Attachment theory has stimulated an enormous amount of research on the formation, maintenance, and quality of emotional bonds in relationships across the life span, from infant–parent relationships to marital relationships, and from relationship formation to relationship dissolution. Shaver will review some of what has been learned by researchers who view romantic love in terms of three behavioral systems — attachment, caregiving, and sex — and discuss key attachment theory concepts and the research supporting them, including hyperactivation and deactivation of the three behavioral systems, internal working models of self and relationship partners, and influences of attachment insecurities on couple dynamics. He will also consider clinical applications of attachment theory and research.

After receiving his doctorate from the University of Michigan, Shaver held appointments on the faculties of Columbia University, New York University, University of Denver, and SUNY at Buffalo. His research focuses on attachment, human motivation and emotion, close relationships, and personality development. Shaver has published over 200 scholarly articles and chapters and has co-written and co-edited several books, including In Search of Intimacy; Attachment in Adulthood: Structure, Dynamics, and Change; Handbook of Attachment: Theory, Research, and Clinical Applications; and Prosocial Motives and Emotions: The Better Angels of Our Nature. Shaver served as president of the International Association for Relationship Research, from which he received a Distinguished Career Award in 2002.

For more information, please visit events.psych.missouri.edu/lecture-series/