FROM THE DIRECTOR
Erika Schmidt, M.S.W.

A student in the Institute’s new Fundamentals of Psychoanalytic Thought program gave it a ringing endorsement. She said to me: “I’m filled with a profound sense of gratitude. Never before have I experienced such rich intellectual stimulation.”

It is a great pleasure to welcome the inaugural group of students to our newest program, Fundamentals of Psychoanalytic Thought. They have now just about completed their first quarter at the Institute. Thirty-five students, mostly mental health professionals, but several with other disciplinary backgrounds, have come together in a learning community for one intensive year to study, read and discuss psychoanalytic theory and practice.

Designed as the first year for the Institute’s education programs and as a “stand-alone” program for those whose goals are enrichment, the group includes 7 Psychoanalytic Education candidates, 7 Adult Psychotherapy students, 6 Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy students, 2 Psychoanalysis for Scholars, and 15 Fundamentals-only students. This lively, diverse group demonstrates the vitality and relevance of psychoanalytic ideas for the contemporary world.

GLOBAL CANDIDATE CO-FOUNDS INSTITUTE IN CHENGDU, CHINA

After completing his first year of psychoanalytic training as a candidate at the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis, Eric Jiang, along with seven other graduates of the China American Psychoanalytic Alliance (CAPA), have founded a psychoanalytically informed clinical training center in China. Called Si Chuan He Guang Clinical Psychology Institute, its name reflects its location in Si Chuan Province and also means “being together with light.”

Eric, now a second year candidate at the Chicago Institute, is the Dean and a Professor of Psychology at Si Chuan He Guang Clinical Psychology Institute. Already licensed by the government, the Institute has admitted its first class of 30 students this fall. A child therapy program is also being planned. According to Eric (who shared his thoughts by email), the new institute has many goals, including “providing comprehensive... programs for professionals in the southwest of China. We hope we will be a very influential, professional institute in developing psychodynamic psychotherapy and psychoanalysis in China.”

Eric shared that this effort is not without challenges. A number of questions have yet to be answered. “How can we get more financial support from the government? How can we involve more professionals with our Institute? How can we make our training program strong and stable?”

Eric is a distance student at the Chicago Institute, one of several from China, who attend through our distance program using technology to participate in classes, supervision and analysis. He began our program after completing CAPA training. CAPA was founded by Dr. Elise Snyder in 2001 to train Chinese mental health professionals as psychodynamic psychotherapists with the eventual goal for them to receive psychoanalytic training from APsaA and other IPA institutes. Eric is one of the first CAPA graduates.
REMEMBERING ART SUSSMAN

Arthur M. Sussman, Chair of the Institute’s Board of Trustees from 2013 to 2016, died in August 2016. A citizen of Chicago, and the world, Art worked to ensure a place for psychoanalysis in contemporary society while also helping formulate the Institute’s ongoing strategic vision.

A well respected leader, known for both his humor and his ability to manage complex projects, Art cared deeply about issues as wide-ranging as the arts, human rights and biodiversity preservation.

Art also served in a variety of roles including General Counsel and Vice President for Administration and Argonne National Laboratory at the University of Chicago and Vice President at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, as well as Fulbright fellow, photographer, traveler, husband, father and grandfather.

“As Board Chair, Art had a vision for rethinking the place and role of the Institute and he initiated our strategic planning process so we could collaborate on the process of moving forward. Art brought wry insight and much wisdom to this role and he will be greatly missed,” said Erika Schmidt, MSW, President, Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis.

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH SONIA SHANKMAN ORTHOGENIC SCHOOL

The Institute is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School located in Woodlawn. The Orthogenic School, which is internationally known for its therapeutic work with children, has offered pro bono space to the Institute clinics to see patients in a building adjacent to the school. Barr-Harris Children’s Grief Center has already begun to see children three days a week and the Center for Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy and the Adult Psychotherapy Clinic will use space as needed. Referrals are accepted from all communities and as part of the arrangement, the clinics will be available for workshops and consultations.

The Institute is excited about this opportunity to work in an under-resourced neighborhood. Judith Schiffman said, “This partnership will continue the mission of the Institute to reach out to communities where there is a growing need for service, but a lack of resources. Being located in Woodlawn will expand our availability to children, families and adults on the South side.” Referrals for services at this site are welcome and can be made by contacting the Institute Clinics at (312) 922-7474.

PSYCHOANALYSIS TODAY

“TRANSITION: THINKING ABOUT GENDER AND GENDER BOUNDARIES”

“You can’t speak of one gender or another, they are equally informing each other” Dr. Robert Galatzer-Levy, M.D.

“Transition: Thinking About Gender and Gender Boundaries,” a lecture by Institute faculty member Robert Galatzer-Levy MD, was the kick-off presentation in our lecture series, Psychoanalysis Today. By engaging the audience in a lively discussion of the constricted thinking around transgender phenomena as expressed in popular media, as well as professional contexts, he pointed to ways of thinking about gender boundaries more richly and less rigidly. In his lecture, Dr. Galatzer-Levy illustrated this through the TV show Transparent, and also looked to history, psychology and fractal geometry to re-conceptualize our understanding of gender boundaries. As a field, psychoanalysis began with controversial explorations of the role of sexuality, and in this lecture Dr. Galatzer-Levy demonstrated how psychoanalysis can continue to contribute to this conversation. This lecture series is supported with a generous grant from Yellowbrick Foundation.

Thank you to our generous donors! Your support makes this work, and more, possible.