The Psychology Department was a co-sponsor of the 11th Annual UIS Science Research Symposium that took place on April 15th. The vice-chair of the event was Dr. Sheryl Reminger. The symposium gives students an opportunity to present the findings of their independent research projects, and is attended by students and faculty from several neighboring campuses including the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Millikin University, Illinois College, and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

This year, two UIS Psychology students presented their research at the symposium. Kaley Graves presented a poster entitled “Diminished Auditory Capacity and its Effects on Attention and Concentration” and Sara Lubeno presented a poster entitled “Personality Characteristics Related to Early or Late Participation in Research”. Both Kaley and Sara did a great job at the symposium!
I have been interested in the brain since I heard my first lecture about the physiology of perception in elementary school (actually this was just my parents trying to explain color-blindness to me, and wasn’t much more than “your eyes don’t send the same kind of information to your brain that everyone else’s does, and that’s why you always use the green crayon to draw the sun”). Despite my interest I had never seriously considered studying the brain until the biopsychology lecture in my introductory psychology course. After that lecture I changed my major, started enrolling in as many biological psychology courses as I could, and eventually ended up with a Ph.D. in psychology with a specialization in Cognitive Neuroscience.

I enjoyed my courses, though I found it odd that I never had the opportunity to work with an actual brain until I took an upper-level graduate course in the Neuroscience department. As it turns out this is not at all unusual; many undergraduate psychology programs offer little or no opportunity to gain laboratory experience in biological psychology. Last semester Dr. Reminger and I began discussing how we could change that here at UIS. Eventually we were able to set up a sheep brain dissection lab for the Introduction to Biopsychology course. Sheep brains are very similar to human brains, and many of the structures we discussed in lecture could be seen during the dissection. As an instructor I found this to be a great teaching experience. Much of what we know about the function of the brain comes from an understanding of its structure, and there is no better way to gain an understanding of that structure than hands-on experience.

Our hope is that this lab will become a regular part of the Introduction to Biopsychology course.

Dr. Reminger and I would not have been able to put this lab together ourselves, and we would like to thank Drs. Harshavardhan Bapat, Marc Klingshirn, Rebecca Landsberg, and Linda Riebling for all of their help.
Psi Chi Induction

The annual Psi Chi Induction Dinner was held on April 29 at Mario’s Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria. Thirty-six students were inducted into Psi Chi during the 2010-2011 academic year:

- Patrick Abler
- Lisa Appenzeller
- Dan Bosomworth
- Jami Braner
- Michelle Claussen
- April Dixon
- Darci Dixon
- Rebecca Dobbs
- Katie Easton
- Jennifer Funk
- Ashley Garber
- Kaley Graves
- Janeth Guijosa
- Rachel Hamilton
- Kendra Hansel
- Wendy Harbaugh
- Lyndsey Hochstatter
- Sandy Hurtubise
- Carmelita Kavadas
- Kevin King
- Nicole Landreth
- Joy LeGrant
- Alyssa Malcom
- Jeannie Mutch
- Allison Nisbet
- Heather
- O’Connor
- Lucy Parker
- Kelsi Putnam
- Kaylie Ramseier
- Morgan Redding
- Julianna Richards
- Millicent Schussele
- Michael Stephens
- Emily Watts
- Courtney Wood

Spring 2011 Events

Spring 2011 has been a very busy semester for Psychology Club and Psi Chi. Members had a Bowling Fundraiser (January 28) and raised around $300, which was used to purchase food for the Washington Street Mission Breakfast. On February 19 they cooked and served a hot breakfast to over 200 people.

Members had a St. Patrick’s Day bake sale (March 9) where they raised $240 for Walk a Mile in Her Shoes (April 16), which in turn benefits the Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault. The walk was held on a cold and wet day, but there was a great turnout by psychology students.

Members also created Psychology Club t-shirts using designs by Nicole Landreth and Patrick Abler. The shirts were sold for $10 each. Please contact Dr. Karen Mooney if you would like one. On April 30, members had a party where students tie-dyed the shirts they had bought. The money raised from the t-shirt sales was used to help send five psychology students to attend the Midwestern Psychological Association’s annual conference in Chicago (May 5-7).

Officers

Psychology Club President: Nicole Landreth
Psi Chi President: Amy Hargis
Vice President: Cathy Caldwell
Secretary: Patrick Abler
Treasurer: Kaylle Ramseier
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Karen Mooney
In May 2011, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences will be hosting the seventh annual reception for its graduating seniors. During this ceremony, various departments in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences will be giving out awards to their outstanding graduates. In the Psychology Department, the following graduating seniors will be receiving departmental student awards:

- **Sandra Hurtubise** will act 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** will receive the Outstanding Psychology Student Scholar award for their excellence in academic performance and extensive involvement in faculty research.

- **Rebecca Goldsborough**, **Kaley Graves** and **Sara Lubeno** will receive the Outstanding Independent Research award for their excellence in conducting independent research projects.

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

- **Mary VanMetre** and **Amy Hargis** will receive the Outstanding Psychology Senior Seminar Portfolio award for creating exceptional portfolios in the Senior Seminar capstone course.

Three Psychology students presented their senior honors projects at the Capital Scholars Senior Honors Symposium that took place on April 22nd. **Patrick Abler** gave a presentation on “Prozac and Personality”, **Catherine Caldwell** gave a presentation about “Working with LGBTQ Youth in the School Environment”, and **Michelle Claussen** gave a presentation about “The Effectiveness of Cognitive Behavioral Therapies and the Relation to Recidivism Rates”. All three students will be graduating from the Capital Scholars Honors Program this year. Congratulations!
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 and Nicole Landreth 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 been collecting data this semester and will continue to collect data in the Fall semester. They plan to present some of their initial findings at conferences in Spring 2012.

Dr. Karen Pressley is interested in how emotional stimuli, such as fearful faces can affect attention, and what is going on in the brain when attention is modulated. Her research uses electroencephalography to examine what happens in the brain when individuals are viewing emotional stimuli versus when the stimuli are neutral. The results of this work may help researchers to better understand what is going on in the brain of individuals with anxiety disorders. Dr. Pressley is currently analyzing her data on a research study in this area, and will be presenting her preliminary results at the Association for Psychological Science Convention in Washington DC in May 2011.

Dr. Shuang-Yueh Pui current have two 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. Kaylle Ramseier, Martha Rubio, and Mary Kate Krueger are active in the data collection and data entry stages of this study. 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 involved in the literature review and research design stages for this study. Dr. Pui has three journal articles in press in the International Journal of Selection and Assessment, Individual Difference Research, and Journal of Occupational Health. She also presented her research at the 2011 annual meeting of the Work, Stress and Health Conference in Orlando, FL.
Dr. Sheryl Reminger is currently working on two research projects investigating the cognitive and emotional functioning of cancer survivors. One study involves a comparison of neuropsychological function, emotional function, and brain structure in individuals treated for breast cancer. This summer, she and Molly Meinhardt will be presenting a poster about this research entitled *The Relationship between Mood Symptoms and Neuropsychological Function in Breast Cancer Survivors* at the Mid-Year Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society in Auckland, New Zealand. The second study is investigating the cognitive, emotional, and physical function in individuals treated for head and neck cancer. The study is conducted in collaboration with physicians at the SIU School of Medicine. Kaley Graves assisted with literature review and data analyses. Kaley Graves also completed her own independent research project, in which she had participants watch two informational videos of differing levels of audio input. She was interested in seeing how diminished auditory information would affect participants’ attention and recall of the videos. Her results showed that while volume levels did have a significant effect on overall recall performance, it did not have a differential effect for recall of visual material as compared to auditory material. This study was presented at the UIS Science Research Symposium in April.

Dr. Frances Shen is currently working on four different research projects. The first study is a qualitative research study on the impact of discrimination and stereotyping on the well-being, identity development, and career development of Asian Americans. Dr. Pui and Dr. Juanita Ortiz are currently assisting in the data analysis. The second study is a path-analysis study on the impact of internalized stereotyping on the career self-efficacy, outcome expectations, and choice among Asian Americans. Patrick Abler, Lucy Parker, and Stacey Potts have been assisting Dr. Shen on literature review and data collection. This study is supported by the CLAS Faculty Enhancement Scholarship funding. The third study is a websurvey examining whether parental attitudes and social support buffer the impact of discrimination on the psychological well-being and development of internalized homo-negativity among Asian American LGB. Rebecca Goldsborough has been working with Dr. Shen on literature review and data collection for this study. This study is supported by the UIS Summer Competitive Grant. Rebecca Goldsborough has also received the CLAS Student-Faculty Creative Award to fund this project. All three studies will be presented at the 2011 American Psychological Association Convention in Washington DC in August. Lucy, Patrick and Rebecca will be co-presenting at the conference. The last project is a study in collaboration with Dr. Yu-Wei Wang at SIUC and Dr. Pui that attempts to address healthcare disparities. They are currently putting together a funding proposal for this project.
Dr. Carrie Switzer has currently been working on the Educational Aspirations study. The first phase of 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. Dr. Switzer is also interested in examining how personality characteristics like conscientiousness and extroversion are related to the other study variables. The second phase of the study will examine the same variables with individuals who have never been to college. Dr. Switzer hopes that identifying potential differences between traditional and nontraditional aged students in motivation to attend college, perceived barriers, academic self-efficacy and personality characteristics will shed light on how to more effectively recruit and retain students. Sara Lubeno has been working with Dr. Carrie Switzer on data collection, entry and analysis, and Sara presented the results of this study at the 2011 UIS Research Symposium.

Dr. Yoder’s research is focused on self-enhancement. Self-enhancement is typically defined as an overly positive view of the self. Historically, self-enhancement has been defined as one’s self-view compared to either (1) how one views others (a social comparison process) or (2) one’s self-view compared to how others view the self (an indication of self-insight). Unfortunately, both of these definitions have been shown to contain confounding influences (e.g., Kwan et al., 2008). One result of this confounding is that literature in self-enhancement has overestimated the relationship between self-enhancement and adjustment (e.g., self-esteem). Dr. Yoder will be presenting a poster on Self-Enhancement Varies by Measurement, Race, Gender, and Facial Attractiveness at the Midwestern Psychological Association in May.

Where Are They Headed???

Catherine Caldwell will be pursuing a degree in Human Development Counseling at Bradley.

Alanna Cieslek will be pursuing a master’s degree in Human Development Counseling at UIS.

Michelle Claussen will be pursuing a PsyD in Clinical Psychology at Midwestern University.

Lucy Parker will be pursuing a master’s degree in Human Development Counseling at UIS.

Amy Quarton will be pursuing a master’s degree in I/O Psychology at SIUE.

Michael Stephens will be pursuing a master’s degree in Human Development Counseling at UIS.