

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Created by the [Wright Institute Los Angeles Alumni Association](#) for the WILA Community

We're proud of our alumni! You go on to serve as ambassadors for the excellent training and services provided at WILA. This Alumni Spotlight features distinguished WILA alumni and their reflections on their time at WILA, how being an alumnus has helped shape their career, and how they stay connected to the WILA community.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Stephen Phillips

By Lilly Gallay, Alumni Association Newsletter Editor



Stephen Phillips, J.D., Psy.D., one of Los Angeles's most prominent psychologists, trained at [WILA](#) from 1998-2000. He has since gone on to serve as president of LACPA (2010-2011), board member of the California Board of Psychology (2013-present), Ethics Committee member of the California Psychological Association, and chairman of the board of WILA. Additionally, Dr. Phillips is a beloved adjunct professor at CSPP Los Angeles, an instructor and supervisor at WILA, and a frequent presenter at conferences in Los Angeles and beyond. He also maintains a private practice in Beverly Hills, conducting psychoanalytic psychotherapy and forensic psychology, providing consultation and supervision to other psychologists, and supervising psychological assistants.

Dr. Phillips reminisced about how he immediately knew he wanted to train at WILA upon learning of it during his first year at CSPP. He remembers being intimidated when he started at WILA, a feeling no doubt familiar to many alums. He says he felt as though he was finally getting the learning experience he had hoped for in graduate school—"an incredibly bright group of people, the opportunity to read primary source material, in-depth didactic and clinical courses." Dr Phillips said his favorite moments at WILA were being able to return to the trainee office in between sessions and chat with his cohort, processing the previous session and the one to come. "Outside of my own analysis, WILA was the best place to learn who you were and who you wanted to be as a therapist," Dr. Phillips said.

Dr. Phillips is truly a poster child for how to maintain a connection to WILA as an alumnus. The first roles he took on were teacher and supervisor: "it's very rewarding because of the caliber of [the trainees]." He then joined the Alumni Association Board and eventually served as president for several years; in that capacity he sat on the WILA "big board," and his involvement culminated in 2014 by becoming current chairman of the board of WILA. He is also a regular at WILA fundraisers and continuing education events; "when I go to WILA events, it feels like the best version of a high school reunion: it feels like coming home," he said. Dr. Phillips remarked how much he has enjoyed staying involved in the day-to-day life of WILA through these multiple avenues. "I just felt that WILA was the kind of place I wanted to come back to because they'd given me so much."

Dr Phillips remarked that his career has been positively impacted, in ways both large and small, by being a WILA alumnus. "The WILA community is quite diverse. And because WILA is unique and more selective than most training sites, there's a cache that the name brings." His WILA contacts helped him launch the forensic branch of his private practice; he continues to participate in a peer supervision group with members of his cohort; both his officemate and his current psychological assistant are WILA connections; and perhaps most significantly, Dr Phillips notes that it was in part through the support of other alumni that both his bid for president of LACPA and his appointment by the governor to the Board of Psychology were successful.

Dr. Phillips is passionate about WILA continuing to thrive as both a training site and a low-fee community clinic. "What many people don't realize is that although a lot of fees are generated, the salaries are low--it's a passion project for most people there. It's inspiring. I became a donor almost immediately, which has increased over the years. You become aware that it's still a lean operation. They really need the support of the alumni. I consider it one of, if not the, best training sites on the west coast and even in the country. And it's of great benefit to the community. It's a remarkable place and I would like to see it thrive."

Info about Dr. Phillips' practice can be found at drstephenphillips.com

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GET THE TRAINING YOU GOT AND THE HELP YOU GAVE.
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THAT'S IT. ONE

OF YOUR FULL-FEE SESSIONS WILL PROVIDE
EXPONENTIALLY FOR OUR
CURRENT STUDENTS AND PATIENTS!