

# Psychology News

Undergraduate Edition for Psychology and Neuroscience Majors

October 2003 Vol. 5 No. 2



College of Arts and Sciences

## Flipse Dedication

The grand opening and dedication of the Fred C. and Helen Donn Flipse Building took place on Wednesday October 15. The event was a huge success with over 200 people in attendance. Chairman Rod Wellens (right) served as the Master of Ceremonies. President Shalala spoke at the event and made a point to remark on our excellent undergraduate program. The Peer Advisors, whose help makes the implementation of our all of our programs possible, were on hand to help with tours of the building and celebrate the historic event.



Among the guests were Mrs. Helen Flipse (for whom the building is partially named) and several members of her family. Supporters of the University of Miami since the 1960's, the Flipses have also provided substantial support

to the Counseling Center as well as the Psychology Department. Several members of the family have earned degrees from UM. The Flipse family has been in Miami since 1909. The family began the flower shop chain known as Exotic Gardens, and currently owns Hallendale's Gulfstream Park Race Track. The Flipse have obviously been generous with the proceeds from their ventures.

Other donors who made our building possible were Mr. Randall C. Johnson, Professor Emeritus Theodore Millon, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schomber, Florida Power and Light, the Dan Marino Foundation, and the Lady Suzanna Tweed and Charleton Tweed Charitable Foundation. Additionally, over one hundred alumni and friends have donated money specifically for the Student Lobby. Its location adjacent to UASP makes easy access to all of our advising services, and is a great space to hang out, to study, to meet with faculty and friends. As you use this space, keep in mind that we have it only because of alums who were once students like you.



## 4th Annual Undergraduate Conference (UCON) Coming Soon!

The Fourth Annual Undergraduate Conference for Research in Psychology will be held **on Sunday November 16 from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m.** on the fifth floor of the Flipse Building. The conference will provide students who participated in the 2003 PRIME with a professional, yet collegial venue in which to present their work. Students will be making oral and poster presentations.

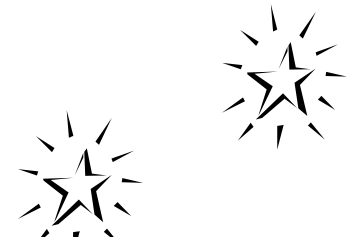
If you are interested in learning more about psychology or neuroscience research you will want to attend this event. This is a great way to meet some of the researchers, both faculty and graduate students. Check out the projects and see how you might become involved in laboratory or community-based research.

The Psychology Research Initiatives Mentorship Experience (**PRIME**) began as part of a nationwide effort, funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) and administered by the American Psychological Association (APA), to increase the presence of minority researchers in biomedical psychology. Florida International University and Miami-Dade College are UM's companion schools and together with us, make up the Southeast Region of that project. Supplemental funding has been provided for UM students by the Provost of the University and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to encourage all students to do research regardless of research interest or ethnicity. (con't on pg. 4)



# Advising Alert

## mark your calendar



**Advising appointments** for registration will be posted on line [www.psy.miami.edu](http://www.psy.miami.edu) on Monday, October 27. Advising will be by appointment only between November 3rd and November 14th. Appointments go fast so sign up early!

**Registration** is available only after your appointed registration time which is listed on EASY.

**Online registration** is available if you have more than 75 credits and a GPA of 2.5 or above. If you have more than 30 credits but less than 75, you may register on line **if** you come to see us to have your Course Request Form signed **and** if you obtain a PIN number from Arts and Sciences, Ashe 200.

**Last day to drop a class-** Tuesday, November 4th. This is the final day that classes may be dropped for the Fall semester. Come by UASP (Flipse 508) if you need to see an advisor before dropping a class..

**Seniors** - Be sure to make an appointment with Marian Dahman for a senior credit check! She can be found in Ashe 200 or you can make an appointment with her by calling x4333.

## FACT FORUM

The FACT FORUM program is now in its fifth year. FACT (Freshman Advising Contact Term) is in full swing with about 115 students in eight different sections, headed by Dr. Noriega and Jose Rodriguez. Within the next couple of weeks, FACT students will be working on their Spring schedules, developing their four year plans, and choosing a FORUM mentor, i.e., a PSY 120 instructor. FORUM stands for Faculty Overview of Research and Undergraduate Mentoring. It is the second part of the department's year-long freshman advising, orientation, and mentorship program. FORUM is designed to give students a broad overview of psychology research. Faculty members, who are currently conducting research, will lead small classes (18 or less) in weekly meetings discussing classical and contemporary research in psychology. Students also have the opportunity to meet with the advisors during their FORUM session to prepare for registration. FORUM faculty for the Spring 2004 are featured at the right.

## Courses to Consider

**PSY 342 Psychology of Adulthood and Aging-** Over the next 30 years, the 65 and older population in the U.S. will double from 35 to 70 million Americans reflecting a worldwide trend of a growing aging population. For several reasons, many tend to think that later life involves illness and disability, as well as an overall sense of discontent. Although many chronic diseases manifest in later life, the vast majority of older Americans are healthy, physically and mentally active, and report a high sense of well being. Psychology of Adulthood and Aging is a broad course that presents the biopsychosocial aspects of aging including physical aging, theories of aging, psychosocial development through adulthood (e.g., presentation of mental illness, changes in personality, etc.) and other topics such as chronic disease management and death and dying. Dr. Penedo's research focuses on quality of life issues in older populations, and he brings a wealth of information from his own work to enrich the class. Students in Dr. Penedo's class have the opportunity to review recent research in aging and interact with older adults by conducting an interview-based "life story" of an older individual. Dr. Penedo hopes students will gain a fuller and broader understanding of what it means to be an older adult. Spring 2004, PSY 342 R Tues. & Thurs. 1:40-2:55p.m.

**PSY 416 Personality Theory-** What is human nature? How has the course of historical thought influenced how we view human behavior? What makes people tick? These are some of the questions that Dr. Michael Di Tomasso raises in his class. He uses primary texts from such psychologists as Freud, Fromm, Horney, Rogers, Skinner, and Bandura, among others. Dr. DiTomasso is a practicing clinician. He brings a wealth of knowledge from his practice to the classroom. He also works in forensics and often uses lots of examples from this area. Dr. DiTomasso hopes that students who are interested in his class will come in with an open mind and critically evaluate all the theories they read. PSY 416 TX Tues. 5:00-7:30p.m., and TY Thurs. 5:00-7:30p.m.

# FORUM Mentors for Spring 2004



**Dr. Christine Delgado** is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology. She earned her doctoral degree here at UM, under the supervision of Drs. Peter Mundy and Daniel Messinger. Dr. Delgado is the Director of the Children's Registry and Information Systems Project (CHRIS). Her research focuses on the identification of risk factors and outcomes for preschoolers with disabilities and on the development of the *Pictorial Infant Communication Scales*. Last year, Dr. Delgado welcomed baby Joshua to her family. She is looking forward to leading a FORUM section for the first time this Spring.



**Dr. Kristen Lindahl** is an Associate Professor of Child Psychology. She is originally from upstate New York and received her B.A. at the University of Rochester (1985) and her Ph.D. in Child Clinical Psychology from the University of Denver in 1992. She did her internship at Boston's Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Dr. Lindahl has been with the Department for over ten years now. Her research interests are guided by theories of family systems and focuses on how ethnicity, parent-child and whole family processes, among other things, are related to child adjustment. Her research utilizes both self-report and observational methodologies to better understand how dysfunction in one family subsystem might affect another. Dr. Lindahl is an avid UM sports fan, especially football, baseball, and women's soccer. She also loves to play racquetball at the Wellness Center and do the Sunday New York Times crossword.



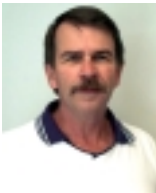
**Dr. Michael McCullough** joined the Department in the Fall of 2002 as an Associate Professor. A native Floridian from Jacksonville, Dr. McCullough completed his B.S. with a major in psychology at the University of Florida. He earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University. Despite past Gator ties, Dr. McCullough was drawn to UM by its 'exceptionally strong Psychology Department,' and (no doubt) winning football team. His original interest was in writing and filmmaking, but finding himself without motivation in that area, he turned to the diverse world of psychology. He has many research interests including longitudinal studies on forgiveness, gratitude, and religious development in adulthood. In his spare time, he enjoys biking, playing water sports, and engaging in outdoor adventures.



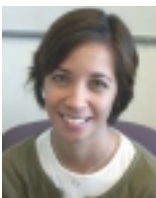
**Dr. Daniel Messinger** is an Associate Professor of Psychology and Pediatrics. Dr. Messinger reports that he has been interested in psychology for as long as he can remember. He received his Bachelor's degree at Haverford College, his Master's degree at the University of Chicago, and completed his doctoral degree at the University of Utah. Dr. Messinger specializes in child research. Some of his research interests include the development of infant emotions and communication, and the effects of prenatal cocaine exposure on development. In his free time, Dr. Messinger enjoys playing racquetball and running. In his FORUM section, he hopes to engage his students in discussions about developmental psychology, the psychology of emotions, and other interesting topics.



**Dr. Biing Shen** is an Assistant Professor of Psychology who recently joined the Department. He earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the UCLA in 2001. The following year, he was a post-doctoral fellow at Brown University in Behavioral Medicine. Dr. Shen's research interests mainly focus on psychosocial issues of individuals living with heart disease and those at high risk for cardiovascular disease and diabetes. He is examining the relationships among personality characteristics, social support, mood states, and coping and how they influence a patient's recovery from heart incidents. Dr. Shen is also interested in the ethnic issues related to mental health. He has done research examining the role of acculturation and its relationship with mental health among Asian Americans.



**Dr. Ray Winters** is Professor of Psychology and has been at the UM since 1969. He received his B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University. Dr. Winters was not a psychology major until his junior year when he read an article about the visual system that sparked his interest in the field. Within three years, he found himself in graduate school conducting research in that area. Dr. Winters has research interests in the neurobiological aspects of emotions. He collaborates with Dr. Sheri Johnson to study bipolar disorder, and is also working with Dr. Mike McCullough to explore how religiosity and spirituality buffer reactions to stress. In his FORUM section, Dr. Winters will present a broad overview of the different approaches in psychology and will strive to stimulate students' interest in research. He enjoys playing golf and swimming. He has five cats, but Bob is his favorite.



**Dr. Marygrace Yale** is a Research Assistant Professor in the Child Division of our Department. She is originally from Illinois and completed her B.A. degree at Illinois Wesleyan University with a major in psychology and a minor in investment. She completed her Ph.D. in developmental psychology at UM in 1999. Dr. Yale has had an interest in child psychology since high school and acquired valuable research experience as an undergraduate that led her to pursue a career in research. Once at UM, she began working with others in early social development of children leading to her current focus on risk factors for developmental disabilities. Dr. Yale's FORUM section will explore research in different aspects of child and adolescent development. She will also explore the importance of getting

involved in research and the possible ways in which to apply the experience to individual interests. Dr. Yale emphasizes that research is more than the project itself; it is a valuable experience for a number of reasons, some of which she will explore in her FORUM section. In her spare time she enjoys reading, spending time with her three nephews, and watching sporting events.

# 4th Annual UCON (continued from pg. 1)

## Undergraduate Conference for Research in Psychology

Participating students from UM and FIU will present posters and/or deliver talks describing their efforts and results. Round table discussions will give everyone a chance to discuss the projects and find out more about the research experience.

**We will be serving a complimentary lunch, so you will need reservations.** Feel free to bring a friend or family member who might be interested in the research.



RSVP to Conference Coordinators  
José Rodríguez (305) 284-3303 or Dr. Noriega (305) 284-1756  
by **Wednesday, November 13.**



With registration just around the corner, this is a great opportunity for you to investigate the various types of projects that are being conducted. Getting an idea of the various types of research can give you ideas and insights about graduate school options, as well. Remember, most psychology graduate programs consider research experience a “must.” You can volunteer to work with a professor in his or her laboratory, or get course credit for your research experience by registering for PSY 367/8. Pick up forms at the Undergraduate Conference or at UASP on the fifth floor of Flipse.

## Linda Ray Intervention Center

Located in an inner-city neighborhood, the **Linda Ray Intervention Center**, was developed for the University of Miami by Infants In Need, Inc., a non-profit organization. Once a crack house, this Center provides service, research and education to vulnerable children and their families. Housed in the Department of Psychology, the Linda Ray Center has two main objectives: (1) to develop and evaluate programs and (2) to move effective programs into the community.

There are several on-going projects at the Linda Ray Center which involve faculty, staff and students, at both the undergraduate and graduate level:

**Linda Ray Intervention Program (LRIP)** provides early intervention to infants and toddlers prenatally exposed to cocaine; results show improved school readiness & literacy skills serving over 600 families

**Prelinguistic & Enhanced Mileu Teaching** is provided to LRIC children identified as language delayed; this individual intervention relies on child-centered play, verbal prompts and social consequences.

**Miami Safe Start Initiative** provides specialized Early Head Start services with a parent-child therapy component to maltreated infants and toddlers in the child welfare system.

**Florida Infant & Young Children's Mental Health Program** aims to improve parent-child interaction, encourage children's coping skills & reduce trauma symptoms in high risk court-referred families.

**Nurturing and Strengthening Families Program** provides parenting intervention for adults with identified substance abuse issues who have children between 7-12 years of age.

**Ages & Stages Screening Initiative** provides developmental screening to court-referred infants and toddlers.

Strong relationships with Florida Department of Education, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Juvenile Court system, Administration for Children, Youth & Families, and the Department of Children and Families enable the Linda Ray Center to have a strong presence in the community. If you are interested in volunteering or gaining research experience at the Linda Ray Center, please contact Dr. Kate Bono at (305) 325-1818, extension 329 or by e-mail: [kbono@miami.edu](mailto:kbono@miami.edu).



# PRIME gets national recognition

The American Psychological Association's news magazine, *The Monitor*, recently featured a story on the APA/NIGMS project to increase minority participation in biomedical research. Highlighted was the Southeast region's PRIME program; special emphasis was paid to UM's participation in that program. The article explained the various facets of the PRIME program, including PRIME II which is made possible by the Provost of the University and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who provide funds for student summer research regardless of ethnicity or research interest. The

program has been enormously successful during the past six years, giving almost 80 students the chance to participate in a funded research experience with a faculty mentor. One important part of the summer research program is the weekly meetings, conducted for the past two years by graduate student and Psychology's Advisor, Jose Rodríguez. With his help, PRIME students have prepared the research you will be able to see at the UCON. Students who get funded through the Summer Honors Research Program, the Lois Pope Scholarship, or the Dean's Women and Minority Fellowship are eligible to participate in this aspect of the PRIME Program. Applications for PRIME 2004 will be available in UASP in mid February.

## Current Research Projects in Psychology

### Adult Division

<p><b>Dr. Charles Carver</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Adele Hayes</b> <b>Dr. Sheri Johnson</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Jean-Philippe Laurenceau</b></p>	<p>Long-term Cancer Survivors: Quality of Life Breast Cancer Coping &amp; Recovery Project Depression Treatment and Research Program Bipolar Disorder Studies Emotional Support Positive Affect and Mania Validating Measures of Relationship Functioning with Spanish-speaking Couples</p>
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### Child Division

<p><b>Dr. Lynn Katz</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Marie Cheour</b> <b>Dr. Christine Delgado</b> <b>Dr. Alan Delamater</b> <b>Dr. Daryl Greenfield</b> <b>Dr. Adele Hayes</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Annette LaGreca</b> <b>Dr. Kristen Lindahl</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Daniel Messinger</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Peter Mundy</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Keith Scott</b></p>	<p>Linda Ray Intervention Project Analyses of Environmental Risk Factors for Children Prenatally Exposed to Cocaine Bilingual Phonemic Processing and Brain Development CHRIS Project: Preschoolers with Disabilities Quality of Life in Youth with Type 1 Diabetes Head Start and School Readiness Depression Risk Factors and Predictors of Well-Being Dysphoria, Past Depression, and Social Information Processing Disclosure of School-age Children Infected with HIV Family Communication Study Center for Treatment Research on Adolescent Drug Abuse The Social Play Interaction of Prenatally Cocaine Exposed Children and Their Caregivers Maternal Lifestyle Study Emotional Judgments Early Social &amp; Communication Development Project Social Development in Asperger's Syndrome Early Intervention with Children with Autism EEG Studies of Infants and Children Miami Families Project</p>
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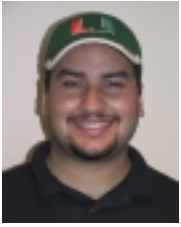
### Health Division

<p><b>Dr. Mike Antoni</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Ron Durán</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Marc Gellman</b> <b>Dr. Barry Hurwitz</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Gail Ironson</b> <b>Dr. Maria Llabre</b> <b>Dr. Frank Penedo</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Patrice Saab</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Ray Winters</b></p>	<p>Center for Psycho-Oncology Research "C-Smart" Found Meaning in Individuals with Cancer CBSM Intervention in Gay Men and Women with HIV/AIDS Latino Stress Management, Adherence &amp; Relaxation Training The GREAT Heart Study Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Disease Progression Drug Abuse, HIV, and Coronary Vascular Disease RBC Mass, ANS Integrity, &amp; Syncope Susceptibility in CFS Psychoimmunology of HIV/AIDS Questionnaire Scoring in Health Research Cognitive Behavioral Stress Management (CBSM) CBSM in Men with Prostate Cancer CBSM in HIV Positive Drug Users CBSM for Hispanic Men with Prostate Cancer Project ACE (Adolescent Cardiovascular Evaluation) Blood Pressure Study Relation Between Sleep Deprivation and Mood</p>
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# Student Spotlight

**Carlos Echeverri** Senior Double Major: Psychology and Mathematics, Bachelor of Science



Involvement is a key feature of Carlos Echeverri's undergraduate career. He is the current president of the Association of Commuter Students, speaker of the senate in student government, an Orientation Assistant, a volunteer in Hurricanes Help the Home Town, and a volunteer in Funday. Carlos got involved in these various organizations because he felt he wanted to make a change in other people's lives. In his position in student government, Carlos has had a unique opportunity to contribute his voice and service to the student body. As president of the Association of Commuter students, Carlos has strived to bring social activities at UM to the commuter students and encourage them to take part in University events and activities. Carlos says that his greatest benefit has been the opportunity to work with various individuals on campus and develop his leadership skills. He says that his involvement with student government and organizations has given him the self-confidence to pursue anything in life. Even though this is his senior year, Carlos plans to stay one more year to continue his work in student government and work on research. He plans to apply to Ph.D. programs in psychometric psychology, blending his interests in Psychology and Mathematics.



**Elizabeth Mejia**, a sophomore with a major in Psychology and a minor in Spanish was named as one of the recipients of the Audley Webster Memorial Essay Contest. One of three winners, Elizabeth was recognized at an intimate ceremony held in the home of Stanford Residence Masters Mechabre. Excerpts from the writings of each of the winners was read by his or her English 106 instructor. Elizabeth's essay was entitled "Assessing the Journalism-Ethics Relationship." Marked by good writing and critical thinking, Elizabeth's excellent paper bodes well for her undergraduate success. Congratulations, Elizabeth!

Lost your way?  
Make an advising appointment  
go to [www.psy.miami.edu/  
undergraduate](http://www.psy.miami.edu/undergraduate)



## Find yourself!

1. Read Psychology News
2. See if your name is mentioned
3. Bring the newsletter to UASP and receive a free gift!



**Yiomara Hernandez-Perry** graduated with a psychology major and an English minor in May of 2001. Although she had originally thought she wanted to go into medicine, as many students do, Yiomara changed her plans after several semesters. At graduation, her career plans were somewhat fuzzy, but Yiomara is busy working her way through the maze of options. We thought that you might be interested in how one student has found life after pre-med.

Shortly after graduation, Yiomara got a job at the *Victory School for Autistic Children* using applied behavior analysis therapy and errorless teaching, both of which she learned on the job. Later, because of a positive experience she had while working in the work-study program at UM, she got a job as administrative assistant to the Director of Grants and Research programs in an organization called the *Alpha-1 Foundation*. This not-for-profit organization's mission is to provide leadership and resources for research on Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency, a genetic disorder affecting the lungs. Yiomara's background in biology and chemistry has helped her to make the most of her experiences at conferences such as the *National and Local Society of Genetic Counselors* and *The Impact of Genetic Testing: Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues*. Her social sciences background has helped her to participate in the Foundation's Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee and Ethical, Legal, Social Impacts (ELSI) working group meetings.

While genetic counselors and social scientists will be needed to address the many issues developing as a result of the Human Genome project, Yiomara has noted that there are currently few psychologists with a science background doing this kind of work. She hopes to go back to graduate school to be able to act as a representative for the affected communities as the new standards of care for medical practice are written.

With her husband in the military, Yiomara is the primary caretaker for her bright, young daughter, who was born just two months before Yiomara's graduation. In addition to working full time, Yiomara will be taking some post baccalaureate classes to improve her chances of being admitted to graduate school. Like her course work in biology, chemistry, and psychology the experiences she is gaining now will help her to find more opportunities in the future. We wish Yiomara the best of luck, and encouragement to 'hang in there!'

# The Psi Chi Connection

News & Briefs for University of Miami Psi Chi

Vol. 5 Num. 2

## The Executive Board 2003-2004

Stephanie Wasserman  
President

Amy Outz  
Vice-President

Jenny Blanco  
Secretary

Theresa Dulski  
Treasurer

Public Relations  
Joanne Nunes

Dr. Frank Penedo  
Faculty Advisor

## Fall Schedule of Meetings

Meetings will be held on  
Mondays at 5:30 p.m.

Oct 6 in UC 237

Oct 20 in UC 241

Nov 3 in UC 241

Nov 17 in UC 237

Remember, you don't need to be a  
member to attend!

Questions? Email us!  
PsiChiami@hotmail.com

## PSI CHI Update

The semester is well on its way and Psi Chi is off to a productive start. The first meeting was a general information session. The officers were introduced and requirements for membership were discussed. Research opportunities such as PSY 367/368, the PRIME program, and Honor Thesis were the focus of the meeting. Psi Chi Officers spoke about their experiences with research and answered questions.

The second meeting of the semester welcomed Psi Chi sponsor and Kaplan representative Dan Lynch who spoke about preparing for the GRE and other post graduate tests. He also focused on the application process and what students need to do to be a strong candidate for Grad School. Kaplan Review has donated two scholarships to the UM Chapter that may be used toward a test-prep class. The Kaplan scholarships will be awarded to one outstanding Psi Chi member during the Fall semester and one during the Spring semester. You can become eligible for the scholarship by actively participating in Psi Chi meetings and functions. Remember you do not need to be an inducted member to participate in Psi Chi events.

Upcoming meetings include more on Graduate School, a personal statement seminar with a Kaplan representative, Graduate School Student Panel, and a Professional Psychologist who will guest speak on Forensic Psychology. Join us for all these events and come see what Psi Chi is all about. Again, you do not need to be an inducted member to participate. All are welcomed! Build your future now!

## MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

PSI CHI is the National Psychology Honor Society.

Membership requires:

1. Completion of at least 3 semesters
2. Completion of 9 credits of psychology.
3. Psychology major or minor.
4. Top 35% of class rank,

Note: The top 35% class rank changes from semester to semester depending on the collective distribution of GPAs. If the cutoff for upper 35% falls below a 3.00 GPA, then a minimum of a 3.00 GPA must be achieved in both cumulative and Psychology GPAs.

Attending events does not require membership!  
Please join us!

Coral Gables, FL 33124-2070

P.O. Box 248185

Undergraduate Academic Services for Psychology

Department of Psychology



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# Psychology News

Thanks to . . .

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José F. Rodríguez, B.S.C.

Blake Scanlon, B.S.

Rod Wellens, Ph.D.

Richard Williams, Ph.D.

The Psychology Peer Advisors

Editor

Victoria Noriega, Ph.D.

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