President’s Message

On behalf of IAMFC, welcome to the 2020 World Conference! This is our fourth annual event and it promises to be our best yet!

This year’s conference features more than 100 presentations including pre-learning institutes, educational sessions, roundtables, and posters. A maximum of 20 hours can be earned by participation in ALL the workshops and conference presentations at this event (including preconference sessions). A highlight of the conference is a keynote by Dr. Alan Hovestadt, an international expert in the field of couple and family counseling and a well-known author and presenter. His keynote topic is “Myths About Marriage” and should be of interest to us all.

Whether this is your first IAMFC conference or whether you are a veteran, we are glad you are here. The conference is a wonderful time for us to learn from each other, reconnect with colleagues, and make new friends. All of us are extremely indebted to Dr. Shawn Patrick and Dr. Julie Hartman for their leadership in putting this conference together. (I think Dr. Patrick especially may be my new best friend on the internet). They, and their committee, have worked tirelessly ably assisted by Dr. Robert Casares, and the IAMFC Board! However, please feel free to suggest how we could make this conference better yet. We are always looking for ways to improve. Also, please feel free to volunteer to be a part of next year’s conference committee or to be a part of another IAMFC committee. We are a system and we need you!

Please take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities connected with this conference and the City of New Orleans. Have a fantastic time! We hope to see you back next year!

Samuel T. Gladding, Ph.D., LPC, CCMHC
IAMFC President
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IAMFC Executive Board

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IAMFC Committees and Chairs

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Shawn Patrick, Chair
Julie Hartman, Co-Chair

**Conference Volunteers:**
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Lauren Flannery
Courtney Robinson
Allie Buckwater
Diane Smedley
Rossana Sierra-Sweich

**Membership:**
Lee Teufel-Prida, Co-Chair
Rachel Ammons Whitaker, Co-Chair

**State Branch:**
Roseanne Oppmann, Chair

**Diplomat:**
Stephen Southern, Chair

**Awards:**
Amy E. Williams, Chair

**Technology:**
Rob Casares, Chair

**Emerging Leaders:**
Ann Ordway, Co-Chair
Josh Gold, Co-Chair

**Podcast:**
Rob Casares

**Newsletter:**
Bret Hendricks, Editor

**International:**
Brian Canfield, Chair

**Ethics and Bylaws:**
Loretta Bradley, Co-Chair
Bret Hendricks, Co-Chair

**Elections and Nominations:**
Brande Flamez, Chair
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Alan Hovestadt

“Myths About Marriage”

Dr. Alan Hovestadt has been a Professor and department Chair at Western Michigan University in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology since 1985. Prior to Western Michigan University, he was Professor and Program Director for the doctoral program in Marriage and Family Therapy at Texas A & M University-Commerce, the first program of its kind in the Southwestern United States. While there, he received a half million dollar five-year NIMH rural mental health grant focused on the training of Counselor Education and MFT doctoral students for practice in underserved, impoverished and racially diverse communities.

At WMU in the 2000s, Dr. Hovestadt pursued interests in developing training models for rehabilitation counselors, serving as co-principal investigator of a ten-year multi-million dollar grant project funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Over his career, his research, publications, and scholarly interests have included the study of intergenerational family therapy, the multigenerational transmission process, work and family inter-role conflict, alexithymia, rural mental health care, professional issues and ethics, and mental health public policy. He has lectured widely on a variety of topics in the U.S., Europe, Russia and Canada.

Dr. Hovestadt’s career reflects a long-term commitment to professional association leadership. He has served on state regulatory boards and state professional boards affiliated with the American Counseling Association (ACA) and American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) in Texas and Michigan. Most prominently, Dr. Hovestadt has provided national leadership through four decades of service with AAMFT serving first as a Board Member in the 1980s, Treasurer in 1990s and as its President in the 2000s. Due to his national recognition for professional leadership and scholarship, he has been invited several times to testify before Congress on public policy promoting access to mental health care services. He also served as a founding board member for the International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors (IAMFC). Dr. Hovestadt has received many awards for his leadership, including the 2008 American Counseling Association’s Presidential Award, the 2010 IAMFC Outstanding Leadership Award, and the 2010 American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy’s Outstanding Contributions to the Profession Award. Dr. Hovestadt retired with Emeritus Status from Western Michigan University January 3, 2020.
IAMFC 2019 World Conference Schedule At-a-Glance

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Registration, 2nd Floor 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Pre-Session learning Institutes, 2nd Floor 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
(3 CE Hours for each session) 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 31, 2020

Registration, 2nd Floor 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Educational Sessions, 2nd Floor 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.
(1 CE, 2 CE’s, or 3 CE’s as indicated)

Opening Session & Welcome, 2nd Floor 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
(No CEs)

Educational Sessions, 2nd Floor 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.
(1 CE, 2 CE’s, or 3 CE’s as indicated) 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.
12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.
1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.
2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.
3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.
4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

Roundtable Sessions, 2nd Floor 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.
(1 CE for each session) 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Poster Sessions, 2nd Floor (During Reception) 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
(No CEs)
Saturday, February 1, 2020

Registration, 2nd Floor 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Educational Sessions, 2nd Floor 8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.
(1 CE for each session)

Brunch, Awards, & Keynote 9:30 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.
16th Floor, Crescent Ballroom
(1 CE for Keynote)

Educational Sessions, 2nd Floor 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.
(1 CE, 2 CE’s or 3 CE’s as indicated) 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.
2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

A maximum of 20 hours can be earned by participation in ALL the workshops and conference presentations at this event (including preconference sessions).

No credit is given for poster sessions.

International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 1023. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.
IAMFC Emerging Leaders 2020/2021

Master’s Level Student: Allison Dukes

Allison Dukes is a second year master's student studying Couples, Marriage, and Family Counseling at the William & Mary School of Education. In 2018, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the Pennsylvania State University. In her master's program, she serves as Co-Chair of Professional Development for William & Mary's Omega Mu chapter of Chi Sigma Iota. She is an intern at the New Horizons Family Counseling Clinic, a grant-funded clinic that provides no-cost services to families in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia. Allison is also the Clinical Services and Research Coordinator at the New Leaf Clinic, a substance use clinic helping both William & Mary students and Williamsburg community clients. Through this role, she organizes and facilitates a recovery group in her local jail for incarcerated mothers; in addition, she has been working to extend New Horizons' services to help the families of these women. Her research interests include serving LGBTQ+ individuals, reducing offender recidivism, and social justice initiatives. Through this role with IAMFC, she is eager to strengthen her research background, her networking in the field, and her family counseling skills.

Doctoral Student: Joseph Pistorius

Joseph Pistorius is a doctoral student at the University of Holy Cross in New Orleans. Prior to his doctoral studies, He earned an M.A. in Marriage, Couples and Family Counseling from the University of Holy Cross. He currently serves as Director of Catholic Counseling Service, a small community agency, where he provides marriage and family counseling. He is a National Certified Counselor and a Provisional Licensed Professional Counselor in Louisiana. He is currently a board Committee At-Large member for the Louisiana Association of Counselor Education and Supervision (LACES). He is a native of New Orleans and currently lives in Louisiana with wife and five children.
New Professional - Masters-level: Savannah L. Burke, M. Ed., LCP-Intern

Savannah Burke earned her Master of Education in Clinical Mental Health from CACREP accredited Lamar University in 2018. Savannah is working under the supervision of Kimberly Boyd, M.S., LPC-S, and will have her full licensure come May 2020. She is a member in good standing with the American Counseling Association (ACA), The Association for Creativity in Counseling (ACC), and the International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors (IAMFC). She is also a member of Chi Sigma Iota, the International Counseling Honor Society. Savannah was the 2017-2018 Master’s Student Emerging Leader for the ACC. She also had the honor of presenting at this year’s ACA Conference in New Orleans, LA on the importance of the mentor/mentee relationship and passing the knowledge forward to others in the profession.

Savannah has experience in marriage and premarital counseling, as well as experience in treating crisis situations, anxiety, depression, and anger management. She enjoys working with families and couples and has a special interest in marriage counseling. More than anything, Savannah is passionate about helping people to reclaim their joy, power, and hope in life.

New Professional - Doctoral Level: Dr. Marissa Fye

Marissa Fye, Ph.D. is an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney in the department of Counseling and School Psychology. She received her doctoral degree in Counselor Education and Supervision from Kent State University. She has been a licensed counselor in Ohio and Nebraska. She currently practices in Nebraska and primary works with couples and families. Her clinical and research interests focus on couples counseling, preventing infidelity and maintain monogamy, trauma-informed care, and attachment concepts. She has multiple experiences in leadership at various levels and is eager and honored to contribute to IAMFC
DoubleTree Conference Center Floor Plan
Preconference Sessions

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Morning Sessions 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Nottoway A, Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  -- 3.0 CE Hour(s)
Treating Infidelity
Presenter: Paul R. Peluso

Description: Infidelity--affairs, cheating, emotional affairs-- are all potentially devastating to a relationship. It tears away the trust between two people and leaves them feeling lost and vulnerable. Often couples want to know how it could have happened, or why it happened. Many couples will (sometimes reluctantly) turn to couples counseling. Unfortunately, many couples counselors aren't specifically trained--and don't feel very comfortable--treating couples where infidelity is the primary issue. Researchers have shown that clinicians who have the ability to provide a systematic conceptualization that helps the client understand the causes of infidelity, and then have a planned method of treatment that they can readily articulate to couples have significantly better outcomes with clients. This training will take a family systems approach, and will outline a three-step model, which can provide both an explanatory model and a treatment model for clients.

Nottoway B, Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - 3.0 CE Hour(s)
The 2020 Connection: Creative Techniques for Working with Families in Crisis
Presenters: Brande’ Flamez, Janet Hicks, Cheryl Mark, Jessica Martin, Stephan Berry, Calvary D. Rumley, Layla Bonner

Come join us for a hands-on workshop! The presenters will demonstrate 20 experiential activities & techniques that can be implemented with families, children, and adolescents, who are experiencing severe conflicts and crisis. The presenters will also provide specific exercises that can be implemented through the various stages of family therapy including rapport building, assessment, coping with feelings, and building social skills.

Rosedown A, Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - 3.0 CE Hour(s)
Family-Based Suicide Prevention and Intervention Strategies: An Intercultural Perspective
Presenters: Brian Canfield, Ayse Torres, Mary Ballard, David Fenell

This pre-conference workshop will examine the growing global problem of suicide, presenting specific family-based strategies for suicide prevention and intervention. The workshop will draw upon the presenter's clinical experience in addressing this issue in the United States and internationally. A particular emphasis will be on adolescent suicide and how family resources can be utilized to ameliorate the problem and help adolescents and young adults who are in crisis and at potential risk of self harm.
**Afternoon Sessions**

**Nottoway A, Thursday, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - 3.0 CE Hour(s)**

An Integrative Model for Treating Sexual Desire Disorders

Presenter: Stephen Southern

This preconference learning institute will present an update of an integrative model for treating sexual desire disorders, developed from the original work of Masters and Johnson Institute. Sensate focus exercises and psychoeducation were combined with couple therapy for relationship conflicts and individual therapies for issues with trauma and attachment disorders. The resulting model fits trends in systemic and integrative treatment in relational psychotherapy. After completing the institute, the participant should be able to: 1. Identify etiological factors and diagnostic features of sexual desire disorders; 2. Describe an integrative treatment model for sexual desire disorders; and 3. Discuss sensate focus, couple therapy, and individual therapy techniques.

**Nottoway B, Thursday, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - 3.0 CE Hour(s)**

Grace, Justice, Forgiveness and Trust: Clinical Challenges in the Path to Relationship Restoration

Presenters: John Beckenbach, James N. Sells

This presentation will examine the reconciliation cycle as described in the Relationship Conflict and Restoration Model (RCRM). Specifically, the reconciliation cycle of the RCRM include relational concepts of Grace, Justice, Empathy, Trust, and Forgiveness. Through an extensive research process, a path analysis was conducted on the RCRM offering supportive results (Sells, Beckenbach & Patrick, 2009). The path analysis confirmed the relationships between most variables, with some surprising findings as well. Implications and suggestions for future research and clinical implications with couples in counseling will be discussed.

**Rosedown A, Thursday, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. - 3.0 CE Hour(s)**

Exploring the Un-predictability of Adolescent Coping on the Family System

Presenter: Richard Balkin

Counselors working with adolescents in acute crisis (i.e., danger to self/danger to others) and their families may experience difficulty stabilizing adolescent behaviors. The development of coping skills for the adolescent play a key role in client and family stabilization. The presenter will address research showing the challenges in creating and maintaining homeostasis in the family system. Attendees will learn to: 1. Identify predictors to client stabilization for adolescents in crisis, 2. Evaluate dynamics that may occur to demonstrate stabilization and healing within the family context, and 3. Address specific behaviors related to adolescent coping and commit to the counseling process for the adolescent and family.

The presentation will include quantitative findings from extended research on adolescent in psychiatric hospitalization (Balkin, 2014; Balkin & Schmit, 2016; 2018. The Goal Attainment Model for Client Stabilization (Balkin, 2014) will be used to address client progress.

**Shadows, Thursday, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. - 3.0 CE Hour(s)**

Using Psychodrama and Improvisation with High Functioning Autistic Spectrum Disordered Individuals

Presenters: Jonathan Bass, Carol Feldman-Bass
This program will demonstrate the use of action techniques (Psychodrama, Sociometry, and Improvisational Play) used when working with individuals who have high functioning Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Demonstrations will be drawn from case material presented both from the presenter and the participants' clinical experiences. Using the presented clinical material, the participants will have the opportunity to practice scene setting, sociometry, doubling, and role reversal, the basic elements of Psychodrama. The session will close with the opportunity to play a variety of Improvisational games. The salient factors of each game will be discussed and the importance of game selection will be reviewed.

Having completed this workshop, participants will be able to name and have a basic understanding of some of the techniques employed when working in action with individuals who have high functioning Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Participants will be better able to identify individuals who are most likely to benefit from these strategies and will have an assortment of Improvisational tools with which to employ with individuals, groups, and families.

Preconference Presenter Biographies:

**Dr. Rick Balkin,** Ph.D., LPC, NCC is a Professor and doctoral program coordinator in the Department of Leadership and Counselor Education at the University of Mississippi. Dr. Balkin is a Fellow of the American Counseling Association, a past editor for the Journal of Counseling and Development, and past president for the Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling. Dr. Balkin has over 80 publications including text books on assessment in counseling, research, and the counseling relationship, published tests and technical manuals, peer-reviewed manuscripts, book chapters, and conference proceedings. He has published on religious diversity and forgiveness and developed a model and measure for counseling clients through issues of forgiveness and conflict.

**Jonathan Bass,** M.D is a child and adolescent psychiatrist whose wide interests have taken him throughout the United State from working with the Native American Indians in Oklahoma to running the Department of Child Psychiatry at the Boston City Hospital. Both a psychopharmacologist and an analytically trained therapist, he is a relative newcomer to the world of Psychodrama and he collaborates with his wife, Carol, doing Action Based Family Treatment.

**Dr. John Becketkach** is an Associate Professor and Director of the Counselor Education and Supervision program at Adler University in Chicago, Illinois. He has been teaching in counseling programs for over 15 years and a practicing therapist for over 20 years. Throughout his career, John has authored many articles and book chapters and hosted numerous training workshops. Working from a post-modern position, his areas of emphasis include social justice issues and forgiveness and reconciliation processes. His current work is focused on community building and reconciliation practices in the promotion of social justice.

**Dr. Stephan Berry** is an Assistant Professor of Counselor Education at Troy University in Counseling, Rehabilitation, and Interpreter Training. He has over 30 years’ experience as a school counselor, mental health counselor, special education teacher, counselor supervisor, and counselor educator. His primary research interest is in school crisis management and trauma-informed schools.

**Dr. Layla J. Bonner** is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Tennessee. She currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the Mental Health Counseling Program at Belmont University in Nashville. She also supervises post-masters individuals for licensure. Her research interests include African American marriages and families, micro aggressions and privilege, and faith and coping. She has presented on topics such as multicultural competence, interventions for working with interracial couples in therapy, and interventions for working with families in crisis.

**Dr. Brian S. Canfield,** LPC, LMFT is a licensed psychologist and practicing family counselor in Louisiana. He serves on the faculty of Florida Atlantic University as Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

**Carol Feldman-Bass,** J.D. is a Psychodramatist and the owner and founder of Social Dynamix. Social Dynamix is a unique program designed to help Neurodiverse individuals with social and communication difficulties become
more spontaneous and socially successful. Carol’s individual and group programs are a combination of Psychodrama, Improvisational Theatre and Carol’s natural spontaneity. She earned her B.A. from Vassar College and her Juris Doctorate from the Boston University School of Law. She is a graduate from the Hudson Valley Psychodrama Institute.

Dr. Brandé Flamez, LPC, NCC is a licensed professional counselor and clinical professor in the Counseling and Special Populations department at Lamar University. Dr. Flamez is also the CEO and Founder of the nonprofit SALT (Serving and Learning Together) world Inc. which provides donations and volunteer services to developing countries. Her clinical background includes working with children, adolescents, and families in community-based and private counseling settings. Dr. Flamez is on the editorial board for The Family Journal.

Dr. Janet Hicks, LPC is a licensed professional counselor and certified school counselor who currently serves as Professor and Director of the Mental Health Counseling Program at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. She was inducted into the American Counseling Association Fellows in 2015, is currently the President Elect of the Tennessee Counseling Association, Conference Committee Chair for the Tennessee Counseling Association, and former By Laws Committee Chair for the Tennessee Counseling Association.

Dr. Cheryl Mark is a full-time online faculty member as a counselor educator, and has a small private practice in a wellness center. She is a licensed professional counselor in the state of Missouri and a nationally certified counselor. She is a board certified neurofeedback practitioner and is certified in eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) therapy. Her experience includes working with those who have experienced trauma, and her research interests include attachment, self-disclosure, and marital intimacy in military couples.

Dr. Jessica Martin is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling at Lamar University. She is a native of North Carolina and is a graduate of University of Central Florida’s counselor education doctoral program. She is the co-creator of the REACHE summer enrichment program focused on teaching youth with disabilities about career and entrepreneurship opportunities. Her research foci include: experiences and techniques for working with Black female mental health clients, transition services for Black youth with disabilities, and counselor identity development and training.

Dr. Paul R. Peluso, LMHC, LMFC is Professor and Chair of the Department of Counselor Education at Florida Atlantic University.

Calvary D. Rumley, HS-BCP is a Human Services Board-Certified Practitioner and a second-year master’s level counseling student intern. Ms. Rumley has five years of professional experience providing services to children, adults and families. Ms. Rumley received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from McNeese State University in 2017. Currently, Ms. Rumley is completing her last semester of graduate school at Lamar University.

Dr. James N. Sells is the Rosemary Scotti Hughes Endowed chair of Christian Thought and Mental Health, the co-director of the Charis Institute and professor on the counseling faculty in the School of Psychology and Counseling at Regent University. He has served as a counseling professor for 25 years, and at Regent since 2005. He is the author/co-author of two books and over 40 journal articles and chapters. His research focus is in marital restoration and family therapy. Currently he is researching marital reconciliation in China funded by the Templeton Foundation.

Dr. Stephen Southern is a Core Faculty Member and Chair of the Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology (MACP) program at Antioch University-Santa Barbara. He is a licensed psychologist (California, Illinois, Pennsylvania), marriage and family therapist (Mississippi), and professional counselor (Mississippi, Texas), as well as an AASECT Certified Sex Therapist and Clinical Fellow in AAMFT. Southern was previously editor of the Journal of Addictions and Offender Counseling and currently is Editor-in-Chief of The Family Journal and Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity. Dr. Southern is the past-president of the International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors and received their Lifetime Achievement Award.
Dr. Ayse Torres is an Assistant Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling in the Department of Counselor Education at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida.

Aleesha Washington, MS is a graduate of Lamar University, where she studied Clinical Mental Health and obtained her Masters in Education. Aleesha has worked closely with marginalized families, trauma survivors and overcomes of domestic violence. She has also served as the secretary of the Lambda Chi Phi chapter of Chi Sigma Iota Honor Society. Aleesha takes joy in empowering, uplifting and advocating for families in crisis, the health and the maintenance of multicultural intimate partnerships.
Friday, January 31, 2020

Education Sessions 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.

Nottoway A, Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Family Narratives and Films with Families in Therapy: Relational Bridging and Social Justice”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Matthew Mock, Ph.D., LMFT

Description: Films including family narratives offer a powerful opportunity for therapists to examine different perspectives framing the contexts our clients’ live. Families in films offer insightful windows for retelling of relational stories. Utilizing recent, extraordinary movie clips as examples will serve as a start point for focused dialogue about how cultural and professional discourses frame our assessment of social justice, traumatic situations in intercultural contexts. Utilization within family sessions will be shared and used for rich discussion. The presenter effectively uses photos, film and family narratives film in his graduate courses, teaching, training and practice centered on diversity and social justice.

Shadows, Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour **CANCELLED**

Title: “Partners of Crime: Addressing the impact of gang affiliation and long-term incarceration on women.”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Gerald Pennie, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Christina Brown, B.S.

Description: This program helps participants explore the factors associated with mental health concerns as they apply to women in relationships with people who are gang affiliated and/or who are incarcerated for extended lengths of time. Multicultural competencies as well as competencies for addressing Social Justice Advocacy will be shared directly related to the need for intervention and support for this population. Additionally, relevant family therapeutic interventions and their implications for practice will be shared. Participants will come away with a working knowledge of cultural considerations for women partnered with gang affiliated/presently incarcerated individuals as well as and their implications for intervening practices as it relates to the effects of gang membership and long-term incarceration on the women in relationships with the individuals involved.

Rosedown A, Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “LGBT Ethics in Couples Counseling”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Diane Smedley, M.A., LPC Intern, LMFT Associate, Bret Hendricks, Ed.D., LPC-S, Alexis Croffie, M.A., LPC Intern

Description: Over the past several years we have seen an increase in the number of LGBT couples presenting to couples counseling (Hartwell, Serovich, Reed, Boisvert, & Falbo, 2017). However, there has been recent debate on whether or not working with LGBT couples is considered a counseling specialty or part of our general counseling skills. This presentation will discuss the ethical and cultural considerations when working with LGBT couples. Furthermore, this presentation will educate participants on how to apply well-known couples counseling theories to
the LGBT population such as Gottman Method Couples Therapy, Emotional Focused Therapy, and Couples Narrative Therapy. Additionally, the presenters will introduce affirming LGBT couples counseling theories.

**Rosedown B, Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Consensual Non-Monogamy: Working Relationally with More than Two”  
Format: Education Session  
Presenters: Esther Benoit, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Allison Dukes

Description: This session will explore different relationship structures and therapeutic interventions for working with clients whose relationships are consensually non-monogamous. Participants will explore attitudes and beliefs around monogamy and how these shape our interactions with clients whose relationships don't fit that mold. Clinical themes for CNM clients will be shared through the use of case vignettes and research on relationship satisfaction.

**Opening Session & Welcome: Madewood A/B, 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**

- Join us for a welcoming by our IAMFC President, Dr. Samuel Gladding and meet other attendees as we kick off the conference this year.  
- Dr. Robert Smith, Executive Director of IAMFC, will present a brief history of the organization: “Who We Are and Where We Come From”

**Education Sessions 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.**

**Nottoway A, Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Cyber Space: The New Frontier of Infidelity”  
Format: Education Session  
Presenter: Talal Alsaleem, Psy.D., LMFT

Description: The advances in technology and the evolution of new mediums for social interactions have been a powerful external force with great influence on couples’ interactions in committed relationships. These technological advances have positive and negative effects on dyads and the quality of their relationships. The significant impact of such advances on dyadic interactions warrants a further exploration of its link to infidelity. This workshop explores the unique treatment challenges of cyber infidelity as well as preventive measures to safeguard against its occurrence.

**Nottoway B, Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Counseling Boomerang Children and Their Families”  
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Robert Casares, Ph.D., LPC, NCC

Description: Over the past decade, the occurrence of young adults returning to the parental home to reside has increased in both prevalence and social acceptability. Given the timely nature and frequent occurrence of young adults returning home to live with their parents, this topic is of particular relevance to Family Counselors. Through a review of current literature and relevant family counseling approaches, this presentation will highlight the benefits and challenges commonly experienced by “boomerang children” and their family members, aimed at informing clinicians of this growing trend.

Shadows, Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Exploring the future of School-Based Mental Health services for families and children”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Anna Owens, Ph.D.

Description: During this educational session, participants will explore the mental health crisis in schools and the effects on children, adolescents, and families. Family Counselors are often called upon in moments of crisis but need to understand the unique challenges surrounding mental health in schools. Participants of this session will be invited to partake in an interactive small and large group discussion of a recent Case Study– Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Parkland Florida and share thoughts, ideas, and future steps for counselors. Resources for Mental Health Counselors, Family Counselors, and School Counselors will be provided.

Rosedown A, Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour(s)

Title: “Using Brief Strategy Presentations to Enhance Family Counseling Services”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Jeremy Goshorn, M.S., Nancy Chae, M.S., PMC, LCPC, NCC, NCSC

Description: This session will provide information on the use of brief psychoeducation presentations to facilitate and enhance a grant-funded family counseling program. The presenters will describe a community-based family therapy program aimed at encouraging positive family functioning, academic achievement, and emotional intelligence. Attendees will leave the session understanding how to use adjunctive psychoeducational presentations to facilitate client learning, positive family functioning, and treatment progress.

Rosedown B, Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour(s) **CANCELLED**

Title: “Self-Care- Decreasing the negative impact of social media on mental health”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Myra Wilkinson, M.A., LMFT

Description: This presentation explores the changes in and social media as it relates to mental health as it impacts school-aged children through adults. Due to the increased use of social media, studies show that it may have a negative impact on applying mental health and the ability to practice daily self-care. This presentation will raise awareness regarding this issue and identify tools to decrease the negative impacts.
Roundtable Sessions

Madewood A/B

**Madewood A/B, Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Lived Experience of Marriage and Family Therapists Working with Individuals living with HIV/AIDS”
Format: Roundtable Session
Presenter: Roseina Britton, Ph.D., LPC, NCC

Description: This round table will discuss the results of a qualitative study examining the lived experience of marriage and family therapists working with people living with HIV/AIDS. After a brief review of the studies participants experiences, the presenter will open the discussion to the round table attendees to share their experiences working with the population. Lastly, the presenter will seek feedback on the research presented to build on future research.

**Madewood A/B, Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Applications of Religious and Spirituality Factors in Couples Therapy”
Format: Roundtable Session
Presenters: Wen-Mei Chou, Ph.D., LMFT-S, LPC-S, Harris Ty Leonard, Ph.D., LPC-S, Sara Walker, B.A.

Description: Marriage Counselors has observed the effects of religion and spirituality in intimate relationships. However, religion and spirituality are two different factors, with different mean for the public. The presenters conducted quantitative research to examine associations among religious fundamentalism, daily spiritual experience, and marital intimacy. The research participants were recruited from both cities and rural areas. The Religious Fundamentalism Scale (Altemeyer, & Hunsberger, 2004), Daily Spiritual Experience Scale (Kim, Martin, & Nolty, 2016), and Marital Intimacy Scale (Fowers, & Olson, 1993) were selected to examine associations among the variables. Participants will learn about the research result and the research subjects’ perceptions regarding the religion and/or spirituality regarding intimacy in their relationships. In addition, implications for couples’ therapy will be discussed regarding the research results.

**Madewood A/B, Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Break up In the Counseling Room”
Format: Roundtable Session
Presenter: Mayi Dixon, M.A., Ph.D. Candidate, LPC, CPCS

Description: This workshop is designed to assist Counselors in how to navigate a couple break up during a couples counseling session.

**Madewood A/B, Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Mediators for Couples of Intergenerational Transmission of Conflict”
Format: Roundtable Session
Presenter: Patrice Leopold, M.A., NCC

Description: Tallman et al. (1999) found exposure to interparental conflict is often a precursor to patterns of conflict in couples (N = 313). The two primary factors that influenced conflict in couples exposed to interparental conflict were issues of trust, and the couple’s assessment of the severity of the disagreement. Thus, Tallman et al. suggested
altering these learned behaviors may shift the trajectory of relationships for couples coping with intergenerational transmission of conflict. In accordance with social learning theory (Bandura, 1977), scholars found children model what they witness from their parents or caregivers (Rhoades, Stanley, Markman, & Ragan, 2012). Some modeled behaviors and dispositions include decreased commitment, poor communication, insecure attachment, and favorable attitudes toward divorce (Braithwaite, Doxey, Dowdle, & Fincham, 2016). The purpose of this session is to explore potential mediators (parental attachment, empathy, and resilience) of intergenerational transmission of conflict for couples yearning high-quality, long-term relationships.

Madewood A/B, Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “Here but Not Here: Using Ambiguous Loss Theory with Families of Transgender Youth”
Format: Roundtable
Presenter: Tristan McBain, Ph.D., LMFT

Description: Ambiguous loss is “a situation of unclear loss that remains unverified and thus without resolution” (Boss, 2016, p. 270). There are two types of ambiguous loss: physical absence with psychological presence (i.e. incarceration, kidnapping), and physical presence with psychological absence (i.e. dementia). Clinicians will be familiarized with the ambiguous loss theory and provided a theoretical map of interventions with families of transgender youth. Boss (2010) proposed six guidelines for resiliency: finding meaning, adjusting mastery, reconstructing identity, normalizing ambivalence, revising attachment, and discovering hope. For example, a clinician helping the family through reconstructing identity will help parents explore their own parental identities in what it meant to be a mother to a daughter to what it means to be a mother to a son. Three detailed case studies that describe important transgender youth issues and a history of family dynamics will be utilized.

Madewood A/B, Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “Understanding the Pain of Families through Knowing Myself: Broadening Our Identities and Self-Awareness”
Format: Roundtable
Presenter: Matthew Mock, PhD, LMFT

Description: The purpose of this presentation is to provide a space for discussion about the ways in which current and intergenerational trauma and loss, and the transmission of family stories and narratives work to deepen personal and familial knowledge and self-awareness. Often the degree of hardship and dehumanization experienced by communities and individuals who came to the U.S. as immigrants or refugees or those who are indigenous to the Northern American continent were encouraged to resist retelling their stories of strife, warfare, colonization, and abuse to younger generations as a means of survival. Though the reasons for are likely complex and not fully understood, halting the transmission of painful narratives may have held the intention of paving avenues for younger generations to experience greater success without having to endure or hold onto the traumas of previous generations. Yet the impact of the traumas does not disappear.

Education Sessions 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Nottoway A, Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “How Relational-Cultural Theory Can Work for Me in the Counseling room, classroom, and at Home”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Ian Lertora, Ph.D., LPC,

Description: The tenants of relational cultural theory (RCT) are applicable in many settings that counselors and counselor educators operate. Concepts like authenticity, relational images, relational competence, mutual empathy, and growth fostering relationships all have a place in our counseling sessions, classrooms, and, most importantly, our homes. In this presentation, the attendees will learn about how to RCT applies to various settings and hear examples, both anecdotal and grounded in research, that highlight the impact that using RCT can have. Attendees will be invited to share and discuss their experiences and understanding of using relational strategies in the various settings and the presenter will assist them in connecting it to the tenants of RCT.

Nottoway B, Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Building Attachment Bonds Through Family Play Therapy: How to Get Started”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Tim Baima, Ph.D., LMFT, Associate Professor

Description: Attachment issues often lie at the root of presenting problems in children and adolescents. Attachment-based family counseling has demonstrated effectiveness in treating these underlying issues (e.g. Diamond, Diamond, & Levy, 2014; Siegel & Payne Bryson, 2011; Smith-Adcock & Tucker, 2017). Similarly, the benefits of play therapy are well documented (e.g. Gil, 2015; Smith-Adcock & Tucker, 2017). While many counselors are either comfortable facilitating talk therapy with families, or play therapy with individuals, few are comfortable facilitating family-play interventions (Gil, 2015). This interactive and experiential workshop provides a brief summary of the benefits of family play therapy to enhance attachment when treating children and adolescents and presents three family play interventions that counselors with any level of training in play and/or family counseling can readily implement. The assertions in this workshop will be consistent with those made by well-respected experts on the topic (e.g. Gil, 2015; Smith-Adcock & Tucker, 2017).

Shadows, Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “’Til Death Due Us Part: Domestic Violence and the Intersection of Criminal and Family Law”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Brande´ Flamez, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Ann M. Ordway, J.D., Ph.D., Gabbie S. Canales, J.D.

Description: This presentation is led by a therapist, family law attorney, and criminal defense attorney. Attendees will be provided with real world case studies and gain experience how the aforementioned professionals all work together when engaging in couples counseling where intimate partner violence is present. Attendees will receive a power point, useful legal links, resources, and case studies.

Rosedown A, Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Cancer is a Word, Not a Sentence: Family Counseling for Cancer Diagnoses, Treatment, and Survivors”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Ashley Cosentino, Ed.D., LCPC, NCC

Description: One in three cancer patients will experience crisis and meet criteria for a clinical diagnosis of an anxiety or mood related disorder, however, only one in ten seek services (Nekolaichuk, Cumming, Yushchyshyn, & Sela, 2011). When crisis levels become too high, the person often preserves energy for reactive practices and when the crisis is present for prolonged periods, a number of negative health consequences can take place (Townsend, 2010). When it comes to life-threatening illnesses, we often think of counseling people/families in terms of bereavement or what is taking place during a person’s lifespan; however, there is little research on treating those
with cancer in the young adulthood phase. Cancer is not a sentence, it is a word so there is a need to evaluate the ways in which self-perception can be explored thus creating hope for the patient and their family through spiritual counseling and interventions.

**Rosedown B, Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

**Title:** “Using couple counseling for traditionally individual issues”  
**Format:** Education Session  
**Presenters:** Michael Grogan, Ph.D., LMHC, LMFT, Adrian Manley, Ph.D., MFT

Description: Traditionally, individual therapies have been used to treat individual diagnoses. Many times clients have been treated effectively in individual therapy only to experience becoming stuck or relapsing after returning back into their marriage or family system. We propose considering using couple therapy in the treatment of these traditionally individual issues. Couple therapy may be able to offer efficacious healing that lasts as partners become supports and participants in the therapy process. In particular, Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy (EFT) has proven to help couples "an astounding 70-75 percent" (Sue Johnson) of the time. EFT is being used to help couples work together on issues such as depression, anxiety, and PTSD with significant success.

**Roundtable Sessions**  
**Madewood A/B**

**Madewood A/B, Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

**Title:** “Counseling Women Through Infertility and Miscarriage”  
**Format:** Roundtable Session  
**Presenter:** Susanna Capri Brooks, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, NCSC

Description: The journey preceding motherhood can present a wide range of challenges for women. Many women picture an ideal that when they are ready to start a family it will happen easily. However, for many this is simply not the case. This presentation will explore the challenges women may face during infertility and miscarriage, as well as internal conflicts that many times lead to doubts and confusion. As a means to help women cope with the pressures found in today’s society, evidence-based practices will be explored that will equip counselors as they help mothers navigate through these challenging times of dealing with infertility and miscarriage.

**Madewood A/B, Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

**Title:** “Interpersonal and Spiritual Attachments: 12-step research and insight into addiction recovery”  
**Format:** Roundtable Session  
**Presenters:** Everette Coffman, M.A., Gelawdiyos Haile, M.A.

Description: The presentation will focus on understanding how family systems throughout our life affect our attachment styles and the role that this process plays in substance abuse. The presentation will provide an overview of God attachment and attachment figures in the family over the lifetime, with specific implications to couples and families in treatment for substance abuse. This presentation will also discuss original research that looked at the attachment styles of people in 12-step recovery and discusses possible new areas to explore regarding research in the area of attachment styles, family systems, and substance abuse.
Title: “Hermanas y Hermanos: Legal Status and the Effect on the Sibling Relationship”
Format: Roundtable Session
Presenter: Edith Gonzalez, Ph.D., NCC; Ashley Inbody

Description: Mixed-status households are families that have at least one undocumented member. Approximately 16 million people in mixed-status households reside in the U.S (Mathema, 2017). About 7.3% of U.S. students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade are children of undocumented immigrants (Pew Hispanic Center, 2016a). Most of these students are U.S. born children who are U.S. citizens at birth, while a small number are undocumented immigrants themselves (Pew Hispanic Center, 2016a). Researchers have explored the prevalence and experiences of mixed-status families (e.g., Enriquez, 2015; Vargas & Ybarra, 2017; Xu & Brabeck, 2012), but most of the studies exploring mixed-status families include undocumented parents with U.S. born children. This presentation seeks to provide a discussion about how legal status effects the sibling relationship when one of the siblings is undocumented while the other is U.S. born.

Title: Human Trafficking: Counseling Survivors and Clients At-Risk
Format: Roundtable session
Presenters: Reshelle Marino, Ph.D., LPC-S, Laura-Fazio-Griffith, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT-S, RPT-S

Description: Human Trafficking is a market-driven criminal industry. It is imperative that research is expanded to help marriage, couple, and family counselors best understand how to work with buyers, sellers, and trafficked individuals. Participants will discuss national and statewide protocols, and clinical implications for working with various aspects related to human trafficking.

Title: “An Introduction to Military Sexual Trauma”
Format: Roundtable
Presenters: Rashunda Miller-Reed, Ph.D., NCC, LMFT, LPC

Description: Counselors are required to address a range of concerns that impact client well-being, including sexual wellness. This presentation will introduce counselors to military sexual trauma (MST). Considering the vast amount of service members veteran members who may be impacted by MST.

Title: “Same Kind of Different as Me: Diversity, Representation, and The Space They Shape in Therapy”
Format: Roundtable Session
Presenter: Mykia Hollis-Griffith, M.A., LPC-Intern, LCDC-Intern

Description: 1. What diversity and representation mean together and why it matters when working with children and families. 2. How representation affects everyone, especially families of color, in ways we may or may not understand. 3. The role representation plays on individuals, families, and in the counseling room. 4. How we as professionals can work to combat the ever-prevalent lack of representation in and outside the counseling room.
Education Sessions

Nottoway A, Friday, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “Ethical Concerns and Ethical Traps”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Loretta Bradley, Ph.D.; Brett Hendricks, EdD; Nicole Noble, Ph.D; Lori Hollingsworth, Patricia Johnson, Kumudu Witanapatirana.

Description: In an era where ethical issues abound, this presentation will focus on ethical issues especially ethical traps encountered by marriage, family and couple counselors. Using case studies, the audience will have an opportunity to implement the IAMFC Code of Ethics in solving 4 cases involving 4 different ethical traps.

Nottoway B, Friday, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “Gender Disparities in Eating Disorders: Exploring Societal Norms and Family Dynamics”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Rebecca Goldberg, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, GC-C, Melanie Walsh, M.S., LPC, NCC, Doctoral Candidate, Sarah Perkins, B.A.

Description: Boys and men who struggle with disordered eating are typically overlooked (National Eating Disorders Association, 2018). Family members and health professionals are more likely to observe and identify disordered eating in girls and women, but this does not accurately portray the full extent of the problem. The masculinity hypothesis asserts that conformity to masculine gender roles can be a risk factor for masculinity-oriented body image pathology in men and boys (Blashill, 2011). This is a data-driven program presenting the results from a content analysis in which we examined 123 articles regarding eating disorders, focusing primarily on the disparities that exist between representation of men and women in professional literature. We will use a Power Point presentation and discussion exercises, including a case study, in order to meet the Learning Objectives. Lastly, we will offer resources for the audience applicable to counseling families that include men and boys with eating disorders.

Shadows, Friday, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “Challenges in Supervision: Strength and Success come with Structure and Strategy”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Heather Tustison, M.S., LPC, Susan Perkins, Ph.D., LMFT, LPC, Alyssa Peters, M.S., LPC, NCC

Description: Marriage, couple, and family counselor supervisors work hard to ensure the quality of their supervision and the effectiveness of their supervisees. Through years of supervision, the lead presenter has developed a structure for the logistics of supervision that support the supervision relationship and process. These include a clear informed consent, supervision session notes and feedback forms for supervisees, and organization systems for paperwork processes. This structure promotes counselor skill development and provides a solid foundation for conversations and actions regarding gatekeeping. The lead presenter will share her materials with participants. In addition to the structure of supervision, supervisors’ work is often separated from others. Although many face the same challenges, they lack opportunities to collaborate about ways to address these challenges. The presenters will address three common challenges supervisors face. The presenters will offer strategies for working through these challenges and will invite participants to share their experiences and ideas.
Rosedown A, Friday, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Systems In and Out of School: Empowering Future School Counselors in Applying a Systems Perspective”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Sarah Lanman, Ed.D., LPCC-S, NCC., Jenna Alvarez, Ph.D.

Description: Martin (2017) found that while less than half of study participants (i.e., 39% of school counselors) reported taking a course in family systems, 87% of participants believed that family systems approaches should be required learning during their Masters’ training. Similarly, Paylo (2011) asserted that that counselor educators should consider the incorporation of at least a broad teaching of systems approaches, so that school counselors are competent in consultation, collaboration and/or coordination of systems. If school counselors do not have knowledge of a family systems perspective, they will “…ascribe less importance to school–family–community partnerships and will be less likely to engage in school–family–community partnerships” (Martin, 2017, p. 274). This presentation will identify creative ways in which counselor educators can incorporate teaching of a systems approach when training school counselors, both within a required family counseling course and throughout the curriculum.

Rosedown B, Friday, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Playing it Safe: Exploring Issues of Diversity Through the Lens of Minority MFTs”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Lawrencia Jenkins, Masters, Ph.D. Candidate, PLMFT, AAMFT-SC, PLPC, Jacinda Whitley, PhD, LMFT

Description: As training programs for marriage and family therapists are built to develop competent clinicians, there is an element of personal growth that is expected to come with the learning process (Aponte, 2014; Watson, 1993). This personal growth includes identification of triggers that may come up for the therapist during session, understanding of family-of-origin issues that may need to be addressed, understanding the aspects of intersectionality, and a host of other personal and relational aspects of the therapist’s life that may impact the therapist’s ability to work with the client. Currently, women play a significant role in the field of MFT, as they make up the majority of those in-training. As the field of MFT is constantly expanding, the single female community is growing at rapid numbers (Census Bureau, 2017). Acknowledging all aspects of cultural identity is important to therapist development.

Education Sessions 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.

Nottoway A, Friday, 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Consortium for Family Strengthening Research: A Multi-University Collaborative for Mentoring and Com”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Ryan Carlson, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Sandy Griffith, Ph.D., Naomi Wheeler, Ph.D., LMHC, Andrew P. Daire, Ph.D.

Description: Counselor educators have traditionally struggled in their pursuit of large-scale federal grants (Carlson, 2018). Additionally, counselor education research often focuses on students or faculty, rather than directly on client factors, adding to the challenge of obtaining outcome-based federal grants. As such, we developed the Consortium for Family Strengthening Research (CFSR) to specifically foster a multi-university collaboration with counselor
education faculty and students to promote community-engaged family research and mentorship among senior faculty, junior faculty, and students. The CFSR is comprised of faculty across ranks (tenure and non-tenure track), and students, who conduct family strengthening research disseminated in multi-disciplinary journals. The purpose of this presentation is to (a) provide a brief overview of CFSR community-based research with low-income couples and families; (b) discuss leveraging resources from CFSR to advance scholarship through publications and grant proposals; and (c) identify mentoring strategies to promote a culture of community-based family science.

**Nottoway B, Friday, 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Addictions as Attachment Disorders”  
Format: Education Session  
Presenter: Richard Marks, Ph.D., LPC

Description: Addicts do not bond to people, instead, they bond to objects and processes. Typical recovery programs teach to abstain (sobriety) but do not help addicts learn how to bond to others. Recovery is about helping addicts regulate their addictive personality which operates from the position of "I" and move to the position of healthy relationships which focus on "We." This session focuses on an addiction as an attachment disorder and how this informs our processes in couples and individual therapy.

**Shadows, Friday, 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Culturally Aware Marriage and Family Counselors: A Reflexive Process”  
Format: Education Session  
Presenters: Jamie Banker, Ph.D., LMFT, Bethany Simmons, PhD, LMFT-S, LPC

Description: The importance of attending to clients’ culture in the counseling session has been well established. Culturally aware counselors should not only assess all aspects of their client’s cultural context and intersectionality but they need to also be aware of their own cultural background and identity. The influence of the therapist on the therapeutic relationship and client’s responses to treatment as a recursive process is a foundational idea in the field of systemic marriage and family counseling. The reflexive and intercultural relationship between client and counselor can plan an important role in the course of treatment. This presentation will focus on the intersecting of client and counselor identity in the counseling process. A tool to help enhance counselor’s awareness of the cultural identity of their client(s), themselves, and the intersection between them will be provided. Instruction and examples of using this tool will be discussed.

**Rosedown A, Friday, 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Play Therapy Techniques and Interventions for Couples”  
Format: Education Session  
Presenters: Laura Fazio-Griffith, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT, Reshelle Marino, Ph.D., LPC-S

Description: This workshop will provide an overview of the importance of utilizing play therapy interventions when working with couples. A focus on promoting healthy systems and a rationale for integrating expressive art techniques and play therapy theory and techniques into the counseling process with this population will be addressed. Expressive art techniques coupled with play therapy can enhance the couples’ relationship, assisting couples who have experienced a crisis. Specifically, by incorporating expressive arts and play therapy interventions into the therapeutic process, couples can create emotional connectedness, improve communication, and enhance relationships within their own family system.
Rosedown B, Friday, 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Constructing the Story of Us: Mentoring through Creative Collaboration”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Stephen Southern, Ed.D., LPC-S

Description: Drawing constructs and techniques from object relations, schema therapy, and narrative therapy, this program explores means for constructing successful partnerships in collaboration and mentoring. Selected psychodynamics account for the phases and stages in creative collaboration. The initially hierarchal relationship of mentoring is instigative for reparenting and co-constructing of new perspectives. Self-development and service to the community occur within the context of the bridge between you and me. Case studies of mutuality and collaboration are presented to emphasize key constructs and helpful practices. Recommendations are offered to fuel the creative process of collaboration in counselor education and supervision. A "tree of mentoring" will be presented to illustrate the benefits of mentoring in advancing the profession over the years.

Madewood A, Friday, 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Counseling Resettled Refugee Families”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Leila Warraich, M.S., NCC; Michelle Morel, BA; Colin Cross, BA; Allison Dukes, BS.

Description: In most counseling scholarship refugee mental health needs are minimized or overlooked. Many refugee families resettling in the US struggle with difficult adjustment, while view counseling as failing to address those needs. Consequently, this session will help to illuminate the unique needs of Refugee Families and illicit a call to the field to become more culturally responsive to their needs and explore best practices. The presentation will start with a literature review of the current refugee crisis and the mental health needs and disparities of refugee families. It will then lead into a discussion of the clinician implications and best practices when working with refugee families.

Madewood B, Friday, 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour(s)

Title: “Parenting Again: The Future of Grandparents Serving as Parents to Children Affected by the Addiction”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Kristi Mouttet, Ph.D., LMFT, LPC

Description: A growing number of grandparents are being thrust into the role of primary caregiver to their children’s children. Anticipation of retirement is now replaced with the daily duties and caregiving of a parent role. Societal issues, such as the opioid epidemic, are reshaping family organization. Grandparents and children are often faced with role confusion or a change in family structure when a parent is minimally involved or no longer present in their lives. Significant issues may include trauma affiliated with prior exposure to abuse, addiction or neglect. This presentation will provide family counselors with information about relevant issues and challenges that grandparents face in their return to this role as primary parent while also identifying strengths and providing them with resources and solutions.

Education Sessions 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Nottoway A, Friday, 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “Change it Up: Using Creativity in Family Counseling for Reaching Beyond Borders”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Fariba Ehteshami, Ph.D.

Description: It is through creativity that major theories of counseling and skills in counseling have been developed. It is essential that family counselors be rewarded for creative innovations and that they help themselves become more creative by studying the expressive arts, reading widely, traveling and observing human nature from multiple perspectives. According to Gladding (2008) creativity generates new techniques that suggest a better way of understanding and solving a problem and has led to cultural changes and has accelerated the evolution of human history in several ways. Effective counselors are aware of the multidimensional nature of the profession and are able to work with a variety of population by using interventions. The goal of this study is to open new windows in this area.

Nottoway B, Friday, 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Our Beds Are Crowded Places: Navigating Non-monogamous Relationship Dynamics with LGBT Clients”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Jordan Pearce, M.A., David Schlosz, M.A., LPC, NCC

Description: As social acceptance grows for non-traditional romantic relationships, more people are choosing to engage in non-monogamous arrangements with significant others, even within the context of marriage. While non-monogamy is practiced in all kinds of relationships, presentation will examine specifically the unique role non-monogamy often plays in LGBT relationships and will explore the novel challenges that are often presented to counselors when the people involved in these relationships seek counseling. During the presentation, attendees will learn about open relationship dynamics, confront their own biases about non-monogamy, and learn strategies for working affirmatively with clients who choose non-traditional relationships. Through a series of case examples, specific client challenges will be addressed, including building trust and communication, setting boundaries, unpacking jealousy, sexual health concerns, managing disclosure to friends and family, coping with stigma, addressing religious concerns, and navigating conversations about the relationship with children.

Shadows, Friday, 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Utilizing Systemic Practices When Counseling Military Families with Substance Addictions”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Justina Wong, B.A., Neil Duchac, Ph.D., Dr.PH

Description: This presentation will discuss systemic practices for counselors working with military service members and families experiencing a substance addiction. The presenters will focus on what roles partners, spouses, and family members play when a service member is seeking support for his or her addiction and what role the service member plays when a family member is experiencing an addiction. This will be an interactive presentation with a lot of audience participation utilizing subjective lived experiences and case studies. Additionally, participants will learn about the military’s perspective on substance use. Best practices will be discussed relative to the recognition, assessment, treatment, and relapse of military families. Additionally, links between family and interpersonal violence will be discussed.

Rosedown A, Friday, 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Why Couple Case Conceptualizations Are Essential for Optimal Clinical Practice”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Len Sperry, Ph.D., MFCC
Description: The heart of a couple case conceptualization is the relational pattern learned in large part by each partner through modeling their respective parents. This pattern is reflected in the couple’s communication, intimacy and sex, and problem solving and conflict resolution. Explaining the couples’ relational pattern and establishing a strategy for modifying it is the function of an effective couple case conceptualization. Research has identified eleven such patterns. This presentation provides an assessment model for identifying the characteristic pattern and developing the case conceptualization which guides treatment. Even if only a partner is engaged in individual therapy and the focus is on his or her individual maladaptive pattern, therapists who can also identify relational interaction patterns are most likely to achieve optimal treatment outcomes with that client. Utilizing the couple case conceptualization of a recent infamous case, this presentation illustrates the clinical value of a couple case conceptualization.

Rosedown B, Friday, 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “MFT Clinical Preparedness; Sending Trainees into the Field Prepared, or Are We?”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Jessica Moreno, DMFT, LMFT; Bita Rivas, Ed.D., LPC, LAC, LMFT, NCC, MAC, ACS

Description: Each year, thousands of Marriage and Family Therapy trainees earn their degree and the right of passage to enter the field as associates. Although trainees have met the minimum requirements necessary to graduate, how prepared are they to provide therapeutic services? In this presentation, we will discuss what it means to be clinically prepared to enter the field of practice. We will also discuss the developmental milestones Marriage and Family Therapy trainees should be meeting in their practicum. In addition, we will identify the gaps in clinical supervision between trainee needs and supervisor expectations in terms of clinical preparedness. Finally, we will discuss the implications of clinical preparedness and what it means for how trainees are being prepared.

Madewood A, Friday, 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour(s)

Title: “Getting Families Unplugged and Engaged”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Stephen Fortson, Ed.D., LPCC-S, Josh Francis, Ph.D., LPCC-S, LICDCC-S

Description: In the twenty-first century we have seen the advance of technologies that have made family life easier and more complex. Smart phones, computers, robots, artificial intelligence, artificial reality, the lists goes on. These technologies have given us the ability to be connected 24/7. They have given us access to information, people from around the world, services and resources that were previously unavailable. However, there is a downside to having access to all this technology. Never before have people been so disconnected from each other. In families, an increasing number of interactions occur through these technologies. We are loosing touch with the basic art of communication, face to face interaction, and intimacy. For African American, poor and working-class families this disconnection can be even greater. In this presentation, the attendee will learn about strategies a therapist can implement to reconnect families and couples to each other.

Madewood B, Friday, 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour(s)

Title: “Causes and Implications of the Opioid Crisis on Children and Families: Prevention and Intervention as a Community Response”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Bita Rivas, Ed.D., LPC, LMFT, LAC, ACS, NCC, MAC, Anthony Rivas, LMFT, LAC, MAC, SAP, Jessica Moreno, DMFT, LMFT
Description: The purpose of this presentation is to outline the history and development of the opioid crisis; to identify impacts to rural America; to elaborate on the implications to individuals, families, and communities; and to identify resources for these communities. The level of use, misuse, and impact of opioids on communities has caught national attention and has been labeled a national crisis. The opioid epidemic has hit rural communities especially hard with community members citing opioid abuse as the biggest problem in their communities. To better understand the current epidemic, it is important to understand historical trends in relation to opioids and opioid related substances; the War on Poverty; the recession of 2007; job loss; and the shifting of urban/rural divide politically, financially, and economically. The flooding of opioids into these communities impacted every system, with layered consequences.

**Education Sessions**

**Nottoway A, Friday, 3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

**Title:** “Parenting Strategies as a Key Component of Family Therapy for Disruptive Child Behavior”
**Format:** Education Session
**Presenters:** George Herbert, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist, Kellie Camelford, Ph.D., LPC

Description: Parent training programs have become an important therapeutic intervention to best address disruptive child behavior. Drawing direction from the professional literature, this presentation will review various parenting programs consistent with Evidence Based Practice (EBP) and highlight how such programs can be a key part of family therapy. Common components of effective parenting programs will be identified and discussed with regard to their proper implementation as they relate to child and adolescent behavior problems.

**Nottoway B, Friday, 3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

**Title:** “Unsung Lullabies: Maneuvering through the Journey of Infertility”
**Format:** Education Session
**Presenters:** Alyssa Peters, M.S., LPC, NCC, Heather Tustison, LCPC, NCC

Description: Infertility is similar to a taboo subject, hence, the “unsung lullabies”. One in eight couples experience infertility in one shape or form. As a counselor, therapist, or helping professional the awareness of infertility issues need to be brought out into the open. The psychological, physical, and relational affects that a couple go through can significantly impact the individual as well as the couple. Help is needed to cope, persevere, and navigate the individualistic realities of infertility. This session will provide counselors, therapists, and helping professionals with the much-needed awareness, understanding, and recognition regarding characteristics associated with infertility.

**Shadows, Friday, 3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

**Title:** “Teaching Family Counseling through the Media and Literature”
**Format:** Education Session
**Presenter:** Samuel Gladding, Ph.D., LPC

Description: There are multiple ways to teach family counseling. However, one of the most dynamic that can be used is through using case examples from literature, film, and the media. Literature examples can range from fiction, such as novels by William Styron (Lie Down in Darkness) and Amy Tan (The Joy Luck Club), to classic dramas by Edward Albee (Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf) and Shakespeare (Hamlet). Films used to highlight functional and dysfunctional aspects of families include comedies like Little Miss Sunshine to heartbreaks such Rachel Getting
Married. The emphasis of this program will be on ways of helping family counselors become more aware of family
dynamics as well as ways of assisting them in facilitating ways for families to become more functional.

**Rosedown A, Friday, 3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Parent Intervention Considerations when Working with Children with Anxiety and Depression”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Kellie Camelford, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, NCSC, RPT, George Hebert, Ph.D.

Description: Parent involvement is an important element in providing counseling services to minors with anxiety
and depression due to the research which links minors who have parental support in counseling as more likely to
have better success rates in counseling and who will continue to develop into health adults. Counselors need to find
ways to develop meaningful relationships with parents whether they are working individually with a minor client or
working on the parent-child relationship as a therapeutic goal.

**Rosedown B, Friday, 3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Counseling the Adoptive Kinship Network: Past, Present, and Future”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Susan Branco, Ph.D., LPC, LCPC-S, NCC, ACS, Charmaine Conner, M.S. LPC, NCC

Description: The Adoptive Kinship Network ([AKN] Grotevant, 2019) describes family members within an
adoptive family constellation. Members include adopted persons, birth/first parents, adoptive parents, siblings,
grandparents, and extended family members. Counseling strategies for the AKN have dramatically altered in the
past several decades. Initially, concepts such as the Adopted Child Syndrome (Smith, 2001) encouraged mental
health providers to solely focus on the adopted person rather than incorporate a family systems approach. Other
counseling and treatment guidelines such as promoting assimilation over acknowledgement of racial, ethnic, and
other differences between adoptee and adoptive family (Zamostny, O’Brien, Baden, & O’Leary Wiley, 2003), as
well as a harmful era of “attachment” therapies (Dozier, 2003), highlighted the need for evidence-based practices
working with the AKN. This presentation will examine past and current practices with the AKN and will explore
future directions in the field. Emphasis will also be placed on working with transracial adoptive families.

**Madewood A, Friday, 3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Mending the Mind and Heart: An Integrative Group Therapy Model for IPV Survivors”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Ann Ordway, J.D., Ph.D., NCC, Zira Franks, MSC, BHT

Description: Intimate partner violence is a pervasive problem which does not discriminate. This workshop will
include the examination of the behaviors that can be considered domestic violence and how the presentation of a
victim can vary widely. Mending the Mind and Heart is an integrative group therapy model for intimate partner
violence survivors. The presenters will describe the 6-week group therapy model, which incorporates a variety of
theories, techniques, and activities designed to help survivors redevelop a sense of self, implement positive coping
skills, heal, and move on with their lives. The model will be shared with attendees so it can be implemented in their
own practices.

**Madewood B, Friday, 3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Understanding Parkinson’s Disease Caregiver Stress: A Family Systems Perspective”
Description: Parkinson’s Disease, a progressive, degenerative, neurological disorder of the central nervous that mainly affects movement, is estimated to affect more than 6 million people globally. Caregivers of those with Parkinson’s Disease often face significant stress. Moreover, familial caregivers are subject to a double-edged experience of stress due to their personal, caring familial relationship with the Parkinson’s Disease patient, as well as the overall stress related to caregiving. Drawing upon a family systems perspective, this presentation will provide an overview of Parkinson’s Disease and caregiver stress, in general. The specific needs and challenges associated with caregivers of those with Parkinson’s Disease will be highlighted and explored. Strategies for counseling families impacted by Parkinson’s Disease will be provided.

Education Sessions 4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

Nottoway A, Friday, 4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “Student Parents and Higher Education: Helping Student Parents Succeed in Counseling Programs”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Julissa Espinoza, M.S., Ph.D. Candidate, LPC-Intern, Rachelle Morales, M.S., PhD Candidate, LPC, Jesusa Jasso, M.S., LPC

Description: According to Institute for Women Policy Research (WPR; 2014), 4.8 million students are raising dependent children. Among them, 71% are mothers, and 11% are single fathers (WPR, 2014). However, this group has been given limited attention by researchers, educators, and policy makers (Moreau & Kerner, 2015). Student parents face unique challenges when balancing their school work and parenthood, such as financial stress, time-related struggle, and level of well-being (Moreau & Kerner, 2015). Some student parents ended up dropping out of school due to a lack of resource and support (Institute for Women Policy Research, 2014). Still, there are many successful student parents who viewed their degree-seeking experiences as positive. We suggest that counseling departments make every effort to support counseling student parents. Presenters will describe the characteristics of student parents, identify resources and supports needed, and provide recommendations for college counselors and counselor educators in helping this special population.

Nottoway B, Friday, 4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “The Detrimental Absence of Ecosystemic Structural Family Therapy from Family Counseling Practice”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Colin Cross, B.A., Rebecca Sheffield, Ph.D., LPC, LMF

Description: Ecosystemic Structural Family Therapy (ESFT) is a modern, trauma and attachment-informed adaptation of Structural Family Therapy. ESFT was developed specifically as a theoretical approach for counselors when working with families who have children at risk of out-of-home placement. It has been largely limited to work with intensive in-home clients, however, ESFT is a well-structured, well-defined approach with a framework that can extend far beyond intensive in-home. Furthermore, due to high rates of traumatic events in minority and low socioeconomic populations, ESFT is a particularly relevant approach when working with families from these communities. This educational session will provide participants with theoretical background on ESFT, resources, and clinical practice-based interventions they will be able to incorporate into their family counseling work.
Shadows, Friday, 4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “A Moving Picture is Worth 10,000 Words: Using Modern Film in MCFC Training”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Deb Pender, Ph.D., LCPC, Rebecca Pender Baum, Ph.D., LPCC, NCC

Description: As our MCFC students hear our explanation of patterns of healthy and unhealthy family interactions, they made struggle to picture what concepts actually “look” like. During our interactive, experiential session, we will play clips from iconic family process movies, and facilitate discussion of what constructs/descriptors from various family theories may be identified in the clip. In addition to core constructs, we will look at the larger issues including family grief, divorce and family secrets. Through small group discussion and large group input, we will identify how we might elect to discuss our collective observations with a similar family, and share ideas about how to promote MCFC student engagement with this method.

Rosedown A, Friday, 4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Attachment Science and Theory: Hope for couples and families that face addiction”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Everette Coffman, M.A., Adrian Manley, Ph.D., LMFT, Gelawdiyos Haile, M.A.

Description: The presentation will focus on understanding how relationships throughout our lifetime affect our attachment styles and the role that this process plays in substance abuse. Research demonstrates that insecure attachment styles are a predictor for negative psychopathology and substance abuse; however, few researchers have investigated the development of secure attachment figures as a major contributor to the treatment. If an individual can transition attachment styles from insecure to secure, this will be a prominent predictor for not only stabilization, but success in recovery from negative symptomology and substance abuse. Research clearly shows that having multiple attachment figures may increase the likelihood of getting one’s needs met and as parents age, it may be particularly beneficial to develop new relationships that can continue to meet attachment needs over the lifespan. This presentation will promote knowledge through a discussion about possible new research in the area of attachment styles and substance abuse.

Rosedown B, Friday, 4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour(s)

Title: “Coptic Orthodox Couples’ Perception of Marital Satisfaction”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Monir Morgan, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS

Description: Marriage in the Coptic Orthodox Church is a sacrament. Coptic Orthodox Christians are allowed to marry one spouse. Coptic Orthodox Christian husbands and wives have the right to divorce only in the case of evidenced adultery or apostasy. This qualitative study is the first of its kind to consider marital satisfaction among Coptic Orthodox Christian Egyptian-American.

The study analyzed the relevant constructed meanings that emerged from all interviews and clustered them into five main themes in an attempt to reach an in-depth understanding of the lived marital experiences of Coptic Orthodox Christian Egyptian-American husbands and wives. These themes included their perception of what marital satisfaction is, the general factors that contributed to it, the effects of daily marital experiences, how they managed these factors, and what they would change to improve their marital satisfaction.
Madewood A, Friday, 4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Understanding Co-parenting Challenges and Parental Gatekeeping in Families”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Daniel Puhlman, Ph.D., LMFT

Description: Working with co-parents is a significant challenge for therapists with little or no training on the topic. This session will provide an overview of the research on co-parenting with a focus on interventions strategies that have received empirical support. The session will also introduce participants to a model of Parental Gatekeeping (Puhlman & Pasley, 2013), in order to provide a framework for selecting interventions and therapeutic decision making. Parental gatekeeping, or the management of one parent over the other to restrict or facilitate their involvement with children, has a major impact on co-parenting. A greater understanding of this issue will provide therapists options for working with these situations and offer possible ways for assisting parents in developing a more effective working alliance.

Opening Reception
Poster Presentations
Friday, Jan 31
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Join us for a reception on the 2nd Floor. Meet the conference sponsors and get to know your fellow conference attendees. Light refreshments will be provided. Poster presentations will be on display.

Poster Presentations

Second Floor Reception, Friday, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. - (No CE Credit)

Title: “Integrative Family Counseling”
Format: Poster
Presenters: James Devlin, Ph.D., Jessica Cole, Jennifer, Toof, Keon Stewart, Surabhi Jain

Description: The use of integrative models in family, marriage, and individual counseling continues to show promising therapeutic results. The basic concept of theoretical integration involves a purposeful combination of principles, practices, and common factors from different theories. This form of therapy has been employed for the past 50 years and has provided therapists with numerous techniques which have shown to be effective for a variety of clinical issues. The present poster presentation provides clarity on what integrative therapy is, its history, and coverage on its advantages and disadvantages. In addition, a literature review of existing integrative models and contemporary family models is provided. The poster presentation further covers Dr. Jay Lebow’s integrative systemic therapy, its importance, modes of operation, barriers, and its implication and future in marriage and family counseling.

Title: “Counseling Step-Families Coping in the Face of Parental Alienation Intrusion”
Format: Poster
Presenters: Anissa Fox, B.A., Charlotte Brunson, B.A.
Description: This poster will focus on parental alienation as an intrusion and added complication to stepfamily formation and adjustment.

Title: “An Examination of the Parents' Role in Adolescent Pornography Use”
Format: Poster
Presenters: Jim Mock, Ph.D., LMFT, Danny Hatch, Psy.D., Ph.D.

Description: Most children will be exposed to pornography by the time they reach adolescence (Sabina, Wolak, Finkelhor, 2008). Considering the lack of prefrontal cortex development (the more rational part of the brain) and the ubiquity of the internet in adolescents’ lives, they are at high risk for compulsive pornographic viewing. Compulsive use has been associated with a number of challenges including lower levels of happiness and a distortion of healthy sexual relationships (Morgan, 2011; Stack, Wasserman, and Kern 2004). In light of these consequences, it is important for parents to be able to equip their children for exposure before it happens. Our research with approximately 300 college students suggests that parent-child communication is not enough to prepare children for these experiences, it is also important that these discussions happen within a context of a good parent-child connection. It’s also imperative for parents to avoid a shame-based response to normal sexual curiosity.

Title: “What is Mindful Partnering”
Format: Poster
Presenter: Natasha Seiter, M.S.

Description: This poster will describe a study testing the psychometric properties of the Mindful Partnering Scale (MPS). Mindfulness, a way of relating to the environment with present-focused and nonjudgmental awareness is associated with reduced stress, mental symptoms, physical health problems, and mortality risk. Individuals can also relate in such a mindful way to others, and such interpersonal mindfulness is related to greater relationship quality. Mindful partnering, a concept newly developed by the authors, is a special way of relating to one’s partner with full attention, compassion for self/other, acceptance/nounjudgement, and emotional awareness/self-regulation in the relationship. This poster presents the results of a study used to show the reliability and validity of this scale.

Title: “Examining Family Counseling Coursework and Scope of Practice for Professional Counselors”
Format: Poster
Presenters: Amy Williams, Ph.D., LPCC-S, IMFT, LICDC-CS, Olivia Smith, B.S., Bailey Varga, B.S.

Description: As the CACREP standards streamlined attention to family systems from 2009 to 2016 within the core curricular experiences (CACREP, 2009; CACREP, 2016), possible implications of this shift on the training and practice of clinical mental health counselors related to family counseling is warranted. As a result, this poster will describe a content analysis of CACREP-accredited clinical mental health counseling program curricula and state licensure regulations related to training in and scope of practice for professional counselors in family counseling. The purpose of this study was to determine the degree to which clinical mental health counseling students are prepared via program coursework to conceptualize and work with families, while also examining whether family counseling is considered part of the scope of practice of professional counselors after obtaining licensure. Implications for counselor training and supervision within master’s level clinical mental health counseling programs also will be discussed.

Title: “Encouraging Acceptance and Support of Chemically Dependent LGBTQ+ Individuals in Family Counseling”
Format: Poster
Presenters: Allison Dukes, B.S., Michelle Morel

Description: The fight for equality remains ever-present, especially in regard to sexual orientation. The unique experiences faced by the LGBTQ+ population shape the lens through which they see and adapt to their world. Negative experiences faced by this community are significantly correlated with later substance use. In addition, counselor bias and microaggressions can inhibit the therapeutic process of LGBTQ+ clients. Familial rejection upon sexual identity disclosure has been demonstrated to have a direct correlation with negative life outcomes, including later substance abuse. This program aims to inform counselors of the factors contributing to LGBTQ+ substance use, the complexities of family input and support, and the power of inviting family into the client’s recovery work to enhance family support of a chemically dependent LGBTQ+ individual, helping them in their recovery.

Title: “Apocalypse Now: Examining the Role of Negative Affect an Interactional Patterns Among Couples in Conflict”
Format: Poster

Description: Conflict has existed since the dawn of man and is an issue that marriage and family counselors routinely encounter among couples presenting for therapy. For decades, John Gottman and his colleagues (1994, 1999) have studied relational dynamics between couples and the means through which they interact during instances of conflict. The Cascade Model of Relational Dissolution (Gottman, 1992) outlines four negative communication styles, more commonly known as the Four Horseman of the Apocalypse (i.e., criticism, contempt, defensiveness and stonewalling), which serve to hinder relationship satisfaction and make couples more susceptible to separation and/or divorce. Further expanding on Gottman’s work, participants will learn about the Specific Affect Coding System (SPAFF) (Gottman et al., 1996) and understand the recent data from an observational study examining the frequency of negative affect during couple conflict discussions. In addition, clinical recommendations will be provided aimed at helping couples to effectively manage conflict and alter negative interactional patterns.
Saturday, February 1, 2020

Education Sessions

Nottoway A, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour

Title: “Betrayal Trauma: Hope and Healing from Intimate Relationship Wounds”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Denise Hughes, MBA, M.A., LPC Intern

Description: The prevalence of infidelity and compulsive sexual behavior continues to increase as digital
technologies create additional opportunities for sexual betrayal. Marriage is intended to be a safe union for
emotional and sexual intimacy. If one partner repeatedly goes outside this union, the injury to the betrayed partner
can cause a level of trauma akin to posttraumatic stress disorder. The symptoms include intrusive thoughts,
avoidance behaviors, hypervigilance, and negative cognitions that can lead to anxiety, depression, and suicidal
ideation. The betrayed partner’s ability to function can be significantly impaired from a physical, emotional,
psychological, and sexual standpoint. Understanding the association between sexual betrayal, sexual addiction, and
the partner’s trauma response is important for clinicians working with couples to provide the best treatment. This
presentation will explore the ground-breaking research that supports the incidence of betrayal trauma, factors that
predict the level of trauma, and evidence-based treatment options that facilitate healing.

Nottoway B, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour(s)

Title: “A Qualitative Study of Couple Counselors’ Use of Apology in Couples Facing Infidelity”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Daniel Melear, M.A.E., LPCC

Description: The presentation will report the results of a qualitative inquiry using constructivist grounded theory
methods to better understand how a group of couple counselors define and use apology when working with couples
facing infidelity. The importance of forgiveness in couple relationship repair after infidelity is supported by
research. Many of the studies on forgiveness mention apology in terms of making a statement (e.g., ‘I am sorry). Fewer
studies have focused on apology as a process with its own set of components. Included in this presentation
will be on how apology facilitates prosocial motivation in the hurting partner and how counselors are addressing
some of the issues related to apology. Also, an important component of this session is to openly discuss other
perspectives that you might want to share about how counselors can use apology or not use it when working with
couples facing infidelity.

Shadows, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour(s)

Title: “Microconnectivity: building blocks for meaningful emotional connections”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Joseph Pistorius, M.A., PLPC, NCC,

Description: Couples counselors see a spectrum of severity in the issues they address and by assisting couples to
identify and implement small daily opportunities for connection can potentially develop high trust and secure
emotional bonds to either be proactive against major issues or create pathways to safely and effectively address complex relational challenges. This presentation will provide a review of academic literature, explore clinical considerations and experiential practices for helping couples utilize skills to safeguard against major relational challenges and find safe entry points to larger issues through small relational connections capable of fostering deeper friendships and more secure emotional bonds.

Rosedown A, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “Integrating Trauma Based Relational Intervention and Play Therapy with Adoptive and Foster Families”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Sharon Thompson, Ph.D., NCC, LMHC, RPT-s, EMDRIA, Mary Sears Taylor, M.A., Leslynne Green, M.A.

Description: Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI uses Connecting Principles for attachment needs, Empowering Principles to address physical needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors. While the intervention is based on years of attachment, sensory processing, and neuroscience research, the heartbeat of TBRI is connection. This session will utilize directive play therapy techniques to assist parents to connect with their foster and adoptive children in this hands-on, participatory session.

Rosedown B, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “Gottman Couples Therapy and Homeostasis: A new way of applying a historical concept to couples work”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Jeff White, P.h.D., LMFT

Description: There are many approaches to working with couples in our current clinical context. One important question to ask is how these approaches connect to the foundational theories upon which the endeavor to work with multiple persons in the therapy room is based. This workshop will discuss the overall framework of Gottman Method Couples Therapy. Additionally, this workshop will connect the concept of homeostasis to Gottman’s research findings, as well as demonstrate how that connection fits within the larger history of General Systems Theory.

Madewood B, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “Don’t Drop It Like It’s Hot: Braving conversations of sex and spirituality with couples and families”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Emily Stone, Ph.D., LMFT-S, Susan Perkins, Ph.D., LMFT-S, LPC,

Description: Two essential aspects of a person’s relational wellbeing are spirituality (Holmberg et al., 2017) and sexuality (Arrindell et al., 2015; Miller & Byers, 2010). Clients presenting for couples and family counseling desire to include these in treatment (Rose, et al., 2008). However, there is a risk for negative outcomes if marriage and family clinicians seem avoidant or biased with these topics (Cragun & Friedlander, 2012). Effectively exploring these topics with clients is a characteristic of culturally sensitive marriage and family practice (Vieten, et al., 2016). This session will cover the reasons research names that clinicians avoid these topics (Zamboni & Zaid, 2017; Holmberg, Per Jensen, & Ulland, 2017). Additionally, the session will explore the importance of including these conversations with a variety of presenting issues not typically associated with sex and spirituality. Couples and family case studies will highlight the value of exploring these topics with clients and strategies to ethically and therapeutically introduce topics of sex and spirituality in couples and family counseling will be discussed.
Brunch, Awards, & Keynote with Dr. Alan Hovestadt
16th Floor, Crescent Ballroom
9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

9:30 a.m. – Brunch

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. – Dr. Alan Hovestadt, Keynote – “Myths About Marriage” (1 CE Hour)

11:00 – 11:45 a.m. - Awards

Education Sessions

Nottoway A, Saturday, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “Infidelity: Beyond the Lens of Addiction”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Talal Alsaleem, PsyD., LFMT

Description: The workshop was created to help counselors of all levels conceptualize infidelity beyond the lens of addiction. Infidelity is considered one of the most challenging issues to treat. The various manifestations of infidelity and the factors contributing to its occurrence make it difficult to develop a multifaceted framework to understand its causes and develop effective treatment. In this workshop, counselors will learn about the different theoretical models related to the etiology of infidelity such as the evolutionary biology and sociological perspectives. Counselors will also learn about the individual and group variables that affect the etiology of infidelity.

Nottoway B, Saturday, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour(s)
Title: “Invalidation of Infertility Grief: Investigating Disenfranchised Experiences”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Tristan McBain, Ph.D., LMFT

Description: Approximately 12% of women in the United States of age 15 to 44 have difficulty getting pregnant or carrying a pregnancy to term (CDC, 2019). Women with infertility have reported higher levels of anxiety, depression, complicated grief, and adjustment disorder. Women feel powerless, incomplete, or a sense of self-blame, guilt, shame, self-judgment, or grief and loss. The losses from infertility are hidden, invisible, and intangible, and differ from other forms of loss, such as the death of a relative. Infertility is considered an experience of disenfranchised grief due to the silence surrounding the loss and the absence of validation and social support. Disenfranchised grief is grief that “is not or cannot be openly acknowledged, publicly mourned, or socially supported” (Doka, 1989, p. 4). This phenomenological study explored the grief experiences of 8 women with infertility and how their grief had been disenfranchised by others.
**Shadows, Saturday, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour(s)**

**Title:** “Counseling twins: A family counseling issue”  
**Format:** Education Session  
**Presenters:** Nicole Noble, Ph.D., LPC, Loretta Bradley, Ph.D., LPC, LPC-S, LMFT, NCC, NCCC, NCCS

Description: Family counselors encounter unique issues when counseling twins. Through acquiring further insight into twins’ unique needs, family counselors can enhance counseling treatment of twins. Using a case example, this session will explore common twin concerns and provide recommendations for addressing twins’ specific counseling needs. By exploring this fictional case example, a case conceptualization will share common themes among twins of identity concerns, relationship development, and the twin bond.

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**Rosedown A, Saturday, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. – 1.0 CE hour**

**Title:** “Marital Satisfaction During Retirement”  
**Format:** Education Session  
**Presenter:** Marissa Fye, Ph.D., NCC, PLMHP, BC-TMH

Description: Retirement and marriage or commitment are two significant life stages. However, there is a dearth of research focused on the relationship between these two stages. The presenters conducted a mixed-methods quasi-experimental to determine perceptions of how retirement influences marital satisfaction. Participants will be able to understand and apply the results of the study to their clinical practice, supervision, and training.

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**Rosedown B, Saturday, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

**Title:** “Using Podcasts to Enhance Teaching in Marriage and Family Counseling Courses”  
**Format:** Education Session  
**Presenter:** Robert Casares, Ph.D., LPC, NCC

Description: Each month, over 90 million people download and listen to podcasts to consume information on a variety of topics. The popularity, convenience, and engaging nature of podcasts allow the medium to serve as a valuable educational resource for counselor educators, clinical supervisors, and counseling students. This presentation will review current academic research related to the educational utility of podcasts and will highlight examples of how existing mental health-related podcasts can enhance teaching approaches for lecture-based and online marriage and family counseling courses. Key concepts include: resources and methods for identifying and downloading relevant podcasts, an overview of the suitability of podcast content for teaching marriage and family counseling courses, and illustrations of how to integrate podcasts with systemic practices in counselor education and supervision. Additionally, the presenter will provide anecdotal examples related to his experiences integrating podcasts into counseling content courses and supervision sessions.

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**Madewood A, Saturday, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

**Title:** “Progress in the Disproportionality of Health Care Coverage for Minority Children and Adults”  
**Format:** Education Session  
**Presenter:** George Hebert, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist

Description: This presentation will analyze the equity progress for children and adults for health care made over the span of ten years with regard to race and ethnicity in the United States. Data provided by the Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention (CDC) will be summarized to estimate disproportionality rates for health care coverage for children and adults as a function of race/ethnicity across this period. While it is possible that current efforts have not succeeded due to poor problem identification, it seems more likely that the overall failures are a result of poor implementation integrity on many levels. Discussion will focus on multi-systemic changes that can be made to ensure better health care outcomes for all families. Participants will be invited to share what they see as common barriers to the changes and strategies that can best facilitate an honest passageway to a better future.

**Madewood B, Saturday, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Social Class Bias Within the Clinical Dyad, the negative effects on individuals and family systems”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Anthony Rivas, Ed.D., LMFT, LAC, MAC, SAP, Bita Rivas, Ed.D., LPC, LMFT, LAC, NCC, MAC, ACS, Jessica Moreno, DMFT, LMFT

Description: Social class is an aspect of being for every individual regardless of race, ethnicity, or culture. Social class carries implicit and overt rules of behavior, boundaries, and ramifications for members of that particular class group. Its presence cannot be overlooked, ignored, or allowed to bias the clinicians view of the client or vice versa within the therapeutic setting. Social class bias in treatment is a fundamental issue that arises in the clinician-client relationship. Bias has been indicated to impact treatment, diagnosis, and prognosis. Rising rates of poverty as well as increased rates of mental health diagnoses begs the question, what can be done to improve the clinical awareness and the ability to address this bias in the therapeutic setting in regards to treating individuals and family systems. This session also explores the negative impact on treating substance use disorders and the stigmas that currently still remain within the professional community.

**Education Sessions 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.**

**Nottoway A, Saturday, 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

**CANCELLED**

Title: “Cultural factors as variables for substance abuse recovery”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Christopher Cheung, Ph.D., Debolina Ghosh, Ph.D.,

Description: Traditional substance abuse treatment models generally do not account for client culture (Castro & Alarcón, 2002). As such, research often show that treatment is ineffective when administered to cultural minorities. In 2001, the U.S. Surgeon General released a report recognizing the importance of cultural variables in treating substance abuse patients; asserting that “culture counts” (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS], 2001). In response to this report, new research in substance abuse prevention and treatment expanded its focus to include culture in interventions and traditional treatment models. Substance abuse research regularly propose new insight or innovative treatment methods in treating clients. One such innovative approach is integrating cultural variables in substance abuse prevention and treatment (Castro & Alarcón, 2002). Cultural variables refer to beliefs, values, norms, and behaviors specific to a racial/ethnic group. However, much remained unexplored in relationship between cultural variables and substance abuse/dependence treatment and prevention.

**Nottoway B, Saturday, 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 a.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Creative, Expressive Play-based Interventions for Impactful Family Therapy”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Lynn Louise Wonders, M.A., LPC, RPT-S, CPCS
Description: This experiential, hands-on training will provide instruction on the use of creative, expressive and play-based interventions from a family-systems approach that are fun and impactful in family sessions. The training session will give consideration for a variety of presenting issues and some common family dynamics.

**Shadows, Saturdays, 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Compassionate Coupling Among Clients with Cancer: A Focus on the Caregiver”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Tina Fitts, Ph.D., NCC

Description: Cancer affects not only those who have been diagnosed with the disease but also their caregivers. This presentation shifts focus from the cancer patient to the caregiver. Compassionate coupling insinuates attending to one another’s needs. In this case, the one battling with cancer is encouraged to care to meet the needs of the caregiver, a position that is not typically advised for the cancer patient to take.

The experience of greater empathy and compassion produces a transformation that leads to greater meaning and personal satisfaction in the patients’ lives. Through this compassionate-coupling, the person with cancer gains an insight into the caregiver’s efforts – that itself is a bonding opportunity. Such insight will help the patient mitigate their preoccupation with their own illness. In addition, while the patient is caring for others, this provides them with a less incapacitant sense that their cancer brings – an altruistic act.

**Rosedown A, Saturday, 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “My kid is transgender: Cultivating pride and acceptance for families with children in transition”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Rebecca Goldberg, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, GC-C, Melanie Walsh, M.S., Doctoral Candidate, LPC, NCC, Sarah Perkins, B.A.

Description: Navigating transition is difficult for children and families; most individuals do not understand transgender children, and many believe harmful myths salient in society today. Some individuals outright disagree with families that foster transition for trans-identified children. Increased rates of psychological distress and suicidality among transgender individuals indicate obvious risks associated with gender dysphoria (Nealy, 2017). This program presents theory-based application of evidence-based practices needed to help families navigate the transition process, promoting a climate of acceptance and pride within the transgender child, as well as the family. We will present information for diagnosing trans-identified children using the DSM-V and ICD-10 and explain the transition process for children (including relevant medical procedures). We will use a Power Point presentation and discussion exercises, including a case study, in order to meet the Learning Objectives. Lastly, we will offer resources for the audience applicable to counseling families that have children in transition.

**Rosedown B, Saturday, 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Counseling Grandfamilies”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Rashunda Miller-Reed, Ph.D., NCC, LMFT, LPC
Description: For years, grandparents have assumed care for their grandchildren. However, distinctions exist when kids are raised by grandparents instead of biological parents. This presentation will address strengths and challenges that grandfamilies encounter across the lifespan from the perspective of grandparents and grandkids.
**Madewood A, Saturday, 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “A new generation of families: Reviewing family dynamics through pop-culture”  
Format: Education Session  
Presenter: Alexis Croffie, M.A., LPC-intern, Diane Smedley, M.A., LPC-Intern, LMFT-Associate, Carrie Beyer, M.A., LPC  

Description: Throughout history, the representation of families has been presented in pop culture as heterosexual couples with two to three children. However, as the years progressed, this representation no longer accurately represents today’s modern family. For example, LGBT couples and families have been drastically underrepresented within pop culture. Although this trend is starting to change with shows such as Modern Family, Grey’s Anatomy, and Glee, LGBT relationships are still vastly underrepresented. This presentation will examine how families have been represented in the past and how the evolution of families has changed throughout the history of pop culture. Furthermore, presenters will discuss how pop culture can be used by counselors to make connections with clients; as well as with counselor educators and supervisors to help their students and supervisees conceptualize families within classroom and supervision settings respectively.

**Madewood B, Saturday, 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Lived Legacies: Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma through Biological and Behavioral Lens”  
Format: Education Session  
Presenters: Deb Pender, Ph.D., LCPC, Rebecca Pender Baum, Ph.D., LCPC-S  

Description: Recent research has drawn the attention of marriage and family counselors towards the understanding that our biography shapes our biology simultaneously while our behaviors form familial patterns oftentimes stronger than our words to the coming generation(s). This program focuses on both the knowledge gained from neurocognitive and genetic studies about traumatic stress reactions, and how those reactions become patterned into our lives. We will examine not only how to help families recognize their storied beliefs and biological legacies, but also, how to help them learn how to use developmentally appropriate mind and body techniques to change the “stored” stumbling blocks into the here and now possibilities.

**Education Sessions**  
2:00 pm – 2:50pm

**Nottoway A, Saturday, 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Toy Story: Using Fillial Play Techniques to Strengthen Familial Relationship Across the Lifespan”  
Format: Education Session  
Presenter: Ian Lértora, Ph.D., LPC  

Description: In many households’ things like technology, drawing, and play are used to keep children occupied while parents can take care of ‘adult things’ so that we (adults) can eventually get to sitting down and using our technology, coloring in our adult coloring books, and mess around with our toys. This occurrence can cause a shift in connectedness within the family unit, when we could be using these as opportunities to engage, learn and connect at much deeper levels. In this presentation, presenters will share innovative ways that parents can re-engage with their children in fun ways that are beneficial to family cohesion, critical thinking, and problem solving as a family unit and help increase emotional communication, and regulation at the individual level. Some ways that will be discussed are family video game time, writer’s workshops, art time, and activities that give the children an opportunity to be in control.
Shadows, Saturday, 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “Creating Attachments in Marriage and Family Therapy”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Richard Marks, Ph.D., LPC

Description: This session teaches the research-based and spiritually sound RelateWell process for couples’ therapy which provides couples with the relationship and emotional regulation skills that lead to success for couples loving with health and maturity.

Rosedown A, Saturday, 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “Sex Recession: Encouraging Sexual Health in Emerging Adults”
Format: Education Session
Presenter: Stephen Southern, Ed.D., LPC-S

Description: Young people are retreating from sexual intimacy, having sex less frequently than members of earlier generations. Sex-lessness has been associated with culture and population changes in such countries as Japan. Sexual dysfunction and sexless marriage are increasing in Western relationships. Declining rates of partner-oriented sex are associated with porn addiction, proliferation of technology, problems of differentiation, social isolation, and lack of skills for intimate relationships. Involuntary celibacy has been associated with risk of sexual harassment and exploitation. Young adults need help in defining and pursuing sexual health and intimacy.

Rosedown B, Saturday, 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour
Title: “Family Play Therapy Reveals What Words Conceal: A Truly Inclusive Systemic Intervention”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Daniel Sweeney, Ph.D., LMFT, LPC, RPT-S, Nick Cornett, Ph.D., LMFT, LPC, RPT

Description: Progress in family therapy often requires children and families to address feelings and experiences that generate significant discomfort. How can we help children and families face what they tend to avoid? How can we promote more congruent family communication? If you are interested in helping to nurture stronger relationships between children and their families and looking for ways to be truly inclusive and systemic in family counseling – come join us as we consider the practice of family play therapy.

Madewood A, Saturday, 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour(s)
Title: “Multi-aged group counseling in a family systems context: A grant funded program”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Leila Warraich, M.S., NCC, Jeremy Goshorn, M.S.

Description This session will provide an understanding of a grant-funded, multi-aged group counseling program operating from a systemic family context. The program was created and is offered through a university-based, student-operated, family counseling teaching clinic. Program is designed to address the needs of children and families with emotional, behavioral, and substance use disorders using specialized age-appropriate group counseling and family therapy techniques. Curriculum is designed as an intervention milieu that provides support to families in the surrounding seven counties who would otherwise have limited or no access to services. Groups usually run for 7-9 working sessions three times a year. The curriculum covers topics such as increasing communication, promoting encouraging language, exploring and coping with difficult emotions, and probing moral reasoning. The program
breaks groups out by ages 5-9, 10-13, 14-17 and an adult group for parents. The program is designed to help create a systemic change in the family context.

**Madewood B, Saturday, 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. - 1.0 CE Hour**

Title: “Attachment and the African American Community: Special Issues and Consideration”
Format: Education Session
Presenters: Adrian Manley, Ph.D., LMFT

Description: While many researchers and therapists affirm that attachment and attachment styles are universal, we must consider how culture informs and influences the behaviors that become focal points for looking at the attachment. Participants will engage in a discussion about the interplay of cultural factors in the African American
IAMFC Conference Session Evaluation

To complete this form electronically, go to: https://forms.gle/tLNYf3x8U7ZXcvyVA

To evaluate an education session, roundtable, or poster session, please complete the following evaluation and turn in to the registration desk or complete online.

Name of Session: ______________________________________________________________________

Presenter Name: _____________________________________________________________________

Date/Time of Session: __________________________________________________________________

Type of Session:  □ Education Session  □ Roundtable Session  □ Poster Session
         □ Keynote Speaker

The presenter was prepared and knowledgeable
□ Strongly Disagree  □ Disagree  □ Neutral  □ Agree  □ Strongly Agree

The room was comfortable
□ Strongly Disagree  □ Disagree  □ Neutral  □ Agree  □ Strongly Agree

Session materials/handouts were useful
□ Strongly Disagree  □ Disagree  □ Neutral  □ Agree  □ Strongly Agree

I will be able to use the information I learned in this session in my practice/counseling/classroom
□ Strongly Disagree  □ Disagree  □ Neutral  □ Agree  □ Strongly Agree

Additional comments for presenters/conference planners: ______________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________
IAMFC Overall Conference Evaluation

To complete this form electronically, go to: https://forms.gle/8QFrddJpx5ft8xjTA

Thank you for attending the IAMFC 2020 World Conference in New Orleans. Please rate your experience with the overall conference. We will use this information as we plan the next IAMFC Conference. Please rate each of the categories below:

The presentations were relevant to my practice/field
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree

The speakers were knowledgeable
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree

The presentation style of the speakers was effective
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree

The materials I received were beneficial
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree

The length of the presentations was adequate/appropriate
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree

The conference meeting space and hotel were comfortable
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree

The IAMFC staff was helpful
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree

The conference met my needs as a professional
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree

Would you attend another IAMFC Conference? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I would like to attend another IAMFC Conference in New Orleans ☐ Yes ☐ No

I would like to attend another IAMFC Conference in this city: ___________________________________

How can IAMFC improve this conference: ____________________________________________________

What topics or areas of interest would you like to see included in future conferences: _______________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Additional comments for conference planners: ______________________________________________
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Participant, please print clearly:

Name _______________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________

Phone ______________________________________________________________

Email ______________________________________________________________

You may receive NBCC credit for attending the conference sessions listed and verified on the reverse side of this form. Please return the completed form to the CE box at the registration table before departure or email signed form to iamfcconference@gmail.com. This form will be returned to you via email, and will serve as your CE Certificate after IAMFC representative review. Please be sure your name and email address above is CLEAR and READABLE. A copy will be retained by IAMFC in our database.

Additionally, I have completed the track below (Please place an X)

___ Military
___ I did not complete an additional track

Total of credit hours requested:

(20 hours maximum)

No credit is given for poster sessions.

Total of Credit Hours earned by above participant: __________ CE's

This is to certify that the above named individual has attended the continuing education activities listed on the reverse side of this form. The International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors (IAMFC) is approved as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 1023. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. IAMFC is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.

This form will be considered your CE program certificate following IAMFC representative review with signed approval. This document will be returned to the participant following this procedure.

Authorized for IAMFC by: ____________________________ Date: __________

Shawn Patrick, Ed.D., NCC, LCPC – iamfcconference@gmail.com
IAMFC 2020 Continuing Education Attendance Form
Date of Completion February 1, 2020

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Total CE’s Earned

I certify that the information presented on this form is complete and accurate.

Participant’s Name (please print)

_______________________________________________________________         ___________________
Participant’s signature                                                                                                    Date
International Events

The International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors invites you to attend one or more of our upcoming International Events. Please visit the IAMFC website for detailed information and application packets.

19th Annual Oxford Family Counseling Institute
Oxford, England
(Earn up to 18 CEs)
July 14-21, 2020

From its inception, the Oxford Institute has been designed as forum for the building and expansion of professional relationships, personal friendships, and the exchange of scholarly information about couples and family therapy and counseling. The Institute brings together an international group of educators, practicing professionals, and graduate students who wish to share and learn more about marriage, dyadic relationship, and family issues.

IAMFC Scotland Family Counseling Institute
Edinburgh, Scotland
(Earn up to 15 CEs)
July 21-27, 2020

The IAMFC Scotland Summer Institute offers a unique professional development event that focuses on family counseling/therapy issues and provides an immersion experience into Scottish culture. Institute attendees interact in a small group setting of international colleagues composed of graduate students, family counselors, mental health counselors, school counselors, substance abuse counselors, educators, and other counseling professionals from around the world.