I am delighted to announce that on July 1, 2015, the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ACTCM) will become the fourth school of CIIS. ACTCM will join the Schools of Undergraduate Studies, Professional Psychology and Health, and Consciousness and Transformation.

As the premier integral university, CIIS is now better poised to advance integral education locally, nationally, and globally. We are enjoying the most expansive period in the history of CIIS as we meet increasing needs for education that promotes personal and social transformation.

The due diligence process required for the ACTCM/CIIS merger was thoughtfully organized and included input from trustees, faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

The successful outcome has generated a renewed spirit of institutional self-confidence that is driving many projects, including a new academic program in human sexuality, our initiatives in China, a flourishing of the arts, and the development of the Center for Psychedelic Therapy and Research.

As you may know, we are the world’s leading educator of counseling psychologists, and the pass rates for our students who take the MFT licensing exams are consistently among the highest in the state of California. Now, thanks to ACTCM, we are also piloting a counseling center that integrates acupuncture with counseling.

As we plan growth at a sustainable rate, the support of our alumni and friends is crucial to accelerating our progress. We invite you to invest in our programs and activities through your participation and philanthropy so that CIIS can continue to lead, innovate, and enable more excellent students to attend the University.

The Spring 2015 issue of CIIS Today will feature the merger with ACTCM and detail the new degrees that we will offer.
Michelle Eng: Strength and Numbers
Dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies

by Isabel Garcia-Gonzales and Lisa Denenmark

That Michelle Eng was recently named Dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies (SUS), a position created for her, didn’t surprise anyone who has been her colleague or her student.

In Hawaii, where she grew up and completed undergraduate and graduate degrees, Eng taught writing and literature to members of the military, veterans, and their dependents at Chaminade University’s satellite military bases for nine years while serving concomitantly as Assistant Dean of Students.

And though she loves teaching, Eng admits that administrative work is her real passion. “I know how it sounds,” she says with a smile, “and I believe that it’s where I can have the greatest impact on the University as a whole—be it in building the curriculum, in hiring decisions, or in strategic planning.”

Judie Wexler, Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculty, believes that Eng’s skills as a strong and innovative leader enable her to hold her own educational vision and bring it together with that of the faculty in SUS. “Being both a good guide and a good listener, Michelle has worked effectively with the faculty in SUS to sharpen the program and to build upon its educational goals,” Wexler says.

CHANGE IS GOOD GREAT
A lot has changed since Michelle Eng arrived 11 years ago. And it’s all good.

She joined CIIS as director of the Bachelor’s Degree Completion (BAC) program, now fast approaching its 21-year milestone. BAC, housed in SUS, serves adult learners who have completed the equivalent of the first two years of college.

“We were a small program in 2003,” she recalls. “We admitted one cohort each fall and spring, with roughly 40 students a year. Now we are at 100 students, with three new cohorts in the fall and two new cohorts each spring.”

A cohort, as SUS defines it, is an academic learning community that is collaborative, a word that figures prominently in every project that Eng undertakes. She believes that the strength of the undergraduate program is the faculty’s commitment to working and learning collaboratively, not just with the students but also with one another.

Like the students in the cohort, faculty also get to know one another; they listen deeply, ask questions, challenge one another, and work to bring multiple perspectives to pedagogy and learning. Faculty who are members of communities often underrepresented in higher education are able to serve as role models and mentors for students who might not see themselves reflected in other institutions.

At CIIS, the first of many of Eng’s changes was shifting the BAC degree major from Integral Studies to Interdisciplinary Studies. Though the curriculum did not change, the new name for the major allowed for a clearer articulation of the course of study, making it more recognizable to prospective students and potential employers.

MICHELLE ENG CONTINUED ON PG. 16 >>>

Photo by Mustafah Greene
OUT IN FRONT ON PSYCH

CIIS and Partners to Train Therapists on New Treatments in Mental Health

by Neil Freese
To address the demand for trained psychotherapists to work in the expanding field of psychedelic studies, CIIS has announced the creation of the Center for Psychedelic Therapy and Research (the Center), to be directed by Janis Phelps, professor in the East-West Psychology program.

Beginning in spring 2015, the Center will offer a series of evening lectures, weekend workshops, webinars, and films, shown at CIIS and online, as part of a public service campaign to teach a variety of topics related to psychedelic research. In the 2015–2016 academic year, the Center will introduce a certificate program to teach licensed psychotherapists to become psychedelic researchers.

Throughout its history, CIIS has been a leader in consciousness research, including research into nonordinary states of consciousness.

In 1997, nearly three decades after the enactment of the Controlled Substances Act made psychedelic drugs illegal, CIIS began offering the Robert Joseph and Wilhelmina Kranzke Endowed Scholarships, a gift of Robert Barnhart in memory of his parents. The endowment supports two to four annual scholarships of $5,000 each for students who are conducting approved psychotropic research.

Should the Xu-Melton challenge grant be met, the Center will be funded for its first three years.

**SOLID PARTNERSHIPS WITH PSYCHEDELIC RESEARCHERS**

Creation of the Center means that CIIS gains a critical opportunity to build strong partnerships with other universities, medical centers, researchers, and research groups.

More than a dozen top psychedelic researchers—including Bill Richards, from Johns Hopkins University; Charles Grob, from the University of California, Los Angeles; and Michael and Annie Mithoefer, lead researchers for the Multidisciplinary Association of Psychedelic Studies (MAPS)—have agreed to partner with the Center to teach in the certificate program.

Researchers from the University of California, San Francisco, and California Pacific Medical Center have agreed to join the Center’s council of advisors.

By bringing together these top researchers, the Center is opening an avenue for collaboration between MAPS and the Heffter Research Institute (Heffter), two of the most renowned research groups for psychedelic studies.

The certificate program will be the largest collaborative program focusing on psychedelic studies within a nonmedical graduate university. Licensed therapists who earn a certificate in psychedelic research and therapy from CIIS will be specially trained as researchers and will be eligible to be hired at current research centers across the United States.

OUT IN FRONT CONTINUED ON PG. 4
THE EARLY EXPERIMENTS
Indigenous cultures across the globe have used mind-altering substances such as ayahuasca, psilocybin, and peyote in rituals and as medicines for millennia. Similar explorations with hallucinogenic drugs continued in the U.S. with legal sanction well into the 20th century. In the decades following World War II, the field of psychedelic studies expanded. It was not uncommon for leading academics and researchers to experiment with hallucinogenic drugs.

Alan Watts, the British-born philosopher and accomplished writer, joined the faculty of the American Academy of Asian Studies (the original name of CIIS) in 1951 and served as dean of faculty from 1952 to 1957. Watts ultimately became famous for popularizing Eastern philosophy in the West through his books and his radio show on KPFA in Berkeley. In 1960, after Watts left the American Academy of Asian Studies, he published the essay “The New Alchemy,” in which he chronicled his experiments with LSD.

Ralph Metzner, after earning his PhD in Clinical Psychology from Harvard University in 1962, participated in psychedelic research at Harvard with Timothy Leary and Richard Alpert, who later became known as Ram Dass. Metzner began teaching psychology at CIIS in 1975, and eventually served the Institute as both the academic dean and academic vice president.

Stanislav Grof, one of the founders of transpersonal psychology, explored the use of psychedelic drugs in therapy practice before the drugs were made illegal. By the late 1960s, Grof and his wife, Christina, had developed a breathing technique that they called Holotropic Breathwork, based on the idea that one could achieve an altered state of consciousness without the use of psychedelic drugs. In the ’90s, Grof joined the faculty of CIIS, where both he and Metzner continued their explorations and research into nonordinary states of consciousness.

“The study of consciousness in its fullness and multidimensionality is central to an integral education,” says Bahman Shirazi, CIIS archivist. “This necessitates openness to various ways of knowing. This is why, throughout its history, the University has partnered with faculty who have been leaders in these areas.”

THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE
Between 1945 and 1970, tens of thousands of research subjects took part in hundreds of psychedelic studies across the U.S. In 1970, as a response to the counterculture movement and the rise of recreational drug use, Congress passed the Controlled Substances Act, enacting a classification system that created five levels of severity by which drugs are grouped.

PSilocybin, MDMA, LSD, ibogaine, and peyote are categorized as Schedule I, the most restrictive level. By criminalizing the use of hallucinogens, the Controlled Substances Act brought an end to research into psychedelic drugs in the U.S. for more than 20 years.

In the past two decades, however, the Food and Drug Administration has approved studies exploring the therapeutic potential of psychedelic drugs for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse and addiction, and end-of-life anxiety.

There are three phases in the FDA's drug development and review process.

In Phase 1 studies, researchers must demonstrate that a medicine can be used safely. Phase 2 studies must show that a medicine has efficacy for a particular set of medical conditions. If a drug is shown to be effective, it can move to Phase 3, where researchers attempt to show that the drug is as effective or more effective than the drugs that are used in existing treatments.

In the U.S., psychedelic researchers depend on funding from MAPS and Heffter. Researchers can seek other private funding as well as support from their academic institutions, but currently there is no federal funding for psychedelic studies. Many current MAPS- and Heffter-funded studies are in Phase 2; others are exploring Phase 1 trials for newly studied medical conditions. Both MAPS and Heffter are preparing Phase 3 initiatives.
Heffter’s clinical research centers on psilocybin. MAPS-funded studies in the U.S. focus on MDMA, although the organization funds international studies in LSD, ibogaine, and ayahuasca.

As research moves forward, it’s important to note that universities and research groups are not the only parties interested in looking for new and better ways to treat illness. The Department of Defense, for example, is spending millions of dollars each year on treatment of veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder.

MDMA and psilocybin, used as medicine, have been proven effective for military veterans who have made multiple suicide attempts, have had psychotic breaks, and are desperate to return to their relationships and families.

WHAT’S NEXT
As MAPS and Heffter push into Phase 3 studies, researchers can seek what are known as expanded access programs, which are studies run outside of clinical trials to treat patients who have serious diseases or conditions and who, according to the FDA, do “not have comparable or satisfactory alternative therapies to treat the disease or condition.”

The FDA’s benchmark for expanded access is that the intent of using the investigational drug is to provide treatment rather than to conduct research. In expanded access programs, graduates of the certificate program at CIIS would be eligible to work as psychedelic researchers, under the supervision of a psychiatrist who would prescribe and administer the medication.

WHERE WILL THE CENTER BE IN FIVE YEARS?
“One of our primary goals is to build a cohort of licensed therapists with CIIS certificates,” says Phelps. “We want to see our CIIS graduates working across the country as trained psychedelic researchers.” Another goal is to continue to build partnerships and to raise funds so that CIIS can eventually run a Phase 3 study here in San Francisco.

One thing is certain: With the creation of the Center for Psychedelic Therapy and Research, CIIS has placed itself in the center of the cutting-edge field of psychedelic studies.

“Not only will we be working with some of the top psychedelic researchers in the country, but we’ll also be preparing our graduates to make important advances in the fields of psychedelic research.”
They recognized CIIS as a true leader in the field of psychotherapy and as an established university that acts ethically, with integrity and a commitment to diversity.

by Lisa Denenmark
In China, according to reports, psychological problems, such as anxiety disorders, appear to be on the rise.

A multitude of changes in China since it introduced economic reforms and open-door policies in the late ’70s, have brought many sociocultural problems, such as dislocation and displacement, helplessness, job stress, and dramatic changes to family and community structures.

“There are so many issues that China has never faced before,” says Lixin Huang, President of the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ACTCM) and CIIS Trustee, who left China in 1986. “In every generation there is need that counseling can help. China knows that it needs to create a new model for health. Modernization and Western influences have become impossible to contain.”

Now there is public discourse in China about personal problems and therapies in books, in advice columns, and on TV, and with it a rising demand for counseling services.

This is a radical shift in a nation where focus on the individual was discouraged by both community values and traditional culture—where psychology was disparaged as unscientific and banned during the Cultural Revolution.

The Chinese government, recognizing the important role of counseling, has launched several initiatives to help curb mental health problems, including its first national mental health legislation, which took effect in May 2013.

The wide-ranging law aims to transform mental health services in China by promoting psychotherapy and preventive measures that include training and education for practitioners and students.

SYNCHRONICITY AND THE CHINA PROJECT

In November 2013, CIIS President Joseph L. Subbiondo and President Huang traveled to China. Building on established relationships fostered in great part by CIIS Trustee Meihong Xu, they visited Zhejiang University (ZJU), in Hangzhou, and Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, where they explored academic collaborations to attract students from China to study psychology at CIIS, as well as to create opportunities for CIIS faculty research.

Ascertaining the great and growing need for the education and professional development of counseling psychologists in China, Subbiondo began envisioning a way for CIIS to contribute to that development and facilitate dialogue about mental health across cultural contexts.

A lunch with alum Caiphong “Jeremy” Zhu (EWP ’11), now living in Beijing, proved to be serendipitous.

Back home, Subbiondo followed up on conversations with scholars and mental health practitioners; and he created, with the support of CIIS trustees, the China Initiative (the Initiative).

He then appointed Zhu to assist with student recruitment and develop collaborative opportunities for faculty.

“President Subbiondo understood the moment and responded quickly. Bigger-name universities can’t do that,” says Huang. “These prestigious universities in China saw how promptly and professionally CIIS responded. They recognized CIIS as a true leader in the field of psychotherapy and as an established university that acts ethically, with integrity and a commitment to diversity."

According to Zhu, “What’s most exciting about the Initiative is that China is right in the midst of recognizing the value of psychology—especially counseling and clinical psychology.”

Zhu senses a resurgent yearning for spirituality and transformation across many groups of people in China and believes that “CIIS can provide both types of nourishment in ways typified by Integral Counseling Psychology or East-West Psychology, among other programs.”

FIRST STOP, SHANGHAI

In spring 2014, two CIIS alums anonymously donated $100,000 in support of the Initiative. Their gift, which established a scholarship fund for Chinese students to study at CIIS, also supports Initiative-related activities and faculty travel to China to present their work. According to Subbiondo, the gift is a “strong indication that our Initiative in China resonates well with our donor and alum communities.”

In May, Zhu arranged for ICP core faculty Alzak Amlani to teach a three-day workshop on Integral Approaches to Counseling and Self-Growth, held at the Sinrong Group in Shanghai, a center that trains and educates counselors and psychotherapists. Amlani found the students “curious and reflective” and eager to understand CIIS’s integral perspective and educational model.

“One of the strengths of CIIS is that it has a multimodal approach to training psychotherapists and can offer many ways of working with clients,” says Amlani. “For example, somatic, transpersonal, expressive arts techniques, and drama therapy can all be used toward an integral approach to psychotherapy that’s attuned to the needs of each specific client.”

Judie Wexler, Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculty, believes that CIIS Counseling Psychology programs have much to offer to the field of psychotherapy in China.

“In China, there are strong academic psychology programs focused on research and academic psychology—quantitative research mostly—but not clinical psychology.

CHINA CONTINUED ON PG. 8 >>
CIIS’s strength is around preparing people to be therapists, in working with clients to help them go deeply toward understanding themselves,” says Wexler.

“This is also an opportunity for faculty to look at psychotherapy through a different set of lenses and to ask how it can be relevant in a different cultural context,” she says.

“CIIS is positioned as a leader because of its diversity and exposures to different cultures,” says Huang. “Now it is ready to respond to the needs of the country with the largest population in the world that is so thirsty for collaboration.” In June, Expressive Arts Therapy Professor Denise Boston presented her Community-Based Research to ZJU’s Department of Psychology and its Mental Health Counseling Center.

“I introduced a research approach that promotes collaboration between higher education counseling programs and community leaders,” says Boston. Her focus on narrative strength-based intervention and approaches to psychotherapy, and the transformative power of story to foster healing for both for teller and listener, profoundly resonated with students and faculty.

Jianhong Ma, Chair of the Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences at Zhejiang University, found Boston’s lectures to be “very impressive.” His department is preparing a development plan for the next four years. “We would like to incorporate the academic link with CIIS into that plan,” Ma says.

OPEN TO PSYCHOTHERAPY

The two faculty visits convinced ZJU and the Sinrong Group that working with CIIS and further collaborating with the University would be of mutual benefit. There are prospective plans to offer lectures, courses, and certificates, as well as to engage in collaborative research in integral education and psychotherapy.

A few months after the faculty excursion, ZJU sent a delegation of students and faculty to CIIS. Over three days, they participated in workshops and lectures, met faculty and board members, and toured San Francisco. The visit was organized by Dorotea Reyna, Vice President of Development; Jody O’connor, International Student Recruitment & Advising Manager; and trustees Huang and Xu.

“The three days with the ZJU group was an amazing success for both CIIS and the delegation. We engaged in rich conversations, sharing perspectives and experiences about psychology and higher education, which helped build our relationship and our cross-cultural understandings,” says O’Connor.

One of the highlights was a visit to the Center for Somatic Psychotherapy, where the delegation did experiential work with clinic director Steuart Gold. “I believe that made a big impact on their understanding of the unique programming that CIIS has to offer,” O’Connor says.

For the 2012–13 academic year, according to a report, the number of Chinese students enrolled in U.S. higher education rose by 26% at the undergraduate level from the previous year.

“I’m excited about the relationships we’re building that can lead to cross-cultural collaboration going forward and more opportunities for us to do this work elsewhere,” says Boston.

“If we create something replicable, that will enable CIIS to stand heads above what anyone else is doing around counseling psychology.”
In 2007, artist Margaret LeJeune relocated from upstate New York to rural Arkansas to take a teaching position. In her female photo students’ portraits she found a culture of hunting and gun ownership that embodied a seemingly paradoxical feminism. Seeking to connect to her new community, LeJeune started out on a five-year journey that took her across the United States, meeting and photographing women in gun clubs and hunting networks. The pleasurable and intimate voyeurism afforded by these environmental portraits illuminates the subjects’ lives, providing texture and dimension that resists easy categorization. Neither heroic nor sexualized, the women hunters pictured in this series invite us to look both at and beyond their passion for hunting, to see their strength, independence, self-sufficiency, and multidimensionality.

For artist Vũ Thị Thu Hà, the sea is not a place of tranquility; it is, instead, her greatest fear.

Born in Vietnam, Vũ Thị Thu Hà left abruptly in 1983. Her family, like many others, sought refuge from political persecution after years of French occupation and the Vietnam War. Nine years old, she traveled with three of her siblings, ages 11 to 15, and 35 strangers on a fishing boat whose motor was dying. She did not know how to swim. After days and nights drifting at sea, the passengers were rescued and taken to a satellite refugee camp in Indonesia. In May of the following year, the four children were placed in foster care in North Carolina, where her parents and other siblings eventually joined them. After college, thu Hà came to the Bay Area to pursue film and photography. She still does not know how to swim. In 2012, thu Hà began to go to the sea virtually daily—to encounter her fear and make a photograph. The works in this exhibition are drawn from that series.

The Veterans Book Project is a library of books authored collaboratively by artist Monica Haller and veteran Riley Sharbonno from the hundreds of digital images Sharbonno shot while deployed in Iraq as a nurse at Abu Ghraib prison. Each book in the Project redeploy participants’ volatile images and text with the aim of rearticulating and refashioning memories. They stand both independently and in concert with each other.

In conjunction with Objects for Deployment, the Arts at CIIS and MFA program will be working with Krista DeNio and her Contact Project, a performance project that brings veterans and nonveterans together onstage to talk about ourselves, war, and what we can learn from one another.

These haunting and deeply evocative photographs of historical objects speak eloquently of black public and private lives in the 19th and 20th centuries. Through his brilliant yet understated selection of objects; his use of angle, perspective, juxtaposition, and black space; and the placement of objects on the page, Wendel White invites us to linger and meditate over the remains of black lives and the stories of loss and survival, deprivation and prosperity, and suffering and joy that they both contain and suggest.

—Valerie Smith, Princeton University
This summer, CIIS received a $100,000 legacy grant from the Angeles Arrien Foundation for Cross-Cultural Education and Research (the Foundation) for the Anthropology and Social Change department. The grant was a bequest in honor of the lifelong national and international work of Angeles Arrien, PhD, who passed away last spring at the age of 73.

Several decades ago, at CIIS, Angeles co-designed and implemented the original Social and Cultural Anthropology program, and most recently she was on the Council of Sages and taught workshops through Public Programs & Performances.

Angeles was known for her deep commitment, her integrity, and her skills for facilitating positive and sustainable changes with individuals and organizations. She always looked for what was possible, beyond the knowable, to serve the individual and collective greater good. She embodied a deep commitment and a clear and direct approach to her work with tens of thousands of individuals for more than 45 years.

She held a consistent vision that the heart of collective work always supported a diversity of many points of view and possibilities, and she wholeheartedly believed in the incredible power of what she called “bridging work,” whether between disciplines, peoples, cultures, traditions, or generations.

THE FOUNDATION’S LEGACIES
Angeles was the president of the Foundation, a nonprofit organization that she created to support the preservation of the cultural heritage of indigenous traditions worldwide, and to sponsor multicultural bridging and collaborative projects between countries, professions, generations, and faiths.

The Foundation honored international elders as invaluable mentors and wisdom-keepers, fostered the development of emerging youth leaders, supported environmental sustainability, and sponsored the development of more than 200 water wells in countries in need. Its outreach positively affected people and communities in 32 countries, and it has provided more than 400 scholarships to youth and elders.

“I could not be more pleased with the delightful news regarding the Angeles Arrien scholarships,” said Andrej Grubacic, Chair of the Anthropology and Social Change department. “This generous gift will support the work of two anthropology students in areas that reflect the Foundation’s mission. Our faculty and students will do our best to honor her memory and celebrate her work as a cultural anthropologist and peace builder.”

Born in 1940, Angeles became a cultural anthropologist, author, educator, and consultant to many organizations, businesses, and individuals. Raised biculturally and one of the first generation of a Basque immigrant family from the Pyrenees of Spain, Angeles discovered as a young girl her deep interest in learning about other cultures, arising out of her own bicultural experience.

With family in the Basque communities of both Idaho and Spain, she pursued her interests in diverse cultures and international work through an advanced degree in anthropology and folklore at UC Berkeley. There she learned about cross-cultural and indigenous traditions, and explored the commonalities of perennial wisdoms encompassing spiritual and religious traditions, societal mores, and universal values.

IMPARTING PERENNIAL WISDOMS
As a young woman traveling around the world as part of her teaching and research, Angeles developed a lifelong commitment to finding the common ground between people and communities. She felt it important to bridge differences and optimize the creative opportunities and points of unity found in diversity, by revealing the “universal wisdoms” that transcend culture, history, and family conditioning.
For more than 45 years, Angeles imparted these universal and perennial wisdoms in a sustainable manner so that they would be preserved for future generations. Her lectures, courses, and writings bridged cultural anthropology, psychology, comparative religions, conflict resolution, and mediation skills.

Her award-winning books include Signs of Life: The Five Universal Shapes and How to Use Them (1993 Benjamin Franklin Award); The Second Half of Life: Opening the Eight Gates of Wisdom (2007 Nautilus Award for Best Book on Aging); and Living in Gratitude: A Journey That Will Change Your Life (a Gold Medal Co-winner of the 2012 Independent Publisher Book Awards IPPY Award).

Angeles, author of seven books, is most known for her beloved book The Four-Fold Way: Walking the Paths of the Warrior, Healer, Teacher, and Visionary, from which her programs, keynotes, and workshops drew most extensively. Through decades of teaching Four-Fold Way® programs, and her lifelong love of nature, she provided three-day, three-night solo wilderness experiences for more than 6,000 people of all ages worldwide.

Robert McDermott, President Emeritus of CIIS, said of his friend and collaborator, “Her Four-Fold Way reveals that Angeles was a wise and helpful teacher. A lunch with Angie would show that she was also a sensitive and effective healer. A daylong or weekend retreat with Angie would show that she was also a wide and far-sighted visionary. A week in the desert with Angie would show that she was also a warrior.”

Angeles taught in the University of California system and at three Bay Area graduate schools. While at CIIS implementing the Social and Cultural Anthropology doctoral program (now called Anthropology and Social Change), she also received its Distinguished Teaching Award. Since 1988, Angeles received three honorary doctorate degrees.

In addition to being an advisor to numerous organizations nationally, she was an international advisor and past fellow at the Institute of Noetic Sciences; a trustee of the Fetzer Institute; and core faculty with the Metta Institute’s End-of-Life Counselor Training (EOL) program.

She gave keynote addresses, workshops, and presentations to organizations including the Gorbachev Foundation, the State of the World Forum, the Wharton Business School, the International Women’s Forum, International Global Learning, American Leadership Forum–Silicon Valley, the Kellogg Foundation, Hewlett-Packard Labs, Professional Business Women’s Conference, California Judicial Court Family Services, U.S. Journal Training, Grupo Femsa / Cerveceria Cuauhtemoc Moctezuma and Grupo Pulsar (Mexico), and the International Peacemaking Conference (along with three Nobel Prize winners).

Her expertise in mediation and conflict resolution was called upon by the International Human Rights Commission and the World Indigenous Council, and requests for her skills took her to such countries as China, New Zealand, Spain, Denmark, Hawaii, the Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, South Africa, and Mexico.

As vast as the depth and breadth of her far-reaching lifelong work was, Angeles is best known for her authentic personhood, depth of character, compassionate engagement, skillful and astute communication abilities, and generosity of spirit.

She was a wonderful storyteller who had a delightful sense of humor, had a creative outlook on life, and was beloved by her students, colleagues, friends, and family. She remained committed to “walking the mystical path with practical feet” and to making the world a better place by leaving a legacy of increased cultural and spiritual tolerance and understanding for future generations.

Ani Tenzin Lhadron, PhD, worked and studied with Angeles Arrien for 15 years, serving as Executive Director of Arrien’s business ventures and Secretary of the Foundation.

She always looked for what was possible, beyond the knowable, to serve the individual and collective greater good.
“Responsible hive care takes understanding bee biology, regular colony inspections, and hours of work a month, not to mention the sticky and time-consuming commitment of the honey harvest.”
On Earth Day 2013, I walked past the security staff at the front door of 143 Mission with a three-pound box of European honeybees (Apis mellifera). The estimated 10,000 bees in the screened-in box (known as a package to beekeepers) were buzzing loudly.

The box, measuring about 5 by 7 by 18 inches, comes fitted with a 16-ounce can of syrup to sustain the nascent colony during the transition, as well as a small interior box in which the reigning monarch is housed, safe within the throng of female worker bees.

When the colony is installed in its hive, the queen cage is mounted between frames of wax, and in the course of the first few days after installation, the workers free her by eating through the mini-marshmallow that blocks the cage entrance. Her pheromones will have been quickly spread among the bees, which are otherwise queenless, and which will accept her as their own, knowing that she's the key to establishment of a colony.

Cultivating bees at CIIS was the brainchild of Professor and former President Robert McDermott. He became inspired after listening to a lecture by his friend Gunther Hauk, activist, educator, and longtime biodynamic farmer and beekeeper, known worldwide for his formidable advocacy work on behalf of saving bees.

I had been an apiarist for only two and a half years, still a “newbie,” when McDermott discovered that I was a beekeeper. I shared his enthusiasm, and we found an ally in then-Director of Facilities and Operations Jonathan Mills. Together we were able to address concerns of access and safety, and with the help of Operations staff member Justin Parsons, also a beekeeper, we created a site for the hive that was ready in time for the Earth Day installation.

**BEEKEEPING IN THE CITY**

From the vantage point of the rooftop at 10th and Mission Streets, it’s hard to believe that bees can thrive in downtown San Francisco. There’s little green space in sight; both foreground and background as far as you can see are covered in a tapestry of high-rises, former factories turned loft spaces, and Victorian and Edwardian buildings, an array of architectural vocabularies that mark the city’s periods of growth and aspiration.

Bees, however, will travel up to three miles in any direction, harvesting pollen and nectar from street trees and flowers tucked into backyards across much of our small city. There’s almost always something in bloom, and our mild winters mean not only that it’s easier to keep the hive interior warm enough for the bees but also that the periods of dearth—when nectar availability is low—are comparatively short.

Beekeeping in an urban environment requires that we be both good stewards and responsible neighbors. San Francisco’s long-standing Beekeepers Association and public policy favorable to urban agriculture have made it easy to become a backyard apiarist in the city.

But failure to diligently maintain hives can lead to swarming, bad press for beekeepers, and a potentially deadly situation for bees that make a new home in a cavity, such as a recessed space in a neighbor’s attic wall.

Increasing interest in self-sufficiency and urban farming, combined with an outpouring of concern about colony losses, led to a dramatic increase in beekeeping in the city in the second half of the last decade. The membership of the San Francisco Beekeepers Association had burgeoned from 65 in 2006 to 209 three years later. Classes were readily available and affordable. It was in this context that I started to take classes, dusting off the equipment my father used when my siblings and I were kids.

Responsible hive care takes understanding bee biology, regular colony inspections, and hours of work a month, not to mention the sticky and time-consuming commitment of the honey harvest. It also requires the desire and willingness to learn from failures because even experienced beekeepers can lose colonies.

In December 2013, just before the winter holidays, we harvested our first CIIS honey, almost 50 pounds in dozens of eight-ounce jars that disappeared from the café countertop in the first 24 hours. Vice President of Development Dorotea Reyna won the label-design contest with a reference to the Hindu goddess of bees, Bhramari Devi.

**COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER**

Not long thereafter, our colony disappeared without a trace. In our investigation of possible reasons, everything pointed to the intense vibrations caused by earth-moving equipment in the lot next door. Bees are very sensitive to vibration, and the adjacent lot was undergoing intense drilling and pounding in the work of laying the foundation for an 11-story building. Several beekeeping experts I consulted suggested that the bees abscended in search of a quieter and more stable location.

**Bees continued on pg. 27>>**
When asked why I joined the Public Programs & Performances team, two words come to mind: diversity and momentum.

As the program’s event coordinator for offsite concerts and lectures, I have a unique opportunity to interact with artists, authors, activists, and community leaders. I have not been disappointed in the execution of programs designed to inspire and provoke change.

As a young female professional, I continue to feel empowered by the diverse representation of women on our campus and in our programming.

My inaugural season started with a lecture by Laverne Cox, an African American transgender actress, producer, educator, and activist, and ended with an electrifying performance by Benin-born, Brooklyn-based legendary musician Angelique Kidjo.

Kidjo, as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, travels the world, raising awareness about girls’ education with the mission of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education. In addition to her signature recordings, and a tribute to “Mama Africa,” Miriam Makeba, Kidjo sang from her latest album, Eve, a melodically rich, rhythmically powerful meditation on female empowerment.

Though these names and their activisms were familiar to me before joining CIIS, my role in Public Programs required me to develop a deeper understanding about these issues, and engage with the communities most touched by their great work.

In late September, rising star Mary Lambert, a singer-songwriter and spoken word artist, who self-describes as a “voluptuous, curvy, dress-wearing lesbian,” delivered her message of self-acceptance. Her raw, and often hilarious, performance touched everyone present. True to the name of her tour, the woman wore her heart on her sleeve.

In October, poet and activist Andrea Gibson engaged CIIS MFA student Akmunet Jordan for an insightful conversation at San Francisco’s LGBT Center. Gibson followed it with a moving performance the next evening with poems about gender normativity, politics, feminism, fear, joy and the everyday struggles of LGBTQ people.

Lambert and Gibson were only the beginning of what’s shaping up to be a landmark season for Public Programs. It will continue to connect audiences with women who have redefined and reclaimed titles such as artist, leader, activist, entrepreneur, husband, daughter, partner, and citizen in today’s rapidly changing social climate.

In their November lecture, “The Women of Burning Man,” founding member Harley Dubois and sculptor Rebecca Zanders will explore female leadership as a catalyst for creative expression and community building.

In 2015, we showcase accomplished international artists, such as the lyrically lush Mexican-American singer/composer Lila Downs, who brings her palette of pan-Latin music as well as American folk, jazz, blues, and rock to the Nourse Theater in April; Afro-Spanish singer Buika; and violin virtuoso Kala Ramnath.

Yuna, the young, charismatic Malaysian singer and pop sensation, performs in the Spring.

Comedian and Orange is the New Black actress Lea DeLaria in March is sure to be provocative, funny, moving, and political.

I am grateful to be able to aid in furthering the momentum sparked by so many opportunities for intercommunity dialogue that these events create. Please join us in supporting women who are agents of change and who inspire others to become the same.

Additional spring lectures will be added soon, so be sure to check www.ciis.edu/publicprograms for our full list.
HSX 101: INTRO TO HUMAN SEXUALITY PHD PEOPLE

The Human Sexuality (HSX) PhD program launched this fall with a cohort of 17 clinicians, leaders, and activists from across the United States. Meet some of our PhD candidates and faculty who are dedicated to increasing sexual literacy, enhancing research, and improving best practices in the clinical, policy, and academic fields.

ON CIIS
Coming to CIIS has felt like coming home. I’m excited to come here and discuss things that are very close to my heart personally and professionally and to feel nurtured, heard, and seen and to really feel like I’m with a bunch of people who are sharing in that excitement.

ON INTERESTS IN THE FIELD
I have these ideas and clinical questions that I want to try to answer with my research—about female sexuality, about queer identity development, about risk and resilience, and about offering alternatives to our staged models and binaries.

Really bringing in the research and theory, and applying it to practice is something I’m excited about moving forward.

ON GETTING A PHD
The PhD is a privilege. It’s saying to myself—and having an institution say to me—“Here’s time to do what you love and to study what’s important to you, and really invest in some long-term work and have that grow out however that grows.”

The bulk of my work will be looking at applications of queer theory to clinical practice.

ON THE COHORT
To be in this space and to go through a program as a part of a cohort where I am able to have that interdisciplinary conversation, with courses that feed into each other that are not in these isolated boxes where we pretend that things don’t influence each other—that’s what’s exciting to me.

San Francisco is now becoming a real world that I’m immersed in. There are so many groups here that I can’t wait to be exposed to. I have no idea where I’ll be in three years, but I know I’m in a place that feels comfortable, and I know that this is going to sustain me for decades.

ON THE HYBRID FORMAT
That we have these long weekends where we do intensive work together and then go back home and communicate online makes our work that much larger—much more national and international. It’s very different than saying, I’m purely a student and only going to school, or I’m purely a professional who’s getting another certification. It’s a very nice blend of those two worlds.

Giacintta Talarico
Student, Clinical Track
From: Northern New Jersey
Lives in: New York
Holds master’s degree in: Social Services
Didn’t have time to go into: Can’t carry a tune, but her vocals are hidden on a pop recording track.

Stefan Lucke
Student, Policy Track
From: Munich, Germany
Lives in: San Francisco
Holds master’s degree in: Communication Science
Didn’t have time to go into: While in Memphis, refused to go to Elvis Museum.

ON CIIS
It’s a blessing to finally have found a program that fits like a glove for my interests. I’m doing the first cohort as a student, but I’m also hired as a teaching assistant.

I was drawn to the program because it had a policy track, something unique, I think, even worldwide. I was looking for something more political that was also aware of current proceedings in society.

Changing my career was a big decision. I worked for 12 years as a senior systems analyst at the Art Institute of Chicago. Finally following my passion of living and learning something I always wanted to do appears to be the right decision at this point.

ON INTERESTS IN THE FIELD
They all converge on sexual minorities, be it gender or any outliers who don’t fit the norm of how society treats them, how those folks are regulated—or even incarcerated. One of my focuses is childhood and youth, especially the development of sex-ed curriculums.

ON GETTING A PHD
One goal would be to work in policy-related areas to help communities to win legal fights or achieve better policies in schools and work. In the long term, my goal is to help found a sexological program in Germany.

PhD programs need flexibility. At this point in life, people have obligations. With the structure you could just be a student, you could work, or you could fly in and out and use the online component. CIIS offers that great flexibility.

ON THE HYBRID FORMAT
PhD programs need flexibility. At this point in life, people have obligations. With the structure you could just be a student, you could work, or you could fly in and out and use the online component. CIIS offers that great flexibility.
**FACULTY profile**

**JAMISON GREEN**
Adjunct Faculty

**Course:** Transgender Experience, Identities, Policies, and Communities  
**From:** Oakland, CA  
**Lives in:** Union City, CA  
**Holds MFA in:** English  
**PhD in:** Law  
**Didn't have time to go into:** Though his MFA is in fiction, his first book was a serious treatise on Lepidoptera, written when he was 11 years old.

Jamison Green is an internationally respected author and longtime advocate working to improve health, civil rights, and social safety for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people. Considered one of the foremost educators and policy advisors on transgender and transsexual issues, he is sometimes referred to as “the grandfather of the transgender movement.”

In addition to his work on Lepidoptera, Green is the author of the prizewinning classic monograph *Becoming a Visible Man* and a contributor to several academic anthologies. Additionally, he has contributed to the text of many laws and policies now in force in the U.S. and worldwide.

He serves as president of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH).

**ON HIS TEACHING PHILOSOPHY**

I’m all about empowering people and encouraging students to explore ideas they find fascinating or have never thought about before. I have found that the best way to process these ideas is to talk about them and ask questions.

I want to create an open environment for students to take initiative and explore concepts that intrigue them. I expect students to come away with a sense of awe that they can carry with them. Be it medical, philosophical, human rights, or how to create policies that take bodies into account, I’m asking, “What’s exciting to you!”

**ON THE COHORT**

This is an amazing cohort. Students are bright, committed, enthusiastic, and engaged in many different struggles. They have so much to offer to their fields and to one another with their many different perspectives.

Most students won’t go on to do transgender work, but clinicians may see transgender people in their practices. What I want students to get from class is to come away with a broader way of thinking and understanding. For example, that there is no one way to talk about trans.

**MICHIELE ENG CONTINUED FROM PG. 1 >>**

**HUGE BOOST IN DIVERSITY AND ENROLLMENT**

In fall 2014, SUS saw an increase not only in enrollment but also in student diversity numbers: Almost 40% of undergraduate students identified as being a part of a historically marginalized racial group.

That enrollment can largely be attributed to SUS’s commitment to attracting students from marginalized communities—those that traditionally have had little access to education. What keeps them here is SUS faculty and staff who are passionate about helping students finish their education.

CIIS undergraduates are “nontraditional”—often midcareer professionals, whose average age is somewhere in the mid-30s. They work as teachers, artists, accountants, TV producers; they work for faith-based organizations and even for the FBI.

“Michelle has a vision of how to extend CIIS’s mission to undergraduate education,” says Professor Alec MacLeod, BAC’s inaugural director and the program’s most senior faculty member. “She also sees very clearly the role that SUS can play within the University. Working collaboratively, she has guided us through appropriate growth. We have added a new minor in Critical Psychology, which is flourishing in its third year,” he says.

Eng hopes to develop a fuller range of student support services specifically for undergraduates and alumni, including skills workshops and career services. The larger goal is to “help our students not just get into graduate school, if that is what they choose, but to help them step back into the world and find work that is meaningful and sustainable.”

**STELLAR GRADUATION RATES**

Eng has deep commitment to maintaining an educational environment that welcomes students from all kinds of backgrounds and helps them to thrive. This is expressed in her outreach and advising activities and is well reflected in the curriculum, says Wexler. “From their first contact with Michelle and the SUS staff, prospective students are mentored toward achieving their educational goals.”

This may be why SUS graduation rates are considerably higher than those of other degree-completion programs in California—and another reason why students stay. For the past two years, almost 80% of SUS students earned their bachelor’s degree in just one year.

In addition, Eng stresses the importance of financial support particularly for veterans and formerly incarcerated people who are seeking an education. ▶️
Over the last five years, CIIS has charted a course to increase support for LGBTQ students on college campuses through its Expanding the Circle: Creating an Inclusive Environment in Higher Education for LGBTQ Students and Studies (ETC) conferences and Summer Institutes. The LGBTQ Initiative builds on this groundbreaking work and its network of faculty, administrators, and student services professionals. It will recruit students of color and transgender students to participate in this fellowship program.

Recruitment outreach will be directed to historically black colleges and universities, where the Arcus Foundation has already been doing work to connect the African American civil rights movement with the LGBTQ movement; and to small, more remote campuses, where there is less likely to be a visible LGBTQ presence on campus or in the larger community. The LGBTQ Initiative will select 10 students as Arcus Fellows for two cohorts for extensive leadership training. The LGBTQ Initiative will be housed within CIIS’s new Human Sexuality PhD (HSX) program and will take place, in part, alongside ETC Summer Institutes. Fellows will receive extensive mentorship, both from LGBTQ leaders at their home campuses and from HSX students. The Fellows will be supported to become leaders who can advocate for the protection, visibility, and sociocultural well-being of their LGBTQ peers, making college campuses safer and more inclusive academically and socially.

For further information and to apply for a fellowship, please see www.ciis.edu/arcus.

$100,000 ARCUS GRANT FOR LGBTQ LEADERSHIP

CIIS is excited to announce that Arcus Foundation—one of the foremost funders of LGBTQ issues in the United States—has awarded CIIS a three-year $100,000 grant to support “The LGBTQ Leadership Initiative in Higher Education.”

SEVERAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND A FELLOWSHIP

In collaboration with BAC Associate Professor Sonya Shah, who works in the field of restorative justice, in 2013, SUS established the Arc of Justice Scholarship Fund. The fund enables formerly incarcerated people to return to school to complete their undergraduate degrees.

In addition, SUS offers scholarships to veterans through the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Yellow Ribbon program, the George R. Moscone scholarship to public employees of the City and County of San Francisco, and the Barbara A. Garcia scholarship to employees of the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

“Under Eng’s direction, we have seen the undergraduate program strengthen its commitment to a liberatory pedagogy, increasingly matching its practice to its promise,” says MacLeod. “It has been great to see these strategies more widely disseminated through the Integral Teaching Fellowship, launched in spring 2014.” The ITF program is tailored to CIIS graduate students who are interested in teaching at the college level, with a focus on liberatory approaches to education, as modeled in our BAC classrooms.

SUS: STEPS AHEAD

What’s exciting to Eng as an educator is making things possible. To come are more minors and majors that may include leadership studies. The major would offer students the opportunity to study and practice leadership from multiple disciplines, including both theoretical and experiential components, emphasizing active learning and community service. Students would learn the nature of leadership, examine strategies for effecting change, and practice ways to become better leaders in multicultural contexts.

“We don’t add new majors and new degrees in a vacuum,” she says. “We ask, what’s the greatest need? What are the skills students need to make an impact in the world? “More and more, we are moving toward positioning CIIS as a university with a vibrant undergraduate program that can serve as a feeder for our graduate programs,” says Eng.

She reflects on how far SUS has come and the possibilities ahead. She believes that “we are at a place now where things are starting to shift again. We can no longer be a school that offers only one bachelor’s degree. We need to be thinking about what other degrees we can offer that will provide the knowledge and skills that students need to serve their local communities and the global community.”
This Eliot quote is how William Ruel Walker, a new CIIS trustee, summarizes his intentional career journey through seminary, law school, corporate law, teaching law, and CIIS’s Integral Counseling Psychology program, a journey that’s led to his current work both as an appellate attorney and as manager of educational program development for the Pachamama Alliance.

Ruel grew up in Austin, TX, and says that even as a child, he had stirrings to find what he now calls the “unifying principle” underlying everything, or “our deepest level of connectedness.”

It was during his junior year at Duke University that Ruel read Hermann Hesse’s novel Siddhartha, which for the first time in his experience pointed toward what he had been trying to find. Consequently, he took as many courses on Eastern religions as he could and, after graduation, traveled in Europe and India, in part to look for that unifying principle in other cultures.

**INTEGRATING THE SPIRITUAL AND PRACTICAL**

He then began studies at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, preparing for ordination in the United Methodist Church. After two years in seminary, though, he decided that rather than being paid to lead a church in a traditional Protestant denomination, it was more in keeping with his values to be what he calls an “incognito” minister.

Ruel decided instead to follow the family tradition of becoming a lawyer—a transition that might seem odd to many but was part of an effort to integrate the spiritual and the practical in his career(s).

He started law school at the University of Houston, also working in the university’s development office, responsible for estate planning gifts. He completed his law degree at the University of Texas at Austin. This was followed by a period during which he worked for a large corporate law firm in Los Angeles and then taught law at Loyola Law School in L.A.

At age 40, Ruel reconfigured his law career into a private practice focused on appellate law, which he continues today. At the same time, he started volunteering at L.A.’s LGBT Center as a participant in its peer-counseling program. Combining these two careers, he says, felt “profoundly satisfying.”

When Ruel pursued his interest in counseling psychology, he wanted a transpersonal orientation, and as he says, CIIS is “simply the best place for that.” During the early 1990s, he earned his MA in Integral Counseling Psychology at CIIS and then got most of his clinical experience at Compass Community Services in San Francisco’s Tenderloin, working with the children of homeless families.

**THE RIGHT TIME TO GIVE BACK**

In 2005, Ruel put his psychotherapy license on inactive status and started working halftime for a San Francisco nonprofit, the Pachamama Alliance. The organization has a mission of creating experiences of personal and collective transformation that contribute to “bringing forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, socially just human presence on this planet.” At the Alliance, Ruel manages the development of educational programs and trainings.

As a member of the CIIS Board of Trustees, Ruel is pleased to give back to CIIS through his experience with law, fundraising, and educational program development. He is also excited to contribute what he can to some of the University’s new initiatives, of which the most obvious is the collaboration between CIIS’s new Ecoresilience Certificate program and the Alliance’s “Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream” symposium, a four-hour transformational program that explores the challenges and possibilities of creating a thriving, just, and sustainable future for humanity.

Ruel is also interested in exploring ways for CIIS to develop transformative interpersonal skills programs for the tech companies that are now the University’s neighbors. He is thrilled to return to the CIIS community in this way and at this time.

“**He wanted a transpersonal orientation, and...CIIS is simply the best place for that.”**
The Heritage Society is a group of individuals who have remembered CIIS in their wills and estate plans. CIIS is grateful to these people, whose gifts will help ensure that the University continues to educate generations of students to come. CIIS Trustee Ricki Pollycove, MD, shares why she is passionate about CIIS and her decision to leave a gift in her will.

Why is CIIS Important to the World?
CIIS teaches and models the fundamentals of peace, tolerance, understanding, and great respect for the Other—those outside our familiar circle. Students, faculty, staff, trustees, and alums really live that attitude and connection to the heart, which is the key to creating peace in the world.

Are There CIIS Programs That Particularly Excite You at This Time?
As a physician, the Integral Health Studies master’s degree program is another world-leading innovation unique to CIIS and of critical importance toward better health outcomes in the U.S. and globally.

How Have You Seen CIIS Grow? What Do You Believe Is Its Future?
As a trustee, I have seen CIIS grow from a precarious, fringe, wonderful impetus to a solid and secure, financially sound, and inspirational University that is recognized worldwide as a leader in integral studies. If more and more people ensure its financial viability, CIIS will continue to provide the impulse, inspiration, and nurturing foundation for the peacemakers of tomorrow.

Why Have You Remembered CIIS in Your Will?
I left a bequest to CIIS because I think that’s the greatest gift I can give to my heirs: supporting the effort to create world peace and understanding. I hope that they will understand the Ricki Pollycove Trust for CIIS as a manifestation of their mother’s/grandmother’s devotion to making the world a better place.

For more information about the Heritage Society and remembering CIIS in your will or estate plans, please contact Dorotea Reyna, Vice President of Development, at 415.575.6135, or dreyna@ciis.edu
thank you for your support

As CIIS celebrates its 46th year, the University is pleased to recognize all those members of its extended community who have made gifts during the 2013–2014 academic year. Numbering nearly 400, these generous donors represent every segment of the CIIS community, including alumni, students, trustees, faculty, staff, and friends, as well as foundations, corporations, businesses, and supporting organizations.

Together these donors contributed more than $1 million to CIIS, supporting a wide variety of programs including scholarships, research, academic and public programs, the counseling centers, the arts, and the Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri Library Collection. This year, major support went to CIIS’s China Initiative, the Center for Psychedelic Therapy and Research, Expanding the Circle Summer Institute, and the first-floor renovation.

All gifts to CIIS, whatever their size and purpose, are deeply appreciated because they contribute to the University’s excellence and expanding scope of influence. For questions about the Honor Roll of Donors or to inquire about making your own gift to CIIS, please contact Dorotea Reyna, Vice President of Development, at 415.575.6135 (dreyna@ciis.edu).

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FANIA E. DAVIS, Executive Director, Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth
HELEN DESAI, Civic Leader
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RICHARD GIARDINA, Associate Provost (Ret.), San Francisco State University
BETSY GORDON, Founder, Betsy Gordon Foundation
LIXIN HUANG, President, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine
KISHORE KRIPALANI, Owner, Gaylord India Restaurants
ROSE LAVANDERO, Corporate Community Relations Liaison, TM Financial Forensics LLC
JOHN PAUL LENNEY, Former SVP, ALEKS Corporation
TAMAR MARCH, Senior Fellow, Association of American Colleges and Universities; Founder & Director, the Arden Institute
ASHOK NARASIMHAN, Parallel Entrepreneur
SANDRA PACHECO, Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies, CIIS
RICKI POLLYCOVE, MD OB/GYN, California Pacific Medical Center
RENUKA PRASAD RELAN, Civic Leader
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Sarah Kerr has a very unusual calling.

As a death midwife, she helps her clients bridge life and death. Whether Sarah is doing a euthanasia ritual for a family’s beloved pet, leading a death ritual for someone who is in the final stages of a serious illness, or helping clients release unprocessed grief, she says she turns to her dreams for guidance, a practice she began during her 14 years of training in indigenous healing practices.

In fact, a powerful gift she brings to this work is her capacity to reinvigorate indigenous traditions in a way that is authentic and resonant for the Western world. But, as a CIIS grad, she is also aware of the ethical dimensions of indigenous practice in the West. As Sarah writes in her dissertation, “Those of us who are of European descent—and others operating from a modern Western mind-set—must evolve our own practices for deepening our relationship with the nature and spirit realm, practices which are grounded in our own lived experiences and our cultural and geographic milieu.” This type of work means recognizing the reality of colonization, racism, and white privilege, while not letting that prevent us from “claiming our ancestral birthright, which is to be of the Earth.”

FROM ACTIVIST TO REFLECTIVIST

In the early ‘90s and 2000s, Sarah worked in environmental, social justice, and alternative economic development. After she spent five days in jail for her activism in WTO protests in Seattle, however, Sarah realized that this form of social change required a level of energy that was personally and culturally unsustainable.

That’s why, when she started her doctoral studies at CIIS, she transitioned from an activist to a “reflectivist,” which allowed her to think about how change happened and to be more strategic about how she placed her energy. “My time at CIIS really shifted me from a social change perspective to a social healing one,” Sarah says.

Sarah claims that by addressing the wounds in our culture around death, she is engaging a strategic extension of her activist work. She maintains that disenfranchised grief is a gaping wound in our cultural psyche, which has implications for all of us. “Death is one of our biggest cultural shadows. And there’s a lot of energy bound up in shadow,” she says. “It has a huge impact on everything we’re doing, how we’re living, our economies, how we build our cities, how we build our houses and consume. It’s all there. There’s a thread in all of that back to our dysfunctional relationship with death.”

How can we free up our shadows around death and learn to let go?

One of the most effective doorways for this change, Sarah says, is opened through community and individual ritual. “Rituals step outside of time and space,” she says, “and they can make right what wasn’t done properly at the time.”

RITUAL IN RELEASE

An example of the role of ritual in release of grief comes from one of her clients, age 33, who found Sarah’s services after living with the unprocessed loss of both her mother and her sister in childbirth when the client was only three years old. The client’s sister had never been named or given a tombstone, and although she was buried with her mother, her sister wasn’t mentioned at the funeral, nor was Sarah’s client allowed to be at the funeral.

“If we start to see that actually dying is just a change, that there’s a spiritual experience too, then we don’t need to grip onto the physical.”
Sarah worked with the client through spiritual conversation and mentorship and smaller rituals to help the baby arrive and allow the living sister to experience the ritual validation of grief that happens at a funeral. As a child, her client was “still engaged in the energetic pattern of the community.”

The collective healing happens when the community in which the dying or deceased person was embedded addresses the imbalance created by the loss of that person. To illustrate this, Sarah shares a story about a four-day funeral she recently led for a family near Calgary. She was called three weeks before the man, an organic farmer in the slow food movement, died of cancer at age 67.

When he died, Sarah led the family and community in a grieving process, which spread outward in concentric circles, with the farmer at the center of the circles. The ripples moved outward to include his wife and children, then his siblings, and eventually everyone in his life, with different rituals of grieving for each level of the circle. By the time the community was invited to a funeral on the fourth day, Sarah says, “the family wasn’t dealing with their raw grief anymore. All they had to do was receive the love that was coming to them.”

When she received her PhD from the Transformative Learning and Change program in 2012, Sarah had no idea that she would be doing this work. She spent the first six months mulling before her calling became clear, and then she worked to make her calling a reality.

TRUST YOUR INNER KNOWING
Because of the unique way in which Sarah birthed her death midwifery practice, she has advice for others who are considering alternative careers: “If you know that what you have to offer is real and true and meaningful, even if there is no reflection in the mainstream world, trust your inner knowing. Because if it’s real and true and meaningful, it will be valuable. And, it may take time, but it will happen.” This may require self-compassion and a suspension of self-judgment on the part of the seeker because, as Sarah says, “inner knowing is not valued in this culture.”

Sarah Kerr leads us into what’s possible through grief work with the reminder that life encompasses birth and death and that we must heal our relationship to both by learning to let go.

“We’re trying to put off death,” she says. “We are obsessed about the survival of our bodies. But if we start to see that actually dying is just a change, that there’s a spiritual experience too, then we don’t need to grip onto the physical. That would change all sorts of things about how we live.” This happens as a practice in which each experience of releasing loss prepares us to come into better relationship with it the next time.

Sarah Kerr continues to help people to do this with clients in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where she lives, and also at a distance via phone and Skype. She can be contacted online for her death midwifery and healing work.

Death Midwife Sarah Kerr is a 2012 graduate of the Transformative Learning and Change program. Her dissertation was titled Dreams, Rituals, and the Creation of Sacred Objects: An Inquiry into a Contemporary Western Shamanic Initiation. She also holds a Master’s Degree in Environmental Philosophy and a Master’s Certificate in Intuition Medicine. Sarah has taught at the University of Calgary in Canada and worked in sustainable community building since the 1990s. She is a longtime student of cross-cultural shamanism and nature-based spirituality and has worked with many indigenous and Western teachers.

Heather Fester, PhD, is director of the Center for Writing and Scholarship at CIIS.
ICP ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
40 YEARS!

by Richard Buggs

SAN FRANCISCO • MAY 3, 2014

More than 130 Integral Counseling Psychology (ICP) alums and their guests gathered in Namaste Hall on May 3, 2014, to celebrate 40 years since the program’s founding. The event, co-sponsored by the ICP program and the Alumni Office, began with an afternoon tea honoring Vern Haddick, former faculty member and founder of the first CIIS library. After a sumptuous buffet dinner, Professor Brant Cortright gave an overview of ICP history and acknowledged the late Paul Herman, who co-founded the program in 1973.

Alum Susan Weiss offered a heartfelt tribute to Michael Kahn, who spoke affectionately about the students he trained during his years as director of the Pierce Street Counseling Center and how much he missed being in the role of educator and clinician. Michael passed away in July.

Alum Nina Watt paid tribute to retiring Professor Lu Grey, who spoke humorously about her early years as director of the Church Street Counseling Center.

ICP Chair Barbara Morrill thanked outgoing faculty member Antonio Ramirez-Hernandez for his contributions to the ICP program and then acknowledged faculty members Judye Hess and Brant Cortright for their 30 years of service to CIIS. Eighteen ICP alums received the distinguished Faces of ICP award, which honors outstanding alums.

The event raised $1,300 for the Paul Herman–Vern Haddick Scholarship Fund, which is awarded annually to an ICP student during the practicum year. For details about making a contribution to or applying for the scholarship, please email Dean of Alumni Richard Buggs at rbuggs@ciis.edu.

Michael Kahn, PhD

by Brant Cortright

Michael Kahn came to the ICP program in 1988 as the first clinical director of the Pierce Street Integral Counseling Center. Previously there had been just one ICP counseling center, Church Street ICC, and Michael took on the task of creating a new counseling center from scratch: finding clients, creating an orientation, and developing a training program.

He came to CIIS after an illustrious teaching career at Harvard, Yale, the University of Texas at Austin, UC Santa Cruz, and Antioch San Francisco. At the Pierce Street ICC, Michael introduced T-groups, formulated the center’s orientation as contemporary psychoanalytic and relational, and conducted almost all the trainings during those initial years. He set the tone and the orientation, and created a tradition that Pierce Street ICC continues to honor to this day.

After several years, Michael introduced the course “The Clinical Relationship.” He wrote the book that was the main text for the course, Between Therapist and Client: The New Relationship—a profound yet simple exposition of key ideas in working with transference. A few years later, Michael wrote a book about talking with other people, called The Tao of Conversation, which distilled his work teaching college seminars, T-groups, and couples therapy.

Michael then joined the ICP core faculty as a half-time faculty member as well as counseling center director. In his role as faculty member, Michael helped formulate the original practicum evaluation process and brought a sense of the importance of assessing students’ readiness for clinical work. He was a tireless advocate of psychoanalytic and relational approaches to depth therapy, and he worked to bolster this in the curriculum. His last book, Basic Freud, a highly accessible book on the key teachings of Freud, continues to be used as a textbook.

Michael was beloved by students and by his fellow faculty members in the ICP program and throughout CIIS. He was a role model for healthy aging and a source of wisdom to the ICP community. When he retired at the age of 85, he was the oldest faculty member ever at CIIS.

Michael is deeply missed. His contributions to ICP were great, his presence irreplaceable.
Members of the Class of 2014 received their degrees at the Nourse Theater on May 18 before a capacity crowd of family and friends. Highlights of the ceremony included the opening ritual with Danza Xitlali Mexica Azteca dancers and congratulatory remarks from honorary doctorate recipient James Hormel. Tatsumaki Taiko provided the musical invocation, Maia Scott offered reflections, and alum J. McFetridge (BIS '12) welcomed the 401 graduates into the alumni association.

Since the winter of 2006-07 it’s been hard to pick up a paper or spend much time with web-based news sources without coming across news of the dramatic losses of bee colonies, subject to something we know as colony collapse disorder (CCD). In winter 2013, close to 50% of bee colonies in the U.S. were lost.

Most advocates for bees believe that many conditions of modern agriculture and contemporary environmental degradation are contributors to CCD, including repeated pesticide exposure and the use of bees as itinerant labor, traveling the country to pollinate swaths of monoculture crops year round. Significant scientific research also suggests that a newer class of neuroactive insecticides called neonicotinoids is a principal factor in the loss of colonies.

As a precautionary act, the European Union has outlawed these chemicals, but the issue remains contested in the United States.

The EPA is still considering the question against a backdrop of a pesticide regulatory framework that is responsive to intense pesticide-industry advocacy.

FLOWER FIDELITY: WHAT WE CAN DO?
With the conclusion of the worst phase of construction next door, we started a new colony in late April of this year and will harvest some excess honey this fall. The severe drought has left nectar supplies lower than usual, so we’ll be conservative in the harvest and leave abundant honey stores for our overwintering bees.

Karen Peteros, a longtime beekeeper, educator, and co-founder of San Francisco Bee-Cause, is adamant that for most city residents, the best thing to do to promote the health and sustainability of bees is to garden with them in mind. “Don’t start beekeeping because you want to help bees. Understand that you are doing it for yourself; do it because you want to learn,” says Peteros.
DARLENE A. OSOWIEC (CLN ‘92) is a licensed psychologist serving a second term as treasurer of the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis, which presented her with the Milton H. Erickson Award for Scientific Excellence in Writing on Clinical Hypnosis for her article “Guest Editorial: Science in the 21st Century.” Darlene guest-edited and contributed to the Special Issue of The American Journal of Clinical Hypnosis: “The Body-Mind-Spirit Continuum: New Areas of Inquiry in Hypnosis.” Her article “Philosophy of Science and the Emerging Paradigm: Implications for Hypnosis” can be accessed at Taylor & Francis Online (http://www.tandfonline.com), or email dr.osowiec@comcast.net

CRISTINA OLSEN (PAR ‘92) is author of the prose book Kissing the Sky. She received her PhD in Spirituality and Cultural Geography from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and is the author of Nature in the Lives of Saints Brigit, Patrick, and Columba (Lambert Academic Publishing).

BRIAN JACKSON (EWP ‘99), based in Brooklyn, NY, is a music producer, musician, audio engineer, mentor, author, teacher, and philosopher. In his recently published book The Music Producer’s Survival Guide: Chaos, Creativity, and Career in Independent and Electronic Music (Cengage Learning PTR, 2013), Brian formally introduces integral theory to the field of music production (iempsg.com). He continues to produce original music while empowering others to do the same.

JENNIFER OLIVER-GOODWIN (ODT ‘99), as COO of Pangaea Global AIDS, leads the building of organizational capacity, human resources, and strategy. She was formerly the director of operations with the Breast Cancer Fund and director of organizational development at the Education Fund. Combining co-active coaching fundamentals with transformational leadership principles, Jennifer seeks to stimulate and inspire extraordinary outcomes.

MONIQUE LESARRE (BAC ‘01/CLN ‘12) is the director of Child, Youth, and Families at Westside Community Services. She also works in the Ajani Program, where she brings her community, clinical, nonprofit, and teaching skills into new projects that involve increasing social justice–focused trauma-informed care.

ZINAI SHIH (ACS ‘02) is vice director of the Luminary Buddhist Institute in Taiwan, which offers courses for internationally ordained female Buddhists to become Buddhist teachers and leaders in their communities. At UC Berkeley, Zinai has taught the Development of Buddhism in Middle Asia and has developed programs in Taiwan that integrate body-mind-spirit approaches, which were supported by the Gaya Foundation and the Taipei City government.

EVÁ RULAND (EWP ‘02) is a life coach and the co-creator, along with Autumn Stephens, of Midlife Alchemy for Gals, a program that empowers middle-aged women who feel stuck in the nebulous gray zone between youth and old age. http://evaruland.com/MidlifeAlchemy

SHARLEEN O’BRIEN (CLN ‘03) is a psychologist and core faculty of the Clinical Psychology Program at Antioch University in Santa Barbara, CA. She maintains a small private practice in Santa Barbara and is the former head of a nonprofit mental health agency.

PATRÍCIA ROJAS ZAMBRANO (EXA ‘03) has developed her Art Journaling approach, offering monthly workshops in San Francisco. In the workshops, Patricia emphasizes the possibility of creative change using images and words with intention, reconnection, and celebration of that which has meaning, passion, and purpose in life. http://www.artjournalingworkshops.com/workshops.html

COLETTE WINLOCK (CAS ‘06) is the author of Undoing Crazy, a novel that offers clinicians and mental health specialists an approach for discussing the intersections of oppression and depression. Colette, who is a founding member of the Self Affirming Soul Healing Africans (SASHA), was inducted into Alameda County’s Women’s Hall of Fame. She also directs an East Bay mental health organization that promotes wellness and recovery.

MELISA BAY MATHIS (BIS, ’08) is a visual design and advanced placement art history instructor at Pacheco High School in Merced, CA. She is an award-winning author and illustrator of children’s books.

KARINA COLLIAT (EXA ‘08) created Ecoutearth, a combination of mindfulness, ecotherapy, and expressive arts designed to bring similarly minded people together for community and Earth-centric rituals. http://ecoutearth.weebly.com

WILL SHERWIN (ICP ‘08) is clinical supervisor of Edgewood Center’s Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation program, where he utilizes innovative narrative therapy approaches to strengthen the skills and knowledge of teachers, families, and children. He also teaches narrative therapy approaches to trauma, depression, and anxiety at UC Berkeley Extension, and produces the podcast Ethical Lifestyle Design.

RENA MARIE (JONES) GUIDRY (PDT ‘08) is a theater specialist integration teacher and sixth-grade advisor at the Creative Arts Charter School in San Francisco. She is focusing on the foundations of performance, social-emotional development, and literacy/social studies integration.

TIM MOYNIHAN (ICP ‘09) is a PhD candidate in East-West Psychology researching the human experience of embodied nature interconnection. Married in 2012 to his lovely wife, Janelle, Tim is the proud new father of Julian Hickory Moynihan. At CIIS, Tim is also the program coordinator for the Anthropology and Social Change Department.
BLAIR DAVIS (CLN ’10) is a licensed psychologist who works at UC Santa Cruz’s Counseling and Psychological Services. She provides individual, group, crisis, and couples counseling to students, as well as outreach and education to the larger UC community.

EVE BRIERE (PCC ’10) is an artist and political science teacher at Cégep de la Gaspésie in Canada. After graduation, she enrolled in the Clown Conservatory, which culminated in her project/Play, HE: a gender strange clown duo, which was performed in Berlin in 2011. http://www.ev-fooloflove.blogspot.com/p/brief-biographical-narrative.html

SCOTT HILL (PCC ’10) has recently published Confrontation with the Unconscious: Jungian Depth Psychology and Psychedelic Experience (2013). Adapted from his dissertation, the book draws on personal experience with insights from Carl Jung, Stan Grof, Ann Shulgin, and other transpersonal researchers.

ANNA HAWKINS (ICP ’11) relocated her private psychotherapy practice to Portland, OR, in spring 2014. She works with couples and individuals who are struggling with relationships, creativity, and anxiety. While studying for her licensing exams in California and Oregon, Anna is creating workshops and groups for writers. She is enjoying getting to know the vibrant therapeutic community in Portland, as well as the lush Northwest landscape of rivers and forests. Anna can be reached at www.annahawkins.org

MICHAEL DONELL (CLN ’12) relocated to Austin, TX, where he is opening a private practice and is adjunct faculty at the University of Texas at Austin. Michael recently published the paper “Who’s Afraid of the Old, Gay Man?” in the June 2013 issue of Studies in Gender and Sexuality, which explores the intersection of age and desire in gay men. Previously, Michael served as adjunct faculty in CLN and was on the executive board of the Northern California Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology. He is an active member of the American Psychological Association.

ERIC SIENKNECHT (CLN ’12) directs and is a psychologist at the San Francisco Functional Restoration Program, where he assesses, treats, and educates patients regarding the management of pain-related psychosocial stressors. He also consults with medical professionals to help them to more effectively identify and treat patients who may be suffering from a psychological disorder.

MARLENA ZAHM (EXA ’12) teaches 20 classes a week at Kidsdance in Oakland and Lafayette, CA. Kidsdance is a dance and theater school for children aged 2 to 14 years that offers highly interactive and gently structured classes designed to enhance children’s trust in their own creative expression.

JENIFER MCATEE (ICP ’12) is the new intensive case manager at Caminar. She collaborates with other mental health professionals to provide comprehensive and holistic treatment to young adults (ages 18 to 25) who are struggling with pervasive disorders.

KIMBERLY KOLJAT (PDT ‘12) is a mental health therapist at Lincoln Child Center in Oakland, CA. She recently presented the workshop “Therapist In and Out of Role: Using Drama in Play Therapy with Groups” at the San Francisco Chapter of the California Association for Play Therapy.

MISA CHRISTINA IKEDA (IHL ’13) is developing a spiritual health coaching practice. Her current focus is helping women develop and leverage their spiritual connection for optimal health and wellness. http://www.misachristina.com/


An assistant professor of social media and public relations at Eastern Michigan University and a former public relations professional for more than a decade, Luttrell has written a comprehensive text that focuses on multiple aspects of social media, public relations, and the integration of marketing.

TATIANA DIACKOFF (EXA ’14) is an MFT intern at Holos Institute, supervised by Jan Edl Stein and Laura Parker. Her practice encompasses work with individuals, families, and couples, as well as mentorship and youth counseling for adolescents and teens. She holds a strong foundational understanding in the healing capacities of nature and creativity.

CRISTINA ROSE SMITH (WSE ’14) has accepted a position teaching women’s studies at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

LORI JOAN SWICK (WSE ’14) has published Dreaming—The Sacred Art, an introduction to dreaming as a way to deepen spiritual awareness and as a source of self-healing for people of all faith traditions—or none. Her book includes practical, step-by-step exercises in each chapter. In addition to writing and instructing in retreats and seminars, Lori is an adjunct professor in religion and mythology at St. Edward’s University in Austin, TX. http://www.loriswick.com/


If you have news to share with the CIIS Community, log in to the CIIS Online Alumni Community at http://alumni.ciis.edu and add a class note for publication. Don’t forget your photo! You can also send your note with your high-resolution photo to Cynthia Mitchell at cmitchell@ciis.edu.
Edward James Olmos
*Debunking the Melting Pot*
*Thursday, February 19*

Buika
“A powerhouse singer.” — *Stereophile*
*Saturday, February 28*

Lea DeLaria
*Why Butch Still Matters; Identity, Gender, and the Media*
*Wednesday, March 25*

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