



## A Message From. . .

### Jean Pearson Scott, Groves President



#### **The 2016 Groves Conference: Soaring to Great Heights in Denver!**

In the true spirit of Groves, I am still savoring the energy, excitement, and reflections generated through dialogue and interactions across the sessions of the August 4-7th conference. The 2016 Groves Conference inspired new insights, understandings, and professional focus on how individuals and families navigate changing laws, policy, and empirical understandings of sexual identity and gender. Kevin Lyness and Judith Fischer, Co-Chairs of the conference, brought together an outstanding program of presenters, panelists, artistic, and dramatic performance to bring alive the myriad ways that gender and sexual identity are both very personal and political. A huge thanks for their outstanding work!

With the help of local arrangements chair, Bobbi Miller and her students, we enjoyed an afternoon at the Denver Museum of Art where participants were treated to a guided tour of an exhibit on "Women of Abstract Expressionism." Not only did we enjoy a selection of the works of 12 artists, we gained an appreciation of the professional and social worlds these women negotiated in being

recognized as artists in their own right.

I want to give one final word of thanks to conference sponsors and in-kind contributors. The sponsorship of Harrington Park Press; Texas Tech University, College of Human Sciences; Antioch University New England, Marriage and Family Therapy; and Dudley Chancey for AV support are most appreciated!

**Introducing the 2017 Groves Conference:** Post-Racial No More: Race, Realities, and Resources of Ethnic Minority Families and Social Movements

And now it's on to Charleston, SC.....see the Call for Proposals in this newsletter and save the dates of June 4-7th for the 2017 Groves Conference! I am pleased to announce that Helyne Frederick, Associate Professor at Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC, is the conference chair. She welcomes your proposal submissions!

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## **Report from 2016 Conference C-Chairs**

Kevin Lyness and Judith Fischer, Conference Co-Chairs

We had a very successful conference in Denver this past August. The theme of the conference was “Gender, Sexual Identity, and Families: The Personal Is Political”. We had 28 different presentations in a range of styles, including an interpretive dance presented by Elizabeth Sharp and Genevieve DeCesaro from Texas Tech at our opening reception, as well as “lightning paper” presentations, roundtables, posters, and panel discussions. Topics covered the full developmental range, with presentations on everything from sexuality and sexual identity in adolescence to parenting issues and school involvement for gender minority parents to sexuality in older adults. We also explored topics related to alternative relationship paradigms, issues of discrimination for transgendered individuals, and much more.

Over 50 people attended, including at least 10 students. The Goebel-Macklin award was split between two excellent student presenters: Kyle Bower from the University of Georgia and Jeni Wahlig from Antioch University New England. We also had a wonderful presentation from the Feldman Award winner, Deborah Widiss from Indiana University on legal recognition for same sex relationships. The conference was very well received, and we added several new Groves members!

Now we are working on preparing a monograph of peer-reviewed papers where the papers are based on the theme of the year’s conference. We have invited submissions from presenters at the conference and will be working on the monograph this winter.



Groves meetings inspire a lively and in-depth exchange of a diversity of opinions, ideas, and information related to issues of marriage and family.

Pictured here from left to right:

Jean Pearson Scott, Groves President

Connie Steele, Groves Lifetime Member

Judy Fischer, 2016 Co-conference Coordinator and Groves Lifetime Member

# Groves Conference Business Meeting Minutes

## August 5, 2016

Jean Scott, President, called the meeting to order at 9:10.

**Approval of 2015 minutes.** The minutes of the business meeting of 2015, in Buffalo, NY, were approved as presented.

### **Awards Committee Report**

Barbara Settles, Chair, Awards Committee, reported on the selection of the 2016 Goebel-Macklin student awards and the Feldman award winner. She expressed high satisfaction with this year's awardees.

### **Treasurer and Membership Report**

Elizabeth provided the treasurer's report. Overall, it seems that we are not losing money on the conference. We need to get more donations for the three awards accounts. We have a little over \$600 of the \$1000 we need to match the generous donation offer by Karen Goebel. However, we also have someone who will donate the rest so that we will be able to match the \$1,000. Elizabeth moved to accept the budget as it was presented. Financial report was approved as was.

We have 51 dues-paying members. We will send out friendly reminders about membership dues in November and January. We will also send out separate requests for donations for the three awards in November as well. Three separate Sussmann, Goebel-Macklin and Feldman award donation buttons will be placed on the website.

### **2016 Conference Report**

Kevin and Judy reported that it seems that we meet our target budget. Overall, there was a good response to the theme of the conference; there were high quality and quantity submissions for papers because of the theme. There was also good follow through by participants and presenters; at least 60% of participants were also presenting.

We have a tentative conference theme for 2017: "Families as they intersect with race/ethnicity" likely to be held in the southeast of the U.S. sometime in 2017; perhaps May/June. Please suggest people who can help the conference committee.

Regarding the 2018 topic, members please feel free to suggest ideas/names.

### **Nominations Committee**

We currently have an open position for another member at large. We also need a parliamentarian.

### **Monograph Series Committee**

The status of the Fracking monograph is currently somewhat unclear. Families with Mental Health and Disabilities will be next monograph, with Brian and Anisa editing it. The deadline is October 30 for the first draft. The target deadline is Summer or Fall 2017. The Denver monograph could possibly be two volumes.

### **New Business**

We have the NCFR Reception and board meeting scheduled. We already paid for the NCFR university reception. We will be selling monographs at the conference.

All reinstatement papers have been filed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:35

**Join us for the Groves 2017 Conference!**

***Post-Racial No More:  
Race, Realities, and Resources of Ethnic Minority  
Families and Social Movements***  
**Charleston, South Carolina**  
**June 4-7 2017**



**Program Chair:**  
**Helyne Federick**

**Location:**  
**Francis Marion Hotel, Downtown Charleston,**

**Conference Theme and Description:**

The United States is more racially and ethnically diverse than ever before and the PEW Institute projects the U.S. to be even more diverse in the coming decades. Despite this trend, racial/ethnic relations are tenuous. Though progress has been made since the civil rights era, current tensions with race, identity, and privilege continue to challenge policy makers, interventionists, family scientists, and scholars as they work to build strong families and communities. Not only are we challenged to serve families with varying values and culture, we are challenged to have an appropriate response to the issues facing ethnic minority families. The 2017 conference program builds on the Groves Conference's past and recognizes that the realities of families of color have always been diverse by culture, socioeconomic status, and family values.

**Hotel Venue:**

Our conference home is the Francis Marion hotel located downtown Charleston, South Carolina. A member of Historic Hotels of America, the hotel was originally built in 1924 and reopened in 1996 after an award-winning restoration. The Hotel's Historic King Street location offers an easy walk to boutique shopping, superior restaurants, exciting nightlife, and carriage tours. Conveniently located at Marion Square near the Charleston Visitor's Center, guests can enjoy a walking tour or a short trolley ride to the Charleston Museum, and the Old City Market, the SC Aquarium and many of the attractions of the Historic District. The 18th and 19th century architecture of the Southern mansions and churches sits on every corner, making Charleston "the top city in the U.S." by Conde Nast Traveler in 2011 and 2012 and a "top ten city" for eleven consecutive years.

The Francis Marion Hotel is an easy 15-minute drive from the Charleston International Airport. The airport is served by seven airlines with direct flights from 14 major cities including Atlanta, Washington DC, Chicago, New York, Charlotte and Dallas. Shuttle service can be arranged in advance for \$26 per person. Current cab fare is approximately \$18.00. For guests driving to the hotel, the City of Charleston parking garage

**Registration and Hotel Information:**

**Hotel: June 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> rate: \$159-\$199/night.**

**The Francis Marion Hotel 387 King Street, Charleston, SC 29403 (843)722-0600**

To register, see the Groves homepage for online registration ([www.grovesconference.org](http://www.grovesconference.org)), or use the mail-in document By April 10th, 2017.

Go to [www.grovesconference.org](http://www.grovesconference.org) for Call for Proposal information



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## **Debra Berke** **Wilmington University**

Debra L. Berke is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a Master of Science degree in Human Development and Family Studies. She also holds a Ph.D. in Family Studies from the University of Delaware. Dr. Berke is the Director of Psychology Programs at Wilmington University where she oversees two undergraduate majors (Psychology and Organizational Dynamics), one master's degree (Applied Family Science), 2 undergraduate certificates (Trauma-Informed Approaches and Conflict Resolution), one post-bachelor's certificate (Case Management) and 2 post-master's certificates (Mental Health Counseling and Child and Family Counseling). Prior to joining the Wilmington University faculty in 2009, she taught family studies and women's studies at Messiah College for 15 years. She also directed the Gender Studies Project at Messiah College. Dr. Berke has been a consultant for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the State of Delaware. She has served in several offices in the National Council on Family Relations including Chair of the Family Policy Section, Chair of the Education and Enrichment Section (currently) and on the Board of Directors. She has also served as the President of the Family Science Association. Dr. Berke is a Certified Family Life Educator. She currently teaches a wide range of courses including:

- \* Human Sexuality
- \* Lifespan Development
- \* Adult Development and Aging
- \* Families and Crisis
- \* Research Methods in Psychology

Deb is a certified Zumba instructor. She's also certified in Zumba Gold. She lives in Newark, Delaware with her husband and two spoiled, rotten cats.

## Groves Members are Our Most Valuable Asset!



Please go to the Groves website at [www.grovesconference.org](http://www.grovesconference.org) for nomination information and for membership dues payments.

**Thank you!**

## Welcome New Members!

***We would like to take a moment to welcome our newest Groves members:***

Kari Adamsons  
Helyne Frederick  
Jeni Wahlig



**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.*

Groves Conference on Marriage and Family  
Box 1011  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
[www.grovesconference.org](http://www.grovesconference.org)

