

Psycho-Babble

Macalester College/ May 2010

Important Dates

**May 1 - Mid-
Brains Conference
St. Olaf College**

**May 5 - Senior
Conversations**

May 6-10 - Finals

**May 14 - 5:00-
6:30 Reception
for Graduates &
Families**

**May 15 -
Graduation**

Congratulations Class of 2010

Soon we will be saying good-bye to the class of 2010. It is always a poignant time for us and for our graduates. They are now concluding one of the most significant times in their lives and will look back on it often over the years. We know they are well prepared for the next step in their life journeys, and we extend our congratulations and very best wishes to them all. A special reminder for seniors: We're still here for you even after you graduate, so please stay in touch!

Psychology Graduates

Jennifer Agans	Kayla Richards
Ann Baltzer	Jane Robinson
Maxwell Cady	Jennifer Schaffner
Ykatirina Cardenas	Robert Griffin Schwed
Jordan Cline	Rosemarie Sese
Jennifer Darwent	Kerri-Dale Smith
Kitty Elmer-Dewitt	Tiffany Stoddard
Devin English	Joelle Taknint
Marie Godwin	Nash Traylor
Sara Gottlieb	Chelsea Voskuilen
Emily Hamilton	Stuart Webster
Aubrey Harding	Lisa Weinberg
Lauren Harmon	Amanda Wenzel
Hannah Johnson	Mai Bao Xiong
Jessia Kaneakua	Sue Xiong

Neuroscience Studies Graduates

Carolyn Klingensmith	Sara Berger
Allison Klothe	William Butler
Faith Kwon	Nicolas Coletto
Jillian Laffrey	Tempestt Gilmore
Sarah Minkoff	Joseph Ptacek
Huong Nguyen	Amanda Richardson
Alison Phillips	



Class of 2010 at Spring Dinner

2010-11 Psych Club Officers

Congratulations to our new officers!

Seniors: **Ellen Fitzharris** and **Faith Kwon**

Juniors: **Sylvia Ferguson, Ruben Pena** and **Colin Westcott.**

Also a big thank you to our officers who served this year: **Hannah Johnson** and **Carly Klingensmith** for the full year; **Zoe Jacobson** and **Sophia Slote** in the Fall.

Congratulations to our Honors Graduates

Sara Berger – Deconstructing Traditional Viewpoints: Intersections of Neuroscience and Critical Disability Theory in the Exploration of Autism and Autistic Sexuality (Advisor: Eric Wiertelak)

Marie Godwin – Counting Blessings Versus Neutral Events: An Experimental Investigation of Gratitude and Athletic Performance in Volleyball (Advisor: Sun No)

Sara Gottlieb – You and Me Baby Ain't Nothing but Mammals: Disgust, Evolution and the Transcendence of an Immortal Soul (Advisor: Jaine Strauss)

Carolyn Klingensmith – 500 Friends and Still Friending: The Relationship between Facebook and College Students' Social Experiences (Advisor: Jaine Strauss)

Alison Phillips – Bringing out the Best: Utilizing Bandura's Model of Self-Efficacy to Expand Current Concepts of Coaching Efficacy (Advisor: Jaine Strauss)

Chelsea Voskuillen – Curiosity, Demand Characteristics, and the Tip-of-the-Tongue State (Advisor: Brooke Lea)

Lisa Weinberg – The Effects of Handedness and Bilateral Saccadic Eye Movements on False Alarms in Recognition Memory (Advisor: Brooke Lea)

Great Food & Fun at Spring Dinner

The Forth Annual Spring Dinner was held on Monday, April 12. This has now become an annual tradition where we honor the students receiving awards, our honors students, our new majors and Psi Chi, the psychology honors society. The food (Italian from Bucas) was delicious and there was plenty of it. There was Italian music and the Psych Trivia game. Fun!



Congratulations to our Psi Chi Inductees

Psychology majors who have an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher are invited to join Psi Chi.



Sadie Cox and Spencer Retelle

Mac Students Present at MUPC



The 45th annual MUPC (Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference) was here on Saturday April 24th. Presenting at MUPC is something all psychology majors do before they graduate. There were 24 students from Macalester who presented their research. The posters used by the students will be hung in the center hallway.

Many student volunteers helped make MUPC a great success. A huge thank you to you all!



Senior Conversations are May 5

Before our 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 plays an important role in future planning for the department.

The senior conversations will be

on Wednesday, May 5 this year. Seniors have signed up for an individual conversation which will last about 25 minutes or a focus group with other majors which will last about 50 minutes.

All participating seniors will receive a small gift.

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

Reception for Graduates & Families

Invitations have been sent to the families of this year's graduates for the Psychology and Neuroscience Studies reception to be held from 5 to 6:30 on Friday, May 14.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the family members to meet the faculty and for the faculty to meet the families of the graduates. At this reception we attempt to take photos of the graduates and their families and post them on our website.

Where Are They Going?

Our senior majors are all leaving, and we're sure going to miss them. Let's take a look at what their next steps are going to be.

Allison Klothe will be working at the archeological dig in Omrit, Israel for a month this summer. Then she'll be coming back to the states and hoping to work in AmeriCorps for a year before going to grad school.

Joe Ptacek says his immediate plans are not very exciting; he will be living in uptown and working at Breadsmith. He will use this time to decompress, look for more interesting/higher paying jobs and to study for the GRE. The next inevitable step after all of this is grad school; he hopes to study something related to consciousness, executive function, language, and the brain.

Max Cady will be traveling to Democratic Republic of Congo and then living in Minneapolis and looking for a job.

Jennifer Schaffner will be doing an ambulance field internship in the cities. She's an EMT. Next year she will be attending paramedic school at Inver Hills Community College.

Sue Xiong says she doesn't have many plans for the summer other than maybe volunteering and picking up flag football, but in the fall, she'll be working with Admissions Possible as a College Coach. Admission Possible is a non-profit organization that helps promising low-income students get into college.

Ann Baltzer will be teaching middle school science in St. Louis, Missouri, through Teach for America.

Sara Berger will be pursuing her Ph.D. at Northwestern University in the Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program, NUIN. Classes start in September, but she has to complete a mandatory summer rotation, doing research at Northwestern's medical center, working with Dr. Vania Apkarian, a pain expert, investigating different aspects of chronic pain.

Rosemarie Sese will be moving back to LA and tutoring children with both special needs and typical needs. After that, her plans are up in the air.

Nash Traylor will be working at the YMCA here in the Twin Cities and searching for jobs in some animal field for the future.

Huong Hguyen will be working as a Project Manager for Epic Systems, a healthcare software company right outside Madison, WI, starting in June. She is also planning on applying to medical school.

Alison Phillips will be coaching softball and in the fall will be attending the University of Minnesota for sport psychology.

Marie Godwin will be coaching youth volleyball camps and playing as much sand volleyball as possible. She is also currently searching for short-term (1-2 years) before continuing her education in Grad School. She is considering getting her masters in education or sport management.

Jen Agans will be directing the Silver Lining Circus Camp in Temple NH, where she has worked as a coach for the past 5 years. Then in the fall she will be moving to Boston to attend Tufts University in the graduate program for Child Development and will work in the lab of Dr. Richard Lerner.

Katia Cardenas plans on moving to Seattle, WA to live with her father, and to pursue music with his help, while preparing for graduate education at the Antioch School of Drama Therapy and Counseling. Or, she may move to Boulder, CO, to pursue music with the help of her mother, while apprenticing to be a music teacher at a Waldorf school.

Mesmerizing Major: Alvaro Ballarin

Favorite Movie: Gladiator. Gran Torino is also great. I have a hard time choosing between the two.

Favorite Book: The Blank Slate by Steven Pinker. Here there is no question.

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Punch Pizza.

What do you do when you are not studying? Watch videos on YouTube (documentaries, political debates, music), go out to eat with friends or go out for a walk.

Where did you grow up? In Zaragoza, Spain.

Interesting fact about your hometown: It's named after a Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus. The name evolved from Caesaraugusta to Sarakusta (when it was under the control of the Muslims) and eventually to its current name, Zaragoza, once it was reconquered by the Christians.

Tell us something about your family: Both of my parents and my brother are biologists. My parents divorced, and my mother remarried to a man who is also a biologist. I came to Macalester thinking I would be a biologist as well. But after I took psychology classes I changed my mind.



Alvaro Ballarin

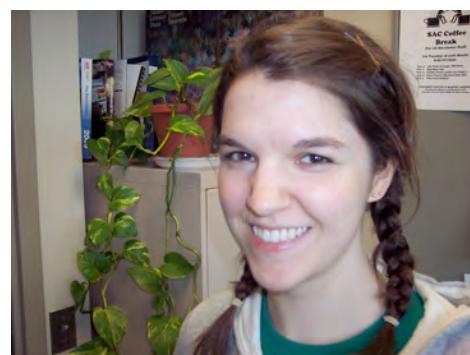
Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself:

Although I have difficulties in some areas (e.g. public speaking) I tend to make a strong effort to put myself outside of my comfort zone and challenge myself in whatever I find difficult. Over time this has allowed me to do better in many things.

Chelsea Voskuilen wins MPA Paterson award

Chelsea Voskuilen was the co-winner of the Minnesota Psychological Association's 2010 Donald G. Paterson Undergraduate Award in Psychology. This award recognizes the outstanding senior in the state of Minnesota planning a career in psychology. This year's MPA committee bestowed the honor on two equally talented and accomplished students. Macalester last had a Paterson winner in 2004.

Congratulations, Chelsea!



Congratulations to our Nu Rho Psi Inductees

Nu Rho Psi is the National Honor Society for Neuroscience. Eric Wiertelak is the Faculty Advisor for this society and a charter member. This year's inductees are:
Tomefa Asempa
Mila Quinn
Mara Robertson
and
Darcy Burgund

Mac Students Present at MidBrains 2010



The annual MidBrains Neuroscience Conference was held on Saturday May 1st at St. Olaf College. Presenting at MidBrains, the regional neuroscience research conference for the upper Midwest, is something all neuroscience studies majors do before they graduate. There were 6 students from Macalester who presented their research and 7 presentations from Macalester, which had the largest representation of all schools attending. The posters prepared by the students will be hung in the center hallway.



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We're on the Web!

Check out the
Psychology Dept web page.

Welcome New Psych Majors!

Welcome to the following new majors:

Ellen Coble - Nashville, TN 2013

Tommy Symmes - Concord, NH 2013

Kevin Aldredge - Cranford, NJ 2012

Ariel Currie - Loveland, CO 2012

Khoury Daher - Sunrise, FL 2012

Emma Gershun-Half - Walden, VT 2012

Abby Jacobsma - White Bear Lake, MN 2012

Karl Reichter - Duluth, MN 2012

Nathan Rubin - Venice, FL 2012

Andie Zvonkovic - New York, NY 2012

And more babble . . .

Becky Levin received her PhD in clinical/community psychology (with an emphasis on neuropsychology) from the U of Illinois and is wrapping up her internship at the University of Washington. She just accepted a tenure-track faculty position at Loyola University, Chicago. She writes, "If you know of any Mac grads who are planning on applying to clinical psych grad programs in the fall (with an interest in neuropsych/neuroscience) please send them in my direction. I'm already looking forward to filling my lab with excellent students."

Grad school news from our alumni: **Magda Permut** will be entering the PhD program in clinical/community psychology at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. **Dan Braman** will be starting the PsyD program in clinical psychology at Rutgers University. **Annette Lerew** is off to work on her MD at University of South Dakota. **Carrie Rosenthal** will pursue her MSW at the University of Minnesota. **Rachel Kornfield** is heading to the University of Chicago to study medical anthropology.

Congratulations to all on this exciting news, and best wishes in your new roles!