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## 2009 - 2010 DAMFT Programs

### October 2

**The Cultural Identity Formation of the  
Disabled**

**PRESENTER: Mary Rixford, LMFT, LPC**

### November 6

**Recent Research on Brain Health**

**PRESENTER: Molly Keebler, M.S.,  
CCC/SLP, Head of Community Programs,  
UTD Center for Brain Health**

### February 5 – Annual Ethics Meeting

**Ethical Issues in the Treatment of the  
Physically Ill & Dying Client**

**PRESENTER: Muriel Yu, Ph.D., LCSW**

### March 6

**Gottman: Research-Based Couples  
Therapy**

**Presenter: Adele Hurst, Ph.D.**

# DAMFT NEWS



**September 2009**

Official Newsletter of the  
Dallas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Susan Swank**

### **DAMFT JOURNEY**

At our September 2009 meeting, I looked around the room at our returning members and at some new faces. It hit me again about the passion those of us in DAMFT have for our profession. Many of us, practicing for over 20 years, still greatly enjoy our work. In the new faces, one can see the excitement of knowing that each day seeing patients, offers a day of learning and of progress.

After over 30 years of seeing people in my practice, I can honestly say that I still have the passion for my work. Rarely do I have any symptoms of burn out and most days I leave with a sense of accomplishment. My work energizes me and rarely depletes me. I can tell you the same about being President of DAMFT. In the mid to late 70's, Dr. Ed Rydman was my supervisor for clinical hours for AAMFT. Ed was the very first Executive Director for AAMFT. His supervisor was Dr. Fritz Perls, remember that name? Ed decided that we needed a local chapter in Dallas and nationally, so he started the Dallas local chapter while getting AAMFT to charter local chapters for all states. I served as Vice President of DAMFT and President in 1986.

So DAMFT has always been my professional home. I share this for two reasons - one is to thank you for the opportunity to serve as President again and secondly, to invite new members to join in running our organization. By the end of the year, we will be electing a new Vice-President and a new President Elect. Please let me know if you are willing to help serve DAMFT.

As the first national local chapter, let's continue to keep DAMFT our professional home.

*Susan*

Next Meeting    October 2, 2009    1:00 – 3:00

Cultural Identity Formation of the Disabled  
PRESENTER: Mary Rixford, LMFT, LPC

Prior to entering private practice in 2000, Mary Ewing Rixford worked at the Pastoral Counseling & Education Center for 18 years. In 1972 Mary was diagnosed with a deteriorating eye disease – Retinitis Pigmentosa. She struggled through her last semester with prescription glasses. By graduate school she was using magnifying lenses and books on tape and during her post graduate work she utilized books on tape and Braille texts. Her journey for the last 37 years has taken her from the culture of the sighted to the culture of the blind.

This presentation will place the disabled in a contextual, historical, social and cultural perspective. Mary will present case examples of the stages of cultural migration for individuals moving from the culture of fully able to disabled. She will demonstrate the necessity of viewing disabled individuals and families with disabled members from a cross-cultural perspective.



*There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face ~ Ben Williams*

#### 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.



**NEEDED: You name it! Stories, News, Experiences – Become a Contributor to the Newsletter**

**If you have an interesting story or some news you would like to share, please send it in. If anyone attends the AAMFT Conference in Sacramento, Share your experience with the rest of us!**



*Golf is a hard game to figure. One day you'll go out and slice it and shank it; hit into all the traps and miss every green. The next day you go out and, for no reason at all, you really stink. ~ Bob Hope*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**

**Don't forget**

**2010 Annual Conference- March 11-13 at the Westin San Antonio Riverwalk**

## Editor's Comments

Sidney Starling

I have just returned from a wonderful week of golf and fun in South Carolina so the newsletter is a bit late this month. However, I can't help but believe the timing is perfect! As I was reading Susan's message regarding the journey of DAMFT, I could not help but notice her statements regarding her own passion for the work she does and how, after over 30 years of practice, she feels no burnout. Quite the opposite! She feels energized by her work! I also thought of the legacy that she continues to pass on. Maybe that is because Susan was my supervisor oh so long ago; and that love for the work we do and her energy is contagious!

But then, having just returned from vacation, I am also reminded how important it is for us to take time for ourselves. It is important for all of us to rest, to rejuvenate, to recharge our batteries in whatever way works for each of us individually. We are of no use to others unless we take care of ourselves. Self care requires that we address our physical, emotional and spiritual needs. By nurturing ourselves, we insure our ability to continue to nurture others. So I hope all of you will take time to reflect upon any areas of your life that may need attention!

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*Forever is composed of nows  
~ Emily Dickenson*

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**In case you don't know....we have a**



*DAMFT Monthly Meetings have moved to the Milliman Building, Ten Thousand North Central Expressway, just north of Walnut Hill and 75 on the East access road. Meetings will be held in the First Floor Community Room*



*He who has the fastest golf cart never has a bad lie ~ Tony Stewart, NASCAR*

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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.

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**For all DAMFT questions please email Susan Swank at [snss102@sbcglobal.net](mailto:snss102@sbcglobal.net).**