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Chair Talk from Joan

Welcome to the time of year when daylight lasts longer, the air starts to feel a bit warmer, the snow begins to melt, and we get to continue to build community here in the Psychology department. We have lots of wonderful events to look forward to, so please read this Psycho-Babble carefully and plan to join us for at least some of them. Before I highlight some of the events in late March, I want to share - as I also did via an email - news of the exciting conclusion of our search for a new faculty member who

specializes in the Psychology of Race and Racism. I am thrilled to announce that Morgan Jerald will be joining the faculty as a tenure track Assistant Professor beginning in the Fall of 2018. Jerald is completing her doctorate in personality and social contexts psychology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Her research focuses on ways in which awareness of media stereotypes of Black women influences Black women's well being. This fall, she will teach Psychology of Gender and a section of Directed Research. Over the next few years, she will also be teaching RPII and advanced seminars on the Psychology of Race and Racism and the Psychology of Black Women.



On March 27th, eight psychology major alum will be returning for an Alumni Career Night. They will share their experiences and wisdom related to getting their jobs and working in various settings in and around the Twin Cities. We will have perspectives from people working in business, government, and non-profit settings and doing work ranging from human resources to domestic violence prevention. We'll also have great food for dinner! Look out for more information. That same week, on Thursday the 29th, a group of us will be attending psychology major alumna Danai Gurira's '01 play *Familiar*, which is opening at the Guthrie this month. It'll be a great week for many of us to engage with the exciting work of many of our wonderful alum.

MUPC - All Directed Research students -- Save the Date!

The 2018 Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference (MUPC) will be held on **Saturday, April 28** at Carleton College in Northfield, MN. Dr. Robert Sapolsky will be this year's keynote speaker. The [website](#) will open for submissions February 15th and close April 6th.

Brain Awareness Carnival

Come celebrate your brain with Macalester's own Behavioral Neuroscience students!

Thursday, March 1st
Small Gallery 11:30 - 1:20



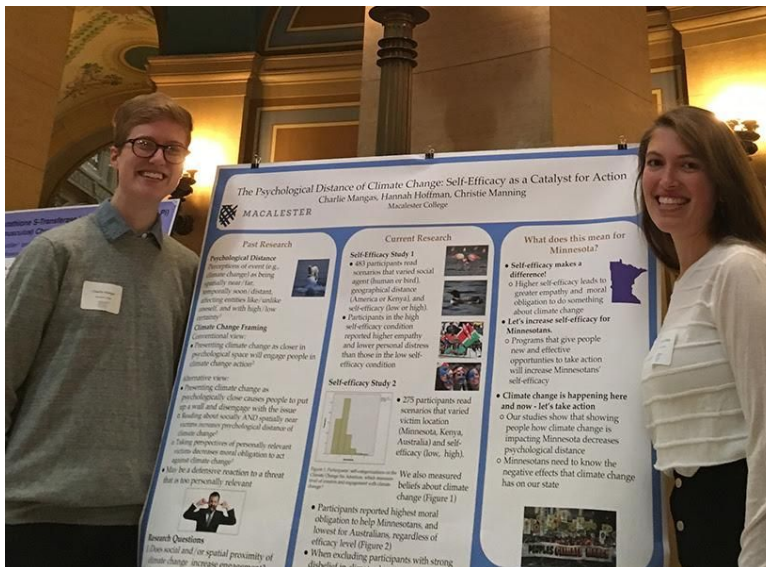
Brain Awareness Week Carnival - Thursday, March 1 11:30 - 1:00

Join the Behavioral Neuroscience students and Neuroscience Studies student workers in Small Gallery on Thursday for Brain Awareness Week activities. There will be carnival-like games with prize tickets good for carnival food (pizza, nachos, popcorn, veggies & dip and root beer floats). It will be fun!

Career Panel Tuesday, March 27 at 5:30 in Olri 352

Heather Bourne '17, mental health associate at Abbott Northwestern; **Mbemba Camara '14** mental health case management; **Rowan Hilty '16**, research assistant at Child Trends; **SungEun Hong '17**, HR at US Bank; **Dung (Jessica) Pham '16**, research assistant at Wilder Foundation; **Heather Renetzky '15**, J-Pride Program Coordinator for Jewish Family and Children's Services; **Meggie Royer '17**, domestic violence and sexual assault prevention; and **Kevin Williams '09**, Ramsey County policy planning analyst, will be joining us for a dinner gathering where they talk about their careers in psychology-related fields. Shish will cater. Please RSVP to Lee by Friday, March 23.

Psych Majors in the News



Charlie Mangas and Hannah Hoffman presented research they completed this summer, with Professor Christie Manning, at this year's Scholars at the Capitol event. From Mac Daily 2/28/18 submitted by Christina Manning, Environmental Studies and Psychology.

'18 - '19 Honors?

Are you a junior interested in applying to do an honors project next year? The department honors application deadline is April 1st. Please talk to your advisor soon if you are thinking about submitting a proposal. More information can be found [here](#).

Study Away Panel

Big thank you to our Study Away panel! **Olivia Shaffer, Mirella Greenberg, Maija Assaf, and Allison Gammons** answered lots of questions about their study away programs and had wonderful insights for an audience of students considering their options.



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Science Museum of Minnesota

Have you in the past, or do you currently, **experience mental illness(es)**? Are you interested in **promoting a message of health and hope** in your community in regards to mental health and well-being? If so, the Science Museum of Minnesota is looking for you!

As a part of a new exhibit opening about mental health at the museum, the design and development team is looking for **community members willing to share their stories**.

The museum is seeking young adults at Macalester who have experienced mental illness that may be interested in **submitting photos** of themselves for our exhibit introduction component. In these photos, we are asking that contributors hold up a sign with written, brief statements about their experiences.

The museum is currently looking **especially for male-identifying participants**, though **we will be happy to accept photos from anyone that submits!**

If you are interested in participating or simply learning more about the exhibit/component, please email exhibit design and development intern Ashante Alford at aalford@macalester.edu OR aalford@smm.org. [Science Museum of Minnesota flyer](#).



Cynthia Fisher - Minnesota Psychological Association

Distinguished Scholar Lecture - Tuesday, April 10 5:30 in JBD



Words, sentences, and conversations: How children use sentence and discourse structure to learn about words

Cynthia Fisher, Ph.D., University of Illinois

In just a few years, children learn thousands of words. Traditional accounts assume that children learn word meanings largely by linking each word to the objects or events it accompanies. The research my collaborators and I have been doing suggests that children use at least two other sources of information to learn the meanings of words. One source is syntax. From an early age, children begin to learn the syntactic rules that govern how words in their native language can be combined. Our research shows that syntax guides early word learning. When learning verbs in particular, children begin with a bias to map distinct nouns in sentences onto distinct participant-roles in events; as a result, toddlers conclude that “He’s blicking him” means something different from “He’s blicking”. The second source of information is discourse continuity. Young children expect sentences in a conversation to be meaningfully related. Our work shows that this expectation allows children to use the conversational context to recover missing parts of sentences. For example, toddlers use the context question “What’s Mom doing?” to make sense of a partial answer, “Blicking the baby!” In this way, partial knowledge of sentence structure, and of the structure of conversation, as well as the objects and events in view, guide early word-learning.

Did you know?

The Psychology gives three awards each year to graduating seniors. Our department award recipients will be announced in the April Psycho-Babble. The awards are:

Jack Rossmann Award - honors a graduating senior psych major who has an excellent academic record and has also made distinguished contributions in the application of academic psych through activities such as applied research, internships, or community service.

Walter D. Mink - 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.

Paterson Award nominee - The Paterson is given by the Minnesota Psychological Association to the outstanding college senior planning a career in psychology. The purpose of this award is to recognize and encourage high achievement in psychology at the undergraduate level. The psychology department nominates one person for this award.

Psycho-Babble

Simon Sanggaard '15 is entering Yale's doctoral program in biomedical engineering.



Mesmerizing Major - Dennis Sotelo Martinez

Favorite Movie: The Sixth Sense

Favorite Book: Very hard to pick just one but it'll have to be *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Fogo de Chão

What do you do when you are not studying? When I'm not watching Netflix, I love to go hiking around the Mississippi River or exploring Minnehaha Falls. I enjoy being outdoors and tackling the many trails Minnesota has to offer.

Where did you grow up? Chicago

Interesting fact about your hometown: Aside from being known as the "Windy City," Chicago has also been called the "City of Big Shoulders" in reference to hard workers of the city's earlier years when it was a meat-packing industry.

Tell us something about your family: We love watching scary movies and sharing scary stories, especially at night.

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: With graduation just a few short months away, I am proud of the people I have met and have helped me get this far. I am proud to be the first in my family to graduate (but not the last!) and am especially pleased to have gotten to know the psych department professors. I am grateful for their support and guidance.

Psych T-Shirts for Sale

There are psych t-shirts from past years on sale for \$2 in Lee's office. Stop by and get some summer or gym gear! We have some small, medium, and large left in four different designs in blue colors.

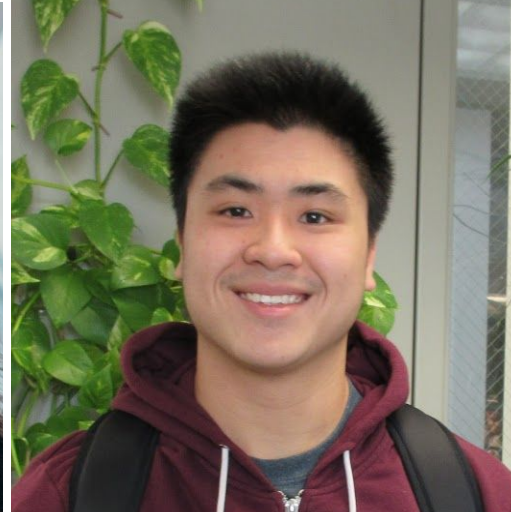
Welcome New Psychology Majors



Cody Suesser '20 Ripon, WI



Maya Shenoy '20 Kirkland, WA



Antony Gor '20 Sugar Land, TX



Brooke Offenhauser '21 Cottage Grove, MN

Opportunities

Internship opportunity for rising juniors or rising seniors with an interest in immigration or criminal law, incarceration, or the well-being of children.

Children of Incarcerated Caregivers (CIC) is a Minneapolis non-profit dedicated to researching and advocating for policies and programs that improve the lives of children whose caregivers are incarcerated. CIC is once again offering a paid internship for one Macalester student, to work with a team of U of M graduate students.

It's a 20 hour a week commitment from May 29 - Aug. 31. Macalester applications are considered on a rolling basis, but no later than March 10. Applicants should email their resume and cover letter to Julie Matonich (info@cicmn.org). Pay is \$3,500. Email questions to Macalester professor Paul Dosh, who serves on the CIC board (dosh@macalester.edu).

www.macalester.edu

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