The weekend of April 16th was a beautiful one to gather and have a chat about Marriage & Family Therapy, and that’s just what MFT professionals and students came to do at the 1st Annual USF MFT Conference, “Weaving Therapeutic Realities.” The event, co-sponsored by the Tampa Bay Association for Marriage & Family Therapy, provided CEU’s for both 490 and 491 and was held at the brand-new Gibbons Alumni Center on the Tampa campus.

The conference had an excellent turnout, attended by local MFT practitioners and by students coming from MFT programs across Florida and Georgia. The conference received very positive feedback and proved to be an excellent vehicle for informing the MFT professional community about the program here at USF.

This entire conference came to fruition through the efforts of a small but dedicated group of creative individuals—the MFT Student Association, Dr. Laurie Charlés, & Dr. Charlotte Dixon. Association members include: Lisa Bright, Elizabeth Gates, Jennie Jones, Beth Ubele, Halle Eslinger, Nicole Wilson, Ana Bedgood, & Laura DeJournett.

The conference offered two days of presentations on a variety of topics of importance to the MFT community, including solution-focused therapy, phenomenology, couples therapy and domestic violence, trauma-based family therapy, brief therapy in student counseling, as well as qualitative research and assessment. Presenters came from near and far... Nova Southeastern University, Kean University in Union, New Jersey and Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas.

Drs Shelley Green and Douglas Flemons opened the conference with "Quickies: Brief Approaches to Sex Therapy" and held a book signing for their new book of the same name. The closing plenary, with Dr. Ron Chenail (Editor-Elect for the Journal of Marital & Family Therapy) gave attendees a peek into the changing face of Marriage and Family Therapy and the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy's (AAMFT) efforts to establish a unique foothold for the profession by establishing clinical competencies for practitioners.

Plans are already under way for the next conference and we would love to have you join us!
1st Annual End-of-Year Banquet

The S.O.S. Club is pleased to be hosting the Department’s very first end-of-the-year banquet on May 14 from 7-11pm in the USF Marshall Center Ballroom.

The banquet will give current students, recent graduates, faculty, and staff an opportunity to celebrate a great year together and introduce family and friends. Tickets are $20 (single)/$35 (couple). They can be purchased from Shari Allen or from a member of the S.O.S. Club. Ticket prices include a full dinner, with a choice of prime rib, grilled chicken breast, or vegetarian entrees, and a cash bar will be available. Dress is semi-formal. There will be a DJ, dancing, and other entertainment, including a cameo performance by none other than Dr. Ferrandino himself.

Tickets are selling fast, and space is limited, so buy yours now. Don’t miss out on what is sure to be the most talked-about event of the year! For more information, please contact Miranda McManus at mmcmanu3@tampabay.rr.com

HELLO! ….

to our 19 new students to the program for Spring 2004:

Kris Adams
Michael Bezas
Chloe Cola
Laura DeJournett
Todd Engles
Jennifer Fine
Dina Flores
Lynne Grey
Beth Hands
Pei-Lun Ho
Jennifer Jarrell
Anthony Lipski
Elizabeth Maust
Kelli Parker
Abigail Peterson
Danielle Rottenberg
Joy Santos
Mya Schmitz
Amy Wilson

And….  

….GOODBYE!

to our Spring & Summer Graduates!

Jeff Spencer
Polyana de Aquino Harasz
Jennifer Cassidy
Trajana Thomas
Tali Bobo
Amber Slusser
Pat Appelbaum
Stephanie Hofmann
Gail Kmak
Dana Vince
Robin Kruger
Sherri Tsonas
Martha Tyson
Jennifer Larose
Scott Rolston
Patricia Irwin
Mona Argentini
Linda Spenceley
Delilah Dillard

Skye Stern
Cheryl Chittenden
Paola Rojas-Zapata
Laura Machol
Stacy Henderson

Something useful to ponder while sitting at graduation....

This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it.

–Ralph Waldo Emerson
Alumni News

Lindsey Berling (’03) is Clinical Administrator for Foster America, Inc. in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, a private, for-profit specialized therapeutic foster care company. Lindsey tells us there are employment opportunities with this company for mental health counselors who want to work with needy kids. For more information, visit www.fosteramericainc.com.

Hollie Locklear (’99) was promoted to Senior VR Counselor with Florida’s Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Bravo!

Carolina Medina Diaz (’02) is a contract therapist for the Devereux organization and works with children ages 5-12 years. She previously worked with adolescent addicts. Carolina is also the proud new mom to twin boys! Congratulations!

Faculty News

Dr. Gary DuDell is having a busy and exciting time professional-wise. His practice is thriving and he, of course, continues to enjoy teaching “the best darn graduate students around.” His new eight week psychoeducational behavioral change group, Change for Life, is coming to a close in April. It’s been an exciting, extremely rewarding and enjoyable experience. A second group is scheduled for May. The University Community Hospital Diabetes Center plans to form a group soon.

Along with his practice and teaching, he’s also been active doing workshops around the area. In March, he did a teambuilding at Turning Point of Tampa, arranged by one of our alumni, Jenni Coppala, and is doing two workshops for Boley Centers in St. Pete, and several for the Juvenile Welfare Board.

The reviews are in! The recent issue of the Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling describes Dr. William Emener’s book, Living Life, Anyway, as a “philosophical and practical guide for how to live life fully and positively” which would no doubt assist the reader, personally and professionally, in achieving their goals. Not to be outdone, Employee assistance programs: Wellness/enhancement programming (3rd edition), edited by Dr. William G. Emener, Dr. William S. Hutchison, and Dr. Michael A. Richard, is described as being an essential read to those interested in the new specialty of EAP.
**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling is to promote quality services for individuals with differences in abilities and to help the state meet its human service needs in the areas of rehabilitation and mental health through teaching, research and service.

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Gary DuDell’s “Here’s Another Fine Book” Section~~~

*Making Changes Last* by Jeffrey Kottler

If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.

-Henry David Thoreau

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