

Psycho-Babble

Macalester College/ November 2010

Important Dates

Tuesday, Nov. 9th
Feed My Starving
Children - Eagan
Psych Club volunteer
Event 7:30-9:30 pm

Thursday, Nov. 11th
Internship Lunch
11:30-12:30 #352

Monday, Nov. 15
7:00 p.m.
Old Main 4th Floor
Psi Chi Induction

Thursday,
Nov. 25-28
Thanksgiving Holiday

Tuesday, Nov. 30
Careers in Mental
Health Lunch
11:30 - 12:30 #352

Saturday, Dec. 5
Kid's Judge

Chair Talk from Jaine

November promises to be an exciting month in the Psych Department! We have all kinds of lunch panels (about grad school, internships, and careers in mental health), a community service event sponsored by our Psych Club, Friday socials, and, of course, registration for Spring courses. We have a rich array of offerings next semester, and all of the faculty would be happy to answer questions you have about the classes that make the most sense for you. We have syllabi from past semesters on file, if you'd like to get more of a feel for the courses. Feel free to stop by for more information—or just to chat about your Psychology-related plans.

Psych Club Info

Hello all psychology enthusiasts!

Please join us, November 9th at 7:30 pm to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan. We will pack food that will be sent overseas to feed starving children in Haiti and other countries. Our shift is from 8:00 - 9:30 pm but we should leave by at 7:30 to get there in time. We'll provide transportation.

This is our first service event of the Psychology Club and we hope you can join us. The sign up sheet is on Lee's door.

Last week's social event was a hit. Sixteen pumpkins were carved into a storm trooper, cat, pumpkin written in Dutch, and many scary faces. Six pizzas were eaten and a great time was had by all. We'll have another social/study break in early December!

Spotlight on Research – Darcy Burgund

A large, stylized Chinese character '城' (Cheng) is displayed on the left side of the page. The character is black and has a traditional, calligraphic style.

fMRI of Chinese Character Reading

A recent study published in *Brain & Language* by Darcy Burgund and Yi Guo (a graduate student at Rice University) uses functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to investigate the brain regions involved in Chinese character reading.

The left fusiform gyrus is a region in the brain that is very important for reading alphabetic languages such as English. Not surprisingly, this region is important for Chinese character reading as well; however, Chinese character reading recruits a more diverse set of brain regions than Roman character reading, including the right fusiform gyrus. Guo and Burgund further observe that both left and right fusiform regions exhibit greater activity during orthographic processing (deciding whether a shape is a real character or not) than semantic (thinking about a character's meaning) or phonological (thinking about how a character is pronounced) processing. In contrast to studies with alphabetic languages that observe orthographic processing in the left fusiform exclusively, this finding suggests that the right fusiform may also process orthographic information.

Welcome Back Joan Ostrove

We are excited that Joan Ostrove is returning to Mac after a two year leave of absence. She is going to teach The Psychology of Gender and Lives in Context Spring of 2011.

Welcome back, Joan!



New Psych Leaders

New Psych Leaders
for 2010-11 are:

Sylvia Ferguson
Ellen Fitzharris
Faith Kwon
Ruben Pena
Colin Westcott

Please let them
know your ideas
for Psych events
or outings.

Internship Lunch - Nov. 11

What is an internship?

How do I choose an internship?

How do I set one up?

When do I need to start?

We hope to answer these questions
and more at an **Internship Lunch** on
November

Psychology Students who have done
internships in the past will be there

to answer your questions
and share their
experiences. The following
students have been asked
to tell about their
experiences:

Manon Gentil
Peggy Polta
Emily Prazak
Emma Gershun-Half
Ella Bandes

Psi Chi Induction is Nov. 15th, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 7:00 p.m., Old Main 4th Floor, we will induct 13 new members into Psi Chi, the national honorary society for psychology. Congratulations to: **Alvaro Ballarin, Kelli Crescenti, Ariel Currie, Molly Frean, Manon Gentil, Abigail Gutmann-Gonzalez, Bryna Helle, Sharon Hwee, Abby Jacobsma, Maria Kuznetsova, Caitlin Opperman, Emily Prazak, Chloe Souza and Hannah Yellin.**

To be invited to join Psi Chi you have to have an overall GPA of 3.5 or better.

Careers in Mental Health Lunch Tuesday, November 30th

Join Jaine Strauss for a look at careers in the mental health field over lunch on November 30th. We'll meet at 11:30 in #352. Please let Lee know if you can attend so she can order enough lunch.

Spring 2011 Culture and Context & Student Led Courses

Courses that fulfill the Culture and Context requirements are:

Psyc 262 Asian American Psychology
Psyc 264 Psychology of Gender
Psyc 379 Cultural Psychology
Psyc 488 Lives in Context

Courses that have a Student Led component are:

Psyc 379 Cultural Psychology
Psyc 385 Mind Reading
Psyc 488 Lives in Context

Mesmerizing Major: Suzanne Oh



"Mesmerizing Majors are randomly drawn from the list of CNS & Psychology majors."

Favorite Movie: This isn't the best movie ever but it never ceases to make me laugh - She's the Man

Favorite Book: Harry Potter (series), Catcher in the Rye, and pretty much every children's book written by Roald Dahl

Favorite Place to eat in the Twin Cities: I'm a huge sweets fan so I'd have to say.. Cafe Latte or Izzy's!

What do I do when not studying: I'm in the Bonner Scholar Program and with that comes working off-campus. This year, I'm working at the Children's Museum. I swim and play lacrosse for Mac. And, I play my violin, and am learning how to play my new travel guitar.

Where did I grow up: Waukesha, WI **Fun Fact:** Waukesha used to be a tourist attraction because of the "miraculous" water from the springs that were claimed to heal the sick.

Family: Both of my parents immigrated here from South Korea in the late 80's. I also have two younger sisters who are both teenagers which always blows my mind. I can't believe they're so old now!

Pleased/ Proud: I'm really proud of the fact that I currently share a swimming record at Mac for the 200 Free Relay.

Kids Judge! Neuroscience Fair – Dec. 4th

The 9th annual Minnesota Kids Judge! Neuroscience Fair is Saturday, Dec. 4th. Students in Eric Wiertelak's Brain, Mind, and Behavior class present the science of the brain and nervous system and are evaluated by about 150 4th-6th grade public school children. In addition to learning about the brain, the children learn about college and college students. The fair is a unique, fun, community outreach event looked forward to each year by all who participate.

See Lee if you want to help.

Congratulations, Rachell!

Congratulations to Professor **Rachel Lucas-Thompson** on her recent publication in the APA journal *Psychological Bulletin*. The study is a meta-analysis of 69 studies conducted over a 50 year period on maternal employment during early childhood and its relationship with later academic and behavioral adjustment. The study has attracted considerable media attention. Let Lee know if you'd like to read a copy of the article.

"Design the 2010 Psych T-shirt" contest

- *Submit your design to Lee in the office.
- *Designs that reinforce stereotypes about mental illness are not acceptable.
- *Designs that reinforce stereotypes about psychology (e.g., rats, brains, Freud) are acceptable... but unlikely to be selected.
- *Deadline is November 24th, 2010.
- *Winning design will be selected by psych faculty in consultation with psychology leaders.
- *Winner will receive Adobe Photoshop CS4 Extended Student Edition or \$25, and a free T-shirt.

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*Be sure and check
out the Psychology
website*

Welcome new Psych & NS majors!

Micah Mumper '13
Allison Divine '13
Emily Crenner '13
Bianca Hollander '13
Suzanne Oh '13
Barbara Scarim '13
James Nocita '13
Mick Reedy '13
Nick DeLacey '12
Allison Divine '13
Teal Radford '13

Pumpkins & Pizza Psych Club



