



# The Iowa Marital & Family Therapist

A Bulletin of the Iowa Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

## Growing the Organization One Person at a Time

by Matthew Burch, M.A., L.M.F.T.

Once again it was enjoyable to see so many of you at our 2003 Conference, Strengthening Relationships: Assumptions, Challenges and Techniques. Your participation and feedback will be implemented into next year's conference and planning. Selfishly speaking, I enjoyed having all of you come to Pella, my hometown of 10 years, and take delight in the accommodations, dining and atmosphere. The weather cooperated and allowed for evening time sightseeing. I also appreciated the mini-conversations (being that I was slightly preoccupied) that reminded me that I was a part of a larger whole. This was one of many to come. It is now my privilege to continue thinking out loud about some previously mentioned thoughts about IAMFT.

I am reminded that when NASA plans to launch a rocket into space, 90% of the rockets fuel is required to get the rocket 1 foot off the ground. When I learned of this fact, I thought about the difficulty that typically accompanies how change and new growth occurs. Whenever there is change and growth, much effort and resources are needed in order to launch the change, support the change, and pinpoint the actual trajectory in mind. At present, these three components of processes (launching, supporting, and pinpointing) are necessary steps in order to achieve the objectives of *Growing the Organization One Person at a Time*.

Most of my tenure as president has included launching some changes that in my opinion, as well as the boards, were necessary changes in order to continue to gain recognition and improve our internal systems to operate more effectively. Better conferences for the membership, more effective communication (website) to relay information, updated job descriptions for board member positions (allowing for a decrease in burnout and an increase in productivity), are a few of the changes that have been implemented this past two years. As stated during the conference, the next step pertains to all of you the members: supporting the change.

Soon you will receive information about either becoming a board member or committing some time

to a committee on the board. Supporting your board at this point in time is critical based upon previous effort by the board to grow the organization one person at a time. You can support the change in a number of different ways. First, you can follow-through with you responses that you filled out on the blue IAMFT feedback sheets. Many of you stated that you would be interested in participating on the board as a member or on a committee. Please follow through with this if you are not contacted. Your board will try and tabulate all of the responses and insure contact before the next board meeting. Secondly, stay in touch with your board.

Decisions are made based upon member input and needs. If your board is unclear of your needs, we will therefore not be able to aim, launch, and pinpoint the necessary targets or objectives that pertain to your needs. On our website ([www.iamft.com](http://www.iamft.com)) under contact a board member there is a page that you may contact your board.

Thirdly, you can grow the organization by providing job opportunities for graduating MFT students. Placement is a central issue for the students graduating from their PhD. and MS programs. If we as members do not make extra efforts to provide incentive for students who need hours for licensure and placement for income, slowly by default, we will diminish our effectiveness and over time be absorbed by other licensures that have numbers and sheer volume. We have a product and process that is effective and worthy of promulgating. Let us all *Grow the Organization One Person at a Time!*

Four your information the next board meeting is June 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 o'clock am in Ames. Contact Megan Murphy for further information and directions. She can be contacted by email on the website.

Sincerely,

Your President

Matthew J. Burch, M.A., L.M.F.T.



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# The Iowa Marital & Family Therapist

## EDITOR:

Megan J. Murphy, Ph.D., Assistant Professor  
4380 Palmer, Suite 1325  
Iowa State University  
Ames, IA 50011-4380  
mjmurphy@iastate.edu

## DESIGN & LAYOUT:

Lori Keppler - Lori's PC Possibilities  
lorispc@alpinecom.net

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Display advertising must be submitted camera-ready (unless exclusively text, then it must be typed and

Price	Type	Size
\$25 (\$20 members)	Classified listing	5 lines
\$50 (\$40 members)	Business card size	2x31/2
\$90 (\$72 members)	Quarter page	3 9/16 x 4 3/4
\$150 (\$125 members)	Half page	7 1/2 x 4 3/4
\$300 (\$200 members)	Full page	7 1/2 x 9 1/2
FREE for IAMFT	Job Postings	—

double spaced) and pre-paid at the following rates:

Submissions are to be sent directly to the Editor. Please make checks for advertising payable to IAMFT and send to Neal Sheeley, IAMFT Treasurer, P.O. Box 283, Postville, IA 52162

The editor reserves the right to reject, abridge or modify any advertising or other submitted material as deemed appropriate. Opinions expressed by the editorial staff of The Iowa Marital & Family Therapist by articles published, advertisements, and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of AAMFT, the IAMFT officers and Board of Directors, or the IAMFT membership.

# Please join us for our next Board Meeting!

## IAMFT Board Meeting

### Saturday, June 28

### 10:00am

### 0333 Palmer Building

### Iowa State University

### Ames, IA 50011



## Student Spotlight - Becky Davenport



Hi IAMFT! I am currently in the third year of completing my doctorate in the Iowa State University Marriage and Family Therapy program. I came to Iowa from Texas, completing my bachelor's degree at Texas A & M University and master's degree at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. I wanted to continue my education out of a desire to teach and provide supervision for future therapists. I also am very interested in conducting research that will benefit our field.

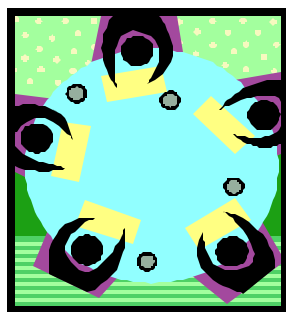
In addition to these interests, I have a strong passion for clinical work. The practicum experiences I had during my master's program provided diverse and exciting experiences. I was an intern for one of the San Antonio school districts, providing family interventions for school aged children with the support of the school personnel. This was a wonderful, unique environment! I also provided therapy for the Jewish Family Services agency, allowing me to expand my understanding of the Jewish faith and culture. While in San Antonio, I also organized a new practicum site for the St. Mary's MFT program. While a teacher in a low income preschool, I became very interested in play therapy and desired to provide these families with free access to family therapy. Through this experience, I learned a great deal about program administration as well as gaining experience

working with children. Since I have come to Iowa, I have had the great fortune to continue gaining clinical experiences as I pursued my doctorate. I spent two years as a therapist in the ISU campus MFT clinic. I also provided relational therapy within the private practice setting of Heart to Heart Communication in Urbandale.

Iowa State University has provided me with many nonclinical opportunities as well. I have participated in three semesters of the Preparing Future Faculty program. Through this program, and the independent teaching assignments I have received, I have gained invaluable experiences that will benefit my future academic career. Additionally, I have served as a research and teaching assistant for various HDFS faculty members. I have also been able to get involved in the university's political system as a student representative to both department and university level committees.

My own research interests are focused in services to children and their families. My dissertation is focusing on play interactions between children and their parents, including both mothers and fathers. I am especially interested in what children learn about aggression during these interactions. Effectiveness research is also an area in which I hope to contribute, especially in terms of providing empirical support for the effectiveness of MFT interventions for children's issues. Research is so important to the future of our field, which is the main reason I desired to coordinate a conference for students focusing on research. This conference was held at ISU last summer and brought together MFT graduate students from across the country to learn how we can better develop and promote our field. We were very thankful for IAMFT's support of this conference!

Finally, a major event in my life was the birth of my first child in January, Thomas Eldon! Motherhood has brought so much to my life, including a new perspective for my work with families and children. My husband, Chris, and I are having so much fun watching Thomas discover the world!



*IAMFT Board of Directors for 2003*

President:  
Matthew Burch, M.A., LMFT.  
500 Liberty St.  
Pella, IA 50219

Home: 641-628-9238  
Office: 641-628-1728

E-mail: [mdburch@kdsi.net](mailto:mdburch@kdsi.net)

Executive Director  
Jeffrey Kerber, Ph.D.  
10619 Oakwood Dr.  
Urbandale, IA 50322  
MFT: 515-988-0136

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[drosenthal@familyjustieinc.org](mailto:drosenthal@familyjustieinc.org)

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Mary Ellen Lester, Ph.D.  
319-626-6477

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Louise Gisolfi, M.S. W.  
13 Briar Ridge Dr. N.E.  
Iowa City, IA 52240  
Home: 319-351-8922  
Work: 319-337-3357  
E-mail: [lcharls@aol.com](mailto:lcharls@aol.com)

Treasurer:

Neal Sheeley, M. A.  
P.O. Box 283  
Postville, IA 52162  
Home: 563-864-3765  
E-mail: [nealmf@acegroup.com](mailto:nealmf@acegroup.com)

Elections Committee:

Marcia L. Michaels, Ph.D.

Ethics Committee Member:

Keith Schrag, M. Div.  
233 S. Walnut, Ste. B.  
Ames, IA 50010  
Phone: 515-232-3482  
E-mail: [KeithGS@aol.com](mailto:KeithGS@aol.com)

Legislative Monitor and Attorney:

George Appleby

Member-At-Large: Communications

Megan J. Murphy, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

4380 Palmer, Suite 1325

Iowa State University

Ames, IA 50011-4380

515-294-2745

[mjmurphy@iastate.edu](mailto:mjmurphy@iastate.edu)

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