January 2017

Message from the President

Recent events across our country have driven home the importance of The Chicago School’s core values of diversity and inclusion. Evidence of this commitment runs deeply in our University as our student body continues to diversify and as we attract more international students each year, all of whom are eager to be trained in psychology and behavioral health services, and to take their education and training back to their own communities abroad.

It is especially meaningful to be celebrating diversity and inclusion as we honor Black History Month—an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans. We would be remiss in not recognizing the first black female psychologist, Dr. Inez Beverly Prosser, who earned her doctorate 75 years ago. Despite being born into a family of 11 children, Dr. Prosser obtained her Ph.D. in Psychology in 1933. One of her many contributions included assisting black students in their efforts to obtain funds for college and graduate studies.

This month, our campuses will join this celebration by hosting a number of activities, so please check for announcements on campus. For example, The Chicago School’s Center for Multicultural and Diversity Studies at the Chicago Campus will be hosting various events including documentary screenings on campus, and an excursion off-campus to see the recent film, “Hidden Figures,” which highlights African Americans and space exploration; the Black Student Union at the Los Angeles Campus will be holding a forum on community and police engagement; and our Washington, D.C. Campus will host a multicultural potluck.

I encourage you to attend these events as a tribute to African Americans who persevered and brought us to where we are today and remind us of where we aspire to be as an inclusive society.

Warm regards,

Michele Nealon-Woods, Psy.D.
President

TCSSPP Celebrates the Opening of its San Diego Campus

The Chicago School held its grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 26 at the new San Diego Campus. The soiree was a memorable celebration that provided the opportunity for The Chicago School to meet face-to-face with San Diego area mental health professionals, community partners, business leaders, and the leadership of colleges and universities.

"Based on demand from prospective students in the San Diego area and beyond to attend our University, we decided to offer our programs locally," said President Nealon-Woods who took the podium to welcome guests. "We hope to connect with many local organizations and fulfill our mission and core values of Education, Innovation, Service, and Community."

The San Diego Campus will offer an M.A. in Clinical Psychology, Marital and Family Therapy Specialization and an M.S. in Applied Behavioral Analysis, and is scheduled to sit its first cohort in Fall 2017.

As The Chicago School is one of several affiliates of the nonprofit TCS Education System, TCS President Dr. Michael Horowitz also spoke at the grand opening, saying, "To the entire Chicago School team: I applaud your continued commitment to student success and community impact. I stand in awe of the unwavering light you shine on humanity, and I congratulate you for this latest hallmark of success on your continued path of making the world a better place."
Master of Public Health Students Travel to Peru for Field Experience

Last December, 12 students and two faculty members from the Masters of Public Health Program (MPH) traveled to Peru for their first field experience that is now an integral part of their degree offering. Students met with government, nonprofit, and private health providers, learning how these organizations are responding to shared health challenges, as well as those unique to Peru.

In 2015, the MPH Program was updated to include the core course, Global Issues of Culture, Health, and Wellness, that includes a 10-day international field experience that varies by location each year. There are currently 29 students enrolled in the program and 16 graduates to date.

New San Diego Campus Director Comes on Board

Michael Joseph Grattan, M.A., has joined The Chicago School as the new campus director for the San Diego Campus. Grattan has been charged with leading the new campus, anchoring our mission in the San Diego community, and leading the charge to seat our first cohort in Fall 2017.

Grattan has extensive experience in higher education administration, including as the Director of Student Services at Trident University, a role in which he successfully increased graduation rates year-over-year and was responsible for designing and implementing projects that resulted in an increase in staff efficiency. During his career, he also worked as an associate director of admissions; a tenure-track professor; and an adjunct professor.

A veteran of the Army Military Police, Grattan has an M.A. in English from San Diego State University, and is a Ph.D. candidate, ABD status, at the University of California, San Diego.

Naomi Ruth Cohen Institute Selects New Executive Director

Kate Mahoney, M.S.W., has been hired as the new executive director of The Naomi Ruth Cohen Institute for Mental Health Education (NRCI). NRCI works to overcome the stigma of mental illness by offering mental health education, trainings, and presentations to the greater Chicagoland community. Its annual Community Mental Health Conference, the focus of which this year is the mental health of children, is open to both professionals and the general public, and will be held on June 4.

A licensed clinical social worker with more than 30 years of experience in behavioral health, Mahoney comes to NRCI after having served as Executive Director of PEER Services, a nonprofit behavioral health organization that provides community-based substance abuse prevention and treatment services to residents of the North Shore suburbs and Chicago’s north side.

"Kate Mahoney is the perfect choice for the role of executive director," said Tiffany Masson, Psy.D., campus dean, Chicago Campus, The Chicago School. "She has spent her career being a vocal advocate for reducing the stigma that for too long has prevented individuals impacted by mental illness from accessing mental health services. She has been lauded for her numerous contributions to the fields of mental and behavioral health, and I’m excited to be working with her.”

Read more.

Inaugural Cross-school Study Abroad Course Brings Students and Staff from TCS System Affiliates Together in Berlin, Germany

December 14, 2016, marked the first trip of the inaugural TCS Education System Cross-School study abroad course, "Immigration in Context: Examination of Germany." The TCS ES Global Engagement team led the convergence of 21 students from TCS affiliate colleges (five
Students spent eight weeks online, and using Germany as the classroom; and 10 days on ground in Berlin, studying the global immigration crisis. The impact of this experience was palpable. Students emerged changed by their peers from across disciplines, as well as by their experience interacting directly with refugees in Germany. Furthermore, faculty developed cross-school relationships and are exploring further collaboration.

**Student's Work Impacts Traditionally Underserved Communities**

A look at a smiling image of Aleksander Casas enables viewers, whether they realize it or not, to see the true character of Aleksander. The Chicago School student seems to embody positivity, and almost every answer to a question is peppered with confidence and optimism. In response to a question regarding his biggest accomplishment in his work, for example, Aleksander replied, “Every day is an accomplishment.”

A student in the Counseling Psychology Program at the Chicago Campus, Aleksander also works as a trans and gender non-conforming (GNC) outreach leader at Howard Brown Health, the Midwest’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans health organization. Howard Brown boasts a health and social service delivery system that focuses on seven programmatic issues, including primary medical care, behavioral health, research, HIV/STI prevention, youth services, elder services, and community initiatives.

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Meet Alumna Jenifer White, International Psychology Doctoral Program Graduate & Founder of Project 1948

“What I enjoy most about my work is connecting and building strong supportive relationships around the world,” says Dr. Jenifer White, a graduate from the International Psychology Doctoral Program. Dr. White is the founder of [Project 1948](#), a nongovernmental organization (NGO) that combines photography and the human voice as a platform for social impact in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The organization aligns with the United Nations Global Goals by the promotion of peace, justice, and strong institutions, through a two-part model: photography and policy change. Cameras are provided to young adult participants to document their daily lives. Following a photo-voice interview, participants give direct insight into circumstances that require a policy change.

The photo-voice initiative helps people share their stories and engage their community through photography. Participants reflect upon social needs, promote critical intercultural dialogue, gain a mutual understanding, and together are empowered to display their photographs in a public setting. Young adult participants are encouraged to begin a conversation with policymakers about their photos and community concerns in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“We believe photography holds possibility. Our voice helps us create a better world. Our success can be defined by creating a global brand. Each time we give a camera, we amplify a voice. We know that photography can help us see through a new lens,” explains Dr. White.

As an International Psychology graduate student, White traveled to Kigali, Rwanda and worked alongside Chicago Campus Dean, Dr. Tiffany Masson. While in Kigali, she witnessed the aftermath of the Rwandan Genocide, and it was there she was inspired to bring an understanding of similar issues from the Bosnian Genocide.

Dr. White believes: “We give a camera! We give a voice!” and works hard to ensure her arts-based program based out of Tulsa, Oklahoma, “prepares young adults to be leaders and advocates among community concerns and take initiative in beginning a dialogue with policymakers”

“My education at TCSPP equipped my international career with advanced research and program development skills coupled with a rich appreciation for cultural diversity. Today, I am prepared to lead an NGO for resulting changes and elevate communities for global health,” she concluded.

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**TCSSPP’s 2017 Cultural Impact Conference Tackles Issue of Violence in Marginalized Communities**
The 19th Cultural Impact Conference (CIC) will kick off on March 17 at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago at 8 a.m. This year’s conference themed, Resiliency and Healing: The Aftermath of Violence in Marginalized Communities, will feature keynote speaker James Garbarino, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at Loyola University Chicago, and more than 50 presentations that will explore the ways in which members of the community can come together to address the cycle of violence and promote healing.

"Institutionalized racism continues to negatively impact marginalized communities throughout the U.S., including the Chicagoland area," said Dr. Gregory Benson-Florez, a co-chair. "The Cultural Impact Conference will provide a venue where these relevant issues can be discussed and addressed."

Representing a broad spectrum of disciplines, presentations will be given by mental health providers, community advocates, and educators from such institutions as the IL Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, DePaul University, Heartland Alliance, the Juvenile Division Circuit Court of Cook County, University of Illinois at Champaign, and the Chicago Dramatists. Students and faculty members from across the TCSPP system will also offer presentations.

"We felt it was important that The Chicago School play a role in addressing violence in marginalized communities," explained Dr. Michelle Cutler, a co-chair of the conference. "And we found the best way we could do that was by bringing people together from different disciplines to talk about what was working and encouraging conversation and the space to process reactions."

Register for the CIC.

TCSPP Keeps Abreast of Legislative Issues Impacting Higher Ed

On December 12, 2016, the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) held a meeting in Sacramento of the Government Relations Council to discuss priority issues in the 2017-18 legislative session, and how these issues would potentially impact our institution and/or our students. One of the concerns involves the potential impact on higher education in the state with the incoming federal administration’s likely focus on the Affordable Care Act. If the State of California has to make up the funds that would most likely be lost as a result of a major shift in policy, the amount in question is more or less the amount that the state spends on higher education, which is approximately $15 billion.

Our government relations staff had the opportunity to discuss these and additional issues directly with legislative staff who were a part of the meeting which included Anita Lee, Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance; Christian Osmena, Department of Finance; Olgaflia Ramirez, Senate Education Committee; and Jeanice Warden, Assembly Higher Education Committee.

Practicums Fair Draws Record Number of Nonprofits

The Southern California Campuses held a practicum fair on January 27, which saw a tremendous increase in attendance from last year, with 40 agencies participating and close to 100 students in attendance. Practicum fairs provide a venue for students seeking training opportunities in the community and a place for agencies to conduct preliminary interviews.

"There was great energy from the students who were excited about meeting with agencies for the first time," said Teresa Masi, MFT, senior director of Clinical Training.
Integrating theory, professional practice, and innovation, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology provides an excellent education for careers in psychology and related behavioral and health sciences. The school is committed to service and embraces the diverse communities of our society.