

October 29, 2009

Hello Everyone,

I'm happy to report that all of the psychologists affiliated with the Brenner Center have been successfully credentialed as Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) providers, and we've begun testing MBHP clients.

The **Latino Assessment Team** is launched! Under the leadership of MSPP alumna Jessica Boyatt, Psy.D., the team has completed seven comprehensive Spanish-language assessments. So far, referrals have come from independent schools, hospitals, and Greater Boston Legal Services. As more students in the Latino Mental Health program complete the sequence of assessment courses, we hope to increase the number of assessments which the team can do.

The "**Red Batons**" team of students and I went down to Baton Rouge at the end of March. With the help of a local psychologist, we were able to assess six children and adolescents from families dislocated by Hurricane Katrina. Our reports are being used to get the children more appropriate school placements and to help their social workers understand the relative contributions of trauma and more organic conditions such as learning disabilities to the children's problems. I had been concerned that the families might regard us as intruders, but our MSPP students demonstrated their relationship-building skills across cultures and regions and made strong connections with the children. It was an incredible week of experiential learning for all of us, and we are going back in January. Our local hosts and I are currently working on building an affiliation with Louisiana State University psychology faculty, with the goal of developing a joint program in the provision of culturally competent services to families affected by disasters. As a result of our last visit, two of their graduate students have been providing much-needed social skills groups to children like the ones we tested.

The Brenner Center is becoming increasingly sought after as an internship, and Sam and I decided to accept six highly qualified students for this coming training year. The senior intern, Kate King, is coming back for a second year of advanced training. Because Kate has a special interest in geropsychology, I'm working with her and Dr. Erlene Rosowsky, the director of MSPP's geropsychology concentration, to identify best practices in the assessment of elders and build our capacity to provide those services.

Even as we grow, Sam and I both remain mindful of the Brenner Center's core mission: to provide the highest quality assessment and training, and especially to provide assessment to those who would otherwise not have access to it. We believe that Leon would be proud of the Center which bears his name.

Best,
Lionel

Lionel S. Joseph, Ph.D., Psy.D., *Managing Director*
Dr. Leon O. Brenner Center for Psychological Assessment and Consultation