

EXPLORING EXTENDED FAMILIES

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Professor of Sociology **Dr. Marjorie Marcoux Faiia** attended an international conference at the Center for Research on Families and Relationships at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland in June 2007.



While at the conference, Dr. Marjorie Marcoux Faiia attended a Ceilidh—a traditional Scottish dance. She is pictured here with two of the dancers.

abusers or in jail.” In one case that Dr. Marcoux Faiia heard about, great grandparents were raising their great grandson. While grandparents are often on a fixed income and have expenses related to aging, most are not eligible for the limited government funding available. “Social policy hasn’t caught up yet—there is no money or societal support for grandparents raising their grandchildren.”

Dr. Marcoux Faiia stayed in Scotland for a month. In addition to the week-long conference, she also attended a seminar on women writers and other workshops. While at the conference, she attended a Ceilidh, where people of all ages performed traditional Scottish dances. She is pictured above with two of the dancers.

Dr. Marcoux Faiia returned home the day after the terrorist attack at Glasgow Airport so the traveling was stressful. “It was pouring rain, the army was there with machine guns, a car bomb had gone off the day before, and I was at the airport at 4:30 a.m.,” she said. In spite of her experience at the airport and daily rain which flooded much of the country, she loved Scotland. ■

The interdisciplinary conference brought sociologists, economists, social policy analysts, social workers, administrators and psychologists together to discuss the theme “Extended and Extending Families.” Dr. Marcoux Faiia presented on a panel, “Challenges for Policy: Partnering,” with Dr. Robert Leckey of McGill University in Canada and Marie Digoix of the National Institute for Demographic Studies in France. Dr. Marcoux Faiia’s paper was titled “Gay Marriage: Community Perceptions.”

Conference participants discussed in detail many of the challenges facing grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. “This is a serious situation in the United States and all over the world,” explains Dr. Marcoux Faiia. “Grandparents are having to raise children because parents are drug

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