

We've Got Issues

Willamette University Psychology Department Quarterly Newsletter

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From the Editor

Well, here we are at the end of the fall term. I hope your fall semester classes went well and that you will all study hard for all those finals professors at Willamette like to give. As we come to the end of the semester, there are some issues for each of you to consider, issues that vary depending on what graduation class you are in.

If you are a sophomore major, hopefully you have all taken or are enrolled for next semester in PSYC 252, Research Methods and Analysis I. We really gear this course for our sophomores and hope that students will have a solid foundation regarding research methods prior to taking a lot of 300-level courses. If you have declared a major in psychology and are a sophomore and have not yet taken or enrolled in this course, please see your psych advisor about this. Also, we encourage students who are thinking of going abroad in their junior year to try to do so in the fall rather than the spring semester. We have a senior internship/thesis orientation class for our junior majors in the spring semester that assists students in setting up their senior experience. Although students can

set up experiences on their own, we strongly encourage students, whenever possible, to try to go abroad in the fall.

Juniors, it is not too early to be thinking about life after Willamette (cringe!). Depending on where you hope your path will take you, you should think about the experiences you can obtain now that will help you reach your goals. For example, if you are planning on going to graduate school, you should learn what courses you need on entry to the program(s) you wish to attend. For those considering Ph.D. programs, it is vital that you have research experience prior to graduate school (yes, even for applied programs like Clinical or Counseling Psychology programs). You also should plan when to take the GREs (whether you hope to go straight into graduate school or plan to take some time off). If you are going to pursue professional programs like medicine, law, or teaching, you should start exploring programs and plan for how you will complete any entrance requirements they have (e.g., LSATs, MCATs). Feel free to talk with the psych department faculty should you have ques-

tions about career and school options.

Seniors, one more semester to go! Hopefully, you have already thought about and planned for life after Willamette. Many seniors get nervous as they approach graduation, especially if they haven't yet solidified their post-Willamette plans. If you are still trying to figure out what you plan to do after graduation, feel free to talk either with the psych department faculty or Nancy Norton in the Career Development Office. Many students don't have immediate plans to attend graduate school even if they hope to do so in the future, and there are many interim opportunities for recent graduates. If you have the need, talk with us and find out about your options.

The psych department faculty wish everyone good luck on finals and a happy holiday season. We look forward to seeing everyone back on campus in January.

Sincerely,
Meredy Goldberg Edelson

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Mark Your Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events...

Friday, December 10th
Last Day of Classes

December 11th, 12th and 15th

Study Days

December 13th—18th
Final Exams

December 8th, 25th, and 26th

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa!



HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!

Internships & Opportunities...

Wediko New Hampshire Summer Program. Wediko is a non-profit organization with 70 years of service to children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders. They have paid summer internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students who would like a unique learning and training experience within their psycho-educational residential milieu. If you are interested, please contact Robert Johnston, Summer Program Administrative Coordinator (617) 292-9200 rjohnston@wediko.org. You may also visit www.wediko.org for more information

The Arc of Washington Trust Fund is a fifty year old trust which provides funding to researchers in the field of mental retardation. They are conducting a program of stipends of up to \$5000 each, which will be awarded in 2005-2006 to upper division or graduate students who have a demonstrated interest in the field of mental retardation. Applications and additional information is available in the Psychology Office, Smullin 220.

And Now A Word From Psi Chi...

Psi Chi applications are available in the Psychology Office. If you are interested, please stop by Smullin 220 and ask Elizabeth for one.

Find the Famous Psychologists...

More about our visiting professors...

I was born and raised in a small suburban town in Marin County, California called Novato. I grew up with both parents and three older brothers, two of whom are married with children. I have 3 nieces and 2 nephews with another one on its way and I spoil them any chance I get. On my mother's side of the family, I have 15 first-cousins, more than 20 second-cousins and 2 third-cousins and on my father's side, I have 4 first-cousins and 6 second-cousins. My family continues to grow so it is hard to keep track.

I went to Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) and majored in mathematics. While at SRJC, I discovered that I liked psychology more than mathematics and changed majors to experimental psychology. I transferred to the University of California, Davis and learned about child eyewitness testimony and the suggestibility of children and graduated with my Bachelor's of Science in Psychology with a minor in Statistics.

I have returned to my northwest roots after many years away. I grew up in the Tri-Cities, Washington, and graduated from high school in Bellevue, Washington. I graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, where I was fortunate enough to have the experience of studying abroad in France for my full junior year. I took my French and Psychology major combination with me to Colorado, where I spent many years at Colorado State University working towards a Master's and Ph.D. in counseling psychology.

I love learning about how people "tick", and I really enjoy the role of counselor, helping people work through the challenges in life. I worked specifically with students struggling with learning and attention difficulties for three years, and developed a strong interest in this area. My research has been on health psychology issues, particularly the social impact of disease and the impact of disease on intimate relationships.

At the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), I learned about the physiology of the brain, perceptual system, cognitive processes, learning and most importantly memory from their graduate program. UNR instilled how both teaching and research are important in academics by training all of the experimental psychology graduate students in both areas. I have taught since my second year in graduate school and specialize in memory and face perception research. I became active with the Experimental Psychology Club and helped to bring colloquia speakers from other universities and presented at various conferences. I spent five years in Reno procuring my Ph.D. and spent the sixth year teaching full-time in their psychology department. I am currently at Willamette University teaching Introductory to Psychology classes and Cognitive Processes and look forward to teaching Memory in the spring.

—Jill Yamashita

I completed my predoctoral internship in Indiana, at the University of Notre Dame, and was thrilled to be offered the opportunity to return to the northwest to teach at Willamette... research and counseling are both fascinating, but teaching is where my true passion lies. On a more personal note, I have been married to my husband Tim for nearly five years, and we have one almost-two-year-old daughter and another daughter due before this semester ends. We are the proud parents of a pretty-but-challenged Great Pyrenees dog, and in reality do very little in the way of activities or hobbies...I sleep whenever a spare moment arises! I am enjoying my time here at Willamette, and look forward to getting to know more of the students in this department as the year moves on.

—Staci Simmelink-Johnson



Willamette University
Psychology Department
Quarterly Newsletter

Meredy Goldberg Edelson, Editor
253 Smullin Hall
503/370.6133

Elizabeth Martineau
Layout & Production
220 Smullin Hall

Please deliver to:

More recent conformity studies

www.willamette.edu/cla/psychology

Psychology Department Faculty—Spring 2005 Courses

Meredy Goldberg Edelson

Professor

253 Smullin Hall, 503/370.6133

medelson@willamette.edu

Human Responses to Stress, Seminar: Child Sexual Abuse

Jim Friedrich

Professor & Department Chair

259 Smullin Hall, 503/370.6435

jfriedri@willamette.edu

Research Methods & Analysis II

Anthony (Tony) Hermann

Assistant Professor

252 Smullin Hall, 503/370.6427

ahermann@willamette.edu

Internship/Thesis Orientation, Theories of Personality, Major Internship I, Seminar: The Self

Staci Simmelink-Johnson

Visiting Professor

260 Smullin Hall, 503/370.6964

(Tuesdays, Thursdays)

sjohnson@willamette.edu

Introduction to Psychology, Abnormal Psychology: Adult

Sue Koger

Associate Professor

201 Smullin Hall, 503/370.6341

skoger@willamette.edu

Research Methods & Analysis,

Biopsychology

Larry McBride

Associate Professor

254 Smullin Hall, 503/370.6425

(no email address)

Introduction to Psychology, Developmental Psychology: Adolescence, Psychology of Learning

Mark Stewart

Associate Professor

208 Smullin Hall, 503/370.6661

mstewart@willamette.edu

On Sabbatical Spring 2005

Jill Yamashita

Visiting Professor

260 Smullin Hall, 503/370.6964

(Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays)

jyamashi@willamette.edu

Introduction to Psychology, Memory: Theory & Applications
