Nearly 200 attendees, supporters and sponsors at our Benefit invested more than $120,000 in the charitable mission of the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute — education, research, mental health care and advocating for psychoanalysis as a way to understand our world.

Speaker Pamela Bannos, author of Vivian Maier: A Photographer’s Life and Afterlife, offered a fascinating re-telling of Maier’s story based on her own photographer’s eye, family research, and travel to the sites Maier herself photographed. Under the expert guidance of Benefit Co-chairs Peter and Donna Shaft, many attendees “raised a paddle” to contribute to the mission of the Institute.

OUR NEW NAME, TAGLINE AND LOGO

We also unveiled our new name, tagline, and logo: we have shifted from the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis to Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute.

There is a lot in a name. Using “Psychoanalytic” as an adjective in the new name allows us to describe the many endeavors of the Institute, from educating psychoanalysts, psychotherapists and others who use psychoanalytic principles in their work; to the varied clinical services we offer to children, adults, families in offices and in schools; to our commitment to using our expertise to explore social questions. We practice psychoanalysis, but we also are psychoanalytic in our approach to education and treatment for many people in a range of places.

Our new logo represents the layers within each of us, our present and past, the adult and the child, our relation to others, looking inward and outward.

For me, the new tagline, “Human. Being.” is the most moving element of the three changes. It underlines that psychoanalysis is about people, Human. Being. and Being. Human. We speak about the same problems central to ‘Being. Human.’ as journalists, political scientists, artists and everyone concerned about people and the communities we live in. The language translates easily.

It comes around to deeply considering a person’s subjectivity and experience, what contributes to emotional well-being and how psychoanalysis resonates in all our relationships, our work and our play, whether at home, work or within our community.

Many people worked with diligence and flair to bring about these changes. Thanks to our faculty and community for participating in the many conversations this took, to our staff for helping transform ideas into reality and to our consultants Health Brand Group for their creativity in capturing the essence of the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute.
AWARDS:
HIRSHMAN, SCHMIDT PRESENT SEIDENBERG PRIZE AT APsaA CONFERENCE

Winners of the Seidenberg Prize for psychoanalytic perspectives on problems of incarceration propose a new way to train corrections officers and offer a critical perspective on over-incarceration in the U.S. “The Seidenberg Paper Prize has demonstrated the value of psychoanalytically-informed psychotherapy as a clinical approach and way to understand our world,” said Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute President Erika Schmidt. “The prize papers clearly show how these ideas work within prisons with incarcerated men and women as well as guards responsible for their care. It exemplifies our field’s dedication to advancing knowledge of human beings — their feelings, thoughts and behavior — and to improving people’s lives.”

Stephanie Gangemi, LCSW, Behavioral Health Programs Manager of the El Paso County (Colorado) Sheriff’s Office received the first prize of $15,000 for her paper: “Are They Mental Health or Behavioral?” Toward Object Relations Translation for Corrections Officers.

Elizabeth (Beth) Kita, LCSW, PhD, a clinical social worker in public/private practice and lecturer at University of California-Berkeley, received the second prize of $5,000 for her paper: “They Hate Me Now, But Where Was Everyone When I Needed Them?” Mass Incarceration, Mass Projective Identification, and Creating Containers That Hold.

“Our paper prize asked for practical solutions that didn’t involve changing the whole system,” said Prudence Gourguechon, MD, a faculty member at the Institute who chaired the judging committee. “Kita offered a brilliant overview, and Gangemi had a practical angle. We wished we could have given two first-place prizes.”

The Seidenberg Paper prize was a brainstorm of senior Dentons’ attorney Harold Hirshman who approached the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute to partner in the formation of the prize. He and Institute President Erika Schmidt presented the first place prize to Gangemi on June 22, at the American Psychoanalytic Association annual conference in Chicago.

The Institute has formed an online community for the paper authors to exchange ideas in the coming year, and is exploring other opportunities to share the ideas in the papers including with public officials.

SEIDENBERG PRIZE COMMENTS
Board Member Harold Hirshman offered some comments as he presented the first-place prize to Stephanie Gangemi:
“Compassion has limits. Recognizing the humanity of your fellow man is an ideal, easily ignored in everyday life. Prisons are filled to overflowing with the poor, the mentally ill and minorities. The prisoners are controlled mainly by free white men and some women. This crucible tests the limits of compassion and humanity on a daily, even an hourly basis. Is there something useful psychoanalysis has to say to help alleviate the pressure in that crucible? The hope that led to the Seidenberg prize was the belief that this community had people willing to try to formulate such help. Dentons, my law firm, was willing to fund the prize. We all were overjoyed at the response. Now the job is to find a way to actualize the winner’s insights.”

“A moment about Henry Seidenberg. Henry grew up as a child of immigrants on the mean streets of Philadelphia. He benefited from a fine public-school education. He couldn’t go to Swarthmore because he couldn’t afford the car fare. He went to Penn instead. He was a compassionate man. He had lived through dark times, but he refused to endorse Civilization and its Discontents, saying that book was the work of Freud the man, not Freud the genius. In his memory and in his honor I hope that we can increase compassion and humanity in prisons. It is not an easy task, but neither was growing up poor in Philadelphia to become a distinguished Chicago psychoanalyst.”

MISSION MOMENT FEATURES DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENT MOSHTAGH
Institute board members heard about distance learning at the Institute from student Nahaleh Moshtagh PhD, a psychotherapist in Tehran, on June 11. She spoke to the board via Zoom, the video-conferencing platform the Institute uses for its distance learning program.

Moshtagh recently completed the Fundamentals year and will go on to the 2nd year in the Psychoanalytic Education Program. She works in private practice and serves as the executive director and a member of the faculty of the HamAva Institute for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in Iran. HamAva is a multidisciplinary group of clinicians and educators who share a passion for the practice, research and teaching of psychoanalysis.

Moshtagh described her experience as a distance learner and the importance to her of having access to psychoanalytic education. The cross-cultural knowledge for distance students and Chicago students adds to the learning experience. She plans to contribute to psychoanalytic scholarship on the role of culture, which is an area that is underdeveloped in psychoanalytic thought.

CLASS OF 2018: CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Gratitude and appreciation for those who helped and supported them were some of the emotions graduates expressed as the Institute recognized its 2018 class and teachers of the year on June 22 at the Cliff Dwellers Club.

Grades from the Psychoanalytic Education Program spoke in recognition of their achievement.

“It was at times fascinating, also at times trying or overwhelming,” Dacia J. Harrold told the group. “[M]oments of joy and also moments of disappointment. It was all the things that comprise a full life experience, one that pushes you to grow.”

Dean Neal Spira recognized graduating students and commented on the complex “tripartite” education that includes a personal analysis, supervision of clinical cases and coursework that begins with the Fundamentals year. Built into this is a strong focus on development that looks at psychoanalysis across the lifespan. Associate Dean Leo Weinstein presented certificates to those completing the Fundamentals year. Elizabeth Feldman, Director of the Adult Psychotherapy Program, awarded certificates to 7 students, and Ed Kaufman, Director of the Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy Program, presented 1 certificate.

Also honored at the event were two Teachers of the Year. Kathleen O’Connor, president of the candidates’ association at the Institute, presented faculty members Barbara Rocah and Cliff Wilkerson with the recognition. Rocah taught for 48 years, and Wilkerson for 42.

“Thank you to all the candidates,” Rocah said. “[Teaching them] sometimes confirmed what we learned in theory, and sometimes led us into uncharted knowledge… I think this is the best job in the world.”

FACULTY & STAFF: NEW FACES AT THE INSTITUTE

NEHA PATEL JOINS FACULTY

In June, Dean Neal Spira announced the addition of Neha Patel, PsyD, to the Institute faculty. She is a licensed clinical psychologist practicing in Skokie and recent graduate of the Psychoanalytic Education Program. She brings an interest in developing community programs using psychoanalytic principles and training early-career mental health professionals.

Before launching private practice in 2005, Patel worked at the Community Mental Health Council on the South Side of Chicago for eight years, including as Director of Outpatient Mental Health and Director of Training. Prior to that, she was an intern and postdoctoral therapist at the Asian Mental Health Clinic and Child and Adolescent Outpatient Clinic (now Child/Adolescent Ambulatory Services) at Cambridge Hospital, affiliated with Harvard Medical School.

“I am pleased to announce Neha Patel has joined our faculty,” Spira said. “Neha graduated from our Institute a few years ago. We are very happy to have her back in our community.”

NEW STAFF AT THE INSTITUTE

Emma Fleischer joined us as Administrative Coordinator in late May. She recently graduated from NYU with a Bachelor’s in Psychology and a minor in Child & Adolescent Mental Health. While in New York, Emma worked in the Office of Faculty Governance at NYU and as a Research Intern at the Mood and Anxiety Program at Mount Sinai. She also interned at Youth Outreach Services and The Ernest Hemingway Foundation in Chicago.

Mary Mucci became our new Development Director in late June. Mary comes to the Institute with a mix of experience that makes her ideal for this role. She is a seasoned development professional who started her career as a teacher/therapist in a therapeutic day school. Mary spent 18 years in progressively increased roles at Victor C. Neumann Association, ultimately as Director of Children’s Services. Mary parlayed her experience in a social-service agency into philanthropy with a specialty in planned giving at local, national, and international non-profit organizations. Most recently she was the Senior Director of National Planned Giving for Easter Seals. She was already familiar with the work of the Institute prior to taking the position, having taken a class through the Institute’s continuing education program.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR’S GRADUATES

Fundamentals of Psychoanalytic Thought:

- Alan Davis, PhD
- Mollye Levy, PsyD
- Natalia Maltsev, MD, PhD
- Russell Newstadt, PhD
- Jessica Ngiamp, BA
- Tod A. Olson, MS
- Michael Topel, PsyD
- William J. Winger, LPC

Adult Psychotherapy Program:

- Brian Sheehan Brown, PsyD
- Benjamin Fogel, LCSW
- Matthew Frantz, LCPC
- Stella Kiser, JD. LCSW
- Benjamin Schwartz, PsyD
- Hannah Weiss, LPC
- Offer Zur, MA

Child & Adolescent Psychotherapy Program:

- Charlene M. Slezak, PsyD

Psychoanalytic Education Program:

- Stephanie Fariss, JD, LCSW
- Dacia J. Harrold, MD, MA
- Brooke K. Magers, PsyD
- Noemi Molina, PhD

SUMMER 2018
UPDATE & SAVE THE DATES:

SAVE THE DATE FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS TODAY

Working Together for Justice and Public Safety:
Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx speaks with Neal Spira, MD, discussant
Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Readings on Race & Psychoanalysis
Celia Brickman, PhD, LCPC and Danjuma Gibson, PhD, MDiv
Wednesday, February 20, 2019

INSTITUTE ADDS STUDENT / LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

When students return in the fall, they will use a new online tool for registration and more. After a comprehensive review and implementation process, the Institute is transitioning to the cloud-based Student Information / Learning Management System, Orbund.

The Orbund platform will make it easier and more efficient for students and prospective students to:
- Enroll in classes
- Track graduation requirements
- Print transcripts
- Pay tuition
- Communicate with instructors and classmates
- Register for continuing education
- Apply for Education Programs

“We are excited to make this transition,” Associate Dean Leo Weinstein said. “As with any major IT project, we anticipate a smooth process but ask in advance for students’ understanding if any bumps in the road arise.” Students and faculty are invited to share questions or concerns with any of the Institute staff.

CALL FOR FACULTY & STUDENT RESEARCH

Students and faculty members, if you have been published in the past year, please let us know.
Send a link or citation to Librarian John Leonard, jleonard@chicagoanalysis.org.
Research shared by September 14 will be featured in the fall edition of the Institute newsletter.

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