

# We've Got Issues

## Willamette University Psychology Department Quarterly Newsletter

### From the Chair

March is upon us and, believe it or not, it's already time to start thinking about pre-registration for the Fall '04 semester. Although course times aren't settled yet, the department does have a good sense of which classes will be offered this coming fall, including offerings in every required category of the major (please see page 2 for a complete list of Fall '04 course offerings).

As a general rule, we encourage majors and minors to begin the Psychology 252-253 (Research Methods & Analysis I & II) sequence at some point in their sophomore year. Although the Fall section of Psych 252 will certainly fill, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind people that starting with Psych 252 in the Spring semester (and then continuing on to 253 the following year) is certainly a fine option. The only course prerequisite for Psych 252 is the introductory

course - Psych 210. Nevertheless, many students find it easier to digest the material in the research methods and analysis sequence and appreciate its value and importance if they've managed to take a 300-level psych course before enrolling. The one other reminder is that enrollment in Psych 252 requires a declared psychology major, so be sure to take care of this paperwork well in advance if you're hoping to sign up for the course; trying to locate an advisor and necessary signatures minutes before registration can be a challenge!

Although most of the course offerings for the fall are well-described in the on-line catalog, I wanted to take this opportunity to let people know what the anticipated 400-level seminar topics will be for the year. For Fall '04, Professor Loers intends to offer Psych 440 Techniques of Counseling (its description is also in the on-line catalog). The

other fall seminar will most likely be a seminar in the Psychology of Judgment and Decision Making taught by Professor Friedrich (me!). This course will focus on exploring the rational and irrational and the adaptive and maladaptive ways in which people draw inferences about the world and make choices. We'll cover theories and research explaining why people adopt the strategies they typically do as well as formal models that suggest how inferences and decisions "ought" to be made or how they might be improved.

We also anticipate two more seminar offerings for the Spring '05 semester. Professor Edelson will be teaching a seminar on child sexual abuse, and Professor Hermann will be offering a seminar on understanding the "self" from a personality and social psychological perspective. *(continued on page 2)*

March 2004

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### Mark Your Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events...

**Monday, March 22nd—  
Friday, March 26th**  
SPRING BREAK!!

**Tuesday, March 30th—  
Smullin 222, 6:00 pm**

Psychology Senior Assessments

**Friday, April 2nd**

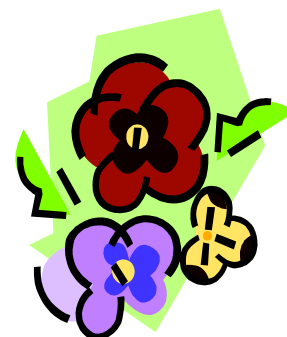
Last day to Withdraw from classes

**Wednesday, April 14th**

Student Scholarship Recognition Day

**Tuesday, April 20th—  
Smullin 222, 6:00 pm**

Psychology Honors Presentations



HAPPY  
SPRING!!

# From The Chair (continued from page 1)

More details on these courses will be available shortly before pre-registration begins for spring courses next year, but I mention the topics now so that people can plan accordingly. One word to the wise, however; seminars are, by design, limited in size, and we are not necessarily able to accommodate "all comers" or schedule them at times guaranteed not to conflict with other courses in

your schedule. As a result, seniors planning to graduate in May of next year need to plan carefully about when to take their seminar to be sure all requirements are completed by then.

Feel free to start chatting up your advisors about course selections for the fall. Even if you plan to be abroad that semester, it's important to think ahead

about the courses you'll need!

Hope you all are having a good semester and let us know if we can answer any of your questions regarding psychology.

Sincerely,  
Jim Friedrich, Ph.D.  
Department Chair

## Sneak Peak: Fall 2004 Course Offerings

Following is the list of courses and seminars offered for Fall 2004. Please check with any of the Psychology faculty if you have questions regarding any of the courses listed.

PSYC-210  
Introduction to Psychology (Staff)

PSYC-252W  
Research Methods & Analysis I  
(Stewart)

PSYC-252YLab:  
Research Methods & Analysis I  
(Stewart)

PSYC-253  
Research Methods & Analysis II  
(Hermann)

PSYC-253YLab:  
Research Methods & Analysis II  
(Hermann)

PSYC-330  
Developmental Psychology: Infancy  
& Childhood (McBride)

PSYC-350  
Cognitive Processes (Staff)

PSYC-335  
Abnormal Psychology: Adult (Staff)

PSYC-336  
Social Psychology (Friedrich)

PSYC-348  
Health Psychology (McBride)

PSYC-351  
Sensation & Perception (Stewart)

PSYC-354  
Psychology of Women & Gender  
(Edelson)

PSYC-394  
Major Internship I & Thesis  
(Edelson/Friedrich/Hermann)

PSYC-430  
Seminar: Judgment & Decision  
Making (Friedrich)

PSYC-440  
Techniques of Counseling (Loers)

## And Now a Word From Psi Chi

Psi Chi is the national honor society in Psychology. The WU chapter is an entirely student run organization. Its strength hinges on your participation. Applications were recently accepted for the Spring term and initiation of new members will take place in early March.

Students must meet the following requirements to be accepted into Psi Chi:

1. 3 completed semesters of college courses, and 9 semester hours of psychology (3 com-

pleted courses)

2. A declared major or minor in psychology

3. Students must have at least a 3.0 grade point average in psychology courses and rank in the top 35% of their class (that translates to an overall GPA of 3.52 or higher for the class of 2005)

4. High standards of personal behavior.

Please consider joining Psi Chi if you meet the requirements and would like to help shape its direction.

Applications can be picked up at the psychology bulletin board on the second floor of Smullin, and returned to Miranda Scolari at campus box # E249.

If you have any questions about Psi Chi, membership requirements, or the application process, please contact Miranda Scolari.

# Internships & Opportunities...

**Summer Research Training in Clinical Psychology for Minority Students:** Applications are now being accepted for the 3rd Annual Summer Research Training in Clinical Psychology for Ethnic Minority Students. This internship/training session will be held from June 14 to July 23, 2004 on the campus of the University of Oregon. This opportunity provides ethnic minority students with training under the guidance of a UO faculty member. Funded in part by the National Institute of Mental Health, the purpose of the program is to prepare students for graduate study in clinical psychology. Participating students receive a tuition waiver, fee on-campus room and board, a research stipend of \$2000 and 4 academic credits from the Univer-

sity of Oregon. Social activities including field trips will also be part of the experience. For further information about the curriculum, admission requirements or application process, please visit <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~gnhall/summer/index.html> or contact Dr. Gordon Nagayama Hall via phone at 503/346.4969.

**Ramapo Anchorage Camp, Rhineback, New York:** Camp Ramapo is looking for counselors for their residential summer camp which serves children between the ages of 4 and 16 with emotional, behavioral and learning problems. The camp provides a safe, predictable, and highly structured environment which fosters development of positive social and learn-

ing skills supported by a one-to-one staff-to-camper ratio. Camp Ramapo offers staff members salary, room and board, and travel reimbursement for employment from June 14 thru August 21, 2004. In addition, Ramapo offers an on-site college course through the National Program on Non-Collegiate Sponsored Education. This course can be listed on a college transcript of up to 6 semester hours of college credit through Regents College of the University of New York. For more information or an application please visit <http://www.ramapo.us> or contact Michael Kunin or Jennifer Pubentz at P.O. Box 266, Rhineback, New York, 12572 or phone 845/876.8403

## Onset of Puberty: Nature vs. Nurture by Prof. Larry McBride

How does the timing of puberty effect psychosocial development in adolescence? J. Belsky advances an evolutionary model on which reproductive fitness is paramount. Resource-poor ecologies are predicted to lead to family stress (insecure attachment, inconsistent parenting, etc.), which in turn accelerates the onset of puberty. Nature wants many offspring in the hopes that enough will survive to reproduce. Early onset gives species members more years to be reproductive. In contrast, resource-abundant ecologies are associated with less familial stress, less need for as many offspring, and a delayed onset. However, primate

research sometimes finds delayed onset. Presence of strong alpha males delays onset in both males and females (although some data find active socialization forces between mothers and daughters). Delay protects the juvenile male from competition and the female from excessive sexual pressures.

In contrast, L. Steinberg has proposed a more nurture-based model—that the onset of puberty predicts psychological distance between parents and teens. Early onset leads to early distancing, and vice versa. Some post-hoc hypotheses include psychodynamic (onset of puberty parallels the re-awaking of Oedipal

desires in the genital stage and causes mother-son distancing), hormonal (puberty leads to chaotic emotionality which distances mother-daughter relationships), and a physical model (puberty signifies a person maturity in which distancing is seen by parents as developmentally normative). However, some data find the reverse—early distancing leads to early pubertal onset (as Belsky would expect). In each case, the relationship is actually curvilinear, in that distancing becomes reduced as youths pass through adolescence.

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***Don't forget!***

***Advising for Fall 2004 begins Monday, March 29th...***

***Pre-registration for Fall 2004 begins Monday, April 12th...***

***(Note: As Professor Edelson is on sabbatical this term, her advisees should sign up for advising times with other full-time members of the department)***

**Willamette University  
Psychology Department  
Quarterly Newsletter**

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**Please deliver to:**

*The pitfalls of certain research methods*

[www.willamette.edu/cla/psychology](http://www.willamette.edu/cla/psychology)

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