

WINTER 2010

# alumni NEWS

PRESIDENT'S PASSAGE

## Expanding into St. Louis part of vision for next 30 years

Mark E. Skrade, Psy.D., President



For three decades, Forest Institute has been a champion of clinical training and service to the underserved, not only in southwest Missouri but also across the national landscape. As we embark on our journey into the next 30 years, it is inspiring to reflect on the characteristics of the school for which we are best known – innovation, clinical training and stellar faculty and alumni. Collectively these key attributes form a solid foundation upon which we have formed

**OUR BOLD VISION IS TO BE KNOWN FOR ENRICHING THE LIVES OF STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE THROUGH ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE.**

our broadening vision for the future of the school.

Our bold vision is to be known for enriching the lives of students and the communities we serve through advancing the practice of mental health care. To realize this vision, the School of Professional Psychology at Forest Institute must expand its influence into new markets, gain the support of external funding sources, deepen its relationships with alumni, and deliver innovative graduate programs

that respond to the needs of the health care marketplace. As we move into 2010, these priorities will begin to take shape

in several new and distinctive ways, starting with a site expansion into the St. Louis market.

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## Class of 2009 becomes newest alumni cohort

On Saturday, Oct. 10, Forest graduated its 28th cohort of alumni, which consisted of:

- **34 DOCTORS OF PSYCHOLOGY IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY**
- **43 MASTERS OF ARTS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY**
- **TWO MASTERS OF ARTS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY**
- **THREE MASTERS OF ARTS IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY (INAUGURAL CLASS)**

Held at the historic Gillioz Theater in downtown Springfield, commencement 2009 was memorable for many reasons. Danny Wedding, Ph.D., MPH, director of the Missouri Institute of Mental Health, presented the commencement address,

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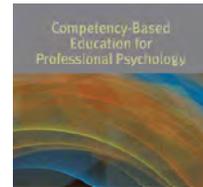
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**ALUMNI GATHER IN ST. LOUIS... and more locations to come!**

In October, alumni and Forest's leadership team reconnected at McCormick and Schmick's Seafood Restaurant in the West County Mall in St. Louis. Even former Practicum Coordinator Teresa Brown and her lovely family joined in the evening's celebration.

This was Forest's first road trip to meet alumni, and staff members are eagerly planning their next outing to a fabulous location later this spring. The location of this reunion will be announced after the first of the year. Alumni can also recommend reunion locations via email to [marciej@forest.edu](mailto:marciej@forest.edu).



▲ FROM LEFT, DR. THERESA VANLSEGHEM, MS. EMILY WILLIAMS, DR. RYAN MAID AND GUEST, AND DEAN STEPHANIE WOOD ATTEND THE ALUMNI GATHERING IN ST. LOUIS IN OCTOBER.



▲ FROM LEFT, THE REV. DR. NORA SHERRY JONES, MARCIE KIRKUP, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS, DR. DEBRA LUECHTEFELD, DR. STACY GATHMAN HERNANDEZ AND DR. JODI GLAUS PINGEL ENJOY EACH OTHERS' COMPANY AT THE ALUMNI GATHERING IN ST. LOUIS IN OCTOBER.

To see more photos, make sure you check out the Ning online alumni community. Find the link at [forest.edu/alumni](http://forest.edu/alumni).



THE DIRECTOR'S DESK...

**Stay connected with Forest on Ning**

Marcie Kirkup, Director of Student and Alumni Affairs  
[marciej@forest.edu](mailto:marciej@forest.edu)

AMONG THE THINGS I HAVE MOST ENJOYED IN 13 YEARS OF SERVICE AT FOREST ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO WATCH STUDENTS BLOSSOM FROM NOVICE PRACTICUM TRAINEES INTO SEASONED CLINICAL PROFESSIONALS.

It is so rewarding to encounter graduate after graduate who has accomplished remarkable success with their degree, both master's and doctorate, by positively impacting the profession and lives of clients. Our alumni are woven throughout the very fabric of the profession of clinical psychology and are making significant contributions to society on a daily basis.

So how best to celebrate our alumni of whom we are so very proud? How best to keep Forest connected and informed about both personal and professional alumni activities?

We are excited to announce the launch of our new online social network dedicated to celebrating and reconnecting Forest alumni. Ning has been selected as the host site, and alumni can join by following the

link at [forest.edu/alumni](http://forest.edu/alumni).

Our goal is to provide a dynamic forum where alumni can network with one another to maintain relationships, as well as meet other professionals who share similar interests. As the sponsor of the site, we



**NING HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE HOST SITE, AND ALUMNI CAN JOIN BY FOLLOWING THE LINK AT FOREST.EDU/ALUMNI.**

would additionally like to create opportunities for dialogue on issues impacting psychology, to share information on professional and practice management issues, to post employment and loan repayment opportunities, to share best practices for debt management, and to connect our current students with mentors and research professionals.

So whether you graduated in 1983, 1993, 2003 or just last month – and are from Hawaii, Alabama, Illinois or Missouri – join the Forest alumni network today and see how you can benefit!



**Remodeled Robert J. Murney Clinic offers enhanced training, service**

Months of renovations at the Robert J. Murney Clinic at Forest Institute have resulted in much more meaningful learning and training for students.

A community celebration was held in May to promote the clinic, greet the public, expand referral sources, and reconnect with alumni and friends.

The public was introduced to a digital video and audio recording system that captures treatment sessions and stores them on a secure server. The new setup records at better picture and sound quality than the previous system and allows viewers to skip to any portion of the sessions instantly.

"It allows supervisors to have another option to assess competencies of students, which are demonstrable," said Dr. Robert King, director of the clinic. "These competencies, many of them don't emerge until they are captured in a clinical setting."

Other technological updates include rooms equipped with multimedia capabilities that

allow groups of students to review DVDs, webinars and treatment session recordings.

The makeover has added nine offices for treatment or testing -- boosting the clinic's service capacity -- new observation rooms, faculty offices and expanded child therapy suites. The patient waiting area

was also redesigned and includes a photo and plaque commemorating Dr. Murney's years of leadership at the clinic.

King said the clinic now has a consistent look and feel. It looks more like a newly constructed clinic rather than a retrofitted church building.

The Springfield Chamber of Commerce ambassadors were present for the ribbon cutting in May, along with members of Dr. Murney's immediate family. The Student Council grilled food while tours were given to showcase the fresh facilities.

To see more photos, make sure you check out the Ning online alumni community. Find the link at [forest.edu/alumni](http://forest.edu/alumni).

▲ THIS WARM, INVITING RECEPTION AREA IS THE FIRST POINT OF CONTACT FOR PATIENTS AND VISITORS AT THE REVAMPED MURNEY CLINIC.



▲ THIS GROUP MEETING ROOM AT THE MURNEY CLINIC WAS REMODELED AND EQUIPPED WITH MULTIMEDIA CAPABILITIES SO GROUPS OF STUDENTS CAN EASILY COLLABORATE AND LEARN.



▲ THREE OBSERVERS IN A NEWLY REMODELED OBSERVATION ROOM PEER THROUGH A TWO-WAY MIRROR DURING A TREATMENT SESSION AT THE MURNEY CLINIC.



## Class of 2009 becomes newest alumni cohort

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and an honorary Doctor of Science was bestowed upon Joseph Ryan, Ph.D., for his ongoing support of students and the doctoral program.

Ryan is a professor and chairman of the department of psychology at the University of Central Missouri and doesn't just recommend his master's students for the Forest doctoral program, but continues to support them once they become Forest students by serving on their dissertation committees.

"It has been my privilege to work with Forest Institute and its outstanding student body for the past 20 years," Ryan said when asked for comment about receiving the doctorate.

"Forest is a place with a rich and innovative tradition of advancing education and clinical training in professional psychology within the state of Missouri and on a national level.

**"FOREST IS A PLACE WITH A RICH AND INNOVATIVE TRADITION OF ADVANCING EDUCATION AND CLINICAL TRAINING IN PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY WITHIN THE STATE OF MISSOURI AND ON A NATIONAL LEVEL."**

I look forward to future collaborations with the administrators, faculty and students of Forest Institute."

A posthumous degree was awarded to doctoral student Lesley Parker Black. Dr.

Parker passed away in August 2008 while attending internship. Her family was present at the ceremony and accepted it on her behalf.

Alumni, faculty, current students, staff, members of the board of directors and community friends celebrated this occasion

▲ THESE GRADUATES ARE THE NEWEST ADDITIONS TO THE FOREST ALUMNI RANKS.



▲ DR. JOSEPH RYAN, LEFT, DR. MARK SKRADE, PRESIDENT OF FOREST INSTITUTE, CENTER, AND DR. DANNY WEDDING POSE FOR A PHOTO. RYAN RECEIVED AN HONORARY DOCTORATE, AND WEDDING GAVE THE ADDRESS AT THE CEREMONY.

with graduates at an evening reception on Oct. 9 hosted at the Springfield Brewing Company.

Photos from graduation and the alumni reception may be viewed at [forestinstitute2009graduation.shutterfly.com](http://forestinstitute2009graduation.shutterfly.com).

## Forest writes the book on psychological service centers

Forest faculty and staff members have authored a chapter on clinics in a book that is the curricular standard for professional clinical psychology in the U.S.

In 2009, the American Psychological Association published an updated version of the National Council of Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology core curriculum. The

book is entitled *Competency-Based Education for Professional Psychology* and "presents the most up-to-date, research-based model for education in professional psychology."

Chapter 13, *Psychological Service Centers: Training Integration and Community Service* was co-authored by Dr. Robert King, director of the Robert J. Murney Clinic at Forest Institute; Dr. Stephanie Wood, dean of the doctoral program and associate professor; Marcie Kirkup, director of student and alumni affairs; and Dr. Christine Runyan, former dean of the school. While King took the lead author role and devoted much time to this effort, Kirkup contacted training directors from across the country and compiled

information about psychological service centers (clinics). Wood and Runyan added research and editorial expertise.

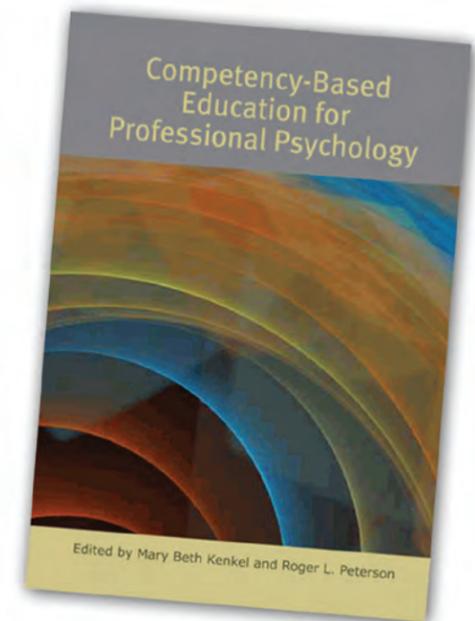
According to King, the chapter contains an analysis of the current state of psychological service centers across national council member schools, the unique opportunities at service centers to assess core competencies

and address developmental deficiencies of students, and the apparent struggle of the majority of centers for financial viability. On the last point, the chapter offers suggestions and redirection in terms of training, business models and service to communities.

The book lays out seven competencies that students of professional psychology must master.

"From a student's perspective, it's extremely important because what a student in a competency-based program learns is different from a traditional setting," King said. "Instead of a program that measures outcomes with exams or in-class assessments, a competency-based program

**"FROM A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE, IT'S EXTREMELY IMPORTANT BECAUSE WHAT A STUDENT IN A COMPETENCY-BASED PROGRAM LEARNS IS DIFFERENT FROM A TRADITIONAL SETTING."**



is much more comprehensive. A student might be assessed based on portfolios, role playing or group interaction, for example."

Through his role as Forest's lead delegate to the National Council of Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology, President Mark Skrade was able to bring the authorship opportunity to Forest, assemble and support the team of professionals necessary to conduct the research and scholarly writing required for the project, and assist with final review prior to submission.

The book can be found online at <http://books.apa.org/books.cfm?id=4316112>.

## Expanding into St. Louis part of vision for next 30 years

*continued from cover*

Several years ago, Forest began a process of market analysis and needs assessment of the urban markets in Missouri. Delivery of programs in these markets has remained a key strategic goal for the organization for some time, both in terms of new campus development and partnership development.

St. Louis was quickly identified as a preferred expansion location due to its robust landscape of mental health training and support opportunities for students. Therefore, in August the school formally requested from and was subsequently approved by the

Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges to expand degree offerings into St. Louis.

Beginning in summer 2010, Forest will offer the Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology degree in St. Louis. The site will be administered by Executive Director Dr. Brian Nedwek working with on-site staff to provide basic assistance for students in admissions, registration and financial aid processes; support for other operational resources, such as the library and technology, will be shared with the Springfield campus through

technological resources.

A complement of adjunct faculty will provide instruction and supervision of the MACL program in St. Louis and will partner with faculty from the Springfield campus to ensure continuity across programs. We are increasingly excited as plans for the site are finalized and new opportunities for our students, faculty and alumni are realized. This endeavor will clearly be a watershed moment in the future of the school.

Most importantly our vision includes a sincere desire and commitment to



▲ DR. GLORIA GALANES, PRESIDENT MARK SKRADE, DR. ALICIA WEST AND DEAN STEPHANIE WOOD



▲ DR. DIANE ELLIS AND TOM ELLIS



▲ MS. MELEIA BROWNING AND GUEST



▲ DRs. MARISSA HAMMOCK (MIRANTI) AND JENNIFER BAKER



▲ DR. ROBERT KING AND HEATHER KING

## ALUMNI AND FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

# Powers dedicates expertise to underserved

HELPING FOREST GRADUATES ATTAIN \$4 MILLION FOR STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENTS WHILE ALSO INCREASING RURAL POPULATIONS' ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IS TIED TO WHAT BRAD POWERS IS PASSIONATE ABOUT: SERVING UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.

As a National Health Service Corps community and campus ambassador, Dr. Powers has empowered Forest's alumni to access approximately \$4 million in loan repayment funding by providing information to and encouraging recent graduates who set up or staff treatment sites for underserved populations all over the United States.

"I disseminate information about the corps to the future clinicians and basically forward its message about serving the underserved in our society," Dr. Powers said. "It's my role to be that contact person for students and clinicians who are interested in providing those services."

According to its Web site, the corps provides tax free loan repayment funds to health service providers in exchange for two years of service at an approved site in a Health Professional Shortage Area. Since 1972, more than 30,000 corps clinicians have expanded access to health services and improved the health of people who live in urban and rural areas where health care is scarce.

Dr. Powers is also a consulting member for the national task force to identify the criteria for determining mental health service shortage designation areas for the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, which oversees the National Health Service Corps.

"I am basically an advocate for rural mental health, so that when [the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration] makes a decision about deeming who is an underserved population, they have objective and research-supported data about the rural populations," he said.

In addition to his efforts with the federal government, the thread of serving the underserved is woven into Dr. Powers' private practice as well. He conducts law enforcement evaluations, assessments, counseling, and civil and domestic mediation services.

He said he's always had a close bond with law enforcement interpersonally and first rode along in a patrol car in 1982. "I feel like they are a group that is underserved in regard to having psychological services," Dr. Powers said. "As far as helping professions go, I think a lot of times, they're probably the frontline."

He served as the psychologist for the Greene County (Mo.) Sheriff's Department from 1994-2000 and has since remained a psychological consultant for its patrol and jail divisions. He is currently the psychological consultant for 13 private security firms and city and state law enforcement agencies in



**BRADLEY POWERS, PSY.D.**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,  
DIRECTOR OF UNDERSERVED  
POPULATIONS PROGRAM

southwest Missouri, including the Springfield Police Department, and also serves as hostage negotiation clinical advisor, pre-employment and fitness-for-duty evaluator, and academy training instructor. Powers is an active board and team member of the Southwest Missouri Critical Incident Response Team and is a clinical advisor and member of the FBI Employee Assistance Program's Crisis Preparation and Intervention Program and Mobile Crisis Response Team.

Dr. Powers has conducted or supervised more than 25 correctional and law enforcement-based research projects and has presented locally and nationally at conferences, such as the American Psychological Association and American Psychology-Law Society. These presentations have been on topics such as correctional suicides and nationally commissioned correctional policy standards.

Dr. Powers is a 1994 graduate of Forest and became a member of the core faculty in 2000. You can find Powers online on our new Ning alumni community. Sign up today at [forest.edu/alumni](http://forest.edu/alumni).

## ASPPB credentials bank up and running

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards is now offering a Credentials Bank program that allows students and professionals to securely store transcripts, EPPP scores, internship certificates, letters of recommendation and other related documents. It costs \$25 to initiate and \$25 per year to maintain.

The bank is especially useful to individuals

who move out of state and apply for licensure or a new job and are asked to provide some of these documents. Once documents are stored, users can request that materials be sent to state licensing boards or prospective employers.

Visit this Web site for more information: <http://asppb.net/i4a/pages/indexcfm?pageid=3463>.

## Class notes

Have you recently gotten married or started a new career? Let us know of any changes, accomplishments or milestones in your life that you would like to share with fellow alums by submitting or updating a class note. Class Notes will be published in this section of the newsletter

quarterly but may be viewed on demand in the Ning online alumni community. To submit a class note, photo or other notification please e-mail Marcie Kirkup, director of student and alumni affairs, at [marciej@forest.edu](mailto:marciej@forest.edu), or post your update at [forest.edu/alumni](http://forest.edu/alumni).

## In memoriam...

CLIFFORD IVAN WHIPPLE, PH.D.

Earlier this year, our school and profession lost a revered colleague, Dr. Clifford Ivan Whipple. Although he lost his battle with cancer on June 2, Whipple's spirit of service to others, passion for education and training of students,

and resolve for the betterment of the profession will live on through those he touched as a professor, psychologist, researcher, volunteer, mentor and friend. His presence at Forest and across the profession is deeply missed.

## Expanding into St. Louis part of vision for next 30 years

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reconnect with our alumni, building interest and engagement through increased communication, and continuing professional development and networking opportunities.

Early initiatives in support of this vision include quarterly alumni newsletters to foster a sense of inclusion and awareness of Forest activities, invitations to alumni to participate in Forest-sponsored events, hosting regional alumni dinners (the first two of which are

described in this newsletter), developing an online social community for networking and information sharing, and fostering continuing professional development activities through the Center for Professional Solutions at Forest.

Through these activities, we will be able to provide an increased level of support for alumni and their unique and continuing needs and receive feedback to continue to

## Important links:

Alumni receive a 20 percent discount on study materials for the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification and the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology study materials:

[http://forest.edu/resources/9/mft\\_prep.pdf](http://forest.edu/resources/9/mft_prep.pdf)  
[http://forest.edu/resources/9/eppp\\_prep.pdf](http://forest.edu/resources/9/eppp_prep.pdf)

Center for Professional Solutions:  
<http://forest.edu/cps-workshops.aspx>

Update your information at:  
<http://forest.edu/form-alumni.aspx>

View or post mental health job openings at:  
<http://forest.edu/alumni-jobs.aspx>

Refer a student or faculty candidate at:  
<http://www.forest.edu/form-contact.aspx>

Request access to ning community at:  
<http://forest.edu/alumni>

Buy Forest gear at [forest.edu](http://forest.edu)



The School of Professional Psychology  
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