

The University of Massachusetts Amherst's  
Rudd Adoption Research Program presents a conference  
**New Worlds of Adoption: Linking Research with Practice**

**Wednesday, April 7, 2010**

Campus Center Auditorium, University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA  
8:00 am – 5:30 pm

**Keynote Speaker: Richard P. Barth, PhD**

Dean of the School of Social Work and Professor at the University of Maryland  
“Toward Evidence-informed Pre and Post Adoption Practice”

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This conference is sponsored by The Rudd Adoption Research Program and the Center for Research on Families, Department of Psychology, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, College of Natural Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Also sponsored in part by Boston College Graduate School of Social Work, the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, and the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

The Rudd Adoption Research Program  
University of Massachusetts Amherst / 623 Tobin Hall  
413-545-0547 / [www.psych.umass.edu/ruddchair](http://www.psych.umass.edu/ruddchair)

## Conference Program

### Conference Schedule, Wednesday, April 7, 2010

**8:00-9:00 am Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**9:00-9:15 am Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Harold Grotevant, Rudd Family Foundation Chair, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Melinda Novak, Chair, Department of Psychology, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
James V. Staros, Provost, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Adam Pertman, Executive Director, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute

**9:15-10:00 am Plenary Address:**

“Toward Evidence-informed Pre and Post Adoption Practice”  
Richard Barth, Dean, School of Social Work, University of Maryland, and Evan B. Donaldson  
Adoption Institute Senior Research Fellow

**10:00-11:45 am Break and Move to Morning Breakout Sessions**

1. “Disclosing the secrets of the crystal ball: Predicting the Future for an Adopted Child” - Dana Johnson, University of Minnesota

2. "Lifebooks as a Tool for Healing in Adoption: How Can We Measure Their Effect?" - Jeanne Howard, Illinois State University
3. "Lesbian and Gay Adoptive Families: The Joys (and Challenges) of Cultural and Family Diversity" - Devon Brooks, University of Southern California
4. "Preparing, Educating, and Supporting Adoptive Parents: What Do We Know and What Do We Need to Know?" - David Brodzinsky, Rutgers University

**12:00-1:15 pm Lunch and Round Table Discussions**

-with all breakout session presenters and separate "non topic" tables

**1:30-3:00 pm Afternoon Breakout Sessions**

5. "Ethnic-Racial Socialization in International-Transracial Adoptive Families: The Many Facets and Complexities " - Ellen Pinderhughes, Tufts University
6. "Beyond Culture Camp: The Evan B. Donaldson Study of Adoption and Identity" - Adam Pertman, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute Executive Director
7. "Openness in Infant and Older Child Adoptions" -Ruth G. McRoy, University of Texas at Austin
8. "Meeting the Needs of Families After Adoption" - Susan Smith, Illinois State University

**3:00-3:15 pm Break**

**3:15-4:00 pm Moving to Action/Wrap-up**

Ruth McRoy and Harold Grotevant

**4:00-5:30 pm Poster Session - highlighting current research and community programs**

Reception

Book Signing

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**Rudd Adoption Research Program**

The Rudd Adoption Research Program, funded by the Rudd Family Foundation, is located within the University of Massachusetts Amherst Psychology Department and is affiliated with the interdisciplinary Center for Research on Families. The goal of the program is to establish UMass Amherst as a leader in state-of-the-art research on the psychology of adoption through conferences, workshops, graduate and postdoctoral training opportunities, and stimulation of research activities. The program will develop synergy among scientists and practitioners from varied disciplines who share interests in the many topics relevant to adoption. Program activities will contribute to evidence-based practice in adoption and will provide research-based information to influence policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels.