

Psycho-Babble

Important Dates

Monday, April 12th
SPRING DINNER
5:00 - 6:30
Small Gallery

Tuesday, April 13th
Psi Chi Induction
7:00
Old Main

April 19-30 Fall '10
Registration

Saturday, April 24th
M.U.P.C. 8:00-3:00
all campus

Wednesday, May 5th
Senior Conversations

Friday, May 14th
Reception for Grads
& Families 5-6:30

Saturday, May 15th
Commencement

Macalester College/April 2010

Chair talk from Jaine

It's April—the time of year when Psychology folks begin to think about... the Spring Dinner! MUPC! Registration for next year!

**You will soon receive an invitation to our annual bash, the Spring Dinner. As you'll see below, this delicious (food from Buca's!) and entertaining event (prizes!!) is open to anyone interested in psychology and neuroscience studies. We hope you'll come.

**A bit later in the month, the department will host the annual Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference. As you'll see in the box below, we hope you will consider volunteering to help out AND attending the conference to learn more about the really interesting research done by fellow undergraduate psychology students throughout the upper Midwest. If you're one of the many kind souls who've schlepped to the lab to participate in countless lab tasks or who've answered innumerable questions on SurveyMonkey, this is your payback—a chance to find out what it all means!

**For most of you, April is the month during which you register for next year's courses. We are very excited about our curricular offerings, and all of the faculty welcome you to stop by and ask questions about which classes are the best fit for your needs and interests.

MUPC is Saturday, April 24th

The 45th annual MUPC (Minnesota Undergraduate psychology Conference) is being held at Macalester this year. The conference promotes undergraduate research in the field of psychology and will feature oral and poster presentations of student research. The keynote speaker is Dr. John Bargh, Professor of Psychology at Yale and he will offer a dynamic presentation about Unconscious

Behavioral Guidance Systems: The Automaticity of Everyday Life. The conference is free and open to the public. See the Psychology website for more information. **Volunteers are needed to make this a success.** Please see Lee about taking a 2-3 hours shift.

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

Ann Baltzer to receive Mink Prize



The Mink Prize was established in memory of Walter D. Mink, professor of psychology from 1958-1996. This prize is given to a senior who has a strong academic record and has also provided outstanding service to the department, the college or the broader community.

Ann Baltzer is the Mink Prize winner for 2010. Ann grew up in Bismarck, North Dakota. While at Mac she taught English as a Second Language classes at the English Learning Center for three years, ran an English school in St. Paul's Skyline Towers for its residents, and worked for New American Community Services to help them develop a more culturally-appropriate mental health care program for their African-born clients. She was a Chuck Green Fellow, and her plans after Mac include teaching middle school science in St. Louis, Missouri through Teach for America.

Chelsea Voskuillen is our Paterson nominee



The Paterson Award is given by the Minnesota Psychological Association to the most promising senior in Minnesota planning a career in psychology. **Chelsea Voskuillen** is our Paterson nominee for 2010. Congratulations Chelsea! Chelsea grew up in Bothell, WA (just north of Seattle). She is primarily interested in aspects of memory and would like to do mathematical modeling of memory. She has been accepted to several stellar doctoral programs in cognitive psychology, and she will decide soon which one she will attend.

All of our award winners will have their names inscribed on one of the plaques on the awards wall and they will be recognized at the Honors Lunch, where they will also receive a cash award.

Jen Agans is Rossmann Recipient



Jen Agans is our Rossmann Award Winner for 2010. Jen grew up in southern New Hampshire. She has been applying her interesting in psychology to her work with youth circus. She's been involved in circus arts since she was in middle school and she's been teaching circus to kids for the past eight years. She finds it really interesting to look at circus from a developmental psychology perspective. Jen is likely to be joining the doctoral program at the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development at Tufts University this Fall.

Spring Dinner - Monday, April 12th

Majors, minors and anyone interested in psychology or neuroscience studies are invited to the:

Spring Dinner - Monday, April 12th, 5-6:30 p.m.
Olin Rice Small Gallery

This is an event you won't want to miss. Here are some of the highlights of the dinner: Great Italian Food from **Buca**, music, Trivia Quiz with prizes, class pictures, announcement of new Psych Club officers, recognition of Award Winners and what you can look forward to this year and next in Psychology.

Please let Lee know if you are planning to attend so we have enough food. Email lolson4@macalester.edu or call x6223.

Movie/Lunch, Thursday, April 8th 11:20 in #352

We're going to watch Ordinary People for our movie/lunch this month. Join us for Jimmy John sandwiches, but R.S.V.P. to Lee so we have enough.

New Psychology Courses for Fall 2010

Intermediate

Psyc 294-01 Psychology of Health

This course will examine multiple, interactive factors that contribute to human health; we will take a biopsychosocial perspective and examine biological, psychological, and social underpinnings of health and look at the ways these various factors relate to one another as well as to wellness and illness. Among these influences, we will read about and discuss the roles of stress (and the ways we cope with stress), social relationships, and personality in the progression and prevention of disease. We will also address some ways in which our behaviors (e.g. physical activity, diet, substance use, sleep) can contribute to wellbeing or sickness, and we will examine behavior change strategies that can help us improve our own health habits! Group B course. Prerequisite: Psych 100.
Professor Dan Graham M-W-F 8:30-9:30 Olri 352

Psyc 394-03 Decision-Making

We constantly make decisions under conditions of uncertainty, whether we realize it or not. But how do we do it? Philosophers, economists, and psychologists have puzzled over this question for centuries, but only recently has significant progress been made in understanding this central element of human rationality. In our course we will follow three approaches to the study of human decision making. The first is the formal consideration of rational methods for choice in the traditions of economics and statistics. The second examines focuses on deviations from classical rational methods by exploring the psychological mechanisms behind those deviations. Finally, we will look at recent findings in cognitive neuroscience that look to the activity of specific brain regions for further insight into why we make the choices we do. Along the way we will touch on a variety of related topics including psychopathology in decision making, game theory, Bayesian inference, gambling, and moral decision making. Prerequisites: Psychology 100 and Psychology 201 or Math 153/Math 154/Math 155.

Professor Clark Ohnesorge TR 1:20-2:50 Olri 300

Senior Seminars

Psyc 488-01 Pain and Suffering

This seminar will examine both basic research and clinical aspects of pain and suffering. Following introductory lectures on pain and pain relief, a series of topics will be explored, including, but not limited to: the nature of suffering and its relationship to pain; the role of context in the experience of pain or suffering; pain measurement in humans and animals; the ethics and use of experimental models in pain research; chronic pain; pain and/or suffering relief produced by drugs, acupuncture, hypnosis, and placebos; and learning processes that influence pain sensitivity. Prerequisite: Senior major or minor.

Professor Eric Wiertelak MWF 9:40-10:40 Olri 300

Psyc 488-02 Development in Context

This seminar will explore the relationship between individual lives and broad social systems. We will read theory, research, and autobiographical work about the implications of gender, social class, race, physical ability, historical context, etc., on psychological experiences and will explore a variety of methodological strategies for doing research in these areas. Culture and Context course.
Prerequisite: Senior major or minor.

Professor Rachel Lucas-Thompson TR 9:40-11:10 Olri 300

Senior Conversations are May 5

Before the graduating seniors leave the campus, we like to have an informal conversation with them about their experience as a psychology major. The feedback from these conversations play an important role in future planning for the department. The psychology major senior conversations are on Wednesday, May 5th this

year. Seniors can sign up for an individual conversation which lasts about 25 minutes or a focus group with another majors which will last about 50 minutes.

* Graduating neuroscience studies majors will have scheduled exit interviews organized with Eric Wiertelak. All participating seniors will receive a small gift.

"The feedback from these conversations plays an important role in future planning for the department."

Visiting professor - Clark Ohnesorge



Clark Ohnesorge

Clark will teach full-time in the department next year, including Psyc 394 Decision-Making this Fall and Psyc 246 Exploring Sensation and Perception in the Spring.

Clark received his MA in Decision Making (1989) and PhD in Perception, Memory and Cognition from UW Madison in 1995. His research interests are primarily in the area of Visual Attention. In past years he has studied memory organization in French-English bilinguals, hemispheric differences in word recognition, and the effects of emotion-eliciting pictures on attention allocation. More recent projects include the influence of language on perceptual processes, emotion and the perception of visual space, diffusion modeling of response times under semantic and repetition priming, and the effect of familiarity on judgments of racial group membership. Working on collaborative research with students is what he enjoys most about his career as a professor, although he admits to a special love for teaching statistics and research methods. When he is not in the lab he enjoys cooking, gardening, skiing, rock climbing, and travelling.

Mesmerizing Major: Nkayo Drepaul



Nkayo Drepaul

Favorite Movie: Every time I was home sick from school I watched *Singing in the Rain*. (Faith is a dancer.)

Favorite Book: *What is the What* by Dave Eggers

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Everest on Grand

What do you do when you are not studying? Dance and watch television and shop on line

Where did you grow up? Palos Verdes CA

Interesting fact about your hometown: We have our own species of butterfly and it is actually a threatened species. Also our city has 6 micro-climates. *Pirates of the Caribbean* was shot a couple of minutes from my house.

Tell us something about your family: My dad was the number one tennis player in Korea from 1976 to 1979. And one time he played John McEnroe and won.

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: When I dislocated my kneecap I put it back myself before the paramedics came.

Brain Awareness Week "Brain Cake"



Friday Social gatherers had a special treat when neuroscience studies majors created a "brain cake" to celebrate Brain Awareness Week. Tasty and visually appealing!

Psych Info. Lunch



The Psych Info. Lunch was informative to a large group of students interested in the department. Thank you to all the upperclass psych majors who also attended to help answer questions.

New Psych Majors!

A Big Welcome to the following new Psych Majors!

Lila Baker
Anita Cavrag
Adam Freedman
Mitchell Glasser
Bryna Helle
Abby Jacobsma
Caitlin Opperman
Emily Prazak
Hannah Yellin

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We're on the Web!

*Check out the Psychology
web page.*

Which courses count for what?

Trying to figure out which courses meet which requirements? In particular, students often want to know which courses fulfill the Context and Culture requirement and which include a student-led component (please recall that you must take at least one course with a student-led component in lieu of our former senior seminar requirement). Here is the list for next year:

FALL 2010

Student-led component:

Pain and Suffering
Development in Context

Context and Culture:

Understanding and Confronting Racism
Development in Context

SPRING 2011

Student-led component:

Mind Reading
Lives in Context
Cultural Psychology

Context and Culture:

Asian American Psychology
Gender
Cultural Psychology
Lives in Context