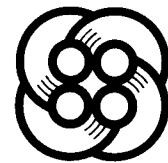
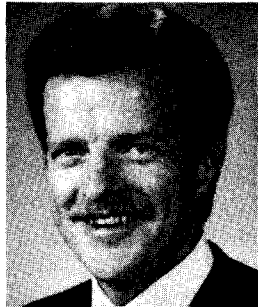


COMMUNI-qué



**Family &
Children's
Center**

SUMMER CONFERENCE FEATURES WELL KNOWN FAMILY THERAPIST



Dr. James Alexander, the developer of functional family therapy, will present his approach to area professionals in a workshop at the FCC this summer.

Functional family therapy is a short-term problem focused therapy that combines behavioral and systems ideas. This approach has been particularly effective with families that have a delinquent teenager. Dr. Alexander will give an overview of the approach on Wednesday evening, July 16 from 6 to 9 pm and then guide workshop participants through the phases of functional family therapy in a workshop on Thursday, July 17, from 9 am to 4:30 pm. Videotapes demonstrating the approach are used throughout the workshop.

Following the workshop, Dr. Alexander will meet with Marriage and Family Therapy Center therapists and supervisors for an additional day. During this time, Dr. Alexander will answer questions about the application of his treatment model to specific cases. The therapists and supervisors will begin applying functional family therapy to Center cases in June.

Dr. Alexander is a professor of clinical psychology at the University of Utah and has over 35 publications reflecting his clinical work and research with families with delinquent teenagers. He has also consulted with a variety of family agencies and court services that specialize in treating adolescents.

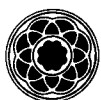
The workshop is co-sponsored by the Marriage and Family Therapy Program, the Family and Children's Center, and the Division of Social Sciences. More information and registration materials may be obtained by calling 535-8782.

SINGLE PARENT RESEARCH PROJECT LAUNCHED

Single parents and their children are a familiar sight in churches, the community, and at family gatherings in America today. Some single-parent families adjust to their circumstances and produce healthy offspring. Others struggle and experience ongoing problems resulting from their status as a single-parent family. The differences between functional and dysfunctional single-parent families are the focus of a research project of the Marriage and Family Therapy Center.



The research is being conducted by a team of faculty and students from the Marriage and Family Therapy graduate program. Dr. Cheryl Storm and Dr. Charles York will direct the three year project. (Continued on Page 4)



PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

SPOTLIGHT ON SOMEONE SPECIAL



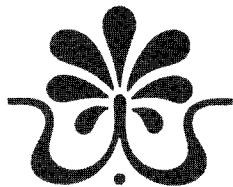
Tom Mitchell, President of the Student Associate Organization (SAO) of Marriage and Family Therapy Students at PLU, is a prime example of the diversity of the individuals in

the program. The father of two adopted boys, Tom became interested in the field of family counseling while participating in the adoption process himself. His career goals after his graduation in August include opening his own adoption agency and offering counseling regarding adoption issues and its effects on the family, especially as it concerns older children.

Tom is no stranger to graduate studies, as he already holds a Masters degree in English and has taught at several colleges and universities. Currently he is teaching at Fort Steilacoom Community College.

As president of SAO, Tom will focus on providing a broader perspective of the different aspects of marriage and family therapy by bringing in authorities in the field to speak to the students. While as therapists the students serve the community, as SAO members they serve each other, providing a network of support and communication.

Now working at Lutheran Social Services as head of their new Divorce Lifeline project, Tom brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new career.



FAMILY EDUCATION CLASSES BEGIN

The Family and Children's Center is linking up with the Division of Children and Family Services, which is part of the Department of Social and Health Services, to provide family education classes. The classes will be held at the Family and Children's Center on consecutive Tuesdays from 7 pm to 9 pm starting on May 20 and ending on June 10. The classes include: The Myth of Parenting/The Myth of Adolescence, taught by Laura Nelson (DCFS) and Peg Foley-Shaffer (FCC-MFTC); Teenage Hassles/Parental Headaches, taught by Tom Mitchell and Peg Foley-Shaffer (FCC-MFTC); The Causes and Some Remedies for Truancy, taught by Margaret Freedle and Laura Nelson (DCFS); and Family Communication, taught by Dick Johnson, Charles Avery and Jean Suprunowski (DSFS).

This pilot program will be limited to ten (10) families. There is no charge for the classes. If this series proves successful, more classes will be scheduled in the Fall of 1986.

NEWS ABOUT CENTER PROGRAMS

University Child Care will be receiving an Apple IIe computer this spring. The computer, along with software and staff training, is being contributed by United Way of Tacoma/Pierce County. Dee Dippolito, the director of UCC, reports that the United Way gift will help the center improve the management of the many services provided to its 54 clients.

UCC has also applied for United Way funds in order to subsidize their sliding fee scale, thus enabling low-income people to continue to receive quality day care for their children. "Our hope for stable funding for 1987 is that monies will be received from United Way," comments Ms. Dippolito.

PLU STUDENT JOINS GOOD SAM STAFF



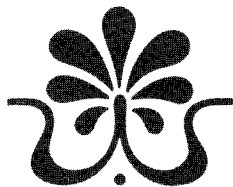
Donna Harpel epitomizes the concept of the Family and Children's Center because she combines her education with experience in the workplace. Donna, a sociology major graduating in

May, worked this past year as an intern at Good Samaritan School. Her experience helped her get a job as the new full time therapist "B" at Good Sam.

At Good Sam, she has learned that adolescents with emotional problems need both a therapeutic and educational environment, and that normal behavior and learning is impossible for some of these students unless these problems are acknowledged and dealt with together. She sees the need for more schools like Good Sam, where students receive one-on-one special help.

Donna comes to Good Sam with a strong background working with children. She worked as a counselor and child care specialist in a group home and also assisted Dr. Helmi Owens in the After School Enrichment Program.

Donna feels positive about her experience with FCC programs. She comments, "It is a bonus to the programs to get help from student interns, and a bonus to PLU students to gain the experience they need by working."



FCC BIDS FOND FAREWELL TO BOB MENZEL

When the NBC Documentary "Taking Children Seriously" was broadcast nationwide this Spring, it served as a fitting tribute to Bob Menzel, who recently retired as director of the Family and Children's Center. The narrator, Edwin Newman, described Bob Menzel as someone who encourages his colleagues to listen with open minds and hearts to troubled children and families.

Menzel's seventeen year career at Pacific Lutheran University has been characterized by active listening. When he became director of CHOICE in 1969, he was charged with integrating university and community resources to address the needs of the community. Ever since he has served as a catalyst, listening to community concerns and in turn helping his university colleagues come to an understanding of an appropriate role for the university in the community. This role incorporates the teaching, research and service functions that make the university's contribution more effective.

In 1983 Bob Menzel turned a completed feasibility study into a reality as the Family and Children's Center opened its doors to the community. Now the FCC has completed its second year with a full complement of six programs which serve the community while providing practical experience for PLU students.

There have been many dedicated students and faculty who have helped FCC become successful, but FCC would not be as it is today without the vision, perseverance, optimism and commitment of Bob Menzel. It has been a singular achievement. We will miss him.

RESEARCH PROJECT (continued)

In this project, fifty single-parent families who have not sought therapy and fifty single-parent families who have called the Center for help are being interviewed. Families in which the mother has been divorced for at least one year and has one child age twelve are included in the project. They are asked about their particular needs, use of community resources, involvement of the fathers, relationships among family members, and relationships with extended family members.

By comparing the functional and dysfunctional families, the MFT Center hopes to learn important information about what makes some single-parent families viable and fulfilling and what is lacking in those that are experiencing difficulties. Therapists can then use this information to guide their treatment of troubled single-parent families.

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COMMUNI-que is the newsletter of The Family and Children's Center, Pacific Lutheran University.

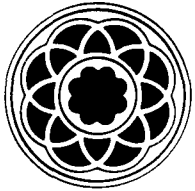
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