

Psycho-Babble

Macalester College/ September 2010

Calendar for Fall 2010

IMPORTANT DATES!!!

Thursday, Sept. 16:
Psychology Department Fall Picnic, 11:30 - 1 at Jack Rossmann's house, 99 Cambridge

Tuesday, Sept. 21:
Study Abroad Lunch 11:30-1 in Olri 352

Chair Talk from Jaine

Welcome back! We hope you all had just the right blend of relaxation, wonder, sleep, adventure, productivity, and contentment in your summers. Psychology faculty and staff had very interesting summers, including significant research accomplishments, fun family adventures, and even impressive sports successes. You will find a quiz at the back of this newsletter to see how well you can match the faculty/staff member with their summer experiences.

We are thrilled to welcome Clark Ohnesorge as a full-time

visitor. Clark has been teaching down in Northfield, and we are delighted to have his expertise, wisdom, and sense of humor enriching our department this year. We are also fortunate to welcome back outstanding teachers Dan Graham and Mike Mensink to teach Intro to Psych and Health Psychology.

We look forward to a very exciting year, with many great speakers, panels, and social events, and we hope you will participate fully in department activities. I am, as always, eager for you to stop by to discuss any ideas, suggestions, comments, or concerns.

Fall Picnic: Thursday, Sept. 16

The Fall Picnic is for anyone interested in psychology. It is a great time to chat informally with other students and to get to know the psychology faculty & staff members and to enjoy some delicious picnic fare (hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, fruit, veggies, chips, brownies & drinks). We'll gather at Jack Rossmann's home, 99 Cambridge (across the street from the Fine Arts parking lot) from 11:30-1:00 on

Thursday, September 16th. Hope to see you there.



Past Fall Picnic

Visiting Faculty



Mike Mensink

Professor Mensink is currently a doctoral candidate in Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis and visiting instructor of psychology at Macalester College. He is also an Institute of Education Sciences (I.E.S.) predoctoral fellow in the Minnesota Interdisciplinary Training in Education Research program, as well as a predoctoral member of the Center for Cognitive Sciences. His research interests include the general cognitive mechanisms involved in understanding informational and narrative text, the influence of attention and interest on memory, and the social and cognitive factors involved in creating effective learning technologies. Mike is especially interested in psychological research that has direct applicability to educational situations - language and technology being two major areas of this focus.

Professor Mensink received his B.A. in Psychology from St. Olaf College in 2002 and M.A. in Educational Psychology from the University of Minnesota in 2007. He has have previously taught numerous courses on cognition and education at the University of Minnesota, and have also previously worked at Macalester College: first as the laboratory instructor and animal facility manager in 2003 - 2006, and more recently as a psychology instructor in 2009.

Presently, he is working hard to collect data for his dissertation, an investigation of how readers encode and recall interesting but irrelevant information embedded within informational texts. If all goes well, he should defend his dissertation sometime in 2011. In his limited free time he enjoys spending time with his family and friends, sampling craft beers, international travel, going to the gym, reading science fiction and fantasy novels, building computer systems, and the occasional video game.

Computer Lab Usage



All psychology students are welcome to use the psychology computer lab located in Olin Rice 354 when it is NOT being used by classes. The lab will be open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We ask that you keep in mind three things when using the lab. !

1. **Remember to log - off** a computer when you are done. If you do not log off, anyone using the computer after you will have access to all of your network files and other information.

2. **All unnecessary or personal files will be deleted on Fridays.** Please use your own discs or network file space to save your work. Otherwise, you will be a sad camper when your work is deleted on Fridays.

3. **If a computer is not working notify Sun No** via email (sno@macalester.edu) and we will handle it.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in keeping our lab running efficiently and reliably.

Study Abroad Lunch Sept. 21 11:30

Each semester we look forward to this event. Students who studied abroad last semester tell us about their study abroad experiences and offer tips for those thinking of studying abroad. Students who were abroad last semester and will be invited to speak at the luncheon are:

Ella Bandes France & England

Laura Bush Washington D.C.

Julianna Carlson South Africa

Anna Frye France

Lauryn Gutierrez Argentina

Zoe Jacobson Sea Semester

Sonam Kindy Ecuador

Leah Kriebel Costa Rica

Peggy Polta New Zealand

Sophia Slote India

The lunch will be in Olri 352 and will be subs, chips, fruit & drinks. A representative from the study abroad office will also be there to answer your questions.

Mesmerizing Major: Alora Rando

Favorite Movie: It's a tie between *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure* and *Harvey* (the 1950's film in which Jimmy Stewart plays a man whose best friend is a giant invisible bunny).

Favorite Book: Again, a tie between *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert Pirsig and *Moral Animal* by Robert Wright.

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Café Mac... just kidding, actually Coffee News.

What do you do when you are not studying? I like to do yoga, play guitar, and just chill with friends! I also often find myself watching videos of cute baby animals on youtube.

Where did you grow up? Sharon, Massachusetts

Interesting fact about your hometown: Pretty much the only interesting fact about Sharon is that it is the hometown of Deborah Sampson, who cross-dressed as a man so that she could fight in the revolutionary war.



Tell us something about your family: While my father majored in physics and business and my mom studied nursing and then education, for some reason my two sisters and I are all pursuing careers related to cognitive neuroscience/psychology.

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: This summer I completed a 200-hour yoga teacher training program, so I am now a certified yoga instructor!

Considering a Fall internship?

Postings relevant to Psychology/NS majors that have come to our office are put up on a bulletin board in the central hallway. At this point, we are receiving new postings daily, so also keep checking the "Fall 2010 Internship Opportunities" as well as the other great "Internship Resources" linked at <http://www.macalester.edu/internship/>. You may also contact organizations you are interested in and ask if they would be willing to host you as an intern ... half of the internships students do come about this way instead of through a formal posting. If you have questions or want help finding a good internship, please contact internship@macalester.edu or x6128 Mike Porter or stop in during daily drop-in hours from 1:30 - 3:00pm.

How Well Do You Know the Psych Department?

Members of the psychology department did many different things this last summer. Can you match the person with the correct description?

1. Kendrick Brown
2. Eric Wiertelak
3. Jaine Strauss
4. Brooke Lea
5. Darcy Burgund
6. Rachel Lucas-Thompson
7. Sun No
8. Jamie Atkins
9. Clark Ohnesorge
10. Lee Olson



- a. Visited Medora, N.D. and saw Teddy Roosevelt Park and Badlands.
- b. Watched new son go through different milestones.
- c. First authored manuscript accepted by Psych Bulletin.
- d. Watched children, gardened and took care of livestock.
- e. Submitted article to Teaching of Psychology and was best man in a wedding in Cleveland.
- f. Two trips to Europe, one to check out new study abroad program and then to present at international conference.
- g. Enjoyed newborn and spent a lot of time at the lake. Even went camping and fishing (but without newbie).
- h. Visited DisneyWorld for first time in life.
- i. Had an article accepted by Brain & Language. Visited Maine for brother's wedding.
- j. Attended a conference and did some great rock climbing. Spent three weeks painting house.

Correct answers are on the last page

And more babble.

[Sarah Feldstein Ewing](#) '98 is currently assistant professor of translational neuroscience at the Mind Research Network associated with the University of New Mexico. Sarah received her PhD from the University of New Mexico and she completed her internship training at Brown University Medical School. She just received a major federal grant to explore health disparities in teen substance use treatment. In the "It's a Small [Macalester] World" category, she recently hired a new post-doctoral fellow: [Hilary Mead](#) '01! Sarah is also the proud mother of Ber Davies Ewing.

[Lisa Herndon](#) '09 is now studying law at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on a full scholarship.

This was the summer for Psych student weddings! In July, [Jonathan Chin](#) '05 and [Amber Laurie](#) '07 got married and in August, [Becky Nieber](#) '09 married Steve Langum and [Jesse Calm](#) '02 married Annie Schulein Fornier.

[Tom Hicks](#) '96 is now the proud father of twins Riley and Emma, born in August. They join big brother Ben (now 2 years old).

Heading off for professional training are alumnae [Annette Lerew Hellwig](#) '07 and [Carrie Rosenthal](#) '06. Annette will start medical school at the University of South Dakota, and Carrie will be pursuing her MSW at the U of MN.

[Joe Ptacek](#) '10 got a job at Minnesota Epilepsy Group as a "psychometrist. He's learning to administer a ton of assessments, which measure intelligence, memory, attention, perception, academics, and sensory/motor ability. These help the neuropsychologists, more fully understand the extent to which a patient's cognitive functioning has been affected by epilepsy. They also sometimes test patients who have been referred for a suspected learning disability or ADHD. They say it'll take him about a year (!) to feel fully comfortable doing everything around the clinic.

Congratulations to all of our alumni!

Psych in the News

[Our Best and Worst Moments Occur Within Social Relationships, Research Shows](#)

August 27, 2010 — In the first study of its kind, researchers have found compelling evidence that our best and worst experiences in life are likely to involve not individual accomplishments, but interaction with other ... > [full story](#)

[Scientists probe sleep deprivation, depression links](#)

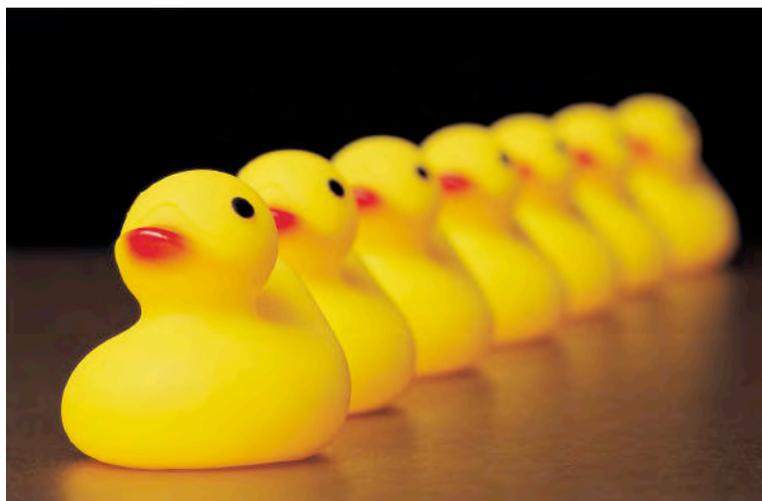
August 31, 2010, *ABC News*

Sleep deprivation can trigger a temporary mood shift, and now scientists say understanding how sleep and sleeplessness work might lead them to better treatments for depression.

[Notes for the Underground](#)

August 29, 2010

NASA research on dealing with isolation in enclosed spaces could aid the Chilean miners who are likely to be trapped for months.



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We're on the Web!

*Check out Psychology or
NS at Macalester.edu*

More Psych stuff.....

A representative of the Masters of Social Work program at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis will be on campus sometime during the week of October 11th. She will be able to hand out literature about the program and answer questions. Contact Lee if you are interested.

Answers to the Quiz...

The correct answers to the quiz are:

1. e 2. f 3. h 4. a 5. i 6. c 7. b 8. g 9. j 10. d