

For immediate release
News from the University of Southern Indiana

New Harmony is site of 9th annual School Social Work Institute

An expert on child abuse prevention and treatment will be at the 9th annual School Social Work Institute in June.

Dr. Eliana Gil, director of the Starbright Training Institute in Virginia, is one of three presenters at the University of Southern Indiana's ninth annual School Social Work Institute to be held June 12 to June 15, 2007 in the New Harmony Inn Conference Center in New Harmony, Indiana. Dr. Gil is a specialist who works with abused children and their families through play therapy. She uses art, sand, play, and other expressive therapies to allow a peek inside a child's complex and often rigid defenses. She has worked in the field of child abuse prevention and treatment since 1973. She is a registered play therapy supervisor, a registered art therapist, and a licensed Marriage, Family, Child counselor. She is bilingual and bicultural, originally from Guayaquil, Ecuador. Her lecture will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 13.

Pediatric bipolar disorder and a curriculum to help Latino immigrant students adjust are other topics of the institute. Gagan Joshi's clinical and research interest is in pediatric bipolar disorder and pervasive developmental disorders. At the 8 a.m. session on Thursday, June 15, Joshi will address the diagnosis and treatment of childhood disorders including Pervasive Developmental Disorders, Asperger's (a milder variant of autistic disorder), and childhood-onset bipolar.

Gilberto Perez Jr. is the Bienvenido Program director in the Latino Behavioral Health Department at Northeast Center (NEC), Inc. in Ligonier, Indiana (Noble County). In response to the growing number of immigrants, the NEC developed this mental health education program which addresses the migration and transition experiences of recently arrived Latino children, adolescents, and adults. The curriculum of the Bienvenido (in Spanish means "welcome") program teaches new immigrants to reflect on their migration journey, vent feelings regarding their adjustment to this country, and find similarities with their home and current community. He will discuss the Bienvenido Program at 8 a.m. on Friday, June 16.

The institute is presented by the USI Department of Social Work in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Education and the Indiana School Social Work Association. More information is online at <http://www.usi.edu/schoolsocialwork/>.