

Family News

The Alumni Newsletter of the
School of Family Studies

Spring 2002

Spring 2002 Prevention Series sensitizes campus to societal issues

The M. Estella Sprague Historic Costume Collection, formerly housed in the SFS building, has found a new home in the University's Dramatic Arts Department. To read more about the Collection, see Page 3. Below, a student sketches a costume from the Collection, circa 1950.



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This Spring, the School of Family Studies adopted Primary Prevention as its focus in several School sponsored symposia and workshops, as well as a newly created graduate course. The Prevention Series involved SFS faculty, undergraduates and graduate students, and UConn personnel from other academic areas, as well as nationally known prevention experts. It was a multifaceted approach to promoting prevention as an important but understudied concept both inside and outside of the classroom.

SFS Professor Dr. James O'Neil, the coordinator of the Series explained, "The prevention of human and societal problems is a critical issue to many different disciplines here at UConn. Prevention also has national significance and importance because of the serious problems in our society such as AIDS, terrorism, child abuse, violence, poverty, racism, etc. What the School of Family Studies wanted to do was to stimulate dialogue about these problems and get more people involved in preventing them."

Multidimensional Prevention Initiatives

The approach was multidimensional; it featured programs that were designed and publicized to get a large number of people talking about prevention and doing it. According to Dr. O'Neil, there is clearly a passion for the topic of prevention among the faculty in SFS, and the Series was an opportunity for faculty from various backgrounds to come together around one common theme.

Graduate Teaching on Prevention

A new graduate class on prevention was offered to SFS graduate students as part of this Prevention thrust. The course, *Prevention, Intervention, and Policy*, had the goal of beginning to train preventionists in the School of Family Studies and getting students more involved in prevention activities. This innovative course was team taught, with two of the lectures given by faculty outside the School of Family Studies. One of these outside lecturers was Dr. Waldo Klein, from UConn's School of Social Work and the other was nationally known preventionist, Dr. Robert Conyne, from the University of Cincinnati.

Prevention Symposia

The School of Family Studies offered three prevention symposia to the University community this Spring. The series also included a presentation by the editor of the *Journal of Primary Prevention*.

The first of the symposia, "Prevention in Human Development Science and Services" took place on Wed. Feb. 27th in the Dodd Center's Konover Auditorium. The goal of this program was to sensitize students to the importance of prevention and encourage them to consider prevention as a possible professional role. It was standing room only as Dr. Charles Super, SFS Dean, opened this symposium by discussing the importance of prevention to the School of Family Studies. Dr. Robert Conyne presented the keynote presentation titled, "On Valuing Prevention." This keynote was the Third Barbara Jones Johnson Foote Lecture. Following this, Dr. Preston Britner presented "Striving to Achieve Nothing: Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect through Parent Education Programs," and Dr. Steven Wisensale gave an overview of the preventive intervention he has implemented in "Prevention from a Macro Perspective: Family Impact Analysis as a Policy Tool." Earlier in the day, Dr. Conyne also presented an in-service program for the SFS faculty which led them through an assessment exercise. The assessment looked at their current strengths in the area of prevention and offered a chance to brainstorm some innovative ways to incorporate this important theme into other areas of their teaching and research.

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Contributors include: D. Adams, S. Anderson, K. Bellizzi, I. Brown, G. Caruso Whitney, L. Crow, S. Harkness, M.A. Neubeck, J. O'Neil, R. Rohner, R. Sabatelli, N. Sheehan, and C. Super.

Letter from the Dean



Foundations...I know about foundations. The first house my wife and I bought was built in 1894; the second was constructed around 1850; and the house we now have dates to 1790. We have added a wing, developed a third floor, and pushed out a kitchen wall. If the foundation is unable to sustain such growth, I know, "the center cannot hold" and the entire edifice is at risk.

The School of Family Studies has a foundation that rests on four significant blocks: the knowledge constructed by past scholars; the legacy of relationships among faculty, alumni, students, and staff; the history of trust by taxpayers and their elected representatives; and the financial endowment of faithful friends who have invested a portion of their personal wealth in the mission of the School.

The first three of these are massive pieces of bedrock – deep and broad, hewn by skilled hands, and weathered over a century by warm sun as well as winter winds. The last – endowments – is of fine and hardest granite, but it is small. At present, endowments support a very limited number of student scholarships and awards, and provide a modest but flexible fund for projects such as our first Annual Meeting in 1997, graduate dissertation expenses, and renovation of key facilities including the new undergraduate organization office and the upcoming School café. But we envision new and ambitious projects that the current

foundations cannot support.

The University of Connecticut, as you may know, is engaged in a campaign of capital fund-raising, with a goal of \$300 million. The Family Studies goal includes a strengthened base for undergraduate and graduate scholarships, endowed programs in Family and Consumer Science Education and in Early Childhood Education, and funds for the improvement and permanent maintenance of community-building facilities such

"The School of Family Studies has a foundation that rests on... knowledge... the legacy of relationships... history of trust... and financial endowment..."

as a café patio and garden entrance. The State's "UConn 2000" program and the Governor's proposed "21st Century UConn" provide substantial matching funds to multiply private donations, and there are a number of creative programs for giving, including bequests and charitable gift annuities.

Our endowed foundation is too small for our growing house, and we need your help.

We need many small stones, and several massive blocks. I ask you to consider contributing to the School of Family Studies endowment campaign. Unlike gifts to the Annual Fund – important as they are – endowment gifts last forever through the annual interest they provide. Then the next generation to dwell in this house will not fear for its being built on sand, and the prosperity of their work will be yours also.

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

There are some new staff members with us this year. Welcome to the SFS Family: **Kim Deely Emery**, Writer/Editor; **Carla Gomez**, Administrative Assistant; **Susan Murphy**, Administrative Assistant; and **Catherine Salai**, Administrative Assistant...**Dr. Thomas O. Blank** and **Keith M. Bellizzi**, SFS doctoral candidate, attended the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine in Washington, D.C. held Apr. 4-6, 2002. They presented a study entitled "Examining the convergence of control processes and social comparison theory in midlife and older adult cancer survivors," authored by Keith M. Bellizzi, **Claudia E.**

Oakes, SFS doctoral candidate, and **Dr. Thomas O. Blank**. Keith also presented "The impact of cancer on one's perspective on life: Across the lifespan." This research was funded in part by the SFS Gerontology Fellowship that Keith conducted with Dr. Nancy W. Sheehan last year...**Jean Cagianello**, a master teacher in the Child Development Labs retired in Apr. 2002. Jean had been caring for and teaching young children for 14 years at the Child Labs...We are proud to announce that **126 SFS students** were eligible for the Dean's List for Fall 2001!

Family News is

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



Help us keep up to date! Send any mailing address/contact information changes to Kim Deely Emery at the school's address below.

Also, feel free to send any personal and/or professional news, along with your name, address, e-mail, and class year to:

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Annual Meeting and Dinner Thursday, May 30, 2002

"The Past and Future of Family and Consumer Science Education."

This Year's Awards include: Excellence in Supervision of Undergraduate Practicum Students, Outstanding Alumni, and Distinguished Service. The SFS Alumni Society will also honor two former faculty members in Home Economics Education: Professors Alberta Hill and Barbara Osborn. Shirley Randazzo, Annual Meeting Co-Chair, invites their former students to send reminiscences and notes of appreciation to her at 47 Hayes Avenue, Ellington, CT 06029, or sjrandazzo@aol.com.

Join Us! Just fill out the RSVP on the reverse and mail it back before May 17th.

5:00 p.m. Reception, Dean's Lounge, FS 112

5:30 p.m. Awards Ceremony/Presentation, The Maude Knapp and Charles Augustus Wheeler Room, FS 103

6:30 p.m. Dinner, The Maude Knapp and Charles Augustus Wheeler Room, FS 103

Center for Applied Research

Dr. Steve Anderson and Dr. Ron Sabatelli have developed *Assessing Outcomes in Youth Programs: A Practical Handbook*. It is a new handbook that is being used to conduct training programs for staff of youth programs and organizations active in funding programs for youth ages 12 to 18. The handbook, supported by grants from the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management and the Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station, has three purposes: to offer managers and staff guidelines for planning an evaluation of their program; to offer a tool to those who wish to conduct their own simple evaluation; and to provide funders of youth programs a clearly defined set of positive youth development outcomes and indicators (instruments) for measuring those outcomes. The training series is presented by Connecticut for Community Youth Development and sponsored by the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. The handbook is available at www.opm.state.ct.us/pd1/grants/JJAC/JJACPublications.htm.

Center on Aging and Human Development

This Spring, the Center sponsored a workshop titled, "Use of Secondary Data for Aging Research," on Wed. Mar. 27th by Dr. William Gallo, Associate Research Scientist at Yale University, and former Research Fellow in Gerontology at the Center on Aging and Human Development. The monthly Brown Bag series, open to the public, wraps up on Wed. May 15th with a presentation by the 2001-02 Research Fellows. For more information, please call (860) 486-4721.

Center for the Study of Parental Acceptance and Rejection

Dr. Ronald Rohner, SFS Professor Emeritus and Director of the CSPAR, and Dr. Robert A. Veneziano's work on father love is scheduled to be mentioned in the June issue (Fathers' Day) of four nationally circulated magazines: *Parenting*, *Parent Magazine*, *Ladies Home Journal*, and *Child Magazine*. *Psychology Today* also mentioned their work in its April article, "The Daddy Dividend." Their research received international attention, as well, this Spring. Additionally, Dr. Rohner's work on Parental Acceptance and Rejection was featured in *Family Circle Magazine's* February issue. The article featured a quiz that was developed from his Parental Acceptance Rejection/Control Questionnaire.

Costume Collection, from Front Page

Laura Crow, Dramatic Arts Professor, is the curator for the Collection. Jo Saternow is the interim curator while Prof. Crow is on sabbatical.

"We are in negotiations with the Dodd Center to put the electronic version of the collection under their auspices," Prof. Crow explains. "Our Historical Collection will be part of a large University digital collection of archival holdings for research purposes." According to Professor Crow, it will feature extensive cross referencing, including a connection with the Wadsworth Atheneum, for research purposes.

A SETA grant will be used to take all of the extensive digital work done to date and finally put a website together. Professor Crow said, "We are also connecting with the Ballard Museum of Puppetry to try to make the Collection open to the public for set hours every week." SFS maintained responsibility for the Collection until 1995, and appreciates the new attention it is receiving.

In Memoriam

March 2001

Margaret Lindsay '36

Margaret was a home economics teacher who initiated preschool programs in high school settings to incorporate childcare and parenting. The University recognized her in 1980 as a Distinguished Alumna for her efforts on behalf of children and families. (Source: Observer-Dispatch)

January 2002

David Shuldiner, Ph.D.

An adjunct assistant professor in Family Studies for many years, Dr. Shuldiner was the Humanist in Residence at the Elderly Services Division at the Dept. of Social Services. He is remembered for his wonderful sense of humor and for his support of arts and cultural efforts.

April 2002

Beatrice H. Whaples '28, G'58

Beatrice died peacefully on April 3, 2002. A resident of the Mansfield Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing, she took great pleasure in the success of the UConn women's basketball team and also enjoyed her visits with SFS Alumni Society members.

****Please respond on or before Friday, May 17th, 2002****

___ I/We will attend ___ I/We will not attend ___ Number of guests

Cost: \$15 Alumni Society Members / \$20 Non-members (please make checks payable to *University of Connecticut*)

Please indicate number of each: ___ Stuffed Chicken Entrée ___ Stuffed Sole Entrée ___ Vegetarian Entrée

Name _____ Additional Guest(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please mail to: SFS Annual Meeting, 348 Mansfield Road, Unit 2058, Storrs, CT 06269-2058



Student Workers...

A Sincere Thank You!

The Administrative Staff would like to extend a very sincere thank you to our Student Employees. They are: Jessica Cullen, a 2nd semester Pre-Teaching major; Marcy Provonost, a 4th semester Communications major; and Sirsa Qursha, a 4th semester HDFS major. We sincerely appreciate all they do! Due to their efforts we, as a team, are able to accomplish so much more for the benefit of the students and faculty of the School of Family Studies.

FSUC

The Family Studies Undergraduate Committee has had a very busy year. The group has held fundraisers for charity, including a Valentine's Day Candy Gram sale in February, and Holiday Treats in December. They have also hosted a Career Night, an SFS logo/T-Shirt design contest, and socials. The group's advisor is Dr. Maureen Mulroy.

Child Development Labs

Parents for Parents The CDL is offering a new program in which parents have the opportunity to get together in an informal setting and talk about the joys and challenges of parenting. Mary Cox, a teacher in the Preschool, and Anne Bladen, a teacher in the Kindergarten, both parents of young children in the programs, facilitate the discussions and provide support and validation to parents who share their concerns. **Family Events** Anne Bladen, a teacher in the Kindergarten, and Renee O'Brien, a parent, have been coordinating family events which include a Family Story Night every other month. Past events have also included a Pond and Bug walk, a Sensory Day, a Reptile visitor, and a Music visitor. **Week of the Young Child, April 7th - 13th** The CDL hosted a morning Coffee Break during the week and exhibited a children's art display. The festivities also included a Scholastic Book Fair the week of April 15th. **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation** The CDL is currently undergoing a voluntary, comprehensive process to verify compliance with the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs Criteria for High Quality Early Childhood Programs (Source: NAECF literature). The process, which should be completed this summer, consists of: internal self-study; action plan implementation for improvements; and an on-site validation visit by Academy members. If the program is accredited, that status is good for three years. We commend the staff for all of their hard work with this rigorous process!

Center for the Study of Culture, Health and Human Development

The CHHD sponsored its Spring 2002 Colloquium Series supported in part by a grant from the National Science Foundation - Children's Research Initiative. The series featured the following topics and presenters: Jan. 29th, **Anna Lartey, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, University of Ghana, "*Interventions to improve growth of breastfed infants in Ghana: Prospects and challenges*"; Feb. 12th, **Keith Crnic, Ph.D.**, Professor and Head, Department of Psychology, Penn State University, "*Stress in the context of parenting: Determinants and effects on families and child development*"; Feb. 26th, **Carol Worthman, Ph.D.**, Professor and Head, Department of Anthropology, Emory University, "*Painful topics: Stress, distress and human development*"; Mar. 12th, **Stephen Lasonde, Ph.D.**, Dean, Calhoun College and Lecturer in

History, Yale University and **Linda Mayes, M.D.**, The Arnold Gesell Associate Professor of Child Development, Yale Child Studies Center, "*Gender and child development: A view through the lens of psychoanalytic child study in the Age of Eisenhower*"; Apr. 2nd, **Carol Ember, Ph.D.**, Executive Director, Human Relations Area Files and **Mel Ember, Ph.D.**, President, Human Relations Area Files, "*Cross-cultural predictors of interpersonal violence*"; Apr. 16th, **Jerome Kagan, Ph.D.**, Professor of Psychology, Harvard University, "*The development of two temperamental categories of children*"; Apr. 30th, **Penn Handwerker, Ph.D.**, Professor and Head, Department of Anthropology, UConn, "*Ethnographic triangulation with multiple methods: How to measure and demonstrate the effects of cultures*".

Alumni Society reflects on a productive year

The School of Family Studies Alumni Society (SFSAS) is having a busy year. New Board member Cathy Foley Geib is now serving as SFSAS Vice President. SFSAS Secretary Becky Niederwerfer Person is working with SFS Dean Charles Super and SFS Professor Irene Q. Brown as chair of the Family and Consumer Sciences Certification/Capitol Campaign Committee. With committee members Beth Odell, Steve Roberts, Margie Gaylord McBurney, Janice Uerz and SFSAS Past President Lorraine Wetherell, they are finalizing curriculum and developing a plan to engage alumni for their support in creating a Family and Consumer Sciences Endowed Chair.

Plans are underway for graduation receptions for SFSAS 2002 graduates and their families. SFSAS board and faculty members will host receptions prior to graduation ceremonies on Sat. May 18th for undergraduates and Sun. May 19th for graduates.

Also underway are plans for the SFSAS Annual Meeting scheduled for Thurs. May 30th. Committee co-chairs are Shirley Randazzo and Gaye Stewart Carroll. This

very special event honors both graduates and faculty and is open to all SFSAS alumni.

At the Annual Meeting the Nominating Committee will present a new slate of officers and board members for the '02-'03 year. Members of the Nominating Committee include Cathy Foley Geib (co-chair), Rosemarie Syme (co-chair) and Merrilyn Cummings.

Looking ahead to the Fall of 2002, SFSAS President Grace Caruso Whitney and Board Members Virginia Garvey, Georgia Potterton Spratt, and Jean O'Connor Gallati are working on the Early Childhood Reception scheduled for the Fall at the UConn Regional Campus in Stamford. SFSAS Past President Lorraine Wetherell will chair the 50th Reunion/Homecoming Weekend Committee joined by Pat Weingardt, Ginny Lee, and Mary Larsen.

The SFSAS continues to expand membership through class agents and other activities. Anyone interested in becoming involved with activities of SFSAS can contact the School of Family Studies.

Class Notes

Geri Blau '91 received a Master's in Teaching from Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT in Dec. '00. Geri is getting married on July 14, 2002 and currently works with the New York City Board of Education at PS119 as a third grade teacher in the Bronx. **Rona J. Karasik, Ph.D. G'89** is an Associate Professor at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN. She directs the Gerontology Program at St. Cloud State University and recently co-authored an article with Debra Berke (Messiah College, PA) "Classroom and Community: Experiential Education in Family Studies and Gerontology" to be published in the *Journal of Teaching Marriage and Family*. **Megan Kollar '01** has been working full-time for the North Central Area Agency on Aging in Hartford, CT with a program called CHOICES, which stands for Health Insurance Assistance, Outreach, Information, and Referral that helps seniors to understand and exercise their rights, receive benefits to which they are entitled and make informed choices about quality of life concerns. She is planning on going to graduate school at CCSU for International Studies next Fall. **John Pagano, Ph.D. G'00** is working as a Mental Health Coordinator at ABCD Head Start in Bridgeport. The job is challenging and fun, letting him combine his skills as an occupational therapist with his knowledge from the family studies program. He is also researching the impact of occupational therapy and family-centered mental health services on children in his Early Head Start program. **Danielle M. Peluso '99** is still happily working for Keane Inc. in Medford, MA as an International Immigration Administrator. She lives in Medford and is saving her money to purchase a home of her own. **Wendy Foster Spagnuolo '76** is a Clinical Librarian at the JPS Health Network in Fort Worth, TX. She earned her MLS at the University of Rhode Island. She regrets that she was unable to attend the 25th year class reunion last year as it was the same weekend as a Medical Librarians Association chapter meeting in New Orleans. **Paul Tortland, D.O. '81, G'84** recently passed his board certification exams in both sports medicine and family practice. He is one of the only physicians in southern New England formally board-certified in sports medicine. He is a Team Physician for the University of Hartford Hawks and Founder/Medical Director of Valley Sports Physicians & Orthopedic Medicine, in Avon and Glastonbury. Dr. Tortland is also President of the Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society, and he was recently promoted to Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Medicine, at the UConn School of Medicine. He lives with his wife, Alison, and their three children in Simsbury, CT.

Prevention Series, continued from Front Page

On Fri. Mar. 15th, Dr. Martin Bloom of UConn's School of Social Work, presented "Constructing the Encyclopedia of Prevention and Health Promotion" in the SFS Dean's Lounge. He explained the process which resulted in a 4,000-plus page, 67-pound document that presents a new paradigm, one that comes from the view that people are essentially strong and healthy as opposed to a more pathological paradigm. Dr. Bloom is currently the editor of the *Journal of Primary Prevention*.

On Wed. Apr. 3rd, the Family Violence Initiative sponsored the second symposium, "Working With Emotional/Psychological Violence" for a capacity crowd in the Dodd Center's Konover Auditorium. This was an actual prevention intervention for students. The Family Violence Initiative is a group of School of Family Studies faculty and other University personnel who meet monthly to discuss violence and create educational programs around violence and abuse. Members include Drs. Steve Anderson, Preston Britner, Irene Q. Brown, Maureen Mulroy, Ron Rohner; Nancy Rohner, Center for the Study of Parental Acceptance and Rejection; and Kathleen Holgerson, Director, UConn Women's

Center. They were able to involve some of the graduate students from the prevention course to implement this program. The program gave the audience a chance to assess whether they had been a victim of emotional/psychological abuse and if so, gave them support for finding help

and healing, as well as helped to educate students who may want to play some positive role in offering assistance to friends or family members who have been affected by emotional/psychological abuse.

The third symposia included two workshops on "Using Forgiveness to Heal Emotional/Psychological Wounds." This two-part program was presented over two days, on Wed. Apr. 10th and

Wed. Apr. 17th. It was specifically designed for those students who needed more help with the emotional abuse they uncovered in the second symposium. Twenty graduate students completed a training program to be able to assist in the small group facilitation of the workshop.

"Primary Prevention is a hopeful perspective, consistent with the school's emphasis on development and on social policy," says Dean Super. "For individuals, the community, and taxpayers who so often pay dearly to try and repair damaged humans, prevention needs to be part of our future."

"Primary Prevention is a hopeful perspective, consistent with the school's emphasis on development and on social policy."

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2001 - 2002
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Visit the School of Family Studies web site at: www.familystudies.uconn.edu.

Undergraduates recognized for achievements

The ninth annual Scholars Day was held on April 15th. Recognized from Family Studies were Babbidge Scholars Erica Miller and Marisa Desiree. Both achieved 4.0 semesters for last spring and fall. Seventy-four Family Studies students were also recognized as New England Scholars, having achieved a 3.5 for two consecutive semesters. Current University Scholar, Karen Stevens, is completing her work on school violence, and she and an estimated 200 students will be part of the May 18th Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony. This year Family Studies joins the Neag School of Education and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in the 3:00 pm ceremony. A reception will be held outside of the Family Studies Building at 12 noon for the graduates and their family members.

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. For more information write to Holly Bland via her email address at the right or to the SFS Alumni Society at the School's regular address. The current list of Class Agents includes:
1954: Margery Gaylord McBurney: margendean@aol.com
1968: Merrilyn Cummings: Mercummi@dante.nmsu.edu

**SAVE THE DATE!
HOMECOMING 2002
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH**

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 supports programs for undergraduate and graduate students, enhances the academic community, and assists in outreach and alumni efforts.

- 1975: Holly Bland: hbland@snet.net
- 1976: Valerie Sakowski: vsakowski@snet.net
- 1984: Moira Veiga: Moira.Veiga@uconn.edu
- 1995: Jill Gelfenbien: jill_gelf@hotmail.com
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