

INTER**ACTION**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER STUDIES
WWW.FCS.UTAH.EDU FALL/SPRING 2008-09

To FCS friends, students and alumni:

**MESSAGE
FROM THE
CHAIR**

Another department chair remarked that FCS graduates have very positive feelings about their FCS experience. I agreed and emphasized that our department is very student focused. I explained to her that we have the best, most supportive front office staff who make students and families feel very welcome. Our staff includes Ribana Milas, Sandra Earl and Sandy Stark who work tirelessly to meet the department needs. Our academic advisory, Jenny Stout is incredibly responsive to students and is invested in the success of all FCS students. Our amazing faculty are gifted instructors who take undergraduate and graduate education very seriously. We have a long list of faculty teaching awards including 4 members of our faculty who have won the prestigious University of Utah Distinguished Teaching Award. Sonia Salari is highlighted in this issue. Our faculty are also in demand with other programs on campus. For example, Ken Smith was recently appointed as the associate director of the University of Utah Pedigree and Population Resource and will oversee the Utah Population Database (see enclosed article). FCS faculty continue to publish their work in high quality academic outlets. We note 2 new faculty books authored by Susan McDaniel and Trish Saccomano in this newsletter edition.

The FCS Department is always evolving to meet students' needs and interests. We are currently developing a certified financial planning program (information enclosed). We continue to offer numerous certification programs including the early childhood teacher certification, child life certification, family life education, and a demography certificate. Due to all these student options we are one of the most popular majors on campus. In this issue, we highlight Sonja Anderson and her creative use of her Family Ecology Master's degree to build her caregiving business. Barbara Owen writes about her "returning to the U" and FCS experience as a recent graduate.

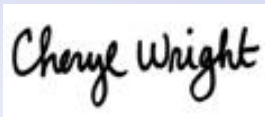
We welcome you to attend the following department sponsored events:

Eric Moerer Lecture "*Responding to sibling loss*", Monday, Oct 6th at 6pm (Primary Children's Hospital)

"*Selecting a school for your child*", Saturday, November 1st 10am (AEB)

And the Child and Family Development Center will be hosting a fundraising party with indoor and outdoor activities for children and families, Saturday, October 25th 12pm (preschool – AEB)

We hope to see you at these fall events!



Cheryl Wright
FCS Chair



We would like to add you to our electronic newsletter distribution list, please send your email to: ribana.milas@fcs.utah.edu.

2008 Department Honors

2008 University of Utah Distinguished Teaching Award



Topics in Sonia Salari's teaching and research are not those of "polite" conversation and include domestic violence on children, intimate partner homicide-suicide, and elder mistreatment. Thankfully, these and other important societal concerns are being addressed by a most competent and passionate expert of family relationships. Salari deliberately creates a comfortable learning atmosphere where difficult topics are discussed. She uses a variety of techniques, including videos, guest lecturers, music, cartoons, and the life experiences of her students, to communicate the challenging material in an accessible way. The results are a highly engaging and relevant learning opportunity. "She did a good job of teaching intense information while keeping the atmosphere light," said one student. "I won't soon forget what I learned from Dr. Salari;

she made the [heavy subject matter] so interesting I actually looked forward to the class." Salari's passion and inspiration is also reflected in her personal involvement in community service, which ranges from battered women's victim advocate member of the Family Violence Advisory Council. Her undergraduate course in family policy encourages students to become involved in the community by lobbying for family issues in the Utah Legislature. "Climbing those steps to the Capitol I felt like 'Rocky,' wrote a student. "Thank you for offering this learning opportunity. There is a light inside me I never knew was there." Her style emphasizes the communication skills that make her such an effective teacher. She constructs her assignments to train her students in the requisite writing and presentation skills needed to effect change in a highly emotional field. Salari received a Ph.D. in sociology from the State University of New York at Albany in 1993. She joined the University of Utah in 1995 after serving as a National Institute on Aging Postdoctoral Fellow at the Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

New Faculty Appointment



Professor Ken R. Smith is the new Associate Director of the University of Utah's Pedigree and Population Resource (PPR) effective July 1, 2008. He will work with Director Geri Mineau PhD in the management and development of the Utah Population Database (UPDB). The UPDB is a rich source of information for genetic, epidemiological, demographic, and public health studies. For over 30 years, researchers have used this resource to identify and study families that have higher than normal incidents of cancer or other diseases, to analyze patterns of genetic inheritance. In addition, demographic studies have shown trends in the fertility transition and

changes in mortality patterns for both infants and adults. The UPDB is the only such database of its kind in the United States and one of few such resources in the world. The central component of the UPDB is an extensive set of Utah family histories, in which family members are linked to demographic and medical information.

Dr. Smith is also an Investigator at the Huntsman Cancer Institute and the Institute for Public and International Affairs. His research focus is on the effects of family, community, and socioeconomic factors affecting health outcomes, mortality, and longevity of individuals. He is also co-editor of the journal *Biodemography and Social Biology*. In 2006 he received the University of Utah's Distinguished Scholarly and Creative Research Award. His many research collaborations across the University and the state, as well as nationally and internationally, will increase the use and recognition of the Utah Population Database.

Up-Coming FCS Events

Eric Moerer Lecture: Monday, October 6, 2008 @ 6:00-8:00PM
Primary Children's Hospital (3rd floor auditorium)

WHEN THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENS:

Responding to young adults who experience the death of a sibling

Jan Hare, Ph.D. Professor of Family Studies and Gerontology, University of Wisconsin-Stout

This presentation will focus on grief experienced by young adults who have lost a sibling. The research on child bereavement will be reviewed and suggestions to strengthen the social support for children will be offered for friends, acquaintances and professionals. The presentation will be followed by a panel of siblings who will discuss what was most helpful and least helpful in terms of their own loss.

Scholarship Recipients 2008-09

Department: Angie Fife, Arlee Heslop, Sara Johnson, Natalie Sadler, Holly Smith, Annette Ward

Marjorie E. Pearson: Chelsea Vandam

Elva Acklam Stark and Arvil Stark: Brandon Helmer

Eric Moerer Memorial: Chase Stringham

Sara Baum Welke (Ida Mae Hanks): Darady Bitter, Jennifer Jardine

Colleen Cluff Caputo: Youngoak Lowe

Pinon Market: Catherine Pierce, Jessica Higgs

Hulda Van Streeter Garrett: Heather Madsen

Barbara G. Christensen Memorial: Robyn Grant

Virginia Cutler: Haley Hintze

SBS College: Kristy Draper, Saleha Vadipour

NEW Certified Financial Planning Program

FCS is developing a Certified Financial Planning program, which, when approved, will satisfy the requirements for graduates to take the Financial Planning Board's exam. This program will consist of six courses, the first five of which are online:

FCS 3500 Consumer and Family Finance, FCS 5510 Investment and Life Insurance Planning for Families, FCS 5520 Retirement Planning for Families, FCS 5530 Income Tax Planning for Families, FCS 5540 Estate Planning for Families, and the in class FCS 5550 Financial Planning Capstone.

For more information regarding CFP certification, please see <http://www.cfp.net/>
Dr. Jessie Fan will direct the program.

Thanks to the FCS Advisory Board

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*** We want to thank our past chair, Karen Crompton and welcome Erin Trenbeath-Murray as the 2008-10 chair***

Child and Family Development Center

The Child and Family Development Center (CFDC) provides programs that serve the University as well as the state and local communities. The Center is linked to the academic mission that includes teaching, research and service. The CFDC has been NAEYC Accredited for 21 years.

Teaching

The CFDC is closely tied to the Early Childhood Education Certification Program. Approximately 60 students completed their teaching internships through the Center. Students are also placed in other programs that include BioKids, ASUU, Rowland Hall, Head Start and the Open Classroom.

Research

CFDC children and families are participating in storytelling research developed by FCS faculty Cheryl Wright and Marissa Diener. In addition, CFDC participated in a research project by AMES High School students that examined Racial Thinking in Children. The Center also provides ongoing observation for University courses.

Service

The Center engages in multiple service opportunities. U of U Nurse practitioners provided free physical exams for CFDC. Interns from the Communications Disorders Department administer speech, hearing and language screening. The Center regularly provides a panel presentation on "Selecting a School for Your Child." The seminar is scheduled for Saturday, November 1st at 10:00 a.m. in the Alfred Emery Building.

Staff are committed to sharing their experiences and expertise with other organizations. The staff presents at local, state and national conferences that include: NAEYC, Utah Early Childhood Conference, Headstart Training, and the Early Childhood Collaboration Conference.

In collaboration with Dr. Kathleen Brown (U of U Reading Clinic) our staff and students provided a summer six-week Early Steps Intervention Reading Program. Kindergarten children who are struggling with reading were provided one on one tutoring.

In celebration of the completion of the amazing new playground, the CFDC and ASUU are preparing for our **ANNUAL FUNDRAISER SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH FROM 12:00-2:00 P.M. Past and present CFDC families are invited! Come and enjoy indoor and outdoor activities for children and families as well as light refreshments.**

New Faculty Books

Ageing, Susan McDaniel; 2008, SAGE Major Work on Ageing/Gerontology
London, UK: Sage, A 4-volume edited book. (ISBN: 9781412935586)
See <http://www.sagepub.com/booksProdDesc.nav?prodId=Book230881>

Kindergarten at work:-Introducing the super 6-A yearly plan with a month to month guide to working smarter, not harder (Book I), Trish Saccomano & Kathy Bringhurst; 2007, KT Educational Enterprises.
(ISBN 9781605300122)
See <http://www.kteducation.com>

Family Ecology Program



Sonja Hanson Anderson received a master's degree in Family Ecology. She's the owner and administrator of the Caregiver's Plus, a Division of Anderson Consulting, LLC. It is licensed through the Department of Health as a personal care agency (non-medical home health provider). She employs personal care aides to assist individuals with daily activities (currently 7 employees and 15 clients - private pay clients as well as Medicaid clients). She contracts with Salt Lake County Aging Services for the majority of her clients. Sonja has learned valuable life lessons from clients and admires each of them for the strength they exhibit despite their trials. The agency

provides assistance for: elderly persons, respite for family caregivers, prenatal and postnatal women and their infants and individuals coalescing from illness, injury, and surgery. As a Family Life Educator, she belongs to the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR).

Returning to the U

Here is an inspirational story of a non-traditional student who just completed her degree.

Unlike the little engine that puffed "I think I can, I think I can..." I did not think I could finish a college degree, after a 40 year hiatus. It took five challenging yet invigorating semesters, for this ol' engine to discover that "I could do it and I did do it!" And what's more, I enjoyed it! While it felt like there were mostly hills to climb, the journey was well worth the effort. With the help and guidance from university personnel, I decided to switch from Elementary Education to Human Development and Family Studies, even though, to my seven children, that seemed like a subject I should be teaching not learning. There was much to learn, as I found myself more focused, less distracted and better able to apply what I was learning to my life. I became passionate about several topics, and found confidence in the fact that I could do anything with a little hard work and effort. I was able to take care of perceived insurmountable obstacles, like Algebra and Statistics, while at the same time immerse myself in the human relationship classes, like Maximizing Human Potential or Strengthening Homes and Families. In all cases I found nice people to work with, both faculty and students. I feel extremely fortunate to have followed the FCS track to graduation. And maybe in the near future I'll hop on more tracks because not only do I think I can, I know I can.

Barbara Owen

BS, University of Utah, Summer 2008

Still thinking about finishing your degree, but not sure where to begin? Please begin by visiting The University of Utah's Returning to the U website at

<http://www.sa.utah.edu/advise/returning.shtml>