ph.D.)
- *Building and Agenda for Integrated Developmental Ethnographic Research* from the National Science Foundation (with Charles Super, Ph.D.)

### Robin L. Harwood, Ph.D.

- *Cultural Change in Childbearing Beliefs and Practices* from the National Institute of Health (with Axel Schoelmerich and Birgit Leyendeker, Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany)

### Maureen T. Mulroy, Ph.D.

- *Cybernet-Parental Involvement* from the Cooperative Extension's National Network for Child Care, a program of the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Services
- *Parenting Apart: Strategies for Effective Co-Parenting* from CT Judiciary System, Family Court division

### Charles M. Super, Ph.D.

- *Socialization of Infants' State, Attention, and Affect* from the National Institute of Health (with Sara Harkness, Ph.D.)
- *CT School Readiness Initiative Evaluation* from the CT Department of Social Services

## Graduate Programs

Thomas O. Blank, Ph.D. who served as Associate Dean/Director of the Graduate Program in SFS for four years has stepped down from the administrative post to have more time to pursue his research interests. As Director of the Graduate Program, he was instrumental in developing the current curriculum for doctoral study in Human Development and Family Studies. As Dr. Blank takes more time for his research, Nancy W. Sheehan, Ph.D. has assumed responsibility as Associate Dean/Director of the Graduate Program for SFS. Dr. Sheehan, a long-time member of the faculty, brings a wealth of experience in SFS to this new role.

The Graduate Program welcomed 21 new graduate students this Fall: 12 MA MFT, 2 MA HDFS, 3 Ph.D. MFT and 4 Ph.D. HDFS. The Graduate Program also instituted an Informal Discussion Series on Research for graduate students and faculty. Ron Sabatelli, Ph.D. is leading the bi-weekly discussions. Graduate students have been extremely active presenting their research at regional, national, and international conferences.

FIND OUT THE LATEST NEWS FROM YOUR  
FELLOW SFS ALUMS...CHECK OUT THE  
CLASS NOTES SECTION ON PAGES 6 AND 7...

## Symposium addresses the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

A Symposium on The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, sponsored by the Human Rights Committee and the School of Family Studies, was held on Friday, Oct. 19, 2001 at 2 p.m. in the Dodd Center's Konover Auditorium. It was a capacity crowd of approximately 250 who came to learn more about "the rights to which every child is entitled."

Dean Charles Super, Ph.D., introduced the speakers: Sue Limber, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Youth Participation and Human Rights, Clemson University; Brian Wilcox, Ph.D., Director of the Center on Children, Families, and the Law, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; as well as SFS's Preston Britner, Ph.D. and Steve Wisensale, Ph.D.

Dr. Britner, a developmental psychologist, has experience in research, evaluation, and social policy

## Gerontology Faculty

The faculty in the Gerontology program have been working in several research areas, including prostate cancer, assisted living services, and long-term care issues. *Tom Blank, Ph.D.*, is conducting research that concerns how people live their lives as cancer survivors. Thus far, he and his students have analyzed how people spontaneously talk about their life with cancer in published autobiographies. That research has shown that survivors deal with a wide range of issues concerning control and loss of control. Also, the group has explored how breast cancer and prostate cancer Internet sites are used by cancer survivors and their families. They are also gathering data on the impact of prostate cancer on men's lives, including positive aspects such as hope, optimism, coping strategies, and personal growth as well as more negative ones like loss of control, problems with side effects, and challenges to a sense of well-being. Dr. Blank presented this research at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) in November. He will present "Beyond Survival: Men Dealing with Prostate Cancer" for the Center on Aging and Human Development's Brown Bag Series on Apr. 3, 2002. *Nancy Sheehan, Ph.D.*, with the assistance of Claudia Oakes, a doctoral student

*Continued on Page 4*

related to child welfare systems. Dr. Wisensale is an expert in U.S. and comparative family law and social policy, with an emphasis on family leave policy.

Dr. Limber and Dr. Wilcox explained reasons why the U.S. has not yet ratified the Convention with examples ranging from U.S. conservatism when it comes to international treaties to the opposition of the religious right. Dr. Limber discussed cross-national comparison of children's self-perceived rights, and Dr. Britner and Dr. Wilcox addressed the Convention's potential impact on the U.S. juvenile justice system and child welfare. Dr. Wisensale summarized by citing an example of a 12-year-old Toronto boy who founded "Free the Children" and stated, "People *can* do things. Activism is age neutral."

## Gerontology Research Fellowships

Gerontology Research Fellowships for 2001-2002 were awarded to Claudia Oakes, doctoral student in HDFS, Lynn Fletcher, doctoral student in Nursing, and Liz Hamp, master's student in Allied Health.

We are pleased to announce that all Gerontology Fellows from 2000-2001 presented their research at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Chicago, November 15-18, 2001. They are: **Keith Bellizzi** (HDFS doctoral student), "*Generativity and post traumatic growth in adult cancer survivors*"; **Kris McGuinn** (HDFS doctoral student), "*Single men in low income senior housing: Investigating social support*"; **Sheila Moloney** (Nursing doctoral student), "*An instrument to measure 'home-like' long-term care environments*"; **Audrey Chapo** (Allied Health master's student), "*Sodium chloride (NaCl) saltiness: Are older females more responsive?*"

## SFS VISITING SCHOLARS 2001-2002

*SFS is often home to international visitors and this year is no exception. We extend a warm welcome to all of our international scholars.*



*Dr. Fatos Erkman, Bogazici University, Turkey*

*Dr. Erkman is studying parental acceptance-rejection theory, methods, and evidence with Dr. Rohner. She is interested in how they apply to problems of psychological maltreatment in Turkey. She just finished translating into Turkish all versions of Dr. Rohner's newly developed Physical Punishment Questionnaire. Dr. Erkman will also develop a research project in Istanbul using these and other self-assessment measures created in the Center.*



*Dr. Sung-Il Kim, Kangnung National University, Korea*

*During his time here, with his wife Young Sook, he will be working as a Visiting Scholar in the Center for the Study of Parental Acceptance and Rejection on a comparative Korean and American research project linking childhood experiences of parental acceptance-rejection and parental control to the development of empathy in adulthood.*

## ...Updates...News...Announcements...

### Center for the Study of Parental Acceptance and Rejection

*Submitted by Ron Rohner, Ph.D.*

The Staff in the CSPAR have been busy working on several projects with national and international significance. These include:

- CSPAR Research/Assessment/Evaluation instruments are being used nationally and internationally in research and clinical settings, courts, and parent education programs.
- Assessment Devices include: Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire and PARQ/Control (7 versions, available in 26 languages).
- Related Publications and Manuscripts, such as "Critical Issues for Families: Mental Health Correlates of Perceived Parental Rejection," *National Council on Family Relations Report "FAMILY FOCUS,"* December, 2000.
- Establishment of an endowment fund which recently received a bequest of approximately \$1.7 million from anonymous donor(s).

Other projects include:

- Bridging Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Attachment Theories. Co-authors include Preston Britner, Ph.D., from SFS. This was presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Poster Session, Minneapolis, MN.
- "Intimate Adult Relationships Project" which explores connections between the level of adults' psychological adjustment and the quality of their current (or recent past) intimate relationships and assesses the ways in which these connections

might be influenced by the adults' experiences of parental acceptance or rejection in childhood.

- Meta-analyses of several studies including: "Reliability of the Perceived Parental Control Scale Across American Ethnic Groups" and "Perceived Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Psychological Adjustment: A Meta-Analysis of Cross-Cultural and Intracultural Studies."
- Consulting and international projects i.e. "Determinants of Parental Involvement in Schools Among Culturally Diverse Families" with Smita Mathur, Ph.D., SUNY at New Paltz, and "Validity and Reliability of the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire for Use in South Africa" with Debo Akande, Ph.D., Potchefstroom University, South Africa.

The work of the CSPAR has also involved the following visiting faculty: Professor Sung-Il Kim, Kangnung National University, Korea on a cross-cultural comparative study of Korean and European American university students, as well as work with Professor Fatos Erkman, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey on Validation of the Physical Punishment Questionnaire for use in Turkey.

For more information on CSPAR's work, please visit the website at <http://vm.uconn.edu/~rohner>.

Family Studies wishes you and yours...

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

### *Gerontology Updates, Continued from Page 3*

in HDFS, is studying the impact of bringing assisted living services into state subsidized congregate housing. Using a case study approach, they are researching how residents living in an existing congregate facility adjust to the implementation of assisted living services. Preliminary results from the first round of interviews were presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Chicago this November. *Steve Wisensale, Ph.D.*, is studying how the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) addresses long-term care of the elderly. The FMLA provides 12 weeks of unpaid leave and job security to employees in companies of 50 or more workers for the birth or adoption of a child, care of a spouse

or family member, or to care for an elderly parent. He notes that while states have been moving in the direction of paid leave, few states include coverage for elder care. Among the questions arising from research on family leave are: *Are states moving in the wrong direction as they attempt to adopt paid leave policies? Will not more families need supportive policies, such as the FMLA, as they assume important caregiving responsibilities for their elders in the future?* Dr. Wisensale recently presented his research at the first Center on Aging and Family Development's Brown Bag Luncheon on October 3, 2001. His book, *Family Leave Policy: The Political Economy of Work and Family in America*, was published by M.E. Sharpe last March.

## In Their Own Words...

### Our Community Responds

*This is one example of how members of the SFS family responded in very personal ways to the Sept. 11 tragedy.*

*Submitted by Kimberly Martini*

*SFS Graduate Student*

Saturday, September 8, I admired the bustling view of Manhattan from atop Tower 2 of the World Trade Center. Less than three days later, I watched the tragedy evolve on my television screen. As the day unfolded, I began to reflect on the grand steel buildings, the gathering of people from all over the globe, and the daycare center right outside of the plaza. With such fresh memories, I decided I needed to find a way to assist with the relief effort.

I called the Red Cross Hotline and they were swamped with volunteers. As they took my name for the waiting list, the operator asked, "What do you do for a living?" I replied, "I am a child development specialist." She immediately put me in touch with a mental health response team. I signed up to assist with a crisis intervention effort the following weekend.

I worked along side mental health workers from all over the country providing a developmentally appropriate setting for children to express their feelings through play, talking with media specialists, and starting to rebuild their community through shared experiences. Hearing the young children's stories and seeing the outpouring of human service volunteers, I was reminded how resilient both children and our nation are.

I find it fulfilling that the career I have dedicated my efforts to might be the one thing that can help paint a picture of hope for these families in need.

### A Golden Leaf has Fallen

*A Tribute to Verna Moulton*

*Submitted by Audrey Jarrelle, Ph.D.*

*Associate Professor Emerita*

On a winding New England road stands a simple white house, almost hidden by clumps of white paper birch. It was on this land that Verna Moulton was born and raised and where she spent the last years of her life. This place represents to me the essence of Verna - simplicity, privacy, dedication, and hard work. She was my mentor, my colleague, and in many ways a second mother.

I first met Verna in 1967 when, as a rookie Instructor, I began teaching at the University of Connecticut. While we were faculty colleagues for only four years prior to her retirement, we were friends for over thirty years. Each Fall I looked forward to traveling north to New Hampshire to visit Verna, to talk over old times and to tell her what was happening in my life and at the University. After my own Mom came to live with me, we both went on the annual visit, for it was always a joy to share a weekend with Verna.

Last October we made another trip north to see her, traveling from Virginia. We were able to take her the last summer roses from my garden. She was so proud of them for they brightened her room in the extended care facility in which she lived. We again reminisced about old times and mutual friends and we talked about our new home in Virginia. She was still Verna, perhaps not physically, but in all the important ways which made her so dear to me.

The leaves of her paper birch trees have once again turned golden and have fallen around the simple white home. This Fall, Verna is not there to see them. I am sorry. I miss her.

## SFS VISITING SCHOLARS 2001-2002



*Dr. Jesús Palacios,  
University  
of Seville,  
Spain*

*Dr. Palacios, Professor of Psychology at the University of Seville, is widely known for his program of research on parents' ideas about the development and education of their children. He is spending three months in Family Studies to collaborate on the International Study of Parents, Children, and Schools. Prof. Palacios presented a lunch-time symposium on adoption (one of his other areas of expertise), and has spoken in several graduate classes. During part of his visit, he was accompanied by his daughter Paula, age 10, who was delighted to attend a local primary school and practice her English.*



*Patrizia Trevisanut,  
University  
of Padova,  
Italy*

*Patrizia is a graduate student in the Department of Psychology at the University of Padova, Italy. Patrizia is working with Dr. Britner, and Dr. Rohner, and their students on a study of attachment, temperament, acceptance-rejection, and the ontogeny of shyness in Italy and the U.S.*

## ...Updates...News...Announcements...

### Center for Aging and Human Development

*Submitted by Nancy Sheehan, Ph.D.*

The Center initiated a new monthly Brown Bag series - first Wednesdays of the month. Several researchers in the field of aging are scheduled to present their work. Speakers include: Becca Levy, Ph.D., Yale University, *The Impact of Aging Self-Stereotypes on Health* (Nov. 7); Nancy Sheehan, Ph.D., and Claudia Oakes, MA, OTR, SFS, *Introducing Assisted Living Service in Congregate Housing* (Dec. 5); Edward Thompson, Ph.D., Holy Cross, *Does Masculinity Thwart Being Religious?*

*An Examination of Older Men's Religiousness* (Feb. 6); Leslie Curry, Ph.D., M.P.H. Braceland Center for Mental Health and Aging, *Challenges in Survey Research with Frail Older Adults* (Mar. 6); and Thomas Blank, Ph.D., SFS, *Beyond Survival: Men Dealing with Prostate Cancer* (Apr. 3). Steve Wisensale, Ph.D., SFS, initiated this year's series with his Oct. 3 presentation, *What is the Role of the Family Medical Leave Act in Long-Term Care of the Elderly?* The series ends with the Gerontological Research Fellows Presentations on May 15. Presentations are open to the public. For more information, contact (860) 486-4721.

## Class Notes

**Carolyn Baker** G'70 Child Development was honored as the CT Teacher of the Year of the CT Affiliate of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. She was also honored at the national meeting of the Association in Providence, R.I. earlier in the summer. She had developed a curriculum project, "Careers for the 21st Century" with two other teachers. It is an interactive software program that relies on the internet and also includes a community involvement component. She was also recognized for her Curriculum on Decision Making, developed for 8th Graders. Baker teaches at the Harry B. Flood Middle School in Stratford, CT.

**Aliza Boritz** '01 is currently working as the Special Events Coordinator for the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at UConn. It is a one-year position and she plans on attending graduate school next Fall to obtain an M.Ed.

**Laura Donorfio Zagroba**, Ph.D. G'96 gave birth to Adam Lewis and Patrick Sinclair, twin boys, on 7/13/00.

**Jenn Ganter** G'01 MFT married Christopher Bradshaw on 11/24/01 and they will continue to live in the Ft. Lauderdale, FL area, until her husband finishes medical school.

**Rona J. Karasik**, Ph.D. G'89 (received a Ph.D. from the University of Delaware in '93) is an Associate Professor of Community Studies and Director of the Gerontology Program at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN. Recently had an entry on Dementia accepted for publication in the second edition of the *International Encyclopedia of Marriage and Family Relationships* and will be presenting her research "Siblings of Older Adults With Developmental Disabilities: Reassessing the Impact Five Years Later" at the Gerontological Society of America Meeting in November. Other projects include intergenerational service-learning and a book on housing options for older adults. She and her husband have two daughters ages 2 and 5.

**Adele Markowitz** '96 started working at Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW) in July 1999 as a Residence Life Coordinator and was recently promoted to Assistant Director of Residence Life. She received a Master of Science in Administration from GSW in May 2001. She is currently enjoying the southern way of life and is actively training for first marathon to be run in Disney World, January 2002!

**Erin Morrell** '01 is pursuing a Master's in applied psychology at Fairfield University. She has a two-year graduate assistantship in the University Activities office working with the student government, programming board, orientation and first year experience, and campus center operations over the next two years.

**Danielle Peluso** '99 works at Keane, an IT consulting company in Massachusetts, as an Immigration Administrator. She writes, "I love my job! I help foreign national employees to get their visas and Green Cards here in the United States. I work with the employees themselves at our branches all across the U.S., attorneys, the INS, and many more involved. I get to meet people from all over the world! I am also very happy to say that even though I did not have a background or experience in the Immigration field, I was told I was hired due to my background in family studies and human services. Good luck to all, and God Bless America!"

## Alumni Society plans for new year

The School of Family Studies Alumni Society (SFSAS) began the '01-'02 year with a new set of officers and board members (listed below.) Some members have served before; others are newcomers, including Cathy Foley Geib, Lois Hansen Neuman and Andrea Yuckna. Many thanks are extended to departing board members Heather Dudek and Kim Chambers.

Lorraine McClatchey Wetherell, immediate Past President, continues to be very active on the Board. Lorraine served as the founding President and through her efforts the SFSAS has gotten off to a strong and exciting start. She engaged many new members, faculty and friends of SFS in many activities and made sure that Family Studies alumni have been well represented at campus-wide events. Through her leadership the SFSAS has been able to reach out to alumni of the wide variety of undergraduate and graduate programs and under her leadership the overall membership in the SFSAS has grown significantly. Keep in mind that when you join the Alumni Association of the University, a part of your membership also comes back to our Society and helps us to do more for the alumni and our School.

This year's SFSAS President, Grace Caruso Whitney, is focused on strengthening the traditions already begun by the founding board, including working toward the certification of Family and Consumer Education. She

also hopes to reach out especially to graduates in child development and early childhood education, areas in which she herself is currently working. This semester's activities included: Family Weekend in September when the Society co-sponsored the Elizabeth May Reception for a record number of 22 SFS scholarships presented to students in the presence of parents and alumni. The Homecoming Committee, chaired by Lorraine McClatchey Wetherell, again had a booth at Homecoming in October and held a reception at the school for 25th year alumni. The Undergraduate Committee, chaired by Meg Galante-DeAngelis, held a reception for SFS December graduates on December 5. Through the Membership and Public Relations Committee, the Board will continue to develop a list of class agents, or central contact persons, for each year (listed on Page 8.)

We are also looking forward to the Annual Meeting and Dinner of the School and the Society on May 30, 2002. Alumni celebrating their 50th reunion are especially invited to come a day early on their Reunion weekend. If you know of a graduate who deserves to be recognized for professional or volunteer achievements, please send your nominating letter to the co-chairs of the Annual Meeting, Shirley Randazzo (sjrandazzo@aol.com) or Gaye Stewart Carroll (glstewart@snet.net), c/o the School of Family Studies. They will

*Continued on Page 8*

### SFS Alumni Society 2001 - 2002 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

**President:**

Grace Caruso Whitney, Ph.D. '72, G'90

**Vice-President:**

Catherine Foley Geib '92

Co-Chair: Nominating Committee

**Secretary:**

Becky (Niederwerfer) Person '71, G'76

Chair: Family and Consumer Sciences

Committee

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Mishonda Rankin Baldwin '94

**Treasurer:**

David Lytwyn '94

**Past President and Board Member:**

Lorraine McClatchey Wetherell '58

**Board Members:**

Merrilyn N. Cummings, Ph.D. '68

Meg Galante-DeAngelis, G'77

Bonnie Dickey, Ph.D. candidate  
(Graduate Student Assoc. Rep.)

Jean O'Connor Gallati '84

Virginia Garvey '47

Julie Leaf Goldberg '92

Louise Johnson '36

Lois Hansen Neuman '79

Georgia A. Potterton Spratt G'62

Rosemarie Peila Syme '68

Georgie Winter, Ph.D. G'94

Andrea Yuckna '78

**Ex-Officio Board Member:** Irene Q. Brown, Ph.D., SFS Faculty Liaison

# CHHD receives NSF grant

by Allison Thompson

This article first appeared in *UConn Traditions*, Vol. 2 No. 3

The Center for the Study of Culture, Health and Human Development, a University-wide research and training center based at the School of Family Studies, has received a planning grant of more than \$88,000 from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The grant, issued under the NSF's new Children's Research Initiative, will be used to develop a research center focused on children's health and development.

"The work of the proposed center will make significant contributions to scientific knowledge

and to the improvement of the lives of children and their families in a variety of circumstances," says Sara Harkness, Ph.D., Director of the Center and the principal investigator for the grant.

Dr. Harkness and her collaborators will use the NSF planning grant to support the development of a coordinated program of research projects. Specific projects likely to emerge include the cultural regulation of emotion in infancy, attention problems of middle childhood across several ethnic and cultural groups, and cultural forces in pre-adolescents'

school success.

Led by Dean Charles M. Super, Ph.D., a group of 25 faculty from around the University came together three years ago to form the present Center for the Study of Culture, Health and Human

Development. The Center's mission is the promotion of interdisciplinary research by faculty and the training of graduate students through a graduate certificate program.

In addition to Dr. Harkness and Dr. Super, the Center includes core faculty from nutritional sciences, pediatrics, anthropology and cooperative extension.

The Center has already succeeded in stimulating new interdisciplinary collaborations through its annual seminar and speaker series. According to Dr. Harkness, the new funding fits perfectly into the framework of the Center because it will directly support its core mission.

"The NSF initiative seemed designed just for us," says Dr. Harkness. "Now, the challenge will be to create the best possible match between our work and the mandate of the Children's Research Initiative."

*"The work ...will make significant contributions to scientific knowledge and to the improvement of the lives of children and their families..."*

## SFS group attends European Conference

Uppsala, Sweden became the focus of "family studies" in more sense than one this summer when several students, faculty and family members attended the Tenth European Conference on Developmental Psychology.

The International Study of Parents, Children, and Schools, headed by Profs. Sara Harkness and Charles Super, presented a major symposium on "Home-school relations in cross-cultural perspective." The five research papers and discussion focused on cultural variability and similarity in parents' and teachers' ideas and practices related to children's successful adaptation to

school. It is often assumed that particular parenting practices better support children's successful transition to school, but comparative research suggests that the shared cultural meanings with which particular practices are endowed may be just as important as the specific practices themselves. This insight has important implications for the success of children from minority populations in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Family Studies graduate students involved were: Amy Miller, Marjolijn Blom, Xin Feng, Marcia Hughes, Danijela Korom, Beth Muller, Parminder Parmar, and

## Class Notes

**Linda Saypalia** '99 graduated from Springfield College in May of this year with a Master's in Social Work. She is currently working as a social worker in a high school in Columbia, CT. She writes, "My UConn education helped me immensely in graduate school. I feel I was better prepared for graduate school than many of my classmates that did not have a similar undergraduate degree."

**Charlie Stelle**, Ph.D. G'00 is in his second year as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Texas Tech University. He is currently working on a manuscript of his dissertation completed under Dr. Nancy Sheehan. His current program of research focuses on death and dying issues. The first area of study is a Multidisciplinary Seed Grant project on end of life decision making. The second area is a New Faculty Seed Grant Project on the experience of widowers following spousal bereavement. His teaching areas are in aging in the family, human development theory, and death and dying. He has recently been nominated for the Hemphill-Wells New Professor Excellence in Teaching Award.

**Gertrude Waterman** '28 sends her greetings to all the folks in the School of Family Studies Alumni Society.

### Other News

Clyde Jones, SFS Professor Emeritus, reports that approximately 25 UConn alumni attended the Alumni Reception for New England Colleges and Universities, that he coordinated, at the National Conference of the American Association for Family and Consumer Sciences, held this past June in Providence, R.I.

### In Memoriam

**February 2001 Verna Moulton**  
*A former faculty member, Verna taught in the School of Home Economics from 1951-1971, retiring from the Department of Clothing, Textiles and Interior Design. She taught Clothing Selection, History of Costume, and Fashion Merchandising and Fashion Promotion. For many years, Verna directed the annual student fashion show. In 1962, she published Clothing Selections: Fashions, Figures, Fabrics, with Helen Chambers.*

**December 2000 Lucille "Lu" Nahemow, Ph.D.**  
*A professor in SFS since 1986, she was a leader in the field of Gerontology. A strong supporter for undergraduates over many years, Dr. Nahemow directed the SFS Undergraduate Committee. Nationally known for her ecological model of aging which she developed with M.P. Lawton, she is missed by faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and all who knew her.*

**August 2001 Helen Savage Shorrock, '42**  
*Helen was an ordained minister and missionary to Japan after World War II, teaching home economics at the American School in Tokyo. In 1967 she earned a Master's in Religion from Yale Divinity School. She founded the Parent and Child Enrichment Center in Santa Barbara, CA in 1978. The PACE center has become a model for similar programs in California and the nation. She was a strong advocate of women's issues. She is survived by her husband Hallam, five children and their spouses, and 12 grandchildren.*

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### A Note of *Thanks* for Your Generosity...

The School, its Faculty, Staff, and current students would like to express our sincere gratitude to the many friends, alumni, and emeriti who donated to this year's Annual Fund! Your kindness makes a great difference. It helps support programs for undergraduate and graduate students, enhance the academic community, and assists in outreach and alumni efforts.

Visit the School of Family Studies web site at: [www.familystudies.uconn.edu](http://www.familystudies.uconn.edu)

### *Class Agent program seeks volunteers*

The Class Agent program offers alumni the chance to stay connected with their SFS classmates. Class agents play an important role in communicating information about SFS news, reunions, scholarships, and upcoming events to their fellow alums. These volunteers may also receive news, such as the *Class Notes* information, from their classmates. Please consider becoming a Class Agent. The current list of Class Agents includes:

1968: Merylyn Cummings: [Mercummi@dante.nmsu.edu](mailto:Mercummi@dante.nmsu.edu)  
1975: Holly Bland: [hbland@snet.net](mailto:hbland@snet.net)  
1976: Valerie Sakowski: [vsakowski@snet.net](mailto:vsakowski@snet.net)  
1984: Moira Veiga: [Moira.Veiga@uconn.edu](mailto:Moira.Veiga@uconn.edu)  
1995: Jill Gelfenbien: [jill\\_gelf@hotmail.com](mailto:jill_gelf@hotmail.com)  
1997: Mary Petillo: [mlpetillo@Trilegiant.com](mailto:mlpetillo@Trilegiant.com)  
May 1999: Judi Verrengia: [JudiVerrengia@iwon.com](mailto:JudiVerrengia@iwon.com)  
May 2000: Jenn Fairbanks: [jennidget@aol.com](mailto:jennidget@aol.com) and  
Melissa Mongillo: [melissamongillo@hotmail.com](mailto:melissamongillo@hotmail.com)  
Dec. 2000: Racquel Blagrove: [Blagrove77@aol.com](mailto:Blagrove77@aol.com)  
May 2001: Deidre Chaco: [deidre022@hotmail.com](mailto:deidre022@hotmail.com) and  
Megan Kollar: [mekana03@hotmail.com](mailto:mekana03@hotmail.com)

For more information write to Holly Bland or to the SFS Alumni Society at the School's regular address.

### *European Conference, Continued from Page 7*

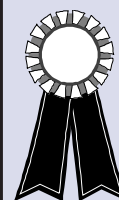
Beth Russell. Along with the full research team, from Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the U.S., were several family members for a week of scholarly exchange, travel, and relaxation; the group included nine faculty, nine graduate students, two spouses, two mothers, and five children.

### *SFSAS, Continued from Page 6*

contact you for further details. Anyone wishing to join one of the Society's committees should contact the School of Family Studies, or write to one of the officers by e-mail. Corresponding secretary, Mishonda Rankin Baldwin, welcomes other general inquiries or news of your activities. If you do not have e-mail, write directly to the School of Family Studies and Mishonda will be in touch with you.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER Thurs., May 30, 2002



Nominations for Outstanding Alumni Awards are being solicited for the Annual Meeting. Please submit letters to Shirley Randazzo, [sjrandazzo@aol.com](mailto:sjrandazzo@aol.com) or Gaye Stewart Carroll, [glstewart@snet.net](mailto:glstewart@snet.net). Letters can also be sent to them c/o SFS mailing address.