

# NEWS & NOTES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Editors: Dr. Natalie Ciarocco & Dr. Michele Van Volkom

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## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

This year, the Psychology Department is proud to be celebrating 25 years of undergraduate student research and will be commemorating this achievement throughout the academic year.

On May 2, 2009 the department will host its 50th semi-annual conference as the pinnacle of the anniversary year. The conference will take place in Wilson Auditorium, and will include a talk to be delivered by invited speaker Dr. Paul Amato.

Dr. Amato is a Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Demography at The Pennsylvania State University. In 2006, he was honored with the Distinguished Career Award from the American Sociological Association. Dr. Amato's research areas include the causes and consequences of divorce and parent-child relationships over the life course.

At the conference, Dr. Amato will speak about some of his cutting edge research with a talk titled, *Emerging Trends in the*

*Study of Children and Divorce*. The conference will be followed by a wine and cheese reception in Wilson Hall.

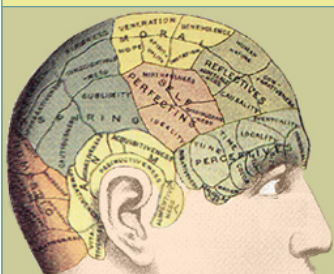
Independent undergraduate research is a distinct feature of the psychology program. All psychology majors complete an original senior thesis. At the end of each semester, students present the results of their thesis projects, either in paper or poster form, at the semi-annual conference. In recent years, the conference has been held on Saturdays, as this allows proud family members and friends to be there and support our students.

The undergraduate research program in the psychology department grew slowly as the field of psychology evolved more and more into a science-based discipline. Visionaries within the department, such as Dr. Jack Demarest, realized the immense educational value of having students collect their own empirical data. Students transitioned from learning the

history of experimental psychology into making their own systematic observations in various areas of psychology. Changes in the curriculum eventually led to the development of a thesis class requirement that gave students the opportunity to develop, collect data on, and analyze their original research ideas. Shortly thereafter, the semi-annual research conference began as a way for students to present their hard work and creative research. This is a tradition that has continued to challenge students for 25 years.



**Dr. Paul Amato**  
The Invited Speaker for the Spring Conference



## FALL PSYCHOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

On Saturday December 6th, the Psychology Department will sponsor the 49th Semi-annual Undergraduate Research Conference in Bey Hall Auditorium beginning at 9:00. To fulfill departmental requirements, each psychology major completes an original senior thesis. Students begin their thesis experience well-prepared for the challenge of designing and implementing a study, as they have taken courses such as Research Methods in Psychology and Experimental Psychology. The semi-annual conference provides senior thesis students with an opportunity to share their original quantitative or qualitative research with the Monmouth University community.

This semester the conference will include an Alumni Student Networking Breakfast, where students can interact informally with psychology department alumni. More than twenty-five students will be presenting both posters and formal talks throughout the day.

Every semester, thesis excellence awards are given to the students with the best poster presentation as well as the best paper presentation. This semester, the psychology department faculty members are serving as thesis award judges, conference organizers, and keynote speakers. Our office coordinator, Mrs. Carlson,

ensures that the day runs smoothly every time!

The keynote presenter this semester will be Dr. Jack Demarest, who will speak about feminist theory. *The Many Faces of Feminism* intends to summarize, compare, and contrast the key ideas and principle historical players behind different perspectives in feminist theory. Dr. Demarest's talk is designed to demonstrate that feminism is not a monolithic idea. He will explain that there are several different and sometimes opposing theoretical perspectives one can adopt. In addition, he will address stereotypes about feminism and where they might originate.

This semester the conference is being organized by Dr. Natalie Ciarocco & Dr. Janice Stapley.



Dr. Jack Demarest  
Keynote Speaker



### Research Opportunities Available

Please visit:

<http://bluehawk.monmouth.edu/~psych/frames/fs.html>

## UPDATE FROM PSI CHI

By: Lina Jaramillo, Psi Chi Vice President

Psi Chi, the national honor society for psychology majors, engages in various fundraisers to support the society and Monmouth University. Qualifications to become a member are an overall GPA of 3.0 and a 3.0 in psychology. The organization provides a number of events for all who wish to learn more about psychology. On November 4, 2008, Psi Chi, along with the Psychology Club, held the Panel of Professionals, in which four Monmouth University alumni spoke about their current careers in psychology. This event was very beneficial for students because they were able to hear the experi-

ences of these professionals and what they had to do to begin their careers after graduating from Monmouth. Psi Chi has also been having candy sales and selling Old Monmouth chocolate bars to raise money for the spring induction. Next semester, we will be inducting members into our Monmouth University chapter on March 29, 2009. Psi Chi and the Psychology Club are great organizations, which give students an opportunity to become involved in their major and participation looks great on a resume!

## NEWS FROM PSYCHOLOGY CLUB

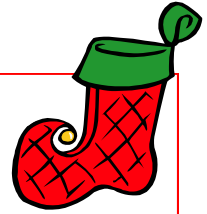
By: Cassandra Serrano, Psychology Club Vice President

The Monmouth University Psychology Club is a club where students interested in psychology are able to participate in numerous events and activities that are more than just what one learns in the classroom. This semester, the club had a representative from Kaplan come to campus and discuss preparation for the GREs and what students should do to gain admission into graduate school. Psychology Club also hosted our annual Halloween party in conjunction with Manna House, which is a housing program for abused women and their children. At the November meeting Dr. Christine Hatchard spoke to the club about

career paths in clinical psychology.

Currently, the club is also collecting goods for the New Hope Foundation (with a collection bin located in the main Psychology office) and is planning to adopt a family from Manna House to make their Christmas a little brighter.

As always, the club is working on several fundraisers for the group and those that need our support. The club held its first caramel apple sale and is working on a Delicious Orchard's pie sale just in time for Thanksgiving.



**The Psychology Club is hosting a family in need for the holidays. Stop by the department to help out.**

## FROM THE DESKS OF THE DEPARTMENT ADVISING COORDINATORS

We have had quite a busy year so far! We attended the Parent Fairs in June and all six Information Fairs as part of Freshmen Orientation this past July. We were pleased to see so many incoming freshmen with an interest in majoring or minoring in psychology. During the month of October, we were able to speak with undecided majors with an interest in psychology during the Majors Fair/Ex Ed Expo on October 1st. On Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, we attended Open House and presented the highlights of the psychology department to approximately 250 parents and students with the help of our Psi Chi president, Shannon Connell. We were very grateful to also have the help of the Psychology Club members, who welcomed families and handed out flyers pertaining to the major.

During the course of the summer, we welcomed students transferring into Monmouth from other institutions. As we meet with both transfer and continuing students, we have found that we have many future counselors, school psychologists, and researchers among our majors!

On an advising note, we want to remind everyone that more and more forms are available through eForms, directly from the WebStudent menu, and are no longer in print version. These new forms include withdrawing from a class in the current semester. Even though this is submitted electronically now, we still advise all students to reach out to their advisor, as withdrawing from a class carries a lot of implications, including potentially falling below full-time status, which may affect financial aid and health coverage. It may also change your graduation date, so please contact

your advisor, or one of us, before withdrawing from a class.

More generally we urge you to get to know your advisor. It is a good idea to make time to talk with your advisor at least twice a year. This will be beneficial for planning your career. Office hours of all advisors are posted on the psychology department's door and are on the department's homepage (<http://bluehawk.monmouth.edu/~psych/>). One final reminder is the deadline to apply to graduate in May of 2009 is March 1, 2009, but of course it is suggested to apply well in advance of the deadline!

We hope your semester is going well, and want to remind you that we are here to assist you, so please be in touch if you have questions!

~Dr. Gary W. Lewandowski Jr.  
~Dr. Michele Van Volkom

## MEET DR. CHRISTINE HATCHARD!



Our Newest Addition  
Dr. Christine Hatchard

The newest face around the Psychology Department is Dr. Christine Hatchard. Dr. Hatchard earned her Psy.D. in clinical psychology from Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, PA. She is also a proud graduate of Monmouth University, and credits her academic success in graduate school to the exemplary classroom preparation and research experience that she received as an undergraduate in the Department of Psychology.

Dr. Hatchard is currently teaching Introduction to Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, and Experimental Psychology. She is looking forward to teaching Educational Psychology and Psychological Tests and Measurements during the spring 2009 semester. Her areas of interest include object relations therapy, personality assessment, multicultural counseling, and the psychodynamic treatment of eating disorders.

When not at Monmouth University, she is working in private practice in Fair Haven, NJ, and directing an organization which provides information for

professionals and support services for survivors of mother-daughter sexual abuse. Dr. Hatchard is one of only a handful of psychotherapists in the world with expertise in this particular form of trauma. Her current organizational projects include editing a collection of essays written by survivors, producing a documentary to be filmed this upcoming April, and planning a weekend retreat for survivors to coincide with the organization's 10-year anniversary this spring.

Dr. Hatchard is pleased to be back at Monmouth University and welcomes the opportunity to discuss her professional work and graduate school options in counseling and clinical areas with any interested students. She can be reached at [chatchar@monmouth.edu](mailto:chatchar@monmouth.edu)

When she is not fulfilling professional duties, Dr. Hatchard can be found unsuccessfully using behavior modification techniques on her cat, Imogen, artfully avoiding the karaoke mike, shamelessly supporting the New York Mets, winning American Idol pools, and palling around with her friends.

### Department Chair:

Janice Stapley

### Department Advising Coordinators:

Gary Lewandowski

Michele Van Volkom

### Career Advisor and Planners:

Doris Hiatt

Natalie Ciarocco

## FACULTY HAPPENINGS

### ~Robyn Holmes, Ph.D.

#### Publications Include:

- Holmes, R., & Procaccino, J. (in press). Autistic children's play with objects, peers, and adults in a classroom setting. In C. Dell Clark (Ed.), *Play & Culture Studies, Vol. 9*.
- Holmes, R., & Procaccino, J. (in press). Pre-school children's outdoor play area preferences. *Early Childhood Development and Care*.
- Holmes, R. (in press). *American Journal of Play. Play and Development: Evolutionary, sociocultural, and functional perspectives* edited by A. Goncu and S. Gaskins.
- Holmes, R. (2008). Review of the book *American anthropologist. The hidden life of girls: Games of stance, status, and exclusion* by

Marjorie Harkness Goodwin.

#### Presentations Include:

- Holmes, R., & Procaccino, J. (2008, January). *Assessing Playfulness in Autistic Children*. Paper presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, Oahu, Hawaii.

### ~Gary Lewandowski, Ph.D.

#### Publications Include:

- Le, B., Loving, T. J., Lewandowski, G. W., Jr., Feinberg, E. G., Johnson, K. C., Fiorentino, R., & Ing, J. (in press). Missing a romantic partner: A prototype analysis. *Personal Relationships*.



Psychology Department Faculty before Founder's Day 2008

## FACULTY HAPPENINGS CONTINUED

Lewandowski, G. W., Jr. (in press). Promoting positive emotions following relationship dissolution through writing. *Journal of Positive Psychology*.

Lewandowski, G. W., Jr., & Le, B. (in press). Fun in relationships. In H. T. Reis & S. Sprecher (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of human relationships*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc.

Lewandowski, G. W., Jr. (in press). Adultery. In J. O'Brien (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of gender and society*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc.

Lewandowski, G. W., Jr. (in press). Divorce. In J. O'Brien (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of gender and society*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc.

Lewandowski, G. W., Jr. (2008, September). Stop trying to get tenure and start trying to enjoy yourself. *InsideHigherEd.com*. <http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2008/09/22/lewandowski>

### Presentations Include:

VanderDrift, L. E., Agnew, C. R., & Lewandowski, G. W., Jr. (2008, May). Searching for wider horizons: Self-expansion motivation increases interest in relational alternatives. Poster presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Association for Psychological Science Convention, Chicago, IL, USA.

### Invited Talks:

Lewandowski, G. W., Jr. (2008, August). *Connecting with students: Overcoming a common obstacle*. Presentation given at the 2008 New Faculty

Orientation, Monmouth University.

### Service Outside the University:

Conference Organizer, Relationships Research Interest Group Steering Committee, Society of Personality and Social Psychology (2008 – present).

~David Strohmets, Ph.D

### Presentations Include:

Sarsar, S., & Strohmets, D. B. (2008, Summer). The economics of democracy in Muslim countries. *Middle East Quarterly*, 15(3), 3-11.

Strohmets, D. B. (2008). Research artifacts and the social psychology of psychological experiments. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 2 (2), 861-877, doi:10.1111/j.1751-9004.2007.00072.x

~David Payne, Ph.D.

Dr. Payne participated in a panel on 11/1/2008, entitled "What mathematics do our partner disciplines want students to know after one or two years of college?" at the New Jersey chapter's annual meeting of the Mathematical Association of America (Fairleigh Dickinson University). The title of Dr. Payne's presentation was "Mathematical Challenges in Undergraduate Psychology."

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY  
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