

Psycho-Babble

Macalester College/April 2011

Important Dates

Tuesday, April 5
SPRING DINNER
5:00
Small Gallery

Tuesday, April 12
Johnson Memorial
Lecture - Apostolos
Georgopoulos, PhD
5:00 pm OR250

Saturday, April 16
M.U.P.C. 8:30-4:30
Carleton College

April 19-30 Fall '10
Registration
Wednesday,

April 27
MPA Distinguished
Scholar Lecture
William Iacono, PhD
7:00 Weyerhaeuser

Saturday, April 30
Midbrains - St. Olaf

Chair talk from Jaine

It's April—the time of year when Psychology folks begin to think about... the Spring Dinner! Registration for next year! Choosing Psych Leaders!

**You have hopefully already received an invitation to our annual bash, the Spring Dinner. As you'll see below, this delicious (food from Buca's!) and entertaining event (prizes!!) is open to anyone interested in psychology and neuroscience studies. We hope you'll come.

**For most of you, April is the month during which you register for next year's courses. We are very excited about our curricular offerings, including brand new classes in Psychology and the Law and Embodied Cognition. All of the faculty welcome you to stop by and ask questions about which classes are the best fit for your needs and interests.

**You recently received an email inviting you to nominate someone (including yourself) to serve as a Psych Leader. This rewarding role gives you a chance to get to know other psychology students, plan academic and social events, and build a stronger sense of community in the department. You don't need a lot of past organizational experience; enthusiasm for the discipline and the department are the key ingredients. More info is available on p. 7.

MUPC is Saturday, April 16th

The 46th annual MUPC (Minnesota Undergraduate psychology Conference) is being held at Carleton College in Northfield this year. This one day annual conference will be from 8:30 - 4:30 on April 16. The keynote speaker will be Dan Simons, Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Illinois, and author of The Invisible Gorilla: And Other Ways Our Intuitions Deceive Us. The

conference is free and open to the public. Our Directed Research students will join ~250 other psychology students from ~30 colleges and universities to present research projects. Please see Darcy if you'd like to attend and need a ride.

Presenting at MUPC is a requirement of the psychology major at Macalester.

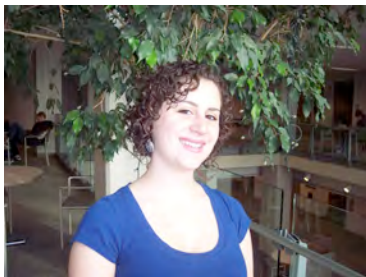
Ellen Fitzharris to receive Mink Prize



Ellen Fitzharris is the Mink Prize winner for 2011. Ellen is a native of Seattle, Washington. She has been very active in the community, volunteering her time at St. Paul Sober Living and the Avanti Center for Girls. She also is a research assistant with Rachel Lucas-Thompson.

The Mink Prize was established in memory of Walter D. Mink, professor of psychology from 1958-1996. This prize is 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.

Rachel Diamond is our Paterson nominee



The Paterson Award is given by the Minnesota Psychological Association to the most promising senior in Minnesota planning a career in psychology. Rachel Diamond is our Paterson nominee for 2011. Congratulations Rachel! Rachel grew up in Beloit, Wisconsin. She is primarily interested in animal behavior and cognition. She has been working at the Minnesota Zoo since interning there the summer after her sophomore year. She will be applying to graduate school next fall.

All of our award winners will have their names inscribed on one of the plaques on the awards wall and they will be recognized at the Honors Lunch, where they will also receive a cash award.

Mollie Mayfield is Rossmann Recipient



Mollie Mayfield is our Rossmann Award Winner for 2011. Mollie is from Hillsborough, NC. As you know from past PsychoBabbles, Mollie was the winner of a recent APA paper competition. She will graduate with a minor in Environmental Studies and a concentration in public health, and she is interested in a career in public health - health behavior and health education.

New Classes this Fall -

382-01 Hormones and Behavior - Eric Wiertelak

Do hormones determine and control who we are and much of what we do? Why does the body even need hormones-- aren't neurotransmitters much more efficient? This course takes a comprehensive look at the interplay between hormones and behavior. Given the nature of the content, physiological and experimental data will be highlighted. But, given that the role of hormones in regulating behavior can often only be barely touched upon in other psychology and/or neuroscience courses, this course will start at the beginning, with an overview of basic anatomy and physiology of the endocrine system, and the chemistry and cellular activity involved in hormone effects. We will then turn to an examination of a number of behaviors and their regulation by hormones. While a range of behaviors will be discussed, much of this course will focus on the role of reproductive hormones (e.g. testosterone, estrogen and progesterone) in regulating sexual differentiation and reproductive related behaviors, as that is not only highly interesting, but also the best-characterized aspect of behavioral endocrinology. Because of the physiological and experimental perspective of this course and the similarities in endocrine function found across species, much (but not all) of the phenomenology that we will be studying will be based on research in animals other than humans. This comparative approach should reveal how different organisms accomplish important life functions in ways that often are intriguingly distinct from humans. Prerequisites: Psychology 100 and Psych 201.

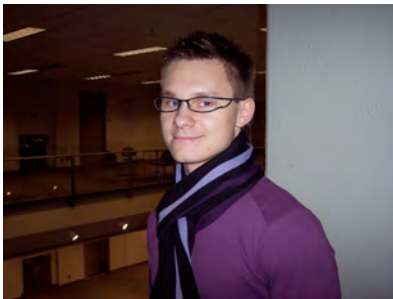
394-01 Psychology and the Law - Jill Peterson

This course will explore how psychology is applied within the criminal justice system, with an emphasis on social and clinical psychology. Topics for discussion will include the relationship between mental illness and violence, interrogation and confessions, eyewitness testimony, competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, violence risk assessment, jury decision making, sentencing and the death penalty, juvenile justice, and treatment and intervention strategies within the criminal justice system. Prerequisites: Psychology 100 and Psychology 201 (or Mathematics 153, 154, or 155). Background in social and/or clinical psychology (e.g., Psychology 252; Psychology 254) is helpful.

394-02 Acting, Feeling, Thinking: Integrative Modalities - Alvina Kittur

This seminar examines the relationship between acting, feeling, and thinking. In a previous era of cognitive psychology, interactions between the body and the mind were de-emphasized in favor of an abstract symbolization of mental processes. Researchers are now beginning to revisit the integration of these different aspects of being. Through discussion, reflection, and research, we will investigate the implications of these integrative modalities. Possible topics include: the link between positive thinking and physical health (*psychoneuroimmunology*), cutting edge research in *embodied cognition*, the impact of meditation on the brain. Prerequisites: Psychology 100 and Psychology 201 (or Mathematics 153, 154, or 155) .

Mesmerizing Major: Igor Stanceric



Igor Stanceric

"Mesmerizing majors are randomly selected from the list of psychology and CNS majors."

Favorite Movie: a tough choice there, if I would go with classics, then it would be Titanic, otherwise a split between Sherlock Holmes and Perfect Stranger.

Favorite Book: Arthur Miller's play, All My Sons.

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Macy's Oak Bar Grill - beautiful place on the 12th floor of Macy's building, excellent ambience, great food

What do you do when you are not studying? playing volleyball and soccer, pool (billiards) and blasting music

Where did you grow up? Vrbovec, a small 5000 person town near the capital, Zagreb, Croatia

Interesting fact about your hometown: A legend says that in 11th century the town was surrounded by the Turkish Empire. Having large walls and a canal around it, only 1 bridge connected the town to the rest of the surrounding area. Being a very strong and rich town at the time, it had vast supplies of food and other necessities. The Turks were surrounding the town for 2 years hoping that it would run out of supplies and have to lower the bridge which would allow them to attack. One day the supplies went down to the last chicken (the Turks didn't know that) and the town's people offered that chicken to the king. However, the king was a great king and insisted that people split the chicken among themselves. Since they couldn't decide who should eat it, the final decision was to fire it at the Turks. When the Turks saw that they are being hit by food, they thought that vast amounts of food were still left, and so they decided to leave the town. And so the town was saved by the chicken (or maybe it was a rooster). Today still, one of the towers connecting the bridges still stands proudly in the town's park.

Tell us something about your family: In Croatia, I live with my mum and my little, 12 years old sister, and the two of them are the most important women in my life.

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: Being accepted to Red Cross Nordic United World College for junior and senior year of high school. This changed my life in every possible way. Coming from a small white Catholic town to a school with 200 students from 83 different countries, travelling to 12 European countries in 2 years, and getting a chance to go to college in the US, and travel to many places in North America. Having friends from everywhere in the world, who now went separate ways, but can still be relied on, exposing my immediate and distant family to students from different parts of the world (Ghana, US, Norway, Sweden, Canada, Poland etc...) and the list goes on and on....

Spring Dinner - Tuesday, April 5th

Majors, minors and anyone interested in psychology and/or neuroscience studies are invited to the:

Spring Dinner - Tuesday, April 5th, 5:00 p.m.
Olin Rice Smail Gallery

This is an event you won't want to miss. Here are some of the highlights of the dinner: Great Italian Food from Buca, music, Trivia Quiz with prizes, class pictures, and the chance to see this year's cool t-shirt design (and order your very own t-shirts).

Please let Lee know if you are planning to attend so we have enough food. Email lolson4@macalester.edu or call x6223.

Senior Conversations are May 4

Before the graduating seniors leave the campus, we like to have an informal conversation with them about their experience as a psychology major. The feedback from these conversations plays an important role in future planning for the department. The psychology major senior conversations are on Wednesday, May 4th this year. Seniors can sign up for an individual conversation which lasts about 25 minutes or a focus group with another majors which will last about 50 minutes. All participating seniors will receive a small gift.

* Graduating neuroscience studies majors will have exit interviews organized with Eric.

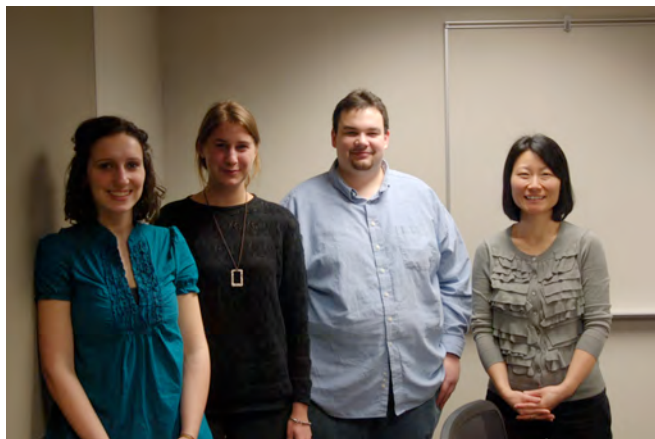
"The feedback from these conversations plays an important role in future planning for the department."

Spotlight on Research – Sun No

Culture and Group Processes Lab

Assistant Professor Sun No

I am continually fascinated by the notion of an “authentic” cultural being, act, idea, or object, particularly with respect to beliefs regarding the malleability or fixedness of race. My past research has demonstrated that while bicultural Asian Americans generally are able to culturally frame switch depending on the salient cultural cues in the environment (e.g., responding much like White Americans do when shown American cultural icons and responding much like Koreans do when shown Korean cultural icons), that social constructionist beliefs of race allow for greater flexibility in responding in prime-consistent ways than racial essentialist beliefs. In line with my interests in multiple identities and race, my most recent research examines multiracial identity from both the perceiver and target perspectives. Stefan Dumlao '11 and I have had a successful collaboration in investigating the target perspective and will present our results at the 2011 Association for Psychological Science conference in Washington, DC. My research assistants Sophia Slote '11 and Anna Jacob '14 are helping collect data for a parallel study that examines how multiracial individuals are perceived. I also have projects in various stages of development on the negotiation of religious and ethnic identities among immigrant groups to the United States—Hmong shaman (with research assistant Huava Xiong '13) and Russian Jewish identities. With Stefan and Sophia graduating in May, I am looking for several motivated research assistants to continue follow-up studies. Let me know if you would like to meet to hear more about these projects and the possibility of joining my lab!



Anna Jacob, Sophia Slote, Stefan Dumlao and Sun No

To all Psych Majors,

We are eager for nominations for next year's psych club leaders. Psych club leaders play an incredibly important role in the department. We want YOU to consider yourself just the right person to become a psych leader and to have this wonderful opportunity. You can also nominate fellow students who you think would be great for this leadership role. Here is more information:

What do psych club leaders do?

Psych club leaders build community in the department by helping out with a variety of events, including internship, grad school, and study away panels, volunteer experiences, guest lecturers, and the 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 (and, yes, we recognize--and are glad!--that you have a life, so you can adjust your time commitment to suit your workload).

Who can be a psych leader?

Any psych major can be nominated to serve as a psych leader. Even if you are planning to study abroad, you can still serve for the semester you are on campus. The key qualities you need are an interest in psychology, a desire to make the department welcoming for all students, and a willingness to commit 1-2 hours a week to the department. If you are concerned that you don't know enough about psychology or that you won't know how to help with department events, have no fear! Department faculty and staff (especially Lee) are always around to help out.

Why should I consider being a psych leader?

Intrinsic motivation to do good work is always a good reason, but serving as a psych leader has other benefits as well, including getting to know your fellow psych students better (what a great group!), getting to know the department faculty and staff better (great for letters of recommendation!) and having an impressive accomplishment to include on your resume.

How do I nominate myself -- or someone else?

Just send the appropriate name to Lee Olson by **Monday, April 11**. 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 jointly by the current psych leaders and the department faculty and staff.

Questions?

Feel free to talk to Jaine or to Lee. We're eager to answer any questions you have.

More Psycho-Babble.....

Emily Hamilton ('10) will be pursuing her Masters in Public Health at Columbia University.

Annette Lerew Hellwig ('07) and her husband Travis welcomed their son Gabriel to their family.

Sonia Burns ('09) is wrapping up her first year in the PhD program in clinical psychology at Pacific Graduate School of Psychology (Palo Alto University) and thoroughly enjoying her program.

Amanda Wenzel ('10) will attend the child clinical PhD program at the U of Minnesota.

Devin English ('10) will attend the clinical PhD program at George Washington University.

Allison Palmer ('09) will attend Tulane Medical School.

Krista Yank ('09) will attend the master's in school psychology program at Loyola University in Chicago.

Shantee Rosado ('09) had an amazing run in her applications for PhD programs in sociology. She's headed to Penn, Michigan, Florida Atlantic, or the U of Minnesota.

Ellen Nikodym ('13) has just been named a Phillips Scholar. She is one of six students selected by the Minnesota Private College Foundation for this prestigious honor on the basis of her potential to be a leader in community service

Emily Goodman ('08) was accepted to the Humphrey School at the U of Minnesota.

Megan Fast ('05) was accepted to all of the schools she applied to for programs in Student Affairs or Higher Ed (Iowa State, Bowling Green, Harvard, and a school run by SIT). She hasn't decided yet....

Erica Salmon ('11) has a new job at the Center for Homicide Research in St. Paul.

Macalester College

1600 Grand Avenue
St. Paul, MN
55105-1899

Phone:
651-696-6223

Fax:
651-696-6348

E-Mail:
lolson4@macalester

We're on the Web!

*Check out the Psychology
web page.*

Which courses count for what?

Trying to figure out which courses meet which requirements? In particular, students often want to know which courses fulfill the Context and Culture requirement and which include a student-led component. Here is the list for next year:

FALL 2011

Student-led component:

382-01 Hormones and Behavior
394-01 Psychology and the Law
394-02 Acting, Feeling, Thinking: Integrative Modalities
488-01 Lives in Context

Context and Culture:

194-01 Psychology of Immigration and Acculturation
264-01 Psychology of Gender
488-01 Lives in Context

A Big Welcome to the following new Psych and NS
Majors!

Hannah (Leona) Carretero '13
Bryce Hoffa '13
Erin Gaidis '14 - NS
Liz Dippel '13
Paul Rebman '14

Please note: We have a new "paint" pen in the office that writes permanently on glass. If your mug is losing your name, stop by with it and rewrite it with this better pen.