



A Message From. . .

Jean Pearson Scott, Groves President



Dear Groves Members,

I am honored to begin a term as President of Groves Conference on Marriage and Family. The path laid by our Past President, Anisa Zvonkovic, and the Board of Directors positions us well to consider new, visionary opportunities that bring our care, thought, wisdom and scholarship to bear on important issues affecting families and relationships. As is the custom of Groves, a Presidential Retreat will be held for Groves Board members at the conclusion of the NCFR conference in Vancouver, BC where we will consider future directions, conference themes, and organizational structuring that will ensure our viability and commitment to the Groves mission. In preparation for the retreat, I welcome your thoughts about the future of Groves-Where do you see Groves in the next 5-10-20 years? How will we as an organization make changes to meet the realities and challenges of the 21st

century? Also, I encourage you to let me know if you desire a more active role as a member of Groves-we need your ideas and contributions!

With Much Appreciation to Anisa!

Anisa Zvonkovic's term as Groves President concluded at the Buffalo conference; however, we will continue to have benefit of Anisa's leadership on the Board as the immediate Past-President. We are indebted to Anisa for her positive, relational, and visionary leadership!

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What I Learned at Groves Conference 2015...

Jean Pearson Scott

Having never visited Buffalo, NY, I was fascinated to learn about the city's history, outstanding architecture, love of Buffalo wings, and the role that Buffalo played in the development of mental health treatment. My knowledge of the history of mental illness increased sizably with Groves' visit to the Museum of disAbility History in Buffalo. One of the most moving exhibits was entitled, "Lives They Left Behind: Suitcases From a State Hospital Attic." As the exhibit describes, "These suitcases tell the stories of the lives that were left behind when patients entered the center [Willard Psychiatric Center], many of whom never left."

At another conference sponsored trip, I learned that in 1880, The Buffalo Asylum for the Insane opened its doors. Through its history, the building has been variously titled the Buffalo State Hospital, the Buffalo Psychiatric Center, and today the H. H. Richardson Olmsted Complex. Program Chair, Brian Masciadrelli arranged for conference participants to tour this large, imposing building which today is undergoing extensive renovation and transformation into a hotel, conference center, and center for architecture. As our bus drove toward the front doors, I was in awe that this huge structure, standing like an old mansion out of a horror movie, was still largely intact even though much rebuilding was in process.



Museum of disAbility
Buffalo, NY

As we donned hard hats and entered the building, I learned the asylum was built according to Dr. Thomas Kirkbride's vision for more humane treatment of mentally ill persons, referred to as the Kirkbride plan. Features of his treatment plan were pleasant surroundings, plenty of fresh air, ventilation, and sunshine for residents. The unique design of the building incorporated these aspects along with living arrangements that separated male and female residents and divided patients according to the severity of their conditions. The landscape architect team of Frederic Olmsted and Calvert Vaux designed beautiful grounds and a working farm that gave residents opportunity for work. I could see examples of interdisciplinary and holistic thinking being put into practice. In time the limited resources of state hospitals led to severe overcrowding at the facility. With the eventual development of more evidence-based practices and more modern facilities, the hospital closed its doors in 1974. Despite many years of decay, today there is excitement about the renovations underway and the plans to transform a piece of iconic architecture from the past into a tourist and business center.

As I walked through the long halls of Buffalo's 19th century asylum, I pondered the many persons, names unknown, whose stories died with them – what kinds of families were represented; did the Kirkbride plan, though abandoned, spark a new vision of the mental health field; how do family professionals take their successes and failures and turn them into wisdom for guiding the future? I learned that new knowledge and best practices are a messy mix of vision, mistakes, successes, and a deep hope that positive social and political forces converge. I was reminded that we as family professionals have an important voice and a vital role in improving conditions for individuals and families.

Groves Conference Business Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2015

Meeting was called to order by Anisa Zvonkovic at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes from the June 29, 2014 meeting were approved. Moved by Liz Dolan, seconded by Maresa Murray. Motion carries.

Liz Dolan delivered the financial report, including updates on the conference and on recent efforts to gather dues from non-paying members. We have culled the membership roles. Two main sources of income: dues and the conference. It looks like we will be breaking even for the year.

A brief discussion ensued about membership and recruiting.

Anisa Zvonkovic delivered the President's Report. Jean Scott will be taking over as President. Anisa reported that we are now legal in CT (an update from last year). We are still looking to move to MN.

Committee Reports:

- Kevin Lyness and Judith Fischer delivered a brief report on the 2016 conference, which will be held in Denver, CO. We are reviewing dates.
- Maresa Murray delivered the Membership report. We have about 60 paid members now, and have been growing. We continued our discussion about membership, including the member benefit of the monograph series.
- Anisa Zvonkovic delivered the Awards report for Tara Saathoff-Wells.
- Brian Masciadrelli delivered the Monograph Series report. The Boston conference is coming up this year, then the Fracking conference report will follow in 2016, then the Buffalo conference will follow.

New Business:

Jean Scott put out a call for the chair(s) for the 2017 conference. Jean also noted that we need a new nominations chair, and that she will also be appointing a parliamentarian.

Dolan/Lyness moved to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

A Message from...
Maresa Murray, Membership Chair

Groves has a number of exciting opportunities regarding membership. As some are aware, we decided to extend membership opportunities beyond the invitation only. While we still celebrate our time honored tradition of inviting individuals to be our Groves colleagues, membership is now also open to those who want to align and become actively involved with Groves' mission. The general 2015 dues price for Groves membership is \$95/year with a reduced price for retirees and students of \$50.

We are asking Groves members to "extend their tent" so to speak for the next 2016 Groves Conference in Denver, CO, with the theme of *Gender, Sexual Identity, and Families: The Personal IS Political*. Please consider inviting at least two people to attend the conference and personally extend the invitation for membership, even though we include self-nomination as an option. Thanks again, and please feel free to reach me with any questions at marjmurr@indiana.edu. Take care!



**Groves Members Are Our Most
Valuable Asset!!!**

Please go to the Groves website at www.grovesconference.org for nomination information and for membership dues payments.

Thank you!

Join us for the Groves 2016 Conference!

***Gender, Sexual Identity and Families:
The Personal IS Political***

**Denver, Colorado
Renaissance Hotel
August 4-7, 2016**



**Program Co-Chairs:
Kevin Lyness and Judy Fischer**

**Local Arrangements:
Bobbi Miller**

Conference Theme and Description:

Gender is a fundamental organizing principle of families and is a complex mix of biology, identify and behavioral expression. Similarly, sexual identity includes a wide range of identification of sexual attraction and expression, and is also fundamental to understanding families. The 2016 conference program builds on the Groves Conference's past and recognizes that social change has been swift in some areas, such as marriage equality with the 2015 Supreme Court ruling. However, *full* equality for all individuals and families throughout the U.S. is not present and counter movements to social change are many, such as turning back the clock on fertility decisions, voting rights, even the definition of citizenship. As professionals who do research, who participate in policy, and, who conduct prevention and intervention, our work is refreshed by new perspectives, new information and new commitments.

Call for Proposals

We invite proposals from Groves members and non-members. We also encourage graduate student participation. welcome proposals for a variety of types of presentations, including:

- Paper presentation/Discussion
- Roundtable Discussion
- Poster Presentation
- Panel Presentation

Go to www.grovesconference.org for Call for Proposal information

Groves New Monograph!

And Justice for All: Families & the Criminal Justice System: Groves Monographs on Marriage and Family (Volume 4)

by Joyce A. Arditti (Author), Tessa le Roux (Editor), Libby Balter Blume (Series Editor)

Groves Monographs on Marriage and Family, an edited book series based on the annual meetings of the Groves Conference on Marriage and Family, publishes work on the leading edges of theory development and empirical research in the field of family studies. The 2013 Groves Conference examined the interface between families and the criminal justice system and other relevant issues pertaining to the police, courts, and corrections. And Justice for All: Families and the Criminal Justice System reflects the Groves focus on social justice inquiry in the context of unprecedented growth in prison populations in recent decades.

Order your copy at amazon.com for \$20!



GROVES CONFERENCE
on Marriage and Family

The primary mission of Groves is to foster critical thinking about issues in the area of family science and to promote social action and social justice. A variety of session formats are used (e.g., workshops, roundtable discussions, immersion experiences, field trips, plenaries, seminars, posters, etc.) designed to generate reconceptualization of family-related issues. They are ultimately intended to hone a social tapestry that will improve the quality of life within and among families of the world.

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