

# Psycho-Babble

Macalester College/ October 2010

## Chair Talk from Jaine

The weather has suddenly turned brisk, a sure sign that the Fall term is well underway. As you labor away on papers, projects, and exams, please know that the Psychology Department is equally busy. Two particular projects may pique your interest. First, the department is in the midst of redesigning our website. Our new site will, we hope, provide you with a more user-friendly experience as you seek out commonly used links, and it will

focus more heavily on ongoing research in the department. The new page will not be online until later this term, and we'll be eager for your reactions. Second, our Psych student leaders (Sylvia Ferguson, Ellen Fitzharris, Faith Kwon, Ruben Peña, and Colin Westcott) have begun to plan activities for this year. They have some great ideas, and they really want to increase student involvement. Please feel free to contact them about ideas you have for Psych Club events. Best wishes for a terrific October!

## Important Dates for October

Friday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>  
Deadline for Interest  
Form for Study  
Abroad

Wednesday, Oct. 13,  
12:00-1:00 pm All  
About Internships  
Lunch Olin-Rice 352

Wednesday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>  
MPA Distinguished  
Scholar Lecture 7:00  
pm  
Dr. Kathleen Vohs

Colleen Moore visit  
Oct. 20 - 21

Thursday & Friday,  
October 28 & 29 - Fall  
Break

FRIDAY SOCIALS -  
3:20 p.m. by the  
Awards Wall

## All About Internships Lunch

We will have a lunch panel on **Wednesday, October 13** at noon in Olri 352 with students who have done or are currently doing internships. Someone from the internship office will also be there to answer questions.

The Psychology Department encourages students to consider doing an internship. The "real world" experience is an invaluable addition to the major.

Watch for more information on this as participants are confirmed.

Jamie Atkins maintains a list of internship opportunities, so she is a great resource, in addition to your advisor.



*The "real world" experience is an invaluable addition to the major."*

## Report from Study Abroad Lunch



Ten fellow students who have studied abroad shared their experiences, good and bad, to a group of interested students at the Fall Study Abroad Lunch.

Paul Nelson, Study Abroad Coordinator from the International Center explained changes to this year's procedures for proposals to study abroad. There is now a single deadline for study abroad, whether you are thinking about it for the Fall of 2011 or Spring of 2012. Both require an interest form that is due October 8<sup>th</sup>. He suggest that students first meet with their academic advisor to determine that they could graduate as planned with an added trip and then meet with a study abroad advisor.

Finally.....

All said that much of what you learn about yourself and about other cultures does not happen with the academics of the study abroad but all the other aspects - travel, host families, language and becoming involved in a different culture.

Thanks to all the participants, and look for another Study Abroad Lunch this Spring.

Some of the things we learned at the lunch: you don't necessarily have to select a Macalester approved program but it is advisable if you want the high academic standards we're used to at Mac; doing a home stay has proven to be a very positive experience, but also stay in communication with your program if the "fit" doesn't seem good.

The students who studied abroad last semester told us about the academics (some were way too easy and some challenging). Some of the students directly enrolled and some were in a program. Being part of a program is good if the dominant language is not English - e.g. China, Chile, etc.



## Colleen Moore

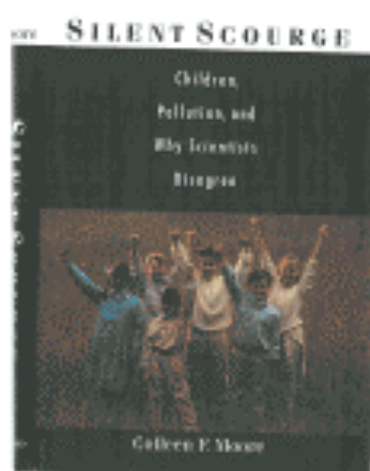
Colleen Moore, Professor of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, specializes in the study of children's psychological development. Her 2003 book, *Silent Scourge: Children, Pollution, and Why Scientists Disagree* focuses on the impact of pollutants on children's intellectual functioning, behavior, and emotional states. She has recently published a new book, entitled *Children and Pollution: Why Scientists Disagree* that examines the policy making process in greater depth. In her spare time Colleen enjoys outdoor activities and swimming.

Colleen teaches courses in Environmental Psychology, The Psychology of Religion, The Psychology of Risk, and the Madison Psychology Department's signature course on Analysis of Variance. Check out her website for an extremely useful set of routines for conducting complex analyses using the program "R" [R for Psychology 610 index](http://psych.wisc.edu/moore/)

Her current research interests include Environmental Psychology, Moral Evaluation from a Developmental Standpoint and the Developmental Effects of Prenatal Alcohol Exposure and Stress.

For more information, or to contact Colleen see her website: <http://psych.wisc.edu/moore/>

Colleen Moore will be on the Macalester campus October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. Watch for opportunities to hear her speak and meet with her.



## Introducing . . . . .



MACALESTER PSYCHOLOGY

These little guys need names! Enter your suggestions to Lee for a prize for the best names. The psych leadership will vote on the winners.

And watch for them in future Psycho-Babble newsletters. Like "Where's Waldo", find them and let Lee know what page they are on and win a cookie or treat.

Thank you, Sylvia Ferguson, for this beautiful artwork.

## Sustainability & Psychology

Want to get together with other psych students and brainstorm what sustainability (social, economic, and environmental) means to the field of psychology? That's a loaded question, sure to create an interesting discussion.

There will be an exhibition of artwork or creations about sustainability from different department at Macalester on Saturday the 9th as part of the Macalester 10-10-10 [350.org](http://350.org) Global Day of Work/Party to Fight Climate Change. There will be a brainstorming party with food and art materials for us to work together on the Psychology department's creation at a date yet to be determined. Other actions and work projects are being planned for 10/10/10 that you can also get involved in.

Interested students should contact Christie Manning at [cmanning@macalester.edu](mailto:cmanning@macalester.edu).

## Mesmerizing Major - Zoe Jacobson



Zoe Jacobson

*Each month we randomly select a psychology or NS major to be our mesmerizing major for the month.*

**Favorite Movie:** Garden State

**Favorite Book:** *The Last Witchfinder*, by James Morrow

**Favorite Place to Eat in the Twin Cities:** The Good Earth

**What do you do when you are not studying:** attempting to cook or bake (and force feeding my creations to my roommates)

**Where did you grow up?** New York City

**Interesting fact about your hometown.** Over 47% of NYC residents over the age of 5 speak a language other than English at home.

**Tell us something about your family:** My parents used to have their own folk/rock group, and wrote and recorded original music.

**Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself:** When I was 14 I taught myself how to read Braille.



## Psych Students tell us what they do (when not studying)

**Ellen Fitzharris:** This year I am in Fresh Concepts (performing improv comedy group) and am volunteering at The Avanti Center for Girls.

**Vera Sidlova:** I have off-campus student employment through the CEC and work at the Center for Victims of Torture. I also volunteer on the IGC Student Council and on the Community Matters planning committee.

**Sylvia Ferguson:** I'm in Art Alliance and Psych leadership this year.

**Julianna Carlson:** On campus orgs: Macalester First Aid, MPJC-SDS, Mac Activists for Choice. Volunteering: Minnesota Coalition for School-Based Health Care

**Lauryn Gutierrez:** MacPics, Women's Soccer, Voices of Tamani, SAAC

**Tom Fendt:** I am the environmental task force leader for MPIRG, and a part of the Macalester gaming Society.

**Candace Groth:** I am in the MacYarn Club and I also work at the Information Desk in the Campus Center.

**Ella Bandes:** Macalester Fall Dance Performance, Volunteering as a mentor for Free Arts Minnesota Interning as a Resource Counselor for Tubman and I will be tutoring math at Maxfield Elementary School.

**Mollie Mayfield:** Co- Public Health Task Force Leader for MacPIRG and Intramural Soccer (coup d'etat).

**Maja Palmquist:** I'm a group leader for the Thursday night volunteering group that goes to the Jeremiah Program.

**Rachel Diamond:** I'm a Tour Guide Coordinator this semester. I'm also going to be involved in a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream directed by a recent Mac grad.

**Hannah Strauss-Albee:** I'm currently doing varsity water polo, volunteering at Open Arms, intramural basketball, and outing club.

**Caitlin Opperman:** Golf team, Amnesty International - co-chair, Irish dance and Mac Weekly - sports editor.

**Ellen Coble:** I'm a newly accepted Sirens member and am playing on the girls' lacrosse team this year!



## More Psycho-Babble. . . . .

Former volleyball student-athlete, **Marie Godwin '10**, was selected as the new chair for the NCAA Division III National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) in the committee's last meeting in July held at NCAA Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. As chair, Godwin will not only preside at National SAAC meetings but also will serve as the committee spokesperson to the media and represent the committee at various NCAA and outside group functions.

"It is such an honor to be on the committee in the first place, but to also be identified as the leader of a group of outstanding student-athletes and leaders is a tremendous compliment," said **Godwin**. "I look forward to leading this group going into the January 2011 NCAA Convention."

**Joe Ptacek '10** is working as a psychometrist with the Minnesota Epilepsy. He reports "The training process is slow but steady. I have to learn the proper way to administer a ton of assessments, which measure intelligence, memory, attention, perception, academics, and sensory/motor ability. These help my bosses, the neuropsychologists, more fully understand the extent to which a patient's cognitive functioning has been affected by epilepsy. We also sometimes test patients who have been referred for a suspected learning disability or ADHD. They say it'll take me about a year (!) to feel fully comfortable doing everything around the clinic. This is a bit intimidating, but I'm in it to win it."

"I'm very glad to have the job. It's related to my interests, and it's lucrative. It's the perfect thing to do before jumping into the whole grad school thing - which I'm planning on doing in one or two years."

**Daniel Lawder '10** is a member of the 2010 entering class of University of Michigan Law School. Michigan received about 6500 applications for admissions and accepted 350.

## Congratulations to all our alumni.

## Pictures from the Picnic



## MPA Distinguished Scholar Lecture - Dr. Kathleen Vohs

On Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00, Dr. Kathleen Vohs, Associate Professor and McKnight Presidential Fellow, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota will present on the *Psychology of Money* in the Weyerhaeuser Boardroom. All are welcome to attend.



Welcome new Psych majors!

Steffanie Fisher 2013  
Hannah Strauss-Albee 2013  
Stefan Dumlao 2011  
Leah Rue 2012  
Chloe Souza 2012  
Lauren Silberman 2012

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