

Science Forum **Lecture Series**

WWW.CHAPMAN.EDU/SCS/FACULTY/SCIENCEFORUM



**Brennan
Peterson,
Ph.D.**

**Chapman
University**

**Wednesday
April 11, 2012
Argyros Forum 209C
12:00-1:00 p.m.**

Infertility:

When Psychology Intersects with the Science of Reproduction

Infertility, or the inability to conceive or give birth to a child after one year of regular sexual relations without the use of contraceptives, impacts between 80-160 million people in the world today. In the United States, approximately 4.3 million married couples in the United States (15%) have been diagnosed with infertility. Couples experiencing infertility encounter stressful changes in their family, social, and personal relationships. In order to adequately respond to these stresses, couples use coping strategies, or behavioral or emotional efforts, to regain control of their lives. Over the past decade, there has been an increased emphasis on studying the relational nature of coping with infertility using the couple as the unit of analysis. These studies have consistently found that partner coping is related to individual distress and that partner coping impacts men and women in different ways. This talk presents an overview of the coping process of men and women as they travel through the infertility experience. Furthermore, this talk presents findings from a growing body of research indicating men and women significantly underestimate the impact age has on fertility, particularly among those pursuing higher education. Thus, couples who unknowingly delay pregnancy past a woman's window of fertility may be faced with involuntary childlessness and unexpected cope with the stresses of infertility.



**CHAPMAN
UNIVERSITY**

**SCHMID COLLEGE
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**