

Psychology News



Undergraduate Edition for Psychology and Neuroscience Majors

January 2006

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College of Arts and Sciences

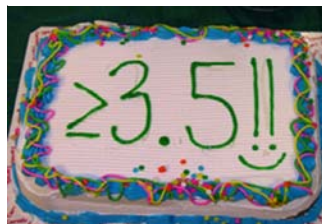
Honor Roll Students to get "Just Desserts"

It's time again to pay tribute to our hard-working students who have made the Honor Roll! The Department of Psychology will provide "Just Desserts" to those students, Psychology and Neuroscience majors alike, on **Thursday, February 6 from 1:00 to 3:30**. All those who made the the Dean's List, or the Provost's or President's Honor Rolls during Spring or Fall 05 are invited to attend.



Our students did very well last year with 35% making the Honor Roll! Fifty-nine students were named to the President's Honor Roll (i.e., earned a 3.9 GPA or higher), 156 made the Provost's Honor Roll (earned a 3.7 GPA or higher), and 162 made the Dean's List (earned a 3.5 GPA or higher). Of the new freshmen 42% made the Honor Roll.

This will be the Department's fifth annual "Just Desserts" celebration. All invitees can bring a friend or family member to share in the fun and festivities! As usual, in addition to lots of desserts, there will be fun games to play and prizes to win. Faculty and administrators will be on hand to give congratulations, cheer you on in the games, and compete for the food! Invitations will be mailed out in early February. If you don't get one and think you should have been invited, contact our office at 305-284-3303. Congratulations to all Honor Roll students! We look forward to celebrating with you on February 10th! Didn't make it this year? Work hard...we'll see you next year!



Now Hiring Peer Advisors for Fall 2006



UASP will be holding Informational Meetings for Prospective Psychology Peer Advisors in Flipse 508.

Please attend one of the following sessions:

Monday, January 30 at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 31 at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 1 at 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 2 at 2:00 p.m.

UASP is looking for enthusiastic, friendly, motivated, conscientious, and talented Psychology and Neuroscience majors to become part of the next cohort of Psychology Peer Advisors. If you are a team player, passionate about psychology/neuroscience and advising, like to help others, and would like to become more involved with the Psychology Department, then come to our meeting to learn more.

Described by some as "the best job on campus," Peer Advisors help run all of the activities at UASP. This includes helping to prepare Psychology and Neuroscience students for their advising appointments. As direct liaisons between the staff at UASP and the undergraduate population, Peer Advisors' ideas and feedback influence the changes made in the undergraduate program. They are the muscle behind the FACT/FORUM advising, "Just Desserts", and graduation. This is a real job, paying \$6.50 per hour for the first year and \$7.50 thereafter. Psychology Peer Advisors gain office experience, get a chance to improve their people and service skills, learn some of the nuts and bolts of event coordination, and get experience working as members of a team.

Peer Advisors should have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA, six credits in Psychology, and be able to work at least 5 hours a week, starting the week before the semester begins in Fall 2006. For more information call Clark Lee at x3303, or email at clarklee@miami.edu.

Mark Your Calendar!



Last day to add a class is Wednesday, January 25.

Last day to drop without a "W" is Wednesday, February 1.

Thinking of dropping a class? Planning and prompt action can avoid an unnecessary "W" on your record. Although having a "W" or two is not a 'bad' thing, a string of them could be a red flag and an indicator of irresponsibility and/or ill-preparedness.

Academic Alerts will be posted on MyUM on February, 27. You should have feedback on some type of graded work by that time. If you are not doing well, you will want to consider dropping a course. Remember, the last day to drop a class is **Monday, March 27.**

Last day to apply for May graduation - Friday, February 10. Graduation is not automatic! You must apply for graduation through the myUM system. Also, if you are planning to graduate this semester or next, make an appointment for a **senior credit check** with Marian Dahman. in Ashe 200 (x4333).

UASP Announcements!



Anna-Britt Fredericks, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Academic Services for Psychology, celebrated with her husband, Shawn, the birth of their son Carter William. Born November 30 at South Miami Baptist Hospital, Carter weighed in at 7lbs 4oz... he was 21 inches long and has enormous feet! Mother and Dad were doing well when they joined the rest of the staff on their first outing for dinner at Dr. Noriega's. Carter's department during this adventure was flawless, facilitated by his attentive parents. Former Peer Advisor, Olga Moas, who graduated in December, was on hand at the event as the newest member of our staff. Olga will be working with us this spring as she awaits word regarding acceptance to graduate school. We are so happy for Anna and look forward to her return this spring! In the meanwhile, Clark and Olga, the Peer Advisors and Dr. Noriega will be holding down the fort at UASP!



NEED A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION?

A strong letter of recommendation is an important factor in getting a scholarship or into graduate school. Good letters of recommendation will contain specific examples of your accomplishments and/or the progress you have made. Only someone who knows you well will be able to speak to your advantage. Even though the writer may like you very much, and vice versa, he or she might not be able to be specific enough to catch the eye of the reviewers. Catch phrases like "good student" or "nice person" can devalue the letter. Letters written by someone who does not know you very well may be a neutral influence rather than a positive one.

Working with and getting to know faculty members is the best way to develop relationships that serve as the basis of good letters of recommendation. While taking classes with a professor is a good starting place, getting involved in his or her research is probably the best way to demonstrate your talents and potential.

Plan to ask for a letter of recommendation several months ahead of time. Speak with everyone you think might be able to act as a suitable advocate for your application. This will help you determine who can write the strongest letter(s) for you. When asking for a letter, include an introductory note reminding the person of your interactions and reasons for submitting the application. A personal statement, a resume, and an ACE or transcript can also give the writer data to jog their memory when he or she writes your letter.

Remember when asking for letters of recommendation that professors are very busy at the end of the semester when many letters come due. Be sure to facilitate preparation by including specific, simple, complete instructions with due dates. Also include preaddressed stamped envelopes for each school to which you are applying. Be sure to put the return address of your recommender; don't use your own return address!

It's time to get ready for Summer Research at UM: PRIME 2006

Psychology Research Initiative Mentorship Experience (PRIME) will be offered again this year. Now in its 9th season, PRIME is a 10-week summer research program. Students in PRIME work for 20 hours a week in a Psychology research laboratory under the direction of a faculty member. Students attend a weekly seminar to discuss their research projects, issues regarding research ethics and protocol, guidelines for poster preparation, and plans for graduate school, among other topics. All PRIME students prepare a poster presentation to showcase their work at the end of the program. Guests like family, friends and faculty provide a receptive audience to these generally novice presenters. This helps PRIME participants prepare for participation in the University's Spring University's Research and Creativity FORUM.

Students can participate in the PRIME program on one of three levels. Full PRIME students have successfully completed both PSY 204 (Statistics) and PSY 316 (Experimental Psychology), and have a 2.75 GPA or higher. These students receive a \$1,500 summer stipend as well as \$500 book stipend for the Fall to be used toward books, school supplies, grad school

admission fees, and/or GRE prep-courses.

JUMP START (Just for UM Psychology Students To Accelerate Research Training) is for students who have not yet completed PSY 316. JUMP START students must have a GPA of 2.75 or above and receive a \$1,000 summer stipend as well as \$250 supplies stipend for the Fall.

PRIME Associate students are funded through another source (ex. Dean's Women and Minority Scholarship, the Honors Summer Research Program, or Lois Pope Award), but work with the PRIME group in the weekly meetings, and present a poster.

PRIME is part of a nationwide effort to increase minority participation in the psycho-biomedical sciences. The project is mainly funded by the National Institute for General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) and administered through the American Psychological Association (APA). If you are of African-American, Hispanic, American Indian (Native American), or Pacific Islander descent and are interested in biomedical psychology, PRIME is for you. If you are interested in areas other than biomedical psychology, or are not of minority descent, you can

apply for PRIME II. PRIME II is the same as PRIME, except for the funding source. Seven years ago, the Provost of the University and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences began the tradition of matching PRIME funds so all students can participate in psychology research. Students who apply for PRIME II can participate on the same levels as mentioned above.

PRIME 2006 will begin on May 23 and end July 21. If you are interested in participating, stop by **UASP in February to pick up an application**. A completed application includes: the application form, a one-page statement of purpose, a letter of "intent to supervise" from a potential mentor, a letter of recommendation, a recent copy of your ACE, and a brief autobiographical summary. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. If you plan on taking classes or working over the summer while participating in PRIME, it is your responsibility to make accommodations for the weekly seminar and research hours with your mentor. **The application deadline is March 20.** Notification of acceptance to the program will be made by April 3. For more information call Clark Lee at (305) 284-3303, email: clarklee@miami.edu

Majors Fair 2006

Wed., February 8th
UC Lower Lounge 11-2 p.m.

The Majors and Minors Fair is an opportunity for students to learn more about different options the University of Miami offers for undergraduate students. Peer advisors, academic advisors, and faculty will be on hand to interact with students who are interested in specific majors and minors. A fun and quick way to learn about potential minors or second majors, the event will provide lots of information in one place! The event will be sponsored by the Toppel Career Center and Academic Advisors in Residence. Check with them for more information!



Practicum courses help students find out more about research in Psychology and Neuroscience

Current Research Projects in Psychology Psy 367/368

To register for Psy 367 or 368 please come by UASP to pick up the research participation form. You must then have the faculty member you will be working with sign the form prior to returning to UASP to officially register. An advisor cannot sign your form until it is signed by the professor you will be working with.

Adult Division

Dr. Charles Carver	Positive Mood and Academic Performance and Motivation
Dr. Sheri Johnson	Screening for Mania Mood Changes and Responses to Letters from Home Bipolar Disorder Status
Dr. Michael McCullough	Aversive Interpersonal Events, Psychopathology and Health
Dr. Amy Weisman	Culturally Informed Therapy for Schizophrenia Family factors and psychopathology: Expressed emotion, attributions, and cohesion in schizophrenia and high functioning autism

Child Division

Dr. Michael Alessandri	Experience of Father's of Children with Autism
Dr. Marie Cheour	Infant Sleep: Learning and Brain Maturation
Dr. Alan Delamater	Prescription Practices in Youths with Type 1 Diabetes Predictors of Intensive Regimens in Youths with Type 1 Diabetes
Dr. Lynne Katz	Project Hand-n-Hand
Dr. Annette LaGreca	Prescription Practices in Youths with Type 1 Diabetes Predictors of Intensive Regimens in Youths with Type 1 Diabetes
Dr. Alexandra Quittner	Social Functioning of Children and Adolescents with Bipolar Disorder: The FRIENDS Project Child Development after Cochlear Implant Parent-Child Interactions in Deaf and Hearing Children

Health Division

Dr. Mike Antoni	Cognitive Behavioral Stress Management Intervention "Keeping Hope Alive" Project C-SMART
Dr. Marc Gellman	The GREAT Heart Study
Dr. Maria Llabre	Statistical Programming in Psychophysiological and Health Research
Dr. Frank Penedo	Immune Messengers During a Speech Task in Older Adults Latinas' Perceptions of Genetic Testing for BR/OV Cancer
Dr. Alexandra Quittner	Cystic Fibrosis Adherence Trial
Dr. Patrice Saab	The Project ACE (Adolescent Cardiovascular Evaluation) Blood Pressure Study
Dr. Biing-Jiun Shen	Psychosocial Treatment for Heart Patients Psychosocial Issues Among Patients With Heart Failure

Faculty Overview of Research and Faculty Mentors (FORUM)

Last semester we conducted eight FACT sections with a total of 125 first-year Psychology and Neuroscience majors. These sections gave incoming students a heads-up about opportunities at the University and in the Department, and helped students take charge of their own curriculum planning in order to make the most of their undergraduate education.

There are 11 FORUM sections this semester (8 Psychology and 3 Neuroscience). Faculty members who do research lead the FORUM sections, which are held once a week for an hour. In the sections, students read short essays and write brief papers summarizing and critiquing the various research projects described. Some of the articles are of historical interest and some cover cutting edge research. The goal is to familiarize students with research in general, research in the field, and specifically, what opportunities there are for research here on campus or at the Medical School.

PSY 365

If you are a Psychology major and are interested in finding out more about research opportunities and graduate school in Psychology you may want to take in Psy 365. During this one credit course, various members of the faculty come to class to discuss their research and opportunities for working in their labs.

Congratulations Psychology December Grads!

College of Arts and Sciences

Courtney Anderson
Yasmine Bally
Florence Boza
Fallon Brown
Melissa Bruno
Paola Davalos
Anthony DeLorenzi
Laura Dimmick
RaShana Donovan
Candace Drummond
Christina Fulham

Brian Gonzales
Raquel Gonzales
Kristen Goodrich
James Harper
Emma Kremer
Shauna Mace
Shannon Maharajh
Jacklyne Marti
Beda Martinez
Elizabeth Mejia**
Cynthia Mendez

Elizabeth Merkle
Olga Moas *
Emily Morris
Razan Nazer
Denise Nunez
Rocio Perez
Lauren Raifaizen
Annia Rodriguez
Francesca Romano
Carla Schuab
Yaritza Semenuk

Andre Siegal
Bailey Smith
Deborah Spaulding
Magalie Thomas
Jessica Tierney
Cecilia Torres-Ochoa
Brandi White
Joy Williams
Alexandra Zigann

School of Communication

Emie Fernandez
Zorylee Galarza
Michelle Hermansen
Tiffany Kayes
Jaclyn Maya
William McFall
Natalie Mikolich
Juliana Schmidt

** Summa Cum Laude

School of Education

Diana Botet
Roopa Parasuraman

*Departmental Honors

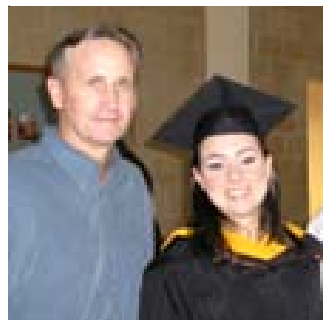
Emily Morris '05

Emily was proposed to during the University of Miami vs. Virginia football game! The happy couple are both UM alums. Emily graduated with her Bachelor's degree in December. Her fiancé Randy Foster graduated last May with a Master's in Music Business.



Brian Gonzalez '05

Peer advisor Brian Gonzalez graduated in December and began a full-time job in the laboratory of his undergraduate mentor, Gail Ironson, working on the Positive Survivors project. Brian will be getting married here in Miami in July.



The Psi Chi Connection

News & Briefs for University of Miami Psi Chi

Vol. 7 Num. 2

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

Applications for membership to Psi Chi will be sent out to qualified students in March. New members will be welcomed to the organization during the induction ceremony and banquet held in May. We hope to see all new (and old) Psi Chi members there!

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ACTIVE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Psi Chi is a National Honor Society. The national office stipulates that members must meet the following criteria for membership:

1. Completion of at least 3 semesters.
2. Completion of 9 credits in Psychology.
3. Declaration of Psychology, or Neuroscience major or minor.
4. Rank in top 35% of class.

Note: Occasionally, eligible individuals do not receive an invitation to join Psi Chi. If you are one of those who has fallen through the cracks, don't hesitate to give us a call.

Remember: you do not have to be a member of Psi Chi to attend our meetings and events! We look forward to having you join us.

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

Questions? Email us!
PsiChiami@hotmail.com

Welcome Back!

Welcome back Psi Chi, Psychology, and Neuroscience students! We hope you had a productive and successful Fall semester, as well as a restful and enjoyable holiday season!

The Fall semester was an active one for Psi Chi, thanks to all of our members and guests who participated in our activities. Our meetings included a graduate admissions seminar, personality tests, and visits from graduate students.

We hope to see everyone again at the exciting events planned for the Spring, including interesting speakers, GRE practice sessions, community service opportunities, and the induction ceremony. Also, look for our table at the Spring Involvement Fair.

We meet every other Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the UC. Keep an eye out for the Psi Chi banner in the UC Breezeway, and look for flyers and emails announcing Psi Chi meetings!

Psi Chi Spring Meeting Schedule

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the UC

January 25th February 8th February 22nd

Psi Chi Points Earn Kaplan Scholarship

Kaplan Review has donated a \$550 scholarship to the UM chapter of Psi Chi to be used toward a test-prep class at Kaplan. The scholarship is awarded to the member who earns the most participation points each semester. We encourage everyone to participate in all of Psi Chi's upcoming events to enrich your collegiate experience while earning points toward the scholarship!



Graduation 2006 Materials



Remember to order Psi Chi graduation materials! Graduation cords are \$10.00 and medallions are \$15.00. If you want to order both, the combined price is \$22.00.

To order your graduation materials, contact Psi Chi at PsiChiami@hotmail.com.

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Psychology News

Thanks to . . .

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The Psychology Peer Advisors

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