



April 2021

Chair Talk from Jaine

Greetings from the Psychology Department! As is so often the case, I write to you at a time of great heartache and great optimism. We wish we could be together in person to mourn and to celebrate, but we are buoyed up by the sense of community that has remained resilient even in the face of all we've encountered this past year.

April starts off with a very exciting Psychology Department event - a visit by Dr. Jennifer Richeson (Yale University)! As you'll see below, Dr. Richeson will be speaking on *The Mythology of Racial Progress* and she will also meet with students for an informal conversation after her lecture. The April issue of Psycho-Babble also honors five of our majors for their accomplishments in the classroom, the lab, and in the community. Congratulations to Nancy, Brooke, Nita, Abby, and Stephanie! Even though we have singled out these five students for departmental awards, please know we see and appreciate all of you!

The Registrar will post the 2021-2022 course schedule soon, and we look forward to talking with you about your course choices for next year. We anticipate a return to some semblance of normalcy in the Fall - and we can't wait to actually SEE you all again (and, in some cases, to finally meet you in real life). As always, we are eager to connect so please reach out - and take good care!



The Mythology of Racial Progress - Jennifer Richeson Distinguished Scholar Lecture/Johnson Lecture

Thursday - April 1st 12:00 Webinar

Our perceptions of, beliefs about, and solutions for, racial inequality in the United States are shaped, at least in part, by a mythology of racial progress. Central to this mythology is the dominant narrative that American society has achieved substantial gains toward racial equality, and is automatically, perhaps naturally, continuing to make steady, linear progress toward the same. In this talk, I argue that our fidelity to this

narrative elicits a persistent pattern of, often willful, ignorance regarding some present-day racial disparities, including the wealth gap between Black and White Americans. I will illuminate some of the psychology that sustains the narrative and consequences of efforts to disrupt it. Implications of the mythology of racial progress for efforts to engender actual racial equity in contemporary society will be discussed.

Registration link: https://macalester.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_C0TA4Vb3SWCIRmYI6F5aqq

Congratulations to the 2020-21 award winners!



Paterson Award nominee - Nancy Gomez

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 - Brooke Offenhauser & Nita Senesathith

The Mink award was given to two seniors this year who have a strong academic record and have also provided outstanding service to the department, the college or the broader community.





Jack Rossmann Award- Abby Dillon & Stephanie Konadu-Acheampong

The Rossmann award for this year honors graduating senior psych majors who have an excellent academic record and have also made distinguished contributions in the application of academic psych through activities such as applied research, internships, or community service.

MUPC - All Directed Research students



MUPC Keynote 2021
University of St. Thomas
Fostering healing and hope for
BIPOC in the face of racial trauma
Bryana French, Ph.D.
University of St. Thomas

The 2021 Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference (MUPC) will be held online Saturday, April 17th. See <https://www.macalester.edu/mupc/> for up to date information. The deadline for project submission is April 7.

Abby Dillon Wins Society for Pediatric Research Award

Senior Abby Dillon (psychology and neuroscience) has been awarded the Society for Pediatric Research Student Award for her research project, "Racial Disparities in Early-life Microbiomes." Abby will present her research in May at the Pediatric Academic Societies convention, a joint meeting of the American Pediatric Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Pediatric Society, and the Society for Pediatric Research. Please join the Psychology Department and the Neuroscience Program in congratulating Abby for this impressive and well-deserved honor!



Mesmerizing Major - Lydia Diebel

Favorite Movie: About Time. It's super romantic and sweet.

Favorite Book: Gone Girl.

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: I love Ons Thai!

What do you do when you are not studying? Spending time outside, reading, doing art, being with friends

Where did you grow up? New York City

Interesting fact about your hometown: It's the best city in the world! (Not a fact but...)

Tell us something about your family: My dad is originally from England and moved to the US after college partly due to his love of country music!

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: Happy to say that I got into MSW programs in NYC!



Mesmerizing Major - Cooper Tunac

Favorite Movie: Scott Pilgrim vs. The World

Favorite Book: 12 Rules for Life (Jordan Peterson)

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Mickey's Diner

What do you do when you are not studying?: Playing video games and watching sports with my friends

Where did you grow up?: Plainfield, IL

Interesting fact about your hometown: Melissa McCarthy was born there

Tell us something about your family: I'm an only child. My dad is 100% Filipino and my mom is 50% Italian and 50% Native American

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: I will be attending Adler University in Chicago, IL starting this Fall to receive my Psy.D in Clinical Psychology.

Psychology Information Lunch - Thursday, April 8 11:30 - 12:30

Have you recently become a major or minor but want to learn more? Are you thinking about a major or minor in Psych? Come to this zoom meeting and hear about the Macalester psych department. You will first hear from professors and then from upper class psych students. Time for questions and answers from both groups too. Please RSVP to Lee to get the zoom link.

Welcome New Psychology Majors



Inaara Peermohammed '23
Chandler, AZ



Lucy Grochulska '23 Richmond, VA



Cam Wildhaber '21 St. Louis, MO



Mesmerizing Major - Abby Dillon

Favorite Movie: The Lion King

Favorite Book: Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Culver's!

What do you do when you are not studying? I love watching Netflix, I'm currently re-watching Grey's Anatomy! I also love to crochet/knit!

Where did you grow up? Milwaukee, WI

Interesting fact about hometown: Milwaukee is known as the frozen custard capital of the world

Tell us something about your family: I love my family! They are all located in Milwaukee, WI and we recently welcomed a new baby girl into the family named Symoné.

Become a Psych Leader or Nominate a Classmate

We are eager for nominations for next year's psych club leaders. Leaders play an incredibly important role in the department. They build community in the department by helping out with a variety of events, including lunches, panels, volunteer experiences, guest lecturers, game nights, and Friday Socials. Ideally, leaders generate ideas for new activities that other students would find engaging and informative, and they inspire other students to get involved in the life of the department. We expect that serving as a Psych Club leader will typically take about 1 - 2 hours a week, although your time commitment will vary from week to week.

Please consider nominating yourself or someone else to this important role. Please send names to Lee Olson by Monday, April 19. We will contact all students who are nominated to make sure they're interested in the commitment. The decision about next year's psych leaders is made by faculty and staff. 2021-22 leaders will be announced in the May Psycho-Babble.



Mesmerizing Minor - Becca Lewis

Favorite Movie: *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*

Favorite Book: *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Poké House (or Everest on Grand for special occasions)

What do you do when you are not studying? Cook and bake with my housemates!

Where did you grow up? Long Island, New York

Interesting fact about your hometown: It's less than a square mile!

Tell us something about your family: My family loves watching movies together. Our favorite is *The Way, Way Back*.

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: I started painting over the summer and I'm really happy with some of the work I've made!

Welcome New Psychology Minors



Sarah Falkovic '22 Chapel Hill, NC



Claire Wilson '22 Mpls. MN



Emily Cekander '21 Chicago, IL



Mai Moua Thao '22 Saraburi, Thailand



Zinan Yang '22 Wuhan, China

Opportunities

<https://www.psychresearchlist.com/>

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<https://ramapoforchildren.org/services-programs/camp-ramapo/>

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I am the Lab Manager in the labs of Drs. Pearl Chiu and Brooks King-Casas at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute ([lab information](#)) in Roanoke, Virginia. We are currently seeking a new full-time research assistant and would like to get the word out to undergraduates who are interested in such a position.

Projects in the labs combine methods from experimental and clinical psychology, neuroscience, and behavioral economics with functional neuroimaging (fMRI) to investigate decision-making in healthy and clinical populations (including adults with mood/anxiety/substance disorders, and at-risk youth). Training will be provided for all aspects of the job. This is an excellent opportunity for those interested in graduate school in clinical or cognitive psychology/neuroscience.

I have attached a complete description of the job, and here is the [link](#) for the posting on the Virginia Tech website. Students can also visit: <https://jobs.vt.edu/> and search job posting # 515418. We look forward to possibly receiving some applications from students at Macalester!

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