



NCFR Family Therapy  
Section

Kathleen Briggs

Kathleen Briggs Mentorship  
Award

## Biographical Background

- Born July 14, 1963 in Provo, Utah
- Raised in Tempe, Arizona
- Diagnosed with breast cancer in 1998, which began a ten year battle
- Passed away May 21, 2008





From the beginning, Kathleen had a way of speaking that inspired my interest, regardless the topic. She never pushed her own agenda, but always encouraged me to explore my opportunities and offered her support. Her influence was fundamental in my becoming a marriage and family therapist. It was a pleasure to learn from her and work with her. Not only was her knowledge base profound, but she was also gracious, considerate, and kind. She held herself to high standards and expected those around her to fulfill their potential as well. As I remember her and reflect on her dedication, professionalism, and compassion, she continues to be a wonderful role model for me. I truly believe my life has been enhanced because she has been in it.

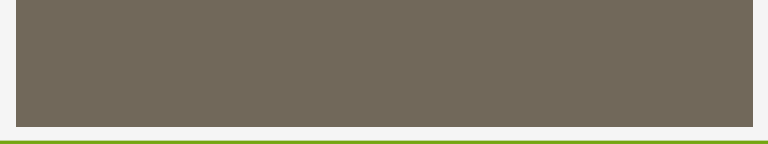
*Monica Armstrong, LMFT*

*Monica was an undergraduate student of Dr. Briggs and had the pleasure of completing her MFT training under her supervision, as well as working with her as a research assistant.*

## Educational Background

- Bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University, majoring in Child Development & Family Relations,
  - Graduated Magna Cum Laude
- Master's degree from Brigham Young University in Marriage and Family Therapy
  - Thesis: *A study of test-retest reliability of the Individual and Family Attribute Questionnaire*
- Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy from Brigham Young University in 1991 (at the age of 28)
  - Dissertation: *Principal Components Analysis of the Individual and Family Attribute Questionnaire*





I began graduate school after being a stay at home mom for several years. I was an immediate recipient of Kathleen's mentoring. She held a high standard as she taught me scholarship. When I entered the clinical portion of the program, Kathleen was my first supervisor. She mentored me as a therapist in training, expecting and modeling unwavering integrity, heartfelt compassion, and delightful humor. She mentored me as a supervisor for licensure and beyond. She helped me translate the lessons learned in graduate school classrooms and clinic to an inpatient adolescent unit, a community mental health center, and ultimately to private practice. In 1998, I began a decade of learning as Kathleen lived with cancer. I have 10 years worth of observations, inspirations, challenges, and musings "lived" with the same integrity, compassion, and humor I discovered as a "newbie" in graduate school. Perhaps the lasting power of her mentorship is that as life changed around her, she remained the same. I am privileged to have been Kathleen's "trainee" in living, as well as in becoming a therapist.

*Paulann C. Canty, M.S., L.M.F.T.*

## Professional Background

- Faculty member at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater from 1992 to 2007 in the Department of Human Development and Family Science
- Graduate Coordinator for the Department of Human Development and Family Science, Oklahoma State University (Stillwater & Tulsa campuses) from 2001 to 2007
- Department Head for Department of Human Development and Family Science, Oklahoma State University (Stillwater & Tulsa campuses) 2002-2007
- Associate Professor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas 2007 to 2008 in the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy





She was the hardest of professors. She expected excellence from every student. I remember that she once made me rewrite a case note four times. This was when we wrote case notes by hand. I hated that night. However, the experience was one of the turning points in my understanding of systems. I am thankful to her now for my understanding of how to communicate the systemic aspects of a case.

*Lori Thompson*  
*Kathleen was her supervisor*  
*from 1994-1997*

# Research

- Peterson, C. M., & Briggs, K. (2008). Medical family therapy. In K. Jordan, K. Jordan (Eds.), *The quick theory reference guide: A resource for expert and novice mental health professionals* (pp. 493-499). Hauppauge, NY US: Nova Science Publishers.
- Briggs, K., Denton, W., Johnson, S., Landau, J., Morris, J., Schnarch, D. & Serovich, J. (2005, September 13). *Relationships, Health, and Marriage: Final Report of the Task Force*.
- Hendrix, C. C., Fournier, D. G., & Briggs, K. (2001). Impact of Co-therapy teams on Client Outcomes and Therapist Training in Marriage and Family Therapy. *Contemporary Family Therapy: An International Journal*, 23, 63-82.
- Briggs, K., Fournier, D. G., & Hendrix, C. C. (1999). Evaluating Trainees' Skill Development: The Family Therapy Skills Checklist. *Contemporary Family Therapy: An International Journal*, 21, 353-371.
- Briggs, K., Hubbs-Tait, L., Culp, R. E., & Blankemeyer, M. (1995). Perceiver Bias in Expectancies for Sexually Abused Children. *Family Relations*, 44, 291-298.
- Briggs, K., Hubbs-Tait, L., Culp, R. E., Morse, A. S. (1994). Sexual Abuse Label: Adult's Expectations for Children. *The American Journal of Family Therapy*, 22, 304-314.



# Presentations

- Briggs, K., Topham, G., Stevenson, A., Hendrix, C.C. (November, 2007). *Vulnerable Families with Children: Predicting Perceived Barriers to Treatment*. Paper presented at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Briggs, K., Stevenson, A., Topham, G., Hendrix, C.C (November, 2007). *Social Support Factors for Disadvantaged Families: Predicting Openness to Treatment*. Paper presented at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Fournier, D.G., Briggs, K., Hendrix, C.C., & Topham, G. (2005, November). Role of Divergent Meaning Systems on Escalating Negative Cycles in Couples. Symposia Paper presented at the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual National Council on Family Relations Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
- Topham, G. L., Briggs, K., Hendrix, C., & Fournier, D. G. (2005, October). Understanding retention in therapy for child abuse/neglect. Poster presented at the annual conference of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, Kansas City, MO.
- Briggs, K. (2004, November). Quality of Life in Aging Cancer Couples. Paper presented in the Families and Illness in Middle to Later Life Symposium at the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual National Council on Family Relations Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Briggs, K. & Kellogg, J. (October, 2004). MFT's Role in Psychosocial Interventions with Oncology Patients and their Families. Poster presented at the annual conference of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, Atlanta.
- Briggs, K. & Peterson, C.M. (2004, August). Mediating Factors in Couples Coping Processes with Breast, Lung, Colorectal, and Prostate Cancer. Paper presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Psycho-Oncology World Congress, Copenhagen, Denmark.

One of the most fundamental goals of a systems approach is to challenge one's world view. Not only did Kathleen challenge my world view, but she did so with respect and within a context of safety. She in turn was very willing to have her own world view questioned and challenged. Her willingness to be a mentor while also being a partner in continual discovery made her a unique supervisor. She taught me that there are no Black Belts or gurus in Marriage and Family Therapy, but merely contemporaries at various mile markers on the road toward personal and professional excellence. Kathleen Briggs and I could probably have not been more different, but she taught me a profound respect and humility in the face of difference. My world view will never be the same, and thankfully so, since she and I spent time together as mentor and protege . . . and I truly believe, because she modeled personal world-view assessment, hers was changed a bit too.

*Stephen Parker*



# National Offices and Positions

- *Chair*, Commission on Marriage and Family Therapy Education(2007)
- *Delegate*, White House Conference on Aging (Senate Appointment) (2005-2007)
- *Honorary Chairman and Member*, NRCC Business Advisory Council from Oklahoma (Appointed by Congressman Tom Reynolds)
- *Member*, AAMFT Relationship Task Force (2004-2005)
- *Commissioner*, Commission on Marriage and Family Therapy Education(2002-2007)
- *Chair* Family Therapy Section (NCFR) (2002-2004)
- *Chair-elect*, Family Therapy Section (NCFR) (2000-2002)
- *Member*, Family Therapy Section (NCFR) Student Award Committee (1999-Present)
- *Secretary/Treasurer*, Family Therapy Section (NCFR) (1998-2000)

# State Offices and Positions

- *Ambassador, American Cancer Society for Legislative Advocacy for Cancer Research (2006-2008)*
- *Board Member, American Cancer Society Heartland Division (2000-2007)*
- *President, Oklahoma Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (1997-1999)*
- *President-elect, Oklahoma Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (1996-1997)*
- *Secretary, Oklahoma Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (1993-1995)*
- *Co-Chair, Oklahoma Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Conference (1993-1997)*
- *Secretary, Oklahoma Council on Family Relations (1997-1998)*
- *Board Member, Oklahoma Council on Family Relations (1994-1997)*



I remember her saying to me referring my final paper for her class "You have a good model and this is publishable", and how encouraged I was. I felt she took a young student's work seriously and that meant a lot to a young naive student who was not sure about what to do for her career choice. I also remember how she was giving me suggestions on small things for my upcoming doctoral program interview. . . I remember her vividly, her whole being.

*Lin Shi, Ph.D., LMFT*  
*Associate Professor, Program Director*  
*Northern Illinois University*

# Honors and Awards

- Regent's Distinguished Teaching Award from Oklahoma State University
- National Leadership Award, U.S. Presidential Award (2006)
- Outstanding Leader in Policy and Advocacy Achievement Award, Oklahoma Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (2004)
- Outstanding Scholarship, Leadership and Service Faculty Award, OSU Chapter of Mortar Board National Honor Society (2003)
- Outstanding Human Environmental Sciences Undergraduate Academic Advisor (2002-2003)
- Regents Distinguished Teaching Award from OSU Board of Regents (1999)
- College of Human Environmental Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award (1999)
- Outstanding Faculty Member Award from Greek Community and InterFraternity Panhellenic Council at OSU (1997)
- Recognized as an Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor (1995, 1997, 1998)
- Recognized as an Outstanding Undergraduate Advisor (1995)
- Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor, College of Human Environmental Sciences (1994)