

# Difference-Making 101



**Bob Rodgers** has joined PSI's board of trustees. He is the founder and president of Quantum Search in Atlanta, which provides nationwide executive search and talent acquisition solutions for the general corporate and healthcare sectors. We

welcome Bob and appreciate his enthusiasm for PSI's mission, programs and services.

We'd like to thank **Ward Nelson** for his six years of service on the PSI board of trustees. Ward has been a great advocate for PSI and was instrumental in helping us achieve our current level of success. We appreciate his friendship and know that he'll continue to support PSI, although in an unofficial capacity.

New **Student Government Association (SGA)** officers have been elected at each campus. We appreciate these students' willingness to serve PSI by building community and acting as liaisons between the student body and faculty.



**Atlanta:** Seated (left to right): *Donna Batchelor-Coleman (secretary); David White (orientation officer); Joannah Mason (president) Standing (left to right): Kristen McConnell (social officer); Katrina Wilson (orientation officer); Karen Akridge (vice president); Sonya Kennedy (social officer); and Jose Hernandez (chaplain)*



**Chattanooga:** Seated (left to right): *Jenn Hand (chaplain) and Megan Rowell (social officer) Standing (left to right): Hannah Pollard (social officer); Brandon Santan (orientation officer); Phillips Hwang (president), Mark Rehm (orientation officer); and Leanne Eldridge (secretary)*



Congratulations to **Jose Hernandez** and **Jessica Colon**, the recent recipients of two scholarships designed

to assist Hispanic students enrolled at PSI. The scholarships were made possible by a contribution from a private Atlanta foundation.

We also want to recognize the following PSI graduates who are pursuing doctoral degrees in various programs across the country: **Valerie Redding**, clinical psychology doctoral program at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.; **Ryan Thompson**, clinical psychology doctoral program at George Fox University in Newberg, Ore.; **Tessa Trussell**, counseling psychology doctoral program at Rosemead School of Psychology at Biola University in La Mirada, Calif.; **Rachel Walker**, counseling psychology doctoral program at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond; and **Andy Ward**, counseling psychology doctoral program at Georgia State University in Atlanta.



What do you get when you bring four PSI alumni back for a panel discussion with current students? A lot of good advice. **Jonathan D. Golden**, M.S. ('90); **Lynne**

**Padgett**, Ph.D. ('95); **Michael Todd Wilson**, M.S., L.P.C. ('95); and **Rebecca G. Palpant**, M.S. ('96) shared their personal journeys and lessons learned along the way during a special program at the Atlanta campus Feb. 22.

**PSI has developed a listserv to post job openings, internship opportunities and information related to the licensure process. This is an interactive means of communication we want to offer students and alumni. If you'd like to subscribe to the PSI Career Listserv at Yahoo Groups, please e-mail [btharpe@psy.edu](mailto:btharpe@psy.edu).**

## PRESENTING THE CLASS OF 2005

PSI will hold its 32nd commencement exercises Friday, May 6, at 7 p.m. at Mount Paran Church of God in Atlanta. Fifty students will graduate, each having the potential to help as many as 8,000 people throughout the course of his or her career. Please join us in congratulating these special individuals as they begin their counseling ministries. This year's graduates are:

Carmeisha LaBernyse Arnold	Walter Williams Howard
Gigi Camp Bell	Kenyon Christian Knapp
Jonathan Eric Boggs	Robin Elizabeth Lay
Constance L. Branom	Martha Cary Leonard
Monica Renée Brohard	Judy Kay Magnussen
Tennille Brown	Holly Cheri McClain
Frank J. Busbey	Janet Mimi McDonald
Ronald LaVon Chapman, Jr.	Richard D. Oswald
J. Michael Cloyd	Lyn R. Owen
Jennifer Rice Collins	Jason Scott Peters
Don Cotton	Christina Bramlette Pettit
Rebekah Jayne Darling	Adony Pierre-Louis
Gary W. Delaplane	Emily Caroline Poe
Daniel Dean Dieringer	Paul Michael Porter
Jessica Drew	Jillian Sahajdack Rainwater
Shirley B. Edwards	Valerie Annette Redding
Laurie Laliberte Firstman	MyChelle Dianne Richardson
Stacy Renee Fye	David Lee Robinson
G. Matthew Glass, II	Brittney Stiles Smith
Whitley Greene	Erica Michelle Stoller
Angela Gresham	Brigitte Marie Sullivan
Victoria Lee Hales	Roxanne R. Timmerman
J. Lisa Harrison	Sunamita Tuple
Nancy M. Higgins	Whitney Brooke Werstlein
Starr Slagle Hoover	Autherine W. Wright

## Alumni Brunch Set for May 21 to Organize Association

The PSI Alumni Association is hosting a brunch on **Saturday, May 21, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Brio Tuscan Grille**, 2964 Peachtree Road, N.W., in Atlanta. The purpose of this event is to discuss the transition of leadership and management of the association from PSI staff to elected officers within the association.

During this meeting, we hope to brainstorm with alumni about how the alumni association should be set up and run to best meet alumni needs. If you'd like to attend, please e-mail Bunny Tharpe, director of institutional advancement, at [btharpe@psy.edu](mailto:btharpe@psy.edu), or call 404-233-3949, ext. 103.

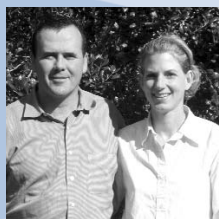
## Dr. Mark R. McMinn to Lead CE Workshop as Part of 2005 Alumni Reunion

PSI will host the 2005 Alumni Reunion on **Friday, Oct. 28, at the Cobb Galleria Centre** in Atlanta. The reception will begin at 4:30 p.m., followed by a continuing education (CE) workshop from 6 to 9 p.m.



**Dr. Mark R. McMinn** of Wheaton College will lead the CE workshop. It will focus on relational cognitive therapy, an alternative perspective on cognitive therapy that begins with a Christian view of individuals and integrates contemporary schema-based approaches to cognitive therapy.

All PSI alumni are invited to attend the reception. However, those who'd like to attend the workshop for CE credit must be members of the PSI Alumni Association or pay a \$25 processing fee. For more information, please visit the Alumni & Friends section of our Web site.



**'90 Jonathan Golden** says his mission is "to be a portal of grace through which others discover their life's work and the Creator of all work." After graduating from PSI, Jonathan went into private practice, taught for a local university, worked at a psychiatric hospital and as a plumber – the vocation that paid his way through college and graduate

school. Realizing that he couldn't do it all, Jonathan prayed for God to take some things off his plate. Shortly thereafter he landed his first consulting job and discovered his niche: helping businesses build stronger teams, manage change, and deal with conflict. "The same things that make people ineffective make businesses ineffective," Jonathan explains. "It was easy to translate my PSI education to the business world." Along the way, he discovered that "a lot of good folks are mismatched in their careers." In fact, as many as 92 percent of people say they're dissatisfied with their work, and 50 percent of college students spend seven years completing a four-year degree. Jonathan says these statistics indicate that people have lost a sense of who they are and what they were created by God to do. Jonathan now has one foot in the business world and one foot in the career coaching world. He's developed a process called LivesWork that helps clients find career direction. "People are so caught up in worshipping fortune and destiny instead of pursuing what God created them to do," Jonathan explains. "To find your calling, you have to find the Caller." As an extension of his life's work, Jonathan and his wife, **Brenda (Kennedy)**, a 1990 PSI graduate who became a certified addictions counselor, have founded **St. Peter's Place Anglican Church** in Roswell, Ga., where people can worship the Creator, build community and discover their calling. Recently ordained as an Anglican priest, Jonathan also is working on his doctorate in ministry with an emphasis in the theology of work, as well as writing a book about the LivesWork process. Brenda helps lead worship at St. Peter's Place and volunteers at the Christian school where their two sons attend. Both Brenda and Jonathan say the greatest lesson learned at PSI is integration – building a bridge between psychology and spirituality.

**Jodi Ward, M.S.** ('99 and '01); **Amanda McGehee, M.S., L.A.P.C., N.C.C.** ('03); **Annalie Celzo, M.A., N.C.C.** ('04); **Jennifer R. Lewis, M.S.** ('00); **Andrea Gordon, M.A.** ('04) and **Angela Gresham**, intern,



graduating this May with an M.A., work at **Bethany Christian Services** in Atlanta. Bethany is a Christian adoption and family services agency that has been restoring, preserving and building families for more than 60 years. It has 70 offices nationwide and international ministries in more than a dozen foreign countries.



**Dwight Foulk** ('82), is a licensed professional counselor in private practice with **Dr. David Aycock** ('79) and David's brother, **Dr. Tim Aycock** ('86), at A New Start Counseling Center in Fayetteville, Ga. Since its founding in 1991, the practice has grown to include 12 therapists, providing full-spectrum mental-health services.

# CLASS NOTES

## PSI Alumni Association Growing Strong

We'd like to welcome the following members who joined the new PSI Alumni Association since the last newsletter printing in October. We're now at more than 100 members and growing! Thanks to all of our new members for their generosity, which helps to support general operations.

**Robert (Bob) Alexander**

**Lee Harris Ballenger**

**Jonathan E. Boggs**

**Philip R. Cook**

**Dana P. Crenshaw**

**Jill S. Garman**

**Jeffery S. Goswick**

**Evalin Rhodes Hanshew**

**Lynne Harris**

**Walter Howard**

**Jessica Jennings**

**Amy E. Lockman**

**Richard D. Oswald**

**Linda S. Parker**

**Mandi J. Peek**

**Jackie E. Perry**

**Christie Pettit**

**David L. Robinson**

**Kathryn Rupp**

**Dale Simpson**

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM ALUMNI SO WE CAN PUBLISH A CLASS NOTE ABOUT HOW YOU'RE MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE.

Please let us know where you are and what you're doing. You can e-mail the editor at [btharpe@psy.edu](mailto:btharpe@psy.edu).

# HONORS & MEMORIALS

## IN HONOR

Dr. & Mrs. Louis Carter  
Mrs. Mae Conner  
Dr. David & Barbie Cooper  
Dr. & Mrs. Sam Currin  
Ted & Marge Franklin  
Hugh & Marion Huffaker  
Annabelle Mae Lutes  
Nancy Mills  
Doug & Eleanor Powell  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Probasco  
Dr. & Mrs. Steve Sawrie  
Mr. Nick Senter  
Brittney Smith  
Dr. & Mrs. James Strang & Family  
Kirk Wilder  
Mary Willingham

## IN MEMORIAL

Dr. I. Lee Arnold  
Robert Hancock  
Sylvia Harrison  
David Lee Hyatt  
Dr. Lawrence H. Lassiter  
Baird McClure  
Pat Owens  
Joe Smith  
Bill Sanford  
A. E. Wilson



THESE GIFTS WERE RECEIVED FROM DECEMBER 2004 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2005.

## CBI Class Schedules

Chattanooga Bible Institute (CBI) class schedules are posted on our Web site under the Services section. By posting this information online, we can be better stewards of our operational funds. If you don't have e-mail access or would prefer to receive these schedules via regular mail, please call 423-266-4574 to make that request.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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JACK WEBB  
Chattanooga, TN

# Alumni Directory Goes Live

More than 100 alumni have joined the new PSI Alumni Association and are now listed in an online directory under the Alumni & Friends section of our Web site.

Only alumni association members have access to this special directory. If you're an alumni association member and have not received your user name and password, please e-mail btharpe@psy.edu.

Please also let us know if we need to update your contact information.

If you'd like to join the PSI Alumni Association and leverage the benefits of membership, including access to the online directory, please complete the membership form under the Alumni & Friends section of www.psy.edu. New gifts from alumni provide general operating support and count toward a matching grant from the Christian Education and Charitable Trust in Chattanooga.

# Good Conversation

What do you think about the Bible? **Dr. Gary Moon**, PSI's vice president for spiritual development and one of the executive editors of PSI's *Conversations* journal, shares his thoughts on the topic of Scripture and formation, the theme of the Spring 2005 issue of *Conversations*.

I believe Jesus is exactly who he claimed to be, God's only Son, co-creator of the universe, born from above, but willing to stoop low to touch the world and to save it. But I also like to imagine Jesus to be fully human. I hope that when he was a teenager his voice squeaked as it deepened and that he had at least one good-sized zit to deal with.

Thinking of Jesus' humanity makes me feel even closer to him. This lets me know that he has felt what I feel; that he can fully empathize when I tell him about weaknesses, struggles and temptations. Although it makes my frontal lobes hurt when I do it, I see Jesus as fully divine and fully human. And that is exactly how I see

Scripture. Are there imperfections, linguistic zits? I hope so. As with Jesus, the marks of humanity speak to me of the trust and love of God, while only enhancing the divinity that I accept by faith and interact with through experience.

**“What if, instead of reading the Bible, you let the Bible read you?”**

As I think about the divinity and humanity of Scripture, I am challenged by the questions raised by Brian McLaren in *A New Kind of Christian*. For example, “What if, instead of reading the Bible, you let the Bible read you?” and “I wonder what would happen if we honestly listened to the story and put ourselves under its spell...not using it to get all our questions about God answered but instead trusting God to use it to pose questions to us about us?”

Would you like a copy of the latest issue of *Conversations*, which includes the honest reflections of humble seekers attempting to allow the Bible to read them? Please visit [www.conversationsjournal.com](http://www.conversationsjournal.com), or call 404-233-3949, ext. 399, to get your copy or become an annual subscriber.

**Connecting** is a publication of the Psychological Studies Institute (PSI), which merged with the Chattanooga Bible Institute (CBI) in 2000. PSI's mission is to provide graduate education, integrating applied psychology and practical theology to make Christian counseling a servant of the Church for Christ-centered transformation. PSI is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award master's degrees in professional counseling and marriage and family therapy. Our campuses are located in Atlanta, Ga., and Chattanooga, Tenn.

To update your address information or to unsubscribe from this publication, please contact the editor:

Bunny Tharpe  
Director of Institutional Advancement  
888-924-6774, ext. 103  
btharpe@psy.edu

McCarty Building  
2055 Mount Paran Road, N.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30327





# CONNECTING

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ATLANTA, GA / CHATTANOOGA, TN

SPRING 2005

Phillips Hwang used to ride his bike to church as a teen growing up in Elmhurst, Ill. At age 13, he became a Christian and also developed a passion for racing. “When I fell in love with God, I also fell in love with cycling,” Phil explains. Now 26, he says he realizes that God used the sport as a vehicle for personal and spiritual growth. “If you want to know who I am, watch me on a bike.”

Phil has ridden more than 70,000 miles and completed some 300 races. He used to train year round – on some days that meant up to six hours and more than 95 miles – with only Thanksgiving and Christmas off. “Cycling is a challenging sport both mentally and physically,” Phil says. “You can’t hide when you’re competing, which is both a beautiful and scary experience. Looking back, I think it produced a courage and confidence in me that I wouldn’t have otherwise. It was the therapy God knew I needed.”

Having found new perspective through cycling, Phil has channeled that energy in a new direction – helping others confront emotional and spiritual pain. He and his wife moved to Chattanooga in the spring of 2004 so he could begin work on his master’s in marriage and family therapy at PSI. “If there’s something God wants you to do, He’ll give you a passion for it,” Phil says.

Phil had studied psychology at Indiana University, training throughout the week and racing on weekends. He suffered some serious injuries after a particularly bad crash and found himself at a crossroads, physically and mentally broken. Be careful what you pray for, as the saying goes, because

God does answer prayer. Phil had been contemplating what it would mean to become more Christ-like but didn’t know that process would take him in the direction it did.

Phil took some time off from racing bicycles and became a group leader and counselor at a live-in youth ministry for at-risk teenagers, including many who were victims or perpetrators of physical and sexual abuse. A year later, Phil married his wife, Kristen, and moved to Indianapolis so she could finish school. There, the newlyweds began co-leading a small group through their church, enabling Phil to reconfirm that leadership is among his spiritual gifts.

Again, he realized that God had used his life experiences to his benefit. Though he once thought God’s plan was for him to race professionally, he discovered the bike was, instead, a tool to “mature” him.

Phil always had a sense he’d eventually go back to school. He started researching master’s programs in psychology and stumbled across PSI on the Internet. He and his wife made plans to visit.

“We were impressed,” Phil says. “I really felt like PSI was cutting edge because of the specialty tracks offered. In addition, the school was growing, and I felt like good things were to come. And I knew we’d be supported and cared for when receptionist Nieva Greene offered to help my wife, who’s a physical therapist, by giving us the name and number of a PSI student who had



*PSI student Phillips Hwang has biked more than 70,000 miles and participated in some 300 races. Here he is in St. Louis in 1999. Today, he’s working on his master’s in marriage and family therapy at PSI.*

worked as a physical therapist assistant.” Through Nieva’s initiative, Kristen was able to get a job with a rehabilitation hospital similar to the one she worked at in Indianapolis.

Now in his second year, Phil has decided to specialize in Christian sex therapy because of the need for deep and authentic care in this area of people’s lives. His aim in attending PSI is to “become a better people helper, to bring those hurting closer to the hope and love found in Jesus Christ.” Oh, and Phil has not forgotten how to ride a bike. Somewhere between recreation and racing, he’s at peace, knowing he can trust God to help him ride out the future.

We need your help to ensure that students like Phillips Hwang can complete their degrees in Christian counseling at PSI. Please consider making a donation to our annual fund, which enables us to maintain our graduate education programs, training such remarkable students and difference-makers as Phil. We also would like to ask for your help in establishing more scholarships so those students who’ve decided to pursue a career in Christian counseling can lower the amount of debt they have to incur to complete their training.