



AAP News

The Newsletter of the Association for the Advancement of Psychosynthesis

February

2007

A Visit with Piero Ferrucci

By Dennis Wynne

While traveling in Italy recently, I visited with Piero Ferrucci, one of the international leaders and current authors in the psychosynthesis movement. He graciously received me in his office at Fiesole, a Tuscan countryside town just northwest of Florence.

Piero Ferrucci, Ph.D., is the author of several books familiar to many psychosynthesis students: *What We May Be*, *Inevitable Grace*, *What Our Children Teach Us*, *The Child of Your Dreams* (with Laura Huxley,) and most recently, *The Power of Kindness; the Unexpected Benefits of Leading a Compassionate Life*, now available in bookstores.

He worked closely with Roberto Assagioli, M.D., the founder of psychosynthesis, before Assagioli's death in 1974 and continues to work in an office near Assagioli's original Institute of Psychosynthesis.

Although The Institute of Psychosynthesis is being renovated, Assagioli's library was open. Upon entering, I was greeted by a smiling, life-size bust of Assagioli; a pleasant experience which was a bit like going home.

I planned ahead to ask Ferrucci for his perspective about what several people perceive as a shadow over psychosynthesis in North America. Some of our alumni, while pursuing doctoral studies at various U.S. universities in which they tried to include psychosynthesis in their academic plans have found that psychosynthesis is not considered a legitimate psychology by some academic psychologists.



Dennis Wynne (left) with Piero Ferrucci in Florence, Italy

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2007 AAP Conference (see page 6)

July 13, 14, and 15

Trainer Development Program (see page 11)

July 12 and 13

At JFK University, Pleasant Hill, Calif.

www.aap-psychosynthesis.org/conference.htm

SEARCHING . . . FOR 50 YEARS OF ARCHIVES!

By Sharon Mandt

This year is a significant anniversary. Fifty years have passed since the Psychosynthesis Research Foundation was formed in this country in 1957, when the constitution and bylaws were signed with Roberto Assagioli as chairman. The advancement of psychosynthesis spread from Italy to the United States—and also to Greece, United Kingdom, France, and other countries—during the time Assagioli was chairman of the PRF. The organization was dissolved in 1976, two years after Assagioli's death.

We are the Archive Committee of the Association for the Advancement of Psychosynthesis, and we are searching for 50 years of history with the hope of archiving the heritage of psychosynthesis in North America. You may have materials that relate to this heritage—photographs, correspondence, minutes, newsletters, publications, unpublished documents, or journals—or know the location of such materials. We do not know what is out there, where it is, or who in our membership is interested in working to develop an archival library.

This 50th year we want to inventory what is available. We are hoping that the AAP membership will respond by sending a list of what archival materials you have or let us know if you have materials yet to be

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AAP News

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Yes, Send Ideas, Art, Photos, and Letters

Send ideas helpful in your life and work, your poems, book reviews, art work, articles—especially about your use of psychosynthesis.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors or of AAP. We may edit submissions for grammar, syntax, and size.

Help Your Editors Edit

We're volunteers, so if possible please make submissions "camera-ready," **Goings On** notes 75 words or less, and **articles** 500 words or less.

Submission Deadlines

Mar. 15, June 15, Sept. 15, Dec. 15

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The Association for the Advancement of Psychosynthesis

Founded in 1995, AAP is a nonprofit association with tax exemption in the United States. It is dedicated to advancing and advocating on behalf of synthesis and conducting psychosynthesis educational programs. Donations are welcome.

Goings On

Abby Seixas

The Deep River is coming to California. Abby Seixas is scheduling several book talks, a one-day workshop, and a one-day Deep River group-facilitator training in the San Francisco Bay area.

The workshop and training will be March 10 and 11. This workshop is about slowing down. It will introduce the three preliminary doorways and six core practices that can support us in allowing our own deeper currents to flow through daily life. With the help of experiential exercises, discussion, creative expression, humor, and each other, we will explore ways to free ourselves from the tyranny of our "To-Do's," and so to rest more in our deeper selves and in the gift of life itself.

The workshop on the 10th is open to women who would like to experience the Deep River process in a supportive circle. The training on the 11th is open to women who have attended the one-day workshop, and who would like to start groups based on Abby's book *Finding the Deep River Within: A Woman's guide to Recovering Balance and Meaning in Everyday Life*. For more specifics about the weekend and about Bay Area book talks, see Abby's website: www.deepriverwithin.com

New Zealand

Embodying the Spirit, a Psychosynthesis workshop facilitated by Amanda Fong Jack, will be presented on the weekend of March 24 and 25 at Whenua Iti Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Lower Moutere, Nelson, New Zealand.

This workshop is to explore meditation, the different ways we meditate, what works for us and why, and how we can build our awareness and exercise our will through meditation of many different kinds.

Anne Verity:
anne.verity@xtra.co.nz

Wisconsin Center

The Psychosynthesis Center of Wisconsin is conducting a 14-day intensive course in Personal Psychosynthesis this summer. The course will cover the various dimensions of the personal self including the physical, emotional, mental facets, subpersonalities and will. It is open to adults from all walks of life and all parts of the country who are interested in taking this next step on their own journey. The course will be held June 13 to 26, 2007 in Charlotte, North Carolina with Hedwig M. Weiler MSN, APRN, BC, LCSW.

Hedwig.weiler@gmail.com
704-537-1597

www.psychosynthesiswis.org

The Synthesis Center

Tom Yeomans will present **Advanced Topics in Spiritual Psychosynthesis** in a series of monthly training days beginning in January and running until June, 2007. Each day will take up one topic and will include conceptual and experiential work, demonstration, practicum, and time for dialogue. Series topics will include presence, the force field of the soul, balance and synthesis of opposites, spiritual will and the body as spiritual ground, group leadership and the field of the group soul.
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12 and June 9.

Anne Yeomans will present **Holding the Circle: A Training/ Workshop for Women**, a six-week course to practice the kind of "holding" that makes the circle a safe, beautiful, deep, and profoundly transformative place to be. Topics will include embodied speaking and listening, energy awareness, present-centered circle work, balance,

Continues on page 3

conflict and shadow issues, learning to trust the mystery, and the "circle as teacher."

6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5.

The Synthesis Center's 7th Annual Presenters

Conference will be held on Sunday June 10. A day of learning, networking, and fun in the path of conscious evolution.

Proposals for workshops are requested by March 15.

The Synthesis Center
274 North Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01002
(413) 256-0772

programs@synthesiscenter.org
www.synthesiscenter.org

Synthesis Opportunities?

"Hegel taught the doctrine of opposites but said nothing about everything's having more than one opposite"

—Robert Frost

(in Frost notebooks newly published by Robert Faggen)

United Kingdom

Kabbalah for Psychospiritual Psychotherapists and Counselors

with Will Parfitt at
The Psychosynthesis and Education Trust, London
April 21 and 22 (Sat. and Sun.)

We will focus on the healing nature of working with the Kabbalah—and its uses for individuals and also in wider social situations.

Through teaching, exercises, contemplation, ritual, discussion, movement, and dance, you will connect to your own Tree of Life and explore how this connection informs your work as a psychotherapist or counselor. This course is suitable for practicing psychotherapists and counselors who work within a broad psychospiritual framework. Full details from the PS Trust, London. www.psychosynthesis.edu

The Synthesist

Journal of Psychosynthesis
Issue 3 Special Poetry Issue now available at www.psavalon.com

200 pages of psychosynthesis-inspired and relevant poetry that goes beyond poetry and reaches to the inner core of Self.

Psychosynthesis: The Elements and Beyond

This new, revised edition takes the reader into deep explorations of the psychospiritual and transpersonal realms in a practical way and reveals Psychosynthesis as the psychology of choice for now. Order from www.willparfitt.com or via amazon.com internet bookstores.

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Creative Meditation Distance Learning

Creative meditation, practiced individually or as part of a group, is key to the creation of a new society based on the qualities of the transpersonal working out in everyday relationships. What our world needs today, above all else, is "right human relationships"—between individuals, groups and nations. We need the understanding and skills to achieve this goal. Through creative meditation we can build positively in thought and invoke those insights and ideas that will enable us to

achieve right relations in everyday living.

Sundial House Group for Creative Meditation presents a correspondence program for training in Creative Meditation and starts a new cycle every Dec. 21st. Study papers come out every two months from the Sundial House Group in England and focus sequentially on specific themes. Each study paper focuses on building a foundational aspect of the process of creative meditation. You gently become skilled with the "everyday living rhythm" of meditation practice. The course administrators assign a personal mentor as a guide for the student to contact by email.

The three-year course leads to a ten-year study program in esoteric studies.

Roberto Assagioli MD, the founder of Psychosynthesis, Michael Eastcott and Nancy Magor, created the course over 50 years ago. RA wanted to design training in meditation that would be psychologically sound and able to be used by people of all religious and spiritual paths. In 2000, Janet and Paul Derwent and Heather Giles, became Trustees of the Sundial House Group for Creative Meditation, and a new impetus was created to make the work known on an international scale. It is now being used in England, Italy, Portugal, America, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

www.creativemeditation.org
or email Janet Derwent at
sundialcentre@talktalk.net

Tom Yeomans

will present the third annual **Spiritual/Global Psychology Summer Institute** at

Easton Mountain Retreat
Greenwich, N.Y.

June 20 to 24.

Summerinstitute
@concordinstitute.org ■

Co-chair Report

Lofty Goals, New Website Features for 2007

By Betty Bosdell and David Shirley

We wish you your heart's desires during this new year.

We recognize that much of this journey is accomplished individually, through your work, and in working with your own groups. At the same time, AAP was founded on a belief that a psychosynthesis organization can assist you, those you work with, the psychosynthesis community at large, and the world, in

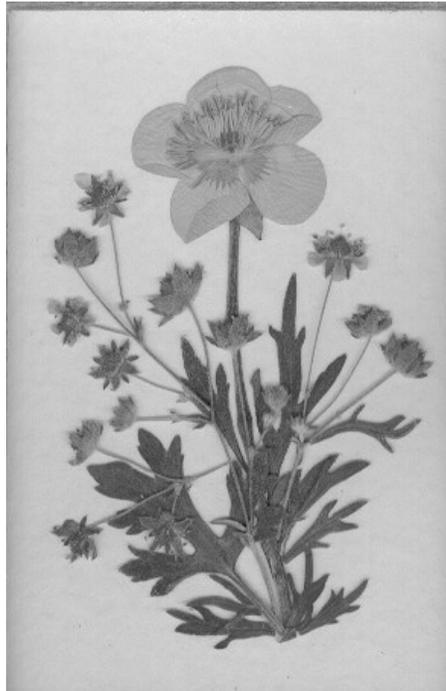
- Connecting to spirit.
- Developing the will to act.
- Working with the obstacles and course corrections that invariably come with this journey.

Lofty goals, and we are indebted to those who grounded those goals in 2006. At this juncture, we find ourselves indebted to Brad Roth and his team for producing this year's psychosynthesis monograph (with ISBN numbers) which, we trust, will bring more clarity to your understanding of the body and psychosynthesis.

We also appreciate all the volunteers who gave so generously of their time and efforts—in big and small ways—during this past year. You are the invisible force behind AAP's many accomplishments.

The progress made during this past year could not have happened without the hardworking Steering Committee members—Dirk Kelder, Janet Messer, Dennis Wynne, Hedi Weiler, Carla Peterson, Sharon

Mandt, Jan Kuniholm, Edwin Miller, Karen Pesavento, and John Parks. We all owe a debt of thanks to these folks as well as to our members who have renewed and continue their support of psychosynthesis.



Art by Bonney Kuniholm

“Bridging Spirit and Action” is the 2007 Conference theme. It is also the Steering Committee's metagoal for 2007. How can you participate and why?

You can put yourself in our new publicly available “Practitioners Directory” on the AAP web site (see the box below for details). This will help bring quicker responses to the numerous people who email AAP asking for referrals.

You can join the Publications Committees (monographs & AAP News), Professional Development Committee, Web Development, Steering Committee, Archives, and Conference Committees (2007 and 2008), all of which perform important work and deliver important services to our community, and at the same time are

evolving as models of how to be of service and how to deepen participants' understanding of psychosynthesis experientially.

You can bring the work of Roberto Assagioli, which we trust has significantly impacted your life, to the larger community.

We look forward to another productive and successful year for AAP. We appreciate hearing from you on how we can better serve you and support you in your work. ■

AAP Psychosynthesis Practitioners Directory is On Line

The AAP Website has a new feature: a psychosynthesis practitioners directory. Any AAP member can be listed by going to www.aap-psychosynthesis.org, click on “Membership,” then click on “Practitioners Directory.” At the bottom of the page is the on-line form. We hope this service will help bring our members' services into public awareness.

The Association for the Advancement of Psychosynthesis
 Presents San Francisco Conference
Bridging Spirit and Action
 July 13 to 15
 (Plus Trainer Development Program
 July 12 and 13)

This year's Annual Psychosynthesis Conference will be held at John F. Kennedy University's Pleasant Hill Campus in the San Francisco area.

Workshop leaders will be both AAP members and "Friends of Psychosynthesis," people whose personal and professional work is informed by psychosynthesis. They will focus on applications for taking action on the principles and topics they address.

The AAP Conference Committee is working with JFK University to offer nationally recognized CEU's for all presentations.



Debbie Ford
 N.Y. Times #1 best-selling author
 to speak on disidentification



Other Personalities Anticipated

- Huston Smith, author of *The World's Religions*
- JFK University faculty
- Tom Yeomans on U.S. psychosynthesis history—and new directions
- Jeremy Taylor, teacher and writer on dreams
- Phillip Brooks on his psychosynthesis journey
- John Firman and Ann Gila on their upcoming book
- Mary Kelso and Debbie Onken on theirs
- Molly Young Brown, author of *Unfolding Self*
- Betty Boddell with material never before shared with the AAP
- You . . . and many more

Psychosynthesis Leader Marilyn Feldberg Passes On
WYSE International Continues

Featured in the November AAP News, Tom Shelstad, WYSE (World Youth Service Enterprise) graduate, spoke with great appreciation of his WYSE experience and its founder, Marilyn Feldberg. Shelstad sent the following message from the organization's current leaders:

"Marilyn Feldberg died Jan. 19. She passed away peacefully and without pain, surrounded by her family and close friends. Marilyn had lived with cancer for the last six years."

You can send donations in Marilyn's memory to WYSE International www.wyse-ngo.org It is a psychosynthesis-based organization in London affiliated with the United Nations.

TOOLS FOR THE JOURNEY

The WHO AM I? Exercise

This exercise is designed to help develop self-awareness and discovery of your true self. It is based on the assumption that each of us, like an onion, has various layers covering a central core. These layers of self-perceptions may be positive or negative. They represent different aspects of our personality and of our relationship to the world.

Some of the layers may be like a facade, or mask, hiding aspects of ourselves we do not like; others may be hidden and very positive aspects we have trouble accepting. In any case, somewhere beyond these, within each of us lies a deep center that is vibrant and creative—the true self, the innermost essence of our being.

The "Who Am I?" exercise leads one gently to that self through successive attempts to respond to the question. Eventually, one can touch, in this way, the source of one's being, one's true identity.

Procedure:

1. Select a quiet place where you are undisturbed. Take a sheet of paper, write the date at the top, and title the page "Who Am I?" Then write your answer to this question as freely and honestly as possible, giving yourself time to pause periodically. In silence, ask the question again.
2. Sit in a relaxed position. Close your eyes. Clear your mind. Again ask yourself "Who Am I?" This time look for a response in the form of an image in your mind's eye. Don't try to think or reason, but simply let an image emerge. When you are ready, open your eyes, *draw* what you saw, and write about it in as much detail as possible. Include any feelings you had about the image and what it meant to you.
3. Stand up with some room around you to move. Close your eyes and again ask "Who Am I?" This time let the response come through movement in your body. Trust your body's wisdom and let the movement unfold until you sense completion. You may also want to include sounds in this response, or singing. When you are ready, write about your experience.

It is recommended that you repeat this exercise over a period of time. Its impact deepens with repeated use.

With thanks from the online newsletter of the Synthesis Center, Amherst, Mass. ▣

Psychosynthesis Exercises Wanted

Please submit psychosynthesis exercises for posting on the AAP Website. Send your submittal to our webmaster Dirk Kelder at dirkkelder@yahoo.com or 64 Summer St. #10 Peterborough, NH 03458

With All Your Heart say out loud, I want to live a happy life listen to what you just said **TAKE NOTICE OF THINGS** surround yourself with people you love **listen to the wind imagine let everything change** all the time let go of the why welcome miracles **THANK THE UNIVERSE** constantly *breathe* tell the truth about how you feel **make choices want what you want let the animals reach you** have children teach you **take good care of your body love passionately SHARE YOUR DREAMS** spread your gifts check it out **forgive the past dive in eat it up** take chances **BE REAL**

Correction: Page 11 of the November 2006 issue of *AAP News* carried an article titled "Where No Psychosynthesis Trainer Has Gone Before." Belatedly we discovered that the article had been written and submitted to us in anticipation of an event that never took place.

Day-to-Day Psychosynthesis

SHE-DEVIL

The following article was compiled from a taped interview with Jenny, who was born with Prader-Willie Syndrome. Since this syndrome affects the central nervous system, learning to control behavior, in this case anger responses, can be a challenge for both the person with the syndrome and her caregivers. Jenny wanted to share her story with others to help them understand the syndrome better. This print version of her story was approved by Jenny and her legal guardian. (Note: The names in quotation marks are subpersonalities.)

I like being “Dolly” most of the time. She loves to shop, to watch TV, read, decorate the house, and tease people. About 5 p.m. she needs a nap.

But sometimes she can’t come out. With this syndrome a lot of things are affected. It controls your brain and how it functions. It tells you things like how much food you want—and there’s no off-and-on switch.

When my dad left our family, “She Devil” came out. She said things inside of me like “I feel angry, real angry,” and “I can’t stand you right now.” Then I would think: “I hate feeling like this. It’s your fault, Dad, that I feel this way. I’m a person with feelings. I have to be heard. I haven’t been heard lately. I’m the angry part. I feel powerful.”

Sometimes “She Devil” isn’t very smart. She lets the anger get the best of her and then I get in a lot of trouble, because we are supposed to learn to control our anger. So I talked to a counselor about my problem of always getting in trouble for my anger. She asked me if she could talk to “She Devil,” to hear her side of the story. So she came out and was very mad, and she was saying: “Don’t say I don’t need you Dad, I’m a somebody!” Then she started jumping up and down on a pillow saying, “I’m going to smash you like a bug, Dad.” She was so mad that the counselor had to ask me to sit down in between jumping on the pillow so she didn’t wear me out.

When she came out in such a big way with my counselor, I said to myself: “I hate feeling like this. This isn’t me!” My counselor said that I was correct. “She Devil” is a part of me, not me, but she is mine. Then I said: “Oh, I get it. If Jenny didn’t have her angry part, who would? It has to be somewhere and it’s inside me and has to come out.”

“Oh, I get it. If Jenny didn’t have her angry part, who would? It has to be somewhere and it’s inside me and has to come out.”

I also learned that “She Devil” isn’t all bad. She’s smart too. She lets me know that things aren’t right, and that things are bottled inside. Sometimes I can’t tell when she’s coming out, but sometimes I feel frustrated and that’s how I know she’s coming out. When that used to happen to me, I would stomp my feet and just mumble and show I was upset. But for people to come out and say “What’s wrong?” didn’t work because I couldn’t tell them right away and it just made “She Devil” madder than she was, which made everything worse.

So now I have learned to say: “I’m getting angry, talk to me later.” Sometimes that works, unless people keep after me. I just want them to know that what I want to say when I get angry is: just leave me alone until I calm down, and then come back and approach me. Then I can actually say what was bothering me. Just don’t out of the blue ask me what’s wrong.

Now I let “She Devil” talk to me. It’s kind of like talking to myself. I can say when she can come out and be a star. She gets all excited when she can come out and tell people what’s wrong, but when she can’t, she likes that too.

I want never to be so angry I have to tell people that I can’t talk now, and to talk to me later. I think I can do that now.

— Jenny

It's All About Connection

By Mary Eileen Kiniry

Health Services sits right in the middle of the Community College campus—two small offices and a recently-reclaimed men's room transformed into an exam room—with a staff of two: the mental health nurse practitioner and the medical services specialist. The oversight physician is off-site and working at three different clinics, so he's often unavailable for consults. The staff and regular 911 emergency response teams handle everything from minor cuts to full cardiac arrests.

This Community College contains all the diversity of a mini-United Nations: first-generation college students from Asia, South America, the Middle East, Africa, folks trying to get their lives re-equilibrated, seniors wanting to stay active and mentally stimulated, and the 18-to 20-year-olds who want to stay close to home.

Fall semester is in full swing and Health Services is swinging right along in it—something like a cross between two songs—“Dancing in the Dark” and “Who Let the Dogs Out!” Into that cacophony new ideas burble and spark. The unspoken crisis in health care is that 60 percent of the caseload of any primary care clinic is for mental health issues. This clinic is no different. In conversation, during ministering to cuts and bruises, the less obvious psychic wounds come bubbling up.

The nurse practitioner's long-term immersion in a variety of psychological concepts, including psychosynthesis, assists in the process of offering the students a safe place: an active listener and empathic responder; someone who is learning, over a lifetime, the true art of sitting with the other in silence while maintaining attention and awareness to the movement of energy. The practitioner has learned an often-difficult lesson, that silence provides the opportunity for the student/client

to find his or her own best next steps—his or her own inner knowing. Yes, trust the process.

During the spring and summer semesters, in cooperation with the health services' physician and the marriage and family therapy interns, the nurse practitioner will offer a series of workshops titled “What Is This Thing Called My Life?” It's a series of classes that will be given in the white space of the class schedule—empty classrooms from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. So far the discussion has focused on Art and Dance Therapy, the Hero's/ Heroine's Journey in Archetypal Images, Politics of Health Care, and the Obesity-Starvation Link in a culture that has forgotten how to touch, talk and hang out together without food and alcohol being in the picture.

Psychosynthesis weaves in and out as lending library donations of Diana Whitmore's *Psychosynthesis in Education*, Tom Yeoman's and Cherie Franklin's monographs, Molly Young Brown's *Unfolding Self*, and now Abby Seixas' *Finding the Deep River Within* are given to students, interns and faculty. Conversations occur every day about meth-

ods to alleviate suffering; find healing if not cure; ask for and receive assistance on college, state and federal levels while continuing to hone the skill of compassionate, awake listening and to provide a safe place for students and employees to be fully human, stripped of job titles and student persona.

Tools are individual self-care work, psychosynthesis and related classes, books, workshops, conferences, participation in the AAP Steering Committee, and the most valuable of all, the human connection with kindred explorers—mentors, teachers, colleagues all. The journey can be one of lonely isolation and intense, deep connections. Remarkable. ■

Mary Eileen Kiniry, RN, MSN, ANP, is former Co-chair of the AAP Steering Committee. She decided to write from the “Observer place” without using the pronoun of self-identification.

The practitioner has learned an often difficult lesson, that silence provides the opportunity for the student/client to find his or her own best next steps—his or her own inner knowing.

Ferrucci cont'd from page 1

One doctoral student, an alumna of the Minnesota Institute, had to change her plans at George Mason University. I once confronted Ken Wilber at a book signing for saying in one of his books that "Psychosynthesis attracts dissociative types." He said it started all right in Europe but "went crazy" when it came to the United States. He said that he meant the San Francisco experience in the late 1970s [This refers to a San Francisco psychosynthesis institute that closed after members of the institute as well as members of the greater psychosynthesis community questioned its leadership, policies, and direction.] I told him that other centers have been practicing and teaching for more than twenty years without going crazy. I had a similar experience at the Saybrook Institute, where two professors had expressed similar views.

I asked Ferrucci's opinion about this, and whether there had been

any impact from this phenomenon in Europe. He said there had not been any discernable impact there, and I asked what he thought could be done about it in North America.

He said, "Wilber is correct, is he not?" Even psychology as a whole attracts dissociative types. Many

"If you have a glass filled with muddy water and you can't empty it, how do you fill it with clean water? Pour in enough clean water to displace the dirty water."

people who go into psychology have a conscious or unconscious wish to connect the dots to learn how their personalities work. He advised avoiding trying to engage the shadow, or trying to correct or fix it. It will only get bigger, he said. The best approach is to attract and recruit quality people and do rigorous, exemplary work so your reputation is not sullied. He offered a metaphor: if you have a

glass filled with muddy water and you can't empty it, how do you fill it with clean water? Pour in enough clean water to displace the dirty water.

I was struck by the wisdom and simplicity of his answer.

Ferrucci, now in his sixth decade, spends his time writing, doing psychosynthesis psychotherapy, consulting, and teaching with other centers throughout the world.

Ferrucci's essence kept shining through our discussion. His kindness and profound clarity, couched in deceptively simple metaphors, allegories, and parables was persuasive and inspiring. They are also the essence of his new book *The Power of Kindness*, now available in English. It is a delightful and profoundly moving read; I strongly recommend it. ■

Dennis Wynne, MSW, is a co-founder of the Psychosynthesis Institute of Minnesota and has been practicing, teaching, and de-

Archives cont'd from page 1

inventoried. We hope to hear from others in the psychosynthesis community too, so please pass on our request to them.

Let us know if you are interested in joining the mission to archive our journey over the past 50 years in any of these ways:

- Emailing a list of items you can locate
- Donating funds to purchase acid-free folders and boxes to store donated materials
- Serving on an archive committee
- Sending in comments and suggestions
- Donating materials you have to the AAP for safekeeping

The Archive Committee so far includes four of us. Please feel free to e-mail any of us with your comments or concerns.

Edwin Miller
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Carla Peterson
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John Parks
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Sharon Mandt
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Art by Bonney Kuniholm

Professional Development Committee Plans Next Training Development Program

By Mary Kelso

How do you train future trainers in psychosynthesis? That was the challenge the Training Task Force (TTF) took on when it met in Kentucky in 2003 to begin planning to promote a growing and creative psychosynthesis-trainer community. Psychosynthesis trainers as well as second- and third-year students from all the North American psychosynthesis centers, and a few outside guest trainers, met and formed the TTF. In September 2005, the TTF was renamed the Professional Development Committee (PDC) and became a standing committee of AAP.

The purpose of the PDC is

1. To foster the professional development of all Psychosynthesis trainers.
2. To foster quality curriculum standards at North American training centers.
3. To plan and oversee programs in line with the first two purposes.

The PDC has now sponsored four annual Trainer Development Programs (TDP's). Before the last TDP in June 2006 in Kentucky, the PDC surveyed training centers and individual trainers regarding their current needs for professional development in psychosynthesis. The information gained in this updating process helped the committee design the program for the 2006 TDP, and the information was shared during the program.

During the morning session Debby Onken and Mary Kelso led all participants as we began working to develop a universal psychosynthesis core curriculum. We began as a group by symbolically and physically "weaving" ribbons together that represented the various training centers. The participants went into break-out groups and started developing learning objectives for all the core concepts that would be part of basic psychosynthesis training. We envisioned uniformity yet worked to retain local flexibility, so that each center can interpret the curriculum to fit its local needs. At the end of this meeting, with all our ideas on paper around the room, we worked to find consensus.

During the afternoon session, John Parks and Brad Roth facilitated a discussion to evaluate the mentor-mentee process that has been utilized the past three years. Brad reported on some details of the feedback he had received from both mentors and mentees during these years. John Parks summarized his 1965 to 1975 mentorship with Jack Cooper, who during those years was the President of the Psychosynthesis Research Foundation of New York City.

The PDC is currently planning the next TDP to be held in San Francisco July 12 and 13, 2007. The committee continues to hear requests for more information on "advanced guiding" and is planning to develop an intensive hands-on experiential workshop where we can all share our ideas and practice, and hone our skills. Dennis Wynne has also agreed to present his material on *Applications of Psychosynthesis*. He has presented this previously in Minnesota and it has been very well received. Please continue to check the AAP web site as the program develops over the next few months. ■

Today's World

The world is awash
In anguish and despair
And I . . . choose to be with
The flowers and the butterflies

People killing people
And other living life forms
And placing them in their bellies
Preferring ignorance to insanity

And I . . . choose to stay with
That most eluding topic of love
And caring and compassion
And world consciousness

I prefer to know what I am doing
And to take responsibility for every step I
take on the Earth Gaia
N'takwe'asan . . . all my relations as One.

I have a need to ignore the world at large
And pretend that evil and injustice and
ingratitude
That are so prevalent in today's uncon-
sciousness of people
That act and react without knowing why,
does not exist

And yet . . . I am in the pain of the world
For while I can pretend the not knowing, I
am still
A living entity . . . connected to the ALL
And experiencing . . . the anger, and the
violence, and the rage of people
Who are only looking for lost love and
caring . . . and
I can not heal the all . . . for I am just one
Of the Many.

I thought maybe I had dreamt the
whole thing
And found that my thoughts continued
to flow
From beginning to end, life's memories
continued
To course through my body, reminding
me, enticing me,
Controlling all that I had thought was
truly me
And it wasn't, and it influenced who I
thought
We were all going to be . . .

—Shamai Currim (June 5, 2006)

"Self-Regulation and the Egg Diagram"

New Article by Molly Young Brown

Here are some reasons to go to the AAP Web site www.aap-psychoanalysis.org and read this recent article by Molly Young Brown. She developed the ideas in a series of workshops she presented to teachers and advanced psychosynthesis students in Scandinavia last year. If you find the connections she makes generating new thoughts in you, as I did, please share them with our readers: tell us your suggestions for further discussion, writing, exploration—and especially application.

In her article, Brown shows that systems theory and psychosynthesis interact in important ways. The interactions are based on how feedback systems in humans and all living beings are geared for self-regulation and staying alive. The broader system we're part of includes not only the human world but also the world of nature.

Assagioli's map of consciousness (the "egg diagram") points the way to tremendous gains from the deep connections we have with this larger world—and serves as a map to key concepts in systems theory.

By going deeply within, Brown explains, and paying attention to our higher unconscious we "connect more

completely with the world around us—not so much the human world as the whole *enchilada*: the human world and the natural world that contains the human." The feedback from this larger system may be life-saving: it corrects inadequate individual and societal feedback loops on which we have been relying.

In short, Brown puts her finger on an important role humans have in the world: becoming "part of the internal feedback loops of the whole ecosystem." Our well-being and that of our various societies depends on it. She adds that "feedback from the larger system will help us respond powerfully and harmoniously, in ways that benefit not only ourselves, but also the larger whole."

Her connections between systems theory and psychosynthesis are thought-provoking and offer great potential for scholars and practitioners—thanks to the wonderful systems (including the ecosystem) that embrace us.

You can find the article also on Brown's Web site: www.mollyyoungbrown.com

—Walter Polt



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. . . **And much more . . .**

And *please* mark and send **ballot** enclosed.