



GODDARD COLLEGE

PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION FOR CREATIVE MINDS

Student-Designed Studies within the MA in Consciousness Studies Concentration

Hillary S. Webb entered the Consciousness Studies Concentration with a rich background of learning and interests that included the study of Shamanism, a subject on which she has written two books, *Exploring Shamanism* and *Traveling Between Worlds*. In addition to acquiring further grounding in Consciousness Studies, for her thesis she systematically explored and compared a number of philosophical traditions, focusing on the subject of consciousness, paradox, and reconciliation of opposites. She has gone on to obtain her Ph.D. with a focus on the notion of opposites and reciprocity in indigenous Andean spirituality and has also become associate editor of the journal *Anthropology of Consciousness*.

Sheldon Hartman, a former business executive with a developed interest in spirituality and the gay population, entered the Consciousness Studies Concentration to deepen his theoretical and practical knowledge in Consciousness Studies. For his engaged practice, he conducted a retreat for gay youth from a large urban area that offered them an opportunity to explore some of their spiritual concerns. His thesis explores the theoretical underpinnings for the development of the retreat and a detailed description and analysis of the retreat including interview material from the participants. He has gone on to become Operations Director of the Easton Mountain Center where he continues to develop and conduct retreats for gay youth.

Claudia Turnbull, a former Goddard student who returned to complete her undergraduate degree and enter the Consciousness Studies Concentration, is a long time practitioner of Transcendental Meditation and a student of the religion and philosophy of Hinduism as well as Ayurveda. Her interests led her to focus on the broad area of transpersonal studies and to explore her own journey into Eastern spirituality as well as acquiring a critical perspective on its practice in the West. Her thesis consisted of a process paper that sets up the background of the spiritual encounter between East and West, and its problematic and positive features. To this she added a moving and poignant memoir of her own experiences in the form of a first person approach to consciousness and its transformation. Claudia has become active in supporting the Consciousness Studies Concentration by being involved in advertising and marketing it to a larger public.