Linda Mayes, M.D.
MPI's 22nd Visiting Professor of Psychoanalysis
Community-wide teaching and outreach program

By Marc Rosen, Ph.D. and Michael Singer, Ph.D.
Co-chairs, Visiting Professor of Psychoanalysis Committee

The Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute is pleased to announce that Linda Mayes, M.D. will be the 22nd Annual Visiting Professor of Psychoanalysis during the week of March 31 to April 5, 2008. The Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute has a long tradition of inviting nationally- and internationally-prominent teachers and clinicians to share their thinking and experience with our Michigan mental health community. The Visiting Professor of Psychoanalysis Program is an annual opportunity for a distinguished analyst to meet with Institute and Society members, educational programs in psychiatry, psychology and social work, and mental health agencies in the community. This intensive, week-long program is the only one of its kind in American psychoanalysis, and exemplifies the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute’s widely recognized innovative outreach activities.

Dr. Linda Mayes is nationally- and internationally-recognized as a groundbreaking researcher, clinician and thinker in interdisciplinary studies of development, psychoanalysis and the neurosciences. Dr. Mayes is the Arnold Gesell Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Psychology and Chair of the Directorial Team of the Anna Freud Centre Program at the Yale Child Study Center and a Faculty Member of the Yale University School of Medicine. She is an adult and child psychoanalyst on the faculty of the Western New England Psychoanalytic Institute. Dr. Mayes collaborates with well-known researchers such as Sidney Blatt, Peter Fonagy and Mary Target, as well as other researchers in the U.S., Canada, Finland, Israel and England.

See MAYES page 3
Member News

Third year candidate Deborah N. Tucker, LMSW, ACSW is happy to report she received a grant from the Association for Child Psychoanalysis. This award is to support one year of low fee analysis of her first child control case. The ACP is the international professional organization for child and adolescent analysts, which provides renewable grants to candidates as part of its dedication to the promotion of psychoanalysis for children and adolescents.

The Philosophy Department of the University of Michigan has appointed Linda, A.W. Brakel, M.D. as “Research Associate in Philosophy.”

The second edition of Abnormal Psychology by James Hansell & Lisa Damour was published by John Wiley & Sons in January, 2008. As part of the ApsaA “10,000 Minds” Project, Dr. Hansell recently co-authored (with Jan Habarth and Tyler Grove, University of Michigan students) and submitted a paper entitled “How Accurately Do Undergraduate Textbooks Present Psychoanalytic Theory?” In October, 2007, Dr. Hansell (with Dr. Kimberly Leary) gave an invited address at Amherst College on “Psychoanalytic Practice and Research in the 21st Century.” Dr. Hansell’s upcoming presentations include “The Psychopathology of Everyday Strife” for the University of Michigan Mortar Board Society, and “An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Teaching of Abnormal Psychology: Rationale, Advances, and Challenges” at the Third International Conference on the Teaching of Psychology, St. Petersburg, Russia.

Patricia L. Gibbs, Ph.D., will present an abbreviated form of her paper “Technical Challenges in the Psychoanalytic Treatment of Psychotic Depression” at the Ninth Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Psychological Treatments of the Schizophrenias and Other Psychoses—United States Chapter, on Friday March 14, 2008 at the Kimmel Center at New York University. The complete paper will be published in the ISPS Book Series later in 2008: Beyond Medication: Therapeutic Engagement in the Recovery from Psychosis, D. Garfield and D. Mackler (Eds.), London: Routledge.

Dale Boesky, M.D. has just published a book entitled Psychoanalytic Disagreements in Context. The publisher is Rowman and Littlefield (Jason Aronson). In June 2008 Dr. Boesky will be on the Panel in Atlanta entitled “Symptoms.” The other panelists will be Ron Britton and Steven Cooper.


Publication Notices

Linda A.W. Brakel, M.D.’s book Philosophy, Psychoanalysis, and the A-rational Mind has been accepted for publication by Oxford University Press.


MAYES from cover
She is the author of numerous publications, has presented both nationally and internationally, and is on the editorial boards of the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, Psychoanalytic Study of the Child, and Infants and Young Children.

Dr. Mayes has been the principal investigator on National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute on Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) funded longitudinal studies of neurocognitive development, especially affective regulatory mechanisms, in high-risk children. Additional topics of research interest include the developmental role of play, imagination, curiosity and exploratory behavior, therapeutic action, how children develop theory of mind, aspects of mother-infant interaction, possible neurobiological correlates of Winnicott’s concept of “primary maternal preoccupation,” women’s experience of motherhood, parental reflective functioning, the role of mirror neurons in the development of complex social functions, and the interface of neurosciences, developmental research and psychoanalysis.

While in Michigan the week of March 31–April 5, Dr. Mayes will offer a series of lectures on a variety of clinical, theoretical and research topics relevant to psychoanalysis, as well as more informal clinical conferences at various educational and training venues. Many events are open to the general public and will be announced on our website, www.mpi-mps.org.

We appreciate the continuing collaboration with our colleagues in area training programs and clinics to make this educational opportunity available. This year Dr. Mayes’ visit will be co-sponsored by the University of Michigan Department of Psychiatry, the University of Michigan Psychological Clinic, Eastern Michigan University Clinical Psychology Program, Wayne State University Psychiatry Department, Henry Ford Hospital Psychiatry Department, University of Detroit-Mercy Psychology Department, Michigan State University Psychiatry Department and Clinical Psychology Program, Madonna University, Michigan School for Professional Psychology, as well as the Michigan Psychoanalytic Society, the Michigan Psychoanalytic Council, the Candidates’ Organization of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute, and the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health. We are looking forward to a stimulating and informative week, as we welcome Dr. Linda Mayes to Michigan.

Please note, the time of the scientific meeting on Saturday, April 5 has been changed from 2 PM to 1 PM.
in the 2004 publication of The Dynamics of Human Aggression: Theoretical Considerations, Clinical Applications. This study, which begins with a review of all major psychoanalytic contributions to the topic of aggression’s origins as a part of the mind and of psychopathology, offers an integration of these theories into a new model with distinct clinical implications. Dr. Rizzuto has published widely in the psychoanalytic literature, and is also known for her papers and books on psychoanalysis and religion, among them, Why Did Freud Reject God?: A Psychodynamic Interpretation, and her papers on psychoanalysis and language. Dr. Rizzuto has delivered the William James Lecture at Harvard Divinity School, and is a recipient of the Oskar Pfister Prize and of the Gradiva Award for her writing.

Vamik Volkan, M.D. is Senior Erik Erikson Scholar at the Austen Riggs Center, a Training and Supervising Analyst Emeritus of the Washington Psychoanalytic Institute, and Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry at the University of Virginia. He has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in the negotiation of international conflict situations. Dr. Volkan is the author of a series of both clinical and applied psychoanalytic works, focusing on two interrelated areas: severe psychopathology, and the psychology of intergroup aggression and conflict, an area he has named “the psychopolitical.” A well-known writer, he is the author of over 100 papers and author or co-author of more than 25 books, including, What Do You Get When You Cross a Dandelion with a Rose; The Infantile Psychotic Self: Understanding and Treating Schizophrenics and Other Difficult Patients; The Need to Have Enemies and Allies; Bloodlines: From Ethnic Pride to Ethnic Terrorism; and Killing in the Name of Identity: A Study of Bloody Conflicts.

Moderator and discussant for the 33rd Annual Symposium is Lena Ehrlich, Psy.D., Training and Supervising Analyst at the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute. She is also on the faculty of the Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Clinic at the University of Michigan’s Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Ehrlich has taught about resistance, depression, loss and mourning, affect tolerance in patient and analyst, the psychotherapeutic frame, and termination. She has written on sadomasochistic enactments and has published on the analyst’s reluctance to begin a new analysis.

The Symposium is planned to allow ample time for discussion of the rich materials which will be furnished by our presenters, including time for dialogue of the panelists with each other and with the discussant, break-out group discussions, and discussion between the panelists and attendees.

The Hotel Baronette
27790 Novi Road
Novi MI 48377
(248) 349-7800

Registration is limited to the first 250 who register, so please register early.

Special rates are available for full-time students and trainees, as well as for full-time academicians.

For more information, please contact the Michigan Psychoanalytic Society office at (248) 851-3380 (Farmington Hills), or at (734) 213-3399 (Ann Arbor), or go to the mpi-mps.org website.
Some Thoughts About Aggression

By Lena Ehrlich, Psy.D.
Discussant and Moderator, 33rd Annual MPS Symposium
and Michael Shulman, Ph.D., Chair, Program Committee, MPS

Human aggression is a subject of fabled difficulty. In daily life we tend to equate aggression with disturbance and destructiveness. But cannot aggression also be channelled into constructive assertion? Some of our difficulty recognizing aggression may have to do with our own conflicts. It is much easier to see aggression “out there.” Yet, most of us can recognize, if only for moments, impulses to dominate, if not to destroy, those who stand in our way—our opponents or competitors.

Psychoanalytic theory offers a complex, multidimensional appreciation of human aggression. Our 33rd annual Michigan Psychoanalytic Society Symposium offers us the opportunity to consider more clearly the meanings and effects of aggression within our lives and within our patients’ lives. In the company of Vamik Volkan, M.D. and Ana-Maria Rizzuto, M.D., we will have the opportunity to listen to rich clinical material and to revisit essential questions, including:

- What have major psychoanalytic theories had to say about aggression?
- Is aggression inherently destructive, or does it have other aims?
- Are we genetically or hormonally programmed to be hurtful, or do we lash out in response to frustration, trauma or danger?
- How do such emotions as anger, rage, or sadistic glee relate to aggression as a motivational force?
- How does aggression link to sadism and to masochism?
- How does societally-experienced, as well as personal, traumas contribute to individuals’ difficulties with aggression in subsequent generations?
- How does our understanding of aggression influence our clinical work?

We invite you to join us March 8 for a consideration of these and other questions about aggression and its challenges. Hope to see you there!

The Association for Psychoanalytic Thought presents Three Diverse Brunches

Sunday, February 24, 2008: Posttraumatic Growth: A Humanistic and Existential Perspective on Trauma by Zieva Konvisser, Ph.D.

Sunday, March 30, 2008: The Sense of Improvisation in Psychoanalytic Sessions by Loretta Polish, Ph.D.

Sunday, April 27, 2008: Despair and Repair: A Therapeutic Impasse Resolved as Repressed Experiences in Both Therapist and Patient Were Discovered by Richard Hertel, Ph.D.

The programs are from 12:00 noon–2:30 p.m. A light brunch will be served.

Each Brunch is approved for 2 CME/CE credit hours.

Location: Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute
32841 Middlebelt Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

APT Members $10, Non-Members $15, Students $5 (at the door). For additional information or to register, contact Monica Simmons at (248) 851-3380.

The Continuing Education Division Seminar Series

Working in Psychotherapy With the Patient’s Aggression
March 25–April 22
Tuesdays, 8:00-9:30 p.m.
Ann Arbor

Shakespeare and Psychoanalysis
April 24–May 29
Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Farmington Hills

Clinical Issues in Community Crisis, Disaster and Trauma Recovery Processes
April 28–June 2
Mondays, 8:00-9:30 p.m.
Farmington Hills

CME/CE Credits are offered for above courses. Please see detailed course descriptions on our website at mpi-mps.org. Call Monica Simmons at (248) 851-3380 for more information.
Meet the Candidates

Kristen Miller is a new candidate in the Early Admissions program. She is currently in her fourth year at the University of Detroit-Mercy, where she is working toward her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. Kristen works part-time at the Third District Circuit Court where she tests juvenile delinquents in order to provide recommendations to the court. She also works part-time at Catholic Social Services, where she sees child, adolescent and adult patients in psychotherapy. She is currently working on her dissertation studying the effects of childhood abuse on the formation of object representations. In her free time, Kristen enjoys running, reading and traveling.

Dr. Nitin Rajhans completed his medical school and internship program at NDMVPS’s Medical College, India in 1998. After coming to the United States, he completed a few courses in Healthcare Administration at the University of New Haven, Connecticut. Dr. Rajhans worked as a post-doctoral research associate in the Schizophrenia Research Program at Yale University School of Medicine from June 2003 to June 2004. Dr. Rajhans joined the residency training program in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurosciences at Wayne State University, Detroit in July 2004, and currently is a fourth-year resident. He has been a candidate in the Early Admissions training program at the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute since November 2007. Dr. Rajhans plans to do a fellowship in Geriatric Psychiatry after completion of his residency training. His areas of interest include issues related to loss and grief, trauma and polypharmacy in psychiatry.

Jane Miller is a first-year Academic Candidate. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her law degree in 1980 from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Ms. Miller worked in the legal department of Ameritrust, a large Cleveland bank, until she moved to the Detroit area in 1992 and joined the Institutional Trust and Retirement Services Department at Comerica Bank. While at Comerica, she served as chief compliance manager and departmental attorney. She specialized in retirement plans and custody arrangements for non-profit corporations and other large institutions.

In July 2007, Ms. Miller retired from Comerica Bank with plans to become an Academic Candidate and simultaneously study to become a Certified Financial Planner (CFP). She is currently employed by Cambridge Connection, Inc., a fee-only financial planning firm located in Franklin, Michigan where she is learning asset management, tax planning and preparation, and goal setting for clients at all income levels. Ms. Miller is especially interested in exploring the psychological issues faced by individuals who are planning for and entering retirement.

Ms. Miller lives in Franklin with her husband, Richard Miller, M.D., Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Education at the VA Medical Center in Detroit and Professor of Internal Medicine at Wayne State University School of Medicine. They have two daughters. Sandra is a social worker and psychotherapist living in Ann Arbor and Karen is a history professor in New York City.

Ms. Miller and her husband enjoy ballroom dancing lessons with friends and love traveling. Each summer they enjoy spending a week with family and friends at Camp Michigania on Walloon Lake. They are also active in their Reconstructionist Jewish congregation. Ms. Miller is an avid reader and also enjoys playing bridge, attending concerts, and singing alto in the Bel Canto women’s choir.

Jane Miller
In Memoriam

Remembering Alexander Grinstein, M.D.
By Deanna Holtzman, Ph.D.

Alexander Grinstein, M.D. died on Tuesday, December 11, after a brief illness, at the age of 89. We mourn the loss of one of our esteemed colleagues—a loss to psychoanalysis, to his family and to all of us who had the privilege of knowing him. He was the devoted husband of Adele, father of Richard and his wife Nancy, David and his wife Christina, and the proud grandfather of five.

A well-known Freud scholar and a prolific writer and researcher, with a strong interest in literature and applied psychoanalysis, he achieved prominence in the psychoanalytic world both nationally and internationally. Born in Russia, he came with his parents to Buffalo, New York at the age of five. Both of his parents were physicians. He received his B.A. and M.D. from the University of Buffalo, and moved to Detroit in 1942, where he underwent psychoanalytic training. He helped establish psychoanalytic education in Michigan where he became a highly-sought-after analyst and teacher, known for his empathy, sensitivity and flexibility.

Alex Grinstein was a central leader and major educator in the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute for more than 50 years. He was twice the President of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute and Chairman of the Educational Committee, a founding member of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Foundation, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Wayne State University in Detroit and a past president of the Sigmund Freud Archives in New York. A popular lecturer who was compelling and engaging, he actively mentored several generations of psychoanalysts and students who were influenced by his humanistic interests and ideals as well as his scholarly productivity.

Dreams and symbolism were a special interest of his, and early in his career he published a series of articles covering many topics, including the dream symbolism of the convertible, fire and its meanings and character types. He compiled the Index of Psychoanalytic Writings, which, before the Internet, was the only way to do research in the field. Alex co-authored a book on family dynamics with Editha Sterba in an attempt to extend the insights of psychoanalysis and make them available to the general public. He was the author of numerous psychoanalytic books, including On Sigmund Freud’s Dreams, Freud at the Crossroads, Conrad Ferdinand Meyer and Freud, and Freud’s Rules of Dream Interpretation. He also wrote psychoanalytic studies of Beatrix Potter, Wilkie Collins, Oscar Wilde, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Edwin Arlington Robinson. His wife, Adele, worked closely with him on all of his publications. His children say that every time he finished writing a book he would promise Adele that he would not write another; the next week he was already starting another one.

In addition to the pleasure and satisfaction he had from doing research, he had many hobbies to which he devoted much time. Music played a central role in his life. He started lessons as a child and practiced violin every evening until almost the very last day of his life. He and Adele played piano and violin duets together. He enjoyed chamber music, symphony and opera, art and antiquities. Alex and his family loved horseback riding, and he owned a number of horses over the years. He took great pleasure in caring for the horses. Every summer, he transported the horses to his summer place in upstate New York, where the family rode on trails that Alex and his sons had made. During the rest of the year, they rode in the Detroit area where he kept the horses. He was also an inveterate hiker on the trails.

Alex was a genuinely optimistic person who was enthusiastic about psychoanalysis and the progress and successes of his students, patients, colleagues and friends. For those of us who came to know him and spend time with him, we found that he was a raconteur with a great sense of humor—and he loved good food.

Alex’s warmth, generosity and élan, along with his dedication and steadiness, will be deeply missed by the psychoanalytic community as well as the community at large. On a more personal note, he became a good friend, mentor and encouraging supporter to me in my professional life, for which I am grateful.

We bid farewell to this eminent clinician, scholar and teacher who was always an optimist. We will remember him with admiration, affection and gratitude.

An Alexander Grinstein Memorial Fund has been established, which will be used for interdisciplinary and applied psychoanalytic educational projects to honor Dr. Grinstein who had major interests in this area. Contributions may be sent to:

The Alexander Grinstein Memorial Fund
c/o The Michigan Psychoanalytic Foundation
32841 Middlebelt Road, Suite 411
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  USA
Volunteer Therapists Needed  
By Paul Dube, L.M.S.W., President of APT

SOFAR Michigan (Strategic Outreach to Families of All Reservists) is actively recruiting therapists to assist in providing free mental health services to reservists and their families. Licensed professionals from any of the mental health disciplines are welcome to participate. A formal training will be held soon, so please contact Paul Dube at padcsd@aol.com if you are willing to volunteer your services to this important community outreach. Contributions to support the program are also needed and most welcome.

Reprinted below is the text of the American Psychoanalytic Association’s position paper urging support for organizations such as SOFAR.

When the War Comes Home
The American Psychoanalytic Association joins with other mental health professional organizations to urge strong and comprehensive government and private support for the mental health treatment of returning veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and their families. A recent study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine estimates that one third of all returning veterans are suffering from serious mental health and psychosocial disorders. Of those, 56% were diagnosed with more than one disorder including post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and substance abuse. The highest rate of mental health problems was among veterans in the 18-24 year old range, often those most exposed to front line combat.

As an organization of over 3,000 psychoanalysts committed to helping those who have suffered psychological problems often related to trauma, APsaA believes any lack of acknowledgement and appropriate treatment of this critical mental health issue will have a devastating impact on our soldiers, their families, their children, and society at large. Psychoanalytic research on transgenerational transmission of trauma has shown that children of traumatized and depressed parents often develop serious psychological and behavioral problems themselves. APsaA supports effective, comprehensive and well funded efforts to address this critical public health issue.

Scholarships
By Chris Howlett, M.D.

As important as treatment and outreach are to the mission of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute, education is its primary purpose. Psychoanalytic candidates and psychotherapy students are the future of psychoanalysis and training them is our top priority.

We are pleased to have scholarships available to allow more people to take advantage of our various programs, which include the psychoanalytic training programs, the Adult Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Educational Program, the Child Development and Clinical Issues Program and the Fellowship programs. Scholarships have been made possible by a generous gift from Drs. Samuel G. and Geraldine G. Reisman, as well as subsequent gifts and fundraising efforts. The Scholarship Committee is charged with awarding the available funds based on merit and need. The application deadline is June 30, 2008 for the 2008-2009 academic year and scholarships will be awarded by early September.

For questions, please contact Chris Howlett, M.D., Chair of the Scholarship Committee, at (248) 642-9350. An application is available for download from the website at www.mpi-mps.org or contact the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute at (248) 851-3380.

LGBT Study Group
The LGBT Study Group continues to meet monthly and welcomes new members. The group is open to interested therapists of all psychotherapeutic and sexual orientations.

To R.S.V.P. for the next session, please contact Dr. Don Spivak at (248) 540-7775.

References

Approved June 21, 2007
The Film Strip
Four times each year, The Reel Deal film series sponsors a panel of speakers—academics, film theorists, critics and psychoanalytic thinkers—to discuss recent films. The following is a discussion presented by Loretta Polish, Ph.D., an active member and past president of APT, of the German film The Lives of Others. Her paper is an elegant, concise and thoughtful psychoanalytic approach to the film which helps us, as analytic thinkers, deepen our understanding. If you have not seen the film, I encourage you to get a copy and watch it or see it again to fully appreciate Dr. Polish’s outstanding write-up.

The Lives of Others
by Loretta Polish

Alone among the inhabitants of East Germany’s Communist regime, playwright Dreyman seems to be enjoying a life rich in professional and personal satisfaction. Soaking in congratulations after his premiere, beautiful woman at his side, his relaxed manner strains our credulity as he naively inquires of the Stasi officials as to whether his excommunicated friend, Jerska, can resume his playwriting career. The lack of any whiff of taint about him is perhaps what leads bossman Hempf to observe to Grubitz, “there’s something fishy about him, I can feel it in my gut.”

What stirs Hempf’s gut is Dreyman’s being embraced by friends, and the guests, gathered in comfortable circles, chatting their free, unmonitored chat. The boss’s discomfort gradually mutates into suspicion. From the Stasi perspective, such creativity and human connection must contain the seeds of subversion. Dreyman, therefore, must be monitored.

The machinery to eradicate this subversion is housed in bleak utilitarian buildings, long hallways and straight lines. Its agents act to divide all human behavior into either subversive or non-subversive. Like human smoke detectors, they split reality into yes or no, as the threat of annihilation concentrates their minds. Like park rangers scanning the forest for whiffs of smoke, they compress reality into the split between danger and lack of danger.

Such a two-dimensional mindset is described by psychoanalyst Melanie Klein in her developmental theory. The youngest infants, she says, know only two states, which we recognize by their crying or not crying. She views their internal experience as being split along one line, the presence or absence of danger. According to Klein, infants unconsciously employ such splitting as a defense against both the phantasy as well as the actual threat of annihilation. The infant doesn’t have to perceive danger in order to experience it. In The Matrix of the Mind, Thomas Ogden, in discussing Klein’s theory, explains that Freud’s description of the nature of the unconscious included “inborn expectancy of particular constellations of meaning, where expectancy doesn’t depend on any actual experience and that danger is an a priori meaning.”

We might postulate that, metaphorically, the behavior of repressive regimes like the Stasi have something in common with what Klein called the paranoid-schizoid position, the most primitive form of defense. Agent Wiesler’s empty eyes hauntingly echo his own paranoid-schizoid existence as a human Geiger counter, spying on those who have lives in a sense that he does not.

Although in the context of the screenplay he is a bad person who becomes a good person, using the templates of Kleinian developmental theory, he is more an empty person who accesses more of his own self, becoming a fuller person. It is debatable whether goodness and badness is relevant to a psychoanalytic discussion, which doesn’t tend to frame behavior in terms of rightness or wrongness but in terms of understanding.

Lenin’s compelling quote—if he had truly heard the “Appassionata” he would not have been able to finish the revolution—introduces the coda for the second half of the film, the difference between hearing and truly hearing, between knowing and truly knowing. Agent Wiesler, having been subliminally altered by exposure to music and literature, is now primed for mounting levels of life-changing realizations. In his next conversation with his superior, we see in his eyes that he is repelled by Grubitz’s willingness to destroy Dreyman just to further his own career (“is this why we’re doing this?”).

The first instance of change in Wiesler’s usual Stasi-approved behavior is his decision not to report the family of the boy in the elevator. This pivotal scene deftly dramatizes that he is now ambivalent about the requirements of his job. From an object-relations point of view, ambivalence is an achievement which requires the ability to hold two opposing feelings at one time and to have an ego to differentiate between them.

Nonetheless, Wiesler heads off to report damning evidence on Dreyman to Grubitz. But before he can speak, Grubitz gleefully describes the most delicious result of matching a gregarious creative type with a particularly isolating punishment: “And the beauty of it—they never write again.” The blatant cruelty of Grubitz’s gratification from the economy of the punishment, combined with the attack on the very creativity and cultural artifacts which have been subliminally nurturing...
The President’s Column

The Modern Psychoanalytic Institute
By Harvey Falit, M.D.

Psychoanalytic treatment of the individual patient stands at the center of any psychoanalytic institute. Clinical psychoanalysis is the core that holds an institute and its members together. And yet for many years the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute has not restricted its activity to education and research in psychoanalysis. A broad engagement with the needs of the community is an important and necessary evolutionary step for a modern psychoanalytic institute.

From the establishment of the Extension Division (now known as the Continuing Education Division), to the establishment of the Foundation, to the creation of extensive psychotherapy educational programs, to the creation of the Liaison and Outreach Committee (for liaison to universities and training programs), to the development of the Visiting Professor Program (bringing world-famous psychoanalytic scholars to Southeast Michigan for the benefit of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and psychoanalysts), to the creation of scholarship and loan funds, to the development of partnerships between our faculty and residency programs—it is clear that the face of institutional psychoanalysis has changed and continues to change.

Clinical conferences, discussion of psychoanalytic theory, and consultation on difficult cases are the nutrients which sustain psychoanalysts and provide the educational basis for analysts’ continuous improvement in their ability to successfully treat patients. But, increasingly, analysts are spending more time participating in the life of a huge organization, which provides the infrastructure for the support of the psychoanalytic endeavor.

This change is the result of many other changes, both in the structure of medical and psychotherapeutic practice and in our society at large. Pharmaceutical firms are probably the largest source of funds for psychiatric research. However, with some notable exceptions, their contributions to psychoanalytic practice and research have been extremely limited. Managed care has played a significant role in curtailing patients’ access to full psychoanalysis. Psychoanalysis, which can have such extraordinary benefits to an individual’s health and quality of life, is not ranked high by insurance companies and the businesses which ask the insurance companies to manage their medical liability risk. Academic institutions have increasingly turned their attention to other important areas such as neuro-imaging, cognitive behavioral therapy, and psychopharmacology.

The net result is that institutes (with the exceptions of those which have become parts of Departments of Psychiatry) now need to do it all. To do so, they have needed to partner with and embed themselves in the community at every level. Academic institutions such as graduate programs in psychology or residency training programs once fully prepared individuals for psychoanalytic training. Now, institutes need to either join with such training programs to help provide the necessary educational background for trainees or even provide the preparatory training themselves. For example, the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute has developed an extensive psychotherapy educational program and an Early Admissions Program to meet the needs of such potential candidates. In a different arena, institutes partner with community members and organizations to provide funds for those who cannot afford either psychoanalytic training or education to further their psychotherapy skills. In addition, institutes work with community members and organizations to reach out in areas where the need is great and where analysts’ skills can be useful. MPI, in conjunction with the Michigan Psychoanalytic Foundation, has provided a structure within which the groundwork can be prepared for advising businesses and schools, for consulting to physicians on the psychodynamic aspects of medical practice, for working with scholars on the application of psychoanalytic principles to literature, music, and the arts, and for planning a therapeutic nursery school.

MPI’s affiliate organizations such as the Association for Psychoanalytic Thought (an organization of psychoanalytically-oriented clinicians and scholars) and the Michigan Psychoanalytic Society (providing professional development for psychoanalysts and other mental health clinicians) are essential adjuncts to the functioning of our Institute. Our relationship with the Michigan Psychoanalytic Foundation is a good example of the kind of partnership which is necessary for an institute to thrive. Under the direction of current MPF President Sonia Pone, Ph.D. and, before that, under the leadership of David Haron, J.D., the Foundation has worked with the Institute to provide financial and community support for the Institute’s many programs in the community. Fundraising is a part of this. Our recent Benefit grossed $132,000 to help fund the Institute’s operations. Recently the Foundation was pleased to receive a $100,000 donation memorializing our highly-esteemed colleague Alexander Grinstein to assist in the development of programs in...
applied analysis. The Alexander Grinstein Memorial Fund is just one of many funds managed by the Foundation on behalf of the Institute and the Foundation. Currently, the Sterba Fund is housed in the Foundation (for scholarships for individuals needing analysis), as is the Reisman Fund (for scholarships for psychoanalytic and psychotherapeutic education at the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute). Beyond that, the Foundation, in cooperation with the Institute, provides a structure for members to provide liaisons to courts, consultation to schools, be involved in the care of families of reservists and veterans and their families, and on and on.

We need the community’s help to continue training and research devoted to the psychoanalytic approach to the individual. In return, we can provide consultation and services needed to make humane mental health care a reality in Southeast Michigan. This is not new. Early in the history of our Institute, as part of the Institute’s recognition of its obligation to the community, a Treatment Clinic was founded to provide low-cost psychoanalytic and psychotherapeutic treatment. Psychoanalytic candidates and supervisors agreed to work for markedly reduced fees in the Clinic. In turn, candidates had a very useful learning experience. We thus had a partnership between the Institute and the community with benefits to each.

A modern-day psychoanalytic institution has to remain true to its essential psychoanalytic core—the psychoanalytic treatment of the patient—and simultaneously partner with many different groups so that it can give help to individuals and organizations and receive help from many different sources. Our challenge at MPI will continue to be to find the best balance between these apparently competing, but often synergistic, goals.

LIVES from page 9

Wiesler’s soul, effect the most dramatic change in Wiesler’s behavior. He leaves the office without reporting on Dreyman.

In Wiesler’s evolving mind, these individual incidents start to add up, not just in the sense of two and two being four, but in two and two adding up to a realization that there is more to these incidents than the sum of their parts. More than a recorder of his experiences, Wiesler is now also an interpreter of his experiences. More than adding them up, he now begins to attribute meaning to them. And in so doing he moves beyond a two-dimensional recording of events into the third dimension of symbolism.

Wiesler becomes an “interpreting subject.” He now inhabits an “I,” with which to interpret. As Thomas Ogden puts it, “This I is the interpreter of one’s symbols, the mediator between one’s thoughts and that which one is thinking about.” Before his transformation, an event is just what it is. In his newfound capacity to attribute meaning to his experience, an event is (in Ogden’s words) “what one makes of it.”

As Wiesler becomes an interpreting subject, he can imagine that others can do the same, and this is the beginning of empathy. He also has acquired a sense of agency. He can initiate action toward a desired end of his own, not of the Stasi’s, choosing. First, he arranges for Dreyman to see Crista getting out of Hempf’s car. In the bar scene, he even more directly affects Christa’s actions. He has begun to manifest what Ogden describes as the subjective sense of creating one’s own life.

Having evolved beyond a two-dimensional state of mind, Wiesler demonstrates both a heightened sense of personal agency and empathy, both characteristics of Klein’s “depressive position.” The depressive aspect is dramatized in the film when after listening to Dreyman plead with Christa not to go to Hempf, Wiesler heads for the neighborhood bar. He first automatically orders his usual water, then changes to vodka. Evidently, in becoming involved in the lives of others rather than just transcribing them, he has come to feel conflicted and disturbed.

The film shows us that we pay an emotional price for the capacity to feel. In describing this aspect of the depressive position, Ogden explains that when “the infant becomes capable of feeling concern for another as a whole and separate person, he becomes capable of guilt and the wish to make reparations—to feel bad about the way he has hurt another person.”

Wiesler isn’t the only character to have the wool pulled from his eyes. Dreyman’s habitual denial is challenged by his own set of catalysts: the friend who urges him to take a stand, Jerska’s death, seeing the Stasi files. Parallel to Wiesler, he becomes sadder but wiser, and, again like Wiesler, capable of new creative action—in his case, writing again after a long drought, Sonata for a Good Man.

In the dedication to that book, Wiesler finally gets his due. Not only does he now identify himself as a good man, he now exists as an emotionally-sentient, three-dimensional person. When he says, “it’s for me,” his triumph is that he has a three-dimensional self with which to understand the meaning of the gift.

Suggestions
Ideas for future issues? News we need to know? We welcome all comments and suggestions.

Write to:
The Michigan Psychoanalytic Center
32841 Middlebelt, Suite 411
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Or email us at:
newsletter@mpi-mps.org
CALENDAR

February 24
Farmington Hills
APT Brunch—Ziv Tannenbaum and Duber Karvisser, Ph.D.
"Posttraumatic Growth: A Humanistic and Existential Perspective on Trauma"

March 8
Novi
Annual Symposium: Aggression on the Clinical Stage and on the World Stage: Psychoanalytic Perspectives

March 16
Farmington Hills
The Reel Deal—Day Night Day Night

March 30
Farmington Hills
APT Brunch—Loretta Polish, Ph.D.
"The Sense of Improvisation in Psychoanalytic Sessions"

March 31 - April 5
Various Locations
Visiting Professor: Linda Mayes, M.D.

April 27
Farmington Hills
APT Brunch—Richard Heitel, Ph.D.
"Despair and Repair: A Therapeutic Impasse Resolved as Repressed Experiences in Both Therapist and Patient Were Discovered"

May 17
Ann Arbor
MPS Presentation: Adele Kaufman, MSW