My Dear Family Division Members,

We are already in the middle of a very cold winter semester looking forward anxiously for spring to be here. These are interesting times for family division members. The recession, which we hope is not the precursor to a full depression, has caused so many people to downsize and reevaluate super-sized lifestyles that we can expect big changes in the structure and function of the family. A Black family has moved into the White House. California has legally married thousands of same sex couples and now contemplates divorcing them whether they want to or not, surely changing the meaning of family, marriage, and divorce. Military families must maintain the tensions of pride, altruism, fear and poverty. We can look forward to exciting discussions about all this and more at our meetings in San Francisco this summer.

Thanks to all who submitted papers to the Family Division Sessions! This year’s conference the 59th Annual Meeting will take place August 7-9, 2009 at the Stanford Court Hotel, 905 California Street, San Francisco, CA. The conference theme is “Race, Ethnicity, And the Continuing Problem of the Color Line.” Our session chairs and the SSSP Program Committee are busy organizing the program; so look forward to further information about the preliminary and final programs. Remember to register for the
meetings (reminder: program participants must pre-register by May 31, 2009). Please consider staying at the SSSP Convention Hotel during the annual meeting.

Also, if you have not already done so, please renew your SSSP membership and encourage your colleagues and students to do the same. You can renew via the secure website http://www.sssp1.org/. Remember that the benefits of membership include a subscription to Social Problems, the SSSP newsletter, division newsletters, and information about the annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings in San Francisco this year.

My service as Family Division Chair ends this August and **we need to elect the new Division Chair.** Please nominate fellow SSSP members for the position. Please forward the name(s) and contact information of qualified and interested persons to (boudreac@gvsu.edu). In addition to the qualifications listed below, candidates must be current members to accept nominations. Please note that chairpersons are elected for a two year term. The term would start this August at the meetings in San Francisco. I will help the incoming Chair acclimate to the position. We will hold the elections this coming April. **Deadline for nominations is March 14th, 2009.**

**Summary of Chair Responsibilities:**
- Be able and willing to serve, including all three days of the Annual Meeting, and willing to commit themselves to service time during the year.
- Edit three division newsletters distributed electronically by the Executive Office each year.
- Work with division members to develop and organize sessions for the Annual Meeting
- Determine and request from SSSP a yearly budget for the division
- Appoint a committee to organize and judge the Division’s Graduate Student Paper Competition
- For a more detailed description of Chair responsibilities, please visit [http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/181](http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/181)

Enjoy the rest of your semester and I’ll see you in San Francisco!

Cheryl Boudreaux
Family Division Chair

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**SHARING OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Many of our division members are making important contributions to their fields. Please take the time to review a few of our members’ recent accomplishments. Consider making the included publications a part of your library and/or incorporating them into course syllabi or your applied work. If you would like to share information about your recent publications or other accomplishments with other division members, please contact Ebonie Cunningham Stringer (ebonie.cunningham@wilkes.edu).


Margo Kushner’s study titled, Child Custody Planning in A Textually Structured Court System” which was presented in Boston has resulted in 4 publications being accepted since last year’s annual conference. Her intent in writing extensively about “text” was to inform the professionals engaged in the work of expert testimony and child custody planning to be careful when it comes to referencing professional text in child custody and access matters.

One of the articles was accepted by the Journal of Child Custody in what has been referred to as a distinguished author’s edition. It has just been released for publication and may be found at Kushner, M., (2008).

Courtextual slippage: A detriment to child custody planning. *Journal of Child Custody*, 5(3/4), pp. 276-298. Included in the publication is an example of “mapping” text.

Other articles:

Just an attempt to get the word out about the need to be cautious when planning for children in contested access and custody matters…Even the word custody needs to be re-worded. It implies these children are incarcerated. Could be another publication idea….

Hello to all of my IE friends and colleagues.

Dr. Margo Kushner

www.margokushnertherapist.com

**REQUEST**

Locating research monies for IE studies seems to not happen with ease. I am looking for funding to replicate a study completed in Canada, titled, Child Custody Planning In A Textually Structured Court System. If any of you have some leads or ideas for me, please email me at: makushner@salisbury.edu. Margo Kushner
Below is a list of all of the Family Division sponsored, special, and co-sponsored sessions. Please plan to support your fellow division members and attend as many Family Division sessions as possible.

Family Policy
Sponsor: Family
Organizer: Mezey, Nancy

Race and Families - THEMATIC
Sponsor: Family
Organizer: Janning, Michelle Y.

Youth, Family and Community Programs
Sponsor: Family
Organizer: Cunningham-Stringer, Ebonie L.

Infertility and Alternative Paths to Parenthood
Sponsor: Family, Health, Health Policy, and Health Services
Organizer: Wilson, Kristin

Families in Poverty
Sponsor: Family, Poverty, Class, and Inequality
Organizer: Kanieski, Mary Ann

Families on the Color-Line – THEMATIC
Sponsor: Family
Organizer: Chito Childs, Erica

Queer Families
Sponsor: Family, Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities
Organizer: Mezey, Nancy , McCauley, Jaime (co-organizers)

Caregiving across the Life Course
Family
Sponsor: Youth, Aging, and the Life Course
Organizer: Dillaway, Heather, E. Paré, Elizabeth R. (co-organizers)