

The 9th International Congress

Ericksonian Approaches to Hypnosis & Psychotherapy

By Roxanna Erickson Klein

The Milton H. Erickson Foundation is proud to report that another Ericksonian Congress was held this past December 2 – 5 in Phoenix Arizona. With more than 800 attendees, the undertaking met the educational mission of the Foundation as well as underwriting a good part of the Foundation's annual expenses.

In a measure of gratitude to our faculty and Institutes, a Professional Resource day was offered free of charge the day preceding the Congress. In this segment, participants were presented with a broad spectrum of teachings designed to enhance personal skills and professional management. This series was topped off with a well attended experiential program offered by motivational speaker Anthony Robbins, who generously donated his time and services to present his own ideas about stimulating change.

The four day congress entitled *A World of Unlimited Possibilities* included keynotes by Cloe Madanes, Jeffrey Zeig, Stephen Gilligan and Ernest Rossi. In addition to the familiar faculty who have demonstrated that the growth of ideas involves a process of longitudinal evaluation, a balance of new and first-time faculty provided a harmonious ambience of energy.

One of the most delightful elements of the Congress was the surprise Tribute to Jeffrey Zeig that was announced at the opening ceremony. The Board of Directors elected to honor Zeig's lifetime of contributions to our missions by dedicating the congress to him. An extension of that dedication came in the form of a Scrapbook of tributes orchestrated by colleagues in which dozens of individuals wrote individual letters to Zeig honoring his influence.

This Congress together with the pre-congress resource day brought together a broad scope of ideas and methodologies. One of the important lessons stressed by Milton Erickson was the concept that important lessons can be learned in any setting. When teachings and styles depart from the familiar, it offers another chance to investigate and evaluate phenomena and ideas. The precept of exploration and learning from diverse opportunities exemplifies the community of Ericksonians.