

GROVES CONFERENCE

Fall 2009

Groves Conference on Marriage and Family is dedicated to work on the leading edges of theory development and empirical research in the field of family science.



Security for the World's Families a tall order

By Coco Readdick, President

“There was a child went forth every day;
And the first object he look'd upon,
that object he became;
And that object became part of him
for the day, or a certain part of the day,
or for many year, or stretching cycles of years.”

While many families and children are able to behold a world of beauty and plenty, for far too many the vista is one of poverty and ugliness. If Walt Whitman is right in his simple observations shared in his poem, “A Child Goes Forth”, then we are compelled to address not only the

morality of such a divide but also identify a path of right action. Beyond elegant theories and carefully crafted methodologies that allow us to answer yet another esoteric question, stretches the vast horizon of work that demands rolling up sleeves and helping create conditions in which families can assure opportunities for survival, education, and production.

In the past Groves has boldly addressed issues of inequality and social justice in many conference sessions and discussions. We published many a fine paper on families and stress and trauma. But

did we serve up our able scholarship beyond our circumscribed professional borders? Did we extend our wisdom and wealth beyond a single faint public service activity in the communities in which we were guests?

The next three years offer us a unique opportunity to define Groves and our role in it. We will expand our perspectives to explore risks and opportunities for family security in Seattle, New Orleans, and Tegucigalpa. Head on, we will tackle family relationships within and across species, climate change, and poverty. Can we count on you?

Groves in Seattle 2010 families: connections and communication within and across species

By Jo Lynn Cunningham

Make your plans now to attend the 2010 Groves Conference in Seattle for an outstanding combination of location and program. The conference venue (Red Lion Hotel on Fifth Avenue) is in the center of downtown Seattle, within sight of the waterfront. The time of the conference (June 16-20) is ideal, as this is the season for sunshine and clear days in Seattle. The conference theme, "Families: Connections and Communication Within and Across Species," provides the basis for a multifaceted, interdisciplinary exploration of fascinating topics relevant to family scholars.

Here is a small sampler of some conference-related opportunities:

- * Hear stimulating speakers and participate in discussions on a wide range of conference theme-related topics: Learn about parallels between trauma recovery in humans and other species from an ethologist, expand your understanding of how family therapists use animals in their work with individuals who are confronted with varied life challenges, examine implications of moving from the professional to the personal as philosophers describe their construction of a family lifestyle based on an ethical position of nonviolence toward animals, review research on the role of companion animals for children and adults with developmental scholars, see examples of cross-species communication and rela-



"All animals are sentient in different ways, with different types of experience. One type isn't better than another type. We all fit into the web of life in our own way. As a society, I think we are ready to accept animals as fellow sentient beings. Talking about animals as sentient is compatible with and can be perfectly good science."

Francoise Wemelsfelder, behavioral scientist, Scottish Agricultural College

tionships that are both instructive and inspiring . . .

- * Participate in conference field trips: Attend a Chimposium (guided observation of chimps who communicate with sign language), listen to a mother whale's attempt to secure compliance from her adolescent son (at the preconference in San Juan Islands) . . .

- * Be a part of the conference program: Display a poster, lead a roundtable, conduct a workshop, facilitate a book discussion . . .

- * Enjoy Seattle attractions (many within a few blocks of the conference hotel): Watch fish throwing at Pike Place Market, ride the monorail to the Space Needle, visit museums and parks, take the Seattle Underground Tour (an

introduction to Seattle's history, culture, heritage) . . .

- * Come early and/or stay late to explore the Pacific Northwest: Visit national forests, tour wineries and/or microbreweries, select from a variety of outdoor recreational activities (e.g., boating, fishing, hiking), go wildlife viewing . . .

Send program proposals to Jo Lynn Cunningham (Conference Chair) at jcunning@utk.edu. Check the Groves website for periodic updates.



Urban chicken farmer, Abu Talib, raises chickens in New York City.

Invitation to Nominate president-elect and member-at-large

By Leslie Koepke

An opportunity to help shape the future of Groves, a professional challenge, a rewarding personal endeavor--serving on the Board of Directors of Groves Conference

on Marriage and Family provides all of these and more. The term of President-Elect will be 2010-2011 with term of President being 2011-2014 and term of Past-President being 2014-2015. Member-at-Large three year term begins in 2010 and ends in 2013.

Please send nominations to Leslie Koepke koepkel@stout.edu



Groves Conference on Marriage and Family---Bringing scholars and others together for exploration and the free exchange of ideas, information, and experience.



Groves in San Francisco at NCFR: A Place for Gathering and Exchange

by Coco Readdick, President

On Wednesday morning Groves started off this California gathering with sponsorship of the **Breakfast Meeting of Presidents/Representatives of NCFR Student Affiliated Councils**. Norma Burgess, Membership Chair, and I met with graduate students and new professionals to promote Groves as a professional membership of “just right” choice for some. New Groves Member and NCFR SAC President Soo Young Kim gave her “testimony”, unsolicited, of becoming interested in Groves when she presented at our Tucson conference. The **Groves Suite** served as space for gathering and meeting out of the general fray.

At our **Board Meeting** on Thursday afternoon we tended to the business of our organization, focusing espe-

cially on discussion of the future of the Groves Treasury. We welcomed new Secretary Joyce Fields from Columbia College in South Carolina and Member-at-Large Maresa Murray from Indiana University in Indiana.

At our **NCFR Exhibit**--Thursday, Friday, and Saturday--we told the story of Groves to passers-by and promoted our 2010 Conference in Seattle.

And finally we tested our friend-making and bartending skills at the Friday evening **University Reception**. This was a wonderful, frenetic time and place to see our old Groves friends, to welcome new members, and to invite our NCFR friends to join us in Seattle for our provocative 2010 conference.

Finally, we join all in thanking and commending Maxine Hammond-Smith, Groves member, for her generous service as President of NCFR.

2010 Groves Conference in Seattle Call for Conference Proposals

The 2010 Groves Conference, “Families: Connections and Communication Within and Across Species” will be in Seattle, Washington, June 16-20, 2010. Proposals are invited for “fit” with the conference theme, your proposal may address issues such as:

- * Connections across species in the web of life
- * Environmental, economic, and ecosystemic implications of human-animal relationships
- * Ethical issues in relationships between humans and other animals
- * Psychological parallels between humans and other animals
- * Close relationships within and across species
- * Linkage between animal abuse and family violence
- * Animal-assisted play therapy and family therapy
- * Role of animals as companions and family members
- * Portrayal of human-animal relations in movies and literature

As is the tradition of Groves, we also invite proposals to present “leading edge research” in all areas of focus on marriage and family development and look forward to your contribution to the rich discussion and generation of new ideas that ensue. We especially welcome work that continues the thread of previous presentations you may have delivered at Groves conferences.

**Send program proposals to:
Jo Lynn Cunningham (Conference Chair) at jcunning@utk.edu.
Check the Groves website for periodic updates.**

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Boy, Dog, and Book | Judy Fischer
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| Chicken Farmer | |
| Meerkat Family
Human Family | Sophie Lanfear
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I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being.

Abraham Lincoln

