

Nurture Our Children . . . Nurture Our Future

# TAPT Newsletter

Volume 15, No. 1--Spring 2006

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Linda M. Ramirez



### A Time for Reflections and Beginnings...

The year 2006 is upon us and this marks the midpoint for TAPT's fiscal year. We are quickly approaching this year's annual conference, *Growing Families*, which will be held March 31st and April 1st at the DoubleTree Hotel in Austin. Our conference committee has been working very hard to arrange all the numerous details that a top-notch conference requires. I hope you will attend and invite a colleague or two to join us at the conference and also as a new member.

Reflecting on this past year, TAPT members helped in many ways to assist children and families coping with the trauma of the vast devastation of the hurricane season. Many APT Branches expressed concern and offered help. These events brought to the forefront the issue of developing "Disaster Policies and Protocol" for TAPT. Although this topic had been discussed and attempts had been made to get this issue addressed at past conferences, not enough had been done. Katrina gave us that dreadful push into the real need to be better prepared. I hope to have TAPT's role and protocol defined, written and adopted by the March 30th Board meeting. Much still needs to be done.

TAPT hired a new management company to assist in our website updates, newsletter e-mails and snail mailings, and some of our general administration needs. Challenge Management, Inc. of Dallas has been retained for one year to assist us in the duties of running a professional organization. Hopefully, in the future we can engage them for more services as there is a lot of work involved in running a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. I hope you like the new look of the website and the e-newsletter. CMI has been on board with us since September 2005.

This month begins the APT Get-A-Member Campaign for 2006 in which TAPT is participating. I invite you to help us recruit new members who are interested in play therapy. APT and TAPT offer much to those who wish to be involved in a professional play therapy organization. We offer a full range of information, activities, and resources at a reasonable cost. Compared with most professional associations, we are at the top when it comes to cost vs. membership perks.

Over the past 13 years, TAPT has established its place as a professional resource in the realm of counseling children and families toward better lives and relationships. Looking to the future, we must set a priority on recruiting new members and helping TAPT to grow. Our development as a professional association depends on our membership. Helping children and families in need of counseling to function better

*I want to sing like the birds  
 sing, not  
 worrying about who hears or  
 what they think.*

Rumi

depends on the professionalism of play therapists. I think the two go hand in hand.

I urge you to fill in your ballot and vote for the new officers and board members. Whether there's only one name or more than one name for each slot, the TAPT bylaws state

that we must have an election. Your voice and your ballot are very important. TAPT is a great branch of APT because of our wonderful members. Thank you to all our members and a special "thank you" to those members willing to serve on the TAPT Board.

## JUST A NOTE FROM YOUR 2006 TAPT CHAIR

Barbara Hall

We are looking forward to a wonderful convention. Your convention committee has been working hard and has come up with a fantastic program and some interesting activities.

Rise Van Fleet, PhD., RPT-S, will present "Filial Play Therapy: Strengthening Parent-Child Relationships through Play" on Friday, March 31 (Pre-Conference day) and will present the Keynote address on Saturday morning, "Using Play Therapy to Assist a Family through Crisis". Susan Lee, Conference Program Chair, has written an informative introduction in the conference flyer for Rise:

Rise Van Fleet is a licensed psychologist and registered play therapist-supervisor who brings over 30 years of clinical experience in a variety of settings to her workshops on play, filial, and family therapies. She has earned degrees from University of Pennsylvania, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and Pennsylvania State University. Her passion is using Play interventions to strengthen families and promote healthy psychosocial development in children. Dr. Van Fleet is the founder and chief executive of the Family Enhancement and Play Center which provides training, supervision, and consultation for professionals as well as services to children and families.

TAPT will be offering Peer Consultation Groups Friday night from 5:30-7:00. Space for each group is limited. If you are interested in a group, I encourage you to register early. TAPT will also be hosting a Garden Party Reception Friday night from 7:00-9:00.

The Garden Party will be a "make and take" reception. Chapters are encouraged to share ideas, supplies and assistance in creating special projects with conference attendees that can be used later in their work with children and families. We have advertised the Garden Party in the program as a "make and take" reception so let's get all our chapters contributing to the success of this activity. Hill Country Chapter is going to provide toys for adoption and supplies to make

houses to carry them home in. Table decorations for this event will include markers, tape, scissors and crayons to use. Please e-mail Susan Lee with chapter project ideas. There will be a table designated for each chapter (gratis) wishing to participate.

Saturday's conference will close with a Keynote address by Dee Ray, LPC, NCC, RPT-S.

Dee Ray is an Assistant Professor and Director of the Child and Family Resource Clinic of the Counseling, Development & Higher Education Program at the University of North Texas. Dr. Ray specializes in Counselor Education. She has been the editor of the International Journal of Play Therapy from 2002 to present. Dr. Ray is consistently sharing her research insight in professional publications; most recently her writings have focused on Contemporary Play Therapy and Counseling Theories: Practical Applications with Children and Adolescents in School Settings.

As the Conference Chair for the 2006 Convention, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a special thank you to the conference committee. It has been a joy and an honor to work with them as they diligently pursued, tendered, and nurtured the soil in which the seeds of knowledge, companionship, and growth we will experience during the conference have been planted. Thank you to:

Joey Achacoso, Volunteer Chair  
Joella Walters, Operations Co-Chair  
June Swenson, Operations Co-Chair  
Sue Isola, Networking/Publicity Chair  
Tamra Zehner, Registration Co-Chair  
Susan Ann Gallagher, Registration Co-Chair  
Susan B. Lee, Program Chair  
Slade Dickson, Program Co-Chair  
Linda E. Homeyer, Continuing Education Co-Chair  
Diana Garza-Louis, Continuing Education Co-Chair

Don't forget to e-mail filial therapy/play therapy assessments, interventions/techniques you would like to share with others to Barbara at lsspbah@ix.netcom.com. We would like to present each participant with a notebook of shared ideas at the conference.

Look forward to seeing all of you in Austin.



Pictured above are APT staff members in Fresno, CA using travel mugs presented to them by TAPT president Linda Manning Ramirez.

## A GREAT LOSS FOR PLAY THERAPY

Many of you may have known Harold Perry. He was at many play therapy conferences and often presented with his wife, Lessie Perry. Over the years, the opportunities I had to hear Harold present and to talk with him won my admiration and respect for him as a kind and gentle person, as well as a steadfast supporter of play therapy. Sadly, Harold has passed away.

Lessie has been an active and instrumental member of APT / TAPT. We thank her for her wonderful leadership and contributions to the development of APT and TAPT.

As President of TAPT, I wish to extend the condolences of our organization to Lessie. You are in the hearts of those members who have known you and Harold. We offer you whatever comfort we can, as words can possibly convey, during this sad time.

On behalf of TAPT,  
Linda M. Ramirez, President

***In the midst of movement and chaos, keep stillness inside of you.***

*Deepak Chopra*

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Ginger Corn

New Members have always been and will always be vital to our organization. We can all help in soliciting members by telling others of membership advantages. The 2006 APT Member-Get-A-Member campaign offers APT Bucks and recognition for sponsoring new members. With the APT Bucks you may purchase any APT product, program or service. The member in good standing who earns the most APT Bucks between January 1 and March 31, 2006, will receive a 2005 Conference CD set and will receive a cash award equal to 3 days interest on \$1,000,000.00. Winners of the campaign will be recognized at the Annual meeting of the 2006 Conference. If each of us tells membership candidates of membership benefits, our organization and our APT Bucks will soar. Let's make TAPT #1 in recruitment!

New Members and renewing members receive a welcome from your TAPT Membership Committee. Those whose membership has expired are contacted and encouraged to renew. If you are aware of someone whose membership has lapsed, remind them of what TAPT can do for them, and let them know how much they are needed and appreciated. Invite new members to become a part of their local chapter.

Please e-mail concerns or suggestions to your Membership Co-chairpersons: Kathy Eubanks, keuban@mail.twu.edu, and Ginger Corn, gngrc@yahoo.com. Contact Pam Bradshaw, Membership & Branch Relations Manager, pbradshaw@a4pt.org for further details on the 2006 Member-Get-A Member campaign.

# FROM THE STUDENT DIRECTOR

Molly Kuzmich

Attention upcoming play therapists! You are a great resource for play therapy literature. If anyone has research or literature reviews that you would be willing to publish, we would love to have those in our newsletter. It's a great way to get your name out there, too!

I would love to highlight exceptional play therapy students in the next newsletter. College and university faculty can be great resources for this. If you know a play therapy student who is making a particularly strong effort to better

the lives of children and our field, email a short description of that person and what they contribute.

Again, students please contact me with any suggestions or ideas of ways in which TAPT can best serve you!

You can reach me by email at this email address: [kuzmichcounseling@comcast.net](mailto:kuzmichcounseling@comcast.net); by mail at 6021 Morriss Road, Suite 109A, Flower Mound, TX 75028; or by phone at 972-754-7308.

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## PLAY THERAPY TRAVELS - "THE NATURE OF PLAY"

Diana Garza Louis

This holiday, I had the privilege of traveling to Saltillo, Mexico on vacation. It is a large metropolitan city, with a very quiet and conservative flavor with its colonial architecture, and wonderful temperate weather. My husband and I like to walk through the cities we visit, in particular in Mexico, and observe the tempo of the city. We get up early and walk through the center of town, the zocalo (square), and later in the day tour the museums and cultural centers throughout the city. In Saltillo, we enjoyed the hustle and bustle that didn't seem to occur until noon.

Our favorite time in Saltillo was the evening when families and couples began to gather around the zocalo. It was especially busy as we approached the weekend with vendors displaying their wares, mostly jewelry and trinkets, near the square. At the zocalo cotton candy pyramids appeared, vendors with candy, seeds and nuts set up, low tech toys such as bouncing balls with streamers flew into the air, and walkers with ice cream and other delights passed us by. The benches were quickly taken by families and couples playing and visiting.

We particularly enjoyed the toddlers chasing the pigeons, delighting in their flight and feeding them to have them gather around them. One mother guided her toddler through the zocalo by pointing to a pigeon in the direction



she needed to go in, and having the toddler easily re-direct along that particular path. The older kids would chase the birds, attempting to capture them with their jackets, or simply sneaking up on them, to no avail. The children were chasing each other, rolling and sliding on the granite tiles of the square, maneuvering through and over the small fences protecting the grass, and enjoying their various snacks with lots of chile poured over them. Later a clown

meandered by, making balloon animals which were quickly animated by the children as they played with them. Many



families approached the giant nativity scene and took pictures with the 3 wise men, angels, Jesus, Mary, Joseph.

In this time of I-pods, robotics, and electronic toys, we forget that chasing, feeding, capturing, and

rolling are fundamental activities in our play. Although Mexico is as techno savvy as anyone else, there are many there that do not have the means to buy the kinds of toys that are often marketed on TV. Instead, they play tag, they feed the pigeons and chase them, they roll on the ground, even if it isn't nice plush grass, and laugh and play to their heart's delight. The interaction between the children and their parents was awesome to observe. This is the nature of play!

Child and pigeons compliments of Google

# KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

## **President-Elect: Leah Miller, MA, LPC-S, LMFT, RPT**

Leah Miller is a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a Registered Play Therapist. She is the owner of the Counseling Center of Expressive Arts in El Paso, where she specializes in working with children and families through play and art. Leah has served on the Texas Play Therapy Board for the last four years as the Far West Texas Chapter Representative. She has chaired the Legislative and Ethics committees of that board for the last three years. Leah has presented workshops on the topic of art as a developmental assessment tool and ethics in play therapy. Leah served as the Continuous Quality Improvement Director at the El Paso Child Guidance Center before opening her private practice in 2000. Leah would bring experience in art and play, as well as her organizational administrative experience to the position of President-Elect.

## **Treasurer: Pedro Ricardo Gonzalez, M.Ed., LPC, RPT**

Pedro is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Registered Play Therapist residing in San Antonio, Texas. He works full-time at Texas Adolescent Treatment Center, working primarily with teenagers, and has a successful part-time private practice, where he specializes in working with children, teenagers and their families. Pedro is fully bilingual (Spanish) and works primarily with this population. Pedro has been involved in the Alamo Chapter of the Texas Association for Play Therapy for 1 year and currently serves as their Treasurer. Pedro also teaches Alcohol Awareness Programs for Minors, DWI, DWI-Repeat Offenders, and Drug Abuse Programs. He was previously an Adult Probation Officer for the Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility Program (SAFPF) with the Cameron-Willacy Counties Community Supervision Department. Pedro believes that venturing into part-time private practice is one of his most recent major achievements.

## **Secretary: Gabriel Lomas, LPC**

Gabriel I. Lomas is a full-time faculty member at the University of Houston - Clear Lake where he teaches courses in counseling and play therapy. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in counselor education from Sam Houston State University. Gabriel serves on various boards including the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association (national) and the Sam Houston Association for Play Therapy (local). He maintains a successful private practice, seeing both children and adults, in Houston. Gabriel has recently served the TAPT as the chair person for registration at the Houston conference in 2005. He is married to Jennifer Freundel-Lomas, a school counselor in Sugar Land, where they reside with their daughter, Becca, and their pets, Adler, Ellis, and Maslow.

## **Secretary: Karen Linstrum, Ph.D. LPC, CRC.**

Karen was happy to report that the graduate-level Introduction to Play Therapy course she developed at Texas A&M University-Texarkana was a success. The Play Therapy course was the first of its kind for her as well as for the university. Karen would like to run again for the secretary position. She now knows that being the secretary involves having "fast as lightning" typing fingers, focused "radar" hearing, and referring frequently to Robert's Rules of Order. Karen enjoys learning, and being involved with TAPT is all about learning.

## **Director-at-Large: Susan Lee, MRE, LPC, RPT-S**

Susan is Past President of TAPT (President in 2003-2004) She has been instrumental in keeping close ties with Chapters around the state and securing our conference sites for the last several years. She was the Hill Country Play Therapy Association President in 2001-2002, and served as an ACA Eisenhower "People to People" Ambassador delegate to China in October 2004. Susan has a BA from Baylor University, a Masters of Religious Education, a Master of Education in Counseling and Guidance, is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Registered Play Therapist supervisor as well as a Licensed Child Care Administrator. She is currently in Private Practice.

## **Director-at-Large: Joseph A. Achacoso, M.A., Ph.D., LPC**

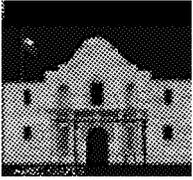
With a focus on developmental psychology, Joseph earned his doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin. Known as Dr. Joey by his clients and students, he is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Play Therapist, and a professor in the Counseling Department at Texas State University. Dr. Joey has helped children, adolescents, and their families who have struggled with various issues including divorce, ADD, autism, Asperger's, discipline, single-parenting, and anger management. He provides individual and group therapy for children and adolescents as well as workshops for parents, teachers, and school counselors. He is the current President of the Hill Country Association of Play Therapy.

## **K. Osiris Wade, MFA**

I am K. Osiris Wade, MFA, and I am enthralled with the possibility to assisting in a leadership position within TAPT, and with the possibilities present when working with Play Therapy with my clients. As a graduate student at Texas Woman's University and having been given the honor of "Best Uncle in the World" by niece and nephew, I believe Play Therapy is more than a just a modality. Play Therapy is a healing art that opens pathways growth and connections. I cannot envision my professional future without engaging Play Therapy and exposing my fellow graduate colleagues of the numerous benefits it holds for them and their clients.

# CHAPTER REPORTS

## Alamo Chapter Phronsie Kelly-Zion



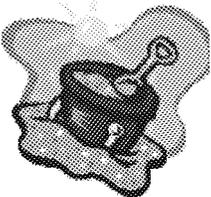
The next meeting of the Alamo Chapter will be on February 13 at 7pm. Dr. James Koretz will give a presentation about using Object Relations theory in Play Therapy. In April, Pedro Gonzalez

(Alamo Chapter treasurer and recently credentialed RPT!) will present about using therapeutic board games in Play Therapy.

If you are interested in becoming a board member of the Alamo Chapter, please let us know. Elections will be held in June and we welcome you to join us!

The Alamo Chapter meets every other month (February, April, June, August, October, and December) on the second Monday. Meetings are at 7 pm and are currently being held at the SAMM Shelter, 5922 Blanco Rd. For more information, email [actapt@yahoo.com](mailto:actapt@yahoo.com).

## Coastal Bend Lauri Stroebel



Coastal Bend Chapter will have our annual membership meeting on January 18th, 2006. Marilyn Syverson, NCC, LPC, RPT-S will present information on the importance of peer consultation groups and networking as professionals in our community. Dessert will be provided and there will be door prizes during this meeting.

With annual membership dues members will receive free one hour CEU's for LPC and RPT credit at the monthly meetings and a discounted three hour workshop at the end of January. For additional information on this three hour workshop check at [cbaplaytherapy@yahoo.com](mailto:cbaplaytherapy@yahoo.com) or call Lauri Stroebel at (361)985-9800.

Our regular monthly meetings are the third Wednesdays of each month from noon to 1:30 PM at the First Baptist Church Recreation Center on Ocean Drive.

If you wish to receive future notices for workshops and/or meetings e-mail us at [cbaplaytherapy@yahoo.com](mailto:cbaplaytherapy@yahoo.com).

Wishing everyone a peaceful and productive New Year.

## Far West Texas Leah Miller



### *Past Presentations*

FWTAPT finished the last quarter of the year with some great presentations:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Oct. 21 | Leah Miller and Misty Duke<br>"Ethics in Play Therapy"  |
| Dec. 9  | Carlisle Navidomskis<br>"Trouble-shooting in Play Therapy: What to do when play goes out of control." |

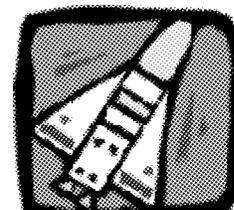
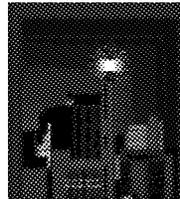
### *Future Presentations*

The board will be meeting January 21, 2006 to set the schedule for trainings for 2006. FWTAPT meets four times a year, and has a yearly conference in the fall. CEU's are provided free of charge to our membership. Credit can be given to RPTs, LPCs and we have added credit for social workers. Check our website for upcoming presentations and information about the planning of our fall conference. [www.fwtapt.com](http://www.fwtapt.com)

## Hill Country No information available



## North Texas No information available



## Sam Houston Mary Ring

Play Therapists in the Houston area are enjoying a variety of presentations this year. Connie Moulder shared her expertise in using play therapy with gifted children, Judi Gilbert presented on her experience at Wroxton Abbey in England with Dr. Charles Schaefer, and in November we heard from Leigh McRae. At our annual winter workshop in January we were privileged to hear from professors Dr. Yvonne Garza and Dr. Richard Watts from Sam Houston State University. They presented on Experiencing Play Therapy with Hispanic Children and Ethical Practices for the Play Therapist,

Continued on Page 9

# 2006 Ballot For the TAPT Board of Directors

- President-Elect**  Leah Miller  
 \_\_\_\_\_(write in)
- Treasurer**  Pedro Ricardo Gonzales  
 \_\_\_\_\_(write in)
- Secretary**  Karen Linstrum, Ph.D. LPC, CRC.  
 Gabriel Lomas, LPC  
 \_\_\_\_\_(write in)
- Director-at-Large**  Susan Lee, MRE, LPC, RPT-S  
 \_\_\_\_\_(write in)
- Director-at-Large**  Joseph A. Achacoso, M.A., Ph.D.,  
LPC  
 \_\_\_\_\_(write in)
- Student Director**  K.Osiris Wade  
 \_\_\_\_\_(write in)

Please fold, tape closed, and return.

All ballots must be postmarked by March 15 to be counted.

Mail to:

Diana Garza Louis, LPC, LMFT, RPT  
11811 Cedar Valley Cove  
Austin, TX 78753-2207

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## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

We are seeking your input about TAPT and especially about the newsletter. Please answer the following questions. Thank you for your response.

### Newsletter frequency:

The newsletter comes out 4 times per year as stipulated by the TAPT by-laws. I believe this frequency is:

- about right  
 too often  
 too infrequent

I prefer \_\_\_\_\_ times per year.

### Newsletter delivery:

- I prefer to receive the newsletter online.  
 I prefer to receive a paper newsletter in the mail.  
 I prefer to receive some information electronically (e-newsletter 2 x per year) and some by mail (2 x per year)

### Computer access:

I have access to a computer:

- at home  
 at work  
 at home and at work  
 n/a (I don't have or use a computer)

### Newsletter content:

I would like to see the following things in the newsletter: (Check all that apply)

- upcoming trainings  
 reports from TAPT board members  
 reports from regional chapters  
 scholarly articles about play therapy  
 personal perspective articles about play therapy  
 information about legal and ethical issues  
other:

### Newsletter access:

As a dues paying TAPT member, I believe that the newsletter should be available to:

- members only (by mail or electronically)  
 anyone who visits the TAPT website and wishes to download it

Do you have any other comments or suggestions about the newsletter or TAPT?

Thank you for your time and your comments.

Texas Association for Play Therapy  
12300 Ford Road, Ste. 135  
Dallas, TX 75234

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Diana Garza Louis, LPC, LMFT, RPT  
11811 Cedar Valley Cove  
Austin, TX 78753-2207

respectively. In March we will be hearing from our secretary Gabe Lomas who began teaching at University of Houston - Clear Lake this year. Congratulations Gabe!

Our membership has grown now to over 100 members and interest in play therapy is growing as sources for training have increased in number in our area. New modalities of play therapy such as Theraplay® are being introduced as treatment protocols have been needed for large numbers of hurricane victims in our schools. As play therapists have seen the results of the theraplay group process for Katrina victims, more interest has developed to have further training in this modality in order to help traumatized and

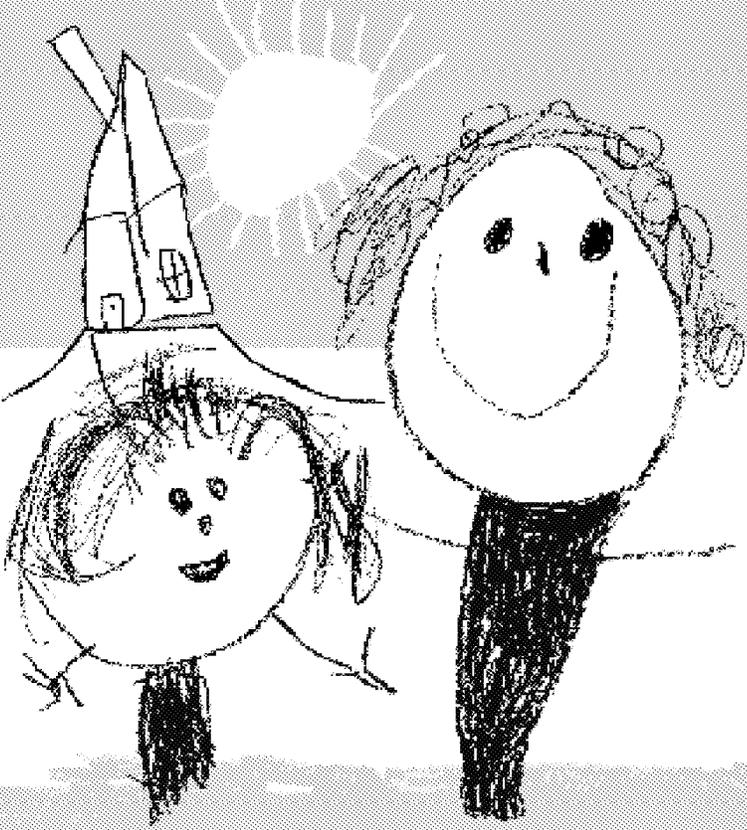
attachment disordered children more efficiently.

This year is proving to be an exciting experience for us in the SHAPT area as our group grows larger and we explore together the possibilities of how play enhances the lives of the children we serve. We are looking forward to April when we will see many of you at the annual TAPT conference in Austin and once again get new ideas to enrich our professional abilities. Our website is [www.SHAPT.org](http://www.SHAPT.org) and has a membership list if you need a referral for the Houston area. See you in April!

**You MUST make your plans to attend the TAPT Conference! This is your opportunity to learn, experience, and *understand*...this is your opportunity to *share*! Mark your calendar:  
March 31 - April 2, 2006**



**Summer Institute Workshops**  
JULY 10-20, 2006  
College of Education  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS



Center for Play Therapy  
P.O. Box 310829 • Denton, TX 76203-0829  
Ph. (940) 565-3864 Fax. (940) 565-4461

[www.centerforplaytherapy.com](http://www.centerforplaytherapy.com)

# Student Responses to Learning about Play Therapy

Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Graduate Counseling Students' Experiences via the Play Therapy Course

Dr. Karen Linstrum, instructor, Fall 2005

*Colester Young teaches speech for the Texarkana Arkansas School District.*

My experiences being in Dr. Linstrum's Play Therapy class have been positive. I decided to take the class because I do not have a lot of experience working with children and thought it would be hard for me to work with little children because I would want to take on the role of mother and hold them, love them, and protect them. I thought to have a child as a client would be too emotional for me and I would not be effective. I wanted to learn the skills needed in order to be an effective counselor who works with little children. I have learned greatly from Dr. Landreth's book and watching the videos just made the book come alive.

The greatest experience I received from Dr. Linstrum's play therapy class is working with the children in mini-play therapy sessions. Using the play therapy skill checklist and receiving feedback from Dr. Linstrum, I was able to practice and improve every time I had the opportunity to work with a child. After taking a beginners-level course, I would like to take an advanced play therapy course to improve my skills. I am no longer afraid to work with little children.

*Jennifer Hall, a graduate of Austin College, is working on her graduate degree at A&M-T*

Experiencing play therapy has been exciting. These children are amazing. These children have taught me so much. All too often, adults discount how children feel and interact with adults in the world.

*Korillene Harris teaches elementary school for the Ashdown Arkansas School District.*

The play therapy experience was very rewarding. I can not begin to explain how doubtful I was about working with the children in play therapy. I did not know whether I could be successful at it. After we began working with the children, I really enjoyed what I was doing. The children behaved just as Dr. Landreth had discussed in his book.

Dr. Linstrum called my attention to my behaviors. At first, I was reluctant and nervous, I was scared. I did not feel prepared, until I started. Then, I noticed how it just flowed. I had to be there in the moment with the child. My posture became more relaxed, my voice relaxed, I became relaxed. That is when I got it! I was in the moment with that child. No one else was more important than the child at that precise moment in time. The entire experience of

working with children was exceptional.

*Karen Morris is working on her graduate degree and she is also interested in equine therapy.*

I took the Play Therapy class because I was interested in gaining experience working with children. The class provided hand-on experience working with real kids. I am also interested in the field of horse-assisted therapy, working with children who have handicaps. The play therapy class helped me learn how to communicate in a more therapeutic manner. I learned how to reflect a child's feelings so that the child would feel understood and safe. I learned how to set limits and give the child the opportunity to learn responsibility. Children's natural communication is play.

*Diane McAdams currently serves Dangerfield, Texas ISD as an elementary school counselor.*

I am in my last semester of course work for my graduate counseling degree. I chose play therapy as my final elective, and it was a very smart choice on my part. I had some reservations about taking the class because I could not envision myself realistically using the form of therapy in a school setting. As the semester unfolded, I became aware of the benefits that this type of therapy has to offer school children. As my classmates and I began to apply the techniques in practice, many of us found this type of therapy to be very freeing. Play therapy is freeing in the sense that the child leads the therapy, not the therapist. Believing in the child's self-determination and ability to lead the therapy where he or she needs it to go is freeing. I am looking forward to implementing Child-Centered Play Therapy techniques into my school counseling program.

*Crystal Roach teaches junior high students for the Liberty-Eylau ISD in Texarkana, Texas.*

Texas A&M University-Texarkana offered its first course in play therapy this semester. Dr. Linstrum advertised this course with much excitement during her other courses. I had taken all three early childhood classes while obtaining my teaching degree. Play therapy, in a way, seemed to coincide with those three courses.

When Dr. Linstrum first modeled play therapy for us, my thought was "how is repeating and tracking a child's play beneficial to the child?" As we began reading and watching play therapy videos, I came to see that children

## Board of TAPT

### President

Linda Ramirez, RN, MEd, LPC-S,  
RPT-S

### President-Elect

Barbara Hall, MA, LSSP, LPA, LPE,  
Ph.D intern

### Past President

Diana Garza Louis, MEd, LPC,  
LMFT, NCC, RPT

### Treasurer

Aline Gaubert, MAPM, LCDC, LPC,  
RPT

### Secretary

Karen Linstrum, PhD

### Alamo Chapter Director

Phronsie Kelly-Zion, LCSW-S, RPT-S

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really do benefit from going into the play therapy room. One of the most notable benefits is how play therapy boosts children's self-esteem. The children learn to obtain control of their actions. The children are allowed to learn to make decisions on their own. This therapy approach gives child a sense of independence.

My first play therapy experience was awkward. I felt silly tracking the child and not being able to label the toys with which they were playing. However, practice makes perfect. No, I am not a perfect play therapist, but I am more comfortable with the process. I am currently a teacher. However, when I decide to leave the classroom, play therapy may be something that I continue to pursue.

*Karen Linstrum, Ph.D. is in her second year of teaching graduate-level counseling courses at Texas A&M University-Texarkana.*

Play Therapy has never been offered before in this area of Texas. I am a new

faculty member, and I am very new to academia. Yet, I was determined to develop and teach a graduate level play therapy course. I talked about play in my other courses and was hoping to generate some interest in enrollment. I shared with my students during first summer session that I had received a \$500 grant from Texas Counseling Association to develop a play therapy course. I shared that I was going to the workshops at the University of North Texas to regain and refocus on play therapy skills. No one specifically talked with me about the course, but during the months of July & August, eight students enrolled and PAID for the course. Now, I was nervous!

I am very grateful to my students for their honesty, for their passion for learning, and for allowing their children, nephews and nieces to come to the play therapy class. Most of all, I am appreciative of my students' patience with me as I continue to learn.

## 13th Annual Play Therapy Conference

**Pre-Conference: Friday, March 31**

**Conference: Saturday, April 1**

**Post-Conference: Sunday, April 2**

Join us at the Doubletree Hotel Austin for the 13th Annual Play Therapy Conference, themed, "Growing Families." We have organized an outstanding educational and networking program that will provide Play Therapists with the latest concepts of the theoretical frameworks of play therapy and its practical application.

We will hear keynote addresses from Rise Van Fleet, PhD, RPT-S and Dee Ray, PhD, LPC, NCC, RPT-S, along with exciting and informative presentations by many play therapy experts, our peers who help shape the profession and its development. Don't wait to register! Full program details are available on our website at [www.txapt.org](http://www.txapt.org).

**Many things which  
cannot be overcome  
when they are together,  
yield themselves up  
when taken little by little.**

*Plutarch*

# The Dan E. Homeyer Research Award

## of the Texas Association for Play Therapy

The Dan E. Homeyer Play Therapy Research Award of the Texas Association for Play Therapy (TAPT) bestows two \$500 research awards twice a year.

To qualify for the Dan E. Homeyer Play Therapy Research Award, you must:

- Attend or teach at a Texas college or university
- Use play therapy in some aspect of your research
- Have approval of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (IRB) [attach copy of approval letter/document to this form]

Once the research is completed:

- Write a short synopsis of the research findings which will be published in the TAPT Newsletter (in such form that will not preclude your publishing the findings elsewhere)
- Present the findings at the next TAPT Annual Conference (held in April). *The Dan E. Homeyer Play Therapy Research Award Fund* will pay for two nights at the conference hotel and TAPT will provide a gratis conference registration.

The TAPT Research Committee will do a blind review of your proposal. Please email the proposal, described below, to [lhomeyer@gvtc.com](mailto:lhomeyer@gvtc.com)

- A description of the research project including the research design
- Maximum of three pages, double-spaced, 10-12 point font.
- Please do not have your name or other identifying information on the proposal pages

Please complete the following:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_, Texas, zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Research: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed beginning date: \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed completion date: \_\_\_\_\_

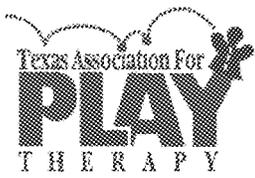
Application deadlines: March 1st & October 1st

THE PROPOSAL MUST BE EMAILED.  
Mail, fax or email this form with the attached IRB,  
Linda E. Homeyer, PhD, LPC, RPTS  
TAPT Research Chair  
731 Hilltop Drive  
Canyon Lake TX 78133

For questions or to submit application:

Phone: 512-557-4026; fax: 830-964-2354; or [lhomeyer@gvtc.com](mailto:lhomeyer@gvtc.com).





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