



The American Academy of Couple & Family Psychology

Volume 14, Issue 1

July 2013



Intervention and assessment in Couple & Family Psychology embracing the total family system including individuals, couples, families, and the intergenerational system.

Welcome from the Board President



Welcome to the 2013 Academy Newsletter! I am very pleased to let you know about many new changes that have been implemented by the Board of the Academy in the past 6 months, and those yet to come. It is an honor to be your president, and I look forward to working with all of you during the next two years in my new role.

As is obvious, we have instituted the newsletter again, and we anticipate with our new editor and assistant editor that it will be issued quarterly, beginning with this issue. We will use this method to update the Academy members about what we are doing, and we hope you will also do the same for significant activities in your professional life. As you can also see from this newsletter, we are also updating our bylaws to add two new at-large members to the Board for additional diversity and representation. I hope all of you read the proposed bylaws carefully and vote to approve them. These changes, among others, will make our operation more efficient and allow us to expand our activities.

I would also like to announce another change that the Board has approved and is already being implemented: All members of the Academy have now become Fellows of the Academy, and a certificate verifying your status is sent when the yearly dues are paid. Updated stickers will be issued each year, or every other year if you have decided to pay two years dues at once, when you renew your membership. To maintain good standing, you also must complete 6 hours of continuing education relevant to couples and family psychology each year. The certificates can be framed. We hope this provides an adequate recognition of the work you must do and the steps you must complete to reach this level of professional status.

I would also like to recognize the excellent Board that has been working diligently on these various changes in order to make our Academy relevant to you and more user friendly. All of the Board members are shown in this newsletter so you can recognize them at APA or elsewhere. Along these lines, the Academy will co-host a social hour reception with Division 43 at the upcoming APA convention

in Honolulu, HI. It will be on Thursday, Aug 1, from 6-8:00 pm in the Tapa 3 room at the Hilton. There will be local appetizers as well as a few surprises for this Awards reception, and we are pleased that three publishers have agreed to help fund this event: APA Journals, Taylor & Francis Group/Routledge, and Springer. They supported our very successful dessert reception at APA last year, and are on board again. Come by and say hi, and network.

Two of the goals the Board has set for the next two years, in addition to increasing membership and adding more diplomates in Couple and Family Psychology, are to provide more training opportunities and to become much more involved in policies involving family psychology. Our first effort at the former will occur on September 6 and 7, 2013, at the Town & Country Hotel in San Diego, CA, in conjunction with and just prior to the 18th International Conference and Summit on Violence, Abuse & Trauma. The workshop is entitled, "Advanced Techniques and Ethical Issues in Child Custody Evaluations." The presenters are all members of the Academy: Lenore Walker, Andy Benjamin, David Shapiro, and me. We are hoping many of you can attend and also stay for part or all of the Conference!

Lastly, I would like to update you on the second major agenda item we will be focusing on: improving the identity and recognition of family psychology nationally and internationally, and the importance of such an influence on policies. One example, unfortunately, is that too many child custody evaluators do not identify with nor actually have adequate training in family psychology. This seems like it should be an obvious "no brainer" to have such training and emphasis when one is asked to evaluate family members in order to assess and make recommendations about the best interests of children. However, this is not always the case. This is just one area we hope to have more influence concerning policies in the coming years.

Please look for us at APA, and let us know your ideas and needs so we can serve you best. I look forward to an exciting and productive year!! Take care,

Bob Geffner, President

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Rachael Silverman, Psy.D.



As the new editor-in-chief of the American Academy of Couples and Family Psychology (AACFP) newsletter, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the members, contributors, and readers. The opportunity to work with leading psychologists in the field of Couples and Family Psychology is a great honor. At this time, I would like to share some of the changes that have been made to the newsletter. In each issue, we will highlight upcoming events and present exciting news about AACFP and our current members as well as information about board certification. Submissions are welcome as this is your opportunity to engage with other members by sharing your achievements, publications, and important announcements to be included in the newsletter. In this first edition, there is a message from the AACFP President addressing relevant issues and current topics as well as important changes to the BYLAWS. Looking forward, over the next three issues, we will be starting a series of articles about the history of the Academy. The newsletter will serve as a dynamic forum for all of you to dialogue with fellow members and celebrate the achievements of the AACFP.

The newsletter belongs to you, the members of AACFP and I look forward to creating an exciting and successful series. I would like to thank Martha G. Ruiz, Psy.D., the co-editor of this newsletter, for her around the clock support and brilliant technological skills. We do make a great team!



Martha G. Ruiz, Psy.D.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO BYLAWS COMING SOON

On July 30th, all current members of the Academy will vote on BYLAW changes. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2013-14, please do so in order to receive the mailing about the BYLAW changes. You may pay your dues at:

<http://www.familypsych.org/index.html>

Among the BYLAW changes, the Board recommends: 1) increasing the size of the Board of Directors to include two additional members at large; 2) changing the parliamentary rules to Keesey's Rules from Robert's Rules of Order; and 3) permitting the Board to establish time limited Task Forces to produce specific recommendations to the Board. Both the existing Bylaws and the new Bylaws will be forwarded to all Academy members on July 30th for their consideration. The vote will occur through e-mail rather than at our annual meeting (to be held in Hawaii) so that more members may vote on the changes to the Bylaws.

Interested in Board Certification?

Psychologists: If you are interested in board certification in Couple and Family Psychology, I would encourage you to go to <http://www.abpp.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3359> in order to download and review the ABCFP materials.

There are three pathways to demonstrate specialty education, training, and experience, including the Senior Track for individuals with over 15 years of experience who meet specified criteria. Our board is committed to creation of a positive and professional application and examination process. If you decide to pursue board certification, you may have a mentor assigned to assist you through the process, if you so desire.

Clinicians: Involved in educating and training psychology students in a predoctoral or postdoctoral venue that includes a Couple and Family Psychology emphasis, we invite you to consider ABCFP board certification.

Faculty members: In a doctoral program that includes a Couple and Family Psychology track, we encourage you to consider board certification as a demonstration of your competence in the specialty and as part of your modeling of postdoctoral certification. Finally, we encourage you to enlist your students in the ABPP Early Entry Program (see below).

Pre-licensure individuals: Students or recent graduate of a program that included a track or emphasis in Couple and Family Psychology, we encourage you to start the process of progression toward board certification through ABPP at a reduced fee. See information on the Early Entry Program at: <http://www.abpp.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3299> and start the process now.

We appreciate your interest in board certification in Couple and Family Psychology. Please contact any member of the ABCFP board if you have any questions or concerns about the process. We are happy to respond to your inquiries.

Bob Geffner, Ph.D., ABN, ABPP
President, AACFP
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Don't forget to visit
our Website!
www.familypsych.org

About our President

Robert Geffner, Ph.D., ABN, ABPP



Dr. Geffner is licensed clinician (Psychologist and Marriage & Family Therapist in California and a Licensed Psychologist in Texas) and directed a full-service private practice mental health clinic in East Texas for over 15 years prior to relocating to California 15 years ago. Dr. Geffner has trained mental health professionals, judges, attorneys, and others for over 28 years. He is President and Founder of a nonprofit international resource and training center (the Family Violence & Sexual Assault Institute in Texas and now in California), the Founding President of the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma at Alliant International University, a Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology at Alliant International University in San Diego, and editor of five professional journals (including the *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, *Journal of Family Violence*, and the *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*; he is also in the process of becoming the editor of the *Journal of Child Custody*). He has a Diplomate in Clinical Neuropsychology from the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology, and is Board Certified in Couple and Family Psychology from the American Board of Professional Psychology. He has lectured extensively on the subjects of child abuse, domestic violence, trauma, forensic psychology, child custody, and diagnostic assessment. Dr. Geffner is a past president of the American Psychological Association Division of Trauma Psychology, and he is currently co-chair of the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan (NPEIV) and president of the American Academy of Couple & Family Psychology. He has served on numerous state, national, and professional committees and task forces concerning family violence, child abuse, interpersonal violence, family law, child custody, and family psychology.

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AACFP Board Members 2012-2013



Past President: Lenore Walker, Ed.D., ABPP

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EXTRA, EXTRA!!!

Read all about our Members!!!

Gerald R. Weeks, Ph.D., ABPP



Dr. Weeks is a Professor in a COAMFTE-Accredited program in Marriage and Family Therapy Program at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and also in private practice. He has published 19 professional textbooks (8 in couple therapy) in the fields of psychotherapy, sex, couple/marital, and family therapy. Dr. Weeks won the Outstanding Contribution to Marriage and Family Therapy in 2009 from the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and was named the 2010 Family Psychologist of the Year. Dr. Weeks lectures nationally and internationally on the topics of sex and couple/marital therapy.

Dr. Weeks has been elected President of the 21st International Sexual Health Congress which will be held on April 17-20 in Antalya, Turkey. The theme of the Congress will be Advances in Treatment of Sexual Dysfunctions and Sexology. For more information, please visit www.cinselsaglik2014.org. The web site is under construction, but you will be able to submit a proposal to present a paper or poster when it is finished.

Contact Information:

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Be on the LOOKOUT!!

Gerald R. Weeks and Stephen Fife

will be publishing the

3rd edition of *Couples in Treatment: Effective:*

Techniques and Approaches for Effective Practice with Routledge/Taylor & Francis.

The book will be released January or February of 2014

Read more about our Members!!!

Karen J. Prager, Ph.D., ABPP



Dr. Prager is a counseling psychologist by training and a Board-certified couple and family psychologist. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, where she also received an M.A. in Measurement and Evaluation. She is currently a professor of Psychology and Gender Studies at the University of Texas at Dallas where she has taught for over 30 years. Her current research addresses problems that couples have with conflict and recovery from conflict, with a special focus on strategies couples use to regain their intimate connection after conflict. She is also interested in how couple partners maintain their balance between generosity towards the other and compliance with the other's wishes while also remaining committed to their own personal aims. She has published two books; out in 2013 is *Dilemmas of Intimacy: Conceptions, Assessment, and Intervention* with Routledge Books. With Guilford Press, she published *The Psychology of Intimacy* in 1995. In addition, she has written over 30 articles and book chapters.

Florence Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP



Dr. Kaslow is President, Kaslow Associates, a coaching and consulting firm, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, & Distinguished Visiting Professor, of Psychology, Florida Institute of Technology. Board Certified in Clinical, Family and Forensic Psychology, she is editor or author of 31 books, 60 plus chapters, and over 190 articles; a Past President of the International Family Therapy Association, International Academy of Family Psychology, Divisions of Family Psychology and Media Psychology of American Psychological Association. She is recipient of many professional awards including: APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to International Advancement of Psychology (2000), American Psychological Foundation Gold Medal Award for Life Achievement in the Practice of Psychology (2008). A sought after speaker, she has lectured in over 50 countries, is a Past Editor of *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, and serves on Editorial Boards of numerous U.S. and foreign journals.

Florence Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP

Divorced Fathers and Their Families: Legal, Economic and Emotional Dilemmas (2012)

Book Review

"Dr. Kaslow tells the story of forgotten fathers who suffer not only from the distance divorce imposes from their children, but from society's lack of sympathy for their suffering. A wife and mother as well as a distinguished professional, she forcefully brings these long-ignored issues out of the shadows."

Carolyn Susman, Health Columnist for the Palm Beach Daily News

Ending Our Broken Family Court System

By: Lenore Walker Ed.D., ABPP

In March 2012, the AACFP collaborated with the Dorothy and Nicholas Cummings Foundation and several other groups to present a two-day conference in Phoenix Arizona. Over 200 attendees, including psychologists, mental health child custody evaluators, lawyers, judges, and domestic violence advocates attended the conference that was both videotaped and audiotaped. Dr. Nicholas Cummings edited the proceedings and the Foundation published a book, titled, *Our Broken Family Court System*. Chapters included: Lenore Walker's identification of "Seven Deadly Sins in the Family Court System"; ABPP member, David Shapiro's "Risk Assessment in Family Court Evaluations"; G. Andrew H. Benjamin's chapters on "Trauma-Informed Custody Evaluations" and "Family Therapy with Children in Custody Litigation"; Ricky Greenwald's chapter on "Trauma-Informed Treatment for Traumatized Children"; and Leslie Drozd's chapter on "Estrangement and NOT Parental Alienation Disorder." Pediatrician Eli Newberger talked about "Understanding, Interpreting, and Addressing the Unbelievable in Men's Character and Behavior." Former Chief Judge of the Bronx NY Family Court, Hon. Marjory Fields discussed "Domestic Violence Cases Are a Major Aspect of the Breakdown of the Family Court" and Hon. Ginger Lerner-Wren, current judge of the first Misdemeanor Mental Health Court in Fort Lauderdale, Florida gave a presentation on how creating a "Trauma Informed Family Court: Lessons Learned From Mental Health Court". Attorneys Toby Kleinman talked about "A Lawyer's View of Family Court Evaluations" and described "Appropriate Language to Use in Family Court to Protect Children." A most exciting part of the conference was film-maker Garland Waller's premier showing of her film, "No Way Out But One", the story of one mother's fight to protect her children from an irrational family court system placing her children with a documented abuser by fleeing to the Netherlands and obtaining asylum there for her and the children.

Several of the presentations can be viewed at this website: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheFoundation1020?feature=mhee>

Copies of the book and the documentary were mailed to all Members of Congress, Chief Judges of the Courts in each state, and other policy makers to draw attention to what one mother called "family court hell" that occurs when abuse issues are reported. Unfortunately, psychologists have become part of the problem and the Cummings Foundation is helping us become part of the solution. Federal legislation that would give children legal rights and protect their constitutional right to be safe from violence is pending.

In October 2012, several of the same speakers were invited to Nova Southeastern University's Center for Psychological Studies to present a half-day version of the same issues. In addition to the clinical and forensic psychology students and practicing psychologists who were invited, advocates in the different agencies who serve domestic violence victims and their children also attended. Again, Garland Waller was present to discuss her video, *No Way Out But One*. The Cummings, who co-sponsored this conference, were also present and the books were unveiled.

The message is continuing at the upcoming September 2013 IVAT conference where AACFP members Andy Benjamin, Bob Geffner, David Shapiro, and Lenore Walker will present a two-day training workshop covering many of the same issues.

Lenore Walker, Ed.D., ABPP, Past AACFP President (2012-2013), Professor, Nova Southeastern University Center for Psychological Studies - Independent Practice Walker and Associates, LLC, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida - Executive Director, Domestic Violence Institute

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Our Members are Presenting at APA!



Wednesday July 31, 2013

Author(s): Bernadette Solórzano, Joan Biever, Monte Bobele, and Nancy Bustamante Taft
Title: Short-Term Study Abroad Courses – Student, Faculty, and Administrator Perspectives
Date: July 31, 2013
Time: 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM
Location: Convention Center Room 321B
ABPP Specialty Area: Couple and Family Psychology
Division Affiliation: 17, 29, 30, 43

2013 APA SCHEDULE

SEE ABPP AT APA PORTAL FOR ALL THE DETAILS

Author(s): David Schnarch and Ruth Morehouse
Title: “Understanding Mind Mapping”
Date: July 31, 2013
Time: 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM
Location: Convention Center, Room 318A
ABPP Specialty Area: Couple and Family Psychology

INCLUDING:

CONVOCATION, Saturday August 3, 2013

For more information please go to: <http://www.abpp.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3559>

Promoting Violence-Free Homes, Communities, and Societies

18th Annual International Conference on Violence, Abuse & Trauma
 National Summit on Interpersonal Violence & Abuse Across the Lifespan

September 8-11, 2013, San Diego, CA

11th Annual Hawaii Assessment, Treatment & Prevention of Child, Adolescent,
 & Adult Trauma Conference

March 11-13, 2014, Honolulu, HI



TOWN & COUNTRY RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER - SAN DIEGO, CA

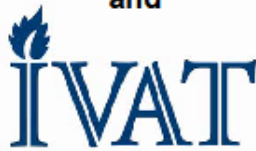
AFFILIATED TRAININGS 2013 – AACFP & IVAT

Registration & Information: www.IVATCenters.org



The American Academy of Couple and Family Psychology

and



Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma

www.IVATCenters.org
Registration & Information
On all Affiliated Trainings
And the
18th International Conference
psmith@alliant.edu

Advanced Techniques & Ethical Issues in Child Custody Evaluations

Friday & Saturday, September 6th & 7th, 2013
9:00am-4:30pm

Prior to the 18th International Conference & Summit on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma

SPEAKERS

Lenore Walker, EdD, ABPP; David Shapiro, PhD, ABPP; Andy Benjamin, JD, PhD, ABPP; Robert Geffner, PhD, ABN, ABPP

DESCRIPTION:

Child custody evaluations have become more complex as the laws change and evolve. Best interests of the child become inadequately represented while trying to fit into proper parenting plans where the child is shared with parents who are unable to share custody due to domestic violence, child physical or sexual abuse, substance abuse and other mental health issues. Psychological and other assessment techniques will be described and discussed. Ethics, risk management, and identifying the best interests of children in these complex custody cases while trying to meet the rest of the family's needs within the legal mandates will be explored in this workshop. Sample cases and practical examples will be shared.

**Day 1 (9am-12pm) and Day 2 of this training will be with AT 1 (there is no need to register separately for AT 1; if registering for all AT 1, do not register for AT 3).

**Day 2 of this training will also be with AT 9 (there is no need to register separately for AT 9 if registering for AT 3), and meets the annual update for child custody evaluators.

LEVEL: Intermediate

FEES: \$175 by July 31; \$190 by September 1; \$205 after September 1/onsite

Continuing Education: \$35 (\$45 on site) - Up to 6 hours CEs for Psychologists, MFTs, LCSWs, Counselors, Attorneys, Nurses & Child Custody Evaluators

CO-SPONSORED BY:

The American Academy of Couple and Family Psychology & The Institute on Violence, Abuse & Trauma (IVAT) at Alliant International University

Also Plan to Attend the 18th International Conference & Summit on Violence, Abuse & Trauma!

Sign up for Affiliated Training #3 when at IVAT conference website

A FINAL NOTE

As of next issue, we will be starting a column entitled News about Diplomates/Fellows. Please send in items about accomplishments, recent publications (books, articles), awards, other honors, new positions and promotions, additional board certifications, etc. Send directly to the editor: silverman.rachael@gmail.com