

Psychology News

Undergraduate Edition for Psychology and Neuroscience Majors

March 2005

Vol. 6 No. 4



College of Arts and Sciences

Honor Roll Students Get Just Desserts



Psychology and Neuroscience Majors in the College of Arts and Sciences got their **Just Desserts** on Thursday, February 17, in the fourth annual celebration of this event. Our students who made President's, Provost's, or Dean's Honor Roll during the past two semesters, were invited to enjoy a decadent array of desserts, cakes, candies, nuts, fruits, and cheeses, and play our challenging games! Over 150 students, parents, faculty, and administrators attended the fun-filled event. **Vice-Dean & Chairman Rod Wellens** and other members of the Psychology Department were on hand to congratulate students



and join in the fun. The winners of the *High Rollers Table*, the *Bachelor's Golf Tournament*, and the *Honor Bowl* games had a show down in the *Balancing Act*. Prizes went to students **Jonathan Jans**, **Raveesh Richard**, and **Desmond Fitzpatrick**, who all scored highest in one of the games. The grand prize, a color printer and photo copier combo donated by **Director of Undergraduate Studies, Victoria Noriega**, went to *Balancing Act* winner **Jonathan Jans**. **Dr. Amy Weisman** won the MUSE CUP for her many contributions to the Undergraduate Program.

The **Peer Advisors** were assisted by about twenty students who helped out as part of the interview process for new incoming Peer Advisors. A big thank you to all of you who helped make this year's event a success! Didn't make it to Just Desserts this year? No problem. Make one of the Honor Rolls this or next semester and you, too, will be invited to get your **Just Desserts!**



Research and Creativity Forum to Highlight Research

Graduate and Undergraduate students from every discipline at UM will come together on **Thursday, April 7** from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the UC to present their research and projects at the 2005 Citizens Board Research & Creativity Forum (RCF). The RCF is a student led event hosted by the Graduate Student Association, the undergraduate student organization "INQUIRY," UM Citizens Board, the Graduate School, Division of Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Toppel Career Center. This is a unique opportunity for students to showcase original research before other students, faculty, administration, and the public during a viewing session in the University Center. Participants will gain important experience in presenting and defending their work in a setting that is modeled after a professional poster session and exhibition. This is a great chance to learn more about what types of research you might get involved with. Last year, Psychology and Neuroscience students figured prominently in both the exhibitions and the prizes. Remember, the University of Miami is a research university. Don't miss out on this opportunity to find out how you can add research to your curriculum to make the most out of your undergraduate education. Posters will be on display at the UC Lower Lounge. Outstanding presentations will be honored with certificates, ribbons, and/or cash awards at the RCF banquet on April 8th. For more information, go to www.miami.edu/rcf.

Advising Alert!



Advising Appointments will be posted on-line on Monday, March 21.

To make an appointment go to www.psy.miami.edu/advising. From March 21 through April 22, Advisors will be seeing students by appointment. Course offerings for the Summer and Fall are now available on EASY. Be sure to have a preliminary schedule with plenty of alternates ready before coming for your appointment. Questions? Call UASP at 305-284-3303.

Last day to drop for the Semester is Monday, March 28.

Thinking of dropping a class? March 28 is the last day to do so this semester! Planning and prompt action can avoid an undesirable grade. Dropping a class before March 28 will put a "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 ill-preparedness.

Incompletes

Incompletes are granted only to students who have a non-academic reason for not completing a class. This includes health, legal, or family matters. See your Undergraduate Bulletin for details. In order to take an "I" you must be passing the class and have completed more than half of the course work. Speak with your instructor. If you must take an incomplete, you have one year to make it up, i.e., to complete the work for the class. *Do not re-register for the class!* Your instructor will fill out the appropriate forms when he or she submits grades.

Don't know what you will do post-bac?

Come see us after the advising period to discuss your options. And don't forget that the Toppel Career Planning and Placement Center and the Counseling Center have career testing services and loads of information about possible careers and graduate schools. If you are having trouble deciding whether graduate school is for you, you might want to check out our practicum course, PSY 365, Introduction to Research and Careers in Psychology.



Find yourself!

1. Read *Psychology News*
2. See if you are pictured or mentioned
3. Bring the newsletter to Flipse 508
4. Receive a gift from UASP!

"Can I register on-line?"

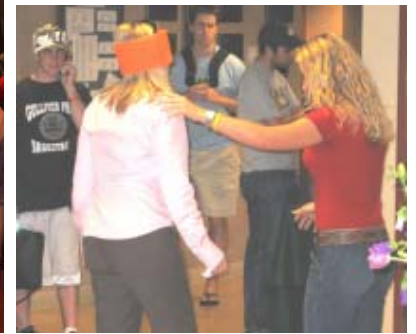
If you are a student in the
College of Arts and Sciences,
you can register for classes on-line
if you have ...

more than 75 credits,
a grade point average over 2.5,
and a declared major

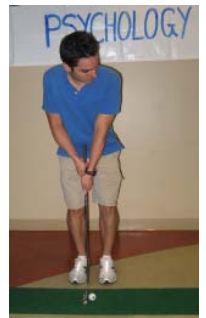
If you have between 30-74 credits, you may register on-line but will need an access code. To get your code, present a completed, advisor-approved Course Request Form to Ms. Verdelle Bell in Ashe 200.

If you already have a code, go ahead and register. However, remember to check your Psychology Major's Manual and your Bulletin for details about graduation requirements. Remember, you are responsible for your class choices. You will want to stop by UASP sometime before next semester to check your choices and to avoid any unnecessary graduation problems.

Just Desserts Continued. . .



The Honor Roll students found themselves. . . rolling dice. . . blindfolded. . .



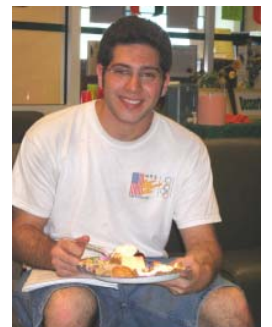
. . . trying to find their way around campus. . . bowling over the big wigs. . . or reading the green!



Dr. Wellens & Dr. Durel showed us how it's done!

Dr. Cheor joined in the fun! Congrats Dr. Weisman!

. . . and everyone enjoyed spending a fun afternoon with faculty, family, good friends, and of course...
Just Desserts!



PRIME Applications Due March 28

Applications are still available for this summer's PRIME program. Come by Flipse 508 to pick up an application. PRIME is a summer research program funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, the American Psychological Association, the Provost of the University, and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. PRIME is a 10-week research program geared to students who are serious about graduate work in Psychology and Neuroscience. Students work 20 hours per week with a research faculty mentor, attend weekly PRIME meetings, and produce a research project or proposal at the end of the summer. You can participate in PRIME in one of two ways ... either as a Full or JUMPSTART student. Applicants wishing to be Full PRIME students must have completed PSY 204 and PSY316. They receive a \$1,500 summer stipend and, upon successful completion of the summer program, also receive a \$500 supplies stipend in the Fall. **Full PRIME** students are required to produce a research poster by the end of the program in June. **JUMPSTART** (Just for University of Miami Psychology Students to Accelerate Research Training) need not have completed PSY 204 or PSY 316. They receive a \$1,000 summer stipend and \$250 Fall supplies allowance, and must produce a research proposal. Both Full and JUMPSTART students are expected to present their work at the Undergraduate Conference for Research in Psychology in the Fall and the Research and Creativity Forum in the Spring. Presenting at the Psi Chi Conference or other such venues is also encouraged. Questions? Come by the UASP office at Flipse 508 or call 305-284-3303.

Remember, even if you are funded by the Dean's Women and Minority Scholarship, the Lois Pope Neuroscience Scholarship, or the Honors Summer Research Program, you may still be eligible to participate in the weekly PRIME meetings. PRIME students not only gain valuable experience in research, but have the advantage of collaborating with other students working toward similar goals. Many of the PRIME students go on to do Senior Honors Theses. While not necessary to get into graduate school, a Senior Honors Thesis is necessary for any student wishing to graduate *magna* or *summa cum laude*. Additionally, it can provide you with valuable experience working with a faculty member that will be very useful once you get to graduate school.

2005 Honors Theses

Using Computer Vision Facial Mapping Software to Predict Undergraduate Ratings of Positive Emotion

Jessica Gaby

Mentor: Dr. Daniel Messinger

Infant Perception and Three Facial Markers of Emotional Intensity

Lisa Ibanez

Mentor: Dr. Daniel Messinger

Individual Differences in Toddlers' Social Problem Solving: The Influence of Social Fearfulness

Olga Moas

Mentor: Dr. Heather Henderson

The Relationship Among Weight, Eating Habits, and Psychological Problems Among Adolescents

Theresa Dulski

Mentor: Dr. Patrice Saab

Psychosocial Correlates of Immunity and Disease Markers in Prostate Cancer

Sam Lockhart

Mentor: Dr. Frank Penedo

Associations Among Self-Monitoring, Social Anxiety, and Negative Attributional Style

Elizabeth Mejia

Mentor: Dr. Heather Henderson

How Social Support Mitigates Depressive Symptoms in Cancer Patients: A Longitudinal Study

Jessica Tocco

Mentor: Dr. Suzanne Lechner

The Effects of Violence on Parent-Child Interaction and Cognitive Development

Diana Fernandez

Mentor: Dr. Neena Malik

Dynamic of Signals Involved in Microglial Cell Migration to Sites of Injury in the Leech Central Nervous System

Jason Wester

Mentors: Dr. Ken Muller
Dr. Phil McCabe

Summer School Plans?

Summer will be here before you know it. If you're thinking of taking a course somewhere else over the summer, be sure to plan ahead and have it approved before you sign up. To get a course approved, find a copy of the course description from the other institution you'll be attending. Also, get a copy of the TRANSFER EQUIVALENCY FORM (these are available in Ashe 200 or Flipse 508). Take the course description and Transfer Equivalency Form to the department of the course you plan on taking. For example, if you want to take American History I, take your paperwork to the Department of History in the Ashe Building. The designated person in that department will sign off on your Transfer Equivalency Form if the course is in fact equivalent to what is offered here at UM. In the Department of Psychology, all full-time advisors are authorized to sign-off for Psychology courses. Once you've received all the necessary signatures, take your Transfer Equivalency Form to the College of Arts and Sciences Advising Center, Ashe 200.

We recommend that you keep an additional copy of the Transfer Equivalency Form. Once you've completed the course at the other institution, it is your responsibility to tell that institution to send your transcripts to UM's Office of the Registrar. You will not receive credit if the transcripts are not officially sent. However, the credits should transfer with the appropriate department and number since you had the Transfer Equivalency Form filled out and turned in ahead of time. Check your ACE about 4-6 weeks after the papers have been submitted to make sure everything is in order. Contact an advisor if there are any problems or questions regarding your ACE.

Remember the university residency rule: you must complete your last 45 credits at UM. If you transfer from a 2-year institution, you must complete your last 56 credits at UM.

What to take during summer school?

Summer can be a time of relaxation, vacation, as well as continuing your education! You may want to use your time during the summer to catch-up on courses that you dropped the previous semester, to get ahead in core requirements, or to take a course that you don't want to take during the regular semester. Classes usually don't fill up as fast (with the exception of PSY 204), and you'll have more time to dedicate to that one subject. Also, most summer classes are about 5 weeks long. Students who have difficulty with languages may want to take their foreign language classes over the summer. 101 classes are usually offered during Summer I and 102 during Summer II. This would easily lead into 211 for the Fall semester.

If you can't take classes at UM, consider taking courses at a college or university near your home (see above). You will probably want to focus on taking courses that fulfill the general education requirements, (i.e., Philosophy/Religion, Fine Arts, Literature, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Math, Foreign Language, etc). General education courses often have direct equivalents and are easy to transfer. Try to avoid taking Psychology courses as many do not transfer to UM. Remember, as a Psychology major, you must complete your upper-division (300+) courses in residency at UM. For more information about what courses to take over summer, speak with an advisor in the UASP office.

Hats Off To...

...**Christian Andrade and Nicole Christin** who will be attending UM's Miller School of Medicine this Fall.

...**Erin Bauer** who will study abroad in Australia in July. We look forward to hearing her update when she returns!

...**Jeanine Cabrera & Carlos Rodriguez** who got engaged on November 27. Congrats!

...**Roberto Colon, John Thurson, and Katrina Ramos** who were accepted into the APA Summer Science Institute at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

...**Ivan Dequesada** who was accepted to University of Florida's School of Medicine. First he will participate in the JET (Japan Exchange & Teaching) program for a year.

...**Enrique Escobar** who was accepted to Creighton University's Medical School in Omaha, Nebraska.

...**Blake Harrington** who received a position at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIHCD) as a research assistant.

...**Lindsay Long**, a graduating senior, who was recently engaged to Brian Rapp, a first-year MBA student at Miami.

...**Olga Moas** for her recent acceptance into the NSF Summer Program in Applied Psychology at Clemson University in South Carolina.

...**Anna Noriega** for being a Miami Dolphins Cheerleader this year.

...**Alex Ortiz** who was accepted into the *Teach For America* program, which recruits graduating seniors to commit to teaching in low-income schools around the nation for two years. He will be teaching middle or high school science in New York City this Fall.

...**Asha Pai** who was accepted into the Masters in Mental Health Counseling Program at Nova University in Ft. Lauderdale.

...**Cessi Sutter** who was recently accepted into the Masters in Educational Psychology Program at New York University.

...**Jessica Svajert** who, while studying abroad with Semester at Sea, was in the newspaper in India for doing relief work helping to paint a middle school hit by the tsunami.

...**Veronica Temple** for receiving a summer internship in a lab with Dr. Michael Hardin at NIMH working with reinforcement and motivation in depression for children and adolescents.

...and **Jessica Tierney** who was recently promoted to Conference Coordinator for Youth Crime Watch of America. In addition to her full-time studies as a senior Psychology major, Jessica will be working full-time planning a national conference for the non-profit organization.

E-mail Etiquette

What does your e-mail address say about you? A majority of our correspondence today occurs via e-mail. Faculty and staff often receive hundreds of messages per week from students and peers both inside and outside the University. If you're using a "cute" e-mail address such as *crazygirl@hotmail.com*, your message may be discarded as junk mail. To avoid having your e-mail deleted, use your official UM e-mail address when contacting professors, advisors, and with other professional communication. Student e-mail is available from Information Technology through the University of Miami Student Integrated System (UMSIS). Keep in mind that faculty often teach multiple classes in addition to their other duties, so include all the appropriate information in your e-mail. In the subject line you may want to list the course number and topic of the e-mail. Also, if you have had previous conversations via e-mail, reply with history to help jog the recipient's memory of your discussions. It is important to make your e-mails clear, concise, and professional. Remember, the relationships you build today may lead to graduate school/job recommendations or other endeavors in the future.

Good Deeds Abroad



Samira Sami has spent the past two years at UM arranging for missionaries to South and Central America (Ecuador and Guatemala) to volunteer in an orphanage and local clinics during the summer and Christmas break. She did fund raising through the Rotary Clubs of Miami and raised over \$12,000 to support three missionaries. This funding provided medicine, school supplies, hygiene products, toys, and parasite medicine for the people in these villages. The missionaries also set up a water treatment project for the people in a poverty-stricken village in Ecuador. Samira reports that she has learned a tremendous amount about public health, infectious diseases, and medical care in third world countries. She is interested in setting up another group of students from UM. If you would like more information or are interested in getting involved in these types of activities abroad, you can contact Samira at Samiralr@yahoo.com.



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Vol. II

NEURO NOTES

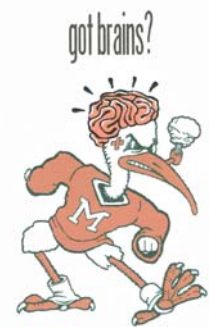
Num. IV

Summer Research Fellowships for NEU Majors

There still may be summer research fellowship programs available for Neuroscience students. To apply for these fellowships you need to find a neuroscience faculty member willing to mentor you in his/her laboratory and have the mentor write a letter of endorsement on your behalf. You will need to fill out the application by the deadline specified. These fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis, and they are an excellent opportunity to become engaged in cutting edge science in one of the 55 neuroscience laboratories at UM. If you have questions regarding the fellowships, contact Dr. McCabe (pmccabe@miami.edu) or Dr. Noriega (vnoriega@miami.edu) for assistance.

Lois Pope Undergraduate Neuroscience Research Awards

A generous endowment made to the University of Miami by Trustee, Lois Pope, allows undergraduate majors in neuroscience to participate in summer neuroscience research projects at the University of Miami. We expect to appoint several Pope Undergraduate Researchers for the summer of 2005. Each student researcher chosen will be given a \$2,500 stipend plus support for a "single" dormitory room in the summer. Awardees will be expected to spend at least 10 weeks in the summer doing full-time research and to make a Research Day poster presentation on their results the following spring semester. Thus, awardees should have at least two more semesters in residence at the University before graduation. No other award or University support is allowed during the summer, but students may participate in the group PRIME program as PRIME associates. Stop by Flipse 508 to pick up a Lois Pope Neuroscience Summer Scholarship application. **Completed applications are due March 28.**



we do.

U NEUROSCIENCE

Thanks to Kevin O'Brien for producing this artwork.

The Psi Chi Connection

News & Briefs for University of Miami Psi Chi

Vol. 6 Num. 3

2004-2005 Psi Chi Executive Board

Theresa Dulski - President
Jenny Blanco - Vice President
Nicole Christin - Treasurer
Lauren Brown - Secretary
Diana Fernandez - Public Relations

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

Membership applications were mailed out to all eligible students. New members will be honored at our annual Spring induction banquet on April 22nd.

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.

Questions? Email us!
PsiChimiami@hotmail.com

Welcome Back from Spring Break!

Welcome Back! The semester has already reached the halfway mark. It has been a busy semester for Psi Chi members with opportunities to meet psychologists and discuss issues related to psychology. At our February meeting, Lyndon Aguiar from the Counseling Center discussed several issues that are prevalent at the University of Miami. For example, depression is considered the number one problem on our campus. Other issues addressed at the Counseling Center include anxiety, eating disorders, and relationship or social problems. In addition to mental health services, the Counseling Center offers a wide range of free services to UM students such as help with choosing a major, time management, and career counseling. Thank you to Mr. Aguiar for taking time out of his schedule to speak to us.

We have more activities planned for the rest of the semester. On Saturday, **April 16**, we will be participating in Habitat for Humanity. Don't miss the opportunity to support the community by building houses for individuals who need a home. In just one day you can truly make a difference in a family's life. Contact Psi Chi at PsiChimiami@hotmail.com to get involved. We can use your help for this important community project!

Our last two meetings will be held on **April 5** and **April 19** at 6:00 p.m. in UC 241. On Tuesday, April 19th, elections for the Psi Chi Executive Board will be held. All positions are open: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Relations. The positions are open to all current and newly inducted members. If you would like to be on the Executive Board, be sure you come to the meeting on April 19. If you cannot attend this meeting but would still like to run for a position, please submit a statement of why you would like the position, a summary of your qualifications, and a recent picture to one of the current E-board members. The new Executive Board will be announced and Psi Chi members will be recognized at the annual Induction Ceremony on Friday, **April 22**.



Graduation 2005 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 PsiChimiami@hotmail.com.

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P.O. Box 248185
Coral Gables, FL 33124-0751



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Psychology News

Thanks to . . .

Anna Fredericks
José F. Rodríguez, M.S.Ed.
Rod Wellens, Ph.D.
Richard Williams, Ph.D.
The Psychology Peer Advisors
The Neuroscience Peer Advisors

Editor

Victoria Noriega, Ph.D.

In this issue . . .

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Taking Summer Classes
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