Psychology Poster Session

The halls on the fifth floor of the Life Sciences Building were buzzing with activity on Thursday, December 9th with the now traditional psychology department end of term poster session. Initiated several years ago by Drs. Curt and Mary Camac, the posters represent the end product of the Psychology Department’s research seminar courses. Posters from the recently completed fall semester were on display from Dr. Curt Camac’s research seminar in personality and social psychology (Psyc 420), and Dr. Mary Camac’s research seminar in cognition (Psyc 440). This year we also had two additional posters from students in Dr. Marit Berntson’s Data Analysis course (Soci 352).

From Dr. Curt Camac’s class, Carla Decker, Rebecca Draper, Kate Kumler, and Varinia Garcia presented a poster titled “Effect of Social Value Orientation and Task Difficulty/Rewarded Effort on Cooperation in a Social Dilemma”; Chris Dolan, Lynn Johnson, Rachel Long, Stacy Nicely, and Noah Spring displayed their poster on “Group Bias in Functional vs. Non Functional Relations”; and Leigh Garino, Jessica Thompson, Kate Lindsay, and Rasheeda King presented their poster on “Social Judgeability: Testing Stereotypes in a Campus Atmosphere.”

From Dr. Curt Camac’s class likewise contributed three posters: Kate Lindsay, Lily Moss, Jessica Thompson, and Beverly Watson presented their poster on the “Effects of Generation and Elaboration on Memory”; Heather Cook, Samantha Fore, Taylor Gill, Tia Humphreys, and Amanda Petruzi’s poster was titled “Picture This”; and Heather Divers, Kristen Gillespie, Leslie Giorno, and Jessica Foster reported on their study “The Effect of Generation on Item and Source Memory.” From Dr. Marit Berntson’s class Nina Bunch displayed her poster on “War Protesting: A Comparison of Two Generations”; and Dara Lundregan and Devon Humphries presented their poster on “The Effects of Athletics on GPA at Roanoke College.”

A common reaction from the participants seems to be that while the posters required a substantial effort, much was learned. They also reported that going through the process—generating a research project idea, then actually conducting a study by collecting and analyzing data, and finally presenting it—gave them a much greater appreciation for the work and commitment that typically goes into research.

Graduate School Workshop

On December 1st the Psychology Department held a “Graduate School in Psychology Workshop”. This workshop provided students who are considering graduate school with information about how to select, apply to, and gain admission into a graduate program. This semester’s workshop was conducted by Dr. Chris Buchholz, the psychology department’s newest faculty member. Dr. Buchholz gave advice based on his personal experiences on how to choose and apply to graduate schools. Some of the areas discussed included: choosing a research-based vs. a professional program, whether to apply to a Masters or a Doctoral program, strategies for choosing a program with the right “fit”, how to pay for a graduate degree, and what criteria schools use to select incoming students. Dr. Buchholz gave specific tips on
what students need to do in order to become competitive candidates for graduate school, as well as, how to present one’s credentials in a Curriculum Vitae. The workshop was well attended, and Dr. Buchholz plans to conduct future graduate school workshops each semester. Students who are thinking about graduate school are encouraged to attend next semester’s workshop and to check out the links to graduate school resources available at http://www.roanoke.edu/psych/graduate.htm and http://www.roanoke.edu/psych/GradschoolWorkshop12-1-2004.ppt

Rebecca Draper Elected to Phi Beta Kappa

As many of you know, last year Roanoke College was granted a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, which is commonly described as “the oldest and most prestigious academic honor society in the United States.” Since only 270 other colleges in the nation have chapters, this represents a major recognition of academic excellence for our College. We are very pleased to announce that in recognition of her academic excellence, psychology major Rebecca Draper has been elected for membership in the Roanoke College Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa (Nu of Virginia) by the keyholders among the faculty and staff. The faculty of the Psychology Department extends its warmest congratulations to Rebecca for this outstanding achievement.

Student Internships During the Fall 2004 Semester

Interested in obtaining some valuable “real world” experience related to psychology? If so, consider applying for a student internship. In addition to offering some very practical experience in an actual applied setting, internships may also provide a good source of contacts—and sometimes even a direct path to future employment. Psychology majors have some excellent possibilities for completing an internship as you can see from the following list of placement sites where a number of our majors were working as interns during the fall term.

Lori Clark – Planned Parenthood Children’s Home
Carla Decker – Virginia Baptist Rehabilitation Center
Samantha Fore – Thompson’s Brain Rehabilitation Center
Leigh Garino – ROA County Violent Crimes Against Women Unit
So far, during this spring term, we have 14 students working on internship placements at such facilities as: ROA County Police Violent Crimes Against Women Unit; Northcross School Admissions; Gus Mitchell School, VA Baptist Children’s Home; Ritchfield Retirement Community; VA Commonwealth Attorney’s Office; Catawaba Hospital; Carilion Behavioral Health; and Good Samaritan Hospice. A full list of participants will be published in a future edition of this newsletter.

If you would like to participate in an internship, talk to Dr. Jan Lynch in the psychology office suite, room 509F. Additional information is also available on the last page of this newsletter and a listing of potential sites for internships can be found at the department’s web page.

Upcoming Course Information

Special Topics Courses. The psychology department will be offering two special topics courses this spring term. They are titled Health Psychology, taught by Dr. Pranzarone, and Cross Cultural Psychology, taught by Dr. Chris Buchholz. Special topics courses provide an opportunity for students to take a course in a psychology specialty that is not typically part of the regular psychology curriculum. They do, of course, carry regular course credit.

Research Seminars. As you know, all students completing a degree in psychology need to complete at least one research seminar (BS degree candidates complete two of the seminars). During the spring semester now just getting under weigh, two research seminars are scheduled: The Research Seminar in Personality and Social Psychology (Psyc 420), with Dr. Curt Camac, will be offered in
Block 12; while the Research Seminar in Physiological Psychology (Psyc 430), with Dr. Pranzarone, will be offered during Block 9.

**Intensive Learning.** Students who have not yet taken the required intensive learning course are reminded to do so no later than the May term between the junior and senior years if they plan to graduate on schedule. This coming May the Psychology Department will offer IL 277CB: The Psychology of Thinking and Decision Making, to be taught by Dr. Mary Camac. The course will focus on how people evaluate arguments, solve problems, and make decisions, and is somewhat more applied than theoretical. While psychology majors are not required to complete the Intensive Learning course in our department, this particular course does carry elective credit for the major.

**Psychology’s Departmental Student Assistants for 2004-2005**

Our student assistants for this year are **Noah Spring** (Chief Assistant), **Jenny Nolley**, and **Kristen Sindt**. Student assistants handle a lot of the routine activities necessary for the day-to-day operations of the department—they make copies, assist with grading, administer specific quizzes on readings, do filing and sorting, make trips to the library for videos and other course materials, and help out with a number of other miscellaneous activities. Check out the department web page for additional information on the duties of our student assistants and how those interested may apply.

**What’s On the Bulletin Boards?**

What are some of the latest developments and applications of psychology? Well, just take a look at the department’s bulletin boards on the 5th floor of the Life Sciences Building. Dr. Carpenter regularly posts a variety of new items of general interest to psychology students. These items range from news articles found in popular and professional sources (on the bulletin board by the elevator), to current information on graduate study and career opportunities (on the bulletin board down the hall on the right). Current articles posted include advice on job opportunities for psychology graduates who choose not to go on to grad school, suggestions for applying to clinical programs in psychology, and an item on undergraduate research. Some general interest items include posted articles on the impact of stress on aging, school children and learning, depression, and using positive reinforcement to help people avoid junk food! This is, of course, just a sample, since Dr. Carpenter changes the articles frequently.

**Psychology’s Web page!**

For those of you who are new majors be sure and take a look at the department’s web page. The web page contains a lot of information about not only our program at Roanoke, but about the discipline of psychology in general. Dr. Pranzarone is our web master and he has included checklists for the major (both BA and BS), our concentration in Development, and links to career information, APA style, useful tools, and graduate study. You can get there by starting at the Roanoke College homepage and going to “academics” to “departments” to “psychology,” or just type in the address itself:

http://www2.roanoke.edu/psych/index.htm

**Become A Summer Scholar**

If you are looking for a way to spend your summer that may be very beneficial to your education and at the same time financially practical, the Roanoke College Student Summer Scholar Program may be just right for you. Interested students need to submit a proposal describing a research project to be conducted over an 8 to 10 week period during the summer. Successful applicants receive a $2500 stipend paid in three installments, a tuition-free course credit, and a free room. Recent recipients from our department include **Pam Armata**.
Tashia Najar, and Megan Hemp. More information can be found on the campus network, or contact the program director, Dr. Curt Camac.

Become a Member of Psi Chi

All qualified students are encouraged to apply for membership in Psi Chi, which is the National Honor Society in Psychology. Psi Chi was organized to “encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship ...(and) to advance the science of psychology.” To accomplish this the organization has a variety of local, regional, and national programs. In addition to the social benefits of membership, your association with Psi Chi can be of significant help when applying to graduate school or seeking employment.

Qualifications for membership are established by the national organization and include the following:
1. At least 3 courses in psychology must be completed.
2. Applicants must have declared a major in psychology.
3. Those selected must rank in the upper 35% of their class.
4. A GPA of at least 3.0 overall and in psychology coursework are required.
5. Applicants must demonstrate high standards of personal behavior.
6. Successful applicants must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present at a regular meeting of the local chapter.

Dr. Jan Lynch is the faculty member in charge of our local chapter, and she will be providing specific information to all nonmember majors shortly after the spring term gets started.

Letters of Recommendation and Placement File

It’s that time of year again when many of our soon-to-be graduates are applying to graduate school and/or thinking about the job market. As you may know, one of the tasks involved in applying for a job or graduate school is to obtain letters of recommendation. Professors with whom you have studied are generally happy to help out, but you can make the process go much better by remembering the following: If you request a letter of recommendation from anyone on the psychology faculty, you should provide several items to the appropriate professor: (1) a resume, (2) a department analysis—a grade summary available from the registrar’s office or your advisor—and (3) a written statement summarizing your goals, the program of graduate study you wish to pursue, and the specific courses you completed with the professor writing the recommendation. Be sure to write out any special instructions, such as to whom the recommendation is to be sent and by when. Students should also be sure and set up a placement file with the office of Career Services (375-2247). Career Services has all of the relevant forms and information you need in a packet they will give you if you stop by their office.

Join APA, APS!!

Student memberships in the American Psychological Association (APA) and the American Psychology Society (APS) may be obtained simply by applying for them (and, of course, paying a fee at student rates). Benefits from the APA include receiving the APA Monitor, which is psychology’s “newsmagazine.” The Monitor contains not only very timely updates of activity in psychology, but also an extensive listing of job opportunities. APA student affiliates also receive the American Psychologist, which is the flagship journal of the APA. Benefits from APS include
subscriptions to Psychological Science, Current Directions in Psychological Science, and The APS Observer and Employment Bulletin. Joining either or both of these organizations is an excellent way of becoming familiar with the latest happenings in psychology. How to sign up? Just check with Dr. Curt Camac for the necessary forms.
INTERNSHIPS

Do You Want To:
- Learn about career opportunities
- Develop skills
- Discover practical applications for course work
- Gain practical experience
- Make contacts

If you are a Junior/Senior declared psychology major with a 2.0 overall GPA and 2.5 psychology GPA, then you may qualify for a psychology internship!

Opportunities are Available in Exciting Places:
- Roanoke Montessori School
- Roanoke City Police (e.g. Juvenile Crime, Crimes Against Women, etc.)
- Thompson’s Brain Rehabilitation
- Carilion Hospital Behavioral Health
- Catawba Hospital
- Roanoke City (e.g. Juvenile Justice, Commonwealth Attorney, etc.)
- Total Action Against Poverty
- Special Education Programs (e.g. Oak Grove, Mountain View, etc.)
- Virginia Baptist Children’s Home
- Roanoke County Police, Violent Crimes Against Women

For further information on internships, see Dr. Jan Lynch in LS 509F

CONCENTRATION IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The Concentration in Human Development provides a program of coursework in human development, with an internship option for those who meet the internship requirements. The Concentration:

1) provides focused coursework for students who plan to pursue a post-graduate degree in counseling psychology or school psychology, and
2) prepares students for entry-level positions in a variety of careers that involve designing and/or implementing programs for children, adolescents, and/or the aged.

The Concentration requires seven courses, at least three of which are not used to satisfy the student’s major requirements. Courses for the Concentration:

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<tr>
<th>Introduction to Psychology</th>
<th>Plus two additional courses from:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>Tests &amp; Measurements</td>
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<td>Child Development</td>
<td>Personality</td>
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<td>Adolescent Development</td>
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<td>Cognition</td>
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For additional information or applications, see Dr. Jan Lynch, Coordinator of the Human Development Concentration, in Life Science 509F.