



GROVES CONFERENCE

on Marriage and Family

From the Desk of the President

Sharon M. Ballard, PhD, CFLE



Greetings and Happy Spring!

May is a time for new growth and expectation as we anticipate the summer ahead. And this summer, I am looking to the 2024 annual Groves conference with great anticipation! The conference will be in Harlem, New York City June 12-14th and there is still time to register <http://www.grovesconference.org/2024-conference.html>. The theme is “Civil Rights and Intersecting Identities: Social Movements for Equality & Justice” and program co-chairs Eboni Baugh and Carol Johnston have put together an amazing agenda that promises a transformational experience.

May is also a time for reflection, particularly for those of us who follow an academic calendar and shift into a slower pace following the end of the spring semester. This May I am reflecting on Groves and the positive difference that the organization has made for me, both personally and professionally. I have gained so much by being

actively involved in the organization beyond attending the annual conference. I have served on the board as member at large, secretary, and president. I have also served as program co-chair (Portland, ME - 2018) and co-editor of the monograph volume based on that conference. These experiences have allowed me a greater understanding and appreciation for the history of Groves and opportunities to learn, grow and explore new ideas through the annual conference, book groups, and other activities. But most importantly, my involvement in Groves has provided me with meaningful connection with others. I invite you to expand and enrich your Groves experience by becoming more involved in the organization. We need you! Currently, there is an immediate opportunity to join the board as president-elect (see Chloe Merrill’s message on page 2) or to be program chair for an upcoming conference (see the call on page 4). Please let me know if you are interested in either of these opportunities. In addition to attending the upcoming conference, there is another opportunity to connect with other Groves members by attending annual business meeting which will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, June 18th at 1:00 p.m. ET. Again, we need all of our members to actively engage in the organization!

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sharon Ballard

2024 Spring Newsletter

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Calling all Groves members!

Have you valued your Groves membership and wondered about getting more involved? Have you considered service on the Groves Board or a conference planning or other committee? Contact Groves President Sharon Ballard (ballards@ecu.edu) to learn more and share ideas.

Seeking 2024 Conference Sponsors!

We welcome individual and organizational sponsorships or any amount to help offset the costs associated with the 2024 conference in Harlem, NYC. Sponsorships of \$100 or more can have ad space in the conference program and may include materials in our conference packet. We also welcome donations specifically to support scholarships to help students attend the conference. [[Conference Sponsorship Information](#)] If you are interested in either of these opportunities, contact Linda Vukelich at lmvukelich@gmail.com.

Message to Groves Members from Chloe Merrill



Dear Groves Members,

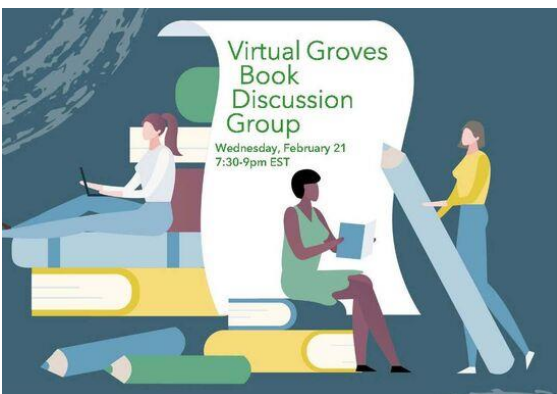
It is with a heavy heart, that at this time I need to step away as president-elect of Groves Conference on Marriage and Family. I have made this difficult decision due to health reasons that require my immediate and full attention. I want to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunities and experiences that I have gained with my involvement with Groves. I have grown both professionally and personally and made lifelong friends in Groves. It has been a pleasure working with such dedicated members and contributing to the goals of the organization. I hope to maintain a productive and positive relationship when my health issues are resolved. I would like to thank you all deeply for your guidance and support. I hope to see you at an annual conference in the future.

All the best,

Chloe D. Merrill, Ph.D., CPC, CFCS, CFLE

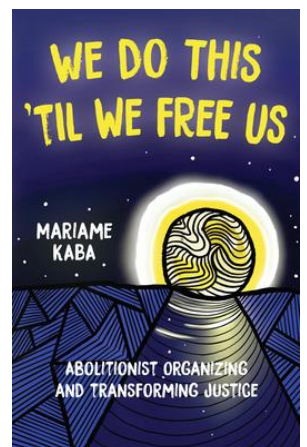
3rd Annual Groves Book Discussion Group – Wednesday, February 21, 7:30-9:00pm Recap

We had a small but mighty group meet via Zoom on February 21 for our 3rd annual book discussion group.



The book selected relevant to this year's conference theme "Civil Rights and Intersecting Identities: Social Movements for Equality & Justice" was *We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice* by Mariame Kaba. The book contains a collection of essays and interviews in which Mariame Kaba reflected on the deep work of abolition and transformative political struggle. Dr. Karmen Smith engaged the group in a

thought-provoking discussion of the book including topics such as the prison-industrial complex, what defunding the police could look like, and envisioning a world in which we all are truly free.





June 12-14, 2024
Harlem, New York
City, NY

Civil Rights and
Intersecting
Identities:
Social Movements for
Equality & Justice

Groves Conference 2024 Chairs – Eboni Baugh, East Carolina Univ. – Carol Johnston, Kansas State Univ.

Groves Conference 2024 Registration - [Registration Open!](#)

Full Conference Registration includes heavy hors-d'oeuvres at opening reception, 2 lunches, 1 dinner and 1 excursion.

- Groves members: \$699
- Students: \$599
- Nonmembers: \$799
- One-day registration: \$450

Cancellation policy: No refunds can be made after April 30, 2024, and paid fees will be considered a donation to Groves.

Conference Theme and Description:

Society has a tumultuous history with regard to human rights and civil rights. Despite progress, the contemporary revisiting of previously held rights is placing intense pressure on families, individuals, and communities. As family scientists, it is imperative that we respond by learning, engaging, and acting with intentionality. The appropriate response is not to rescue, but to amplify voices and experiences, moving beyond mere allyship. The 2024 conference program will serve to center the primary mission of Groves Conference on Marriage and Family within the current landscape of social justice movements.

Featured Keynotes:



Striving for Thriving: One Administrator's Reflections on Using Institutional Power and Privilege to Create Change

Dr. Ramona Faith Oswald
 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Interrogating Power Dynamics in Research: Why Black Voices Matter

Dr. Jason Williams
 Montclair State University



Goebel-Macklin Award

The Goebel-Macklin Award supports a promising graduate student presenting at the annual conference. One graduate student is chosen based on their presentation at the conference. The award is made toward the end of the conference.

Why Harlem, NYC?

- Rich history of cultural impact, civic participation, and movements for social justice
- Home to many cultural institutions. Access to urban and suburban communities, and a local universities
- Proximity to LaGuardia airport (hub for all major airlines - American, Delta, Jet Blue, Southwest, and United)
- Excursions during the conference (Pride Tour, dinner at Sylvia's, an iconic soul food restaurant.)

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Groves Block Hotel Reservations

Renaissance New York Harlem Hotel

233 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027

Phone: 332-266-8722

Book before Wed, May 8, 2024 to get this conference rate. [Book your group rate for Groves Conference](#)

Conference rate available June 12-15, 2024

- \$329 per night (limited King rooms available for \$309)

Membership Committee Report

Groves Membership Committee Chair, Karmen Smith, PhD

Spread the word! *Do you have colleagues who would benefit from Groves membership and participation? Please pass this information along to them.*

“The small nature of Groves has allowed me to feel a connection to a professional organization unlike I’ve previously experienced. The Annual Conference Meetings are intimate, provocative, and enlightening. Groves is intentional about selecting relevant topics for our times and, therefore, for family scientists.”

Who We Are: The Groves Conference was begun in 1934 by the late Professor Ernest Groves, who was among the first academicians to give a course in marriage and the family in an established university, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Our members are an interdisciplinary and interprofessional organization of faculty, researchers, students, and family professionals.

What We Do: Host annual conferences, offer access to quarterly newsletters, provide annual members-only scholastic and achievement awards, publish special edition monographs, and facilitate other events that support our members’ professional and academic development

Who We’re Seeking: Scholars, Professionals, and Students in Family Science, Family Life Education, Human Development, Marriage and Family Therapy, Sociology, Psychology, Social Work, Theology, Child Development, Health, Addictions, and Other Mental Health Professionals.

Do you know someone who would be interested in joining? Open up the Groves community to them – share this link [www.grovesconference.org/membership] to become a member of Groves and learn more about the Groves Way!

Groves Annual Conference Ideas needed!



Do you enjoy attending the annual Groves conference?

What are some themes and locations that you would like to see for future conferences?

Are you interested in being part of the planning process?

We need your input!

Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey and give us your ideas.

https://ecu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b8yrQl42hTslU4m

Call for Manuscripts!

Groves Monograph: Families as Sources of Strength, Healing and Hope



Co-Editors: Raeann R. Hamon, Ph.D., Messiah University

rhamon@messiah.edu

Chloe D. Merrill, Ph.D., Transformational Symmetry Consulting

transformationalsymmetry@comcast.net

This monograph will elaborate on the theme of the 2022 Groves Conference on Marriage and Family held in Paradise Island, Bahamas. We encourage those who presented at the conference to submit their work but invite additional scholars to submit their manuscripts on the theme, as well.



Families serve as an essential source of strength, healing and hope during times of challenge and hardship. For this monograph, we'd like to focus on scholarship and professional practice which capture the role that families play in helping its own members and the larger society manage the vicissitudes of life. What family strengths are essential? How can relationships experience healing and reconciliation? What role does hope play in times of trouble?

Please submit your full manuscript by **September 30, 2024**. We plan to review manuscripts as they come in, providing feedback to authors. We anticipate a

publication date winter of 2025. If you have an idea that you would like to discuss for the monograph, please contact Raeann or Chloe. Manuscripts can be emailed to rhamon@messiah.edu.



Look for us on Facebook!

Check out the Groves Facebook page and connect with Groves and fellow members whenever you want!

2023-2024 Board of Directors

President (2021-2024) Sharon Ballard (East Carolina University)

President Elect (2023-2024) Open

Treasurer Yuliana Rodriguez (University of North Carolina Chapel Hill)

Secretary (2024-2027) Karen Doneker (Towson University)

At Large Members Raeann Hamon (2024-25) • Colleen Murray (2023-26) • Helyne Frederick (2024-27)

Membership Chair (2021-2024) Karmen Smith, PhD (3H Counseling, LLC)

Parliamentarian Kevin Lyness (Antioch University)

Groves Monograph Series Editor Kevin Lyness (Antioch University)

Awards Chair Barbara Settles (University of Delaware)

Nominations Chair Anisa Zvonkovic (University of Georgia)

2023 Program Chairs: Heather Sedges (Univ of Tennessee), Kari Adamsons (Univ of Connecticut)

2024 Program Chairs: Eboni Baugh (East Carolina University) Carol Johnston (Kansas State University)

2025 Program Chair: Open

Student/New Professional (2022-2025) Carrie Bergeson (East Carolina University)

Corporate Representative Kari Adamsons (University of Connecticut)

Groves Manager Linda Vukelich grovesmanager@yahoo.com - L.Vukelich@comcast.net