TRACES OF CDFS

A PARTIAL HISTORY OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT
and
FAMILY STUDIES

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

1946–1986

by

Richard K. Kerckhoff
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1986
SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE AUTHOR
FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

to

Roberta Thayer
Judy Myers-Walls
Dorothy Van Cleef
INTRODUCTION

To study history only because of Santayana's famous dictum is to miss the point. Ignorance of the past may or may not lead to recapitulation of the past; knowledge of the past—and this is the point—leads to self-understanding. The child's question, Where did I come from? is a step-question to, Who am I?

The history of the Purdue University Department of Child Development and Family Studies provides some of the answers to the question, Where did we come from? It is a partial history because it is based on a serious, but not exhaustive search for traces of the CDFS Department in documents and in the memories of human beings. The fondest wish of the author of this history is that readers will find shocking omissions and will demand a more complete and accurate revision.

With no apology implied, however, it should be noted that a "partial history" purposely omits some aspects: Anyone who observed the CDFS Department in recent years would know that various categories of people—certainly the teachers in the preschools, most assuredly the secretaries—who are not mentioned in this paper were important to that history. By design, this account limits its focus to faculty and administration. Anyone would also know that each unit of the Department—the Child Development Labs, the Marriage and Family Therapy Program, the undergraduate curriculum, etc.—could provide a history of its own; go to it.

The major sources tapped for this account of the CDFS Department included interviews and statements from current and former administrators and faculty: Norma Compton, Margaret Nesbitt Murphy, William Martin, Stuart Offenbach, Donald Felker, Ruth Bogdanoff, Elaine Dolch, Robert Lewis, Wallace Denton. Written documents were also very helpful: School and Departmental Annual Reports, The Purdue Exponent, The Purdue Home Economics News, the Golden Anniversary History of Home Economics in Indiana, histories of Purdue home economics written by Mary Ruth Snyder, releases by the Purdue University News Bureau, bulletins of the School of Home Economics, and a variety of letters and reports relating to the Department's history since 1966 (when the writer joined the faculty). It should probably be stated that unlike a professional historian, the writer of this history believed everybody. Whatever was written or said is presented herein as though it were fact.

Every historian, even an amateur, knows the difficulty of discovering genesis: When does anything or any person really begin? All events have antecedents, and once we discovered genes we became unclear about when a person begins. Still, it is of dramatic importance to name a time, a place, a point at which we began. In this history, we claim that the CDFS Department began in 1946. So, happy 40th birthday, CDFS!
ANCESTORS:  PRE-1926

1905:  Department of Household Economics Added to the School of Science

Although current CDFS faculty would find several recognizable roots in early 20th Century Purdue University—beginnings of behavior sciences and education, for example—geneologically speaking, the most obvious ancestor was the Department of Household Economics which became part of the School of Science in 1905. Of course, even prior to that date there had been occasional agriculture lectures on "Domestic Economy," but the appointment of Ivy Harner, M.S., as head of the new department marked University recognition of a force that was to continue to increase for decades to come. Miss Harner, as she was called, was described as "an advanced student and experienced teacher." The new department offered a four-year degree, Bachelor of Science. Most of the interest of the department seems to have been in cooking/nutrition and sewing, but there is an occasional reference in records to such foci as "women in the home and community."

The Department of Household Economics was later headed by Henrietta W. Calvin who was succeeded in 1912 by Mary L. Matthews. Mary L. Matthews is a history in herself because of the impact she had on home economics nationally and at Purdue before she retired in 1952. What is now known as Matthews Hall was dedicated as the new Home Economics Building in 1922.

New courses indicate the directions Matthews' Department was taking: Hygiene courses were added in 1912, and in 1917 Laura Partch, a graduate of the Indianapolis City Hospital School of Nursing, received a Purdue B.S. degree and joined the faculty of the Department of Household Economics, offering courses in home nursing and in child care. In the early to mid-1920s courses were added in "child management" and in "family living," and an instructorship was titled "Home Nursing and Child Care."

Mary L. Matthews 1952
Home Economics Building (now Mary L. Matthews Hall
Corner of State and University Streets -- 1926
A NURSERY SCHOOL IS BORN - 1926 - in the basement of Building II
...pipes across the ceiling, bare wooden floors and moveable "walls"...
it "gave practice for senior students taking the course in child care
and management." It's 1959 in the picture below.

A playground is added in the 1930s . . . . .
GESTATION: 1926 to 1946

1926: The School of Home Economics Established

The expansion of the Department of Household Economics under Mary L. Matthews' direction led, in 1926, to the establishment of the School of Home Economics at Purdue, with Matthews as Dean. The School had five departments: Foods and Nutrition, Clothing and Textiles, Applied Design, Institutional Management, and Home Administration. The Home Administration Department, headed by Dean Matthews, included such interests as home management, housing, extension, hygiene, and child development. The School's curriculum is described as designed to produce the "responsible citizen and intelligent homemaker and housekeeper" as well as train for an occupation "by which she may become self-supporting." Graduates of the School were supposed to be able "to feed and clothe the family and be able to use the best methods of caring for children." No specific mention of skills related to the marital relationship has been found.

Just before the establishment of the School of Home Economics, Mary L. Matthews had encouraged Laura Partch to form the Purdue University Nursery School, "in order to give practice for senior students taking the course in Child Care and Management." The nursery school, then, is older than both the Department of CDFS and the School of Home Economics. It was originally housed in Building Two, so named because it was the second building on campus. It was situated where the driveway to the Stone Hall parking lot now is. Sixteen children came into the 1926 nursery school; by 1929 a well-known early childhood educator, Katherine Read, was added to the staff.

In 1930 the American Home Economics Association reorganized so as to have nine official professional departments, two of which were "family relations" and "child development." During this decade, the Purdue Department of Home Administration continued to increase its emphasis on child care, partly by adding coursework in this area. The nursery school emphasis was also increased: A playground was first used in the early 1930s, and by 1939 there were two nursery schools equipped to care for 30 children. Graduate assistants in the Department of Foods and Nutrition served as nursery school dietitians; that Department, by the way, also offered a 1933 course in foods for men who were doing their own cooking. Marian Mattson, who had a Ph.D. from the Institute of Child Welfare, University of Minnesota, became Director of the Purdue Nursery School and taught child development courses.

In the decades of the 20s and 30s Lillian Gilbreth, nationally reknowned female engineer and author of Cheaper by the Dozen, taught her famous management classes in the Department of Home Administration. These were taught primarily during occasional visits to campus until she was given a
Margaret Nesbitt (later Murphy)
First head of the Department of Family Life -- 1946

1950
Isabelle Diehl
Elaine Dolch (Graduate Assistant)
Ida B. Kelley
staff appointment in 1935. The Department also offered a course for men and women entitled "Some Problems in Right Living." A series of Parents' Institutes were held elsewhere in the University during the 1920s and 1930s, attracting as many as 400 people to a session.

All history in the first half of the 1940s seems to be dominated by World War II. Before the men left in huge numbers, however, the School of Home Economics graduated its first male, in Hospital Dietetics. The University also established an unattached Department of Marriage, consisting of one course. "Senior Marital Lectures" had been offered to a very few students at Purdue University since about 1926, but in 1938 student demand for a functional marriage course (the students specifically rejected in their request the courses then being taught by Sociology and by Home Economics as not practical enough) led to a course being offered to about 200 students per year. This marriage education program was specifically focused on students who, according to elaborate screening processes, were thought to have sufficient maturity and leadership ability.

FROM BIRTH TO ADOPTION: 1946 to 1963

1946: The Department of Family Life Established in the School of Home Economics

The records show that Dean Matthews wanted to strengthen the School's focus on child development and family relations, and so, in 1946 she established the Department of Family Life. Ten years later the name of the Department would be changed to put emphasis on both child development and family life, but both foci were there from the beginning in 1946. Other departments of the School in 1946 were the same five as in 1926. The new Department of Family Life had nine staff members and offered 16 courses, some of which had previously been Department of Home Administration courses. The department's courses included several about nursery schools, including ones about play, music, and books; basic and advanced courses in child development; a course on family health and a family relationship course.

Margaret Nesbitt (later Murphy), who had B.A. and M.A. degrees focusing on psychology (The Ohio State University) and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan with emphases on educational psychology and child development, and who had been at Purdue since 1944, became first Head of the new Department of Family Life. By the end of the decade of the '40s, Murphy had expanded the scope of the Department and had set a theme of multidisciplinary and multidepartmental education that was to characterize the Department for many years.
Isabelle Diehl, who had been a war-time Army nurse and later received a Master's degree from Purdue, rejoined the Department of Family Life and established innovative programs for infants and toddlers, involving their mothers and Purdue students. Caroline McCullough was hired to be Head Teacher of the older nursery school children and arranged for family life students to get practice teaching in kindergartens of public schools. The Department established a cooperative nursery school for the children of professors and students, which later developed into the Nimitz Drive Nursery School, and a kindergarten was also established for the children of young faculty who lived in prefabricated housing. Two new afternoon cooperative play groups for students' children were also added to the Purdue Nursery School. Ida B. Kelley and, later, Charles Smock, both from the Psychology Department, and Harold Christensen from the Sociology Department were given joint appointments so as to work in the Department of Family Life. The basic course in family relationships was double listed by both that department and the Sociology Department, with instructors such as Marion Nagler from Family Life and Gerald Leslie from Sociology cooperating in the teaching of the course. Family Life students received their field experience through Hannah Meissner's Sociology course on community agencies.

Although some of the undergraduates in the Department of Family Life took a set of courses known as the child development-nursery school kindergarten sequence, and some of them later taught in nursery schools and kindergartens, it was not until about 1950 that attempts were made to get State approval of a nursery school-kindergarten license. A committee of Indiana college and university people, including Margaret Murphy, planned an appropriate curriculum and took first steps with the State Department of Education. Later steps that led to Rule 38, Special Service Nursery-Kindergarten Certificate, were carried out by Purdue. This certificate was approved by the State Teacher Training and Licensing Commission in the mid-'50s, after which qualified graduates could be certified.

In the nursery schools of the Family Life Department, when a deaf child, a child with Down's Syndrome, or a child who could not walk was enrolled, this sometimes led, among other things, to some undergraduates going on into graduate work to learn more about such children.

Senior faculty were added to the Family Life Department in the mid-50s, including Abraham Blum, Ph.D. from Cornell, and William E. Martin, Ph.D., who came to Purdue from the University of Illinois. Martin was brought onto the faculty especially to increase the Department's focus on research. He soon established a research project with the Experiment Station that included interviews with nursery school parents.

Although the leadership of the School of Home Economics had changed with the retirement of Mary L. Matthews in 1952,
Child Development and Family Life Building, corner of State and Gates Streets
1959
new Dean Beulah V. Gillaspie, a former food service editor of McCall's Magazine, continued the strong support of the expanding services of the Family Life Department.

In 1957, the School of Home Economics occupied the new Home Economics Administration Building, but the Department of Child Development and Family Life (renamed in 1956) remained in Building Two. Meanwhile plans were under way for a new building specifically for CDFL and Murphy asked each faculty member to prepare detailed plans for the part of the building related to his or her particular interest. Architect Lloyd Moser, of Walter Scholer and Associates, incorporated a large part of these plans into his design. And in 1959 the Department moved into its new home. It was rare for a department of this kind anywhere in the American college system to have a building of its own. Part of the rationale for it at Purdue was that the Department and its building were seen as something of a service to the University's student and faculty families, and especially to those people in the nearby married student buildings. The new CDFL building was seen as a kind of Family Center, with meeting rooms, a comfortable library with books and periodicals for students, faculty, and parents, as well as a collection of children's books, counseling, and children's educational activities. There was even a sewing machine and some woodworking equipment in Room 202 for use by married students. The new building also had research facilities, including two observational rooms with one-way vision mirrors and sound recording equipment in adjoining testing rooms, as well as screened observational rooms in the nursery school. Closed circuit television between the nursery school and the classroom was also designed into the building.

Early childhood education continued to be an important focus of the CDFL Department, but child development and family life were the major interests. Much of the education of the Department was seen as general education--very useful for a variety of occupations or for home life, but not focused on any specific jobs.

Graduate education, and research interests, continued to increase as the decade of the '50s ended. Thirty-six Masters degrees were awarded from 1942 to 1959, five Master's degrees were awarded in 1942-43, twenty-one were awarded in 1944-54, and ten in 1955-59. Each student did research for the Master's thesis. Bess Gene Gillespie Holt, William Martin's student, received the first Ph.D. degree in the Department in 1960.

In 1960 the curriculum of the School of Home Economics was organized as 40 hours in "home economics," which included three hours in child development and three in marriage and family relationships; plus 47 hours in "other areas." There were nine options (areas of concentration) in the School,
William Martin, Head of the Department of Child Development and Family Life -- 1960-1971

Stuart Offenbach
Acting Head
1971-1974
including one in nursery-kindergarten teaching and one in vocational home economics teaching, but there was no option in straight child development nor in family life.

In a 1960 request for 1961-62, Margaret Murphy asked to concentrate on her teaching and research interests and give up the Department headship and directorship of the nursery school. She began a study with Avanelle Kirksey, Foods and Nutrition Department, of the biochemical and behavioral aspects in the development of individual children. William Martin became Head of the CDFL Department and soon added Walter Emmerich in research and Eleanor Robinson as Director of the Nursery School. Martin announced an interest in leading the Department more in the direction of social and behavioral studies and away from child management and family care emphases, and he made a major effort to bring onto the faculty sociologists and psychologists who had interest in research in child and family development.

At this time, 1961-1962, the School of Home Economics had 17 men and 50 women on the faculty. Gender became one of the major issues in the appointment of a new dean for the School, with the retirement of Dean Gillaspie in 1962. University President Frederick L. Hovde finally decided that his plan to appoint Martin as dean would not be accepted by various members of the School faculty, the Office of the Dean of Women, and alumnae, and so he moved the Department of Child Development and Family Life from the School of Home Economics into the newly organized School of Humanities, Social Science and Education in 1963. Martin remained as head. Marbury Ogle was Dean of HSSE when CDFL joined their ranks. Gladys E. Vail, who had been acting dean of the School of Home Economics, 1962-1963, became dean on Feb. 1, 1963. It was, in almost all ways, the same department, but it had a new parent.

THE YEARS IN HSSE: 1963 to 1974

1963: The Department of Child Development and Family Life Joined the School of Humanities, Social Science and Education

The Department of CDFL added a Master's degree with a non-thesis option, and received blanket approval for providing the Ph.D. degree in 1963-1964. In 1968 a new family development doctoral program was added to the curriculum. At the under-graduate level, the Department's nursery-kindergarten teaching was still an option in the School of Home Economics, although the Department was now in HSSE. Late in the decade of the '60s, the Department began a new undergraduate major in Human Development.

Charles Riker, Ed.D. from Columbia University, had been brought to the faculty in 1959 to develop ties with the community by spearheading the "Family Center" role of the
THE NEW CDFL BUILDING HAD...
two large child development labs
(nursery schools) with an observation booth in each lab...
and a large playground....

In 1980 new playground equipment was designed by Dr. Gregory M. Pierceall, Landscape Engineer with the Department of Horticulture. One of his classes helped design, erect and plant the play area.
building and to increase the Department's efforts in marriage counseling; in 1964-1965, Wallace Denton, Ed.D. Columbia University, also joined the faculty to help increase the marriage counseling offerings. In 1963 Gerald Leslie had left the Sociology Department at Purdue and that Department was uninterested in keeping the marriage counseling courses and Center that Leslie had founded around 1959. Riker had worked with Leslie and now requested that the Center and courses be transferred to the CDPL Department, which was done by President Hovde. Riker was named Director of the Marriage Counseling Center. The east end of the CDPL Building was designated the Counseling Center. Weekly case conferences were attended in the mid-1960s by the CDPL counseling faculty, Riker and Denton; John Wilms, psychiatrist with the University Hospital, and Robert Toal, Psychology Department. In 1965, the CDPL graduate committee, composed almost entirely of child development professors, turned down a request to have a graduate program leading to a Ph.D. in marriage counseling because committee members claimed that this was a professional field and not an academic one, and, therefore, not appropriate for the Doctorate. The graduate committee indicated that they would consider the offering of a Master's degree in Marriage Counseling, but Riker decided against that compromise. In the next few years, the counseling education effort for graduate degrees in the CDPL Department almost disappeared. In 1969 Denton became director of the Center and began offering the course and practicum in counseling again. There were usually two or three students in the practicum, mostly from the family development field. Denton refers to the early 1970s as the dark ages for the marriage counseling program. He felt "surrounded by people who were saying that what he was interested in was not worth doing." There were exceptions, however, and evidently enough support to keep the counseling effort alive in CDPL.

Meanwhile, in the early 1970s, other aspects of the Department's program were flourishing. Students from CDPL programs had become the major source of family life educators in Indiana. The Department was soon ready to coordinate a newly-proposed set of certification standards for family life teachers. Interest in certification of high school family life education teachers had been in part stimulated by the 1970 ruling by State Superintendent of Instruction, Richard Wells, that sex education was largely inappropriate to the Indiana educational goals.

The Cooperative Extension Service Home Economics Specialists were originally housed in the School of Agriculture. For a couple of years during that time Elaine Dolch served as a human development specialist. In the mid-'60s Extension Home Economics was moved to Matthews Hall. The Departments, including CDPL, became more closely related to the Cooperative Extension Service in 1970 when Dama Wilms joined the CDPL faculty as Human Development Specialist, a fact that is especially interesting considering that the Department was not a part of the School of Home Economics at the time.
THE NEW CDPL BUILDING
HAD....

MODERN RESEARCH
EQUIPMENT
By early in the decade of the '70s, CDFL was seen as a department with a focus at all academic levels, on human development. Family studies were viewed as both a "special focus within the curriculum and as a general theme relating to other foci, such as the importance of the family to child development." The graduate programs of the Department, particularly at the Ph.D. level, were sometimes criticized as being primarily psychological in nature, and although the Department was officially dedicated to a broad disciplinary approach, that part of the curriculum was largely taught by psychologists.

The Child Development Laboratories continued to be an important teaching, research and service instrument in the decade of the '70s. Directed by Flo Kerckhoff, they included an infant laboratory, a toddler lab, four pre-school labs, and a new family laboratory.

A problem in the undergraduate curriculum continued to be the fact that the students in nursery-kindergarten were from home economics and education, rather than being CDFL majors. Some CDFL faculty complained that although they were responsible for counseling and advising the students, as well as for teaching them, they received no credit for that student load. Some faculty saw the new human development major as a solution to this dilemma, but it never became large enough to replace the traditional N-K program.

In 1971 William Martin resigned as head of CDFL and Stuart Offenbach, a developmental psychologist in the Department, became acting head. What followed, from 1972 to 1974, was a difficult period for the Department, ending with its transfer from the School of HSSE back to the School of Home Economics.

It started with an assumption by the CDFL faculty that the normal procedures would be instituted and a new head would be found. Soon, however, it became obvious that the Department was being examined by the administration of the University and of the School of HSSE, and probably by other administrative offices as well. A series of examinations took place with the purpose of helping administration decide what the future of the Department should be. In 1972, the CDFL faculty elected a committee of their members to study the situation and to make recommendations. Later, the Provost named a multi-departmental, multi-School committee to do a similar job. A long report, contributed to by CDFL faculty and students, made a case for maintaining the Department as it was. In response to this report, Provost H.F. Robinson wrote on March 31, 1972:

"As indicated in our discussion yesterday, it seems to me that the appropriate procedure to follow is for this department to remain an independent administrative unit in the School of Humanities,
Norma Compton, Dean of the School of Consumer and Family Sciences at the Purdue Child Care Center 1985

Donald Felker, Head, Child Development and Family Studies 1974-1981
Social Science, and Education. Dean Ogle has indicated that he will move forward with your suggestion for a search for a new department head."

However, after two unsuccessful searches for a head, there was still confusion about the future of the CDPL Department. In 1973, Robert Ringel had become dean of HSSE and Norma H. Compton had succeeded Eva L. Goble as dean of home economics. An "outside" committee of nationally-respected people from fields close to CDPL--Eleanor Luckey, Bernice Neugarten, Boyd McCandless, and Herbert Zimilies--were brought to Purdue to review the situation. Once again the finding was that the Department was basically healthy and the recommendation was that it continue along the same lines that it had been following. The review committee's advice was rejected, however, and on December 18, 1973, Provost Robinson wrote:

"You and the members of the faculty of your department are aware that we have had under consideration for some time the possible reorganization of the Department of Child Development and Family Life. After very careful and thorough study of this problem by Dean Ringel and other appropriate individuals, Dean Ringel did recommend on November 21, 1973, that the Department of CDPL be assigned as a unit to the School of Home Economics, with the exception of the group that is primarily engaged in the area of child and human development. This recommendation has been thoroughly studied by personnel in this office, who give it their strong support, and has the enthusiastic endorsement of Dean Compton."

And so the move back to the School of Home Economics became effective July 1, 1974; Professors Martin, Offenbach, Katherine Black, Victor Cicirelli, and two vacant positions were sent to the Department of Psychological Sciences and the assets of the CDPL Department--courses, budget, office machines, research facilities, etc.--were divided between the two departments, CDPL and Psychology.

In addition to the less than enthusiastic support of the CDPL Department by the School of HSSE, this transfer seems to be explained by the enthusiastic desire for the Department expressed by the new (April, 1973) Dean of Home Economics, Norma H. Compton. Dean Compton, of course, could easily prove that departments such as CDPL often belonged in home economics schools, and she had energetically pushed for inclusion of this kind of department in the School of which she was to be dean. Provost Robinson was quoted as saying that the transfer of the Department, "is a recognition of the new scholarly and curricular thrusts that we now anticipate under Dean Norma Compton in home economics at Purdue."
CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES FACULTY

Left-right, back-front:
Charlan Graff, Linda Stearns (Conner), Flo Kerckhoff, Ray Coward, Allen Cohen,
Wallace Denton, Barbara Stahura, Gail Melson
Sue Turbow, Cary Buzelli, Dick Kerckhoff, Dena Targ, Loretta Hatfield, Ruth
Bogdanoff, Elaine Dolch, Charles Fgiey, Don Felker
Barbara Fisher, Doug Sprenkle, Charles Riker, Gary Lange, Alan Fogel, Jackie Mize
Dean Compton immediately started a campaign for increased faculty and faculty salaries, space, and research excellence in the School.

THE REBUILDING YEARS: 1974 to 1981

1974: CDFL Returned to the School of Home Economics
Donald W. Felker Became Head of the Department

After spending several years in painful analysis of the role of the CDFL Department, the faculty were more than ready to use the 1974-1975 academic year to get on with the job. With the active leadership of new head, Donald W. Felker, the undergraduate curriculum was reorganized so that students could major in child development, family studies, or social welfare, in addition to the nursery-kindergarten teaching option. The graduate program, stripped of courses and professors by the move to Home Economics, received such support from the Graduate School, the School of Home Economics, and the department head, that it immediately added 21 courses and began a rebuilding of the faculty; the blanket approval of the Ph.D. had remained with the Department and the expansion of the marriage counseling program made it possible to add that focus to family studies and child development at the Ph.D. level.

The marriage counseling aspect of the Department soon moved from being a neglected area to being a thriving program. New professors were added in 1975 and 1976. The doctoral program proved to be of such quality and attractiveness that it soon gained national prominence.

New faculty added from 1974-77 included: Raymond Coward, Gail Nelson, Alan Fogel, Allen Cohen, and Garrett Lange in Child Development; Douglas Sprenkle and Barbara Fisher in the marriage and family counseling area; and Charles Figley in Family Studies. Dean Targ was hired as a second Cooperative Extension Specialist in the area of family studies.

Felker saw his mission as increasing the academic excellence of the Department, strengthening the research program, and "pulling the School more toward the academic side of the University." In retrospect, he finds that this mission was successful partly because it coincided with the goals Dean Norma Compton had for the School: "The strong support that Norma gave to the Department opened the way for us to be mutually supportive of her desire for the School to become more academically respectable, and also allowed our Department to develop into a major force within the School."

The middle of the decade of the '70s was, therefore, a time of high productivity for the Department: The first Purdue Child and Family Symposium and the first Preschool
Alan Fogel studies infant development.

Gary Lange is concerned with memory development in children.
The FAMILY STUDIES area develops and grows...
The MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY PROGRAM has grown from one course and one professor, to a fully accredited Ph.D. program with a staff of four faculty, twenty students and a building of its own——

1959-1966
Administrators Conferences were held. Raymond Coward directed a Cooperative Extension Service large scale survey of Indiana families. Richard Kerckhoff became president of the National Council on Family Relations. In 1977 the largest class of undergraduates received degrees for work in CDFL. Alan Fogel received a large three-year grant to study infant behavior. In the academic year 1976-1977 every faculty member of the Department made at least one presentation at a national professional meeting. Dena Targ joined the faculty in Extension, moving the Department closer to its goal of closely integrating Extension and the academic program. The undergraduate child health program was under-way by 1977, with cooperation at local hospitals and Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. The family studies and child development graduate programs were revised in 1977 and, with the new graduate program in marriage and family counseling, provided attractive curricula for graduate students. The faculty in early childhood education revised that program in preparation for end-of-decade operation under Bulletin TEACH. The Department had a "young" faculty, and a very active one. In 1977, for example, of the 25 members of the teaching and research staff, only six had been in the Department longer than three years.

The blossoming CDFL Department was operating within a rapidly expanding School, too. In 1975-1976, the School of Home Economics engaged in a self-study that led, on July 1, 1976, to the adoption of a new name, the School of Consumer and Family Sciences. At the same time, the CDFL Department changed its name to the Department of Child Development and Family Studies (CDFS).

With the new name, the School of Consumer and Family Sciences also took a new form: three departments were merged into one, leaving the School with four departments. The goal of the School, as expressed by Dean Compton, was to become "a professional school based upon a strong theoretical body of knowledge to which it contributes through the research conducted by its faculty and which it communicates through its resident instruction, extension, and continuing education programs." Between 1973 and 1978, the faculty of the School who held earned doctorates had risen from 47% to 59%. The percentage of men on the faculty had risen from 14% to 33%. Undergraduate students increased from 71 to 181. Graduate enrollment went from 116 in 1973 to 230 in 1978. The research budget of the School rose 96% in those years, the budget for instruction 99%, and the extension budget 58%. Sponsored research budgets were up 204% in that five-year period. Further, the faculty had adopted higher standards for attaining tenure and promotion. It had been a productive period for both the School and the Department.

As the decade of the '70s ended, the CDFS Department began the revisions of the undergraduate programs that led to the multi-option curriculum of the 1980s. The first step was the combining of the child development and family studies
Garrett Lange
Acting Department Head
1980

Robert A. Lewis
Department Head
1981-1986
options to provide a strong multidisciplinary program. Later, specific emphases in such areas as child health and youth services would be added.

Faculty added in the years 1978 to 1981 included: Gary Ladd in Child Development, Judith Myers-Walls as an Extension Specialist in Child Development, and Robert Sheehan who had responsibilities in both Child Development and Early Childhood Education.

The Family Research Institute was established in 1980, with Charles Figley as director. Also in 1980, a site visit by the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists led to the full accreditation for five years of the marriage and family therapy doctoral program. Ruth Bogdanoff presented her theory of children's play at an international meeting in 1980, and Gary Ladd attracted increased attention to his research on children's peer groups. And, for the Department as a whole, fourteen doctoral dissertations were completed in the academic year, 1980-81.

Looking back at his years as head of CDFS, 1974 to 1981, Felker notes that in addition to the items mentioned above, he takes pride in the many less publicized changes: the Child Development Laboratories' outdoor space was remodeled; the CDFS building was retrofitted for internal TV, and the Family Health Room was made into a computer and video analysis center, the Department never had a recommended faculty promotion turned down, and it became a spawning ground for a number of administrators: Dana Wilms was promoted to Assistant Dean/State Leader for Extension Home Economics at Purdue, Raymond Coward became a dean at the University of Vermont, and Garrett Lange, a department head at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, after becoming acting department head here when Felker, himself, left CDFS to become president of Geneva College. Felker also took pride in the fact that CDFS was the only department in the country with two winners of the Osborn Teaching Award (Denton and Kerckhoff) and two young faculty members who had won outstanding student awards (Figley and Sprenkle). Felker further pointed to the leadership of Flo Kerckhoff in establishing a greatly expanded program for the Child Development Laboratories and in her role as Assistant Department Head. "In retrospect," he said, "I think that the years that I was with the Department were exciting years because the faculty members were doing so many good things. We were expanding, we were gaining a national reputation, we were gaining recognition within the School and within the University, and many of our hopes were realized and very few of our fears actually came about."
CHIL D DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES DEPARTMENT
1983-1984

Left-right, back-front:
Linda Conner, Maryann O'Leary, Joanne Evers, Andy Stremmel, Lynne Brown,
Charles Pigley, Dick Kerckhoff, Sue Nelson, Gail Nelson
Ruth Bogdanoff, Wallace Denton, Fred Piercy, Loretta Hatfield, Robert Lewis,
Doug Sprenkle, Gary Ladd, Elaine Dolch
Dena Targ, John Constantine, Judy Myers-Walls, Robert Sheehan, Deborah Pavur
APPROACHING THE BIG 4-0: 1981 to 1986

1981: Robert A. Lewis Became Head of Child Development and Family Studies

Robert A. Lewis, who had been director of the Center for Family Studies at Arizona State University, became head of CDFS in January of 1981. Between then and the end of 1985, measures were taken to increase faculty research and research funding, to build bridges between the Department and the larger community, and to strengthen various aspects of the Department's academic program.

After Lewis announced an increased effort to attract extramural funding for research, the funded base of outside research grants grew from $60,863 in 1981 to $1,306,000 in 1985. Gail Melson was awarded a Lilly Endowment Faculty Open Fellowship in 1983 and Alan Fogel received a Fulbright Scholar grant under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Program in 1984. In 1985 Douglas Powell received a Bush Foundation grant of $299,499, while Lewis headed a research team (Doug Sprenkle, Fred Piercy, and Terry Trepper--Calumet Campus) that received the Department's and the School's first million dollar grant.

Research faculty who joined the Department, 1981-1985, included John Constantine who came from the Institute for Juvenile Research in Chicago to take an experimental "bridging position" between child development and marriage and family therapy; Lynne Brown, who had recently completed her doctoral work at Purdue in Psychology and became departmental methodologist as a member of the family studies faculty; Douglas Powell who came from Wayne State University to become an Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education; Fred Piercy, Associate Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy, who came from Eastern Texas University; Susan Kontos, an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education recruited from The Pennsylvania State University; and Karen Althergott, Assistant Professor of Gerontology and Family Studies, who was brought from the University of Missouri/Columbia in recognition of the Department's strong interest in family studies among older people. In addition, the Department's international reputation was heightened during those years by the presence of visiting professors from foreign countries who both taught courses and did collaborative research in CDFS: Orjan Hultaker from Sweden, Masatoshi Kawai and Osumi Suda from Japan, and Peter Somlai from Hungary.

The Department's goal of constructing bridges with the larger community in the 1980s was partly realized through the establishment of a day care center, The Purdue Child Care Program, housed in several leased rooms of the Burtsfield Elementary School Building of West Lafayette. Directed by Elaine Dolch, the day-long child-care program grew from 12 children when it opened in August of 1983 to 73 children,
CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES
(some of the faculty)
1986-1987

Left-right, back-front:
John Schulenberg, Gail Melson, Fred Piercy, Wallace Denton, Sue Leddy,
Gary Ladd, Joan Riessen
Dick Kerckhoff, Ralph Cherry, Alan Fogel, Susan Kontos, Karen Altergott,
Joan Jurich, Elaine Dolch, Doug Powell
Judy Myers-Walls, Thorana Nelson, Linda Conner, Dena Targ, Sue Nelson
Doug Sprengle, Jean Greives
with another 68 on the waiting list, in 1986. Also, a Community Advisory Council composed of community leaders was formed to give guidance and feedback to departmental programs. Another successful community program in 1984-1985 was called the "Bridges Program" since it brought elderly people from the community into the Department's nursery school on a weekly basis to interact with the children. Ties with community agencies were also greatly strengthened by the addition of a Coordinator of Field Work Experiences, Sue Nelson, as well as by the strong team of Extension Specialists, Judith Myers-Walls and Dena Targ.

Getting students out into the community—long a goal of the Department—was greatly emphasized in the 1980s. Not only did this increase the bridges between Department and community, but it was part of Lewis' philosophy of hands-on education. The number of courses that included practicum experiences was increased and by the 1982-1983 academic year all undergraduate majors were receiving twelve hours of practicals, and Linda Conner was hired as practicum Supervision Coordinator.

The graduate program in CDFS also grew in these years. By 1983 CDFS had the largest graduate program in the School. The number of graduate assistantships was increased during 1981-1985 from 39 to 48. Increases in enrollment and in faculty necessitated the movement of all of the marriage and family therapy program and much of the family studies program to new quarters in two buildings on Russell Street.

Also in the first half of the '80s, several leadership changes took place: Douglas Sprenkle succeeded Wallace Denton as director of the marriage and family therapy program; Douglas Powell became research director of the Child Development Labs, a job formerly held by Gail Nelson; and Loretta Hatfield became the director of the Child Development Labs, to be followed by Elaine Dolch as acting director.

The strengthening of the research, teaching, and community programs resulted in new levels of national and even international recognition of the Department in the early '80s. For example, as judged by one reputational evaluation, the CDFS program rose in terms of national excellence from seventh to fourth place among similar departments between 1980 and 1985.

By the end of this period, 1985, it was clear that the Department and the School of Consumer and Family Sciences had made measurable progress toward goals noted by Dean Compton in 1983: "Moving from a traditional primary focus of preparing graduates for homemaking or home economics high school teaching, the School of Consumer and Family Sciences now prepares graduates for professional careers serving families and consumers in business, government, education or in various institutions such as hospitals, restaurants, hotels, and family service agencies. The School has moved from an almost
ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY
CHILE DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES DEPARTMENT

DEANS: School of Home Economics

Mary L. Matthews - 1926-1952
Beulah V. Gillaspie - 1953-1962
Gladys E. Vail - 1963-1966
Eva L. Goble - 1967-1972

School of Consumer and Family Sciences


Deans: School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education

Marbury Ogle - 1963-1973

DEPARTMENT HEADS: Child Development and Family Life/
Child Development and Family Studies

Margaret Nesbitt Murphy - 1946-1961
William Martin - 1961-1971
Stuart Offenbach - 1971-1974 (Acting)
Donald W. Felker - 1974-1980
Garrett Lange - 1980 (Acting)
Robert A. Lewis - 1981-1986

Directors of the Purdue Nursery School/Child Development Laboratory

Laura Partch -1926
Marian Mattson -1946
Margaret Nesbitt Murphy -1946-1961
Eleanor Robinson -1961-1966
Florence Kerckhoff -1966-1977
Donald Felker -1977-1980
Robert Lewis -1980-1982
Loretta Hatfield -1982-1984
Elaine Dolch -1985 (Acting)

Director of the Purdue Child Care Center

Elaine Dolch -1984-

Directors of the Marriage Counseling/Marriage and Family Therapy Center

Gerald Leslie -1956-1963 (Sociology)
Charles Riker -1963-1969
Wallace Denton -1969-1984
Douglas Sprenkle -1984-
exclusive emphasis on undergraduate teaching and service to an increased effort toward contributing to new knowledge through research and graduate programs."

And so the Department comes to its 40th birthday in 1986. Three new faculty members are added this year: John Schulenberg in adolescent development; Joan Jurich in family studies; and Thorana Nelson in marriage and family therapy. We now await the appointment of a new dean, a new department head, and a new director of the Child Development Lab and Child Care Center. That anticipation and the recounting of the years that have been described briefly in these pages might remind us of the reaction of the psychiatrist, Dr. O. Spielvogel, at the end of hundreds of pages of fictional psychoanalysis in the novel, Portnoy's Complaint: "Now vee may perhaps to begin. Yes?"