



# Psycho-Babble

April 2018

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## Chair Talk from Joan

Unbelievably, we have almost reached the end of another semester. There are, however, SO many things happening in the department before we reach the last day of classes at the very end of April. I hope you'll join us for at least some of them. Among the many exciting events described in this PsychoBabble are our annual Johnson Lecture (featuring Cynthia Fisher, one of Ariel James's awesome professors from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) and the annual Spring Dinner. Please see below for more information, and plan to join us if you can.

For those of you who are graduating in May, my colleagues and I offer you our **heartiest congratulations**. We wish you all the very best, and hope you'll stay in touch. For those of you who are not graduating, April means Fall registration. As usual, we have some wonderful courses planned for the Fall semester. In the **Spring**, the department will offer three advanced classes that have been offered in the past (Social Identities in Developing Lives, Psychology of Language, and Moral Psychology), and two new courses (Darcy will offer Research in Hemisphere Asymmetries, and our new colleague, Morgan Jerald, will teach the Psychology of Black Women).

I want to call your attention to two events on Thursday, April 12th. At 11:30, we will have an information session about the major; if you haven't declared yet, or just want more information, please attend. Later that afternoon, one of our very distinguished alum, Professor Doug Gillan (Class of 1974) will be visiting Ariel James's Intelligence seminar to talk about his research in the area of Human Factors (that's the subdiscipline of psychology that studies human-computer interactions - really neat stuff!). The visit is open to everyone, so please come!

This is my last semester as chair (Eric Wiertelak will start his term as chair when he returns from Japan in the Fall), and thus my last "Chair Talk" (at least for a very long while!). Fortunately, there are many other ways for me to be connected to all of you, and I'll look forward to saying "hi" in different ways. In the meantime, happy start of spring, and all the best for a marvelous last month of the semester.

## Darcy Burgund Recipient of Major Award!

Darcy is the recipient of the 2018 Walter D. Mink Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award given by the Minnesota Psychological Association. As many of you know, Darcy is an enthusiastic and engaging instructor, and is also chair of the Neuroscience Major and Director of the Cognitive Science concentration. Prior to joining the Macalester faculty in 2009, Darcy taught at Rice University in Houston, Texas, for six years.

## **Joan Ostrove Adds a New Role on Campus**

Joan is one of two faculty members who will be joining the Institute for Global Citizenship, beginning in the Fall 2018 semester. She is going to serve as Associate Dean of the IGC for a two-year term. Because of this position, she will be teaching two fewer classes in the department but will still be here. Congratulations Joan!

## **Psi Chi Induction**



All Psi Chi members are invited to come cheer and congratulate the newly inducted members at a short ceremony on Monday, April 2nd, at 4:45 on 4th floor of Old Main. We'll have cake and other treats.

## **Cynthia Fisher - Minnesota Psychological Association Distinguished Scholar Lecture - Tuesday, April 10 5:30 in JBD**



### **Words, sentences, and conversations: How children use sentence and discourse structure to learn about words**

**Cynthia Fisher, Ph.D., University of Illinois**

In just a few years, children learn thousands of words. Traditional accounts assume that children learn word meanings largely by linking each word to the objects or events it accompanies. The research my collaborators and I have been doing suggests that children use at least two other sources of information to learn the meanings of words. One source is syntax. From an early age, children begin to learn the syntactic rules that govern how words in their native

language can be combined. Our research shows that syntax guides early word learning. When learning verbs in particular, children begin with a bias to map distinct nouns in sentences onto distinct participant-roles in events; as a result, toddlers conclude that “He’s blicking him” means something different from “He’s blicking.” The second source of information is discourse continuity. Young children expect sentences in a conversation to be meaningfully related. Our work shows that this expectation allows children to use the conversational context to recover missing parts of sentences. For example, toddlers use the context question “What’s Mom doing?” to make sense of a partial answer, “Blicking the baby!” In this way, partial knowledge of sentence structure, and of the structure of conversation, as well as the objects and events in view, guide early word-learning.

## **Psych Info Lunch - Thursday, April 12 11:30 - 12:30 Oli 352**

Are you a new major? Do you have questions you would like to ask other majors? Would you like to hear about how to work in a professor's lab? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please attend our Psych Info Lunch. Faculty members will talk about the classes they teach and about their research and labs. The faculty then leave the room so students can hear just from other majors. Several current majors will be there to answer any questions you might have. We will serve lunch so please RSVP to Lee.



## **Psych Internship Lunch Panel - Thursday, April 19 11:30 - 12:30 Oli 352**

We will have a lunch panel with students who have done or are currently doing internships. Someone from the internship office will also be there to answer questions. The Psychology Department encourages students to consider doing an internship. The "real world" experience is an invaluable addition to your major. This lunch is a great chance to hear from students so you can think about what you want to do. Pizza lunch.

## **Spring Dinner - Monday, April 23, 5:00 - 6:00 Smail Gallery**

Majors, minors, and all interested in psychology are invited to the Spring Dinner. This is an event you won't want to miss. We have a trivia quiz with prizes, class pictures, announcements of new psych club leaders, recognition of award winners, a chance to congratulate and say goodbye to seniors, and announcements of what non-seniors can look forward to next year.

Please let Lee know if you are planning to attend so we have enough food. Email [lolson4@macalester.edu](mailto:lolson4@macalester.edu) or call 6223. Sign up sheets will also be coming around the classrooms.

## **MUPC - Saturday, April 28 Carleton College**

The 53rd annual Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference (MUPC) is a one day annual conference promoting undergraduate research in the field of psychology and will feature oral and poster presentations of student research. Presenting at MUPC is a requirement of the psychology major at Macalester and directed research students attend each year. Dr. Robert Sapolsky will be this year's keynote speaker. The [website](#) will close for submissions April 6th.

## **Senior Conversations are May 1**

Before the graduating seniors leave the campus, we like to have an informal conversation with them about their experience as a psychol major. The feedback from these conversations play an important role in future planning for the department. The psychology major senior conversations on Tuesday, May 1 this year. Seniors can sign up for an individual conversation which lasts about 25 minutes or a focus group with other majors which last about 50 minutes. All participating seniors will be well fed and receive a small gift.

## **DR Poster Session - Monday, April 30 4:15 - 6:30**

Spring Capstone students will share their research in a poster session on the last day of classes. Join us in Smail Gallery for a chance to learn about their great projects, chat with other psych majors and faculty members, and enjoy some snacks. All are welcome!



**The Psychology Department gives three Awards each year to Graduating Seniors. Congratulations to the 2018 award winners:**

### **Paterson Award nominee - Charlie Mangas**

The Paterson is given by the Minnesota Psychological Association to the outstanding college senior planning a career in psychology. The purpose of this award is to recognize and encourage high achievement in psychology at the undergraduate level. The psychology department nominates one person for this award.



### **Walter D. Mink Award - Anandi Gupta & Bram Wang**

Given to a senior who has a strong academic record and has also provided outstanding service to the department, the college or the broader community.



### **Jack Rossmann Award - Abby Fleeter & Anika Sigel**

Honors a graduating senior psych major who has an excellent academic record and has also made distinguished contributions in the application of academic psych through activities such as applied research, internships, or community service.



## Postcard from Study Away - Madi Taylor

Hola desde Sevilla!

I am studying in Sevilla through CIEE: Sevilla, Liberal Arts. My experience thus far in Sevilla has far exceeded my expectations! (I had an incredibly underwhelming pre-departure experience, so I had very low expectations). I am living with a Spanish family, which is definitely a learning experience. I am also a pretty big soccer fan, so living in a country whose “religion” is soccer has been delightful! I really like that my program offers a wide variety of options. For example, there are three types of courses offered (through CIEE at their center with American students, through la Universidad de Sevilla at their campus with American students, and/or direct enroll at la Universidad de Sevilla with Spanish students). The program does a great job at offering extracurriculars— included tours and trips, “intercambios,” volunteer opportunities, interest groups—to name a few! As someone with a chronic illness, accessibility to medical care and accommodations were high on my “must have” list when thinking about going abroad. I did a lot of research into how accommodations work for different programs, etc. Before my departure, I ensured all was in place to receive academic accommodations while studying abroad. What I did not do, unfortunately, was ensure that I had fully articulated its impact on my daily life while applying for housing. It’s been a wild ride to try to explain—in Spanish— what my autoimmune disease entails, etc. It has, thankfully, all worked out, but I was not prepared— vocabulary-wise nor emotionally— to re-explain everything to my host family. I kind of assumed the program would have done it for me. Though I was thorough with my academic accommodation research, I wish I had done the same with the Student Life aspect.

My favorite course I am taking is called “Gender, Identities, and the Quest for Equality in Spain.” It’s a small class— only five of us— and the professor is young, animated, and an organizer for feminist movements in Sevilla! Instead of class on International Women’s Day (March 8), we’re taking to the streets to join in a march. I’m really looking forward to it! What the class is really highlighting for me, is how deep sexism runs in the culture here. Not only does it manifest in the streets with catcalling, but it also manifests within the official language. Though I have been studying Spanish for over 10 years, I was completely unaware of its extent. In class, we’re discussing the linguistic manifestations of gender inequality in Spanish. For example, in la Real Academia Española, the Spanish version of the Oxford Dictionary, the definition for “easy” includes sexual remarks about women. There’s a push from the young people to change the definition, but the academy voted against it. This is one of many examples, unfortunately. Part of the course is to go out and “investigate” gendered issues in the city/country and write a paper on our discoveries. I’m looking into the “disappearance” of tampons and menstruation and its connections to the glorification of virginity. I am looking forward to the experience and everything else that Sevilla has to offer! Madi



## Psych T-Shirts for Sale

There are psych t-shirts from past years on sale for \$2 in Lee's office. Stop by and get some summer or gym gear! We have some small, medium, and large left in four different designs in blue colors.

## Postcard from Study Away - Maya Stoller



Hello, from Copenhagen!

I can't believe it's already been almost two months..time is just flying by! I'm two days from leaving for my long study tour, when all the elective courses are canceled and my psychopharmacology course is flying to Frankfurt and then Heidelberg, Germany for the week to do field work and meet with people working in pharmacology research! I live in the culinary LLC, and I think I got pretty lucky with housing. There are two groups of the culinary LLC, one in the city center and one a bit south in an area called Amager which is where I live. I bike almost everywhere and I feel very lucky because had I been placed in the city center (where all the "things to do" are, as well as all DIS buildings), I would probably never leave it, and this encourages me to explore the surrounding area. Every Thursday we have a culinary event, usually involving making a big dinner together! The floors above me are where the outdoor LLC is, which is super rad and I wish I could go to all of their events too (winter bathing, bouldering, acroyoga, etc.). The most challenging thing thus far is definitely trying to balance school work with everything else. It's not that I have as much work as I do at Mac, but there are SO many other things to be doing and seeing so it's hard to find time for it all.

I got picked to be a DIS student blogger for the psychopharmacology discipline (they pick one applicant from each area of study) so feel free

to contact me at [link \(rootingincopenhagen.wordpress.com\)](http://rootingincopenhagen.wordpress.com) if you are interested in DIS or study abroad in general -- I am required to post weekly and there's a contact page where anyone can send me an email with questions regarding any of my posts or just the study abroad program in general.

Some fun upcoming things: I'm traveling to Romania for my Easter break, and doing a hiking trip in Spain and Portugal for my spring break in April--I'm very much looking forward to some warmer weather, although I know I shouldn't be complaining because it's warm here compared to St Paul! Hope everything is going well over there in Minnesota! See you in May. XX Maya

## New Psychology and Neuroscience courses for 2018-19

PSYC 394-02 Memory M 07:00 pm-10:00 pm OLRI 300 Katrina Schleisman

Memory is fundamental to our lives. It underlies our ability to share experiences and culture; it defines how we are unique. In this course we will explore various types of memory that have been identified through research into human and non-human animal behavior and brain function. We will explore questions such as: how can we have vivid, movie-like memories for events that never happened? We will see how this mismatch between experience and memory can be viewed both as a problem that can result in memory errors, and as a positive form of cognitive flexibility. The key focus of this course is to explore the question: how are memories stored in and retrieved from the brain? We will discuss research that relates behavior to brain function, and gain a better understanding of how the structure of our nervous system enables insights into how our memory systems work. Prerequisites include PSYC 100 or 180 and PSYC 201 or MATH 155.

## Postcard from Study Away - Hannah Whittle



Hello!

I am currently studying abroad in Hirakata City, Osaka, Japan, through Kansai Gaidai. I chose this program to try and improve my Japanese language ability, since I am a Japanese minor. Unfortunately, it does not offer psychology classes, so I have been missing psychology a lot! I have made lots of friends from all around the world (including Latvia and Australia), and have gone to many, many shrines and temples. Japan is beautiful, and I am looking forward to the Sakura trees blooming! As someone who has grown up in America, it is exciting to experience a new culture. Japan has many different customs and habits than people in America (like you cannot eat or drink while walking, and no one jaywalks!). Some downsides of the program are that because everyone here speaks English, and the classes are taught in English, I do not get to practice my Japanese as much as I wish I could! It is also very easy to spend a lot of money because food in Japan is so cheap, you buy a lot and it adds up really fast!

However, I would choose this program again

if I had too! If you really want to experience a rich culture, and have a lot of fun while doing so, I highly recommend Japan! I hope you all are having a wonderful semester, and I will see you in the fall! Hannah

## Summer plans - ideas for next year?

Mary Emanuelson from the CDC will be here on Wednesday, April 18th (with treats!) for an informal question and answer session. Bring your resume or cover letter you are working on. She can help you ideas of summer positions, looking at options and future plans. 3:30 in Olri 302.

## Psycho-Babble

**Elena Torry-Schrag '17** will be a School Readiness Social-Emotional Skill Builder at Winona Head Start through Americorps starting in the Fall of 2018.

**Leah Beckmann '16** will begin the Masters of Social Work program at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, in the Fall of 2018.

## Postcard from Study Away - Rebekah Griffin

¡Hola from Sevilla!

I'm Bekah, a junior psych/history double major and I'm currently studying abroad in Sevilla, Spain. As anyone who's heard anything about study abroad knows, it's a completely different experience from Mac, scary and exciting. I am taking three classes through the University of Sevilla (which are designed for American students) and two classes through my program, including a psychology class!

Going into study abroad, I didn't fully grasp how much learning takes place experientially, accidentally. Just being in a different country, immersed in a different culture can be overwhelming and/or rewarding. For me, part of this has been my homestay, where my host family introduces me to Spanish culture more naturally, without disorienting me too much. On the other hand, some of my classes have dropped me into a pile of culture shock so quickly that I can't even process in the moment. I've learned a lot about what it means to be Spanish, to be American, to be in and out of the Mac bubble and I can't wait to see how this translates back to Macalester.



## Welcome New Psychology Majors



Greta Ehereman '21 Foley, MN



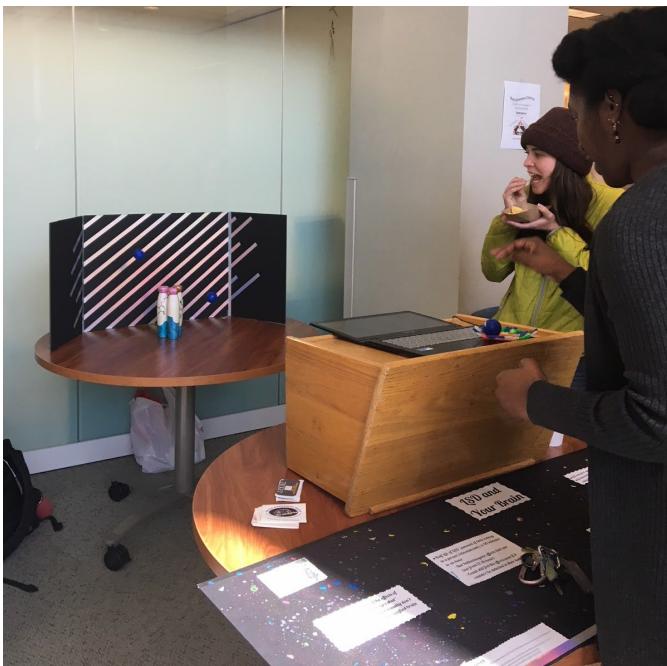
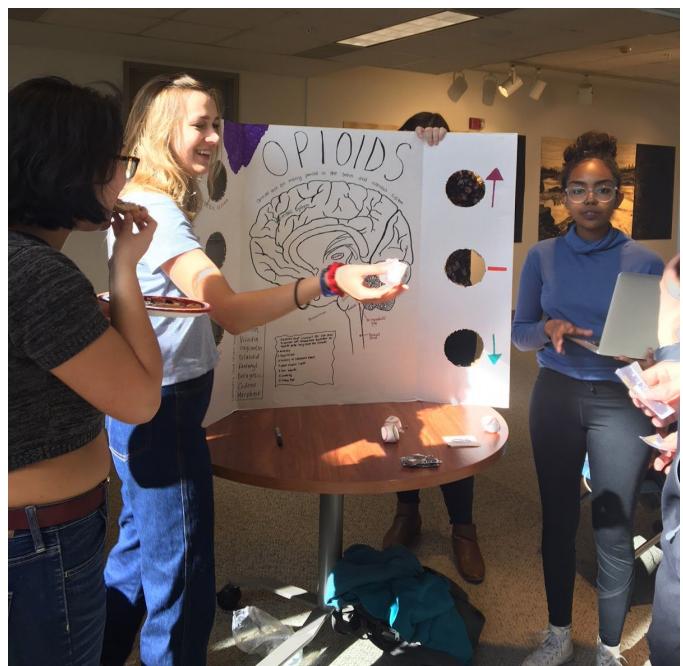
Maria Guzman '21 Cold Spring, MN



Emma Janiszewski '21 Omaha, NE

## Brain Awareness Week Carnival Photos





## Opportunities

We are looking for summer childcare for 3 active, imaginative, inventive boys ages 8, 10 and 12 (think fort building, climbing, bike riding, D&D, role playing games, miniature habitat creation, origami, drawing and more.) Hours are roughly 7:30/8:00am-12:30/1:00pm, Monday-Friday. We live in St. Paul near Como Lake. Having a reliable car is preferred, but we can be flexible. Dates needed are from June 11-Aug 31 with some weeks off during our summer travel and day camp. Due to the short hours and intermittent schedule, this could be a great supplementary summer job. However, there may be additional opportunities for increased hours or even full time. Please contact [ajf8888@gmail.com](mailto:ajf8888@gmail.com) if interested.

Lindamood-Bell provides one-to-one instruction in our learning centers for children and adults with a variety of learning difficulties. In addition, Lindamood-Bell provides professional development to numerous schools and districts. Our programs are research-validated and have received national attention in the PBS special "The Secret Life of the Brain" and in the HBO special "I Can't Do This, But I Can Do That." The Lindamood-Bell ® Learning Center in your area offers exciting, challenging, and rewarding opportunities for your college students seeking valuable work experience. Students who will be most interested in what we do are likely to be majoring in the fields of Psychology, English, Education, or Speech Pathology. However, our positions are open to students of all fields who meet our skill requirements and have a natural compassion and desire to help others. To view job openings in your area please visit

<https://lindamoodbellcareers.silkroad.com>.

### Childcare/Personal Care Assistant Position

We are looking for reliable, committed individuals to provide care and supervision for our son, a 13-year old with autism spectrum disorder. Applicants should possess great communication skills, the ability to quickly problem-solve, and the ability and interest in engaging with a talkative and joyful child. Currently, we have a few shifts Monday through Friday, roughly between 4 and 7 p.m. and some weekend shifts ~10 a.m.-5 p.m. We are also in great need of summer daytime, evening, and weekend hours. There are several shifts to choose from. While previous experience with caregiving is welcomed, it is not required. We live in the St. Paul/Roseville area. Please contact [ajf8888@gmail.com](mailto:ajf8888@gmail.com) if interested.

[www.macalester.edu](http://www.macalester.edu)

651-696-6223

*Editor: Lee Olson, [lolson4@macalester.edu](mailto:lolson4@macalester.edu)*

*Psychology Department | [www.macalester.edu](http://www.macalester.edu) | 651-696-6223*

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