

A

Adler Graduate School Newsletter

Practical psychology, inspiring change

Volume 2, Issue 5

May, 2005

Alumni Profile

Gerilyn Rodriguez Courneya, M.A.

Director, Area Training Centers Project
School of Social Work
University of Minnesota

"I always love what I do," says Gerilyn Rodriguez Courneya of her varied career.

After graduating from the Adler Graduate School (AGS), Gerilyn worked as an Employee Assistance Program counselor. She was then hired by Anoka County where she performed assessments and provided case management as a children's mental health social worker.

The next stop for Gerilyn was the University of St. Thomas where she became the Program Manager for the Hispanic Pre-College Project, an outreach program for at-risk

Hispanic youth. "My passion areas are diversity, cultural competence and cultural pluralism," says Gerilyn. "It's been a big focus in my work since I left Adler."

Gerilyn's graduate thesis was entitled, "Working Therapeutically with Mexican Americans: An Opportunity to Blend Culture and Adlerian Counseling". She notes that Adlerian Psychology works well with the Hispanic community.

"In Individual Psychology," she says, "you think not only about yourself, but how you affect others, how you relate to others and how all those things tie together." That is

the piece, she says, that has worked so well. "It was about connection to the larger community - the idea of Social Interest," she says.

She found that Adlerian concepts applied particularly well to the families of the youth she worked with through the St. Thomas project. The families were new to this country or the state and many of them lived in poverty.

Gerilyn's focus was to find the appropriate and needed resources for the children and their families. "The high school kids needed work so

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Adler Open House

May 4th & June 1st
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Adler Graduate School
1001 Highway 7,
Hopkins, MN

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.

Call 952-988-4327 for directions.

Gerilyn Rodriguez Courneya

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we found ways to employ them,” says Gerilyn, “and we had to convince families that this was the right thing to do.” “They didn’t always want to hear what we were saying,” she says, “and they didn’t always agree with the changes we were making.” Gerilyn notes that her Adlerian background allowed her that to adjust her style so the families were able to comprehend what she was saying.

Gerilyn’s next career move was to Dakota County where she became the administrator of the county’s diversity program, working with all its divisions to increase cultural competence and to provide an understanding of cultural pluralism.

“We worked on a huge initiative about diversifying our workforce,” she says, “and the importance of cultural competence.”

When the University of Minnesota Area Training Centers Project began looking for a director with a deep understanding of diversity, they found that person in Gerilyn.

In September of 2004, she became the Director of the Area Training Centers Project (ACT) at the U of M School of Social Work. The program is funded through a grant by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and is part of the Minnesota Child Welfare Training System.

Gerilyn oversees the regionalization of training for county and tribal social workers, their supervisors and for contracted providers across the state of Minnesota. She also oversees curriculum development for her program’s training system and trains state supervisors about diversifying their workforce.

Relying heavily on her Adlerian skills in all of the positions she’s held, Gerilyn says, “I can use my education anywhere and it has been invaluable.” “It’s been the one thing,” she adds, “that has really tied everything together.”

NASAP Conference Reminder

The Fifty-third Annual Conference of the North American Society of Adlerian Professionals (NASAP) will be held from June 16 -19, 2005 at the Hotel El Conquistador Resort in Tucson, Arizona.

This year’s featured forum is entitled, “Our Multicultural World – Culture, Connection and Community”.

Full- and half-day workshops will be offered on a variety of topics. Continuing Education credits are available for psychologists and counselors.

A number of people from the Adler Graduate School community will be attending the conference. If you are interested in joining your colleagues at the conference, you may go to NASAP’s website at: <http://www.alfredadler.org/> for registration information.

President's Corner

by Dennis Rislove, Ph.D.

Dear AGS Students,

It has recently been decided that the Adler Graduate School (AGS) will begin the conversion process from a two-credit format to a three-credit course format.

I expect preparations for this change to be completed by October 1st of this year, at which point, the three-credit structure will be put into operation.

I want to thank the officers of the AGS Student Association for their input and involvement during discussions of this change.

There are a number of benefits AGS students will experience as a result of this new credit arrangement.

We will offer a less expensive program than is currently available because the number of courses students will be required to take will be substan-

tially fewer than is currently required.

The change in credit hours will result in a new schedule which will include breaks between course offerings, which our current schedule does not. This will allow more time between courses for students to complete assignments.

Additionally, the changeover to a three-credit course structure will offer AGS students a greater chance of being accepted into doctoral programs which already operate on a three-credit system.

In the end, AGS students will be able to complete their degrees in about the same amount of time as they would with the current two-credit format, and some will complete their program even more rapidly.

As the conversion to a three-credit system occurs, rest assured that AGS students will

not be caught in circumstances that require them to take extra credits or to incur extra costs.

AGS' Director of Student Services, Evelyn Haas, and Academic Vice President, Dan Haugen, will work with a student to determine if any adaptations are needed in his or her individual degree plan.

I will keep you apprised of our progress as we plan for and, ultimately, implement the new, three-credit format in October of this year.

In the meantime, please contact Evelyn Haas at (952) 988-4327, Dan Haugen at (952) 988-4170 or me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Dennis Rislove, PhD
President, Adler Graduate
School

Adler Alumnus Awarded Bush Fellowship

Paul Orieny, M.A., an alumnus of the Adler Graduate School, was awarded a Bush Leadership Fellowship in April.

Orieny, a native of Kenya, is employed by Helena Family Support which provides home-based services.

Orieny is also enrolled full time at the University of Minnesota in the Marriage and Family Ph.D. program. Part of his grant will be used to conduct research on a study of immigrant families.

Congratulations, Paul!

Contact
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We're on the Web at
Alfredadler.edu

The Adler Graduate School
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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.

**No -Cost
Life Coaching Seminar**

Find out what Life Coaching is all about.
You'll hear about AGS' six-month Personal and Professional Coaching Certificate series and you will witness a live demonstration of one-to-one coaching.

This seminar will appeal to those who want to add coaching to their professional skill set, to those who want become a life coach, or to those who just want to know what the buzz is all about.

The seminar meets the second Wednesday of every month.

Coming up:

May 11th and June 8th

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Adler Graduate School
Suite 311
1001 W. Hwy. 7
Hopkins

To register call Ev or leave a message at: 952-988-4327.

For questions regarding the coaching program, email Paula Hemming at:
coachpaula@earthlink.net

Don't Forget

**The International Committee of Adlerian
Summer Schools and Institutes**

Will be holding its annual conference this summer from
July 17 -30 in Marsascula, Malta.

Attend demonstrations and lectures led by master teachers and register for classes taught by an international faculty.
To register, go to www.icassi.net