



GROVES CONFERENCE

on Marriage and Family

From the Desk of the President

Sharon M. Ballard, PhD, CFLE



Happy Fall!

It has been a busy time in Groves since our last newsletter! First, we had a fabulous conference in Harlem NYC in June! Thank you to Eboni Baugh and Carol Johnston for an inspiring and thought-provoking conference! See page 2 for more highlights and photos from the conference.

The 2025 conference planning committee comprised of Dudley Chancey, Elizabeth Wroten, and Janis Henderson has been busy putting together a fantastic program for our next conference. The conference will be in Washington DC June 16-18 with a theme of “Families in a Time of Social and Political Upheaval: Lessons from the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” This timely topic will build on the 2024 conference in which we examined civil rights and

social movements and allow us to continue the conversation. I do hope that you will make plans to join us.

I also wanted to make you aware of some shifts in the board of directors. As you know Chloe Merrill had to step down as the president-elect last spring. I am happy to report that Kari Adamsons agreed to fill this position and was officially elected by the membership over the summer. I agreed to serve one more year as the president with Kari as the president-elect. Kari will assume the president role following our annual business meeting in June. Thank you Kari!!

The second change to the board membership is that of treasurer. Yuliana Rodriguez recently stepped down as treasurer. I appreciate the dedication and commitment that she gave to this important position over the last XX years. Rather than an elected position, treasurer is appointed through approval of the board. Carol Johnston was invited to assume this position and both she and the board approved! Welcome aboard Carol! See more on page XX about this transition.

If you are interested in joining us on the board, we will be having an election in January for 2 board positions: board member at large and student/new professional representative. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Anisa Zvonkovic (Anisaz@uga.edu) who is chair of the nominating committee.

From the President – Continued on page 3

2024 Fall Newsletter

Contents

- Pg 1 *From the Desk of the President
Sharon Ballard*
- Pg 2 *Student New Professional Focus*
- Pg 2 *2024 Conference Recap*
- Pg 3 *Carol Johnston is Treasurer*
- Pg 3 *2024 Feldman Award Winner*
- Pg 4 *Membership Committee Report*
- Pg 5 *2025 Conference Info & Call for Proposals*
- Pg 5 *Call for Manuscripts – Families as Sources of Strength, Healing & Hope*
- Pg 6 *Board of Directors*

Student New Professional Focus!

Carrie Bergeson

Are you a student or new professional AND a member of Groves? Then you can be part of the Student/New Professional Groves Group! We meet monthly to encourage collaboration and professional development while accomplishing tasks determined by the group.

This fall, we are holding a writing group—details on this will be discussed.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to Carrie Bergeson (Student New Professional Board member) via email – bergesonc22@ecu.edu.

2024 Groves Conference was a transformative experience



June 12-14, 2024

Harlem, New York City, NY

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

The 2024 conference, held in Harlem NYC, was a transformative experience for the almost 50 people who attended! Conference co-chairs Eboni Baugh and Carol Johnston went the extra mile to put together an incredible program of presentations and excursions that aligned with the theme of *Civil Rights and Intersecting Identities: Social Movement for Equality & Justice*. Plenary sessions included Jason Williams from Montclair State University who delivered a powerful plenary entitled *Interrogating Power Dynamics in Research: Why Black Voices Matter* and Feldman award winner Ramona Faith Oswald who delivered an inspirational plenary entitled *Striving for Thriving: One Administrator's Reflection on Using Institutional Power and Privilege to Create Change*. Other highlights included dinner at the famous Sylvia's Queen of Soul Food Restaurant, a Pride Walking Tour, and a call to action closing panel: *Where do we go from here? Activism in Action*. The Renaissance Hotel located right next to the historic Apollo Theater in Harlem provided the perfect backdrop to listen, discuss, and engage with intentionality with the goal of moving beyond allyship into action.





Carol Johnston is Groves Treasurer

Dr. Johnston’s research centers on the belief that optimal development hinges on consistent routines and structures throughout childhood. Her work focuses on identifying disruptions in early life that contribute to maladaptive outcomes during adolescence and young adulthood. A key aspect of her research examines the impact of family structure patterns over time and how variations in these patterns influence developmental trajectories and the stability of relationships across generations. Additionally, Dr. Johnston and her colleagues have developed methods to better assess family dynamics throughout the life course, providing a more comprehensive view of these influences. Dr. Johnston serves on the Editorial Boards of *Family Relations* and *Family Transitions* (formerly *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*).

2024 Feldman Award Recipient Ramona Faith Oswald

The Feldman Award recipient for 2024 was Dr. Ramona Faith Oswald. The Feldman award is given by the Groves Conference on Marriage and Family in honor of Margaret and Harold Feldman, both outstanding and early leaders in family policy. The award is given to a scholar whose work in the last 5 years makes a significant policy contribution related to ethnicity and or gender and is supportive of the theme of the Groves conference annual meeting which for 2024 was “Civil Rights and Intersecting Identities: Social Movements for Equality & Justice.” As the Feldman Award recipient, Dr. Oswald delivered a plenary at the conference entitled *Striving for Thriving: One Administrator’s Reflection on Using Institutional Power and Privilege to Create Change*.



Dr. Oswald is Professor and Head of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of ACES at the University of Illinois. Her research focuses on how sexual minorities navigate social, legal, and residential contexts, and the effect those contexts have on well-being. From 2013- 2019, Dr. Oswald and her students organized and hosted the LGBTQ Research Symposium, which drew about 100 LGBTQ scholars to the Illinois campus annual for a two-day event focused on supporting graduate students and emerging scholars with a keynote speaker, methods workshops, awards, presentations, and networking opportunities. Dr. Oswald’s research, teaching, and service have been nationally recognized and she is a Fellow in the National Council on Family Relations.

From the President – Continued from page 1

Thank you all for your continued investment in Groves! We are a small but mighty organization and to continue to thrive, we need all of you! As 2024 is drawing to a close, please make a point to renew your membership and pay your 2025 dues!

Sharon Ballard

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.

Membership Committee Report

Groves Membership Committee Chair, Karmen Smith, PhD

Your loyalty and support sustain and strengthen Groves to continuously provide our members with valuable benefits and actively develop our community. THANK YOU for making what we do possible.

We hope you've been able to personally benefit from your membership with Groves. We're always open to suggestions and feedback from each valued member. Call me at 727-992-4929 or email me at ksmith22@antioch.edu to share ideas for how to best meet your needs.

Is your Groves membership up-to-date? Renewing is as easy as ever. Click on this link, [www.grovesconference.org/membership], and follow the prompts.

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!

It's time to renew your GROVES
Membership

- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Employment Support
- ✓ Publication Opportunities
- ✓ Academic Development

GROVES CONFERENCE
on Marriage and Family

2025 Groves Conference considers timely discourse

Families in a Time of Social and Political Upheaval: Lessons from the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict June 16-18, 2025 – Washington, D.C.

Program Chairs: Dudley Chancey, Janis L. Henderson, and Elizabeth Wroten

Conference Theme and Description:

In recent years, global social and political landscapes have changed in ways that have challenged families' abilities to live, work, and function in their environments. Family scientists, practitioners, and others with vested interest in families find themselves confronted with increasingly complex situations and impacts of such changes in their work with individuals and families. The more recent developments of the longstanding Israeli-Palestinian conflict provides a high-profile example. The political violence and long-reaching social ramifications have exposed a new generation of individuals and families to political violence and long-reaching social ramifications. As family scientists and practitioners, we have an important role to play in learning, reflecting and responding to social and political upheaval with criticality and sensitivity, for the sake of continuing to support families who are exposed to such upheaval. The 2025 conference offers an opportunity to critically consider the important role of family science academics and practitioners as individuals and families navigate the challenges of the social and political ramifications of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The conversation will extend to include elements of other social or political upheaval in recent years. Attendees will be invited to challenge their understanding through critical and sensitive analysis in order to best serve and support individuals and families exposed to such upheaval.

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 reconceptualizations 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.

Call for Proposals:

We welcome proposals from Groves members and nonmembers (academics, practitioners, and community members), in a variety of presentation formats including:

- Paper presentation/Discussion
- Roundtable Discussion and Resource Sharing
- Poster Presentation
- Panel Presentations

We anticipate your encouragement and facilitation of graduate and undergraduate student participation in this conference!

Possible topics for proposals include past, current, and future issues with respect to:

- Current events and their impact on families (Elections, policy changes, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict)
- Historical marginalization of families
- Extremist social and political movements and their impact on families
- Family risk, resilience, and coping amidst social and political upheaval

- Issues in policing and the criminal justice system
- Restriction of education, academic freedom, and critical thought
- Practitioner approaches to encouraging client/family coping with social and political upheaval
- Policy impact across sectors and families
- Impact of social and political movements on family functioning

Proposal Submissions

Please include the following information:

- Name, affiliation, and contact information of each presenter
- A brief 50-word bio for each presenter
- A description of the presentation and how it fits with the theme of the conference (no more than 300 words)
- Preferred format - please list your top two choices (paper presentation/discussion, roundtable discussion and resource sharing, poster presentation, panel presentation, other)
 - If other, please describe.

Submit proposals by December 1, 2025, via email (attached as Microsoft Word or PDF file):

GrovesConference2025@gmail.com

2024-2025 Board of Directors

President (2021-2025) Sharon Ballard (East Carolina University)

President Elect (2024-2025) Kari Adamsons (University of Connecticut)

Treasurer (2024-2025) Carol Johnston (Kansas State University)

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)

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

2025 Program Chairs: Dudley Chancey (Oklahoma Christian University), Janis Henderson (J. Henderson Education Services), Elizabeth Wroten (University of Delaware)

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



Look for us on Facebook!

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