President’s Corner

By Brande Flamez

There is a saying, “There are friends in your life who will make you laugh a little louder, smile a little bigger, and make you think about how you can live your life a little better.” Recently I returned from the Oxford and Scotland IAMFC Family Counseling Institute. During our last night the question was asked “what was your favorite part about the institutes?” Immediately I said, “the people.” We had members from six different countries and seven different states present. The institutes provided a special forum for us to spend time together learning, exploring, and playing. The people I met all challenged me in the way I think and helped me consider ways to integrate new knowledge into my profession. I walked away with a deep sense of gratitude for having the opportunity to connect with old friends and make many new friends. But I also know this opportunity would not have existed without certain IAMFC members who have chosen a path of professional service. I am truly grateful for all the time and energy Drs. Brian Canfield, Shawn Patrick, and John Beckenbach spent preparing the international institutes.

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I remember hearing a talk by Bill Gates in which he said, “Great organizations demand a high level of commitment by the people involved.” I have always been captivated by the humanistic aspect of professional service and the idea of paying it forward. This year I have had a wonderful opportunity to work with an amazing group of people who are dedicated to paying it forward and coming together to provide services to our members. I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the overall key accomplishments from the various IAMFC committees this year:

- Completed a revised IAMFC Code of Ethics with the new release of the codes in June, 2017
- Revised 10 year old bylaws and submitted to ACA for approval
- Launched the first webinar series (1 webinar/month; 12 CEs/year) for IAMFC where members can earn 1 CE per month for free for participation in a live webinar training.
- Secured the IAMFC world conference location for 2017 and 2018; collaborated with three other ACA divisions (CSJ, IAAOC, and MGCA) for the world conference and created conference specialty tracks for the first time in our conference history. Attendees were able to select tracks related to social justice, addictions, and military issues related to marriage and family.
- Revised website to include up-to-date information, host webinars, and a member only section. Created featured member of the month to be displayed on website. Secured a new online hosting site to send emails and distribute information to all IAMFC members. Launched updated Facebook account.
- Developed an Emerging Leader (EL) Program and selected the 2017-2018 ELs.
- Created and revised IAMFC awards. Submitted call for nominations, scored, and selected the 2017 recipients.
- Organized the 15th Annual Oxford Family Counseling Institute at St. Hilda’s College, Oxford University (UK).
- Organized the 1st Scotland Family Counseling Institute
- Organized the first IAMFC delegation visit to Israel (December 2016) and Cuba (May 2017)

All of these roles are responsible for the future direction of our division and we are very grateful for everyone who volunteered their time, creativity, commitment, and ideas to professional service within IAMFC. We are especially grateful to Drs. Paul Peluso (Past President) and Jennifer Williamson (Board Member At Large) for their service over the last couple years. My presidency followed the amazing work of Dr. Peluso who had the vision to relaunch the
“Intentional Collaboration” was the theme I emphasized during my year as President of the American Counseling Association, ACA. I believe it to be a good theme that can serve us well as students, professors, and practitioners who have much in common.

Problems facing couples and families throughout today’s society continue to grow at an exponential rate. Parallel to this growth is the increase in research attempting to solving systemic family issues. Because of this, marriage and family counseling as a profession, is cited as a need area for the next several decades according to the Bureau of Occupational Titles. What this comes down to is, that more well-trained professionals are needed to work with systemic issues, more professors are needed to conduct research and teach in this area, and more practitioners licensed or certified, are needed to provide direct services for couples and families. This includes “Students, Professors, and Practitioners” which is the focus of my comments below.

Now that we have established that “Intentional Collaboration” is a good thing, how could that work for us? Let’s take students first, those of you that are pursuing a marriage, couple, and family counseling degree, taking courses from either accredited and non-accredited programs. How can we collaborate as a group, and what can we collaborate about? Perhaps some of the following will spark ideas. What about concerns you have about seeing your first couple or full family? How does one work with couples and families from a systemic perspective? What should I be doing about licensure and certification? What is the job market right after graduation? Should I go for the LPC and the LMFT? How grounded do I need to be in theory? How can I network with others?

From my own experiences as a professor, I know these are just the tip-of-the-iceberg of the questions or concerns you have been thinking about. In addition, as a professor would, let me suggest homework---organize right now in your department formal or informal meetings of students in the marriage and family program. Call meetings, discuss topics, study together, get further involved in professional organizations such as IAMFC, and bring your fellow students along.

The same method of intentional collaboration can work with professors like me as well. However, at this level it might need to start at the state or national level. Professors have a wealth of information to share including research findings, couple and family counseling course pedagogy, didactic and skill training specifics, supervision models, licensure and certification, evidence-based treatments/protocols, gatekeeping, etc. Organized meetings at local, state, and regional conferences might be a start.

I believe, practitioners have a high need to collaborate with their colleagues. However, available time is a problem. In addition, the cost of attending conferences is an issue since funding

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world IAMFC conference and the first delegations to Turkey and Dr. Jennifer Williamson worked countless hours to help launch two successful conferences in NOLA. We will miss them as they rotate off the IAMFC Executive Board. We are excited to welcome Dr. Samuel Gladding as President-elect and Dr. Cheryl Mark as Board Member at Large. As you read more about these wonderful and dedicated individuals I hope you too will take the time to welcome them into their new roles. As we move forward into the year, we have already begun planning for our next delegation in December to Israel and Turkey as well as our world conference in February in New Orleans. We are currently accepting proposals and welcome all members to submit a proposal before the October deadline. We are also working on the first IAMFC delegation to India in March and China in May. We hope you will consider joining us and becoming more involved in our division.

As always, I look forward to your comments, questions, and thoughts. Please feel free to contact me at ndbrande@yahoo.com

With gratitude,

Brandé Flamez, Ph.D., LPC, NCC
International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors President (2016-2018)
As always, it is a pleasure to serve as the IAMFC representative to the ACA Governing Council. The ACA Governing Council (GC) met in Washington D.C. June 13-15, 2017. During the meeting, the GC discussed many issues that are pertinent and timely. In this report, I report the highlights of the meeting.

The GC has been working to promote the ACA Licensure Portability Model. This model incorporates emphases on state sovereignty, model standardization, and protection of the public. While state requirements differ, the plan allows for these differences and encourages states to work together to make licensure requirements consistent, thus allowing more ease of transfer for licenses. At this point, ACA is working with individual states who are receptive to the ACA model and hopes to work with other states who have questions and/or reservations. ACA’s model incorporates the caveat that if a person is licensed by a state and has no sanctions against her/his license, the license may be transferred to another state without any mandatory waiting period. Of course, states have the right to adopt any license requirements and we are a long way from full implementation of the ACA Licensure Portability Model. We are appreciative to ACA Past-Presidents Robert Smith and Thelma Duffy for their extensive work on the portability plan.

In other announcements, ACA will soon be disseminating Human Rights position statements. Watch for these statements. At this point, the statements are in development; however, they will be released soon.

Rich Yep, ACA Executive Director, reported that Tiffany Erickson has been hired. Ms. Erickson will be working to further develop and disseminate ACA’s branding. In an era of increased digital presence, ACA must be working on the ACA brand in order to maintain relevance. Ms. Erickson has “hit the ground running,” and soon you will see more of her work.

David Kaplan reported that IAMFC continues to have a strong international presence. ACA is currently involved in initiatives in Ireland, Great Britain, Korea, and Singapore. Dr. Kaplan emphasized that ACA’s involvement with these initiatives is not costly for ACA. Instead of monetary involvement with these initiatives, ACA is providing culturally appropriate presentations and other support which increases ACA’s presence in the global counseling community.

Rich Yep reported that ACA is well-recognized for its excellence in many arenas. For example, ACA is frequently named as one of the best places to work in the DC area. Also, Rich was proud to announce that the ACA’s publication Counseling Today, recently won four awards for its excellence in writing. These four awards are among the 43 awards that Counseling Today has won since its inception.

It is an exciting time to be a part of ACA. ACA President Gerard Lawson is working hard to assist the GC in developing a Strategic Plan that will be announced later this year. The GC will be working on the ACA Strategic Plan throughout the year. Make plans to attend the ACA Conference in Atlanta in April! It is a great opportunity to network and learn about the latest innovations in counseling.

It is an honor to serve IAMFC on the ACA Governing Council. If you have questions about anything in this report or anything about ACA, please contact me at bret.hendricks@ttu.edu.
Getting to know you: Q&A with IAMFC President-Elect Samuel T. Gladding

What motivated you to join IAMFC?
I have taught marriage and family counseling since the early 1980s at Fairfield University, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Wake Forest University. Before that I was a clinician in a mental health center where I saw a lot of couples and families. I was already a member of AAMFT when IAMFC came into existence in the late 1980s. I wanted to be a member of an ACA division dedicated to working with couples and families. It seemed like a good fit and I identify myself as a counselor. Thus, I joined.

How long have you been a member of IAMFC?

What sparked your interest in serving IAMFC?
I have tried to be as active as possible in IAMFC. However, I have been engaged in a number of professional mental health organizations and activities for a long time. I have served as president of the American Counseling Association (ACA) and two of its divisions ACES (Association of Counselor Education and Supervision) and ASGW (Association for Specialists in Group Work). I have also been president of Chi Sigma Iota (international counseling honorary), president of the American Association of State Counseling Boards, editor of the Journal for Specialists in Group Work, and chair of the ACA Foundation.

Besides being a member of IAMFC, I have been active in a number of ways. I was the distinguished speaker for IAMFC at an ACA conference in 2002. I have published refereed journal articles in The Family Journal since 2000, received 3rd place creative writing competition contest sponsored by The Family Journal in 2005, and was highlighted in a Journal article about my career as a family counselor in 2016. In addition, I was the speaker for the IAMFC luncheon at the ACA conferences in 2014 and 2015. In 2017, I was the keynote speaker for the IAMFC World Conference.

What are you most excited about in terms of serving IAMFC?
In a word: “Everything.”

What is a future goal you have for IAMFC?
I would like to do the following as president of IAMFC:
1. Increase membership
2. Support IAMFC publications – journal/newsletter/webpage to the fullest
3. Work with IAMFC members to sponsor and support international conferences and increase IAMFC visibility worldwide.
4. Work collaboratively with ACA to strengthen IAMFC’s presence and visibility in ACA
5. Continue to offer webinars and educational programs for members and to attract members to IAMFC
6. Collaborate with members in strengthening legislation wherever possible for couples and families however they are configured.
The 2017 IAMFC Oxford Family Counseling Institute was held July 17th to the 24th at St. Hilda's College, University of Oxford. This year marked the 16th anniversary of the annual summer event that brings together an international gathering of counselors, educators, and graduate students who share an interest in marriage and family counseling/therapy issues. The 2017 Oxford Institute included participants from eight different States throughout the USA and attendees from six different countries. Scholarly presentations included programs on “ethics,” “addiction and the family,” “autism and the family,” “mate selection and relationship issues,” as well as panel discussions on family life in Cuba, “private practice,” and family counseling in Turkey. The dates for the 2018 Oxford Family Counseling Institute will be July 16th to the 23rd.

For additional information or to obtain detailed information and registration packet for the 17th annual Oxford Family Counseling Institute, email Dr. Brian Canfield at bcanfield@fau.edu.
Immediately following the Oxford Institute, IAMFC held the first Scotland Summer Counseling Institute in Edinburgh, Scotland. The venue for the program was the Pollack Halls, University of Edinburgh. Dr. John Beckenbach and Dr. Shawn Patrick served as “co-chairs” of this inaugural event, which focused on the theme of helping clients address issues related to “trauma”. The Scotland Institute Program included meetings with Scottish colleagues and graduate students, formal presentations, and a cultural field trip to the town of Stirling. The dates for the 2018 IAMFC Scotland Summer Counseling Institute are tentatively slated for July 23rd to the 30th. A registration discount is offered for participants who attend both the Oxford and Edinburgh Institutes. For additional information or to obtain a detailed information and a registration packet for the 2018 Scotland Summer Counseling Institute, email Dr. Brian Canfield at bcanfield@fau.edu
The glow of my computer screen taunted me at 4:30am. It was as though it knew I wanted to be asleep, laughing as it flickered at my jet-lagged brain. Because I am one of those people who can’t sleep on airplanes, I had been awake for about 30 hours. But sleep was far away, my body now conditioned to think it was daytime instead of night. I had just returned from the first annual Scotland Family Counseling Institute and sat wide-awake in the quiet dark.

Edinburgh is an ancient city encompassing tremendous variety and diversity. The latest trends in music, theater, and art live in 16th century locations, demonstrating the historic yet never-to-be-tamed vibe that characterizes this remarkable location. It provided the perfect backdrop for housing the institute, an IAMFC supported educational experience addressing the latest work and practices related to trauma and family counseling. For 4 days, a group of 20 met, shared research, discussed novel counseling approaches, and debated key issues. More importantly, we created friendships that will carry on long after the institute ends. A balance between education and cultural immersion, the institute gave us the opportunity to learn not only about counseling, but about each other while getting a glimpse into a different way of life. Studying abroad teaches lessons about who you are because you are out of your comfort zone, pleasantly surprising us to discover new things about ourselves.

Towards the end of the institute, I was asked about my favorite part. I looked around the table at the group of people I had been sharing my life with for the last week and said, “this.” Conversations both personal and professional, amusing and intimate, all which led to meaningful relationships with these people who had been strangers to me only a week prior. I did not want to leave, and was comforted by the certainty that this would not be the last night I saw these people.

At 5:00am, staring at my screen and begging for sleep, my Facebook notifications pop up. Apparently, there is a group of people posting about being jet-lagged, my fellow travelers. 35 comments later, this thread contains in-jokes, quotes, photos, invitations and good memories. It’s the best marker of what the institute experience meant to us -- conversations that will carry on and friendships that will continue to grow.

The 2017 IAMFC Scotland Family Counseling Institute was a wonderful experience. From the rich presentations at Edinburgh Central Library to the late-night conversations in the gardens of Pollock Halls, meaningful friendships unfolded. I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to engage such knowledgeable and dedicated professionals at the institute and make friends with wonderful people from around the world. The second annual Scotland Family Counseling Institute will be held in July 2018. We hope you’ll consider joining us next year.

For more information about the 2018 IAMFC Scotland Family Counseling Institute, please contact either Dr. Shawn Patrick at spatrick3@govst.edu or Dr. John Beckenbach at john.beckenbach@icloud.com.

See you soon.
IAMFC Student Reflections from Scotland
By Jared Becknell

There are moments that occur throughout every conference that generate a level of stress and anxiety. I’ve had these moments at various gatherings across North America. However, that moment never came at IAMFC during my twelve-day stay. From the first interaction, you feel at home and cannot describe the welcoming nature of each person. I have never met a group of people so genuine, caring and interested in the variety of work we all commit to on a daily basis.

This conference had discussions before, during and after that allowed everyone muse and get lost in the moment. In fact, it was quite often we would stop and wonder how we got to that place in the conversation. That factor didn’t matter because we would shortly thereafter continue dialogue and find a new place for growth or knowledge.

As a student, I cannot put together the words to describe my experience that would even come close to justifying this adventure. There is a sense of centering and revitalization for my work and ideas that I can contribute to the counseling paradigm. The IAMFC conference sparked new ideas and created something inside me that I have not felt in a long time. Again, I do not have the words to describe this manifestation of something positive inside of me. My memories and relationships are solidified through staring in awe of ancient castles or churches, sharing stories in a pub and punting a boat, while laughing myself to tears. I am truly thankful that I was able to present at such an amazing conference with such a wonderful group of people and receive such a warm response. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity and I hope to see you all next year.
In May 2017 an IAMFC delegation to Cuba embarked on a journey to build bridges to Cuba and to better understand marriages and families on the Island. The delegation members included: Brande’ Flamez, Brian Canfield, Miriam Moreno, Bret Hendricks, David Fenell, Tracey Calley, Daniel Williamson and Jennifer Williamson. During their time in country, they had the opportunity to talk with local couples and families, meet with non-governmental organizations, and visit major landmarks in an effort to better understand Cuban families and cultures. Upon visiting the Cemetery of Santa Infinigenia, San Pedro de la Roca Castle, and San Juan Hill, it became clear that the island has embraced struggles for hundreds of years. Some victories were theirs and others not their own. Today, many men and women struggle to make ends meet. Food and shelter are daily concerns, and many men and women have resorted to prostitution in an effort to survive. The song of a gigolo was a constant warble outside of our hotel windows, and the smile of a very old street woman greeted us each day as we passed in the streets. There was evidence of many tourists from wealthier nations taking advantage of the opportunity for sex tourism as any small money from their country was a lifeline for men and women of all ages with nowhere to go.

However, despite the many pains, resilience lies buried deep within the people. No matter what your political stance might be, it was fascinating to walk in the steps of Teddy Roosevelt, Spanish Conquistadores, the Castros, Hemingway, and Jose Marti. In talking with families, several themes arose. Couples who shared power and a common vision and values tended to be happier than couples who did not. In the happier marriages, couples formed partnerships around their shared vision. Despite the discouragement of faith by the government, faith was a major element in strong families. We spent a day, journeying with the pilgrims to The Basilica Santuario Nacional de Nuestra Señora de la Cariñidad del Cobre (National Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Charity). Locals tell a story of three fishermen who are lost in a storm. In their distress, they cry out to the Virgin Mary, and a piece of wood appears in the ocean. Then Mary appears to save them. They celebrate her with sunflowers, and you will see her statue with sunflowers in many homes. We asked about how this prominent shrine was allowed in place under the current political circumstances, and the reply was clear..."They don’t mess with her. She makes miracles."

Other churches and faith based charities reach out both to God and to fellow believers across the globe to support community programs and enrich people’s lives. Faith is also sometimes the secret strength that preserves people in their daily walk. One minister reported, “In Cuba it doesn’t matter what number you call, God

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always answers.” He aptly stated, “What is most important that you call.”

Creativity and attachments seem to be the additional glue to keep families together. Many people have a family member working abroad for a portion of the year and staying connected via technology. A simple plastic shopping bag becomes a vessel for taking food to a friend or relative. Music fills the air throughout the day both on the streets and in the nightclubs. A group of fishermen took tire intertubes and converted them into fishing vessels to help them to make their living. Many beautiful classic cars fill the streets, but many are composed of many makes and model years.

We are very grateful to the kind people who welcomed us into their homes and shared their culinary gifts and their stories. As we describe our gratitude to the strong and resilient people that we met, we are reminded of the words of Jose Marti, Cuba’s great thinker and dreamer. “Men are like the stars; some generate their own light while others reflect the brilliance they receive.” Thank you to everyone who shared their light with us.
Sometimes being prepared for court is more about helping our clients avoid protracted family litigation than it is about knowing what to say if we are subpoenaed to testify. As members of a helping profession, counselors in general strive to assist clients with reaching the healthy and most beneficial resolution to a presenting problem. Marriage and family counselors face far more complicated layers when the best interests of one member of a couple or of a whole family does not neatly align with the best interests of the others involved. Despite efforts to consider the role of and an obligation to an identified patient, marriage and family counselors can easily find themselves subject to a whirlwind of competing feelings in the context of providing therapeutic support for a larger, connected unit.

As human beings, counselors are also vulnerable to pronounced countertransference—particularly when handed value-based disputes within families and the likelihood of divorce. While we are guided by the ACA Code of Ethics (2014) to avoid imposing our values on our clients, it is difficult to maintain a poker face when one client is cheating on the other, or plotting a departure from the marriage unknownst to the other. Family secrets revealed in therapy can be disastrous—and underscore the importance of the counselor setting the course of trust and transparency in the beginning of the therapeutic relationship. In other words, while marriage and family counselors must use discretion as to when and how to encourage transparency, it is critical for clients to hear from the inception “I don’t keep secrets.”

Moreover, part of the perception of helping is an unspoken but human desire to make a positive difference in someone else’s life. The definition of positive is fraught with images of happily ever after—and as counselors, we need to consider how much of the path on which we find ourselves is a response to the needs of our clients and how much is about our own notions about what happily ever after really looks like. Efforts designed to save a failing marriage are likely to be futile unless both parties invest in those efforts and actually do the work. Counselors do not have proverbial magic wands and we cannot fix what our clients do not want to fix. We are most likely to be subpoenaed to court when one party is left with the impression that we are “on their side,” or when it is thought that we are able to provide the great revelation of the other party’s guilt through our testimony. Unwittingly, it is relatively easy to perpetuate the very litigation-mindedness that brings about the counselor’s involvement in a court proceeding. With a well-intentioned effort to support the person perceived as more vulnerable to or deceived by the other can morph into an impression of advocacy within the couple and a blurring of boundaries. For the counselor, this can lead to being subpoenaed to testify in the client’s case—or to the counselor becoming a defendant in a proceeding sounding in an ethics violation or even malpractice.

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For some couples, divorce is both inevitable and the better resolution. It is extremely therapeutic for clients to embrace and accept the inevitable. With acceptance often comes an invitation to forgive. Forgiveness is usually not about whether the other party apologizes or is even sorry. It is about unburdening oneself from the burden of the impact of someone else’s actions. Self-efficacy in this context can be about a commitment to moving on with one’s life; with the amicable resolution of the distribution of worldly materials; and a commitment to co-operative co-parenting of their children. The important concept is that the resolution – whatever it is – should be one fashioned by the clients, not crafted by the counselor. Counselors can be successful facilitators of communication and agreement. Counselors also can be trained in mediation – which is an out-of-court intervention designed specifically to facilitate negotiations between two parties for compromise and agreement as to the issues associated with the dissolution of a marriage. While it is not recommended that the marriage counselor for the couple also serve as a mediator at the same time – therapeutic mediation is a hybrid of two roles which can be very effective if the clients enter into that arrangement from the commencement. A mediator cannot testify because all aspects of mediation are confidential. Even a mediator’s notes cannot be subpoenaed in most if not all states. A therapeutic mediator is well-trained in marriage and couple dynamics and domestic violence dynamics, as well as in other relevant areas. Each state has specific requirements for credentialing for mediators in that state – but since graduate level education in a mental health field is often one of the prerequisites, counselors are likely to be good candidates.

Many counselors prefer not to be involved in court proceedings with or regarding their clients. Counselors are well-trained for resolution, and utilize developmentally appropriate interventions to assist their clients in moving forward with healthy, productive lives and wellness. Frequently, the best way for a counselor to stay out of court is to support the efforts of clients to also stay out of court.

Ann M. Ordway was a practicing family law attorney in New Jersey for more than 20 years. She is a parenting coordinator, mediator, and child advocate. As a counselor educator, Ann focuses on increasing counselor competency for court-involved roles particularly in family court.

We appreciate her sharing her expertise with us.

Please Contribute:

We are looking for any information in relation to IAMFC activities; in particular, upcoming events, spotlights of new members or of long-time members, relevant research, intriguing practices, and international efforts to include in future newsletters. Please send articles as a Microsoft Word document and pictures as a jpg file attachment. Articles from students, clinicians, and educators are equally appreciated. Feel free to contact us.
Dr. Cindy M. George is a Marriage & Family Therapist who owns a private counseling and consultation practice in the British Virgin Islands. As the Director of her practice, she counsels individuals (children and adults), couples, and families, and also consults with human resource and human service managers in the private and public sectors.

She has twenty years of experience in the field of counseling working with various populations in numerous settings including, but not limited to public schools, substance abuse centers, and a psychiatric hospital. Dr. George is a 2010 graduate of Barry University, with an earned Ph.D. in Counseling with a Specialization in Marital, Couples, and Family Therapy. As a member of the IAMFC, she serves on the webinar committee where she assists with the monthly recruitment of professionals who present on topics of interest, for the purpose of counselor professional development; through continued education units (CEUs).

Dr. George enjoys playing the piano and having fun outings with her three nieces and nephew. She is the proud owner of Midnite, a 7 year old Shih Tzu Yorkie Mix.
Dr. Wentao Chao is an associate professor in Taipei University of Education, a licensed counseling psychologist, and a couple and family therapist in Taiwan.

He received his master degree in marriage, family, and child counseling in California, U.S.A, and his Ph.D. in family therapy in Hong Kong.

He has been providing trainings in Taipei, Hong Kong, China, Korea, and Malaysia, and published several books. He serves as the current president of Taiwan Association of Couple and Family Therapy (2016~2018).

In Taiwan, a major part of training for systemic practice mainly available outside campus. He has been devoting to establishing several year-long training programs for family and couple counseling in Taipei, and promoting the development of systemic services and collaboration through professional community building and research.

His research interests cover “Intimacy patterns influenced by the pop romantic cultures” (Chao, 2012), “The professional development of family therapy in Taiwan” (Chao, 2011a; 2011b; Chao & Huang, 2013), “Collaboration across disciplines in student counseling services” (Chao, 2016), “Men’s perceptions on intimacy in marriage” (2016), “Construction of core competences for family therapists in Taiwan” (in review), and “Physiological measurement of couple relationship and couple counseling process” (unpublished).

He practices marshal art, Tai-Chi and yoga for years, and finds them essentially correspond to the art of psychotherapy.

He is in love with attending IAMFC summer institute at Oxford for multiple reasons. One being never gets tired of strolling in vintage campuses and breath-taking churches, and another being intrigued by intimate and inspiring dialogues among participants at the riverside conference hall. Not to mention nestling in hundred-year-old pubs savoring ale.

As a family therapist, he often finds himself being a minority everywhere. Oxford somehow brings him home.
Family Adjustment and Support: Creating Resilience for LGBTQ Youth

August 16, 12:00pm—1:00pm CST

Family adjustment is a process families often undergo as a response to a stressor or other life changing event. There is often a period of family adjustment after a child comes out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning. Research supports that while identifying as LGBTQ can place youth at greater risk of outcomes such as: bullying, violence, depression, anxiety, and substance use, having at least one adult in the home who supports the youth greatly diminishes this risk and serves as a factor of resilience. This webinar will (1) explore the existing developmental models for individuals "coming out" with diverse sexual or gender identities in the context of the impact on the family system, (2) discuss family counseling strategies for assisting families in identifying their adjustment process and developing goals for family counseling, and (3) provide resources for conceptualization and treatment approaches through the use of case study examples, as well as hear from youth and family members who have experienced this kind of family adjustment.

What Family Counselors Need to Know about Medication-Assisted Treatment for Substance Use Disorders

September 4, 12:00pm—1:00pm CT

This presentation will provide an overview of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for substance use disorders, address myths and misconceptions associated with MAT, provide information and techniques for educating families about MAT, and identify best practices for MAT and the role family counselors can play in this process.
Upcoming IAMFC Webinars

OCTOBER

Behavioral Couples Therapy for Substance Use Disorders: Overview and Suggestions for Implementation

October 2, 12:00pm—1:00pm CT

Behavioral Couples Therapy for Substance Use Disorders (BCT-SUD) is a manualized treatment that effectively supports abstinence from drugs and alcohol and improves relationship functioning (Klostermann, 2016). BCT-SUD is designed for married or cohabitating partners and will see both the substance using and non-substance using partners conjointly. The therapy’s functional components include a behavioral contract for abstinence and specific relationship techniques designed to increase positive activities and improve communication. It is important to note that BCT-SUD can be a stand-alone substance use treatment intervention, or it can be used as complement to other interventions (e.g. individual or group therapy, self-help groups). It is theoretically compatible with 12-step a treatment model and can, in fact, reinforce engagement in these groups as a component of the behavioral contract that is developed to support recovery-related activities. The purpose of this webinar is to provide an overview of BCT-SUD and provide recommendations for implementation.

Thank you ~ Gracias ~ Merci ~ Arigato ~ Mahalo ~ Danke

Many thanks to our recent webinar presenters:

May: Dr. Megan Speciale
June: Dr. Jason Orrock
July: Dr. Lauren Shure

And a special thanks to Dr. Bret Hendricks for the “bonus” July webinar on the IAMFC 2017 Ethics Code!
Upcoming International Program Event

IAMFC Delegation to Turkey and Israel

IAMFC is organizing a ten-day delegation visit to the countries of Turkey and Israel in December 2017. The Delegation visit is being offered in collaboration with the Turkish Family Counseling Association (EADD) and will take place December 7th to the 17th, 2017. **Dr. Brande’ Flamez, IAMFC President** will serve as the Delegation Leader.

The primary objective of the IAMFC delegation visit is to build and expand relationships with counseling professionals, educators, and NGOs in Turkey and Israel. Delegates will gain an understanding of culture, social issues, and the emerging role of professional counseling and family counseling in Turkey and Israel. In addition to formal and informal meetings; participants will interact with Turkish and Israel profession leaders, students, educators, and practicing counselors. The delegation itinerary includes visits to a number of “world heritage” historical and cultural sites. The Delegation is limited to a maximum of eight participants. The fee for each delegate is $2,600. Delegate selection is by application - with a desired balance among graduate students, practicing counselors, and counselor educators. The Delegation is open to any IAMFC student or professional member, with selection priority given to IAMFC members with prior IAMFC international program or leadership experience.

For additional information concerning the December 2017 IAMFC Delegation to Turkey and Israel, contact IAMFC President **Dr. Brande’ Flamez**. To obtain a delegate information packet with registration application, email Dr. Brian Canfield at bcanfield@fau.edu
February 1-3, 2018
New Orleans, LA

Planning is underway for next year's IAMFC World Conference that will take place February 1st-3rd in New Orleans. The conference will include keynotes, content sessions, round tables, and poster presentations. This conference will feature some of the giants in marriage and family counseling. The conference hotel is located next to the French Quarter with fun sites to see, food to taste, and music to hear! It is never too early to start preparing your proposals. The deadline for submitting a program proposal is November 1, 2017. Additional information is available on our website --

www.iamfconline.org

Click the conference picture on the homepage. Early bird registration discounts are available through December 1, 2017. Members can register for $150, students for $50, and nonmembers for $200. Continuing education credits will be offered.