



Adler Graduate School Newsletter

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Adler Graduate
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Legal Considerations for Mental Health Professionals

New Class at AGS

The Adler Graduate School (AGS) began offering a new class in November entitled: Legal Considerations for Mental Health Professionals. Attorney Rhonda Simpson Brown teaches the course which focuses on state and federal law that relates to client relations and client data that health care professionals, and particularly mental health professionals, will find necessary in their professions.

Using hypothetical cases, students learn to apply the facts to the relevant statutes. Students also learn how to find relevant statutes and a protocol for those situations where application of the

facts is unclear. In short, the class is a response to the question, "What does the law require and how do I meet that requirement?"

Rhonda Brown's idea for proposing this class to AGS evolved from her experience of teaching Continuing Education courses at various agencies. "I realized there was a real gap in the knowledge base of mental health professionals concerning the law and how it applies to their work in the mental health field," says Ms. Brown. "People didn't know the law," she continues, "and what they did know was anecdotal and often incorrect and grossly incomplete." For example, many professionals have heard of man-

dated reporting, but fewer know what to report, to whom they report (the law has changed) or when they must report (both the timeframe of the conduct and the timeframe of the report).

The course is heavy on class participation using the case consultation design as its review method.

Fictional case studies, based on real life composites, allow students to follow a child and her family through a number of scenarios and to apply the appropriate statutes to a given situation. The result of the course is that students will have not only copies of statutes, but practice guides that, at a glance,
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Alumni Updates

* Adler Graduate School alumni may take any class on an audit basis for twenty-five dollars or additional, for-credit classes at half-price.

* Alumni might want to consider adding an Art Therapy minor to their credentials and can do so by registering

for the six course series which begins in January, and again in July.

* The new Legal Considerations for Mental Health Professionals class is another way in which to enhance your professional skills.

* If any Alumni have internship openings in their private practices or agencies in which they work we'd appreciate hearing about them. Please call Evelyn Haas at 952-988-4327 to learn more about the current internship needs.

We're on the Web!
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Legal Considerations Class

will allow them to comply with applicable laws.

Many areas of law are covered in this class beginning with legal definitions of commonly used terms followed by basic statutory construction. Students read primary texts (the actual statutes) and learn that most statutes are constructed and organized in the same way. The students then have a framework from which to work.

Another portion of the class shows students how to find a law or to see if there is a law that applies to the situation in which the professional finds him- or herself. "The facts are rarely neat and tidy," says Ms. Brown, "nor do they fit squarely into some statutory language." She notes that the point is not to memorize the law, but to know how to get to it and how to consult with other professionals

on the correct application of the law.

The first substantive area of the law that is covered in class is the Minnesota Data Practices Act, which defines classifications of information held by the government and how to access that information. Students learn the kinds of information that can be shared with people who are non-clients and when authorization is needed to share a certain classification of information with someone who is not a client.

Minnesota Access to Health Records Law and the HIPAA (Health Insurance and Portability and Accountability Act), which is a federal law, are taught. As a practice resource, the students also receive a copy of the Patient's Bill of Rights.

The class also covers the "duty-to-warn", that is, when a professional's duty

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of confidentiality is challenged by the concern that there is a danger to the client or others. "When does a set of facts trigger the duty-to-warn such that breaching confidentiality is required?" Ms. Brown asks. "If this set of facts does exist, what exactly am I supposed to do?"

Minnesota's Minor Consent statutes define a limited set of circumstances under which certain minors can provide consent for health care. "A professional needs to know that when a minor walks into their office," says Ms. Brown, "under a certain set of circumstances, the minor can consent to health care without the legal consent of a parent or legal guardian." Students are provided with a flow chart on minor consent which provides the circumstances under which a minor can consent to their own health care.

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Wanted!

Adler Graduate School is looking for a reel-to-reel tape player and for student volunteers to listen to a number of tapes donated to the media center by the Bob Bartholow family. Students will be asked to listen to the tapes to see if they are suitable for transfer to CD's.

Please call Ev at 952-988-4327

New Class

Roger Ballou Ph.D. will be teaching *Parenting in the Contemporary Family* at AGS beginning in February.

Dr. Ballou is the Adlerian Program Director at the Adler Graduate School and maintains a private practice where he provides marriage counseling and parent coaching. His website can be accessed at: www.family-life-services.com

New Term

The new term at the Adler Graduate School begins on January 3, 2005.

No classes will be held on Monday, January 17th in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

President's Corner

by Dennis Rislove, Ph.D.

A Bright Start for 2005

A team of evaluators from the Higher Learning Commission conducted a comprehensive site visit at the Adler Graduate School from December 6th through the 8th. The many months of hard work and preparation by the Adler faculty and staff resulted in a positive recommendation from the site team.

In the final exit interview presented on December 8, 2004, the site team chairperson informed us that it will recommend full accreditation for the Adler Graduate School to the Higher Learning Commis-

sion Board of Directors. Our next site visit is scheduled for 2009.

We are very happy with the final report and are looking forward to pursuing our goals for 2005.

School Counselor Program

AGS will host a site visit in April from the Minnesota State Board of Teaching. We hope to gain approval for a new program which will allow the Adler Graduate School to prepare and license K-12 school counselors. If this new initiative is approved, the first cohort of students will enter the

program in the fall of 2005.

A Home of Our Own

Another goal for AGS is to renew the search for a permanent home. The AGS Board of Directors is seeking a facility that will allow growth and will serve our graduate school well into the future.

The Adler Graduate School administration, faculty and staff look forward to an exciting future. Thank you for your continued support.

Dennis Rislove, Ph.D.
President,
Adler Graduate School

Did You Know?

by Earl Heinrich, Bartholow Media Center

* Despite assertions that major contributors to the child psychology field, such as Anna Freud, Jean Piaget, Alfred Adler and Erik Erickson studied with Dr. Maria Montessori, there is no evidence that Adler, who was six months older than Montessori, ever met her more than once. They were introduced in a train station and had to speak through an interpreter because Montessori spoke no German and Adler spoke no French or Italian.

* Adler faculty member Dr. Wes Wingett and Al Milliren have had an article published in the *Journal of Individual Psychology* (60:3, Fall 2004) entitled: *Lost? or Stuck? An Adlerian Technique for Understanding the Individual's Psychological Movement*

* The General Collection in the Bartholow Media Center contains 3000+ volumes including the complete works of Freud, Horney, Milton and Erickson.

* The Adler Collection is growing with donations from the Bob Bartholow estate, other donors and from the purchase of additional materials, both new and old. This collection includes works by Alfred, Kurt and Alexandra Adler, Willard and Marguerite Beecher, Don Dinkmeyer, Sr., Rudolf and Sadie Dreikurs, Daniel Eckstein, Eva Dreikurs Ferguson, Benice Grunwald, Harold Mosak, Bernard Shulman, Lydia Sischer, Wilhelm Stekel and many others.

**“Meanings are not determined by situations,
but we determine ourselves by the meaning we give to situations.”**

Alfred Adler

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Adler Open House

Find out about our M.A. in Counseling and Psychotherapy and our two certificate series: Personal and Professional Life Coaching and Coaching and Consulting in Organizations.

The open house will be held at the Adler Graduate School on Wednesday, January 5th from 6:00—7:30 p.m.

The Adler Graduate School is located at 1001 Highway 7 in Hopkins, MN Call 952-988-4327 for directions.

Life Coaching Seminar

Faculty member, Paula Hemming, M.A., Coordinator of Personal and Professional Life Coaching Education, offers a no-cost Life Coaching Seminar the second Wednesday of every month at the Adler Graduate School. The next two opportunities are January 13th and February 9th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

To sign up for either workshop, call Ev at 952-988-4327 or email her at ev@alfredadler.edu

Legal Considerations Class

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Students also learn about Mandated Reporting, including who is considered a mandated reporter, when a person is a mandated reporter and exactly what body of conduct should be reported and the period of time over which it is to be reported. Also included in this section of the course are the legal definitions of abuse and neglect.

The final portion of the class deals with Commitment Law and includes Vulnerable Adult Statute definitions.

Most of the students who register for this course are already working in the field. "They were glad to find out what the law actually says," says Ms. Brown, "because they learned to read the statutes." Some students were surprised to find what the law is and some were concerned about the practices in their agencies that were inconsistent with the law.

Others were "thrilled" according to Ms. Brown, to learn where the policies

within their agencies came from. This course allowed them to see clearly why their agencies do what they do.

Legal Considerations for Mental Health Professionals will be offered again in May of 2005.

Rhonda Simpson Brown is an attorney in private practice. The emphasis of her practice is on family and juvenile law and conflict resolution. She can be reached at 952-474-8003.

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Hopkins, Minnesota

Kate Moore, Editor

Adler Graduate School Mission Statement

The mission of the Adler Graduate School is to educate ethical, reflective, highly competent, comprehensively informed, continually learning, Adlerian-based professionals who are prepared to improve the interactions and conditions of the people, organizations, and/or communities they serve.