The Drama Therapy program at CIIS includes a dynamic theater project that develops and stages plays on social issues. Called Theatre for Change, the project started in 2003 and has since created five original theater pieces focused on diversity. The first four shows centered on issues related to race and ethnicity. This year's show is Speaking Up, Standing OUT: Stories from the Queerlands. The production deals with issues involving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities. The piece premiered to standing ovations at CIIS in April 2010. "We are planning to take Speaking Up, Standing OUT to local high schools and possibly colleges in the fall," says Renée Emunah, chair of Drama Therapy and director of the project.

This year the MCJ Amelior Foundation has awarded a grant of $10,000 to Theatre for Change, including support for Speaking Up, Standing OUT. "We thank the MCJ Amelior Foundation for its generosity and vision in helping Theatre for Change," says Emunah. "They have been wonderful friends of the Drama Therapy program, also funding scholarships for our students."

In Theatre for Change each new play evolves in collaboration with the actors, an intricate process that takes many months. "It's hard and scary to develop a piece from scratch," Emunah admits. The directors and actors use a variety of techniques to generate and refine material, including self-revelatory performance, a form of drama therapy that Emunah pioneered in her teaching at CIIS. "In the early stages it's very much about process, but once a piece has been developed it has to be at a certain aesthetic level before it goes public," Emunah continues.

Speaking Up, Standing OUT features a cast of seven, all but one from the Drama Therapy program. As the show unfolds, each member of the troupe tells his or her personal story relating to issues of gender and sexuality. Troupe member Marissa Snoddy, for instance, recites a light-hearted monologue she wrote about her own impulse to "jump (Continued on page 15)
Over the past academic year, I visited alumni circles with Dean of Alumni Richard Buggs in New York, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, Phoenix, Santa Fe, and Southern California. In the coming year we will again travel to many of these cities. I strongly encourage alums to register on the alumni website so that you get updates regarding the gathering near you: http://alumni.ciis.edu.

In the gatherings we've attended, alums often meet each other for the first time. They welcome the opportunity to network socially and professionally, happily surprised to know that many of their neighbors are CIIS alums. What I hear repeatedly at the gatherings is that CIIS alums are eager to connect with each other in order to resume the character and quality of conversations they enjoyed at CIIS. As alums update the groups on what they have been doing since their time at CIIS, it is evident to everyone that each is on a life journey. While CIIS was a significant destination along their journeys, graduates have taken their CIIS education to seek and arrive at new destinations. These gatherings consistently show that CIIS alums are having profound impacts on their communities, regions, and the world. They also indicate that graduates wish to continue an enduring relationship with CIIS—and we are exploring a variety of ways to support and enhance our relationship with you.

I want to express my gratitude to our alums and friends who have aided our scholarship fund. Your support is making a CIIS education possible for many deserving students.

President Joseph L. Subbiondo

"CIIS alums are having profound impacts on their communities, regions, and the world."

President Joseph L. Subbiondo
CIIS has received its first-ever federal grant—$20,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)—to fund a public art campaign for its upcoming show of leading Chicana artists. The promotional campaign will place posters in BART stations for ChicaChic, an exhibit that runs from January 22 to March 18, 2011 at the CIIS Minna Street Gallery and the third floor of the CIIS Main Building.

ChicaChic showcases the work of five contemporary Chicana artists with Bay Area roots. In addition to the public art campaign and gallery exhibit, ChicaChic will include two public programs, a panel discussion featuring all the artists in discussion with the curator, and an intergenerational conversation focused on changing strategies and the ability of art to catalyze social change.

Each of the five exhibiting artists was commissioned to create an original poster for the public art campaign. The NEA grant will fund the creation and reproduction and display of the posters. Look for the posters for ChicaChic starting in January at BART stations around the Bay Area.

More than simply an exhibition promotion, the public art campaign makes visible the work of these powerful artists and represents an effort to reach out to new audiences, including the Bay Area’s vital Chicano/Latino communities.

According to Charles Wilmoth, associate director of development for CIIS, the public art campaign presents an opportunity to expand visibility for CIIS and its arts dimension, including The Arts at CIIS, the MFA programs, and Public Programs. “People you might not reach in a gallery will be exposed to this work through the BART station posters,” Wilmoth says. BART’s ridership exceeds one million daily.

ChicaChic is guest-curated by Raquel de Anda, the former associate curator at San Francisco’s Galería de la Raza, a nonprofit gallery and one of the nation’s foremost venues for contemporary Chicano/a and Latino/a art.

“By including the works on BART I hope not only to increase awareness of the exhibition and its public programs,” de Anda says, “but also to switch up the standard media advertisements we are constantly bombarded with on our daily commute.”

ChicaChic began taking shape in 2008, when Wilmoth and CIIS Director of Development Dorotea Reyna approached de Anda with the idea of curating a Chicana art show for CIIS. De Anda developed the concept.

“Look for the posters for ChicaChic starting in January at BART stations.”

Ana Teresa Fernandez creates provocative photorealistic paintings based on her performance art. Often dressed in heels and a black cocktail dress, the figure in her narratives raises questions about a range of subjects, including U.S.-Mexico border relations, the confluence of labor and gender issues, sexuality, and power. http://anateresafernandez.com

Angelica Muro uses irony to explore identity and socio-economic inequities. Her work often incorporates logos and brand names to expose consumer culture and constructed notions of beauty. In other pieces the artist reflects on immigration and labor conditions, particularly for migrant farm laborers.

Mitsy Ávila Ovalles couples her wry humor and wit with vintage images of B-movie actresses, telenovela (soap opera) stars, and other pop-culture icons. Her work is layered with detailed illustrations created with tools as divergent as embroidery and woodburning. Imbued with nostalgia, her art sheds light on cultural hybridity and shifting notions of female and Mexican identity. http://www.mitsyavilaovalles.com/home.html

Favianna Rodriguez references the aesthetic and activist strategies of the Chicano civil rights era with her bold, screen-printed political posters addressing key social justice issues. Mixing historic and contemporary references, Rodriguez unapologetically asks the viewer to question current political standards and take part in creating a new future. http://www.favianna.com

Shizu Saldamando embodies an aesthetic and cultural hybridity as a Japanese-Mexican artist. Her work is imbued with a pride in Latino heritage and family tradition, melding the art forms of graffiti, paño art (drawings that prisoners created on handkerchiefs), and prison art. The media she uses are just as diverse, mixing glitter with ballpoint pen and plywood. http://www.shizusaldamando.com
There are a lot of reasons why working for CIIS Public Programs is a one-in-a-million job. I get the biggest kick from watching peoples’ faces light up when they tell me about one of their favorite writers, scholars, teachers, musicians, or activists, and I get to say, “We’re hosting that person in the next few months—you should come to the workshop!”

These moments of serendipity are delightful. I love connecting people to the material that inspires them, and the array of presenters we have the privilege of hosting is truly astonishing. There is no greater reward than hearing a workshop participant say, “This weekend was life-changing for me.” Talk about job satisfaction!

It would take too many pages to describe every one of the presenters we’re bringing to the bay Area, but I can offer a snapshot of our 2010–2011 program, which is in full swing. The weekend of November 5 we’ve invited Ron Kurtz, the founder of the mindfulness-based psychotherapy method Hakomi, to share his wisdom and experience. This is a rare opportunity to learn directly from Ron’s four decades of practice and watch him work first-hand.

That same weekend, master percussionist Glen Velez offers a workshop on November 6 and 7 on drumming and overtone singing. Glen is not only a Grammy winner, but also a living legend of music. His natural ability to teach and communicate through sound is nothing short of awe-inspiring.

For body-workers—or anyone interested in optimal health and healing—we’ve invited Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen, founder of Body-Mind Centering™ on November 13 and 14. Bonnie’s work helps people to experience “how the mind is expressed through the body, and the body through the mind.”

The celebrated Joanna Macy visits from December 3 to 5, to lead participants in “coming back to life.” Her workshop, “The Gifts of Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We’re in Without Going Crazy,” is not only for weary activists but also for anyone who struggles with being overwhelmed in the face of our environmental and social crisis. When I first read Joanna’s book, Coming Back to Life, her profound insight, experience, and compassion leapt from the pages and pierced my heart. Her physical presence is no less powerful, and those who have worked with her will attest to the wisdom that she warmly radiates.

In the performing arts, on November 12, we are thrilled to host the group Viver Brasil, who perform everything from capoeira-inspired dance to celebrations of the African orixas, all set to heart-thumping percussion, music, and voice. This show will be followed a month later by our beloved Rumi Concert on December 11 featuring Coleman Barks, David Darling, Silvia Nakkach, Jai Uttal, Glen Velez, and Zuleikha. On December 16 and 17, Sweet Honey In The Rock® will grace us with a set of holiday concerts. This is our first time hosting the popular, all-women a cappella ensemble, but they’ve been rocking ears and hearts for almost thirty years!

Looking ahead to spring of 2011 we’ll see Suzanne Vega, hear the rhythms of Acoustic Africa, and witness the spell-binding artistry of Indian classical dance group Nrityagram.

Of course, this is just a small taste of our 2010–2011 season. Visit our website to see the rest of our mouthwatering schedule, and find something that inspires learning, excites the senses, and resonates with your soul.

www.ciis.edu/publicprograms
“I’ve been teaching since I was thirteen years old,” says Sandra Pacheco, one of the newest faculty members at CIIS. “I was a catechism instructor in East L.A., where I grew up. Even as a teenager, I had my own class of second graders.”

Her work at the Institute includes teaching for the BA Completion and Women’s Spirituality programs. This fall, she is the instructor for Feminist Worldviews, focusing on contributions from Latina/Chicana and indigenous women. She’s also created a class centered around Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead practices that will include student and community participation in a large ofrenda, or altar, at CIIS. The altar is similar to one she constructed with her class last year that became a focus for the entire Institute.

“It took on a life of its own I didn’t expect,” recounts Pacheco. Students, faculty, and staff contributed to the altar, adding photos and names of departed loved ones, mementos, and food and drink. The assemblage included everything from pomegranates to corn to a box of tequila to a Nina Simone CD case.

The altar also featured numerous grinning skeletons and images of calacas, the Mexican equivalent of the Grim Reaper. “These symbols aren’t scary like Halloween skeletons,” explains Pacheco. “The idea of Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, is to mock death, recognize that death is part of life, a continuum, not something ghoulish.”

This year Pacheco is collaborating on the altar project with the Institute’s arts curator, Deirdre Visser, who is coordinating participation of local Chicano/a and Latino/a artists. One artist, Carmen Lomas Garza, is doing a workshop at both Marshall Elementary School in the Mission District and CIIS on papel picado, the cut-paper artwork made for the Day of the Dead. CIIS is also partnering with HOMEY (Homies Organizing the Mission to Empower Youth), a nonprofit that serves low-income young people, to create T-shirts celebrating the Day of the Dead.

Pacheco earned a PhD in Psychology from UC Santa Cruz, where she later served as an associate dean of graduate studies. She has also taught at the California State Universities at Monterey Bay and Los Angeles, but she finds CIIS particularly friendly to her view of education. “CIIS is unlike most institutions of higher education where spirituality has to be checked at the door,” says Pacheco. “Many other universities welcome discussions of identity and the intersections of identity—race, class, gender, and sexuality. The one thing that is left out is spirituality. For many Chicanas and Latinas, we can’t separate spirituality from our cultural identity. It’s what informs a lot of social justice work in our community.”

Pacheco was responsible for hosting the first international conference on critical psychology in the United States, which took place at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in 2001. “Critical psychology is an orientation that challenges and questions the assumptions and values of mainstream psychology and how it operates to the detriment of women and historically marginalized populations,” Pacheco describes. “Traditional psychology is at an individual level. Critical psychology is more at the community and societal levels, with an emphasis on social justice.” Pacheco is now developing an academic concentration in critical psychology for the School of Undergraduate Studies at CIIS that will be available in fall 2011.

In her current work, Pacheco is writing about the pioneering Chicana theorist Gloria Anzaldúa. “I’m exploring Anzaldúa’s work on spirituality. Not much is discussed about it, yet this was so much a part of who she was and what she wrote about. I’m re-centering spirituality within her work and in our consciousness as a Chicanas and mestizas. Leaving our spirituality at the door is part of our internalization of oppression. To do so compromises our well-being and our resistance to dominant structures. It makes us less resilient if we’ve denied that part of ourselves.”
CIIS in Spotlight at
Moscow Transpersonal Conference

Members of the CIIS community played a major role at the 17th International Transpersonal Conference in Moscow from June 23 to 27, 2010. The many CIIS presenters included President Joseph L. Subbiondo; Academic Vice President Judie Wexler; and current faculty Brant Cortright, Jorge Ferrer (EWP ’99), Stanislav Grof, Barbara Morrill, and Richard Tarnas. Silvia Nakkach—director of the Sound, Voice, and Music Healing Certificate program—also gave a talk. Alumni and students who presented included Anastasia Berzovskaya, Judson Davis, Marta Grau, Glenn Hartelius (EWP ’10), Zayin Neuman (EWP ’10), Stuart Sovatsky (Cou ’84), Rochelle Suri (EWP ’10), and Caifang Jeremy Zhu.

“The participation of over twenty CIIS faculty members, students, administrators, and alumni at the conference impressed upon me the range and depth of the Institute’s unique contribution to the scholarship, teaching, and practice of transpersonal psychology,” says Subbiondo. “CIIS was the first accredited university to offer a degree program in transpersonal psychology, and it continues to lead higher education in this emerging transdisciplinary area.”

Academic Vice President Wexler concurs: “So many of the main speakers at the conference were CIIS faculty and alums. You could see the impact that the Institute is having on the field of transpersonal psychology.”

Longtime director of the Integral Counseling Psychology program Brant Cortright adds: “This was the largest, most global transpersonal psychology conference yet, with over 700 participants from more than thirty countries. It is clear that CIIS is the Harvard of the transpersonal and consciousness-movement world. We had more faculty, students, and alumni presenting than any other school, and at a high level of discourse. It was a pleasure to meet new colleagues and old friends, and I felt proud of what our school represents in this world.”

Family of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Gives Library Renovation Major Boost

The children of Dr. Rajendra Prasad and their spouses have given CIIS gifts totaling $75,000 to help renovate the library. The donations are from the family of Renuka Prasad Relan and Arvind P. Relan, and from the family of Nalini and Praveen Prasad. The funds will be used toward the relocation and renovation of the Institute’s Laurance S. Rockefeller Library.

Speaking on behalf of the donating families, Renuka Prasad says, “We are delighted to support the CIIS library in memory of Mrs. Malti Prasad, a lifelong educator, activist, and ardent supporter of CIIS, Indian philosophy, and the cross-fertilization of Eastern and Western culture. We believe CIIS is an example of the sort of institution that will contribute to understanding and cultural evolution among all communities.”

President Joseph L. Subbiondo responds that “the gifts from the family of Dr. Rajendra Prasad provide CIIS with a huge lift in our efforts to build a state-of-the-art library for the Institute. We’re extremely grateful to the Relan and the Prasad families for these generous donations.”

The project will move the current library from the third floor of the Institute’s main building on Mission Street to a greatly expanded location on the second floor. The renovation will double the space for the library. The new facilities will include additional study areas that allow students to work alone or collaboratively; a new computer lab with Wi-Fi support and printing; as well as increased room for administrative offices, special collections, and stacks.

The two donor families are related to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a former CIIS trustee. With his late wife Malti Prasad, Dr. Prasad was honored as the 2004 recipient of the Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri Award for Distinguished Service. Renuka Prasad Relan is Dr. and Malti Prasad’s daughter. His son-in-law, Arvind Relan, is a current member of the CIIS board of trustees, and chairs the company YouWeb, LLC. Praveen Prasad is Dr. and Malti Prasad’s son.

The total cost of the library relocation and renovation project is approximately $850,000. To date, $500,000 has been raised for the project.
Although I am of Indian descent, I grew up in San Francisco and barely lived in India. However, recently my inner voice began urging me to visit Kolkata, the city of my birth. So I was very excited to learn that CIIS was sponsoring a trip to Northeastern India and Bhutan and that Kolkata was included in the itinerary. I always anticipate a marvelous adventure when traveling, but somehow I knew that this trip would be special. It turned out to be a source of immense inspiration for me at soul level.

Richard Buggs, our “chacha” or tour guide, did a fabulous job coordinating the details of the trip. We visited Kolkata, game reserves in Assam, the hill station of Darjeeling, and several cities in Bhutan. Traveling is a real challenge in India—you are faced with traffic congestion, blaring horns, bad roads, dust, and pollution. Fortunately for us, Richard managed to find comfortable buses, extremely patient drivers, beautiful hotels, and excellent local guides. We were very well taken care of every step of the way, and I had many wonderful experiences in each place we visited.

The highlight of the trip for me was visiting with my uncle in Kolkata. He is my mother’s youngest brother, my chotomama, and I had not seen him in eighteen years. Wandering about with him, I was taken on a nostalgic journey as he pointed out the house where I was born, the college my mother had attended, the hall where my father used to lecture, and several other landmarks of my family’s past.

I hungrily listened to his poignant stories that he treasured: when my older sister was born and my uncle was only five, he went to a local market to buy a wooden horse for his baby niece; and when I was two years old and he was eight, he went to the airport and excitedly touched the big plane that would carry away his older sister and her family to faraway America.

Kolkata certainly has its problems. Stepping out into the streets, one is assaulted with heart-wrenching scenes of poverty, incessant noise pollution, stifling humidity, persistent hawkers, and masses of bodies at every turn.

Wandering about with my uncle, however, I observed another side and was actually able to feel the beauty and strength of the people. With admiration, I noted how they daily navigate their way through the hardships and inconveniences while remaining grounded, centered, non-reactive, maintaining a conscious awareness of their authentic selves—the very qualities I have tried to acquire after years of diligent inner study. True meditation is living, and their entire lives are a meditation.

It is true that India is not for the faint-hearted. It is also true that one finds what one looks for. What I found is truly inspiring: people possessing a fierce perseverance for survival in harsh realities while managing to maintain an incredible softness. Oh yes, the essence of India worked its way into my heart like a fine silken mist.

Images still swirl through my mind’s eye: dark eyes speaking poetry, sun-drenched smiles, a sea of faces reflecting the dawn, splashes of vibrant color contrasting with the commonplace. This is the picture of India I carried away with me and the India I am anxious to visit again very soon.

Shipra Chaudhuri Narruhn is the daughter of Dr. Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri, who founded CIIS in 1968. She currently works as a PC technology trainer in a law firm. She also teaches classes in her home on spiritual and metaphysical techniques. She volunteers with the San Francisco Zen Hospice Project, where she works with people with terminal illnesses.
Thank You
For Your Support

As CIIS celebrates its forty-second year, the Institute is pleased to recognize all those members of its extended community who made gifts during the 2009–2010 academic year. Numbering nearly 500, an all-time high for CIIS, these generous donors represent every segment of the CIIS community, including alumni, students, trustees, faculty, staff, and friends, as well as foundations, corporations, businesses, government agencies, and supporting organizations.

Together these donors contributed more than $1 million to CIIS, another high-water mark for the Institute in recent years. Donors supported a variety of programs, including the library relocation and renovation project, scholarships, research, academic and public programs, the counseling centers, the arts, and the Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri Endowment.

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

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**Class Notes**

To send a class note, please email Dean of Alumni Richard Buggs at rbuggs@ciis.edu. If you include a digital photo, please send a high-resolution image.

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**Ted Zeff** (ICP '81) has published three books on the subject of highly sensitive people. *The Highly Sensitive Person’s Survival Guide* and *The Highly Sensitive Person’s Companion* contain hundreds of coping strategies to manage living in an overstimulating world. His most recently published book, *The Strong, Sensitive Boy*, offers practical advice and innovative solutions for parents, teachers, and anyone working with sensitive boys. It also offers an important look at the role of sensitivity in true masculine power.

**Bob Henley** (CLN '88) is working as a psychologist with the San Carlos Apache Tribe Wellness Center on a reservation in Southeast Arizona. He provides individual and group counseling at the center, which was recognized in 2008 as the top behavioral health program for American Indians in the U.S. He also consults on a variety of concerns commonly faced by Native Americans. Bob writes that he is learning a lot from the Apache people, is honored to have been hired to work with a recognized team of mixed Apache and non-Apache clinicians, and is happy to offer his twenty-two years of skill and knowledge since graduating from CIIS.

**Fakhri Rezaian** (CLN '89) participated in the Tiburon International Film Festival and the Iranian Film Festival.

**Maia Duerr** (SCA '96) lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she is the principal at Five Directions Consulting. Five Directions offers qualitative research and communications services to help individuals, nonprofits, and businesses with their planning, marketing, fundraising, and evaluation needs. Maia has developed a niche in researching how contemplative practices (e.g., meditation) are used in secular settings such as business, education, and social change. She has published a number of articles on this topic in the past ten years. Maia also serves as the director of the Upaya Zen Center Buddhist Chaplaincy Program and is enrolled in that two-year program, which focuses on peacemaking and community development.

**Lee Gilmore** (WISE '98), has published a new book called *Theater in a Crowded Fire: Ritual and Spirituality at Burning Man* from University of California Press. This ethnography explores why “burners” come in vast numbers to transform a temporary gathering of strangers into an enduring community. It comes with a DVD that provides views of events, individuals, artworks, and, of course, the climactic final night. Lee works as a lecturer in religious studies and anthropology at CSU Northridge.

**Marty Cooper** (ICP '99) is in private practice in San Francisco and also leads mindfulness-based groups for people suffering from depression. He teaches classes for practitioners on mindfulness-based cognitive therapy for depression (based on the work of Jon Kabat-Zinn).

**Jennifer (Mathis) DeSchryver** (CLN '00) has been in private practice in West Bloomfield, Michigan for the past eight years. She provides relationship-based psychotherapy and assessments to families with very young children adopted internationally from orphanages and domestically through foster care. Jennifer is an at-large board member of the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health (MI-AIMH) and serves as editor of *The Infant Crier*, a quarterly publication of MI-AIMH. She is also the mother of seven-year-old twin daughters.

**Enid Solomon** (PDT '00) has written *Toby Visits Mommy*, a book for children who see their parents only during scheduled visitations. The book was a finalist in the New Generation Indie Book Awards for the Parenting/Family category. www.tobyvisitsmommy.com.

**Elaine Gray** (TLR '01) has received the Rennie W. Brantz Award for Outstanding Teaching in First Year Seminar from Appalachian State University’s University College in Boone, North Carolina. The Brantz Award is presented annually to a professor who exhibits commitment, dedication, and passion in teaching First Year Seminar. Nominations are made by students. She is the assessment coordinator for the General Education Program at Appalachian State University and teaches in the graduate programs for Curriculum and Instruction, Leadership in Higher Education, and Interdisciplinary Studies. She is also the author of *Conscious Choices: A Model for Self-Directed Learning* (Pearson, 2004).

**Abby Caplin** (ICP, '02) does outreach to people with chronic illnesses and medical conditions. In addition to her mind-body medicine and counseling practice in San Francisco, she conducts classes in mind-body health writing. She serves as a faculty member for The Healer’s Art, a course for medical students at University of California, San Francisco. The class allows for safe exploration of grief and loss, and for reclaiming awe and mystery in the practice of medicine. www.abbycaplinmd.com, http://permissiontoheal.wordpress.com

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Join the CIIS online alumni community at http://alumni.ciis.edu/getusepass.asp
Alessandra Strada (EWP ’04) holds two posts in New York City: attending psychologist in the department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care at Beth Israel Medical Center, and assistant professor of Neurology and Psychiatry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She is also an adjunct professor in the East-West Psychology department at CIIS. Alessandra often presents at national and international conferences, including the American Psychological Association (APA) conference in August 2010. She serves on the advisory counsel of the New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care, and on a task force sponsored by the Templeton Foundation to design national guidelines for the provision of spiritual care to patients with advanced illness. Her book, *Grief and Bereavement in Palliative and End-of-Life Care*, will be published by Oxford University Press.

Jake Pollack (IHL ’06) has returned from three years of teaching Integral Sustainability in Auroville, India. He is now coordinator for CIIS Public Programs and is pursuing his PhD in education with an emphasis in sustainability at Prescott College. He enjoys being the father of two girls, and lives with his wife in the East Bay.

Melissa Divaris (ICP ’07) recently completed the MFT licensure process and has opened a private practice on Madison Avenue in New York City. www.embracingjoy.com

—Richard Buggs

### May 15, 2010

**San Francisco**

PRIVATE RECEPTION AND CONVERSATION WITH COLEMAN BARKS

Fundraiser for the Alumni Scholarship Fund

An enthusiastic and appreciative group of alums and friends were treated to an intimate evening with Coleman Barks, poet and translator of Rumi. Coleman shared personal stories about his life, and read his poetry and translations. Benefiting the Alumni Scholarship Fund, the event was a wonderful reunion for alums from many different class years.

FROM COLEMAN:

“No longer a stranger, you listen all day to these crazy love-words. Like a bee you fill hundreds of homes with honey, though yours is a long flight from here.”

—Coleman Barks

### June 5, 2010

**Laguna Beach**

Michael and Meili Pinto (ISD ’96 and ’98) hosted a late-afternoon reunion of Southern California alums at their condo complex in South Laguna Beach overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Michael and Meili shared news and photographs of the center they are building in Warner Springs and their plans to offer retreats there in the future. Faculty emeritae Hilary Anderson (COU ’82) and Kimberly McKell (EWP ’71) captivated the group with their stories about studying with Dr. Chaudhuri and Alan Watts in the late ’60s.

### June 12, 2010

**Seattle**

The Integral Loft in historic Pioneer Square was the setting for the third annual gathering of alums living in the state of Washington. Alum Susan Cannon (TLM ’00) welcomed the group to the beautiful space that she co-created and described the growing integral movement in Seattle. President Joseph Subbiondo gave an enthusiastic update of recent activities at CIIS, and Dean of Alumni Richard Buggs (CLN ’96) spoke about the alumni circles forming across the country. A highlight of the evening was a presentation by alum Terri O’Fallon (TLM ’98) on her current research on Adult Developmental Patterns and the stimulating dialogue that followed.

Laguna Beach reunion: l. to r.: Michael Pinto (ISD ’96), Maureen Kellen-Taylor (TLR ’99), and Meili Pinto (ISD ’98)

Seattle reunion, clockwise from upper right: Amanda Feller (TLC ’03), Rebecca McKinney Trlica (ICP ’03), Terri O’Fallon (TLM ’98), Susan Cannon (TLM ’00), Kathy Kelly (TLC ’08), Marcia Wesley (CLN ’94), Derek Trlica (ICP ’03), and Durdaana Renee Rinderknecht (TLR ’05)
Michael Sheehy’s work takes him every year to the Amdo region of Eastern Tibet. “In Amdo the elevation is about 12,000 to 15,000 feet,” Sheehy describes. “Amdo is known for its vast sky, rolling hills, and wide-open pastures filled with yellow and purple wildflowers. Nomads ride on their horses, and black yaks spot the landscape.”

Sheehy got interested in Tibetan culture when he was a teenager: “I opened a book on Himalayan art and saw a female deity called White Tara, and was drawn to her. I was intrigued by the tantric imagery, the majesty of these beings.”

He went on to major in Religious Studies and Asian Studies in college, where he heard about CIIS. “I sent away for the catalog when I was a junior in college and I remember being enthralled by the curriculum.”

Sheehy entered the PhD program in Asian and Comparative Studies at CIIS and studied with Steven Goodman and Jim Ryan. “I feel as though I got as good an education—if not better—than my colleagues who completed degrees in Buddhist Studies or Tibetan Studies at large state universities or at other private colleges,” says Sheehy. “There’s a common misperception that the education at CIIS is so radically different that you can’t integrate it into the mainstream academy. My experience is the opposite.”

One hand, and the scholar on the other hand. CIIS recognizes and supports this. That’s very unusual. It’s also very important, not just for the Buddhist or Indian traditions, but across the board in education. Without the reflective or meditative dimension of education, there’s a missing link. The human capacity to know is not optimized.”

While studying at CIIS, Sheehy founded the Jonang Foundation (www.jonangfoundation.org), a nonprofit dedicated to preserving and sustaining a lineage of Tibetan Buddhism that was once thought to be extinct and is little known outside Eastern Tibet. “The Jonang Foundation works on two fronts: education and cultural preservation,” Sheehy explains. “We build and outfit primary schools and support Buddhist colleges in Tibet, and we seek out rare works of art and literature of the Jonang tradition that are largely unknown or were thought to be lost. Then we digitize, translate, and publish them.”

In addition to directing the Jonang Foundation, Sheehy is the senior editor of literary research at the Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center (www.tbrc.org), associated with the Rubin Museum of Art in New York City. “The center is an initiative to digitize all of Tibetan literature and make it available online via our library.” Sheehy is also a part-time faculty member at The New School in New York where he teaches courses on Tibetan language and Buddhist philosophy, linking his courses directly to exhibits on Himalayan art at the Rubin Museum. His forthcoming book is on the Jonang tradition.

How does he feel spending time in remote areas of Tibet where many people have never seen a Westerner? “It can be amusing. I was at a gathering of monks at a remote monastery once, and one teenage monk asked me, ‘What planet are you from?’ There is a leisure to life in Tibet, and a spirit the Tibetans in Amdo call ‘chikka,’ which means the quality of being happy and enthused. I stay here because I enjoy having access to the living traditions, to the lamas and masters.”

Michael Sheehy’s website is www.michaelsheehy.com.
Veterans to Attend CIIS for Free
Through Yellow Ribbon Program

Recent veterans will soon be able to attend CIIS and have most of their tuition paid through the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Yellow Ribbon Program. The program, also called the GI Education Enhancement Program or the Post-9/11 GI Bill, covers both tuition and fees for those veterans. Under this program, the Department of Veterans Affairs provides up to seventy-five percent of tuition for those who have served in the armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families. CIIS covers the remaining tuition.

“We’re delighted to offer the benefits of a CIIS education to recent veterans through the Yellow Ribbon Program,” says CIIS President Joseph L. Subbiondo. “We welcome and encourage veterans to apply to our BA Completion program or our master’s degree programs.”

For the 2010–2011 academic year, CIIS has pledged to support up to ten veterans as undergraduates, and five veterans at the master’s level. Veterans who are students are also eligible in California for housing subsidies through the local Department of Veterans Affairs.

For more information on the Yellow Ribbon Program visit the Department of Veteran Affairs’ website at http://gibill.va.gov.

ChicaChic

(Continued from page 3) of this exhibit as a way of exploring cultural fluidity. She sought out five young female artists whose aesthetics are contemporary yet influenced by an older generation of Chicano/a artists.

The artists’ works honor the concepts, themes, and iconography that defined the Chicano civil rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s. But the world has changed drastically since El Movimiento, as the movement is also known. These women were raised in a different era, and are asking different questions, and are responding to different cultural concerns.

Like their forbearers in El Movimiento, these artists challenge the status quo on issues such as equal housing, fair labor practices, and access to safe and healthy food. But they are simultaneously tackling contemporary issues such as the nuanced politics of hybrid identities, media saturation, new technologies, sexuality and gender identity, and the mass marketing of products to Latino audiences.

The concept of a public art campaign flowed naturally from this examination of generational parallels and cultural shifts. According to de Anda, placing the artists’ works in BART stations mirrors a common tactic of the Chicano civil rights movement of “taking the voices of dissent to the streets.”

(Continued from page 1) in the queer pool,” and her hesitations and heartbreaks along the way. In a poignant and funny reference to the LGBTQI abbreviations, she asks, “Will somebody please tell me what my letter is?”

The show also has a historical component. At one point the cast forms a rotating circle to dramatize the pathologizing and eventual acceptance of homosexuality by the therapeutic profession. Each actor in turn takes on the persona of a different player in this process, from Sigmund Freud to sexologist Alfred Kinsey. “I was trying to draw a parallel between the way homosexuality was once seen by many in the therapeutic community, and the way transgender individuals are now often viewed,” says Lezin.

Unlike political art that overpowers the audience, Speaking Up, Standing OUT honors the nuances of emotion involved in difficult issues. One actor in the piece who is not in the LGBTQ community talks about her own challenges as an ally, and makes an embarrassed face that has the audience laughing when she reveals that she can’t quite get the right terminology, using “cross-dresser” instead of “drag queen.” She comes to the conclusion that she can still be an active supporter of LGBTQ friends without knowing everything about the community in advance.

The shades of meaning and feeling that each actor expresses make Theatre for Change an enriching and surprising experience for the audience. “How can we teach people to be effective clinicians unless they approach each person anew?” asks Emunah. “If they’ve learned anything in the Drama Therapy program, they’ve learned about complexity.”

PDT Professor Renée Emunah speaks to the audience in Namaste Hall.
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