

Connections

an ITP community newsletter

Spring 2011

ITP COMMUNITY WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

As you read this, our new president, Dr. Neal King, is beginning his first days as the 11th president of ITP. Our Board of Trustees selected Neal from a slate of excellent candidates, after an exhaustive nationwide search conducted by Betty Hasler of Hodge Partners, an executive search firm.

The search committee, consisting of board members, faculty, and staff representatives reduced a list of thirteen candidates down to six. After an initial round of interviews, the committee reduced the list to four. In early December the four candidates underwent intense interviews on campus with faculty, staff and students, and in evening meetings with board members. Early in 2011 the Board announced its decision to hire Dr. Neal King.

“Dr. King was a clear choice for the position,” remarks Board Chair, Chris von Bogdandy. “I can say with confidence he has all the experience we were looking for and embodies all the personal qualities we felt were essential to fulfill this important role.” The board thought long and hard about the ideal new president, specifying its desire for candidates with a history of creatively translating vision into reality and ideals into action.

Explaining how he came to ITP, Neal says, “I was gently and expertly recruited by Betty Hasler. It wasn’t until I visited the campus and met so many wonderful people that I knew for sure this was where I wanted to be.”



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A Message from President Neal King



Dear ITP Community,

Deeply honored to have been selected as ITP’s new president, I come to you as student, servant leader, excited new kid, and long admirer of the work and values of the institution. I am humbled at the rich legacy of my predecessor, Tom Potterfield, and eager to build upon it.

Palpable enthusiasm coupled with respectful curiosity is the reaction I get most often when I describe my fledgling sense of ITP to family, friends, and colleagues. “Exactly what the world needs today” and “could not be more relevant” are frequent responses. All are anxious to learn of my experience as I join this community of innovative thinkers, scholars, and practitioners.

I look forward to learning from and with you as we begin to work together and get acquainted. I’m impressed already with the generosity of spirit and the literal generosity of our trustees, alumni, benefactors, and friends. I thank you all in advance for your continuing support.

ITP’s next stage of development awaits us all as a blank slate: what a rare and wonderful opportunity.

My partner Peter and I look forward to seeing you at the welcome reception on June 3rd. Please always feel free to set up a meeting with me through my Executive Assistant, Brigitte Lindsey, at x229.

Warm regards, Neal King, PhD

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Dear ITP Community:

You may notice some differences in this issue of Connections. In keeping with the growth and changes afoot here at ITP, we felt it was fitting to make some changes to this biannual publication. I hope it still helps keep you informed, connected and up-to-date on the world of ITP. Please feel free to share your successes with us.

Contact me at tbyars@itp.edu with any corrections, suggestions, or submissions, and please stay connected!

Warmly,



Tracy Byars (MATP '05)



Tracy Byars

IN MEMORY OF TOM POTTERFIELD STUDENTS BENEFIT

As a way to remember and honor Tom Potterfield, ITP's 10th president, 91 people made new gifts to the Tom Potterfield Diversity Scholarship since his passing last August. Forty-two of these donors were family, friends or former colleagues of Tom's and were first-time donors to ITP.

"My father deeply loved, and believed in, the diverse talents and heart of the ITP student body, its faculty, and its staff," explains Tom's daughter, Kate Potterfield. "To him, this scholarship was yet another way to celebrate that community, to welcome and support more deserving and inspiring students who may not have otherwise found their way to ITP. In many ways, helping others cultivate their individual gifts was my father's life's work. Just as he was so grateful for, and touched by, all who supported this scholarship, so are my mother, my grandmother, and all of our family – it's one way that we see my father's life's work continued, his legacy upheld."

Thirteen scholarship recipients this year are directly benefiting from these generous gifts. Five students are in our distance learning program and eight are in our on-campus program. All are doctoral students who, without this scholarship assistance, would probably be unable to attend ITP.

Each student not only represents a form of cultural, ethnic or socio-economic diversity, but also must meet stringent prerequisites for academic excellence. Further, each student must have a vision for how they will give back to their own community of origin, or another underserved community. Here are just a few of the many wonderful students and their visions for making a difference after graduation.

Oksana Fuchedzhi's lineages are Bulgarian and Ukrainian. She speaks both languages as well as Russian, and has lived in three different countries/cultures. She plans to use her ITP education to help immigrants successfully adapt professionally, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally to the U.S.; and work with universities to better mentor international students with cultural adaptation.

Carmen Roman is a first generation college student who recently emigrated from Mexico. She has worked for various government programs and agencies providing assistance to victims of domestic violence, rape victims, and high-risk social groups. Carmen has taught psychology at two Mexican universities, and has empowered many parents to become community activists. She plans to use her ITP education to provide bilingual psychotherapy, education, and workshops for inner healing and empowerment.

Molika Loshi's family escaped the war in Kosovo and immigrated to Canada. They arrived with no possessions and without the ability to communicate in English. She would like to combine her experience living through the trauma of political turmoil and years of difficult adjustment to a new culture and language with her ITP education, to work with immigrants to North America who lack resources and information to obtain good jobs and healthcare. She would also like to establish a center in Kosovo for trauma victims.

Mary Owens is a Caribbean-American woman who recently retired from the New York City Police Department. As a police officer for 20 years, she worked with Harlem women and youths struggling with poverty, drug addiction, and sub-par educational resources. In addition to working 56 tours at Ground Zero after the 911 terrorist attacks, Mary has designed basic skills tutoring programs for youth, and discussion forums on relationship, body image issues, and unique spiritual experiences. In addition to her lifelong commitment to community work, Mary plans to use her ITP education to conduct research to illuminate the need to integrate spirituality into psychotherapy.



Oksana



Carmen Roman



Molika Loshi



Mary Owens

Giving to the Tom Potterfield Diversity Scholarship Fund is easy! Please visit: www.itp.edu/giving or contact Tracy Byars at 650-493-4430 x 267 or tbyars@itp.edu.

WHAT IS PLANNED GIVING, ANYWAY?

So you're still wondering just what is a planned gift? No worries, you're in good company. Also known as a "legacy gift," a planned gift is a way for you to make a larger contribution than you could normally make from your income. Some planned gifts (like the Charitable Gift Annuity) can provide you with life-long income. Others use estate and tax planning techniques to provide for ITP and your heirs in ways that maximize the gift and minimize its impact on your estate.

By definition, a planned gift is made from your overall estate planning. Regardless of the planned gift vehicle you use, benefits of funding a legacy gift can make this type of charitable giving attractive both for you and for ITP.

Don't have a will? No problem!
Contact tbyars@itp.edu
to receive FREE Quicken
Willmaker Plus software. If
you'd like to benefit ITP
through your will, we can help
you with that as well. Let us
know how we can assist you.

WHY ARE PLANNED GIFTS IMPORTANT TO ITP?

To ensure long-term financial sustainability, ITP needs an endowment, that is, significant donated resources that are invested to produce income and maintain the institution over time. The best way to build an endowment is from planned gifts.

Expanding ITP's impact in the world, making our unique, transformative form of education available to more students around the world, reaching into our community with low-cost counseling for underserved populations, increasing diversity at ITP and within the field of Transpersonal Psychology, providing financial assistance to more students... these are the impacts of your planned gift. It is the ultimate gift.

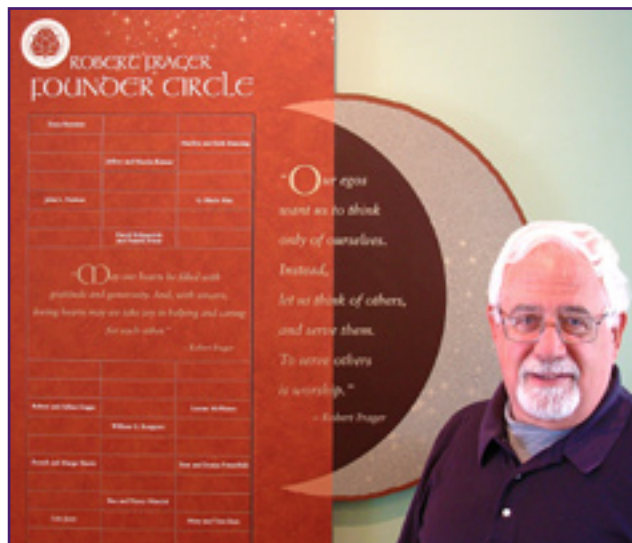
A planned gift does not need to be complicated. It can be as easy as adding ITP to the list of beneficiaries of your IRA or life insurance policy, or adding a codicil to your will. (We can provide sample language.)

CELEBRATING YOU, OUR PLANNED GIVING DONORS

In the three short years since we began our planned giving program, we now have 27 members of the Robert Frager Founder Circle, which celebrates these profoundly meaningful and important gifts. Those who make a planned gift are brought into the Robert Frager Founder Circle as our way of saying thank you for being so thoughtful. If you have remembered ITP in your will or trust, please let us know so we can include you!

We acknowledge our members through a complimentary annual social event that includes a lecture on a topic of deep interest to Bob Frager, as well as delicious food and beverages. The next one takes place in early December 2011. We also list our members on our donor wall at ITP and in the Connections Annual Report Issue. Of course, you have the option of remaining anonymous, if you desire.

Please consider joining us by making a planned gift – one that will live on, that expresses your values, that leaves a legacy. For more information, please contact tbyars@itp.edu or 650-493-4430 x 267.



Loïc Jassy

"I got the codicil language from Tracy and completed my codicil during a board meeting break. It is a quick and easy way to make a major gift to ITP with no immediate financial impact. I feel good about giving back to ITP, which has given me so much. I encourage other ITP alumni to join me."

-Loïc Jassy, PhD 1985, and ITP Board of Trustees member



Tracy Byars

"It couldn't have been easier! My husband and I are both in our second marriages with kids of our own, so instead of waiting to make a planned gift through our estate planning process with a very complicated trust, I added ITP to my list of beneficiaries on my IRA accounts. Simple!"

- Tracy Byars, MACP, 2005, and ITP Director of Gift Planning and Advancement



Charles

"I used the 'Willmaker' software. It was easy to use and walked me through all the questions an attorney would ask, but without the attorney's fees. I feel better knowing it's done, and if I want to change it, I can. It's right there on my computer, as well as in print and backed up, of course."

- Charles Randall, MBA, ITP Chief Financial Officer

Want a FREE copy of Quicken's Willmaker Plus 2011?

Just send an email to: development@itp.edu or call Tracy at: 650-493-4430 x 267.

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Tom Rees, Mary Rees, Neal King, Vicky Boucher, and John Dodson

NEW PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

Neal completed his graduate study in psychology at UC Berkeley and had a private practice in Northern California for fourteen years. He has served in a variety of faculty and administrative positions in non-profit, public and private, for-profit, and state government settings. In each of his leadership positions, and most recently as President of Antioch University Los Angeles (AULA), Neal has created a vision that emphasizes collaboration, transparency, academic quality, shared governance, and open communication with the campus community.

In joining our community, Neal will be returning to his discipline and joining a community of distinguished professionals, dedicated to the intersection of psychology and spirituality. This focus he says, “resonates deeply with me, both personally and professionally.”

Please join us in welcoming our new president, Dr. Neal King, at the Sofitel Hotel in Redwood City, Friday, June 3, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. All are welcome!



Neal King and Dick Bogard

CULTURAL DIVERSITY ON THE RISE

One of four ITP core values is diversity, for good reason. Cultural competence is essential for the helping professional and to be a good citizen of the world. "Diversity is the new reality," says incoming ITP President Neal King. "We fail our students at all levels of study if we do not prepare them to interact effectively in their personal and professional lives with the rich and complex societies in which we live, particularly in California. Cultural competence is the beginning. An internal paradigm, vision, view of society that respects and celebrates all peoples is the real objective."



Mapule Lekeka, Martha Martinez, Christine Brooks, Chally Grundwag, Sahibou Oumarou

ITP seeks to impart knowledge and skills and improve awareness to empower people to live in peace within multicultural communities. In congruence with our stated values, ITP has increased its diversity by all measures, including race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic level, spiritual beliefs, and age. Diverse viewpoints promote and enrich the ITP community, imbuing the "transpersonal perspective" with more meaning and encouraging both individual and community transformation.



Christine Brooks

For Christine Brooks, Chair of the PhD program in Transpersonal Psychology, and ITP faculty member, "The term cultural diversity is broad. It is used in a variety of ways to denote multiple specific categories of diversity. In recent years I have adopted an intersectional conception of diversity. This term was popularized in the 1990s by law professor and founding scholar of critical race theory, Kimberlé Crenshaw. "Intersectionality" suggests we consider all aspects of an individual's identity as interrelated, or intersected, rather than assuming one aspect of that individual's identity is the primary or central focus of her experience.

"Crenshaw's work is crucial for several reasons, including it reveals the complexity of our view of identity. We become the total of our socio-cultural heritage. All aspects make each of us unique, as well as a member of various groups that can be embraced and explored."

Students from around the world come to ITP to undertake journeys of transformation. Whether as distance or on-campus learners, they contribute their cultural perspectives, enriching everyone and increasing our knowledge and experience of diversity. Sahibou Oumarou, from Niger, Africa, a doctoral candidate in Transpersonal Psychology states, "Culture is something you belong to, your community, ethnic group, way of life, and the values and principles comprising a person's life. It is your heritage. Wherever you go, you take those principles and values with you." Sahib considers ITP a diverse institute where people arrive from all over for the opportunities to interact with each other. ITP also promotes diversity by offering cultural classes and events for students and members of the community.

Cultural competence is the beginning. An internal paradigm, vision, view of society that respects and celebrates all peoples is the real objective.

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OUR MISSION

Despite its monumental achievements, traditional science has neglected one of the most essential aspects of the human condition: our spiritual core. Through disciplined, scholarly inquiry into the frontiers of spirituality and psychology, ITP seeks to foster the development of individuals, organizations, and societies toward their fuller potential for wisdom, health and wholeness.

OUR VISION

To become the world's nexus for the development, teaching, and application of the theories and practices of Transpersonal Psychology.

OUR VALUES

- Mindfulness
- Discernment
- Compassion
- Appreciation of differences

CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

2012 TRANSPERSONAL PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE

SPIRITUALITY: PROMISES & PITFALLS



The cutting edge of spiritually-oriented psychotherapy will be featured in the 2012 Transpersonal Psychology Conference. Further themes will be the emergence of transpersonal psychology in world cultures, and recent research on spirituality. Events will include experiential workshops, presentations, and up-to-date applications for personal growth and social transformation.

Location

Menlo College, Menlo Park, CA

Dates

February 17-19, 2012

Produced by

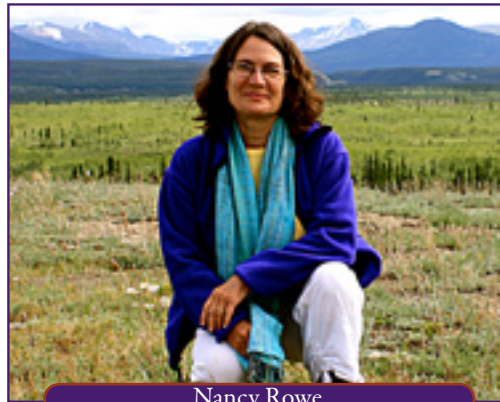
Institute of Transpersonal Psychology & Association for Transpersonal Psychology, Palo Alto, CA.

For more info

or to submit proposals please visit:

www.itp.edu/conference2012

FACULTY MAKE THE MOST OF MINI-GRANTS FROM THE JOHN AND SUE DODSON FACULTY RESEARCH FUND



Nancy Rowe

Two years ago ITP announced the first faculty recipients of mini-grants from the John and Sue Dodson Faculty Research Fund. Mini-grants are awarded to core faculty to support research or conceptual and theoretical projects. Proving a little can go a long way, the faculty recipients of these funds have made great progress with these small grants, ranging in size from \$1,750 to \$4,000.

Olga Louchakova will be publishing results of her research on the “Ego-related Effects of the Visual and Linguistic Imagery Central to Several Culturally-different Meditative Styles.” In addition to having several papers published, she also made

several major presentations, including a lecture at the IV International Conference of Phenomenology: Phenomenological Paths in Post-Modernity. She continues to seek support for her research with the goal of eventually receiving major grant funding from the National Institute of Health’s Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

Genie Palmer’s project continues to be “Varieties of Spiritual Guidance as Practiced in the United States – A Survey Research Project.” Genie says the mini-grant has enabled her to move this project forward. On hold because of health constraints, it will resume in the near future.

Ryan Rominger’s research is focused on the near-death experience. He recently had an article published in the *Journal of Near-Death Studies*. The journal editor described the article as “contributing something unique to the field of near-death research.” Additionally, the study contains reports of two near-death experiences (NDEs) from Muslim participants, a current topic of particular interest and the focus of the last issue of the *Journal of Near-Death Studies*. He is now recruiting participants for his second phase of research.

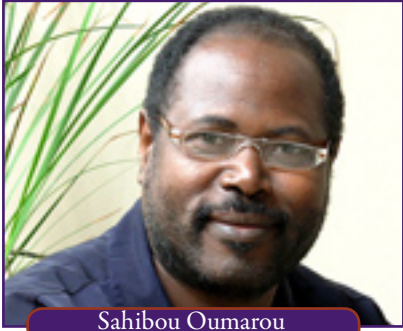
Nancy Rowe’s overarching research question has been, “What is the lived experience of being spiritually connected and connected with the natural world?” Using an intuitive inquiry approach, Nancy has been exploring, in-depth, many secondary questions that have arisen. To date, she has identified 12 participants and has conducted and transcribed nine interviews. She expects to complete the interview process by early summer and begin work on the second part of her study, a survey research. The grant funds have, as she says, “propelled” her writing. She has had multiple articles published and has made several presentations – all deepened by her research.

Judy Schavrien’s research project was “Amplifying Quality and Scope of Transpersonal Visual Arts: Theoretical Inferences from Work in the Studio Laboratory.” Because of the mini-grant, Judy shared she was able to complete an art project and create a presentation entitled: “Reconciling the Body and Visual Arts: An Essay in Transpersonal Feminist Theory and Case Study.”

Kathleen Wall received a mini-grant for the project entitled “Psychosocial, Spiritual and Physical Experiences of People Diagnosed with Cancer Participating in a Psychospiritual Integration and Transformation (PSIT) Course.” She was able to conduct a randomized controlled trial of PSIT and because of the popularity of her course, had a “wait-list controlled trial.”

Nancy Rowe speaks for all the grant recipients when she says, “It has made a great deal of difference in my ability to move this work forward. It has helped me make time for my research. I am most grateful!”

CULTURAL DIVERSITY ON THE RISE, *continued from page 5*



Sahibou Oumarou

When asked how ITP can further promote cultural diversity, Sahib responded, “ITP can continue Tom Potterfield’s legacy. Tom encouraged diversity at ITP and opened ITP to the world. So ITP can further expand by holding conferences and forums where people from different cultures can meet and exchange how they live and what they believe.”

For Martha Martinez, an evening master’s student in Transpersonal Psychology, cultural diversity means different ways to live. Each culture has different values, traditions, and ways to act. She says, “It is interesting to be aware of cultural differences. When you interact with other cultures, you realize not every culture shares the same values. A common tradition or act in

your country can be completely different in other countries.” For Martha, it is helpful to be aware of those differences when interacting with others. “For example, in Spain it’s a tradition to give two kisses when you meet someone. In the U.S. people shake hands. Knowing such things helped me adapt here.”

Chally Grundwag, another evening master’s student, believes cultural diversity means inclusion. “Many people in different parts of the world live together and accept each other.” She was born and raised in Jerusalem, Israel, which she considers more diverse than the U.S. She has been living in Palo Alto, and lived in Europe before that. “Living in other countries gives me perspective about my own and other cultures. The more you encounter, the more you expand yourself to something bigger.”

To ITP students like Mapule Lekeka, South African PhD student in Transpersonal Psychology, ITP creates an environment promoting cultural diversity. Referring to the Diversity Scholarship Program and the DAT (Diversity Action Team) activities, she says, “I am aware that ITP intends to continue embracing diversity, because Transpersonal Psychology is about the collective. At both the individual and group level, people are open and curious about others from different cultures. I appreciate the acceptance level of faculty members and students and feel seen at ITP.”



Mapule Lekeka

In addition to other professional duties, Christine Brooks is a member of the Diversity Action Team. “At ITP we believe that cultural competence is important for every student in all our programs. We foster the development of awareness and skills through coursework and special school-wide programming, i.e., film discussion evenings, workshops, meditation circles, and online forums. I believe curiosity and mindfulness are qualities we can develop as ways to open to new engagement and experience with people of different cultures.”

The DAT, comprised of administrators, faculty, and students, provides a forum where the community can become active participants in the diversity conversation on campus and collaboratively envision ways to enhance their lives. To foster this, Christine is instituting a newsletter promoting Diversity. “I want to share with the ITP community the wonderful work taking place with diversity. My goals are to raise awareness about initiatives at the school and celebrate the concept of intersectionality. The newsletter can illustrate individuals’ and collectives’ unique and complex experiences shared in building community, which is at the heart of the diversity work happening on campus.”

**HELP OUR
STUDENTS
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE
IN THE WORLD!**



**GIVE TO THE
TOM POTTERFIELD
DIVERSITY
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

GIVING IS EASY:

Simply go to:
www.itp.edu/giving

or send an email to:
tbyars@itp.edu

or call Tracy at:

650-493-4430 ext.267

“It is possible that the next Buddha will not take the form of an individual. The next Buddha may take the form of a community

– a community practicing understanding and loving kindness, a community practicing mindful living.

This may be the most important thing we can do for the survival of the earth.”

Thich Nhat Hanh,
Vietnamese Buddhist teacher



ITP Community

BUILDING AN ITP ALUMNI COMMUNITY

By Susan London, Member, ITP Board of Trustees

When I joined the ITP board of trustees last year, I met Tom Potterfield. Like almost everyone who knew him, I was taken by his warmth and his love for ITP. Through his dedication to the mission of this school, he inspired me in the way that great leaders can. I saw what ITP graduates are creating in the world, wherever you are, and I decided my contribution as a board member would be to help empower this amazing community of alumni.

The Shift

In the spirit of transformation, I am facilitating a shift from an “association” of alumni (an “organization” people join) to our natural place as a community of alumni, of which each one of you is a part. This shift is a natural reflection of our shared dedication to bringing a transpersonal perspective to our world. I invite you, as an ITP Alumn, to engage in building something new – a living community beyond the confabs and cohorts of your years in school – something more profoundly spiritual and connected. In essence, we are all part of a movement. We sense something more collaborative, creative, and inclusive is happening. We can each be a part of bringing this to life, because we know we are all connected at the center of our beings and are one humanity. Together, we can bring that awareness to a community. I say “we” deliberately here because this will only work if our efforts are collaborative.

The Questions

How can we move into our own areas of work, play, and discovery while maintaining a network of support and empowerment? How do we honor what each person brings, while making a place for excellence in distinct areas? We strive not for a melting pot that neutralizes differences, but a smorgasbord that highlights our diversity of skills, talents, and knowledge. We treasure the potential of a dedicated inquiry that will enhance and share our cumulative wisdom. This can generate a new level of engagement and support for each other’s work.

Beginnings: Alumni Shared-Wisdom Community Events

In addition to your welcomed participation at all ITP events, we invite you to join in creating some leading-edge community events:

Local Meet-ups

We are exploring the creation of an ongoing series of Alumni Shared Wisdom Gatherings. We have begun a pilot in Santa Cruz, and we’ll share what we learn with other locales.

Continued on page 11

ALUMNA BRINGS THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES TO ITP

By Lin Daniels, MA Women's Spirituality 2010 (Photos by Bethany Beckett)



Vagina Monologues Cast and Crew

Bringing the Vagina Monologues to ITP was a two and a half year journey. I first brought the idea to the Board of the Center for the Divine Feminine (now Center for the Sacred Feminine). The idea was tabled. The following year Kendra Ford (PhD year 2) had the same idea. Together, we got their consent, and the rest is now herstory. We produced the Vagina Monologues at the school, sponsored by the Center. In selling out two shows, it became the most successful production to date at ITP.

When I joined the Women's Spirituality MA program I became aware that women throughout ITP were curious about the program and wanted to know what the Center for the Sacred Feminine did. They also seemed curious about other ITP women. I saw "The Vagina Monologues" as a way to create a network among the women of ITP, and that's exactly what it became.

When the "casting call" went out, Ph.D. students answered it. Masters students, administrators, Women's Spirituality students, and faculty came to that first rehearsal. By the next meeting we lost three actresses to more pressing commitments, but more women came forward. When Lisa Pedersen, Director of the Art of Yoga Project (one of the beneficiaries of the proceeds from the performance) came to give a short presentation, she enthusiastically asked to join the cast. She bonded with all of us at once.

I asked Yoko Noda, staff librarian, to join us. She graciously accepted and punctuated the meaning of "Say It," the monologue that told the story of Japanese Comfort Women. I also sought out Robin Campbell (MACP 2010). I remembered her silky voice and hoped she would learn and perform four songs of women's music, as well as form a chorus for the production. Robin and the Vaginettes was born, and the songs by Holly Near and June Jordan were every bit as poignant as the monologues themselves.

We rehearsed just four times before the show. In that short time, we began to create a community. Besides educating each other about the depth and importance of the V-Day movement and the bravery of the women whose stories we were telling, we shared our stories. We formed bonds in telling those stories of our relationships with violence and sexual abuse. Many of us went deep into confronting our demons and came out the other side, stronger and stunning. We pushed ourselves past old fears and wounds to a metamorphosis, each transformed by the experience. It was a joyful collaboration that united the women of ITP like never before. We collaborated on something that we can all feel proud of.



Rehka Kodialbail

Continued on page 10

Kendra Ford



VAGINA MONOLOGUES

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As we all know, there are no coincidences. After the performance, I was invited to a private Eve Ensler reading in Palo Alto. The playwright of *The Vagina Monologues* told the audience from a local girls' prep school about the play. The show has been performed in 140 countries, sometimes in places where women risked their lives to get these stories out. She talked about the impact of this piece and what the money raised has meant and still means to women all over the world.



Robin Campbell

She read from her new play, "I Am an Emotional Creature," featuring the stories of girls. Sitting in an audience of girls who are being groomed for leadership, the energy was palpable. In ninety minutes, Eve Ensler managed to get this room of future leaders to embrace feminism, the "F" word. She told us of houses she built at "The City of Joy," in the Congo, a brick and mortar space built by the hands of the women it serves. The City of Joy is a place of refuge, where women can escape unspeakable violence, seek shelter and medical care, and receive six months of training in a subject that can be used in their communities. Giving back is the condition of entrance. Many of the young girls who heard Eve speak that night asked how they could "give back," and the new generation of feminists was increased.

When I told Eve about our success at ITP her face lit up, and she gave me a high five. Those involved in the V-Day project have, in our small way, begun to give back to the community and to ourselves. Congratulations to all who participated. We still have much work to do.

TRANSPERSONAL COMPETITION? YES!

By Allison Perry, PhD 2009

With green grass, blooming trees, and the warmer weather of spring comes recruitment for the 2011 season of our ITP Blenders co-ed softball team. Our team name is taken from Aikido principles, which definitely are closer to the accepted norm in our ITP culture than competitive sports. I find blending to be a good way to interact professionally and maintain balance. However, competition allows me to explore my edges with a full range of emotions, thoughts, and potential actions. As ITP Blenders, we try to take some of the ITP culture of balance and compassion to the softball field, but we also like to play hard, clobber the ball, and win!



ITP Softball Team

Although liking football, basketball, or baseball may not be popular at ITP, I LIKE competitive team sports because they seem to healthily acknowledge and clarify present limits and imminent potential. When I play softball, I feel like this is true, not only in my physical capacity to catch, and throw, and hit, but also in my ability to deal with my own mistakes, successes, and those of others. In just one Wednesday night game, I am often able to encounter the inner emotional engagement of all my seven chakras: fight, flight, and acceptance; passion and creativity; anger and commitment; fear and compassion; denial and speaking truth; confusion and intuition; time/space limitations and boundlessness.

Meeting in competition allows me to connect with my wide range of personal choices in the moment and within a split-second choose how I want to engage. Then with the next breath, I meet myself again in a new challenge and new choice. This unlimiting of self allows me to engage in full with myself, others, and the situation from any of my energy centers. Competition keeps the pressure on, so I can develop myself on multiple levels in each moment, then the game is over. And I realize that it is just a game, and we are a team supporting one another - win, lose, or draw.

Through competition I evaluate my strengths and weaknesses in the present and don't look away. I think the practice of doing this on a regular basis could be characterized as a transpersonal practice, perhaps like Assagioli's idea of being able to hold more of the higher realms when we are willing to go to those that are lower.

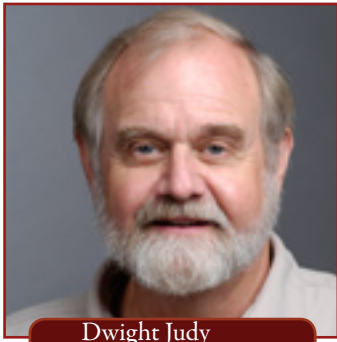
Transpersonal Competition offers us an opportunity to hold more possibilities as we play with our limits and configurations of balance. I have noticed that my ability to acknowledge and consider seemingly conflicting thoughts, emotions, and intuitions increases, not only while I am in transpersonal competition, but also when I step back into my professional life.

In an effort to help the ITP culture embrace our edges, limits, and potential as we reach even higher vibrational levels as a community, I propose the idea and practice of Transpersonal Competition! If you would like to play or be a sub on our softball team, the ITP Blenders, stop by the Admissions Office and sign up, or email me at aperry@itp.edu.

Amanda Young swings for the fences



ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Dwight Judy

Dwight Judy (PhD 1984) has been promoted to full Professor of Spiritual Formation at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. His latest book, *Discerning Life Transitions: Listening Together in Spiritual Direction* (Morehouse Publishing, 2010), was published as a “Spiritual Directors International Book.”

Dwight served as a member of ITP’s core faculty and director of the Global (then named External) Program from 1986-1993. He is now on ITP’s Adjunct Research Faculty. He will present on his new book at the Spiritual Directors International spring conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Dwight is married to Ruth Judy (Residential PhD, 1984) who is a member of ITP’s distance learning (formerly “Global”) mentor faculty.

For more news and information about Dwight, please visit his website: www.dwightjudy.com.

Leigh Ann DiDomenico (MAP 2009) is a writer, slam poet, model, and actor. She competed on the San Francisco Slam Team in 2008 and 2009, where she placed third in the nation at the National Poetry Slam and second as an individual poet in the West Coast Region. She is a featured performer in poetry shows across the country and on the radio. She leads writing workshops and has published her work. Currently, she resides in Kalispell, MT, where she hosts a weekly poetry Open Mic called GET POETRY.

As a model, she appears in fashion shows and works with photographers, clothing companies, fashion designers, and visual artists. She has been published in catalog, promo, and stock photography; been featured on blogs and websites; and landed her first magazine cover on the Feb/March 2011 Issue of 406 Woman Magazine. Leigh Ann has begun an acting career performing roles in plays, short films, and a documentary. For more information, please visit: <http://leighannlove.blogspot.com>.



Leigh Ann

Takaniri “Taaj” Tajiri’s (PhD 2009) dissertation was published by VDM Verlag, 2009. The title of the published book is: *The effects of the mirror in the psychomanteum process: On thoughts, emotions, self-efficacy, consciousness, and creativity for finding solutions to everyday life problems*. This is a somewhat expanded title from the dissertation. It is available through Amazon.com. Taaj is our first international student from Japan to graduate from the doctoral program. He and his wife Natasha and their young son were fine, but literally shaken, after the recent earthquake and tsunami.

Lisa Rosequist (PhD 2009) will be serving as a Psychology Fellow in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of California at Davis Medical Center. She is specializing in assessment in this assignment.

Nicholas Kardaras (PhD 2008) has had his first book published. *How Plato and Pythagoras Can Save Your Life* (Conari Press) is available on Amazon and in book stores. One part memoir and two parts philosophy/psychology and personal growth, Nicholas discussed his book on www.FoxNews.com in March and had several NPR and TV interviews leading up to the book’s release April 1st.

“Nicholas Kardaras has undergone a perilous life and death journey and has emerged with a story that must be told. This riveting account reveals the timelessness of authentic wisdom, as well as the majestic, infinite reaches of the mind.”

–Larry Dossey, MD, author of *Healing Words*



Nicholas Kardaras

ITP COMMUNITY

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Community Blog Inquiry

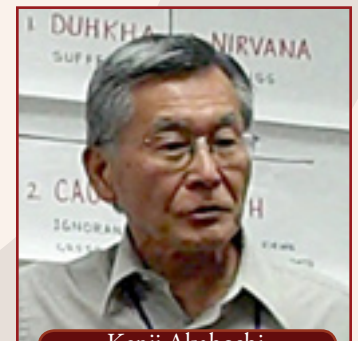
Asking the right questions and engaging in dialogue can be a great source of learning and wisdom. We’re launching an “Alumni Community Blog” as a forum for this kind of conversation.

Alumni Shared Wisdom Unconference

We held our first “Alumni Shared Wisdom Unconference” last October and are holding the second one May 1, 2011. Attendees loved the experience and want more!

Personally, I am in love with your stories. I am jazzed by what you are up to. You are people who are committed to seeing through new eyes, awakening the human spirit, contributing to your world. There is a huge possibility now for you to support each other in your life’s work. I feel privileged to engage with you in building the future.

If you’d like to learn more, receive help in setting up a local gathering of alumni or participate in any of the above activities, please contact alumni@itp.edu.



Kenji Akahoshi

Kenji Akahoshi explains Shin Buddhism at the unconference last October.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

For event details, visit www.itp.edu/calendar.php

EXPERIENTIAL SOMATIC TRAINING

Saturday, May 21, and Sunday, May 22, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
ITP Campus, Gaia Classroom

COURT-INVOLVED MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

Saturday, May 28, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
ITP Campus, Gaia Classroom

PRESIDENTIAL WELCOME RECEPTION

Friday, June 3, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Hotel Sofitel, 223 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City
Come meet our new president. All are welcome!

SEVENTH ANNUAL STUDENT & ALUMNI PRESENTATION DAY

Friday, June 17, 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.
ITP Campus
Refreshment break will be sponsored by the Alumni Community.

ITP 2011 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Saturday, June 18, 1:00 p.m.
Spangenberg Theatre, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto
A reception to celebrate the graduates will follow the ceremony.



Commencement Keynote
Speaker: Elizabeth Lesser
Co-founder Omega Institute



Be green & help save paper

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