



***** Christine Downing Dissertation Fellowship for 2012 *****
Awards Announcement

A dream come true! I felt deeply honored by the establishment of this Fellowship and so grateful to all those who helped fund it—and am now enormously pleased that it is up and running and that our first recipient so beautifully fulfills our vision.

- Christine Downing, Ph.D.

Opus Archives and Research Center is thrilled to announce that the winner of the 2012 Christine Downing Dissertation Fellowship is Jason Butler, Clinical Psychology doctoral candidate at Pacifica Graduate Institute.

The purpose of the Downing Fellowship is to award an annual scholarship to dissertation students of any accredited graduate level institution in the fields of depth psychology and mythology. The archival collections available for research at Opus include Joseph Campbell, Marija Gimbutas, James Hillman, Jane and Joseph Wheelwright, Christine Downing, Marion Woodman, Adolf Guggenbühl-Craig, and Katie Sanford.

Christine Downing, David Miller, Richard Tarnas and Lyn Cowan were this year's final selection committee. They reported that the proposals were of great worth and that congratulations were in order to each applicant for their excellent work.

Jason Butler's dissertation "Imagining an Archetypal Approach to Psychotherapy" is an exploration, shaped by mythological hermeneutics, into original patterns of thought in archetypal psychology. Jason will be working intensely with the James Hillman collection, researching within several relevant documents standing in support of his dissertation project – an archetypal approach to psychotherapy. Butler wrote, "My response to Hillman's work has involved imagining and describing a distinctly archetypal approach to psychotherapy—a method of construction in response to Hillman's deconstruction, a Hephaestian fantasy of collecting bits of method, weaving them together with dreams, fantasy images, and clinical vignettes in an effort to craft a depiction of the particular style taken up by archetypal psychotherapy."

In response to his Fellowship application and dissertation proposal, Lyn Cowan wrote, "His proposal to bring a much-needed "practical" application to the ideas and theories of archetypal psychology is long overdue, necessary, and no easy undertaking, given the long association of archetypal psychology with "esoteric" philosophies and good only for the ivory-tower academic or bodiless theoretician. If archetypal psychology is to survive as a viable perspective in 21st-century culture, it must be able to demonstrate its usefulness, not only in the current field of psychology, but by transcending that field through its ability to

accomplish therapeutically what mainstream psychology cannot. I think Mr. Butler's proposal addresses both these aspects and offers a genuinely creative contribution to that effort.”

Opus wholeheartedly congratulates Jason on this achievement and looks forward to welcoming him into the archives. We also thank Christine Downing, David Miller, Richard Tarnas and Lyn Cowan for their time and support of this Fellowship.

The Christine Downing Dissertation Fellowship is awarded annually. The next cycle will be announced in the summer of 2013. For more information please visit our website and review the application and instructions - www.opusarchives.org.

If you are interested in contributing to this Fellowship, please contact Dr. Safron Rossi, Executive Director of Opus Archives and Research Center at (805) 969-5750.

Opus Archives and Research Center is a non-profit research center that houses the archives of Joseph Campbell, Marija Gimbutas, James Hillman, Jane and Joseph Wheelwright, Christine Downing, Marion Woodman, Adolf Guggenbühl-Craig, and Katie Sanford. In addition to safeguarding these important resources, Opus works to foster ongoing research in the fields of depth psychology and mythological studies.