

PSYCH MATTERS

Volume 3/Issue 4
March/April 2002

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The Quarterly Newsletter of Psychology at Oakland University

Two New Faculty Members to Join Department by Robby Stewart

In the January/February edition of *PsychMatters* I announced that the department was beginning the process of reviewing dossiers to search for two new faculty members. The month of February was a very busy one as five candidates were invited to campus for interviews. In the end, the faculty was unanimous in who we wanted to join the department. That, in and of itself, is reason to rejoice, but the best came a few days later when both candidates accepted our invitations to come to OU. In the paragraphs below I will provide a brief introduction to each of these new faculty members. It is my expectation that their stories will be the key features of the upcoming September/October edition of *PsychMatters* when they are interviewed about their specific research interests and needs for research assistants.

Professor Debra McGinnis is a Lifespan Developmental Psychologist who earned her PhD at the University of Southern California. Her BA was in Human Development from California State University at Long Beach, and she returned to CSULB to teach and do research until she decided to make the move to Oakland. McGinnis' research focuses on the effects of aging on language comprehension, and she has discovered that age differences in language processes are more complex than one might initially realize. The language literature suggests that inferential processes are critical for successful comprehension of both written and spoken language. McGinnis is interested in examining whether changes in the inferential processes of older adults contribute to age-related comprehension deficits. The applied implications of this type of research should be obvious to any one who has interacted with older adults, or to anyone who realizes that the number of older adults is increasing dramatically.

With respect to teaching, Professor McGinnis has experience in teaching Introductory Psychology, Statistics, Research Methods, and Adult Development and Aging. As department chair, I was particularly interested in the fact that she has taught a course in Critical Thinking, and I hope to explore the possibility of creating such a course here at OU. The materials Professor McGinnis provided about her teaching supports her summary that she is viewed "as an instructor who teaches rigorous courses and who maintains high standards, but ...[who is] an instructor who is approachable and concerned about each student's success.

Professor Sylvie Lombardo has taught as a part-time instructor at OU and has received outstanding evaluations. She has recently received her PhD in Clinical and Community Psychology from Wayne State University and is currently completing her clinical internship at the Johns Hopkins Baltimore Prevention Project. Lombardo's research focused on the influence of community systems, on understanding the multiple forces that determine individual outcomes, and on developing effective community interventions. She has focused on issues such as homelessness among adolescents, the role of peer rejection, family functioning, and ADHD symptoms in the development of risky sexual behaviors in children. The materials Professor Lombardo provided about her research activities argued that "successful community partnerships can offer opportunities for meaningful training experiences for students" where hands-on experiences can permit students to discover the principles of applied research and to articulate their own interest in psychology.

With regards to teaching, Professor Lombardo will offer courses in Abnormal

Psychology, Research Methods, Statistics, and advanced seminars in Community Psychology. She also has expressed an interest in developing a course in Community Psychology where students can be introduced to the theory and research that integrates individual and community-based approaches toward intervention (including prevention, self-help, empowerment, and community-level action).

Job searches are difficult processes that eat up time and other resources. For most faculty members of this department every day in the month of February involved some activity related to completing these two searches. The benefits of concluding a "good search" is not limited just to hiring new people to join your ranks -- a "good search" provides a catalyst to renew and invigorate the existing faculty. In the time I have been at OU, more than two decades now, I have never seen such enthusiasm and optimism for the future as I saw in the members of this faculty when we unanimously agreed to hire McGinnis and Lombardo.

Things are going to be interesting in September. I encourage you to meet these two new faculty members when the opportunity presents itself. My guess is that you will be just as positively impressed as the faculty has been. ♦

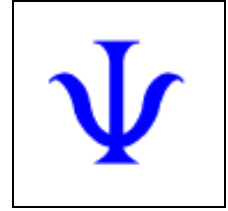
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Faculty Matters



A Letter from the Department Chair... Dr. Robby Stewart



In my last letter I told you about plans to conduct two searches to hire new faculty members. The cover story in this edition of *PsychMatters* shows that those searches were indeed successful. I specifically asked you to participate in the search process by interviewing the candidates yourselves. I would like to thank Karen Hill, Johnathan Muenk, Don Nott, Susan Casaceli, Ann Bartoli, and Heather Gehringer for following through and meeting with the candidates. It is my assumption that anyone who is asked to join our faculty must be interested in working with students. It is also my assumption that our students should be interested in who potentially will become one of the faculty.

On May 10th the Tenth Annual Meeting of Minds (MOM) will be held at OU. I want to encourage you to attend this very important event. Let me say that again: I ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND THIS VERY IMPORTANT EVENT!

What makes it so important? Well, let's see. I think MOM is more important than graduation. Graduation is an event where hundreds of students come to celebrate getting their degrees. MOM is an event where a few select students come together to demonstrate that they are indeed get-

ting an education. This year we will learn about the products of psychology majors who have been working since the last MOM conference to gather, analyze and interpret data sets as diverse as diverse can be. In reviewing the abstracts submitted to the MOM program committee I find submissions from OU psychology majors that focus on [1] understanding the reasons someone might become a psychology major, [2] examining the effects of an unequalled reciprocation of listening in a dyadic conversation, [3] discovering that people differ dramatically in describing what type of child they would like to have, [4] understanding the gender differences in performance on a categorization task, [5] assessing the effects of positive and negative feedback on self-esteem, [6] exploring the revictimization of veterans who returned from Vietnam, rape victims, and victims of domestic violence, [7] helping school-aged students develop interpersonal skills, [8] assessing the abnormalities in facial expression display and processing that are often seen in autistic individuals, [9] examining the moderating role of attachment in the relationship between loneliness and social support as students establish themselves in college life.

In addition to these reports we will discover what faculty and students in

biology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, English, modern languages, linguistics, political science, art history, and music, theatre and dance do when they collaborate outside the classroom in pursuit of academic excellence. Personally, I am excited that the program includes things such as readings from short stories written by English majors, performances by the Steel Drum Ensemble of compositions written by Music majors, arias performed by Music majors, performances of the sword scene from "Romeo and Juliet" with discussions of the choreography involved by Theatre majors, a discussion of Chinese desecration of Tibetan culture by an Art History major, and displays of visual art by OU students (some of which may even be Psychology majors).

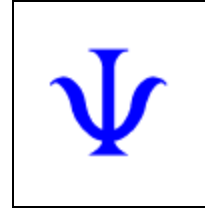
Many universities make the claim that a liberal arts education is good for you. The MOM conferences demonstrate this fact for you in no uncertain terms. I hope to see many of you at MOM this year, and I hope you leave MOM enthusiastic about your own potential to create something during the upcoming year so that you can demonstrate that you too are getting an education along with your degree.

Robby ♦

Advising Matters



Mary B. Eberly, Ph.D.



“Getting Into Graduate School”

Hello from the advising office! For those of you who attended the workshop on February 16th, thank you for coming! I hope that you were able to learn something useful for your future goals and dreams. Although you all have hopes and expectations for getting into graduate school, I would like you to think about what you will do should you not get accepted.

The application process is very competitive, and many applicants are not accepted each year. I have found that many students “assume” that when they apply, they will simply go to the graduate school of their choice. However, “getting in” doesn’t always occur. It is very disappointing and sometimes it is difficult to cope with the rejection. Prepare yourself for the possibility of disappointment. Develop alternative plans ahead of time. For example, if you want to reapply the following year, initiate plans to enhance your resumé and application. Get a job in a related field. Continue working on research with a faculty member. Take a course that might enhance your GPA or knowledge base. It may be a great idea, as well as an excellent opportunity to join the Peace Corps and Vista. By the time April 1st rolls around, the date when graduate schools must inform applicants of whether or not they are accepted, be prepared for all possibilities.

For those of you who are not interested in graduate school, it is a GREAT time to think about putting your resumé together. Often, it takes anywhere from 3-6 months to find a job. Especially in the recession that our economy is in currently, so start early! It has become vital for you to put your best foot forward. The Career Resource Center offers assistance in writing resúmes, personal statements, and providing job opportunities as well. Check it out! Good Luck!

~Dr. E ♦

Advising Hours
Wednesdays
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
and
4:30 p.m.-5:30 pm
112 Pryale
(248) 370-2285
eberly@oakland.edu

Additional Advising
Information
may be found at the
Departmental
Website
www2.oakland.edu/psych

Psi Chi Matters

Hello all! As our year is coming to an end, I would like to thank all of the officers and members for their contributions to Psi Chi/ Psychology Club! Also, a big thanks goes out to Dr. Ron Butzlaff for his support given while serving his first year as our faculty advisor. Some highlights from the past year include: Psi Chi's trip to the MPA conference in Chicago, the 1st Student/Faculty Summer Picnic, the carwash fundraiser, many workshops, and some outstanding speakers. Additionally, we participated in numerous community service projects including AIDS Walk Detroit, Michigan Humane Society Volunteers, and the WHRC elementary school playground equipment collection, which has already gathered a few barrels full of gear. I sincerely hope that next year's group of officers will carry on with the summer picnic event and possibly travel to Chicago again, but this time taking advantage of the National APA conference in August as well.

I feel extremely fortunate to have served as President this past year. This experience has taught me more than I ever expected to learn and has given me more opportunities than I could ever possibly take advantage of. Thank you and Good Luck!

~ Cheryl Stayer ♦

Congratulations to the New Psi Chi Members Inducted on March 15, 2002:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Tammy DeMil | Jennifer Juskiewicz |
| Catherine Fishbeck | Ian Kierpaul |
| Sakura Gasser | Michael A. Kloop |
| Lindsey Green | Kimberly Lewis |
| RyAnne Harden | Jennifer Shailor |
| Julia Harkins | Randy Socin |

2002-2003 Officers:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| President: | Ian Kierpaul |
| Vice-President: | Jennifer Juskiewicz |
| Vice-President: | Jennifer Shailor |
| Treasurer: | Randy Socin |
| Secretary: | Lindsey Green |
| <i>PsychMatters</i> Editor: | Kassie Green |
| <i>PsychMatters</i> Associate Editor: | Antoinette Lobaito |

Upcoming Psi Chi/Psychology Club Events:

Tuesday, April 2nd
Psychology Faculty and Staff Appreciation Luncheon
Pryale Conference Room
Noon-1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9th
General Meeting with Special Guest Speaker Dr. Gary Cotter on ADHD
Lake Superior A, OC
Noon-12:45 p.m.

Other Important Dates:

Saturday, May 4th
Commencement

Friday, May 10th
10th Annual Meeting of the Minds Conference at Oakland University

Research Matters

Meeting of the Minds X

This is the tenth annual Meeting of the Minds (MOM) conference, and this year, on May 10th, it will be held here at Oakland University! We are very honored to host MOM this year and encourage you to join us. This undergraduate conference is sponsored by OU, U of M-Flint, and U of M-Dearborn, giving students from different universities and various degree programs a chance to show everyone just how well their college tuition was spent! I sincerely hope that you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to attend the conference and take a look at what other students have been involved in for the past year. There will be 30 poster presentations, 60 oral presentations, and 11 performing arts presentations to choose from, so you're sure to find something that you will enjoy. Students work diligently with faculty members on this research, anywhere from a semester to a year or more, in order to present these wonderful findings. Join us and see what research is all about. You never know, you may even learn something new! Each registrant will receive a conference program and MOM X momentos. Below is an itinerary of the scheduled events. I'll see you there...

~Amanda F. Henderson, *PsychMatters* Editor ♦

Meeting of the Minds X May 10, 2002

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| 8:00-8:30 | Registration/Roundtable Discussions Continental Breakfast | Gold Rooms |
| 8:30-9:00 | Announcements by Professor Stewart Welcome by Provost Moudgil Opening Remarks by Dean Downing | Gold Rooms |
| 9:15-10:15 | Poster Presentations I Oral Presentations I | Fireside Lounge OC Rooms: 128-130 Oakland Lake Huron Lake Superior A Lake Superior B |
| 10:25-11:25 | Oral Presentations II | OC Rooms |
| 11:30-12:20 | Lunch | Gold Rooms |
| 12:30-2:30 | Performing Arts Presentations Student Success Stories | Varner Recital Hall |
| 2:35-3:30 | Poster Presentations II Oral Presentations III | Fireside Lounge OC Rooms |
| 3:30-4:25 | Oral Presentations IV | OC Rooms |
| 4:30-5:30 | Reception Visual Arts Presentations | Meadow Brook Art Gallery |

Academic Matters

2002-2003 Psi Chi President, Ian Kierpaul

Hello everybody my name is Ian and I'm the new president of Psi Chi/Psychology Club. I just want to thank all of those who voted for me! It's a great honor to be elected to a position that has so many responsibilities and duties and I want to thank you for having the confidence in me to do the job. I have no doubt that it will be a difficult task and I'm looking forward to the challenge. However, I can't do it by myself. This is going to be a team effort, a "we" effort, and I must say that I'm very lucky to be surrounded by great officers. The two vice presidents, Jen Shailor and Jen Juskiewicz are hard-working and highly motivated, committed to making Psi Chi/Psychology club successful. I know both of these women and I'm certain that they will do a terrific job. The treasurer, Randy Socin, is also a very hard-working and dedicated person and I know for sure he'll do a great job. The secretary, Lindsey Green, is very determined and I'm confident that she will do an awesome job. I'm also very lucky to have Kassie Green, the *PsychMatters* Editor, on the team. I have known Kassie for a while and I know she is dedicated to making Psi Chi/Psychology Club a success. Kassie will be my chief of staff next year and will be considered an officer. Antoinette Lobaito, the *PsychMatters* Associate Editor, is another fabulous addition to our team. Antoinette will also be the director of fundraising next year and she will also be considered an officer. I'm grateful to have a very supportive faculty advisor, Dr. Butzlaff. So, if you put all of us together you are left with a great group of people who are highly motivated and willing to work at making Psi Chi/Psychology Club a success. I'm looking forward to working with all of these officers next year because I'm confident that we will make it fun!

So, you're probably wondering what our plans are for next year. The biggest item on our agenda is to provide services to our fellow students. We are currently working on a research guide for fall 2002 that will provide information on faculties' research interests, as well as any research assistants they may be in need of in the fall. We are also working on a database of volunteer opportunities and database of work/internship opportunities. Another service we would like to provide is peer tutoring and mentoring for the psy 100 classes and for the psy 250 and 251 classes. For the Winter 2003 semester we are looking at putting together an advising guide like the one the political science department uses. Plus, Psi Chi/Psychology Club will continue to provide the wonderful services we have in the past, such as our guest speakers and workshops.

We will continue to carry on the tradition of charity and volunteer work. We will expand on that by raising money for a different charity each month, such as raising money in December to buy toys for less fortunate children. We will also do at least one volunteer event a month, like Habitat for Humanity or volunteering at a local soup kitchen. We would also like to have a year-long project in which we mentor and work with kids after school. Engaging in social activities is a very fun and rewarding experience. Also, it's a way to bring us closer together and help foster a sense of unity and solidarity. I look forward to being active in numerous social events.

Some other things we would like to accomplish is to have a research open house in which faculty could come and talk about their research and give students a chance to get a feel for what research is all about, and also give students and faculty an opportunity to meet each other. We would also like to have weekly faculty and student luncheons in Pryale Hall. This would allow faculty and students to get to know each other better and it would also bring more students into Pryale Hall. We would also like to get Psi Chi/Psychology Club involved in intramural sports next year and subsidize the cost of scantrons and bluebooks.

As far as how the club will be run internally, I have modified the structure of Psi Chi/Psychology Club which will make communication easier and allow for hard-working and dedicated psych club members to be involved in leadership positions. One of the changes that I have created is an office of the president, which will include the chief of staff, director of fundraising, director of recruiting, director of student services, athletic director, and web site coordinator. I have the chief of staff and director of fundraising positions filled, but if you're a highly motivated and hard-working person and you are interested in one of the other positions, I encourage you to contact me. My email address is alwayskickingass@hotmail.com. These positions in the office of the president will be considered non-elected officer positions but will be present at officer meetings. This will insure better communication, allow for more creative ideas, and will allow us to have a strong support network in order to foster a team atmosphere.

What we hope to accomplish by providing these services and opportunities to our fellow students is to bring more people into the club and build solidarity and unity among all psych majors and minors. The more people that become involved, the better the organization will be next year. Strength is in numbers and the more that we as students can show that we care, the more that people will listen and notice us. Solidarity of all psych majors and minors will make this a great organization and department. There is nothing more powerful than a united, motivated, and committed group of people. So, I hope that all of you come out and join us and make next year an excellent and fun experience that you will never forget. You have our full commitment that we will work to make that happen and I challenge you to help us in that effort.

~Ian Kierpaul, Psi Chi President ♦

Community Matters

Community Service Project: Sports Equipment Needed for Pontiac School Playground

WHRC elementary school in Pontiac is home to many less fortunate children who are in need of new or used sports equipment for playground use. Some of these children are homeless, as well, and would really enjoy something to play with during recess. Items include the following: basketballs, soccer balls, baseballs, softballs, gloves, kickballs, bats, hula-hoops, jump ropes, etc. We will be collecting the equipment at all of our Psi Chi /Psychology Club meetings, and there is also a drop-off box located in the lobby of Pryale Hall. Please try to help these kids out if you can. Donations will be taken through April 26th. Comments, questions? Contact Shawn Delasko at shawnski@hotmail.com Thank you in advance for your support!

~Amanda F. Henderson, *PsychMatters* Editor ♦

Common Ground Sanctuary

Volunteerism was firmly established in the late 1800's by the Charity Organization Society in England. Since then it has spread throughout the world and is the foundation for many influential organizations today. An example of one such organization is Common Ground Sanctuary, located in Pontiac, Michigan. It is a non-profit organization funded mainly by United Way and other private donations. Its mission is to provide support services to individuals and their families in a time of crisis. Common Ground Sanctuary has several programs, including a psychiatric screening unit, a youth shelter, a crisis intervention hotline, a victim assistant program, and a legal clinic. Common Ground is dedicated to providing assistance and all possible resources to assist those who are in need.

In order to become a crisis hotline counselor a 70-hour training program must be completed. The training that I received consisted of a two-month-long process that was very informative and motivating. My training sessions were on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and on Thursdays from 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Each Saturday we were presented with a different topic, i.e. suicide, domestic violence, alcoholism, etc, for the first half of the day. During the second half of the day we were separated into groups and were instructed to role play answering crisis calls drawing on our personal experiences. This taught us how to properly respond to several different crisis situations.

I have been a volunteer for a year now and it has truly been a rewarding experience. I have not only learned how to assess crisis situations, but also how to appropriately resolve the caller's conflict and help him or her attain a rational state of mind once again so that they are able to help themselves.

I feel that this experience is beneficial to the career in Social Work that I intend to pursue. I recommend that you consider becoming a volunteer at Common Ground Sanctuary, or a similar agency, if you are also interested in the mental health field. If you would like additional information, please contact Liz Christopher at (248)456-8158.

~Kassie Green, *PsychMatters* Associate Editor ♦

The Department of Psychology
Oakland University
111 Pryale Hall
Rochester, MI 48309-4489

To:

Humor Matters

Welcome to the Psychiatric Hotline...

If you are obsessive-compulsive, please press 1 repeatedly.

If you are co-dependent, please ask someone to press 2.

If you have multiple personalities, please press 3, 4, 5, and 6.

If you are paranoid-delusional, we know who you are and what you want. Just stay on the line so we can trace the call.

If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and a little voice will tell you which number to press.

If you are depressed, it doesn't matter which number you press.
No one will answer.

If you are delusional and occasionally hallucinate, please be aware that the thing you are holding on the side of your head is alive and about to bite off your ear. ♦

REMINDER

**The Psi Chi/
Psychology Club
meets every other
Tuesday from 12-1 pm
in the lower level
of the Oakland Center.
FREE lunch provided!
All students welcome!**

**Check out Psi Chi/
Psychology Club
and PsychMatters on the web:
www2.oakland.edu/psych/psi-chi
Or e-mail us at:
pmatters@oakland.edu**