The extension of a contract with the City of San Francisco’s Department of Public Health for recruiting and retaining underrepresented students in the School of Professional Psychology at CIIS is placing the Institute at the cutting-edge of shifts in the mental health arena.

According to Steven Tierney, chair of the CIIS Master’s in Counseling Psychology program, “The mental health delivery system in California is undergoing incredible changes. The contract with the City of San Francisco allows us to recruit the students who will be at the forefront of these changes; support the students through graduation; and empower them to be therapists, change agents, and leaders. CIIS will play a major role in the development of community-based mental health thanks to this contract and the people who will come here because of it.”

The total of the arrangement with the city has now surpassed $1 million, and will span a period of six years. “This is the largest contract with a public entity in the Institute’s history,” says President Joseph L. Subbiondo, “and it is testimony to the excellent work that CIIS is doing to help prepare the new mental health workforce of the future.”

The support that the City of San Francisco provides to CIIS comes by virtue of the State of California’s Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The MHSA aims to “reduce the adverse impact of untreated mental illness” and to “expand successful and innovative service programs to include culturally and linguistically competent approaches to underserved populations.” CIIS has developed programs to address both these needs.

Through the contract with the Department of Public Health, CIIS has been able to target recruiting and retention efforts to groups that have traditionally been underrepresented or silenced in the therapeutic community: students of color, LGBTQ students, and students who have dealt with mental illness either in themselves or in their families. The city’s agreement with CIIS provides financial support to attract and support these students.

This recruitment effort has already had an enormous impact in the Institute’s new Community Mental Health program. Fifty percent of the CMH students are from communities of color. Many students speak a language other than English, including Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. Numerous students self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer (LGBTQ). Several have lived or worked in public housing, particularly significant for the Institute’s new Clinic Without Walls, which brings therapeutic counseling...
Dear CIIS Alums and Friends

Last year, we revised the CIIS strategic plan. While we have been successful in designing a thoughtful plan, we have also been effective in implementing it. Many organizations plan well, but few implement well. CIIS can do both.

Our strategic goals are 1) be a leader in integral education; 2) embody and model a diverse, inclusive, and socially just community; 3) increase and broaden the Institute’s impact in the San Francisco Bay Area community and beyond; and 4) ensure economic sustainability and expand capacity through balanced growth.

CIIS has focused nearly all of its initiatives to support these goals, including

✦ forming an Integral Education Committee that is working on developing a Center for Integral Theory and Practice;
✦ increasing faculty diversity with new appointments;
✦ sponsoring a national conference from March 3 to 6, 2011 entitled “Expanding the Circle: Creating an Inclusive Environment in Higher Education for LGBTQ Students and Studies;” and
✦ increasing non-tuition revenue.

We will post the full implementation report on our alumni website. Most importantly, as CIIS implements the goals of its strategic plan, we preserve the spirit of its founders, Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri.

“I hope that you will be an active partner in advancing the mission of CIIS.”

President Joseph L. Subbiondo

Every university needs to draw on its friends and alumni to carry on its founding mission and to meet the challenges of implementation. We need your financial support to increase scholarships, renovate the building, maintain infrastructure, and expand technology.

I hope that you will be an active partner in advancing the mission of CIIS because we can no longer rely on tuition alone. Like all excellent universities, CIIS needs the financial support of its friends and alumni. Together we can implement our revised strategic plan as well as the many subsequent plans that mark the inspiring journey of our CIIS.

Joseph L. Subbiondo
President
The Arts at CIIS
LAUNCHES MULTICULTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY INITIATIVE

by Brynn Saito

In the 200-year history of the photographic medium, only about 300 books (including catalogues and monographs) have been published by and about African American photographers, representing less than 1% of the total. The numbers for other artists of color are unfortunately similar. To date, no private or university gallery—or museum—on the West Coast has sustained a focus on multicultural photography. The Arts at CIIS, the Institute’s arts exhibition program, seeks to change those statistics with a new Multicultural Photography Initiative.

“There’s a lot of diversity within photographic practice,” says Deirdre Visser, curator of The Arts at CIIS and the creative force behind the initiative. “But there’s not much diversity in exhibitions and publications. I believe we’re collectively impoverished by that lack.” The Arts at CIIS produces twelve to fourteen shows per year—eight of those will be devoted to the work of artists of color. To date, photographers Pato Hebert, Oscar Palacio, Wendel White, Suné Woods, and Deborah Jack have exhibited in the Institute’s three gallery spaces.

With each exhibit running for only ten weeks, Visser is deeply interested in expanding the initiative beyond the lifespan of the shows themselves. “When I was teaching, I quickly saw that if a photographer had not been published, there was a slim possibility of finding his or her work in the slide library. And so we saw the need to create a publishing component.” Besides publishing the work of individual photographers of color, the proposed book series will include critical essays about and creative writing based on the photographs, in an effort to give the publications a unique, interdisciplinary life of their own. “When I was teaching, I quickly saw that if a photographer had not been published, there was a slim possibility of finding his or her work in the slide library. And so we saw the need to create a publishing component.” Besides publishing the work of individual photographers of color, the proposed book series will include critical essays about and creative writing based on the photographs, in an effort to give the publications a unique, interdisciplinary life of their own. “Our goal is to contribute to the larger arts dialogue in a substantive way,” adds Visser.

Beyond the book series and the exhibits, the Multicultural Photography Initiative will also include an educational element, yet another way the project will find life outside of the gallery walls. Visser—herself a community-based artist and educator—has established relationships with three local high schools and elementary schools, one of which is Marshall Elementary, a bilingual Spanish-immersion school on 15th and Capp Street in the Mission District. Visser is working closely with Marshall’s 4th grade teachers to integrate arts education into the curriculum in a sustained and thoughtful way. The education element began last November with Oscar Palacio, a Colombian-born photographer whose show, “American Places,” exhibited at CIIS in fall 2010. Palacio conducted a photography workshop with the students at Marshall Elementary. The students also made multiple visits to the Institute’s Minna Street Center, where they had the opportunity to view Palacio’s photographs, respond with a writing exercise, and present their written and photographic works on the gallery walls. The students’ families were then invited to the gallery to see the works displayed. In the coming spring, Visser envisions working with another exhibiting artist to document and create art based on the students’ immigration stories. “Most galleries are quiet and intimidating,” Visser points out. “With this initiative, the students are not only seeing themselves as active participants in the creation and interpretation of visual culture, but they’re also making the gallery a space that is their own.”

At its heart, the Multicultural Photography Initiative—with its emphasis on supporting under-represented artists, its local education program, and its unique inter-arts publications—builds and supports a myriad of creative communities. “Community-based arts practice is about listening,” says Visser, “listening to people’s voices and stories, bringing different elements together, and letting the outcome be unknown.”

Oscar Palacio, Chopped Tree, pigmented inkjet print, 2001

Exhibits in Summer and Fall 2011

As part of the Multicultural Photography Initiative, The Arts at CIIS will exhibit work by photographers Megan M. Morgan, Jeanno Gaussi, Oraib Toukan, and Lyssa Palu-ay beginning in summer 2011. Look for announcements of these three shows. Megan M. Morgan investigates her Bermudian-Canadian identity through a variety of materials, including reconstituted family snapshots and colonial images of Africa and the Caribbean islands. Afghanistan native Jeanno Gaussi’s still photography and video installation touch on diaspora, memory, and the shifting nature of home and belonging. Lyssa Palu-ay’s photographic work is influenced by the Celtic and Tibetan traditions, imbuing the land with a profound sense of the sacred. In a media-savvy critique of the exoticization and consumption of the Middle East, artist Oraib Toukan portrays the Middle East as up for sale, utilizing strategies from advertising page-spreads to auction catalogs.

...the students are not only seeing themselves as active participants in the creation and interpretation of visual culture, but they’re also making the gallery a space that is their own.”
The total dollars raised in cash and pledges for the Laurance S. Rockefeller Library Relocation and Renovation Project now stands at $600,000, more than halfway to the goal of $850,000 to complete the project. The project will move the current library on the third floor of Mission Street to an expanded site on the second floor.

Opportunities for donors to name spaces and special collections are still available.

For more information, contact Dorotea Reyna, Director of Development, at 415.575.6135 or

“The Baumann Foundation, a nonprofit think tank based in San Francisco, has recently made donations to CIIS to support and expand a special collection in the Institute’s library, and to fund scholarships for student research. “CIIS is particularly grateful to the Baumann Foundation and to Peter Baumann for these generous gifts,” says CIIS President Joseph L. Subbiondo.

Started by Peter Baumann, the Baumann Foundation’s goal is “to illuminate and clarify the experience of being human in light of evolutionary theory and scientific insights, to foster greater wellbeing.” Peter Baumann is a trustee of CIIS, founder of the record label Private Music, and an early member of the musical group Tangerine Dream.

“The most interesting thing about playing with that band,” says Baumann, “is that we never prepared in advance what we were going to play. That brought a quality of unpredictability to our performances. I learned from that experience the importance of letting things emerge rather than trying to control them.”

That openness to being in the moment is part of what the Baumann Foundation is seeking to explore. “The aim of the Baumann Foundation is to understand human experience in greater depth, using up-to-date information from both science and contemplative teachings,” Baumann elaborates. “The other goal is to build a bridge between the latest understanding of human experience and the general public.”

As part of that bridge, the foundation is sponsoring the Being Human Symposium on March 24, 2012 at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco. “There will be short talks by some of the leading scientists and contemplatives, addressing the nature of human emotions and experience,” Baumann explains. The conference will be streamed live over the Internet and then made available through the foundation’s website.

Another facet of the foundation’s public outreach is a book that Baumann is authoring, as yet untitled. “The book puts human experience in an evolutionary context,” Baumann says. “The process of evolution has shifted from being purely biological to the cultural sphere. We are experiencing an extraordinary shift in our culture. The driver is the human capacity for conscious awareness. A couple of hundred years ago, there was slavery, there were few human rights. The turning point was when the dominance of monarchies and hierarchies started to crumble. Now we are moving toward an integrated society, rather than a top-down society.” The book will be published by NE Press, an imprint of Sounds True publishers.

The foundation’s gift to the Laurance S. Rockefeller Library at CIIS will support the Baumann Foundation Collection on Bio-Psychological Evolution and the Evolution of Consciousness. “The Foundation’s interest is in introducing books to the collection that might otherwise not have found their way into the library,” says Baumann, “We would like to broaden the availability of perspectives.”

The think tank is also sponsoring the Baumann Foundation Scholarships at CIIS, which support student research. Funding will be available for three areas of research: social comparison, negativity bias, and confirmation bias. “We hope the scholarships will give individuals the opportunity to explore and discover,” Baumann says. “Broadly, the areas of research are about how people compare themselves to others. Many of us have biases based on cultural conditioning. Unless you become aware of biases, you can’t see them and change them.”

Baumann believes that human beings have an innate sense of well-being, a sense that can be lost in the commotion of modern life. But because of the human capacity for conscious awareness, he envisions the possibility of greater openness and understanding. “The past was marked by narrow perspectives,” says Baumann. “The future will be marked by multiple perspectives.”
CIIS Public Programs began a new series this academic year called ConverZations that Matter, hosted by Belvie Rooks. The series’ subtitle tells part of its story: Navigating the Boundaries of Race, Class, and Gender in the 21st Century and Beyond. In its first year, ConverZations That Matter has already tackled difficult issues about the process of healing historical traumas.

“One aim of ConverZations That Matter is to attempt to bridge the historic divides of race, class, ethnicity, and gender,” explains Rooks. “We’re hoping to weave a deeper dialogue of awareness across those divides.” Rooks attributes some of her faith in dialogue to a conference she helped organize in Bali in 2004 that included a moving address by Nobel Peace Prize honoree Bishop Desmond Tutu. “One of the things he shared about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa is that deep listening can powerfully transform people.”

Rooks’s personal desire to focus on healing historical traumas came from an experience she had while she and her husband were visiting a former slave dungeon in West Africa. “I was overwhelmed by a sense of despair and rage,” she recalls. “But not long after that I met Thomas DeWolf, author of Inheriting the Trade: A Northern Family Confronts Its Legacy as the Largest Slave-Trading Dynasty in U.S. History. He also had a powerful and painful transformational experience while visiting a West African slave dungeon. It made me think about what we could do together to explore the wounds we still carried about our different but connected relationships to slavery.” DeWolf shared the podium with Rooks in one of the series’ early events on Slavery’s Legacy: What Would Healing Look Like?

ConverZations That Matter’s inaugural event was a discussion with Princeton Professor Cornel West, who spoke to an overflow audience of nearly 1,000 at the Regency Ballroom in San Francisco in September 2010. “Cornel West’s talk about his life stories—with his insights on race and the need for justice and healing in the United States—was a truly magical event,” enthuses Monique LeSarre, a doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology program. “These conversations have the potential not merely to cover over the wounds of historical trauma, but to clean them out, and to begin the process of healing.”

CIIS Dean of Students and Director of Diversity Shirley Strong helped start the series. She feels that it meets an important need, at CIIS, and beyond. “I’ve been looking for a means to engage our community in a larger discussion on these issues in a way that is compassionate,” Strong explains. “I hope the series will allow all of us to push our growing edge.” Strong hopes that the emphasis in the series on healing will speak both to students in the counseling programs and to those in the healing professions. “I’d like to extend an invitation,” she says, “to the larger CIIS community, including alums, to attend ConverZations That Matter, and to use the series as a resource.”

The spring 2011 series of ConverZations that Matter, focusing on “Healing the Wounds of Intergenerational Trauma,” is sponsored in part by a generous grant from Kaiser Permanente. The events in that series have included Eduardo Duran on “Healing the Soul Wound: Native American Postcolonial Psychology,” Joy DeGruy on “Post-traumatic Slave Syndrome,” and Belvie Rooks and Thomas DeWolf on “Slavery’s Legacy.”
Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum, a beloved professor in the Women’s Spirituality Department, has announced her retirement effective June 2011. Throughout her sixteen years at CIIS, she has enriched and expanded the lives of her students through her inspired teaching, keen scholarship, and devoted mentorship.

With her core beliefs rooted in an understanding that everyone belongs to one human race that began in Africa, Professor Birnbaum is a feminist cultural historian who has worked diligently to “uncover the omissions and deceptions of conventional history and report the true history of the world.” Her six books and numerous published articles are based on her own ethnographic, biographical, and professional journey as a Sicilian-American and follow the migration paths from Africa to all continents. Stressing the values of caring and sharing inherent in our African heritage, Professor Birnbaum is certain that “these ancestral gifts offer a life-saving legacy for the world in crisis.”

An expert on Black Madonnas, female divinities, feminism, afrocentrist-matricentrist societies, and the submerged beliefs of the subaltern, Professor Birnbaum’s work is widely recognized in the United States, Europe, and Africa. Her honors include the Founding Mother Award from the CIIS Women’s Spirituality program, and the Enheduanna Award for excellence in women-centered scholarship. She is also a strong supporter of student research, and has edited three volumes of an anthology highlighting women in academia entitled She Is Everywhere! In 2011 Laboratorio Poises will publish her newest book, The Future Has an Ancient Heart.

In the words of Women’s Spirituality Program Director Arisika Razak, “Lucia is a valued colleague whose dedication and spirit will be missed. We are grateful for her extraordinary service and vast contributions to the CIIS community over two decades and wish her well in all her future endeavors.”

Professor Jack S. Weller, founding director of the CIIS Expressive Arts Therapy program, is retiring in June 2011 after twenty-two years as a prominent member of the faculty. “Jack Weller’s leadership in the field of expressive arts and his teaching have enriched the lives of CIIS faculty, staff, and students as well as members of the international expressive arts community,” says Judie Wexler, CIIS academic vice president. “We are grateful for his long and committed service. He will be missed as a colleague, teacher, and mentor.”

Weller’s scholarly work spans philosophy, mysticism, meditation, aesthetics, sacred and transformative arts, creativity studies, and expressive arts therapy. After his first adjunct teaching years at CIIS in the mid-1970s, he returned in 1987 as Rudolph Schaeffer Professor of Arts and Creativity, focusing on the development of the arts in all departments of the Institute. His major commitment then became the development of the Expressive Arts Therapy program.

Weller has been very active in the international expressive arts therapy community. He was a founding cochair of International Expressive Arts Therapy Association (IEATA) in 1995 and has since served on the organization’s board. In 2007 Weller was given the Shining Star award by IEATA. The award “honors someone who has made outstanding contributions to the expressive arts field; to the larger community; and who has contributed by educating others about the power of the arts to heal, enliven, and deepen our life experience.”
Parminder Bajaj comes to CIIS from an unusual location: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. He recently spent four years in the Kyrgyz Republic as the senior advisor to the president and the board of trustees of the American University of Central Asia.

“Some of the issues were the same,” Bajaj explains. “Financial stability and long-term sustainability were key there, and these are also of great import at CIIS.”

Bajaj is the first person at CIIS to occupy the new post of vice president for finance and administration. He takes over the Institute’s finances from Ken Abiko, who worked for eight years at CIIS as controller. Abiko was universally praised for his work on purchasing the Institute’s Main Building on Mission Street and for keeping CIIS in stable financial condition during his tenure. At the Institute’s most recent faculty-staff retreat in fall 2010, Abiko received a sustained standing ovation.

“CIIS was very well served by Ken Abiko,” says Bajaj. “I hope to continue and expand his work.”

Bajaj’s vice presidential position gives him responsibility for a range of services, including finance, information technology, facilities, and auxiliary operations (such as the café and bookstore). “Nonprofits always have needs that exceed their resources,” he muses. “But for the long-term health of the Institute, we need to be disciplined in our spending, while keeping true to our values. We are not a business, but we have to be a well-run nonprofit.” He emphasizes that CIIS is accountable to the federal and state governments, in part because more than 70% of students here apply for loans from those sources.

Bajaj also sees CIIS as having strong potential for growth, even after several years of increased student enrollment. “I notice a worldwide shift to sustainability, integrative health, humanistic studies—all areas where CIIS is strong. The unique programs here are what attracted me to the Institute. In the world of higher education, we occupy a particular niche, but that niche is expanding.”

Another strength that Bajaj sees at CIIS is the Institute’s location in downtown San Francisco. “We own two buildings in a highly desirable area. Students, faculty, and staff all appreciate that.”

Before CIIS and his post in Kyrgyzstan, Bajaj was responsible for finances at several colleges, including Antioch University of Southern California and Golden West College. His career has taken him to many parts of the world. He was born in Delhi, India, where he studied engineering at the highly prestigious Indian Institute of Technology. He earned an MBA in Canada, and has worked in administration in higher education in Ontario, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Southern California.

One of the key challenges he acknowledges as vice president for finance and administration at CIIS is for the Institute to diversify its sources of revenue. “Our academic programs are strong and experiencing enrollment growth,” says Bajaj, “but to sustain the Institute over the long haul we need to have additional funds coming in from donations and from Public Programs.”

Bajaj is a well-rounded person with many interests. He is fond of hiking, yoga, and travel. In the past he has volunteered with Literacy Volunteers of America and the Getty Museum, among other activities.

“I currently volunteer with the BRAVO! Club of the San Francisco Opera and Ballet,” he says. “I also do volunteer work with Upwardly Global, a nonprofit dedicated to mentoring recent immigrants. I help coach people who are new to this country in job-search and interview skills. I also assist them in networking. These are people who are legally qualified to work here, but lack the connections and know-how to mount a job-search campaign and respond in an interview situation. More importantly, I do one-on-one advising with them.” He is now exploring and learning about San Francisco: “I enjoy the city’s rich architecture, diverse cultures, and beautiful landscapes,” he says.

“I notice a worldwide shift to sustainability, integrative health, humanistic studies—all areas where CIIS is strong.”
Melodie Hicks did her master’s in educational psychology at Harvard and has a distinguished career teaching workshops for executives and managers at Fortune 500 companies such as Cisco Systems, Disney, Merrill Lynch, and Royal Bank of Scotland. When it came time to choose a PhD program, she decided on CIIS. “It’s a funny story,” she relates. “I was reading a book on somatics by Don Hanlon Johnson called *Groundworks: Narratives of Embodiment*. It was informing my work about how people think with their bodies. I saw on the back cover that Don Hanlon Johnson was teaching at CIIS, and when I looked at the CIIS webpage, I ran across the Transformative Leadership program.”

She finds the Transformative Leadership program as demanding as any coursework she had in the Ivy League. “I loved Harvard, but CIIS is just as rigorous. CIIS is more open to entertaining a variety of ways of thinking, so it’s in a position to be questioned by traditional educational authorities,” she says. “Because of that, CIIS continually tries to prove itself, and it does. We have some amazing faculty in the program who are gems in their field.”

Hicks has continued to evolve her way of teaching over the decades. One of her CIIS courses, Introduction to Transformative Studies, contributed to reshaping her views on education: “While I was taking that course, my teaching changed. In the classes I was teaching, I started to let the class happen, taking more of a back seat in the process, with more of my ear to the ground.”

She contrasts a variety of learning experiences including the traditional lecture, the experiential workshop, and what she calls a “learning crucible.” “In a lecture class, you listen or you memorize information, which is all valuable. In an experiential workshop, people participate and interact to learn certain material, which is also great. But what I’m interested in is the next level, which I call a learning crucible.”

What does she mean by this term? “An actual crucible is a container that can withstand the heat required for melting metals, going from solid to liquid. Similarly, in a crucible learning environment, the facilitator holds the space for a transformation. Observations erupt out of the unknown. What’s going on in the room is the most interesting and vital thing. As a culture, we could benefit from having more learning crucible events. At CIIS, people understand that.”

She finds that the type of teaching she does with managers and executives can also be useful in academia. “One of the things I teach in a business setting is how to use stories from your life to express your vision of leadership. I gave a workshop on a similar topic to students in the Transformative Leadership program at CIIS.”

Another life experience that Hicks brings to her work and to her studies is her longtime involvement with theater. “I started in theater when I was very young, and continued to be quite involved for about thirty-five years.” She is most interested in movement theater, which she studied in Paris. “Movement theater informs my teaching practice because of what I have learned about embodiment,” Hicks elaborates. She also had a bit part in the film *The Witches of Eastwick*, which starred Jack Nicholson, Cher, Susan Sarandon, and Michelle Pfeiffer.

Her other work in education has included producing an interactive television program for science educators through Harvard and the Smithsonian Institute, and working to integrate the arts into traditional educational curricula. Like many students in the online Transformative Studies program, Melodie Hicks lives outside the Bay Area. She divides her time between Los Angeles and a little town in Normandy, France, where she lives on a farm. Hicks has her own company, The Learning Practice (thelearningpractice.com), and also is a freelance executive coach and senior facilitator with the Ariel Group and the Exetor Group. She has been working on transformational learning programs for the past sixteen years for the consulting firm McKinsey & Company.

Her free time she devotes to painting, yoga, writing, and her two daughters and grandchildren. 
This year the Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri Award for Distinguished Service is being awarded to Professor Haresh C. Shah. Shah is the Obayashi Professor of Engineering, Emeritus, at Stanford University, and chaired the Department of Civil Engineering there before his retirement. He is one of the leading scientists in the world in the fields of earthquake engineering, risk analysis, and probabilistic methods. “Professor Shah is an eminent scholar and a humanitarian whose work is having positive impacts globally in many areas, and we are proud to honor him with this year’s Chaudhuri Award,” says CIIS President Joseph L. Subbiondo.

In 1992 Shah helped found and served as the first chair of the World Seismic Safety Initiative (WSSI), an organization of scholars in the field of earthquake engineering who wanted to go beyond mere research to take concrete steps to help those affected by earthquakes. “In every disaster,” says Shah, “it’s the poor who suffer the most.” WSSI volunteers go into countries that do not have a sufficient number of seismic engineers, or building codes appropriate to the risk of earthquakes. The volunteers help set up educational institutions and policies to meet those needs.

“The country of Myanmar [Burma] is a prime example of what WSSI can do,” Shah recounts. “The government ruled by edict that the country had no earthquakes, despite scientific evidence. When WSSI went there, the leaders told us to leave. Then Myanmar had an earthquake that damaged some pagodas, and the government called us back. Since the mid-1990s we have developed academic programs in earthquake engineering there, and a building code that uses local materials. They now have state-of-the-art seismic instruments, connected to the global network.”

In 1989 Professor Shah also started a company called RMS (Risk Management Solutions, Inc.) that creates software to help mitigate the risks of low probability but high consequence events, such as earthquakes, tornadoes, and typhoons. Hemant Shah, son of Professor Shah, is the president and CEO of RMS. The company now has offices worldwide and more than 2,000 employees.

Shah’s current interest is in micro-insurance, in this case, insurance for small farmers whose business is not large enough to qualify for any of the products offered by commercial insurance companies. “We are working now with various governments, including India and China, to develop drought- and flood-based micro-insurance for farmers. If something terrible occurs, the farmers are made whole.” The program is already working in such locations as Andhra Pradesh state in India. “Micro-insurance has had an unexpected consequence there,” Shah describes. “A rice farmer is paid no matter whether the crop is damaged by disaster. If a farmer knows that he will not suffer from a catastrophe, he becomes more entrepreneurial and innovative in his practices. Production goes up.”

One interesting coincidence in Professor Shah receiving the Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri Award is that he was personally acquainted with the prize’s namesakes, the founders of CIIS. Describing the Chaudhuris, Shah recalls that “They were a couple who were intellectually very powerful and very much involved. They believed deeply in their convictions.”

Haresh Shah was born in India in the town of Godhra in the state of Gujarat. He grew up in Pune (formerly Poona) in the state of Maharashtra.

Haresh Shah receives the Haridas and Bina Chaudhuri Award at a ceremony on May 7, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel in Palo Alto.

“Professor Shah is an eminent scholar and a humanitarian whose work is having positive impacts globally.”
Elizabeth Allison Speaks Nationally and in Nepal

Elizabeth Allison, a core faculty member in Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness, gave a variety of public talks this academic year, at sites ranging from Atlanta to Kathmandu. She spoke in Nepal in October 2010 on “Diversity and Change in the Himalayas” at a colloquium on Everyday Religions and Sustainable Environments in the Himalayas. That same month she gave a talk at the annual Conference on South Asia in Madison, Wisconsin on “Trashing Shangri-La: The Garbage Problem in Modernizing Bhutan.” The following month she also touched on Bhutan and the lessons it provides on ecological sustainability at the Ahimsa and Sustainability Conference at the Ahimsa Center, at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. In November 2010 she presented on “The Spiritual Significance of Glaciers,” at the American Academy of Religion annual meeting.

Anne Bluethenthal Dances in New York, Teaches in Ohio

Core faculty member Anne Bluethenthal of the MFA in Creative Inquiry, Interdisciplinary Arts performed a trio of dances she choreographed at the American Dancers Guild Festival in New York City in February. She also did a three-day residency at The Ohio State University’s Department of Dance in March. Her company, Anne Bluethenthal and Dancers, performed *Pluto in Capricorn and Other Dances* at the prestigious 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center in New York City in April.

Matthew Bronson Appears in Film and at Conferences


Allan Combs Edits Two New Books

Allan Combs, core faculty member in Transformative Studies, has edited two new books. He is the coeditor with Ervin Laszlo of *Thomas Berry, Dreamer of the Earth*, from Inner Traditions, a tribute to the visionary contributions and prophetic writings of Thomas Berry, spiritual ecologist and a father of environmentalism. He also edited *The Victorian’s Guide to Consciousness: Essays Marking the Centenary of William James*, a special issue of the *Journal of Consciousness Studies*.

Carolyn Cooke Publishes Novel with Knopf

MFA in Writing and Consciousness core faculty member Carolyn Cooke is publishing her first novel, *Daughters of the Revolution*, in June 2011. From the publisher: “An exquisite first novel set at a disintegrating New England prep school. A ferociously intelligent, richly sensual novel about the awkward collision of privilege, tradition, and the possibility of radical social change, Carolyn Cooke’s debut is remarkable for the precision of its language, the incandescence of its images, and the grace and gravity of its themes. A distinctive new voice in American fiction.” Kate Walbert, author of *A Short History of Women*, comments on Cooke’s novel, “So smart, so visceral, so sexy... Absolutely brilliant.”

“...a ferociously intelligent, richly sensual novel about the awkward collision of privilege, tradition, and the possibility of radical social change.”

Conference Features Panel on New Book from Jorge Ferrer (EWP ’99) and Jacob Sherman

The American Academy of Religion (AAR), at their annual conference in Atlanta in fall 2010, presented a panel discussion on a new book coedited by CIIS core faculty member Jorge Ferrer (East-West Psychology) and Assistant Professor Jacob Sherman (Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness). The book is called *The Participatory Turn: Spirituality, Mysticism, Religious Studies*. The panel was so successful that two independent AAR program units invited Ferrer and Sherman to offer additional panels (on mysticism and contemplative studies) at the upcoming AAR annual meeting in San Francisco in fall 2011.

Judye Hess Speaks in Holland

Judye Hess, core faculty in Integral Counseling Psychology, gave a presentation at a conference in The Netherlands based on the book she wrote...
Meg Jordan (WSE '96) Presents Research on Three Continents

Meg Jordan, professor and chair of Integrative Health Studies, gave an invited talk on “Coached Like Rich People” at the International Conference on Health, Wellness, and Society in Berkeley in February 2011. Jordan was invited to Kyoto by the Japan Medical Foundation to attend the GAIA Medicine Conference, where she spoke on “Eco-Wellness: Nature as Doctor and Therapist.” She then travelled to Hokkaido to study Ainu cultural health philosophy and well-being practices. In March 2011 she did a talk on “Moving Through Fractured Whole(s)” at the International Symposium held at CIIS and organized by Bahman Shirazi. He also published a chapter on “The Sufi Path of Self-Transformation” in a new book on *Foundations of Indian Psychology*. In February 2011 Shirazi did a workshop at Auroville in India on “Bridging the Arc of Mysticism,” and went on to give a talk on “The Metaphysical Instincts and Spiritual Bypassing” at a conference at Delhi University.

Bahman Shirazi (ODT '87, EWP '94):
Recent Publications and Talks

CIIS archivist and adjunct faculty member Bahman Shirazi edited a special issue of the journal ReVision dedicated to the 2009 Integral Consciousness Symposium held at CIIS and organized by Shirazi. He also published a chapter on “The Sufi Path of Self-Transformation” in a new book on *Foundations of Indian Psychology*. In February 2011 Shirazi did a workshop at Auroville in India on “Bridging the Arc of Mysticism,” and went on to give a talk on “The Metaphysical Instincts and Spiritual Bypassing” at a conference at Delhi University.

Robert McDermott’s Volume on Modern Indian Philosophy Republished

*The Spirit of Modern India*—a book coedited by Professor Robert McDermott of Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness—has been re-released by Lindisfarne Books. From the publisher: “This is the first single volume to offer…a wide representation of India’s experience and scholarship through traditional and contemporary strains as articulated by her greatest modern thinkers....

*The Spirit of Modern India* includes writings by Sri Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, Tagore, Gandhi, Nehru, Radhakrisnan, and Sri Aurobindo. These writings are arranged according to each era of Indian thought and culture—philosophy, religion, ethics, education, esthetics, and national vision. Each is introduced to illuminate the material and put the selections into their historical and cultural context.”

Shoshana Simons and Alum Present in New York

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**Steven Tierney Elected President of San Francisco Health Commission**

Steven Tierney, who chairs both the Master’s in Counseling Psychology program and the Community Mental Health Program at CIIS, was chosen as president of the San Francisco Health Commission. The seven-member Health Commission governs the Department of Public Health and is appointed by the mayor. The president is elected by the commission.

**Douglas Vakoch Edits New Book on Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence**

Associate Professor Douglas Vakoch, who is serving as interim chair of the Clinical Psychology program, has edited the book *Communication with Extraterrestrial Intelligence*. From the publisher: “In April 2010, fifty years to the month after the first experiment in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI), scholars from a range of disciplines... gathered at NASA’s biennial Astrobiology Science Conference for a series of sessions on the search for intelligent life. This book highlights the most recent developments in SETI discussed at that conference...”

**Five CIIS Faculty Collaborate at “Performing the World” Conference**

The 10th “Performing the World” Conference in New York City in October 2010 featured a collaborative presentation by five CIIS faculty members: Anne Bluethenthal (Creative Inquiry, Interdisciplinary Arts), Denise Boston and Shoshana Simons (Expressive Arts Therapy), Arisika Razak (Women’s Spirituality), and Sonya Shah (School of Undergraduate Studies). Together they facilitated a workshop called “Moving Through Fractured Whole(s): Remembering the World Together.” The workshop included a performance by the faculty members, based on their intersecting stories as educators.

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**Meg Jordan (WSE ’96) Presents Research on Three Continents**

Meg Jordan, professor and chair of Integrative Health Studies, gave an invited talk on “Coached Like Rich People” at the International Conference on Health, Wellness, and Society in Berkeley in February 2011. Jordan was invited to Kyoto by the Japan Medical Foundation to attend the GAIA Medicine Conference, where she spoke on “Eco-Wellness: Nature as Doctor and Therapist.” She then travelled to Hokkaido to study Ainu cultural health philosophy and well-being practices. In March 2011 she did a talk on “Moving Through Fractured Whole(s)” at the International Symposium held at CIIS and organized by Bahman Shirazi. He also published a chapter on “The Sufi Path of Self-Transformation” in a new book on *Foundations of Indian Psychology*. In February 2011 Shirazi did a workshop at Auroville in India on “Bridging the Arc of Mysticism,” and went on to give a talk on “The Metaphysical Instincts and Spiritual Bypassing” at a conference at Delhi University.

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**Andrew Harlem Named Assistant Editor of Psychoanalytic Dialogues**

Andrew Harlem, a core faculty member in the Clinical Psychology doctoral program, has been appointed assistant editor of *Psychoanalytical Dialogues*, a journal dedicated to exploration of relational perspectives in psychoanalysis. He also recently published an article on “Exile as a Dissociative State: When a Self is ‘Lost in Transit’” in *Psychoanalytic Psychology.*
Courtney Mazzola is a graduate of the Somatic Psychology program who is finishing her clinical internship while holding down a job as a server in a restaurant. She also volunteers with violent inmates at San Quentin Prison and with the terminally ill at the Zen Hospice. She loves to travel, snowboard, sail, ride horses, and do jiu-jitsu. That may seem like an extremely active life, but it’s even more remarkable when you consider that Mazzola is functionally blind. She sees the world like shadows through frosted glass, and is accompanied by a guide dog on the streets of San Francisco.

Mazzola heard about CIIS when she was studying psychology at California State University, Northridge. As an undergraduate, she also practiced massage therapy, which she became certified in while still in high school.

“I realized that psychology and body work were two ways of getting at the same problems. How much more effective to combine the two!” She heard about the Somatic Psychology program at CIIS from her aunt. “The thing that I’m most grateful for and that I respect about the program at CIIS is that there was so much emphasis on having us deal with our own issues before we tried to help other people.”

She also credits the Somatics program, and Professor Ian Grand in particular, with teaching her to write. “I had no idea I was interested in it or had a knack for it.” Now she has her own blog: http://www.sightlessinthecity.blogspot.com.

While at CIIS she began volunteering at San Quentin, working with maximum security inmates. “No one thought that was what I should be doing, from my family to my colleagues to the prison administration,” she recalls. She had to apply the Americans with Disabilities Act to insist on her right to volunteer there. It paid off. “Even though the inmates and I don’t share all the same experiences, we can relate. We have similar feelings of being the castoffs of society. I see some of their mentalities starting to shift. There’s one guy who was locked up for murder at nineteen. I get such a strong feeling of how he wants to do better, given the chance, and just has no real idea how to do it.” The inmates she currently works with are in a program called The Green Life, where they are preparing for jobs in green technology when they are released.

Mazzola also waits tables at a restaurant in San Francisco called Opaque, where diners eat in total darkness. “All of the servers are blind or visually impaired,” she explains. “I really enjoy working there. When you take the sight element out of dining, people slow down a lot and settle into a more multi-layered experience. They’re not distracted by looking around or checking their email on their Blackberry. And the food is excellent!” She particularly values that the roles are reversed at this restaurant. “My first day was surreal. It was the first time in my life that I was not only on an equal plane with everyone else, but I had the upper hand. It was the first time I could just be myself around sighted people.”

She got involved with jiu-jitsu by accident. She lived around the corner from the academy where she trains, and a friend called her from there and asked her to check it out. “They tried to talk me into taking classes, and I said, ‘Don’t even bother.’ The more I heard about it, though, the more I thought this would be really good for me.” She has earned a blue belt, advancing to the second level. “The workouts are intense. It’s 80 percent guys, and professional fighters train there. Fortunately, I have a great trainer who’s a natural teacher.”

Mazzola’s real passion is travel. She recently returned from a trip to Argentina and Brazil. “I got an amazing getting a sense of how people lived, and of the land.” She managed fine in Argentina, since she speaks some Spanish. “But when we got to Brazil I couldn’t communicate at first.” She shakes her head and laughs: “I felt like Helen Keller.” Despite that, she tried sandboarding when she was there.

She is looking for a professional job where she can practice somatic psychotherapy. “I want to use touch,” she says, “but not every place is open to that.” Mazzola, who has not yet turned thirty, continues to search for an internship that will support such an endeavor. Meanwhile, she is adding another credential to her résumé, the Marriage and Family Therapy license.
New Mexico
A progressive evening of art was held for New Mexico alumni in Santa Fe on October 8, 2010. Beginning at the Skotia Gallery, fifteen enthusiastic alumni gathered and learned about the exhibit there before walking to Evoke Contemporary Gallery, where the impressionistic landscapes of plein air painter Lynn Boggess generated much conversation about the creative process and nature. During the brief program, alum Glenn Parry described his studies with Native Americans and the creation of the Albuquerque-based SEED Institute. Special guest and former Social and Cultural Anthropology faculty member Lisa Faithorn reminisced with alumni about earlier years at CIIS and the move from Dolores Street to the Ashbury Street campus.

New York
A gathering of CIIS alumni and prospective students living in the New York area was held on October 21, 2010 at the beautiful Rubin Museum of Art, where Asian and Comparative Studies alum Michael Sheehy is senior editor of the Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center. Michael spoke about his journey to CIIS and the importance of his degree. After the brief program, guided tours of the galleries were offered and we all marveled at the incredible collection of Himalayan art from India, Nepal, and Bhutan.

Arizona
Tempe, Arizona was the setting for the November 5, 2010 reunion of alumni and prospective students. We were moved by the stories alumni told of their clinical work with underserved populations and how their CIIS educations prepared them to listen deeply and learn and share integral approaches to health and healing.

London
The first international gathering of CIIS alumni was held in London on November 13, 2010 at a store called Buddha on a Bicycle in Covent Garden. Alumni and prospective students chatted about CIIS and met with International Student Advisor Jody O’Connor. Alum Sophie Waterhouse (EXA ’02) informed the group about the process of getting licensed in the U.K. with a U.S. degree in counseling psychology.

—Richard Buggs

Reunions
We hope to see you at one of these upcoming gatherings of CIIS alumni:

May 19, 2011
Cellars of Sonoma, Santa Rosa

June 23, 2011
Institute of Noetic Sciences, Petaluma

September 30, 2011
Santa Fe

October 27, 2011
New York City, The Rubin Museum

December 2, 2011
Phoenix

For more information about any of these events, contact Richard Buggs at 415.575.6116 or rbuggs@ciis.edu.
Padma Catell (COU ’84) has published a second edition of her book Drugs and Clients: What Every Psychotherapist Needs to Know, written for practitioners who are trained in the art of psychotherapy and need greater familiarity with the biochemistry of psychotropic drugs and medications. She hopes that this book will also prove useful to doctors, nurses, and the many other health-care professionals who are not trained in the specialty of psychiatry, but who are working with clients taking psychoactive medications and/or using nonprescription psychotropic drugs.

Eugene Herrington (CLN ’89) is owner of Herrington Consultants & Psychological Associates at Peachtree in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) as well as a licensed clinical hypnotherapist and licensed Reiki master. He is assistant professor of clinical psychiatry at Morehouse School of Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

George Taylor (ICP ’91) recently opened a psychotherapy office in San Francisco to complement his Marin practice. He works with couples and individuals on recovery and communication/relationship issues. He and his wife, Debra Chamberlin-Taylor, a Spirit Rock Meditation Center teacher, offer couples his wife, Debra Chamberlin-Taylor, a Spirit communication/relationship issues. He and with couples and individuals on recovery and complement his Marin practice. He works a psychotherapy office in San Francisco to.


David Talamo (ICP ’96) is the founder of Wilderness Reflections and has more than thirty years of experience as a wilderness guide. He is a certified Hakomi therapist who works with youth and adults in his private practice in San Rafael.

Rosa Granadillo-Schwentker (EXA ’96) has been working in the mental health, education, community, and organizational areas for more than thirty years. Currently she is the director of the Transpersonal Integrated Energy Therapies Center and the creator of shiftinNRG™ for change: a model integrating feminine shamanism, energy medicine/psychology, and the arts for teaching and coaching. Trained as a psychologist in Venezuela and U.S., she is also an adjunct faculty member at CIIS and the Institute for Transpersonal Psychology.

Mary Ellen Halloran (ICP ’99) is the owner and anger management coach at Reworking Anger in Willimantic, Connecticut. She recently did a successful presentation to the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce on “Coping with Stress and Anger in the Workplace.”

David Zeitler (EWP ’00) has recently published the book Integral Psychotherapy: Inside Out/Outside In (SUNY Press). He is an assistant professor who teaches in the Integral Theory Program and Integral Psychology Program at JFK University.

Marguerite Rigoglioso (WSE ’01, HUM ’08) has published her second book and was featured in the new documentary Honor of the Sacred Honey Bee (Alchemy Films). Her newest book is Virgin Mother Goddesses of Antiquity (Palgrave Macmillan, September 2010).

Jayne DeMente (WSE ’01) has published a new book titled Feminine Reformation: A Goddess Meta Narrative, a textbook to honor the theories and research of foremothers and beacons in the women’s spirituality movement and the next generation of female scholarship.

Mirka Knaster (ACS ’04), in collaboration with Robert Pryor, has written Living This Life Fully: Stories and Teachings of Munindra (Shambhala), the first book about a Bengali Buddhist master and Pali scholar who became one of the most important Vipassana meditation teachers of the twentieth century and a grandfather of the mindfulness movement in the West.

Kevin Hibbitt (ICP ’04) recently became licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist. He has a private practice in San Francisco and continues to teach vinyasa-based yoga at International Orange and the Jewish Community Center. He also leads seasonal restorative yoga workshops at the Mindful Body in San Francisco.

Sandy Miranda (WSE ’05) is a radio broadcaster at KALW in San Francisco and received the Aloha Spirit Award in November 2010 from the local Hawaiian community for her work in radio.

Tamara Thebert (ICP ’08) published the article “How to Make the Most Out of Therapy: Notes from Ecopsychology” on the website Awakening the Bay: The Holistic Network (www.awakeningthebay.com).

Ginny Lin (PAR, ’09) is excited to be working on her book on the topic of Ecological Crises: the Tao and Yin Yang of the Environment. She keeps very busy with her research and volunteering two hours every weekday to tutor mathematics at Evergreen Valley College.
Class Notes (Continued)

Ginny is very happy to be seventy-five and in good health. Her key to long life is to live humbly and frugally while giving back. She states, “Don’t think of yourself, think of humankind.”

Carrie Love (Sound and Healing Certificate ’09) opened her own practice called Discover the Sound of YOU. Carrie teaches creativity through songwriting workshops and beginning guitar workshops, and she offers private sessions in creative sound coaching.

Barb Harris (IHL ’10) former editorial director of Shape magazine, will teach movement and stress management in spring 2011. Barb also serves as a chaplain and integrative health practitioner for Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Oakland.

Keiron Le Grice (PCC ’10) is an adjunct faculty member at CIIS and author of The Archetypal Cosmos: Rediscovering the Gods in Myth, Science and Astrology (Floris Books, 2010).

Chanda Möllers (IHL ’10) has accepted a wellness manager position at Pacific Gas & Electric. For the last few years, she has worked as the program coordinator for the Integrative Health Studies program at CIIS. She continues to work with the Glide Women’s Center at Glide Memorial Church, creating a photo story, made and directed by women participants in a support program.

—Richard Buggs

Contract with City

(Continued from page 1) services directly to inhabitants of San Francisco public housing.

The students in the counseling programs at CIIS are already experiencing the benefits of the contract and the changes it is bringing: “The diversity of experiences in my cohort has been invaluable to my growth and development as a therapist,” says Nicole Hsiang, a second-year student in the Community Mental Health program. Kenneth “Blue” Williams, in the same cohort, echoes this sentiment: “A large part of our education comes from speaking to each other from our own personal experiences or work experiences in different communities.”

In summer 2010, faculty and staff participated in MHSA trainings organized by Professor Steven Tierney and staff working on outreach and retention: Joy Amao, Irina Contreras, and Kelly Nguyen. “I would like to congratulate the entire MHSA team for doing such an excellent job implementing the first critical stages of this contract,” says CIIS President Subbiondo.

The MHSA grant not only provides support to help the School of Professional Psychology move toward diversity, it will also help to serve communities where mental health issues have sometimes gone undiagnosed and/or untreated. “They can’t get us in fast enough,” says Rachel Bryant, a student in the Community Mental Health program. “The need is far too great.”
The Arts at CIIS

Jeanne Gauzzi, Ola Khalidi, and Diala Khasawneh
Sept. 8–Nov. 6, 2011 (Image at top: Jeanne Gauzzi, from Erased Memories)

Lyssa Palu-ay, Aug. 18—Oct. 31 (Image at bottom: Lyssa Palu-ay, Untitled #32)

California Institute of Integral Studies
1453 Mission Street
San Francisco CA 94103

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