

Psycho-Babble

Macalester College/ March 2012

Important Dates

Spring Break -
March 11-18

Tuesday, March 27
Senior "Do Your
Best" Test
11:30 Olri 352

Thursday, March 29
Psych Info. Lunch
11:30 Olri 352

Monday, April 1,
Honors applications
due to chair

Monday, April 2,
5:00-6:30, Spring
Dinner Olri Small

Wednesday, April 11
MPA Distinguished
Scholar Lecture
7:30 Weyerhaeuser

Tuesday, April 17,
5:00 Old Main 4th
Floor, Psi Chi
Induction

Saturday, April 28,
MUPC - Gustavus

Chair Talk from Brooke

The

Psych Info. Lunch - March 29

Are you contemplating majoring in psychology?
Are you a new major with questions you would like to ask
other majors?

If yes to either of these questions, you will want to attend the Psych Info Lunch on **Thursday, March 27th, 11:30-12:00 in Olri 352.** At the lunch, each faculty member talks about the classes they teach and about their research. The faculty then leave the room so students can get the "real scoop." There will be several current majors there to answer any questions you might have about the major. There will be lunch, so please RSVP to Lee to make sure we have enough food.

Brain Awareness Week March 12-18

Macalester College and the University of Minnesota are founding members along with the Dana Foundation of BAW (Brain Awareness Week) March 12-18. During this week they are helping to lead the charge in increasing understanding of the brain & neuroscience.

From the BAW (Brain Awareness Week) website: "Brain Awareness Week (BAW) is an international campaign dedicated to advancing public awareness about the progress and benefits of brain research. Brain Awareness Week began in 1996 as a modest effort involving 160 organizations in the United States. BAW was created to bring together diverse groups from academia, government, professional, and advocacy groups and unite them with a common theme that brain research is the hope for treatments and preventions, and possibly cures, for brain diseases and disorders, and to ensure a better quality of life at all ages. Since that time, BAW has evolved into a powerful global initiative with more than 2,200 partners in 76 countries (as of the 2008 campaign)."

Help celebrate Brain Awareness week yourself: go to: www.dana.org/brainweek/

Meet Dr. Goff Tuesday, March 27 4:45

Dr. Goff is a Member of the Faculty and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Psychiatry at New York University Langone Medical Center (NYUMC). He is also Director of the Nathan Kline Psychiatric Research Institute. Prior to coming to NYUMC, Dr. Goff was the Director of the Schizophrenia Clinical and Research Program at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. An international expert in translational neuroscience research in schizophrenia, Dr. Goff is also an award-winning clinical expert and teacher. He has received the Stanley Dean Award for Research in Schizophrenia, the Wayne Fenton Award for Exceptional Clinical Care and the American Psychiatric Association Award for Mentorship in Biological Psychiatry.

Dr. Goff's research is directed towards identifying biological mechanisms that contribute to the onset of schizophrenia and that shape the clinical course. Results from this work are leading to novel, individualized interventions for prevention and to promote recovery. His research team includes experts in brain imaging, genetics, pharmacology, cognitive behavioral therapy and cognitive remediation. <http://psych.med.nyu.edu/donald-goff-md>

Welcome Dr. Goff! His lecture begins at 4:45 in Olri 250 and will end with a question and answer period.

Psych Leaders - Spring 2012



Bo Scarim, Masha Kutnetsova,
Allison Divine and Jade Johnson.

Watch for upcoming Psych Club
events. They are hosting the
Friday Social 3/2.

Careers in Psychology Panel - A Wealth of Information



Mac Psych Alum presenters at the
Career Panel: Zoe Jacobson '11,
Kevin Williams '09, Abby Gutmann-
Gonzalez '11 & Stefan Dumlao '11.

Some tips from the Career panel:

- *Look for chances now to introduce yourself to a potential employer through internships, volunteering, and networking
- *Always have a plan B because "stuff" happens
- *Consider America Corps because even if it doesn't pay well, the knowledge and experience is vast and they pay \$5,000 towards student loans or graduate school and they have health insurance
- *Even a bad job or a bad experience teaches you something
- *The economy is bad now but don't get bogged down by rejections. It's out there somewhere.

Interested in Epidemiology and Community Health?



**MPA Distinguished
Scholar Lecture -
Simone French - April
11th 7:30**

Psi Chi Induction invitations will be going out at the end of March. Candidates must have a GPA of 3.65 and be a declared major in their soph., junior or senior year. Induction is April 17th at 5:00.

Did you know that on our psychology department homepage we have a link to all the syllabi for the Psych/NS classes?

Good to know!

MUPC is Saturday, April 28

The Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference is Saturday, April 24 at Gustavus Adolphus. This is the 47th annual Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference. This one day annual conference promotes undergraduate research in the field of psychology and will feature oral and poster presentations of student research. The keynote speaker is Laurie Santos, an Associate Professor of Psychology at Yale University and the director of Yale's Comparative Cognition Laboratory where she and her graduate students study the evolutionary origins of human thinking. She also conducts her research with primates at the Cayo Santiago field station off the coast of Puerto Rico and the Lemur Conservation Foundation Myakka City Reserve in Florida. Dr. Santos received her A.B. in Psychology and Biology



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

**Keynote speaker:
Laurie Santos**

from Harvard University in 1997 and her Ph.D. in Psychology from Harvard in 2003. She started teaching at Yale in 2003. In 2007, Dr. Santos was selected as one of Popular Science Magazine's "Brilliant 10" young scientists and in 2010 was an invited speaker at the TED Global Conference. Recently, Dr. Santos received the 2012 APA Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contributions to Psychology in animal learning and behavior. Dr. Santos explores the topic of human irrational behavior, examining where it comes from and whether there is an evolutionary basis for our biased decision-making.

Mesmerizing Major: Caitlin Opperman



Caitlin Opperman

Mesmerizing majors are randomly selected from the list of psychology and NS majors.

Favorite Movie: The Illusionist

Favorite Book: The Polar Express

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Brasa

What do you do when you are not studying? cook, irish dance, play golf, and work on the Mac Weekly

Where did you grow up? Denver, Colorado

Interesting fact about your hometown: Every year Denver hosts the National Western Stock Show, the world's largest rodeo.

Tell us something about your family: My mom is from Waltham, Massachusetts, and my dad is from Fargo, North Dakota. They met as neighbors in Denver. The house we live in now is exactly one block from where they met.

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: Two friends and I founded the annual Kick Out AIDS tournament on campus, which benefits a Twin Cities organization that provides educational opportunities to AIDS orphans. And I am left-handed!

Juniors - Honor Project applications are due April 1st. Please talk to you advisor or Brooke Lea (chair) if you are interested and need more details.

Majors Who Are Seniors: Major Plan!

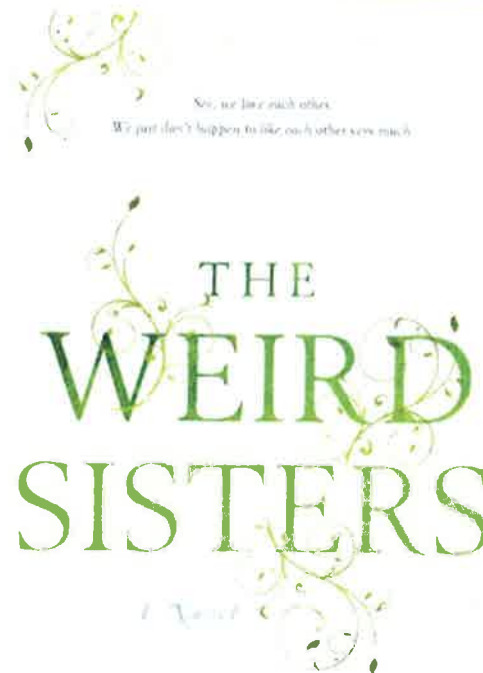
Planning to graduate in May? If so, then now is the time to check your major plan to make sure you've taken care of all of your requirements. Please meet with your advisor and/or Brooke Lea (Chair of Psych Department) to get this important paperwork taken care of.

Spring Break Reading Suggestion:

The Weird Sisters by Mac Psych Major Eleanor Brown '95

The Weird Sisters tells the story of a trio of sisters — the studious, responsible one, the chic city girl and the free spirit — who all move home after their mother is diagnosed with breast cancer. But what they don't tell anyone — even each other — is that their returns home are all motivated by other things. They are all getting away from something.

The family has an interesting dynamic — avoiding any deep conversations instead digging into books, which they frequently quote from (especially their Shakespeare professor father). And although the sisters don't always like each other, they



ELEANOR BROWN

certainly love each other and that comes through again and again in the book.

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*Be sure to check out
our website.*

Welcome New Majors!

Elise Hollinger '14 New London, NH
Chloe Kaulas '14 Chicago, IL
Evan Myers '14
Soo Yang Lee '14
Kayleigh Roach '14 DeForest, WI Neuro
Megan Schwartz '14 Meadville, PA Neuro
Theresa Piela '14 Amherst, MA

About Psycho-Babble...

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