

# The Alumni Connection

Regent University School of Psychology and Counseling

Fall 2005/Spring 2006 Issue

*"Academically Excellent, Distinctively Christian"*

## Coordinator's Corner



Is it Spring already!? It seems like just yesterday we were putting up the Christmas tree and now we are starting to see the tulips come up from the ground. I hope this newest edition of our alumni newsletter finds you well and joyful!

We have had some exciting happenings at Regent in the last few months, including new faculty, a new SPC Alumni Board, and many of our alumni doing some exciting things like publishing books or earning licensure. Please take a few minutes to read through the newsletter and catch up on all the happenings in the SPC. And as always, if I can be of assistance to you in any way, don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached by phone at 757-226-4252 or by email at [spcalumni@regent.edu](mailto:spcalumni@regent.edu).

In Him,  
Abigail Peoples, MA, NCC  
Class of 2002

## Alumni Perspective

*(Each issue we will feature an article written by one of our alumni. If you are interested in writing for this section, please email [spcalumni@regent.edu](mailto:spcalumni@regent.edu) with your idea.)*

### Meet our new SPC Alumni Board

Rather than having one article written by an alumnus this issue, we are featuring the members of our newly formed SPC Alumni Board. Please join us in welcoming: **Ms. Maralyn Akerson, Ms. Tanya Bray, Ms. Glenice Burchard, Ms. Alecia Gregg, Ms. Carolyn Lincoln, Ms. Judy**

**McKinney, Ms. Carmela O'Hare, Mr. Patrick O'Keefe, and Ms. Cynthia Skeete.** Below are brief bios written by each member of the board, introducing themselves to you. If you have interest in being a part of our next board, please contact myself ([spcalumni@regent.edu](mailto:spcalumni@regent.edu)) or Dean Hughes ([rosehug@regent.edu](mailto:rosehug@regent.edu)).

*Maralyn Akerson has worked as a clinical counselor at Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) of Hampton Roads for the past ten years (1995-2005) and is currently working on her eleventh year at FFSC Little Creek. She previously worked as Student Development Counselor at Regent University for ten years (1985-1995). Maralyn says: "I am pleased to serve on the Alumni Board and my message of encouragement to other members is from the NKJ Version of the Bible: 'Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages and gathers fruit for eternal life that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.' I am looking forward to meeting, working and rejoicing with many other Alumni members from Regent University."*

*Tanya C. Bray is a Regent University SPC Alumna from the Class of 2002. She works as a Group Facilitator for Bruder Counseling Center, facilitating Anger Management, Domestic Violence and Petty Larceny Groups for court-ordered clients. She also works as a volunteer counselor and serves on the Crisis Response Team at her local church. Tanya treasures her graduate experience at Regent and sees serving on the SPC Alumni Board as an opportunity to give back to a great university that has given so much to her. Tanya received her undergraduate degree from Old Dominion University and has worked for almost 15 years at*

*the regional solid waste management agency. She lives in Norfolk with husband of fifteen years, Calvin, and their two-year old daughter Brianna.*

*My name is **Glenice A. Burchard** and I am a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in Virginia. I specialize in working with parents of preschoolers with behavior problems, adolescents, women who have experienced trauma and couples. I live approximately two hours west of Regent and try to get back to the Virginia Beach area whenever I get a chance. I am also an adjunct for Regent's online undergrad program. The Lord has blessed me with a wonderful husband named Michael and 2 beautiful boys, Benjamin (age 4) and Grayson (age 1). I am excited to be a part of the Alumni Board. Over the years since I have graduated, I have attended several alumni functions and it is always nice to reunite (or begin new friendships with) those who have shared the Regent experience. However, this is an opportunity to do so much more in strengthening those ties and supporting one another in the missions to which God has called us since graduation. It is so very exciting to see how He uses each of us to plant seeds and labor for the harvest. I do hope and pray that as we begin to serve in this capacity, the board will be able to provide meaningful opportunities, events and programs that are beneficial to you, as alumni.*

*My name is **Alecia Gregg** and I am a mother of three  
Asaad, Quincy and little Chauncey  
I'm married to a sailor and in three years he will retire  
I'm also a native of South Carolina  
Helping the underserved is what I prefer  
So it's no surprise I am the Director of a homeless shelter  
I graduated from Regent in HSC  
And also from ODU with a BS in Psychology  
I love music, cappuccinos and aroma therapy  
That ends my snapshot about little ole me.*

*My name is **Carolyn Lincoln** and my current occupation is President/CEO Baby Steps Inc., which is a volunteer position. It is my pleasure to serve Regent University as an Alumni Board*

*member. Regent University is the embodiment of Christian- "to be Christ-like"- Education. Regent, by existing, has globally become the "candle in the dark", personifying "God-Esteem" in deference to Self-Esteem". Regent's School of Psychology and Counseling provides learning opportunities which stress a Christian Worldview, Ethics and the Moral Courage to fulfill one's purpose in life. As a volunteer for BabySteps, a Spiritually grounded Human Services community organization, my education at Regent prepared me for the global challenges and opportunities I have been blessed to receive. To be grounded in a goal of "God-Esteem" has been the cornerstone for my success.....Yes, It is indeed my pleasure serve Regent!*

*It is a pleasure to serve on the Alumni Board and give back to the School of Psychology and Counseling that trained me for God's calling to counseling. My name is **Judy McKinney** and I have worked as a Clinical counselor for 9 1/2 years at Fleet and Family Support Centers of Hampton Roads. My clients are active duty sailors, Marines, soldiers and Coast Guard primarily between 19 and 35 years of age. I counsel individuals and couples on a wide variety of issues. Prior to my current job, I was in private practice and also worked in both inpatient and outpatient drug and alcohol rehab. Like many of you, the process by which God brought us to Virginia Beach and Regent University was something only he could orchestrate. Once I completed my degree, my husband attended Regent and received his Masters in Management, another goal only God could fulfill. We are now grandparents of three active boys and enjoy spending time with family whenever possible. My husband and I love to dance and travel.*

*My name is **Carmela O'Hare**, and I am happy to serve on the Alumni Board. Hopefully I will have the opportunity to keep in touch with more of my old friends and also meet some new colleagues and friends. I believe that it is still our mission to be Christian leaders to change the world. I would love to hear from some of you working in the helping professions and education to hear how God is using you to accomplish this mission. God Bless.*

*My name is **Patrick O’Keefe** and I graduated from the School of Psychology and Counseling in August 2002. I consider my experience at Regent University to have been one of the most meaningful in my adult life. I established several wonderful relationships and grew closer to God than I had ever been before. My graduate education was as spiritual as it was academic, and I am grateful to have been a Regent student. Since graduation, God has blessed my profession, and I became a Licensed Professional Counselor in June 2005. I left my job of 11 years as a substance abuse counselor for the Navy and opened a private practice in Chesapeake. God provided me with a small medical office building in Greenbrier that I purchased and renovated into a counseling office. I hired a Regent classmate to work with me and named my practice Parakletos Psychotherapy & Counseling. Parakletos is the Greek noun used in the Gospel of John when referring to the Holy Spirit as Counselor. In addition to my profession, I am excited about being a member of the alumni board and serving as a liaison for Regent graduates living throughout the country.*

***Cynthia Skeete** is a 2004 graduate of Regent University, where she received a Master of Arts degree in Community Counseling. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Virginia Wesleyan College and an Associate in Science in Early Childhood Education from Tidewater Community College. Cynthia has worked in several mental health facilities and is currently employed as a Social Worker. Cynthia’s loves by the motto, “With God, all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26. Her favorite song is, “Order My Steps,” Psalm 119:133. Cynthia’s ultimate goal is to become a Licensed Professional Counselor.*

***Also, don’t forget about our Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision! To find out more about the program, call 1-800-373-5504 and ask to be transferred to Ms. Jenny Redick or locally, call 757-226-4132. You may also visit our website at [www.regent.edu/acad/schcou/programs/progphd.html](http://www.regent.edu/acad/schcou/programs/progphd.html) or email [jennemo@regent.edu](mailto:jennemo@regent.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!***

## SPC Updates

### *First Alumni Professional Development Luncheon a huge success!!*

The SPC hosted its first annual Alumni Professional Development Luncheon on November 18, 2005. Mr. Eric Scalise spoke to us on “Compassion Fatigue” and helped alumni understand how to care for themselves while caring for clients. We had a good turnout by our alumni and hope to continue the luncheon annually. We hope that more and more of you can join us each year.

### *Faculty and Staff Additions and Changes!*

**S. Julian Dixon** -- Ph.D., Michigan State University; M.A., University of Detroit/Mercy; B.S., Wayne State University. He is an assistant professor and part of the psychology faculty.

**Gabriel S. Dy-Liacco** -- Ph.D., M.S., Loyola College in Maryland, A.B., Ateneo de Manila University. He is an assistant professor and part of the counseling faculty (D.C. campus).

**Waiman K. Hung** -- Psy.D. Candidate, M.A., Azusa Pacific University, B.S., University of Nevada, Reno. She is a clinical instructor and part of the psychology faculty.

**James N. Sells** -- Ph.D., University of Southern California; Ms.Ed., Northern Illinois University, M.A. Wheaton Graduate School; B.A. Biola University. He is an associate professor and part of the counseling faculty. He also is the director of the PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision Program.

**Mary Ann Yaconis** -- Ph.D. Candidate, Loyola College; M.A., Regent University; M.S., University of Maryland; B.S. Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She is an instructor and part of the counseling faculty (D.C. campus).

**Assistant Professor Dr. Mark Rehfuss** was appointed the associate dean for academics for the School of Psychology and Counseling, in July, 2005. He is part of the counseling faculty, teaching in the Ph.D. Counselor Education and Supervision Program.

**Ms. Sharon Piper, MBA**, was assistant dean and now serves as the associate dean of administration.

**Dr. Arlene Brown (PsyD, 2003)**, who served for two years in the post doctoral position of clinical instructor in the PsyD program, has been promoted to Assistant Professor as part of the counseling faculty.

### *Other exciting faculty and student accomplishments!*

One of our new faculty members, **S. Julian Dixon, PhD**, has been accepted as a member of the **Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA)**. RSA is a scientific society made up of scholars, scientists, researchers, and professionals representing multiple disciplines in medicine and in the social sciences, across the USA and internationally, whose interests and research help to extend our understanding of alcohol addiction and related co-morbid, mental and medical health problems.

**Dr. Glen Moriarty**, Assistant Professor, has published his book "Pastoral Care of Depression: Helping Clients Heal Their Relationship With God." More information can be found at <http://www.haworthpress.com/store/product.asp?sid=714LJ4KPRFD38HHXKJVUK9G7XG2679H3&sku=5138&AuthType=4>.

**Dr. LaTrelle Jackson**, Director of the Psychological Services Center and Associate Professor, is the chair of the university committee, Alcohol Awareness and Prevention. Committee members include; Mark Blagen, James Boland (School of Law), Agatha Parks-Savage, Mark Rehfus, and Mira Ingemann (student representative). She also attended the regional meeting of universities for Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), along with Dr. Jeff Pittman and Mr.

Roger Cheeks, to develop policies/protocol that would be inclusive of law enforcement professionals and para-counseling professionals in the Hampton Roads community. The next meeting will be at Hampton University. The following meeting will be at Regent University (hosts). A SART is a group of individuals representing agencies that provide comprehensive services to victims of sexual violence. In the higher education SART, agencies may include women's centers, security, resident life coordinators, and counseling centers.

**Dr. Mark Yarhouse**, Associate Professor, co-authored a book on Christian integration and psychopathology titled *Modern Psychopathologies: A Comprehensive Christian Appraisal*, available from InterVarsity Press.

**Dr. Jen Ripley**, Associate Professor, received tenure last year. She is currently on sabbatical the Spring 2006 semester working on her and will return to the classroom in the summer of 2006. Dr. Ripley has been collecting longitudinal data for a study on marriage covenants for 5 years. While on sabbatical she is organizing and analyzing the data and writing articles relevant to the results. She also plans to write a book proposal for a book on marriage covenants.

**Dr. Judith Johnson**, psychology faculty member, has been promoted to professor and received tenure.

Regent University introduced its first student chapter of **The Association of Black Psychologists** on April 1, 2005. The installation ceremony program featured Dr. James Savage, president of the association. The Association of Black Psychologists is a professional organization dedicated to enhancing the psychological well-being of individuals of African descent. The student chapter was founded in response to the need for student members in the association to have a body to address their needs and to serve as a collective voice for the next generation of black psychologists.

# Upcoming 2006 University/Alumni Events – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

*More events to come...keep an eye on the  
University alumni website  
([www.regent.edu/alumni/community.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/alumni/community.cfm))!*

## Where Are They Now?

**May 4:** SPC Commissioning

**May 6:** Commencement

**April 8:** Houston Chapter Steering Committee Meeting

**11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Cost: Potluck (heavy hors d'oeuvres)**

**Where: David and Monika Lim's home**

Houston area alumni are invited to get involved as charter members of the Greater Houston alumni chapter! For more information about this event and or travel directions, please contact Irene Briggs at 281-251-0736.

**April 8:** Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter Steering Committee Meeting

**4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Cost: Dutch**

**Where: Olive Garden in Irving, Texas**

Dallas area alumni are invited to get involved as charter members of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex alumni chapter! For more information or directions, please contact Ric Hicks at [RegentAlumniDFW@yahoo.com](mailto:RegentAlumniDFW@yahoo.com).

**April 11:** Executive Leadership Series

*A monthly series of luncheons featuring regionally and nationally recognized leaders in business, politics, academia, entertainment, government and religion.*

**Speaker:** Admiral Vernon Clark

**Where:** Founders Inn and Conference Center, Va. Beach, VA

Register now!

**Time:** 12pm - 1pm

A number of our alumni are working as adjunct professors in the SPC, including **Dr. John Ferreira (MA, 2002; PhD, 2005)** - MA, **Mary Quinn Dreisbach (MA, 2003)** - HSC, **Evelyn Biles (MA, 2002)** - HSC, **Dr. Cassandra Ferreira (MA, 2002; PhD, 2005)** - MA, **Dr. Laconda Fanning (PsyD, 2005)** - MA, and **Dr. Tim Tjersland (PsyD, 2004)** - MA.

**James Edwards (MA, 1994)** is the Practice Administrator and Therapist at San Gabriel Psychological Services, Inc. As Practice Administrator, he supervises office staff, staff psychologists, therapists, and examiners in the area of production and quality of care. He is also responsible for business administration including budgeting, tracking expenses, and maximizing revenue production. As a therapist, he provides individual, marital, family, and group counseling, and workshops/classes in the community. He works with privately referred Protective Services in the area of family reunification. He is currently involved with a ministry team providing marriage enrichment programs to Christian families ([www.skyring.org/redeemedrelationships](http://www.skyring.org/redeemedrelationships)). They are also beginning an outreach to families in the community to provide resources for marriage and family programs as a nonprofit ministry under the federal Community Healthy Marriage Initiative program.

**Eric Ferguson (MA, 1998)** along with his wife Shanna, are the founders of Metanoia Missions International, located in Managua, Nicaragua. "Metanoia" is the Greek word for repent. The vision of Metanoia is to transform the nations through the establishment of churches, Bible schools, orphanages, micro-businesses, and humanitarian aid. For more information, visit the website at [www.metanoiainmissions.org](http://www.metanoiainmissions.org).

**Ed Hersh (MA, 2001)**, is running a Bed and Breakfast with his wife Stephanie, called “Blue Rock Bed and Breakfast and Healing Ministry. It is a place for retreat, counseling, spiritual renewal, and personal time away. You can visit their website at <http://retreat.bluerockbnb.com>.

**Joanne Sparks (MA, 2001)** earned her Masters in Divinity in August 2005 from Asbury Theological Seminary in Florida. She is working as a part-time Chaplain in a CPE Residency Program in a Florida hospital.

**Tess Cox (MA, 2002)** is discovering her niche in writing inspirational books. Cox has contributed to the devotional book, *Faith That Breathes (for Women)*, a collection of daily readings written by Christian authors, adjoined by the personal accounts of well-known contemporary Christian music artists. *Faith that Breathes (for Women)* has been on the Christian Bookseller’s Association best-sellers list. The devotional features the personal stories and wisdom of artists such as Point of Grace, Rebecca St. James, Nichole Nordeman, and Jaci Velasquez. Cox resides in Virginia Beach and is employed at Eastern Virginia Medical School, where she teaches counseling skills to master’s level physician assistant students.

**Cassandra Ferreira (MA, 2002; PhD, 2005)** is the new Psychology Program Department Chair in the School of Undergraduate Studies, as of January 2005.

**Patrick O’Keefe (MA, 2002)** recently started his own private counseling practice, Parakletos Psychotherapy & Counseling, in Chesapeake, Virginia. “Parakletos” is the Greek noun used in the New Testament when referring to the Holy Spirit as Counselor, Comforter, or Helper. To learn more about the practice, visit the website at [www.Parakletoscounseling.com](http://www.Parakletoscounseling.com).

**Christine Buckingham (MA, 2003)** earned her Maryland LGPC in 2004. She owns her own private practice, Safe Harbor Christian Counseling of Southern Maryland, LLC. She has 10 counselors working for her at seven sites throughout the

region. The counselors include Regent alumni **Theresa White (MA, 2005)**, **Mary Ann Morgan (MA, 2005)**, **Ginger Graham (MA, 2005)**, **Hiram Jennings (MA, 2004)**, and **Jean Noble (MA, 2003)**. Also, alumni **Ginger Graham**, **Rasheda McGuire (MA, 2005)**, and current Ph.D. student, Kristi Moutee are leading growth groups for our Group Dynamics Course on the DC Campus. Additionally, Christine and her husband, Peter, celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last year and their son entered Grove City College as a freshman in 2005 where he is on the dean’s list.

**Ellen M. Jones (MA, 2003)** has published her book “Heaven...Eternal Living”. This book is about the things God has prepared for us beyond this life. The book can be purchased at Heaven and Earth or ordered online at [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com), [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com), or [www.borders.com](http://www.borders.com). Orders can also be placed by calling 1-888-280-7715. Refer to ISBN 3 141845527x when ordering.

**Carla Berghult (MA, 2004)** is in Georgia teaching at Georgia State University in Atlanta part-time while ministering to the deaf full-time.

**Corina Kojack (MA, 2004)** is working at Western Tidewater Community Services Board as an outpatient addiction counselor.

**Dr. Jeffrey Sim (PsyD, 2004)** passed his Licensed Clinical Psychologist Exam. He is currently working in a prison and taught a course at a private Catholic University in the fall.

**Barbara Steffens (PhD, 2005)** is the Clinical Director at Cincinnati Christian University in Cincinnati, Ohio in their Master of Arts in Counseling program, as of July 1, 2005. She is responsible for all aspects of the Counseling Center, which serves the university and the community, and for the supervision and clinical/skills training of the masters students.

*If you would like to include an update on yourself in our next newsletter or online, please email [spcalumni@regent.edu](mailto:spcalumni@regent.edu). We’d love to hear from you!*





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