




Fall 2009

## CIIS Today, Fall 2009 Issue

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## Inside



**Dear CIIS Alums and Friends**  
The latest communication from President  
Joseph L. Subbiondo page 2

**Public Programs Expanding Concerts, Classes, and Venues**



page 3



**The Regenerative Powers of Findhorn**  
by Clara Lindstrom

page 4

**CIIS Welcomes Large Largest Cohort of New Faculty in Its History**



page 5



**Symposium on Integral Consciousness Highlights New Research**

page 6



**BA Completion Graduate Shares International Theater Honor**

page 7

**Honor Roll of Donors 2008–09**

pages 8–11

**New Gifts from The California Wellness Foundation and the MCJ Amelior Foundation**



page 12

**CIIS Named “Great College to Work For” in Chronicle of Higher Education Survey**

page 13

**Class Notes**

page 14

**Commencement 2009**

page 15



## Growth Spurs Plans for *New Green Library*

by Zack Rogow

A quick tour of the current library is enough to convince anyone that CIIS needs a new home for its collection.

“We ran out of space for the library five years ago,” says Library Director Lise Dyckman, surrounded by crowded shelves of books. The collection has now spilled over to nearby classrooms and offices, and even to a rented storage facility down the street from CIIS.

“We’re also strapped for areas for students to do their work,” Dyckman points to the few tables in the current library that provide room to study. “We can only fit eighteen people and the library is often completely full.”

In response to this need, CIIS has commissioned architectural plans for a new and larger library, located on the second floor of the main building on Mission Street. The stunningly designed new space will more than double the areas for students to study. At this point the only obstacle to carrying out the renovation is funding.

*“The stunningly designed new space will more than double the areas for students to study.”*

“We’ve now raised one third of the more than \$500,000 needed for the library renovation,” says CIIS President Joseph L. Subbiondo. “We’re very grateful for a generous unrestricted gift from the J.C. Kellogg Foundation that we’ve applied to this critical project, and for another donation to be announced. The renovation is needed now so that we can have more space for the library and for studying. We also need to vacate the current library space to make room for classrooms and offices for the expanding academic programs here.”

The CIIS library is named in honor of Laurance S. Rockefeller, an early and major donor to the



JAMES DAVID MARTIN

Jonathan Mills (EWP '09), director of facilities and operations; and Lise Dyckman, library director

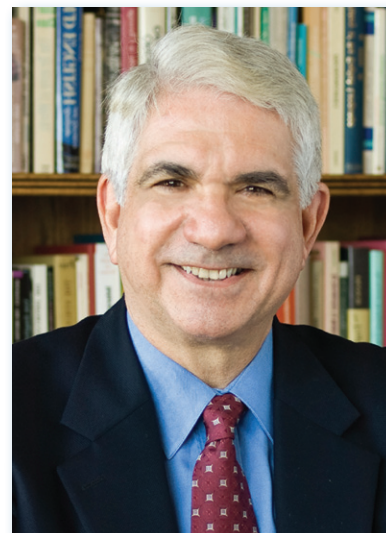
Institute. To find new funding for the library renovation, the CIIS board of trustees has set this project as a high priority. “A good library should be inviting and conducive for study and discussion,” says Prasad Vepa, CIIS board chair. “It should be an intellectual focal point for students and faculty alike. The time has come for us to expand, relocate, and renovate our library to meet our growing needs befitting the caliber of our scholarly pursuits.”

Once the remaining funds for the new library are secured, the work will move forward quickly. “The construction could all be done in four to six months,” says Jonathan Mills (EWP '09), CIIS director of facilities and operations. “We can start the work at any time because the location is a vacant part of the building on the second floor.”

Mills is very pleased with the design of Cheryl Lentini of Beverly Prior Architects, a firm that has done work for many colleges in the Bay Area and nationally. “The design is as green as possible,” Mills explains. “The main reading area where students work will be bathed in natural light from the south windows. The plan calls for wood, cork, or recycled materials wherever possible. There are natural shapes in the wave-curve of the window seat that runs the length of the reading area.”

*(Continued on page 15)*

# Dear CIIS Alums and Friends



MAIED ABOLFAZLI

President Joseph L. Subbiondo

*"I strongly believe that CIIS is on the ascent because it is meeting the most significant needs of our time..."*

President Joseph L. Subbiondo

## CIIS today

The Community Newsletter of  
California Institute of Integral Studies

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CIIS Today is published semiannually  
by the Communications Department  
for alums and friends of CIIS.

We are beginning what may well be the best academic year ever for CIIS. This fall, the number of new students increased by 29 percent and total students by 10 percent. CIIS now enrolls over 1,300 students. Our foundation support is off to a notable start—we have received \$210,000 from The California Wellness Foundation; \$367,000 from the City and County of San Francisco; and \$150,000 from the J.C. Kellogg Foundation. Our alumni and friends are giving at unprecedented levels. We have launched our new website, which has greater capacity to reflect the distinctive nature of our university; and we are sponsoring our most ambitious schedule ever of Public Programs, which introduces CIIS to many new and varied communities.

To ensure that our growth is grounded in thoughtful planning, we have nearly completed our revision of the CIIS Strategic Plan, a revision required because we effectively implemented our previous plan. Our updated plan calls for CIIS

to continue to lead in integral higher education, reflect a diverse and multicultural community, serve as an agent of transformation in local and global communities, and model planned and balanced growth. As has been true throughout the Institute's history, these goals can be achieved only with your continued support and loyalty.

I strongly believe that CIIS is on the ascent because it is meeting the most significant needs of our time—it is building bridges across the many divides that separate us, whether spiritual, educational, ecological, cultural, or economic. I look forward to working with you to realize the potential of this moment as we imaginatively and confidently create our future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph L. Subbiondo".

Joseph L. Subbiondo  
President

# Public Programs

## Expanding Concerts, Classes, and Venues

CIIS has always had public events,” says the Institute’s director of Public Programs, Karim Baer. “The early lectures of Dr. Haridas Chaudhuri took place at the same time CIIS started.”

Since those talks four decades ago, the Institute has dramatically expanded its offerings of Public Programs to make it a major local presenter of concerts and of workshops. Attendance is up, classes are multiplying, and CIIS is using venues now in three different parts of the Bay Area.

“As recently as five years ago” says Baer, “we offered about one concert a year. In 2009–10, we’re presenting eight different programs.” Upcoming presenters include the Soweto Gospel Choir at the Paramount Theatre in Oakland on March 27, Rumi translator Coleman Barks collaborating with the Tibetan singer Yungchen Lhamo on April 15, and renowned sitar player Anoushka Shankar on April 28.

Attendance at CIIS Public Programs has skyrocketed from about 1,000 three years ago to 7,500 in the last academic year. Public Programs has also been expanding its offerings of classes on spiritual inquiry, professional development, and creative expression.

“I used to have to recruit instructors,” says Baer. “Now they’re coming to us. We’re hosting workshops with many of the most renowned spiritual teachers.” Almost all classes are offered at a discount to students at CIIS. Many workshops provide credit to students at the Institute; and Continuing Education Units to

therapists, psychologists, and nurses.

“We’re also including lectures on a wider variety of topics,” says Baer. “For instance, we’re presenting speakers now who connect world affairs and religion. One of the most memorable events we’ve hosted in recent years was a talk by British theologian Karen Armstrong on “Understanding Islam and the West.” That event brought together people from many faiths and was cosponsored by Christian, Islamic, and Jewish organizations. One person told me it changed her worldview.”

How does Baer choose presenters for Public Programs? “The events should be as diverse as the music on your iPod or the books on your shelf.”

Public Programs is also working with CIIS President Joseph L. Subbiondo and faculty from the Institute to produce a national conference this spring on “Expanding the Circle: Creating an Inclusive Environment in Higher Education for LGBTQ Students and Studies.” The conference will take place at the Hotel Nikko in

San Francisco from February 25 to 28.

It will be the first conference that brings together administrators, faculty, staff, and campus chaplains from all over the U.S. to focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer issues at colleges and universities.

Public Programs also offers certificate programs in Yoga Philosophy and in Sound, Voice, and Music Healing that feature some of the world’s most esteemed teachers in those fields, including Grammy Award-winning frame drummer Glen Velez, the Institute’s own Silvia Nakkach, and world-renowned yoga teacher TKV Desikachar.

Why is Public Programs so concerned with expanding its scope and its programs? “We live in a society that’s often very fragmented,” says Baer. “We don’t cross bridges to other cultures as much as we could. We want to encourage people to interact and to form relationships outside of their usual circles and to experience new artists and ideas.” ●



Karim Baer, director of Public Programs

MAJED ABOLFAZLU

*“Attendance at CIIS Public Programs has skyrocketed from about 1,000 three years ago to 7,500 in the last academic year.”*



Mystical Arts of Tibet, November 14



Findhorn ecovillage

*"I have absolute confidence that a collaboration between Findhorn and CIIS is meant to happen."*

The Findhorn Foundation is a spiritual community, ecovillage, and international center for holistic education. Founded in 1962, it began with one trailer in the Scottish seaside village of Findhorn. Despite the barren, sandy soil, they successfully grow an abundance of herbs, flowers, and edible plants, including a famous forty-pound cabbage. They attribute this success to their communication with the plant spirits, called devas. The Ecovillage Project at Findhorn began in the late 1980s and now comprises ninety buildings, a model for attractive sustainable living. For more information visit [www.findhorn.org](http://www.findhorn.org).

PHOTO BY CLARA LINDSTROM

## The Regenerative Powers of

# Findhorn

by Clara Lindstrom (EWP '06)

I was cold, starving, and exhausted when the train pulled into the Forres Station on a rainy February night. After a long and circuitous journey, just a few miles separated me from my destination: the little community of Findhorn in northern Scotland. At the behest of CIIS president Joe Subbiondo, I had come to explore a possible collaboration between CIIS and this extraordinary village with the distinction of having the smallest ecological footprint in the industrialized world.



Clara Lindstrom at Findhorn

I could describe the origins of Findhorn—the gardens that sprang out of sandy soil and the mysterious plant devas—but those stories can be found in the many books on the subject. Likewise, Findhorn's programs in sustainability, environmental leadership, and community building are on their website.

No, what begs describing is the quite miraculous foundation of—to put it simply—*love* that grounds the community. It feels like a tangible field that has been physically generated through years of collective, conscious intention; as solid as the centuries-old stone walls of Scotland.

This "field" was tested for me in an alarming way within hours of arriving. As a participant in Experience Week, (a program to introduce visitors to Findhorn), I found my room in the gorgeous old Cluny Hotel before taking a group tour of the grounds. As we walked, I became uncomfortably aware that perhaps it hadn't been the best idea to turn over the floppy mattress on my bed, as whatever had gone "snap!" in my back was getting worse. I staggered along in increasing pain, determined to maintain a professional demeanor—I was here representing CIIS, after all! This was not some indulgent personal retreat. In fact, the thing I hate most in the world is to stick out as "the one with the problems." I don't want to impose myself on others. I don't want to be pitied. I don't want to be vulnerable and *most* of all I don't want to be tended to.

Well, guess what happened? I got exactly what I needed, of course. Within half an hour I was lying in the fetal position, unable to move and in excruciating pain, smack in the middle of the bustling sitting room floor. I immediately had not one but *three* people tending to me, and to my utter horror I realized that disappearing was not an option. As

my psyche scrambled for an out, tears of frustration and then surrender washed my cheeks.

The gentle grace with which community members responded was overwhelming. I was not made a spectacle. I was not pitied. I was neither fussed over nor frowned upon. I was made to feel that whatever was happening—*however it looked*—was absolutely acceptable. Welcome, even. My process (which lasted days) was witnessed with unwavering compassion and not a

trace of expectation that it be anything other than what it was. Very, *very* rarely do I experience this quality of attention in the rest of the world.

Findhorn proved to be a container that had the strength to hold anything offered up by our group, however volatile or intense. We felt held not by a flimsy aura that would dissolve when the week was up, but rather by the reality of a living, working community; people who circle up at the beginning of each work shift—whether chopping vegetables or cleaning toilets—to check in and set intentions; who invoke a sense of the sacred on a daily basis and in the most mundane circumstances; who talk about angels and plant devas as comfortably as they discuss cutting-edge ecological engineering projects. It feels deeply satisfying to locate one's daily actions within a larger cosmological framework, and the folks at Findhorn have this "work-as-service" consciousness down to a lyrical art—indeed, a profound practice.

I realize we can't just hold hands and "group process" to save the world. Yet I firmly believe that the sense of psychic safety and *deep allowing* that Findhorn models is an extremely powerful catalyst for transformation and healing. Its spiritual resources feel both limitless and incredibly rooted. And it is this rootedness that allows them to manifest such an astounding array of fruits in the physical world, from the Living Machine sewage treatment (look it up!) to their myriad programs in sustainable leadership and community activism.

I have absolute confidence that a collaboration between Findhorn and CIIS is meant to happen. Both are institutions on the forward edge of consciousness; both house a community of revolutionary—and evolutionary—thinkers. The time for transformation is now. Our collaboration will have a ripple effect far beyond the spheres of Findhorn and CIIS. ●

# CIIS Welcomes Largest Cohort of New Faculty in Its History

**T**his fall CIIS proudly greets the largest group of new faculty since the Institute began.

The recent hires include additions to all three schools: Consciousness and Transformation, Professional Psychology, and Undergraduate Studies.

“It’s unusual to be hiring so many faculty at once,” says Judie Wexler, academic vice president, “but there are quite a few because we’re growing. We have a stellar group of new faculty.”

This round of searches to find new faculty has been particularly competitive. The new associate professor in Social and Cultural Anthropology, Brian Keith Axel, was chosen from a field of 130 applicants. He comes to CIIS after teaching at several other universities: Stanford, Duke, Swarthmore, and UC Santa Cruz.

He has published two full-length books with Duke University Press, including a study of the Sikh diaspora, which Nicholas B. Dirks of Columbia University has described as, “Historical anthropology at its best.”

The search for an assistant professor in Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness lasted two years, with the search committee ultimately selecting Elizabeth Allison. She earned a PhD from UC Berkeley in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, and two very different credentials from Yale: a master’s of religion and a master’s in environmental management.

Why such a divergent degrees?

“We pride ourselves at CIIS on our interdisciplinary approach,” says Wexler. “We want faculty who will be innovative thinkers and teachers. It’s not surprising that several of the new hires have degrees in varying fields and put together concepts from different disciplines.”

Three of the recent faculty hires are with the new Department of Writing, Consciousness, and Creative Inquiry, which offers the Master of Fine Arts degree. “I’m thrilled to have fiction writer Carolyn Cooke, dancer/choreographer Anne Bluethenthal, and novelist Sarah Stone join our department as core faculty,” says Department

Chair Cindy Shearer. “Accomplished teachers and award-winning artists, they bring much depth and real-world arts experience to our students.”

One of the faculty members beginning work this academic year is a CIIS graduate, Fernando Castrillon, assistant professor in the Community Mental Health program. Professor Castrillon earned his doctorate in Clinical Psychology. He was instrumental in laying the foundation for the curriculum of the new Community Mental Health program through his work in interviewing current practitioners in the field to get their input on the program’s course of study. “CIIS’s passionate pursuit of the unorthodox and potentially transformative led me to apply to teach here,” says Castrillon.

Another recent hire is Mark Ludwig, who has joined the Somatic Psychology program. He feels he’s found his intellectual home at CIIS: “The development of Somatic psychotherapy is my life’s work. CIIS is a worldwide center for Somatic psychology theory and practice. The CIIS faculty in this area are unsurpassed.”

Barbara Morrill, a new faculty member in Integral Counseling Psychology, also mentions the Institute’s mission and her colleagues as reasons she chose CIIS: “First and foremost, I have a love, curiosity, and awe at the soul’s evolution, and have been deeply inspired by the faculty here to pass it forward.”

The hiring process these new faculty members went through reflects the Institute’s unique ideals and priorities. “Faculty who come here have to be interested in teaching,” says Academic Vice President Wexler. “They have to really want to work with students.” At least one student sits on every search committee, a practice that very few universities follow. “Candidates who come for an interview also have to do a presentation for students,” says Wexler. “The quality of that presentation and the reactions to it are important factors in deciding to offer someone a position here.” ●



Top l. to r.: Sandra Pacheco, Elizabeth Allison, Barbara Morrill, Fernando Castrillon, Jennifer Wells, Sergio Rodriguez-Castillo, Anne Bluethenthal; bottom l. to r.: Denise Boston, Carolyn Cooke, Meg Jordan, Sarah Stone.

## New Faculty

**Elizabeth Allison**  
Philosophy, Cosmology,  
and Consciousness

**Brian Keith Axel**  
Social and Cultural  
Anthropology

**Anne Bluethenthal**  
Writing, Consciousness, and  
Creative Inquiry

**Denise Boston**  
Expressive Arts Therapy

**Fernando Castrillon**  
Community Mental Health

**Carolyn Cooke**  
Writing, Consciousness,  
and Creative Inquiry

**Meg Jordan**  
Integrative Health Studies

**Mark Ludwig**  
Somatic Psychology

**Barbara Morrill**  
Integral Counseling Psychology

**Sandra Pacheco**  
School of Undergraduate  
Studies

**Sergio Rodriguez-Castillo**  
Integral Counseling Psychology

**Sarah Stone**  
Writing, Consciousness,  
and Creative Inquiry

**Jennifer Wells**  
Transformative Inquiry



CIIS cofounders Dr. Haridas Chaudhuri and Bina Chaudhuri

In addition to cofounding CIIS, Dr. Haridas Chaudhuri and Bina Chaudhuri also started the Cultural Integration Fellowship, a nonsectarian and nonprofit religious and educational organization devoted to the concepts of universal religion, cultural harmony, and creative self-unfolding. Located in San Francisco's Richmond District, the Cultural Integration Fellowship presents a variety of programs on spirituality, music, art, health, and other topics. Visit their website at [www.culturalintegrationfellowship.org](http://www.culturalintegrationfellowship.org).

# Symposium on Integral Consciousness

by Zack Rogow

## Highlights New Research

On May 1, 2009, CIIS held a "Symposium on Integral Consciousness" in Namaste Hall. The symposium showcased cutting-edge research in transformative and integral studies and featured thirty-one presenters. The speakers included faculty, students, alumni, staff, and guests. The topics ranged from a panel on integral healing to a talk on the spiritual dimensions of ecology. The symposium was held in honor of Dr. Haridas Chaudhuri, CIIS's co-founder.

"Since its inception CIIS has been a pioneer in integral education," says Bahman Shirazi, who organized the symposium. Shirazi (EWP '94) is a faculty member and the CIIS archivist. "As we mature as an educational institution, we hope to continue to deepen our understanding of the impor-



JAMES DAVID MARTIN

Bahman Shirazi (EWP '94)

in the audience seemed to bear out Zweig's thesis.

Linking the pooled energy of groups to spiritual teachings, Zweig cited her work with software development groups and theater production teams to point out that collective energy will often make dramatic breakthroughs where several people working alone get stuck at an obstacle. "Our culture is focused on individuals," said Zweig, "but what about the creativity of groups? One of the very few culturally acceptable examples occurs in a jazz group, where the musicians make collective music."

Charles Flores also linked practical applications to the spiritual dimension in his presentation. Flores, a doctoral student in East-West Psychology, works as the coordinator of a juvenile drug court in Contra Costa County. Many of the people he sees in his job are youth involved in gangs. "I look at integral yoga as being very practical," he said. "Sri Aurobindo was a great activist before he was a yogi."

In his research Flores interviewed ten individuals he considers practitioners of integral yoga, socially involved people who approach their political work with a spiritual attitude.

"I found two themes that recurred," Flores recounted. "One was samatha— Sanskrit for the descent of peace. If you have the ability to find that stillness, you have a lot more potential to act than if you are beholden to the winds."

The second factor Flores found in common was a strong calling, which he identified with the idea of swabhava—"intrinsic nature" in Sanskrit. "There is a part you play in the symphony," Flores continued, "a particular role. What you decide to do stems from that understanding, deep in the spiritual fountain."

The peer-reviewed journal *ReVision* will dedicate more than one special issue to publishing talks from the symposium.

"Given the critical significance of the topic to the mission of CIIS and the fact that so many attended the symposium, I'm glad that Bahman Shirazi is preparing an encore in spring 2010," says CIIS President Joseph L. Subbiondo. ●

tance and relevance of integral consciousness to the planetary changes taking place."

The event lasted all day and into the evening and many talks were standing-room only. Audience members participated actively in the dialogue. Two students from Humboldt State University drove all the way from Arcata near the Oregon border to attend.

Several speakers involved the audience directly in a presentation. Joanna Zweig, who earned her PhD in Integral Studies in 2007, broke the room into two-person teams to illustrate her session on "Fostering Group Coherence in Integral Consciousness." Zweig asked each team to talk about an experience where group coherence had moved a project forward when individual efforts did not succeed. The excited response of the duos

"Since its inception CIIS has been a pioneer in integral education."



ZOLTAN DEWITT

Students from Oakland Tech perform Bertolt Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*

# Jessa Brie Berkner

*of Bachelor's Completion Program Shares*

## *International Theater Honor*

Jessa Brie Berkner, a recent graduate of CIIS's Bachelor of Arts Completion Program, was honored by having the high school drama department she heads selected for an international theater festival. Berkner directs the drama department at Oakland Technical High School, and her program was invited to perform at the celebrated Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland in August 2010.

Berkner credits her education at CIIS for playing a critical role in helping her students achieve this prestigious honor. "To create the play that was selected by the festival, I taught the Oakland Tech students the research-based inquiry that I learned in the Integral Studies program at CIIS," says Berkner. "The students used the tools of an anthropologist to go into their community and research what became a full-length play."

Oakland Tech was selected to travel to Edinburgh as one of the fifty best high school drama departments in the United States. They will perform in the American High School Theatre Festival (AHSTF) in the 2010 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, part of the world-famous performing arts celebration that takes

place each summer in that Scottish city.

"For an inner-city public high school to be represented at a topnotch international theater program is such an achievement for the students, for our school, and for our city," says Oakland Tech student Molly Katz.

Two thousand high school drama programs were nominated to apply for participation in AHSTF. Although six Oakland schools have received invitations to the Fringe Festival in the past, Oakland Tech is the first public school from that city to be invited to Edinburgh. Of the

four Bay Area high schools selected this year, Berkner's program at Oakland Tech is the only one from a public school.

Oakland Technical High School drama students need to raise significant funds to finance their participation in the Fringe Festival. For more information, please contact Ms. Berkner at [jessabrie@gmail.com](mailto:jessabrie@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.oaklandtech.com>. ●



NICK SHOLLEY

Jessa Brie Berkner (BIS '09)



# Honor Roll

## of Donors 2008–2009

## Thank You For Your Support

As CIIS celebrates its forty-first year, the Institute is pleased to recognize all those members of its extended community who made gifts during the 2008–2009 academic year. Numbering more than 300, 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 nearly \$845,000 to CIIS for a wide variety of programs including scholarships, research, academic and public programs, the library, counseling centers, the arts, and the Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri Endowment for South Asian Philosophy and Culture. These cumulative gifts made 2008–2009 one of the best years for philanthropy at the Institute in recent history.

All gifts to CIIS, whatever their size and purpose, are deeply appreciated since they contribute to the Institute's excellence and 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](mailto:dreyna@ciis.edu)). Thank you for your generous gifts!

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## Guide to Degree Abbreviations

<b>BA</b>	Bachelor of Arts
<b>BAC</b>	Bachelor of Arts Completion
<b>CER</b>	Certificate
<b>MA</b>	Master of Arts
<b>MFA</b>	Master of Fine Arts
<b>PhD</b>	Doctor of Philosophy
<b>PsyD</b>	Doctor of Psychology

## Guide to Program Abbreviations

<b>BIS</b>	Interdisciplinary Studies
<b>CMH</b>	Community Mental Health
<b>CLN</b>	Clinical Psychology
<b>COU</b>	Counseling
<b>EWP</b>	East-West Psychology
<b>EXA</b>	Expressive Arts Therapy
<b>GES</b>	Gender, Ecology, and Society
<b>HOT</b>	Human and Organizational Transformation
<b>ICP</b>	Integral Counseling Psychology
<b>IHL</b>	Integrative Health Studies
<b>IND</b>	Individualized Studies
<b>ISD</b>	Integral Studies
<b>MAB</b>	Business
<b>ODT</b>	Organizational Development
<b>PAR</b>	Philosophy and Religion
<b>PCC</b>	Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness
<b>PDT</b>	Drama Therapy
<b>PSY</b>	Psychology
<b>SAS</b>	South Asian Studies
<b>SCA</b>	Social and Cultural Anthropology
<b>SOM</b>	Somatic Psychology
<b>TLC</b>	Transformative Learning and Change
<b>TLR</b>	Transformative Learning
<b>WCC</b>	Writing, Consciousness, and Creative Inquiry
<b>WSE</b>	Women's Spirituality

# Grant from **The California Wellness Foundation** Supports Students of Color

**C** IIS has received a grant of \$210,000 from The California Wellness Foundation for the Community Mental Health (CMH) program. This grant will sponsor scholarships for students of color with financial need with a total of \$70,000 in funds in each of three years. The grant is part of the foundation's "Diversity in the Health Professions" initiative.

"This grant will help CIIS to do our part to address the acute need for culturally competent and diverse mental health professionals to serve the needs of California," says CIIS President Joseph L. Subbiondo. "Only six percent of psychologists in the U.S. are people of color, while more than half the population of California is in that category."

Subbiondo noted that the Community Mental Health program has a goal of training 200 marriage

and family therapists for service in the public and nonprofit sectors in the next decade. "One of our main goals for the CMH program is to make sure that at least half of those graduating are students of color," adds Subbiondo.

CIIS received several grants for the Community Mental Health program in its first year. Other supporters include the Lisa and John Pritzker Family Fund and the San Francisco Foundation. The program had eighteen students enrolled in its first cohort and welcomed twenty-five students in its second cohort this fall.

Created in 1992 as an independent, private foundation, The California Wellness Foundation's mission is to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education, and disease prevention. ●

## MCJ Amelior Foundation Donates Funds for **Drama Therapy Scholarships**

by *Rosanne Johnson*



ROSANNE JOHNSON

Drama Therapy student Andrea Thring

**T**he MCJ Amelior Foundation has given \$10,000 to CIIS to provide financial support for students in the Drama Therapy program. The funds will set up an MCJ Scholars program to give financial assistance to individuals in the practicum phase of their studies. Through their placements, these students each provide hundreds of unpaid hours of counseling and therapeutic services to diverse populations of Bay Area children, teens, and adults in a wide variety of community

hospitals, clinics, schools, and nonprofit agencies.

"The Drama Therapy program is most grateful to the MCJ Amelior Foundation," says program director Renée Emunah. "This is the first time we've been able to offer support to students conducting practicums in community mental health facilities."

One of the first recipients of an MCJ Amelior Foundation scholarship is second-year student Andrea Thring. Andrea is originally from Vancouver Island, Canada. In her practicum work at the Living Arts Counseling Center in Oakland, Andrea is "realizing how sacred therapy really is." This fall, Andrea is leading an eleven-week, low-cost drama therapy group for women in Oakland exploring identity, relationships, and other issues. She also interns with San Francisco's renowned Medea Project: Theater for Incarcerated Women. After graduation Andrea hopes to remain in San Francisco and continue working with women, particularly those who haven't had access to therapy. Andrea feels "really grateful to be studying here, meeting the people I'm meeting. There are so many open doors in San Francisco and at CIIS." ●

# New Website Launched

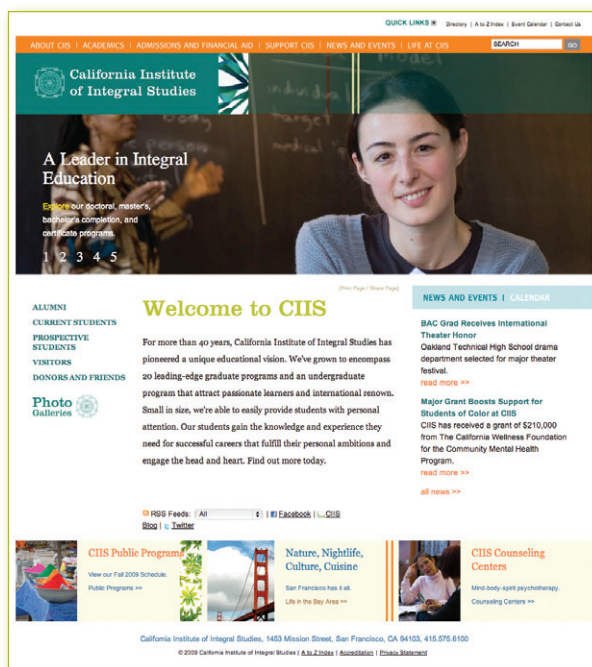
In September CIIS launched its newly redesigned [www.ciis.edu](http://www.ciis.edu).

The redesign, the first in nearly half a decade, includes a clean, contemporary look; an inviting palette of colors; and revamped architecture to make navigation simpler and more intuitive.

“The redesign is far more adaptable and versatile than our old site,” says Director of Communications Jim Martin. “It gives us the ability to introduce the Institute to visitors through video and audio clips, compelling photographs, and publications. In the next six months we’ll work with all departments, academic and administrative, to customize their pages to take full advantage of the new features. I am deeply indebted to Neil Freese, Lisa Denenmark, and Brian Shira, who did the tough work of turning the design into a smoothly functioning system.”

Visitors can browse a calendar of coming events as well as announcements of developments at the Institute, faculty and student publications, and both Public Programs and Spirit in the Arts offerings. Featured throughout the site are profiles of current students, including statements spoken in their own words.

“Our website is our most important contact with prospective students,” says Mike Griffin, dean of admissions and financial aid. “We know through



research that more than 70 percent of our students find us online, so the goal of the new site is to showcase why CIIS is a desirable place to earn a degree. We need to attract students to our site, convey the distinctive and unique qualities of CIIS, and make the information clear and accessible. I think this new site is one of the best I've seen in realizing those goals.” ●

## CIIS Named “Great College to Work For” in Chronicle of Higher Education Survey

In a national survey conducted by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, CIIS was recently designated a “Great College to Work For.” The Institute finished in the top ten in the country in its division in seven different categories of job satisfaction. CIIS scored particularly high in areas that relate to employees’ quality of life and attitude, such as Work/Life Balance, Connection to Institution and Pride, Respect and Appreciation, and Supervisor/Department Chair Relationship.

“Within our community, people take a sense of pride in the teaching and learning experience, and in the unique culture of CIIS,” says Michelle Coleman,

director of Human Resources. “It’s the strength and dynamics of our community that make CIIS a great place to work.”

The survey polled individual employees at more than 300 universities and colleges across the U.S. The schools were broken down into three categories, based on the size of their enrollment.

“The Institute really respects the diversity of interests, skills, and passions of the people who work at CIIS,” says Jessie Kostosky (PCC ’07), program coordinator for Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness. “People are allowed to be themselves here.” ●

Have You Joined the  
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You can join today by logging onto <http://alumni.ciis.edu>, the free social networking site for CIIS alums. Through the site, alums keep in touch with former classmates and stay connected to the entire global CIIS community. Members can easily create a homepage, build a personal profile, upload photos, network with other alums, and access discussion boards. They can also obtain career support, and register as a mentor or find a mentor in a specific field of interest.

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# Class Notes

To send a class note, please email Dean of Alumni Richard Buggs at [rbuggs@ciis.edu](mailto:rbuggs@ciis.edu). If you include a digital photo, please send a high resolution image.

**Sioux Benson Messinger** (ICP '90) is a clinical instructor in the department of Psychiatry at UCSF and CEO of Fair & Powerful Communication, Inc., an organizational and leadership development firm. Sioux lives with her husband and son in Sonoma.

**Michael Korson** (ICP '97) is an MFT in private practice in San Francisco and Berkeley. He is a Certified Group Psychotherapist and facilitates a group for people dealing with depression.

**Cassandra Vieten** (CLN '98) is a licensed clinical psychologist, a researcher at the Institute of Noetic Sciences, codirector of the Mind-Body Medicine Research Group at California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute, and vice president of the Institute for Spirituality and Psychology. She coauthored *Living Deeply: The Art and Science of Transformation in Everyday Life*.

**Astrid Berg** (EWP '98) teaches at the Professional School of Dreams and Embodied Imagination in the Netherlands. Astrid now lives both in the North Bay and Holland and maintains a private practice in dream work and spiritual direction.



Astrid Berg  
(EWP '98)

**Rabia Ana Perez-Chisti** (ACS '99) chairs the Global PhD Program at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto. She is a lineage holder and national representative of the Sufi Movement International and an ordained minister and senior teacher (mushida). She worked with Mother Teresa setting up the Mission of Charity center in San Francisco.



Rabia Ana Perez-Chisti  
(ACS '99)

**Raymond Turpin** (CLN '99) lives in western North Carolina and is owner/clinical director for Jackson County Psychological Services, providing free school-based mental health services, and of Haywood County Psychological Services, which provides

outpatient and school-based services. He presents clinical trainings for agency personnel.



Darci Meyers  
(IHS '00)

**Darci Meyers** (IHS '00) coordinates the new Rigpa Spiritual Care Center at Dzogchen Beara, Ireland. The center provides peace and natural beauty for people living with illness or facing death.

**Lyne Desormeaux** (CLN '01) is the principal of Desormeaux Leadership Consulting and is a clinical psychologist and Certified Professional Co-Active Coach (PCC). Her Fortune 500 experience includes industries such as advertising, healthcare, technology, insurance, and financial services. She teaches at Quinnipiac University in New Haven CT.



Lyne Desormeaux  
(CLN '01)

**Marguerite Rigoglioso** (WSE '01, HUM '08) serves on the faculty of the Women's Spirituality program at CIIS. She also teaches at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology and at Dominican University of California, where she is helping to establish a program in women and gender studies. She researched sites and artifacts in Europe and North Africa associated with ancient female divinities for her new book, *The Cult of Divine Birth in Ancient Greece*.

**Molly Dwyer** (PCC '02) recently published her first novel, *Requiem for the Author of Frankenstein*. Based on the life of Mary Shelley, it won the 2008 Next Generation Indie Book Award for Historical Fiction, its fourth award. She also spent three years as codirector of Satyana Institute's Gender Reconciliation Project. She coauthored *Divine Duality: The Power of Reconciliation Between Women and Men*.

**Eva Ruland** (EWP '02) is a life coach in Berkeley. She also offers workshops using collage and imagery as a window into the soul.

**Javier Charmé** (EWP '04) has a private clinical practice and teaches transpersonal psychology and psychotherapy at Universidad del Pacifico, Chile. He also teaches at Escuela Sud Americana de Psicología Transpersonal, and at the Instituto de Formación Transpersonal Integral.

**Anjuli Sherin** (ICP '04) attended the Women Rule! Leadership camp sponsored by *O, The Oprah Magazine*.



Anjuli Sherin  
(ICP '04)

Anjuli is featured in the November issue of *O* as one of eighty emerging women leaders. She founded her own nonprofit, Leap of Love, to support mental health programs for women and children in developing countries affected by disaster. She received the 2007 eWomenNetwork Emerging Leader of the Year Award.



India Harville  
(IHL '06)

**India Harville** (IHL '06) is the manager and co-owner of Vara Healing Arts Sanctuary in Albany CA, which promotes holistic health via alternative wellness therapies.

**Kerry Moller** (EXA '06) has a private practice in Vancouver BC. She specializes in working with adults with relationship issues and eating disorders.

**Margaret Potchatek** (CLN '06) is a licensed psychologist in Washington State and in private practice on Whidbey Island. She specializes in therapy for adults with chronic medical conditions.

**Luan F. Makes Marks** (PCC '07) and several partners are working on a conservation buyout of a ridge top in Sonoma County to establish a community forest. A portion of her dissertation was recently published digitally by the Indian Land Tenure Foundation in a teachers' prep package for tribal schools. ●

—Richard Buggs

## New Library

Continued from page 1

The design also includes areas for group study. These private carrels will be particularly useful to students in the counseling programs, who often go over video material together. The new library will also contain an unusual feature: "We're planning to include a reference office where librarians can meet students for intensive one-on-one work to advance their research goals," says Dyckman. "That's the kind of attention we'll be able to give students in this facility."

The new space will also consolidate library staff, who are now scattered in offices outside the library. "If a student has a question, the person who can answer it will be right here, not down the hall," says Dyckman.

Dyckman sees one of the important roles of the library as disseminating the work that CIIS creates: "Part of our mission is to get the Institute's work out into the world. The library is not just raw materials, it's the repository of the finished products." The collection includes more than 1,200 student dissertations and theses. The library is particularly strong in areas such as women's spirituality, cosmology, and East-West comparative studies, fields that many educational institutions lack significant holdings in.

"We do a thriving trade in interlibrary loans," says Dyckman. "We loan over 7,000 library items a year to students, researchers, and public libraries

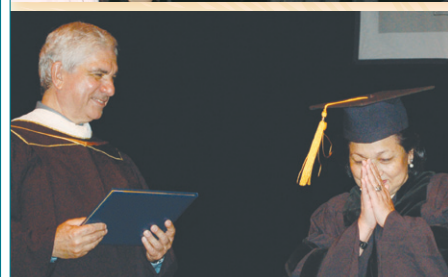
throughout the U.S. Interestingly, many of the loans go out to Christian colleges where there are few materials on comparative religion."

CIIS's library also contains many rare items. "We're one of only seven libraries in the country that has the full Chinese Buddhist Canon, printed in the 1930s," says Dyckman. This multi-volume set is bound in red silk and contains beautiful illustrations reproduced from books that may no longer exist. The complete set was given to the Institute thanks to the efforts of Caifang Jeremy Zhu, a PhD candidate in Asian and Comparative Studies, who was studying at a monastery in China when he encountered the set.

The library also features unusual special collections, such as the books that personally belonged to Alan Watts, author, philosopher, and former faculty member at the American Academy of Asian Studies, a forerunner of CIIS. The collections also include the personal papers of Dr. Haridas Chaudhuri, cofounder of CIIS; and materials used to compile a documentary on Marija Gimbutas, who first described the matriarchal cultures of Neolithic Europe.

"Since we bought the building on Mission Street," says Mills, "this is our first chance to reclaim space in line with our own priorities and aesthetics. My hope is that we can get started on the construction sooner rather than later." ●

# 2009 Commencement



## Travel to India & Bhutan

March 4-23, 2010 *Experience the Tranquility of the Foothills of the Himalayas*

*Join CIIS on an exciting tour that offers both the first-time and the seasoned traveler a mix of adventure, relaxation, and reflection.*

For more information: [www.ciis.edu/publicprograms](http://www.ciis.edu/publicprograms) or contact Richard Buggs at 415.575.6116 or [rbuggs@ciis.edu](mailto:rbuggs@ciis.edu)

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The Class of 2009 received their degrees at the Palace of Fine Arts on May 17 before a capacity crowd of family and friends. Highlights of the ceremony included congratulatory remarks from honorary doctorate recipient Jon Kabat-Zinn and an uplifting musical invocation from Chip Cosby (ACS '09). The class of 2009 was the first group of CIIS graduates to include recipients of the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree. At the end of the program, alum Joe Olivo (SOM '07), welcomed the 317 graduates into the Alumni Association.

—Richard Buggs



# Concerts & Performing Arts

## The Whirling Dervishes

December 11 • 8:00PM



## Huun Huur Tu Xöömei Tuvan Throat Singing

February 11 • 8:00PM



## Soweto Gospel Choir

March 27 • 8:00PM



## Anoushka Shankar

April 28 • 8:00PM



FOR TICKETS, INFO, AND LOCATIONS: [WWW.CIIS.EDU/PUBLICPROGRAMS](http://WWW.CIIS.EDU/PUBLICPROGRAMS)

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## California Institute of Integral Studies

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