

# CIIS *today*

Spring 2012

## The Community Newsletter of California Institute of Integral Studies

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## CIIS ALUMS MEET URBAN NEEDS

# at RAMS

by Zack Rogow

**M**ichael Badolato is a CIIS alum (ICP '98) currently working as program director for the Broderick Street Adult Residential Facility in San Francisco. "We're a long-term residence for people with medical and mental illness," he describes. Badolato supervises all the programs and services for that residence.

"I like that we're able to create a home-like atmosphere for the residents," he explains.

programs serve urban populations in need, from the homeless, to children and youth, to older adults.

A remarkably high percentage of the mental health professionals working at RAMS are alums of CIIS. Shyamsundar Kotagal is a CIIS alum (CLN '08) who serves as the interim program director of PAES Counseling and Pre-Vocational Services, a division of RAMS. Kotagal explains the high number of CIIS alums there by the type of student the Institute



CIIS alums working at RAMS (l. to r.): Michael Badolato (ICP '98), Shyamsundar Kotagal (CLN '08), and JL Zbacnik (PDT '10)

**"People from CIIS...acknowledge a greater purpose in life, and would consider working with the underserved."**

"We celebrate everyone's birthday. We've tried to make the décor as different from most institutions as possible, painting with natural colors and including lots of plants."

His CIIS education introduced him to different approaches to healing that he incorporates in his work: "I try to bring the openness of CIIS into community mental health. The Institute's approach to holistic wellness informs my work here." The Broderick Street Facility is at the cutting-edge of holistic health, offering acupuncture, qi gong, and meditation; as well as musical performances, exercise, and art classes.

The facility that Badolato runs is one of eleven major programs under the umbrella of RAMS, Inc. (Richmond Area Multi-Services), a private, nonprofit mental health agency in the San Francisco area. All of RAMS'

attracts. "People from CIIS are more prepared to consider work that involves giving back to the larger community," he reflects. "They acknowledge a greater purpose in life, and would consider working with the underserved."

A graduate of the Clinical Psychology program at CIIS, Kotagal did his pre-doctoral internship at PAES, a competitive placement to land. He was offered a job there even before he finished his degree at CIIS.

"I defended my dissertation on Thursday," he recalls, "and the following Monday I started my job at RAMS."

Kotagal enjoys the challenge of working with clients who are meeting mental health professionals for the first time. "Initially some of the clients are afraid of making contact with people in our profession," he admits. "They often don't want (Continued on page 11)

# CIIS today

The Community Newsletter of  
California Institute of Integral Studies

## Editor

Zack Rogow

## Designer

Anne Mellinger

## Creative Services Manager

Lisa Zamarin

## Contributors

Richard Buggs, Julio Gonzalez-Amez,  
Connie Hills, Dorotea Reyna, Zack Rogow

## Director of Development

Dorotea Reyna

[dreyna@ciis.edu](mailto:dreyna@ciis.edu); 415.575.6135

## Dean of Alumni and Director of Travel Programs

Richard Buggs

[rbuggs@ciis.edu](mailto:rbuggs@ciis.edu); 415.575.6116

## Director of Communications

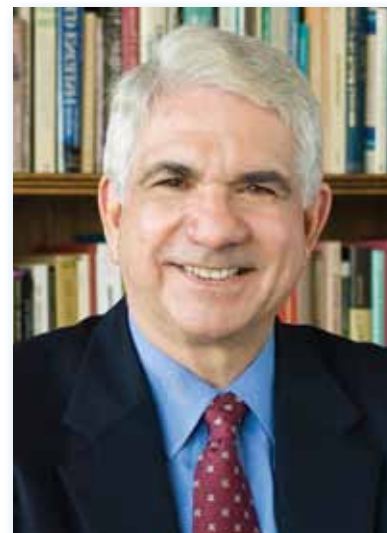
James David Martin

[jmartin@ciis.edu](mailto:jmartin@ciis.edu); 415.575.6165

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# Dear CIIS Alums and Friends



MAJED ABOLFAZLI

Joseph L. Subbiondo

When I think of the relationship between CIIS and San Francisco, I hear the watchword of realtors: "Location, location, location." This watchword is also relevant in higher education when the relationship between a university and its location is mutually beneficial. From its historical beginnings as the American Academy of Asian Studies in the 1950s, CIIS has been inspired by the many progressive movements in San Francisco, especially those that have been spiritual, intellectual, psychological, cultural, artistic, ecological, social, and political. Given the importance of Bay Area history to the making of CIIS, you will soon be able to track this history on the CIIS website.

While CIIS has contributed to these world-changing movements, we are more conscious than ever to ensure that we have a substantial impact on the Bay Area. As a way of measuring this impact, just think about what San Francisco would lose if CIIS were not here. What may well come to mind immediately are the six counseling centers staffed by our faculty and students that offer needed services to the city and soon to other Bay Area communities. The City and County of San Francisco as well as the State of California have acknowledged our commitment to training a multicultural mental health workforce by awarding us with contracts totalling nearly \$1.5 million. In addition, San Francisco's Department of Health has recently requested that CIIS make our Bachelor of Arts Completion program available to its employees. Many of these future CIIS alums will continue at the Institute beyond their BAC programs, and they will enroll in psychology programs to replace the retiring mental health workforce in the city. To help these students, CIIS has created the George Moscone Scholarships for city and county employees.

Through its expanding Public Programs & Performances, CIIS brings renowned international artists to the Bay Area—from classical guitarist Miloš Karadaglić to the Soweto Gospel Choir to Mexican singer Lila Downs. In addition, Public Programs & Performances offers workshops on a variety of topics that reflect the innovative spirit of San Francisco, such as contemplative practice, interreligious dialogue, spiritual exploration, social justice, yoga, and sound healing. More than 12,000 people from the Bay Area attend these programs, and they would simply not be available if there were not a CIIS.

Currently, CIIS is considering projects that will increase our presence in Silicon Valley. We are in conversation with the India Community Center (ICC) in Milpitas where we plan to offer programs and workshops as well as develop a counseling center with a focus on supporting Indian immigrants. CIIS is also offering programs near the San Francisco Airport as a way to draw more attendees from the Bay Area as well as the region and nation.

We are blessed to be in San Francisco, and the Bay Area is blessed to be the home of CIIS. The San Francisco Bay Area is not only an international tourist destination and a hub of technological innovation, it is also the center of interreligious dialogue, spiritual exploration, transpersonal psychology, and social justice. As my mother would have noted, "A marriage made in heaven."

Joseph L. Subbiondo  
President



# Critical Psychology Focus Launched in BA Completion Program

In fall 2011 the first cohort began taking classes in the new Critical Psychology Focus in the Bachelor of Arts Completion program.

“Many of the applicants for the initial cohort of fifteen students already were involved in social work, human services, or social justice movements,” reports Sandra Pacheco, the faculty member who designed the curriculum and is guiding the focus. “That already gave them a context for understanding critical psychology.”



Sandra Pacheco

Critical psychology explores critical perspectives within psychology. It examines the values and assumptions of the field as well as highlighting ways in which mainstream psychology has reinforced unjust practices. “Those at the margins in terms of race, class, sexuality, or gender identity tend to resonate with critical psychology,” Pacheco observes.

“What I’ve seen in this first cohort is that many of the students had separated psychology and social justice in their minds,” Pacheco adds. “What they’ve learned about critical psychology has given them language to put the two together.”

The students in the first Critical Psychology Focus cohort bring a variety of backgrounds and talents to the program.

Rachel Matillano, a student in the first cohort, participated in progressive movements in the Philippines in the 1980s. After emigrating to the U.S. in 1993, she became involved in Filipino American community issues. She has worked in HIV services for Asians and Pacific Islanders, mental health and substance abuse services, and public policy advocacy on these issues locally and nationally.

“In the human services, activism, and social justice work I’ve been involved in,” Matillano describes, “it feels like there’s been a voice that time and again says, ‘There’s got to be a different way of looking at social issues and realities, of understanding and changing these.’ Now I have a name for that voice: it’s critical psychology. It’s now become nearly an insatiable thirst for me to learn and practice more critical psychology.”

David Richardson has also found it a dynamic experience to be part of this first group of students: “The level of engagement in our cohort around heavy topics like oppression and colonization is stimulating due to everyone’s vulnerability. I find

comfort in connecting through art and creative expression, which translates into a deeper connection to the rich diversity in our cohort.”

Richardson is an electro-hop rapper, music producer, DJ, and musician (“I play drums and keys,” he says). Since moving to San Francisco from Baltimore five years ago, he’s been active in the queer community. “I have a huge desire to create safe spaces for queer youth to be together, as well as to help them through

the creative arts.”

Nakisha Rice is also a student in the first cohort. She does volunteer work with prisoners. “Critical psychology is liberating,” she says. “I’m now bringing this critical perspective to my social justice work with prisoners.”

One of the main directions in critical psychology is to aim the spotlight away from the individual, to a broader view of the role of systems in designating what is considered abnormal, and the role of communities in healing.

“One of the issues the students looked at is the disproportionate number of young children of color who are diagnosed as having Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD),” Pacheco notes. “They studied what ODD is, who has defined it, and who benefits when students are prescribed drugs to modify their behavior—that’s an emerging trend.”

The students of the first cohort have also had an exciting opportunity to take a class from the author of one of their textbooks. Tod Sloan, whose books include *Damaged Life: The Crisis of the Modern Psyche*, taught a one-unit course for the CIIS students in the focus where the cohort had a chance to learn from and question a leading figure in the field of critical psychology.

Pacheco feels the focus has already given students a chance to participate in psychology in a different way. “Some of the students started out with a love-hate relationship to psychology. They were passionately interested, but their own experiences with the mental health system might not have been all positive. This focus has given them a chance to examine and resolve that tension in an analytical and critically reflective way.” ●

“It’s now become nearly an insatiable thirst for me to learn and practice more critical psychology.”

CENTER FOR  
**SOMATIC  
PSYCHOTHERAPY**  
MOVES INTO  
DOWNTOWN SAN  
FRANCISCO

In February, the Center for Somatic Psychotherapy, one of the six award-winning counseling clinics of CIIS, moved from its old location on Market Street across from UN Plaza to a new location in the historic Mills Building on Montgomery Street in San Francisco's financial district. "Moving the Center for Somatic Psychotherapy provides us with an opportunity to expand our outreach," says Clinic Director Steuart Gold, "and being centrally located downtown allows us to introduce our services to the diversity of the local communities who could benefit from our body-oriented approach to psychotherapy."

**The Center for Somatic Psychotherapy**  
220 Montgomery Street,  
Suite 600  
San Francisco CA 94104  
415.217.8895

**"There's an explosion of interest in the field of somatics."**

FACULTY PROFILE:  
**Meg Chang**  
Chair, Somatic Psychology

by Zack Rogow

**M**eg Chang came to somatic psychology through her background in dance. "I trained as a modern dancer," she recalls, "first as an undergraduate at Temple University, and then at the Judson Dance Theater in New York City." At Judson, she studied with Elaine Summers, the choreographer who also developed Kinetic Awareness. Chang continues to work as a dancer, and performed a solo piece at Judson last year.



Meg Chang

But a career on stage was not what Chang was searching for. "A certain kind of performer only talks about dance from a technical standpoint: 'My pli  is never deep enough.' I wanted to use dance to help people." She enrolled in the dance/movement therapy program at Hunter College in the 1970s at a time when that university was at the cutting edge of the field. "At Hunter I got to study with Claire Schmais. I also studied privately with Blanche Evan. They were two of the trailblazers in dance/movement therapy," she says. "Claire taught me about group process, and Blanche focused on 'the normal neurotic' individual. I feel incredibly fortunate to have worked with both of them."

Chang found the approach of dance/movement therapy compelling. "It has to do with body awareness, and the associations people have with their body. It's where dance and somatics overlap." In the 1980s she worked and published articles on using dance/movement therapy with women recovering from abusive relationships.

Her understanding of the mind-body relationship deepened when she did her doctoral research on how U.S.-style dance/movement therapy translated to a different culture. She spent the better part of a year in South Korea, observing and teaching dance/movement therapy in Seoul. She found that the culture in Korea synthesized mind-body awareness in a way that we don't always see in the West. "From the footprints on the floor of the subway stations that lead you to a particular exit, to the ondol—the heated floors that keep people warm in winter—I found a lot in Korean society that is close to somatic principles," Chang explains.

Chang's experience before coming to CIIS also includes work in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR). Chang learned MBSR from its developer, Jon Kabat-Zinn, during the time she coordinated the

dance/movement therapy specialization at Lesley University in Boston. She then incorporated MBSR when she moved to the Center for Comprehensive Care at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York, the largest care-provider for HIV-positive patients in the city. The results of using MBSR with clients at St. Luke's were striking. "People felt they could cope with their lives better," Chang describes. "Many experienced a reduction of symptoms."

She also developed a curriculum to teach counseling to students of traditional Chinese medicine. She designed the class to help practitioners counsel patients who reacted with strong emotions during acupuncture and other procedures, or patients who manifested emotional problems or destructive patterns.

Chang was drawn to the position of chair at Somatic Psychology at CIIS partly because of the program's reputation. "We have an impressive base and history here, with Don Hanlon Johnson, Ian Grand, Mark Ludwig, and Anne Krantz, who are highly respected in the field." Chang's approach to running the program is collaborative, particularly since several of her colleagues have formerly served as the program's chair. She enjoys the program's West Coast perspective, and its proximity to Asia.

Her plans for the program are to increase awareness of the Institute's Somatic Psychology program and of the field in general. "We'd like to have the students present more at conferences, and to see more publications and literature on the field." She also hopes to promote increased cross-fertilization and collaboration with other programs at CIIS, including the other Master's in Counseling Psychology programs.

In her own classes, Chang incorporates movement and dance-based work. "My embodied work is external," she describes. "You can see the students doing the work, whether it's movement or meditation. My personal approach is group-oriented and has an action component."

Chang sees a great deal of potential for growth in the Somatic Psychology program. "There's an explosion of interest in the field of somatics, there's a huge interest in dance, and an equally large interest in using arts in community building and social justice work. The question is, how do we put those together?" ●



# Expanding the Circle

## FEATURES SUMMER INSTITUTE

CIIS Public Programs & Performances sponsored successful national conferences in 2010 and 2011 on the theme of “Expanding the Circle: Creating an Inclusive Environment in Higher Education for LGBTQ Students and Studies.” This year Public Programs & Performances is offering a



ETC summer institute, June 18–21

summer institute on a similar theme, with a stellar faculty and thought-provoking workshops.

“The 2012 summer institute is a continuation of the important dialogues that emerged during the first two Expanding the Circle conferences,” says Dustin Smith, special events coordinator for CIIS Public Programs & Performances. “The goal of the summer institute is to promote a safe and more enriching environment for LGBTQ constituents, whether in the classroom or on the campus quad. We also seek to further the development of broad alliances among faculty, staff and students in regards to LGBTQ concerns in higher education.”

The summer institute takes place from June 18 to 21, 2012, the week immediately before the San Francisco Pride celebration.

The workshops include Queering Service Learning; Promoting Anti-Oppressive Action and Reflection; and Training the Next Generation of

Activists: LGBTQ Community Outreach Courses. In the area of curriculum, workshops will cover establishing and assessing LGBTQ studies programs and resource centers. Additional topics include the intersection of LGBTQ issues and race,

gender, religion, and family.

The 2012 faculty features many leading figures in the field: David Donahue of Mills College; Karla Jay of Pace University; L. Lee Knefelkamp of Teachers College, Columbia University; Michael LaSala of Rutgers University; Eduardo Morales of Alliant International University; Ronni Sanlo of California State University, Fullerton; Susan Stryker of University of Arizona, Tucson; Kenneth G. Valente of Colgate University; and Rev. Jamie Washington, President of Washington Consulting Group.

To present the summer institute, CIIS is partnering with the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) and the Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals.

For complete workshop descriptions and to register for the summer institute, please go to [www.expandingthecircle.com](http://www.expandingthecircle.com). ●

“The 2012 summer institute is a continuation of the important dialogues that emerged during the first two Expanding the Circle conferences.”

## STATE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

### *Provides Scholarships*

The State Department of Mental Health has chosen CIIS as one of three vendors in California to administer stipends to graduate students in clinical psychology through the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63). The grant of \$373,898 will make available five annual stipends of \$20,772 each over the next three academic years to students in Clinical Psychology, as well as providing support for an MHSA stipend coordinator.

“This state contract advances three crucial CIIS priorities,” says CIIS President Joseph L. Subbiondo: “to grow an increasingly diverse student body, to provide ever larger amounts of financial aid for our students with need, and to expand the Institute’s service to and engagement with the community at large.”

Specifically, the state-funded program will provide support to doctoral students from underrepresented

racial and ethnic minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer students; and students who themselves are consumers of public mental health services or have family members who are. Students from these communities who are also planning a career in public mental health service are eligible to apply for a one-year, \$20,772 stipend. In exchange, stipend recipients agree to work for one year after graduation in a county public mental health agency or an agency under contract with a county department of mental health.

Similar efforts are supported throughout the entire School of Professional Psychology by a six-year, \$1 million MHSA contract from the City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health to recruit, retain, graduate, and place the same target students into public mental health employment. ●

“This state contract advances three crucial CIIS priorities.”

## STUDENT PROFILE:

# Metteyya Brahmana

### Asian and Comparative Studies

**M**etteyya Brahmana, a student in Asian and Comparative Studies at CIIS, is researching the roots of Buddhism in the Buddha's mother tongue, Pali. After beginning his studies at CIIS with Professor Rina Sircar, Brahmana spent the fall semester of 2011 at the University of Peradeniya in Kandy, Sri Lanka, studying the Pali language and Theravada Buddhism.

"Pali is the language in which the oral tradition of the Buddha has been preserved," Brahmana explains. "It's often said that Pali is the more beautiful younger sister of Sanskrit—less rigid, more flowing and sonorous."

Brahmana points out that Buddha used Pali partly as a way of reaching a wide audience, since only those of the elite Brahmin caste learned Sanskrit: "Buddha used Pali partly because it was the people's language. Much of the Buddha's teachings were anti-caste and non-materialistic."

Brahmana tells of his surprise when first trying to translate the actual Buddhist suttas or scriptures: "You learn the Pali grammar, and then you realize that the Buddha threw out a lot of grammatical rules to have a certain meter, a certain rhythm, a poetic quality. The sound of the words is often critical, as important as their literal meaning."

For Brahmana, life at Peradeniya University in Sri Lanka was a curious combination of a British institution of higher learning, and a Buddhist monastery. "Peradeniya is the oldest university in Sri Lanka," Brahmana says. "It was started by the English, and it looks and feels like an old British campus." Classes are held in English.

But it's also one of the leading centers in the world for the study of Theravada Buddhism. "There's a Buddhist temple on campus, very much integrated into campus life. It's common to see monks on campus and in classes." Brahmana stayed in the Buddhist temple in a small kuti, or meditation room, in the monks' quarters during his first few months at Peradeniya. His room, much smaller than the average American college dormitory single, had only a bed and a desk.



Metteyya Brahmana

That life was a far cry from the world that Brahmana left to begin his studies at CIIS. A native of Seattle and a UC Berkeley graduate, Brahmana completed an MBA after college. He had a successful career as a product manager in high tech industry, in Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) hardware. His practice and personal study of Buddhism while working in high tech industry became more and more important to him. When he visited CIIS and met Professors Rina Sircar and Steven Goodman, he decided to deepen his background and understanding.

"As I'm getting older," Brahmana says, "I think about what will happen

when I look back on my life when I reach eighty. Why not put myself in a position where I can learn more about Buddhism and share that knowledge in a way that helps others?" Brahmana hopes to teach and to write books on Buddhism when he graduates. He's currently working on an MA, and plans to apply to the doctoral program this spring.

Brahmana is studying the South Asian school of Buddhism, known as Theravada. Most Westerners who have been exposed to Buddhism are more familiar with the Mahayana or northern branches, such as Zen, or the Vajrayana Buddhism practiced in the Himalayas. Brahmana hopes that by emphasizing the Theravada lineage, he can learn about and teach Buddhist principles less commonly known in the West.

"Zen in particular emphasizes emptiness practice," Brahmana says. "Theravada Buddhism also looks at emptiness, but slightly differently. In the Theravada tradition, emptiness is more about becoming one with your Buddha nature and embracing the Four Brahmaviharas, or four immeasurables: loving kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and equanimity. You can arrive at these Brahmaviharas through Zen emptiness practice if you are mindful of what arises when the five skandhas are emptied of greed, hate, delusion, and the false sense of self," Brahmana notes. "But I appreciate the positive emphasis that Theravada Buddhism puts on the Four Brahmaviharas by stressing specific meditations that bring these qualities to the forefront in one's practice." ●

**"As I'm getting older,  
I think about what  
will happen when I  
look back on my life  
when I reach eighty."**

# NAVIN AND PRATIBHA DOSHI

## *to Receive* CHAUDHURI AWARD

**T**his year CIIS presents the Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri Award for Distinguished Service to Navin and Pratibha Doshi. Together the Doshis founded the nonprofit organization Nalanda International to promote an appreciation for Indic philosophy and culture within higher education and the broader community.

Nalanda International supports research that advances dialogue among distinct areas of study and ways of thought, and encourages holistic approaches to world culture. The foundation aims to foster a multifaceted life of the mind and spirit, seeking solutions to the problems of our time.

Navin Doshi grew up in Mumbai, India and came to the United States in 1958 after completing his undergraduate studies at the prestigious College of Engineering, Pune and at the L.D. College of Engineering, Gujarat University, where he received his bachelor's degree in engineering. In the U.S., Navin Doshi completed a second bachelor's degree and a master's degree in electrical engineering at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Subsequently he worked as an aerospace engineer at TRW (now Northrop), where he was the recipient of NASA awards and U.S. patents.

Pratibha N. Doshi was educated in India and U.S. in the fields of economic history and interior design. She is actively involved in all the business and charitable activities of the Doshi family.

With the achievement of success in their business ventures, Navin and Pratibha Doshi have become active philanthropists, promoting values-based education and world peace, and consulting on numerous projects relating to Indic traditions and world culture. In 1999, Navin and Pratibha endowed the Doshi Chair of Indian History at UCLA, and a professorship at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles (which administers the prestigious Doshi Bridge Builder Award). The



Pratibha and Navin Doshi

Doshis are also the founding members and substantial contributors for the Sardar Patel Award at UCLA for exceptional doctoral dissertations related to India. At CIIS, they have established the Nalanda Scholars program to support dissertations on topics related to Indian psychology and philosophy.

Navin Doshi explains the foundation's emphasis on learning: "Education is how we transform ourselves, and how

we transcend ourselves."

The nonprofit organization that the Doshis founded, Nalanda International, also provides a wide variety of information through their website: [www.nalandainternational.org](http://www.nalandainternational.org). The article topics range from archaeology to contemporary politics and economics.

These articles complement the publications of Navin Doshi, which include the books *Transcendence: Saving Us from Ourselves* from Ithaca Press, and *Economics and Nature: Essays in Balance, Complementarity, and Harmony* from D.K. Printworld Ltd. In his writings, Navin Doshi moves fluidly among the worlds of science, economics, and Indian philosophy, seeing parallels in all three. He strongly believes in the importance of setting and realizing objectives, but then going beyond them. "The philosophical self implies that you achieve the desired goals, but then you transcend them and enter into a realm of philosophical self. You are then at the doorstep of the spiritual self," he adds.

Navin and Pratibha Doshi will receive the Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri Award at a ceremony at the Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel in Palo Alto on April 28, 2012. For ticket information please contact Director of Development Dorotea Reyna at [dreyne@ciis.edu](mailto:dreyne@ciis.edu). ●

*"Education is how we transform ourselves, and how we transcend ourselves."*



# New Gifts

## Advance Institute's Efforts

### Public Programs & Performances Expands Members, Funders

The new membership initiative at Public Programs & Performances has become a rapid success. "More than 120 people have already signed up," says Emily Brouwer, development officer for Public Programs and the arts. Membership is growing quickly as the CIIS Public Programs & Performances audiences discover the benefits. Members receive 20% discounts on concerts and workshops, as well as reductions at certain stores, invitations to VIP receptions, and a special will-call line at performances.

Corporate and institutional funding for Public Programs & Performances is also on the rise. "We've created both a corporate partnership and corporate sponsorship program—corporate partnership being similar to a membership program for companies," Brouwer details. "There are excellent benefits for company employees as well as marketing benefits."

Perks include a 20% discount for company employees to all Public Programs & Performances events; a one-hour presentation at your company office on stress management through yoga, meditation, and mindful living; and prominent company logo placement on all Public Programs & Performances materials.

Public Programs & Performances has recently received generous support from Adobe, the Consulate General of Mexico, HMC + Beverly Prior Architects, Ingeniux Corporation, Kaiser

Permanente, Latino Community Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, San Francisco Honda, Small Change Foundation, and Union Bank. Media sponsors (who donate media exposure for events) include Amoeba Music, BART, and the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*.

*For more information on how to become a member or corporate supporter of Public Programs & Performances, please contact Emily Brouwer at [ebrouwer@ciis.edu](mailto:ebrouwer@ciis.edu) or 415.575.6216.*

### Haresh and Joan Shah Gift to Create Computer Center in New Library

Haresh and Joan Shah have pledged a total of \$100,000 in gifts to CIIS. Their donation comes at a crucial moment as CIIS prepares to relocate and renovate the Laurance S. Rockefeller Library.

"CIIS is extremely grateful to the Shahs, who have made this significant gift at a critical juncture," says CIIS President Joseph L. Subbiondo. "This donation brings us closer to our goal for raising funds to begin construction of our new library." In appreciation of their generosity, CIIS will name the computer center in the new library the Haresh and Joan Shah Computer Center.



Haresh Shah

Nominated by trustee Kishore Kripalani, Professor Haresh Shah was the 2011 recipient of the Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri Award for Distinguished Service. Professor Shah, who chaired the Department of Civil Engineering at Stanford University before his retirement, was recognized at last year's Chaudhuri dinner for his work in the field of seismic safety and earthquake risk reduction, in addition to his pioneering efforts to help small farmers across the globe continue to thrive in the face of natural disasters.

### Pritzker Family Fund Supports CIIS Scholarships

The Lisa and John Pritzker Family Fund has made a grant of \$60,000 to CIIS for student scholarships. These funds will be used to continue to support the Pritzker Scholars in the Community Mental Health program. In 2008, the Pritzker Family Fund made a first gift of \$100,000 to support scholarships for students in the Community Mental Health program.

Lisa Stone Pritzker, who received an honorary doctorate from CIIS this past spring, is an advocate and activist for child, adolescent, and women's

*A bevy of new gifts from the state, corporations, foundations, and individuals is boosting several projects and programs at CIIS.*



health in the San Francisco Bay Area and nationally. She has supported the Center for Health and Community, and the National Center for Excellence in Women's Health, both located at UCSF. She has also served as a volunteer for Child and Adolescent Services at San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center, and launched the Healthy Kids/Healthy Lives Program at the UCSF Osher Center.



Aetna Foundation presents check for wellness program

### **Aetna Foundation Gift Helps CIIS Launch Wellness Program in Low-Income Housing**

Through a \$30,000 grant from the Aetna Foundation, CIIS has launched a groundbreaking initiative to provide free wellness coaching to low-income residents of a new Mercy Housing building. One-third of the 450 residents were formerly homeless.

"This grant from the Aetna Foundation will enable interns from the Integrative Health program at CIIS to provide free integrative wellness coaching, wellness workshops, and leadership programs to low-income residents of the Mercy Housing building at Mission and 10th Streets in San Francisco," explains Professor Meg Jordan, chair of the CIIS Integrative Health program. "The goals are to reduce chronic illness and obesity, as well as to promote healthy behaviors. The project will also train key community members as wellness coaches to create a culture of wellness among residents."

This is the first time that integrative wellness coaching will be widely used for residents in a subsidized residency. Integrative wellness coaching supports people to strive for optimal health and well-being. "At CIIS we go a step beyond customary coaching practices," Jordan says. "The integrative wellness coach is a distinctive approach taught at CIIS, which includes attention to healthy diet, exercise, and stress management; as well as overall life vision, meaning, purpose, and social belonging." The principal investigator for the grant is Professor Yosuke Chikamoto, who will supervise the placement of CIIS graduate students as coaches, workshop leaders, and facilitators of leadership programs.

The Main Building of CIIS is located just half a

block from the new Mercy Housing facility. "About three years ago I saw a bright new building going up down the block from CIIS and the sign read Mercy Housing Development," recalls Jordan. "I knew we would be friends."

### **J.C. Kellogg Foundation Gift Supports Counseling Centers**

The J.C. Kellogg Foundation has granted the six counseling centers of CIIS \$8,000 each, for a total gift of \$48,000.

"The terms of the J.C. Kellogg grants specify that each clinic director, being the expert on the particular needs of their clinic in a given grant year, determines the most critical use of the funds," explains Rebecca L. McGovern, director of field placement and clinic sites for the Master's in Counseling Psychology programs.

One clinic used part of a grant this year to establish a small emergency scholarship for ongoing clients who may lose a job or otherwise fall on hard financial times and have no ability to continue paying even the lowest end of the sliding scale fee.

"Giving each clinic a say in how the funds are used allows for a specificity and flexibility that is most welcome," McGovern continues. "It helps our six clinical settings maintain varied emphases (from transpersonal to somatics to Gestalt to integral to community mental health) in small centers around the city. In this way, I think the J.C. Kellogg Foundation is brilliant in essentially providing six micro grants that together foster a macro stewardship of our clinics. We are so grateful."

The J.C. Kellogg Foundation has also provided funding for the ICP Diversity Scholarship Program and for the CIIS Library.

### **Adobe Donates Software to Update CIIS**

Adobe Systems has made a donation of their software products to CIIS. The gift is valued at nearly \$24,000. This contribution is making it possible for CIIS faculty and staff to use state-of-the-art technology in many areas.

"We're grateful to Adobe for contributing their products to the Institute," says Janet Cragin, director of Information Technology Systems. "Their software is useful to many of our departments."

Having the Adobe software distributed to offices throughout the Institute permits the exchange of digital information at a higher level. For instance, by using Adobe Acrobat, offices and departments at CIIS can now pass and edit drafts of publications that have already been designed, without having to revert to printing out paper copies at any step along the way. ●

# *JP Lenney Gift*

## Supports Courses on Theravada Buddhism

**C**IIIS alum and trustee JP Lenney has made a gift of \$20,000 to establish the Rina Sircar Fund to honor his former teacher and to support one course annually on Theravada Buddhism for students in the ICP program at CIIS, for a period of four years. Lenney came to CIIS in the late 1970s to study psychotherapy. He was so inspired by the courses that Professor Sircar taught that he took more than ten electives on Buddhist Studies in the Asian and Comparative Studies program. That was the beginning of a lifelong dedication to the essential practices of Theravada Buddhism.

"Most of my life I have been a closet Buddhist," Lenney jokes. "It's only recently that I found the courage to place a small statue of the Buddha on my desk at work."

Lenney recalls that when he met Sircar, he was not the ideal candidate for meditation. "I have Type

A personality tendencies, which are not conducive to the practice of sitting still for long hours at a time. But Rina got me to sit still from four or five in the morning until nine at night." Lenney feels those early meditation sessions with Sircar were a gift that opened him up to an entirely different outlook on life. One particular week-long retreat with Rina focused on loving kindness (metta) meditation and was a turning point for Lenney. At Sircar's invitation he traveled to Burma (Myanmar) to study with her teacher, the most senior monk in the Forest Tradition, the venerable Taungpulu Kaba-Aye Sayadaw. Lenney took vows to become a monk, and lived for a short time at Taungpulu monastery in rural Burma. Since it is considered honorable to become a monk even for a short while, Lenney was able to take the vows and still return to CIIS in time to graduate and pass the MFCC (now MFT) licensing exam.

After working as a counselor for six years, he ultimately found his way into the world of educational publishing and technology. Currently he serves as senior vice president of ALEKS



JP Lenney with wife, Mary, and daughter, Anna

Corporation, a leader in web-based artificially intelligent educational software.

"Our main mission is to help children and adults who have difficulty succeeding in math and in fulfilling their mathematics requirements for both matriculation and graduation," says Lenney. "Mathematics remains the biggest impediment for most students struggling to complete their education."

"The awareness and focus that Rina Sircar and Taungpulu Sayadaw taught me have been enormous keys to the success that I have had in my life and work," Lenney comments. "And they have also helped me find my way through my most difficult challenges. Theravada Buddhism and meditation has been so central to my own development," Lenney explains. "I think it's incredibly important that we continue to offer courses in the Theravada Buddhist tradition in the ICP program. It is my hope that making the courses and scholarship funds available will enable more students in ICP to learn about the Theravada Buddhist approach to the development of awareness and loving kindness and to learn the basics of that school of meditation."

"I invite others to give to the Rina Sircar Fund," Lenney concludes, "to ensure that Theravada Buddhism and insight meditation continue to be mainstays of course offerings at CIIS for years to come." ●

*"Studying Theravada Buddhism and meditation under Rina Sircar and Taungpulu Sayadaw was life-changing for me."*



# Alums at RAMS

*(Continued from page 1)* to acknowledge they have challenges. We have to think outside the box to build relationships with them.”

Kotagal finds that his preparation at CIIS helps him to think creatively about how to reach nontraditional clients. “The milieu of the Clinical Psychology program gave us a wide variety of instructors with different theoretical orientations,” he recalls. “Some of those I agreed with, some I didn’t, but they all added to the richness of the learning.”

Kotagal had never set foot outside of his home country of India before enrolling at CIIS. He was interested in a doctoral program in psychology with a transpersonal focus. “I was taken by the Institute’s Sri Yantra symbol,” he explains. “It’s part of a spiritual direction I had explored. For me, coming to the U.S. was a sort of quest,” he elaborates. “Almost like Americans traveling to India for spiritual reasons—you put your faith in it and go.”

Jessica Katzman (CLN ’06) works with Kotagal as the clinical supervisor in the PAES Counseling and Pre-Vocational Services program, providing mental health services to San Franciscans receiving public benefits. Katzman also came to the U.S. to attend CIIS. She left her home country of Canada to earn her doctoral degree in the Clinical Psychology program.

“I’ve enjoyed greatly the quality of co-workers and staff I’ve worked beside at RAMS over the years—some of my deepest friendships were born in this place,” Katzman says. “But most of all, I love working with the clients we serve. No one has taught me more about clinical work and the social ills in this country (and the particular difficulties of being human) than the hundreds of people who walk through this building.”

Katzman still thinks about her classes at CIIS in her work at RAMS. “I had some analytically oriented professors whose lessons I still apply to this day. I also appreciated my classes that helped us think through notions of culture and ethnicity. That remains an important element of the work we do here every day.”

Lexi Frank graduated from Integral Counseling Psychology at CIIS (ICP ’08) and now works at RAMS as a behavioral health counselor. Her work is focused on serving students at Burton High School in San Francisco.

“I love working with teens in a school setting,” she explains. “It allows me to be a more neutral advocate for them. Their parents aren’t making them come to counseling—they come because they want to.”

Frank feels the curriculum at the Institute gave her a unique opportunity. “CIIS champions growth through experience. I learned theory, but I was also able to consciously grow and change, which has been an amazing gift.”

Andrei Salvat is an alum of the Clinical Psychology doctoral program (CLN ’10) who works at RAMS in the PAES Counseling and Pre-Vocational Services program, a division that helps people who are receiving benefits from the city of San Francisco and who also have mental health issues that might prevent them from seeking employment.

“I find it rewarding,” Salvat says, “when I can work with someone who is at a difficult point in life, and I can help that person climb out of that.” He recently had a client who had become homeless after years of drug and alcohol abuse and depression. Salvat helped him to get housing and drug and alcohol counseling. Over the course of more than a year, Salvat counseled the client and provided him with a referral to a program called CHEFS—Conquering Homelessness through Employment in Food Service. At CHEFS, cooks in San Francisco restaurants volunteer

to teach job skills to the unemployed.

“The client graduated from CHEFS and found a job at a local veterans hospital,” Salvat proudly recounts. “It’s that kind of result that makes my work worthwhile.”

Salvat also appreciates that his background in alternative health allows him to refer clients for acupuncture, qigong, IRest yoga nidra, and tai chi, when called for.

JL Zbacnik graduated from the Drama Therapy program (PDT ’10) and now works at RAMS as a behavioral health counselor, performing mental health assessments and practicing individual and group therapy.

“I like the flexibility of how I get to work with clients at RAMS,” says Zbacnik. “I feel like I get to work authentically rather than formulaically. Oftentimes I hear of clinicians needing to adopt a particular approach or treatment style in agencies, but I feel free at RAMS.”

Zbacnik first heard about CIIS in a class at San Francisco State University when a classmate told him she’d applied to the Drama Therapy program. “It was the first time I’d heard the words ‘drama’ and ‘therapy’ together—I knew I’d found my way.” Even though he’s not working as a drama therapist at RAMS, he feels that what he learned at CIIS is applicable. “Drama therapy is all about play, spontaneity, and creativity. Those skills are transferable to almost any job.” ●



Jessica Katzman

## ALUMNI PROFILES:

### Isaiah Seret

BAC '01, ACS '06



Isaiah Seret

### Ajna Seret

BAC '04



Ajna Seret

**I**saiah and Ajna Seret are brothers who both attended CIIS. Remarkably, both brothers helped to found nonprofits before they had even finished their degrees.

The Seret brothers grew up in Santa Fe, New Mexico and both attended CIIS in the Bachelor of Arts Completion program. Isaiah then went on to finish an MA in Asian and Comparative Studies.

Isaiah and Ajna belong to a family whose interests and values overlap those of CIIS in many areas. Their parents, Ira and Sylvia Seret, have bridged East and West, both as designers and as importers of art from Asia, and by starting their own nonprofit, the Jindhag Foundation, active in the Himalayan region.

The oldest brother, Isaiah Seret, helped to create the Mind Body Awareness (MBA) Project while he was taking graduate classes at CIIS in the summer of 2000. Several others involved in starting the project were also CIIS students, including Noah Levine (author of *Dharma Punx*); Scott Diamond; and later, Will Kabat-Zinn. The MBA Project provides training in mindfulness techniques to youth in the California juvenile justice system, helping them to overcome negative behavior and giving them competencies to transition to a better life. In formulating the vision of the MBA Project, Isaiah Seret and his friends got help from CIIS faculty. "Steven Goodman and Stuart Sovatsky were sounding boards and resources for us," Seret recalls.

Isaiah Seret served as the executive director of the MBA Project for its first four years. He now chairs the board of directors.

Isaiah Seret's interest in Buddhism led him to film, his current career. "Through Steven Goodman at CIIS I met Khyentse Norbu, a Buddhist lama and filmmaker," Isaiah recalls. Isaiah Seret worked as the assistant director on Norbu's feature film,

*Travellers and Magicians*, a road story about a villager in Bhutan trying to reach the U.S.

From there, Isaiah Seret went on to a career directing music videos and commercials. His work has been shown at the Museum of Contemporary Arts (Los Angeles), Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and the Hammer Museum, as well as on MTV and on the website of the *New York Times*. Among his videos is an innovative, full-length film, *Kisses Over Babylon*, where each chapter of the story is a separate music video that features the band Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros. Isaiah Seret's work also includes filming public service announcements for the human rights group U.S. Campaign for Burma and a video for Raphael Saadiq that was recently nominated for a U.K. Music Video Award.

Isaiah Seret credits CIIS with offering a mixture of haven and challenge at a key time in his life: "CIIS provided the safety of an academic institution, as well as the time and experimental spirit to engage deeply in spirituality. The Institute takes the practice of understanding one's mind extremely seriously. That's incredibly unique in the country."

Isaiah's brother, Ajna Seret, also founded a nonprofit at an early age. During a trip to Nepal at age nineteen, Ajna spent time at the Kopan Monastery, learning Buddhist meditation. By coincidence, the order was about to move their U.S. headquarters to the Serets' native New Mexico. Ajna Seret helped found the Thubten Norbu Ling Tibetan Buddhist Center in Santa Fe to spread Mahayana teachings and practices.

After earning his BA at CIIS, Ajna Seret returned to Santa Fe to work in the Seret family business, Seret & Sons. "The store started out in a small courtyard in Santa Fe," Ajna Seret recalls. "Seret & Sons has blossomed and is now in a much larger space." The business sells one-of-a-kind work from the Silk Road region of Asia, including art, textiles, rugs, and furniture. Designers such as *(Continued on next page)*

**"The Institute takes the practice of understanding one's mind extremely seriously. That's incredibly unique in the country."**



## Seret Brothers

*(Continued from previous page)* Oscar de la Renta and Anne Klein have incorporated Seret & Sons materials into their fashions.

The store has given rise to a remarkable offshoot, The Inn of the Five Graces, one of the most stunning hotels in North America. Each room of the inn houses artworks that Seret & Sons imports or produces. The décor includes fabulous tilework by Sylvia Seret. "The Inn is located on the oldest street in the continental U.S., Barrio del Anolco," describes Ajna Seret. "The buildings are made of old river rock and adobe." The rooms also include textiles from Asia, and stone lattices from India.

The family also supports the arts and culture

of Asia through a nonprofit organization they have created, the Jindhag Foundation, founded by Ira and Sylvia Seret. "Jindhag means sponsor in Tibetan," Ajna Seret explains. "The foundation sponsors programs to preserve Tibetan culture, including monasteries in Nepal and India."

For Ajna Seret, his education at CIIS came at a good time. "CIIS fit in perfectly with what I was doing. It was one of the best times in my life. The Bachelor of Arts Completion program opened me up to ideas I would never have been exposed to otherwise. It also gave me the confidence to start new projects and bring them to a close." ●

## Pilgrimage to Sri Lanka

by Julio Gonzalez-Amez

*In January 2012, a group of CIIS students took a two-week study trip to Sri Lanka, led by faculty member Andrew Harlem and by Kapila Wewegama and Nilantha Piyasiri. This is one student's reaction to the journey.*

**a**s I embarked on the trip to Sri Lanka, I never expected to be swept away by its rich simplicity; its spirituality; and its overall philosophy of life. Twenty of us, students at CIIS, went on this journey, with differing expectations. Before setting foot on the land, I remember having lots of questions about mysticism, however open I was to the opportunity to experience the full effect of this journey. When we started the pilgrimage in the city of Colombo, visiting temples, and continued on to the Temple of the Tooth in the city of Kandy, and viewed wonderful sites filled with nature such as the Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage, one thing became clear: we were not in San Francisco anymore.

One of the most interesting aspects of the culture I remember was the ease and the welcoming attitude of the people in the cities we visited. The greeting to use was Ayubowen, which in Sinhala means "long life." With this word I greeted many and received many smiles in return.

As we went from town to town and met interesting people, there were many opportunities for reflection. "Going back to basics," is what I called it. Surrounded by nature, relying on each other for support, and being remote from the fast-paced life I'm accustomed to, all led to



CIIS students and faculty in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Julio Gonzalez-Amez is in the top row, second from left.

a tender and peaceful acceptance of a culture resisting the anxiety and pressures of time.

The itinerary included a visit to the Nilambe Buddhist Meditation Center, a place where talking was not an option. The simplicity of life and the chance to integrate mind, body, and spirit into the day, allowed the whispers of the wind and warm touch of the sun to cultivate in me inner strength and self joy.

The entire group had a chance to spend a couple of days with a host family in one of the villages in Naotunna. I was blessed to be in the village temple with one other person from our group. Living in the temple and sharing the peaceful and relaxed itinerary of the monks was simply what the doctor ordered. This last experience gave me so much to think about, and so much to be thankful for.

It was indeed a humbling experience that resonates to the very essence of human life. The chance to experience a culture the way we did is simply a blessing I will always have in my mind and in my heart. Ayubowen! ●

*In December and January 2011–2012, a group of twenty-five CIIS alums, faculty, and friends spent three weeks visiting Cambodia (Kampuchea), Laos, and Vietnam. Their trip included touring the jungle temples of Angkor Wat; sailing on a junk on Halong Bay in Vietnam; and participating in the alms-giving ritual with monks in Laos. This poem, by one of the members of the trip, reflects on the experience of viewing the Pak Ou Caves near Luang Prabang, Laos.*



Pak Ou Caves

### HIDDEN BUDDHAS

Two millennia ago,  
up the Mekong River,  
Laotians hid Buddhas in caves.  
Today, I walk inside their black refuge,  
discover their faces with a small blue light:  
half-mast eyes made of clay,  
serene smiles cast in bronze,  
long, leafy ears painted gold.  
I imagine their journey here.  
Strong men and women  
wrapping the sacred statues  
in sturdy fishing nets,  
smuggling them into wooden boats,  
leaving before dawn.  
At the end, some carvings cracked,  
or were blackened by fires  
made to keep warm.  
Others touched the ground.  
Maybe a beautiful monk  
in saffron robes and sandals,  
swaddled the heavy blue bundles  
himself, blessed the craggy rocks  
he stepped over, sucked in  
low guttural chants while his heart,  
swollen and fearful, trembled.

Connie Hills

*Connie Hills is a psychologist in San Francisco. She is an alum of the CIIS Clinical Psychology program, PhD '98. [www.conniehillsphd.com](http://www.conniehillsphd.com)*

# 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.



**Seana McGee** (ICP '90) and **Maurice Taylor** (ICP '90) have published a new book entitled *What's the State of Your Union? Instant Relationship Self-Diagnosis*. They host a live radio show called "Love is on the Air" twice a month on KWMR in Marin County and can be reached at [www.newcouple.com](http://www.newcouple.com).

**Larry Fritzlan** (ICP '93)

is running for Congress in California's Second Congressional District, which covers the central region of the state, north of Sacramento to the Oregon border. He is author of three books about politics: *Intervention on America*, *We Are the 99%* and *We Are Running for Office*, and *Washington's Worst Nightmare*. He is also an adjunct professor at CIIS.



**Beth Miller** (PSY '93) is enjoying a rich and satisfying career since graduating from CIIS. She maintains a private practice in San Francisco, teaches, and writes. She is currently studying psychoanalytic psychotherapy and deepening her understanding of human development and relatedness while looking at psychoanalysis and spirituality in resilience. Her book, *The Woman's Book of Resilience*, is being reissued in e-book and audio-recorded forms.

**Sue Steele** (ICP '93) has been supervising trainees and interns for eleven years. She is president for 2012 of her local chapter of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. She coauthored the chapter "Confronting Mortality" in the book *Exploring Issues of Care, Dying and the End of Life*. She has a private practice in San Francisco and Mill Valley.



**Susan Christy** (PSY '94) has published the book *Working Effectively with Faculty: Guidebook for Higher Education Staff and Managers*. She speaks at major universities and medical schools and at higher education conferences across the country. Her faculty leadership training, especially for department chairs, has led to recognition as an expert on staff-faculty relationships.

**Alissa Hirshfeld-Flores**

(ICP '94) has published a memoir, *This Whole Wide World Is Just a Narrow Bridge*, describing what she learned about life through working in the bereavement department at a hospice, and through personal loss in her family. Her private practice is in Santa Rosa, where she specializes in grief and loss and in life transitions. She has also completed training in spiritual guidance with the Morei Derekh program in Jewish Spiritual Direction.



**John Littleton** (SCA '94) has published a new children's book for 7–12-year-olds, *Rampage of the Gluttonous Monsters*. He has received the Golden Bell Award as a teacher of the year and is a regular speaker at schools, where he shares his stories and indigenous wisdom.

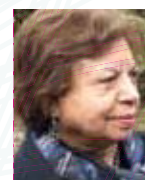
**David King** (SCA '95) has enjoyed many different occupations since graduating from CIIS. At present, he spends most of his time in his art studio where he works in collage, constructing abstract images that explore his profound interest in the metaphysical. His work has been shown widely in the U.S. and Europe, and he is currently represented by Hang Art Gallery in



San Francisco. He was recently an artist-in-residence at the San Francisco Dump and is looking forward to two upcoming residencies at Ucross and Jentel, both in Wyoming. [www.davidkingcollage.com](http://www.davidkingcollage.com).

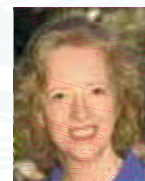
**Sumedha Khanna**

(IHS '96) has written the book *The Healing Well: My Midlife Journey into Wholeness*. She makes specific mention of the role CIIS played in her renewal process. More information about her book and the project she established in Gualala can be found at [www.sumedhakhanna.com](http://www.sumedhakhanna.com).



**Heidi Kooy** (SCA '97) has worked for many years as an ethnographic researcher and consultant in the field of HIV studies. Currently she is the owner of the **Itty Bitty Farm in the City**, an urban farm and educational site for small-scale sustainability in the Excelsior District of San Francisco. The farm has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Sierra* magazine, and a short-length documentary produced by Whole Foods.

**Linda Bark** (IHS '98, PAR '99) has published *Wisdom of the Whole: Coaching for Joy, Health, and Success*, a multidimensional approach to coaching with the aim of helping people move more quickly and easily toward their goals with greater authenticity. [barkcoaching.com](http://barkcoaching.com)



**Suraya Susana Keating** (EXA '99) is a Registered Drama Therapist, yoga teacher, and adjunct professor at Santa Rosa Junior College where she works with adults, youth with special needs, and prison inmates. As drama



facilitator of the Marin Shakespeare Program at San Quentin Prison, she recently directed a musical adaptation of *Twelfth Night*, and is excited to direct *Hamlet* at the prison in 2012. Recent recipient of Theatre Bay Area CA\$H Grant, she is now directing an original theater project with inmates called *Parallel Play: Original Theater Inspired by Shakespeare's Hamlet*. Suraya also trains teachers and therapists on integrating arts into their practices, and taught Expressive Arts and Drama Therapy for Youth with Special Needs at John F. Kennedy University. [www.suraya.org](http://www.suraya.org)

**Tricia Grame** (WSE '01) worked on a Telling Stories Through Art project at the Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage in Kontum, Vietnam. The artwork she has brought back will be the subject of an exhibition cosponsored by the CIIS Department of Writing, Consciousness, and Creative Inquiry. [www.FriendsofVSO.org](http://www.FriendsofVSO.org)

**Kirby Surprise** (CLN '01) has written a new book entitled *Synchronicity: The Art of Coincidence, Change, and Freeing Your Mind*. He participated in the spring CIIS Alumni University Lecture series, where he presented material from his book.



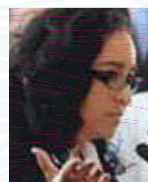
**Yana Womack**, (IND '03) published a new book based on her dissertation, *Guardians of the Gate: An Investigation of Numinous Presence, "Visions of the Divine," in Dreams*.



**Ian McCabe** (PSY '05) published "Male Street Prostitution in Dublin, A Psychological Analysis" in the *Journal of Homosexuality*, November 2011.



**Christina Olague** (BAC '05) was appointed by Mayor Edwin Lee to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to represent District 5. She is currently the senior housing action collaborative coordinator at the Senior Action Network (SAN), an umbrella coalition of more than 150 member organizations representing more than 30,000 seniors and persons with disabilities.



**Mytrae Meliana** (ICP '06) is in private practice in San Francisco and offers psychotherapy to individuals and couples. She will lead a John of God Healing Journey in June to Abadiania, Brazil, where participants will have sessions with John of God, who is considered by many to be an extraordinary spiritual healer.



**Hugh Groockock** (ICP '07) is building his practice as a licensed psychotherapist in Hayes Valley in San Francisco, while continuing as a seasoned real estate agent with Zephyr Real Estate.

**Andrew Antis** (ACS '09) has joined the faculty of Eastern Michigan University; Henry Ford Community College; and University of Detroit, Mercy. His dissertation will be published by the Edwin Mellen Press in a book entitled, *The Takenouchi School of Japanese Classical Martial Arts: A Historical, Pedagogical, and Philosophical Study*. He is also working on several journal articles, including: "The Seeing Eye: A Hermeneutic View of *Wabi-Sabi* in Japanese Aesthetics," and "Tantric *Noir*."



**John C. Burton** (PsyD '09) has a part-time practice with the Institute for the Advancement of Psychotherapy, where he specializes in couples and in adults with ADHD. He also performs psychological evaluations for children and adults with learning disabilities and emotional disorders. He recently began working for Mission Family Health where he performs disability assessments. He also lectures and supervises assessment students at both CIIS and Argosy University.

**Mary Louise Stone** (ACS '09) presented a paper on "Sacred Female Authority Among Inkas: Hurin Moeity" as part of the Native Traditions in America panel at the 2011 American Academy of Religions Conference in San Francisco. Her book chapter titled "An Andean Paradigm of Mothering" was published in *An Anthropology of Mothering*.

**Dorothy Lemoult** (PDT '11) is a theatre artist, teacher, and a Marriage and Family Therapist Associate. She has worked with Effective Arts, CIIS, Freehold's Engaged Theater Program, Seattle Academy, LiveGirls! Theater, and the Young Playwright's Program. She is currently offering Living Stories: A Ten-Week Self-Revelatory Performance Workshop in Seattle. ●

## Spring 2012 Alumni UNIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES

To register:  
<http://alumni.ciis.edu/events>

### The Transformative Power of Authentic Openness



**LECTURE WITH  
DAN ELLENBERG (COU '89)**  
**Friday, April 20, 2012, 6:30PM–9:00PM**  
CIIS Main Building, Room 311  
1453 Mission Street  
San Francisco CA 94103  
*\$15 donation benefits the  
Alumni Scholarship Fund*

### The Business of Psychotherapy



**WORKSHOP WITH  
GEORGE TAYLOR (ICP '91)**  
**Saturday, May 5, 2012,  
1:00PM–5:00 PM**  
CIIS Main Building, Room 308  
1453 Mission Street  
San Francisco CA 94103  
*\$65*



# California Institute of Integral Studies

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## CIIS *today* Spring 2012

### Alumni *Reunions*

#### *Santa Fe*

SEPTEMBER 30, 2011



Anjanette Cureton (PSY '03)  
and Deborah Quinn (HOT '04)

Erica Peters (BAC '02), owner of Contoured Cooking, provided freshly prepared organic appetizers at a gathering of alums in Santa Fe, and spoke about her involvement with the organic food movement in New Mexico.

#### *New York City*

OCTOBER 27, 2011



Brian Jackson (EWP '99), Michael Sheehy (ACS '07),  
Laurel Edwards (PSY '06), Elizabeth Baum (ICP '11),  
and Kathleen O'Hara (SOM '93)

At the Rubin Museum of Art in New York, Maija Garcia (BAC '04) and several others performed a dynamic modern dance set to original music. During the brief program, Kathleen O'Hara (SOM '93) described the impact her CIIS education has had on her international advocacy work on behalf of victims of violent crimes.

#### *Phoenix*

DECEMBER 3, 2011



Bob Henley (ICP '83, PSY '88), India Collins (CLN '06),  
Matt Taylor (TLC '06), and Irene Bradford (CLN '99)

Irene (Castelot) Bradford and Bob Bradford spoke about their efforts in creating an online game that develops leadership potential in the players. A lively discussion followed.