Meet Patty Bach

Dr. Patricia Bach grew up in the suburbs of Detroit as the oldest of three with a younger sister and brother. Her mother is German and met her father as a teenager while working on a United States Air Force base in Frankfurt. Patty’s hobbies are hiking, bird watching, and travel. She especially loves any opportunity to combine all three.

Patty joined the IIT Clinical Psychology Program in 2004 through a unique route. Originally planning to be a physician, she received her first bachelor’s degree in microbiology from the University of Michigan in 1987. While applying to graduate programs in neurobiology, she discovered her true interest. “I had an epiphany and woke up in the middle of the night realizing this was the wrong course and that I was most interested in the social sciences,” she says.

The next day Patty declined offers to graduate programs and re-enrolled as an undergraduate at Michigan in anthropology, taking Psychology and Philosophy courses along the way. When deciding on a new graduate program, she remembered perusing her father’s psychology textbook from college and finding it fascinating.

“I decided on Clinical Psychology because I love doing work where I am engaged in such diverse activities as teaching, research, writing, mentoring, providing clinical services, and training and consulting,” Patty says. “A clinical psychologist has many career choices, and I like a career where one can be something of a jack of all trades.”

After finishing graduate training at the University of Nevada, Reno in 2000, Bach began working as a trainer at the University of Chicago’s Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation. Working under Patrick Corrigan and alongside Jon Larson (both of whom, coincidentally, later joined the Institute of Psychology faculty), Bach provided training and consulting services to agencies that provide mental health services to persons with chronic and persistent mental illness. In 2004, she also began working part-time at the Mid-American Psychological Institute, providing psychotherapy and therapy training, something she continues today for a few hours a week.

Wanting to pursue an academic career and stay in the Chicago area, and because she was familiar with IIT after teaching a Rehab Psychology course a couple of times as an adjunct instructor, she decided to join as a visiting professor with a one year appointment. “I enjoyed the experience, so I applied for a tenure-track position and the rest is history,” Patty recounts. When asked what she likes most about IIT, she points to her colleagues and the students. “The collegial atmosphere is friendly, supporting, and cooperative. The students stimulate my intellectual curiosity as much as I (hopefully) do theirs.”

Patty’s research interests lie in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), a mindfulness-based psychotherapy. She is particularly interested in its application to the treatment of psychotic disorders, which are often treatment resistant. Mindfulness practice is associated with many positive benefits such as reduced stress, decreased symptoms of psychopathology, and improved concentration and mood. Mindfulness practice is increasingly becoming a part of psychotherapy practice.

“I am especially interested in its applications to weight management and decreasing stigma. I am interested in understanding how verbal processes contribute to making judgments about others and how mindfulness might be used to decrease stigma against others,” Patty says. She also is interested in delusions: “It is fascinating that someone can believe something untrue and without evidence to support their beliefs. I am interested in understanding the verbal processes involved in someone believing they are a millionaire, the president, or that there is a conspiracy against them without any evidence to support their beliefs.”
News from the Dean

2010 ushered in all too quickly. This year the university calendar had everyone back to campus a week earlier than usual — hardly enough time to clean off our desks. In addition to what we wrote about in the fall, Psychology faculty had some wonderful news and accomplishments this academic year: Michael Young and Konstantin Cigularov were honored with teaching awards; Tammy Sher was the recipient of the Julia Beveridge award, given to a top woman in the university; Konstantin also received a five-year $750,000 grant award from the Center for Construction Research and Training of NIOSH with Co-Pi Dr. Peter Chen of Colorado State University; Mike Young was named Associate Editor of the Journal of Abnormal Psychology; Roya Ayman was recognized as Fellow by the Leadership Trust in the UK and named Associate Editor of the Journal of Management and Organization; Frank Lane was named to the editorial board of the Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin; Joyce Hopkins appeared in January on the cable television show — “Report To The People” — a talk show that informs, educates and entertains Chicago viewers, tells them about what’s going on in and around the City of Chicago, gives them helpful information and tells them of resources available to help them and inspire them, and their children; Zack Boukydis was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship in Hungary. Join me in expressing kudos. Finally, I am pleased to let you know that I have been selected to serve as the Chairman of the Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology (COGDOP), the national organization of heads of psychology that serves as the voice of academic psychology in the U.S. this is an honor for me and also an honor for IIT.

Our students also have had wonderful accomplishments that you can read about on subsequent pages. Notable among them is the award received by Daniel Krieglstein. Competing against 500+ contestants in the internationally competitive Ideas4All Big Bang Challenge, Dan and his partner Ed Madrigal were awarded $25,000 for first place. Their proposal, thejournalwiki.com, is designed to use crowd sourcing and wiki technologies to gather and organize all peer reviewed research into a free, open access database. Primarily targeting academic researchers, the site is meant to stimulate interdisciplinary collaboration, and reduce library expenses by a half million dollars by replacing costly academic search engines.

We had a terrific time at Margaret Huyck’s retirement party, followed by wine tasting with Dr. Vino, Tyler Colman. We recommend Dr. Vino to you for events — he is fun and engaging even if you do not drink! He talked about the Green of Red and White; an informative program about the environmental impact and implications of the wine industry. It was great to catch up with alumni and friends and as you can see from the pictures, a good time was had by all. As well, five clinical students helped us with pouring and serving. My thanks to Bethany Grix, Alexis Kramer, Morgan Carey, Jodi Coppersmith, and Jenn Marola — we could not have done it without you!

From the Chair

During the February IIT Board of Trustees meeting, Dean Mitchell and I had the opportunity to present the Institute of Psychology to the full board. This was a wonderful occasion to highlight the many accomplishments of the Institute and the outlook for the future. When engaged in forums such as this, I welcome the opportunity to share our story to allow individuals to fully appreciate the significance and value Psychology offers in our every day lives albeit professional or personal.

My thoughts have increasingly focused on this topic and as Chair it is my hope that we can affect change so Psychology is better understood. To start the process, the Psychology Board of Overseers discussed their role during the January meeting and members agreed to focus on three key areas moving forward: financial support, advocacy, and support for the Dean and Psychology through consultation and the availability of resources each one of us can uniquely offer. Most recently we met and continued our discussion of advocacy. This activity is a little more ambiguous and I invite all of you to help brainstorm the myriad ways that our alumni and friends can advocate on behalf of Psychology.

As the board work progresses, we recognize that we cannot do this on our own. I ask you to join our efforts by advocating to family and friends the excellent education offered at IIT, share why you selected Psychology or why you decided to contribute as a donor. Whether you are in business, health care, education or government, all which can contribute something to help this effort. Together we can have a positive influence on the quality of life for an individual or a community. Psychology programs and professionals have a profound effect on the lives of many. It would be great to hear about all of the ways you have had an impact on others.

I continue to find my relationship with the Institute of Psychology and IIT to be an interesting and meaningful endeavor. Please join me and others as we work to advance the education offered at Psychology and IIT. We are beginning our planning of what we hope will be a signature event — stay tuned for more. Enjoy the summer!
Margaret Takes a Huyck!

After a remarkable 41 years on faculty at IIT, Margaret Huyck, along with family, friends, students, staff, and faculty celebrated her lifelong career with the Institute of Psychology on April 22. Following a reception and comments from IIT Provost Alan Cramb and Dean of Psychology M. Ellen Mitchell, guests enjoyed a fun and unique wine tasting and presentation by renowned wine critic Tyler Colman titled, “Red, White, and Green.”
Congratulations
Institute of Psychology 2010 Graduates!

B.S. Psychology
Kristin Jean Bryant
Jeffery P. Cink
Krystyna L. Domagala
Herbert R. Edwards
Kirsten N. Esbensen
Angela N. Gandhi
David G. Gorski
Krystyna L. Domagala
Herbert R. Edwards
Kirsten N. Esbensen
Angela N. Gandhi
David G. Gorski
Jeffery P. Cink

M.S. Psychology
Stephanie L. Adams
Rebecca Claire Anderson
Laura M. Benson
Justin Leith Birnholz
Kimberly Robin Burris
Morgan Irene Carey
Maria Elizabeth D’Ariello
Roger Dimitrov
Heiko Dorenwendt
Michael Fleischer
Michal Frida Gradshteyn
Heidi R. Grathouse
Bjorn J. Hanson
Elizabeth Jean Howard
Mary Kathleen Hunt
Koren K. Ichihara
Martin Kim
Zeennatruhi Kwon
Jennifer Ann Marola
Melissa Lynn Mattson
Jill Lee May
Brendan George Neuman
John Robert O’Shaughnessy
Sohini Roy
Sarah Rusakiewicz
Caroline Ruta
Gargi Sawhney
Diana Marie Van De Kreeke
Michael Angelo Vernale
Izabela Widlak
Bonnie Joyce Yap
Crystal L. Young

M.S. Rehabilitation Counseling
Krista A. Adams
Krystal L. Bailey
Gina M. Caruso
Susan K. Colby
Yolanda Crouch
Janiece Kumar
Young Shin Park
Joseph M. Rochford
Marsha Lee Telecky
Xiaolu Zhang

Ph.D. Psychology
Kyla A. Aimone
Courtenay Rourke Ainsworth
Tiffany Bishop
David L. Blitz
Shandra Marie Brown
Brandon A. Fleener
Marta Fliss
Carolina Mercedes Garcia
Fay Hlubocky
Nathan Richard Hydes
Cynthia B. Kane
Sarah Marie Murray
Sandra Nelson
Stephanie Anne Northington
Golnaz Pajoumand
Manasa Kasinath Perera
Sapna Irene Ram
Maya Ronen
Daniel Spizzuco
Angela M. Sternburgh
Sofiya Velgach
Alexandra D. Zagoloff

M.S. Personnel and Human Resource Development
Wuyan Chen
Ming-Hung Chi
Yu-Ying Chuang
Daniel A. Gandara
Younghee Jang
Jennifer M. Pawelko
Jessica Denise Sergent
Mark Straetmans
Lei Zhao

The IIT Institute of Psychology Academic Unit Ceremony took place in the Siegel Hall Auditorium, May 15, 2010.
Professor Roya Ayman received the Dean Leadership Award in spring 2009 for her 26-year contribution to the I/O Psychology Division. Ayman also was chosen as a fellow by the Leadership Trust in the United Kingdom for her contributions to research in cross-cultural and worldly leadership.

Pat Corrigan was named Distinguished Professor of Psychology. He continues to work with the Carter Center on media approaches to stigma change. Recently, Pat was invited to speak and participate in a meeting hosted by the Department of Defense in regard to PTSD, treatment, and stigma. In the past year, he has had fellows from Germany and China.

Presentations

Fong, M.W.M., & Lee, E.-J. (February, 2010). Social acceptance as a mediator between empowerment and quality of life of people with mental illness. Oral and poster presentations presented for the 2010 APA Rehabilitation Psychology conference, Tucson, AZ. **This presentation received OSU student research award from Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology).


Corrigan, PW. Mitigating stigma and barriers to care. Uniformed Services University in the Health Sciences, March 25, 2010.

Publications


**bold** = faculty

work with vulnerable youths at Kaleidoscope, a social service agency on South Damen, and then went into private practice. As a clinical psychologist, Juliana Veck-Brosnan counseled some of the city’s most troubled youth — adolescents others had written off — and helped them find a passage through the chaos of their lives.

In addition to Dr. Veck-Brosnan’s husband and mother, survivors include three children and five siblings.

JULIANA VECK-BROSNAN, 1961–2010

Dr. Veck-Brosnan, daughter of legendary White Sox owner Bill Veck, died June 12. She had spent much of the last 20 years grappling with the cancer that ultimately took her life.

Julie earned a doctorate in psychology at the Illinois Institute of Technology. She later interned at Children’s Memorial Hospital and practiced clinical psychology there in the mid-1990s. She went on to
Alumni and Other News

Gerald Norby (PSYCH ‘06, Stuart M.S. ‘10) was married on March 21.

Margaret Kunze (M.S. PSYCH ‘92, Ph.D. ‘96) announced the opening of MKunze Consulting in Chandler, AZ. Service areas include executive alignment and team effectiveness, new leader vision/purpose, employee engagement, talent assessment, selection and development, leadership transitions, organization design, and change management.

Patrick Maher, president of the Rehabilitation Advisory Board of the Institute of Psychology, was honored in March with the 2009 Henry Betts, M.D. Employment Advocacy Award from the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Pat is managing director of nAblement, a delivery within SPR Companies, an IT consulting and solutions firm with offices in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Indianapolis. nAblement supports the training, mentoring, networking, placement, and professional growth of qualified candidates with disabilities into technology roles.

This year, Peter Mathes (PSYCH ‘10) became the first IIT student to receive a Fulbright Scholarship in recent history. He will, as part of his activities, conduct research in India. The purpose of this qualitative, phenomenological study will be to explore the experiences of parents of children in Mumbai, India, who have been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). There is a growing need to understand the issues associated with autism that emerge within the family context. An advancement in understanding is particularly sensitive in India, where ASDs are not broadly understood. The study will address the question of what it means for parents to raise a child with an ASD in India and the distinct issues that may arise. The narrative accounts of family members taking part in the study will offer depth into the challenging and rewarding aspects of raising a child with an ASD in Mumbai. Mathes will be working with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai in collaboration with Dr. Srilatha Juvva. This research arose out of his senior capstone project begun at IIT under the mentorship of Dr. Margaret Huyck.