



# Newsletter

HEARTLAND MEDIATORS ASSOCIATION

February 2006

Volume XII, Issue 1

## New Developments in Mediation February 24, 2006

We have three excellent sessions lined up for our winter training in Topeka, Kansas on February 24th. We will begin with registration, lunch and a short HMA business meeting from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM.

At 1:00 PM **MICKI ARM-STRONG** will present a workshop on the *Long Term Effects of Divorce on Children*. This will be an examination of three longitudinal studies by Judith Wallerstein, Constance Arhons and E. Mavis Hetherington — What to tell parents when the experts don't agree.

At 2:00 PM **GARY KRETCHMER** will present a workshop on the *Higher Ground for High Conflict Families*. Explore this skill-based psychoeducational program which teaches entrenched and "difficult" families effective and simple conflict resolution skills. Most parents who complete the program report a significant improvement in their business relationship as parents and no longer find it necessary to file new motions with the court. Learn about how Higher Ground blends best practice research, nationally recognized materials, presentations by local experts and practice exercises with group interaction for a powerful impact.

At 3:00 PM **JERRY R. PALMER** will present a workshop on *Evaluative Mediation*. Mr. Palmer is now spending a great amount of his time mediating cases in the areas in which

he has litigated. His mode of mediation is largely evaluative. His presentation will be very enlightening to all who are involved in civil litigation mediation and others will find applications to their areas of interest as well. All who attend are certain to find his extensive experience as litigator and as a mediator a very informative benefit to them.

**Micki Armstrong** is the coordinator of the Fort Hays State University Family Development Services, which provides mediation services to families. She is a state-approved mediator/trainer and specializes in family mediation. Micki is also a part-time instructor in the Department of Sociology and Social Work at FHSU. She has a master's degree in counseling from FHSU and instructs courses in family, multiculturalism, mediation and sociology. Micki has been a consultant to USD 489's peer mediation programs, and has provided parenting education training for Parents and Children Together (PACT), a local organization in Hays, Kansas.

**Gary Kretchmer** works in the Court Services for Johnson County. His area of expertise is divorce and child custody issues. He received his BA and his MA in Counseling from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He is a certified mediator in the state of Kansas and teaches mediation classes at Johnson County Commu-

*continued on page 2*

**Date:**  
**Friday,**  
**February 24, 2006**

**Time:**  
**11:30 am - 4:00 pm**

**Place:**  
**Topeka and Shawnee**  
**County Public Library**  
**1515 SW 10th Avenue**  
**Topeka, Kansas**

**Program:**  
**11:30 am**  
**Lunch and**  
**HMA business meeting**

**1:00 pm**  
**Long Term Effects of**  
**Divorce on Children**

**2:00 pm**  
**Higher Ground for High**  
**Conflict Families**

**3:00 pm**  
**Evaluative Mediation**

**Cost:**  
**\$30 for members,**  
**\$40 for nonmembers**

**CME:**  
**3 hours of credit**

## February Seminar

*continued from page 1*

nity College. He is also a Registered Professional Counselor.

**Jerry R. Palmer** founded the firm of Palmer, Leatherman & White, L.L.P., whose practice has been dedicated to the representation of individuals in tort litigation across the State of Kansas. Mr. Palmer graduated from the University of Kansas Law School and before starting his own firm, he was an associate and then partner with Fisher, Patterson, Saylor & Smith. Mr. Palmer has received ATLA's Citation of Excellence on three separate occasions. He has been a member of the Board of Governors for more than 20 years and served as President in 1977-78 of the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association (KTLA). Mr. Palmer has been at the forefront of the move for specialty certification of attorneys in the United States. He is certified as a Civil Trial Advocate and in the subspecialty of medical malpractice. He is also certified as a Civil Mediator by the Kansas Supreme Court, Office of Judicial Administration. Mr. Palmer has taught Law and Medicine and Trial Techniques as an Adjunct Professor at Washburn University Law School. In addition, he has given lectures on aspects of trial techniques involving discovery, the use of technology, computerized research, structured settlements, case evaluations, and mediation. His speeches have been presented in at least one dozen states and at national conferences.

Be sure to sign up now! You will find a registration form on the back page and payment may be made by check or credit card.

The program has been approved for three hours of CME credit. ♦

## Nominations Being Accepted for President's Award

**H**earthland Mediators Association annually bestows The President's Award, which honors individuals or agencies (government, business, media) that have contributed significantly this past year by increasing public awareness pertaining to conflict resolution. The focus of this award is to recognize a non-HMA member in the region encompassing the Heartland membership (Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri).

Those wishing to nominate candidates should complete the form on page 3 and email it to [marmstro@fhsu.edu](mailto:marmstro@fhsu.edu) or mail to Micki Armstrong, Fort Hays State University, Rarick Hall, Rm 349, Hays, KS. 67601.

Nominations must be received by **March 1, 2006**. The newly formed Advocacy Committee will review all nominations and make recommendations for the award selection to the HMA board. The award will be presented at the HMA 2006 annual banquet.

## Acorn Award Nominations

From time to time the Heartland Mediators Association recognizes an HMA member for their work in the association and to the field of mediation. If you know of someone who should be considered for this award, please send that information on page 3 to Rhonda Harris by **March 1, 2006** via e-mail [rhonda\\_harris@kcmo.org](mailto:rhonda_harris@kcmo.org), or mail to her at KC Human Relations Department, 414 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64106. ♦

## Nominate a School for the Peer Mediation Awards

*by Don Hampton*

**E**arly each year the Heartland Mediators Association seeks nominations from Kansas and Missouri schools to receive the organization's Peer Mediation Awards. The nominees may be schools in grades Kindergarten through grade 12 that have active peer mediation programs.

Heartland is interested in identifying schools that have implemented peer mediation as a means of resolving conflicts between its students.

More fundamentally we are interested in schools providing a practical educational mediation experience for their students. These programs provide hands on opportunities for student mediators and students in conflict as well as others in the student body to experience or learn of the benefits of alternative dispute resolution.

Heartland Mediators Association is also interested in helping schools establish and maintain mediation programs.

If you have a school program you would like to see considered for this award, please send contact information and the reason for your nomination to me at: [donhampton@onemain.com](mailto:donhampton@onemain.com). ♦

**All of these awards will be presented at the Annual Conference April 28-29, 2006.**

# AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Indicate for which award this nomination is being made:

\_\_\_ Acorn Award (Rhonda Harris, KC Human Relations Dept, 414 E. 12th, KC, MO 64106,  
rhonda\_harris@kcmo.org)

\_\_\_ President's Award (Micki Armstrong, Fort Hays State University, 349 Rarick Hall, Fort Hays, KS 67601  
marmstro@fhsu.edu)

## NOMINEE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Narrative:**

In two hundred words or less explain how the individual or agency has contributed significantly this past year by increasing public awareness pertaining to conflict resolution.

## NOMINATED BY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

# Call For Presentations

In addition to the opportunity to learn from an outstanding national speaker, one of the features of the **2006 HMA Annual Conference** will be the opportunity to learn from other colleagues about more focused issues in your mediation practice.

You are invited to submit a proposal for a 2-hour presentation for consideration. These will be presented on Friday afternoon, April 28, 2006. Proposals need to include

- title of topic
- brief abstract of presentation
- brief outline of topic
- audio-visual needs
- name and position of presenter(s)
- brief resumé of each presenter's background.

Suggested topics include, but are not limited to,

- the effective use of caucus
- neutral evaluation
- evaluative mediation
- unique features of baby boomers
- probate related mediation
- gender differences
- mediating step-families
- how to interview children
- elder mediation
- handicapped mediation
- starting & marketing a mediation practice (non-CME)
- story telling and the use of parables in mediation
- psychological dynamics of conflict and mediation.

The deadline for proposals is **February 28, 2006**. Proposals should be sent to Evan Ash, [evan.ash@jocogov.org](mailto:evan.ash@jocogov.org) or Kansas Tenth Judicial District, 1255 East 119<sup>th</sup> Street, Olathe, Kansas, 66061.

## 2006 HMA Annual Conference

**April 28-29, 2006**

Downtown  
Marriott Hotel  
12th and Wyandotte  
Kansas City, Missouri

Hotel room rate:  
\$95 per night

**FRIDAY  
APRIL 28TH**

Training Workshops  
(see call for papers)  
1:00 - 5:00 PM

Mentoring Training  
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Banquet  
6:30 PM

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 29TH  
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

**HMA Luncheon  
12:30 PM**

**TRAINING BY  
MARILYN MCKNIGHT**

Additional Training will  
also be available

CE will be available for  
training on Friday and  
Saturday

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## Additional Training Available

### Spring 2006 Course Offerings through Baker University (913-491-4432 ext 669)

#### **INTRODUCTION TO MEDIATION, SOS/MGE 5600 (CORE COURSE)**

Instructors, Anthony Picchioni, Ph.D. and Michael T. Colatrella, Jr., J.D.

In this course students explore the uses of mediation, a mediation map, skills and techniques of mediators, ethical standards and accountability in mediation, and how to apply mediation and mediation careers. This course covers the theory and practical skills necessary to be a mediator. This class meets the Kansas statutory requirement for Core Mediation Training and the Missouri statutory requirement for Supreme Court Rule 17. Weekend Classes: February 17/18 and March 3/4 (3 credit hours)

#### **HISTORY AND FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION, SOS/HIS 5610**

Instructor, Joel K. Goldman, J.D.

In this course students will study the history, structure and procedures of the United States court system with a particular emphasis on how methods of alternative dispute resolution augment, coordinate and sometimes are at odds with the goals of traditional litigation. Students will learn legal concepts and terminology essential to successfully working within the field of dispute resolution and be introduced to basic legal skills. This includes a primer on research materials and tools used by judges and lawyers to evaluate the merits of a legal dispute. This class is approved

for 16 hours of continuing mediation education by the State of Kansas. Weeknight Classes: Tuesdays, March 28 through May 9 (3 credit hours)

#### **INTRODUCTION TO DISPUTE RESOLUTION, SOS /MGE 5602 (CORE COURSE)**

Instructors, Anthony Picchioni, Ph.D. and Michael T. Colatrella, Jr., J.D.

This course is an introduction to the field of conflict analysis and resolution and is intended to provide a solid foundation for further inquiry and application. This course examines definition of conflict and diverse views of its resolution; introduces the major theoretical approaches to conflict and conflict resolution; surveys theories that attempt to explain causes, dynamics, and resolutions of conflicts; focuses on the practice of conflict resolution; and explores various current intervention models in the field of conflict resolution. Approved for 16 hours of Continuing Mediation Education. by the State of Kansas. Weekend Classes: March 31 and April 1 and 21/22 (3 credit hours)

#### **COMMUNICATION AND NEGOTIATION, SOS/MGE 5601 (CORE COURSE)**

Instructors, Anthony Picchioni, Ph.D. and Michael T. Colatrella, Jr., J.D.

The course focuses on human communication in the context of conflict. It addresses the challenges of effective communication and its

role in resolving conflict. Attention is paid to the most effective methods of communication used in dealing with differences particularly those used by dispute resolution professionals in the processes of negotiation and mediation. Students are introduced to contemporary theories of negotiation and develop practical skills through simulation exercises. This class is approved for 16 hours of continuing mediation education by the State of Kansas. Weekend Classes: May 5/6 and 19/20 (3 credit hours)

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Also check out courses being offered through the Continuing Education Program at Johnson County Community College.

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Also check out our web site for additional training that is available.

**Check Out Our  
Web Site!**  
[www.heartlandmediators.org](http://www.heartlandmediators.org)

Heartland Mediators Association  
8826 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 208  
Overland Park, KS 66212

## FIRST CLASS

2005-2006

### Heartland Mediators Association Board of Directors

- **President Rhonda Harris**  
(816) 513-1836 • rhonda\_harris@kcmo.org
- **Treasurer Barry Carroll**  
barrycarr@aol.com
- **Secretary Janet Lluillier**  
(913) 888-3050 • janetl312@everestkc.net
- **Director Ronnie Beach**  
(913) 390-7888 • rbeach18@comcast.net
- **Director at Large Micki Armstrong**  
(785) 628-5369 • marmstro@fhsu.edu
- **Director at Large Don Hampton**  
(316) 722-7817 • donhampton@onemain.com
  
- • **Past President Evan Ash**  
(913) 324-6978 • evan.ash@jocoks.com
  
- **Executive Director Sandra Sabanske**  
(866) 381-4458 • fax (913) 381-9308  
mediation@grapevine.net

#### DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in the HMA News-  
letter are those of the writers and are not  
necessarily those of the Heartland Mediators  
Association.

## HMA Reservation Form For February 24, 2006

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign me up for \_\_\_ February 24 training**  
[\$30 members, \$40 nonmembers per meeting]

\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Please charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the following credit card:

Acct No (MC/Visa) \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

HMA, 8826 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 208, Overland Park, KS 66212  
Fax to: (913) 381-9308