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## CIIS Today, Spring 2007 Issue

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# CIIS Today

The Community Newsletter of California Institute of Integral Studies

SPRING 2007

## Letter from the President

Dear CIIS Alumni and Friends,

It is with great sadness that I begin my letter to you with the news that on December 27, 2006, CIIS's beloved cofounder Bina Chaudhuri died. I learned of Bina's death while traveling in Auroville and India, and was heartened to hear that Bina, who had suffered a stroke on Christmas Eve day from which she never awoke, was surrounded by her family and close friends at the end.

In addition to cofounding CIIS in 1968 with her husband, Haridas, Bina assumed responsibility for the survival and direction of the Institute upon Dr. Chaudhuri's death in 1975. She continued to be a close advisor and friend to many CIIS faculty, staff, students, and alumni for more than 30 years. During my time at CIIS, Bina was an inspiration and a guide—I will miss her dearly.

My thoughts turned to Bina and Haridas Chaudhuri's founding vision of CIIS as a model of integral higher education when, on February 22 through 25, CIIS and the Fetzer Foundation cosponsored a pioneering conference in San Francisco entitled "**Uncovering the Heart of Higher Education: Integrative Learning for Compassionate Action in an Interconnected World.**" More than 600 participants from 231 colleges and universities attended. Participants included faculty, administrators (including many presidents), chaplains, and student life professionals. Representative institutions included research universities, comprehensive universities, liberal arts colleges, and community colleges (for details, visit [www.heartofeducation.org](http://www.heartofeducation.org)).

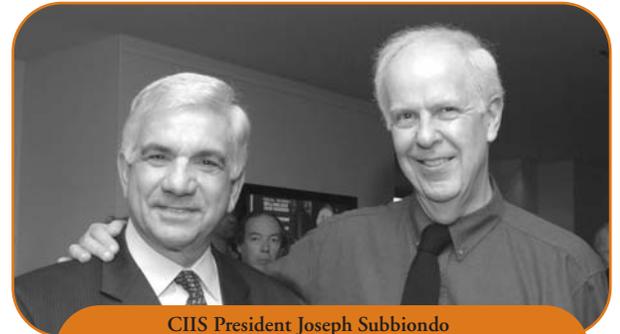
The conference provided a historic moment for CIIS as it clearly positioned the Institute as a leader in integrative teaching and learning, an emerging movement in American higher education. As a result of the visibility and acknowledgement of CIIS at this gathering, there is a stronger sense of purpose and commitment to our core educational mission among CIIS faculty and staff members. The CIIS community is now more aware that its educational vision, developed and expanded from the foundation built by the Chaudhuris, is increasingly valued by other colleges and universities. This shift will allow CIIS to collaborate with many colleges and universities in advancing an integral model of education.

I hope that you will continue to participate in the ever-growing CIIS community. I strongly encourage you to visit the Institute's Web site ([www.ciis.edu](http://www.ciis.edu)) for exciting workshops, concerts, and lectures offered by CIIS Public Programs, and art exhibits curated by Spirit in the Arts. The Office of Alumni continues to gather alumni and friends in regional circles across the country, as well as on travel programs to India, Mongolia, Japan, and Scotland, among other locales. Most importantly, stay in touch with CIIS by sending Richard Buggs, Dean of Alumni, your e-mail address at [rbuggs@ciis.edu](mailto:rbuggs@ciis.edu).

Cordially,



Joseph L. Subbiondo  
President



CIIS President Joseph Subbiondo  
with keynote speaker Parker Palmer at CIIS's  
higher education conference in February 2007.

### *In Celebration of Bina Chaudhuri*

*CIIS Cofounder and Friend  
1922–2006*



Bina Chaudhuri

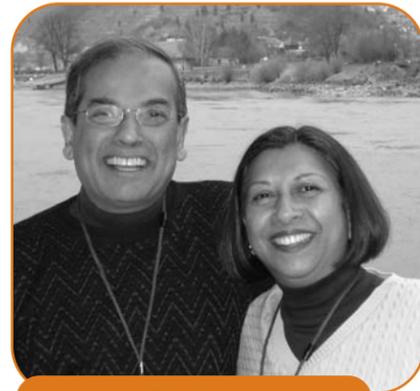
On December 27, 2006 CIIS's beloved cofounder Bina Chaudhuri died at the age of 84. We pay our respects—and celebrate a life that exemplified the true integral spirit—in this issue of *CIIS Today*. Please turn to pages 4 and 5 to read several alumni's moving tributes to a woman renowned for her generosity, wisdom, support, and tireless efforts on behalf of CIIS.

# IN MY OWN WORDS SHANKAR BHATTACHARYA

In each newsletter, *CIIS Today* profiles a donor who has generously made a contribution to the Institute. In this issue, we talk with Shankar Bhattacharya, who, along with his wife, Kimi, met CIIS cofounder Haridas Chaudhuri when he officiated their wedding in 1973. The Bhattacharyas donate generously to the Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri Endowment for South Asian Philosophy and Culture. Mr. Bhattacharya, who retired as vice president of engineering from PG&E in 2005, recently joined CIIS's board of trustees and chairs the Finance Committee (See page 7 for more details)

### How did you find out about CIIS?

My wife and I were so impressed by Haridas Chaudhuri that we wanted to stay connected with him by being associated with his school. However, my employment required me to relocate away from the Bay Area. When we returned, we learned that Haridas Chaudhuri had passed away. We lost contact with the Institute for many years until the mid-90's when we learned that many of our friends were in touch with Mr. Chaudhuri's wife, Bina. We started to attend CIIS's annual Chaudhuri Dinner to learn more about the school. We were very inspired by the vision and the philosophy of the Institute. We believed that an institute like CIIS, which offers the teachings of Western philosophy alongside Eastern philosophy, was very important for our globalized new world. We wanted to be part of such an institute.



Shankar and Kimi Bhattacharya

### Why do you donate to CIIS?

Beside the fact that Haridas Chaudhuri played a critical role in our lives, his teachings are essential for today's complex world where religious differences and misunderstandings have proliferated hatred between human beings. Through our contributions, we want to see CIIS play a stronger role in creating a better understanding between various religions and cultures.

### Why do you believe in philanthropic giving?

My wife and I strongly believe that we have a social and moral obligation to give back some of our wealth and wisdom to the community that has given us so much. We hope our contributions will help our community to be stronger and a better place to live.

### What do you hope to achieve during your time as a trustee?

I would like to see the school become even more financially strong, and I hope to help CIIS reach its highest potential. I envision more scholarships for students and more opportunities given to the faculty to perform research. I plan to work with the other board members and the president to aggressively increase the school's revenue through sources other than tuition.

“We believed that an institute like CIIS, which offers the teachings of Western philosophy alongside Eastern philosophy, was very important for our globalized new world.”

—Shankar Bhattacharya

**CIIS** Today

Spring 2007

The Community Newsletter of  
California Institute of Integral Studies

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## Alumni Notes

**Deanna McKinstry (BAC, '99)** received her PhD in Mythology and Depth Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute. Working with groups, individuals, and corporations, she facilitates creativity and psychological integration by releasing and strengthening the multivocal archetypes within the human voice. Her upcoming one-woman musical will reflect how America's mythic energies are revealed and carried through music.

**Miri Hunter Haruach (WSE, '99)** is the director of Project Sheba, part-owner of the Magdalene Center in Los Angeles, and has taught at colleges and universities throughout the country. Her one-woman shows include *Grandmothers of the Universe*, *The Queen of Sheba? Yes I Am*, and *The Pregnancy Diaries*. She also has two recordings: "Harvest of the Heart" and "The Ways of Love." She frequently tours and lectures on topics related to women's spirituality.

**Mary Ellen Manthey-Halloran (ICP, '99)** has completed a new book titled *Anger: Let the Tiger Out, but Keep It on a Leash*. She has a private psychotherapy practice in San Francisco.

**Diana (Bracy) Verhalen (HOT, '04)** is the Northern California program manager for the Labor Management Partnership at Kaiser Permanente. She also has a private practice as a certified somatic coach, facilitator, and change consultant. Diana utilizes appreciative and expressive arts methods with individuals and groups to promote connection with and fulfillment of what matters most to them.

**Barbara Berman (CLN, '93)** is a psychotherapist working with adolescents and adults in Marin County. Additionally, she volunteers at County Community School, a continuation school in San Rafael where she runs a young men's group and works with the principal on ways to improve the curriculum. Barbara also meets with a group of colleagues to establish a consortium of providers and trainers committed to social change through the practice of cultural competency.

**Tina Fields (EWP, '01)** teaches in the University of California, Santa Barbara's Wildlands Studies Field Program in Hawaii. She is also a faculty member in Culture, Ecology, and Sustainable Community at New College's North Bay campus. Tina was listed in the 2006-07 *Who's Who Among American Women*.

**Christian de Quincey (PCC, '00)** is a professor of Philosophy and Consciousness Studies at John F. Kennedy University, a faculty member at The Graduate Institute, director of the Center for Inter-species Research, and adjunct faculty at the University of Philosophical Research and the Holmes Institute. He is also cofounder of The Visionary Edge whose focus is transforming global consciousness by transforming mass media. Christian is the author of the award-winning book *Radical Nature: Rediscovering the Soul of Matter* and *Radical Knowing: Understanding Consciousness through Relationship*, as well as the visionary novel *Deep Spirit*.

**Marya Grathwohl (PCC, '98)** gives lectures and workshops and holds retreats integrating reflection on the universe story with spirituality and care of Earth. She serves as Earth Consultant for

the Women's Center in Montana, implementing wind and solar power, geothermal heating and cooling, water catchments and greenhouse design, and prairie restoration. Her forthcoming book, *After the First Thunder*, is being published by Riverhead/USA Penguin.

**Susana Pendzik (PDT, '97)** lives in Israel where she is a faculty member at Bar-Ilan University. She also lectures at the University of Jerusalem, the Tel-Hai College Drama Therapy Program, and the Institute for Social Work in Saint Gallen (FHS), Switzerland. Susana has worldwide experience as a group leader, particularly on issues of racism, gender, and culture. She is the founder of the Drama Therapy Centre of Jerusalem. She has written several articles on drama therapy and a handbook on the application of action methods for battered women.

## CIIS Welcomes Two New Board Members

**Stuart Diamond** is a business leader, entrepreneur, producer, writer, composer, and musician. He is the cofounder of Empowered Media Corp., an international organization providing online software communications and business management tools to the real estate and healthcare industries, among others. Stuart has worked on international political and human rights issues, consulted on counter-terrorism strategies for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and discussed with the United Nations about technologies and business models to aid economies of the least-developed nations.

A recognized composer and musician, Stuart has composed more than 100 works in a variety of mediums. He won a grant from the Criterion Foundation in 1976 to write, create, and perform contemporary classical and electronic music. His ensemble, Electric Diamond, has been performing classical electronic music concerts since 1979. Stuart has also authored screenplays, novels, essays, poetry, and documentaries for television.

**Shankar Bhattacharya** is a professional engineer and management executive with more than 30 years of experience in a broad range of engineering, construction, and power plant operations, including energy transmission and distribution systems. He recently retired from Pacific Gas and Electric Company where he worked for 20 years, the past ten years as vice president of engineering and asset management. In this capacity, Shan, as he is known to his friends, led a team of more than 1,000 engineers and professionals and managed assets utilizing a capital budget of more than \$1 billion.

Shan currently serves on the engineering advisory board for San Francisco State University, the community advisory board of the Center for South Asia Studies at UC Berkeley, and on the board of Wardrobe for Opportunity, a nonprofit community mentoring organization in the East Bay.

## CIIS Opens New Integral Counseling Center

In its ongoing effort to provide clinical experience for its psychology students, CIIS opened its fifth counseling center on January 24, 2007. Located at 507 Polk Street in San Francisco, the Golden Gate Integral Counseling Center offers low-cost professional psychotherapy to the community as well as provides a solid training ground for CIIS Integral Counseling Psychology students.

The Golden Gate Integral Counseling Center is the third clinic that focuses on integral counseling. The other two are located on Pierce Street and Church Street. The integral counseling model is based on the principle that each client is viewed as a whole person and that all aspects of the person are included in the healing process. The Golden Gate Integral Counseling Center offers a unique focus on a transpersonal perspective in its training program.

“At Golden Gate, we include an explicit emphasis on how spirituality can inform and support the practice of psychotherapy,” said Dr. Judith Kinst, Golden Gate’s clinical director.

In addition to the three integral counseling centers, CIIS has a Center for Somatic Psychotherapy, staffed by master’s level Somatic Psychology students, and the Psychological Services Center, which provides training for doctoral clinical psychology students.

Integral Counseling Psychology graduate students must accumulate 150 hours of direct client contact as a prerequisite to receiving their master’s degree in counseling psychology. Students can perform their yearlong practicum at the counseling centers or at other community agencies. “Golden Gate’s main goal is to provide good solid training to the students, so that when they walk out the door after a year, they have confidence in themselves as therapists,” said Dr. Kinst. “We also provide good, quality low-fee therapy to the community. It’s really a win-win situation for everyone.”

The center currently has six students on staff, each seeing three to four clients. As the center’s client base grows, it will admit more students each semester. Dr. Kinst hopes to have a total of 15 student trainees on staff by year-end. An internship program for the trainees will be established in the future. Students also receive weekly group supervision and trainings, and perform group process work at the center.

The new center was made possible by a major gift of \$100,000 from the J.C. Kellogg Foundation in New York. The Kellogg Foundation has generously supported all of the master’s level counseling centers. “CIIS is extremely grateful to the J.C. Kellogg Foundation for this significant investment as well as for its generous support of the counseling centers at CIIS and other projects,” said Director of Development Dorotea Reyna.

### COUNSELING CENTERS OF CIIS

**Golden Gate Integral Counseling Center**  
415.561-0230

**Integral Counseling Center at Pierce Street**  
415.776.3109

**Integral Counseling Center at Church Street**  
415.648.2644

**Center for Somatic Psychotherapy**  
415.558.0880

**Psychological Services Center**  
415.575.6200

## CIIS Travel Program Expands Offerings for 2007-2008

*Trips to Scotland, Siberia, Japan, and India planned.*

By Richard Buggs, Dean of Alumni and Director of Travel Program

The alumni and friends journey to India was modified this year so that travelers could experience more of the subcontinent. After spending the first week in South India at Auroville, the universal township founded on the principles of Sri Aurobindo, the group of 24 flew north to Delhi and witnessed the simple, powerful tribute to Mahatma Gandhi’s life at Bilar House. The ambitious itinerary also included a few days in Jaipur, the Rajasthani city of pink stone and Agra, home to the legendary Taj Mahal. A sunrise boat ride on the Ganges River gave us a view of Varanasi in golden and rose-colored hues as pilgrims made their way down to the ghats for rituals and baths.

As CIIS enters its fourth year of culturally enriching travel and study programs, we’re pleased to announce new offerings and unique itineraries designed to excite, inspire, and awaken the explorer and learner within. Whether you’re drawn to practice calligraphy at the serene Moss Temple of Japan, study with the shamans of Siberia, explore Scotland’s Findhorn community, or travel by elephant to the majestic Amber Fort in India, you are invited to join like-minded travelers on the adventure and make meaningful connections with new people and cultures. Please consider joining other alums on one of these remarkable journeys.

For a travel brochure or more information, visit [www.ciis.edu/publicprograms](http://www.ciis.edu/publicprograms) or call 415.575.6278.



Richard Buggs, Dean of Alumni, in front of India’s Taj Mahal.

## Never Too Late

*This August, Bachelor of Arts Completion student Georgia Jackson fulfills a lifelong dream to receive an undergraduate degree.*



Georgia Jackson

Georgia Jackson always wanted to get a college degree. But a bad turn of events in her life prevented her from doing so—until now. The 53-year-old native San Franciscan will complete CIIS’s Bachelor of Arts Degree Completion (BAC) program in August. Jackson says that she was drawn to the spiritual and interpersonal environment of CIIS, noting: “Everyone is so connected here.”

Jackson considers herself a lifelong learner. She started taking courses at San Francisco City College in 1974, but a long battle with substance abuse interfered with her desire to graduate from college. With her life back in order—she has been clean and sober since 1994—she decided that it was finally time to get her bachelor’s degree. In 1997, she returned to City College and earned a Drug and Alcohol Certificate in 2003 and then an associate’s degree in 2004.

Jackson explored several colleges before choosing CIIS upon the advice of friend and CIIS alumna Briana Moore. Jackson was particularly attracted to the BAC program, which is designed to accommodate working adults, because it fit in perfectly with her work schedule as an evaluator, researcher, and interviewer for San Francisco’s Department of Public Health.

She was also supported in her decision by receiving much-needed financial assistance from CIIS as the recipient of the Asia Cummings Memorial Scholarship. This endowed scholarship fund was established in 2005 by Pamela and David Smith in

memory of their daughter, Asia Leah Cummings, who was admitted to the BAC program before her death in 2004 at age 21. Jackson currently evaluates two grant-funded programs for the Department of Public Health: Women Integrated Services Health (WISH), which helps female offenders with mental health issues; and the Standing Against Global Exploitation (SAGE) Project, which assists victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Her duties include conducting intensive baseline, six-month and 12-month interviews with program participants to gauge the effectiveness of the programs. Jackson also works as a relief counselor at Baker Places, a nonprofit organization providing an array of community-based services to San Franciscans with mental health, substance, and/or HIV/AIDS related issues.

According to Jackson, BAC’s “cohort learning” model, where a group of students study and learn together throughout the academic year, has improved her writing and listening skills and given her a sense of connection to a community of kindred spirits. These skills, along with her past personal struggles with addiction, have helped her better relate to and serve her clients.

“I know where the clients are coming from,” said Jackson, who wants to eventually earn a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling. “Some of the people I see are the people I used to get high with. They see me clean and say, ‘Georgia, if you can do it, I can do it.’”

## Food for Thought

*New “Lunch for the Soul” Lecture Series a Success*

While noshing on tandoori chicken and tikka masala, Marinites indulge in intellectual nourishment during CIIS’s new “Lunch for the Soul” lecture series, launched in October 2006. The popular lunchtime series, held at Gaylord India Restaurant in Sausalito, introduces the Marin community to scholars, scientists, health professionals, authors, community leaders, and artists, among others, whose life work reflects CIIS’s mission of integrative education, peace, justice, health, transformation, and spiritual development. “The central theme of the ongoing series is ‘engaged spirituality’—meeting the world with personal and professional spiritual strength and purpose,” said CIIS President Joseph Subbiondo.

Some 40 to 60 people have attended the monthly talks. Featured guests have included cardiologist Dean Ornish, Marin-based Jungian analyst and author Jean Shinoda Bolen, CIIS philosophy professor Richard Tarnas, choreographer and teacher Anna Halprin, director and actor Corey Fischer, and poet and Rumi translator Coleman Barks.

The series is “a great opportunity to share CIIS with the Marin community,” said Director of Development Dorotea Reyna. CIIS trustee Kishore Kripalani, owner of Gaylord India Restaurant, and the *Pacific Sun* newspaper cosponsor the lecture programs.

# In Celebration of Bina Chaudhuri

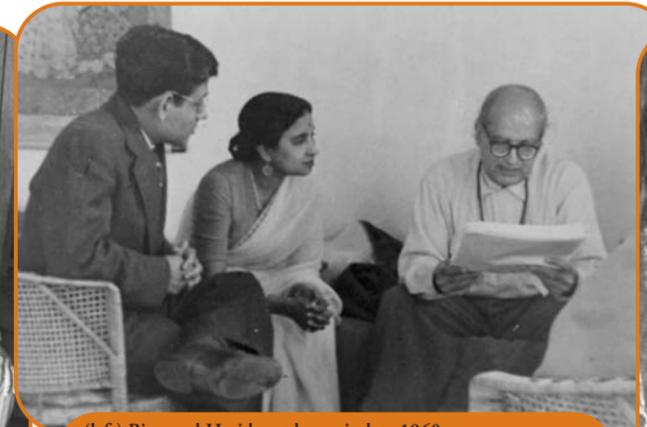
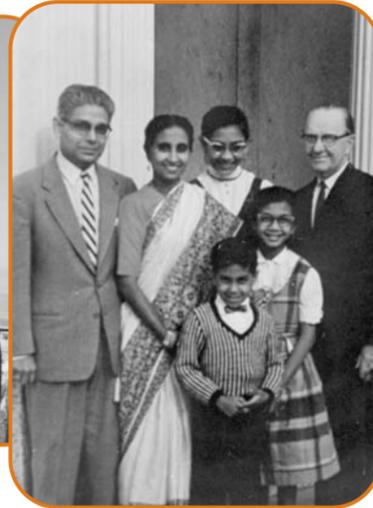
## CIIS Cofounder, Teacher, and Friend

### 1922-2006

*In honor of Bina Chaudhuri's remarkable life, we asked several CIIS alums who knew Bina to share their thoughts on the Institute's visionary cofounder, tireless champion, inspirational leader, and, always, beloved friend.*



(left) Bina Chaudhuri  
(center) Bina and Haridas Chaudhuri, San Francisco, 1969  
(right) Chaudhuri family with friend Rudolph Schaeffer



(left) Bina and Haridas at home in late 1960s  
(center) Haridas and Bina with Dilip Kumar Roy  
(right) Bina Chaudhuri, circa 2000



We all understand that if you pay attention to the presence of a person when you are in that person's company you can receive a very special kind of knowledge—the knowledge that comes from direct experience. From this perspective, Bina, the humblest of people who shunned pretension and insincerity; Bina the enthusiast, ever ready to throw a party; Bina, the one-pointed one who kept her steadied gaze on the progress of the school and the loyal partner in the work of her husband Haridas; and Bina the Wise Elder, held in high esteem by both the Asian and American communities, was a great teacher.

Bina, as we know, came from the Land of the Goddess and inherited in her very nature the qualities of India's greatest Devis: her intelligence and grace from Saraswati, her generosity from Laxmi, her tenacity from Durga. She was for us a living Divine Mother.

Bina's role in the founding and growing of the Institute was not to be out in front like Haridas, but rather to be the ground on which we stand, creating the foundation upon which and in which the formation of students can take place. This role is essential but so unadorned that its significance is undervalued. It was Bina who created a boundless atmosphere of welcome and support for us. It was she who nourished us with her joy, her energy, her good humor, and of course, her food. Integral from the start, Bina knew that you must feed all parts of a life in order for that life to flourish.

Bina's moment of greatest courage occurred just after the untimely death of her husband. She decided, in the midst of her grief, to

keep the school open, for the choice to close its doors was just as real and would have seemed at the time more compelling. I call this a courageous act because of the chasm of uncertainty that she faced without Haridas by her side. He was the leader, the teacher, the ambassador and embodiment of the mission, the energetic magnet who drew people to the school, not to mention the center of her life. But she understood that while Haridas's project was intensely personal, it was tied to the Higher Purpose ever present in the work of education, and so she took that leap of faith.

The consequence of that decision is this very moment we share together. Do you know? We are the beneficiaries of a rare curriculum indeed! We were encouraged to develop a sense of ourselves that we could actually live with; we were trained to listen to the wisdom present in silence; we were encouraged to chase down the Divine; we were invited to bring together heaven and earth. As it turns out, we are that Higher Purpose that Bina had in mind when she took that risk to keep the doors open.

And so, though it is too late for your ears to receive these words, Bina, we want you to know that your love and support helped shape our pathway through this life. We can never repay you, but certainly as we go through our days we can share with others some of what you gave to us through your direct transmission. That is, after all, how you would want us to keep it all going!

—Anne Teich, PhD, (PAR, '85, '90)  
Read at the CIIS alumni gathering to honor Bina Chaudhuri, held on March 31, 2007.

Bina told me that no one is indispensable in the greater work of the Spirit, yet no one can deny the most special role she played along with Dr. Chaudhuri in bridging the wide chasm between Eastern and Western cultures. She liked to tell the story that once in San Francisco two little girls, seeing her on the street wearing a sari, asked her, "Are you a princess?" She may have been that to them, or a mother to others, or a goddess, or another archetypal projection. To me, Bina was a real human being and a selfless karmayogini with the biggest heart and greatest wisdom whose life was a great sacrifice in the service of the highest spiritual values. May our hearts remember her truth.

—Bahman A. K. Shirazi, PhD (EWP '94)

For many of us the most visible side of Bina was that of a generous and nurturing woman—there were always cookies and candy on her desk, and we always knew that we would get to eat all that delicious Indian food on any occasion that one was fortunate to be in her home. What was also true was her deep understanding of what was going on around us, be it her knowledge of the philosophical systems that are integral to the CIIS experience or her understanding of the concrete workings of the school. The "old timers" can tell you about the essential role she played in keeping the school going after Dr. Chaudhuri's death. Although humble and unassuming, Bina was/is a big spirit, wise and loving, and she will be missed.

—Roger Marsden, PhD (Clinical Psychology '02)

### Bina Bids Farewell

*This poem is from the Gitabitan by Rabindranath Tagore, one of Bina's favorite poets. It was translated from Bengali by Bina and read at a CIIS gathering in 2003.*

I finally take my leave. I have gained my vacation.  
Please let me go.  
I bow down to all of you in reverence and bid adieu.  
I returned the keys to the door of the house and do not demand any claim to it.  
I only ask from all of you your love and best wishes.  
I have been your neighbor for so long:  
I received more than I gave.  
The night has ended and the dawn is here.  
The little lamp in the corner is now extinguished.  
The call has come for my journey  
—so I am off  
and bid adieu.