



# The Iowa Marital & Family Therapist

A Bulletin of the Iowa Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

## Presidential Report

by Wayne Clark, Ph. D.

Toward the end of his intriguing book, *The World Without Us*, Alan Weisman gives several views of the world's purpose drawn from various faith groups. Turkish Sufi master Abdülhamit Çakmut explains: "There are cycles in life. From the seed comes the tree, from the tree comes the fruit we eat, and give back as humus. Everything is meant to serve man. If people are gone from this cycle, nature itself will be over." Weisman doesn't think so; however, Çakmut does speak to a popular view: Without us, what is there? We sometimes have a tendency to recreate life as if our personal or corporate agendas are invincible. Weisman concludes: "All of us humans have a myriad of other species to thank. Without them, we couldn't exist. It's that simple, and we can't afford to ignore them any more...nor the sweet mother Earth that births and holds us all."

"Without us, Earth will abide and endure; without her, however, we could not even be." Marriage and family therapists have a keen systemic grasp of what it means to be connected: dependent, independent, interconnected to a larger whole than we can obtain on our own. As therapists, we have an understanding and put value in all that is between the self and other. We also are aware of the damage that can be done when something "other than" comes between self and other. It is a mutual, ever changing, and growing balance of the system that enables the relationship to thrive. Çakmut's words: "If people are gone from this cycle, nature itself will be over," might be reframed to say: "If people are gone from this cycle, nature will be void."

You are unique: As marriage and family therapists you strive to enable people, couples, and families understand their contribution to the health and wellness of the system they have helped develop. In so doing, you open the possibility of growing humility, intimacy, sacrifice, and generosity of spirit in a world that desires to live with us, not without us.

## Communication Report

Welcome! I invite you to take a moment and enjoy our October 2007 online newsletter. Our 2008 IAMFT Annual Conference featured presenter is announced; we introduce you to two gifted MFT students at Iowa State University; and important tax information on IAMFT donations is explained. In addition, our president invites us all to ponder the gifts we bring to our world, as well as to appreciate the gifts we receive from it.



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Display advertising must be submitted camera-ready (unless exclusively text. In that case it must be typed and double-spaced exactly as it is to be shown). Submissions should be sent to: [IAMFTCommunications@yahoo.com](mailto:IAMFTCommunications@yahoo.com). There is no charge for advertising, and all advertising is limited to a maximum of one-quarter page in size. Only one advertisement per submitter per issue is permitted. The communications chair reserves the right to reject, abridge, or modify any advertising or other submitted materials as deemed appropriate. Opinions expressed by the editorial staff of the Iowa Marital & Family Therapist in the form of articles published, advertisements, and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of AAMFT, IAMFT, officers and board of director members, or IAMFT membership.

# Ethics Corner

The Ethics Committee invites ethical questions to be discussed by the committee and then discussed in the newsletter. This is an educational tool only. Answers to questions will not be considered official, but be a form of brainstorming. Please send any questions or ethical dilemmas to [peg@lisco.com](mailto:peg@lisco.com). Peg O'Rourke PhD, Chair, Ethics Committee, IAMFT.

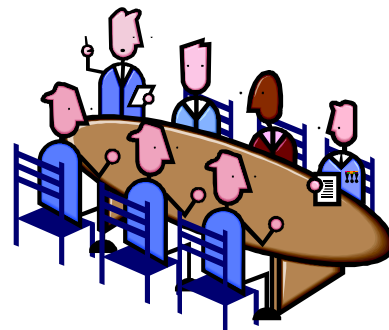
Dr. Peg O'Rourke, Chair

## Communication Report

(Continued from page 1)

At the last board of director's meeting, the unanimous decision was made to eliminate all fees associated with advertising in our online newsletter. We hope this decision will further the efforts of the Iowa Association for Marriage and Family Therapy to provide networking and resource development opportunities to our members. We anticipate this decision will assist the public and allied mental health professionals to become more conscious of the discipline of marriage and family therapy. We look forward to the recognition our highly trained members will receive as our organization becomes more visible. Be assured your board of directors continues to keep the welfare of its members and the promotion of the discipline at the forefront of their efforts.

Find out how IAMFT is  
working for you.  
<http://www.iamft.com>



# Student Spotlight - Jennifer Perrin



My name is Jennifer Perrin, and I am beginning the second year of my masters degree in the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Iowa State University. I completed my undergraduate degree at Iowa State in December 2003 in Child, Adult, and Family Services. I had always been interested in pursuing a degree in marriage and family therapy; however, I chose to have more experience with families before returning to graduate school. I worked about a year for the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension in Family and Consumer Sciences. After deciding that I wanted to be a little closer to home, eastern Iowa, I worked for Iowa State University Extension Service in Scott County. I worked as a families program assistant and as a county youth coordinator.

I returned to Iowa State to get my masters in the fall of 2006, and I feel very lucky to be learning from, and working with, the supportive faculty here. My goal is to graduate in August 2008, and then begin working toward licensure.

I live here in Ames with my boyfriend, Joe, and our two dogs. In my free time, I like to bike, ride horses, read, play with the dogs, and catch up on movies.



## ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL

St. Luke's Hospital has a **full-time** Family Therapist position open in the Family Counseling Center. This position requires independent licensure in Iowa (LISW, LMHC, LMFT or licensed psychologist) or eligible. Must have prior experience doing psychotherapy with individuals, groups and families and requires the ability to work independently in challenging treatment settings. Services offered are diverse and offered to multiple populations of varying ages. Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply online at [www.stlukescr.org](http://www.stlukescr.org)

Human Resources  
St. Luke's Hospital  
1026 A Avenue NE  
PO Box 3026  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-3026  
Fax # 319-368-5902  
[www.stlukescr.org](http://www.stlukescr.org)  
EOE

## Job Connections



## CEDAR FALLS COUNSELING ASSOCIATES

Established private clinic in transition seeking experienced/seasoned mental health service provider(s) interested in joining and developing their practice with partnership possibilities. Masters a minimum - doctoral preferred - Iowa licensure required. If you are interested in an opportunity such as this, please contact Kristen at (319) 277-4383 or email resume and cover letter to [cfcsearch@cfu.net](mailto:cfcsearch@cfu.net)

## Student Spotlight - Matt Hiveley



My name is Matt Hiveley and I am currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Iowa State University. My primary interests are in working with couples and families, but it has taken me quite some time to discover this and get to where I am today. As an undergraduate years ago here at ISU, I really struggled with knowing what it was I wanted to do with my life, and at one point I almost dropped out of school all together. Overall, I changed my major approximately 7 times before eventually earning degrees in Psychology and Sociology. The turning point for me came when I spent some time working at a residential treatment facility for juvenile offenders. I learned far more from working with those kids than they could have ever learned from me and as a result, I discovered that my true calling was to be a counselor and to work directly with children, adolescents, and families, helping them in any way that I could. I had also taken the coursework needed to

become a teacher, but as a result of my experience at the treatment facility I made the decision to further my education and attend graduate school.

My wife did become a teacher, however, and we moved to Illinois where she accepted her first teaching position and I attended graduate school at Western Illinois University in the Counselor Education program. While going to WIU, I also worked full time as a counselor for several years with an agency in the area where I learned first-hand the joys, and challenges, of providing outpatient community mental health services. As graduation approached, my wife learned that she would be losing her job as a result of her school consolidating with another. She did some research and found an opening back here in Iowa. I also did some research and decided to apply for the Marriage and Family Therapy doctoral program at ISU.

From my experiences, I found that working with couples and families was what I truly wanted to do, and that a family systems approach was the most effective way to do this. Although my previous graduate work gave me a good foundation as a counselor, I felt that the MFT program would help me gain further education and allow me to specialize in my area of interest. I currently just finished my first year in the program and so far it has been a wonderful experience.

Along with going to school I am also currently working as a therapist for a local agency and recently just became a licensed mental health counselor. The next steps for me are to graduate and eventually become licensed as a marriage and family therapist. As much as I love what I do and am fully committed to my profession, I am even more committed to my family that includes my wife and our eight-month-old son, who we adore and who is an absolute joy. Most of my free time outside of work and school is spent with them and our families, who are all very important to us. I am also an avid golfer but never seem to be able to play nearly as much as I would like.

I cannot wait to finally graduate and I look forward to continuing to provide family-based therapy services to those individuals, couples, and families who are in need and empower them to make healthy, positive choices in their lives.



# Good Stuff

The IAMFT Conference Committee is excited to announce that  
Dr. Kenneth Hardy will be the featured presenter at the  
2008 IAMFT Annual Conference.

Watch for more details about the conference in  
upcoming editions of the online newsletter.

## UPCOMING DATES

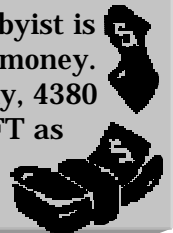


IAMFT Board of Directors Meeting  
November 16, 2007 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
333 Palmer Building  
Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Ethics Committee Meeting  
**Office of Keith Schrag**  
233 S. Walnut Ave, Suite B, Ames, IA 50010  
515/232-3482 (c. 515-231-1557)  
1:00-3:30 p.m.

## From the Treasurer

We are planning for an active year in terms of developing legislation that will benefit all LMFTs in Iowa. For this reason, 0% of your state dues (Iowa) will be deductible for the upcoming year. Yet I cannot emphasize enough: *We Need Your Donations Now More Than Ever!!!* Hiring a lobbyist is expensive, and we are a small organization. As you know, getting legislation passed costs money. So please send a check—*Right Now!*—made out to “IAMFT” and send it to: Megan Murphy, 4380 Palmer Bldg., Ames, IA 50011-4380. Your donations go directly to the advancement of MFT as a profession.



## IAMFT Board of Directors—2007

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