



12-2011

## CIIS Alumni Newsletter

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**California Institute  
of Integral Studies**



Dean of Alumni Richard Buggs

**CIIS Alumni Newsletter  
DECEMBER 2011**

**Message from Richard Buggs,  
Dean of Alumni**

Dear Alums,



President Joseph Subbiondo and I traveled to Santa Fe, New York City, and Phoenix this past semester to host gatherings of alums and prospective students. We were delighted to reconnect with alums and inspired by stories about how their CIIS



education helped prepare them for their life's work. Each reunion event was different. Erica Peters (BAC '02), owner of Contoured Cooking, provided freshly prepared organic appetizers at our gathering in Santa Fe, and spoke about her involvement with the organic food movement in New Mexico.



At the Rubin Museum of Art in New York, Maija Garcia (BAC '04) and several other dancers performed a dynamic modern dance set to original music. Irene (Castelot) Bradford (CLN

'99) spoke about her efforts in creating an online leadership game at the event in Phoenix, and then led a lively discussion. Next year we have many Bay Area events planned. We hope to see you then. As we approach winter solstice, I wish you all time for rest, reflection, and connection with loved ones. May the new year bring a renewed sense of hope for peace and abundant energy for all of your endeavors.

**CLASS NOTES**



**Bethany Dalton-Kash** (ICP '90) has founded a new religion (Love and Light Religion) in founding Friends of the Sacred Garden Love and Light Church.

The church is entirely eco-friendly. Its meetings are held outdoors, and all things associated with the church meet environmental standards. The church integrates ancient practices with an understanding of quantum physics and a belief in Christ. It is located in Florida. Her book, *Messages for Love*, and her spoken word series are available on Amazon.com



**Maurice Taylor** (ICP '90) and **Seana McGee** (ICP '90) have published a new book entitled, *What's the State of Your Union?*

*Instant Relationship Self-Diagnosis*. Listen live to their call-in relationship radio show Love is On the Air at [www.kwmmr.org](http://www.kwmmr.org) on the first and third Tuesdays of the month between 11:00AM and 12 noon Pacific time. For more information go to [www.newcouple.com](http://www.newcouple.com).



**Alissa Hirshfeld-Flores** (ICP '94) has published *This Whole Wide World is Just a Narrow Bridge* with Infinity Publishing.

The memoir describes what she learned about life from her 12 years working in the bereavement department at a hospice, during which she experienced the death of her mother and her own near-brush with death after her daughter's birth. She practices in Santa Rosa, where she specializes in grief, loss, and life transitions with clients of all ages. She is also trained in spiritual guidance in the

# Richard Buggs

Dean of Alumni CLN '96

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## ALUMNI UNIVERSITY CONTINUES

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We're excited about our next Alumni University Lecture Series event: [Overcome Roadblocks by Leveraging Networks and Resources](#): A Lecture and Workshop, with Sarah Noyes and Danae Horn.

**Lecture: Thursday, February 9, 2012 | 6:30PM—9:00PM**

CIIS Main Building, Room 306  
1453 Mission Street San Francisco CA 94103  
\$15 donation benefits the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

**Workshop: Saturday, February 11, 2012**

**11:00AM—4:00PM**  
CIIS Main Building, Room 565  
Price: \$65

If you would like to be considered as a presenter for a future Alumni University lecture/workshop/event, please send a proposal to [rbuggs@ciis.edu](mailto:rbuggs@ciis.edu).

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## FACULTY NEWS

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**Charlene Spretnak Publishes New Book**  
WSE faculty member Charlene Spretnak celebrates the launch of her new book: *Relational Reality: New Discoveries of Interrelatedness That Are Transforming the Modern World*. Paperback and e-editions of this book are available at bookstores and at Amazon.com.

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## ALUMNI BENEFIT NEWS

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**CIIS ALUMS CAN NOW PURCHASE AUTO PARTS AT A REDUCED RATE**

Take 20% off your order of car parts from [www.Go-Part.com](http://www.Go-Part.com) when you use discount code CIIS20 for CIIS alums. Either enter that on the website, or say it to the operator when calling 1.877.321.PART.

Morei Derekh program in Jewish spiritual direction.



**John Littleton** (SCA '94) has published a new children's book for seven-to-twelve-year-olds, *Rampage of the Gluttonous Monsters*. He also received a Golden Bell Award as a teacher of the year. He is a regular speaker at schools, sharing his stories and indigenous wisdom with students and teachers. For more information, go to

[www.rampageofthegluttonmonsters.com](http://www.rampageofthegluttonmonsters.com).



**Sumedha Khanna**, (IHL '96) MD, recently published a book, *The Healing Well: My Midlife Journey to Wholeness*. *The*

*Healing Well* is a personal story of her midlife transition from being successful in a "man's world" to becoming whole as a woman. Khanna is an obstetrics/gynecology and public health physician, specializing in women's health programs, national family planning policies and programs, safe motherhood strategies, leadership training for public health, and integral health practices. Khanna worked for more than 25 years with the World Health Organization, consulting on public health in more than 60 countries. She founded the Healing Well in Gualala, California as a consulting and information center dedicated to promoting women's health in mid-life and beyond. Her website is

[www.sumedhakhanna.com](http://www.sumedhakhanna.com)



**Cassandra Vieten** (CLN '99) is director of research at the Institute of Noetic Sciences.

She has a video available on her book *Mindful Motherhood: Practical Tools for Staying Sane during Pregnancy*. For more information, go to [mindfulmotherhood.org](http://mindfulmotherhood.org)

After writing her master's thesis on "The Model of Emotions in the *I Ching*, *The Book of Changes*," **Matat Lieblich** (EWP '00) returned to Israel. She teaches courses in transpersonal psychology and



## ENJOY ALAMO RENT A CAR 20% DISCOUNT + FREE UPGRADE OR FREE DAY

Register with [www.workingadvantage.com](http://www.workingadvantage.com) and enter our CIIS alumni Working Advantage ID Code #141007526. Then go to the Alamo Rent A Car deal and put in the Request ID: WKADVANT. This offer is good through December 31, 2011.



### BECOME A CIIS PUBLIC PROGRAMS & PERFORMANCES MEMBER AT A SPECIAL ALUMNI RATE!

CIIS Public Programs & Performances is dedicated to creating individual and social transformation through arts and public education. As with any nonprofit organization, CIIS Public Programs & Performances relies on the generosity of its donors. Support CIIS Public Programs & Performances by [becoming a member today](#) and receive many terrific benefits, including discounts on performances, lectures, and workshops; access to artist receptions; and more.

**David Favre** (ICP '97) is offering free online professional Enneagram and instincts personality type tests to alums via his website. Here is the [link](#) to take the tests. Enter the code **CIISAlumni**.

As a leading Enneagram researcher, Favre received a grant to do 12 Enneagram TV shows for local cable in Palo Alto. The shows are offered free on his website, [Enneagram.net](http://Enneagram.net). To date, the first two shows have been viewed by more than 8,000 people in more than 20 countries.

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### ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

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**Theatre for Change** performed a new theater piece that included Drama Therapy alums Emily Burkes-Nossiter, Saun-Toy Trotter, and Alexis Lezin at the National Association for Drama Therapy conference held in San Francisco from November 3 to 6. Twenty-two alumni of the CIIS Drama Therapy program presented at this conference, including Gary Raucher and Sheila Rubin.

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### CLASS NOTES (CONTINUED)



**Marty Cooper** (ICP '02) held a well-attended, one-day workshop on September 24. The topic was Coping with Depression: Mindfulness-Based, Cognitive Therapy Strategies for Relating to Depression.

**Ian McCabe** (CLN '05) has co-published "Male Street Prostitution in Dublin: A Psychological Analysis" in the *WJHM Journal of Homosexuality*.

Daoist approaches in the East-West Psychotherapy program at the University of Tel Aviv. Her book, *At the Edge of Ego*, was published by Keter & Rimon Publishers (Jerusalem, 2009). She is currently launching an academic journal in East-West psychology at her university. She has also taught transpersonal psychology and spiritual emergency courses in Riedman College, as well as at Psychodharma, a private program for therapists.



**Tricia Grame** (WSE '01) was invited to do an art project for the orphans at the Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage in Kontum, Vietnam, which is supported by contributions from Vietnam veterans and the Catholic church. She leaves on December 27. Cindy Shearer, chair of the MFA program at CIIS, is planning on installing an exhibition of the artwork that she brings back. Grame is also asking her MFA students to participate. For more information, go to [www.FriendsofVSO.org](http://www.FriendsofVSO.org).

**Kirby Surprise** (CLN '01) has written a new book entitled *Synchronicity: The Art of Coincidence, Change, and Freeing Your Mind*, just published in December 2011. The foreword is by CIIS faculty member Allan Leslie Combs.

To send a class note, please email [Richard Buggs \(CLN, '96\)](#). If you include a photo, please send a high resolution image.

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**Christian Nix** (IHL '08) teaches acupuncture for pain reduction to doctors. Prior to obtaining his degree, he completed a five-year apprenticeship in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), achieving certification as a Licensed Acupuncturist (L.Ac.). He runs acupuncture and experiential learning externships in Central America ([calacirya.org](http://calacirya.org); [puebloapueblo.org](http://puebloapueblo.org)) and at Teishin Institute, where he leads TCM teacher training ([teishininstitute.com](http://teishininstitute.com)). In addition, he is cofounder and president of the Calacirya Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote cross-cultural exchange through experiential learning.

**Carmen Sosa** (IHL '09) is business and operations analyst for the Institute of Health and Healing, California Pacific Medical Center.

**Andrew Antis** (ACS '10) is currently teaching as a lecturer in his home state at Eastern Michigan University, Henry Ford Community College, and University of Detroit Mercy. Next year his dissertation will be published by Edwin Mellen Press in a book entitled *The Takenouchi School of Japanese Classical Martial Arts: A Historical, Pedagogical, and Philosophical Perspective on the Roots of Japanese Jujutsu*.

**Jennifer Yee** (IHL '10) is the new senior health educator at Kaiser Sunnyvale.

**Brittany Cushman** (IHL '11) is patient coordinator at the Institute of Health and Healing, California Pacific Medical Center.



Radio show host and lecturer **Jay Kumar** (ACS '11) moved to Southern California and currently teaches at Loyola Marymount University's Center for Religion and Spirituality and at UCLA Medical School's Mind Awareness Research Center. He is a certified yoga and meditation instructor, motivational speaker, writer, and now host of the nationally syndicated radio show *AWAKE with Dr. Jay Kumar!* He recently cofounded the Holospheria Project, a global multimedia organization dedicated to helping people and the planet awaken to the emerging paradigm of empowered wholeness. To learn more, please visit [www.drjaykumar.com](http://www.drjaykumar.com).

**Toni Sicola** (IHL '11) was offered the Wellness Program Manager position at Alameda County Medical Center.

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