

FAMILY NEWS

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PRESTON BRITNER, PH.D. JOINS THE FACULTY

Dr. Preston Britner is our newest faculty member in the School of Family Studies. He received his bachelor's degree in developmental psychology from the University of Miami and his masters and doctoral degree in developmental

psychology from the University of Virginia. He has previously taught at Smith College and the University of Virginia. When asked what attracted him to the School of Family Studies, he indicated it was the interdisciplinary nature of the School and the fact that teaching, research and service were all seen as important and related to each other. When asked about his biggest surprise since coming to UConn, he responded "...undergraduate students' interest in learning, their initiative and enthusiasm." In the classroom this fall, Dr. Britner has taught Family and Society (HDFR 278) and supervised fieldwork students (HDFR 288). This spring, he is teaching Family and Society and a new course, Child Welfare Law and Social Policy (HDFR 298). Dr. Britner brings a keen interest in social and public policy. He believes that social policy initiatives and community outreach can make a difference in people's lives. He has many ideas on how to involve students in public policy initiatives here Connecticut. Dr. Britner's research interests include: the social development effects of child care and the continuity of child environments, the integration of attachment and family systems theories involving children with and without special needs, child maltreatment prevention and correlates, developmental and policy issues in foster care, and psychological and legal determination of children's competence and decision making in ecologically valid settings. He has a number of research projects underway at the UConn Child Labs, in Virginia, and in England. The UConn study is focused on similarities and differences in children's preschool attachment to teachers and their parents. The study in Virginia is a longitudinal study focused on foster care placement and the effects of moving or removing children from their homes. The study's purpose is to understand how to make better foster care placements using family studies and psychological principles. The study in England assesses attachment behaviors in a longitudinal sample of Romanian adoptees.

Dr. Britner has already published his research in such journals as Child Welfare, Journal of Child and Family Studies, Law and Human Behavior, Infant Mental Health Journal, and Early Childhood Research Quarterly. His first book, Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect Through Parental Education, was just published last year

. He currently serves on the editorial board of the Journal of School Psychology.

Dr. Britner has become quickly involved with student groups and the larger UConn academic community. He is involved with an undergraduate public interest group and serves as an advisor for the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. He has given a presentation on social policy at our Concentration Night, lectured in other departments, and visited students in the residence halls.

During Dr. Britner's undergraduate days, he was an outstanding college athlete. He ran the half-mile as part of the University of Miami Track Team. He was a four-time Academic All-American and Team Captain of Varsity Track. He is also an avid soccer fan. His favorite soccer position is sweeper, defensive leader of the team. He travels to professional soccer games when he is able to drag himself away from the fast paced life of academia.

Dr. Britner is married to Dr. Suzanne LaFleur, a social psychologist who teaches in the Department of Psychology at Smith College. He currently commutes from Northampton, but hopes to make Connecticut his home in the very near future. We welcome Dr. Britner to the University of Connecticut and look forward to his many contributions to the School of Family Studies.

ALUMNI EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 4 AND 5

On Thursday and Friday, June 4 and 5, the School of Family Studies will host two events for graduates, current and former faculty and staff, and friends. "This is the second time, now, that we've organized this kind of twin event" comments Dean Super, referring also to last year's highly successful June gathering, "and that makes a tradition." As last year, the program for this June includes social, informational, and celebratory features, wrapped in two packages:

On Thursday, June 4th, the Deans and Faculty of the School of Family Studies invite all alumnae/i, emeritae/i, and other friends to a reception and dinner. The evening will start with a reception at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Studies ("DRM") building. From there you can join a brief tour of our two new high-tech classrooms, complete with a live demonstration of the School's new "home page" on the World Wide Web. You can also see how to access, from the home page, a brief version of the "Traditions and Transitions" presentation given at last year's June gathering and other historical items of interest. At this time you can also

meet current faculty and staff, learn about current research in the field, renew old friendships, and talk with current student leaders. At 6:30 p.m., the School will host a dinner in Room 103 of the Family Studies building, the same location as last year's event. The theme for brief celebrations slated to take place following dinner is: "Rejoicing in the Past, Investing in the Future." Several special guests will be there to join in these celebrations. "If you want to know what that's all about," says Dean Super, "come on June 4th and we'll explain it then!"

Friday, June 5th, is the University's Alumni day and the 50th reunion for the class of 1948. At 5:00 p.m., the School of Family Studies will host the first Barbara Jones Johnson Foote Commemorative Lecture, in the Konover auditorium of the Dodd Research Center. Mrs. Foote graduated from the School of Home Economics in 1943. The lecture series, conceived by Mrs. Foote's husband, Robert, is intended "to emphasize the importance, stimulate the desire, and enhance the ability of all components of society to contribute to the development of family nurture." The inaugural speaker in this series is Prof. Lynne Bond of the University of Vermont, whose recent book (with Mary Field Belenky and Jacqueline S. Weinstock), is titled *A tradition that has no name: Nurturing the development of people, families, and communities* (Basic Books, 1997). A reception for Prof. Bond will follow her address.

AUDREY L. JARRELLE RETIRES--

Audrey L. Jarrelle retired in August, 1997. Dr. Jarrelle came to UConn in August, 1967 as Instructor of Textiles, fresh from the graduate program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She rose to the rank of Associate Professor and became a senior and much admired member of the faculty. Since 1988, she served as Associate Dean and is widely credited as a source of stability during the many changes of the following decade. She also won the gratitude of many an undergraduate (and parent!) for her sage counsel as she headed the undergraduate program.

Friends of Dr. Jarrelle gathered at The Harvest restaurant in Pomfret on April 3rd to honor her and her many contributions to the School and University. She was recognized for her years of excellence in teaching, for the vast number of students she has advised and mentored, for the exceptional skills she brought as an

administrator, and for her being a caring colleague and friend to many. Audrey and her mother, Helen, will be settling near family and friends this summer in the Charlottesville, Virginia, area, but we know she will remain a loyal Husky fan! A scholarship to assist undergraduates has been established in her honor; contributions (payable to the UConn Foundation) may be sent to the Dean of the School of Family Studies, U-Box 58, University of Connecticut, Storrs, 06269-2058.

L. Eugene Thomas, Professor in the School of Family Studies, passed out of this life at 3:15 a.m. on Wednesday, March 11; he died at home, surrounded by family. Although Professor Thomas had just begun his retirement, he remained an active and beloved presence at the School.

Gene Thomas was born in Magnolia, Arkansas, received a bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and master of divinity degree from the Union Theological Seminary. After a brief pastoral career, he earned a doctorate in human development from the University of Chicago, and then began his long career at UConn in 1968. He specialized in adult development, the cross-cultural study of gerontology, spirituality and aging, and death and dying; he carried out research in India and Turkey, as well as the US.

A meeting of worship in celebration of Professor Thomas' life was held at the Storrs Friends Meeting House, followed by a reception at the School of Family Studies. The L. Eugene Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund for Graduate Studies has been established to honor and remember the man and his work. Contributions to this fund (payable to the UConn Foundation) may be sent to the Dean of the School of Family Studies, U-Box 58, University of Connecticut, Storrs, 06269-2058. We shall miss Gene Thomas, his wisdom and grace.

NEW FACES IN THE ADMINISTRATION--

Audrey Jarrelle's retirement from the Dean's Office left a major hole in the administrative structure of the School. Fortunately, two highly qualified members of the faculty agreed to step up to this challenge, with a restructuring of responsibilities. Professor Thomas O. Blank, a social psychologist specializing in

gerontology, was appointed Associate Dean and Director of Graduate Studies. Ms. Mary Alice Neubeck, a sociologist with special interest in families and diversity, was appointed Director of Undergraduate Studies and will have decanal authority in that role. Both Blank and Neubeck have been members of the School's faculty for a number of years and served with distinction in a variety of duties. "Yes, in one sense it does take two people to take over for Audrey," remarked Dean Super recently. "But I am very happy that Tom and Mary Alice have agreed to help out in this new organization, for this way the School is able to keep them as productive teachers and scholars, and at the same time benefit from their skills and insights as administrative leaders."

CHILD DEVELOPMENT LABORATORIES - HAPPENINGS

The Week of the Young Child

The Child Development Laboratories (CDL) is planning several major events to celebrate The Week of the Young Child (April 20 - 26). The Week was established in 1971 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children to focus public attention on the rights and needs of young children. This year's theme is Early Years are Learning Years...Make Them Count!

For this week, the CDL staff at UConn is planning a children's art show, a Book Fair by the Heart of Gold Book Store, and a children's concert. Infant, Toddler, Preschool and Kindergarten children's artwork will be displayed at several campus locations. The Book Fair will be held in room 110 at the Child Development Center. On Friday evening, April 24, children's songwriter and performer, David Jack, will be presenting a concert for young children and their families. For more information regarding these events, please call the CDL main office at 860- 486-2865.

Staff Changes at the CDL

Faye Smyle- has moved on from her position as Master Teacher in the Infant Program, and is now at Northwestern Connecticut Community-Technical College in Winsted, Connecticut. Meanwhile, Kelly Horner joined the CDL as Teacher in the Infant Programs in August of 1997. Kelly is a recent graduate of our

programs, earning her B.S. in Family Studies at UConn in May, 1996. She worked as a teacher-in-training in the Infant Center at the CDL during the 1996-97 academic year.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

The Undergraduate Committee of the School of Family Studies reports that they are working on several events for spring, 1998. Some of these events will include: Graduate Night, Alumni Night and Concentration Night. They are also busy planning their fundraising events, which include bake sales and a dinner.

ANDERSON AND O'NEIL HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

At the February 18, 1998 Faculty Meeting at the School of Family Studies, Dr. Stephen Anderson and Dr. James O'Neil were both honored for 15 years of service to the University. Dean Super presented Profs. Anderson and O'Neil with certificates of appreciation signed by Governor Rowland and President Austin. In their years at UConn, Anderson and O'Neil have become two of the School's most highly recognized teachers -- each has won University-wide awards. They have also established themselves nationally as leading scholars -- Prof. Anderson in the area of family relations and family violence, and Prof. O'Neil in the field of gender studies and men's psychological development.

SHEEHAN HONORED

Associate Professor Nancy Sheehan was elected to the status of Fellow in the American Gerontology Society. With this, all three of our gerontology faculty -- Sheehan, as well as Profs. Thomas Blank and Lucille Nahemow -- are now Society Fellows. Sheehan currently serves as Director of the Behavioral and Social Sciences arm of the UConn Center on Aging, located at our School.

NEWS FROM THE UCONN LIBRARIES

-Betsy Hoagg, Liaison to the School of Family Studies

One of the most significant efforts of the Libraries' Liaison program has been the compilation and posting of subject resources on the Libraries home page. The listing of all of these is easy to find from the Libraries site:

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu> by clicking on 'Research Resources,' and then on 'Selected Resources by Subject.' Or, you can click directly to the HDFR page with: <http://www.lib.uconn.edu/subjectareas/hdfr.htm>

If you have any suggestions or comments on the page or its contents, please e-mail them to Betsy Hoagg, Liaison to the School of Family Studies at:

bhoagg@lib.uconn.edu

SFS GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE

The opening of the Graduate Student Laboratory located in room 205 in DRM was an exciting development for our graduate students. There are computers available for graduate student use, and plenty of space available for students to come work, read, or simply sit down and socialize.

Martha Goebel is the new President of the Graduate Student Committee. Martha is looking forward to the challenge of restructuring the Graduate Student Committee, first by revising our mission statement, and secondly by arranging for the Committee to become an official organization recognized by the University. Due to changes in University Policy and the School of Family Studies, it is very important that graduate students meet regularly to keep abreast of important issues. At the last graduate student meeting, Pam Schulze (SFS Faculty Meeting Representative) and Amy Miller (Graduate Student Senate Representative) discussed some of the changes taking place with regard to "continuous registration" and the full-time status of doctoral students. Questions or comments to Amy Miller at 486-5038, or Pam Schulze at

PAS94003@UCONNVM.UCONN.EDU

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY PROGRAM RANKED 9TH IN THE NATION--

UConn was ranked as a "leading source of influence in the field of family therapy" in a recent study published in the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*. The authors of the study examined the origin of publications in the three leading journals from 1980 through 1995. The University of Connecticut ranked ninth, above the University of Wisconsin, UCLA, Penn State, Harvard, and other prominent institutions. UConn's program in Marriage and Family Therapy is, of course, in the School of Family Studies, and its clinic was named last year in honor of its founder, Prof. Emeritus Frederick Humphrey, at a ceremony during our June Alumnae events.

**CONGRATULATIONS to William J. Doherty
PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON FAMILY
RELATIONS-**

Dr. Doherty received his Ph.D. in 1979 from the School of Family Studies, working with Robert Ryder. He is Professor of Family Social Science and Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Doherty is author of *The Intentional Family* (NY: Addison Wesley, 1997), and of *Soul-Searching: Why Psychotherapy Must Promote Moral Responsibility* (NY: Basic Books, 1995).

CULTURE, HEALTH, AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

"Culture, health, and human development" is emerging as a focus of scholarship at the School of Family Studies. This field in general has been developing over the last decade at the intersection of the social, behavioral, and biological sciences. The construction and preservation of health, in this view, is best understood as part of development; development, in turn, is best understood in a cultural context; and cultures are best understood as adaptations to support healthy development.

The research and theory that lie behind this insight are drawn from many of the disciplines that have long been part of the School of Family Studies, and so it is not surprising that the School has been active in helping to define and advance the field. At the University level, the Dean and members of the faculty have been

instrumental in establishing a Graduate Certificate in Culture, Health, and Human Development. This certificate is available to doctoral students in existing degree programs, and is intended to supplement the students' primary expertise. Thus, the seminar and research experience that form the core of training in the area are expected to attract advanced students not only from Family Studies, but also Nutrition, Anthropology, Nursing, Sociology, Pediatrics, and other units across the university. Certification of interdisciplinary training in this field will give students a competitive edge in the job market, and prepare them for advanced scholarship in this important interdisciplinary. The Certificate will be managed by the School of Family Studies, with Dean Super as the University-wide coordinator.

In the national arena, the National Institutes of Health recently funded a proposal from the School to design and run an interdisciplinary research workshop on the same topic. The workshop, which will take place in May in Mystic, Connecticut, has attracted graduate and post-doctoral participants from around country, as well as from Europe, South America, and Asia. Of the 11 faculty for the workshop, three are members of our School (C. Super, S. Harkness, and R. Harwood); there also two from UConn's Department of Anthropology, and one from Nursing. Both of these events highlight the growing importance of interdisciplinary scholarship, a style of working that has a strong tradition in the School of Family Studies.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: HOMECOMING - OCTOBER 24, 1998

SFS ALUMNI SOCIETY NEWS

Come a little early on our special day, June 4th, and help organize our Family Studies Alumni Society as part of the UCONN Alumni Association. Join us at 2:00 p.m. in our building for that important meeting. For further information, contact Carol at 860-486-4049 or tcoaus@uconnvm.uconn.edu, or Julie Goldberg '92 (see Class Notes, below).

In July, members of the provisional council, other alumni, faculty, and student representatives met to explore the future of the Society. Our guide for this inspiring exercise was Jean O'Connor Gallati ('84), from Youth Insights of

Fairfield, Connecticut. We worked on a task statement and discussed ways in which the Society can serve its members and present students. Many thanks to Jean O'Connor Gallati and her husband, Christopher, who helped us to work together so well!

The meeting yielded several proposed activities, including those described below. If you would like to help make them a reality, please contact the individuals named above, or Prof. Irene Q. Brown (860-486-3559; ibrown@uconnvm.uconn.edu)

Informal Alumni Dinners with Undergraduate Fieldwork Students, their Teacher, and a Human Services Professional: Are you an alumna within a 30-40 minutes drive of Storrs who is willing to host a simple meal for our fieldwork seminar? A faculty member who has done this before would love to have some help. You would create a memorable occasion and join a thoughtful dialogue. Up to a dozen students -- mostly seniors - will much appreciate your generosity as they learn more about the "real world" of human services.

Career Night with SFS Undergraduates is sponsored by the Family Studies Undergraduate Council (FSUC) in the spring. The Council is always looking for professionals who can join this event. It would like to create a roster of potential participants, and welcomes suggestions for other ways in which our graduates might contribute to the career planning of our students.

Commencement Day Brunch for Graduate Students and their Families is almost a tradition. The informal feast, organized by faculty, would be even better if a few graduate alumni joined us as well. Return to the campus on a glorious May morning, and help welcome our guests in the comfortable Dean's Lounge, where you have heard many presentations and perhaps given them yourself!

Homecoming at the Child Labs: Next October, the Child Development Labs plans to organize a special program and invites the participation of CDFR, HDFR, and other graduates who like to work with young children. As part of a special University-wide focus on reading, ideas are just starting to form on how young families might enjoy this fall day around some books. Join the fun! Help us invent new Homecoming traditions and work with your Family Studies Alumni Society!

BUILDING THE HISTORY OF OUR SCHOOL ON THE WEB AND ON PAPER--

Photos from the Home Economics Club of 1937- 41, originally found in the UConn Yearbooks (and lent to us by Ebba Hansen) appear on the Home Page of the School. We can use your help in identifying the names of those presented there. You can click and write us an e-mail response. Or, if you have your own yearbook, you can send a note to your faculty liaison, Irene Q. Brown, at the School. This is an ongoing project, and we invite you to check the Home Page periodically. Your help in constructing it is much appreciated!

SFS Scholarship recipients of past years! We need you! If you have any knowledge about the person your scholarship is named for, please get in touch with Prof. Brown. She also would like to hear from any past recipients for whom the scholarship had special meaning in their student days. We are planning to prepare a history of our scholarships and perhaps feature some of the past recipients. Their stories may inspire future students as well as honor the generosity of past donors.

CLASS NOTES--

Please send news of your activities to Julie Goldberg ('92) at 7510 Hopkins Avenue, Apt. 2, College Park, MD 20740 or to: jlgold@deans.umd.edu. Here's some news from the class of 1997:

Astraea Augsberger completed her Honors Thesis, "Sexual Assault on the University of Connecticut Campus: Attitudes, Awareness, and Perceptions" and is now a graduate student at the School of Social Work, Columbia University.

Cindy Busque is a caseworker at St. Vincent de Paul in Waterbury. As an Outreach Team Leader for the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Connecticut in New Britain, Monica Silver coordinates services for high-risk pregnancy cases. She also organizes the parent aid program for families in crisis. Sonia Teixeira is a case manager at the Newport County Community Mental Health Center in RI, working with the Independent Living Program and the Children's Intensive Services Program. Laura M. Donorfio, Ph.D. '97, with a specialty in Gerontology, is a Research Design Facilitator in the Personal Lines Research Department of

The Hartford Research Group in Southington, Connecticut.