Report ---+ ---> ---+ India Collaborations

During the past winter break, Dr. McDowell, Dr. Brown and two of our research colleagues from Portland (Mr. Flynn McDowell and Dr. Rhea Combs) and I visited India on a multifaceted research project as a group of professionals. The purpose of our visit was professionally manifold, and it primarily focused on the following key areas: to explore the MCFT faculty’s ongoing efforts to engage with the leading researchers, academicians and clinicians around the world, this time with our counterparts in India’s leading universities and centers of mental health services; to explore new opportunities for the Lewis & Clark MCFT students’ international exposure and engagement; to present the MCFT faculty’s research at two international conferences in Bangalore and New Delhi; to do research related to several of India’s leading substance addiction treatment facilities; to lead training workshops for India’s clinicians working in the field of addiction treatment in the city of Chennai; and to lead a research seminar on “System-Focused Interventions” for graduate students, faculty members and clinicians associated with the departments of Social Work and Psychology at various universities and leading mental health services in the city of Bangalore.

As representatives of the five-member group, my research colleague Flynn and I left early for India on December 14th. By the time Drs. McDowell, Brown and Combs arrived in Chennai on December 27th, Flynn and I had completed our visit to several addiction treatment centers and gathered data on India’s innovative addiction treatment programs from several cities in two states: Maharashtra and Kerala. With the arrival of the rest of our research team in Chennai, we, the five-member team, were renewed and energized to be “a powerful work-force.” While in Chennai, we conducted interviews with addiction treatment professionals, led training workshops for addiction treatment professionals in Chennai, and explored opportunities for future research collaborations and internship possibilities for MCFT students at TTK Hospital, which is one of the leading addiction treatment research centers in South East Asia.

After working almost a week in Chennai, our five-member team went to Bangalore (also known as “India’s high-tech city”). While in Bangalore, Drs. Brown, McDowell and I presented a keynote address on “Healing through Just Practices” at the Second International Conference on Counseling, Psychotherapy and Wellness held at Christ University, Bangalore. After the conference, we had opportunities to connect with conference delegates from both India and abroad. Our time in Bangalore gave us many opportunities to hold several extremely productive meetings with heads of departments in the schools of social work, counseling and psychology at Christ University, Sampurna Montfort College, and National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore.

Our next destination was India’s capital: New Delhi. While in New Delhi, we had the great privilege of participating at the Indian Association of Family Therapy’s (IAFT) annual conference, and meeting with leading family therapists in India. At the IAFT national conference, Dr. Brown led a research workshop with Dr. Rhea Almeida from New Jersey, and Dr. McDowell and I presented another research workshop. Our Indian colleagues were very appreciative of our presence and contribution. We also had an opportunity to learn from the works of Indian MFTs. On January 8th, our team parted in New Delhi.
India Collaborations continued...

Flynn and I flew back to Bangalore to lead a one-day workshop on “System-Focused Interventions” held at Christ University. Seminar participants included master’s level students, pre-doctoral students, doctoral students and graduate faculty members from several leading universities (including Christ University, Sampurna Montfort College, NIMHANS, St. John’s Medical College, etc.,) and mental health service providers from several mental health service centers in Bangalore.

In conclusion, the MCFT faculty India trip 2011-2012 was a huge success, because were able to meet all of our project goals well beyond all our expectations! Indian colleagues were very gracious and excited just as we were! For us as MCFT faculty, this trip provided us with many wonderful opportunities to be close to each other, to reflect together as professionals and colleagues, and to get to know many wonderful and committed professionals in India. Further, this trip helped us broaden our vision as researchers, academicians and clinicians as MCFTs in the ever changing global context! Collaborating with colleagues from around the world, and learning from the ever changing global contexts have been immensely helpful to revisit our assumptions, to expand our knowledge base, and find more creative ways of educating future marriage, couple and family therapists. I am sure that the MCFT program at Lewis & Clark will see the fruits of this historical trip in the years to come in terms of our stronger professional ties with our counterparts in India as well as many exciting opportunities for our students for training in India’s innovative research, academic and clinical settings. On behalf of my team, I would like to thank all those who helped us with this exciting project, especially our administrative staff, Dean Scott Fletcher and President Barry Glassner! Thank you all!

Sebastian Perumbilly, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling Psychology

A word from your program director...

Dear MCFT Community,

I recently gave a talk at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst on vicarious resilience. This was a part of “The art of conflict transformation series” organized by Dr. Leah Wing from the Legal Studies program. Dr. Wing has been very involved with the work of Irish muralists and artists and the use of art as an expression of resistance. This year she brought to the USA a very powerful art collection of arpilleras from South America and Africa, and art from Israel and Ireland to complement the talk series on alternative conflict resolution. I encourage you to visit “Transforming threads of resistance: political arpilleras & textiles from Chile and around the world,” at http://blogs.umass.edu/conflictart/political-textiles/ This is an amazing collection of women’s creative resistance to state violence and human rights violations that also highlights how women in conflict zones in the Global South impacted women in conflict zones in the Global North as this form of artistic resistance and creative response to state violence spread. When you visit the website read the stories that explain each arpillera. You will see that they depict many different aspects of family life impacted by political repression, economic exploitation and domestic violence.

On another note, I would like to announce that Dr. Perumbilly is leaving Lewis & Clark this summer. We wish him the best in his new career endeavors and thank him for his service.

-Pilar Hernández-Wolfe, Ph.D.
"Meeting Survivors' Needs Through Non-Residential Services & Supports: Results of a Multi-State Study" Webinar
March 20th, 2012 @ 2 pm
Presented by: Julia Perilla
For more information, contact Heidi Notario-Smull @ hnotario@casadesperanza.org

Social Determinants of Health Solving Problems in Partnership
April 5th, 2012
Portland State University
Lincoln Recital Hall
For more information, contact Lindsay Coffey @ lncoffey@pdx.edu

OAMFT 2012 Fall Conference
November 9th-10th, 2012
Sheraton - Portland Airport
Featuring Bonnie Badenoch, Ph.D, LMFT
Author of Being a Brain-Wise Therapist: A Practical Guide to Interpersonal Neurobiology

"Making the Invisible Visible: Native Americans in Multnomah County"
March 28th, 2012
Reed College, Eliot Hall Chapel
For more information, contact Crystal Williams @ williamc@reed.edu

Bridging the Gap: Bringing Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Into the Home
March 22nd, 2012
Legacy Emanuel Lorenzen Conference Center Auditorium
http://launcheventmarch2012.eventbrite.com/

Listening to the Body: Yoga Calm for Therapists
April 6th-7th, 2012
Instructor:
Lynea Gillen, M.S., RYT
For more information:
go.lclark.edu/graduate/yogacalm

Emerging Trends in Ecotherapy
April 20th, 2012
Instructor:
Patricia Hasbach, Ph.D.
For more information:
go.lclark.edu/graduate/ecotherapy/trends

Youth Villages Job Opening
Night Monitor, Evening position with work benefits including tuition reimbursement
Keep posted on job openings at Youth Village through their website:
http://www.youthvillages.org/join-our-team.aspx/

Youth Villages Job Opening
Behavioral Youth Counselor, includes work benefits
Keep posted on job openings at Youth Village through their website:
http://www.youthvillages.org/join-our-team.aspx/

Events and Announcements

"Making the Invisible Visible: Native Americans in Multnomah County"
March 28th, 2012
Reed College, Eliot Hall Chapel
For more information, contact Crystal Williams @ williamc@reed.edu

Dr. Hernandez-Wolfe invited as Guest Speaker
Dr. Hernandez-Wolfe spoke at the University of Massachusetts Amherst on vicarious resilience; a successful visit to her Masters and Doctoral institution!

Dr. Hernandez-Wolfe and Dr. McDowell Article Accepted in JFFT.Info
Social privilege and accountability: Lessons from family therapy educators.
Journal of Feminist Family Therapy.