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## 2011 DAMFT Programs

**March 11, 2011**

**Ethics: The Risks and Dangers of  
Therapeutic Relationships: What can  
Television Teach Us?**

**Presenters: Neil Ravella, Ph.D.  
Angelica M. Tratter, Ph.D.,  
LMFT**

**April 1, 2011**

**Counseling Same Sex Couples**

**Presenter: Mary Sue Green, Ph.D., LMFT**

**May 6, 2011**

**The Art of Graceful Change**

**Presenter: Rick Carson**



**February 2011**

Official Newsletter of the  
Dallas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Gloria Martin**

It is hard to believe that it was only a few weeks ago Dallas was completely shut down for four days! I love all the signs of spring that are popping up around us. We are fortunate that we were able to move the ethics meeting to Friday, March 11.

Recently I was reminded of how grateful I am to our profession of family therapy and thinking systemically. A couple of weeks ago I attended training on a model of couple communication that is excellent. The model is, unapologetically an educational model. This model was developed by Sherod Miller as part of his doctoral thesis and is strongly rooted in family systems theory. You know the saying, "What comes first, the chicken or the egg?" Trained in Emotional Focused Therapy, I sometimes struggle a bit with the question "Do I work with a couple in dealing with their emotions and the communication will follow or do I teach them to communicate so they can effectively express their hurts, pains, and joys to one another." As I was mulling over my dilemma I remembered that as systems thinkers we believe that there are many possibilities and what a rich heritage we have for working and helping our clients lead the best life possible.

I look forward to seeing you at TAMFT. There will be a table in the vendor section for local chapters, so come by and say hello.

*Gloria*

**Next Meeting: Rescheduled Annual Ethics Meeting      3 CEU's**  
**March 11    1:00 – 4:00**

***The Risks and Dangers of Therapeutic Relationships: What can Television Teach Us?***  
**Presenters: Neil Ravella, Ph.D. & Angelica M. Tratter, Ph.D., LMFT**

*This workshop will utilize portions of the HBO series, In Treatment, to illustrate ethical issues and themes that may confront us as clinicians. The emphasis will be on a discussion of, rather than a presentation about, these issues and themes. Discussants will be encouraged between workshop participants as well as with the presenter as we wrestle with the complex ethical issues we encounter in treatment. Please join us for what we expect will be an interesting and informative dialogue.*

*Neil Ravella began his clinical work as a Marriage and Family Therapist after receiving his Master's Degree in Behavioral Sciences for the University of Houston, Clear Lake in 1978. In 1983 he was appointed to the Senior Faculty at the Galveston Family Institute (now the Houston-Galveston Institute). He completed his Doctoral Studies in Psychology in 1988 and was licensed as a psychologist in 1990. Neil was a founding member of the Reunion Institute and maintains a strong commitment to teaching and training. When not at Salesmanship Youth and Family Centers, Neil is involved in a diverse private practice.*

*Angelica Tratter is a Licensed Psychologist and LMFT engaged in teaching as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Dallas. She also maintains a general practice of Clinical Psychology with an emphasis on individual adult, marital and family issues.*

**Please Note: Ethics Fee:      \$30.00 CEU fee for Non-Members payable at meeting**

***Ethics Included in Annual Non-Member \$70.00 CEU Fee payable at March 11 Meeting***

***Ethics Included in Annual DAMFT Membership Fee of \$40.00 payable at March 11 Meeting***

**REMINDER - SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Our February Ethics Meeting was postponed due to weather. Our regularly scheduled first Friday meeting has been rescheduled due to the conflict with TAMFT.

Our rescheduled Ethics meeting will be Friday, March 11. Please plan to attend and arrive early. This is our busiest meeting of the year!

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## Editor's Comments

Sidney Starling

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Getting the newsletter out on the fly this month! It seems like a crazy time of the year with a lot of things jammed into a small amount of time. Hopefully we will all take the time we need to "take care of our souls" during busy times in our life.

I am heading out to Austin for the conference and looking forward seeing many of you in Austin. I have not been to a conference in many years and have missed the opportunity to spend time with my fellow therapist, expand my knowledge and have fun. The experience is one I usually carry with me for months. So I hope to see many of you there.

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Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow. ~ Unknown

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Family Studies Center is looking for 1-2 LMFTA's needing family therapy hours to work at the DISD Eddie Bernice Johnson Y&F Center in South Dallas ( 5000 S. Malcolm X Blvd in Lincoln High School). You will be providing family therapy services to Special Ed children and their families. It is challenging and very rewarding work. Weekly supervision will be provided by Connie Cornwell, Approved LMFT/AAMFT Supervisor.

If you are interested please contact Connie Cornwell at 214-648-6949.

## Save the Date

AAMFT Annual Conference  
September 22 - 25, 2011  
Ft Worth, Texas  
*The Science of Relationships*

*The TAMFT Conference Children and Families: Dealing with Difficult Times  
Is March 3 - 5 at the  
AT&T Executive Education &  
Conference Center  
Austin, Texas  
On-site Registration still available*

2011  
Membership Fees

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Annual DAMFT Membership Fee                                    | \$40.00 |
| Annual Non-Member CEU Fee<br>(15 annual CEU's includes Ethics) | \$70.00 |
| Annual Ethics Meeting Fee                                      | \$30.00 |
| DAMFT Student Membership Fee                                   | \$10.00 |

***Confused????***

*It's sometimes hard to remember that DAMFT Membership is renewed on a Calendar Year Basis since we meet more like a School Year.....but.....*

*NOW is the time to RENEW your DAMFT Annual Membership Dues. Remember you must be a current member of TAMFT to be a member of DAMFT. Avoid the crowds at our March Ethics meeting! You can submit your application online at our website and simply mail your check or bring it to the March meeting. Choose the application that fits your needs by visiting our website at [www.damft.com](http://www.damft.com)*

#### CEU REMINDER

DAMFT is required to award one hour of credit for one hour of attendance. The DAMFT Board has adopted the following policy:

**If you arrive more than 15 minutes late or leave 15 minutes early, only 1.5 CEU's will be awarded.**

This policy was adopted by the board in order to stay within the bounds of what is required. Please plan to arrive on time and stay until the end of the program. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding

**Do you have couples in your practice that could benefit from learning to communicate more effectively?**

**Gloria and Phill Martin will be leading a Collaborative Marriage Skills workshop on Sat. April 9, 2010. This workshop is designed for 10 couples where one or both work as a high level executive.**

**For details and more information please go to [www.execouples.com](http://www.execouples.com) or call Gloria Martin at 214-890-4047.**

Paid advertising

***Don't Forget! Visit our web site at [www.damft.com](http://www.damft.com), fill out and submit the appropriate application and either mail your check to Maryellen Dabal or bring your check to the March meeting. Simple as That!***

Other than the February meeting (which is 1:00-4:00 PM), our regular meetings are from 1:00-3:00 PM. Meetings include 2 hours of CEU's (3 hours Ethics in February) and are held at the Milliman Building – Ten Thousand North Central Expressway, Dallas, TX - North of Walnut Hill and 75 on the east access road – in the Community Room located on the first floor.

**[www.damft.com](http://www.damft.com)**

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**For all DAMFT questions please email Gloria Martin at [Gloria@discoveringgrowth.com](mailto:Gloria@discoveringgrowth.com)**