

MSPP *rapport*

AUGUST 2005

President's Message

A *School of Professional Psychology* has a social responsibility to identify the changing mental health needs of the community and develop training programs to develop professionals to ameliorate them.

Six years ago, the Surgeon General concluded that we already know how to treat effectively the many psychosocial problems that interfere with our children's learning and development; what we lack is a sufficient number of providers. As our country becomes more culturally and linguistically diverse, less than 2 percent of psychologists are equipped to assist those who will comprise more than 20 percent of our population in five years. Schools are ideal places to bring psychotherapy, consultation and assessment skills to make them accessible and to increase their effectiveness. Likewise, providers with cultural and linguistic competence increase access to mental health services and improve treatment outcome for Spanish speaking patients who tend to keep only one visit with less equipped therapists.

This year, MSPP brings a new degree program in *School Psychology* and the Lucero Center has developed a *Latino Mental Health* specialty for the doctoral clinical program. With help from gifts and grants, these programs will provide scholarships, support research, develop additional professional training and create education and advocacy forums to increase public and professional awareness of these important mental health areas.

MSPP is growing in response to the mental health needs of our society and is training providers to deliver care outside of the traditional consulting rooms to a much more diverse clientele. Our school develops with the contributions of time, talent, advice and funds from our colleagues, graduates and friends. As you read about our work, we all thank you for being among them.

Nicholas A. Covino
President

MSPP Now Accepting Applicants for New School Psychology Program

MSPP is now accepting applicants for its new School Psychology specialist program. The program, created in response to a growing national need for children's mental health services and personnel shortages in the field of **School Psychology**, will open its doors to the first class in September 2006.

"We are very excited about this program, which we believe will give prospective school psychologists not only a comprehensive academic foundation, but also rich clinical field experience to prepare them to bring mental health and educational services directly to the schools," says Bob Lichtenstein, PhD, program director. Traditionally school psychologists and their training programs have focused on psychoeducational assessment and testing. "The demands on school psychologists go far beyond the testing role," says Lichtenstein. "School psychologists must bring counseling, consultation and program development skills to foster the learning process and this program is designed to equip school psychologists with these abilities."

The **Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology** is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education has granted approval for MSPP to offer the two degrees that will comprise the **School Psychology Specialist Program**: a *Master of Arts degree in Professional Psychology*, and a *Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in School Psychology*.



The need for well-trained child mental health professionals has never been greater. In 1999, the Surgeon General issued a report that exposed a critical shortage of mental health professionals available to address the mental health of the nation's children. Furthermore, as school systems focus on achievement tests such as MCAS, much is missed with regard to the many

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Successful Executive Coaching Program Prepares for Second Year

In January MSPP officially launched its Professional Executive Coaching Certificate Program with a class of 20 students. One of the few programs of its kind in the United States, the MSPP effort not only encompasses coaching skills, it also requires students to achieve competencies in the psychology of individuals, relationships, and organizations; how businesses function; and organizational development. In addition, students are required to use their skills in a field placement—another aspect of the MSPP program that sets it apart from other offerings.

Lew Stern, PhD, program director, says that there was a great deal of interest in the new program, and the enrolled students are of a very high caliber. "It's a very motivated group, which of course is wonderful. They are ready to learn

and to challenge everything. I was also happy to see we had attracted a very diverse group as well. We have HR professionals, clinical psychologists, organizational development and marketing consultants, social workers, MSPP students, and one person who's a school administrator."

Mary Cornetta-Brown is one of the organizational development professionals who joined the program's first class. A former vice president of human resources for a high technology publishing company, Cornetta-Brown has had her own successful consulting practice for the past eight years, and last fall she was looking for a



Mary Cornetta-Brown

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Save the Dates

Celebration for New Latino Mental Health Program | **Thursday, September 22, 2005**

The 2005 Dr. Cynthia Lucero Run/Walk | **Sunday, September 25, 2005**

More information at www.mspp.edu

MSPP's Latino Mental Health Program Begins

The Lucero Center at MSPP will launch one of the first programs in the United States dedicated to training mental health professionals to care for a rapidly growing Latino population. MSPP's Latino Mental Health Certificate Program was inspired by the late Cynthia Lucero, PsyD, an alumna of MSPP, and native of Ecuador, whose many career interests included coping with loss following chronic illness and the complex mental health needs of Latino patients. This program is designed to help doctoral level students acquire an in-depth understanding of the language, cultures and special needs of these populations.

Approximately 13 percent, or one in every eight individuals in the U.S., is Latino, according to Amaro Laria, PhD, a member of the Latino Mental Health Working Group at MSPP. It is estimated that one-fifth of the nation's population will be Latino by 2010 and one quarter by 2050.

He adds: "Even among those who access mental health services, 50 percent never return after their first visit, most likely due to a lack of 'cultural fit.' Given that only one percent of the nation's psychologists are Latino, the need for professionals who can competently treat mental health problems among Latinos will soon become critical."

The main goals of the program include:

- To increase the number of Latino psychologists in the U.S. and develop the language fluency of others to a level adequate for use in psychotherapy.

- To provide an in-depth understanding of the social, historical, economic, political influences on those who come from Hispanic cultures and the effect on the delivery of mental health services.
- To increase awareness of the social and psychological commonalities and differences among the various Latino groups.

The structure of the basic program includes the following elements:

- Six-week immersion program in a Spanish-speaking country for two summer sessions.
- Intensive mental health training for Spanish speakers in a Latin country different from their cultural heritage.
- Extensive practical training in field placements to enhance the students' sensitivity to specific mental health needs of Latinos.
- Clinical Seminar II in Spanish, one required and other advanced elective courses.
- Elective Conversational Spanish courses and social opportunities.

"Within a short time," says Laria, "we will offer a re-specialization training program for immigrant Latino psychologists who hold professional degrees from Latin American countries to earn their doctorates and become licensed psychologists in Massachusetts."

For additional information visit www.mspp.edu or call 617-327-6777. ▶

Centers of Excellence at MSPP

The Centers of Excellence at MSPP gather outstanding leaders in their respective specialty areas to offer community services, training, and lectures, as well as scholarships. According to Mariquita Mullan, PhD who directs the Community Service and Training Programs, "These Centers offer creative new approaches to some of society's most pressing needs."

The Dr. Leon O. Brenner Center honors MSPP founder and faculty member Dr. Leon Brenner who had a special passion for psychological assessment and who saw the value of this service to schools, families, courts and working people, as well as its central place in training of clinicians.

The Center supports several training and service activities, including: the Brenner Center for Psychological Assessment and Consultation, which provides in-depth psychological assessment to address problems of learning and adjustment for children and adults; the Brenner Fellowship, which affords training and supervision to post-graduate psychologists who wish to increase their skills in psychological assessment and consultation; and the Leon O. Brenner Lecture on Psychological Assessment, which presents the most current information and ideas in assessment to practitioners, trainees and the community.

The Dr. Marjorie K. Stam Center is named for an MSPP alumna, the late Dr. Marjorie Stam, who in her clinical work was committed to treatment of patients with a dual diagnosis, understanding that more

than half of those who suffer with substance abuse have a history of psychological trauma, depression or other emotional problems.

This center continues Dr. Stam's interest in providing integrated care to patients with dual diagnosis as well as expert training for practitioners. For instance, the center supports the Stam Scholar, a senior teacher and practitioner, to provide consultation to community caregivers and classroom instruction to enhance their ability to diagnosis and treat those with dual diagnosis. The Stam center also supports community consultation and treatment by MSPP faculty and students to help outside agencies and programs to deliver care for people with dual diagnosis.

The Dr. Cynthia Lucero Center, was created to honor the late Dr. Cynthia Lucero, a graduate of MSPP and native of Ecuador, whose professional focus was on addressing the complex mental health needs of Latinos. She was also devoted to multicultural mental health care and training.

Along with the Dr. Cynthia Lucero Scholarship, the Lucero Lecture provides education on the special issues psychologists face when caring for patients from different cultures. But, the highlight of the center is the new Latino Mental Health Certificate program (see article at left).

To learn more about the centers or to make a contribution, please visit the website or call Ms. Mahala Evans, Development Coordinator at 617-327-6777. ▶



Senator Marian Walsh

Richard Weintraub

MSPP Gala Exceeds Expectations

More than 400 students, alumni, past and present faculty, and friends gathered to celebrate the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology's (MSPP) 30th Anniversary Gala on June 3. Originally planned for 250 guests on the school's campus, the popularity of the event exceeded expectations and it had to be moved to Moseley's in Dedham. As a fundraiser it also exceeded expectation.

The evening presented a joyous opportunity for numerous psychologists to regain connections to the school and their classmates. It was also an opportunity to celebrate MSPP's ideals, including its emphasis on community mental health efforts. To highlight the importance of community

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MSPP Collaborates with Fenway Community Health Center

In early June MSPP collaborated with Fenway Community Health and The Wellness Community on an important symposium examining health psychology issues and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community. Organized by MSPP faculty members Harriet Berman, PhD, Stan Berman, PhD, and Rhonda Linde, PhD, the conference tackled specific health psychology issues pertaining to the GLBT community as well as the persistent – and pervasive – barriers to care faced by GLBT patients throughout Boston.

Linde, who also serves as the Coordinator of Mental Health Training at Fenway, says the barriers to health care are everywhere and can be subtle. "Most people don't realize how heterosexism affects the health care of the gay community," she says. "For instance, if you go to a provider's office and the staff, reading materials, and artwork only reflect a traditional, heterosexual lifestyle, you may not feel welcome or be hesitant to be completely honest with the provider for fear of being judged. This

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psychosocial barriers to education.

“In addition to the usual developmental struggles of childhood, children today are grappling with issues such as bullying, violence, family trauma, and pressure to grow up too fast, too soon,” says Lichtenstein, who adds: “Because children spend so much structured time there, school is the ideal place to deliver the kind of attention, support and social-emotional learning that can equip children and adolescents to deal with these stressors.”

MSPP alumna Lou Cannon, PsyD, the school psychologist for the Rockport high and middle schools for the past seven years, agrees. “A school is a community within a community, and, as a school psychologist, life touches you in all its dimensions everyday and in ways that wouldn’t

happen in private practice,” she says. “This is a job that is demanding of head and heart. If you want to know you are doing something meaningful, this is it.”

“For recent graduates of four-year colleges, allied health professionals and teachers, school psychology may be the right next challenge and MSPP the right program,” says Lichtenstein.

As a specialist level program, the MSPP School Psychology program requires three years of full-time study (two years of coursework, plus a full year internship) for a student to earn a Master’s degree and Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies. The program is designed to meet accreditation standards of the National Association of School Psychology.

For more information go to www.mspp.edu or call (617) 327-6777 x210. ▶

Executive Coaching cont'd from page 2.

program to expand her skills and credentials. She says, “One of the things that attracted me to the MSPP program was that it is face-to-face. There are many, many online programs out there. I also liked the idea of working with the same classmates over the course of the entire program. In addition to the excellent courses I’ve taken, the networking and one-on-one interaction with my classmates has been very rewarding.”

For Cornetta-Brown, her first two classes have yielded immediate benefits for her practice. “I was immediately able to use the assessment skills I learned through the program with my coaching clients. I would absolutely recommend the program to anyone who wants to enter or advance in the field, or build credentials.”

Stern says applications are now being accepted for the second class of students who will begin the two-year certificate program this January. For those interested in learning more about the field of executive coaching, the Second Annual Conference on Professional Executive Coaching will be held by MSPP and the Executive Coaching Forum on October 14. During the conference leaders in the field and their coaching clients will discuss their coaching experience and the factors they believe had the greatest impact on the success of their work together.

More information about the MSPP Professional Executive Coaching Program can be obtained by visiting www.mspp.edu or contacting the Admissions Office at 617-2327-6777 x210. ▶

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type of bias also occurs frequently with simple office and hospital forms; for emergency contact your only options are to check the box for ‘husband’ or ‘wife,’ but there’s no box for ‘partner or significant other.’ “

She continues, “Worse still, is that there may be a lack of factual knowledge regarding the medical needs of GLBT patients. For instance, a provider might not recommend a regular pap

smear for lesbian patients, even though this group is still at risk for cervical cancer.”

Twenty mental health professionals attended the conference held at MSPP, which also addressed tough and specific issues, such as the use of crystal methamphetamine in the gay/bisexual male community, parenting issues, and HIV prevention. It is hoped the conference will be just the first of a series of collaborations between MSPP and Fenway Community Health addressing vital mental health issues in the GLBT community. ▶

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mental health, MSPP presented the school’s first annual Mental Health Advocacy Award to Richard Weintraub, director of Homeless Services for the Boston Public Health Commission, and the MSPP Community Service and Training Award to Massachusetts State Senator Marian Walsh.

Walsh spoke of the growing need for mental health services for children and praised MSPP for its hours of service to the community.

Weintraub, cautioned against a movement to deinstitutionalize homeless shelters that mirrors the mistake of the 60’s that closed state hospitals only to leave thousands of the mentally ill on the streets without care.

President Covino thanked the: “forty plus faculty, students, alums, trustees and friends who worked so energetically and creatively to bring this wonderful event to MSPP.” It is hoped that such an evening will be repeated each year! ▶