



March 2020

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Chair Talk from Eric Wiertelak

Spring is in the air! March is a wonderful month-- Spring Break is almost here! Let's all look forward to putting another winter behind us and the return of warmer weather. Read on in this issue of Psycho-Babble to learn about all that is coming up in the Psychology Department, including the return of the Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference to our campus at the end of the semester. And-- take it

from me and my little bird-friend here on our branch-- we don't have to go out on a limb to say that you can help reduce the spread of communicable illness this Spring! Wash your hands regularly! Have a great March, everybody.

MUPC - All Directed Research students - Save the Date!

The 2020 Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference (MUPC) will be held on Saturday, May 2nd here at Macalester! Dr. Rebecca Bigler will be this year's keynote speaker. The [website](#) is open for registrations now through April 13.



Introducing You!

There is a new gadget and computer program that will help faculty/staff learn proper pronunciation of your first and last name. **Please stop by Lee's office** for a quick telling of your name into a microphone and a treat. Faculty will have computer access to the recording to hear your proper pronunciation. It will be asked of all new majors when they declare, too.

Juniors - Consider an Honor Project

Dear junior psychology majors,

Are you interested in doing an honors project next year? Information about eligibility and the application process is available on the psych website: www.macalester.edu/psychology/majorsminors/honorspolicy. The deadline for submitting proposals is Tuesday, March 31. Although the deadline is a month away, we recommend that you begin pondering the option as soon as possible to ensure that your proposal is as strong as possible. As always, your advisor and other faculty in the department will be glad to help you decide whether an honors project makes sense for you and to help you think through your proposal. If you do decide to submit a proposal, please submit it to Eric Wiertelak via email by 10:00 am on March 31.

Majors who are Seniors: Major Plan



Planning to graduate in May? If so, 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 to get this important paperwork taken care of. Email Eric Wiertelak with any issues or concerns.



Postcard from Study Away - Isabel Meyer-Mueller

Hello from Stockholm, Sweden! I have been in Stockholm for just over a month and so far it has been great! I've been exploring the city, eating insane amounts of cinnamon buns, and taking public health classes. I am also learning Swedish, which is difficult but has allowed me to communicate better with my host family. I spend a lot of time with my three host sisters and they have taught me how to make traditional Swedish chocolate balls. Last weekend, I took a trip to Vienna, Austria with friends I have made here. We saw the Vienna Boys Choir perform, went to great art museums, and ice skated in front of city hall. The photo attached was taken in front of the Belvedere Palace, where we saw Klimt's The Kiss painting. It was so exciting to see a part of Europe have never been to before. In two weeks I will be traveling to Geneva, Switzerland with my public health class to visit the World Health Organization. I am very excited! I hope everything is well at Macalester!

Best, Isabel Meyer-Mueller

Postcard from Study Away - Mikayla Smith

Greetings from Japan! This semester I am studying abroad in Nagoya, Japan through the IES Abroad Program. I am having a wonderful time studying Japanese, learning about the culture, and meeting new friends! At first, I worried about the potential language barrier between my host family and me, but everything has turned out well.

So far, my program group has visited many places such as Hiroshima and Tokyo, immersing ourselves in the culture and eating some incredible food. My favorite place I have visited is small island in Hiroshima called Miyajima. In Miyajima I visited Itsukushima Shrine, a floating shrine on the ocean, and I also hung out with the deer.

In addition to Japanese language courses I am also taking a research class in Japanese. For this class we must pick a topic, create a survey, distribute it to Japanese students, and analyze the data. I chose to look at depression because I want to find out how students view depression in Japan compared to students in the US. I am excited to examine the data and see what I find!

Overall, I'm extremely grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I have met some incredibly kind people, and I look forward to learning more about Japan throughout the rest of the semester!

Best,
Mikayla



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Did you know?

The psychology department gives three awards each year to graduating seniors. Our department award recipients will be announced in the April Psycho-Babble. The awards are:

Jack Rossmann Award - 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.

Walter D. Mink - 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.

Paterson Award nominee - 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.

Mesmerizing Major - Olivia Scott

Favorite Movie: Harry Potter!

Favorite Book: "We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves", by Karen Joy Fowler

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Nelson's Ice Cream

What do you do when you are not studying? I'm interning at Como Zoo, designing and creating enrichment toys and items to help keep the zoo animals motivated and happy. I'm also volunteering at the

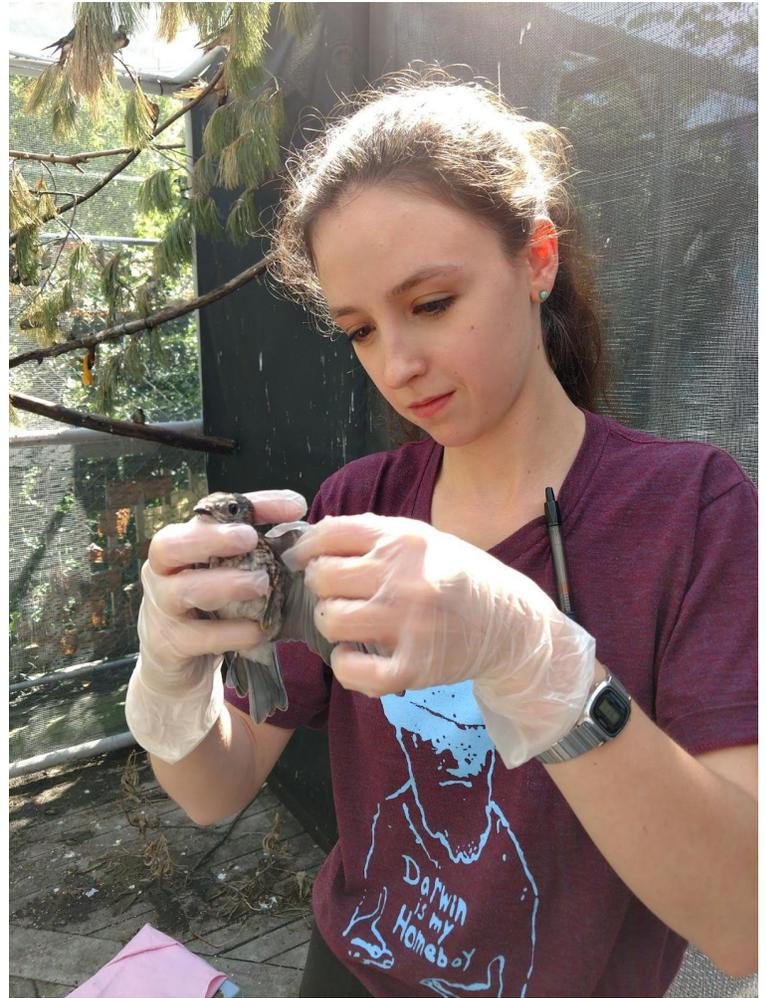
Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, where I work with animals like bunnies, ravens, coyotes, and snapping turtles.

Where did you grow up? Portland, Oregon

Interesting fact about your hometown: There's this guy who rides around on a unicycle, playing the bagpipes in a kilt.

Tell us something about your family: When I'm home, I live with my mom, dad, brother, and two cats. We all love to read, except for the cats, who love to interrupt us when we're reading.

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: I was recently hired to be one of the managers at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, in the Avian Nursery which raises and releases hundreds of orphaned and injured songbirds and waterfowl every summer.



Welcome New Psychology Majors & Minors



Colleen Minnihan '21
Greenfield, NH (minor)



Kat Chen '20 Seattle, WA (minor)



Joseph Bentley '21 New York,
New York



Norah Ntagungira '22 Kigali, Rwanda



Sarah Gotbetter '22 Weston, MA



Colette Mahr '21 Chadron, NE



Alex Poland '22 Madison, WI



Jessica Hoover '22 Lakeville, MN



Ella Clark '21 St. Louis, MO

Psycho-Babble

Xenia Ewing '14 visited the department and shared news of her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology graduation date this May from the Hawai'i School of Professional Psychology at Chaminade University, Honolulu. Congratulations Xenia! Congratulate **Jess Stone '16** for starting a new position as Project Manager, Prosperity at Department for International Trade (DIT)

Sam Hochberger '21 Named IES Abroad Global Citizen of the Year



Psych major, Sam Hochberger '21, has been named a finalist in the annual IES Abroad Global Citizen of the Year program. The award is designed to recognize study abroad students going above and beyond to make a difference in the world. Students who studied on an IES Abroad or IES Internship program in 2019 were eligible to apply for the award. Sam studied in Granada, Spain, in fall 2019.

After volunteering at a Granada non-profit that provides services to the autism community and their families, and having eye-opening conversations with African immigrants while on a field trip to Morocco, Sam made the decision to support immigrant and under-privileged communities in Minnesota. Sam now volunteers with Wellstone Elementary, a Spanish and English immersion school in St. Paul.

Opportunities

Summer Teaching Jobs - Teach Reading Classes to Students of All Ages

Now Accepting Applications for Summer 2020

The Institute of Reading Development offers summer reading skills programs in partnership with the continuing education departments of more than 100 colleges and universities nationwide. Since 1970, the Institute's teachers have helped over 3 million students master valuable reading skills and develop a lifelong love of reading. Programs designed by the Institute give students the right skills, books, and experiences that result in greater success in school and beyond.

We are currently hiring hard-working, encouraging people with a passion for reading to teach our summer programs. As an Institute teacher you will:

- Earn up to \$8,000 in one summer. Our full-time teachers typically earn \$550-\$700 per week.
- Improve your teaching skills and confidence during our comprehensive, paid training program.
- Gain over 400 hours of classroom teaching experience with a variety of age groups from 4-year-olds to adults.
- Help your students become successful readers with a love of great books.

We are seeking applicants from any academic discipline. All applicants must have an undergraduate degree or higher in their field before the start of our teaching season.

Learn more about teaching for us and apply today: [Summer Teaching Jobs](#)

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