The Department of Psychology has created a new Experiential Education class in collaboration with Six Flags Great Adventure. In this class, students get hands on experience applying principles of human behavior to the animal kingdom. The course was created by Dr. Lisa Dinella, in collaboration with Dave Peranteau, the Senior Supervisor of Animal Training at Six Flags and came out of a long standing relationship between Six Flags Great Adventure and the MU Psi Chi International Honor Society advised by Dr. Dinella.

Students were given supervised access to the animals at Six Flags, which includes the largest drive-through safari outside of Africa featuring 1,200 animals from six continents, and its neighboring Six Flags Great Adventure theme park that is home to both aquatic and land animals including dolphins, sea lions, exotic birds and reptiles.

The rigorous course load was designed to introduce students to the psychological theories and principles used to shape animal behaviors and to identify how these principles can be applied to their own career and life. The course involves a combination of class meetings, library research, presentations, journaling and on-site supervised exposure to animals. The class is an upper level course offered to 15 psychology students for the first time this spring. This is also the first time Six Flags has been involved with a college-level course.

The interest in taking the course has been overwhelming. We are pleased that it will continue to be offered next spring.
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY HOSTS 56TH SEMI-ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

On Saturday, May 5, 2012, the Department of Psychology proudly hosted the 56th semi-annual undergraduate research conference. The conference was co-coordinated this semester by Dr. Lisa Dinella and Dr. Janice Stapley.

To begin the day, attendees were greeted by the department chair, Dr. Stapley, as well as Dr. Stanton Green, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. Green offered both congratulations and encouragement to the day’s presenters, and he stayed to view some of the paper presentations. Greetings were also provided by Nicole Kessel, Vice President of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. Nicole explained the sequence of courses students take that culminate in their senior thesis project, including Advanced Statistics and Laboratory and Experimental Methods in Psychology and Laboratory.

Conference attendees were treated to eight paper presentations, which included students from Dr. Dinella’s Six Flags field experience course. There were also more than 30 poster presentations divided into two sessions throughout the day. Fourteen students from Dr. Doris Hiatt’s field experience class also presented posters outlining their internship experiences. Placements ranged from Monmouth Medical Center to Long Branch Middle School.

The day concluded with an awards ceremony, first to honor the recipients of the departmental awards (Miranda Bobrowski, Juliana Pierce, Chelcie Piasio, Alexa Anastasio, Amanda DiVita, and Jennifer Natoli), as well as the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Dean’s Award for Student Excellence (Juliana Pierce). Also honored were the award winners for best presentations at the conference. Jennifer Natoli received the honor for best paper presentation for her project titled “Agonistic Personality and Mate Choice in Betta Splendens.” Sara Boyle (“You Come Here Often?: Narcissist Perceptions of Pick-Up Lines”) and Kathryn Blanchard (“The Effects of Color on Mood”) shared the award for best poster presentation. Milliann Abrams received the award for best applied psychology poster describing her work at Alies, Inc.

Congratulations to all the thesis professors, thesis students, and field experience students for a job well done!
DEPARTMENT ATTENDS EPA CONFERENCE

The faculty and students of Monmouth’s Department of Psychology were well-represented at this year’s annual Eastern Psychological Association (EPA) conference. The conference was held in Pittsburgh from March 1-3, 2012. Dr. Natalie Ciarocco accompanied nine students from the Psychology Club on this trip.

Senior Jacqueline Abate, senior Jeffrey Viaud, and junior Kelsey Corrigan received an award for best poster from Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. Their project, supervised by Dr. Gary Lewandowski, was titled “My partner is better than yours: The mere ownership effect in relationships”. The study examined the concept of the mere ownership effect, defined as a preference for objects mainly because one owns them, in the context of romantic relationships.

Milliann Abrams, Caryn Dambra, Jessica Dooley, Maggie Dowe, Ashley Lewis, Julianne Nestor, and Chelcie Piasio all presented posters documenting their research. Their supervisors were Dr. Gary Lewandowski, Dr. Jack Demarest, and Dr. Lisa Dinella.

Dr. Janice Stapley and Keith Gissubel (a Red Bank Catholic High School teacher) presented a poster in conjunction with Red Bank Catholic students titled “Emotion regulation and self-efficacy among at-risk college students”.

Congratulations to all the students and their faculty supervisors on their successful presentations!

ATTENTION!

PSYCHOLOGY ALUMNI

We would love to hear what you have been up to lately for inclusion in a future newsletter. Please send recent accomplishments to Dr. Lewandowski glewando@monmouth.edu. Also, please email if you would like us to add you to the newsletter email distribution list.
NEWS FROM PSYCHOLOGY CLUB
By: Jackie Abate, President

The Psychology Club had another eventful semester involving meetings on campus, fundraisers, events, and a trip! We started out the semester with a guest speaker from the National Alliance on Mental Illness, who gave a touching presentation at our first meeting about her experiences with treatment, coping, and acceptance of her mental illness.

Throughout the semester, the Psychology Club held various fundraisers including chocolate roses and suckers in February and Bubbakoo’s Burritos in March. The club also hosted events on campus with our resident relationship expert, Dr. Lewandowski, and a hypnotist. In the spirit of Valentine’s Day, the club hosted the love talk about the science of high quality relationships, and in April, the hypnotist show came to MU for a fun event open to all students.

In March, the Psychology Club sponsored a trip to the Annual Eastern Psychological Association conference, which was held this year in Pittsburgh, PA. The club was able to bring ten students, some of whom were presenting their own research at the conference. While in attendance, students were able to explore paper and poster sessions in various fields of psychology depending on their personal interests.

As the spring semester comes to a close, the Psychology Club’s plans for next year include new executive board members who are looking forward to continuing involvement with charity, fund raising, and events on campus!

PSI CHI INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY UPDATE
By: Miranda Bobrowski, President

The Monmouth University chapter of Psi Chi has had a very successful and exciting spring semester! We have been working on expanding the chapter and its involvement in the community.

We held a beautiful induction ceremony in April—inducting 47 new members into the honor society! We also had a very successful Monmouth Candy Sale this year, which resulted in a profit of over $500! Thank you to all of the students, faculty, and families who contributed to this event so generously! With your help, these funds allowed us to continue our collaboration with the Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch, NJ. When families return from a long day at the hospital with their sick child, a home-cooked meal is often just what they need. Students and faculty teamed up on two nights following induction to cook delicious meals for these families.

Finally, as the school year comes to a close, the current executive officers will be starting brand new journeys. We are honored to pass our responsibilities to the new installment of student leaders: Brendan Mallon (President), Nicole Keslo (Vice President), Jeffrey Ascough (Treasurer), Chelcie Piasio (Co-Secretary), Eric Kaighn (Co-Secretary), and Tia Walt (Community Liaison). Be sure to look out for the exciting things they have in store for the upcoming year!
WHAT’S NEXT FOR THE CLASS OF 2012?

The Department of Psychology is proud of the psychology majors in the class of 2012. While our students will undoubtedly go on to do a number of great things, the following is a preliminary list of students that have committed to the next step in their future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree/Affiliation</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jackie Abate</td>
<td>Psy.D., Clinical Psychology</td>
<td>University of Indianapolis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milliann Abrams</td>
<td>Master's, MFT, Pfeiffer University in Raleigh-Durham, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christina Badali</td>
<td>Master’s, Counseling for Mental Health and Wellness, NYU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miranda Bobrowski</td>
<td>Ph.D., Experimental Psychology (Social), Texas Tech University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaci Brannick</td>
<td>Master’s, School Counseling, Monmouth University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Dowe</td>
<td>Master’s, Mental Health Counseling, Monmouth University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Geiser</td>
<td>Master’s, Criminal Justice (Homeland Security), Monmouth University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary-Kate Harty</td>
<td>Master’s, Mental Health Counseling, Monmouth University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brittany McDonnell</td>
<td>Master’s, Mental Health Counseling, Monmouth University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juliana Pierce</td>
<td>Psy.D., Clinical Psychology, Chestnut Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellyn Rosati</td>
<td>Master’s, School Counseling, Monmouth University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauren Ruscin</td>
<td>Master’s, Mental Health Counseling, Monmouth University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colleen Russell</td>
<td>Master’s, Speech Language Pathology, Montclair State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chelsea Thomson</td>
<td>MSc Forensic Psychology, University in London, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria Vasso</td>
<td>Marsh &amp; McClennan in Manhattan as a Placement Representative</td>
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THE DEPARTMENT REACHES OUT TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS

The professors in the Department of Psychology have engaged in a number of opportunities to interact with local high schools this year. For the last three years Dr. Stapley has worked with AP students from Red Bank Catholic High School (RBC). Each year four students are selected through an application process, then work with Dr. Stapley on literature reviews, data collection, entry, and analysis. The end product each year is a poster presentation at the Eastern Psychological Association conference. Similarly, Dr. Lewandowski recently had a high school student from Toms River present at the Monmouth Junior Science Symposium. The presentation was based on over two years of collaborative work as part of the Authentic Science Research program.

Recently Long Branch High School students interested in psychology came to campus for a few days to spend time with faculty through one-on-one meetings and visiting class lectures. Additionally, Dr. David Strohmetz and Dr. Gary Lewandowski were invited to address students at Freehold Township High School (FTHS). Dr. Strohmetz shared his research on tipping, while Dr. Lewandowski spoke about healthy relationships. To make a more personal connection between students, Dr. Natalie Ciarocco organized a group of psychology majors to meet with members of the FTHS psychology club to mentor them about adjusting to life in college. Finally, as a result of connections formed at the Atlantic Coast Teaching of Psychology Conference the department hosted in the fall, Dr. Strohmetz also spoke at Lacey High School about the world of social psychology.

RBC Presenting at EPA with Dr. Stapley
This semester the Department of Psychology has a number of students receiving honors within the department and around campus. Congratulations to all!

Senior Juliana Pierce is the recipient of the 2012 Dean’s Award of Excellence for SHSS. This well-deserved award comes at the end of an extraordinary undergraduate journey for Ms. Pierce. She has served the university in many roles and has worked diligently as a research assistant, co-authoring several conference presentations and upcoming publications. Ms. Pierce has also found occasions to combine her classroom academics with real world experiences by participating in several different internship opportunities including one with Making Daughters Safe Again (MDSA). Beginning in the fall of 2012, Ms. Pierce will begin the Psy.D. program at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia.

Honor student Matthew-Donald Sangster won a Jane Freed Award for Best Honors Proposal for his thesis on "An fMRI Study of Sensory Processing Sensitivity".

Miranda Bobrowski and Juliana Pierce won the Randeberg Memorial Award for having outstanding all-around performances as Psychology Majors who exemplify the ideals of service and involvement in psychology. The award reflects excellence in academic work, commitment to scientific research and discovery, and the demonstration of leadership and social responsibility.

The Rose Feinberg Scholarship was awarded to Chelsie Piasio. This award was donated by Harold Feinberg, and by family and friends of the late Mrs. Rose Feinberg, a graduate and faculty member of Monmouth University, for a deserving student in Psychology.

Alexa Anastasio and Amanda DiVita were bestowed the Alice Gustav Scholarship Award for their outstanding performance as returning psychology majors who exemplify the ideals of compassion, hard work, independence, striving towards excellence, and a commitment to the feminist tradition.

Jennifer Natoli received the Griffin Award for the highest grade point average as a graduating psychology student.

Congratulations!

ALUMNI NEWS

Natalie Nardone (class of 2008) successfully defended her dissertation on "Self-expansion and self-concept clarity: The effect of expanding and rediscovery activities on perceptions of the self and relationships" to complete her Ph.D. in Social/Health Psychology.

Jennifer Noonan (class of 2010) successfully defended her thesis titled, “The Impact of Education and Gender on Perceptions of Borderline Personality Disorder” as part of her M.S. program in Experimental Psychology from Seton Hall University.
~Natalie Ciarocco, Ph.D.


~Christine Hatchard, Psy.D.
- In March of 2012, Dr. Hatchard gave an invited lecture on mother-daughter sexual abuse at Regents College School of Psychotherapy and Counseling in London, England.
- Dr. Hatchard won the National Early Career Psychologist scholarship award from the National Register of Health Services Providers in conjunction with the American Psychological Association.
- In April of 2012, Dr. Hatchard ran the 4th annual Making Daughters Safe Again retreat weekend for survivors of mother-daughter sexual abuse in Ocean Grove, NJ. Attendants came from 9 different states. She was the chief psychologist there. Juliana Pierce ’12 and Leilani Chin ’09 assisted.
- Dr. Hatchard is now dually licensed as a psychologist and a licensed professional counselor.

~Robyn Holmes, Ph.D.

~Gary Lewandowski, Ph.D.
**PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

BOOK CHAPTER
Lewandowski, G. W., Jr., & Radice, G. M.* (2012). Relationship dissolution in nonmarital romantic relationships. In M. Paludi (Ed.), The psychology of love (pp. 89-106). Santa Barbara, CA US: Praeger/ABC-CLIO.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS


OTHER
- Winner of the 2012 Monmouth University Distinguished Teacher Award
- Men’s Health "Why She’ll Cheat on You" (May

* Monmouth University Undergraduate Student
** Undergraduate Student from Another Institution
2012)
• Included in The Princeton Review’s The Best 300 Professors

~Brian Sexton, M.A.

• Professor Sexton organized, ran, and accompanied, with Dr. Stan Green, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Monmouth University’s Spring Break Trip to Ireland. It ran from March 10th to March 18th. Thirty students and 12 Faculty, spouses, and friends went on the trip. The group visited Galway, Sligo, Mayo, Donegal, and Dublin. During the trip, many archeology sites were visited, as well as tourist attractions, traditional music pubs, the Guinness Factory Tour, and the Book of Kells in Trinity College Dublin. The group was in Dublin for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade/Festival. Professor Sexton will be putting together another Spring Break trip to Ireland for Spring 2013 for Monmouth University, which will cover different parts of Ireland that the group was not able to see during the first trip.

• Professor Sexton is pursuing a doctorate in Industrial Organizational Psychology and completing the research with Trinity College Dublin, University of Dublin in Ireland. Trinity is an extremely prestigious university, formed out of Cambridge University in England, and it is rated 49th out of the top 100 universities in the world. The research topic is a behavioral analysis of Online Instructors including the KSA’s & best practices and also defining how competence is measured for this position. It is mixed method research, and Professor Sexton will be designing an instrument for HR and college departments to use when filling online instructor positions.

• On Sunday, June 3, 2012, Professor Sexton will be running the first Irish Dancing competition (FEIS) to be held in the MAC at Monmouth University with the support of Dean Green and the new Irish Studies Program at Monmouth. It will include approximately 900 competitors competing during the day on 4 stages in a wide range of categories from Beginner Competitions to Open Championships. The event will run from 8:30 am to approximately 4 pm. There are dancers registered from Hawaii to New England and as far north as Canada and as far south as Florida. There will also be a large selection of Irish Vendors that day selling different Irish items.