

Psycho-Babble

Macalester College/ December 2010

Important Dates

Thursday, 2nd
Dr. Michael Meaney,
Epigenetics of
Parental Effects,
8:00 pm, Davis
Lecture Hall

Saturday, 4th
KIDS JUDGE!
9:00-1:00, OLRI

Tuesday, 7th,
7:00-8:00 pm
Senior Social,
Jack's house--
99 Cambridge

Monday, 13th
Last Class Day

Monday, 13th
Holiday Party -
Decorate your own
Gingerbread Cookie
1:00 pm, Smail
Gallery

Tuesday, 14th
Directed Research
Poster Session
1:30 pm, Smail
Gallery

Chair Talk from Jaine

How did it get to be December?! At this time of year, time seems to move especially fast. Before you know it, the Fall semester will come to a close. We'll bid a fond farewell to our four graduating seniors, and we'll wish a bon voyage to our juniors studying abroad. To lighten those leave-takings, we'll have just a brief while to wait before we joyously welcome back students currently studying abroad as well as Professor Joan Ostrove, a tenured member of our department who has been on leave out in California for the past two years.

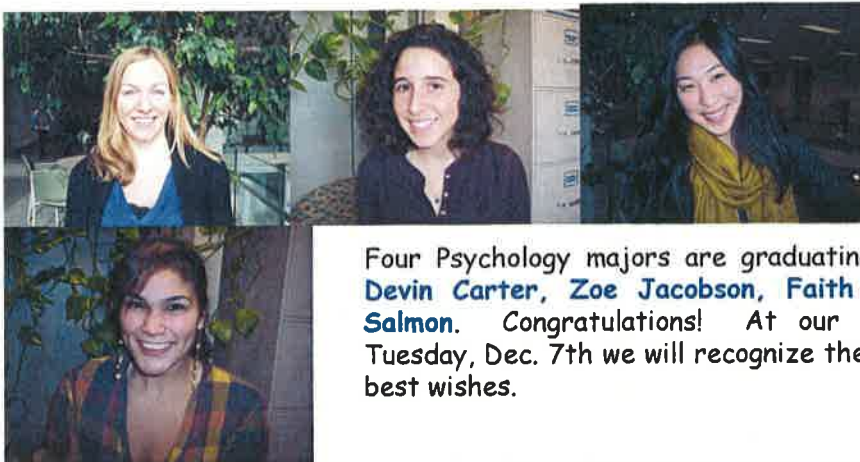
This is also a time when we look forward to the Spring. We're excited about the line-up of courses, and we'll be hosting a visit by this year's Johnson lecturer, Apostolos Georgopoulos. And we'll have our usual complement of delicious socials! On behalf of the whole department, best wishes for a productive and successful end of the term and a relaxing and rejuvenating winter break.

Senior Social - December 7 - 7-8 pm

Invitations have been sent and we are looking forward to a festive time at Jack Rossmann's home on Tuesday, December 7th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The Senior Social is held each year at the end of fall semester. It's a great time for seniors to get better acquainted with members of their graduating class before the rush of spring semester and graduation activities.

Jack Rossmann is professor emeritus and he has generously offered his home for our fall picnics and these socials. Jack's home is at 99 Cambridge across the street from the Fine Arts parking lot. If you are planning on attending, please let Lee know by email (lolson4@macalester.edu) or phone (x6223).

Congratulations to our December Grads



Four Psychology majors are graduating this December: **Devin Carter, Zoe Jacobson, Faith Kwon and Erica Salmon.** Congratulations! At our Senior Social on Tuesday, Dec. 7th we will recognize them and extend our best wishes.

Kids Judge! this Saturday! December 4th

Approximately 200 4th, 5th & 6th graders will be invading the Psychology department this Saturday morning for our Annual Kids Judge! Neuroscience Fair. It's a fast paced, fun and engaging morning. We need volunteers. If you feel like doing something really different from your normal routine, contact Lee or Eric about joining in the fun.

Olin Rice Holiday Party, Dec. 13th 1:00



This is a party where you really get to show off your artistic creative side. All the trimmings will be there for you to decorate your own gingerbread person or holiday cutout cookie. You will be amazed at how creative you can be when you have all the ingredients there. This is a party for all the students who take classes in Olin Rice. It starts at 1:00 and will go until all the cookies and frosting and decorations run out. I suggest you get there early!

Congratulations to our Psi Chi Inductees



Back row: Chloe Souza, Masha Kuznetsova, Emily Prazak, Sharon Hwee,
Manon Gentil, Caitlin Opperman, Abigail Gutmann-Gonzalez,
Abby Jacobsma and Bryna Helle

Front: Colin Westcott, Alvaro Ballarin, Kelli Crescenti, Hannah Yellin, and Molly Freaan

Poster Presentations December 14 1:30 pm

Directed Research students who are studying abroad this spring are presenting their directed research projects on **Tuesday, the 14th** at **1:30** in room #352.

We especially encourage students who have yet to take directed research to attend this event. It is an excellent opportunity to find out

about directed research by seeing the different areas students have investigated. All the students who are currently in directed research will be there also.

New Psych Majors!

A Big Welcome to the following new Majors!

Psychology

Jasmine Ball '13

Kelly Cargos '13

Colin Harter '13

Sophie Trede '13

Alexander Yang '13

Shaina Davis '13

Neuroscience Studies

Freddy Kamps '13

Brianna Morseth '13

Senior majors: Major plans!

Planning to graduate in May? Then January is the time to check your major plan to make sure you've taken care of all of your requirements. Please meet with your advisor and/or Jaine to get this important paperwork taken care of.

Mesmerizing Major: Emma Gershun-Half



"Mesmerizing majors are randomly selected from the list of Psychology and NS majors"

Favorite Movie: Little Miss Sunshine

Favorite Book: Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Shish

What do you do when you are not studying: I enjoy biking to bookstores and baking

Where did you grow up: Walden, Vermont

Interesting fact about your hometown: My hometown's population is less than half the size of Macalester.

Tell us something about your family: My family lives on an organic vegetable farm, with a windmill.

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: I am pleased that I am the master of chocolate chip cookies.

Feed My Starving Children

Fifteen Psych students and Lee braved the first cold snap to travel to Eagan to work in the Feed My Starving Children warehouse, packing food for children in Haiti. It was a pleasant evening and nice knowing we were serving such a good cause. We hope to do it again.



All About Internships Lunch

Students who attended the All About Internships Lunch Discussion learned about different internship experiences from the panel members: Margaret Polta, Emily Prazak, Kareen Wilson, Manon Gentil and Emma Gershun-Half. The students encouraged other students to look into an internship. They provide you with valuable information about yourself and your education. If you are interested in going to graduate school, gaining hands-on experience can help give you that edge over other equally qualified candidates. Internships can also help you rule out a population or job field for your future. Mike Porter in the Internship Office can help, as can your adviser.

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Michael J. Meaney will present

The Epigenetics of Parental Effects

Thursday, December 2, at 8:00 pm

John B. David Lecture Hall, Campus Center

Maternal influences affect a wide range of developmental outcomes, and such effects are apparent across a remarkable range of species. Studies from evolutionary biology to developmental psychology suggest that the quality of the prevailing environment influences maternal signals that shape the development of biological systems implicated in defensive responses, reproduction as well as foraging and metabolism. In humans, these effects appear to describe the pathways by which poor quality environments influence familial function and the health of the offspring. The studies reviewed in this presentation suggest that these effects are mediated by environmental effects on the epigenetic state of specific regions of the genome, leading to sustained changes in gene transcription. These studies suggest that epigenetic processes lie at the interface of the genome and the environment; the 'admixture' of nature and nurture.

Dr. Meaney is a James McGill Professor of Medicine at Douglas Hospital Research Centre of McGill University. He is the Director of the Maternal Adversity, Vulnerability and Neurodevelopment Project and of the Developmental Neuroendocrinology Laboratory of McGill University.

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*Be sure to check out
our website.*

And some babble....

Jen Agans '10 is really enjoying her work in the PhD program in Child Development at Tufts University, and she feels very well-prepared by her Macalester education.

Alison Phillips '10 is thriving in the sport and exercise psychology program at the University of Minnesota. In addition to taking classes and conducting research, Alison is also teaching badminton, volleyball, and fitness classes.

Kit Hill '05 is delighted to announce his engagement to Malin Borg. Kit is studying at the Resilience Center in Stockholm where he's learning all about socioecological systems. Congratulations, Kit!

Happy Holidays from all of us in the Psychology Department

*Jamie Atkins
Darcy Burgund
Brooke Lea
Christina Manning
Clark Ohnesorge
Joan Ostrove
Jaine Strauss*

*Kendrick Brown
Dan Graham
Rachel Lucas -Thompson
Sun No
Lee Olson
Jack Rossmann
Eric Wiertelak*

Psycho-Babble is a monthly newsletter for Psychology and Neuroscience Studies 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.