

We've Got Issues

Willamette University Psychology Department Quarterly Newsletter

From the Chair

Hello!

It's hard to believe we've already arrived at mid-semester! It's too late to say "Welcome back!" and too early to say "Good luck with finals!" But it's just the right time to say congratulations to five senior psychology majors who have agreed to be candidates for departmental honors this year. Katy Long, Ally Neary, Leslie Radin, Matt Snodgrass, and Lindsay Washington will be completing their senior experience papers—their thesis or scholarly paper for an internship—as honors projects to be evaluated by their respective three-member Honors Committees this spring. The process culminates in a public presentation and "defense" to take place in April. Let's wish them well in the work ahead of them!

Fall term is a time when everyone seems to be thinking of the work that lies ahead. Indeed, it's a critical planning time for junior and senior ma-

jors. For seniors looking for B.A.-level employment, it's not too early to start taking advantage of Willamette's Career Services Center (2nd floor UC) and exploring the range of opportunities out there for people with a psychology background. The staff is a great source of assistance in examining goals and priorities, identifying effective search strategies, and preparing appropriate application materials. For seniors anticipating application to graduate school, this is a critical time for making sure you've registered to take necessary entrance examinations like the GRE's, the LSAT's (for law school), and those for a host of programs in education, medicine, business, and other areas. Application deadlines for various programs and scholarship opportunities start coming up as soon as late November, so there's no time like the present to begin your explo-

rations in earnest! For juniors, this is also a critical time for beginning to plan out the balance of your major program. For students studying abroad in the spring, it's particularly important to begin planning for your senior year experience and coursework—before your departure. And for those planning to be on campus in the spring, this is an excellent time to explore opportunities for getting involved in research projects and to think carefully about the best scheduling for completing remaining requirements in the major and any minors or second majors.

As always, remember that all of us in the department are eager to help you with any questions you might have!

Sincerely,

Jim Friedrich
Professor & Chair

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Mark Your Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events...

**Friday, October 18th—
Sunday, October 20th**

Parents & Family Weekend

Friday, October 25th

NO CLASSES – Mid-Semester
Day

Friday, November 8th

Last day to withdraw from
classes.

Thursday & Friday

November 28th & 29th

NO CLASSES – Thanksgiving
Holiday!

Friday, December 13th

Last Day of Classes

Monday, December 16th

Final Exams Begin

**Wednesday, December
18th**

Study Day



Autumn
Greetings !!

Global Violence Against Women By *Meredy Goldberg Edelson*

I was asked to give a talk to high school students in Oregon who are participating in the model U.N. program. The topic of my talk is global violence against women. It seemed to me that this is a topic that would also be worthy of discussion among psychology students; so, in that spirit, I want to share some of the information with you that I am sharing with them. Please think about this issue and the information I am presenting and discover ways you can become involved to prevent violence. Anyone interested in finding out more about this issue or who would like references related to this can feel free to see me.

There are a number of interesting, if not predictable, facts about violence against women. First, the more a society devalues women, the greater the violence against them. This makes sense as violence serves to keep women oppressed and powerless. Below are some example of international acts of violence against women. In India, there is often grief when a girl is born, possibly because of the recognition of what the girl may face in her lifetime. For example, the phenomenon of "dowry deaths" is not an isolated occurrence. When a woman is to be married and is poor, unable to provide an adequate dowry for her husband, she may commit suicide rather than endure punishment and shame. Additionally, some women are burned to death after their marriages so that their husbands can remarry and collect more dowries. In addition to dowry deaths, the genital mutilation of

women (often referred to as "female circumcision") is widespread as well. According to the World Health Organization, more than 80 million women in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia have had female circumcisions. Ostensibly the purpose of this is to ensure the honor of the women and their families. The practice is often culturally or religiously sanctioned. However, the effects on the women from pain and mutilation to sterility and death are often ignored.

There are many other instances of violence against women that occur internationally. For example, women and girls constitute 75% of all refugees. Refugee women experience separation from their families and culture. They experience role ambiguity and role reversal that can put them at risk for violence by their husbands (e.g., refugee women are more likely than refugee men to take menial jobs thus supporting the family; refugee men may experience wounded pride and become violent as a means to assert their lost power). Refugee women are less likely to have their societal protections in place to keep them free of sexual and physical violence than are women in their home countries. Additionally, they are more likely to be battered due to the stress of relocation and may be reluctant to leave a battering relationship because of isolation and cultural separation. Battering is not a phenomenon unique to refugees, however. In reviewing over 50 population-based surveys conducted around the world, Watts & Zimmerman (2002) report that between 10-50% of all women who have ever had partners have been hit or physically assaulted by

their partners. In the U.S., researchers have estimated that a woman is beaten every 9 seconds.

Sexual violence, too, is a global occurrence. Globally, most rapes are committed by individuals known to the victim, and rape by a stranger is considered a crime in most countries. However, marital rape, forced marriages, and sex in return for favors such as a job are tolerated or condoned in many countries. Studies have shown that a significant number of women report that their first sexual intercourse was forced (e.g., 28% of women in Tanzania, 40% of women in South Africa). Controls on women's sexuality are also common. Currently in Nigeria, three women and 1 man have been sentenced to stoning deaths for committing adultery (one woman has since had this sentence overturned on appeal). Most men are not punished because of lack of evidence (which is usually pregnancy outside of marriage).

Another fact about violence against women relates to how societies "allow" the violence to occur. Cultural norms about male and female behaviors can serve to create myths that perpetuate violence. These myths can also create problems for women in coping with violence. Myths such as "they wanted it," "they asked for it," or "men are justified in their behavior" only serve to create societies which allow violence against women to continue and which serve to minimize the effects of violence on the women.

(Continued on Page 3)

And Now a Word from Psi Chi

Psi Chi is looking forward to starting another year of "...encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology."

In the next few weeks, Psi Chi will be actively seeking out interested psy-

chology students who have completed the necessary requirements to join. The main goals for the upcoming semester are to increase the current membership, and to begin the process of creating programs that could stand as annual activities. We would like to operate under the goal of providing

"student-to-student" direction to others in the psychology field.

Serving as President and Vice-President this year are Hayley Kimble (senior) and Katy Long (senior). Current members include Matt Snodgrass, Devon Ward-Thommes, and Lindsay Ogle.

Introducing Amy Reiss...

Amy Reiss joined the Psychology Department this Fall as a full-time Assistant Professor for one year. Amy holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Oregon, a master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a B.A. from Brown University. She worked as a therapist in Boston for 8 years before moving to Oregon. Amy's dissertation research focused on emotion regulation in at-risk preschoolers and how parents assist their children in coping with stressful situations. As a graduate student at the University of Oregon, Amy also researched depression and the development of the self in adolescence, and taught a number of courses, including Research

Methods, Psychopathology and the Psychology of Women.

Amy completed her clinical training at Stanford and a post-doctoral fellowship in child and family clinical psychology at the Children's Health Council in Palo Alto, California. During her post-doc, Amy worked with children who had serious medical problems, such as cancer, and became very interested in the effects of serious and chronic illness on children's psychosocial development and school adjustment, as well as the impacts of a child's illness on parenting. Amy is now a licensed psychologist in Oregon and maintains a part-time private practice for children, adults and families.

At Willamette, Professor Reiss is

teaching Introduction to Psychology, Clinical/Abnormal Psychology, and Personality Psychology, and is co-teaching the Internship/Thesis seminar with Meredy Goldberg Edelson and Jim Friedrich. She is enjoying her time at Willamette, and has been very impressed with how friendly and welcoming people from all departments of the Willamette community have been. It is also clear to her that Willamette faculty members are creative and dedicated teachers. She has already received many good ideas for teaching from her colleagues in the Psychology Department, and several of them have already participated in demonstrations for her class!

Spring Semester Courses (Tentatively Offered)

Classes likely offered next semester:

ψ Ecological Psychology

ψ Human Responses to Stress

ψ Introduction to Cognitive Science

ψ Introduction to Psychology

ψ Cross-cultural Communication

ψ Research Methods & Analysis I & II

ψ Internship/Thesis Orientation

(Note: Required for all junior majors)

ψ Developmental Psychology: Infancy & Childhood

ψ Theories of Personality

ψ Child Psychopathology

ψ Health Psychology

ψ Cognitive Processes

ψ Sensation & Perception

ψ Seminar: Human Experimental Psychology

ψ Seminar: Psychology of Addictions

ψ Internship/Thesis

Global Violence Against Women... (continued from page 2)

Finally, women who have been victims of violence often experience a number of difficulties including: disruption of daily routines, experiences of vulnerability and helplessness, cognitive impairments such as difficulty concentrating or attribution of self-blame, impairments in trust,

learned helplessness, low self-esteem, fear/anxiety, physical complaints, medical problems/injuries, depression, substance abuse, sexual dysfunction, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. These effects are clearly harmful for the women experiencing violence but they also serve

to harm society as well. As students of human behavior, the issue of interpersonal violence and what can be done to alleviate it may be a topic of scientific interest. As individuals in a global community, the topic should hopefully be one in which we all care.

Internships & Opportunities

On-Scene Volunteer Victim Advocate :

The Salem Police Department is seeking volunteers who are interested in participating as a On-Scene Volunteer Victim Advocate for the Domestic Violence Re-

sponse Team. The deadline for application is December 1st. Applicants must be 18 years of age, live within 5 miles of the city of Salem and have a vehicle to use during scheduled volunteer shifts that they sign up for. Training sessions begin in January 2003. Applicants must attend

all 5 training sessions. For more information, training session schedules and requests for application packets, please contact the DVRT Coordinator at 503/588.6499 ext 7116.

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Quarterly Newsletter**

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