

**Statement of FCA Board Member Jill Long Thompson
at the FCA Board Meeting
May 12, 2011**

Mr. Chairman, it is with pleasure that I raise an issue that some may think not particularly germane to the items before the Board today. But, I think I can make a convincing case. Over the past year, I have been struck by the number of quick trips Chairman Strom and his wife, Twyla, have taken to attend any of a number of events at which one of their three children—all accomplished in their respective fields—have been honored. Just last weekend they flew to Wyoming to attend their daughter Amber's graduation from Eastern Wyoming College, where she recently completed a degree in veterinary technology. Their son Derek holds the Ph.D. in physics and is currently at CERN in Switzerland working as a project leader on a superconductor supercollider project. And their son Tyler, who holds a master's degree in sustainable agriculture from Lund University in Lund, Sweden, is currently working at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

These accomplishments are very impressive. But, the Chairman is not to be outdone by his children and I think all of us are very proud that he is being recognized by Northern Illinois University tomorrow when they award him the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. Educational achievement comes in many forms and I believe the awarding of this degree to Chairman Strom reflects a lifelong commitment to learning, hard work, and leadership. It is an honor for him and his family, but it also reflects well on the Farm Credit Administration and I believe he honors us with this achievement. As I understand it, there will be a number of family members, including his mother, attending the ceremony in DeKalb, Illinois, tomorrow. I hope the Chairman realizes there will also be a number of us in the Farm Credit Administration family who will be there in spirit. Congratulations to Chairman Strom for this high honor.