

PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR PARTNERS WITH RERUN INC. AND RED BANK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ON RESEARCH PROJECTS

In the fall of 2009, Dr. Janice Stapley, chair of the Psychology Department, developed two external collaborations that will provide students with both experiential education and research opportunities.

Monmouth senior Psychology major Jennifer Noonan of Rumson, NJ did her Psychology Internship working with Dr. Janice Stapley to develop a program evaluation for an Equine therapy project at ReRun Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to saving retired race horses. The on-going relationship between the Psychology Department and ReRun should provide opportunities for psychology majors to obtain field experience in both program evaluation and grant writing.

The partnership with Red Bank Catholic High School will give high school students a chance to learn about how research is conducted in university labs and provide the developmental researchers in the Psychology

Department at Monmouth with a high school population interested in participating in their studies of topics such as communication technology norms, self-regulation, and attitudes toward college. Dr. Stapley will also visit the high school to conduct workshops and hold talks with parents about college adjustment and parenting adolescents.

During Fall 2009, three Red Bank Catholic students in Mr. Keith Gissubel's AP Psychology class worked in Dr. Stapley's emotion lab. They collaborated on a poster proposal titled, *Emotionally elaborated First Year experiences: A window into college students' lives*, that was accepted for presentation at the Eastern Psychological Association meeting in New York City in March 2010. The students also enjoyed attending the Psychology Department's 51st semi-annual undergraduate research conference on December 12, 2009.

UPDATE FROM PSI CHI

By: Barbara Fulmer, Psi Chi President

This semester the Monmouth University Chapter of Psi Chi International held two fundraisers and hosted two events. The fundraisers included a candy apple sale and a secret snowflake sale. Both fundraisers were a great success. Proceeds will go towards the Ronald McDonald Meal Maker Program, in which Psi Chi members and the Psychology Department faculty spend two evenings preparing dinner for families who are staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch. The Ronald McDonald House is a place where families of very sick or terminally ill children stay while their loved one is hospitalized. Last semester this project was a huge success, and we were asked to return again in the spring.

Our events this semester were also a huge success. Both were fun and educational at the same time. Thanks to Dr. Lisa M. Dinella, who arranged for Psi Chi members to go to Dolphin Discovery at Six Flags/Great Adventure to see operant conditioning firsthand, students were able to watch as the trainers used operant conditioning to train sea lions and dolphins. It was a very special event in that students could see in action what they have only learned in their textbooks. Additionally, along with the Psychology Club, Psi Chi once again hosted the Panel of Professionals. Six individuals with degrees in psychology spoke to psychology majors about their employment in the field of psychology. The panel represented positions in non-profit,

industrial organizational, clinical, bio-medical, educational, and animal training fields. Students were able to learn about different types of employment available with a psychology degree. Additionally, this event also provided students with an opportunity to ask the professionals questions about their chosen professions. This event enables students to consider future employment opportunities that they might not have even thought about. What made this event even more special was that several of the panel members were graduates of Monmouth University.



Dr. Ciarocco & Dr. Dinella (advisor) with Psi Chi students

NEWS FROM PSYCHOLOGY CLUB

By: Ryan Keough, Psychology Club Secretary

This semester the psychology club has welcomed in three new executive board members. Now holding the position of President is Stephanie Kocsik, with Nicole Bayles in her new supporting role of Vice President. The new Secretary position has been filled by Ryan Keough and the Treasurer position is being held for the second year by Megan Inglesby. The club set out with high hopes this semester to get more students involved and is fulfilling that goal with ample attendance. Monthly meetings have covered various topics of interest for the students. We had a guest speaker representing the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) who showed materials from their program and discussed her own struggles with mental illness. In another meeting, Dr. Natalie Ciarocco addressed the students on the road to graduate school, includ-

ing information on the GRE's, applications, and general admissions expectations. We finished the semester by making Linus blankets during a meeting and hosting a giving tree for a needy family.

The Psychology Club is proud of its relations with the Manna House program, as we host a bi-annual event for their children members. This year members of the Psychology Club assisted children in festive activities including painting pumpkins and playing games. Another event the Psychology Club hosted this semester was the pie sale, which easily provided scrumptious pies right before the Thanksgiving break. In addition to the activities this year, the executive board took some time out to decide on taking a new approach to giving back to the psychological community and decided that the Psychology Club would now support a year-



The blankets made by Psychology Club members

long fundraiser. The members resolved that the American Association for Suicide Awareness would serve as our year-long charity. Great makings are in the works for a spring charity fundraiser. The club is proud to put a fresh foot forward to benefiting a great cause over the long term, and hopes to continue this method of donation in the future.

PSYCHOLOGY HOSTS 51ST SEMI-ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

On Saturday, December 12, 2009, the semi-annual undergraduate research conference was held in Bey Hall. The conference was co-ordinated by Dr. Dinella and Dr.



Jennifer Noonan & Stephanie Moffitt with their awards

Stapley. After welcoming remarks from Dr. Stapley, Dean Green, and Psychology Honor Society president Barbara Fulmer, participants began their day by viewing paper presentations. After a breakfast that allowed alumni and current students to network, research poster sessions were held. The paper and poster presentations featured thirty-two thesis students presenting the results of their original senior thesis projects. The conference also had a poster session featuring Experiential Education students who highlighted their placements. Placements ranged from schools to Monmouth Medical Center and Jersey Shore

Medical Center.

Several awards were given out at the conference. Stephanie Moffitt received the award for best paper presentation. Stephanie's paper was titled *Personality and Confidence-Accuracy for Facial Recognition*. Jennifer Noonan received the award for best poster presentation. Jennifer's poster was titled *Perceptions of First Year Experiences: The Impact of Music and Mood on Memories of First Year Experiences*. Megan Smith received the award for best Experiential Education poster. Megan's placement allowed her to work in Long Branch Middle School. Congratulations to all the winners!

FACULTY HAPPENINGS

~Natalie Ciarocco, Ph.D.

Presentations:

Ciarocco, N. J. (2009, June). Headliners: Making psychology self-relevant through current media. In *Strategies for making psychology self-relevant in and out of the classroom*. Symposium conducted at Eastern Conference on the Teaching of Psychology, Staunton, VA.

Grants:

Lewandowski, G. W., Jr., Strohmets, D. B., & Ciarocco, N. (October, 2009). *TeachPsychScience.org: Resources for Teaching Research and Statistics in Psychology*. Association for Psychological Science Fund for Teaching and Public Understanding of Psychological Science (Award Amount of \$5,000).

~Lisa Dinella, Ph.D.

Presentations:

Dinella, L. M. (2009, June). *On-line technologies and self-relevance in the classroom*. Symposium conducted at Eastern Conference on the Teaching of Psychology, Staunton, VA.

- Dr. Dinella presented "Gender Identity and Development: What Parents Can Expect in the High School Years" to the parents of St. Peter's Preparatory High School in Jersey City, NJ.

Other:

- Dr. Dinella was featured in the Asbury Park Press in October of 2009, reporting on a study she is working on with her research team. The study is examining children's choices for their Halloween costumes and how those choices relate to gender stereotypes.
- Dr. Dinella was again featured in the Asbury Park Press in November of 2009, documenting a trip with Psychology National Honor Society students to Six Flags Great Adventure, where trainers were able to demonstrate psychological principles in the training of animals.

~Gary Lewandowski, Ph.D.

Publications:

- Lewandowski, G. W., Jr., & Strohmets, D. B. (2009, October). The kids are all right: Overcoming a common obstacle to connecting with "today's" students. *InsideHigherEd.com*. <http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2009/10/28lewandowski>
- Raines, A. J., & Lewandowski, G. W., Jr. (2009). The role of self-views in college adjustment. *Graduate Student Journal of Psychology*, 11, 46-51.

Presentations:

- Lewandowski, G. W., Jr. (2009, September). *Keys to promoting connections with our students*. Presentation given at the 2009 New Faculty Orientation, Monmouth University.
- Lewandowski, G. W., Jr. (2009). *Study guide to accompany Gazzaniga, Heatherton, and Halpern's Psychological Science (3rd ed.)*. W. W. Norton Publishers.
- Lewandowski, G. W., Jr. (2009, June). Two-group designs: A demonstration of the effect of arousal on attraction. In "A few of our favorite things": *Activities and demonstrations for teaching psychology*. Symposium conducted at Eastern Conference on the Teaching of Psychology, Staunton, VA.
- Lewandowski, G. W., Jr. (2009, June). Setting students up for success: Strategies for making material relevant to students. In *Strategies for making psychology self-relevant in and out of the classroom*. Symposium conducted at Eastern Conference on the Teaching of Psychology, Staunton, VA.
- Lewandowski, G. W., Jr., & Le, B. (2009). Fun in relationships. In H. T. Reis & S. Sprecher (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of human relationships*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc.

Popular Press Citations:

- Ottawa Citizen May 2009
- Cosmopolitan July 2009 issue
- Maxim September 2009 issue

Department Chair:

Dr. Janice Stapley

Department Advising Coordinators:

Dr. Gary Lewandowski

Dr. Michele Van Volkom

Career Advisor and Planners:

Dr. Doris Hiatt

Dr. Robyn Holmes

FACULTY HAPPENINGS CONTINUED

~Keith Morgen, Ph.D.*

Publications:

Morgen, K., Gunneson, L., & Maietta, L. (2009). "Order in the drug court": Understanding the intersection of substance abuse and law. In T. Maschi, C. Bradley, & K. Ward (Eds.). *Forensic social work: Psychological and legal issues in diverse practice settings* (pp. 197-207). New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company.

~Judith Nye, Ph.D.

Presentations:

Nye, J. L., & Strohmets, D. (2009, October). *An integrated approach to first-year programming assessment: Practical solutions and creative innovations*. Paper presented at the annual Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) assessment institute.

~Janice C. Stapley, Ph.D.

Publications:

Stapley, J. C. (2009). Gender differences in messages of children's birthday cards: Socialization of agency and emotion. In K. Weekes (Ed.) *Privilege and prejudice: Twenty years with the invisible knapsack*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne, U.K.

Presentations:

Stapley, J. C., Wolff, G., & Noonan, J. (2009, October). *Students' coping advice as a predictor of college adjustment*. Poster presented at the Conference on Emerging Adulthood, Atlanta, Georgia.

~Michele Van Volkom, Ph.D.

Publications:

Van Volkom, M. (2009). The effects of childhood tomboyism and family experiences on the self-esteem of college females. *College Student Journal*, 43, 736-743.

Presentations:

Van Volkom, M., Green, K., & Kelly, S. (2009, August). *The relationship between college students' employment status and alcohol consumption*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Toronto, Canada.

*Dr. Morgen is a former faculty member



Research Opportunities Available

Please visit:

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

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
MONMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

where leaders look forwardSM