

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.

Happy New Year to each of you. This time last year I wrote to about setting intentions for the year and the word I selected to set my intentions for 2020: *balance*. Little did I know how that would be tested in the months that followed. As we enter 2021 and the unprecedented times that we are finding ourselves living in, I have begun looking to others for words of wisdom – anchors to help me stay tethered to who I am and the work I believe in. In recognition of the holiday commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I share these words from a collection of his sermons and speeches published in 1963: “All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and

important and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.” I thank each of you for undertaking the important work of advancing teaching and learning of our discipline; for your commitment to strengthening and enhancing our profession; and for joining in our effort to grow Family Science into the 21st century.

– Bethany Willis Hepp

Family Science Association Business Meeting Re-Cap

The FSA meeting was held at the 2020 National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference held virtually on November 4th, 2020. Major items of discussion included confirmation that the FSA had received reimbursement for monies paid related to the cancelled 2020 conference. The 2021 conference co-Chairs announced that, after a survey of key stakeholders, the conference will be virtual in an effort to support the health and well-being of membership and in recognition of travel restrictions that many are experiencing this year. The website co-managers demonstrated the new website and described efforts to migrate past Family Science Review journal issues to the new system. Payment of membership dues will be important in the months ahead to help finance the new website and membership portals that are under development. Copyediting services were renewed by the provider, and an increase in payment was approved. The Family Science Review editing team is working hard to process manuscripts after pandemic-related delays. Please e-mail Bethany Willis Hepp (bwillishepp@towson.edu) for additional information.

Teaching Family Science Virtual Conference Proposal Deadline: January 31st

The 2021 Teaching Family Science conference will be held virtually the week of June 7th – 11th. This year’s theme, **Professional Identity and 21st Century Helping Skills**, lends itself to a variety of topics related to the development, growth, and maintenance of professional identities as family scholars. Submissions may be for paper or roundtable presentations, and student submissions are encouraged. Please visit our website

(www.familyscienceassociation.org/annual-conference) for the full call for proposals.

Questions about the 2021 Teaching Family Science Conference? E-mail conference co-Chairs Nicole Graves (Nicole.Graves@sdstate.edu) and Erin Lavender-Stott (Erin.LavenderStott@sdstate.edu).



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Robert E Keim, PhD, CFLE

Reflections by Deborah (Deb) Gentry, PhD, CFLE

Most Family Science Association (FSA) members referred to Robert E. Keim as “Bob.” This last December, at age 91, he died of natural causes at his home in Clinton, TN. Though he contributed to FSA in many ways, his most vital role was as Editor of *Family Science Review* (FSR) from 1993-1996. One of his long-time colleagues remembers him as detail-oriented and methodical. He utilized those traits during his tenure as Editor, perhaps as a result of the accounting skills he honed early in his professional life. His master’s degree in divinity and ordained status later led him to serving several churches while living in California. Bob next earned a doctoral degree in Marriage and Family Living from Florida State University, which led to teaching positions there as well as at Colorado State University and Northern Illinois University (NIU). He retired from NIU in 1997 after 28 years there.



While at NIU, Bob was instrumental in developing and leading an academic program in Family Social Services. His attention to detail and thoroughness ensured the program was well-guided by various manuals, handbooks, and forms. He developed and taught two valued courses for the program: Group Process in Family Functioning, and Professional Practice in Family Social Services. Realizing his students had to rely on information about ethical dilemmas and behaviors originating from other fields, he joined Rebecca Adams, David Dollahite, and Kathleen Gilbert in developing and institutionalizing ethical principles and guidelines for family scientists. Ever since, students enrolled in and graduates of our academic programs are informed and abide by this ethical code of conduct as they carry out their studies and professional roles.

Bob was also a long-time, active member of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), achieving Legacy Circle status some time ago. He earned the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential and maintained it for over 30 years. For a number of years, he served as NCFR photographer during conference events. The proceeds of a book he co-authored with Arminta Jacobson, *Wisdom for Parents: Key Ideas from Parent Educators*, have been donated to the CFLE Scholarship Fund. For his dedication to furthering the success of the CFLE program, Bob was awarded the CFLE Special Recognition Award in 2011.

During much of his career, Bob was also busy raising four children as a single parent. I first met him when we served on the executive board of the Illinois Council on Family Relations. I became better acquainted with him during years we were active together in FSA and NCFR. He was a great mentor to his NIU, FSA, and NCFR colleagues. He provided me guidance and support during the brief time I served as FSA’s journal editor. Bob recommended a NIU retreat center in Woodstock, IL, as the site for one of my favorite Teaching Family Science Conferences to have attended.

If you knew Robert E. Keim as a friend and fellow advocate for the well-being of families, you will no doubt miss him being among us, just as I will.

Family Science Review – A Special Letter from New Editor Karen Doneker, PhD

Hello, my name is Karen Lee Doneker and I am the new editor for the *Family Science Review*. I can honestly say that I never imagined what life would be like to transition to an Editor position during a pandemic. I still reflect on last Spring and the subsequent months of 2020 in utter disbelief. I commend so many fellow faculty members who have continued the good work of research and writing related to our field. The *Family Science Review* was stagnated by Covid-19 while the Editorial staff and many reviewers had new responsibilities and challenges across the country. At the same time, we have a wonderful team who continued to diligently work on our new website design and structure. I am thankful for the leadership of our President in holding the reigns and being a great motivator to overcome this past year of challenges. The transition to the Editor position had some delays, but I am excited to see the next issues coming together and I hope to have our processes up to date in the coming weeks.

2021 is going to offer our journal new opportunities to take the next steps toward the vision and mission of the Board and Family Science Association at large. I am proud to join this leadership team. The year will begin with publication of the two issues that were in process during the pandemic before I took office. As a reminder, *Family Science Review* is seeking manuscripts for a special issue: *Pedagogy in the Wake of a Pandemic* through January 29th, 2021. Please visit <https://www.familyscienceassociation.org/journal/> for details; manuscripts can be sent to Karen Doneker, Ph.D., at 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. Please provide your CV and a list of areas of expertise.

I hope that everyone in the Family Science Association is safe and well and managing during this difficult time in our country. If you have expertise and interest in becoming a reviewer, please consider responding to the call that will be coming out shortly. The *Family Science Review* provides a venue for research and discourse that expands our knowledge especially during a time when truth and knowledge are most needed.

Finally, if you have ideas for a special issue or are hoping to see one in a given area, please let me know. I would like to extend my gratitude to Silvia Bartolic, whose assistance during my transition to this role has been tremendous. I look forward to working with everyone!

-Karen L. Doneker, Family Science Review Editor

LOOKING FOR MORE?

If there is something you would like to see in the Family Science Association quarterly newsletter, let us know!

CONTACT US:

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