

PSYCHOPATHS

FALL 2011

UIS PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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Left to Right: Kaylle Ramseier, Kaley Graves, Sandra Hurtubise, Michelle Claussen, Rebecca Goldsborough, Sara Lubeno, & Patrick Abler

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Edited By Frances Shen

7th Annual CLAS Graduation Reception: UIS Psychology Department Student Awards

In May 2011, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences hosted the seventh annual reception for its graduating seniors. Students and faculty were able to share stories and say good-bye one final time before the graduation ceremony. During the ceremony, various departments gave awards to their outstanding graduates. In the Psychology Department, the following awards were given to our graduating seniors:

Sandra Hurtubise was selected as the **Psychology Department Student Marshal** at the 2011 graduation ceremony. This honor is given to a graduating senior who best exemplifies the goals and spirit of the department. At the graduation ceremony, the student marshal leads the other psychology graduates through the procession and the presentation of their diplomas.

Patrick Abler and **Kaylle Ramseier** received the **Outstanding Psychology Student Scholar** award for their excellence in academic performance and their extensive involvement in faculty research.

Rebecca Goldsborough, Kaley Graves, and **Sara Lubeno** received the **Outstanding Student Research Projects** award for their independent research project.

Michelle Claussen received the **Outstanding Service to the Psychology Department** award for her work as the Department Student Representative.

Amy Hargis and **Mary VanMetre** (not pictured) received the **Outstanding Psychology Senior Seminar Portfolio** award for creating exceptional portfolios in the Senior Seminar capstone course.

Message From the Chair

By Dr. Marcel Yoder

One of the great advantages of studying in Psychology is that it gives us such keen insights on the incredibly complex behavior that we show. Psychology's reach extends beyond abnormal psychology and the treatment of disorders to social behavior and interaction. If you are interested in social behavior like I am, seeing what goes on around the holidays can be a source of great interest. One of the most noteworthy trends that has been reported around the holidays this year is the "creep" of "Black Friday" shopping. Researchers in disciplines such as Economics, Sociology, or Business would probably each have something to say about this trend, but I'd like to share two psychological concepts that I think might help explain it.

First, let's make sure that we all understand what "Black Friday" is – it's the day after Thanksgiving that has become one of the most popular days for Christmas shopping. It's called "Black" because it is supposedly the day that marks when businesses shift from being unprofitable (in the "Red") to being profitable (in the "Black"). Recently businesses have begun trying to attract customers by opening their doors at two or three in the morning and promoting special sales to get "Black

Friday" started. This year, however, starting times have crept even earlier, to midnight or late evening of Thanksgiving. Why? Two possible psychological explanations are habituation and anchoring/adjustment.



Habituation refers to the decreased attention that we give novel stimuli over time. What is flashy, new, or fascinating one day is old hat the next. You need only to think of how obsolete your old cell phone seems compared to your new one to convince yourself that habituation is real. So how does habituation apply to "Black Friday"? Well, once we've become used to shopping at 2 or 3 AM the morning after Thanksgiving, it has lost its novelty. Retailers need to do something different to capture our ever-fleeting attention. Why not start earlier?

Anchoring and adjustment refer to psychological starting points and how we deviate from them. The starting point, or anchor, for "Black Friday" shopping used to be the normal time that retailers opened, maybe 10 AM. The adjustment to this normal starting time happened when retailers started to open earlier, maybe around 3 or 4 AM. After this adjustment is made it becomes the new anchor; the new normal. The next adjustment, the one that we're seeing now, is from 3 or 4 AM to midnight or even 10 PM on Thanksgiving day. Soon this time can become the new anchor. What adjustments will come next year? We'll have to wait and see.

If the times that retailers open don't seem surprising, absurd, or way too early to you it might be because you've habituated to those early opening times and they have become what you perceive as the new normal (the anchor). When you observe trends like the "Black Friday" creep, test yourself. See if you can find a psychological explanation. If you can, share it in class. If you can't, ask your professor. Having the answer (or at least one possible answer) to social behavior like this will make you the hit of your next party and have your friends wondering how you got so smart.

PSI CHI & Psychology Club



Fall 2011

By Dr. Karen Mooney

Twenty-three students were inducted into Psi Chi this semester. The names of the inductees are listed below. The Induction Dinner was held on October 7 at Mario's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria.

Psi Chi and the Psychology Club worked together to hold a bake sale on September 21, in which they raised raising \$306.51 for the **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**. On October 1, they participated in the Out of the Darkness Community Walk for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Including the bake sale money, their team raised a total of \$751.51.

On Halloween, Psi Chi and Psychology Club participated in **UIS's Trick or Treat for Canned Goods** and collected 436 pounds of food. The grand total was 7,561 pounds!

Cengage Learning held a contest for student created videos demonstrating a psychological concept. Some of our Psychology Club and Psi Chi students worked together on an entry. Nicole Landreth, Rachel Tohme, and Julia Capestrain came up with the concept for the video, appeared in the video, and put it together. Wesley Hill and AJ Hamm also appeared in the video. There were over 80 entries, and although our video didn't win, it did place in the top 10. You can watch the video at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CengagePsychology#p/c/17/5-aXcp5j4bI>

On November 4, they had a **weenie roast**, where hot dogs, s'mores, popcorn, apple cider, and hot chocolate were enjoyed by approximately 30 students. Everyone had a great time and the weather was perfect.

Psi Chi & Psychology Club Officers:

Psi Chi President: Nicole Landreth

Psychology Club President: Rachel Tohme

Vice President: Darci Dixon-Primm

Secretary: Martha Rubio

Treasurer: Sarah Moore

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Karen Mooney

Psi Chi Inductees

Samantha Aberly
Meg Aldrich
Kristoffer Barrington
Jill Bomstad
Rachel Boyd
Jamie Burris
Gerald Everette
Jodi Fishburn
Amanda Harness
Monika Kalembasa
Mary Krueger
Morgan Ladage

Kaila Long
Doreen Misiorek
Sarah Moore
Michael Myers
John Preuss
Meredith Quarello
Rachel Tohme
Shannon Trumbo
Adam Tucker
Rebecca Wear
Suzanne Woolfolk

Faculty & Student Research

Dr. Karen Mooney studies the relationship networks of adolescents and college students. Relationship networks are defined as all of the close relationships in which an individual participates. For most adolescents and college students, this includes relationships with mothers, fathers, friends, and romantic partners. She is currently working with **Julia Capestrain, Nicole Landreth, and Wesley Hill** on a project that examines how college students' relationships are associated with individual adjustment (self-concept, academic performance, and various characteristics and behaviors). They have continued with data collection this semester and plan to present some of their initial findings at conferences in Spring 2012.

Julia Capestrain is also using this dataset to test her own hypothesis about differences in the quality of romantic relationships for traditional and nontraditional students. She will be presenting her findings in the spring.



Dr. Karen Pressley's research interests focus on how emotional stimuli, such as fearful faces can affect attention, and what is going on in the brain when attention is modulated. Certain types of stimuli can grab our attention automatically, in particular faces expressing emotion. Dr. Karen Pressley is currently conducting a study that examines the different viewing conditions (long versus short viewing times) of emotional faces that will allow for this automatic and fast grabbing of attention. **Kristoffer Barrington** and **Millicent**

Schusselle have performed related literature searches and lab presentations as well as are collecting the data.



Dr. Shuang-Yueh Pui is currently working on three research projects. The first research project examines the effect of choice set size (large or small) on whether people choose to defer their choice among indecisives and decisives. **Martha Rubio** is active in the data collection and data entry stages of this study. They hope to be able to analyze the data and submit the results of the study to a conference in the spring semester.

The second research project examines the predictors and outcomes of the interaction between school and work domains among college students. This study will employ a longitudinal, two-wave design to examine the personality and situational characteristics that affect students' work-school conflict, school, and well-being outcomes. **kristen langelier** has been extensively involved in conducting the literature review, designing the study, uploading the web survey, and collecting the data for this study. They hope to complete the data collection in the spring semester.

The third research project investigates the relationship between work-school conflict and healthy eating and exercise behaviors among working college students. **Jodi Fishburn** has been actively involved in conducting the literature review, designing the study, and submitting the IRB application for this study. They are currently preparing materials to apply

to a national research grant for this study.

Dr. Sheryl Reminger was awarded a sabbatical in the fall of 2011. The sabbatical has allowed her to take time off from teaching for the semester so that she can devote more time to research. During her sabbatical, Dr. Reminger completed a paper that reported the results of a study of cognitive function in individuals diagnosed with head and neck cancer. She has also begun collaborating with individuals at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine on a study of fatigue, inflammation, and cognitive function in women with breast and endometrial cancer. Dr. Reminger will be spending the last part of the semester at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where she will be collaborating on research that investigates the effects of sleep deprivation on brain function.

Dr. Sheryl Reminger presented a poster in July at the Mid-Year Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society in Auckland, New Zealand. The poster was titled *The Relationship Between Mood Symptoms and Neuropsychological Function in Breast Cancer Survivors*. Molly Meinhardt (UIS student) was a co-author on the poster.

Dr. Frances Shen's research interests are in multicultural psychology. The first research project is a study that examines the relationship between parental pressure and support, educational channeling, and internalized stereotyping on the impact of career self-efficacy, outcome expectations and interests among Asian American college students. This research project is funded by the UIS CLAS Faculty Enhancement Scholarship Grant. **Patrick Abler, Lucy Parker, and Stacey Windisch** began working on this research project since Fall 2010, and presented the preliminary findings from this study with Dr. Shen at the 2011 APA Convention in Washington DC. They continue to work on completing further data collection this year, with

Faculty & Student Research



additional help from **Andrew Hathaway, Robert Torrence, Elise Vass, and Shah Hasan.**

Additional findings have been submitted for presentation at the 2012 APA Convention in Orlando, FL, and will also be presented at the 2012 UIS Research Symposium in the Spring.



The second research project examines the impact of discrimination, social support, adherence to traditional Asian values, and perceived parental attitudes towards homosexuality on the development of internalized homonegativity and poor psychological well-being among Asian American lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons. **Rebecca Goldsborough** has been collaborating with Dr. Shen on this project. They were awarded the UIS CLAS Student-Faculty Creative Activities funding and the UIS Summer Competitive Grant for this project. Rebecca and Dr. Shen presented part of their preliminary findings at the 2011 APA Convention in Washington DC. They have since made some modifications to this study and continued with data collection this year. This semester, **Linden Kovarik, Tammie Lomprenz, Ashley Pearson, and Michael**

Myers assisted with the data collection.

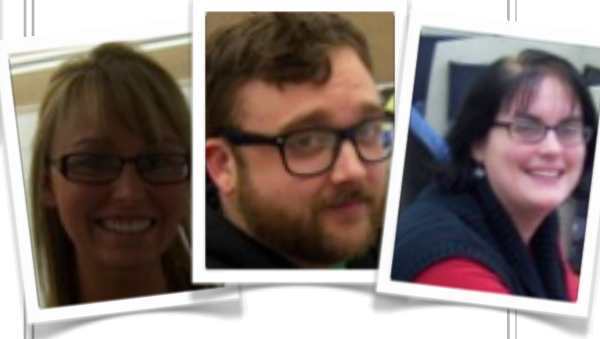


The last two projects are qualitative studies that examine the impact of internalized stereotyping on Asian American college students. The first study focuses on the impact of stereotyping and discrimination experiences among Asian American students, and its impact on their identity development. The second study focuses on the impact of academic and career-oriented stereotyping messages on the career development among Asian American college students. Numerous UIS students have been involved in the transcriptions of these qualitative interviews. For the first study, Dr. Shen, **Dr. Shuang-Yueh Pui** and **Dr. Juanita Ortiz** are currently analyzing the data for this study. The preliminary findings were presented at the 2011 APA Convention in Washington DC. For the second study, Dr. Shen and **Rebecca Goldsborough** are currently analyzing the data, and have submitted the preliminary findings for presentation at the 2012 APA Convention in Orlando, FL.

Dr. Carrie Switzer has been working with **Katie Easton** and **Nathan Harmening** on the Educational Aspirations study this semester. This study examines the differences between traditional and nontraditional aged college students in their motivation to go to college, the perceived barriers to attending college and their academic self-efficacy in college. Katie and Nathan have been administering the study questionnaires

and entering the data that has been collected into a statistical database.

Rachel Tohme, Lucy Parker, and Michael Stephens have been working on an additional phase of the study that is focused on collecting information from students from underrepresented groups.



Dr. Marcel Yoder is currently working with Laura Lovgren in the data entry/analysis phase of a study on person perception, which focuses on how the mode of interaction (face to face versus video versus photo) affects our judgments of others.



Dr. Yoder also presented a paper with Dr. Karen Swan and Dr. Laurel Newman on the effect of online homework at the 18th Annual Sloan Consortium International Conference on Online Learning. The talk was titled, *Exploring the Uses and Effects of Online Homework*. In January, Dr. Yoder will present a poster with Dr. Laura Ault of St. Leo University at the 13th annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in San Diego in January of 2012 titled, *Getting to Know You without Getting to Know You: Medium of Presentation Affects Person-Perception Accuracy*.

2012 Student Arts & Research Symposium (StARS)

When: Friday April 13, 2012 (with some preliminary events on the evening of Thurs April 12)

Where: PAC (many rooms throughout PAC including smaller rooms for student talks)

Who: All students (graduate and undergraduate) involved in research or creative works. You can elect to give a short presentation or a poster presentation or exhibition/performance of your work.

Early Registration: Abstracts will begin to be accepted November 11 and will continue to be collected until December 9th. All faculty approved abstracts submitted during early registration will be accepted. The first 30 poster abstracts submitted will be paid for by the Symposium.

General Registration: General registration will continue until February 15. Abstracts will be accepted as space allows.

Website: <http://webstage.uis.edu/academicaffairs/resources/StARS.html>



2012

Upcoming National Conferences

American Psychological Association

120th Annual Convention

August 2 - 5, 2012 in Orlando, FL

Orange County Convention Center

Association for Psychological Science

24th Annual Convention

May 24 - 27, 2012 in Chicago, IL

Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers

Midwestern Psychological Association

2012 Annual Meeting

May 3 - 5, 2012 in Chicago, IL

Palmer House