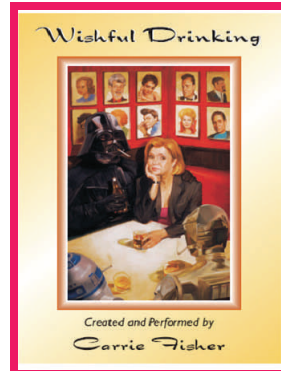


Carrie Fisher's *Wishful Drinking* Raises Funds for the Center for Mental Health Outreach

On Thursday evening, September 18, the Department of Psychiatry hosted an entertaining evening at the historic Lincoln Theater benefiting the programs and projects of the Center for Mental Health Outreach (CMHO). Carrie Fisher's Arena Stage production of *Wishful Drinking*, is a witty, one-woman show that chronicles her very public life story from childhood, to stardom, to marriage, to motherhood, all-the-while suffering from severe mental illness. Speaking to *Washington Post's* Ellen McCarthy in early September, Ms. Fisher expressed her enthusiasm for the show coming to Washington. "The Georgetown psychiatric department has bought 200 tickets to one night. So that's one of my favorite things that has happened," she said. "Those are my people." Ms. Fisher shared her personal struggles in an exclusive conversation with *her people* (CMHO guests) following the performance. At a pre-event reception Steve Epstein, MD Professor and Department Chair, Carol Alter, MD, Director, Policy and Community Outreach, and Yvonne Smith, consumer and community organizer, highlighted the work of the CMHO and its dedication to improving mental health care for the underserved in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The Department gratefully acknowledges all the generous contributions in support of this event.



REGISTER TODAY

3rd Annual Biennial
Schizophrenia
Conference
October 16

Developmental and Cognitive
Trajectories: Clinical Implications

The goal of the conference is to review a range of current research that pertains to two related areas of considerable focus and interest in schizophrenia research, namely the developmental and cognitive aspects of this disorder.

REGISTRATION LINK

<http://www.capitalcityevents.net/schizophrenia/index.asp>

Bonnie Green, PhD Awarded Grant, Briefs US Congress

Bonnie Green, PhD, Department of Psychiatry Research Division Director and Director of the Center for Trauma and the Community (CTC), has been awarded a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health entitled *Improving Communication between Primary Care Providers and their Trauma Patients*. The grant 1) adapts an existing manual and training curriculum (*Risking Connection*), 2) evaluates its acceptability to primary care providers (PCPs) and low-income patients, and 3) conducts a randomized controlled trial of the adapted training in regional safety-net clinical sites with which the CTC partners.

In May and September, the American Psychological Association (APA) briefed the US Congress on the mental health needs of the military. The first presentation was on *Initiatives to Address Mental Health Needs of Service Members, Veterans and Their Families*, co-sponsored by the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS). Dr. Green, former ISTSS president, moderated the briefing and provided an overview of some of the most pressing mental health issues facing those returning home from war. In September, Dr. Green shared the work of the CTC at the APA briefing on *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): Research Priorities and Frontiers in Civilian and Military Populations*, moderated by Dr. Thomas Insel, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health.

Forensic Conference

Youth Violence: Clinical and Forensic Considerations

The Department of Psychiatry, in partnership with the DC Department of Mental Health's Saint Elizabeths Hospital, hosted its fourth in a series of Forensic Conferences on Monday, September 29, as a part of a broader partnership that began in April 2005. The conference topic was, *Youth Violence: Clinical and Forensic Considerations*. Stephen T. Baron, Director of DMH and Steve Epstein, MD, welcomed conference participants. Patrick Canavan, PsyD, Saint Elizabeths Hospital CEO, introduced special guest, Vincent Schiraldi, Director, DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. Featured speakers included five regional and national expert/leaders in the areas of violence, child psychiatry, and forensic psychiatry. Moderator and Program Chair Avram Mack, MD, Georgetown University Hospital, opened the program with an introduction to violence; Jorge Srabstein, MD, Children's National Medical Center, discussed health programs related to bullying; William E. Copeland, PhD, Duke University Medical Center, presented on childhood psychiatric disorders and young adult crime; Richard Ratner, MD, George Washington University School of Medicine, discussed evaluations in delinquency proceedings; and, Brett Schneider MD, Walter Reed Medical Center, talked about victims of violence. The lectures provided data-driven perspectives on this complex problem.

Department News

- Thomas Cummings, Jr. MD, joined the faculty in July. Dr. Cummings provides clinical care for inpatient and consult services and outpatient adult programs, with a focus on neuropsychiatry and psycho-oncology. In addition, he will be teaching and supervising medical students and residents. Dr. Cummings obtained his MD from the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, completed his psychiatry residency at NYU School of Medicine in 2007 and was a Psychosomatic Medicine fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital from 2007-2008.
- In September, Robyn Wechsler, MD, joined the faculty and is providing clinical care for the outpatient child/adolescent program and mental health services for the Department of Pediatrics on the Kids Mobile Medical Van. Dr. Wechsler will co-lead the first year medical school course beginning in 2009. She obtained her MD from the University of Maryland in 2001, completed her psychiatry residency at the University of Pittsburgh Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in 2004 and from 2004-2006, she was a Child and Adolescent Fellow at NYU School of Medicine.

Psychiatry Grand Rounds and Other Programs (*open to the public)

- *Oct 23, Robert Dupont, M.D., Physician Health Programs
- *Nov. 13, Joyce Chung, M.D., Autism
- Nov.20, Richard Filson, EdD, Case Conference
- *Dec. 11, James Levenson, M.D., Neuroleptics in the Treatment of Delirium: Myths, Mistakes and Malpractice

Wishful Drinking Illustration by Roberto Parada
Courtesy of Arena Stage

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- ▶ Write **PSYCHIATRY**

The Center For Mental Health Outreach is dedicated to improving mental health care for the underserved in the Nation's Capital
Please contact for additional information and donations

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