Fall 2015

CIIS Today, Fall 2015 Issue

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PSYCHOTHERAPY: CHARTING NEW PATHWAYS
and Deepening Our Connections

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Makes Its Debut
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CENTERS OF ATTENTION
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We have much to celebrate as we start a new academic year. Our University has grown to 1,500 students, for the sixth consecutive year our psychotherapy graduates scored highest on the California LMFT exams in several categories, and universities and training centers in China continue to turn to CIIS for help developing programs in psychotherapy and educating their counselors.

The merger with ACTCM brought us a new colleague, Lixin Huang. Now CIIS Vice President of China Projects and Executive Director of ACTCM, she is an inspiring leader in Chinese medicine who is recognized globally for her work to save endangered species.

In this issue, you will also learn about our first psychology Certificate program for students from China, as well as the emerging success of our Center for Psychedelic Therapies & Research, reflections once again of our resolve to explore new models of healing.

As CIIS successfully implements these programs, we are developing a greater sense of institutional confidence. We know that CIIS is a university where we can fulfill our passions for innovation in higher education while offering programs of high academic quality.

In all that we plan to do in our updated strategic plan, we stand firmly committed to the founding vision of Bina and Haridas Chaudhuri—an enduring vision that guides CIIS in advancing integral education, serving diverse communities, developing global perspectives, educating the whole person, and responding to emerging social needs.

Of course, none of what you will read would be possible without your financial contributions. All the activities featured in this issue are supported by our alumni and friends. We need you now more than ever as we move toward the future.

Joseph L. Subbiondo, President
Word has definitely gotten around about the new Certificate in Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapies & Research (The Certificate). In the past nine months, there were 150 serious inquiries about the Certificate, most of them from therapists who are not from CIIS.

“They’re coming in at three or four a week,” says Janis Phelps, Director of the Center for Psychedelic Therapies & Research (the Center), which houses the Certificate program. “And we haven’t even started the heavy publicity.”

The Certificate was created to serve a growing need for trained licensed therapist guides to facilitate in future FDA-approved psychedelic- and entactogen-assisted psychotherapy research.* Research and medical experts have estimated that need at perhaps several hundred therapist guides in the next three to six years. The Certificate, which launches in Spring 2016, comprises 180 hours of comprehensive, in-depth academic training.

Phenomenal Timing
The field of research into medical applications of psychedelics, especially for the treatment of end-of-life distress, chronic PTSD, and longstanding substance abuse and addiction, is again heating up. Michael Pollan’s widely popular article “The Trip Treatment,” in The New Yorker, earlier this year ignited strong interest in the midst of the revival of psychedelic research.

Studies by research scientists are more regularly appearing in such prestigious publications as the Journal of Psychopharmacology and Archives of General Psychiatry, and adding new legitimacy to the field. And two summary reports on Phase II psilocybin studies by Johns Hopkins University and New York University due out in Spring 2016 are sure to further spark positive sentiment about the medicines.

With meditation and mindfulness, holism and hospice now in the vernacular and the backlash against recreational psychedelic drug use in the ‘60s abated, some experts believe that culturally in the United States, the time just might be right to integrate psychedelics further into mainstream medical care. Enter CIIS.

“The return of government-approved scientific research into psilocybin and related compounds has significant potential for myriad scientific and clinical studies, including the important treatment of existential and psychospiritual distress at the end of life,” says Dr. Anthony Bossis, Co-Principal Investigator of the Cancer and Palliative Care Research, Psilocybin Cancer Project at NYU School of Medicine.

“The reemergence of this field will require serious multidisciplinary academic centers to address the theoretical, research, and clinical domains of this work. CIIS, with its history integrating psychology and spirituality, is uniquely

*Entactogens, also called empathogens (MDMA, MDA, ecstasy), and classic psychedelics (LSD, ayahuasca, psilocybin, mescaline) together are referred to in this article as “psychedelics.”
Continued from page 1

and enormously qualified to meet this historic challenge,” he says.

In offering the Certificate, the Center joins three of its partner organizations, Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), Usona Institute, and the Heffter Research Institute (Heffter), in running successful training programs for psychedelic research therapists.

Many researchers at MAPS and Heffter are predicting that Phase III studies of MDMA and psilocybin will begin rolling out in two to four years, particularly for chronic PTSD and advanced cancer anxiety and distress. Phase III trials, which can involve patient groups of up to 3,000, are typically the definitive assessment of a drug’s effectiveness. In anticipation of these events, the Center developed the Certificate program.

LUMINARIES LEAD THE WAY

CIIS’ long tradition of rigorous education in contemplative mysticism, spirituality, psychedelic research, transpersonal psychology, consciousness studies, and anthropology makes the University an unparalleled place to train future therapist guides. The Certificate, though it emphasizes the therapeutic medical model of psychedelic research, will address the philosophy and theory from these other intellectual traditions as well.

MAPS and Heffter researchers as lead instructors will teach alongside Bay Area psychedelic luminaries Stan Grof and Ralph Metzner, who are longtime CIIS faculty. Members of the Center’s Council of Advisors—many of them psychiatrists, psychologists, and therapists from leading universities and research centers—will be teaching in the program.

Among these well-known leaders in the field are Bossis and Jeffrey Guss (NYU School of Medicine), William Richards and Mary Cosimano (Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine), Charles Grob (UCLA), Robert Jesse (Council on Spiritual Practices), Rick Doblin and Annie and Michael Mithoefer (MAPS), Daniel Muller (University of Wisconsin School of Medicine), and psychiatrist Gabor Maté—many of whom have given lectures and workshops sponsored by CIIS Public Programs & Performances.

Since March 2015, the Center has been providing diverse public education about psychedelic research from past decades, harm-reduction techniques, and cultural histories of the research, as well as film screenings and book readings. 

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For licensed master’s and doctoral clinicians in CIIS therapy training programs, the Certificate can be viewed as a postgraduate development opportunity.

“Ideally, the skills and knowledge learned in the Certificate program will be finalized in advanced training at a psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy research center affiliated with MAPS and/or Heffter,” says Phelps. Graduates can apply for internships or scholarships at the medical centers that will provide them with mentoring and advanced training with real volunteers in FDA-approved research studies. Phelps is active in the push to reinstitute research in the Bay Area.

Students applying for the Certificate must be licensed professionals (or those seeking licensure) in mental health and medicine, or senior members of the clergy. Several scholarships are available.

Optimal enrollment is 16 for the first year and 30-plus for the second. “We have aspirations about the second year being a hybrid residential-online program to enable distance learning,” says Phelps.

Graduates of the program will have a significant knowledge base in pharmacology, session preparation and later integration, competency skills, and design of research protocols. They can apply to MAPS and Heffter for on-site, advanced training and can then apply to work in actual clinical studies. There will likely be opportunities for therapists to work with psychiatrists prescribing these medicines to people during a period of “expanded access.”

Expanded access refers to a process by which people with intractable mental health indications, for which few (if any) other drugs or therapies have worked to alleviate symptoms, can be eligible to be given such medicines under supervision of a physician.

“Accompanying the rebirth of psychedelic research and its many promising clinical, educational, and religious applications, CIIS has stepped forward to design a program that not only offers techniques and information, but also nurtures the psychological and spiritual maturation of future investigators and practitioners,” says William Richards, of Johns Hopkins University. “It is an honor to be associated with CIIS and to contribute to the rich unfolding of this educational trajectory.”

In collaboration with scientists from Heffter, MAPS, Usona, and the Council for Spiritual Practices, “innovative and inspired ideas have been implemented in the curriculum,” says Phelps. “We are fully engaged and enthusiastic in spearheading this cutting-edge Certificate for psychedelic practitioners of the future.”

For more information, please contact admincpr@ciis.edu.

“CIIS, WITH ITS HISTORY INTEGRATING PSYCHOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY, IS UNIQUELY AND ENORMOUSLY QUALIFIED TO MEET THIS HISTORIC CHALLENGE.”

—DR. ANTHONY BOSSI
In Fall 2015, 614 students were enrolled in the School of Professional Psychology and Health, which comprises the Clinical Psychology (PsyD) doctoral program and the five degree concentrations of the Master’s in Counseling Psychology (MCP) programs: Integral Counseling Psychology, Drama Therapy, Somatic Psychology, Expressive Arts Therapy, and Community Mental Health.

The MCP programs have as their core principles equity, inclusion, social justice, and a commitment to education that combines experiential, theoretical, and technical perspectives with rigorous clinical training. MCP students in their final year of study put these principles to work in the world as they choose one of 160 practicum sites where, under the supervision of a licensed professional, they gain experience as developing therapists serving the Bay Area and broader communities.

Most often they go on to careers in community mental health and nonprofit organizations, hospitals, government agencies, schools, and their own private practices.

Several institutional funders provide programmatic support and scholarships for MCP students. They include the MCJ Amelior Foundation (Drama Therapy), The California Wellness Foundation and The Lisa & John Pritzker Family Fund (Community Mental Health). CIIS’ MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) Project, through a seven-year, $1 million-plus contract with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, supports recruitment efforts, mentoring, and services for students historically underrepresented in professional psychology entering our five MCP programs.

**PROGRAM PROWESS IN CHINA**

In China, CIIS continues to establish itself as a leader in counseling psychology training and education, developing programs with universities, medical centers, and clinics, and presenting at national conferences. Following faculty trailblazers Denise Boston (EXA) and Alzak Amlani (ICP) this year are:

- **ICP’s Brant Cortright**, who led a three-day workshop on transpersonal and integral psychology in Beijing, then gave the keynote address to the 9th Annual Congress of Chinese Psychologists.
- **Steuart Gold**, Director of the Center for Somatic Psychotherapy, who conducted somatic psychology trainings in Beijing and at University clinics in Henan and Zhejiang.
- **EXA program faculty and alums**, who recently co-presented at the International Expressive Arts Therapy Association Conference in Hong Kong, co-sponsored by CIIS. They focused on their research study with Glide Memorial Church’s Family, Youth and Childcare Center. Program Chair Shoshana Simons will visit Shanghai, China, in early 2016 to conduct training in “Tree of Life” arts-based practice.
- **HSX (Human Sexuality) faculty Richard Buggs**, who in December will lead a five-day workshop on human sexuality at partner organization SonRoam Group in Beijing.

Additionally, **Judie Wexler**, Academic Vice President, and **Lixin Huang**, ACTCM Executive Director and V.P. of China Projects at CIIS, traveled widely in China, forging new relationships and building on established ones, including Key-to-Success in Beijing, and a meet-up with CIIS’ summer Certificate students. The visit culminated at a conference on Traditional Chinese Medicine in Guangzhou.

On the following pages, you can read more about the School of Professional Psychology—its new projects, partnerships, and academic achievements. 

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**EQUITY, INCLUSION, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND A COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION**

that combines experiential, theoretical, and technical perspectives with rigorous clinical training are the underlying principles of the School of Professional Psychology and Health.
As the latest round of LMFT test results attest, once again Counseling Psychology at CIIS, as it does in the classroom, continues to lead in the exam room.

The Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS), California’s state regulatory agency responsible for licensing, examination, and enforcement of Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs), recently released statistics for its January 1 through June 30, 2015, exam cycle. To become licensed, MFT candidates must pass both the Standard and Clinical Vignettes written exams.

“The report reflects positively on the focus that CIIS faculty place on excellent clinical education,” says Steven Tierney, Chair of CIIS Master’s in Counseling Psychology programs. “Our students have the skills they need to assess and diagnose cases and create effective, evidence-based interventions. CIIS’ focus on experiential education produces those skills, as demonstrated in the LMFT exam results.”

Academic Vice President Judie Wexler also sees the high pass rates as a reflection of both the quality of education at CIIS and the way in which the University educates its students.

“We seek to create deep learning experiences for our students so that they are able to readily access the material, analyze it, apply it, and remember it,” she says.

For Integral Counseling Psychology (ICP) Program Chair Barbara Morrill, integral education is the key. “Our high pass numbers underscore for me how important it is to educate the whole person—body, mind, spirit, and context,” she says. ICP is the largest of CIIS’ five Counseling Psychology degree programs.

Becky McGovern, Director, MCP Field Placement and Clinic Sites, believes that the numbers are an independent confirmation of the high-quality training that CIIS students receive, both in the classroom and in the field.

“Such extraordinary success on the exams celebrates our entire community—the students themselves, of course, but also faculty, staff, supervisors, and many partner agencies and clinics where CIIS student-therapists begin to practice, as well as the huge number of clients who receive services as they advance student learning,” she says.

The pass rates are a clear and consistent indicator of how successful CIIS students are post-graduation.

“Our faculty give the students a strong start and prepare them well for their clinical hours after graduation and for the licensing exams,” says Wexler.

“Therapists-to-be begin their journey in the classroom and are advanced to the field,” says McGovern. “Graduation is one capstone of their process. Passing the two exams is the other. This completes the circle of learning.”

See www.bbs.ca.gov/exams/exam_stats.shtml

## BBS Exam Statistics

### BBS Exam Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Standard Exam Pass Rate</th>
<th>1st-Time Exam Pass Rate</th>
<th>Clinical Vignettes Exam Pass Rate</th>
<th>1st-Time Clinical Vignettes Exam Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIIS</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Schools Overall</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- CIIS ranked highest on both exams among schools with more than 15 test-takers. (Schools with 100% pass rates on the Standard exam averaged 4.5 test-takers, compared with 75 from CIIS.)
- CIIS is one of the largest educators of MFTs, but also CIIS is the leader in pass rates among larger schools in California. Among schools with more than 50 people taking the exams, the highest pass rate after CIIS (92% Standard, 94% Clinical Vignettes, respectively) was 76% Standard and 86% Clinical Vignettes.
- Over the past six consecutive exam cycles, CIIS is first in pass rates among California schools with more than 25 exam-takers.
The following CIIS community members made invaluable contributions of knowledge and information resources:

- **AFRICAN-CENTERED PSYCHOLOGY**: Adeeba Deterville, Sankofa Cultural Institute Co-founder (PhD student, TSD); and Ebede Ndi, East-West Psychology
- **ECOPSYCHOLOGY**: Fernando Castrillón, Community Mental Health
- **FEMINIST PSYCHOLOGY**: Alka Arora, Women’s Spirituality
- **HUMAN SEXUALITY AND GENDER IN PSYCHOLOGY**: Sonya Arreola, Human Sexuality; and Steven Tierney, Community Mental Health
- **INDIGENOUS WELLNESS IN PSYCHOLOGY**: Sandra Pacheco, Undergraduate Studies
- **LIBERATION PSYCHOLOGY**: Danielle Drake-Burnette, Expressive Arts Therapy
- **MINDFULNESS**: Steven Tierney, Community Mental Health
- **NEURODIVERSITY**: Nick Walker, Undergraduate Studies
- **NTU PSYCHOTHERAPY**: Denise Boston, Expressive Arts Therapy

The exhibit also includes subject-area lectures, workshops, and presentations throughout the 2015–2016 academic year led by the participating faculty.

Curator and Expressive Arts Therapy student Tayyibah Hasan sat down with Danielle Drake-Burnette, Expressive Arts faculty member, to discuss the exhibit.

**DANIELLE**: What inspired you to curate this particular exhibit?

**TAYYIBAH**: The Arts at CIIS and MHSA Project* wanted to collaborate on an idea for an exhibit in the third-floor hallway as a timeline. We wanted to make visible the work of the experts in our midst, and gather our collective wisdom and resources into a cohesive timeline that could inspire others to expand the frame.

I started to think about all the inspiring fields of psychology that I had experienced at CIIS, in class or in workshops, and began pulling out different names and titles that stuck out to me: liberation psychology, feminist psychology, neurodiversity. I built on that list of psychologies that were different from the norm in the field.

**DANIELLE**: Why is the focus on “alternative” psychologies important to you?

**TAYYIBAH**: During my first year at CIIS, I had a lot of conversations with other students about what I wanted to learn here and why I came to CIIS in the first place. I wanted to learn something that was liberating, that I felt I could relate to, particularly around being a student of color. I wanted to learn more psychologies that were for and about my community—for myself and my growth as a therapist. I wanted to make sure that I was going to be a competent therapist going out into the field.

A group of those students and I talked about ways that we could bring more of those ideas into the classroom and integrate them more fully into the curriculums we were learning, because I felt that some of the things we were learning did not honor or address the needs of our communities.

**DANIELLE**: So you were looking toward your futures and trying to figure out a way to craft your careers as developing mental health professionals in a way that was going to be inclusive of different and diverse communities that you would potentially be looking to work with.

**TAYYIBAH**: Yes. In academia and in practice, I believe that cultural humility and awareness are key to becoming a competent therapist.

**DANIELLE**: From your own personal perspective, how have your experiences shaped your thoughts about why this exhibit is so important?

**TAYYIBAH**: For me as a student coming into CIIS, this exhibit reassures and validates my own culture and experience. As an

*Continued on page 24

*A project at CIIS funded by the City and County of San Francisco to support the initiatives of the California Mental Health Services Act.*
For more than 30 years, CIIS has been serving diverse San Francisco neighborhoods and communities by offering counseling and psychotherapy to adults, families, couples, youth, and children who might otherwise not have access to counseling or psychotherapy, or who may seek clinicians newly skilled in particular therapeutic modalities.

Staffed by advanced-level and recently graduated CIIS students, under the supervision of licensed clinicians, the six counseling centers provide skilled and compassionate services, as well as unique specializations. They have become trusted partners in San Francisco’s mental health systems, serving more than 750 clients a year.

In San Francisco’s Financial District, CSP is a part of the Somatic Psychology program and also provides partnership mental health services to a number of San Francisco agencies. These include the San Francisco Sheriff’s Department’s Women’s Resource Center, Legal Services for Children, an elementary school in Glen Park, and an after-school arts program with locations in San Francisco and Marin County.

CSP hosts a premier pilot project in complementary behavioral health care with the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ACTCM), the newest CIIS school. In addition to CSP student clinicians offering counseling and psychotherapy services at its Financial District location, ACTCM students are on-site weekly to provide auricular acupuncture.

This CSP/ACTCM collaboration also has just expanded to the San Francisco Sheriff’s Department’s Women’s Resource Center, where CSP students had already been offering outreach services. Preliminary plans are in place for more pairings of counseling and acupuncture.

ICP CLINICS
Three of the six counseling centers are part of the Integral Counseling Psychology (ICP) program—the largest of the five specializations of CIIS Counseling Psychology MA programs. Soon after the ICP program was established, CIIS opened the Church Street Counseling Center, followed by Pierce Street and Golden Gate. All ICP clinics share core theoretical principles, approaches, and relational counseling practices; serve diverse populations; and are conveniently located near public transportation.

COUNSELING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

1. PIERCE STREET INTEGRAL COUNSELING CENTER
   in the Alta Plaza Park in the Upper Fillmore Pacific Heights neighborhood
   2140 Pierce Street
   415.776.3109
   DIRECTOR: Dan Gottsegen (CLN ’02)

2. CHURCH STREET INTEGRAL COUNSELING CENTER
   in Noe Valley
   1782 Church Street
   415.648.2644
   DIRECTOR: Gieve Patel (ICP ’02)

3. GOLDEN GATE INTEGRAL COUNSELING CENTER
   in the Tenderloin
   507 Polk Street, Suite 450
   415.561.0230
   DIRECTOR: Jessica Wallace

4. CENTER FOR SOMATIC PSYCHOTherapy (CSP)
   220 Montgomery Street at Bush Street
   415.217.8895
   DIRECTOR: Steuart Gold (SOM ’99)

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   415.217.8895
   DIRECTOR: Steuart Gold (SOM ’99)
THE CLINIC WITHOUT WALLS (TCWOW)
415.373.4094
DIRECTOR:
Thomas Marchevsky

TCWOW, which recently opened its doors to Bay Area residents, is grounded in a social justice paradigm. Its objective is to provide clinical excellence while addressing contemporary issues of local communities. The clinic serves the needs of diverse populations, particularly those historically discriminated against on the basis of race, sexual orientation, economic status, and other sociocultural factors. Trainees at TCWOW learn to address mental health issues with cultural sensitivity and humility by taking into account the rich and complex context of clients’ lives.

The clinic operates within five low-income housing communities in San Francisco free of charge. The main site is located in the Mission District at Valencia Gardens.

Therapists at TCWOW are trained to work with trauma, substance abuse, and a wide array of other issues. Clinicians provide therapy for individuals and couples, family therapy, groups, and other supportive services. Moreover, clinicians utilize “Therapy on the Margins,” an approach based on informal conversational encounters through which a therapeutic rapport can be established.

TCWOW continues to expand with the intention to both increase the accessibility of mental health services and uphold a psychology of liberation aimed at healing our communities.

BY EMI KOJIMA

Lani Chow

“Lani not only developed a training program, but she also brought to life an impassioned, principled, culturally sensitive ‘way of being’ for our therapists-in-training,” says Andrew Harlem, Clinical Psychology professor. “When a student tells me that something I am teaching accords with what she learned in Lani’s class, I know I am on the right track. What she has meant to PSC can hardly be expressed in words.”

By this, Chow means working with clients, being able to form deep and healing therapeutic relationships, and being able to think about people and make connections. “The students,” she says, “were also just really likable.”

A licensed psychologist for more than 16 years, Chow has been Clinic Director for eight years, serving dual roles since July, when she became the Director of Clinical Training for the PsyD program. Her transition out of the counseling center directorship is scheduled for 2016. “Being the director of PSC has been the best job I’ve ever had. It fit my personal interests in providing long-term psychological services and working in a community training clinic,” she says. “Both are extremely important to me.”

NEW THERAPY GROUPS AND ASSESSMENTS

Responding to the needs of underserved communities, Chow designed, in collaboration with Clinic Manager Tori Branch (PsyD ’11), a new set of therapy groups now on offer at PSC.

These are safe spaces, says Chow, where people can come together, support one another, and build community. Among the therapy groups are those for female- and male-identified people; and for people struggling with unusual or extreme experiences such as hearing voices and having visions. The Off the

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For two weeks this summer, 15 students engaged in experiential workshops and classes toward earning a Certificate in Techniques of Integral Counseling.

Among them were an aerospace engineer, a banker, a city planner, two entrepreneurs, and several psychologists, students, and professors—one of whom is a visiting scholar from Harvard and another from the University of Virginia. They came to CIIS to be better therapists, “to learn about East-West spiritual awakening,” and “for the integral atmosphere—a specialty at CIIS,” they said in a survey.

They came from 10 cities in China, the majority from Shanghai. Many were brought together on WeChat through Jeremy Caiphong Zhu (EWP ’11), director of CIIS China Programs in China.

Students came to “study advanced approaches and techniques used in counseling psychology, and “to experience the clinical style of American therapists.”

And because, as one student said, “since the 1980 economic reform of China, there has been a major shift in societal systems. Everyone is wrapped in an energy of anxiety, suppression, stress, and competition. It’s causing people to push harder, carrying a fatigued body and mind.”

COURSES UNCOMMON
The inaugural summer Certificate is one of several several initiatives of CIIS’ China Projects that have come to fruition this year, including the education and professional development of counseling psychologists in China, and academic collaborations that bring Chinese students to CIIS to study psychology.

Richard Buggs, who taught the class on sexuality, says “Though it is not openly discussed and was not part of their training, students nonetheless, embraced the topic fully, asking for further contact and instruction.” In December, Buggs will travel to Beijing to give two workshops on the topic.

Especially salient were sessions on trauma, crisis, and grief and loss, which addressed what students said were the most prevalent issues in China: aging populations, academic pressure on children, anxiety and depression, marriage and family conflict, and high suicide rates.

Natural disasters, such as earthquakes, droughts, and floods, have taken a devastating toll on China. “Of the greatest concern is trauma after natural disaster.”
Sonya Arreola, the new Chair of the Human Sexuality PhD program, has been surrounded by social justice advocates all her life.

Early-childhood years were spent in Mexico, but once school started, most of her early education was in Los Angeles. She appreciates having had the opportunity to learn in English and Spanish. With a smile she remarks, “My family still asserts that California is part of Mexico!”

“When I was in my 20s and living in L.A. after finishing my BA degree, I volunteered to work as a translator for Spanish-speaking men being tested for HIV. At that time, the antiretroviral medications were still in their infancy.”

A year and a half later, she became the director of the Total AIDS Prevention Study. Part of the program involved running support groups for men who had recently received an HIV-positive diagnosis at One Center in Long Beach.

There was no place for the Spanish-speaking men to go. “Together, the men and I created a parallel project for Spanish speakers—many of whom were immigrants. I quickly learned that simply offering the program in Spanish was not enough.

“These men helped me develop something better and more effective that took into consideration particular cultural concerns like immigration status, language, the meaning of coming out, and connection to family,” she says.

“For example, for Latinos coming from collectivist societies, decisions about self-disclosure of sexual orientation and diagnosis were strongly influenced by the impact that disclosure would have on their family and friends. For white men, considerations were more about building activist alliances with each other.”

Doing all of this work while watching so many young men dying stimulated a number of existential issues for her. She saw in real time their struggles with their mortality and foreshortened lives.

Arreola is deeply grateful for what these men have taught her. “My first calling was to attend to that indebtedness and show my gratitude for everything they taught me,” she says.

She received a Master’s in Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley, and the thread continues today as she strives to understand “how we humans thrive, and under what conditions do we thrive?”

Arreola has served as principal investigator of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention–funded studies and National Institutes of Health–funded studies focused on sexual health among marginalized populations. She currently serves as senior research advisor at the Global Forum on Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and HIV (MSMGF).

Her research examines social and health inequalities that contribute to disproportionately poorer health among marginalized populations, nationally and internationally. “Across all these activities, I try to participate as a researcher, advisor, educator, human rights advocate, and steadfast student,” she says.

The goal of her work is to increase sexual-health justice among groups that have been marginalized because of sexuality, race, and ethnicity by actively integrating teaching, research, mentorship, advocacy, activism, and community engagement. “Sexuality is a critical lens for exploring issues of social justice. There is a great deal of judgment around this topic,” she notes.

With Arreola now solidly at the helm, the program “will move steadily toward a social justice orientation as students desire to advocate for gender expression, sexual orientation, sexual practices, and reproductive rights,” she says.

“Students who study at CIIS will find opportunities that are scholarly and strive whenever possible to incorporate body, mind, and spirit.”

“My dream for the Human Sexuality program is to create a center for critical thinking around sexual social justice.”
Like many of us last summer, Lixin Huang was horrified when she saw the photographs of Cecil the Lion's decapitation at the hands of an American dentist in Africa. As a tiger conservationist in the United States and China, Huang had seen a lot of terrible wildlife abuse, but this time her dismay had a cross-cultural twist. “I was worried I would get an alarmed call from China demanding to know why American medical practitioners are now using lion body parts in their work!”

Huang, Executive Director of CIIS’ American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ACTCM) and V.P. of China Projects, has been pressed to explain cultural perspectives and traditions to people on both sides of the Pacific Ocean. Since 1997, she’s worked with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on campaigns to educate people in China about ending the commercial trade and use of endangered-animal parts for medicine, a practice rejected by Chinese medicine practitioners years ago. Francisco Zoo, and WWF to create a “save the tigers” day with a parade and a poster contest to spread the word to the Chinese-American community about the need to end the destruction of tigers.

As a result, rare-animal-parts sales dropped dramatically in California. In China, Huang helped organize a conference in Beijing that was instrumental in persuading Chinese officials to enact and support legal restrictions to curtail the trade of tiger parts in China. She continues to speak out against the use of tiger parts and to work with Chinese officials to curb the practice in China.

As recently as 100 years ago, as many as 100,000 wild tigers roamed the forests and grasslands of Asia. Measuring up to 10.5 feet long and weighing 650 pounds, tigers live at the top of the food chain in their ecosystems. In China, they’re often depicted on tombs and graves, and are considered protectors of the dead. 

Originally, when WWF representatives requested help with their campaign, Huang was reluctant and didn’t see a connection to her role as the director of a Chinese medicine college. However, as she learned of the destruction of these rare species and of the damage that was being done to their habitats, she shifted course and initiated a large public information campaign in San Francisco.

In 1998—the Year of the Tiger—she worked with 200 local schools, the San
and “First Masters of Heaven.” Because they have been seen as symbols of valor, virility, and power, many Chinese people traditionally hunted the tigers for trophies and cut up their bodies, believing that a tiger’s bones, claws, eyeballs, meat, and penis could heal the body and increase virility.

These beliefs date back more than 3,000 years, when most healers were village practitioners who passed their knowledge down through their children and grandchildren. Their use of tiger parts was a regional folk practice that predated the comprehensive institutionalized medicine that is taught at ACTCM and across China today.

**CHINESE MEDICINE MODERNIZES**

A major change in Chinese medicine began in 1949 with the Communist revolution. In the 1950s and ’60s, the government pushed to modernize China and promoted Traditional Chinese Medicine, creating several medical universities and updating the traditional ways into a unified modern medical profession.

Universities, including Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Chengdu, became centers of thought where students and faculty developed the modern Traditional Chinese Medicine system that is taught today. In China, Traditional Chinese Medicine is now practiced side by side with Western medicine and is part of a comprehensive health care system.

According to the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Society, there are 120,000 Chinese medicine practitioners worldwide. As of 1993, the use and trade of tiger parts was completely banned in China, and they have been removed from the official Chinese medicine pharmacopoeia. The sale of animals from all endangered species, including tigers, rhinos, and elephants, is internationally banned by the 171-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), a cooperative organization between governments to protect rare species.

Often Huang’s role has been to emphasize this to Western conservationists, explaining that the use of tigers for medicine (or anything else) is strictly an underground black market practice.

Huang has had to remain vigilant in her work. The black market trade remains very lucrative, and it’s estimated that there are only 3,000 tigers left in the wild today, all of which are considered endangered. In China, a network of “tiger farms” has sprouted up, housing thousands of tigers—more than can be found in the wild. In the U.S., private citizens are also permitted to own rare animals, and according to the WWF, it is easier in some states to buy a tiger than it is to adopt a dog.

WWF estimates that 5,000 tigers are living in captivity in the U.S. and has called for the termination of private ownership of large felines to protect the public and ensure that tigers aren’t sold on the black market. Huang, WWF, and Traffic, another conservation group, continue to support the Chinese and American governments in maintaining the ban on tiger trade to its fullest extent and in providing oversight of these kept animals.

**SAVING MORE THAN TIGERS**

To Huang, it all comes down to education. She’s consistently fought to assure people that tiger and rare animal parts have no place in professional Chinese medicine and that there are superior ways of maintaining and restoring health.

Her conservation work has become a strong passion as well as a professional pursuit. “When we save wild tigers, we save their environment too, ensuring the survival of many other species and their ecosystems. It’s vital that we protect these natural areas before they’re gone.” Huang, an executive committee member of the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies, in September addressed the group’s conference in Barcelona, urging international attendees to remain vigilant about the protection of tigers.

She’s driven by the belief that humans can and should protect these wild animals and the wildernesses they are native to. “We have the ability to do the right thing; therefore, I believe we have the responsibility to leave our children a living planet as well.”

Gail Mallimson is a filmmaker, and media and communications consultant.

“We have the ability to do the right thing; therefore, I believe we have the responsibility to leave our children a living planet as well.”

—LIXIN HUANG
Notes from the Playa:

RADICAL ART-MAKING AT BURNING MAN

BY CHERYL PATRICE DERRICOTTE (MFA ‘15)

2015 marks the second year that the MFA Programs at CIIS have offered Art and Survival: Radical Creation at Burning Man. The 3-unit course covers the history of the event; the challenges of creating performances and large-scale public art; and strategies for documenting ephemeral art engagements, places, and sculptures.
Burning Man began in 1986 in San Francisco, when Larry Harvey and Jerry James built a 9-foot wooden figure, took it down to Baker Beach, and burned it on the Summer Solstice as an act of radical self-expression. In 1987, they did it again with a few more friends. The next year, they went all in and built a 40-foot-tall structure. Harvey named the sculpture Burning Man. About 200 people were in attendance. In 1990, the event outgrew Baker Beach and the patience of the police.

That same summer, A Bad Day at Black Rock was conceived by Kevin Evans, Michael Mikel, and John Law as a Dadaist temporary autonomous zone with sculpture to be burned and situationist performance art. The three were members of the San Francisco chapter of the Cacophony Society (defined as “a randomly gathered network of free spirits united in the pursuit of experiences beyond the pale of mainstream society”). Harvey and James were invited to bring their 40-foot effigy to the event, and Burning Man moved to Nevada, where it has remained.

Burning Man takes place for a week in the late summer/early fall in Nevada’s Black Rock desert, a dry lakebed northeast of Reno that participants refer to as “the Playa.” Attendance is currently capped at approximately 68,000 people by the Bureau of Land Management, making it the third-largest city in Nevada during the event.

In addition to the Burning of the Man, the event features public art projects including buildings, talks, workshops, and musical and other performances.

“It’s logistically challenging to bring students to Burning Man. It’s inherently and intentionally risky. We want students to have an embodied sense of being part of the lineage of the Cacophony Society and other radically interdisciplinary artists from the Bay Area—because they are,” says Carolyn Cooke, MFA Programs Chair. A group of 10 students, alums, and University of Chichester visiting faculty Louie Jenkins—and me—accompanied Cooke who led the course. It was her second burn.

JOY AND TEARS
The event is guided by 10 principles that cover personal and civic responsibility while encouraging self-expression and creativity—“gifting” being one of my favorites. Ninety-nine percent of Black Rock City functions without money. You can buy ice, coffee, and lemonade at special camps onsite, but you don’t need money to participate in anything.

While there is a great deal of joy at Burning Man, there is also an annual Temple structure (this year, the Temple of Promise), where participants leave remembrances and expressions of grief. Artists David Best and Jack Haye created the first temple in 2000, The Temple of the Mind. On Sunday evening, the last day of the event, the Temple is burned.

Despite the Playa’s natural beauty, the conditions there are inhospitable to human habitation. To say that a great deal of preparation is required to live there for a week is an understatement. The desert is known for its highly alkaline sand, which chaps feet, lips, and noses; extreme temperature shifts; and a healthy dose of midday dust storms.

In addition to bringing appropriate clothing for these temperature extremes, all participants bring in their own food, water, and other supplies.

BLACK ROCK CITY SLICKERS
I had never been camping in my life before I went to Burning Man. Leave it to me to begin in a challenging desert environment like Black Rock City.

Fortunately, the MFA programs joined an established camp community, Cosmicopia, created five years ago by students and alums in the Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness (PCC) program. Part of attending an urban school such as CIIS is that different departments have classes scheduled on rotating days of the week. The cross-department fertilization happens less frequently than we all would otherwise like. Thus, the PCC-MFA partnership at Cosmicopia has been a wonderful benefit brought forth by the creation of the new MFA course.

In many ways, Burning Man is a metaphor for a career as an artist. Both require preparation, partnership, flexibility, creativity, and resilience. After taking the course in its first year while still a student at CIIS, I summarized the experience this way: “Nothing Went According to Plan. Everything Happened Perfectly.” Burning Man and an art career are both filled with moments of serendity to be savored.

This year marked my second trip, which, according to many friends, officially makes me a “Burner.” I accept! As an alum and lecturer on the visual arts, I continued to help shape the MFA course (with Cooke). I presented a talk called “Deep Roots: Placing Burning Man Within the History of Utopian Communities and Public Art.”

The talk included a review of the concept of Utopia stretching from Plato (380 BCE) to Sir Thomas More to 19th-century American Utopian communities such as the Fruitlands. I also discussed the history of public art, including memorials, from the New Deal through 9/11.

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I’m honored to step into the role of Visiting Artist and Curator-in-Residence during Deirdre Visser’s yearlong leave of absence. This year offers the opportunity to integrate my artistic research and exhibition passions, with an eye to engaging both the students in the MFA programs and the broader community in discourse and action.

Like so many members of the CIIS community, I feel the escalating urgency of our current global ecological crises. As Curator-in-Residence, I am building an exhibition arc focused on the environment through the lens of water, exhibiting artists who see their work as both educational and a catalyst for change.

In our image-saturated world, they utilize various strategies to engage and disrupt, creating works of art that ask us to pause, reflect, and reconsider. Through the year we’ll see works that describe narratives of drought, contamination, rising sea levels, and reclamation; we’ll also engage water as metaphor, site of cultural practice, and locus of spiritual belief.

In my parallel role as Visiting Artist, I am making new work to be exhibited at the end of Spring semester 2016. The overarching thread running through my work is an examination of our relationship to place, a loose mapping of the landscape that echoes the internal terrain of thought. In line with the interdisciplinary focus of the MFA programs at CIIS, I integrate photography, video, installation, and performance, often working collaboratively and in public space.

Two recent video projects illustrate this process: Canal, with the Salt River Project, speaks to the complex politics of water in the West, and Uncovering the West Tributary draws attention to a devastated urban salmon stream. Both projects involved collaborating with biologists and city planners, and explored the intersectional and intricate ecologies of water and our stewardship of the environment.

The Fall season at the Arts at CIIS opens with an introduction of my work Rattlesnake Lake, in conversation with artist Kei Ito’s Sungazing, for which Ito uses the pure light of the sun to create 108 cameraless images, directly exposing each sheet of photographic paper to the sun for the length of a single breath.

This project evokes the power of intergenerational pain and loss; in 1945, Ito’s grandfather was witness to that terrible day in Hiroshima, when “hundreds of suns lit up the sky.”

Rattlesnake Lake, site of an ongoing investigation for me, was once an indigenous site before it was deforested and a town was built, which was later destroyed by flooding, and today it provides a source of drinking water. A lone figure moves through a place of layered, untold histories. I created the series with a camera reminiscent of those used for 19th-century geological surveys and printed the images as platinotypes, an alchemical mix of precious metals hand-coated onto paper and exposed to intense ultraviolet light.

Together these two bodies of work explore the seeming dualities of fire and water, and destruction and restoration, and invite us into a contemplation of place and history.

It’s a natural progression for me, as a newcomer to San Francisco, to engage with the local landscape, discovering elements both visible and unseen. Through courses at the MFA programs, I invite students to consider similar issues and to create new work. In our research, we will be giving attention to intersections with broader institutional commitments linking sustainability and social justice.

All exhibits will be shown in CIIS’ Desai||Matta Gallery on the first floor of 1453 Mission Street.
It’s an exciting time of integration and growth for CIIS’ Center for Writing and Scholarship (CWS). On September 1, 2015, CWS launched the Fall semester in its newly built space on the second floor, positioned within the new Haresh and Joan Shah Technology Center, and down the hall from the recently remodeled CIIS Laurance S. Rockefeller Library.

The integrated space includes two spacious, high-ceilinged meeting rooms—where CWS staff members and Writing Fellows provide one-on-one in-person and online writing support for students—as well as a director’s office and a space for CWS’ program coordinator, Jeremie Zulaski (EWP ’15). Made possible by a generous donation from The Haresh and Joan Shah Family Fund, the integrated Technology Center and CWS includes computer stations with virtualized PC desktop computers and iMacs, energy-efficient cooling and heating equipment, automated lighting, and door sweeps ensuring the soundproofing of tutoring rooms and offices. Haresh Shah was the 2011 recipient of the Chaudhuri Award for Distinguished Service.

As CWS Writing Fellow and Expressive Arts Therapy student Beatriz Chavez noted, “Having two brightly lit, closed tutoring rooms gives students the privacy to go deeper with their writing practice. Students will disclose more details about their struggles and triumphs as writers.” Such engagement allows students to more actively and authentically cultivate their voices. The private tutoring rooms, along with the office’s location amid key student spaces, has allowed CWS to further its mission of empowering individual learners and educators across program areas as they engage with, contribute to, and potentially transform their fields of practice and scholarship.

NEW COLLABORATIONS AND INITIATIVES

Having a devoted tutoring and teaching space has also strengthened the community of CWS Fellows and staff, making possible the creative synergy that led to the launch of CWS’ multimodal Fall Workshop Series. Along with facilitating a weekly Writing Lab on Tuesday evenings, CWS is offering a four-part Writers Salon Series with workshops on reflective writing, the academic writing process, and creative, integral approaches to the practice of scholarship.

CWS is also collaborating with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) program, to launch new initiatives supporting counseling psychology students and the international student community at CIIS.

In addition, CWS Fellows are creating and curating an online resource, AcademicWritingCenter.net, which will house video tutorials, handouts, and modules on all aspects of the academic writing process.

A DYNAMIC FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

At the core of CWS’ many initiatives are the 13 Writing Fellows. From the Center’s founding in 2012 to the present, students from a wide range of CIIS degree programs have participated in the fellowship, which includes pedagogical training courses and compensated work as a peer tutor and teacher. As students themselves, the Fellows know intimately the struggles and rewards of academic writing, and the value of teaching and learning.

Throughout their time in the fellowship program, the CWS Fellows engage in vibrant conversations about the possibilities and complexities inherent in the transformative process of writing and inquiry. How can Fellows empower students with best practices, while acknowledging the forces of history and oppression that shape an individual’s relationship to the academy? How can we assist students in finding communities, journals, and audiences for their unique scholarship beyond the University’s walls?

Such conversations will continue to light up the Center’s new space, with fellows collaborating across disciplines to define, question, deepen, and expand CIIS’ unique vision of integral writing and scholarship.  

Brynn Saito is the Interim Director of the Center for Writing Scholarship and Adjunct Assistant Professor in the School of Undergraduate Studies.
“I should not have to prove who I am on a regular basis or be who you think I am because you don’t approve of how I exist,” says Miss Major Griffen-Gracy, a black, formerly incarcerated, transgender elder who has been fighting for transgender rights for more than 40 years.

Miss Major was at the Stonewall Inn when police raided the bar in 1969. She fought back against police brutality on the frontlines during the Stonewall Riot and has continued to fight for trans liberation as the former executive director of Transgender GenderVariant Intersex Justice Project (TGI Justice), assisting trans people who are disproportionately incarcerated compared with cisgender people.

At CIIS, Miss Major kicked off Public Programs & Performances’ Trans in SF Lecture Series in October with “From Stonewall to Trans Tipping Point,” a conversation with Annalise Ophelian, director of MAJOR, a new documentary about Miss Major. The film premiered at the Castro Theatre as part of the San Francisco Transgender Film Festival in November.

Miss Major describes the “Trans Tipping Point,” the recent media spotlight on high-profile transgender celebrities, as being like a faulty champagne glass tower at a wedding. “The champagne gets poured into the top glass, but instead of spilling over into all the other glasses, it just gets trapped in that one glass way at the top,” she says. “My girls and I are still struggling for respect, to find jobs, go to school, learn a trade, and to be allowed to have lives.”

Johnson’s lecture “Trans Resistance and Resilience: From Solitary to Re-Entry” starts from the question “Why are transgender people being incarcerated at disproportionate rates?” She says it is a combination of forces: disenfranchisement, discrimination, lack of jobs and affordable housing, sex work, assumptions of sex work involvement, racism, police violence, and poverty, among others.

Johnson survived three years in a Florida federal prison. In 1997, she was given the phone number of Miss Major, then a stranger living thousands of miles away, on advice that she helps transgender women. That phone call changed her life.

“I called Miss Major and told her I was having a hard time. I needed employment. I wanted a better life than working on the streets, and I asked her for help. Since I moved here, she’s been my mother,” Johnson says.

Johnson has been working side-by-side with Miss Major at TGI Justice to develop strategies and interventions to reduce the recidivism rate of the transgender community. She will be taking over as Executive Director later this year when Miss Major retires.

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With support from a three-year, $100,000 grant from the Arcus Foundation, CIIS began the first phase of its LGBTQ Leadership Initiative in Higher Education. CIIS selected four students of color from a competitive application process to receive a fellowship that included leadership training and ongoing mentoring for the students to implement an anti-discrimination, anti-harassment project on their home campuses.

In June, CIIS hosted this first cohort of Arcus fellows at an intensive two-day workshop that helped prepare fellows for their projects. The Arcus fellows were accompanied to San Francisco by a home campus mentor.

Two of CIIS’ Human Sexuality PhD students, JS Very and Stefan Lucke, are also serving as mentors to these students and will be helping with the evaluation of each student’s project.

Romeo Jackson, a senior at Northern Illinois University, will expand and improve health services for medically transitioning people on his campus. Texas A&M University junior Yael Lara will collaborate with her university to create gender-inclusive housing options.

La’ Nyia Odoms, a fourth-year student at Meharry Medical College, will organize safe-zone trainings for medical and dental students. Spelman College junior Lexus Phillips will establish a network between LGBTQ students of the Atlanta University Center, other Atlanta colleges and universities, and LGBTQ advocacy organizations in the Atlanta area.

Leadership consultant Sam Offer guided Jackson, Lara, Odoms, and Phillips through community-building exercises; facilitated dialogue on the intersections of ethnicity, class, and gender; and helped fellows to consider the interplay of privilege and oppression in their communities.

From this foundation, the fellows planned strategies to address pushback they may face as their projects take shape.

Jackson, Lara, Odoms, and Phillips also attended CIIS’ 2015 Expanding the Circle conference, which aims to advance LGBTQ Initiatives in higher education, held June 24 through 26. Both the conference and workshop allowed Arcus fellows to begin building the supportive community that will sustain their work in the coming months.

Everyone who met the fellows during their visit to CIIS was impressed by their commitment to the advancement of LGBTQ rights and their passion for cross-coalition movement building. Faculty, staff, and students look forward to welcoming them back next June along with a cohort of six new Arcus fellows.
So many people flock to San Francisco for jobs, education, relationships, culture, and community that it’s rare to meet someone born and raised in the city. Deborah Santana (WSE ’14) is just that: a deeply rooted native San Franciscan who has nurtured a lifelong love for the Bay Area, its people, and its progressiveness.

She grew up on Majestic Avenue, a quiet residential street in the Ingleside neighborhood. Her father, famed R&B guitarist Saunders King, and his musical contemporaries helped the Fillmore District of the 1940s and 1950s to become known as “the Harlem of the West.”

“ THEIR ART STILL ECHOES HERE,” Deborah says. “I want to ensure that my family’s legacy will remain part of San Francisco, so I purchased a San Francisco Historical Society medallion honoring my father on the corner of Grant and Sutter Streets. It’s imperative that we preserve the sacred origins of our ancestors.”

San Francisco’s vibrant ethnic and socioeconomic diversity was the perfect context for the creative ferment of the 1960s and 1970s. While the Grateful Dead, the Jefferson Airplane, and Big Brother and the Holding Company explored the limits of consciousness in the Haight, the Mission District experienced a similar cultural renaissance.

Politically charged murals blossomed on alley walls. Organizations like Acción Latina, Galería de la Raza, and the Mission Cultural Center began to take shape. Mission District musicians blended Latin rhythms with blues, funk, psychedelia, and jazz.

In 1972, Deborah married—the beginning of a relationship that would shape the course of her personal and professional life. As a working mother, Deborah integrated the demands of family life and the managerial responsibilities of their family business. She explains, “When I was raising my three children, who are grown now, I had a diversity of roles that I was blessed to incorporate in my life: COO of our family business, vice president of our nonprofit foundation, mother, and spiritual practitioner. The lessons I learned in each of these roles shaped me, particularly as a female executive in the male-dominated music industry.”

W R I T I N G T O R E C O N N E C T

Despite the fulfillment of a successful career and loving family, Deborah felt called to connect more fully with her own dreams and desires. In the mid-1990s, she enrolled in an autobiographical writing class.
“Mothering was the center of my life. There really is no ‘balance’ during that very active time, as most mothers know,” she says. “When I began to write, I struggled to carve time out for myself. I wrote myself into existence.”

From those first efforts, Deborah experienced her own creative revitalization. Her memoir *Space Between the Stars* was published in 2005, and she has since contributed essays to several anthologies. She is the producer of four short documentaries: *The Road to Ingwavuma*, released in 2006; *Girls of Daraja*, released in 2010; *School of My Dreams*, released in 2012; and *Women’s Spirituality and Higher Education*, released in 2014.

*Women’s Spirituality and Higher Education* profiles the CIIS Women’s Spirituality (WSE) program, from which Deborah graduated in 2014 with a master’s degree in Women, Gender, Spirituality, and Social Justice. She was drawn to the program for its focus on philosophy and women’s expressions of spirituality and leadership. “I was seeking to expand my vocabulary about women’s ways of knowing, being in harmony with Earth and living beings, and the history of matriarchal societies,” she says.

The professors and students interviewed in *Women’s Spirituality and Higher Education* describe WSE’s aims and impact, and the parallels between the program and Deborah’s path are clear. Professor emerita and WSE co-founder Mara Keller says that WSE classes help students find their way toward “reclaiming our spirituality…and bringing forth our gifts and talents as women of spirit.” WSE Chair Alka Arora asks, “What happens when women put their own experiences at the center of their spirituality?”

**JUSTICE CAN PREVAIL**

Adjunct faculty member Annette Lyn Williams explains that WSE classes explore how spirituality has sustained oppressed people. This focus of WSE, too, resonates with Deborah’s lived experiences: “There has rarely been a day in my life that I have not been aware of my identity as a biracial woman of color. I live with the belief that although oppressive systems are created to prevent my success and joy, justice can prevail,” she says.

In 2008, Deborah founded Do A Little, a donor-advised fund at the San Francisco Foundation that supports the health, education, and happiness of women and girls. She is a founding donor of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and serves on the national board of the Smithsonian Institution.

She is the recipient of several awards for her philanthropy and activism: a certificate of recognition from the California State Legislature, the Catalyst award from Bay Area Blacks in Philanthropy, and UCLA’s Cesar E. Chavez Spirit award, among others.

“I’m an advocate for equality for all and work very hard to live the principles of fairness, compassion, and care for our environment and our world. I’m deeply interested in living in beloved community with others,” she says.

**A BOARDING SCHOOL IN KENYA**

Deborah’s current projects reflect her passion for social justice. She is producing a third short documentary about the Daraja Academy in Kenya, a free boarding school for girls that she has been involved with since 2009.

“Two of the girls came to the United States earlier this year. Barbara Rick, the film’s director, and I plan to juxtapose their lives in Kenya with American life. We will highlight Daraja students’ achievements, including their successes on the national Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education test, and Daraja graduates who are leaders in their workplaces, families, and communities.”

Deborah is self-publishing a book of poetry, *Silence Always Answers*, and shaping a second memoir from her life.  

Rachel Valenzuela-Ours is Senior Grant Writer at CIIS.
CIIS WELCOMES THE ALUMNI OF ITS NEWEST SCHOOL, ACTCM

**China Roberson (TCM ’84)** provides acupuncture at Cancer Support Sonoma, which recently opened at the Sonoma Valley Hospital, where integrative medicine is available to cancer patients on a sliding scale. The team also offers oncology massage, Jin Shin Jyutsu, nutrition, naturopathy consultation, Feldenkrais, counseling, guided imagery, sound healing, and more.

**Simcha Steven Paul Raphael (COU ’86)** is founding director of the DA’AT Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training. He received ordination as a Rabbinic Pastor by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalom in 1990, is adjunct professor in Religion at Temple University, and works as a psychotherapist and spiritual director in Philadelphia. He is author of the groundbreaking *Jewish Views of the Afterlife*; and two additional books—*The Grief Journey and the Afterlife—Jewish Pastoral Care for Bereavement and Living and Dying in Ancient Times*—were recently published as part of the Albion-Andalus Books “Jewish Life, Death and Transition” series.

**Richard Miller (CLN ’87)** has devoted the past 45 years to integrating the non-dual teachings of Yoga, Advaita, Taoism, and Buddhism with modern Western psychology. He is founding president of the Integrative Restoration Institute, co-founder of the International Association of Yoga Therapists, and founder of its peer-reviewed *International Journal of Yoga Therapy*. Richard is author of *The iRest Program for Healing PTSD* (2015), *Yoga Nidra: The Meditative Heart of Yoga* (1990), and *iRest Meditation for Health and Healing and Well Being* (2015). He serves as consultant studying the iRest Meditation protocol he’s developed (Integrative Restoration—iRest). [www.iRest.us](http://www.iRest.us)

**Eugene Herrington (CLN ’89)** was recently promoted to associate professor at Morehouse School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, teaching psychiatric residents. He has also taught as a tenured professor at Clark Atlanta University, in the Counseling Psychological Services Graduate Division, and at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff as a Distinguished Professor in the Master’s Degree Addiction Studies Program.

**Helen Wickes (COU ’91)** has recently published her fourth book, *World As You Left It*, through Sixteen Rivers Press. She attended Vassar College and resides in Oakland, CA, where she worked for many years as a psychotherapist. In 2002, Helen received an MFA from the Bennington Writing Seminars. Her first book of poems, *In Search of Landscape*, was published in 2007 by Sixteen Rivers Press. Her second poetry collection, *Douser’s Apprentice*, was published by Glass Lyre Press in 2014, as was her third book of poems, *Moon over Zabriskie*.

**Sandra Lee Dennis (HUM ’96)** has recently published *Love and the Mystery of Betrayal: Recovering Your Trust and Faith after Trauma, Deception, and Loss of Love*, which won USA Best Book Awards Finalist, ForeWord Reviews IndieFab 2014 Book of the Year Finalist, and Next Generation 2015 Indie Book Awards Finalist. She has also written *Embrace of the Daimon*, which won a number of awards also on its re-release. [www.sandraleedennis.com](http://www.sandraleedennis.com)

**Cassandra Viiten (CLN ’98) and Shelley Scammell (CLN ’01)** have recently published a new book, [Spiritual and Religious Competencies in Clinical Practice: Guidelines for Psychotherapists and Mental Health Professionals](https://newharbinger.com/77156/) (New Harbinger Publications).

Cassandra is president and CEO of the Institute of Noetic Sciences, a licensed clinical psychologist, and co-director of the Mind-Body Medicine Research Group at California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute. Shelley is an adjunct professor at CIIS and a licensed clinical psychologist who has presented at several local and international conferences on topics related to the interface between psychology and spirituality.

**Denise Drummer Taylor (CLN ’06)** works for the Alameda Health System as a clinical psychologist and has experienced success treating diverse client populations including autistic children, special-needs children, elementary-school-age children, adolescents, adults in individual therapy and Milieu therapy, and chronically mentally ill adults.

**Shakti Butler (ISD ’02)** has won a Jefferson Award for building bridges among people of all races and making a deep impact on her local community. Shakti was recently profiled on Bay Area news station KPIX, and her film, *Cracking the Codes*, was screened at CIIS as part of the Alumni University Lecture Series. The Jefferson Award celebrates her many years of service as a filmmaker, educator, and speaker. She joins other dynamic facilitators offering an effective and dynamic approach to diversity workshops. Video: [https://youtu.be/mspL-qnbJeE](https://youtu.be/mspL-qnbJeE)

**Susana Bustos (EWP ’07)** received a scholarship from Chile to conduct her CIIS doctoral studies, which focused on the study of Amazonian shamanism (vegetalismo), particularly of the use of songs (icaros) during plant healing ceremonies. During her research, she worked as a therapist and clinical supervisor at Takiwasi in the Peruvian jungle, a center for the treatment of drug addiction integrating indigenous
and Western medicine. The results of her doctoral research have been published in magazines such as Shaman’s Drum and Uno Mismo.

Susana co-founded the Latin American Association for Holotropic Breathwork and Transpersonal Psychology, and worked for the Spiritual Emergency Network. She offers workshops and lectures internationally, teaches graduate courses on shamanism, and co-leads groups into the rainforest.

**ALARIC TOY (MSTCM ’07)** is studying for his clinical doctorate degree at Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine. He is one of two English-language-track clinical doctorate degree candidates at NJUCM on full scholarship, courtesy of the China Scholarship Council, and only one of three Americans who were granted full scholarships this year to NJUCM.

**GLENAPARICO PARRY (TLC ’08)** has published a new book, *Original Thinking: A Radical ReVisioning of Time, Humanity, and Nature* (North Atlantic Books, 2015). Inspired by the dialogues that he organized between Native American elders and leading-edge Western scientists to explore the underlying principles of the cosmos, *Original Thinking* offers a profound roadmap for restoring how we think and live.

**ELLA WOODS (MSTCM ’05, DAO M ’08)** provides medical care to humans, dogs and cats, and an occasional bird or rabbit. Her practice, Acupuncture Works, is located in the beautiful Rockaway Beach area of Pacifica, California. Her areas of specialty in practice are pain management, gastrointestinal disorders, and integrative oncolgical therapy.

**ALI SIDEROFF (EXA ’09)** was excited to share her experience integrating expressive arts therapy with plant spirit healing, a shamanic way of working with plants, as a vehicle to promote personal and collective growth at the International Expressive Arts Therapy Association’s 20th Biennial Conference. Ali has a private practice in San Francisco and Berkeley, where she works with LGBTQ and straight adults and youth. She enjoys incorporating mindfulness, creative arts therapy, somatic approaches, and DBT within a transpersonal framework to foster healing and growth. [www.holistictherapyexplored.com](http://www.holistictherapyexplored.com)

**DONNA STONEHAM (HOT ’04, TLC ’09)** has published her new book, *The Thriver’s Edge*, through She Writes Press. For the past 23 years, she’s worked as an executive coach, transformational leadership consultant, and educator, helping hundreds of Fortune 1000 and not-for-profit leaders, teams, and organizations through her company, Positive Impact. Donna has written for the *International Journal of Coaches in Organizations and Presence*, is a certified Integral Coach®, and is a popular speaker and media guest. [www.positiveimpactlc.com](http://www.positiveimpactlc.com)

**TRACY YE (MSTCM ’09)** found her passion in life while learning acupuncture and Chinese medicine at ACTCM. She credits her time at ACTCM as the seed for her growing tree of success, and she runs a thriving women’s health and fertility clinic in San Mateo.

**DOUG LERCH (ICP ’10)** founded Seeds of Awareness in 2012, a mindfulness-based counseling agency that trains interns and trainees in a Gestalt-oriented and mindfulness-based modality and places them in schools across the Bay Area, where they provide counseling and mindfulness training. He also founded Fiddleheads, which offers summer camp experiences for children, along with a weekly social skills group. Doug is executive director of Seeds and divides his time with his private practice in Petaluma. [www.seeds-of-awareness.org](http://www.seeds-of-awareness.org)

**PORTIA BARNBLATT (MSTCM ’96, DAOM ’11)** recently translated TCM Case Studies—Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders for the People’s Medical Publishing House in Beijing with plans for American and European publishing soon. She was recently invited to present at the World Federation of Traditional Medicine Conference in Beijing, joining people from medical colleges, hospitals, and health maintenance organizations from 30 countries.

**LARRY NORRIS (EWP ’11)** is the founder and executive director of ERIE (Entheogenic Research Integration and Education), a group dedicated to the development of entheogenic research and integration models that brings diverse entheogenic speakers, practitioners, and researchers to share their wisdom with the Bay Area community. Larry, as adjunct faculty at CIIS, taught Entheogenic Education: Contemporary Perspectives on Ancient Plant Wisdom. A dedicated activist and proponent of cognitive liberty, he has worked to not only change the Western legal status of these sacred plants, brews, and compounds but also emphasize the importance of entheogenic integration. [www.erievision.org](http://www.erievision.org)
JORDANE P. TOFIGHI (EWP '12) is the director of program services at the Adaptive Learning Center (ALC), a nonprofit organization supporting clients with neurodevelopmental disorders and other mental health diagnoses (e.g., high-functioning autism, Asperger’s Syndrome, PDD-NOS, ADHD, anxiety, depression). Jordane oversees ALC’s program services, which includes supervision of the Case Management and medical departments. Jordane also develops and implements agency policies/procedures and ensures agency compliance with state and federal regulations. Most recently, Jordane has been a trainee at Hand to Hand Kajukenbo, a body-centered practice to enhance sensual liberation, was inspired by her research on the erotic intelligence of plant teachers. She offers individual and group sessions to support entheogenic integration as well. She is the erotic intelligence of plant teachers. Jordane’s journey has developed into a mindfulness-in-schools-program to fit any school’s needs and schedule. She offers individual and group sessions to support entheogenic integration as well.

YALILA ESPINOZA (EWP '13) serves as an intimacy coach and integrative health educator guiding consciousness explorers to their hearts and sexual vitality. “A Spiritual Erotic Awakening” model, composed of body-centered practices to enhance sensual liberation, was inspired by her research on the erotic intelligence of plant teachers. She offers individual and group sessions to support entheogenic integration as well. She is the erotic intelligence of plant teachers. Jordane’s journey has developed into a mindfulness-in-schools-program to fit any school’s needs and schedule. She offers individual and group sessions to support entheogenic integration as well.

ADINA MORGUELAN (EWP '13) is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with an orientation that borrows from the mindfulness traditions of the East, as well as the psychotherapeutic approaches of the West. She delivers therapy interventions to clients with multiple diagnoses and substance-abuse concerns, conducting psychosocial assessments, providing training and consultation on a number of topics pertaining to the provision of mental health services in our local urban environment, and providing case-management, particularly in the HIV/AIDS community.

JAISHREE SELLAMUTHU (EWP '13) has been working with the Sanghamitra Center for Wellbeing, a holistic healing and teaching center in Chennai, India. She leads workshops in the personal development and mind-body-spirit arena and does one-to-one coaching using the work of Byron Katie. Jaishree is also a trained InterPlay facilitator and holds a certificate in Analytic Somatic Therapy (based on Bioenergetics). She has led a women’s group, and her current focus is to introduce more people in India to Byron Katie’s work. www.facebook.com/coachjaishree

ASHLEY CROUCH (ICP '13) is a mindfulness instructor at St. Thomas More Catholic School in San Francisco, where she teaches weekly mindfulness lessons to students and teachers in grades K-5. The lessons are secular, interactive, and fun, and the program length can be modified to fit any school’s needs and schedule. http://ashleypsychotherapy.com/programs/mindfulness-in-schools-program

ALICE PENNES (IHL '13) is an artist, arts teacher, holistic creativity coach, certified wellness coach, and wellness program specialist. Her journey has developed into a place of combining her love of the arts with a passion to share healthy living with others.

ROBERT KEZER (TSD '14) is pleased to announce the launch of his first book, The Bootie Legacy: And a World in Peril. Set in an old colonial city, the book exposes the myths fueling perpetual war and shows people the way to a more compassionate world. Robert has one son and says that fatherhood is his greatest joy. www.robertakezer.com

SARA H. SALAZAR (WSE '06, WSE '14) is a second-generation Chicana, the first in her family to attend college. An educator for 15 years, she has taught in various schools around the world from elementary to graduate level, and is informed by critical pedagogy and feminist theory. Her research interests include healing, spirituality, curanderismo, Mesoamerican art, restorative justice, and activism with special emphasis in Chicana/o communities, communities of color, women, and education. In particular, she is interested in the intersections of art, spirituality, and activism. In addition to teaching in the School of Undergraduate Studies at CIIS, she is also part-time faculty in Philosophy, Religion, and Integrative Studies at Holy Names University in Oakland, CA.

DANIELLE BOUCHER (MSTCM '14) joined ACTCM alum RACHEL HEMPHILL (MSTCM, '10) at City Pulse Acupuncture in San Francisco’s Mission district. www.citypulseacupuncture.com

CHERYL DERRICOTTE (MFA '15) led a successful MFA Grant Writing workshop at CIIS, where she is now a lecturer. The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) recently awarded exhibition space to Cheryl as a winner of its inaugural Emerging Artists Program. Her exhibit, Ghost/Ships, is on view at MoAD Jan. 27–April 3, 2016.

DAVID ODORISIO (EWP '15) focuses on the integration of Jungian and archetypal psychologies, and the field of religious studies, which he developed in his dissertation. He has published in the Journal of Transpersonal Psychology, Philosophy East and West, and the International Journal of Transpersonal Studies, among others. David is passionate about restoring the imagination in academic inquiry, and about embodied and transformative approaches to education. www.ahomeforsoul.com
Binary Group, for example, focuses on gender nonconformity; and at the Coming Out Group, LGBTQI-identified people can talk about the coming-out process.

Another recent development is the low-cost assessment services now available at a price that Chow says is roughly “one-third to one-fourth of what people would pay elsewhere for the same set of psychological tests and write-ups.”

Psychological assessments, such as the Learning Disability Assessment and Neuropsychological screening, are useful to people who have been experiencing challenges in school, at work, and interpersonally, as the tests can identify areas of strengths and weaknesses and suggest appropriate resources. “I’m really excited and proud that we are able to offer this service to the community and provide students the opportunity to use their newly honed skills,” she says.

**COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS**

“Lani in her new role as core faculty and Director of Clinical Training continues to make meaningful contributions,” says Mera Atlis, Clinical Psychology Program Chair. “Her easy congenial manner, sensitivity, and deep commitment to teaching clinical psychology students and young clinicians have been a personal and professional inspiration.”

In thinking about her time directing PSC, Chow says that what she loves most is working with students who are curious and interested, and who want to develop their skill set to help other people. “Being thoughtful, emotionally available, and able to create relationships that open people up to their own experiences—that’s what happens at PSC. That’s what we do so often and so well, it doesn’t feel like work.”

Emi Kojima is Program Coordinator of the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program.

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**COMMENCEMENT**

Members of the Class of 2015 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 recipients Cynthia Brix, Will Keepin, and Joy DeGruy (photo top right, with President Subbiondo). Aushim Chaudhuri and Brian Wallace offered a moving musical innovation, and alumna Josefa Molina (CLN ’96) concluded the ceremony by welcoming the 360 graduates into the Alumni Association.
JOURNEY TO NORTHERN INDIA

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TOUR LEADER
This trip is led by CIIS Dean of Alumni and Director of Travel Richard Buggs, a frequent traveler to India. Richard’s caring sensitivity, attention to detail, and passion for India have made his previous travel tours over the past decade unforgettable experiences.

For complete itinerary and cost, and to register, please visit our website at www.ciis.edu/travel.

For more information, contact Richard Buggs at 415.575.6116 or rbuggs@ciis.edu.

EXPANDING  Continued from page 5

African American student, I was drawn to Denise Boston’s NTU workshop last year—a workshop that was developed for and catered to the African American community. I hoped that I could do the same for new students, whether or not they have a disability, or are a person of color—anybody really—because the timeline speaks to everyone in some way or another.

DANIELLE: As faculty members, we’re concerned about educating students in order to make sure that they are prepared to work in a variety of communities. It is necessary to expose them to a variety of different psychologies. The exhibit puts front and center things that have been left out from and marginalized in the field and puts them center stage. It says that this is an integral part of what we value and what students need to learn in order to have a full and complete understanding of the field that they are going into.

OUT LOUDER  Continued from page 16

According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, nearly one in six transgender people, including 21% of transgender women, have been incarcerated in their lifetimes, compared with 5% of the general population in the U.S.

“Our community is a community that has been so disrupted. We need to be nurtured in some very intentional ways,” Johnson says. “Traditionally, when our people get out, they don’t have a family to come to, so TGI is your family. There’s enough of us that we are mothers, uncles, and sisters. And you automatically got a grandmother—Miss Major.”

Sasha Solomonov is Digital Media Specialist at CIIS.
CIIS is pleased to announce that alumnus Michael Hebel (MA, ACS ‘05) and his wife, Gityjoon Hebel, have donated $250,000 for scholarships to support students in the newly reconfigured Asian and Comparative Studies program, which in Spring 2016 will become Asian Philosophies and Cultures.

Asian Philosophies and Cultures will continue to be part of the Philosophy and Religion department but with an expanded curriculum where the Hebel’s scholarship support over the next 10 years will be instrumental in attracting new students.

The origin of this gift is in Michael’s adolescence when he came across Paramahansa Yogananda’s Autobiography of a Yogi. The book spoke to something deep in him, touching his spiritual longing and setting off an abiding love of India, which he and Gityjoon have visited 20 times, as well as an enduring engagement with Hinduism. After graduating from the University of San Francisco in 1966, Michael started taking courses and studying with CIIS founder Dr. Haridas Chaudhuri when CIIS was called the California Institute of Asian Studies.

CIIS was not accredited at that time, and instead of continuing at CIIS, Michael went to UC Berkeley, where he earned an MA in criminology. He eventually completed his MA in Asian and Comparative Studies in 2005.

In the intervening years, Michael earned several other degrees while launching a highly successful career in police work and the law. Following the degree in criminology, Michael graduated with a law degree from Golden Gate University. In 1992, he obtained an MS in management from California State University Pomona.

Michael became a San Francisco police officer as a young man, and he experienced a meteoric rise in the ranks all the way to captain.

The parallel track in Michael’s professional life was his union work for the Police Officers Association, where he still works today as the organization’s welfare officer. He retired as a police captain in 1994. Michael is greatly admired for his influential achievements in crafting contracts and policies that ensure the rights and benefits of police officers and their families.

It was their spiritual quests that brought Michael and Gityjoon together. They met in the early 1990s as fellow attendees at the local Sai Baba Center and were married in 1995. They have celebrated their union in five different ceremonies: a Hindu ceremony in India, a Persian ceremony (Gityjoon is Persian), a secular exchange of vows and a Roman Catholic Mass all in Santa Rosa, and a Muslim ceremony in San Francisco.

Gityjoon opened a retail shop in San Francisco’s Marina District in 1999. It was filled with art objects and textiles representing many of the world’s enduring faith traditions. The shop also had a sanctuary space for people to rest, reflect, and meditate. Gityjoon describes her store as functioning like a community space where people gathered and where she often presented spiritual teachers and others to give talks on their spiritual affiliations. When Michael retired as the shop’s “weekend assistant,” they decided to close their shop.

As students of the teachings of Sai Baba, Michael and Gityjoon take seriously the call to service. Michael is still studying at CIIS, where he is a doctoral candidate in the Asian and Comparative Studies program. Gityjoon has been sitting in on Michael’s classes. Michael’s dissertation explores Sai Baba’s concept of the “karma of action,” which Michael translates as “service.”

They have been supporters of Plan International USA, an international development organization benefiting children in 50 countries. Likewise, they have been active with the Greater Mission Rotary Club, and they have been in Rotary groups that traveled to El Salvador, Argentina, and Nicaragua to deliver medical, dental, and school supplies.

Gityjoon and Michael are passionate about education, and just as with their gift to CIIS, their support of the Seven Tepees youth program is directed to Seven Tepees’ educational mission serving inner-city youth.

In their modest way, Gityjoon and Michael work at living out Sai Baba’s dictum below. We are very fortunate to count them among CIIS’ family.

Charles Wilmoth is Associate Director of Development.

LOVE ALL
SERVE ALL
HELP EVER
HURT NEVER
—Sai Baba
Thank you for your support

As CIIS celebrates its 47th year, the university is pleased to recognize all those members of its extended community who made gifts during the 2014–15 academic year.

Numbering 500, these generous donors represent every segment of the CIIS community, including alumni, students, trustees, faculty, staff, and friends, as well as foundations, corporations, businesses, and supporting organizations.

Together these donors contributed more than $1.38 million to CIIS, supporting a wide variety of programs, including the First Floor Renovation project, scholarships, the Center for Psychedelic Therapies & Research, Public Programs & Performances, the arts, CIIS counseling centers, and the Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri Library Collection.

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

Thank you for your generous gifts!

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THE HERITAGE SOCIETY:
E AHR JOAN

The Heritage Society comprises a group of individuals who have remembered CIIS in their wills and estate plans. CIIS is grateful to these donors whose gifts will help ensure that the University continues to educate generations of students to come.

CIIS alumna Eahr Joan (WSE, ’00) has been a staff member in the Laurance S. Rockefeller Library since 1995, where she currently serves as a reference librarian.

She is also the author of the first and only Archaeo-Mythology Database in existence, Re-Genesis Encyclopedia: Synthesis of the Spiritual Dark-Motherline, Integral Research, Labyrinth Learning, and Eco-Thealogy, to be published by the CIIS library later this year.

The database spans 6 million BCE—1 CE and includes 12 years of photographic fieldwork in the Near East, North Africa, and Europe. It will be profiled extensively in the Spring issue of CIIS Today.

WHAT DREW YOU TO CIIS?
In 1992, Dr. Eleanor Gadon initiated my interest in CIIS at a birthday celebration in my New England home. As a result of Gadon’s surprise visit, I turned down an offer from an Ivy League university and chose CIIS. The decision was based on which graduate school would be the best fit for both the encyclopedia project and extensive photographic fieldwork collections.

HOW HAS CIIS SUPPORTED YOUR RESEARCH?
Although my research was launched at the British Museum Library and London University, the CIIS Library hard-copy collections and rich electronic indexes have also been exceptional resources.

Because of support from so many CIIS faculty and staff for this project over two decades, the University has in many ways been a homecoming for the Re-Genesis Encyclopedias.

WHY HAVE YOU REMEMBERED CIIS IN YOUR WILL?
Throughout my adult life, I’ve been actively engaged in civic and educational rights, starting with fund-raising projects for public and alternative schools in Manhattan, including the successful campaign and construction of the Murray Hill Library. The work I do with students and faculty, the database project, and remembering CIIS in my will are all expressions of this commitment.

For more information about the Heritage Society and remembering CIIS in your will or estate plans, please contact Dorotea Reyna, Vice President of Development and Sponsored Programs, at 415.575.6135.
CHINESE STUDENTS

Continued from page 8

There aren’t enough therapists to assist in this healing,” said a student.

TOOLS TO TAKE HOME

All students said they came away with a new self-awareness and mindfulness that they would immediately put into both personal and professional practice. “Listening, acceptance of self, and trying to be unbiased,” “feeling free,” “feeling pain and sadness,” “the release of grief,” “being able to be in the present with myself,” “visualization, especially with children,” “the integration of aikido philosophy into everyday life,” “more dialogue,” “more dancing and music and art!” were experiences, ideas, and tools that they were most excited about.

Kate Donahue, who introduced two days of expressive arts therapy to the students, believes that “the process opens and provides the Chinese students a vehicle of expressive arts therapy to the students, collegues in the U.S. understand Eastern history and culture, the current environment in China, and the unique challenges they present for therapists.”

Several students expressed a strong desire to study counseling psychology at CIIS. One, who hopes to enroll in 2016, said, “My experience at CIIS left a great impression on me. It opened new ways of seeing and many new possibilities. I am in a much better, more peaceful state and have gained great strength in facing future life challenges.”

Faculty were moved by their experiences as well, many commenting that students were a joy to teach, and grateful for how deeply they entered into the learning. “It was exciting to extend the CIIS community in this way and to see how much these students appreciated our integral approach to learning,” says Wexler. “We were all enriched by the dialogue and the opportunity to connect meaningfully across language and cultural differences.”

Many thanks to translators Luna Yue Ren (EWP ’15) and Clark Shi-Chen Hsu (EXA ’14).

BURNING MAN

Continued from page 13

Students were given a checklist of questions to take with them when looking at the public art at Burning Man and asked to assess works based on scale, materials, special features such as light or sound, and observations of public interaction with the sculptures.

I shared a summary of my lecture at the annual gathering of “the Burning Nerds.” The Burning Nerds are academics who use phrases like “ephemeral monumentalism” to describe the temporary, large-scale public structures that will ultimately be burned. The group has been incredibly welcoming to the CIIS faculty, with many interested in developing courses at their own universities and colleges.

“The MFA programs at CIIS aren’t alone in seeing the potential for graduate-level art-making and research on the Playa,” says Cooke. “But I think we’re the only university at the moment to have organized this opportunity into a rigorous, for-credit course.”

TEMPLES AND TIMOTHY LEARY

Since leaving the event, I have been collecting stories about instances of death and ritual in popular culture, through the lens of the annual Temple and my favorite sculpture this year, Totem of Confessions. Examples of the stories I have collected include a wonderful piece in The New York Times on recent work by founding Temple builder David Best, as he created a Temple in a Northern Irish city that was besieged by the Troubles and is still working on reconciliation.²

It turns out that actress Susan Sarandon also loved Totem of Confessions and chose to take the ashes of her friend Timothy Leary, the late psychologist and proponent of medical uses of LSD, to be laid to rest inside. The Totem burned Sunday at midnight after the Saturday evening Man burn—a beautiful, solemn event.

Although I never thought I would go to Burning Man, here is why I go back: building community—the intergenerational, interracial, multigendered kind; large-scale public art and lots of it; quiet reflection that comes from sitting still in a dust storm; and the acceptance of grief in the form of a Temple that rises and burns.

The event also affords me the personal challenge to make art and thrive in a distant desert—a great way to build the “art muscles” necessary for making public art and going out into the world as a visiting artist/lecturer.


Cheryl Patrice Derricotte is an artist, writer, and cultural observer, and winner of the Museum of the African Diaspora’s (MoAD) inaugural Emerging Artists Program award.
circle of giving

By Dorotea Reyna

Bequests carry on our philanthropic wishes beyond our lifetimes and demonstrate our deep commitment to the University.

Each fall, one of the most inspiring parts of my job is to hold the new Honor Roll of Donors in my hands. The Honor Roll represents the hundreds of donors who have made a gift to CIIS in the previous academic year, including gifts from every segment of the CIIS community. It is a joy and privilege to recognize all of these donors who have confirmed their own values through their support of CIIS’ mission and vision for the future.

One area of giving that CIIS would especially like to encourage is that of remembering the University in your will. Because bequests carry on our philanthropic wishes beyond our lifetimes, perhaps no other kind of gift demonstrates this level of deep commitment to the University.

Bequests can often have an enormous impact on the institution; for example, CIIS’ permanent home on 1453 Mission Street was in part made possible by a bequest of more than $1.5 million, which came in at the time that we were putting together the financing. CIIS now has a permanent home in the bustling mid-Market area, thanks to one donor’s generous and transformational bequest.

Naming CIIS as a beneficiary in your will can be as simple as bequeathing a percentage of your estate, a specific dollar amount or asset, or the balance or residue of your estate. The most useful bequests are either unrestricted or designated for scholarships; these two options ensure that CIIS will be able to respond to new challenges in the years ahead and continue to support new generations of students.

If you have remembered CIIS in your will and would like to be listed as a member of our Heritage Society, please let me know. It is always wonderful to welcome new members and to be able to share your name as a philanthropic model for others.

Additionally, if you have any questions about remembering CIIS in your will or estate plans, I invite you to contact me. Although the drawing up of your will is done between you and your attorney or financial planner, I am always happy to have a conversation with you about how this ultimate gift can help CIIS continue to thrive for decades to come.

Dorotea Reyna is Vice President of Development and Sponsored Programs.
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