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Sylvia Avula, M.D. I completed my doctor of medicine degree in June 2011. My own experiences and witness of patients developed my passion for awareness, consciousness, mindfulness and spirituality in healing versus conventional medicine. I am now working on obtaining my master’s in public health with an emphasis on epidemiology. My capstone project will research the role of spirituality in the process of healing. After graduating with my MPH in May, I will begin graduate studies at Georgia State University to obtain a PhD in September 2014, in the translational areas of neuroscience and spirituality. I consider this process a privilege and an honor to educate my patients and others in integrative medicine for those in need of strength, confidence and empowerment for optimal health. E-mail: ssavula@gmail.com.

Rev. Chris Barrett. Rev Barrett is pastor at St. James United Methodist in Spartanburg, SC. He is a graduate of Wofford College with a BA in Spanish, and a 2001 graduate of Duke Divinity School. His interest in the intersection between spirituality and healing is personal as well as professional. In his 40 years, he has had 3 bouts with cancer, a full-blown case of abdominal tuberculosis, and an allogeneic bone marrow transplant. He has explored these themes in his blog marrowchristianity.com, and is currently working on a manuscript of a longer work about his own bone marrow transplant. He is here to learn more about the current scholarship in this area. E-mail: pastor.chrisbarrett@gmail.com.

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Gerard F. Clark. I am a Pastoral Care Minister for the Friends of St. Bridget's, Inc. We are not directly affiliated with the Catholic Diocese, but we have been a recipient of a Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) grant. I’m close to completing my MDiv degree at St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry, and am in the first year of the noviate in the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans (OEF). My project is to identify the prevalence of C-PTSD among the urban poor and marginalized; to identify aspects of existing spirituality within this population; to look at applications of 21st century contextual spiritualities of cosmo-theologians and eco-theologians and the emerging North American inclusive liberation spiritualities as healing tools for this target population; and promote the applications of this holistic approach through existing agencies and organizations serving this population. E-mail: gerryc Clarkfriends@hotmail.com.

Kelsey E. Clemson, BS. Kelsey currently attends the Institute for the Psychological Science, where she is working towards a doctorate (Psy.D.) in clinical psychology. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2012 with a Bachelor’s degree in psychology and minors in theology and education. While there Kelsey wrote a thesis on the understanding of religious growth and conversion. After graduation she spent a year as an Americorps volunteer at a residential home for youth in Chicago. Her research interests concern the significance of religion and spirituality during aging and the end of life. E-mail: k.e.clemson@gmail.com.

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Jang Dove, PhD student (United Kingdom). Being a pastor for more than 20 years, I have fully participated in human suffering and brokenness. My theological reflection upon these experiences has developed into a keen eagerness to learn more about the ways to healing and transformation. My research interests are to figure out in what ways Christian faith and practices can facilitate healing and transformation for mentally ill patients. This leads to my PhD study in Durham University in Durham, England, focusing on the dialogue between patristic traditions and contemporary psychiatry. I hope by engaging in both theological and scientific reasoning better understanding of healing and transformation will be fostered. E-mail: j.l.jang@durham.ac.uk.

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Baher Iskander. Baher is a junior at Yale College where he majors in religious studies. Faith, elders, religion and medicine, conversations, and Middle East politics are just some of Baher’s passions. At Yale, Baher leads a Bible study for freshmen through Yale Students for Christ, a Christian fellowship on campus. Outside of Yale, Baher interns for Elder Horizons, a delirium
prevention program for geriatric patients at the Yale-New Haven Hospital. Moreover, Baher enjoys volunteering for IRIS, a refugee center in New Haven where he provides home companionship, tutoring, and Arabic translation to local refugees to ease the transition to the U.S. Himself an immigrant, Baher came to the United States from Cairo, Egypt in August of 2005. E-mail: baher.iskander@yale.edu.

Laura Land, B.A. Laura works at the Behavioral Research Institute specializing in child and adolescent therapy for youth victimized by physical and sexual abuse. Mentored by Dr. Tom Biller, she’s been part of his nationally acclaimed child abuse prevention program. Working as a graduate and teaching assistant afforded her the opportunity to be a part of a research project for the book Counseling Client where she ran the statistical analysis. Graduating in December 2014 with her M.A. in Clinical Mental Health, she continues to focus her research on the therapeutic value of sacred text. Laura’s research trajectory will focus on implementing spiritual archetypes in child therapy integrating JAPT and APT. E-mail: LauraRLand10@yahoo.com.

Jian H. Liu, RN, PhD student. I was born and raised in People’s Republic of China. I was a registered nurse for seven years in Beijing, before I immigrated to United States in 1989. I have worked as a nurse for over 28 years in variety settings including six years U.S Navy reserve as a staff nurse and seven years active duty naval officer as a family nurse practitioner. I have medically retired out of the active duty Naval Service in September 2013. I have been a full time Ph. D nursing student at University of San Diego since spring, 2014. My research interest is patient-centered culturally sensitive health promotion research project. My specific research question is: “what is the relationship between religion/spiritual involvement, depression, anxiety, anger, fear, (level of) social support and (sense of) self-efficacy among veterans with HTN in medical clinics in San Diego?” E-mail: JianHuaLiu@aol.com.

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Michael Roberts. I am a graduate of Cornell University. I attended law school for a year before getting married in 1980. I’ve been a labor leader, a teacher, an entrepreneur and a real estate developer among other things. I am currently President/Chief Technology Officer for a software corporation, LaborWorks. I am interested in enhancing my own ability to articulate and advance the notion that spirit and health, both physical and psychological are inextricably tied together. I would like to attend your workshop so that I might develop an ability to validate and substantiate some of my ideas as they relate to the spirit and validate the notion that the power of Love is not only redemptive but it can be the salve that heals the conditions that make our bodies susceptible to psychiatric and physical illnesses. E-mail: mroberts@uisonline.net.

Marcus Rodriguez, Ph.D. student. Marcus is pursuing a PhD in clinical psychology at Duke University, with a vocational goal of becoming a professor of psychology. As a researcher, his goal is to help develop novel, culturally and religiously sensitive, web- and smartphone-based behavioral interventions for emotion regulation. Marcus grew up on the mission field in Mexico. He earned his B.A. in Religion and Psychology from Pepperdine University. Upon graduation, he moved to China, with his brother Martin, who now serves as a minister at the Hollywood Church of Christ. During the 9 years he lived in China, Marcus met his wife Zheng Xiao, learned Mandarin, worked as an adjunct professor at Fudan University, and was the first foreigner to complete a graduate degree in psychology at Peking University. Marcus, Zheng and their children Caleb (3) and Journey (18 months) attend the Summit Church in Durham, NC. E-mail: marcus.rodriguez@dm.duke.edu.

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Charles Slosek. I am a ministerial counselor. My ministry is centered in Western Massachusetts, where I work, primarily, with persons exhibiting symptoms of what are commonly described as being mental illnesses, among which, schizophrenia. The community whom I endeavor to serve is comprised of individuals who, historically, have not found themselves being significantly benefited by their exposures to conventional therapeutic approaches. A recognition of the centrality of faith, of the necessity of the restoration of the spiritual self, guides me in my efforts. The Faith based, Hope based, Love based reconstitution of my own life, thirty years ago, became the inspiration for my ministry. My profound hope is that I shall have something vital to contribute to the ongoing dialogue concerning what may be regarded as being the spiritual roots of mental and physical illness. E-mail: wayfarer1621@gmail.com.

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Robin L. Treptow, Ph.D. The Catechism of the Catholic Church’s premise that “faith and reason do not conflict” guides my scientific pursuits. In 1999 I earned my doctorate in clinical psychology (child and family emphasis) from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. My health research interests lie in unraveling (and dismantling) the pervasive human belief that “death is inevitable” [even for persons who live well (virtuously)]. I now seek to flesh out with research-based scientific data aspects of my transactional model of health: built on a premise that death can best be understood as “self-fulfilling prophecy” and “universal learned helpless.” E-mail: robinlynn1407@mac.com.
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Philip H. Yawman MSW. As a clinical social worker with mental health experience in private and public sectors, a well as inpatient and outpatient treatment settings, it was probably connecting with Alcoholics Anonymous that validated my interest in the clinical use of spirituality. As a permanent deacon in the Roman Catholic Church for the past 13 years, my hope was that the ministry might provide a platform to use spirituality in counseling.
Spirituality has become an integral element of my clinical practice. My research interest is in enabling clients to have a transcendent experience as a way to treat anxiety and depression. E-mail: phyawman@frontiernet.net.

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Bailu Yu, B.S. I am a graduate student at Ningxia Medical University in China in the School of Public Health there. Professor Wang has been my tutor for the past three years. I have published three articles, and recently received a prize for my article on “The predictors of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in those of Hui ethnicity.” Because Dr. Wang’s research direction is the mental health area, I became interested in mental health and social factors, as well as in comorbidity between mental disorders and physical health. I am very eager to learn more about the study of mental health and social culture (religion is an important cultural phenomenon in China). E-mail: memory_ll@163.com.

Note:
2 participants in this class asked that their contact information and biosketches not be listed