

Psycho-Babble

Important Dates

Monday, April 6 -
Honors applications due
to chair
MUPC deadline

Thursday, April 9 -
Psych Info Lunch,
11:30-1 Olri 352

Monday, April 13 -
Spring Dinner, 5-6:30
Small Gallery

Tuesday, April 14- Psi
Chi Induction, 7 p.m.
Old Main 4th floor

Saturday, April 18,
MUPC at College of
St. Benedict

April 20-May 2 Fall
Registration

Wednesday, April 22
7:00 p.m. Olri 250
Walter Kintsch
delivers Johnson
Lecture

Saturday, May 2
Mid-Brains Conference
9:00-5:30 Macalester

Wednesday, May 6
Senior Conversations

Friday, May 15
Reception for Grads &
Families 5-6:30

Saturday, May 16
Commencement

Macalester College/ April 2009

We are thrilled Darcy Burgund is joining us!

I am THRILLED to be joining the Psychology Department at Macalester College this fall!

I will be coming to Mac from Rice University in Houston, Texas, where I have worked as an assistant professor of psychology for the last 6 years. I like Rice a lot, but I do not like heat, humidity, hurricanes, or huge bugs (the ugly 4H's of Houston's environment), and my husband and I have been longing to move north for quite some time.

"Will we be able to handle the Minnesota winters?" I can hear you asking. Most certainly! My husband grew up in the Twin Cities, and I spent four years getting my Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, so we are well aware of the "cool-ish" temperatures that Minnesotans experience. I am also from a northern climate (Connecticut), and I went to college in upstate New York (Skidmore), so aside from a brief stint in Arizona and my time in Houston, I have enjoyed snowy winters my whole life.

Beyond discussing my climate preferences, I love cognitive neuroscience and am particularly fascinated by what the field can tell us



Darcy Burgund

about developing minds. My interest in developmental cognitive neuroscience is personal, as well as academic, as I have an 11-month old son who is developing rapidly right before my eyes. I try to resist engaging him in too many at-home experiments, but recently, inspired by some of my own research on letter recognition, I have started exposing him to a set of pseudoletters (unfamiliar shapes derived from real letters) that we use in the lab. Don't worry!--I expose him to real letters too. It's just fun to watch his developing mind as we play. So, that's a little about me; I look forward to learning more about you!"

Congratulations Jaine!

Outstanding teacher, creative and productive scholar, and superb contributor to the Macalester community, Jaine Strauss was named by President Rosenberg as the 2009 recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Award. The citation continues:

A native of Philadelphia, Jaine remained in the City of Brotherly Love to complete her undergraduate degree with honors in both English and psychology at Swarthmore College in 1980. She then moved north to the University of Rochester for graduate work in clinical psychology and completed her Ph.D. in 1985. She stayed in Rochester for two more years as a National Institute of Mental Health postdoctoral research fellow.

In the fall of 1987, she moved to Williamstown, Massachusetts to become a full-time member of the psychology faculty at Williams College. Jaine joined the Macalester faculty in psychology in the fall of 1993, and she, her husband, Mitch, and their children, Jacob and Chloe, moved to the Twin Cities. She was promoted to associate professor three years later and to her current position as Professor of Psychology in 2004.

Jaine is an astonishing teacher. She routinely mesmerizes students across the range of the psychological curriculum from Introductory Psychology, through intermediate and advanced courses in her areas of specialty. Her course "Distress, Dysfunction, and Disorder" (affectionately known as "3-D") is a legend in the department. It would draw over 100 students each semester if it weren't capped at 75. That may sound like a large, impersonal lecture course, but by week three, Jaine knows every student's name, where they grew up, and the combination of their high-school gym locker. That may sound like an exaggeration, but anyone who knows Jaine knows that she has a miraculous ability to remember people's names and tiny—but significant—biographical facts about their lives. That, together with a dazzling wit and a clear, trenchant teaching style, makes her irresistible to students and colleagues alike. This excellence in the classroom has not been overlooked. Jaine was recognized by the Minnesota Psychological Association in 1999 when she received the Walter D. Mink award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching and by Macalester in 2001 when she received the Excellence in Teaching Award. Virtually all students give Jaine the highest possible rating on end-of-course evaluations.

Jaine's research has focused on two psychological disorders: attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and eating disorders. She has published 22 articles on these topics, six with Macalester students as co-authors. Jaine has also made 39 conference presentations, ten of which included Macalester students as co-authors. In the 13 years between 1995 and 2008, 23 psychology majors completed their honors theses under Jaine's supervision—an astonishing accomplishment that indicates both her attractiveness as a research supervisor and her devotion to helping students produce high-quality research. In 1991, she was co-editor of a book on interdisciplinary approaches to studying the self, and she has published three book reviews. For ten years, she was a consulting editor of the *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, and she continues to be an ad hoc reviewer for several journals in psychology.

Jaine sets the bar very high in terms of serving the Macalester community. Since the fall of 1993, she has served on almost 40 committees including the faculty advisory council and the curriculum committee, as well as three terms on the faculty personnel committee that she chaired in 1999-2000. She has been chair of the psychology department for a three-year term, was the acting director of the Center for Scholarship and Teaching in 2006-2007, and is currently the director of the program in community and global health. In the wider community, Jaine has served on the Education and Training Committee of the Minnesota Psychological Association and is the current chair of that organization's Paterson Award committee. In these contexts, Jaine's sagacity, diplomacy, and pure intelligence make for a powerful force toward progress.

It's worth noting that despite Jaine's extraordinary gifts, she is extremely—almost painfully—modest. She does not enjoy having her talents pointed out to her. Some in the psychology department (the non-clinicians) have taken it upon themselves to conduct a program of systematic-desensitization so that Jaine will experience less distress, dysfunction and disorder in award-type situations—just like this one. You can be sure that she was hoping that this paragraph was going to be the last. If she is still in the room at this point in the citation, then real progress has been made.

Finally, Jaine is a trusted colleague and warm friend to many of us at Macalester. Ask anyone here who has met Jaine even briefly, and they will happily describe the ease with which one can feel her love for and friendship to the College and our community. Thomas Jefferson once said, "Friendship is precious, not only in the shade, but in the sunshine of life; and thanks to a benevolent arrangement the greater part of life is sunshine." He would be delighted to know that this award carrying his name is being given today to Jaine Strauss, a dazzling ray amongst us whose deep commitment to her students, passion for learning, and undying love for her academic community is truly our sunshine.



Jaine enjoying her feather boa!

Sarah Moskowitz to receive Mink Prize



Sarah Moskowitz

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.

Sarah Moskowitz is the Mink Prize winner for 2009. Sarah grew up in Golden Valley, Minnesota. While at Mac she worked as a program assistant in the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life for two years and now serves as one of the co-chairs of Macalester's Jewish organization. She worked one-on-one with a student at Bush Memorial Children's Center and volunteered/interned at Centro, C.L.U.E.S., and the Resource Center of the Americas.

Sarah is looking forward to her position in Chicago next year with the Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago; they do refugee resettlement work and help different immigrant populations to access services in the Chicago area. Her work there will be as a member of AVODAH which is a small, national Jewish service corps comparable to AmeriCorps.

Congratulations Sarah!

Sarah Tisel is our Paterson nominee



Sarah Tisel

The Paterson Award is given by the Minnesota Psychological Association to the most promising senior in Minnesota planning a career in psychology.

Sarah Tisel is our Paterson nominee for 2009. Congratulations Sarah!

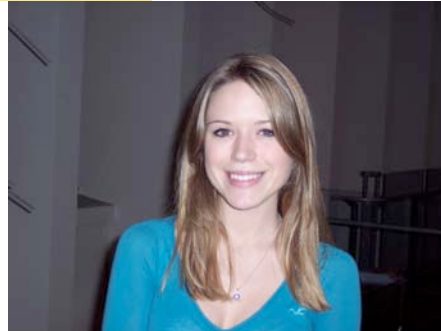
Sarah is from Minneapolis but actually went to school in the Netherlands where her parents were teachers in an American school in the Hague.

After graduation, Sarah is heading off to the NIH where she will do research in a pain lab researching the CGRP alpha and beta genes in mice. She plans to apply to medical school or to an MD/Ph.D. program in the future.

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.

Meg Soli is Rossmann Recipient

Meg Soli is our Rossmann Award Winner for 2009. Meg grew up in the Midwest. Her family currently lives in Albert Lea, MN. While at Macalester, Meg participated in Psych Club and Psi Chi. She interned at Washburn Center for Children and worked at Child Trends. After graduating, Meg will start working as a Research Assistant for Child Trends (a non-profit organization in the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation research consortium). Meg will be involved in many of the aspects of the research they are doing relating to Early Childhood Development. Congratulations Meg!



Meg Soli

The Rossmann Prize was established in 2005 to honor Jack Rossmann, Professor Emeritus of Psychology. It celebrates the accomplishments of a graduating senior psychology major who has an excellent academic record and has also made distinguished contributions in the application of academic psychology through activities such as applied research, internships or community service.

MUPC is Saturday, April 18

The 44th annual MUPC (Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference) is being held at the College of St. Benedict on Saturday, April 18th. The conference promotes undergraduate research in the field of psychology and will feature oral and poster presentations of student research. The keynote speaker is Dr. Laura A. King Professor of Psychology at the University of Missouri, Columbia. The conference is free and open to the public.

Please click the link [MUPC College of St. Benedict](#) for more information on this year's conference.

Pictures will be taken of Mac presenters and we will make a poster to be on display in the department.

Macalester is hosting MUPC next year.

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

Eric receives another honor!

The American Psychological Association, Division 6 (Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology) has selected Eric to receive this year's Clifford T. Morgan Award for Distinguished Service. This Award is given once a year to a member who is recognized by peers to have made a prolonged contribution in terms of both scholarly activities and service.

New Psychology Courses for Fall 2009

Senior Seminars

Psyc 488-01 Culture and Psychology

This seminar will examine the interplay of culture and the mind. In the first part of the course, we will briefly examine theoretical developments and methodological limitations in the field of cultural psychology, which has highlighted fundamental differences in models of the self, attention, perception, memory, morality, and emotion across East/Southeast Asians and Western Europeans/North Americans. The remaining time will be spent examining a series of topics on how culture and psychology interrelate in our increasingly globalized world. These topics include, but are not limited to, acculturation, multicultural identity negotiation, cultural evolution and reproduction, multicultural competence, emotion and memory across cultures, culture of gender, and culture of socioeconomic status. Culture and Context course. Prerequisite: Senior major or minor. Professor Sun No Tuesdays, 1:20-4:30 Olri 300

Psyc 488-02 Development in Context

This seminar will examine individual functioning and development using a social-ecological framework (i.e., we will discuss the ways in which the multiple contexts in which we live and interact with others impact our development and functioning across the lifespan). We will specifically focus on the roles of the family system, work and school, poverty/welfare, social support, health care, media, cultural values, national customs, and historical time in shaping development and functioning. Also discussed will be the ways by which individuals affect the ecologies in which they develop and live. Culture and Context course. Prerequisite: Senior major or minor. Professor Rachel Lucas-Thompson MWF 1:10-2:10 Olri 300

Intermediate Level Course

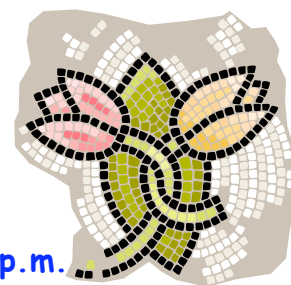
Psyc 294 Asian American Psychology

This course explores the psychological experiences of Asian Americans through readings from disciplines such as psychology, sociology, Asian American studies, as well as the popular media. The central question organizing this course is how academic research can inform the daily lived experience of Asian Americans. Topics include racialization and racialized imagery, how behavior is shaped by prevalent stereotypes of Asian Americans, negotiating bicultural/biracial identities, transracial adoption, immigration, acculturation, and mental health, among others. Culture and Context course. Prerequisite: Psychology 100 or permission of instructor. Professor Sun No MWF 1:10-2:10

Spring Dinner - Monday, April 13

Majors, minors and anyone interested in psychology or CNS are invited to the:

Spring Dinner --Monday, April 13, 5-6:30 p.m.
Olin Rice Smail Gallery.



This is an event you won't want to miss. Here are some highlights of the dinner: The world of Psychology at Macalester (slide show of events through the year), Great Italian Food from Buca, Experience the Punch Fountain, Pick up your new psych t-shirt, Psychology Mugs for all majors (Personalize your own mug), Music, Trivia Quiz with prizes, Class pictures, Announcement of new Psych Club & Psi Chi officers, Recognition of Award Winners, and what you can look forward to this year and next in Psychology.

Please let the psych office know if you are planning to attend so we have enough food.

Email schultzm@mac... or call 6223.

Mesmerizing Major: Will Butler



Will Butler

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

***Favorite Movie:** Blazing Saddles It's a classic comedy.*

***Favorite Book:** Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card*

***Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities:** Khan Mongolian BBQ*

***What do you do when you are not studying?** Practice music on electric bass, violin or piano*

***Where did you grow up?** Red Wing Minnesota*

***Interesting fact about your hometown:** It used to be the largest grain port in the world.*

***Tell us something about your family:** I am an only child. I have a cat "CC" who is 12 years old. Both my parents are teachers.*

***Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself:** I am proud to have been a National Merit Scholar and to be invited to join the CNS honor society, Nu Rho Psi.*

Psych Info Lunch – Thurs., April 9, 11:30, Olri 352

Are you contemplating majoring in psychology?

Are you a new major with questions
you would like to ask other majors?

If yes to either of these questions, you will want to attend the Psych Info Lunch on **Thursday, April 9, 11:30-1 in Olri 352**. At the lunch, each faculty member talks about the classes they teach and about their research. The faculty then leave the room so students can get the "real scoop." There will be several current majors there to answer any questions you might have about the major. There will be pizza, so please RSVP by calling 6223 or emailing schultzm@macalester.edu so we have enough pizza.

"Get the real scoop on the major. There will be several majors there to answer your questions."

Johnson Lecture – April 22, 7:00 p.m., Olri 250

Professor Walter Kintsch to deliver 2009 Johnson Lecture **in Olri 250 at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22**. Walter Kintsch is Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Colorado in Boulder. He retired from being director of the Institute of Cognitive Science in 2004. His research focus has been on the study of how people understand language, using both experimental methods and computational modeling techniques. In cooperation with the Dutch linguist Teun van Dijk, he formulated the first psychological process theory of discourse comprehension in 1978. In 1988, this work was reformulated as a constraint-satisfaction process. His 1998 book "Comprehension" summarizes the empirical and theoretical work from recent years. Kintsch received the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award of the American Psychological Association in 1992. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Humboldt University in Berlin in 2001. He has been Chair of the Governing Boards of the Cognitive Science Society and the Psychonomic Society, and President of Division 3 of the American Psychological Association. The accomplishment of which he is the most proud, however, is having been the dissertation advisor of Macalester Psychology major Beth Mulligan ('99).

And more babble . . .

Rachael Hanson '07 has been accepted into the MSW program at the University of Minnesota.

Ellina Xiong '09 is thrilled with her acceptance to the University of Minnesota School Psychology program in the educational specialist track. This is a 3 year program with licensure. Ellina is also a recipient of a 2009 Dean of Students Award. Congratulations Ellina

Shantee Rosado '09 received Macalester's 2009 Global Citizenship Student Award Winner. This honor is presented annually to the graduating senior who best demonstrates a commitment to the ideals and practice of high academic performance, internationalism, multiculturalism, and civic engagement.

Margaret Nigro '09 has been accepted into the University of Minnesota CSPP (Counseling & Student Personnel Psychology) to become a high school guidance counselor.

Macalester College

1600 Grand Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105-
1899

Phone:
651-696-6223

Fax:
651-696-6348

E-Mail:
schultzm@macalester.edu

*Be sure to check out
our website.*

Psych in the News

Schizophrenic patients' frozen faces harm social interactions

Non-verbal communication, in the form of facial expressions, may be impaired in people with schizophrenia. Researchers writing in BioMed Central's open access journal *Behavioral and Brain Functions* have shown that deficits in non-verbal expressivity in schizophrenia are linked to poor social skills and an unawareness of the thoughts and intentions of others. The ability to "mentalise", to accurately imagine the thoughts, feelings or intentions that another person is experiencing, is known to be impaired in schizophrenic patients.

Standing in Someone Else's Shoes, Almost for Real

From the outside, psychotherapy can look like an exercise in self-absorption. In fact, though, therapists often work to pull people out of themselves: to see their behavior from the perspective of a loved one, for example, or to observe their own thinking habits from a neutral distance. Marriage counselors have couples role-play, each one taking the other spouse's part. Psychologists have rapists and other criminals describe their crime from the point of view of the victim. Like novelists or moviemakers, their purpose is to transport people, mentally, into the mind of another. Now, neuroscientists have shown that they can make this experience physical, creating a "body swapping" illusion that could have a profound effect on a range of therapeutic techniques. At the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, Swedish researchers presented evidence that the brain, when tricked by optical and sensory illusions, can quickly adopt any other human form, no matter how different, as its own.

"You can see the possibilities, putting a male in a female body, young in old, white in black and vice versa," said Dr. Henrik Ehrsson of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, who with his colleague Valeria Petkova described the work to other scientists at the meeting. Their full study is to appear online in the journal PLoS One.

About Psycho-Babble...

Psycho-Babble is a monthly newsletter for Psychology and Cognitive and Neuroscience majors and other interested students. We welcome contributions from students and faculty. The goal of the newsletter is to inform the community of events, people and issues at Macalester and beyond.

Mid-Brains Conference is May 2!

Macalester is hosting the 3rd annual Mid-Brains conference on Saturday, May 2. All senior CNS majors will be presenting at the conference.