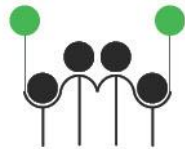




GROVES CONFERENCE on Marriage and Family



Groves Conference
on Marriage and Family

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.

Updates From the President

Kari Adamsons, Ph.D.

University of Connecticut



Greetings and Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we are already (several weeks) into 2026!! 2025 was a tumultuous year, and I hope all of you had some time over the holiday season to engage in self-care and spend time with people and in activities that brought you joy and renewal. Things have probably looked very quiet to members, but there has been a LOT going on behind the scenes with Groves in the last several months! Originally, I planned to send out a newsletter in September, but I kept holding off until "a few things got sorted out." Spoiler alert: Things kept not being sorted out, time passed, and here we are in almost February! More detailed information about several things will be coming out over the next few months, but I wanted to send at least a general update to everyone with some highlights.

Manager Transitions – Thank you to Linda Vukelich, and welcome to Michelle Moore!

As we announced at the conference last summer, **our organizational manager, Linda Vukelich, retired as of October 2025** (and has already done some amazing traveling!). I want to express my appreciation to Linda for all of her work for Groves over the past several years! Linda took over under fairly rushed circumstances when the previous manager had to step away abruptly, and without much in the way of either training or established procedures or policies to rely on. Nevertheless, she did a wonderful job of stepping right in and keeping the lights on and the bills paid and the organization running! I want to especially say thanks for her help in bringing our new manager, Michelle Moore, and me as the new President up to speed. Linda, I hope you have a wonderful retirement!

Michelle Moore, our new organizational manager, started over the summer (one of her first introductions to us was by sitting in on our business meeting at the conference via Zoom), and she has been quite busy in the relatively brief time that she's been with us! There's more about the things she's been working on below, but Michelle and I have been meeting weekly and working on continuing the work Linda had started of systematizing and streamlining our operations. Michelle joins us from Colorado

with a wealth of experience in helping to run smaller, non-profit organizations like ours. She has been wonderful to work with, and I look forward to continuing to work with her to move Groves forward!

No Conference in 2026

After pursuit of a couple of options that kept getting delayed and much discussion amongst the Board, **we will NOT be hosting a Groves Conference in 2026**. Instead, the Board is going to take this time to regroup, take stock, and do some intentional strategic thinking and planning about the organization. The worlds of higher education and professional organizations are rapidly evolving, so now is an excellent time to think about who we want to be and how we want Groves to move in the world. The good news is that **we are planning to move forward with a summer 2027 conference at an option we started exploring this past fall – Cal State Monterey Bay!** Stay tuned for more information to come about that exciting event!

Smaller Online Events

We won't be having a conference this year, but we still want our members to be connected, so **we would like to have a few smaller, online events in 2026**. One will be our annual Book Club (stay tuned for the details about that in the near future!), and **we are open to suggestions if you have any ideas for additional events!** This could be a workshop or training, another book-based or topic-based conversation/discussion, a webinar, a “mini-conference” with a few online presentations, a virtual round table, a mentoring/networking event, or really anything. If you have ideas (and especially if you would be willing to help coordinate it 😊), email me at kari.adamsons@uconn.edu.

Behind the Scenes Changes to Website and Finances

There are many updates happening behind the scenes to modernize Groves and the way it runs! One of those is that **there will soon be new website!** The domain name will stay the same, and Michelle is in the process of migrating things over from our old platform to the new one. The new platform for our website will have more up-to-date and necessary capabilities, including supporting the more secure https:// type of connection. We've been hosted by the same company since early internet times – as a result it was very clunky and at times, downright sketchy, so this will be a vast improvement! While this migration is happening, however, **the website is down**. Hopefully this will only take a few weeks, but just so you don't panic if you try to go to the website and it doesn't exist. We are also going to be **moving from Constant Contact and some other individual services to a more comprehensive organizational management system/software**. This will integrate our various needs and functions in a way that is both more efficient and also more cost effective than having subscriptions to multiple individual services. Finally, we are also in the process of **changing bank accounts** and straightening some things out on the financial side. So for now, **please hold off on paying membership dues** and we will send reminders once we are fully up and running again! Although these might not be the most noticeable or exciting changes, I'm excited about the various background functions of Groves getting streamlined in ways that hopefully will make things easier for everyone!

Those are the biggest updates for now! As mentioned above, stay tuned for more information as we continue working on various plans and improvements! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, always feel free to reach out to me at kari.adamsons@uconn.edu!

