

We Have Issues

Willamette University Psychology Department Quarterly Newsletter

April 2008

From the Chair

Volume 8, Issue 3

Wow, another semester is winding down– or should that be winding up?! We congratulate the seniors, who are finishing up their theses, preparing for graduation and planning new adventures. Juniors are busy planning their senior internships, and Sophomores are coming to the bittersweet realization that the Research Methods and Analysis sequence is nearly over. First year students can take pride in having their first year of college nearly complete! We congratulate and extend best wishes to Quyen Nguyen, who will be defending her Honor's thesis entitled " Mnemonic Consequences of Multiple-Choice and True/False Questions: For Better or For Worse?" Please join us for her presentation on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 6:30pm in Smullin B17.

We also commend Acacia McGuire for successfully competing for a Carson Undergraduate Research award. She will be working on her project, "The Identifiable Victim Effect: Testing Ego Depletion Accounts of Numeracy & Reasoning Style Influences", this summer with Professor Friedrich.

In another "graduation" of sorts, Professor Hermann and his wife will be moving to Peoria, Illinois this summer, where Tony will begin a new faculty appointment as an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Bradley University. They have decided to move to be closer to family in the mid-west. We will miss Tony's enthusiasm and commitment, and wish him all the best in his new position.

After three years of serving as Department Chair, I am delighted to turn the reins over to Professor Stewart at the end of this academic year. Please stop by and congratulate him on his new position! Meanwhile, I'll be taking a sabbatical for 2008-2009, during which I'll be working on a new edition of the textbook, *The Psychology of Environmental Problems*.

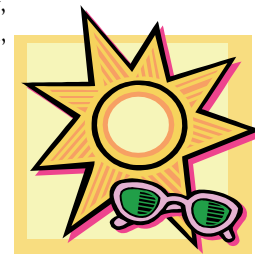
Because several of us will be on leaves and with Tony's departure, we welcome back Dr. Staci Simmelink-Johnson to teach Abnormal Psych: Adult, a seminar on Human Relationships, Major Internship I, and to help supervise senior theses; Dr. Carmen MacMillan to teach Introduction to Psychology, Techniques of Counseling, and Personality Psychology; and Dr. Karen Solomon (Prof. Miller's predecessor), will teach Cognitive Processes.

All the best finishing up the semester, good luck with finals, and we'll look forward to seeing most of you back next fall. Seniors, please remember to bring your families to the Psychology Department Open House on graduation day, Sunday, May 11th 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, PhD

Professor & Chair



Have a Great
Summer!

Mark Your Calendar...

April 29

CLA Last day of classes

May 2-7

CLA Final Exams

May 11

Commencement

Inside this issue:

A guide to job hunting 2

Open House Invitation 3

Psychology Faculty 4

For our seniors...A Guide to Job Hunting

Chapter 1 - The Resume

Your resume is a crucial document that summarizes the essence of your being to a potential employer. You must grab a personnel director's attention with your sheer, overpowering wonderfulness, or your vitae will wind up lining the bottom of her parakeet's cage. Write a boring resume and you might as well run down now and join the other unemployed grads behind the appliance store, fighting for the choicest refrigerator carton to live in.

To grab an employer's jaded eye you must create the written equivalent of a banshee wail! Print your resume on hunter's orange paper, so it nearly leaps out of the stack. Experiment with striking fonts, and use as many as possible. Writing your name in 2-inch high 3-D Western style letters at the top says "Check ME out! I'm no shrinking violet!"

Now that you've achieved that visceral "oomph," it's time to polish the contents to bring out or even invent your positive qualities. Remember, a skilled wordsmith can transform any qualification or attribute, no matter how trifling, into a salable skill. Let's look at some examples of putting the best "spin" on a job seeker's skills:

*"I flipped burgers for three weeks at Lardee's."
A mere burger flipper? Why sell yourself so short?
Describe yourself as a "Grill Coordinator," or perhaps a "Culinary Technician."*

*"I subbed in for my nephew's paper route one weekend."
Ah! So you were previously employed in "Communication Services!"
Describe yourself as a "Journalism Representative."*

*"I spent the last five years sitting on a couch eating Cheetos and watching Charlie's Angels reruns."
You can transform the pathetic into the energetic by referring to yourself as a "Consumer Broadcasting Specialist." Let them know how much time you've wisely invested in "Popular Drama Studies."*

*"I worked in telemarketing."
Die you scumbag.*

*"I like to drink 3 or 4 bottles of Night Train wine and pass out in a puddle of my own urine."
I see! An "Alternative Hygiene Researcher" who throws himself into his work!*

Always remember to use active, "can-do" language in your resume, and be sure to include as many of the following terms as possible:

- 1.Excellence (can't get enough of this one!)*
- 2.Goal-oriented*
- 3.Forward-thinking*
- 4.Like Working with People (as opposed to zoo animals)*
- 5.Striving (everyone likes a striver!)*

Chapter 2 - The Interview

So now you've got that big chance to shine in person. Once again, you've got to stand out from the crowd! First, consider your apparel carefully. Gold lame harem pants will leave a lasting impression, as will a nice fish or penis tie, available in classier novelty stores. Make these items staples of your professional wardrobe.

Next, practice that handshake, and consider adding a little thumb twist maneuver or a good high-five. And remember, no one likes shaking dry, chapped hands, so make sure yours are damp when you leave the restroom. Now jump right in, and distinguish yourself with your first words. Here's some suggestions for opening lines:

- 1."The voices told me I'm perfect for this job."*
- 2."I can make an impressive incendiary device from just your tie, that pen, and a quart of anti-freeze."*
- 3."Maybe you can't tell, but I'm not wearing any underwear."*
- 4."Let's make this fast, I'm late for my medication."*
- 5."The foil wrapped around my head is to block out invisible rays."*
- 6."I was once abducted by a UFO, and the aliens let me pilot their starship."*
- 7."I brought my invisible friend, is that okay?"*
- 8."I have the gift of second sight, and if you step on Flight 109, it will be your last!"*

Now that you've made a big impression, make sure you'll have plenty of time to expound upon your finer qualities. Consider handcuffing yourself to the interviewer's desk, or perhaps smear super-glue on your hand and grab them while shouting "Wonder twin powers, activate!" Conclude the interview as notably as you began it. A gratuity is always welcome, so palm the interviewer a crisp new dollar in the closing handshake while saying "Guess Mr. Washington and I have this job wrapped up, huh? (wink, wink)" And certainly don't forget the follow-up! Unless a restraining order has been obtained by the employer, call collect every hour thereafter to remind them of your sincerity.

Source: <http://www.psy.pdx.edu>

Congratulations to our 2008 graduates...

Kelsey Anderson
Lauren Andrzejewski
Abigail Blake
Meghan Brandt
Holly Carson
Jessica Chapman
Julie Christine
Grace Conger
Blair Cuny
Peter Drummond
Joseph Elcano
Molly Engle
Benjamin Fennimore

Brett Gardner
Sean Gilleran
Shannon Gima
Robin Haase
Amy Hixson
Casey Jarzombek-Clark
Christopher Johnston
Ian Mansfield
Nichole Martes
Emily Maxwell
Dylan McIlhenny
Rachel Moritz
Thanh-Truc Nguyen

Julian Nolan
Grace O'Brien
Ashley Pendelbury
Natasha Peter
Amanda Quesenberry
Gabriela Satris
Anna Simpson
Michael Smith
Michaela Struck
Kimberlee Thomas
Holly Winter
Joleen Woodlief

You're Invited!

What: Open house

Who: Graduating psych majors and their families

When: Sunday, May 11th 12:00pm—1:45pm

Where: Smullin Hall, 2nd Floor



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www.willamette.edu/cla/psychology

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*Introduction to Psychology, Stress & Health,
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ship I*

Sue Koger

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Jeremy Miller

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Junior Leave Fall 2008

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*Abnormal Psychology: Adult, Seminar: Human
Relationships, Major Internship I*

Karen Solomon

Visiting Professor
Cognitive Processes

Courtney Stevens

Assistant Professor
*Introduction to Psychology, Cognitive Neuro-
science*

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