

Psycho-Babble

Macalester College/ September 2009

Calendar for Fall 2009 IMPORTANT DATES!!!

Monday, Sept. 14th
**Deadline for Study
Abroad Honors
Applications**

Tuesday, Sept. 22,
Study Abroad Lunch
11:30-1 in Olri 352

Wednesday, Sept. 23
MPA Distinguished
Scholar Lecture, 7:30
in Weyerhaeuser Bd.
Rm.

Thursday, Sept. 24
Psychology Department
Fall Picnic, 11:30 - 1
at Jack Rossmann's
house, 99 Cambridge

Thursday, Sept. 24
B.F. Skinner lecture
7:00 at the Mill City
Museum, Minneapolis.
(free)

Chair Talk from Jaine

Welcome back! We hope you all had just the right blend of relaxation, wonder, sleep, adventure, productivity, and contentment in your summers. A lot has happened here on the third floor of Olin-Rice since last semester. We are thrilled to welcome two new tenure-track faculty, **Darcy Burgund** and **Rachel Lucas-Thompson**, and our new department coordinator, **Lee Olson**. You'll find more information about all three later in this newsletter, and you will undoubtedly discover for yourself why we are so excited to have them in

the department. **Kendrick Brown** has started his new job as Associate Dean of the Faculty, but he'll still be teaching one course a year and he will be around the department most Thursdays.

We look forward to a very exciting year, with many great speakers, panels, and social events, and we hope you will participate fully in department activities. I am, as always, eager for you to stop by to discuss any ideas, suggestions, comments, or concerns. Best wishes from all of us as you start your Fall term!

Fall Picnic: Thursday, Sept. 24

The Fall Picnic is for anyone interested in psychology. It is a great time to chat informally with other students and to get to know the psychology faculty & staff members and to enjoy some delicious picnic fare (hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, fruit, veggies, chips, brownies & drinks). We'll gather at Jack Rossmann's home, 99 Cambridge (across the street from the Fine Arts parking lot) from 11:30-1:00 on

Thursday, September 24th.
Look for the signs!
Hope to see you there.



Past Fall Picnic

Getting to know our new faculty & staff

If you have not already met our new faculty and staff members, please stop by their offices, introduce yourself and give them a hearty Macalester welcome.

Darcy Burgund is in Room 330. She comes from Rice University in Houston, Texas, but she spent four years in the Twin Cities getting her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. She and husband, Kevin are proud parents of their 17 month old son, Nicholas. Darcy knows snow and ice, loves cognitive neuroscience, and is excited about teaching Mac students.

Rachel Lucas-Thompson is in Room 323. She finished her doctoral work in Developmental Psychology at the University of California, Irvine. Her husband, Dan Graham, is also teaching in the Psych. Dept. at Macalester. She too knows our winters, growing up in Chicago, and she did her undergraduate at Beloit College in WI. She, too, is excited to start at Mac.

Lee Olson sits in Mary Claire's chair. Lee was previously Department Coordinator in Anthropology since 2007. She serves on Mac's Sustainability Committee and is passionate about such issues. Her family lives on the West Side of St. Paul with a dog, two cats, six chickens and a gerbil. She, too, is happy to be in the Psychology Department.



Darcy Burgund



Rachel Lucas-Thompson



Lee Olson

MPA Distinguished Scholar Lecture

Dr. Travis Thompson, Professor in the U of MN Department of Pediatrics and affiliated with the Department of Pediatrics Autism Clinic and the Ctr. for Neurobehavioral Development, will speak on Autism Early Intervention, Brain Development and Genetics on **Wednesday, September 23rd at 7:30 p.m.** in the Weyerhaeuser Board Room. Dr. Thompson will be speaking about an Intensive Early Behavior Therapy that develops language and social skills among approximately half of children with autism spectrum disorders, and reduces fixed non-functional routines sufficiently, that after two or more years of therapy, their intellectual

functioning is within the typical range and they are able to participate in regular education.

This lecture is jointly sponsored by the Macalester Psychology Department and the Minnesota Psychological Association. The lecture is free to the general public and the Macalester community. A reception at 7:00 precedes the lecture.

Dr. Thompson has worked in the field of developmental disabilities as a researcher, teacher and clinician for over 35 years. He has published over 240 articles and chapters and 27 books, including *Self-Injurious Behavior: Genes - Brain and Behavior*.

*Dr. Thompson
received a major
award for his
"Exceptional
Contribution to
Basic Behavioral
Research and its
Application"*

Study Abroad Lunch Sept. 22 11:30

Each semester we look forward to this event. Students who studied abroad last semester tell us about their study abroad experiences and offer tips for those thinking of studying abroad. Students who were abroad last semester are:

Jen Agans Thailand

Marie Godwin Denmark

Sara Gottleib India

Emily Hamilton Denmark

Hannah Johnson New Zealand

Jessica Kaneakua Denmark

Allison Kloth Greece

Sarah Minkoff Argentina

Jane Robinson Chicago

Rosemarie Sese Denmark

Tiffany Stoddard England

Joelle Taknint India

Lisa Weinberg Denmark

The lunch will be in Olri 352 and will be subs, chips, fruit & drinks. A representative from the study abroad office will also be there to answer your questions.

Mesmerizing Major: Christen Glass

Favorite Movie: Paid in Full

Favorite Book: One Hundred Years of Solitude

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Big Daddy's BBQ

What do you do when you are not studying? I love to work out: lifting weights, running, B ball,.... you name it.

Where did you grow up? St. Paul, MN

Interesting fact about your hometown: I was born in St. Paul, I guess that's interesting!

Tell us something about your family: I'm very thankful for every one of my family members .



Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: I've made it to my senior year!

Computer Lab Usage

All psychology students are welcome to use the psychology computer lab located in Olin Rice 354 when it is NOT being used by classes. The lab will be open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We ask that you keep in mind three things when using the lab. !



1. **Remember to log - off** a computer when you are done. If you do not log off, anyone using the computer after you will have access to all of your network files and other information.

2. **All unnecessary or personal files will be deleted on Fridays.** Please use your own discs or network file space to save your work. Otherwise, you will be a sad camper when your work is deleted on Fridays.
3. **If a computer is not working notify Brooke Lea** via email (lea@macalester.edu) and we will handle it. Thank you very much for your cooperation in keeping our lab running efficiently and reliably.

How Well Do You Know the Psych Department?

Members of the psychology department did many different things this last summer. Can you match the person with the correct description?

1. Kendrick Brown
2. Eric Wiertelak
3. Jaine Strauss
4. Brooke Lea
5. Darcy Burgund
6. Rachel Lucas-Thompson
7. Sun No
8. Jamie Atkins
9. Lee Olson

- a. Worked on 2 manuscripts and is becoming a parent
- b. Drove 500 miles on 4 road trips and saw many, many soybean and cornfields
- c. Moved from southern U.S. to northern U.S. and likes to hear about possible October snowfalls in MN
- d. Grew garlic, broccoli and egg plants for first time and marveled at Mesa Verde, CO
- e. Broke into the finals of a dance competition
- f. Managed a major feline meltdown on a four-hour airplane ride
- g. Worked with poets and rap artists (all in the name of science)
- h. Spent 5 weeks in Japan with 90* weather and 60-70 percent humidity
- i. Went to cabin a lot and had some "staycations" to get things done at home



*Correct answers are on
the last page*

Change to major requirement

Last Spring, the department decided to amend slightly the upper level course requirements for the major. The new requirement reads as follows:

Three upper level courses (courses numbered 301 or above). At least one of these courses must have a substantial student-led component. A list of such courses will be available on the department website each semester. A 4-credit independent study, internship, or preceptorship may also fulfill one of the upper level course requirements with prior departmental permission.

The key change is that, instead of requiring all majors to complete a senior seminar, we now ask that all students take at least **one** class with a significant student-led component. Courses with student-led components will vary in their structure, but all will feature students taking responsibility for leading at least 45 minutes of class. Senior seminars will almost always fulfill this requirement, but other advanced courses may as well. This semester, two courses have student-led components: Development in Context and Culture and Psychology. In Spring 2010, four courses will meet this requirement: Psychology of Language, Mind Reading, Mood and Anxiety, and Inside the Animal Mind: Peering into Skinner's Black Box. This requirement can be fulfilled on by courses taken at Macalester.

The change applies to all current students. If you are unsure how the change affects your major plan, please consult with your advisor and/or department chair, Jaine Strauss.

And more babble.

Abby Katowitz '07 will attend Tulane Law School this fall.

Russell & Rebecca Swinburne Romine, both Psych '01 alums, were joined by baby Rosalyn Claire Swinburne Romine on April 30th, 2009.

Raphael Kaplan '07, will be attending graduate school in Neuroscience at University College--London.

Rachel Wannarka '99, received her Ph.D. in Special Education this spring from Penn State University. She is now a visiting professor at Mount Union College in Ohio - Kendrick's alma mater!

Psych in the News

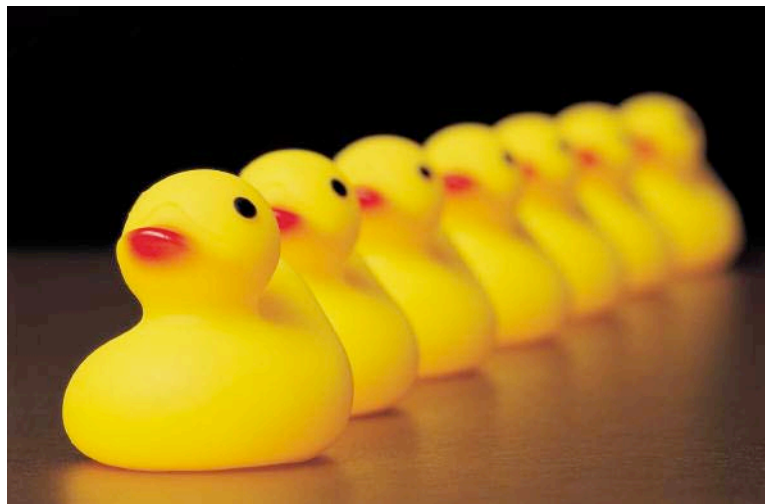
Rats With Part of Brain Deactivated Move Toward Food But Do Not Eat

ScienceDaily (Sept. 9, 2009) Scientists led a rat to the fatty food, but they couldn't make it eat. Using an animal model of binge eating, University of Missouri researchers discovered that deactivating the basolateral amygdala, a brain region involved in regulating emotion, specifically blocked consumption of a fatty diet. Surprisingly, it had no effect on the rat wanting to look for the food repeatedly. "It appears that two different brain circuits control the motivation to seek and consume," said Matthew Will, assistant professor of psychological sciences. "Understanding how this circuit in the brain works may provide insight into the exact networks and chemicals in our brain that determine the factors influencing our feeding habits."

To read more <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/09/090908151334.htm>

Early Life Nurturing Impacts Later Life Relationships, Prairie Vole Study Finds

ScienceDaily (Sept. 9, 2009) Researchers at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Emory University, have demonstrated that prairie voles may be a useful model in understanding the neurochemistry of social behavior. By influencing early social experience in prairie voles, researchers hope to gain greater insight into what aspects of early social experience drive diversity in adult social behavior. The study is currently available online in a special edition of *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience* that is focused on the long-term impact of early life experiences. More <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/09/090831213202.htm>



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We're on the Web!

*Check out psychology or
CNS at Macalester.edu*

Free B.F. Skinner lecture at Mill City Museum

A lecture, titled "From Bombsights to Insights: Spinoffs of B.F. Skinner's Secret WWII Lab in the Washburn A Mill" will take place Thursday, September 24th at 7:00 at Mill City Museum in Minneapolis. Professor Gail Peterson of the U of M Will tell the story of how B.F. Skinner and a few of his U of M Graduate students became involved in a World War II project to teach pigeons how to guide a "smart bomb" to its target. In the process, Skinner made a new and genuine basic science Discovery that has had a lasting impact on both theory and Practice in psychology, with common applications ranging from animal training to the treatment of autism.

Answers to the Quiz...

The correct answers to the quiz are: 1 (h), 2 (e), 3 (b), 4 (g), 5 (c), 6 (f), 7 (a), 8 (i), and 9 (d).