

Psycho-Babble

Macalester College/ March 2011

Important Dates

Tuesday, March 1
T-Shirt Design deadline

Tuesday, March 1, 7:00
Careers in Psych Panel
Discussion with Alumni
Pizza - RSVP

March 14-18 Spring
Break

Tuesday, March 22
Psych Informational
Lunch 11:30-12:30
#352

Tuesday, March 29
Senior assessment
11:30-12:30 #352

Friday, April 1, Honors
applications due to chair

Tuesday, April 5, 5:00-
6:30, Spring Dinner

Tuesday, April 12, 5:00
Johnson Lecture
Apostolos Georgopoulos
Olri 250

Saturday, April 16,
MUPC - Carleton

Saturday, April 30, Mid
Brains Conference - St.
Olaf

Chair Talk from Jaine

March is a busy time in the Psychology Department. As you'll see below, we have two panel discussions coming up—one in which alumni talk about BA-level jobs for psychology majors and another in which faculty and students answer questions first and second year students have about the major. We'll also host our first ever senior assessment event. This event will give our current seniors a chance to show the faculty what they've learned during their time here at Macalester—and there will be exciting prizes (and, of course, data—and data are always as exciting as prizes to us psychologists).

We're also hard at work putting together a great schedule of classes for next year. You'll see a lot of your old favorites, but we'll also have a few new courses offered by visitors in 2011-2012, including new advanced courses on Psychology and the Law and on Embodied Cognition. Stay tuned for more information in the April Psychobabble. Wishing you all a great month—and a restful, exciting, and productive Spring Break.

Tuesday, March 1ST

Careers in Psychology Alumni Panel

"What am I going to do with my psychology degree? Is it possible to get a good job with a BA—even in this economy? How can I find out about good jobs? Get these and other questions answered at the Careers in Psychology night, Tuesday, March 1ST from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in Olin Rice 352.

We have invited alums from a variety of jobs in psychology: Beth Howard, Mai Youa Moua, Joelle Taknint, David Schmoeller, Amanda Wenzel and Mai Bao Xiong. You will have the opportunity to find out first hand what their psychology jobs are like and what the qualifications are. We are looking forward to an exciting evening with lots of great information and tips for all. Pizza will be served!

Brain Awareness Week March 20-26

Macalester College and the University of Minnesota are founding members along with the Dana Foundation of BAW (Brain Awareness Week) March 20-26. During this week they are helping to lead the charge in increasing understanding of the brain & neuroscience.

From the BAW (Brain Awareness Week) website: "Brain Awareness Week (BAW) is an international campaign dedicated to advancing public awareness about the progress and benefits of brain research. Brain Awareness Week began in 1996 as a modest effort involving 160 organizations in the United States. BAW was created to bring together diverse groups from academia, government, professional, and advocacy groups and unite them with a common theme that brain research is the hope for treatments and preventions, and possibly cures, for brain diseases and disorders, and to ensure a better quality of life at all ages. Since that time, BAW has evolved into a powerful global initiative with more than 2,200 partners in 76 countries (as of the 2008 campaign)."

The NS seniors will host the Friday Social to celebrate the week. Help celebrate Brain Awareness week yourself by going to: www.dana.org/brainweek/

Syllabi available on Psychology Websites

To help you register for classes next year, check out the syllabi for Psychology and NS courses, now available on our website. Look for the link at the bottom of our homepage. Please note that these are syllabi from past semesters; they are likely to change from one term to the next, but they will still give you a good idea about course content, structure, and assignments.

Spotlight on Research – Joan Ostrove

My research explores the connections between psychology and social structure. One focus of my work is about how people's social class background shapes their experiences in higher education. With two colleagues from the University of Michigan, I recently did a study about the connections

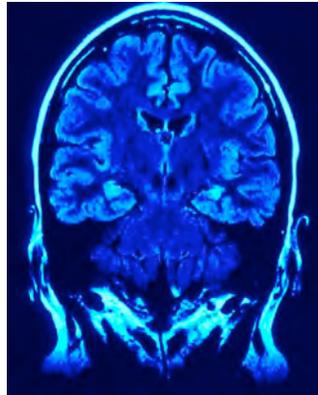


Joan Ostrove

between class background, a sense of belonging, academic self-concept, and career decisions among graduate students that will be published soon in the *Journal of Higher Education*. We found that class background was significantly related to the extent to which students struggled financially in graduate school, which related to their sense of belonging in graduate school. Sense of belonging related to academic self-concept, which predicted students' interest in becoming professors at "top research universities." I think this work has important implications for the ways in which institutions of higher education can encourage students from all backgrounds to feel like they belong. My other line of work is about friendships and alliances between people who do not share key social identities, especially in the domains of disability and race. With a colleague from Gallaudet University, I recently published a chapter in a book about the intersections between Deaf Studies and Disability Studies entitled, "Identifying allies: Explorations in Deaf-hearing relationships." I am currently writing a chapter with another colleague about women with disabilities' interpersonal relationship for a book on the Psychology of Love, and Kendrick Brown and I are working on a paper based on a series of studies we did about what people of color value in an ally. I am in the writing stage of all of my research projects at the moment and am not starting a new project quite yet, but I'd love to talk to any interested students about my research - stop by my office any time!

Psych Informational Lunch, March 22

On Tuesday, March 22nd, there will be a psych info pizza lunch for newly declared majors and those who have not declared their major but have an interest in psychology. The format for this is: each faculty member talks about the classes they teach and a little bit about their research. The faculty then leave the room so students can get the "real scoop" from junior and senior majors. There will be pizza so please RSVP by calling 6223 or emailing lolson4@macalester.edu to ensure that we will have enough food.



Mid-Brains Conference is April 30

St. Olaf will host the 5th annual conference for neuroscience majors on **Saturday, April 30th**. The conference will feature a keynote speech, presentations from the faculty in the different graduate neuroscience programs in the region and student presentations. All NS seniors will be presenting at the conference. The day concludes with a BBQ for all.

MUPC is Saturday, April 16

Presenting at MUPC is a requirement of the psychology major at Macalester.

The Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference is Saturday, April 16, 8:30-4:30 at Carleton College in Northfield, MN. This one day annual conference promotes undergraduate research in the field of psychology and will feature oral and poster presentations of student research. Registration is free. <http://www.macalester.edu/mupc/index.html>

The deadline for registration is March 25, 2011.

Mesmerizing Major: Mikayla Mehle



Mikayla Mehle

"Mesmerizing majors are randomly selected from the list of psychology and CNS majors"

Favorite Movie: Burn after Reading, Inglorious Bastards, Je vais bien, ne t'en fais pas

Favorite Book: The Kite Runner, Crime and Punishment

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Salut or Cosetta's

What do you do when you are not studying: Doing yoga at CorePower, crocheting or watching Modern Family

Where did you grow up? Lakeville, MN

Interesting fact about your hometown: It was the first of a few US cities in 2008 to have police cars with computerized license plate scanners to find stolen or wanted vehicles.

Tell us something about your family: My brother is going to school for theater and my parents own a water treatment company.

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: I crocheted a cardigan in one week.

MUPC keynote speaker: Dan Simons

We are pleased to announce that the MUPC keynote speaker will be Dan Simons, Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Illinois, and author of *The Invisible Gorilla: And Other Ways Our Intuitions Deceive Us*. (2010) Dan Simons is a professor in the Department of Psychology and the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at the University of Illinois. He received a B.A. in psychology from Carleton College (1991) and a Ph.D. in experimental psychology from Cornell University. Dan was a faculty member at Harvard University for 5 years before taking a position at the University of Illinois in 2002. As a graduate student at Cornell, Dan received the Annual Teaching Award for the best teaching by a psychology department graduate student. At Harvard, Dan received awards for both undergraduate and graduate mentoring (the John Marquand Award and the Excellence in Mentoring Award). At the University of Illinois, Dan received the Graduate Student Organization Award and has appeared on the list of teachers ranked as excellent. Dan's area of interest is visual cognition, and he is most well known for exploring further an attentional effect that Ulric Neisser first discovered that is now commonly called inattention blindness.

Dan Simons



Psych in the News



[A psychology lesson for cafeterias](#)

February 27, 2011, *Boston Globe*

School lunchrooms are learning ingenious ways to get kids to eat healthy.

- [Study finds many graphic YouTube self-harm videos](#)

February 21, 2011, *Associated Press*

CHICAGO - YouTube videos on cutting and other self-injury methods are an alarming new trend, attract millions of hits and could serve as a how-to for troubled viewers, a study warns.

- [Study questions chronic fatigue treatment methods](#)

February 18, 2011, *Associated Press*

LONDON - The biggest ever study of chronic fatigue syndrome treatments has challenged the strategy championed by patient groups - taking it easy is not the best treatment, exercise and behavior therapy are.

- [Speaking two languages may delay getting Alzheimer's](#)

February 18, 2011, *Associated Press*

WASHINGTON - Mastering a second language can pump up your brain in ways that seem to delay getting Alzheimer's disease later on, scientists said Friday.

- [Modern lifestyle could disrupt metabolism, brain and behavior](#)

February 26, 2011, *ScienceDaily*

Our 'round-the-clock' lifestyle could interfere with learning and impact behavior in ways that we're just beginning to understand.

- [People with schizophrenia more likely to have multiple copies of a particular gene](#)

February 26, 2011, *Medical News Today*

A NIH-funded study found that people with schizophrenia are 14 times more likely to have multiple copies of a gene on Chromosome 7 than those in the control group.

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*Be sure to check out
our website.*

Psych in the News (cont'd)

Welcome new Psych & NS majors!

Anna Roberds '13
Austin Delmond '13 NS
Julia Huerta '13
Karen Ramos '13
Ellen Nikodym '13
Courtney Olson '14

About Psycho-Babble...

Psycho-Babble is a monthly newsletter for Psychology and Cognitive and Neuroscience majors and other interested students. We welcome contributions from students and faculty. The goal of the newsletter is to inform the community of events, people and issues at Macalester and beyond.