

Psychology News

Undergraduate Edition for Psychology and Neuroscience Majors

September 2008 Vol. 10 No. 1



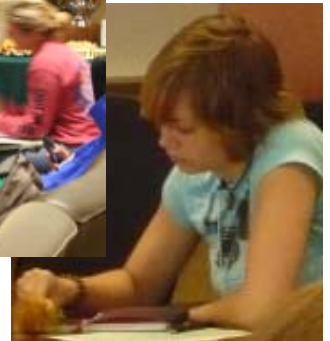
College of Arts and Sciences

Welcome to Academic Year 2008-2009! Time to get going and ...

visit Undergraduate
Academic Services...



study ...



... go to a game

...volunteer



...check
out
Psi Chi

get into
research...



give us a call...



get advised!



... have fun!

Best wishes for a happy and healthy Fall semester!

Undergraduate Academic Services for Psychology

The UASP staff is here to help you with schedule changes and curriculum planning. We can give you information on how to get involved with research, find a mentor, and do an Honors Thesis. Our office is located on the fifth floor of the Flipse Building in room 508 and is open 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Stop by anytime or call us at (305) 284-3303.



Rachel Acosta, Advisor, assists students with general advising questions for Psychology majors. She graduated *cum laude* from Florida International University with a B.A. and major in English. During her college work, Rachel took several courses in linguistics and gender studies. Before coming to the University of Miami, Rachel worked in the Career Services office at Florida International University where she provided various career planning services, such as reviewing resumes and assisting employers with their recruitment efforts. In addition to working with students, Rachel also has experience in event planning. She is interested in pursuing a graduate degree here at the University of Miami. She can be reached at racosta@miami.edu.



Sean Kilpatrick, Assistant Director of Advising, helps Psychology & Neuroscience majors with advising, graduate school, and career planning issues. Sean graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Miami with a Bachelor of Arts degree and double majors in Psychology and Criminology. After working as a Peer Advisor for two years, Sean decided to stay with UASP and work as an Advisor after he graduated. During his undergraduate career, Sean conducted sociological research at Florida International University for several years. His background in research makes him an excellent resource for students. Sean is pursuing his Master's in Higher Education with a concentration in Enrollment Management. He can be contacted at smkilpatrick@miami.edu.



Dr. Victoria Noriega, Director of Undergraduate Studies for Psychology, is available to all students regarding their curriculum, academic progress, and their future. She serves as the faculty advisor for all Neuroscience and Psychology majors, the FACT/FORUM program, and PSY 498 & 499 (Senior Honors Thesis). Dr. Noriega came to UM as an undergraduate transfer student in 1979. As a single mom of two small boys, she graduated with a B.A. and major in Psychology in 1984. After working for a biomedical firm for several years, she returned to the University to earn her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. Dr. Noriega was in the Adult Clinical program, wrote her dissertation on breast cancer, and completed her internship in a community mental health center and her residency in a forensic setting. As an undergraduate, graduate student, and now faculty member and administrator, Dr. Noriega has had first hand experience in many roles. She can be reached at vnoriega@miami.edu.

Introducing Peer Advisors for 2008-2009



Cole Brown is a junior majoring in Neuroscience (Psychobiology track) with a minor in Chemistry. He is involved in a research project examining the relationship between genetics and Alzheimer's at the Miller School of Medicine but enjoys his free time. He would like to attend graduate school in some area of the Health Sciences. This is his first year as a Peer Advisor. c.brown20@umiami.edu.



Tracy Carter is a junior majoring in Psychology with a double major in German and a minor in Biology. She plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in Clinical Child Psychology. Tracy is involved in research with autistic children, in addition to being an active member of her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha. Tracy will be studying abroad this Fall semester at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. This is her second year as a Peer Advisor. t.carter3@umiami.edu



Carolina Corrales is a senior majoring in Psychology and Anthropology. Carolina is an international student and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Psychology. She is currently working with the Aversive Interpersonal Events Study and is the co-chair of C.O.P.E. Carolina also enjoys practicing Kung Fu and Tai Ji Quan. This is her third year as a Peer Advisor. c.corrales1@umiami.edu



Ross Feldgreber is a sophomore majoring in Psychology, minoring in business administration, and currently on a pre-medicine track. Ross is active in his fraternity Sigma Alpha Mu and is part of the University of Miami club ultimate frisbee team. This is his first year as a Peer Advisor. r.feldgreber@umiami.edu



Norma Ford is a senior majoring in Psychology and Spanish. She plans to pursue her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. Norma also plays violin in the Frost Symphony Orchestra and participates in service projects through the Baptist Collegiate Ministry. She is the Service Co-chair for The Volunteer LINK and is a member of Psi Chi. She is a research assistant in the Mood and Anxiety Lab. This is her third year as a Peer Advisor. n.ford1@umiami.edu



Erica James is a senior majoring in Psychology with minors in English and Family and Human Services. She is currently working in the Autism Joint Attention Intervention Lab. Her work in this lab has sparked her interest in both research and children with autism and she plans to eventually pursue a Ph.D. Erica is a member of Psi Chi and P100. This is her first year as a Peer Advisor. ejames@miami.edu

Introducing Peer Advisors for 2008-2009



Jennifer LeMay is a sophomore majoring in psychology on the pre-med track and plans to either become a pediatrician or child psychologist. She has been a competitive gymnast for fourteen years and enjoys photography and the beach. This is her first year as a peer advisor for the Psychology Department. j.lemay@umiami.edu



Aixa Marchand is a senior majoring in Psychology with minors in Anthropology and Africana Studies. She works in the Anthropology department and is a research assistant in the Mood & Anxiety Lab. Aixa is involved in Psi Chi and is the Social Events Chair for the Haitian Students Organization on campus. This is her second year as a Peer Advisor. a.marchand@umiami.edu



Adam Margol is a Junior majoring in Psychology and is pursuing minors in Spanish and Business Administration. He plans on attending graduate school to earn a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. Adam is on the executive board of C.O.P.E., has served on the executive board of Greek Earth Day, and has been involved in Cane for a Day, Orientation Fellow, National Gandhi Day of Service, and his Fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon. This is his second year as a Peer Advisor. a.margol@umiami.edu



Andrew Moskowitz is a junior majoring Psychology with a second major in Criminology and a minor in Sports Administration. A new member of C.O.P.E. and Vice President of his fraternity Sigma Alpha Mu, Andrew enjoys surfing and lacrosse. He plans to pursue his Ph.D. in clinical psychology and hopes to one day work for the C.I.A. Andrew will be working this year in Dr. Siemer's lab on emotion. This is his second year as a peer advisor. a.moskowitz@umiami.edu



Stephanie Novotny is a Neuroscience major (Neurobiology Track) with a minor in Chemistry. She is pre-med and plans to pursue a career in the field of surgery. She is an Academic Fellow in Hecht Residential College and works as a research assistant in the health psychology department. This is her first year as a peer advisor. s.novotny@umiami.edu



Christine Pao is a sophomore majoring in Neuroscience with a minor in Chemistry. She plans to go to medical school where she hopes to become a Pediatrician. Christine has been involved in a variety of campus activities including Link, Relay for Life, and Best Buddies, and she is fluent in Mandarin. This is her first year as a peer advisor. c.pao@umiami.edu



Sonya Richards is a junior majoring in Psychology with a History minor. She is interested in pursuing either law school or industrial/organizational psychology. Sonya is a member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority. She loves to travel and spend time with her family and friends. This is Sonya's second year as a Peer Advisor. s.richards2@umiami.edu



Amelia Rowley is a junior majoring in Psychology with minors in Biology and Business Administration. She plans to attend graduate school and pursue a career in Human Resources. Amelia is currently involved with research for UM/NSU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, the Frost School of Music choral ensembles, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. This is her second year as a Peer Advisor. a.rowley@umiami.edu



Aparna Saini is a junior majoring in Psychology with a minor in Business Administration. She plans obtain her Master's degree in College Student Affairs. Aparna is currently working in the Mood and Anxiety Lab. She is also a member of P100 and Psi Chi. Most importantly, she loves to bake delicious cakes. This is her second year as a Peer Advisor. a.saini@umiami.edu



Michael Sheffield is a sophomore majoring in Neuroscience (Psychobiology track) with a minor in Chemistry. He plans to go to medical school to become a neurologist. Michael enjoys playing the piano and watching movies with friends. This is his first year as a Peer Advisor. m.sheffield@umiami.edu



Paul Smith is a senior majoring in Neuroscience (Psychobiology track) with a minor in Chemistry. He would like to attend medical school to become a psychiatrist. Paul has done research in a Pharmacology lab at the Miller School of Medicine and has been the president of the Hurricanes Baseball club. He is currently the Co-Chair of the Club Sports Federation and a workshop leader for Biology 150 and 160. This is his second year as a Peer Advisor. p.smith7@umiami.edu



Samuel Waldron is a senior majoring in Psychology with minors in Biology and English. Samuel is involved in clinical research, C.O.P.E, Category 5, and club sports. He plans to attend graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. Sammy is also an avid sailor and loves anything to do with the water. This is his third year as a Peer Advisor. s.waldron1@umiami.edu



Jessica Weiss is a sophomore majoring in Psychology with Chemistry and English minors. She is a member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority and is currently serving on the executive board as the social chair and risk manager. She hopes to attend medical school after graduation. This is her first year as a peer advisor. j.weiss7@umiami.edu

Interested in being a Peer Advisor?
Peer Advisors are hired in the Spring. Contact the Undergraduate Academic Services staff at (305) 284-3303 for more information.

PRIME 2008



As part of an effort by the American Psychological Association (APA) and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) to increase minority representation in areas of biopsychological research and career pipeline, fourteen students were funded to do research this summer. Special matching funds from the Provost allowed some non-minority students to participate in the program, as well.

Participants in the PRIME summer program had the opportunity to work closely with a faculty mentor and other members of the faculty's research laboratory for ten weeks on an individual research project. Students worked a minimum of 20 hours per week on their research and attended weekly meetings with **Dr.**

Victoria Noriega and the graduate student mentor, **Corina Lopez**. The weekly meetings covered various topics including graduate school and research in psychology. The meetings also served as a forum for students to share their own thoughts and ideas.

The summer was also full of fun activities for the PRIME group. They joined with other research programs on campus and enjoyed trips to the theatre, snorkeling adventures, a visit to Fairchild Tropical Gardens, and an end of the summer picnic. On July 24, students

finalized their posters and presented their research to faculty, friends, and family. You can check out some of their posters on the walls of our "Hallway of Research." We are extremely proud of all their hard work and effort!



STUDENT

PROJECT

MENTOR

Heidi Bryant	Differentiating Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Comparison of Children with PDD-NOS, Asperger's Disorder, Autistic Disorder, and Children without an Autism Spectrum Disorder in a Clinic Sample	Dr. Alessandri
Kathleen Collins	Influence of Sleep on Physical and Mental Quality of Life in Parkinson's Disease	Dr. Levin
Aaron Fischer	Predicting Acquisition of Initiating Joint Attention Behaviors Using a Social Preference Assessment: A Comparison of Two Case Examples	Dr. Durocher
Bridget Gamber	The Effect of Incongruity on Gaze Following in Individuals with HFA	Dr. Henderson
Erica James	Caregiver Synchrony, Language and Joint Attention in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder	Dr. Durocher
Elaine LaSenna	The Relationship Between Vitamin C Intake and Blood Pressure	Dr. Gellman
Arlenys Martinez	Expressive Writing and Salivary Cortisol in HIV Positive Participants	Dr. Ironson
Kendra Moll	Attention and Memory Biases in Individuals with Social Phobia	Dr. Joormann
Richelle Polk	Does Family Conflict Impact Treatment Adherence Among Adolescents with Cystic Fibrosis?	Dr. Quittner
Jules Rosen	Biobehavioral Bases of Coronary Heart Disease: Risk and Management	Dr. Gellman
Macarena Rufin	Collateral Effects of Joint Attention Intervention on Pretend Play in Children with Autism	Dr. Durocher
Aparna Saini	Working Memory and Cortisol Recovery from Psychosocial Stress	Dr. Joormann
Marta Tobeñas	Social Competence in Deaf Children as Predicted by Maternal Sensitivity and Language Delay	Dr. Quittner
Alex Zabaleta	Associations Among Temperament and Compliance Behavior in Preschool Children	Dr. Henderson

Current Research Projects in Psychology

Adult Division

Dr. Charles Carver

Positive Mood, Academic Performance, and Motivation
Happiness and Its Relation to Information Processing
The Impulsivity Study
Goal Study

Dr. Jutta Joormann

Processing of Emotional Information in Depression
Emotion and Mood Regulation in Depression and Social Anxiety
Autobiographical Memory in Social Phobia

Dr. Michael McCullough

Dr. Matthias Siemer

Adversive Interpersonal Events, Psychopathology, and Health
Cognitive Causes and Consequences of Moods and Emotions
Individual Differences in Mood and Emotion Regulation

Dr. Amy Weisman de Mamani

Schizophrenia Family Study

Child Division

Dr. Daniel Armstrong

Dr. Alan Delamater

Dr. Daryl Greenfield

Dr. Heather Henderson

Disclosure of School-age Children Infected with HIV
Prescription Practices in Youths with Type 1 Diabetes
Head Start and School Readiness
Adolescent Temperament Study
Head Start Peer Interaction Project
Social-Emotional Development and School Readiness in Head Start
Temperament and Social Development - Clean-up Coding
Emotion Regulation- Mother-Child Interaction Coding
EGI Studies with Individuals with High Functioning Autism

Dr. Lynne Katz

Dr. Marygrace Y. Kaiser

Dr. Daniel Messinger

Project Hand-in-Hand
Language Skills in Head Start Children
Emotional Expression
Siblings of Children with Autism
Computer Vision and EEG
Continuous Measurement

Dr. Alexandra Quittner

Childhood Development after Cochlear Implantation

Dr. Annette LaGreca

Cystic Fibrosis Adherence Trial

Dr. Quittner's Child Health Lab

Close Relationships Study

Health Division

Dr. Marc Gellman

Dr. Barry Hurwitz

Dr. Gail Ironson

Dr. Philip McCabe

Dr. Frank Penedo

Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos
Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Disease Progression
Psychoneuroimmunology of HIV/AIDS
Cognitive Function in Parkinson's Disease - with Dr. Bonnie Levin
Cognitive Behavioral Stress Management and Prostate Cancer
Ethnicity and Determinants of Quality of Life Following Prostate Cancer Treatment
Psychosocial Issues Among Patients with Heart Failure
Quality of Life Intervention in Advanced Prostate Cancer
Heart Smart

Dr. Patrice G. Saab

To get more information about the requirements for each project, come to Flipse 508 or go to www.psy.miami.edu/undergraduate/research.

Vol. 7

NEURO NOTES

Num. 1

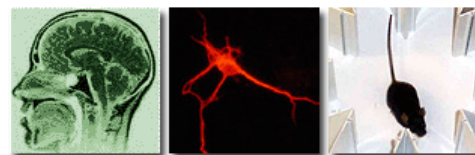
This past summer the Undergraduate Neuroscience Program funded 12 Neuroscience majors to conduct research in faculty supervised laboratories. These Lois Pope Summer Neuroscience Research Fellows were supported, in part, by an endowment from Ms. Lois Pope, who is a major benefactor of the neurosciences at UM. Each fellow received a stipend of \$2,500 and was offered summer housing in one of the residential colleges. The fellows conducted full time research during the summer, and will be required to present their research at one of UM research fairs next Spring. The 2008 Pope Fellows and their faculty mentors are:

Fellow

Tarik Madni
Christie Thomas
Erin (Alexa) Elder
Tim Boyce
Taylor Wilson
Natt Kuttikan
Philip Garza
Julian Iorgulescu
Sophie Khokawalla
Nauman Chaudhry
Matthew Sacino
Kevin Willeford

Mentor

Dr. Neil Johnson (Physics)
Dr. Christine Thomas (Miami Project)
Dr. MaLi Wong (Psychiatry)
Dr. Jeff Goldberg (Ophthalmology)
Dr. Damien Pearse (Miami Project)
Dr. John Lu (Biology)
Dr. Julia Dallman (Biology)
Dr. Damien Pearse (Miami Project)
Dr. Sari Izenwasser (Psychiatry)
Dr. John Hackman (Physiol./Biophysics)
Dr. Vance Lemmon (Miami Project)
Dr. Jeff Goldberg (Ophthalmology)



Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Lisa Kukkamaa Christman, B.S., '99, PSY** for graduating with her Doctorate of Philosophy from Fuller Theological Seminary! The title of her dissertation was "Fatalism, Fear, and Prostate Cancer Screening in African American Men: A Potential Mediating Role of Intrinsic Religiousness." She completed her internship at the Miami Veteran's Administration Hospital on July 18th. She will begin a one-year fellowship in clinical geropsychology at the VA hospital in Gainesville, Florida. She feels called to work with the elderly and with patients in hospice and palliative care. We are proud of all her accomplishments!

Congratulations to another newly minted Ph.D., **Evelyn Marie Alvarez, B.A., '99, PSY!** She graduated December of 2007 with a degree in Clinical Psychology after defending her dissertation "Development of a Scale to Measure Parenting in Hispanic Adolescent's Families." As if that wasn't



enough for an eventful year, she was also married on October 20, 2007! Dr. Alvarez was an academic advisor in UASP this last Spring and a lecturer this

past academic year. We wish her the best as she begins her year-long post-doctoral work towards licensure at the Center for Assessment and Intervention through the Criminal Justice Institute at Nova Southeastern University starting on September 1st!

Hanan Hamed Furqan, B.S., '02, PSB, is fulfilling her goal of starting a tutoring company. Check out



her company website www.innovativetutors.com. The company is located in Jacksonville, and Hanan reports she is already "busy, busy, busy!" as the school year begins.

Nauman Chaudhry and Punam Parhik have been accepted to The Medical Scholars Program (MSP). MSP is a 7-8 year BS/MD program, which assures students of a place in the freshman class of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine after completing their third year of undergraduate study. Way to go, Nauman and Punam!

Alumni News

Teresita Martinez, B.A., '07

PSY

Teresita was accepted at Florida International University for the Masters in Counseling Psychology starting Aug. 2008. She is very excited to have been given this opportunity. We are excited for you, Teresita, Good luck!!

Katiah Llerena, B.A., '06

PSY

Congratulations to Katiah, who has accepted admission into the University of Maryland's Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program. She will be working in Dr. Jack Blanchard's lab, studying the manifestation and classification of negative symptoms of schizophrenia.

Camilo Mejia, B.A., '07

PSY

Camilo is currently working as the Chairman for Iraq Veterans Against the War and is an antiwar consultant for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. He travels the country giving speeches, marching, rallying, organizing, and reading. He wrote a book called "Road from Ramadi: The Private Rebellion of Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejia." It will come out in June. He also plans to write another book about his experience in jail as an activist and would like to attend graduate school for a Ph.D. in Political Science.

Elizabeth Tedford, B.A., '07

PSY

Elizabeth is working as a paralegal at the Miami Office of National Labor and Employment Law Firm, Jackson Lewis LLP. She has applied to several law schools and have been accepted to University of Texas and University of Miami Law School.

Amy Sun, B.A., '07

PSY

Amy is currently involved with Teach for America in Hawaii. She also working towards her Masters Degree in Education from the University of Hawaii. Keep up the great work and thanks for the delicious Hawaiian treats!

Nichole Starr, B.S., '06

NEUP

This past year Nichole finished her Master's degree in Public Health in International Health at Boston University. Soon after finishing her M.P.H, Nichole began to work for the Peace Corps. She is currently stationed in Africa with a health focus and plans to begin medical school when she returns. We are proud of you, Nichole!

Brittany Velisek, B.S., '07

NEUP

Brittany is a Pediatric Neuropsychology Technician at Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital Neuroscience Institutes. Her department specializes in Autism and she has observed several brain surgeries.

The Psi Chi Connection

News & Briefs for University of Miami Psi Chi

Vol. 10 Num. 1

2008-2009 Psi Chi Executive Board

Lyndsey Kiss - President
Marta Cuervo - Vice President
Parker Redlien - Treasurer
Kendra Anderson - Secretary
Melissa Chamorro - Public Relations Co-Chair
Bridget Gamber - Public Relations Co-Chair

Dr. Frank Penedo -
Psi Chi Advisor



President's Welcome

by **Lindsey Kiss**



The 2008-2009 Executive Board and I would like to warmly welcome back all psychology and neuroscience majors. I hope everyone had an exciting and refreshing summer vacation. This year Psi Chi Honor Society is planning to expand its agenda and create more social and professional networking opportunities for its members. This year we will feature professional speakers, career and graduate school workshops, psychology game nights, as well as several volunteer opportunities. Our goal is to acquaint all psychology and neuroscience students with their respectable resources in order to foster academic growth and integrity while orienting them within the field of psychology.

We would like to announce the continued support of our advisor, Dr. Frank Penedo. His leadership has served as a guiding light to the executive board of Psi Chi for several years now. We also continue our partnership with Kaplan Test Preparation Center who will be donating a full test prep course to the most committed Psi Chi member at the end of the academic year. Therefore, participation can be very beneficial.

Come join us at our first meeting to be held Wednesday September 3rd from 6:30-7:30pm with the location to be announced. We will be discussing our complete plans for the upcoming year and pizza will be served. I would like to remind everyone that while there are certain induction requirements to become an active member of Psi Chi, all are welcome to our meetings as associate members at all times. Please join us at our upcoming meetings and find out what Psi Chi can do for you! For any questions or concerns please e-mail us at PsiChiMiami@hotmail.com.

Fall Meetings will be held every other Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

September 3rd	October 1st	November 5th
September 17th	October 15th	November 19th
	October 29th	

For general information about PSI CHI go to www.psichi.org.

TUNS

The Undergraduate Neuroscience Society

The TUNS e-board:

President

Marshall Holland

Vice President

Danoushka Tememe

Secretary

Kevin Willeford

Treasurer

Danika Brodak

Events Coordinator

Tim Boyce

Advisor

Dr. McCabe

A Welcome from the President

by **Marshall Holland**

Hello everyone and welcome to an exciting new year! I want to take a quick moment and introduce myself as the new President of The Undergraduate Neuroscience Society (TUNS). This year we have almost an entirely new e-board and we will be working hard to provide anyone interested in the field of neuroscience the opportunity to attend lectures and other fun activities.

TUNS is a student-run organization for those intrigued by Neuroscience and Psychology related fields and is open to students of all majors. Our goal is to enhance interest by providing members with a link to their peers and faculty. TUNS seeks to connect students to the research milieu and perhaps give them the opportunity to get involved in a project of their own.

Once again, thanks to Dr. McCabe and the Psychology Department everyone is able to enjoy full membership in TUNS at no personal cost. This means no cost to attend any of our lectures and the always exciting end of the year Student-Faculty Mixer. Club T-shirts are in the works and when available will cost a nominal fee.

This year we will have a variety of events that should be appealing to graduate school and medical school bound students, as well as, students simply curious about the field of neuroscience. Once again, students of all majors are encouraged to participate in TUNS. If you have any questions or would like to be put on the club list-serve to receive club updates, please send an email to tuns_um@yahoo.com.

I look forward to seeing you at the next club meeting!

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Undergraduate Academic Services for Psychology
P.O. Box 248185
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Psychology News

Thanks to . . .

Rachel Acosta
Evelyn M. Alvarez, Ph.D.
Sean Kilpatrick
Rod Wellens, Ph.D.
Richard Williams, Ph.D.
Phil McCabe, Ph.D.
The Peer Advisors

Editor

Victoria Noriega, Ph.D.

In this issue . . .

Time to get going
Introducing Peer Advisors for 2008-2009
PRIME 2008
Research opportunities
Important dates
Congrats!
Alumni News
The Psi Chi Connection