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ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EDITS BOOK

Our very own Dr. Lisa Dinella both authored a chapter in and served as the editor of a new book published by the American Psychological Association. The work, titled *Conducting Science-Based Psychology Research in Schools*, is a guidebook to researchers interested in conducting scientifically rigorous psychological research within schools. The book was set in motion as a group of American Psychological Association/Institute of Education Science Postdoctoral Fellows found they were sharing strategies for conducting research in the school setting more than sharing research findings. There was an apparent need for a resource that detailed the most effective way to conduct high quality science within a school-based setting.

The book provides comprehensive information on building and maintaining research programs while avoiding common issues that may impede one’s ability to work effectively in a school setting. The book begins as a researcher would by giving advice first on how to successfully initiate and nurture relationships with school stakeholders, such as administrators, teachers, and parents. The book moves next to research design and methodology specific to school-based research, including topics such as navigating Institutional Review Boards, conducting experimental designs, carrying out classroom observations, and choosing appropriate measures. To demonstrate the application of the strategies presented throughout, the book concludes by presenting findings from school-based research projects. *Conducting Science-Based Psychology Research in Schools* proves to be an important resource for courses in research methods and school-based research in fields ranging from psychology to education, social work, and family and human development.
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.

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.
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 Ciarcocco addressed the students on the road to graduate school, including 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-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.

On Saturday, December 12, 2009, the semi-annual undergraduate research conference was held in Bey Hall. The conference was co-coordinated by Dr. Dinella and Dr. 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!
~Natalie Ciarocco, Ph.D.

Presentations:

Grants:

~Lisa Dinella, Ph.D.

Presentations:

Other:
- 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.

~Gary Lewandowski, Ph.D.

Presentations:
Lewandowski, G. W., Jr. (2009, September). Keys to promoting connections with our students. Presentation given at the 2009 New Faculty Orientation, Monmouth University.


Popular Press Citations:
- Ottawa Citizen May 2009
- Cosmopolitan July 2009 issue
- Maxim September 2009 issue
FACULTY HAPPENINGS

~Keith Morgen, Ph.D.*

Publications:

~Judith Nye, Ph.D.

Presentations:

~Janice C. Stapley, Ph.D.

Publications:

Presentations:

~Michele Van Volkom, Ph.D.

Publications:

Presentations:

*Dr. Morgen is a former faculty member

Research Opportunities Available

Please visit: http://bluehawk.monmouth.edu/~psych/frames/fs.html