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I attended the International Family Therapy Association's yearly conference this year which was held in The Netherlands. While at the conference I was a part of two presentations, the first was titled *Beyond Theory: The Use of Self in Therapy* and the other, a discussion group in which I was one of the facilitators, titled *Race, Gender, and Justice: Where do We Draw the Line?* During the first presentation, my colleagues and I discussed the importance of and need for more self-of-the-therapist training in marriage/ couple and family therapy training programs as a way to learn how to most effectively use oneself as a family therapist. The second presentation was conducted as a "fish-bowl" type discussion in which myself and several colleagues and professors in the CFT program discussed issues of race (on day one of the presentation) and gender (on day two) and how to engage in difficult cross-racial and cross-gender dialogue.

This was my first time attending and presenting at an international conference, and I thank the Office of International Programs immensely for helping make it possible for me to attend the conference. The conference was enlightening for me in many ways. I learned about the International Family Therapy Association and possibilities that I had as a student for getting involved in the organization and connecting with colleagues from other countries. There was the ability to capitalize on different networking opportunities, as there were junior, mid-career, and

senior professionals in the field in attendance at the conference, many of whom I've only heard of or read their books or journal articles so having the chance to meet them and connect on a personal level was amazing. It was also a great opportunity for me to learn about the process of presenting at a large-scale conference – preparing, delivering, and receiving feedback on my work.

Again, I would like to thank the Office of International Programs for supporting me in attending the conference. Drexel University and the Couple and Family Therapy Program had a strong presence at this year's conference, and I hope to be able to continue promoting the University and the Program in future conferences.

Sincerely,

Monique D. Walker, MS

