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PSYCHMATTERS

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The Quarterly Newsletter of Psychology at Oakland University

WHAT MATTERS NOW: New Academic Year - New Design, New Developments

by Prof. Robby Stewart,
Dept. Chair

Obviously, the first new development of the new academic year is this redesign of the newsletter.

Our former newsletter, *The Freudian Slip*, had conveyed information about the Psi Chi Chapter, the Psychology Club, and the Dept. of Psychology for over a decade.

Throughout its life, questions were raised as to why we would want to continue the apparent homage to *Prof. Sigmund Freud* when so much of psychology appeared to

have progressed beyond his theories.

One might conclude that the humor of the mid-1980s had worn a little thin, and that a change was needed.

The search for a new name for the newsletter began informally at first. Banners such as "The Bowlbian Bulletin" seemed too esoteric, and "The Psychology Newsletter" was simply too dull. Then "PSYCHMatters" appeared and the debate simply evaporated.

Yes, here we had a banner which could report matters of interest and importance to Psychology majors, Psychology faculty and Psychology alumni.

Yes, "PSYCHology does Matter!" It is

important to us, and it is important for us to communicate to others just how important psychology is.

The first step was to convey our fuzzy ideas for a newsletter to *Erika Miller*, a senior in the *OU Journalism Program*/news reporting, who also has a special interest in print design. What you see is the product of many hours of her labor.

The second step was to computerize this newsletter to reduce, hopefully, the task of compiling information. *Patrick Faircloth*, a junior in psychology, donated a copy of

see *Developments* - p. 2

DEPARTMENT ACQUIRES FIRST STUDENT ADVISING INTERN

So, what do you want to do after you graduate? The question is just slightly less troublesome than the age-old "So, what do you want to be when you grow up?" version. Many students wrestle with questions such as these, and many discover that their inability to come up with definitive answers often leads to experiences of confusion, decreased self-esteem, stress and even conflict with significant others. So, what are you going to do about it?

You could go to your faculty advisor or friends and ask for guidance and suggestions. But the process of doing this makes you even more stressed. There is at least one alternative: make an appointment to see the advising intern in the *Dept. of Psychology Advising Office* in Rm. 112 Pryale Hall.

Our first advising intern is *Sheri Galens*, a graduate student in the Masters of Counseling program at *O.U.* Sheri graduated



Sheri Galens

from *Eastern Michigan U.* in 1992 with a BA in psychology and a minor in communications. She moved through a series of various jobs for five years before entering the counseling program, where she now specializes in career counseling.

Based on the concept of peer facilitators, an intervention program that started in the 1970s, an advising intern is a student who has received special training in assisting others with issues of communication, problem solving, and networking. They help other students explore alternatives, think critically about options, and make responsible decisions.

The addition of advising interns may soon be recognized as the most important improvement to our advising mission since the creation of the chief advisor position.

In addition to counseling, Sheri will offer a number of "mini workshops" to address

issues such as communication skills, test anxiety, strategies for study, and networking skills. Moreover, she will act as liaison between Psychology and the *Placement and Career Services* office to expand opportunities for undergraduate internship and co-op experiences. ♦

Sheri's Fall Office Hours (Rm. 112 Pryale):
2-5:30pm Wed. & 2-6pm Thurs.

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QuarkXPress publishing software to the department, and then worked very closely with Erika to transform our dream design into the reality you now hold in your hands.

We are deeply indebted to these two students, and I would like to take this opportunity to formally and publicly thank them for their contributions.

In the pages that follow, you will find stories describing many other developments within the psychology community at OU. This community includes the faculty, **Psi Chi** and **Psych Club** student organizations, individual students, and alumni.

At the top of page one, you will find an announcement of changes to our advising efforts: **Prof. Mary Eberly** is our new chief advisor. We have established a permanent advising office in Rm. 112 of Pryale Hall, and we have secured the services of an intern advisor to extend our advising activities into new areas.

On page two (at right), you will find the Chair's column presenting the latest information from the department.

Page three holds columns from the **Psi Chi** president and an interview with an alumnus.

Our new faculty member, **Prof. Ron Butzlaff**, introduces himself to the community on page four. I have no doubts that the community is going to enjoy having Prof. Butzlaff with us.

On that page, you will also find a discussion and schedule of the annual open house and important workshops.

Page five contains *The Student Voice*, where individual students can voice their concerns and opinions; and *Advising Matters*, where **Prof. Eberly** will highlight the latest information from the advising office.

Other smaller features - such as *Gray Matter* and *As a Matter of Fact* - are included throughout *PSYCHMATTERS* just for fun (or is it *phun?*).

I hope you enjoy this issue, and that you will contribute to the issues to come. ♦

A Letter from the Department Chair

The Department Matters

Dear Readers,

Wowie Zowie! Look at the activity! New faculty member, new chief advisor, new advising office, new advising intern, and a new name and design to the newsletter.

Then look at the continuity...Third annual Open House, 18th year of the "Careers in Psychology" workshops, repeat of (do we dare call it the Second Annual) "Optimizing Research Skills" workshop.

The collaboration between the Department of Psychology and the officers of **Psi Chi** has produced a full slate of activities for the Fall 1999 semester. Any student who merely sits in the classroom listening to lectures is missing a ton of opportunities.

These opportunities did not simply appear. They were created by people who often work very quietly in the background. I'd like to take a moment to recognize these people.

First, the hiring of **Professor Ron Butzlaff** has created a stir of enthusiasm in the department that I have not seen in years. We are very happy that he accepted our invitation to join our faculty, and we look forward to working with him in the future.

Next, **Professor Mary Eberly** is to be heartily commended for recognizing the need for dedicating permanent office space to advising activities. I probably shouldn't say this, but if she and **Sheri Galens**, our advising intern, can accomplish just half of the things they have discussed in our advising meetings this sum-



Prof. Stewart

mer, then you will see amazing advances.

Third, the officers of Psi Chi have been meeting throughout the summer to organize things such as the workshops, open house, mentor program, and speaker series.

We were saddened to hear that **Deborah Shinder** would not be able to continue as Psi Chi President for the 1999-2000 academic year. Her leadership last year and over the summer months created an organization that operated smoothly and efficiently.

We welcome the presidency of **Cheryl Peters** (formerly Eschbach) and have complete confidence in her leadership. I want to express my profound gratitude to Deb and Cheryl.

Finally, we all need to recognize that there is a force behind all of this activity, and that force is **Barbara Liegl**. Mrs. Liegl has been our administrative secretary for the past five years, and she has been involved in each and every activity described above. She has the keen eye to review and the sensitive psyche to evaluate the tone and impact of every piece we write. Mrs. Liegl will retire on January 5th, so I encourage you to savor this final semester with her.

I also encourage all faculty, current students, alumni and friends to freely contribute articles or comments for each newsletter. (We will add a *Letters to the Editor* section.) Check our deadline on the back page calendar and contact us at an address shown below.

My best wishes for a wonderful
Fall semester,

Robby

PSYCHMATTERS is published quarterly by faculty and students of the Dept. of Psychology at Oakland University. **INCLUDE:** full name/ former, class standing, major, graduation date, mailing addresses - please note all changes - when addressing correspondence to:

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

or
e-mail: pmatters@oakland.edu

PSI CHI MATTERS

by

Cheryl Peters, Psi Chi president

Psi Chi, the **National Honor Society of Psychology**, and the **Psychology Club** have been busy planning exciting programs and events for the new academic year. Student participation is the number one goal. Every student has the aptitude to bring in new ideas, spark fresh enthusiasm, and enjoy the benefits of extracurricular activities. We urge new students to join the **Psychology Club**.

Psi Chi applications are also being accepted at this time. If you want to be a member of the **National Honor Society**, pick up a Psi Chi application in the Pryale Hall lounge. While you are in the lounge, pick up the summer orientation issue of "Eye on Psi Chi." The magazine, published by Psi Chi headquarters, prints a summary of OUs chapter events from last year.

Now is the time to become involved. Committees are being formed and many positions are available to students with little or no experience. New students are especially encouraged to try out their organizational skills and leadership abilities by accepting one of the chair positions. The first **Monthly Meeting** is Thursday, Sept. 16, when further discussion of these positions will take place.

The Monthly Meetings are a cornerstone of Psi Chi/Psychology Club activities. We request all members and interested students become involved.

Other events include two speakers scheduled for Fall. In Sept., **Prof. Butzlaff**, newest faculty member, will address students. In Nov., **Prof. Stamps, Dept. of Anthropology**, will speak on the psychological, sociological, and anthropological implications of religion. We hope to make our speakers feel appreciated by having a large turnout.

The officers of Psi Chi are zealous and ready for an incredible year of activities. **Remember: Faculty, staff, alumni and students outside the major of psychology are invited to attend any events held by Psi**

1999-2000 Officers of the OU Psi Chi Chapter/ Psychology Club

- Pres.....Cheryl Peters
- Vice Pres.....Patrick Faircloth
- Secretary.....Jennifer Pena
- Treasurer.....Paul Carlin
- Mentor Program Coordinator.....Raymond Morgan
- Student Editor of PSYCHMATTERS.....

GRAY MATTER

A sample listing - not promotion - of current works or events, which may enhance - or boggle - your mind. You decide.

Current Movies

- (3 different attempts to frighten:)
- The Blair Witch Project*
- The Haunting*
- The Sixth Sense*

Books

- Handbook of Attachment: Theory, Research, and Clinical Applications* - edited by Jude Cassidy/Phillip Shaver
- The Mozart Effect: Tapping the Power of Music to Heal the Body, Strengthen the Mind and Unlock the Creative Spirit* - Don G. Campbell

Web Sites

- Nat'l. Undergrad Research Clearinghouse - clearinghouse.mwsc.edu
- Psychwatch - www.psychwatch.com
- SurfStat.australia - surfstat.newcastle.edu.au/surfstat/main/surfstat.html

Alumni MATTER

A Personal Interview

Cheryl R. Earles, MA, LLP, LPC - BA in Psychology/1986, Masters of Arts in Counseling/1991:

PM: What have you been doing since graduating from OU?

CE: After earning the MA, I had a small private practice and did some contractual counseling prior to getting a full time job as a therapist working with the foster children at **Judson Center**. The psychology background (in developmental and abnormal) was beneficial. Promoted to Clinical Supervisor, I supervised the other therapists. I saw clients, but not on a regular schedule. Supervision of staff is an interesting way to "see the psychological concepts" in action. New staff, especially in human services, do not realize what goes into the role of a supervisor. Currently, I am the Regional Program Manager, a "jack of all trades" title. I work clinically with some of the cases, participate in clinical consultation, and currently I am involved in the preparation for managed care. This preparation includes: staff training, practical application, and the acquisition of a completely new MIS system for record keeping.

PM: What do you miss since leaving OU?

CE: Learning.... I went back and got a Professional Specialization in Mental Health Counseling (May 1997) and recently have been taking classes to become a **Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer**.

PM: What do you know now that you wish you knew when you were a student?

CE: How important outcomes are. It is critical for students to look at the trends in mental health service delivery and learn to justify their "work by the outcomes." Statistics, which I thought was very boring, is becoming more and more important in daily service delivery. I am working with producing statistics on everything we do.

PM: What do students need to learn to prepare for the outside world of work?

CE: How to integrate common sense with their academic knowledge, and how to look past the immediate crisis/problem to the larger picture: common sense, information, and critical thinking all rolled into one. ♦

PROFILE: Prof. Ron Butzlaff, Ph.D. - A Personal Matter

by Prof. Ron Butzlaff, Ph.D.

A dear friend and colleague once told me that the principle guiding my character is something like, "Ron, you just don't like to be told that you can't do something!" He was superficially referring to my history of flunking statistics, only to pursue it as a sub-specialty in social psychology. My habit of challenging expectations began in **Wolf Point, Montana**, my birthplace on the **Fort Peck Indian Reservation**. I grew up wanting to study classical music, especially opera - not the usual role for little boys sent out to play with real cowboys and Indians. When I left high school, I moved to **Boston, Mass.**, and began studying opera.

Through no fault of my own, I fell in with a crowd of psychologists, one of whom is that same dear friend. He encouraged me to apply to **Harvard College**. Since the College was founded to educate the youth of Massachusetts Bay Colony and the Indians therein, I was accepted. It's Harvard's fault that I have chosen social psychology for my life's work; they gave me my advanced degrees of A.M. and Ph.D. in Social Psychology, along with my A.B. in English and American Literature. Much of the



blame falls on my first advisor, **Roger Brown**, who initially talked me into pursuing social psychological research instead of clinical work because I had argued with him in class about the real meaning of gay men calling themselves 'queens' and its application to social psychology's work with in-group vs. out-group terms of reference. He also convinced me to study with **Robert Rosenthal**, who somehow managed to teach me enough statistics to do meta-analytic work, part of my current research program.

It could be that I was scared of those cowboys and Indians, but I chose as my primary area of interest to study sex roles and stereotyping. My program is structured from two overlapping domains, one of which is building a methodology and instrument for measuring and comparing sex role stereotypes across many racial and ethnic groups, including those of gay men and lesbians. Closely related to this is a program of research I have designed, which uses stereotyping as a means for selecting and predicting homophobic or aggressive behavior against gay men and lesbians.

Finally, since anyone born and raised in **Montana** is always considered a 'real' Montanan, I do spend more time than is necessary living up to expectations by mountain climbing in the winter and sailing in the summer. My partner, **Sean**, is foolish enough to join me in these sports and we are often found falling down snow-covered peaks or righting our capsized Laser sailboats. **Michigan**, with the longest lakeshore of any state and grand nature parks, offers many places for us to explore and get lost. Add to that **OU's** commitment to support teaching and research, and choosing to become a Michigander became a simple pleasure and an honor. ♦

OTHER MATTERS: Open House, Workshops

On Sat., Oct. 2, 1-4pm, the **Dept. of Psychology**, our chapter of **Psi Chi**, and our **Psychology Club** will host our third annual Professor/Student Open House at Pryale Hall. The purpose of this event is to encourage incoming freshmen and current **OU** undergrads to become more involved in programs and activities at **OU**, especially in the field of psychology. All students are welcome. We are interested in seeing our former students also. Alumni, please join us.

Last year's "Optimizing Research Skills: Using Internet & Library Resources" was such a success that it's offered again. This workshop is designed to assist students in preparing for the writing of term papers. **Prof. Kris Condic** of **Kresge Library** will demonstrate how to electronically search the library's holdings. **Prof. Walli**

Anderson, Department of Rhetoric-Communication-Journalism, will suggest ways to organize research material in preparation for the writing process. This workshop will be held Sat., Oct. 16, 8:30am-noon, Rooms 129-130 of the Oakland Center.

For the past 18 years, the department and the **Psi Chi** chapter have collaborated to present workshops on career options open to psychology majors. The topics covered in these workshops grew to the point that we needed to reorganize the presentations into two separate, yet complementary, workshops. On Sat., Oct. 30, we will present the first of these workshops in Rms. 129-130 of Oakland Center. This "Careers in Psychology" workshop will focus on career opportunities in psychology and related disciplines at the baccalaureate, master, and

doctoral levels. We will discuss strategies for organizing your curriculum to make you a more attractive candidate to prospective employers, or to enhance your chances of admission to graduate schools in psychology and related disciplines.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 2000, the second of this pair of workshops will be presented. The "How to Get Into Graduate School" workshop will focus on the process of getting ready to submit applications to graduate level programs. It will also provide answers to commonly asked questions such as: What courses should I take? Do I need research experience? How important are letters of recommendation?

Our primary purpose is to provide guidance to those who are trying to figure out what they can do with a major in psychology. Waiting until your senior year to attend

“What Matters to Me”

Education, experience and opportunity matter to me. This summer I was fortunate to attend the 11th Annual **APS (American Psychological Society)** Convention in **Denver, Colorado**, June 3-6. As a student affiliate of **APS**, I was proud to be one of about a dozen undergraduates among several thousand attendees, mostly professors and graduate students from many educational institutes.

The convention included three days of oral and poster presentations displaying current psychological research in the sub-fields of biological, cognitive, physiological, developmental, educational, personality, social, and clinical, as well as every combination conceivable. Discussions often continued into hallways and elevators by exci

PSYCH MATTERS

Postage

The Quarterly Newsletter of Psychology at Oakland University

No. 97284
The Psychology Department
Oakland University
111 Pryale Hall
Rochester, MI 48309-4489

To:

FINAL MATTERS: Calender 1999

<u>September 1999</u>			
7	Classes start	7	Monthly Meeting: Psi Chi/Psych Club, Noon-12:50pm, Rm. 126 OC - free lunch - all students
16	Monthly Meeting: Psi Chi /Psych Club, Noon-12:50pm, Rm. 126 OC - free lunch - all students	15	Deadline: PsychMatters material for Nov/Dec issue publication, 5pm
23	Speaker: Prof. Butzlaff (new psych professor), Noon-12:50pm, Rm. 126 OC, open to all	16	Workshop: Optimizing Research Skills: Using the Internet & Library Resources, 8:30am-Noon, Rm. 129-130 OC
<u>October 1999</u>			
2	Open House: Noon-4pm, Pryale Hall, lunch provided, students/alumni/faculty	30	Workshop: Careers in Psychology/Graduate School Workshop I, 8:30am-1pm, Rm. 129-130

REMINDER

The Psi Chi/Psychology Club meets the first Thursday of every month from 12-1pm in the Oakland Center Gold Room A (Rm. 126). Free lunch provided. All students welcome.

Psi Chi/Psychology Club
www.oakland.edu/psi-chi

FALL OFFICE HOURS:
12-1pm, Mon.-Thurs.

(lower lounge of Pryale Hall)