President’s Welcome

Welcome to the first Psychology Club Newsletter of Spring 2007 semester!

This year Psychology Club has been very busy with various events! At a general meeting Dr. Charles Hendrix, the director of the Marriage and Family Therapy masters program at OSU, discussed his program and the career options available for an individual with a Masters in MFT. For a philanthropy project, members made Valentine’s Day cards for residents of an assisted living community which were later distributed by our Philanthropy Chair Trey Hill. Our club has also had several socials including a Psychology Club Jeopardy Night lead by out Social Chair Zack Colorio. Psychology Club had a lot of exciting events last semester and I hope you had the chance to attend some of those events. This semester we will be having an El Chico Night on March 29th to raise money for Psychology Club. We will also be having our annual spring banquet on April 12th where various awards will be given, including the Psychology Club Scholarships and the Outstanding Senior Award.

This edition of our newsletter contains a career spotlight, a crossword puzzle, and other various articles. We hope you will find our newsletter to be a useful source of entertainment and information.

If you have any comments or suggestions, feel free to contact me at nikki.howell@okstate.edu. Enjoy the first Psychology Club Newsletter for the 2007 spring semester!

Nikki Howell is the Psychology Club President and can be reached at nikki.howell@okstate.edu. Please title all e-mails pertaining to the newsletter as “Psychology Club Newsletter”

Officer Profile

Hello everyone! My name is Zack Colorio and I am currently the Social Chairman for the Psychology Club. I am a junior originally from Guthrie Oklahoma and I have come to Oklahoma State University in hopes of attaining a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. During my time here at Oklahoma State University, I have found an interest in personality and social psychology and I hope to continue learning about these fields in graduate school. I hope to attend graduate school in the New England area and gain a Doctorate in one of the mentioned fields.

To contact Zack, please e-mail him at zack.colorio@okstate.edu. Please title all e-mails pertaining to the newsletter as “Psychology Club Newsletter”
CAREER SPOTLIGHT

What causes teenagers to go on a shooting rampage at their school? Why do some people maintain their racial prejudices whereas others replace their hatreds with tolerance and respect? When do people work best as a group and when are they better off alone? How do you persuade someone? Why do people conform? If you find questions such as these intriguing, you should consider a career in social psychology.

What is social psychology?

Social psychologists examine the human experience by exploring forces within the person (such as traits, attitudes, and goals) as well as forces within the situation (such as social norms and incentives). These concepts are used to unravel the mysteries of individual and social life in areas as wide-ranging as prejudice, romantic attraction, persuasion, helping, aggression, conformity, and group interaction.

At some level, we are all social psychologists, observing our social worlds and trying to understand why people behave, think, and feel as they do. But social psychologists go such ponderings by systematically observing and describing people's actions, and by measuring or manipulating aspects of social situations. Basic research in social psychology focuses on fundamental questions about people and their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors: What causes us to fall in love, hate our neighbor, or join with others to clean our neighborhoods? How does culture shape who we become? Applied research in social psychology focuses on more narrow arenas of life, such as health, business, and law: What types of communications are likely to increase healthy behaviors? How does bias influence eyewitness testimony?

What can I do as a social psychologist?

Because social psychologists combine an understanding of human behavior with sophisticated research methods, they have many opportunities for employment. Many social psychologists teach and do research in universities and colleges. However, social psychologists are also employed in the private sector (as consultants, marketing directors, political strategists) and in government and nonprofit organizations (designing and evaluating policies).

How do I become a social psychologist?

As an undergraduate, you should enroll in Social Psychology and Psychology of Social Behaviors. You should also consider several related courses, including Personality Psychology, Psychology of Motivation, Psychology and Mass Media, Psychology of Minorities, and Cognitive Psychology. Furthermore, you should become involved with research in a social psychology laboratory (preferably before your senior year).

Although some social psychologists receive a terminal masters degree (M.S. or M.A.), most seek a doctoral degree (Ph.D.). The doctorate is preferred by employers and is usually necessary for employment as a professor. Most Ph.D. programs in social psychology require 4-5 years of training, with the goal being to prepare each student to become an independent, professional researcher. Because graduate training revolves around research, prospective students should give full consideration not only to the perspectives of a potential graduate program on the whole, but also to pay attention to the specific faculty members with whom they are likely to work. UMich-Ann Arbor, UCLA, UPenn, UTEx-Austin, UVA, and UNC-Chapel Hill all have strong social programs. Some useful websites: http://www.socialpsychology.org, http://www.spsp.org

For more information, please contact Dr. Melissa Burkley (melissa.burkley@okstate.edu) or Dr. Edward Burkley (ed.burkley@okstate.edu)
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
2. Primary motivator of humans
4. Id, ego, and ________
6. Operates on the reality principle
14. Freud’s O.
15. Freud’s home
16. Stage where the task to master is the identification with the opposite sex parent
17. Operates on the pleasure principle
18. Part of the mind that contains information of which we are not aware
19. Part of the mind that contains memories
20. Sexual repression stage
21. Complex that involves penis envy

DOWN
1. Branch of psychological disciplines that sprung from Freud’s theory
3. Freud’s research associate
5. Opposite of Oedipal
7. Stage where the task to master is weaning
8. Occurs when tasks of the psychosexual stages aren’t mastered
9. Stage associated with the onset of puberty
12. Stage where the task to master is toilet training
13. Part of the mind containing information of which we are always aware
INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

A significant force in my decision to pursue Industrial-Organizational psychology was my selection as a Quality Education for Minorities intern at the National Science Foundation. Last summer, I interned in the Workforce Planning and Analysis Branch (WPAB) under the Human Resource Division (HRM). I learned a great amount about the field of industrial-organizational psychology, as well as the structure and function of a federal human resources division. I was fortunate to visit with many I-O consultants and human resource professionals throughout the duration of my internship, further affirming my interests in I-O psychology.

My main project was to create organizational maps for each Division and Directorate at NSF. During my internship, I created over 60 organizational charts for the agency. I had the responsibility of gathering data from BRIO (HRM database containing staffing information for NSF) to create a current organizational map of each NSF’s Directorates and Divisions. After exporting data from BRIO, I would manipulate and format the data to enable exportation of the information to Microsoft Visio. From Visio, I could then create the current organizational map for each division. The Customer Account Representatives and I would then meet to discuss the Directorate’s organizational structure within NSF. A current organizational map for that Directorate would then be developed. Through a team-based approach, the Customer Account Representatives and I met with the management of each Directorate to help plan, discuss, and aid in decision-making for the Directorate’s future organizational structure within NSF. Once the organizational maps were completed, the CAR and I would then discuss that plan/map with the management of each Directorate and amend as needed.

One challenge of this project was the complicated nature of the organizational structure of the National Science Foundation. Each Directorate/Division has a different structure and I was responsible for figuring out how each operated, with very little insight about their actual organizational processes. I found this project to be extremely challenging and rewarding. These current organizational charts will be essential in future efforts of workforce planning for the National Science Foundation. As a result of making the current maps, I have received a great deal of positive feedback from the CARs and others about the usefulness and importance of the organizational charts, so I am grateful for my extensive involvement with this project.

In addition to working on the current organizational charts, I attended approximately six meetings a week regarding operations and concerns with the new Human Resources customer service model. Attending the meetings helped me reach my learning objective of better understanding HRM and aided in completion of my project. A combination of HR management, consultants, CARs, Mechanics (staffing and classification experts), HR assistants, and contractors were all present at the meetings. The discussions gave me great insight into others’ roles and responsibilities in the organization and how I fit in, as well as the many rules and regulations in staffing for a federal organization.

Overall, this internship was an extremely rewarding and informative experience. I have learned a great deal of information about my field and various career options available to me, as well as the structure and function of a federal human resources division. This experience will aid in my success in a human resources career. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the National Science Foundation and learn more about the organization as well as the human resources industry, which will help prepare me for my future career as an I-O psychologist.

If you are interested in finding out more about similar internships in the Washington D.C. area, you should look at the few organizations listed below:

- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities: [http://www.hnic.net/](http://www.hnic.net/)
- Washington Internships for Native Students: [http://www.american.edu/wins/](http://www.american.edu/wins/)

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about my internship experience, I would be happy to visit with you. Feel free to contact me at the following information.

-Sarah Haynes
sarah.haynes@okstate.edu
703-310-9535
Psi Chi Honor Society has been working to increase and diversify the activities and meetings held this semester. Some interesting topics covered so far have included acquiring great letters of recommendation, research opportunities through PSYC 4990, teaching assistantship information through PSYCH 3990, and many more. Psi Chi is currently working diligently to raise money for Relay for Life by selling baked goods outside of the Student Union. Psi Chi has also been working with Psychology Club on future event ideas such as a possible psychology focused career fair and student lunches with faculty members in the psychology department. Workshop topic requests and nominations for faculty members that members of either club would like to invite to a student lunch are very much welcome. If you are interested in future events or in attending any lunches with faculty members feel free to contact Dr. Kennison or any of the Psi Chi officers with your input!

Contact Dr. Kennison, at shelia.kennison@okstate.edu.

Or, visit the Psi Chi web site: http://www.psichi.org

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**OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**PSYCHOLOGY CLUB**

**Psychology Club Officers**
- President: Nikki Howell, nikki.howell@okstate.edu
- Vice President: Kathryn Beck, kathryn.beck@okstate.edu
- Secretary/Treasurer: Dave Zimm, dave.zimm@okstate.edu
- Social/Programs Chair: Zack Colotio, zack.colotio@okstate.edu
- Publicity Chair: Ashleigh Curtis, ashleigh.curtis@okstate.edu
- Philanthropy Chair: Troy Hill, troy.hill@okstate.edu
- Membership Chair: Patrick Sughrue, pat.sughrue@okstate.edu

**Psychology Club Advisors**
- Dr. James Grice, James.grice@okstate.edu
- Silvia Frutos, Silvia.frutos@okstate.edu
- Kevin Scymore, Kevin.scymore@okstate.edu

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**CALENDAR**

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