

Words from the SCAMFT President

By Jan McMeekin
D.Min., LMFTS, LPCS, CTS, CEAP

Hello to all of you. Before moving on to this year's news, I would like to thank all of our members and guests who attended the SCAMFT Fall Conference on "Warrior Transitions for Families". America is at war. Seven long years into it and hundreds of thousands of men and women have experienced combat operations stress directly. Multiply that number by the parents, spouses, and children connected to those who put themselves in harm's way and there is no doubt about the importance of preparing our SCAMFT members for the work to be done now and for years to come.

The conference presented an effective approach to traumatic stress recovery work focused on treatment of those suffering from combat operations stressors, military life stressors, and life stressors. The presenters were Ronald Ringo, former marine and current navy Chaplain, and Robert Bray, Ph.D, and LCSW working with traumatic stress recovery for over twenty-five years. The emphasis on provider self care was greatly appreciated by conference participants as they considered their own personal and professional experiences in dealing with traumatic stressors.

The conference prepared those who attended to work with military service members and their families. In our state, we have many military bases and facilities with a large population of active duty, reserves, and veterans of the military. More and more marriage and family therapists are being called upon to provide counseling services to military service members and their families.

Related to our work with military personnel, AAMFT sent a legislative update that we are making progress in getting the Veterans Administration, MFT job classifications implemented. LMFT and LPC groups have formed a coalition to work towards the formal establishment of two independent LMFT/LPC job classification series. For more information visit the AAMFT website www.aamft.org and click on Legislation and Policy. Another important legislative update is that Medicare MFT coverage is part of the health reform provision. The SCAMFT Board highly recommends that our members stay abreast of the latest federal legisla-

tive updates. It is an exciting time for Marriage and Family Therapists! In fact, AAMFT announced on December 28, 2009 that U.S. News & World Report ranked marriage and family therapy as one of the fifty best careers in 2010. Tracy Todd, Ph.D., LMFT, AAMFT Director, Professional and Public Affairs said, "It is encouraging to see that our field is gaining both in recognition and growth. There are two very positive aspects to this report. First, during these tough economic times, it is good to see that our field is projected to get stronger. More employment opportunities is great news. Second, it is rewarding to see that our field is also gaining in market recognition. Getting the attention of such a major publication certainly reflects the dedication and hard work of so many marriage and family therapists". I hope this message is uplifting to all of you who work so hard and to all of our SCAMFT Interns and students training to become marriage and family therapists.



~ Jan McMeekin ~

As we move into 2010 here are some things to remember: Please update your contact information with SCAMFT. We are having a hard time reaching some of you and want to keep you updated on SCAMFT and AAMFT news and events. Enclosed with this newsletter is a sheet with your personalized information. Review this information and let the SCAMFT office know if there are any corrections.

We are looking for SCAMFT members willing to be part of the Legislative Committee, Marketing Committee, Membership Committee, Multicultural Committee, Ethics Committee, Continuing Education Committee, Child and Family Advocacy, Aging Committee, Gender Committee, Supervision Committee and the History and Awards Committee. Please contact the SCAMFT office at scamft@queencommunicationsllc.com or (803) 540-7520 or call any of the board members listed on our SCAMFT website if you are interested in serving on one of these committees.

2010, Issue 1

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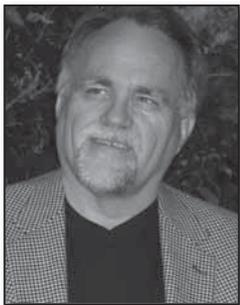
Mark your calendars for the SCAMFT Spring Conference, June 3-6, North Charleston Our presenter will be Scott Miller, Ph.D. He is the co-founder of the Center for Clinical Excellence, an international consortium of clinicians, researchers, and educators dedicated to promoting excellence in behavioral health. He will be focusing on "What Works in Therapy". Scott is the author of numerous articles and books, including *Escape from Babel: Toward a Unifying Language for Psychotherapy Practice*, *The Heart and Soul of Change: What Works in Therapy*, *The Heroic Client: A Revolutionary Way to Improve Effectiveness through Client-Directed, Outcome-Informed Therapy*, *Staying on Top and Keeping the Sand Out of your Pants: The Surfer's Guide to the Good Life*.

In addition to Dr. Scott Miller, the spring conference will also feature a preconference workshop on Thursday, June 3rd and a Supervision workshop on Sunday, June 6th. This conference coincides with the annual Spoleto Festival. So while you're in the area you can attend a cultural event. Visit www.spoletousa.org for more details.

I hope to see you all at the conference! All of us on the SCAMFT Board are looking forward to furthering the causes of our field and are honored to represent our membership. ♦

Meet E. Joe Holt SCAMFT's Newsletter Editor

E. Joe Holt, Ph.D. is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT/GA) and a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC/SC) who is the clinical director of the Family Center. The Center has offices in both Augusta, Georgia and North



~ E. Joe Holt ~

Augusta, South Carolina. His private practice includes services to adults, adolescents, children, couples, families, as well as consulting businesses and churches. He has been in practice for the past 25 years.

Dr. Holt completed a Ph. D. in Counseling Psychology and Social Work at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, a Masters in Arts (M.A.) in Education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Bachelors in Arts (B. A.) at Oklahoma Baptist University. He has done extensive postgraduate work at the University of Texas, University of South Carolina, Columbia College, Converse College and Augusta State University.

He is currently teaching in the classroom and online at the following schools: Liberty Baptist University (Graduate School of Psychology), Troy University (Graduate School of Psychology), and Strayer University (Augusta, Georgia) (undergraduate psychology and humanities).

His professional training in psychotherapy includes Systemic Brief Family Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral therapy, Addiction and Co-Dependency therapies, grief therapy, play therapy, and behavioral marital therapies.

In addition to his practice and teachings, he is a frequent speaker to businesses, civic and professional groups throughout the Southern and Southwestern parts of the United States.

He has led numerous Marriage Enrichment retreats and Parenting seminars for churches, Department of Social Services (South Carolina), Department of Family and Children Services (Georgia), and private hospitals. His

Call for Nominations

The Elections Committee of SCAMFT is asking Clinical Members to consider serving on the board of directors for SCAMFT in the capacity of Member at Large or Upstate Regional Representative (job descriptions of these two positions appear below). The SCAMFT Board of Directors includes two Members at Large and three Regional Representatives (Upstate, Midlands, and Low Country). Voting for individuals to serve in these two positions will begin this summer with tallying and announcement to occur in the fall. Both of these positions are three-year terms with the start date of the first date January 1, 2011.

People tend to be bashful about nominating themselves, but since the Elections Committee can't know every member the same, some people who may wish to serve get left out. Don't be left out. Please let us know of your interest in contributing with your personal gifts to the leadership of the state organization. If you wish to know more please contact Joe Shank, member at large for this year who is presently serving as elections committee chair. Home: 803-356-4167, Cell 803-361-

1257, jshank@sc.rr.com.

Responsibilities of the Upstate Regional Representative:

- ♦ To act as liaison between regional members, the Board, and the Officers by reporting membership concerns at Board meetings.
- ♦ To foster the regional membership, student/associate and affiliate members by hosting a social once per year and/or coordinating existing meetings to interface.
- ♦ To market existing SCAMFT programs in designated regions by increasing conference attendance, discussion, and programs.
- ♦ To assist Membership Committee by answering and/or directing local prospective members to membership committee and promoting membership in each region.

The Member-at-Large will function as a liaison between the board, election committee, and the general membership regarding interests and concerns of which the board may not be aware. The Member-at-Large also serves for a two-year period on the Elections Committee and participates and recommends members for election to offices.♦

parenting seminars focus on a variety of family models (single parent, nuclear, intact, and blended families) and he has conducted these seminars for such client organizations as South Carolina Baptist Convention, Department of Social Services (South Carolina), Florida Baptist Convention (Families Ministries Division), Charter Hospital of Augusta, and the Georgia Association of Juvenile Court Personnel.

For the past several years, his work has expanded to include assessments of families in crisis and their children (Georgia/South Carolina) who would be in foster care at the time of the assessment. Dr. Holt has participated in the following training by Georgia DHR/Foster Care Division of DFCS along with the Bricklin Center for family and children's assessments. Our Center staff's goal of this effort is to determine how reunify the family and what services are needed to facilitate this effort. The final stage of this effort was the development of the support services

to aid many of these families. This has evolved into a non profit center, Southeastern Family Institute. The center is also coordinating a home-based approach to working with high-risk families. He has training in forensic assessments and treatment. He is a Diplomate in the American College of Forensic Examiners and Counselors.

Dr. Holt's professional memberships include the American Psychological Association, Approved Supervisor and Clinical Member status with the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. He is also a clinical designation of being a licensed Supervisor of Licensed Professional Counselors (SC) and a Board Approved Supervisor of Marriage and Family Therapists (Georgia). He was recently elected Vice President of the SC Association of Treatment of Sexual Abusers.♦

For questions, comments or more information, please call 803.540.7520 or visit:

WWW.SCAMFT.ORG

Meet John Benda

Benda has worked in marriage and family therapy for more than 10 years, treating adolescents, adults, children and elders alike for a variety of issues.

"I work with individuals (adults and children), families and couples. I also supervise graduate students. I work with most symptoms. This includes any anxiety problem, major depression, panic attacks, ADD, school and community problems, bipolar, post traumatic stress disorder, and personality disorders. I work with severe chemical dependency problems. My couple work includes high conflict and intimacy problems. I also do a lot of family therapy. I have taught college and trainings to other professionals, as well as general mental health, family therapy, crisis intervention, human sexuality, anxiety problems,

and depression/defiance/and drugs in adolescence." Benda's style is relational and broad based, both individual and family life-focused as needed. In addition to symptom relief, he works with self learning and awareness, repairing and restructuring relationships. Benda focuses on emotion and growth in his practice, along with symptom relief and helping individuals get more out of life.

"I work with most symptoms and disorders. I'm very experienced with problems for individual therapy, and family or couple's therapy. I work with severe symptoms with all ages. I also work with families with children or adolescents. I have extensive experience with crisis of many kinds, and excellent intervention skills."



3 hours of Continuing Ed! Family Therapy as an Ecosystemic Alternative to Medicine

Presented by John M. Benda, MA, MSW, LICSW

John M. Benda will look at the therapist's way of working with a radically ecosystemic and aesthetic worldview and a Symbolic Experiential Family Therapy point of reference. Benda will provide a history of Symbolic Experiential Therapy and Carl Whitaker and how it works seamlessly with social work. Benda has intensive experience working with whole families, as well as with individual children, adolescents, and adults. He has been in private practice almost 9 years in twin Cities of Minnesota.

April 24, 2010 from 9 a.m.- noon at the Epworth Children's Home • 2900 Millwood Avenue • Columbia, SC • 29205

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Columbia, SC 29201

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Or fax to: (803) 254-3773

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EVERY MAN'S NIGHTMARE

By Vincent P. Ward, PhD, LSPC, LMFT, LSMFT

On November 6-7, 2009, we hosted Ron Ringo, Ph.D., and Bob Bray, Ph.D., who presented "Warrior Transition for Families." A long time ago I was a warrior, and though I never saw real combat as a young man in the Air Force, something happened to me that I didn't know about at the time. Thirty years after I walked off my last Air Force base and into graduate school, I was shown the terrible price men pay, no matter on which side in which war, for doing what is asked of them (women pay their own price, but today I speak as a man, of men). As Ringo and Bray presented I considered offering what I'd learned, and even started to do that, but then decided it was the wrong forum. I offer it now in the pages of *The Palmetto Family*.

Ringo and Bray did a fine job of showing us what warriors face in the aftermath of battle, and later Jim Rentz, courageous hero that he is, illustrated for us the damage and what it takes for recovery. The military is just now catching up with this concern, as they realize their mental health services are woefully inadequate to the tide of troubled soldiers emerging from the Gulf wars. Few people get the depth or meaning of this. Understanding is only found at the bottom of the well, where nobody goes on purpose. Yet we owe it to those returning veterans to try. So I tell the story of my own trip to the well when I can.

Circa 1970 in the Arizona-Sonora desert: deep underground I wait. Ten megatons of nuclear destruction wait with me.

At 28-years-old, I command the crew of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

The nightmare waits here, too, in the underground of sleep. I'm on alert with my crew. The order to launch comes. I obey, then run upstairs, emerging topside into the burning desert sun. I see my missile rising slowly in fire and smoke from its protective womb, a monster to which Mother Earth never intended to give birth. I feel nothing until I look up into the cloudless blue Arizona sky. There I see three Russian missiles, one each for my wife and two children, headed for my Tucson home.

My rage is instant, explosive, consuming, psychic twin to the firestorm my missile will create. I scream it on to its target, willing it to avenge my loss.

I wake shaking and crying. But the nightmare will return, haunting my sleep often over 40 months and 300-plus alerts.

It stops dead with my last alert in the fall of 1971. December 8, 2000, near Hendersonville, North Carolina: I'm a psychotherapist in a dream interpretation workshop. A question brings the old silo nightmare to mind, so I tell its story. Then as the last words are spoken, I "dream," awake and silent, the end I had avoided for 30 years:

Men, women and children screaming in closeup agony, incinerating in an exploded slow-motion instant of time as my nightmare missile does my bidding. Then my atrocity morphs seamlessly into a collage of ancient and contemporary horrors in progress: I – I – am the man

spearing Christ's side, torturing heretics, slaughtering Indians, whipping slaves, gassing Jews, raping women, napalming Vietnamese, gunning down bound Serbs . . .

Massive, heartbreaking grief overwhelms me. It has waited decades and centuries, compressed and buried because my brothers and I, the original perpetrators, failed to feel it or express it then. Here, now, it erupts, crushing, cleansing. Unable to bear the weight of sorrow over so much carnage, I collapse sobbing.

In the days and weeks that follow this meltdown, I understand that it's not only my nightmare: it's everyman's. Deep in each man's soul, Darth Vader waits, brooding and patient like my missile, ready to relish violence and death. His mission is survival and revenge. He cares not whether he kills for Hitler or the Allies, for the Iraqi insurgents or the Coalition, alone like Timothy McVeigh, or only in dreams like me. And he does not retire at war's end. Instead, he struggles for control with the man's better nature.

Circa 1970, home from alert: fresh from the silo nightmare, I stare at my 4-year-old daughter. She stares back, afraid as I struggle in the DMZ between my love for her and the anger neither of us understands. Though I neither intend it nor realize it now, over the next dozen years this simmering anger will help deprive my children of the intact home and the steady father's love that are their birthright. It will create a gap between

me and my daughter, now 42-years-old, that may only now be healing.

Recognizing that I did not suffer the sacrifice demanded by literal combat, I tell this story humbly. Yet as I watch the real-life nightmares of our returning warriors unfold daily I cannot refuse the unwelcome mission I've been given so late in life. In my meltdown in 2000 I found a message -- and was drafted as its messenger: Nature gave us the capacity to both kill and grieve. Our grief is the intended balance for the damage done by humanity to itself. Personally grief heals; collectively it balances. But men, and especially soldiers, aren't sup-

posed to cry, so our un-lived grief pools in the heart until in a desperate effort to right the imbalance by offering us another chance it spawns the twin of the rage that caused it.

The depth of each soldier's sacrifice is almost incomprehensible, the accumulating collective debt more so. Ungrieved, the damage shows up medically as PTSD, the malady that makes so many veterans eventually alienated, addicted, homeless, and/or violent. Warriors old or young, we must not refuse this duty. We must find a way to grieve for the years and friends and wounds we gave to war, for the anguish

of our families, and for those we killed and wounded and their families as well. If we can't, we will not pay the price alone. Grief is love that faces loss and pain, so grief denied is love lost to both lover and loved -- forever.

It took me 30 years to submit to my grief. I understand now. I've become more whole, a better man, father, step-father, husband, grandfather, therapist -- messenger. I'm grateful. And to my dying day, I will regret the price exacted for the delay.*



Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is May 6th

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day (Awareness Day) is celebrating its fifth anniversary on May 6, 2010. Each year, Awareness Day is an opportunity to promote positive youth development, resilience, recovery, and the transformation of mental health services delivery for children and youth with serious mental health needs and their families. The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) has been a proud participant/co-sponsor of this commemorative children's mental health event for the last three years. But for the first time, we are pleased to provide tools via the AAMFT Community (www.aamft.org/community) in the AAMFT Division Leader Library under "Children's Mental Health Awareness Day-Materials" on specific ways our leaders can get involved locally to help raise awareness for this important initiative.

Below please find the basics regarding the Awareness Day "Post NOW" Campaign, and on its relevant materials newly made available in the library.

You are encouraged to participate in Awareness Day and the "Post NOW" Campaign if you are an organization or individual that serves children, youth, and families. This includes system of care communities, national sponsors and their local chapters and affiliates, and all other Awareness Day allies. As a "Post NOW" participant, you are meant to personalize messages and/or electronic posters to an e-mail distribution list of others who work to enrich the lives of children, youth, and their families.

For more information and to become a supporter of Awareness Day and/or "Post NOW," e-mail AwarenessDay2010@vancomm.com. Also, Division Leaders are welcome to visit www.childrensmentalhealthawarenessweek.org or www.samhsa.gov/children for further information on Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.

The United States House of Representatives took a huge step toward greater legislative hope and support for Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) Medicare recognition by passing H.R. 3962, "The Affordable Health Care for America Act" in the fall of last year. Section 1308 of this bill specifically focuses on the addition of licensed MFTs and licensed professional counselors (LPCs) as Medicare-eligible providers. Despite continuous hurdles and attempts by some to derail our House efforts by falsely claiming that our provision would "put the government between the public and their marriages," Section 1308 prevailed into the final House bill.

In Washington, D.C., AAMFT Government Affairs is working hard to attempt to gain Medicare MFT coverage added to final Senate bill before it comes up for a vote in the near future, as it does not contain a provision mirroring that of the House. But the current policy environment on that side of Capitol Hill is quite fluid and complex, so anything is possible!

The AAMFT applauds the exemplary recent groundswell of MFT outreach to members of Congress (over 3300 messages were sent out over the last month) and all contributions to the AAMFT-PAC on behalf of this cause. These actions truly helped to put AAMFT on the map in this massive health care arena and allowed us to be even more seriously considered as a piece of the Medicare puzzle. In order to remain afloat and increase our chances for success in the debates to come, it behooves us to continue to work collaboratively and to ramp up our grassroots efforts!

To contact your members of Congress (specifically U.S. Senators), please go to: <http://capwiz.com/aamft/home/>

For AAMFT health care reform principles, please go to: www.aamft.org/MedicareReform.asp.

EXPERIENCE CHARLESTON • EXPERIENCE SPOLETO

EXPERIENCE STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE CLINICAL PRACTICE

June 3-6, 2010, at the Embassy Suites Airport/Convention Center in Charleston, SC
Eighteen (18) continuing education hours for marriage and family therapists, social workers,
licensed professional counselors and alcohol and drug counselors.

Sponsored by the South Carolina Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

*What Works in Therapy: Translating 40 Years of Outcome Research into
Strategies for Effective Clinical Practice* (Friday and Saturday)

Presented by Scott D. Miller, Ph.D.

Thursday, June 3: Pre-Conference

Hidden Wounds: Helping Heroes Battle the Invisible War at Home
Presented by Suze Maze, LCSW, and Stephanie Bowman, LPC

Friday/Saturday, June 5-6: Conference Workshop

What Works in Therapy: Translating 40 Years of Outcome Research into Strategies for Effective Clinical Practice

Presented by Scott D. Miller, Ph.D. For today's practitioner, finding reliable information about "what works" in therapy—separating fact from fiction—can be challenging. Since the 1960's, the number of treatment approaches has exploded, going from 60 to over 400 at last count. During the same time period, over 10,000 books and 100,000 articles and research reports have been published. So, "what works" in family therapy, drug and alcohol counseling, individual counseling?

Drawing from a comprehensive review of 40 years of outcome research, Scott D. Miller, Ph.D. will identify core factors responsible for therapeutic success. The research on "what works" will be carefully translated into practical, common sense, and empirically-supported therapeutic skills that can be used for the efficient and effective resolution of problems clients bring to treatment.

Scott D. Miller, Ph.D. is the founder of the International Center for Clinical Excellence, an international consortium of clinicians, researchers, and educators dedicated to promoting excellence in behavioral health services. Dr. Miller conducts workshops and training in the United States and abroad, helping hundreds of agencies and organizations, both public and private, to achieve superior results. He is one of a handful of "invited faculty" whose work, thinking, and research is featured at the prestigious "Evolution of Psychotherapy Conference." His humorous and engaging presentation style and command of the research literature consistently inspires practitioners, administrators, and policy makers to make effective changes in service delivery.

Sunday, June 6: Post-Conference

Supervision Workshop: Initiating and Maintaining a Professional Peer Supervision Group

Presented by Sallie Campbell, LISW-CP/AP, LMFT/S, LPC/S, DCSW; Jane Evers, MA, LPC/S; A.C. Hollar, D.Min., LMFT; Robert Knight, D.Min, LMFT/S, LPC/S; Rick Lawhon, M.Ed., LPC, LPC/S, NCACI; and Lindy Quesenbery, MA, M.Ed., LMFT/S, LPC.

Location/Accommodations:

Scheduled during the Spoleto Festival, the SCAMFT Conference venue is the Embassy Suites Hotel Airport/Convention Center, 5055 International Boulevard, North Charleston, SC 29418. A block of sleeping rooms are being held for conference attendees beginning Tuesday, June 1st through Monday, June 7th at the reduced rate of \$119. Available until May 4th, this rate includes made to order breakfast and evening reception. To reserve your room, call 1-800-EMBASSY and identify yourself as being with the SC Association for Marriage & Family Therapy 2010 Annual Conference.

Spoleto 2010: May 28-June 13

For 17 days and nights each spring, Spoleto Festival USA fills Charleston, South Carolina's historic theaters, churches and outdoor spaces with more than 140 performances by renowned artists as well as emerging performers in opera, theater, dance, and chamber, symphonic, choral and jazz music. Now in its 34th season, Spoleto Festival USA is internationally recognized as America's premier performing arts festival.

WWW.SPOLETOUSA.ORG

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EXPERIENCE STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE CLINICAL PRACTICE

Registration Form

Registration Fees:

Postmarked **by** May 4th (all fees are per person)

Pre-conference Thursday Workshop

AAMFT Members: \$50 Nonmembers: \$75 Students: \$50

**Postmarked after May 4th, add \$10 to fee*

Friday and Saturday Conference

AAMFT Members: \$200 Nonmembers: \$225 Students: \$100

**Postmarked after May 4th, add \$25 to fee*

Saturday Lunch **YOU MUST CHECK THE BOX BELOW IF ATTENDING SATURDAY'S LUNCHEON**

AAMFT Members: Free Nonmembers: \$25 Students: \$15

Post-Conference Sunday Supervision Workshop

AAMFT Members: \$50 Nonmembers: \$75 Students: \$50
 Exhibitor Fee: \$300 Sponsor Fee: \$500

Payment Information:

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REGISTRATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: WWW.SCAMFT.ORG

This form MUST be completed and returned along with payment

Mail registration form with payment to:
SCAMFT • 1215 Anthony Avenue, Columbia, SC 29201-1701
T: (803) 540-7520 • F: (803) 254-3773

SCAMFT Honors Two of Its Members

During the November Annual Conference, SCAMFT recognized two of its long-time members for their outstanding service to the marriage and family therapy field and their service to the organization.

R. Jenelle Spear, LISW, LMFT, LSMFT, LPC, LSPC, MSW, received the J. Kenneth Morris Award for her outstanding commitment to the practice and training of marriage and family therapists. An SCAMFT member since 1985, Spear has mentored and supervised numerous marriage and family therapists. She has touched many with her dedication and contribution to this. Spear is at the Westgate Training & Con-



R. Jenelle Spear receives award from Wayne Hyatt, SCAMFT Treasurer

sultation Network in Spartanburg. Named after the founder of SCAMFT, J. Kenneth Morris, this award recognizes marriage and family therapists who are role models to other therapists.

Karen Cooper-Haber, Ph.D., LMFT, LSMFT, LPC, LSPC, received the Distinguished Professional of the Year Award for her model of a family school intervention program. Cooper-Haber, a member since 1992, works in the Richland County School district, training school counselors and psycho-educational specialists. Currently, Cooper-Haber is SCAMFT's President-elect. Captions: J. Jenelle Spear receives the J. Kenneth Morris Award from SCAMFT Treasurer Wayne Hyatt. John Evans, History and Awards Committee Chair, presents Karen Cooper-Haber with the Distinguished Professional Award.*



Karen Cooper-Haber receives award from John Evans, SCAMFT History/Awards Committee Chair

A Sneak Preview of What's Coming this Spring

By Karen Cooper-Haber
LMFT, LSMFT, LSPC

With the first board retreat behind me, I feel really excited about all the thoughts and ideas generated there. As conference chairperson, my job is to identify conference topics and find presenters who will provide stimulation and growth for us as marriage and family therapists, students, and other helping professionals. We are pleased to have Scott Miller, coming to our spring conference in Charleston and look forward to new ideas regarding what he has learned "works in therapy", interaction among our friends and colleagues, and welcoming participants new to SCAMFT. Conversations with colleagues who have been in workshops with Dr. Miller lead me to believe that we don't want to miss this opportunity! SCAMFT is co-sponsorship this conference with the USC Counseling Center so it can provide continuing education hours to psychologists as well as family therapists and provide opportunities for building relationships with others in our community of clinicians.

This conference will also feature a pre-conference workshop on Thursday, June 3rd from 2-5 pm. Suze Maze, LCSW, and Stephanie Bowman, LPC, will present "Hidden Wounds: Help-

ing Heroes Battle the Invisible War at Home." Hidden Wounds is a non-profit organization committed to providing mental health resources for Veterans and their families as they await full services being provided by the VA. It was formed in Columbia after the suicide of a young man who had returned from Iraq. His family wanted to do something to help prevent the loss of other young veterans who suffer from PTSD and to provide support to the spouses and family members struggling to understand and get them the help they need.

Six marriage and family therapists from the Charleston area will be providing a Sunday's supervision workshop. She and the other supervisors who participate together in a peer supervision group in Charleston will be sharing their model with us. This might be a model that other supervisors adopt in their respective locales and from which exciting collaboration among supervisors state-wide might evolve. Presenters are Sallie Campbell, LISW-CP/ AP, LMFT/S, LPC/S, DCSW; Jane A.Evers, M.A., LPC/S; A.C. Holler, D.Min., LMFT; Robert M. Knight, D.Min., LMFT/S, LPC/S; Rick Lawhon, M.Ed., LPC, LPC/S, NCACI; and Lindy Quesenbery, M.A., M.Ed., LMFT, LPC.

Other training opportunities include a Midlands Regional workshop on Saturday, April 24th in Columbia at Epworth Children's Home. John Benda, MA, MSW, LICSW, will present a three-hour

workshop on "Family Therapy as an Ecosystemic Alternative to Medication". John's work as a Symbolic/Experiential Family Therapist is most influenced by Carl Whitaker and David Keith and he has extensive experience working with families, as well as children, adolescents and adults. John has been looking forward to spending some time away from Minnesota in the "sunny South" and we are glad he is waiting until April to do that! The cost of the workshop is \$40 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. and we will be awarding CEU's for MFT's, LPC's, and MSW's. There will be a reception for all folks attending the Saturday workshop at the Haber's on Friday night, April 23, from 6-9.

Finally, I really would like to encourage all members to reach out to our counseling colleagues who are not licensed marriage and family therapists to join AAMFT as affiliate members. Affiliate Membership signifies a commitment to staying up-to-date on the latest research, news, and clinical developments in the marriage and family therapy profession. It is the ideal membership opportunity for the mental health professional who wants to connect with the MFT profession, but does not want to pursue MFT licensure or Clinical Membership. This membership category is non-clinical; therefore, the AAMFT does not review the credentials of applicants. Visit www.aamft.org to view the benefits of membership.*

About the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

Who We Are

The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) is the professional association for the field of marriage and family therapy. We represent the professional interests of more than 24,000 marriage and family therapists throughout the United States, Canada and abroad.

Since our founding in 1942, the AAMFT has been involved with the problems, needs and changing patterns of couples and family relationships. The association leads the way to increasing understanding, research and education in the field of marriage and family therapy, and ensuring that the public's needs are met by trained practitioners. The AAMFT provides individuals with the tools and resources they need to succeed as marriage and family therapists.

Our members meet rigorous standards for education and training and are held to the highest ethical standards of the profession. Clinical Members have met the highest standards of the profession for education and clinical experience. Associate and Student membership categories are available for therapists in training for clinical practice. Members of allied professions and other persons who are interested in marriage and family therapy are eligible to become Affiliate Members.

What We Do

Our association facilitates research, theory development and education. We develop standards for graduate education and training, clinical supervision, professional ethics and the clinical practice of marriage and family therapy.

The AAMFT hosts an annual national training conference each fall as well as a week-long series of continuing education institutes in the summer and winter. We publish the scholarly research journal *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, news about the field in *Family Therapy Magazine*, and a variety of brochures and pamphlets that inform the public about the field of marriage and family therapy. Also, we offer a range of professional and practice development products, including videotapes, books and brochures.



Welcome Colleagues

Dear South Carolina Marriage and Family Therapists:

The SCAMFT is sending this newsletter to all licensed marriage and family therapists in South Carolina, including those who aren't current members. As the professional organization representing MFTs, AAMFT and SCAMFT welcome your involvement.

Please review the information in this newsletter, and you will find how AAMFT and SCAMFT are working for you. Several important key areas include the following:

1. Working to get the Veterans Administration to include LMFT job classification as well as the LPC one.
2. Advocating for legislation allowing schools be given the opportunity to hire Licensed Family Therapists (along with psychologists, social workers, and guidance counselors), as providers of mental health counseling services.

3. Providing quality educational programs from experienced presenters.
4. Offering networking opportunities at our conferences and workshops as well as via the web site.
5. Cost savings on professional liability insurance.
6. Recognizing outstanding service and contributions to the profession.

As time permits, visit the AAMFT website to see the myriad of benefits and services being provided.

Sincerely,

Janice McMeekin

Janice McMeekin, EdS, LMFT, LPC
SCAMFT Board President

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