

# Richmont new name for old PSI

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BY CLINT COOPER

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Psychological Studies Institute, which traces its past to the founding of Chattanooga Bible Institute in 1933, has changed its name to Richmont Graduate University and plans to expand its offerings.

The Atlanta-based school, whose local campus occupies the former Central Presbyterian Church on McCallie Ave-

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nue, plans eventually to have schools of counseling, ministry, psychology and formation.

The name change was prompted by the school's pursuit of additional accreditation by the



Philip Coyle

Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs, said Richmont President Dr. C. Jeffrey Terrell.

"It gave us an opportunity to think about who we are and where we are going," he said.

Psychological Studies Institute didn't accurately reflect the school's focus, which is more counseling than psychology, according to Dr. Philip Coyle, academic dean of the Chattanooga campus.

"That is our real emphasis," he said. "This will help us focus and re-brand our heart."

The Richmont name, according to vice presi-



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN RAWLSTON

Jana Pressley, an assistant professor at Richmont Graduate University, teaches a class in family systems. Formerly known as Psychological Studies Institute, the school is expanding its mission in addition to changing its name.

## Richmont

Continued from Metro

dent Dr. Gary Moon, comes in part from Paul's words in Colossians about the richness available to mankind because of the indwelling of Christ, and because of the rolling mountains that connect the school's campuses in Chattanooga and Atlanta.

The faith-based graduate program now has about 200 students in Atlanta and 85 in Chattanooga.

Under a five-year plan, Richmont will add a doctoral program in counseling in the fall of 2010, Dr. Terrell said. The eventual school of ministry likely will be headquartered here, he said.

The university president

### SCHOOL TIMELINE

- 1933 — Chattanooga Bible Institute founded.
- 1973 — Atlanta Clinical College established for integration of Christian faith and professional counseling. After partnership with a state university, the name is changed to Psychological Studies Institute.
- 2000 — CBI and PSI merge.
- 2003 — School receives accreditation.
- 2008 — School name changed to Richmont Graduate University.

said many ministry training programs, in seminaries and elsewhere, are too academically based. He said Richmont's program will offer the traditional

academic courses, but also more spiritual formation and application classes, which he called "the things people are not getting."

Dr. Coyle said the ministry program that likely will be offered would lead to a degree similar to a master's of divinity.

The focus, he said, might be on the contemporary church, "the next generation of church life," and offer instruction on topics such as pastoral care, leadership and counseling.

All degrees now and later may be obtained at either campus, Dr. Terrell said.

Dr. Terrell said there will be no change in the Chattanooga operation, which includes graduate classes, Chattanooga Bible Institute classes and groups and the Hope Counseling Center.

"We have more Bible studies and community outreach than we ever did," he said.