



Building Strong Families Conference at Elizabethtown College
 Families and Economic Uncertainty - October 19, 2010

Conference Registration Form

Name _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Affiliation _____

Address (work home) _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Make check payable to Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations and mail with this form to:	Kathy Hanna Elizabethtown College One Alpha Drive Elizabethtown, PA 17022
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A **Certificate of Attendance** will be provided for each conference participant. In addition, application has been made for 5.0 hours of **professional development credits/continuing education units** as listed below, and if approved, will be available to participants for a \$5 processing fee.

Mark those you wish to receive.

- National Council for Family Relations, CFLE
- Social Worker, NASW
- Act 48 For reporting purposes with the State, you must provide:
 - 1) your name as it is registered with the State _____ (please print)
 - 2) your seven-digit Professional Personnel ID# _____

Registration - Conference Participants & Exhibitors (Circle the fee that applies).

Early Registration (Post-marked by 9/15/10)	
Participants / Exhibitors (For Profit)	\$50.00
Exhibitors (Not for Profit)	\$30.00
Presenters / Conference Committee	\$40.00
Students	\$10.00
Processing Fee for CEU Certificates	\$5.00
TOTAL ENCLOSED	

Late/On-Site Registration (Post-marked after 9/15/10)	
Participants / Exhibitors (For Profit)	\$60.00
Exhibitors (Not for Profit)	\$30.00
Presenters / Conference Committee	\$60.00
Students	\$10.00
Processing Fee for CEU Certificates	\$5.00
TOTAL ENCLOSED	

I am an Elizabethtown College student with a meal plan. ID # _____

Workshop Preferences - Mark the one workshop you are likely to attend during each session at the conference (refer to the conference program for workshop descriptions).

Session 1: _____ A _____ B _____ C

Session 2: _____ D _____ E _____ F

Session 3: _____ G _____ H _____ I

Session 4: _____ J _____ K _____ L

Early registration forms or notices of cancellation must be postmarked by September 15, 2010. No refunds after this date.



2010 BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES CONFERENCE FAMILIES AND ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY

Registration 8:00 – 8:45 a.m.

Registration will take place in Leffler Chapel and Performing Arts Center Lobby
Students are asked to set-up research posters on Leffler Stage by 8:45 a.m.

Continental Breakfast – 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Registered conference attendees are invited to a continental breakfast in the M&M Mars Room.

Human Services Fair – 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Speak with local agencies, educational institutions, and others about family resources and research opportunities.

Keynote Address – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

The Eastern Sociological Society's Robin M. Williams Jr. Distinguished Lecturer – Naomi Gerstel: *Rethinking Families: Economic Conditions, Kinship and Marriage*

Naomi Gerstel is an award-winning and pioneering scholar and public sociologist whose research and writing have helped define the emerging subfields of work-family and the sociology of carework. Gerstel's research and teaching focus on family, carework, job hours/schedules, gender, race, and family and work policy. The author or editor of four books, Gerstel most recently co-edited *Public Sociology: Michael Burawoy and His Critics* (University of California, 2007) and has published numerous articles in leading journals and monographs. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Sloan Foundation, among others. Her many awards include a Visiting Fellowship at the Russell Sage Foundation, the Rosabeth Moss Kanter International Award for Research Excellence in Families, the Samuel F. Conti Fellowship for Excellence in Research, and the Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Research and Creative Activity at The University of Massachusetts at Amherst where she has been on the faculty since 1978. She is a member of the prestigious Sociological Research Association and has chaired the Family Section of the American Sociological Association and co-edited the ASA Rose Book Series and the Backstage Column for Contexts. Gerstel has also earned recognition as an outstanding teacher and mentor, having been awarded her university's Distinguished Teacher Award in 2005.

Session 1: Concurrent Workshops – 10:30 – 11:20 a.m.

A. Single Mother Headed Families and Structural Inequality (McCormick Gallery)

The workshop will outline many of the economic barriers that single mothers confront. By using a systems ecological perspective it will show that when looking at a social phenomenon from an economic standpoint emotional, psychological, physical, spiritual, and social policy need to be addressed. Heavy emphasis will be placed on the social and political economy and the structural foundations of poverty. Best practices in the area of aiding and alleviating economic hardships on single mother headed families will be discussed.

B. Low-Cost Leisure Activities that Facilitate Family Cohesion: A Protective Factor During Hard Economic Times (Young Center)

Family Strengths Perspective offers a positive lens from which to view families. It postulates that every family has their strengths and by emphasizing these strengths, families can be encouraged to function in a positive way. A possible family strength comes from the bond that is created during shared family activities. It has been said that families who enjoy spending time together and partake in leisure activities together, have a strong, cohesive bond. This could be a pertinent protective factor to those who are experiencing the stress of hard economic times. Because stress is inevitable during tight financial times, it is important for families to know how to deal with it and protect against it. One way to deal with stress is to buffer it with shared enjoyable time together as a family. Family Systems theory will also be used to explain the interactions of a family and the strengthening of these interactions through activities. Participating in low-cost leisure activities encourages families to grow in their relationships with one another and creates strong bonds that will sustain them through difficult times. Also, by educating participants on how to reduce spending during leisure (or how to help their clients reduce spending during leisure), we can help relieve some of the stress associated with the stretched budgets that families may have.

C. Changing Roles, Family Support, and College Success for Low Income Students (Performance Room)

The purpose of this activity is to gain insight into the importance of constantly revisiting our assumptions about college students. Low income college students and their families are a very diverse group that bring many strengths and face many challenges in negotiating the higher education system. Research, policy, and practice issues will be examined in order to better understanding how we can serve this growing population. Research conducted with current low income college students will be discussed.

Session 2: Concurrent Workshops – 11:30 - 12:20 p.m.

D. Capturing and Maintaining an Attitude of Hopefulness in Hard Times (McCormick Gallery)

This workshop will provide education and examples that celebrate the power of the human spirit in times of adversity. Attendees will leave with definitions, examples, and tools that will, *if they choose to use them*, assist in managing daily challenges and stresses. Those that come to this workshop can expect to learn, be inspired, laugh, participate, be entertained and walk away with new ideas and tools.

E. Familiness as a Competitive Advantage in Tough Times (Young Center)

This interactive discussion will present a mini-case of a family business struggling to compete against global competitors in a recessionary environment. The case highlights how one family turned inward – to the unique resources and capabilities embodied in its family – to design a strategy for survival, and ultimately for growth. Using the Resource Based View of the firm (RBV) as our theoretical foundation, we will present a framework for competitiveness based on the family ownership group. The nature of global competition and the current recession place a premium on firms that can operate with some form of competitive advantage. This presentation suggests that family-owned firms are in a unique position to thrive in economic uncertainty... if they learn to identify, develop, and exploit their Familiness resources.

F. Trends in Adoption During Difficult Economic Times (Performance Room)

Statistical information about pregnant women making an adoption plan for their child because of the economy, helpful resources for adoptive parents considering adoption and how to afford the cost of an adoption through grants and loans, and other economic trends we are seeing come through our agency.

Lunch – 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Registered conference attendees are invited to a Lunch Program in the KAV.

**Undergraduate and Graduate Student Research Poster Presentations –
1:45 – 2:15 p.m. (KAV stage)**

All are welcome to view undergraduate and graduate student research posters. Find out what the family scholars of tomorrow are doing today!

Session 3: Concurrent Workshops – 2:30 – 3:20 p.m.

G. An Historical Overview of Helping Families Within the Church-State (McCormick Gallery)

The formal provision of help and assistance to individuals and families in the United States can be traced back more than two hundred years. The participation of government in the delivery of social services is a relatively new phenomenon and has generated much debate as to the appropriate role of the public sector in this regard. Many private non-governmental organizations with legacies of providing direct services to persons in need have established formal relationships with governmental entities at the county, state and federal levels. These relationships, coupled with the governmental funding of many religiously-based non-profits, have created an increasing tension that has intensified as a result of the current economic climate.

H. The Financial Impact of Having a Child with an Intellectual Disability in Uncertain Economic Times (Performance Room)

This will be an interactive presentation, which will cover the impact of having a child with intellectual disabilities on the family's financial welfare that is not only related to the high cost of medical and therapeutic care, but also to work-related changes family caregivers need to undertake to adjust to caregiving roles (such as reducing working hours, changing jobs, losing job or quitting work). Then, the participants will learn about the various federal and state programs that provide some support for people with disabilities, and the impact the current budget cuts in Pennsylvania have on the families. Finally, the participants will discuss the need for new program development that takes into account the working needs of caregivers.

I. Balancing Family, Work and Unemployment: Supporting Adaptation and Change from a Military Perspective (M&M Mars Room)

The purpose of this workshop is to gain a greater understanding of the strain that results on military marriages and families as a result of economic uncertainties. These present economic conditions require families to adapt and even change their structure and how they function to cope with these stressful events. According to Martin and Sherman (2008), four tasks are needed to support military families as follows: Promote awareness of our

military & veteran population & their families to support clinical practice; Increase knowledge about these groups; Enhance practice skills needed to effectively serve them; Increase engagement in providing services to them. It is important to acknowledge that although military families experience unique stressors they also experience some of the normal stressors associated with economic uncertainty which many families are experiencing. Furthermore, a new more effective model of service delivery is needed. Research will be discussed and participants will develop models of service delivery to address the unique needs of military families facing economic uncertainty.

Mid- Afternoon Snack Break – 3:20 – 3:30 p.m.

Registered conference attendees are invited to enjoy a snack in Leffler Lobby between Conference Sessions 3 and 4.

Session 4: Concurrent Workshops – 3:30 – 4:20 p.m.

J. The “New” Family in Japan and India: Any lessons for the United States? (McCormick Gallery)

Any time an economy undergoes transition the first line of defense is usually the family. This is because any hardship that affects the foundation of a society is usually handled by its main shock absorber: the family. In my presentation, I intend to look at the Asian societies of Japan and India, both of which are undergoing tremendous changes in the current economic environment. Japan, a major developed country that underwent a similar bubble economic crisis to that recently experienced by the U.S., and high levels of unemployment like ours. The resultant “lost” decade led to tremendous adjustments both in the challenges faced by women and their relations with the members of the family. I intend to look closely at these adjustments and challenges in my presentation. A close reading of the women protagonists in Natsuo Kirino’s novel *Out* will help illustrate some of the points I intend to make. India, a rising economic power that is coming out of this global economic crisis relatively unscathed with almost 7% economic growth, has a different story to tell. Although India is a developing power, Indian families are also absorbing the expanding economic infrastructure in ways that are reminiscent of our yesteryears. We will look at the challenges that the Indian household is experiencing, both for the women and their children. I will look at a short story by P. Sathyavathi titled “Cow-dust Time”.

K. Family Information Seeking in Times of Transition: Different Friends, Different Information, Same Arguments (Performance Room)

In times of uncertainty, a family’s need to make difficult decisions is heightened. In such times, individuals turn to those that they know for information and advice. Members of a family very often have different friends and different networks of social support. As such, the information that one member of a family receives will be very different than another member. This results in greater conflict in the family instead of improved decision making, making times of uncertainty and transition that much more difficult.

L. Balancing, Juggling, Just Plain Struggling: Examining the Work-Family Relationship (M&M Mars Room)

Families are changing along with the challenging economic times. Three common scholarly perspectives of these changes include strengthening, deteriorating, and simply shifting (neither deteriorating nor strengthening). Despite the underlying perspective, scholars all acknowledge statistics indicating recent shifts in household composition and increasing variations in definitions of family forms. According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2008) the percentage of children living in one-parent families has increased while the proportion of families raising children headed by a married couple has dropped. Age at first marriage continues to rise for men and

women. The average number of persons in a family has decreased to just over three (U.S. Census Bureau 2008). While changes in marital trends and family composition are important, two of the most substantial transformations affecting American families today are the rise in dual-earner households and challenges facing working families. The labor force participation rate of women with children under 18 has risen to 71 percent. Combined weekly work hours among dual-career couples with children have recently increased approximately ten hours per week resulting in negative work-family spillover. While women are still experiencing the burden of the second (or more recently third) shift, the rise in female employment has led to an increase in the number of hours men spend on housework and childcare. Still, work-family conflict among men and women continues to steadily increase as care for elderly parents and overscheduled children add to the time deficit. The newly emerging multidisciplinary field of work-family scholarship will provide participants with some of the sources of work-family conflict, spillover, and blurring. Border theory will be used to examine how individuals balance work-family spheres. A unique experiential activity will discern each participant's ability to balance work-family demands and stimulate discussion of possible resources.

Adjournment - 4:30 p.m.

Conference participants are asked to return conference evaluation forms and pick-up professional certificates in Leffler Lobby before departing.