



From The Director...

October 2016

"Restoring humanity to life"



Our conference was a great success! We'll soon have videos and pictures uploaded to our website highlighting the most important presentations. If you are a member, you can also read about the conference details in the ISEPP Bulletin, which will soon be distributed.

The more I think about the conference theme of "Individuals Matter", the more I realize how scientific approaches to understanding the human condition have stereotyped people and perpetuate the myth of mental illness. Scientific experimentation, especially of the randomized controlled trial type, boils individuals down to averages. In a way, it makes caricatures out of individual people, similar to how a certain class or group of people are

Dear ISEPP members and friends,

2017 Membership Drive

Between October and December we are having a membership drive for new 2017 members. For those of you who are not currently members, please take the time to review the benefits of signing up now for 2017. In addition to the benefits listed at <http://psychintegrity.org/joinrenew/>, if you join us now, you will receive: 1) extended membership through the end of 2017; 2) all three issues of 2017 (Volume 19) of our peer-reviewed journal, *Ethical Human Psychology and Psychiatry (EHPP)*, published by Springer Publishers; and 3) immediate online access to ALL current and past issues of *EHPP*. Join us now by going to <http://psychintegrity.org/joinrenew/>!

The Advance

Mary Vieten, Ph.D., Director of ISEPP's Operation Speak Up, is starting a new program called "The Advance". It is based on her non-medical, non-clinical, non-drug concept of helping veterans and military members who suffer from the traumas of war. Mary and several of her colleagues are putting the finishing touches on

stereotyped and treated in line with that stereotype. So we come up with misunderstandings such as, "all Republicans are XXX", or "all atheists are XXX". When looking at scientific research into psychological and psychiatric issues we come up with misunderstandings such as, "all people with depression do better with XXX", or "all people with drinking problems will benefit from XXX".

The stereotype of "depressed person" or "alcoholic" are born and the diagnostic labels are reified.

It is important to recognize this inherent weakness of scientific research when applying the results of that research, and to keep in mind the overwhelming importance of the individual desires, hopes, assumptions, and goals when doing our work. Individuals matter!

Chuck Ruby, Ph.D.
Executive Director

launching the program. It conceptualizes post-traumatic reactions as natural human responses to horrific experiences, not pathological reactions that need treatment. It uses the power of human connection and understanding in its attempts to assist those traumatically affected to reintegrate back into society. Look for more developments about The Advance at our [ISEPP website](#).

Tortuous Twisted Thinking (TTT)

Starting with the upcoming edition of the ISEPP Bulletin, we will have a new column entitled, "Tortuous Twisted Thinking". It is intended to highlight the absurd reasoning and linguistic gymnastics engaged in by the defenders of the current mental health system in their struggle to have it make sense. The idea came to me after reading an American Psychiatric Association paper on personality disorders back in April, after which it felt like my head exploded!

"Until now, DSM has organized clinical assessment into five areas, or axes, addressing the different aspects and impact of disorders. This multiaxial system was introduced in part to solve a problem that no longer exists: Certain disorders, like personality disorders, received inadequate clinical and research focus. As a consequence, these disorders were designated to Axis II to ensure they received greater attention. However, the axis system was seen by some clinicians as burdensome and time consuming. Given that there is no fundamental difference between disorders described on DSM-IV's Axis I and Axis II, DSM-5 has shifted to a single axis system."

Please keep an eye out for these kinds of TTT, and consider writing a short piece about it for the Bulletin. You can send these and any other article, announcement, poem, or any other kind of item of importance to ISEPP

membership, to [Dominick Riccio](#), Ph.D., the ISEPP Bulletin Editor-in-Chief.

MISS Foundation Training

ISEPP's Joanne Cacciatore, Ph.D., has offered training to any ISEPP practitioner interested in bereavement. If you are interested in working with traumatic grief (death of child, suicide, homicide, combat related primarily), then please consider becoming one of the [MISS Foundation's](#) Compassionate Bereavement Care Providers. Once you complete the course, you go on a list of "green" (nonmedicalized)) providers. The MISS Foundation NEEDS way more people to whom they can refer their clients around the world!

If you are interested, contact [Joanne](#). The [next training](#) will be held in Sedona, AZ on March 2-5, 2017 with 30 CEUs. See more about this program [here](#).

As always, I ask that you all share this newsletter and other ISEPP information through your social networking sites. Also, make sure to visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. Feel free to contact me at docruby@me.com or 301-646-6022 if you have any questions or suggestions.

Best wishes,



Chuck



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