

Group Assets



The Newsletter of the
Group Psychotherapy
Foundation

Summer 2006

Group Psychotherapy Foundation To Provide Scholarship & Awards to 2007 AGPA Annual Meeting

Fern Cramer-Azima, PhD, DFAGPA, Editor, *Group Assets*

The Group Psychotherapy Foundation (GPF) offers multiple funding opportunities to attend the 2007 AGPA Annual Meeting, March 5-10, at the Austin-Hilton, Austin, Texas. Among the available awards and scholarships are: the Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Theory; the Aaron Stein Memorial Fund Award; the Anne Alonso Scholarship; the Donald T. Brown Memorial Scholarship; the Josephine M. Cunningham Scholarship; the Durkin-Glatzer Scholarship; the Ruth Hochberg Scholarship; the International Scholarship; the Susanne Jensen Scholarship; the Saul Scheidlinger Scholarship; the Mary M. Tanenbaum Scholarship; and the Wilkenfeld Psychiatric Resident Scholarship. Attending the Annual Meeting allows recipients to learn and grow personally and professionally, making connections that will last a lifetime.

Each year, the GPF receives letters from scholarship recipients expressing

their appreciation for their Annual Meeting participation. *Group Assets* is again pleased to print excerpts from some of these heartwarming letters to demonstrate the value of GPF's scholarship and awards to the recipients.

After reading these letters, we hope you will encourage your students and colleagues to apply for a scholarship or award. Please see the article How To Apply or go to AGPA's website (www.agpa.org/foundation/index.html) for more details.

The Value To Recipients

"I want to gratefully acknowledge having been awarded the Saul Scheidlinger Scholarship, which made it possible for me to attend the workshop," writes Susan Conte, LCSW, PhD, of New Rochelle, New York. At the conference luncheon, I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Scheidlinger, a pioneer in the field of group psychotherapy. It was my experience throughout the conference to have been in the company of so

many who have made such significant contributions to the field over many years. That, in itself, was a remarkable aspect of the conference for me. From the very first morning, I was impressed by the spirit of the AGPA members. The medium is the message, in fact. At that first newcomers breakfast, it was apparent that AGPA members practice group skills, even in informal interactions. As a new member, I was made to feel welcome and included in every aspect of the conference experience. The collegial spirit is unique among professional organizations. I am certain that members continue to attend each year to renew that spirit of professional community. I was impressed by the range of theoretical orientations, size, method, and learning objectives offered in each of the workshops I attended. The conference represented the best in the field. The presenters were both scholarly and accessible to participants, and many offered resources for continued learning. I left San Francisco inspired by new colleagues and with new energy for group work in my teaching and clinical practice. I thank you and the members of AGPA for this experience, and I look forward to future opportunities to participate in AGPA."

Writes Jason Berman, MA, a clinical psychology intern at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center: "I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to attend the 2006 AGPA Annual Meeting with a scholarship. My experience with the Institute was meaningful and interesting again as I learned about being in a group with other therapists. One session I enjoyed immensely was on *Martial Arts and Psychotherapy*. I loved how the instructor taught us novel ways of thinking about the curative factors related to group psychotherapy.... AGPA and the scholarship I received provided me with an amazing, experiential time of learning and growth."

"What a pleasure to have the opportunity to express my appreciation for the support from the Group Psychotherapy Foundation which made it possible for me to attend this year's Annual Meeting in San Francisco,"

writes Sarah Brandel of Silver Spring, Maryland. "I found participating in the Institute the most engaging and intense part of the Annual Meeting. I joined the two-year Institute group with Marianne Robinson, MSW, as leader. Several of us laughed about how we wanted to be like her when we grew up in the role as group leader. I felt I learned from being touched by her and observing how she worked with others as well as making astute comments about the group as a whole. I look forward to gathering next year in Austin."

Writes Ruby Casiano of Norman, Oklahoma: "My experience in San Francisco is one that I have been able
continued on back

How To Apply Deadline: November 30, 2006

All Scholarship candidates are requested to:

1. Submit a curriculum vitae and a one-page statement of reasons for wishing to attend the Annual Meeting, including present and future goals, with particular focus on their plans in the area of group therapy, as well as a statement of financial need.
2. Submit two letters of recommendation supporting your annual meeting attendance, preferably from AGPA or Affiliate Societies members.
3. Submit a completed Scholarship Applicant Profile.
4. Submit a completed Annual Meeting Registration Form.
5. Submit a completed AGPA Membership application form if not already a member. Do not include payment; eligible nonmembers are awarded membership as part of the Scholarship.

All Award candidates are requested to:

1. Submit a letter of introduction from either the candidate or the person recommending the candidate that clearly states why the candidate's particular work should be considered for the award.
2. Send a copy of the project being recommended (unless it is an article from the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, in which case a reference is sufficient).
3. Submit a curriculum vitae of the person or group being recommended.
4. Award applicants also need to submit two references from recognized authorities in the area of the work either from within or outside AGPA.

Required forms and more detailed explanations of each scholarship and award are available on AGPA's website at www.agpa.org/stdnt/gpfschawds.html. Additional questions? E-mail: info@agpa.org.

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Scholarships and Awards

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to make use of in the months since the convention. In my doctoral program, therapy groups have been hard to begin and nurture due to our focus on individual therapy. In the last year, students began an interpersonal group and it has been flourishing. I have been lucky enough to inherit this group as the original facilitators move on to internship. My experiences at AGPA's Annual Meeting gave me practical knowledge that I could never have received from the courses available to me. I feel that because of this wonderful experience I have a perspective of the dynamics of group therapy that would have been only achieved through trial and error as I test the waters with this new group experience. Going into this new group, I feel much more centered in my openness to this form of therapy. The scholarship I

received made it possible for me to take advantage of the learning experience the conference offers. I feel that through the generosity of AGPA my interest in group therapy has been cultivated in a way it could not have been solely in my graduate program. For this I am very grateful."

Nick Boutros of Boulder, Colorado, writes: "I attended the AGPA Annual Meeting in February 2006 for the first time. I had heard many outstanding things about the meeting—especially about the Institutes—but nothing quite prepared me for the experience. At a mentor's suggestion, I joined an intermediate level Institute group. The group turned out to be very lively and challenged me in many ways, especially in the dynamics with which I relate to people who are different than me in groups. The Institute raised questions for me about how I run groups and about the ways minority people can be included into group dynamics, especially in

dynamics which oppose this inclusion. For the most part, I found the workshops and sessions I attended useful. Many caused me to think about my work as a psychotherapist with more depth. I was especially influenced by a workshop called *The One and the Many* about issues for LGBT group members, by a workshop on Jungian group work, and by the large group process. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting with this scholarship. I have continued to notice the effect of my experience at AGPA in both my thinking and in my clinical work."

Donate Today

This past year, there were 94 scholarship recipients in attendance at the Annual Meeting, 10 supported by endowed funds and 84 supported by additional donated funds. If you are interested in contributing to the 2007 Annual Meeting Scholarship Fund, contact the GPF office at 212-477-2677 or visit our website at www.agpa.org/foundation/gpfcontribute.html. Your donation will assist in helping qualified candidates like these attend the 2007 Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas.

Research Grants Available from Foundation

Funds are available from the Group Psychotherapy Foundation to support group psychotherapy research that focuses on one of five clinical populations: children; the elderly; the severe and persistent mentally ill; substance abusers; and significantly ill patients with marked functional impairment.

Grants are typically awarded at \$2,500-\$15,000 depending on the importance and originality of the research to the field, the qualifications of the investigators and the number of research applications received. Grant funding can be used to support the basic costs of research, e.g., supplies, research equipment, photocopying, postage, computer services, statistical consultation and research assistant salaries; investigator salaries and travel expenses are not funded. (Equipment purchased for use with a research project is to be donated to an institution at the completion of the project.) Grant monies are awarded with an expected completion of the project in one year as follows: 50 percent upon grant approval, 40 percent upon submission of a six-month progress report and the final 10 percent upon receipt of a post-project report.

The grant application, as well as a list of the additional supporting materials that must accompany the application are available on AGPA's website at www.agpa.org/stdnt/resgrantapp.html.

The deadline for receipt of research grant application materials is November 1, 2006.

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