

# FSA

family science  
association

# SPRING NEWSLETTER

April 2021 Volume 5, Issue 2

The Family Science Association (FSA) is an independent organization of family science professionals and students who have joined together to strengthen and enhance the Family Science profession.

While the end of the semester is often a time of reflection for many, I find myself especially reflective this spring as I will soon complete my term as President. My time serving this fantastic organization has been a period of great personal and professional growth. While our mission remains the same, what we do and how we have communicated the good work of the group has shifted. These newsletters provide excellent ways to keep our community connected and well-informed about organization foci. Our website platforms for the organization and the journal are being updated for smoother communication and ease of access to scholarship and other

materials that enhance our profession. This last two years have even seen changes in how we conceptualize connection and communication remotely during a pandemic. I am so very proud of the efforts of all those who serve, and look forward to continuing in my next role as Immediate Past-President as I support Dr. Nikki DiGregorio's transition from Vice-President to President in June. It is with sincere appreciation that I present my final newsletter to you all in my current role. – Bethany Willis Hepp

## 2021 Teaching Family Science Virtual Conference: June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

The 2021 Teaching Family Science conference will be held virtually on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June. Plan on two days of both live and static display paper presentations, round tables, resource exchanges, and poster sessions related to the theme, **Professional Identity and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Helping Skills**. Questions about the 2021 Teaching Family Science Conference? E-mail conference co-Chairs Nicole Graves ([Nicole.Graves@sdstate.edu](mailto:Nicole.Graves@sdstate.edu)) and Erin Lavender-Stott ([Erin.LavenderStott@sdstate.edu](mailto:Erin.LavenderStott@sdstate.edu)). The FSA Business meeting is scheduled for 3:15 – 4:00pm (Central Time) on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Call for Nominations: Vice-President of the Family Science

**Association** For many, the FSA is a service gateway to leadership in our field. Please consider what kind of work you'd like to see come from this organization in the future and how you may be able to contribute as part of our evolving Executive Board. The Vice-President role is a two-year position that largely supports the President's role, as well as the co-creation and dissemination of the quarterly newsletter and assistance in identifying, recruiting, and organizing reviewers for the Family Science Review in support of the Publication Chair. Consider nominating yourself or someone you think would be a good fit and I can reach out! E-mail your nominations to [bwillishepp@towson.edu](mailto:bwillishepp@towson.edu).

**Not able to attend the conference? Don't forget to renew your 2021 membership!** Your membership dues are needed to continue to expand access and disseminate more broadly the work of our organization as we grow the journal and strengthen our online presence. Please visit the new website [www.familyscienceassociation.org](http://www.familyscienceassociation.org) to renew your membership; we offer special rates for students and professionals. Membership comes with discounts on the annual conference registration fees, members-only access to previous conference presentations (including sample syllabi, evidence-based teaching strategies, and rubrics), voting rights within the Association, opportunities for professional advancement, and connection and community-building around teaching Family Science!

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: CURRENT FSA TREASURER

### Mark S Adams, PhD, LMFT

**Position:** Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Education, South Dakota State University.

**How long have you been a member of FSA?** I joined FSA in 2014, when as a new faculty member in the Department of Child and Family Studies at Weber State University, I negotiated department funding to the June Conference despite my appointment not starting until July. I was very impressed that every faculty member in the Family Studies program would be attending the conference, that all of them would be presenting, and that a number of the faculty were on the board or conference organizers. I really didn't have much knowledge or awareness of the organization prior to that time, mostly because I had focused my professional affiliation with MFTs. The 2014 conference was a game-changer for me (I suppose it was more of a professional identity amplifier). Since that time I have served as a conference co-chair (2018 in Park City, UT with David Law) and now as the treasurer. I have greatly benefited from my professional association with the organization, I have exponentially improved my teaching competency, and I have made some long-lasting friendships.



**What do you enjoy most about being a member of FSA?** The annual TFS conferences are the highlight of my year, however, I have become more and more appreciative of the Family Science Review's dissemination of quality research and teaching resources. Above all else though, I love my association with my colleagues and friends in FSA.

**What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this summer?** I am currently working with Dr. Chloe Merrill on the development of a course on teaching human sexuality for family life educators in our undergraduate program. I have a great passion for sex education and working with Dr. Merrill, who has been a central figure in the FSA organization, has been very rewarding and instructive.

**What is one fun fact about you that will help people get to know you better?** Most people don't know that I spent the majority of my childhood being raised in a nursing home. My paternal grandmother owned a 20-bed long-term care facility to which I lived next door. My mother and the majority of my aunts helped run the facility and as such, I ate many meals there, spent time learning to read, and accompanied the "ladies" (all of the residents were women) on walks and to the movies. I have a great love and passion for the elderly and completed a master's degree in gerontology as an extension of that love.

### *Family Science Review – Editor's Corner*

During the transition to the new editorial staff, the intent was for the prior issues to be completed by the prior editorial staff. As circumstances have made that not possible, the new editorial staff will be working in the next weeks to process the manuscripts for the past due issue of *Family Science Review*. We appreciate your patience. Please visit <https://www.familyscienceassociation.org/journal/> for details; manuscripts can be sent to Karen Doneker, Ph.D., at [fsrmanuscripts@gmail.com](mailto:fsrmanuscripts@gmail.com).

Additional priorities will be to explore processes that may allow an online first publication option, refining the review process through MStracker, as well as recruitment and expansion of our editorial team. Many journals have experienced a slower process of review as reviewers were experiencing a variety of impacts during the pandemic. We will be recruiting and expanding our team and focusing on both methodology and content expertise that can support us in processing submissions without adding too great of a workload on a smaller number of reviewers. If you are interested in becoming a reviewer for *Family Science Review*, email [fsrmanuscripts@gmail.com](mailto:fsrmanuscripts@gmail.com). Please provide your CV and a list of areas of expertise.

Please also be in touch if you have ideas for a special issue or are hoping to see one in a given area.

*-Karen L. Doneker, Family Science Review Editor*