

## **SDP Conference Registration Brochure**

### **Conference Information**

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information on the Conference, the Society, or Descriptive Psychology, please contact:

Keith E. Davis, Ph.D.  
1512 Pendleton St.  
Department of Psychology, University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC 29208  
803-777-4639  
daviske@mailbox.sc.edu

or

Hap Cox, Ph.D.  
Blue Haven Counseling Services  
1675 Blowing Rock Road, Suite 400  
Boone, NC 28607  
[bluehavendoc@bellsouth.net](mailto:bluehavendoc@bellsouth.net)

or

#### **Society for Descriptive Psychology**

[www.sdp.org](http://www.sdp.org)

**The Panhandle Learning Institute, a division of The Pelican Enterprise, will provide 17 hours of CE Credits for the conference. The Panhandle Learning Institute is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Panhandle Learning Institute maintains responsibility for this program and its contents.**

### **Transportation**

Reservations for transportation shuttles between Denver International Airport (DIA) and Golden may be made through:

A Line Shuttle  
(303) 420-2589



# The Society for Descriptive Psychology

Thirtieth Annual Conference

September 11-15, 2008

The Golden Hotel

Golden, Colorado

## **Accommodations: The Golden Hotel**

is located at 800 Eleventh St. Reservations can be made online at [www.thegoldenhotel.com](http://www.thegoldenhotel.com), or by calling 800.233.7214 or 303.279.0100.

**The room reservation deadline is  
Friday, August 15, 2008**

### **Room Rates:**

King and Double Queen - \$109.00 per room, per night

Oversize Deluxe - \$119.00 per room, per night

Creekside Suite - \$189.00 per room, per night

An additional service charge is applied to all room rates.

### **REGISTRATION FEES**

Please register as soon as possible. There will be registration available at the conference, but let us know if you know you are coming so that we are able to plan space and meals. **The hotel charges us a hefty penalty for meals added after Sept 2.**

Your registration fee includes your conference fees and all meals and snacks.

CE credits will be available for an additional charge.

**Pre-registration (Must be postmarked by August 21):**

\_\_\_\_ SDP Members @ \$275.00: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Non-members @ \$300.00: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Students @ \$50.00: \_\_\_\_\_

**Regular Registration**

**(postmarked after August 21):**

\_\_\_\_ SDP Members @ \$300.00: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Non-members @ \$325.00: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Students @ \$60.00: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Half day @ \$75.00

\_\_\_\_ Single Day @ \$100.00

TOTAL Conference Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**The Society Banquet**

Saturday, September 13, 2008

The banquet is a fun and informal affair where you can enjoy getting together with old and new friends, and participate in community celebrations and singing. The banquet is included in the full registration fee. Banquet fees apply to guests not registered full-time for the conference:

\_\_\_\_ Adults @ \$50.00: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Children @ \$25.00: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Banquet Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return by **August 21, 2008** to:  
THE SOCIETY FOR DESCRIPTIVE  
PSYCHOLOGY

c/o Hap Cox, Ph.D.

Blue Haven Counseling Services

1675 Blowing Rock Road, Suite 400

Boone, NC 28607

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

TOTALS

Conference Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The annual **Conference for Descriptive Psychology** is an opportunity for professionals from many disciplines to gather and exchange ideas about a wide range of topics related to understanding persons and behavior, such as the practice of psychotherapy, multiculturalism, developmental and educational issues, organizational development, computer science, and spirituality. The common ground shared by participants is the exciting and expansive conceptual framework of Descriptive Psychology.

### **Program for 2008**

TH, 9/11/08

3:30-5:30 PM Check-in and registration

1:00—3:15 PM Board of Directors Meeting

4:00-6:00 PM Paul Zeiger, Ph. D. “Some Core Concepts (of Descriptive Psychology) in Depth.”

6-7:30 Dinner in the Conference room.

7:30 to 9 PM **Swap and Share** recent activities and experiences as a DP writer, mathematician, computer scientists, organizational consultant, clinical psychologist, program innovator & evaluator, clinical supervisor, educator, parent, ETC. It will be modeled on Speed Dating, where each person will have 5 to 10 minutes to give the gist of what they want to share and others to respond, and then each self-designated sharer moves to a new table. There are two roles---sharer and sharee--Sharers move from table to table. Sharees stay put. Organized chaos and hopeful the time needed to catch up with each other without it stepping on the formal program!

**Mentoring a newcomer:** Include a newcomer to the Society meeting or someone long absent at your table & draw them out for the Swap & Share.

Nominations for Awards to be made at the Banquet on Saturday night:

The **Blue Sweat Shirt Award** for Meritorious service to the Society: Nomination to the program chair (Keith Davis) by no later than 5 PM.

The **Mary McDermott Shideler Intellectual Elbow Grease Award** (which must be accompanied by a check for the Scholarship fund of at least \$25.00). Nominations can be made orally at the Banquet. Those who have won 3 times are excluded from the competition. I will have the list of these august persons at the meeting.

## Friday, Sept 12, 2008

7:30 to 8:15 AM Light Breakfast in the conference room..

7:30 to 8:15: Registration

Moderator: Laurie Bergner, Ph.D.

8:15 to 9:45 AM: Rebecca Magerkorth, Ph. D. & Ralph Wechsler, Ph. D Symposium on  
“Trauma Concepts: Making them Real to Clients & Others--Treatment from a  
Descriptive Psychology Perspective.”

15 minute break

10:00 to 11:00 AM Jim Holmes Ph. D. & J. R. Hap Cox, Ph. D. “Threats of Uncertain  
Status: A Framework for Understanding Anxiety States”

15 Minute Break

11:15 till 12:30 PM: Ned Kirsch & Jeff Evans: “How Descriptive Psychology Can  
Provide Guidance to Social Neuroscience.” With discussion by Joe Jeffrey &  
Tony Putman

12:30—1:30 PM. Lunch time: Round Table discussion on publication in DP outlets as  
well as in the wider world: Moderators & Resources--Ray Bergner, Keith Davis,  
Tony Putman, & Mary Roberts. Bring questions and ideas for publications. We  
will discuss the range from articles for the popular press, to chapters for *Advances  
in DP*, to publications in any professional & scientific outlets, and to concepts for  
books.

Moderator: Lawrence Aylesworth, Ph.D.

1:30 to 2:30 PM Carolyn Zeiger, Ph. D.: “Bringing the concept of ‘communities’ into  
the conceptualization and treatment of physical disabilities.”

5 minute break

2:35 to 3:35 PM Mary K. Roberts, Ph. D., “Odd Fellows.”

10 minute break

3:45 to 4:30 PM Richard Heinrich, MD “Changing Hospice Culture: Multidisciplinary  
to Interdisciplinary Care Teams”

10 minute break

4:40 to 5:40 PM Wynn Schwartz, Ph. D. “Intentional Action & Mentalization: Further  
thoughts on Empathy, Mirroring, Dogs, Moms, and Borderlines”

5:45 to 7 PM Dinner together

7-8 Society Business Meeting—Anthony O. Putman, presiding

“**Quintessential Pete**” immediately following the business meeting. Moderator:  
Catherine Felknor, Ph.D.

We ask that you bring a short written statement of an occasion in which Peter helped  
you or someone you know to grasp an important distinction and to know how to act on it.  
Samples of such occasions will be posted on the SDP web-site under the heading of  
“Quintessential Pete.” Our long-term goal is to begin the collection of personal  
statements that will be a resource for an intellectual biography of Pete, as well as for  
teaching DP. It will be fun to share while they are fresh.

## **Saturday 9/13/08**

7:00 to 8:00 Light Breakfast

Moderator: Sonja Holt, Ph.D

8:00 to 9:00 Ray Bergner, Ph. D. “Status Dynamic Therapy: What’s It Gets You That You Can’t Get Elsewhere?”

15 minute break

9:15 to 10:45: Bill Plotkin, Ph. D. “A Nature-based and Soulcentric Model of Human Development.”

15 minute break

11:00 to 12:30 Presidential Address: *Ordinary Magic: What Descriptive Psychology Is, and Why It Matters.*:

Anthony O. Putman, Ph. D.

Lunch 12:30 to 1:30 PM Book signing and media interactions will be going on during this time period and shortly after lunch.

1:30 to 6:30 PM Free time

6:30—7:30 PM Cocktail hour

7:30 to 9:00 PM Society Banquet

Awards Ceremonies

Sing-along led by Walter Torres, Ph. D., troubadour extraordinaire—till the management closes us down

## **Sunday, September 15, 2008**

8:00 to 8:45 AM Light Breakfast

Moderator: Julia Peek

8:45 to 9:30 AM: Richard Singer, Ph. D, Paul Zeiger, & CJ Stone: “Making Descriptive Psychology Accessible”

15 minute break

9:45 to 10: 45 AM: CJ Peek, Ph. D. “Assessing Patient Complexity in Primary Care: A Disruptive Innovation on Behalf of Person Medicine?”

### **30 minute break for check-out**

11:15 to 12:15 PM: Charles Kantor, Ph. D. “A Conceptualization of Play: Children’s Imaginative Play and Development.”

15 minute break

12:30 to 1:30 PM Lane Lasater, Ph. D. “Supporting Success for Youth and Families with Responsibility Training (SRT®)”

1:30 to 1:45 PM: Final announcements, goodbyes, and turning in CEU and Program Evaluation Documents.

1:45 to 3:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting (Elk Creek boardroom).

## Featured Presenters

**Anthony O. Putman**, Ph.D. is an internationally known consultant and coach with over thirty-five years of experience helping organizations grow and succeed. Chairman of The Putman Group in Ann Arbor, Michigan, he has personally coached over 900 leaders in hundreds of client organizations, ranging from giants among the Fortune 100 to one person firms. Some specific organizations he has served include IBM, Deloitte & Touche, Ford Motor Company, Nike, Bell Labs, Health Partners of Minneapolis, The University of Michigan, AT&T, and the United States Department of Defense. Dr. Putman studied with Peter G. Ossorio at the University of Colorado from which he received his Ph.D. in 1973. He was a founder of the Society for Descriptive Psychology, which he has twice served as President. He was a founder of Descriptive Psychology Press in 1989 and has published *Advances in Descriptive Psychology Volumes 5-8*, and the on-going series *The Collected Works of Peter G. Ossorio*. He has contributed to the conceptual foundations of Descriptive Psychology in a number of articles in *Advances*, including *Communities* (1981), *Organizations* (1990) and *Being, Becoming and Belonging* (1998). In 2007 he founded the Descriptive Psychology Institute, which he serves as Executive Director.

**Raymond M. Bergner** received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Colorado under the direction of Peter Ossorio. He is currently Professor of Psychology at Illinois State University and has a private practice in Bloomington, Illinois. His work in Descriptive Psychology has been concerned with its applications to psychopathology, psychotherapy, and to broader issues concerning psychology as a science. He is a two-time President of the Society for Descriptive Psychology (1984 and 2004), a member of the Editorial Board of *Advances in Descriptive Psychology* since its inception, and the co-editor of four volumes in this series. Dr. Bergner has published over 65 articles, book chapters, books, including *Status Dynamics: Creating New Paths to Therapeutic Change* (2007), and edited books. Many of these articles have appeared in such national and international journals as *Family Process*, *Psychotherapy*, the *American Journal of Psychotherapy*, *The Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy*, and *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice*.

**Bill Plotkin**, PhD, is a depth psychologist, wilderness rites guide, ecotherapist, and author. As the founder and president of Colorado's Animas Valley Institute, he has, since 1981, guided thousands of people through nature-based initiatory passages, including a contemporary, Western adaptation of the pan-cultural vision quest. Previously, he has been a research psychologist (studying non-ordinary states of consciousness), professor of psychology, psychotherapist, rock musician, professional river runner, and mountain-bike racer. His doctorate in psychology is from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Bill is the author of *Soulcraft: Crossing into the Mysteries of Nature and Psyche* (New World Library, 2003) and *Nature and the Human Soul: Cultivating Wholeness and Community in a Fragmented World* (New World Library, 2008).

**Jeffrey Evans**, PhD, is a clinical psychologist and Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Michigan Health Systems. His clinical work involves psychological and neuropsychological services to

inpatients with brain injuries, limb amputations, and other injuries and illnesses. He is active in the clinical training of postdoctoral psychology fellows. He is also adjunct faculty in the Residential College, an interdisciplinary undergraduate college of the university, where he teaches courses on the creative process in the arts and sciences. He is currently helping develop the bedside arts program at University Hospital. Jeff has a long-standing interest in the brain's involvement in complex human behavior, including creativity and participation in the social world. He is interested in the potential for Descriptive Psychology to guide our thinking about the brain.

**Richard L. Heinrich** is Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota, formerly Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at UCLA, and currently Medical Director, HealthPartners Medical Group's Hospice of the Lakes and Chief of Geriatric Psychiatry, Division of Geriatrics, HealthPartners Medical Group, where he specializes in End of Life Care Issues. He has been pursuing the applications of descriptive psychology to person-centered medicine at the end of life. He is a former president and board member of the Society for Descriptive Psychology. Current research and writing focus on advanced directives and helping individuals, families and caregivers achieve their goals at the end of life.

**James R. Holmes**, received his PhD from the University of Colorado, Boulder, under Peter Ossorio and is a licensed psychologist in Pensacola, Florida, where he shares a private practice with his wife/partner. For 43 years he worked with Dr. Ossorio during which time he served for 27 years as Director of the Counseling Center and Associate Professor at the University of West Florida where he trained numerous clinicians in the applications of Descriptive Psychology. He has been a practicing therapist, training supervisor, workshop presenter, and teacher. Dr. Holmes is a past president of the Society for Descriptive Psychology. He has a book on depression that he is preparing for publication.

**Charles Kantor** obtained his Ph. D. under the direction of Peter G. Ossorio, in clinical psychology from the University of Colorado in 1977. Trained as a child clinical psychologist, he practiced as a play and family therapist at the Rochester Mental Health Center for 16 years before beginning a full time private practice. He has led workshops on role playing with children and on a variety of issues dealing with parenting adolescents and treating troubled adolescents. He has also consulted with counselors, therapists, teachers, administrators and others involved in day care centers for children, day treatment centers for adolescents, and outpatient centers treating children and adolescents.

**Ned Kirsch**, PhD, ABPP(RP) from the University of Michigan, is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at University of Michigan Health Systems. He is a licensed psychologist and the Clinical Director of the UMHS Neurorehabilitation Outpatient Program. He holds adjunct appointments in the University of Michigan Department of Psychology, Clinical Psychology program, and in the UM Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Clinically, he specializes in the assessment and treatment of adults with acquired, non-progressive



neurological disorders such as brain injury and stroke. This work has stimulated his ongoing consideration of the brain's cognitive and behavioral organizational principles, particularly in the area of social/interpersonal competence, and more recently, how Descriptive Psychology can contribute to an understanding of some of the issues raised by research in this area.

**Lane Lasater**, Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, is a licensed clinical psychologist and President of Character Development Systems, L.L.C. of Boulder, Colorado, providing program consultation, training, and program oversight for school and corrections prevention projects nationally. He is co-developer of Social Responsibility Training (SRT®), cognitive behavioral prevention curricula. Dr. Lasater has broad experience in providing direct services and oversight of human service systems that provide mental health, substance abuse treatment and correctional supervision.

**Rebecca Magerkorth**, PhD from the State University of New York at Buffalo, is a licensed psychologist and Director, Health and Counseling Services at the University of West Florida. She treated her first sexual assault survivor in 1995, and has since spent many years developing her expertise in the prevention of sexual assault and the treatment of its victims. In addition to being a dynamic speaker, she has supervised and trained mental health interns, practicum students, and post-doctoral residents. She has also taught numerous undergraduate and graduate level courses at both Niagara University and the University of West Florida.

**C.J. Peek**, PhD is with the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Minnesota Medical School, where he focuses on care system development, organizational effectiveness, and leadership development in healthcare systems, clinics, and residencies. He writes, presents, and consults on the integration of biomedical and behavioral healthcare, patient-clinician communication, productive conversations and dialogue across disciplines or organizational areas, physician/administrator partnership and medical leadership development—blending clinical, organizational, and leadership perspectives. He received his Ph. D from the University Colorado where he studied with Dr. Peter Ossorio in the discipline later called Descriptive Psychology

**Mary K. Roberts** is a writer in Boulder, Colorado. She received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1980 and practiced as a psychologist for nine years. She then earned her M.S. in computer science from the University of Colorado and worked as a software engineer for eight years. She has served as President of the Society for Descriptive Psychology and as a member of the Editorial Board for *Advances in Descriptive Psychology*. She also created the Society's first web site and served as the first Webmaster. Her recent work in Descriptive Psychology focuses on understanding a range of world reconstructive phenomena, including dreams, imaginary companions, and worlds of uncertain status.

**Wynn Schwartz**, Ph. D., is a clinical and experimental psychologist and research psychoanalyst. He is a professor of psychology at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology and on the faculty of Harvard Medical School and the Harvard Extension School. He has been a professor at Wellesley College and has taught at the

Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Psychoanalysis. He maintains a psychotherapy practice in Boston. Dr. Schwartz has been interested in clarifying fundamental aspects of the subject matters of psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, dreaming and hypnosis. His published work has been both conceptual and experimental. Some of his experimental studies have focused on dreaming and problem representation and dreaming and memory, and others on hypnosis and episodic memory. As a student of Descriptive Psychology, Dr. Schwartz has been especially concerned with theory-free, pre-empirical formulations of what he believes are central subject matters for psychology, such as the concepts of action and responsibility, the range of the possible phenomena that are covered by the term “hypnosis”, the limits and nature of psychotherapy, and the concept of “person”.

**F. Richard Singer III**, MA, Mathematics Professor Emeritus at Webster University in Saint Louis MO. He has an MA in Philosophy from Washington University in Saint Louis with additional graduate work in philosophy and mathematics. His specialties are mathematical logic, Boolean algebra, abstract algebra, conceptual philosophy, conceptual studies, descriptive psychology, constructivist learning resources. He has done consulting at Monsanto Chemical in Boolean logic and circuit design research, at McDonnell Automation in computers in secondary education, Defense Mapping Agency in design of employee training program for microcomputer software. He was the math coordinator for Academic year institutes at Washington University. He taught at Webster University for over twenty years. From 1966 until 1970, he was chairman of the mathematics department and director of the master of arts in teaching program for the area of mathematics.

**CJ Stone** is Grant Process Coordinator in Chemical Engineering/Materials Science at the University of Minnesota. He holds degrees in math and physics. He is a board member at The School of Sacred Paths in St. Paul, MN, which focuses on adult education in metaphysics and “the old ways”. He is a member of the Mentoring Elders Program, whose goal is to promote community and community-building among Pagans. He is also the publisher at Stone Dragon Press, a small but lively speculative fiction publishing house.

**Ralph C. Wechsler**, Ph. D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, is a licensed clinical psychologist and Administrative Director for Inpatient Mental Health Services and Coordinator of Psychological Consultation Service at the Denver, CO VA Medical Center. He is also a Senior Instructor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver. He has specialized in psychological assessment, supervision of psychotherapy, multi-cultural training, and the impact of traumas on service men. His presidential address, “Trauma and its Transformation,” forms part of the background for his presentation at this year's conference.

**Carolyn A. Zeiger** is semi-retired from careers in Clinical Psychology and Industrial Consulting on gender issues in the workplace. She received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Colorado, where she was one of the first students of Peter Ossorio. She stayed on to supervise clinical graduate students, and built a thriving group practice of Psychotherapy. She was a founder of the Society for Descriptive

Psychology and is a past president of the Society. She was also the first psychologist to be examined and licensed as a Descriptive Psychologist. Carolyn and her husband, Paul, live in Denver, Colorado where they are pursuing private practice using holistic and Descriptive Psychology procedures with individuals having serious chronic illnesses and their partners

**H. Paul Zeiger** is semi-retired from careers in academic Computer Science and industrial Software Engineering. He received his S.B., S.M., and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, chaired the Department of Computer Science at University of Colorado, Boulder, and led software development efforts at several startup companies and one large telecommunications firm. He studied with fellow faculty member Peter Ossorio in the early 1970's, and has since pursued applications of Descriptive Psychology to Computer Science, and, more recently, to the philosophical problems of everyday life. Paul and his wife Carolyn live in Denver, Colorado where they are pursuing private practice using holistic and Descriptive Psychology procedures with individuals having serious chronic illnesses and their partners.