

# Liaison

A Periodic Newsletter for Psy.D. and M.A.  
Psychology Programs at Wheaton College

Fall/Winter 2005

## Introducing *Liaison*

This is the second publication of *Liaison* and is designed for alumni and friends of graduate psychology programs at Wheaton College including doctoral and masters level curriculums.

## Facts

- The Psy.D. program in clinical psychology was established in 1993 and has been continuously accredited by the American Psychological Association since 1998. This five-year program admits some 18-20 students annually.
- The M.A. program in clinical psychology, a two-year program, was established in 1977 and admits approximately 30 students each year.
- Four years ago, an additional master's degree was added in Counseling Ministries, a one-year degree for individuals who primarily work through churches or mission agencies.



## Graduate Psychology Touches Latin America

Last spring, a group of graduate students spent their spring break hosting a marriage conference in Nicaragua for pastors and their wives. The conference was sponsored through a Christian agency in Nicaragua, Centro Nehemías, which seeks to equip churches holistically with practical tools for families in everyday living. Over the course of three intense days, the students worked with 15 couples (pastors and their wives) in various marriage enrichment activities that could be reproduced by the pastors in their local congregations. Topics included communication skills, family systems, gender issues, theology of marriage, domestic violence, psychopathology, etc. Outcome assessment indicated that participants had positive feelings and gratitude toward the speakers but felt they could have benefited by additional time to explore topics in more depth. In response to the feedback, the group led a series of additional workshops in Spanish over the course of the summer and fall which expanded the curriculum to include three additional days of training. In time, they hope to have a product that empowers churches with marriage enrichment training manuals and activities that are psychologically and spiritually relevant to their congregations.



Janelle Nelson Kwee  
Psy.D. student

## Puente: Bridging Sources of Care for Latinos

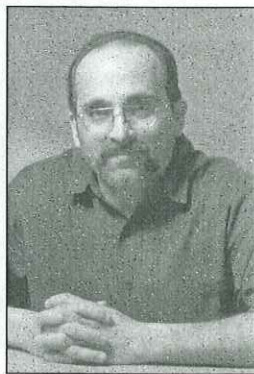
The Nicaragua trip was a part of *Puente*, a program of service and scholarship directed by Dr. Carlos Pozzi in the Department of Graduate Psychology at Wheaton College. The group consists of various students and faculty who work in conjunction with church leaders, scholars, and social service workers in Latin America and the United States. As Christian psychologists, mental health practitioners, social workers, and scholars, the group seeks to collaborate with indigenous churches, academic institutions, and social service agencies in Latin America as well as those serving the Latino population in the United States. As the church is recognized as a vital source of emo-

## History of Puente

Beginning in the spring of 1998, a group of clinical psychology graduate students and faculty at Wheaton College Graduate School began to sculpt a specific plan relating the department vision statement to the needs of the Latin American church. This initial conversation resulted in a series of three initial trips to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, where special mental health needs were evident following the devastation of Hurricane Mitch. Through these visits, *Puente* developed a relationship with a Honduran church, with which further service projects were undertaken.

### Relationships

between *Puente* members and other churches and organizations in Latin America have facilitated ongoing opportunities for service and scholarship related to the mission of serving mental health needs of the Latin American church. In July and August of 2004, the group provided conferences to groups of pastors, lay counselors, and professionals in both Bolivia and Honduras.



*Carlos Pozzi, Psy.D.*

tional and spiritual care for people in need, the group supports the church with resources from the discipline of psychology. Thus, the purpose is to develop and support culturally contextualized efforts to integrate the Christian faith and the discipline of psychology. Through scholarship and training, *Puente* promotes culturally appropriate responses to mental health needs in Latin America in a manner which upholds the local mission of the church and is consistent with an orthodox Christian worldview.



*Alicia LaHoz, Psy. D. graduate*

## PUENTE RESEARCH PROJECTS

### Acculturation Influences on Marriage in Latino Populations

The group is also involved in various research projects related to Latino populations. Alicia LaHoz, a group member and recent Psy.D. graduate, just completed her dissertation exploring whether acculturation to the United States leads members of Hispanic couples to be unsatisfied with traditional marriage roles. Forty-nine Hispanic couples were recruited and completed two standardized assessments in order to address the following concerns: Does a Hispanic marriage experience distress when a partner's gender ideology is challenged due to acculturation changes? Does a Hispanic marriage struggle in the marital relationship because of a transition from valuing traditional beliefs to less traditional beliefs? Additionally, is there a positive relationship between acculturation and gender role attitude changes in Hispanic marriages? The results indicated that overall, couples had similar acculturation experiences with little variation between them. Moreover husbands and wives both espoused similar role orientations. Both husbands and wives shared similar concerns and perceptions in terms of their marital satisfaction levels.

### Moral Reasoning of Bolivian Street Children

Another research project, headed up by Janelle Nelson Kwee, a fifth year Psy.D. student and Program Director for *Puente*, explored moral reasoning of street children in Bolivia. As part of her dissertation, Janelle observed and interviewed a number of adolescent streets girls in Cochabamba, Bolivia. In particular, she examined the girls' moral reasoning and their understanding of gender in light of contemporary psychology theories of moral development and theological considerations regarding morality. While the existing research on street children has had a disease model, seeking a "cure" for the "disease" of living on the street, Janelle sought to find strengths of the girls she interviewed. The findings highlighted the moral and psychological complexity in the self-understanding of the street children.

### Ongoing research in Latino populations

*Puente* is also involved in various other scholarly projects. For example, Dr. Carlos Pozzi and several students from the group are collaboratively working on a book for Latino pastors that focuses on counseling skills for this unique population. The group also presented four posters on recent outcome research at the 2005 annual conference of the American Psychological Association. Additionally, at least five students are using the work of *Puente* as part of their dissertations.

### For more information about *Puente*, contact:

Dr. Carlos Pozzi  
Department of Psychology  
Wheaton College  
Wheaton, IL 60187

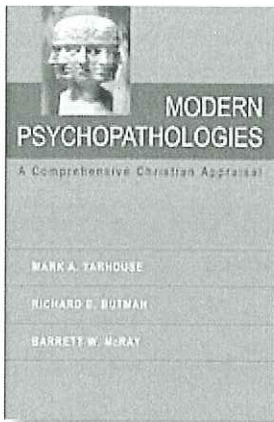
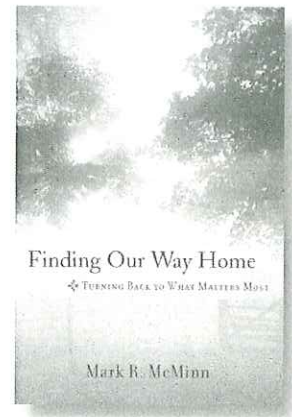
(630) 752-5759 or email  
[PuenteWheaton@hotmail.com](mailto:PuenteWheaton@hotmail.com)

## Other News: Recent Publications

### ***Finding Our Way Home***

Mark R. McMinn, Ph.D.

In his new book, *Finding Our Way Home: Turning Back to What Matters Most*, Dr. Mark R. McMinn draws on psychology, Christian spirituality, and theology to describe the universal longing for home. Home is described as not only a physical, but a spiritual place where we feel at home with ourselves and God. McMinn considers the different aspects of home as a spiritual metaphor, addressing our yearning for a spiritual center, a deeper relationship with God, and peace in our lives. The book has already received positive reviews, including an endorsement by Michael Card, musician and author, who writes: "We are all caught within the confusing and contradictory swirl of emotions like love and hate, hope and despair, remembering and forgetfulness, loathing and longing. Mark McMinn pointedly reveals that what so ruthlessly and lovingly draws them all together is the deep gravitational pull of home." McMinn has authored over 100 journal articles and chapters, and seven books, including *Why Sin Matters*. He is the Dr. Arthur P. Rech and Mrs. Jean May Rech Professor of Psychology at Wheaton College where he initiated and directs the Center for Church-Psychology Collaboration. More information about *Finding Our Way Home* is available at [www.markmcminn.com](http://www.markmcminn.com).



### ***Modern Psychopathologies: A Comprehensive Christian Appraisal***

Mark A. Yarhouse, Psy.D.; Richard E. Butman, Ph.D.; and Barrett W. McRay, Psy.D.

This new psychopathology text, written by two Psy.D. alumni, as well as a long time faculty member in the graduate psychology department, features a comprehensive Christian perspective on abnormal psychology. The book considers the historical tradition of pastoral care while also integrating recent findings from scientific literature. It is being applauded by reviewers as "grounded, insightful, biblical, practical" and "the first of its kind." For more information, go to: <http://ivpress.gospelcom.net/cgi-ivpress/book.pl/code=2770>.

## Changes in Masters Program Curriculum

Due to changes in M.A. licensure requirements, the M.A. in Clinical Psychology program has recently made a number of curriculum changes. Starting this fall, most courses will be worth three credits, rather than two or four credits. Terri Watson, coordinator of the M.A. program, explains that the changes allow students to obtain requirements for licensure in a more efficient manner, while still maintaining a distinctively Christian program with academic excellence in clinical psychology and theology.



Terri Watson, Psy.D., M.A. Program Coordinator

## Announcements

- Welcome to Dr. Kelly Flanagan who joined the department as a new faculty member in the graduate program in Clinical Psychology at Wheaton College. Dr. Flanagan received her Ph.D. from Penn State University and completed her internship at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Her emphasis is in child clinical psychology.
- Special thanks to Dr. Amy Dominquez who has served for four years at Wheaton College as part of the Center for Church – Psychology Collaboration, preceptor in the Psy.D. program, and professor for the Substance Abuse course. She will be leaving this winter to take a full-time faculty appointment at Regent University in Virginia.

Alumni and faculty of the Wheaton College Department of Graduate Psychology are invited to send in announcements to share with others who receive this newsletter. We also welcome your suggestions. For more information, contact the Graduate Psychology Program Administrator, Tracy Lee, at [tracy.w.lee@wheaton.edu](mailto:tracy.w.lee@wheaton.edu).

# Yes!

**I would like to support the Wheaton College Scholarship Fund.**

Enclosed is a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please apply it towards the:  MA Scholarship Fund  Psy.D. Scholarship Fund

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Contributions are tax deductible.*

*For a tax receipt, please make sure to include your name and address.*

Please make checks out to  
Wheaton College and mail to:

Graduate Psychology  
Wheaton College  
501 College Avenue  
Wheaton, IL 60187

Janelle Nelson, Karla Torres and Alicia LaHoz lead a marriage conference in Nicaragua for pastors and wives. See story inside.

