

We've Got Issues

Willamette University Psychology Department Quarterly Newsletter

From the Chair...

Wow, another academic year is coming to a close! I hope your semester is winding down (or up!?) well. We congratulate our 38 seniors who are getting ready to graduate and go on to new adventures. Hopefully, our juniors are excited and busy planning for their senior internships. Sophomores have had the bittersweet realization that the Research Methods and Analysis sequence is nearly over, and first year students can take pride in having their first year of college nearly complete. The Psychology faculty has enjoyed working with all of you, and hope you've had a great year!

We are proud of three of our senior majors who were invited to stand for Psychology Honors this year. We invite you to attend their presentations on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at 6:30pm in Smullin B17. *Cason Schmit* will speak about "Base Rate Errors and Applications to Victim Profiling: An Epidemiological Study of Drowning;" *Lauren Bucholz* will present "Caring for Developmentally Disabled Children: Reducing Stress and Aiding in Family Adjustment;" and *Jordan Charboneau's* thesis is entitled "Is Reason for Referral Predictive of Placement Disruptions Among

Foster Care Children?: Some Surprising Results." Please join us for refreshments before the presentations begin.

Sadly, our faculty is saying goodbye to three colleagues at the end of this term. First, I want to acknowledge a very valued member of the Psychology faculty: Professor Loren (Larry) McBride is retiring from Willamette after 36 years of service. We thank Larry for all he has done for our students and community in his long career with Willamette. We will miss him, and hope he enjoys a happy and healthy retirement!

Staci Simmelink-Johnson and Amy Ramos are also leaving at the end of this term, and moving on to other opportunities. Staci has been with us as a visiting professor since 2004 as a replacement for faculty sabbaticals and leaves, but unfortunately, three years is the limit for visiting faculty appointments. Amy was hired for this academic year as a Lausanne Graduate Fellow, teaching one course per term and conducting research that involved some of our students. We appreciate the contributions both Staci and Amy made to our department and curriculum, and wish them the

very best in their future endeavors.

We are happy to welcome a new faculty member: Melissa Witkow, a Developmental Psychologist, will join us to fill Professor McBride's position. In the fall, she will be teaching Introduction to Psychology, Developmental Psychology: Lifespan, and a Topical Seminar entitled Peer Relationships. Please help us in welcoming Melissa to campus next semester.

I hope you all enjoy the final weeks of the semester, good luck with finals, and we'll see most of you back in the fall. Seniors, please remember to bring your families to the Psychology Department Open House on graduation day, Sunday, May 13th from 12:00 - 1:45 pm outside the Psychology offices on the second floor of Smullin, and accept our sincere congratulations for all your good work!!

Sincerely,
Sue Koger, Ph.D.
Professor & Chair

April 2007

Volume 7, Issue 2

Inside this issue:

And now, a word from Psi Chi...	2
Psychology Club	2
Congratulations Graduates!	3
Psychology Faculty	4
Psychology Cartoon	4

Mark Your Calendar...

April 24

Honors Candidates' Presentations, Smullin B17 at 6:30pm

April 18

Student Scholarship Recognition Day—No Classes

May 1

Last day of classes

May 2, 3 and 6

Study Days

May 4-9

Final Examinations

May 13

Commencement and Psychology Open House For Graduating Majors
2nd Floor Smullin Hall
12:15pm - 1:45pm



Have a
Great
Summer!



And now a word from Psi Chi...

Psi Chi is a national honors society for psychology majors. Currently at Willamette Psi Chi membership issues and activities are organized and administered in conjunction with the Psychology Club. If you are interested in joining Psi Chi or have any questions, please feel free to contact the Psi Chi advisors, Professor Hermann and Professor Miller. Also, information about membership requirements and the national organization can be found at www.psichi.org. Applications for Psi Chi are available in the Psychology department office in Smullin 220. Please join us in congratulating the newest members of Psi Chi:

Janna Chaney

Mary Klann

Kimi Sato

Psych Club's First Year...

As the 2006/2007 school terms ends, the Willamette Psych Club concludes its first full year in existence. We want to say thank you to the senior members that helped start the club and wish them the best of luck as they graduate from Willamette. Our goal is to bring more interest to the club and increase membership for next year.

What does Psych Club do you ask? Well, Psych Club does a lot of things ranging from hosting psychological movie nights, eating M&M's, and talking about psych related issues. Most recently we visited the Oregon National Primate Research Center located in Beaverton. We even let Professor Miller, Hermann, and Ramos join in on our fun. Diana Gordon and Kris Coleman of the ONPRC gave us an overview of the research center and the goals they strive for while working with the primates (non-human primates – in case you were wondering).

More than 3,000 primates live at the research center, as well as various rodents, birds, and fish. Primates at ONPRC, on average, live 10 years longer than if they were in the wild. For all of you wondering about the ethical treatment of the monkeys, don't worry, they are well taken care of. Every primate is required to have an annual dental and physical check-up. Each housing fixture, home to 30 to 45 Rhesus monkeys each, is equipped with heaters for the winter and water-misters for the summer. Every fixture has a giant metal play wheel and plenty of perches and various structures to climb on. Monkeys that were rescued from Japan are housed in six 1-acre corrals and one 2-acre sector. We were able to see monkeys in the fixtures and the corrals.

On top of the tour, we learned about some psychological research going on at the center. A monkey's temperament can be an indicator of success in paired housing, similar to freshman year roommate assignments at Willamette. Researchers are also examining behavioral tendencies that may indicate depression. Baby Rhesus monkeys, once weaned from their mothers, usually handle the transition well. But a few monkeys have a hard time adjusting to the separation. Researchers are looking at the causes of the monkeys' depression in hopes of developing new strategies to help human children deal with parental separation (e.g. divorce).

Overall, our trip to ONPRC was a success and was topped off with a delicious sushi dinner. Anyone interested in joining Psych Club should contact Professor Miller (millerj@willamette.edu). Also, I forgot to mention that monkeys are sometimes given foraging manipulanda. A foraging manipulanda is a small handheld puzzle that, when solved, dispenses food. We talk about this stuff at Psych Club meetings all the time, so come join the fun. Who knows, perhaps we will make our own foraging manipulandas that dispense M&Ms.

-Joey Elcano



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You're Invited!



What: Open house

Who: Graduating psych majors and their families

When: Sunday, May 13th, 2007
12:15pm—2:00pm

Where: 2nd Floor Smullin Hall

Congratulations to our 2007 graduates...

Kalli Bermingham
Joshua Bilbrew
Lauren Bucholz
Carolyn Burns
Karly Camerer
Janna Chaney
Jordan Charboneau
Danielle du Nann
Sharon Gavrilovic
Evan Glick
Kendra Graham
Mariah Hanson
Eric Hill-Tanquist

Phoebe Keever
Mary Klann
Tamara Ko
Mariah Lett
Sarah Lewis
Dana Londe
Carlie Lund
James Morris
Jeffrey Morris
Timothy O'Donnell
Jaris Oshiro
Matthew Rasmussen
Shanley Roxburgh

Kimi Sato
Cason Schmit
Natalie Schroeder
Sterling Stein
Reyna Swift
Ashley Tallmadge
Allison Tenold
Laura Uhlmansiek
Ellie Waterhouse
Danea Watson
Paige Whiteside
Lauren Yamasaki

Just for Fun...

A ROGERIAN DAY

Patient to Rogerian therapist: I'm really depressed.

Therapist: I see. Yes. You are depressed.

Patient: Nothing is going well.

Therapist: Nothing well.

Patient: I feel like killing myself.

Therapist: You're thinking of killing yourself.

Patient: Yes, I'm going to do it NOW.

Therapist: You want to do it now (after the patient jumps out window)

Source: <http://www.psy.pdx.edu/PsiCafe/Just4Fun/Jokes/RogerianDay.htm>



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Quarterly Newsletter**

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Topical Seminar: Peer Relationships
