Chair’s Chat

Psychology majors often wonder about their career prospects and opportunities. The majority decide to enter the job market immediately following graduation, whereas others pursue an advanced degree in psychology. A substantial number of psychology majors secure specialized, post-baccalaureate training in disciplines such as medicine, business, law, education, criminology, or international affairs. Whatever the decision, it is important for psychology majors to realize that prospective employers, as well as graduate and professional school admissions committees, are all looking for specific characteristics in their applicants. As a psychology major, regardless of whether you want to become a sales executive, a police detective, or a psychologist you must be able work effectively with others, display good listening skills, use technology to problem solve, properly utilize resources, and possess a general understanding of basic psychology. Oral and written communication skills as well as flexibility, adaptability, a strong work ethic, and good computational proficiencies are essential. As a psychology major it is important that you meet with your psychology advisor (juniors and seniors who do not have an official advisor may come to the department office and pick their advisor from the available psychology faculty) on a regular basis so that he/she can assist you in selecting a course of study that allows you to develop and enhance these important skills and personal traits. During these advising sessions, which should begin in your junior year, it would be worthwhile to explore topics such as professional ethics, the importance of research experience, departmental tuition awards, attendance at professional conventions, scholarships, job opportunities, and career paths in psychology and other disciplines.

The importance of faculty advisement cannot be overstated, especially for students interested in departmental financial assistance and/or formal recognition of their research. Based on faculty endorsements and review of credentials, the department tries to confer 11 tuition awards, two scholarships, three Sattler Awards, and 14 Achievement Awards annually. Unfortunately, some of these awards are not conferred at the annual psychology awards banquet due to lack of student interest. This year no tuition award applications were received from graduating seniors planning to pursue a master’s degree in psychology at UCM, resulting in a loss to students of $4000.00 in tuition money. Likewise, there were no applications for the best undergraduate paper/poster presented at a convention. Thus, a prestigious Sattler Award and an associated cash payment will go unclaimed. Faculty advisement is also helpful for students hoping to pursue a doctoral degree in psychology. Advisors not only assist students in obtaining departmental awards (which look good on graduate school applications), they also write letters of recommendation, introduce advisees to key individuals at doctoral granting institutions, provide paid and volunteer research experiences, and often allow students the opportunity to co-author published papers, book chapters, and/or convention presentations. In closing, let me urge junior and senior psychology majors to seek out a faculty advisor who can help them gain the most out of their time at UCM. Freshman and sophomore psychology majors should begin acquainting themselves with the faculty so that they can select appropriate advisors prior to entering their junior year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Central Scholars Symposium
April 7-8 in the Union.
Psychology Banquet
April 16th; TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!
Graduate Awards Reception
April 23rd, 2:00 p.m. in Union 237A

College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences Awards Reception
April 4th, 3:00 p.m. in Union 237A
Capstone Course
Psy 4110, Systems of Psychology is required to graduate.
Membership in the Club is open to all undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in psychology. We are looking for members for this spring and dues are only $5.00 per semester or $10.00 per year.

During the fall semester, members held the semi-annual book/bake sale and arrested psychology professors for a day in order to raise money to support psychology club. Members also donated to the Lighthouse Violence Prevention and Intervention Center to fight against domestic violence. Money was raised by decorating a silhouette which can be seen in front of the psychology office. Plan on donating canned goods to attend and/or participate in the annual Student versus Faculty Basketball and Volleyball Games during the Spring semester.

Additionally, members had the opportunity to attend and/or present at the Missouri Undergraduate Psychology Student Conference at Avila University and tour the Gore Psychiatric Museum and the Jefferson City Correctional Center. Other fun activities include bowling between professors and students as well as the Christmas social at Heroes Restaurant.

As an educational organization, the Psychology Club encourages and supports student research and participation in conferences. Our fundraisers provide members with the means to pay for registration fees and trip expenses. Research is a big part of psychology, therefore presenting research at conferences is a great way to network and start building your vitae. Make plans for attending the 2009 Great Plains Student Psychology Conference at the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

In the past, the Psychology Club members worked together to collect money and goods for the Survival House and held an activity night (i.e., played board games) to collect Christmas presents for the Big Brother—Big Sister Organization. Members were able to raise over $1,400 as well as $5,000 to $6,000 worth of clothing, food, and other goods for the Survival House. This was the largest donation ever given to the shelter by an individual organization!

Thanks to Psychology Club members, recycling bins were placed throughout the Lovinger building. Also, through further efforts to involve other student organizations, there are campus-wide recycling resources. This semester we will be seeing more recycling resources.

The following are the new psychology club committees that make all the activities possible:

- Environmental Committee
- Community Service Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Social Committee
- Membership Recruitment Committee
- Field Trip Planning/Organization Committee
- Food Committee

The Psychology Club and Psi Chi will be cohosting the Annual Psychology Awards Banquet in April. Members are encouraged to volunteer for this upcoming occasion. If you have any questions regarding the available awards or the Banquet, please contact Dr. Smith or any officer of Psychology Club or Psi Chi.

Membership in the Psychology Club allows you to get involved, have fun, and network with professors and fellow students. We invite all psychology students to join the club and look forward to seeing you at our weekly meetings. Please contact Dr. Smith (jsmith@ucmo.edu) or the new president of Psychology Club, Ashley Williams (cmsupsychologyclub@yahoo.com), with any questions regarding club membership or any activities.

Past President/Sheriff: Nick Brinkman

Jon “Hot Lips” Smith
Dr. Smith—Faculty Sponsor

Psychology Club Office:
Lovinger 1206
President: Ashley Williams
Sponsor: Dr. Smith

PSYCHOLOGY CLUB
PSE CHI

Psi Chi is the National Honor Society in Psychology. Drs. David S. Kreiner and Steven Schuetz are guiding Psi Chi members in the Spring 2008 academic semester. Officers for the Spring semester are Tricia Hager (president), Elizabeth Matthew (Vice-President), Blair Dürington (Secretary), Carrie Heintz (Treasurer), and Laura Glass (Historian). Qualified students are invited to join the National Honor Society in Psychology, Psi Chi. The purpose of this organization is to encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship of members and to advance the science of psychology.

Undergraduate applicants must be enrolled at UCM, a declared major or minor in psychology, have completed 3 semesters of college coursework (with 9 hours in psychology), and rank in the upper 35% of their class with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Graduate student applicants are required to be enrolled in psychology at UCM and have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all graduate courses. Applications may be obtained in the Psychology Office, Lovinger 1111, or by contacting Psi Chi.

In Fall, 2007 we inducted 9 new members. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Steven Schuetz, who discussed the history of Psi Chi and the opportunities it offers to members. He also stressed the importance of forming student-mentor relationships.

Psi Chi has been busy. In past semesters, Psi Chi members were involved in a community service project in conjunction with the Psychology Club. This project involved collecting money, food, and other necessary items for the Survival House. Additionally, Psi Chi participated in writing “letters from Santa” to a local elementary school. Along with the Psychology Club, Psi Chi members participated in the 50/50 raffle in order to raise money for the organization.

Psi Chi also implemented a departmental tutoring program for students needing additional assistance in their psychology courses. Tutoring is available for any psychology course and is free of charge to all students.

Message from Dr. Kreiner (a.k.a. “Special K”):

Being a member of Psi Chi provides many opportunities at both the local and national levels. As a national organization, Psi Chi provides grant and award programs, as well as sessions for students at regional and national conventions. At the local level, we are always looking for Psi Chi members who have initiative and who are willing to take responsibility for projects. Our chapter has a good record of chapter activities, service projects, and other opportunities. However, it is often the case that only a small subset of our members, mainly officers, take on these responsibilities.

Becoming an active and engaged Psi Chi member, not just a member, is good for the organization and good for you. You can develop your organizational skills and leadership ability, as well as building a record of accomplishments that will look impressive to prospective employers and graduate programs. We encourage you to attend meetings if your schedule allows, but even if it doesn’t, there are many ways for you to be an active member. Please check the UCM Psi Chi site in Blackboard for specific information about what’s going on with Psi Chi.

Sincerely,

David Kreiner

Fall 2007 Inductees:

- Tracy Adams
- Jessica Ashley
- Amy Blickensstaff
- Julie Gouy
- Samantha Jones
- Renee Mohan
- Jill Pyeatt
- Madalyn Schneider
- Jennifer Twigg
Alumnus Update

Heather Tree graduated with her B.S. in 2000 and M.S. in 2004 from UCM; both degrees were in psychology. While at UCM she was the GA for the Individual Intelligence Testing course and served as Vice President of Psi Chi and Psychology Club. She also received the Outstanding Graduate Student in Psychology Award and the Jerome Sattler Award for Most Outstanding Thesis. Since 2003, Heather has been a doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology program at The University of Kansas (KU). At KU, she has been a teaching assistant for numerous classes including, an undergraduate seminar, counseling skills for teachers, and research methodology. She has been awarded many scholarships including: the Mary Oyster O’Guin Scholarship, the School of Education Achievement Scholarship, the Ruth M. Anderson Memorial Scholarship, the Graduate School Grant Scholarship, the J. & N. Rodgers Scholarship in Education, and the Melik Fellowship. Heather also served as a research assistant for Shane Lopez helping freshman at KU utilize their personal strengths to better direct their extra-curricular activities and school performance. Currently, Heather is working on her Dissertation at the KU Medical Center looking at psychosocial factors and their relationship to chronic pain within a Multiple Sclerosis population. In the Fall of 2008, Heather will be starting her predoctoral internship at the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center in Leavenworth Kansas.

**If you are interested in pursuing a PhD in Counseling Psychology or if you have any questions, please email Heather at tripleo@ku.edu.

Undergraduate Research Assistants (Spring 2008)

Katherine Kenner: assistant to Dr. Lundervold
Julie Gouy: assistant to Dr. Ament
Blaire Durrington: assistant to Dr. SW
Elizabeth Matthew: assistant to Dr. Marsh
Amanda Bennett: assistant to Dr. Kemp
Christin Hobbs: assistant to Dr. Kreiner
Angie Reschke: assistant to Dr. Ryan
Kaitlin Lammers: assistant to Dr. Schuetz

Successful Theses Defenses

- Personality types and perceived coercion in psychological research participation. Wanda Miller
- Virtual reality, cue exposure, and binge drinking: A pilot study. Marla Chapman

Special Congratulations:

Kim Stark-Wroblewski (co-authors: David S. Kreiner, Chris M. Boeding, Ashley N. Lopata, Joseph J. Ryan, and Tina M. Church) won 1st place for their research in the category of Instructional Technology, Service Learning, and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning for the 2007-2008 Faculty Research Days competition. Their research is entitled: Use of Virtual Reality to Enhance Undergraduate Learning.

Joseph J. Ryan spoke as part of the distinguished lecture series sponsored by Roosevelt University of Chicago on February 20, 2008. His lecture was entitled: Sleep Apnea: Neuropsychological and Behavioral Issues.

Angie Reschke won 2nd place in the Undergraduate Empirical Poster Session at the 28th Annual Great Plains Students’ Psychology Convention (March, 2008) for her research entitled: Application of WISC-IV short forms to primary school students. Faculty sponsor: Dr. Ryan.
The third annual “Welcome Back Psychology Students Dinner” was held on September 13, 2007 at Heroes Restaurant & Pub. Fifty-two students and faculty members attended. The gathering began with faculty and Graduate Assistant introductions followed by socialization during dinner. Tickets were provided by the psychology department and all psychology majors were invited to attend free of charge.

The Chair of the Psychology Department, Dr. Ryan, briefly discussed the many opportunities available for students to get involved in the department and to obtain money.

Attendees participated in a drawing and the following items were raffled off: 3 year-long student memberships in the American Psychological Association and 2 APA Publication Manuals.

During the socialization time, representatives of the student organizations, Psi Chi and Psychology Club, were available to answer questions and encourage new memberships.

Please join us in September 2008 for the fourth annual “Welcome Back Psychology Students Dinner.” (date to be announced).

The department hosted the “Fourth Annual Psychology Day” for high school students considering a major in psychology. The event was conducted on September 21, 2007. Approximately 10 high school juniors and seniors, along with their parents, were in attendance.

Drs. Ryan, SW, and Kreiner of the Psychology Department gave presentations to the students and their parents. The topics included a video from the American Psychological Association and oral presentations on “Psychology as a profession,” and “The Psychology Major.”

Students and parents were also given a tour of the department. Highlights of the tour included the Physiological Psychology Lab, Neurocognition/Vision Lab, Behavioral Medicine and Biofeedback Lab, and the Virtual Reality Lab. Students observed demonstrations in each laboratory. They also explored the research posters displayed throughout the hallway.

The day concluded with lunch at the Ellis Dining Hall with informal conversation among faculty, current students, prospective students, and prospective students’ parents. A campus tour followed. The “Fifth Annual Psychology Day” will be held in September 2008.
Friday Afternoon Research Talks were initiated in the Fall of 2004. These presentations are designed to encourage the exploration and discussion of faculty and student research. Every other Friday at 3:00 p.m., a research presentation is given in Lovinger 1270. The presentation is followed by a question and answer session. Each “Research Talk” lasts 45 minutes to an hour.

Invitations for presenters and attendees are extended to all University faculty and students. Guest speakers, as well as UCM faculty and students make the presentations. Participation is voluntary, but, students should check with their professors to see if extra credit opportunities are available to those who attend one or more of the talks. Please check postings for dates and titles of future presentations.

For further information on past presentations or how to present your research please contact Dr. David Kreiner at 543-8076 or by e-mail: kreiner@ucmo.edu.

Some Recent Presentations
- **How to Complete a Thesis in Psychology.**
  Presented by: David Kreiner, PhD
- **Improving Early Childhood Literacy by Increasing the Frequency of Reading at Home.**
  Presented by: Patricia Marsh, PhD
- **Careers in Psychology.**
  Presented by: Ron Eblen
- **Mother-Infant Sleep Patterns: A View of Sleep Interventions in New Zealand.**
  Presented by: Wendy Middlemiss
- **Do Students Care or Use Course Expectations to Direct Their Learning?**
  Presented by: Elizabeth Matthew
- **Physical Work Environment Effects on Job Satisfaction and Performance.**
  Presented by: Rebecca Pfeiderer

Professional Development: Faculty-Student Research

A great way to get involved in psychology is by working on research projects with faculty. Listed below are a sampling of recently completed projects published or accepted for publication (faculty*, students):

Congratulations Students!

- Jennifer Collier - accepted to the Educational Specialist Master’s Program in School Psychology at the University of Missouri.
- Carrie Heinrich - accepted to the Industrial/Organizational Psychology Master’s Program at the University of Tulsa.
- Laura Glass - accepted to the Clinical Psychology PsyD Program at Roosevelt University.
- Blaire Durington is accepted to the Counseling Psychology PhD program at UMKC.
- Sherri Cox - accepted to the Clinical Psychology PhD program at UMKC.
- Autum Martin - accepted to the Applied Behavioral Analysis Master’s Program at Florida Institute of Technology.
- CariAnn Bergner - accepted to the Counseling Psychology PhD program at Iowa State University.
- Angie Reschke accepted to the Psychology Master’s Program at UCM.

Conference Presentations


Interview with Nicholas Cage

Name: Nicholas Mick Cage
Birthplace: Cracker, Arkansas
Q: What makes you a great actor?
A: First of all cracker, I prefer the word “thespian,” the word “actor” is so plebian. I am such a great THESPIAN because I have a sexy scowl and a sweet mullet—they get me all my parts as well as the ladies.
Q: How do you maintain your appearance?
A: Well, I have a hair routine that includes mayonnaise and egg whites twice a day, everyday. I don’t really lift any weights because I don’t want to stretch out my “MOM” tattoo. This belly is all natural. Though, I did blast my pecs at the gym the other day. In the nude. Totally, my cracker.
Q: What is your favorite word?
A: Nicholas Cage
Q: Isn’t “Nicholas Cage” two words?
A: I think you’re flirting with me. You can’t have a bite out of this fine cracker.
Q: Who is your role model?
A: Nicholas Cage
Q: Who do you fear?
A: Nicholas Cage
Q: If you could be anyone for a day, who would it be?
A: Rosie O’Donnell on a date with Nicholas Cage.