



FAMILYLIFECONFERENCE

2020 Conference Presenters



Sean Brotherson Ph.D.

Topic: *The Power of Intentional Fathering*

Bio: Sean is a Professor and Extension Family Science Specialist with North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND. He served an LDS mission to South Korea and completed a 6-month Study Abroad program in Israel and the Middle East. He earned his B.S. and B.A. degrees in English and family science, and an M.S. in family science from Brigham Young University. He earned his Ph.D. in human development and family studies at Oregon State University, and has worked at North Dakota State University since 1998. His work involves conducting family research and program evaluation, developing educational programs for children, couples, and families, and teaching university courses on relationships, parenting, families across cultures, and family life education. He has conducted research and published articles on early childhood education, marriage and divorce, parenting, family stress and well-being, family life education, family policy, and other family-related topics. He speaks frequently on healthy family living, writes regularly on family topics for public audiences, and develops educational materials to strengthen family relationships. He is the co-editor of the book *Why Fathers Count* (with Joseph White), and co-author of the parent education programs Basic Beginnings, Bright Beginnings, Father Times, and Gearing Up for Kindergarten. He has also served as a member of the North Dakota State PTA Board, member of the ND Alliance for Children's Justice, and project director of the ND Family Life Education Project. Sean and his wife, Kristen, have been married for 26 years and are the parents of eight children.

Email: sean.brotherson@ndsu.edu



Alixandra Duncan

Topic: *FFL's Family Life Coaching Course and Certification Process*

Bio: Ali first discovered a love for helping families when she served a full-time mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day saints in Northern California. She has spent the last 4 years at Brigham Young University-Idaho enthralled by Marriage and Family Studies. Within her first year, she threw herself into the College Success Program, created by then President Clark G. Gilbert and directed by Brother Mark Orchard. She facilitated the course for college freshmen and eventually became a coordinator for the program. It was around that time that Ali took a course that introduced her to Family Life Coaching, which has become her personal vision and mission. She sees Family Life Coaching as the greatest opportunity for her to help marriages and families be successful and happy. She aspires to provide hope and resources to individuals and families who desire to have healthy and satisfying familial relationships. Ali has loved her time working with Dr. Joseph White and Parker Syphus to develop a curriculum to make Family Life Coaching a reality in her personal life and in the community.

Email: aduncan@flut.org



Justin Dyer Ph.D.

Topic: *Creating an Intentional Family through Healthy Partnerships, Communication and Forgiveness, and A Deeper Look at Creating Intentional Healthy Families*

Bio: Justin received his Ph.D. in human and community development from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, after which he was a postdoctoral fellow at Auburn University. Following this, he joined the faculty in the BYU School of Family, where he taught courses on family processes and statistical methodology. He became part of the Religious Education faculty in 2015. His research includes family relationships with a particular emphasis on fathers in stressful circumstances such as fathers of children with disabilities and incarcerated fathers. He is also the principal investigator for the Family Foundations of Youth Development project, a longitudinal study examining how family functioning influences youth development.

Email: JustinDyer@byu.edu



Ryan Egget Ph.D.

Topic: *The Power of Intentional Efforts in Dating and Early Married Life among Emerging Adults*

Bio: Ryan holds a Master of Music Education degree from Brigham Young University and a Doctorate in Educational Psychology from the University of Utah. He currently works at the Utah Valley Institute of Religion, where he teaches courses on dating and marriage and other gospel topics. Ryan also directs multiple choirs including: The Institute Singers, The Utah Valley Children's choir, the Lex de Azevedo Millennium choir, and Michael McLean's Forgotten Carols Choir. He is serving as the Director of the Provo Missionary Training Center Choir and as a member of the Children's Songbook Selection Committee. Ryan and his wife, Angie, have six children and six grandchildren.

Email: eggettrk@churchofjesuschrist.org



America Francis

Topic: *The Mediation Process: Key Principles of Success*

Bio: America graduated from BYU with a B.S. in Marriage, Family, and Human Development. She is part of the Salt Lake County court roster of mediators and mediates for The Family Life Center and BYU's Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution. She worked on a book project with Stan Posthumus, an expert on high conflict mediation (<http://www.beyondwinwin.com/>). America contributed to *The Positive Benefits of Marriage: A Book of Charts* (<https://bit.ly/3hPO3ce>), which was published by The Heritage Foundation and quoted in both U.S. House and Senate hearings. America's experience as a loan officer, apartment manager, educator, small business owner, and family member help inform her mediation practice.

Email: americaifrancis@gmail.com



Scott Gardener Ph.D.

Topic: *Training Family Life Coaches*

Bio: Scott is the Dean of Teacher Preparation Programs at BYU-Idaho. He has taught marriage and family classes for the past 11 years. Before that, he taught at South Dakota State University for 11 years and researched the effectiveness of marriage education programs for high school aged youth. His Ph.D. is in Marriage and Family Therapy from Texas Tech University and he is a Board-Certified Coach. Most importantly, he celebrates his marriage of 30 years to his wife, Brenda.

Email: GardnerS@byui.edu



Wally Goddard Ph.D.

Topic: *Drawing Heaven into Our Marriage*

Bio: Wally was recognized as one of the nation’s leading family life educators during his career as a professor of Family Life in Alabama and Arkansas. He was awarded the Arcus Outstanding Family Life Educator Award and granted Fellow status in the National Council on Family Relations. During his career, he developed creative programs on personal well-being, marriage, and parenting, including *Blueprint for Happiness*, *The Marriage Garden*, and *The Parenting Journey*. He created a television series on parenting for public television and has authored or co-authored several books including *Between Parent and Child*, *The Soft-Spoken Parent*, *Bringing Up Our Children in Light and Truth*, and *Drawing Heaven into Your Marriage*. He has written regular columns for *Meridian Magazine* for many years and is currently working on two books: *Discoveries: Essential Truths for Relationships*, and *Learning and Living Compassion*. He and his wife, Nancy, have three adult children, fourteen grandchildren, and have cared for many foster children.

Email: thewaypeoplework@gmail.com



Denalee Karr, M.S.

Topic: *Creating an Organized Family to Add Peace and Harmony at Home*

Bio: Denalee holds a B.A. in socio-cultural anthropology with a minor in history from Brigham Young University and a M.S. in psychology from Grand Canyon University; both completed while a single, sole-custodial parent of seven children (4 girls and 3 boys). Over the last 30 years, she worked for a variety of companies in the medical/healthcare, legal, commercial banking, securities and entertainment industries, and has owned several companies. She is a regular on several podcasts and a contributor to *Lead Up For Women* magazine. Her passion lies in empowering others to reach their full potential. She completed her thesis on the tools and methodologies individuals use to transition from a causal existence to living an intentional life. In order to accomplish her goals and develop strong family ties (especially with so many offspring), she created a home environment based on order and harmony. She currently works for the Foundation for Family Life as their Growth and Development Liaison as well as a group facilitator and case manager. She is also pursuing her Advanced Substance Use Disorder Counselor credentials at Utah Valley University. In her free time, she is an avid outdoor sport junky, usually dragging her kids along. She road runs, trail runs, hikes, mountain bikes, rides horses, skis, snowshoes, camps, fishes, does a little climbing and has recently taken up golf.

Email: dkarr@fflut.org



Nathaniel Lambert Ph.D.

Topic: *Sanctification and Gratitude: Keys to Successful Intentional Relationships and Infidelity, Pornography, and Intimacy: Impacts of Prayer and Forgiveness on Relationships*

Bio: Nathaniel received his Ph.D. in Family Studies from Florida State University. He has authored over 70 peer-reviewed journal articles and 5 books on the topics of prayer, gratitude, forgiveness, intimate partner violence, and pornography. He was the associate editor of the *Journal of Positive Psychology* and served on 5 other editorial boards. He was a professor in the School of Family Life at Brigham Young University for several years and served as the Department Chair at the

University of the South Pacific in Fiji. He is happily married and the father of 5 boys. Currently, he is a full-time real estate investor and resides in Draper, Utah.

Email: natemplambert@gmail.com



Parker Syphus M.B.A.

Topic: *Expanding Family Enrichment Resources: FFL's Family Life Coaching Course and Certification Process*

Bio: Parker received his undergraduate degree in Marriage and Family Studies from Brigham Young University-Idaho and began his career with the Foundation for Family Life in August of 2015. Since then, he has received his MBA from Western Governors University, and spent his time at the Foundation developing programs, managing the MentorWorks program, teaching Fatherhood courses in the Salt Lake

County Jail, creating an internship program, writing grants, and handling administrative duties. Parker has been married for 7 years, has two children aged 6 and 5 and loves spending his free time with them.

Email: parker.syphus@gmail.com



Emily de Schweinitz Taylor M.S.

Topic: *Conflict Fluency: Mastering the Five Conflict Approaches*

Bio: Emily is a certified mediator, conflict coach, communications trainer, and mother of five growing children (aged 10-16). As the assistant director of BYU's Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution, she helps run the mediation and arbitration program on the university campus. She holds master's degrees from the University of Chicago (international policy) and the University of Denver (conflict resolution). In 2017, she published her first book entitled, *Raising Mediators: How Smart Parents Use Mediation to Transform Sibling Conflict and Empower their Children*. Emily is

currently working on her second book entitled: *Conflict Fluency: Mastering the Five Conflict Approaches*. She is a regular guest on BYU Radio's *Lisa Show*, sharing ideas about how to build bridges between people and cultures and finding peace in everyday life using constructive conflict resolution principles.

Email: taylor@law.byu.edu



Jeff and Cathy Tiegert

Topic: *Intentional Courtship for Mid-Singles*

Bio: Jeff and Cathy are co-authors of a book, currently in production, entitled "*Intentional Courtship: A Mid-Singles Guide to Peace, Progress, and Pairing Up in the Church of Jesus Christ.*" Jeff and Cathy each spent nearly a decade in the mid-singles community and draw on this experience to provide counsel and hope to the reader. They have recently founded an organization called "Love in Later Years" (LILY) to provide hope and guidance to Latter-day Saint mid-singles seeking peace, healing, and more joyful relationships in the future. Jeff and Cathy are the parents of a blended family that includes four handsome sons and one lovely daughter-in-law.

Jeff Tiegert is an attorney and founder/owner of *Teichert Law Office, PLLC*. Jeff earned his Bachelor's Degree in Family Science at Brigham Young University and went on to receive his Juris Doctorate at Brigham Young University in 1994. He earned a post-doctorate Master of Laws Degree at The George Washington University Law School in 2008 with highest honors. He was a highly endorsed candidate for the Washington State Court of Appeals in 2006 and has filed three briefs in the United States Supreme Court. He is the author of numerous professional articles and publications, including an interdisciplinary article, co-authored with a family science professor entitled *Value of the Law in Shaping Social Perspectives on Marriage*, 3 U. of Utah Jnl. Law. & Fam. Stud. 23 (2001), which was presented at two international conferences.

Cathy Tiegert is a professional violinist and Suzuki music teacher. She is the owner and founder of *Cathy's Violin Studio* and a string quartet known as *Strings of Elegance*. Cathy earned her Bachelor's Degree in Family Science at Utah State University in 2001 and, prior to that, attended Ricks College on an orchestra scholarship where she earned her Associates Degree in Interpersonal Communications. She toured China with Weber State University Orchestra and is currently serving as Chair of the Suzuki Association of Utah's Violin Celebration Concert for 2021.

Email: jteichert@teichertlaw.com



Joseph White, Ph.D.

Topic: *Expanding Family Enrichment Resources: FFL's Family Life Coaching Course and Certification Process*

Bio: Founder and Executive Director of the Foundation for Family Life, (former South Dakota State and University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor), oversees development and implementation of all the Foundation's programs (MentorWorks, Redwood Recovery, NativeWorks, FatherWorks, etc.). He also created the Family Life Center, a local community center for family coaching, counseling, mediation, and parenting classes. For two and a half decades Dr. White has focused on substance-abuse prevention, responsible fatherhood, and evidence-based risk-prevention programs. He worked with Dakota and Lakota tribes to develop a culturally-specific, family-oriented alcohol, drug, and suicide prevention program called *Takoja Niwiciyape: Giving Life to the Grandchildren*. His experience with program development and implementation has been key to the successful MentorWorks reentry program designed to reduce relapse and recidivism. With 36 years of sobriety, Dr. White understands the devastating cycle of addiction and incarceration and is passionate about helping those ready to change the destructive patterns in their lives. He served a church mission in Denver, Colorado (1986-1988), earned Bachelors (1992) and Masters (1994) degrees from Utah State University, and a Ph.D. from

Texas Tech University (1997). He co-founded the Dakota Fatherhood Initiative and co-authored the book *Why Fathers Count* (with Sean Brotherson). He and his wife, Alice, of 31 years, are the parents of 8 children (7 girls, 1 boy) ranging in age from 12 to 28 and finally have 2 grandchildren (1 girl, 1 boy)!

Email: joseph.familylife@gmail.com



Jenilyn and Dave Young

Topic: *The Power of Intentional Marital Intimacy*

Bios: Jennilyn and Dave Young enjoy being close, making each other smile, and deepening their love a little more each day. Even after twenty-nine years of marriage, they still find meaningful ways to become of one heart, one mind, and one flesh. Their new book, *Meditations for Marital Intimacy*, is a compilation of counsel from leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and scriptures, with questions to ponder, discuss, and apply. A lifelong love of learning has led them to the blessed unexpected of homeschooling our four children, connecting regularly with

extended family and book group friends, and discovering how to love each other better. Some of Dave and Jennilyn's favorite memories include a family home evening helicopter ride, live performances in their home theater, band gigs, music video production, cozy cabin conversations, books on beaches and in bed, hikes in the mountains of Utah, and card games at the kitchen table. Jennilyn is passionate about the word of God, education, health, and nutrition. Dave is passionate about music and Jennilyn. They aspire to create a beautiful connection daily and invite you to connect with them on Facebook and Instagram @JennilynandDaveYoung. Visit their website at www.jennilynanddaveyoung.com

Email: jennilynanddaveyoung@gmail.com