

# AMCAP FALL CONVENTION 2008 – OCTOBER 2-3, 2008\*

## *Peace, Hope and Strength: Finding Refuge from the Storms of Life*

Joseph Smith Memorial Building, 15 East South Temple – 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Salt Lake City, Utah

**Convention Chair:** Kristin I. Douglas, M.A., L.P.C., B.C.I.A.C.

**Convention Co-Chair:** Edward A. Martinelli, Jr., Ph.D.

\*Pre-Convention Workshop/Retreat – October 1, 2008

### **Presentation Summaries, CE Information and Convention Schedule**

#### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2008: PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP/RETREAT\***

***Therapist Self-Care: Mindfulness, Relaxation, and other Self-Renewal Strategies*** Laura Gomez-Weakley, M.Ed., L.P.C., & Kristin I. Douglas, M.A., L.P.C., B.C.I.A.C.

**Registration/Check-In:** 12:00 noon - 12:30 p.m. **Workshop Time:** 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Presentation Summary:** Come renew your soul through refreshing moments of peace and relaxation in this interactive, hands-on workshop. Carl Rogers (1961) wisely held the belief that we can only support another person's growth and freedom to the level of that we have maintained our own. Conference participants will be guided through awareness, breathing, biofeedback, mindfulness, imagery and other self-renewal exercises designed to facilitate relaxation, balance, centering, clarity and a here-and-now presence. Ideas will be provided for how and when to use these strategies with clients.

\*Workshop/Retreat Location: University of Utah – Specific Location TBA.

Psych. Credit Hours: 4, N.B.C.C. Credit Hours 4; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 4; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning - Advanced

#### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2008** (Lunch included)

**Early Morning Student Workshop:\* 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.**

***Spiritual Interventions for Sexual Addictions*** A. Dean Byrd, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.P.H.

**Presentation Summary:** This student session will be presented free of charge by senior AMCAP member A. Dean Byrd, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.P.H. Dr. Byrd is currently the President of Thrasher Research Fund and serves on the faculty of the University of Utah School of Medicine with appointments in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine and in the Department of Psychiatry. This session, which will include a free breakfast, will provide graduate students with a unique opportunity to share one on one time with Dr. Byrd, as well as with the opportunity to network and discuss student and professional development issues. Space is limited, so please R.S.V.P. to the AMCAP office to reserve your spot: mail@amcap.net.

\*Workshop location: Dean Byrd's office - Thrasher Research Fund, Gateway Tower West, 15 W. South Temple Street, Suite 1650

**Early Morning AMCAP Area Coordinator Leadership Meeting:\* 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.**

\*Jubilee room. If you are interested in being an AMCAP leader in the area where you reside, you are formally invited to attend this meeting.

**Registration/Check-In: 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

**Welcome/Musical Numbers/Introduction to Theme/Prayer: 8:30 p.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Kristin I. Douglas, M.A., L.P.C., B.C.I.A.C.

**Keynote Address: 9:00 am – 10:20 a.m.**

***"For the Power is in Them" — Finding Peace in Tribulation*** C. Terry Warner, Ph.D.

**Presentation Summary:** Surprisingly, how we use our moral agency, our power to choose good or evil in the situations of life, is profoundly connected with the origins and the remedies of psychological problems that include a troubling vulnerability to circumstance. By this power we can help bring about our own spiritual, mental, and emotional healing. Yet when we suffer from any of these problems, we look elsewhere for relief and find none. In this presentation I will focus on *what it's like, experientially, to lose, rediscover, and enjoy the wholeness that comes from using this power.* By understanding these experiential dimensions of moral agency, and becoming familiar with them personally, we can increase our ability to help others find their way.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1.5; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning - Intermediate

**Break: 10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**Concurrent Workshops: 10:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.**

***1. The Power of Value Orientation in Marriage: How Marriage Counselors Facilitate the Paradigm Shift from Individualistic to Relational Orientation*** Tera Duncan, Ph.D.

**Presentation Summary:** Recent research provides compelling evidence that individualistic orientation significantly decreases marital quality, and relational orientation dramatically improves marital quality. Theoretical perspectives, research evidence, and therapeutic interventions will be highlighted to explain how value orientation impacts marital quality. Historical perspectives include Adler, Horney, and Frankl. Contemporary

theorists include Sternberg, Eisenberg, Gottman, and Post. These perspectives are incorporated in therapeutic strategies to help marriage counselors work with clients in shifting from individualistic to relational orientation.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1.5; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

## **2. *Power of the Parable* Noel Gill, Ph.D.**

**Presentation Summary:** Parables have long been recognized as a powerful tool in teaching and therapy. This workshop combines information on what makes for effective metaphors and parables and includes opportunities for participants to develop personal examples, from their own experiences, for use in therapy and teaching.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1.5; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Intermediate

## **3. *Acquiring Hope through Measuring and Monitoring Treatment Outcome in Psychotherapy with Hypersexual Patients* Rory Reid, L.C.S.W.**

**Presentation Summary:** This presentation discusses the factors that should be given consideration in assessing whether psychotherapy has been successful among hypersexual patients. Pragmatic information will be provided to help the clinical practitioner know what assessment measures to use, what signs and symptoms should be observed, and what indicators will suggest that termination is appropriate with hypersexual patients.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1.5; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

## **4. *Finding Hope and Meaning through Self-Actualization* Russell Seigenberg, Ph.D.**

**Presentation Summary:** This presentation will explain how individuals who feel emotionally impoverished can find renewed hope and meaning through the goal of self-actualization. The long-term goal is developing greater compassion, wisdom, and inner peace. Principles of positive psychology, mindfulness, radical acceptance, the “contemplation hour,” humility, compassion, self-acceptance, and emotional integration will be explained as key components of the change process.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1.5; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

## **Lunch: 11:50 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Election Information**

### **Concurrent Workshops: 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**

#### **1. *Survive, Strive, and Thrive in the LDS Church: Helping Singles, Divorcees, Widowed, and Part-Member Families Succeed in a Family-Focused Environment* Chris Falconer, L.C.S.W., and MaryAnn Rackley, J.D., S.F.W.**

**Presentation Summary:** The LDS Church focuses on the ideal family unit (*i.e.*, an active husband, wife and children). Statistics show, however, that there are a growing number of members who do not meet this criteria – including single adults, spouses in part-member families, divorced persons, and those who are widowed. Many of these members are struggling to find their place in a family ward, often facing challenges of isolation, depression, low self-esteem, anxiety, etc. This session will focus on the personal perspective of a single and how therapists can help clients who fall into this demographic find peace, hope, acceptance and love as part of the ward family.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

#### **2. *The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ: A Formula for Peace and Hope* J. Douglas LeCheminant; L.C.S.W.**

**Presentation Summary:** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has published *A Guide to Addiction Recovery and Healing* that adapts the original 12 steps into a framework of the doctrines, principles, and beliefs of the Church. This presentation will explore 1) the history, significance, and effectiveness of the 12 steps; 2) the theological issues necessitating an adaptation; 3) the effectiveness of so-called “12 step facilitation” techniques in professional therapy; 4) how therapists can incorporate the Church’s adapted version of the 12 steps into therapy; and 5) how these adapted 12 steps can help with problems other than addiction.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

#### **3. *Journey to Confidence: A Shame Recovery Group Approach to Working with Avoidant Clients* Jade Mangus, L.C.S.W.**

**Presentation Summary:** Many clients are avoidant of their own healing, and shame is usually at the core of this avoidance. These clients may hide from family members, friends, and themselves, which leads to a perpetuation of dysfunctional cycles. Isolation, loneliness, and perceptions of abandonment exacerbate a shameful identity. In this presentation, a group approach will be explored for helping those attempting to break the cycle of shame.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

#### **4. *Women and Careers: Role Conflict Throughout the Lifespan* Melissa Goates-Jones, Ph.D. and Lisa Leavitt, Ph.D.**

**Presentation Summary:** Research shows that in today’s society, most women anticipate being actively engaged in the work force, but also see themselves involved in family roles. L.D.S. women, in particular, tend to struggle with work-family role conflict throughout their lifespan. This session is designed to elucidate some of the conflicts that women often feel between work and family roles while college-aged, in mid-life, and in later life.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

## **Break: 2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

### **Concurrent Workshops: 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

### **1. *Suffering: Grief and Loss* Kirk Dougher, Ph.D.**

**Presentation Summary:** Clients come into therapy because their pain has reached a level that they consider unbearable. Many have tried to avoid treading a path fraught with pain and suffering as they struggle to regain their lives. However, when we have suffered the loss of family, friend, hopes or dreams, we cannot truly escape the pain. Rather, it is through this pain that we experience a growing sense of personal connectedness with our spirituality, our beliefs, our values and other people.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

### **2. *Thought Replacement Therapy* Cynthia Ann Hunt, L.C.S.W.**

**Presentation Summary:** *Thought Replacement Therapy* is a powerful innovative technique for influencing spiritual awareness and elevating thoughts. Every choice, action, and thought is irreversibly predicated on a spiritual law that we are either obeying or not keeping in the moment.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

### **3. *Facilitating Young Adult Development: Taking Developmental Approaches from Chickering and Perry into Therapy and the College Classroom* James MacArthur, Ph.D.**

**Presentation Summary:** Two factors help young adult college students facilitate their own development: knowledge of developmental traits, and personally developing and applying those skills in their own lives. One example would be learning about autonomy, and also developing the skills to enhance those characteristics in themselves. How do we help develop that type of self-awareness in therapy and also in the university classroom? This presentation will include examples and demonstrations from therapy and from teaching. A “classroom” will be organized as part of this presentation, with participants experiencing developmental education through a student’s eyes.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

### **4. *Motivational Interviewing with Compulsive Pornography Issues* Jade Mangus, L.C.S.W.**

**Presentation Summary:** Motivational interviewing is a directive, person-centered counseling style for eliciting behavior change by helping clients to explore and resolve ambivalence. Compared with non-directive counseling, it is more focused and goal-directed. Motivational interviewing is a subtle balance of directive and person-centered components, shaped by a guiding philosophy of understanding change. In this presentation, motivational interviewing methods are reviewed with application to treatment of those struggling with pornography addictions.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

### **Plenary Address: 3:45 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.**

#### ***The Shame Matrix: Shame, Grief, and Hope in Psychotherapy* Lane Fischer, Ph.D.**

**Presentation Summary:** Healthy guilt can be instructive, through the Light of Christ, by providing affective signals which, though painful, are nonetheless healthy as they lead to correction or repair in the relationship with God and others. Shame, on the other hand, is a corruption of the Light of Christ which sends signals that are painful, yet do not lead toward correction and repair. Shame leads toward cynicism, isolation, humiliation and abuse. The Shame Matrix is a model that predicts expression of, and progress through, recovery from shame in early development. This presentation will discuss the construct of shame as a corruption of the Light of Christ, will explicate the Shame Matrix as a template or psychotherapy, and will discuss hope as the signal of healthy recovery from shame in its various manifestations.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

### **Closing Remarks/Prayer: 4:40 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

#### **Special Event: Social Hour, Poster Session, and Entertainment: 4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

*Entertainment by Jon Schmidt, Pianist, and Paden Smith, Vocalist.*

*Poster session from 4:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.*

*Interested poster presenters should contact Rachel Crook Lyon at [rachel\\_crooklyon@byu.edu](mailto:rachel_crooklyon@byu.edu)*

## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2008 (Lunch included)**

### **Early Morning Workshop/Special Presentation: 7:00 a.m. – 8:20 a.m.**

***Therapy for the Heart and Soul: The Use of Music in the Healing Process* Shane Adamson, L.C.S.W.; Kenneth Cope, L.D.S. Musician; Kristin I. Douglas, M.A., L.P.C., B.C.I.A.C.**

**Presentation Summary:** This unique presentation focuses on the therapeutic application and integration of music in the healing process. Explore how and when to effectively use music for personal growth and self-care as well as for helping clients increase hope, gain insights to problems or solutions, grieve a loss, or challenge and reframe difficult experiences. Psychological and anecdotal theory will be presented on using music as a therapeutic intervention. A special live musical demonstration/morningside will be given by the noted musician, Kenneth Cope on the powerful effects of music to heal the heart and touch the soul. Session applies to those musically inclined and those with no music background at all.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1.5; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

**Registration/Check-In: 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.****Welcome/Musical Numbers/Introduction to Theme/Prayer: 8:30 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.** *Edward A. Martinelli, Jr., Ph.D.***Keynote Address: 8:50 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.*****An Anatomy of Troubles – Elder Terrence C. Smith, M.D., Area Seventy***

**Presentation Summary:** This presentation will address the issue of living in a world of troubles from both a diagnostic and a prescriptive framework, and how the gospel of Jesus Christ in its theory and practice is particularly adapted to a specific remedy of those troubles, and how those remedies are best applied if the troubles are analyzed (cut up) by principles suggested in the gospel itself. This manner of looking at things should be useful to anyone with faith in Christ who is in trouble or to those helping another who finds her/himself in trouble. In particular we will discuss the differences between sin and adversity, how the atonement addresses each, what the practical role of the person afflicted by each might be to apply the atonement most effectively in his/her life. Illustrations will be offered from modern therapeutic situations and from the scriptural accounts of Jesus' interaction with those suffering from both sorts of trouble.

Psych. Credit Hours: 0; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1.5; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Intermediate

**Break: 10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.****Workshops: 10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.*****1. Providing Psychological Care to Men Who Present with Unwanted Homosexual Attraction: An Interpersonal Approach*** *A. Dean Byrd, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.P.H.*

**Presentation Summary:** Anchored to the Code of Ethics of the American Psychological Association, this presentation will consider the interpersonal approach to providing psychological care to men who present with unwanted homosexual attraction. Interpersonal assumptions and interpersonal interventions will be described in the context of ethicality as the presenter will address issues of client autonomy, client self-determination and client diversity (including religious diversity).

Psych. Credit Hours: 2 N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 2; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 2; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Advanced

***2. Fostering Hope in Clients Struggling With Infidelity and Sexual Addiction*** *Michael D. Howard, Ed.D.*

**Presentation Summary:** Research has demonstrated that clinical effectiveness with a variety of clients is dependent upon the client's sense of hope. Clients that come to us for counseling often feel that we are their last resort. They feel hopeless and the emotional, spiritual, and physical pain that they are experiencing is magnified by those feelings. This workshop will examine the role that hope plays in therapy and will equip counselors and therapists with tools that will help them to foster hope in the most challenging of clients – couples struggling with infidelity and sexual addiction.

Psych. Credit Hours: 2 N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 2; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 2; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

***3. Therapeutic Journaling Alternatives: Photos, Writing, and Scrapbooking in Therapy*** *Laura Gomez-Weakley, M.Ed., L.P.C.*

**Presentation Summary:** The uses of creative journaling in the counseling setting are slowly being explored and researched. Participants will build upon the basics of journaling using creative ways such as leading questions, specific journaling and scrapbooking techniques. This hands-on, interactive session focuses on resolving trauma in grief, anxiety, sexual abuse, cancer, and adoption through the resolution scrapbook as termed by Liana B. Lowenstein. Those attending, please bring 3-5 pictures from birth to present-age and R.S.V.P to Laura Gomez-Weakley at [lgweakley@gmail.com](mailto:lgweakley@gmail.com).

Psych. Credit Hours: 2 N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 2; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 2; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

***4. Sleep in Mental Health*** *Robert Turner, M.S., R.P.S.G.T.*

**Presentation Summary:** Sleep impacts virtually all mental health issues and in fact is a hallmark of some diagnoses. Knowledge of sleep and its disorders can improve treatment quality and response. This presentation will review well known sleep issues such as nightmares in PTSD and lack of sleep during manic episodes will be reviewed. Sleep's relationship to common complaints such as depression and anxiety will be explored. Normal sleep, common sleep problems such as sleep apnea, periodic limb movements and insomnia will be identified. Tools for assessing sleep and interventional techniques will be presented.

Intermediate

Psych. Credit Hours: 2 N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 2; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 2; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

**Lunch: 12:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.****Concurrent Workshops: 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.*****1. Teaching a Graduate School Human Sexuality Course While Maintaining Gospel Standards and Respecting Professional Sexuality Science*** *Richard G. Ellsworth, Ph.D.*

**Presentation Summary:** A workshop for mental health clinicians and academicians, designed to meet the challenge of teaching and mentoring the study of professional sexuality science while maintaining Church standards. While accurate sexual science should be a part of every

clinician's education, much information is often considered counter to Church moral and ethical guidelines. This workshop will address these moral conflicts. Solutions for teaching sexuality science within a gospel context will be analyzed and modeled.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1.5; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

## **2. *Giving Hope to Women Struggling with Eating Disorders* Cheryl McBride, L.C.S.W., and Tara Tulley, C.P.M., L.D.E.M.**

**Presentation Summary:** This session features the case study of Tara Tulley and her struggle with an eating disorder, depression, and the triggers that brought it back after many years of remission. Tara and Cheryl wish to raise awareness to the prevalence of these disorders in women. Professionals working with women should be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of an eating disorder, and how to approach the individual, what questions to ask, and how to refer them to the resources promoting recovery.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1.5; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

## **3. *Youth, Technology, and Relationships: How Today's Technology Damages Tomorrow's Relationships* Karen Child Ogden, M.A., M.F.T.**

**Presentation Summary:** Technology is a key part of our lives and a HUGE part of our children's lives, with an estimated 90 percent of today's children having Internet service in their homes, and nearly the same number given cell phones by middle school. A large portion of a child's social life revolves around social networking sites, email, instant messaging and cell phones. These one-dimensional modes of communication are not teaching today's youth the key communication skills that will prepare them for healthy future relationships. This presentation will review ways to utilize the therapeutic relationship to model healthy communication skills for both youth and parent, addressing such topics as direct communication, conflict resolution skills, and an awareness of non-verbal communication.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1.5; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

## **4. *Folklore and Facts about Teenagers and God: Psychological Implications from the National Study of Youth and Religion* Marilyn Simpson Wright, Psy.D., and Holli Eaton, Psy.D.**

**Presentation Summary:** This presentation will focus on the research conducted by the National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR) on the spiritual and religious lives of American adolescents. Findings include information on several religions, including Latter-day Saints, and non-religious teens. Moralistic Therapeutic Deism, a "new religion" discovered by the NSYR's lead researcher Dr. Christian Smith, will be defined and commonly held myths about adolescents' spirituality will be debunked. In addition to an engaging PowerPoint presentation that provides the highlights of this critical research, this presentation will show portions of the documentary film that they helped produce entitled *Soul Searching: A Movie about Teenagers and God* that was commissioned by the NSYR.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1.5; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Beginning – Intermediate

### **Break: 3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

### **Closing Plenary Address: 3:15 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.**

#### ***To See the Face of God and Live: Attachment, Object Constancy, and the Fear of Intimacy with the Divine* Wendy Ulrich, Ph.D.**

**Presentation Summary:** We claim to want closeness with God, but the possibility can activate old anxieties about abandonment, betrayal, and loss, as well as existential concerns about life's ultimate realities. As in our human relationships, we may substitute the intensity of fantasy or power struggles or the safe removal of intellectualization or non-commitment to keep God at a safe distance and maintain our illusions of independence, entitlement, or abandonment. God keeps asserting the constancy of his nearness, yet we keep wondering why he has left us alone, not realizing that the distance we feel stems from our psychological wounds, attachment history, and emotional choices - not merely our unworthiness or his capriciousness. This session will explore our fear of intimacy with other people, ourselves, and the Ultimate Other.

Psych. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.B.C.C. Credit Hours: 1.5; C.B.B.S. Credit Hours: 1.5; N.A.S.W. Credit Hours: Pending

Level of Learning: Intermediate

### **Closing Remarks/ Prayer: 4:40 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.**

**Presentation summaries, learning objectives, and presenter biosketches can be found at [www.amcap.net](http://www.amcap.net).** Parking validations will be available at the registration table for the Joseph Smith Memorial Building, Plaza Hotel, Eagle Gate Plaza and Regent Street Plaza. TRAX station is also nearby. The AMCAP Networker Summer 2008 issue will be available soon in the publication's section of our website. Please contact the AMCAP office if you would like a printed copy sent to you: [mail@amcap.net](mailto:mail@amcap.net).

**Continuing Education Information:** Total number of approved continuing education credits available for this conference are 16.5 hrs (4.0 on Wednesday, 6.0 on Thursday and 6.5 on Friday). AMCAP is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education credits for psychologists. AMCAP maintains responsibility for this program and its contents. AMCAP is recognized by the National Board for Certified Counselors to offer continuing education for National Certified Counselors. We adhere to NBCC Continuing Education Guidelines (Provider # 5727). Courses meet the qualifications for continuing education credit for M.F.T.s and/or L.C.S.W.s as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (Provider #1889). AMCAP is approved by the Utah Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers to offer continuing education credit for social workers; number of credits still pending.

**Bookstore:** AMCAP members who would like to self-distribute books, CDs, DVDs, Tapes, Brochures or Program Announcements at the AMCAP Bookstore during semi-annual conventions, should forward a request with a copy of the display materials (which can be retrieved at the convention) to: A. Dean Byrd, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.P.H., Thrasher Research Fund, Gateway Tower West, Suite 1650, 15 West South Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, email: [d.byrd@utah.edu](mailto:d.byrd@utah.edu), tel. 801-240-3386. All requests to display need to be sent no later than 30 days prior to the convention. Once reviewed, and a decision made, the requester will receive notification via letter/email.

***AMCAP SPRING CONVENTION 2009: APRIL 2-3, 2009***