

Subject: 5th Annual Adoption Conference

Identity and the Adopted Teen:

Surviving the Crucible of Adolescence

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY IN COLLABORATION with Montclair State University, Rutgers University School of Social Work Institute for Families, and Asian/Pacific/American Studies Institute at New York University PRESENTS

The 5th Biennial Adoption Conference

Identity and the Adopted Teen: Surviving the Crucible of Adolescence

Date: October 24-25, 2008

Location: New York University Cantor Film Center and Silver Center

36 East Eighth St. & Greene St. (Cantor), 100 Washington Sq East & Waverly (Silver)

New York, NY 10003

Full Conference: \$180 before 9/10; Per Day: \$100; Student discounts

REGISTER NOW at <http://www.stjohns-montclairadoptionconferences.org>

Adolescence is considered one of the most important stages of development, where many of the most crucial issues involving identity formation are addressed and realigned. It is an intense period of re-examination of everything that has guided the adolescent's relationship with him/herself, his/her parents and the world at large up to that point, hopefully resulting in a more cohesive, integrated and individualized sense of self. It is a period of intense search for personal meaning, re-examination of past and current relationships, and of coming to terms with who they are. If not satisfactorily resolved, these adolescents are likely to have lives of emotional conflicts and internal turmoil. In the case of adoption, these identity questions, however, acquire a particular and even a more intense and poignant significance for the adolescent who was adopted. For he/she has to not only deal with the challenges of normal adolescence but he/she has to address these identity questions in the context of his/her unique adoption experience, perhaps, without knowing about his/her biological family, the reason for the adoption, etc.. Recognizing the importance of exploring the many challenges often faced by the adopted adolescents as they go through their developmental struggles, St. John's University in collaboration with Montclair State University decided to focus its 5th Biennial adoption conference to the exploration of these various challenges to identity formation in adopted adolescents.

Keynote Speakers: * Dr. Hal Grotevant - Professor, The Rudd Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Psychology and Adoption * Debbie Riley - Author of "Beneath the Mask," Director of Center for Adoption Support and Education * Dr. Gary Mallon- Director of the Post-Graduate Certificate Program in adoption therapy, Hunter College School of Social Work * Holly Van Gulden - Director of the Adoptive Family Counseling Center

QUESTIONS? contact the coordinator via e-mail at initiatives@stjohns.edu or by telephone at 718-990-5460.

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