

Psycho-Babble

Macalester College/ September 2011

Chair Talk from Brooke

IMPORTANT DATES!!!

Tuesday
Sept. 20
Psychology
Department Fall
Picnic, 11:30 - 1
at Jack & Marti
Rossmann's house,
99 Cambridge
Sign up sheet on
Lee's door

Tuesday
Sept. 27
Study Abroad Lunch
11:30
#352
free lunch - please
RSVP with Lee by
email/call

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful summer with just the right mix of relaxation, adventure, wonder, productivity, and sleep. The Psychology faculty and staff had very interesting summers, including significant research accomplishments, fun family adventures, and launched a new research lab in the department (see the piece on our new eye-tracker). 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 5 new visiting faculty members to our department this fall. **Alvina Kittur** is a cognitive scientist and is teaching an exciting new course called "Acting, Feeling, Thinking".

Jillian Peterson is offering "Psychology and the Law". Social psychologist **Jason Weaver** teaches "Personality Psychology" this fall. **Meg Shroat** is offering one section of Introductory Psychology, and we're delighted to welcome back the fabulous **Dan Graham** to teach another.

Overall, it's an exciting time to be in the Psychology Department. We look forward to a stimulating year with many great speakers, panels, and social events. We hope that you will participate fully in department activities. This is my first semester as chair of psychology, so I hope to meet each of you, and to that end invite you to stop by to introduce yourself and to discuss any ideas, suggestions, comments or concerns. Best wishes for a terrific semester!

Fall Picnic: Tuesday, Sept. 20

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 20th.
Hope to see you there.



The Annual Fall Picnic

Visiting Faculty

Dan Graham studies the ways in which multiple types of factors (psychological, social, environmental, policy) relate to health behaviors, specifically physical activity and eating behaviors. His latest research uses eye tracking cameras to better understand the ways in which parent-child pairs view food packages when making food purchasing decisions; he is particularly interested in visual attention to nutrition labels and cartoon characters and how these relate to food preferences.

Alvina Kittur is visiting professor from the University of Minnesota: Twin Cities, where she is a Ph.D. candidate. Alvina's research investigates the impact of meditation on emotional memory and attention. She is investigating voluntary control processes in attention and how they can be influenced by emotional reactions. In addition, she is interested in looking at mechanisms to increase memory retention for emotional stimuli.

Jill Peterson is currently finishing her doctorate degree from the University of CA, Irvine, where she specializes in psychopathology, statistics, and psychology-law. She has worked as a mitigation specialist and special investigator in New York City, developing psycho-social life histories of people facing the death penalty. She has also coordinated research at the U of MN related to anxiety disorders, depression, and alcoholism. Her research interests include the relationship between mental illness and criminal behavior, psychopathy, risk assessment, and prison reentry programming. Peterson is currently completing a research study of 150 offenders with mental illness in Hennepin County using in-depth life history interviews, in order to improve services for this high-risk population.

Megan Shroat received her Ph.D. in Cognitive and Biological Psychology from the University of Minnesota. As a graduate and post-doctorate student she examined the role of biological sex and female ovarian hormones on psychostimulant self-administration in rodents and nonhuman primates. Since graduate school she has served as an adjunct faculty member at a number of colleges and universities in the Twin Cities Metro area, and has also worked for Hazelden Foundation conducting clinical research on drug and alcohol abuse/dependence in adolescents.

Jason Weaver is a social and personality psychologist who is particularly interested in the complex interplay between people and situations. Most of his current research examines the effects of motivations for positivity and consistency, but he has also studied self-fulfilling prophecies, voting behavior, sport performance, inter-cultural interactions, and romantic relationships. A guiding theme in his research is to employ creative, high-impact paradigms to longstanding issues in social and personality psychology.

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 Brooke Lea** via email (lea@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. 27th 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 year and have been invited to speak at the luncheon are:

Kelli Crescenti Jordan	Ariel Currie Germany & Vienna
Thomas Fendt Ecuador	Molly Frean Italy
Emma Gershun-Half Denmark	Abby Jacobsma Switzerland
Maria Kuznetsova Demark	Maja Palmquist Argentina
Logan Sand Scotland	Chloe Souza Costa Rica
Hannah Yellin Switzerland	

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: Andrea Zvonkovic

Favorite Movie: Shaun of the Dead

Favorite Book: I Know This Much Is True, anything by Lorrie Moore

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Hell's Kitchen

Where did you grow up? New York City

Interesting fact about your hometown: The downtown (southern) tip of Manhattan is almost all landfill

Tell us something about your family: My last name means "bell ringer" in Slovak

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: I am the voice in an algebra tutorial CD that is found in high school textbooks across the country.



Considering a Fall internship?

Our department receives new postings of internships daily, so please check the Internship Bulletin Board in the center hallway. There is also a [website](#) from the Internship office that includes a list of "Current Postings" and access to many great searchable internship databases. 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 done by students come about this way instead of through a response to a formal posting.

If you have questions or want help finding a good internship, there is definitely help. You can make an appointment with Internship Director Mike Porter by filling in the [online appointment form](#), calling x6128, emailing them at internship@macalester.edu, or simply stopping 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. Joan Ostrove
6. Darcy Burgund
7. Rachel Lucas-Thompson
8. Sun No
9. Jamie Atkins
10. Lee Olson

- a. Co-submitted (with Joan) article for review
- b. Presented poster at APA, son is loving playing with kids at day care.
- c. Got married and toured Japan. Hosted national conference at Pomona College.
- d. Watched children, gardened, canned and took care of livestock.
- e. Relaxing summer, lots of trips to lake and seeing friends. Boys are great.
- f. Worked on paper and submitted it to journal, visited Maine, read Emma.
- g. Spent 5 weeks in Greece, Spain and Italy. Got a new lab (puppy).
- h. Took over as chair, toured Paris, played golf, got a new lab (research).
- i. Done chairing, done with committee work, dug back into some old data, read a lot of novels and got a new pet (fish).
- j. Lots of family visits, conference, co-authored (with Kendrick) paper.



*Correct answers are on
the last page*

Some great opportunities out there. . . .

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Great River Greening Fall 2011 Restoration Events

Consider joining Great River Greening as they continue efforts to restore native landscapes throughout the state! Check their website for their complete Fall 2011 events schedule. **Pre-registration is required, so sign up today!** You will receive a confirmation prior to the event with directions and event details.

Register online at www.greatrivergreening.org under "Volunteer" or contact Mark Turbak, Volunteer Programs and Events Manager, volunteer@greatrivergreening.org or **651-665-9500 ext. 11**.

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The National Children's Study Speakers' Series is presenting a talk about Post Traumatic Stress in the NICU Parent on September 28, 2011

Mark Bergeron, M.D., M.P.H, Associate Director of Neonatal Medicine, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota- St. Paul Campus, Faculty- University of Minnesota Medical School and School of Public Health will speak Wednesday, September 28, 2011 - 3:00-4:30 p.m. at Wilder Center - Amherst H. Wilder Auditorium, 451 Lexington Parkway North, St. Paul, MN 55104.

Directions:http://www.wilder.org/fileadmin/wilder/pdf/Wilder_Center_map_directions.pdf

MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.sph.umn.edu/enhs/research/ncs/>

We will have a van if enough students show interest – contact Lee to reserve a spot.

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The Minnesota Symposium on Child Psychology

October 21-22, 2011-Cowles Auditorium-University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute
Developing Cognitive Control Processes: Mechanisms, Implications, and Interventions

Free - <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/icd/mnsymposium/37th/>

We could have a van if enough students show interest – contact Lee.

And more psycho-babble

Where are they today?

Aubrey Harding--National College of Natural Medicine

Allison Klothe--U of Penn masters in school psychology

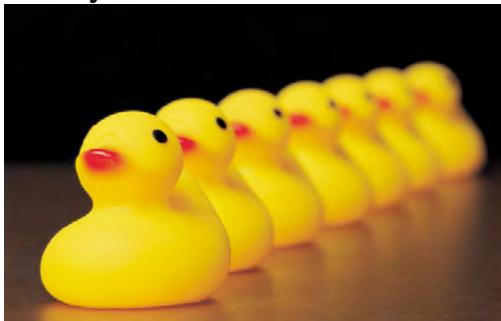
Emily Potts Gosterisli (class of 2001) -- PhD in social work program at Smith College

Mai Youa--program director at Genesys Works

Shantee Rosado--U of Penn PhD in sociology

Abby Russell-Teacher's College masters program

Megan Thompson--pursuing her doctor of chiropractic medicine training in National University of Health Sciences



NSF Grant Brings New Eye-Tracking Lab to the Psych Department

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Over the summer Brooke received the good news that his National Science Foundation (NSF) grant proposal would be funded. The 3 year grant brings an exciting new scientific instrument - an eye tracker - to Olin/Rice. "It has been said that the eyes are the window to the soul, but they can also be a window into what people are thinking, feeling, and to how we process the world around us", said Brooke. The device uses infrared light and precise video cameras to track eye movements with very high temporal and spatial resolution. Brooke and his students will be developing lab modules for psychology classes (such as Intro, Cog Psych, Cog Neuro, and RIP I), in addition to conducting cutting-edge psychological research. The third year of the grant will feature a team-taught course about science writing called "Bringing Psychological Science to the Masses". Students in the course will present an exhibit at the Science Museum of Minnesota on eye movement research as their final project. Brooke is currently interviewing students to be lab manager; please contact him right away if you're interested.

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We're on the Web!

*Check out Psychology or
NS at Macalester.edu*

More Psych stuff.....

**Friday Socials are Fridays at 3:20.
The department provides treats and
we gather in the hallway by the blue
house. Friday Socials are hosted by
different faculty members each
week.**

All are welcome!

All are welcome!
Welcome New Majors!

Katie Cicoello '14
David Ellison '12
Cole Callahan '13

Answers to the Quiz...

Correct answers to the quiz are:

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