

Psycho-Babble

Macalester College / April 2012

Chair Talk from Brooke

Important Dates

**Wednesday,
April 11 MPA
Distinguished
Scholar Lecture
7:30
Weyerhaeuser**

**Tuesday, April
17, 5:00 Old
Main 4th Floor,
Psi Chi Induction**

**Saturday, April
28, MUPC -
Gustavus**

**Wednesday, May
2,
Through out day
Senior
Conversations
Lunch at 11:30**

Nominate a Psych Leader!

It's time to nominate and select Psych Leaders for next year! These majors play an important role in creating and maintaining a high quality of life for all psych majors. They 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. Leaders can 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. Any psych major can be nominated to serve as a psych leader.

Serving as a psych leader comes with all kinds of benefits, 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. You can nominate yourself, or someone else.

Just send the appropriate name to me or to Lee Olson by **Monday, April 16**. The decision about next year's psych leaders is made jointly by the current psych leaders and the department faculty and staff.

So step up and be a leader – or find someone who you think will help make the department a fun and fruitful place next year!

Happy Spring! -Brooke

Senior Conversations - May 2

Before graduation seniors leave campus, we like to have an informal conversation with you about your experience as a psych major. The feedback from these conversations plays an important role in future planning for the department. 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. All participating seniors will receive a small gift and lunch. Please contact Lee to sign up.

Sylvia Ferguson to receive Mink Award



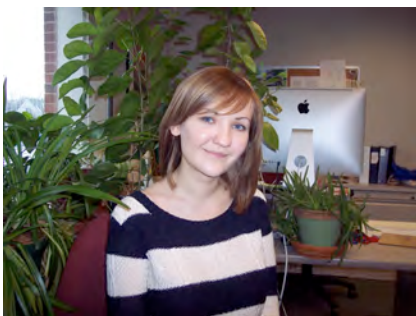
The Mink Prize was established in memory of Walter D. Mink, professor of psychology from 1958-1996. This prize is given to a senior who has a strong academic record and has also provided outstanding service to the department, the college or the broader community.

Maja Palmquist 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.



Masha Kuznetsova is Rossmann recipient



This prize honors 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.

Psych Leaders - Spring 2012

Bo Scarim, Masha Kutnetsova,
Allison Divine and Jade Johnson.



Did you know that on our
psychology department
homepage we have a link to all
the syllabi for the Psych/NS
classes?

Good to know!

Careers in Psychology Panel - A Wealth of Information



Mac Psych Alum presenters at the
Career Panel: Zoe Jacobson '11,
Kevin Williams '09, Abby Gutmann-
Gonzalez '11 & Stefan Dumlaio '11.

Some tips from the Career panel:

- *Look for chances now to introduce yourself to a potential employer through internships, volunteering, and networking
- *Always have a plan B because "stuff" happens
- *Consider America Corps because even if it doesn't pay well, the knowledge and experience is vast and they pay \$5,000 towards student loans or graduate school and they have health insurance
- *Even a bad job or a bad experience teaches you something
- *The economy is bad now but don't get bogged down by rejections. It's out there somewhere.

Interested in Epidemiology and Community Health?



**MPA Distinguished
Scholar Lecture -
Simone French - April
11th 7:30**

Psycho-Babble.....

Igor Stanceric '12 and **Tan Do '12** were BOTH selected for the Presidential Leadership Award, the most prestigious of the Community Recognition Awards! They will be honored at a lunch ceremony on Tuesday, April 24.

Rachel Diamond '11 has been accepted into Emory University's graduate program for this fall.

Grace Snell '03 will be enrolling in the Yale University nurse-midwifery program in the fall (2012). After graduating from Macalester, Grace completed an M.S.W. degree with an emphasis on social and economic development at Washington University in St. Louis. From 2008-2011, she was a clinical lab manager in the Department of Psychiatry at Washington University, and since last September she and her husband have been living in Haiti where Grace has been working at a midwife-run birthing center just outside Cap Haitien.

MUPC is Saturday, April 28

The **Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference** is **Saturday, April 24** at Gustavus Adolphus. This is the 47th annual Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference. This one day annual conference promotes undergraduate research in the field of psychology and will feature oral and poster presentations of student research. The keynote speaker is **Laurie Santos**, an Associate Professor of Psychology at Yale University and the director of Yale's Comparative Cognition Laboratory where she and her graduate students study the evolutionary origins of human thinking. She also conducts her research with primates at the Cayo Santiago field station off the coast of Puerto Rico and the Lemur Conservation Foundation Myakka City Reserve in Florida. Dr. Santos received her A.B. in Psychology and Biology from Harvard University in 1997 and her Ph.D. in Psychology from Harvard in 2003. She started teaching at Yale in 2003. In 2007, Dr. Santos was selected as one of Popular Science Magazine's "Brilliant 10" young scientists and in 2010 was an invited speaker at the TED Global Conference. Recently, Dr. Santos received the 2012 APA Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contributions to Psychology in animal learning and behavior. Dr. Santos explores the topic of human irrational behavior, examining where it comes from and whether there is an evolutionary basis for our biased decision-making.



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

Keynote speaker:
Laurie Santos

Mesmerizing Major: Caitlin Opperman



Caitlin Opperman

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

Favorite Movie: The Illusionist

Favorite Book: The Polar Express

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Brasa

What do you do when you are not studying? cook, irish dance, play golf, and work on the Mac Weekly

Where did you grow up? Denver, Colorado

Interesting fact about your hometown: Every year Denver hosts the National Western Stock Show, the world's largest rodeo.

Tell us something about your family: My mom is from Waltham, Massachusetts, and my dad is from Fargo, North Dakota. They met as neighbors in Denver. The house we live in now is exactly one block from where they met.

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: Two friends and I founded the annual Kick Out AIDS tournament on campus, which benefits a Twin Cities organization that provides educational opportunities to AIDS orphans. And I am left-handed!

Amanda Wenzel ('10), currently a graduate student at the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota, was just awarded a three-year graduate research fellowship from the National Science Foundation. This very competitive award provides a stipend and monies to support travel and professional development. More information from the NSF GRF website: "The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited United States institutions. As the oldest graduate fellowship of its kind, the GRFP has a long history of selecting recipients who achieve high levels of success in their future academic and professional careers. The reputation of the GRFP follows recipients and often helps them become life-long leaders that contribute significantly to both scientific innovation and teaching. Past fellows include numerous Nobel Prize winners, U.S. Secretary of Energy, [Steven Chu](#), Google founder, [Sergey Brin](#) and [Freakonomics](#) co-author, [Steven Levitt](#)."

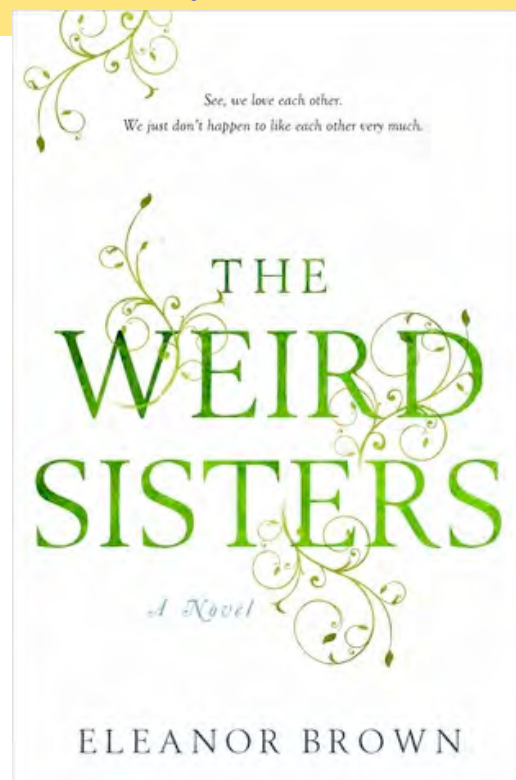
Majors Who Are Seniors: Major Plan!

Planning to graduate in May? If so, then now is the time to check your major plan to make sure you've taken care of all of your requirements. Please meet with your advisor and/or Brooke Lea (Chair of Psych Department) to get this important paperwork taken care of.

Summer Reading Suggestion: The Weird Sisters by Mac Psych Major Eleanor Brown '95

The Weird Sisters tells the story of a trio of sisters — the studious, responsible one, the chic city girl and the free spirit — who all move home after their mother is diagnosed with breast cancer. But what they don't tell anyone — even each other — is that their returns home are all motivated by other things. They are all getting away from something.

The family has an interesting dynamic — avoiding any deep conversations instead digging into books, which they frequently quote from (especially their Shakespeare professor father). And although the sisters don't always like each other, they



certainly love each other and that comes through again and again in the book.

Macalester College

1600 Grand Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105-
1899

Phone:
651-696-6223

Fax:
651-696-6348

E-Mail:
lolson4@macalester.edu

*Be sure to check out
our website.*

Welcome New Majors!

Elise Hollinger '14 New London, NH
Chloe Kaulas '14 Chicago, IL
Soo Yang Lee '14 Seoul, South Korea
Kayleigh Roach '14 DeForest, WI Neuro
Megan Schwartz '14 Meadville, PA Neuro
Theresa Piela '14 Amherst, MA
Nadine Rooney '14 Benson, MN
Evan Myers '14 Kansas City, KS
Cleo Nagn '14 Eugene, OR
Drake Myers '14 Kansas City, KS Neuro
Kathryn Hathaway '15 Plymouth, MN Neuro
Emma Leyden '14 Berkeley, CA

About Psycho-Babble...

Psycho-Babble is a monthly newsletter for Psychology 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.