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An Introduction to the New Volume

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EDITOR'S NOTE

An Introduction to the New Volume

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I am pleased to introduce Volume 7 of *Journal of Family Communication (JFC)* and I'd like to draw your attention to a few of its features. One of my goals as editor has been to begin each new volume of the journal with an invited program overview from a senior scholar whose work is provocative but often outside of the mainstream in family communication. Volume 6 started with such an article by Chris Segrin, and I am delighted to continue this tradition by offering another invited article by Mary Lee Hummert to begin the new volume. This issue also features a peer-reviewed article by Paul Schrodt and colleagues on parental confirmation and affection.

In an article published in issue 6.4, Laura Stafford and Dan Canary responded to critiques of their research on relational maintenance raised in other venues by J. D. Ragsdale and Frances Brandau-Brown. For the current issue, I invited Professors Ragsdale and Brandau-Brown to reply to Professors Stafford and Canary in a standard-length article, and then each team was invited to write a response. The length of both responses was restricted to no more than 10 manuscript pages. These three articles are being published in the current issue as a set—but readers should be aware that the initial article appeared in the last issue of Volume 6.

Volume 7 will also feature a special issue devoted to the topic of work–family life, which is being edited by Caryn Medved. The special issue will appear as issue 4 in this volume (October 2007), and it promises to be a collection of cutting-edge work on this important topic.

As always, please consider *JFC* as a publication outlet for your best scholarship on family communication. I look forward to seeing the excellent work my colleagues in the field have to submit this year.