



September 2017

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### Chair Talk from Joan

Welcome and welcome back, everyone! The summer was in some ways a difficult one, as we witnessed events marked by intense hate in Charlottesville, VA, and elsewhere; the devastation wrought by Hurricane Harvey; and many other challenging and heartbreaking moments. The summer also filled with wonder and hope, as it afforded many of us a chance to witness a pretty rare solar eclipse, to see counter protests and other efforts focused on peace and justice, and to see the ways that communities - like those in and around Houston, TX - come together to offer support and resource.

Here in the psychology department, we are looking forward to a semester that we hope will be filled with opportunities for connection, community building, and intellectual engagement. I am thrilled to welcome two full-time visitors to the department: Ariel James (who recently completed her doctorate in cognitive psychology at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, and will be our Wallin Postdoctoral Fellow for two years) and Deb Kriess (a biopsychologist with extensive teaching experience who will be replacing Eric Wiertelak for the year, as he is in Japan directing the Associated Colleges of the Midwest program there). Will Johnson '13, currently a grad student in social psych at the University of MN, will be teaching social psychology. And Jhon Wlaschin is back as a visitor; he will be teaching intro as well as applied psychology. There are lots of exciting psychology-related events around campus, including a talk on prosocial behavior by University of Minnesota social psychology professor Mark Snyder (Oct 4th, 5:30 p.m.) a screening of the new film DEEJ about autism and inclusion (Oct 8th, 7 p.m.), and a keynote by Yale psychology professor Paul Bloom (author of the recently released *Against Empathy: The Case for Rational Compassion*) as part of the International Roundtable (Oct 13th, 2:20 p.m.). Look out for more information about these and many other events.

Have a great start to your semester!

Joan

## Annual Psych Department Picnic



The psych fall picnic is Tuesday, Sept. 26th, from 11:30 to 12:30 at Jack Rossmann's home, 99 Cambridge, across the street from the Fine Arts parking lot. Everyone is welcome!

Jack is a former chair and professor emeritus of psychology and we're fortunate to be able to use his lovely home and grounds for our picnic. You can count on delicious picnic fare: hamburgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, etc. It is always a great time to chat with faculty and other students. A group will leave from Olin Rice at 11:25, so if you're unsure of the location or just want company, come to the blue house by the department office and we'll walk over together. We look forward to seeing you there!



### Welcome visiting faculty - Ariel James, Deb Kreiss, Jhon Wlaschin & William Johnson

**Ariel James** will be joining us for two years as a Wallin post-doctoral fellow. She received her BA from Stanford University, and she recently defended her dissertation in cognitive psychology at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. A winner of a prestigious NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, Ariel's research focuses on individual differences in syntactic processing; she has already published several key papers in this field. She is passionate about teaching, and served as an instructor with the Education Justice Project, providing college courses to people who are incarcerated. Ariel will teach Cognitive Psychology in the Fall, and she'll teach an advanced course on Intelligence in the Spring; she'll also teach a section of Introduction to Psychology.



**Deborah Kreiss** is a neuroscientist whose specialties include behavioral neuroscience and neurophysiology. She received her BA from Cornell and her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, and she has developed an extensive teaching portfolio through positions at Colby College, Ithaca College, Colgate University, and, most recently, Washington and Lee University. Her research focuses on the neurophysiology of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), including the development of an innovative rodent model for OCD. Dr. Kreiss regularly attends the annual Society of Neuroscience conventions with undergraduate research assistants and has published numerous peer-reviewed articles. She is eager to work with Macalester students. She'll teach Brain, Mind, and Behavior both semesters, as well as Directed Research and an advanced course on the Neurobiology of Anxiety and Depression in the Fall and Behavioral Neuroscience in the Spring.



**Jhon Wlaschin** is a social psychologist interested in understanding how close relationships impact health behavior. He received his training at the University of Minnesota where he specialized in research involving health communication and behavior change. His current research involves understanding how people in different social situations discuss climate change and how they can effectively persuade others to reduce their carbon footprint. Jhon spent several years working in film and television in NYC prior to attending graduate school.



**William Johnson** graduated with a psychology degree from Macalester in 2013 and has been at the University of Minnesota studying Social Psychology ever since. His research interests are in romantic relationships, pro-social behavior, and social development. His current research projects examine why people donate money, how couples make decisions in romantic relationships, how people navigate consent in sexual situations, and how adverse childhood experiences affect people in adulthood.

He's excited to be back!

### Faculty/Staff Summer Challenge

Guess what faculty member or staff person said about the highlight of his/her summer. See answers at end of PsychoBabble.

- A. Took massive road trip to Maine and back.
- B. A four-day trip to Maine with spouse (while the children stayed with their grandparents!).
- C. Spending a day visiting with the former Macalester student who ran his lab the first year he taught at Mac.
- D. Moving to St. Paul amidst delightful weather and seeing a lot of music festivals.
- E. Getting married.
- F. Recovering from triple bypass surgery.
- G. Seeing niece and nephew who were visiting from France.
- H. Taking a family trip to San Francisco.
- I. Launched second son to college, with only a daughter left at home.
- J. A two week trip to Spain and Switzerland with extended family.
- K. South Dakota/Mount Rushmore/Wall Drug adventure with extended family.
- L. 10-day camping trip at a Porcupine Mountain cabin.

## Future event dates for your calendar

Wednesday, Oct. 4 **Minnesota Psychological Association Distinguished Scholar Lecture - Mark Snyder** 5:30 p.m. Weyerhaeuser Boardroom

Thursday, Oct. 5 **Study Abroad Lunch** 11:30-12:30 Olri 352

Sunday, Oct. 8 **Screening of "Deej"** - a film about autism and inclusion 7:00 p.m. JBD

Tuesday, Oct. 12 **Grad School Panel About Academic Careers in Psych Lunch** 11:30-12:30 Olri 352

Thursday, Oct. 19 **Internship Lunch** 11:30-12:30 Olri 352

Tuesday, Oct. 24 **Careers in Mental Health and Clinical Health Psychology Lunch with Jaine Strauss** 11:30-12:30 Olri 352

Watch for flyers and more information about these great events!

## Psycho-Babble

**Bunchung Ly '16** has started as research coordinator position at the Institute of Child Development at the UMN. **Sarah Fleming '14** is the Project Specialist at Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network in St. Paul.

## Study Away Panel Lunch

Each semester we look forward to this event. Students who studied away last semester tell us about their study abroad experiences and offer tips for those thinking of studying away. Students who were abroad last semester will be invited to speak at the luncheon. A representative from the study away office will attend to answer questions. If you were on study away last spring and would like to be on the panel, please contact Lee.

## Psych Leaders for '15-16

Psych Leaders this year are Anandi Gupta, Elizabete Romanovska, Esther Ying, Charlie Mangus, and Maya Stoller. Please talk to them about any ideas you have on how to make the Psych Club year the best ever.

## Welcome New Majors



Courtney Brennan '20 Needham, MA Lilliana Kay '20 Oakland, CA

## Friday Socials

Friday Socials are every Friday that classes are in session at 3:20 in the hallway by the blue house. It's a time to socialize with other students, faculty and staff. We have a treat each week and all are invited. The first Friday Social on Sept. 8th is mango cake from Bravo and it's hosted by the Psych Club leaders. We will welcome first year students and returning students back to campus. We will introduce visiting faculty: Ariel James, Deb Kreiss, Jhon Wlaschin and William Johnson.

## Opportunities

### Internships

Internships are strongly encouraged for psychology majors. The deadline to [register an internship](#) for fall semester is Friday, September 15. For a broad range of opportunities, visit [this link](#) or the Internship Program Office in Kagin. There is also the opportunity to have Macalester pay you a \$10/hr. stipend for an unpaid internship. Contact the Internship Program Office to find out more.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lindamood-Bell is currently holding screenings to fill full-time and part-time positions at the Edina Learning Center. Use this [link](#) to apply.

We're looking for a few folks who are interested in being virtual teaching assistants. Virtual TAs can work on their own time and earn extra money by sharing their expertise with other struggling high school and college students. Information and application can be found here: <https://studysoup.com/blog/ta-apply>

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I'm Isabela Alesna, a recent Macalester graduate who is working with **Impact** as a campaign organizer. I'm running campaigns on behalf of Environment Minnesota to stop the rollbacks on environmental protections in Congress. We'll be holding visibility events and news conferences in order to urge our senators to stand for environmental protections, and we're hiring 5 interns to learn new skills and help with our campaign. You can find out more about our organization through our website: <http://weareimpact.org> and I can be reached at [ialesna@weareimpact.org](mailto:ialesna@weareimpact.org) or at 612-331-3315.

\* \* \* \* \*

Highlight challenge answers: A. Darcy B. Steve C. Brooke D. Deb E. Ariel F. Jhon G. Joan H. Jaine I. Lee J. Cari K. Jamie L. Christie

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