

Psycho-Babble

Macalester College/ December 2011

Chair Talk from Brooke

Important Dates

Saturday 3rd
KIDS JUDGE!
9:00-1:00

Tuesday, 6th
6:30-7:30 pm
Senior Social
Jack's house
99 Cambridge

Tuesday, 13th
Last Day of
Class

Wednesday,
14th
1:00 Otri
Gallery Holiday
Party -
Decorate your
own
Gingerbread
Cookie

Last month, I had the privilege of breaking bread with three 2010 Macalester grads in Seattle, WA. We were all attending the annual Psychonomics Society conference; Psychonomics is an international research meeting on cognitive psychology (Greek: nomos = laws, psyche = mind; people who study laws of the mind like this meeting). All three Mac alums were graduates of my research lab, and all are gainfully employed as research assistants or graduate students in top cognitive labs around the country. We had a terrific time. I was bursting with pride.

Seeing them reminded me that one regret we sometimes hear from our senior majors is that they wish they had seized the opportunity to join a faculty research lab earlier in their Macalester career. Look down our faculty corridor and you'll see the names of 8+ scholars with active and dynamic research programs. (For more information on our specific research interests, check out the department website.) "But, Brooke," I can hear you say, "isn't research for geeks?!" Indeed it is. But working in a faculty lab isn't just for those who want a career in geekonomics; it's also for anyone who would like to be a part of cutting-edge psychological research - stuff that will likely be published someday. Who knows. You might get to be an author.

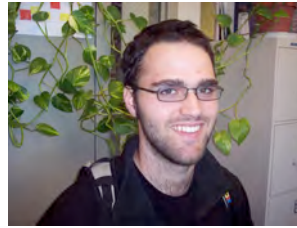
So think it over. Getting involved with faculty research isn't for everyone, but it might be for you. And remember: when we run into you at a professional conference, the first round is on us!



2010 grads (from left)
Charlie "Curly" Brenner,
Chelsea "Chelsea"
Voskuilen, Lisa "Mad Dog"
Weinberg, and Brooke

"Golden Bear" Lea (not pictured but also at the conference is Darcy
"Newly Tenured" Burgund - see related story on page 4).

Congratulations to December Psych & NS Grads



Psych and NSS majors graduating this December: **Carl Harris, Mara Robertson, Nick De Lacey and Kevin Aldredge.** Congratulations! At our Senior Social on Tuesday, Dec. 6th we will recognize them and extend our congratulations.

Kids Judge! this Saturday! December 3rd

Between 180 and 220 4, 5 & 6th graders will be invading the Psychology department this Saturday morning for our Annual Kids Judge! It's a fast paced, fun and engaging morning of kids everywhere. **We need volunteers.** If you feel like doing something really different from your normal routine, contact Lee or Eric about volunteering.

Olin Rice Holiday Party, Dec. 13th 1:00



This is a party where you really get to show off your artistic creative side. All the trimmings will be there for you to decorate your own gingerbread person or holiday cutout cookie. You will be amazed at how creative you can be when you have all the ingredients there. This is a party for all the students who take classes in Olin Rice. It starts at 1:00 and will go until all the cookies and frosting and decorations run out. I suggest you get there early!

Congratulations to our Psi Chi Inductees



New Psi Chi inductees: (front left to right) Jesse Carroll, Shaina Davis, Adam Freedman, Will Johnson, Micah Mumper, (back row l to r) Ellen Nikodym, Barbara Scarim, Joshua Smith, Hannah Strauss-Albee, Mitchell Glasser and Hannah Van Den Brandt. Maja Palmquist, Ayaka Sheehan, Thomas Symmes and Andrea Zvonkovic not pictured.

Senior Social - Dec. 6, 6:30 pm

Invitations have been sent and we are looking forward to a festive time at Jack Rossmann's home on Tuesday, Dec. 6th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The Senior Social is held each year at the end of fall semester. It's a great time for seniors to get better acquainted with members of their graduating class before the rush of spring semester and graduation activities.

Jack Rossmann is professor emeriti and he has generously offered his home for our fall picnics and these socials. Jack's home is at 99 Cambridge across the street from the Fine Arts parking lot. If you are planning on attending, please let Lee know by email (lolson4@macalester.edu) or phone 6223.

New Psych Majors!

Big Welcome to the following new Psychology & NSS Majors!

Dianna Amasino '14 NSS
Amanda Currie '14 NSS
Jay Kayser '14
Qingyang Liu (Anne) '14
Aubrey Rickle '14
Trang M. Tran '14
Mary White '13

Autumn Cole '14
Sam Humleker '14
Zoe Kusinitz '14
Emma Mabie '14
Mela Still '14
Stephen Tyndel '13

Congratulations to Professor Burgund on getting tenure!



A bagpipe musician and Provost, Kathleen M. Murray, marched into the NSS/Psych Dept. Wednesday morning, 11-16-11, with a important document for Professor Darcy Burgund announcing the awarding of her tenure.

Congratulations!

Watch for Poster Presentations December 14th

Directed Research students who are studying abroad this spring are presenting their directed research projects December 14th at 2:00 pm in Olin 352.

We especially encourage students who have yet to take directed research to attend this event. It is an excellent opportunity to find out about directed research by seeing the different areas students have investigated. All the students who are currently in directed research will be there also.

Mesmerizing Major: Micah Mumper



Micah Mumper

"Mesmerizing majors are randomly selected from the list of psychology and NS majors"

Favorite Movie: Pulp Fiction

Favorite Book: The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Chino Latino

What do you do when you are not studying: Play Monopoly or Settlers of Catan

Where did you grow up: Kailua, Oahu (in the state of Hawaii).

Interesting fact about your hometown: Hawaii is the only state that grows coffee.

Tell us something about your family: Everyone in my family has green eyes and is left-handed, except for my dad, who is part Native Hawaiian, which gives him dark eyes and brown skin. Only my brother and I have dirty blond hair; my mom and dad both have dark brown hair.

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: I can recite the majority of the movie *Mean Girls* by heart.

Get to Know Your Professor

Last Tuesday a group of thirty or so students attended the Get to Know Your Professors panel organized by the Psych Club. Eric Wiertelak, Dan Graham and Joan Ostrove shared their personal experiences in the field and their life stories. While enjoying some delicious pizza, students got a chance to ask any questions they had during an informal Q&A session.

During the panel students heard Eric speak about his ballroom dance experiences, learned about Dan's embarrassing triathlon story and Joan's cats. On a more serious note, the professors also talked about their career experiences and discussed the fascinating research projects they are currently involved in.

The Psych Club is hoping that this was the first event in the Get to Know Your Professor series, so if you missed it, make sure to attend a panel next semester! - Maria Kuznetsova

All About Graduate School Lunch



Sun No, Rachel Lucas-Thompson, Dan Graham and Alvina Kittur share thoughts about graduate school life.

Students who attended the All About Graduate School Lunch learned about four educators thoughts and advice about graduate school. Sun No, Rachel Lucas-Thompson, Dan Graham and Alvina Kittur spoke about their experiences. They were asked how they picked their grad school and answers were, narrow and narrow and narrow it down even more, found a school and weeded out who she didn't share interests with, noticed it's a very difficult and important thing to do and you just ask yourself, do I want to be here seven years and work with this person that whole time?

The panel was asked if you can switch once you are in a program. Answers were yes and no. One had switched when her advisor moved to another college and she was too new into the research to get moved as well, another said that at their school, if you switched it was like starting over.

General comments: One panelist felt unprepared for what really mattered at graduate school at the beginning. Being on top of your work and grades doesn't matter as much, it's really the research and published writing that you get graded on. Another thought, consider a PhD program instead of a MA. They pay you instead of you paying for the schooling plus you get a MA on the way. You are paid for the research and for being a teaching assistant. It's not a lot, but \$1,500 a month is better than a ton of loans.

All of the panel went into grad school immediately after college, "I didn't want to loose my momentum", one remembered. They advised that if you do take time off, it should be doing something that continues your psych interests. Volunteer, take a class..... but do something related. They also all agreed that getting some work in a psych lab now would help your application.

Postcard from Study Abroad - Ellen Coble

Dear Mac Psych Department,

Hello from Barcelona! Here it is, November 14th and my semester is still snow-less! (Just to rub it in further.) The semester here has really flown by and I'm glad to say I've checked off almost all the good touristy stuff from my "Barcelona Bucket List:" Parc Güell, the beach, La Sagrada Familia, tapas & sangria, and an FC Barça game! I highly recommend all of it. But I think my favorite part of

being here so far has been...THE FOOD. I might even try to hijack a Friday Social next semester in order to share a few Cataluñan recipes? (I took a couple of cooking classes here from a local man named Yves, but be forewarned: that doesn't necessarily mean I'm any less of a danger in the kitchen.



I'm looking forward to dinner tomorrow night at Emily Crenner (Psych major, 2013)'s homestay with her host family! I can't wait to get back to the Mac Psych community (and lounge!) to share all of the wonderful experiences I've had here...there just isn't enough space in a postcard! I'll leave you with one of the phrases I've learned from my Catalán 101 class: Setze jutges d'un jutjat mengen fetge d'un penjat! (A tongue-twister that translates to: 16 judges of a court eat the liver of a hanged man)

See y'all in 2012!

Ellen Coble, Class of 2013

Psychology major, Hispanic Studies minor

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*Be sure to check
out our website.*

And some babble....

Zoe Jacobson '10 is Senior Laboratory
Technician at the University of MN.

*From all of us in the
Psychology Department,
Have a wonderful
Winter Break!*

<i>Jamie Atkins</i>	<i>Kendrick Brown</i>
<i>Darcy Burgund</i>	<i>Dan Graham</i>
<i>Alvina Kittur</i>	<i>Brooke Lea</i>
<i>Rachel Lucas -Thompson</i>	<i>Christina Manning</i>
<i>Sun No</i>	<i>Lee Olson</i>
<i>Joan Ostrove</i>	<i>Jill Peterson</i>
<i>Jack Rossmann</i>	<i>Meg Shroat</i>
<i>Jaine Strauss</i>	<i>Jason Weaver</i>
<i>Eric Wiertelak</i>	

Psycho-Babble is a monthly newsletter for Psychology and Neuroscience Studies majors and other interested students. We welcome contributions from students and faculty. The goal of the newsletter is to inform the community of events, people and issues at Macalester and beyond.