



Groves Conference on Marriage and Family

Spring 2010 Newsletter

Assembled by Coco Readdick, President.

A Quintessentially Important Quiz

- *What was the first city in the U.S. to play a Beatles song on the radio?
- *Where is the longest continuously operating farmer's market in the U.S.?
- *Where is the busiest ferry terminal in the United States?
- *What city is home to Microsoft, Starbucks, Amazon, and Nordstrom?
- *What city is the site of the 2010 Groves Conference?

The answer to all of these questions is Seattle, Washington. Seattle is not only a popular tourist destination and home to half a million but also the site of the Groves annual conference focused on **“Families: Connections and Communication Within and Across Species,”** June 16-20.



An incredible conference program includes field trips; invited speakers from the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities; workshops; remembrances of beloved Groves members; book talks; photo exhibits; posters; and lots of time for thinking and talking. To be perfect, we just need you!

Preconference (Wednesday, June 16)

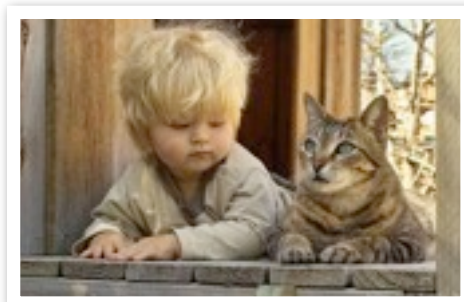
The preconference will be held on June 16 in the San Juan Islands. We will go by bus to Anacortes and take the ferry to Friday Harbor, where we will visit the Whale Museum and hear presentations by staff from the Whale Museum and the Center for Whale Research. On the ferry, we will be entertained and enlightened by Peter Fromm, editor of *Whale Tales: Human Interactions with Whales*; among other things, Peter also is an environmental educator, professional photographer, and charter boat captain.

Preconference registration is limited to 30 participants, so make your reservations soon!

A Sampler of Invited Speakers (June 17, 19, and 20)

Among invited speakers for the Seattle portion of the conference are the following:

* **Marc Bekoff**—Internationally known for his work on the social behavior of animals, the human-animal bond, and ethics, Marc Bekoff is professor emeritus in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado and a



scholar in residence at the University of Denver School of Social Work as well as a member of the Institute for Human-Animal Connection. A colleague and frequent collaborator with Jane Goodall, Marc is the author of over two dozen books; among the most recent are *The Emotional Lives of Animals: A Leading Scientist Explores Animal Joy, Sorrow, and Empathy—and Why They Matter* (with Jane Goodall) and *The Animal Manifesto: Six Reasons for Expanding Our Compassion Footprint*.

* **Debra Durham**—A primatologist, ethologist, and animal behaviorist, Deb specializes in how animals respond to change, stress, and trauma. She was cofounder of the International Association for Animal Trauma and Recovery and is a senior research scientist with the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.

* **Gail Melson**—The 2010 Sussman Award recipient, Gail is a long-time faculty member (now professor emerita) in the Department of Child Development and Family Studies at Purdue University. A member of the National Association for Humane and Environmental Education Advisory Group, she is a member of the editorial board for *Anthrozoös* and author of *Why the Wild Things Are: Animals in the Lives of Children*.

* **Brenda Peterson**—A nature writer and novelist, Brenda has written widely about animals in both her fiction and nonfiction works. Her memoir, *Build Me an Ark: A Life with Animals*, was selected as “Best Spiritual Book of 2001,” and her most recent novel,

Animal Heart, has an entire chapter set in Ellensburg at CHCI.

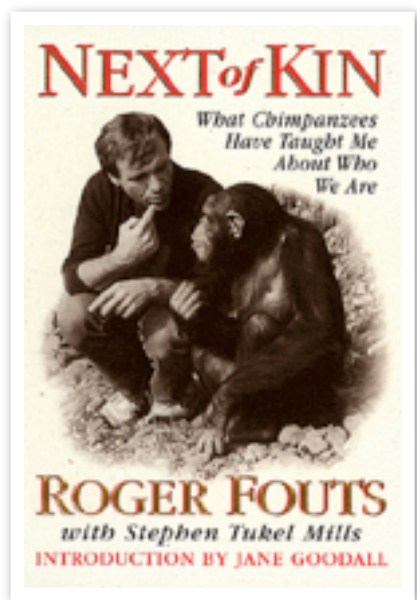
* **Audrey Schwartz Rivers**—The executive director of PetShare, a nonprofit program providing humane education and animal-assisted programs for high-risk populations in Houston, Audrey has done long-term work with young Katrina evacuees. She also has conducted research on canine-human communication.

* **Mary Ann Simonds**—A scientist and philosopher, Mary Ann has integrated disciplines in her work in such areas as wildlife and range ecology, equine behavior, and human-animal therapy. A cofounder of the International Alliance for Animal Therapy and Healing, she conducts clinics and workshops around the world.

* **Risë VanFleet**—Founder and president of the Family Enhancement and Play Therapy Center (in southern Pennsylvania), Risë combines play therapy, filial therapy, and animal-assisted therapy in her clinical work. Much of her time now is devoted to conducting training throughout the U.S. and internationally, and she recently won a national award for one of her books, *Play Therapy with Kids & Canines: Benefits for Children's Developmental and Psychosocial Health*.

Field Trip to Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute (Friday, June 18)

On June 18, conference participants will be transported to Central Washington University in Ellensburg, where our program will be at the Chimpanzee and Human



Communication Institute (CHCI). We will attend a Chimposium (guided observation of chimpanzees who communicate with American Sign Language) and a special “advanced chimposium” discussion with CHCI staff. The afternoon will feature presentations by Roger, Deborah, and Hillary Fouts. Roger, founder and codirector of CHCI and a psychology professor at CWU, is best known for teaching Washoe to

communicate using ASL, which led to revision of theories about language development in humans. Debbi (Roger's personal and professional partner) is CHCI codirector and an adjunct member of the CWU psychology faculty. Hillary (Roger and Debbi's daughter and Groves member) grew up with chimp as well as human sibs and is a faculty member in the Department of Child and Family Studies at The University of Tennessee. Roger's book, *Next of Kin: What Chimpanzees Have Taught Me About Who We Are*, is recommended reading before the conference.

Hotel Reservations and Conference Registration

Room reservations at the conference hotel, the Red Lion Hotel on Fifth Avenue, need to be made by May 26 to ensure getting the special conference rate. Register for the Groves conference and preconference by May 15 to take advantage of the "early bird" rates. Payment can be made online or by check. Download, complete, and send registration form to Jo Lynn Cunningham at jcunning@utk.edu, along with a photo of one or more animals significant in your life, preferably with you in the photo, too.

For More Information

For more information, check for updates on the conference website:

<http://www.grovesconference.org/Seattle%202010/Seattle10.htm>

If you have questions, contact Jo Lynn Cunningham, at jcunning@utk.edu.

Contributed by Jo Lynn Cunningham, Groves 2010 Conference Chair

Goodbyes

Margaret Feldman, a leading contributor to the advancement of family science, passed away peacefully in her home in Ithaca, New York. She was 93. The Groves Conference on Marriage and Family and the National Council on Family Relations were the major beneficiaries of Margaret's commitment to social change by improving the lives of the deprived and exploited. The Groves Conference recognized her leadership, decency, and creative thinking by awarding Margaret with Lifetime and Academy membership. Margaret co-chaired the 1992 Groves Conference titled "Families: The Cross-cutting Issue in Domestic Policy" and the 2005 Conference "Native Americans Dealing with Change: Identity, Economics, Environment". Her legacy formally lives on in the Feldman Fund, honoring Margaret and her late husband, former Groves President Harold. The Fund provides an award to an author making significant contributions relative to ethnicity and/or gender studies and whose publication is supportive of the annual Groves Conference theme. For those she inspired through her wisdom, determination, stamina, and mentoring, Margaret's presence will be passed on to future generations of family scientists.

Contributed by Roger Rubin, Groves Past President and Lifetime Member

Harriette Pipes McAdoo--mentor, educator, pioneer, leader, Groves family member--was much beloved by the many whose lives she touched so deeply. She was born March 15, 1940. A renowned scholar, she was a Distinguished Professor at Michigan State University. She was a Professor and Acting Dean at Howard University, School of Social Work, in Washington, D.C. for 21 years before going to MSU. Dr. McAdoo sat on many national committees and acted as National Advisor to President Carter for the White House Conference on Families.

Author of benchmark scholarly works, published nationally and internationally, Harriette conducted groundbreaking research projects that pioneered the positive study of Black Families in America. She treasured her work with her late husband, John Lewis McAdoo. Her love of travel and multicultural study led her around the world. She conducted research in Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Kenya.

Dr. McAdoo was a lifetime member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc. She loved music, sang in the MSU Choral Union for 18 years, the Earl Nelson Singers for two years, and All Souls Church Choir.

Harriette's legacy lives on in her children, her friends and colleagues, and her many students. We cherish her memory.

Contributed by Maresa Murray, Groves Member-at-Large, and Julia McAdoo, Daughter

Gail Melson, Recipient of the 2010 Sussman Award

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Gail F. Melson, Professor Emerita of Developmental Studies at Purdue University, will receive the Sussman Award at the 2010 Groves Conference in Seattle for her extensive body of work on the human-animal bond and children's relationships with animals. This award, honoring the late renowned teacher and researcher, Marvin Sussman, was established to recognize the best scholarship from recent years that supports the theme of the Groves Conference annual meeting.

Gail Melson is often considered the "founding mother" of this area of study within the field of family studies and human development. Her body of work has both breadth and depth, including empirical, theoretical, methodological, and conceptual review pieces. Her recent publications include "Robotic Pets in Human Lives: Implications for the Human-Animal Bond and for Human Relationships with Personified Technologies," published in the *Journal of Social Issues* (2009); the chapter "Animals in the Lives of Children" in the *Handbook on Animal-Assisted Therapy* (2nd edition) (Academic Press/Elsevier, 2006); and the highly acclaimed book, *Why the Wild Things Are: Animals in the Lives of Children* (Harvard University Press, 2001/2005).

Contributed By Libby Balter Blume, Groves Awards Chair

Book Review

In a single sentence, Matthew Scully commands our attention: “When a quarter million birds are stuffed into a single shed, unable even to flap their wings, when more than a million pigs inhabit a single farm, never once stepping into the light of day, when every year tens of millions of creatures go to their death without knowing the least measure of human kindness, it is time to question old assumptions, to ask what we are doing and what spirit moves us on” (p. x). In as compelling a book as you will ever read, *Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy*, Scully traces the origins of our dichotomous thinking (humans and animals) and our assumptions of a hierarchical relationship between the two (in which humans reign supreme) and calls us to embrace natural law, whereby all living beings are afforded respect, kind treatment, even mercy. He declares, “(n)atural law... compels us by reason... to respect and live within an order of which we are a part but not the center...” (p. 301).

Ruffling our feathers, perhaps, making us think uncomfortable thoughts, Scully takes us on a whale hunt, at which a properly aimed grenade-tipped harpoon can kill a whale instantly but improperly directed leads to hours of writhing until death; scuttles us into a factory farm barn filled with squealing piglets, weaned a week or so after birth, who, with their mothers tethered, the rear gates of the stall opening, are swept away, “(u)p one chute, down another, pouring into the Nursery Barn for an orientation of vaccination, ear notching, teeth cutting, tail docking, and for the males, castration” (p. 276); and compels us to observe the reunion, after 13 years of separation of a now laboratory research chimpanzee, Booe, who promptly signed his own and his teacher’s names with his long ago human sign language teacher, Roger Fouts, along with their saddest of goodbyes.

Says Scully, “It is as simple as saying that nature has made birds to fly--therefore we should not raise them in cages for release at the pleasure of ‘gentleman hunters’ positioned for the shot. Nature has made elephants and giraffe and rhinoceros to inhabit the plains--therefore we should not shoot them, stuff them, and stick them in our ballrooms for display. Nature has made whales and dolphins to swim the seas away from man--therefore we should not track them down by helicopters and attack or electrocute them from factory ships until they are almost gone from the waters. Nature has made pigs and cows and lambs and fowl to nurse from their mothers and walk and graze and mix with their kind--therefore we have no business confining and torturing and treating them like machines of our own invention” (p. 303).

What would an “order of which we are a part but not the center” look like? We would bestow kindness upon animals and derive firm laws to prevent their cruel treatment. We would cease hunting. We would abandon standard practices of animal husbandry, including factory farming. We would halt laboratory experimentation with animals. We would simply be good shepherds, sharing this one earth with the animals.

Contributed by Coco Readdick, Groves President

SEE YOU IN SEATTLE!