NEWS UPDATE

Faculty Awards

Dee Watts-Jones, Ph.D.
AFTA Distinguished Contribution to Social Justice

Peggy Papp, LCSW
Lifetime Advocacy for Youth Award, Mount Sinai Adolescent Center

Evan Imber-Black Ph.D.
Caron Foundation Award for Educational Excellence

2014 Graduating Class

Congratulations!
Astin Brown, LMSW
Silvia Espinal, MSW
Genny Finkel, LMSW
Jessica Forman, Ph.D.
Paige Hamilton, MHC
Peter Hill, LCSW
Erica Klein, LMSW
Kimberly Malito, LCSW
Rebecca Ross, MSW

Mark Your Calendar
To Attend Our Conference
OCTOBER 24, 2014
Loving Across Differences:
Therapy with Multicultural Couples

This one-day conference featuring Celia Jaes Falicov, Ph.D., co-author of Multiculturalism and Diversity in Clinical Supervision, and internationally known teacher, scholar and therapist. This groundbreaking conference will enable clinicians to gain an understanding of relational issues in multicultural couples. Intergenerational migration experiences, contextual stressors, family of origin beliefs and attitudes toward the couple and diverse cultural conceptions of couple unions and family life create conflict and provide richness for couples. There are also important implications of these unions for the children of multicultural couples. The practicing couple therapist today requires maps to work with new and complex couple dilemmas that precipitate processes of cultural transition not seen in previous generations. Dr. Falicov will provide a multidimensional framework for systematic clinical evaluation and intervention, together with clinical case illustrations of concepts and techniques tailored to the specific needs of multicultural couples and their families. Afternoon workshops will feature the original work of the Ackerman Institute faculty with multicultural couples and families.

Supportive Space for Therapists of Color Launched

The Ackerman Institute has initiated a new group called Supportive Space for all Ackerman therapists who identify as therapists of color. Supportive Space is an exciting collaboration amongst Ackerman trainees, faculty, and alumni of color who seek to have a forum to share their unique experiences at the Institute and in the field of family therapy. Piloted by a group of student trainees and facilitated by Ackerman faculty member, Walter Vega, Supportive Space offers students and alumni the chance to build a supportive community within and outside of the Ackerman training and alumni programs.

“[The group meets monthly and offers students and alumni] the opportunity to network with other therapists of color, receive mentoring, and explore the significance of racial identity both within and outside the Ackerman training program and build a supportive community,” says Walter Vega, Supportive Space’s faculty advisor. For more information, email, wvega@ackerman.org.

GFP News

The Gender and Family Project will be marching for the first time in NYC’s LGBT Pride Parade on June 29, 2014, with its own float and slogan, Pride is for Kids, Too.

Performance artist, Justin Vivian Bond will join GFP’s friends, colleagues and families to raise awareness for gender inclusivity and to celebrate the beauty and resilience of gender nonconforming children, transgender youth and their families. To sign up for this event, visit Pride is For Kids, Too Facebook page.

GFP is directed by Jean Malpas, LMHC, LMFT, who has trained nationally and internationally on issues of gender and sexuality.

Social Work and Diversity Training Program

Congratulations on completing the Program’s internship!

Left to right: Julio Cesar Garibay, Tina Mukwaya, Simone Boyd, Heydi Hurlado, Kyndra Frazier, Fernandine Agbossou
Families with Medical Illness


Family Therapy Institute of Complex Couples Therapy,” Therapeutic Choice Points in Meeting, Milwaukee, WI, April Wisconsin AAMFT Annual "Families and Medical Illness," Evan March 2014.

Youth Thrive Exemplary LCSW Pregnant and Parenting Youth Study of Social Policy for Award from the Center for the Judy Grossman, DrPH

Life Challenges,
Schools: Impact of Diminished Females Attending Elite Private Among African American "Depression and LCSW Ilness.", May 2014.


Judy Grossman, DrPH, OTR Award from the Center for the Study of Social Policy for Personal Best Program for Pregnant and Parenting Youth in Foster Care with Sabina Fila, LCSW. They presented at the Youth Thrive Exemplary Initiatives event in Orlando, FL, March 2014.


Bridgette Boucher

Bridgette Boucher worked on the Family Focused Grief Therapy Project at Memorial Sloan Kettering in conjunction with the Ackerman Institute from 2006 until 2013. She continues her work in Grief Therapy as a facilitator for the COPE Manhattan Parents’ Meeting. This group is for parents who have lost a child. It is open to all parents in this situation. She also maintains a private practice for families, couples, and hypnotherapist specializing in working with patients who have experienced trauma.

Peter Abrons (’95)

Peter is self-publishing a children’s book, Yogi Yawn, for 4-8 year olds. It’s a bedtime story that gets kids sleepy as they follow Yogi Yawn, a boy whose yawn is so powerful that anyone who hears it falls fast asleep. Kids enjoy the story because it’s fun and fanciful and has a surprise ending. Parents like the story because it helps get their children to feel so sleepy and ready for bedtime. Visit www.yogiyawn.com to learn more.

Carl Bagnini, LCSW, BCD (’74)

Carl Bagnini is on the faculties of the Adelphi University Derner Post-graduate Institute for Advanced Psychological Studies in Supervision and Couple Therapy, and is senior and founding faculty at the International Psychotherapy Institute in Washington, DC and Long Island, NY. Carl’s book, Keeping Couples in Treatment: Working from Surface to Depth [Aronson], is now available in paperback. Carl has been doing Skype seminars in couple therapy with groups from South Africa and San Francisco. He is a board member of the American Psychological Division 39 Section VIII on couple and family psychoanalysis.

[Alumni Spotlight]

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[Upcoming Events]

Externship in Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy June 23 - 26, 2014

Sue Johnson, EdD, and George Faller, LMFT

Personal Best Summer Intensive: Adult Development and Sensitive Parenting for At-Risk Families with Young Children July 7 - 9, 2014 (optional day July 10), 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Judy Grossman, DrPH, OTR

Tension and Trauma Releasing Exercises July 11, 2014

Chris Balsley, MS, LPC, PCC

Bright Beginnings Summer Intensive: Early Child Development and Parenting Processes July 21 - 24, 2014 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Martha E. Edwards, Ph.D.

Extern Graduation July 23, 2014

Moving Families Forward Gala October 20, 2014

Accerman Institute for the Family 936 Broadway, 2nd Fl. New York, NY 10010 (212) 879-4900 www.ackerman.org