



Fall 2007

CIIS Today, Fall 2007 Issue

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Recommended Citation

CIIS, "CIIS Today, Fall 2007 Issue" (2007). *CIIS Today*. Book 9.
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CIIS Today

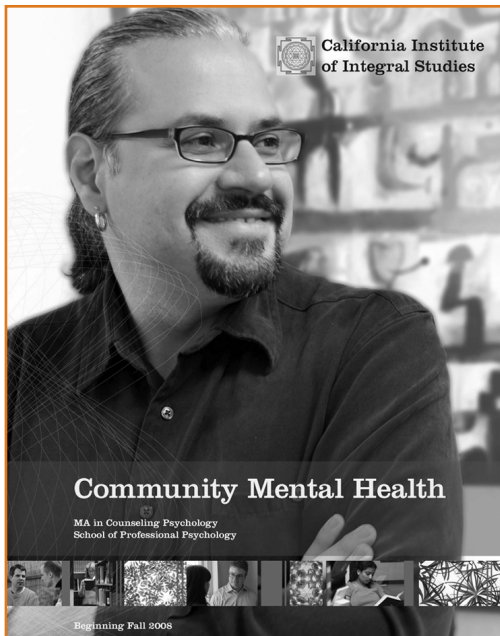
The Community Newsletter of California Institute of Integral Studies

FALL 2007

CIIS to Launch Community Mental Health Program

In response to the growing mental health workforce crisis in California, CIIS will launch a groundbreaking concentration in Community Mental Health through its Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology program in fall 2008. The Institute will simultaneously offer a new Certificate in Community Mental Health designed for those with a master's degree in counseling psychology.

The two programs are designed to help build a diverse mental health workforce trained to provide effective and culturally competent therapeutic services in the public sector.



"This program has the potential to serve as a national model for training counseling psychologists who can work in public and community mental health agencies, fulfilling the needs of a diverse clientele," said Joseph Subbiondo, president of California Institute of Integral Studies.

The Community Mental Health program represents an important collaboration between the academic and public mental health sectors. Community and public agencies have indicated their interest in working with CIIS to develop and implement the program. An advisory council will help ensure that the program continues to meet the needs of

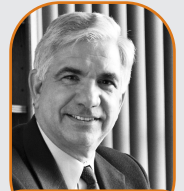
these agencies and will help strengthen the ties CIIS has to organizations that are the potential employers of its graduates.

Clinics and community-based treatment programs report that many of their clients have severe psychopathology, dual and triple diagnoses, and may also be grappling with substance abuse and homelessness. Many agency directors and clinicians say they look forward to working with CIIS graduates who will intern at their clinics or be hired as new staff.

"Graduates of CIIS's Community Mental Health program will have received core course training in areas such as cultural competency and case management, eliminating the need for clinic staff to spend valuable time training them in essential areas of client need," said Academic Vice President Judie Wexler. "Our graduates will enter the field of community mental health with a greater level of expertise and thus be able to offer quality treatment to their clients."

For more information, visit CIIS's Web site at www.ciis.edu/academics/cmh.html.

Letter from the President



President
Joseph Subbiondo

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As we celebrate the 40th birthday of CIIS, I can jubilantly report that we have purchased our building on Mission Street. This purchase begins a significant new chapter in our history because it provides us with long-term financial viability. It also marks our evolution into a mature and stable institution of higher education. Many alumni and friends of CIIS have congratulated us and expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the many members of the CIIS community, present and past, whose commitment and dedication to our mission and vision have helped make this moment possible.

As we develop our plans to renovate the Mission Street building, to sculpt the space into an exemplary "green" building, we need your personal investment. During the coming months, we will host many celebrations throughout the country to mark our 40th anniversary. We invite you, a vital stakeholder, to put your mark on the building—and on the Institute's bright future.

We are not only growing space—we are also growing programs. This year we are initiating groundbreaking academic programs in community mental health and an advanced certificate in spiritual counseling. Each program responds to a growing need in the mental health community.

I am also delighted to report that we received a bequest from the Bruce Mazet Estate—nearly \$1.5 million in unrestricted funds after legal fees, the largest bequest in our history. We are grateful to Mr. Mazet for his extraordinary generosity and vote of confidence in our future.

Let us make the 2007-08 academic year the best ever for CIIS,

Joseph L. Subbiondo
President

IN MY OWN WORDS

ROBERT BARNHART

In each newsletter, CIIS Today profiles a donor who has generously made a contribution to the Institute. In this issue, we talk to Robert Barnhart, who established the Robert Joseph and Wilhelmina Ann Kranzke Endowed Scholarship Fund at CIIS in 1977. The scholarship funds students who pursue the study of entheogenic plants and medicines from a spiritual, psychological, anthropological, healing, or educational perspective.

What is your philosophy on philanthropy?

Each small action of compassion and loving kindness helps make our planet and human world more harmonious. To be able to share financial assets in a manner so as to support the welfare of human society is one of many ways to promote a livable world for us all.

We are all interconnected in one ecosystem of earth, mind, and spirit. Each action, each thought, each feeling affects the whole. Our human culture, with all of its diversity, and our planet in its totality, are beautiful in both obvious and mysterious ways. As we find life worth living, and value an atmosphere in which human life can thrive, the question becomes how do we leave a livable world to our children and the generations to follow.

How do you choose the causes to which you donate?

I am concerned for the welfare of our planet and human life. I choose to support those causes which assist us in becoming more conscious of our interconnectedness and our interdependence. I am further interested in helping to support the biodiversity of our planet.

What caused you to establish the Kranzke Endowed Scholarship Fund?

CIIS has some of the finest scholars in our world in the field of entheogenic research. In particular, Dr. Stanislav Grof and Dr. Ralph Metzner, are tours de force in writing about altered states of consciousness and its role in psychotherapy. To have such academic giants on its faculty represents a truly open minded and forward-thinking attitude on the part of CIIS.

What do you hope to accomplish through funding this type of study?

It is my sincere hope that a new and continuing stream of scholars in the study of entheogenic and psychedelic plants and medicine flow from the doors of CIIS for many years to come. I envision that this field of study will find an accepted place in our society as our culture has an increased understanding of their healing benefits.

People generally tend to have an irrational fear for what they do not understand. These medicines have been used in numerous human cultures since time immemorial. It is my wish that the Kranzke Scholars, through rigorous academic research, will be able to share their findings regarding psychedelic substances with our society in such a way that these sacred medicines can help relieve human suffering and bring a greater sense of well-being to our world.

CIIS Welcomes Two New Board Members

Arvind Peter Relan is founder and chairman of YouWeb, LLC, an Internet incubator. Prior to starting YouWeb, he was founder and CEO of Business Signatures, an Internet software company that was sold to Entrust, a public company, in July 2006.

Arvind brings more than 20 years of technical, management, and entrepreneurial experience from well-known Silicon Valley companies. He received his bachelor's degree in computer engineering from UCLA in 1984 and his master's degree from Stanford University in 1992, as a Hewlett-Packard Resident Fellow.

Arvind was at Hewlett-Packard from 1988 to 1994, and at Oracle from 1994 to 1998. While at Oracle, Arvind was vice president of its Internet Division, responsible for creating Oracle's Internet strategy and e-commerce applications. He was the founding senior vice president of technology at Borders Books and Music and chief information officer at Webvan Group, where he was responsible for technology and customer service.

Arvind's other interests include yoga, Indian classical music (percussion instruments), technology, and travel.

Ashok Vaish is currently a principal in Balanced Growth Fund, a venture fund that provides start-up and seed capital to Silicon Valley entrepreneurs. From 1986-1991, he freelanced in Silicon Valley, specializing in artificial intelligence applications.

Ashok has worked in the offshore oil industry for PMB Systems Engineering, designing drilling and production platforms in the Gulf of Mexico, North Sea, and the Beaufort Sea. Prior to this work, he was employed for 10 years at Impel Corporation, designing nuclear power plants.

He received his PhD in structural engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and his MBA from St. Mary's College in Moraga, CA.

Ashok's interests are wide and varied, and include nature photography, travel and wildlife, astronomy, archaeology, mathematics and science, languages and philosophy, moviemaking, and philanthropy. He currently sponsors the development of an Indus Valley Civilization museum at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda in Gujarat, India.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

SONYA SHAH

Sonya Shah, MFA, a professor in the Bachelor of Arts Completion program, on the powerful role of creativity in academia

Breathing creativity, the “voice” of the writer, into academic writing may be frowned upon in some university classes, but in Professor Sonya Shah’s “Global Studies” class in the School of Undergraduate Studies’ Bachelor of Arts Completion program it is celebrated and encouraged. Shah, a writer and filmmaker, believes that a critical aspect of an integral, interdisciplinary education is honoring both multiple ways of knowing *and* expression.



Sonya Shah

For Shah, creativity *is* scholarship, and she encourages her students to discover their creative voice and consider how it informs their academic voice.

Many of the papers students write in Shah’s class are self-reflective in nature. She encourages them to think about how to integrate what they have learned, read, and experienced into weekly reflection papers. “When we workshop papers in class, our objective is to develop a student’s understanding and capacity to integrate personal story and reflection with a deep reading of class texts in order to write a more nuanced, complex, and dynamic essay,” Shah said.

In her teaching, Shah has discovered that when students “own” their words their writing completely differs, and there is more sophisticated self-reflection. This approach is ultimately empowering.

In research papers, Shah asks her students to locate their work in broader scholarship and to consider how their work and insights are situated in relation to what others have written, thought, created, and/or done in the chosen field of study. She asks, “Does your work extend already established lines of inquiry, or does it strike out new territory and new ideas? Is your work inspired by a particular set of theories or a reaction to an established framework?”

Shah plans to teach an elective on creativity in 2008, which will explore the role of creativity in the academy. Designed as a studio course, students will develop individual and collaborative works through writing, visual art, and performance. They will explore the creative moment, work toward developing a creative practice, and continue to develop their creative voice and consider how it may inform their academic one.

Sonya Shah, MFA, holds a bachelor’s degree in Visual Arts from Brown University and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Film and Video from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her most recent documentary, Something Between Her Hands, examines the growing problem of sex slavery and labor for women in Southeast Asia.

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Editor: Paula Zimlicki

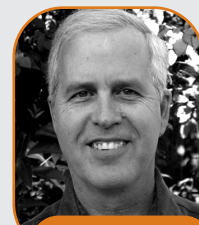
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Q&A:

Alumnus John J. Prendergast



John Prendergast

John J. Prendergast received his doctorate in 1986 and master’s degree in psychology in 1980 from CIIS. He is currently an adjunct associate professor of psychology at the Institute, and the senior editor of The Sacred Mirror: Nondual Wisdom and Psychotherapy, and of Listening from the Heart of Silence. He maintains a private practice in San Rafael. Professor Prendergast spoke to CIIS Today about his education at CIIS, its impact on his life and career, and nondual awareness in psychotherapy.

What value has the degree from CIIS had for you as a therapist?

While I was a student at CIIS, I felt support to discover my own synthesis of spirituality and psychology. My keen interest in self-inquiry and nondual teachings began in the early 1980s during my doctoral studies. As for being a therapist, my education at CIIS, which valued here-and-now body sensing, authentic relationship, and the multidimensionality of the human experience, continues to serve me well.

What is it about teaching at CIIS that appeals to you?

I have felt welcomed for the 17 years I have taught here. I love the students—I generally find them to be mature, open, receptive, inquisitive, and very authentic.

Would you describe the class you teach here at the Institute?

“The Art of Listening,” is a synthesis of my 27 years of experience as a therapist and is oriented toward helping interns, and therefore clients, get in touch with their deeper nature with an emphasis on simply being, and being together when sitting with another person. The importance of presence is primary. I also emphasize the wisdom of the body. Everything else follows these fundamentals.

How does psychotherapy change when therapists and clients embody their true nature as open, lucid Awareness that is essentially not separate from the whole of life?

Clients bring a wide range of issues to work on, yet when you dig deeply you find that the
(continued on back cover)

Thank You for YOUR SUPPORT

As CIIS celebrates its 40th year, the Institute is pleased to recognize all those members of its extended community who made gifts during the 2006-07 academic year. These generous donors represent every segment of the CIIS community, including alumni, students, trustees, faculty, staff, and friends, as well as foundations, corporations, and businesses. Together, these donors contributed \$1,581,000 to CIIS, representing the largest level of giving to the Institute in the past five years.

With the Institute's recent purchase of a permanent home at 1453 Mission Street, gifts from private donors are extremely important in supporting CIIS's continued growth, stability, and long-term success. The gifts and grants recognized in this Honor Roll of Donors were made to support a wide variety of CIIS programs, including scholarships, the counseling centers, the arts, academic and public programs, and the Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri Endowment for South Asian Philosophy and Culture.

All gifts to CIIS, whatever their size or purpose, are deeply appreciated as they contribute to the Institute's academic 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, Director of Development, at 415.575.6135 (dreyna@ciis.edu). Thank you for your generous gifts!

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Guide to Degree Abbreviations

BAC – Bachelor of Arts Completion
 CER – Certificate
 MA – Master of Arts
 PhD – Doctor of Philosophy
 PsyD – Doctor of Psychology

Guide to Program Abbreviations

CLN – Clinical Psychology
 COU – Counseling
 EWP – East-West Psychology
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 GES – Gender, Ecology, and Society
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 ICP – Integral Counseling Psychology

IHS – Integral Health Studies
 IND – Individualized Studies
 ISD – Integral Studies
 MAB – Business
 ODT – Organizational Development
 PAR – Philosophy and Religion
 PCC – Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness
 PDT – Drama Therapy
 PSY – Psychology
 SAS – South Asian Studies
 SCA – Social and Cultural Anthropology
 SOM – Somatics
 TLC – Transformative Learning and Change
 TLR – Transformative Learning
 WSE – Women's Spirituality

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Q&A: John Prendergast

(continued from page 3)

primary cause of suffering is the identification with a separate self. From the nondual perspective, the split between self and other is a purely mental construct, an insight that we explored this past October at the conference on *Nondual Wisdom and Psychotherapy* held at CIIS.

Two books that you edited explore nondual awareness. What effect have these books had on psychotherapy?

A small but growing number of therapists and clients are starting to discover this nondual ground of being. As a result, psychotherapy is changing. For example, the therapeutic relationship—traditionally framed with the client as the problem holder and the therapist as the problem solver—transforms. Issues such as existential emptiness are no longer pathologized but embraced. The potential to be deeply awake in one's true nature is recognized and supported. Awakening brings a deep acceptance of experience just as it is, allowing for a natural unfolding. My two books explore these and other relevant issues for those who would like to learn more about this approach.

Let Us Know What You're Up To!

If you would like to let your classmates know what you're doing, please e-mail Richard Buggs at rbuggs@ciis.edu.

Alumni Notes

Robert O'Brien (ICP, '90) is a licensed marriage and family therapist living in an art community in Paducah, Kentucky, where he maintains a full-time private practice.

Louise Pare (WSE, '94) is directing her own business, The Life in Harmony Center, where she offers classes, workshops, seminars, and private counseling sessions. Her classes focus on women's spirituality, movement healing arts, and yogic studies. She is also the director of religious education for youth at the Rogue Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Ashland.

Chandra Alexandre (WSE, '97, ACS '01) is adjunct faculty at the Institute for Transpersonal Psychology where she teaches courses in mysticism and women's spirituality. Chandra is also currently director of development for the Bay Area Council working to invest philanthropic resources in building stronger communities, a healthy economy, and a better quality of life for Bay Area residents.

Gloria Simoneaux (ICP '98) received the Jefferson Award in November 2007 for her work with homeless children. In 1989, Gloria founded Drawbridge: An Arts Program for Homeless Children. Drawbridge sponsors programs in shelters and transitional housing sites in six counties in the Bay Area. The Jefferson Award is administered by the American Institute for Public Service in honor of citizens who perform outstanding community service.

Robert Owings (PCC, '01) has recently released a new novel, *Call of the Forbidden Way*. This book portrays the challenges faced by ordinary people caught in the grip of cosmic forces originating in a shamanic universe just beyond the limits of "ordinary" reality.

Carl (Lauren) Marsak (SCA, '03) is the founder and director of The Enneagram Center of Mt. Shasta, and has been teaching the Enneagram of Personality to groups and individuals in California, Oregon, and Pennsylvania and such countries as Britain, Iceland and India, as well as presenting at international conferences.

Liza Behrendt (HOT, '04) lives in India and the United States, developing Beauty of Water (beautyofwater.org), an international art project on the theme of appreciation for water. Liza also founded and operates Alignment Consulting & Facilitation.

Jill (Mueller) Eickmann (PDT, '04) is working as an adoptions social worker with Adopt A Special Kid in Oakland and brings together families with kids from the foster care system. She is also working on corporate improvisation training, and putting up original shows with her theatre company, Lila Theatre.



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