Dear Sofia University Community Members,

Each day I appreciate waking up and going to work on our beautiful campus. I am especially grateful for the good people I meet who are working very hard to help us make it through the current transition.

I am sorry that in this transition we are losing valued community members, who have contributed to ITP/Sofia in many ways. People are leaving for various reasons, often after considerable discussion with me. I have tried my best to accommodate their requests, though at this time I also am responsible for the fiscal well-being of our University. I am so confident in our ongoing success that I am happy to report we are fiscally sound for the next three years, during which time we will grow and create better opportunities for everyone.

Of course we have a lot of work to do right now as we create a more effective infrastructure, facilitate better workflow, and build teams where each one of us is aware and appreciative of contributions made by others as we create new academic programs, develop our faculty, and welcome new students.

I believe that if we ask ourselves the question “How do we best serve our students?”, we will make good decisions and build the kind of community that nurtures every member. This is my hope. As you may recall, one of the five goals I announced when I first came to campus is Employee Success, for I advocate for the health, happiness, and productivity of our faculty and staff, as we have been taking a series of actions to improve the working environment, provide tuition free degree programs for our staff/faculty, teach free Yoga classes, and many more. I trust that our work together is fun and that we are each aware of our own contributions to the larger vision.

Let us work together to find ways to improve the day-to-day quality of our life together at Sofia. Please let me know your concerns, for I am here to make Sofia work better for all of us.

With gratitude,

Liz Li
President of Sofia University
Sept 9, 2014

Upcoming Events

Community Potluck

We are delighted to invite you to meet and greet potluck with the new incoming Residential Ph.D., MATP, and PsyD students. This would be held in the Atrium on Tuesday, September 16 in the Atrium from 12:15pm – 1:30pm. Please bring your favorite dish and give our new students a warm welcome as they begin their Sofia University journey.

Warm regard,
Rosalie

From the President’s Office

In order to help facilitate getting to know each other, Dr. Liz Li would like to invite you to stop by and grab some bagels, muffins and coffee on Tuesday, September 23, from 9 am to 10 am in the open area of Student Services, building 1059. We hope you will be able to stop by to say hello or say hello again, and greet each other as well. Looking forward to seeing you!

Ph.D. Seminar Keynote Gary Gach

You are welcome to Gary Gach's Global Ph.D. Seminar Keynote Presentation on “Mindfulness and Haiku” on Tuesday, September 16, from 9:00–11:45 (talk) and 1:00–4:00 (a haiku hike) at the Presentation Center in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Visitors must bring their own lunch. Please visit: http://www.sofia.edu/academics/graduate-school-of-transpersonal-studies/doctor-philosophy-ph-d-psychology/ph-d-psychology-seminars/
**Upcoming Events Continued**

**Alumni Speaker Series:**

**What is Spiritual Guidance?**
Two perspectives based on the studies and professional experiences of two MASG alumni.

Thursday, September 25th
7:00 – 8:30 PM
Sofia University, Room 1059A
1069 East Meadow Circle, Palo Alto, CA 94303

Rosanna Ferraro-Jensen shares about her journey through the Sofia MASG program and bringing spiritual guidance into the world as founder of Honoring Your Spiritual Journey in Santa Monica, CA. Rosanna presents the use of her color meditations as the core component of her work in spiritual guidance. All are welcome to come and experience color as opening into one’s spiritual journey!

Davy Davidson shares her joys and challenges as a spiritual coach. She will lead a meditation and body sensing exercise that are central to her access to the divine, both personally and in practice with her clients.

**Aikido at Sofia**

**Aikido with Bob**

**Every Monday & Wednesday**

Join Sofia University Founder Bob Frager every Monday and Wednesday from 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the Dojo. Everyone is welcome!

**Aikido Club**

Sofia University has had its own aikido club for many years now. Classes are taught by two experienced black-belts under the supervision of Sue Ann McKean Sensei, 6th Dan. Current Sofia students are welcome to join us at no cost. Please come and train with us Thursday nights 8-9:15 and Sunday nights 6-7:30 in the Sofia dojo. For more information please contact Kenny Chan at 510-260-4215, Steve Curley at 408-886-4269 or go to our website: www.emcaikido.com.

We look forward to training with you.

Sincerely, SueAnn McKean, 6th dan, Steven Curley, Ph.D, 2nd dan and Kenny Chan, 2nd Dan

**Arthur Hastings Chocolate Raiser**

**Raffle Details**
Grand Prize includes: DVDs: The Psychedelic Experience, Healing Words: Poetry and Medicine, & Everything Flows; Mandala: Mandala Charger (Energy Tool); and Psychobox: A Box of Psychological Games

**How to enter:**
1 Bag of Chocolate = 3 Raffle Tickets
Bring your bag(s) of individually wrapped chocolates to the Library Circulation Desk in exchange for your raffle tickets.

**Raffle Drawing:**
The winning tickets will be drawn on October 1 in the afternoon, time is TBD. You do not need to be present to win.
Accomplishments

Alumna Diana Raab, Ph.D.

Alumna Diana Raab, Ph.D. who graduated in June from the Global program (Ph.D. in Psychology with a concentration in Transpersonal Psychology) is now a blogger for Psychology Today. The title of her column is “The Empowerment Diary,” focusing on positive ways of transformation and empowerment. http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-empowerment-diary.

Professor Olga Louchakova-Schwartz, Ph.D.

Olga was recently promoted to Director of Research at Sofia University.

In addition, on August 7, 2014, Sofia University Professor Olga Louchakova-Schwartz gave a talk at 122nd Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C.: “Egological, Non-Egological and Embodied Self-Transcendence: What It Can Teach Us About the Mind, Religious Concepts, and the Brain,” in the Symposium “Thinking about Possibility, Potential and Change: The Concept of Transcendence in the Western Intellectual Tradition” with Mark Freeman (College of the Holy Cross), Robert Bishop (Wheaton College), Frank Richardson (The University of Texas at Austin), Brent Slife (Brigham Young University), and Jim Nelson (Valparaiso University). With this talk, Olga joined the work of the interdisciplinary Transcendence Research Group at the Division 32, Humanistic Psychology, Division 36, Psychology of Religion, and Division 24, Theoretical Psychology.

On October 1, 2014, Professor Louchakova-Schwartz will be an invited keynote speaker at the 64th Congress of Phenomenology jointly convened by The World Phenomenology Institute, The International Society of Phenomenology and Sciences of Life (Macerata, Italy) and the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart (Milan, Italy). The title of her talk is The Symphony of Sentience, in Cosmos and Life: In Memoriam Anna-Teresa Tymieniecka.

Announcements

Members of Division 32 are invited to nominate a colleague who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of Humanistic Psychology for an award to be presented by the Division at the 124th annual convention of the American Psychological Association: Denver, Colorado, August 4-7th, 2016 for more information visit http://www.apadivisions.org/division-32/awards/

Therapists, Counselors, and Spiritual Directors!
You are invited to the 3rd Annual Conference of ACISTE (American Center for the Integration of Spiritually Transformative Experiences). This year, the conference is dedicated in memory of Christina Grof (founder of SEN). Keynote is Dr. Tobin Hart, the topic is Therapeutic Issues of STEs, and the conference will be Nov. 6-8th in Dallas, TX. This event is co-sponsored by University of North TX Dept of Counseling and Higher Education, HOPE, Spiritual Competency Resource Center, The Windbridge Institute, IMHU, and Sofia University. CEUs and certification available. Note that this year we have several students (Marie Brook, Katrina Burgos, Tony Benning) and Associate Professor Dr. Ryan Rominger presenting. For more information see: http://www.aciste.org/index.php/2014-conference

Call for poster presentations: 3rd Annual ACISTE Conference. If you have preliminary research, completed research, or a theoretical topic you would like to present regarding spiritually transformative experiences (EHEs, peak experiences, etc.), consider a presenting a poster at the next ACISTE Conference November 6-8th in Dallas TX. If you are interested, contact Dr. Ryan Rominger at either ryan.rominger@sofia.edu or drryanrominger@gmail.com. Send 150 word synopsis of proposed poster. If accepted you will be invited to put up your poster during the conference. To register for the conference or find out more information about the conference, see: http://www.aciste.org/index.php/2014-conference

President’s Open Door Hours

(Building 1059, Office 115)
Every Thursday from 1 pm – 3 pm
No appointment needed.