

From the Editor

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[Demo, D. H.](#) (2010), From the Editor. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72: 1–2.
doi: 10.1111/j.1741-3737.2009.00677.x

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Article:

I am pleased to announce that the publication of Volume 72 of *Journal of Marriage and Family (JMF)* ushers in some exciting changes, new resources, and the renewal of a rich tradition. Since 2004, when *JMF* expanded from a quarterly publication to one with five issues per volume, the *Journal* has published issues appearing in February, May, August, November, and December. Effective with Volume 72, issues of *JMF* will be printed in February, April, June, August, and October. This change enables us to print issues bimonthly, eliminates production problems associated with publishing the final issues of each volume in consecutive months, and creates an opportunity for the *Journal* to expand to six issues per year (if and when that decision is made) by restoring a December issue.

Volume 72 also marks the introduction of a new online resource for *JMF* readers and authors. Beginning with this issue, we have the opportunity to publish supporting information online. Given that the *Journal* has space constraints and that we encourage authors to limit their submissions to 30 manuscript pages, this new resource enables us to publish supplementary material such as appendixes, additional tables, or expanded reference lists that otherwise would not be accessible to readers. The article authored by Biblarz and Stacey appearing in this issue includes an appendix that is published only online. The appendix can be accessed through Wiley InterScience, and it appears as a link below the corresponding article. Authors can submit such material and indicate in the manuscript that they intend for it to be published as online supporting

material. Author guidelines on how to prepare supporting material, including acceptable formats and file sizes, are available at <http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/suppmat.asp>

Continuing a long and very successful *JMF* tradition, Volume 72 will feature an entire issue devoted to decade-in-review essays. Because review essays, in general, tend to be widely cited and because many *JMF* decade reviews, in particular, have been very influential, I consulted with the Editorial Board on the possibility of publishing the decade reviews earlier in the volume (or calendar year) than the recent decade-in-review issues, which were published in November. The Editorial Board voiced strong support for the idea, and consequently I worked with authors on a timeline that will allow us to publish the decade-in-review issue in June, 2010. In that issue I will describe in more detail the planning process for the issue, including the process of selecting topics for coverage. Of course, even with additional pages for this issue supported by NCFR, there is a limit to what can be published in any one issue. Thus, I have invited four other special essays that will be published in subsequent issues of this volume; each has a similar objective of reviewing research on an important, timely, or strategic topic.

Recent ISI data indicate that *JMF* continues to be (by far) the most widely cited journal in family studies. The accomplished scholars who submit their work to *JMF* deserve most of the credit for this visibility and impact. Beyond our authors, I want to take this opportunity to thank publicly the many people whose valuable contributions undergird the timely processing of manuscripts and the constructive feedback to authors that facilitate and sustain the long-standing reputation *JMF* has earned as the flagship journal in family studies. Hundreds of occasional reviewers prepare thoughtful and punctual evaluations of manuscripts each year, and the individuals who assisted in this capacity in the past year were listed in the December (Volume 71, number 5) issue. Members of the *JMF* Editorial Board are listed on the masthead of each issue, and I ask you to take a minute to review this list. On average, Editorial Board members review six manuscripts per year, and they deserve special thanks for responding promptly to each request; for providing careful, enlightened evaluations; and for strengthening the rigor of the scholarship appearing in these pages. Five Deputy Editors served as action editors for Volume 71. I am extremely grateful to David Johnson and Velma McBride Murry, who completed their terms with the conclusion of Volume 71, and to continuing Deputy Editors Cheryl Buehler, Ralph LaRossa, and Jay Teachman. I have called on them regularly to serve as an advisory council on a wide variety of matters regarding *Journal* operations, policies, opportunities, and publicity. Heather Helms has streamlined and invigorated the Book Review section with more extensive reviews of influential and controversial books. Beetna Kim, the production editor at Wiley-Blackwell, has succeeded in coordinating all of the activities that ensure each issue

appears on schedule. The editorial assistants at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Mary Julia Moore and Lauren Kirchner, have been enormously helpful and reliable in managing the daily workflow associated with processing manuscripts, including thousands of e-mails with authors and reviewers each year. I have learned a great deal in editing *JMF*; one noteworthy thing I've learned is that there is an elaborate infrastructure and supporting culture that actively contribute to the *Journal's* success, visibility, and impact.