

# Psycho-Babble

*Macalester College/ May 2009*

## Important Dates

May 1 - Last  
Friday Social -  
Cake Celebration  
for Mary Claire

May 2 - Mid-  
Brains Conference  
held at  
Macalester

May 6 -  
Psychology Major  
Senior  
Conversations

May 7-11 - Finals

May 15 - 5:00-  
6:30 Reception  
for Graduates &  
Families

May 16 -  
Graduation

## Congratulations Class of 2009

Soon we will be saying good-bye to the class of 2009. It is always a poignant time for us and for our graduates. They are now concluding one of the most significant times in their lives and will look back on it often over the years. We know they are well prepared for the next step in their life journeys and we extend our congratulations and very best wishes to them all. And for the seniors reading this: Remember that we're still here for you even after you graduate!

### Psychology Graduates

(\* = Also CNS Major)

Kari Behrends  
Daniel Braman  
Sonia Burns  
Jennifer Chon  
Alexandra Cortes  
Marlene Delgado  
Katherine Dolezal  
Katherine Edwards  
Nicholas Frantzides  
Nikolai Golben  
Francisco Guzman  
Lisa Herndon  
\*Laura Hittle  
John Irvine  
Christina Kindred  
\*Daniel Lawder  
Kristin Lofquist  
Angela Marvin  
Sarah Moskowitz  
Mai Youa Moua  
Martin Mudry  
Alexander Nackenoff  
Sophia Ngo

Rebecca Nieber  
Margaret Nigro  
Allison Olmos  
Shantee Rosado  
Abby Russell  
\*Colin Smith  
Margaret Soli  
\*Sarah Tisel  
Erica Tohtz  
Erin Twamley  
Kayoua Vang  
Evan Welo  
Kevin Williams  
Ellinz Xiong  
Krista Yank  
\*Martin de la Presa-Pothier

### Cognitive & Neuroscience Studies Graduates

William Cohen  
Laura Hittle  
Daniel Lawder  
Colin Smith  
Sarah Tisel  
Jignasha Pandya  
Martin de la Presa-Pothier

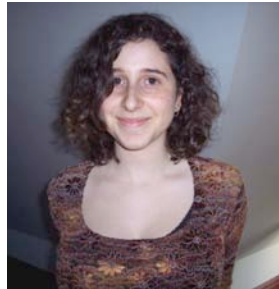


Class of 2009 at Spring Dinner



Hannah & Zoe

## Psych Club & Psi Chi Elect Officers



Both elections were close and we want to thank all who agreed to be nominated.

The officers for Psi Chi, the psychology honors society, are **Hannah Johnson & Zoe Jacobson**.

The officers for Psych Club are **Carly Klingensmith & Sophie Slote**.

Congratulations to our new officers!

Also a big thank you to our officers who served this year: Meg Soli, Becky Nieber, Evan Welo & Lisa Herndon.

**Carly & Sophie**



## Congratulations to our Honors Graduates

Congratulations to our 2009 Honors Graduates. They have successfully defended their theses and will graduate with honors. Our honors graduates and their theses are:

**Lisa Herndon with Kendrick Brown**

Voter Perception: Skin Tone Bias and the Electability of Black American Candidates

**Sarah Moskowitz with Jaine Strauss**

Motivation to Appear Non-Prejudiced:  
Implications for Willingness to Engage in Interracial Dialogue

**Mai Youa Moua with Kendrick Brown & Sun No**

The Relationship Between Hmong America Students and the Model Minority Stereotype

**Alexander Nackenoff with Eric Wiertelak**

Naltrexone Manipulation of Animal Gambling-Like Behavior

**Margaret Soli with Jaine Strauss & Jennifer Wenner**

Integrating Transitional Objects into a Therapeutic Preschool Classroom

**Sarah Tisel with Eric Wiertelak**

Developing Behavioral Measures Indicating Central Sensitization as a Plastic Process

**Erin Twamley with Kendrick Brown**

The Role of Gender Identity on the Effects of Stereotype Threat:  
An Examination of Girls' Math Performance in a Single-Sex Classroom

**Evan Welo with Jaine Strauss**

Mental Imagery and Basketball: The Effects of Cognitive Specific Basketball Imagery and Flow Basketball Imagery Interventions on Performance on a Basketball Shooting Task

## Promotions, Retirement & New Chair

Change is "acomin" to the Psych Department. First of all we want to congratulate **Brooke** on his promotion to Professor.

Promotion to the rank of Professor is an important achievement in an academic's career. It means that Brooke has made significant contributions to his academic field, to the department and to the college. Congratulations Brooke!

We also want to congratulate **Kendrick** on his promotion to Associate Dean of the Faculty. Kendrick will teach one course yearly in the psych department and will assist the provost and dean of the faculty with the administration of the college's academic program. He will have an office for 4 days a week at 77 Mac and one day in the psychology department.

A new chair for the department should be

named soon and we will let you know when a decision is made.

**Mary Claire** will be retiring at the end of this academic year. She has worked for the psychology department since 1996 and has been at the college since 1992. Besides facilitating the education of the students and the faculty she has initiated and contributed to the development of the student lounge, the wall of stars and to many of the departmental events (e.g. spring dinner, picnic, senior social, study abroad lunches, career forums, grad school panels). She says she's really going to miss the connection to the students and the wonderful faculty in the department. She is looking forward to traveling and spending winter in warmer climes and more time with her grandchildren.

## Great Food & Fun at Spring Dinner

The Third Annual Spring Dinner was held on Monday, April 13. This has now become an annual tradition where we honor the students receiving awards, our honors students, our new majors and the new officers for Psych Club and Psi Chi, the psychology honors society. The food (Italian from Bucas) was delicious and there was plenty of it. There was Italian music, a slide show of pictures from the year's events, and the Psych Trivia game (thank you Brooke). One table had 19 correct answers out of 25 and two tables tied for second with 18 correct answers. The psych leaders (Meg Soli, Becky Nieber, Lisa Herndon Evan Welo) presented Mary Claire with a card signed by students and a beautiful spring flower bouquet.

There are two posters in the computer lab with pictures from the dinner.



**Mary Claire thanking the students for their tribute.**



## Congratulations to our Psi Chi Inductees

*Psychology majors who have an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher are invited to join Psi Chi.*



Rachel Diamond, Molly Mayfield, Michelle Hood, Ellen Fitzharris, Julianna Carlson, Erin Twamley, Zoe Jacobson, & Alexa Rosenberg

## Mac Students Present at MUPC



Jillian Laffrey, Shantee Rosado, Mai Youa Moua, Christen Glass, Kayoua Vang & Mai Bao Xiong taking a break at MUPC.

The 44<sup>th</sup> annual MUPC (Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference) was held at the College of St. Benedict on Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>. Presenting at MUPC is something all psychology majors do before they graduate. There were 18 students from Macalester who presented their research. The posters used by the students will be hung in the center hallway.

## Walter Kintsch Delivers Johnson Lecture

Brooke Lea, Beth Mulligan '99 and Walter Kintsch. Beth was one of Brooke's first advisees at Macalester. Walter Kintsch was Beth's Ph.D. advisor at University of Colorado.



## Senior Conversations are May 6\*

Before the graduating seniors in the psychology major 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 6 this year. Seniors can sign up for an individual conversation which lasts about 25 minutes or a focus group with other majors which will last about 50 minutes.

\*Graduating CNS majors will have scheduled exit interviews between May 6 and May 12.

All participating seniors will receive a small gift.

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

## Reception for Graduates & Families

Invitations have been sent to the families of this year's graduates for the Psychology and Cognitive and Neuroscience reception. Each academic department hosts a reception from 5 to 6:30 on Friday, May 15.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the family members to meet the faculty and for the faculty to meet the families of the graduates. At this reception we attempt to take photos of the graduates and their families and post them on our website.

## Where Are They Going?

Our senior majors are all leaving, and we're sure going to miss them. Let's take a look at what their next steps are going to be.

**Erica Tohtz** will intern with a Washington State non-profit "Right of Passage Journeys"

**Margaret Nigro** will pursue an MA in Ed. Psych at the U of MN, hoping to become a high school guidance counselor

**Christina Kindred** will pursue a master's degree in public health at UCLA.

**Dan Braman** will be taking a road trip, then going back home for a job in mental health.

**Katherine Dolezal** will be biking to Washington D.C. on the Trek to Reenergize America and scheming up ways to go back to South America.

**Jenny Chon** will be applying to dental school and teaching English abroad.

**Kristin Lofquist** will be working two jobs this summer.

**Alex Nackenoff** will be pursuing a Ph.D. in Pharmacology at Vanderbilt University.

**Erica Tohtz** will intern with a Washington State non-profit "Rite of Passage Journeys"

**Krista Yank** will likely be working with the Notre Dame Mission Volunteers, Americorps in Chicago next year.

**Kayoua Vang** will pursue a degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

**Becky Nieber** will be a nanny in Minneapolis this summer, then plans to travel, while ultimately looking to pursue a master's degree in Social Work, hopefully abroad at University of Capetown.

**Shantee Rosado** will likely do non-profit work, then return to school in a year or two to pursue a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology.

**Meg Soli** will be starting work in Minneapolis at Child Trends doing research in Early Childhood Development.

**Sarah Moskowitz** will be in Chicago working at the Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago.

**Sonia Burns** will be working in an Adult Foster Care program for a year, then hopes to head to graduate school to pursue a Psy.D.

**Erin Twamley** will either get a research job in Washington D.C. or move to Hawaii with Lisa Herndon.

**Mai Youa Moua** will be taking a gap year working for Admission Possible for AmeriCorp, and then be continuing onto graduate school.

**Martin de la Presa-Pothier** will be spending the next two years as a Psychosocial Rehabilitation Specialist working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Marlene Delgado** will be moving back home, spending time with family, perhaps teaching abroad a year, then heading off to graduate school for Media Studies.

**Laura Hittle** will be moving back home, job hunting, and reconnecting with friends and family. I also will be competing in Irish Dance & attending a wedding in Mexico.

**Francisco Guzman** will start working in the Raices Youth program at Centro, a Minneapolis-based non-profit organization for Latinos.

**Nikolai Golben** will be finishing his portfolio, augmenting his programming skills, and hopes to do contracting work in graphic and web design.

**Abby Russell** will be an Associate Teacher at the Harlem Day Charter School, in New York.

## Mesmerizing Major: Faith Kwon

**Favorite Movie:** Every time I was home sick from school I watched *Singing in the Rain*. (Faith is a dancer.)

**Favorite Book:** *What is the What* by Dave Eggers

**Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities:** Everest on Grand

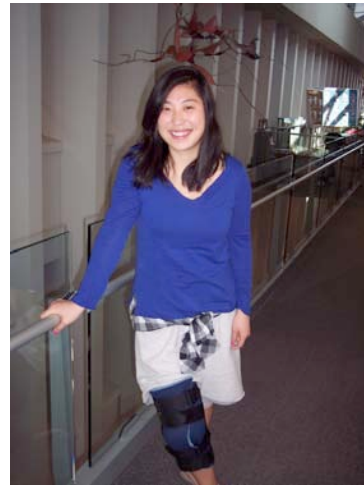
**What do you do when you are not studying?** Dance and watch television and shop on line

**Where did you grow up?** Palos Verdes CA

**Interesting fact about your hometown:** We have our own species of butterfly and it is actually a threatened species. Also our city has 6 micro-climates. *Pirates of the Caribbean* was shot a couple of minutes from my house.

**Tell us something about your family:** My dad was the number one tennis player in Korea from 1976 to 1979. And one time he played John McEnroe and won.

**Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself:** When I dislocated my kneecap I put it back myself before the paramedics came.



Faith (& her famous knee)

## And more babble . . .

**Anava Wren '03** will pursue her PhD in clinical psychology at Duke University

**Susan Long '01** will begin her career as an Assistant Professor at Lake Forest College this fall.

**Brooke Skinner Drawz '00** gave birth to a baby boy (Chase) on April 27, 2009. Brooke works as a counselor at the Wellness Center at Macalester.

## Psych in the News

### New Theory Of Autism Suggests Symptoms Or Disorder May Be Reversible

Scientists at Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University have proposed a sweeping new theory of autism that suggests that the brains of people with autism are structurally normal but dysregulated, meaning symptoms of the disorder might be reversible. The central tenet of the theory, published in the March issue of *Brain Research Reviews*, is that autism is a developmental disorder caused by impaired regulation of the locus coeruleus, a bundle of neurons in the brain stem that processes sensory signals from all areas of the body.

### Inherited Impulsivity Predicts Alcoholism, Study Reports

Solving the age-old chicken and the egg dilemma, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis researchers report that genetic predisposition to impulsivity is a trait predictive of alcoholism. The study appears on the July print issue of the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, available online on April 22.

*"genetic  
predisposition  
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### We're on the Web!

Check out the Psychology  
web page.

## Psych in the News (cont'd)

### Does Socializing Make Us Smarter?

Humans are social animals; we spend much of our time with others in groups. We are also wise. It is not our size, speed, or strength that distinguishes us from other mammals, but our intelligence. How might these two features -- being social and being smart -- go together? Article lead author Oscar Ybarra\* and his colleagues at the University of Michigan explored the possibility that social interaction improves mental functioning. In a series of related studies, they tested the participants' level of cognitive functioning, comparing it to the frequency of participants' social interactions. They found that people who engaged in social interaction displayed higher levels of cognitive performance than the control group. Social interaction aided intellectual performance. "Social interaction," the authors suggest, "helps to exercise people's minds. People reap cognitive benefits from socializing." They speculate that social interaction "exercises" cognitive processes that are measured on intellectual tasks. "It is possible," the authors conclude, "that as people engage socially and mentally with others, they receive relatively immediate cognitive boosts." \*The article, "Mental Exercising Through Simple Socializing: Social Interaction Promotes General Cognitive Functioning," written by Oscar Ybarra, Eugene Burnstein, Piotr Winkielman, Matthew C. Keller, Melvin Manis, Emily Chan, and Joel Rodriguez of the University of Michigan, and published by SAGE in the February issue of *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

## MidBrains Conference at Mac May 2

The annual MidBrains Conference was held at Macalester College on Saturday, May 2nd. MidBrains is the regional undergraduate neuroscience research conference of the Midwest United States, annually bringing together students and faculty from across the Midwest for student and faculty research presentations, discussions on graduate school and sessions about particular graduate programs.

Presenting at MidBrains is something all CNS majors do before they graduate. There were 6 students from Macalester who presented their research. The posters used by the students will be hung in the center hallway.