



October 2010

# The Psychology Newsletter



## Comments From The Chair Dr. Emily Soltano



Welcome to the Psychology Department at Worcester State University! The name of our school has changed but as always, you will get the same great quality education from our department. Now, you also get the status of earning a degree from a university. Other changes in the department include a new faculty member, Dr. Holly Ketterer. Dr. Ketterer's office is located in S241F. You can read more about Dr. Ketterer below.

There have been office changes also. If you are unsure whether your professor is located in the main department area (S241) or across the hall, in the annex (S242), check the signs on the outer doors of S241 and S242.

I hope that the beginning of the semester has been trouble-free for everyone. It is usually about this time of the semester when a lot of assignments and papers are due and exams are scheduled. Try not to get overwhelmed. Keep up with your reading. Review concepts regularly. If you need some assistance, talk to your professor as soon as possible. When you want to see your professor, visit them during their office hours. Office hours are included in class syllabi, are posted on professors' office doors and on the bulletin board in the common area in the department. If you are not available during a professor's office hours, email the professor to set up an appointment. If you think you need extra help with a class, consider using the tutoring center on campus. Tutor Services is located in the Academic Success Center in A130. You can also email (Tutoring @worcester.edu) or call (508 929-8139). This service is free and available to all students at Worcester State University.

Have a wonderful school year!

## Psych Club

Are you looking to belong to an organization at Worcester State College? Are you interested in building your resume, attending conferences, volunteering, or becoming a part of an experience that offers you to build character skills, leadership skills, as well as become a well rounded individual? The Psychology Club will challenge you, and offer you various opportunities. The Psychology Club welcomes all students regardless of their majors. The Psychology Club meets every other Thursday at 3pm in Sullivan 238 (across from the Psychology Department). Meeting dates for this semester are 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, and 12/2. Activities include a pumpkin decorating contest, Make & Takes including tie-dye t-shirts and caramel apples, a rock climbing trip, guest speakers, a bake sale, and community service. Come have fun, meet other students and faculty. Advisors are Dr. Seth Surgan [ssurgan@worcester.edu](mailto:ssurgan@worcester.edu) and Dr. Holly Ketterer [HKetterer@worcester.edu](mailto:HKetterer@worcester.edu).

## New Faculty

Dr. Holly Ketterer is a Detroit (Motown!), MI native. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology (Minors: Psychology, Anthropology, and Family Life and Human Sexuality) from Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI. At the same institution, Dr. Ketterer completed her Master of Science and Doctoral degrees in Applied Experimental Psychology. While completing her Doctoral degree at Central Michigan University, Dr. Ketterer taught two undergraduate courses, including Introductory Psychological Statistics and Applied Research Methods – a capstone course for psychology majors. She also taught Intermediate Statistics, a combined undergraduate and graduate course, for Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL as an adjunct instructor before relocating to Massachusetts.

Dr. Ketterer's areas of interest include quantitative psychology and cross-cultural personality assessment. Her research is concerned with the measurement issues that arise when personality instruments that are designed for use with American, English-speaking people are adapted and transplanted for use in non-American cultures, particularly Korean culture. The personality instrument of interest in her research is the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 (MMPI-2; Butcher, Dahlstrom, Graham, Tellegen, & Kaemmer, 1989), the most widely used and frequently researched clinical personality assessment instrument. Her research efforts have resulted in two recent publications, one in *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology* and another in *Psychological Assessment*.

Dr. Ketterer is passionate about teaching and student mentorship, and feels strongly that the learning process should be fun, rewarding, and challenging. Dr. Ketterer is excited to involve undergraduate students in her research, and welcomes all visitors in her (newly decorated) office, S241-F.



## Seniors!!!!



If you are planning to graduate in May, you must submit an Intent to Graduate form to the Registrar's Office by the end of December. If you are planning to graduate in spring or summer it is a good idea to submit your Intent to Graduate form as soon as possible. This form leads to a review of your transcript so that any problems meeting graduation requirements are identified. A review now may reveal the problems before you register for the spring semester.

All seniors should open a Placement File with the Career Development Center in the Student Center. This file will hold your letters of recommendation and other papers for the future. The Center has a form you can use to ask your professors to write a letter of recommendation for your file.

### Faculty Scholarship

**Dr. Amy Cota-McKinley** attended the annual Visitor Studies Conference this past July in Phoenix, AZ where she debated her former advisor from Jacksonville, AL, Stephen Bitgood regarding museum fatigue assessment. Also, she presented a paper with him on attention issues in visitor research in which she addressed visitor attention theories.

**Cota-McKinley, A., & Bitgood, S. (2010, July). A debate over measuring “museum fatigue.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Visitor Studies Association, Phoenix, AZ.**

**Bitgood, S., Cota-McKinley, A., & Robertson, S. (2010, July). Visitor attention: A closer look. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Visitor Studies Association, Phoenix, AZ.**

**Dr. Holly Ketterer** who has recently joined our faculty had two papers published:

**Ketterer, H. L., Han, K., & Weed, N. (2010).** Validation of a Korean MMPI-2 Hwa-Byung scale using a Korean normative sample. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 16, 379-385.

**Ketterer, H. L., Han, K., Hur, J., & Moon, K. (2010).** Development and validation of culture-specific variable response inconsistency and True response inconsistency scales for use with the Korean MMPI-2. *Psychological Assessment*, 22, 504-519.

**Dr. Seth Surgan**, together with Emily Abbey of Ramapo College of New Jersey, wrote a chapter titled Identity construction among transnational migrants: A dialogical analysis of the interplay between personal, social, and societal levels of analysis, which has been accepted for publication in *The Cambridge Handbook of the Dialogical Self* (edited by Hubert Hermans and Thorsten Gieser).

### Alumni News

**Arsen Dimentberg** (class of '09) was accepted to seven Masters programs in psychology at seven universities, including Boston University, Brandeis University, UMass Boston, and Roger Williams University. He has decided to attend Boston University and has begun classes this Fall. After completing his Masters, Arsen plans to pursue a Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

**Mary Jane Rosati** (class of '10) was accepted into the Master's Degree Rehabilitation Counseling Program at Assumption College and has begun classes this fall.

**Jaime Sullivan** (class of '09) was accepted into the Master's Degree Program in School Psychology at WSU and has begun courses this fall.

### Graduation 2010

A total of 125 students majoring in Psychology were awarded Baccalaureate degrees from Worcester State. Of these, 89 formally earned their degree in May while the remainder had completed their programs the previous August (n=9) or December (n=27).

This year's graduating class was particularly stellar with three Psychology majors (Bonita Lee Decker, Kathryn Fokas, & Courtney Rae Lincoln) graduating summa cum laude (3.9-4.0 QPA). Twelve graduated magna cum laude (3.7-3.89) and ten graduated cum laude (3.5-3.69). Four students (Nicole Braga, Kasey Ann Ciolfi & Kathryn Fokas) were named to Who Who's in American Colleges and Universities. Nicole Braga served as Treasurer of the Class of 2010 and Tonia Naughton was designated a Massachusetts Commonwealth Scholar.

In addition, Kathryn Fokas was honored with the Academic Achievement Award for Psychology and Courtney Rae Lincoln received the Avril Award.

### Internships

Seniors who are interested in obtaining a job in the field upon graduation but do not have work experience should consider an internship next semester. A description of agencies willing to take on interns may be accessed on the Psychology web site under Internships at: <http://www.worcester.edu/PsychologyDept/default.aspx>

Students who are currently working in a position related to Psychology may qualify for internship credit. The position must involve work duties that are responsible in nature. For example, filing forms for an agency would not qualify. Students should check with Dr. Rick Kimball as to whether their jobs qualify for credit. Students would, of course, be required to complete the academic requirements associated with the internship.

### Psychology Web Page

The department web pages are available from <http://wwwfac.worcester.edu/psychology/>

## *WORKSHOPS*

### **Are you thinking of graduate school?**

If so, come to a workshop offered by Dr. Marc J Wagoner with the Psych Club on Thursday, November 4th. Keep an eye out for announcements.

This workshop will facilitate discussion and address student questions about graduate school in psychology including the following:

- The application process, including essentials of a personal statement
- Standardized exams for application
- How to request letters of recommendation
- How to research different schools and programs
- How to pick a subarea of psychology
- Financial assistance
- Questions to ask of yourself about grad school

Don't forget that the Christmas break lasts until January 20. To be sure of getting letters of recommendation done on time you should contact the faculty you are going to ask for references before the end of the semester. Also, remember to open a placement file at the Career and Counseling Center. Your references can send a letter there when they prepare your grad school recommendations.

### **Are you thinking of getting a job with a Psychology degree?**

If so, we are additionally offering a workshop by Dr. Marc J Wagoner and the Psych Club later in the semester. Keep an eye out for announcements.

In this workshop, we will discuss student questions about how we can increase our marketability as job candidates with a BA in Psychology. Specifically, we will address such following issues as:

- The kinds of careers or jobs we might be suited for with a psychology degree.
- The kinds of courses we can take as psychology majors that improve our marketability
- The kinds of distinct job-related skills psychology majors have as job candidates.

The time to "get out there" can sneak up on us. Be sure you know how to highlight your unique skills on the market. Consider this workshop as an opportunity to improve your marketability.

### **Graduate School Reminders**

Seniors who are planning to go to graduate school next year should already have investigated their alternatives and requested applications from the schools. This is particularly true of PhD programs. Application to Master's level program can take place a little later but plan on getting them in by the end of December. Watch deadlines carefully and remember that deadlines for financial aid are often earlier than deadlines for admission.

Visit the school you like, both to gather information and to increase the chance they will pay serious attention to your application.

Tailor your application to the individual school. Try to mention specific professors you would like to work with (and their areas of research).

Prepare for and take the GRE General Test if required.

A directory of Massachusetts based graduate programs in Psychology and related fields is available on the Psychology web page at:

<http://www.worcester.edu/PsychologyDept/default.aspx> Look under Graduate Studies.

The web site also provide excellent tips on applying to graduate schools as well as useful links to resources.

Watch the Psychology Bulletin Boards for information on graduate study and for announcements of meetings on preparing for and applying to graduate school. Psych Club is also planning some workshops on applying to a school of your choice.



### **Computer Lab**

Students are encouraged to use the computer lab located on the second floor of the Sullivan building across the hall from the Psychology offices (S241). The lab is open Monday through Friday 8:00-4:00. The computers are equipped with word processing and statistical programs.

People are like stained glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun's out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is light within.

- Elisabeth Kubler-Ross (1926-2004) Swiss American Psychiatrist & author