

# Authors

## SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

### Marline Pearson

Marline Pearson received her Master's Degree in History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has taught criminology and other social science classes to young adults at Madison Area Technical College for more than 25 years. Her longstanding interest in early childhood and adolescence, with a focus on risk and prevention, has led to her current interest in relationship building and marriage education. Her classes for young adults were featured in TIME Magazine, Fox 47 News Feature, and she and her students were filmed for a PBS TV special and interviews with her included in the companion book, *Marriage: Just a Piece of Paper*. Aside from teaching at the college, she offers training in relationship and sexuality education to teachers, school counselors, those working in the criminal justice system, public health, and human service and community organizations. She is author of the new teen curriculum, *Love U2: Getting Smarter about Relationships, Sex, Babies and Marriage*. She has drawn on the experiences and stories of her students—the 18 plus twenty-something's "who've been there, done that" to create this program. Also authored, *Can Kids Get Smart About Marriage: A Veteran Teacher Reviews Some of the Leading Relationship and Marriage Programs*, published 2002 by National Marriage Project of Rutgers University; "Reaching for Higher Ground: New Approaches to Teen Sexuality," *Journal of Council on Family Relations*, December 2000; and Executive Brief for Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction-Family and Consumer Education on the teaching of relationship and marriage education (2004). She also created and taught the Critical Literacy Project, an active-learning faculty development program at her college. Ms. Pearson is married with two young teenage daughters and lives in Madison, Wisconsin.

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## Scott M. Stanley

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Dr. Scott Stanley earned his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Denver. He is now a Research Professor and Co-director of the Center for Marital and Family Studies at the University of Denver. He has published widely, both in scholarly outlets as well as writings for couples, with a particular focus on commitment theory, communication, conflict, confidence, and sacrifice. He has a strong background and experience in measure development, longitudinal marital research, and outcome research. Dr. Stanley is also one of the senior program advisors to the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative, which is unfolding one of the most comprehensive and strategically involved marriage initiatives ever attempted. Along with his long-time colleague, Dr. Howard Markman and their various colleagues, he has been involved in the research, development, and refinement of the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) since the late 1970s. PREP is a program aimed at preventing marital distress, which has received national and international attention. Stanley and Markman are currently engaged in a long term study of the effectiveness of PREP disseminated in the community, funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. They, along with their colleagues such as Natalie Jenkins and Susan Blumberg, have also worked extensively with all branches of the U. S. armed forces in the use of PREP as well as with various public and private sector entities throughout the U. S. and around the world. He and Galena Rhoades have been focusing a great deal of conceptual and empirical efforts in the area of understanding couple development and pathways of couple formation—including types of cohabitation—that are associated with increased risk for relationship and marital distress and instability. This work has led to the development of rich conceptual schemas for understanding and modifying risks in *Within My Reach*.

Dr. Stanley is president of PREP for Individuals, Inc., the publisher of *Within My Reach*. He is a co-author of the bestselling book *Fighting for Your Marriage* (1994, 2001, Jossey-Bass), *A Lasting Promise* (1998, Jossey-Bass), *Becoming Parents* (1999, Jossey-Bass), *Empty Nesting* (2001, Jossey-Bass), and *12 Hours To a Great Marriage* (2004, Jossey-Bass). His newest book is *The Power of Commitment* (2005, Jossey-Bass). Additionally, he has authored many professional journal articles, book chapters, magazine articles, and paper presentations. He regularly appears in both print and broadcast media as an expert on marriage, including *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Psychology Today*, *Redbook*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Marriage Partnership*, and many others.

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**Galena K. Rhoades**

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Galena Kline Rhoades, Ph.D., is a Senior Researcher for the Center for Marital and Family Studies at the University of Denver. Her research is on romantic relationship development and functioning, and the related implications for children and adults. Her research projects and collaborations include studies of cohabitation, mechanisms of change in couple interventions, infidelity, spouses' perceptions of one another, relationship processes and psychopathology, as well as adolescent adjustment. She is currently working with Scott Stanley and Howard Markman on several federally-funded projects, one focused on measuring and modeling early relationship development (funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development) and three other studies on the effectiveness of relationship education (funded by National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Administration for Children and Families). In addition to conducting research, she collaborates with PREP, Inc. in the development of relationship education curricula (e.g., *Within My Reach* and *Within Our Reach*), teaches graduate courses and supervises doctoral students on their therapy cases in the Psychology Department, and is a practicing psychotherapist. Dr. Rhoades received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Denver in 2007.

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