

Psychology Newsletter Spring 2011

A message from the Chair

Patricia Morokoff, Ph.D.

Spring 2011 is an extremely busy and important time for the Department of Psychology at URI. We are continuing to celebrate and recognize our 50th anniversary. Our department was founded in 1960-1961 when the URI Department of Education and Psychology became the Department of Psychology! The founding faculty leaders were Drs. Kenneth Carpenter, Peter Merenda, and Marjy Ehmer. It is important to realize that these founders have left a legacy with us: we annually award the Carpenter Prize to a graduating senior based on an outstanding research or theoretical paper and we annually award the Merenda prize to the top methodology graduate student. We were thrilled that both Dr. Ehmer and Dr. Merenda joined us at our 50th anniversary celebration last October.

The celebration continues with a special colloquium series during both spring and fall 2011 semesters (please see the schedule in this newsletter) with cutting edge talks by leaders in our field. We will be joined this semester by James H. Bray, past president of APA currently at Baylor University, speaking on the future of psychology; Gary King, Penn State University, speaking on health disparities; and Ritch Savin-Williams, Cornell University, speaking on gay adolescents. We are also looking forward to our annual Psychology Graduate Student Colloquium on May 9, 2011 to be followed by an awards dinner recognizing outstanding faculty and graduate students. We will host our annual Undergraduate Awards ceremony on May 3, 2011.

Our department is being showcased in the Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons this semester. Please stop by to view historical artifacts as well as books published by our faculty.

We have just hosted our second annual open house for Psychology majors (March 3, 2011). We were delighted that over 100 majors joined us for pizza, snacks, and prizes to learn more about internship and research opportunities as well as the chance to make charitable contributions and sign up for grad school mentoring. If you missed the open house and want to get involved with any of these activities, please stop by the Psychology Club that meets Thursdays at 2:00 in Chafee 203 or contact the Department.

On top of these activities, our doctoral program in Clinical Psychology is currently being visited by American Psychological Association accreditation site visitors. This periodic evaluation is the foundation for our accredited status with APA. The Clinical Psychology program has been continuously accredited since 1975.

In closing, I want to reach out to the entire URI Psychology Community including alumni of our BA, MS and PhD programs as well as all current undergraduate and graduate students and faculty (current and emeritu) to say THANK YOU for making our department such an outstanding site for learning, teaching, research and service.

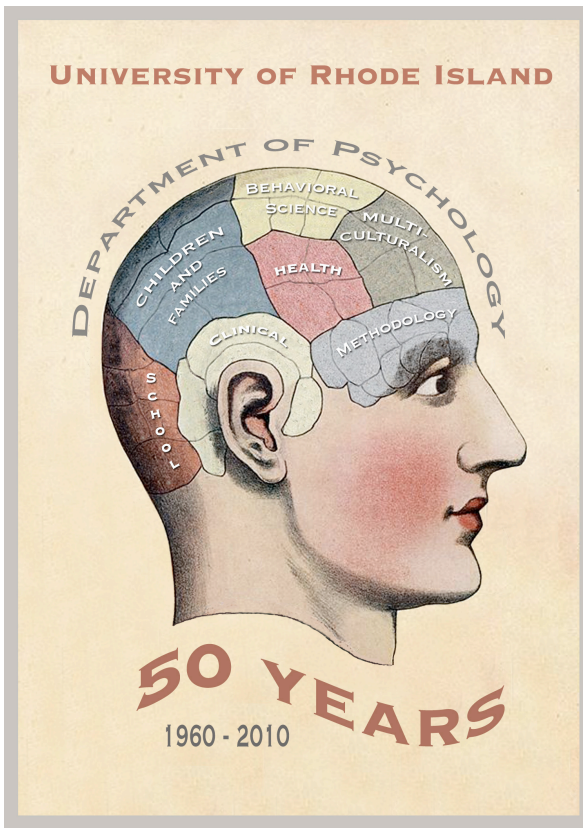


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50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR URI DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Spring 2011 Colloquium Series



Logo design by Betsy Florin.

February 7th, 2011

“Advances in Research Methods”

Linda Collins, PhD

Director, The Methodology Center,
Pennsylvania State University

President, Society of Prevention Research

March 7th, 2011

“Psychology as a STEM Discipline”

James H. Bray, PhD

Department of Family and Community
Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine

President, American Psychological Association,

2010

April 4th, 2011

“Health Disparities”

Gary King, PhD

Professor of Biobehavioral Health,
Pennsylvania State University

Chair, National Health and Tobacco
Disparities Research Network, National Cancer
Institute

May 2, 2011

“The New and Improved Gay Teenager”

Ritch C. Savin-Williams, PhD

Chair, Human Development, Cornell
University

Director, Sex and Gender Laboratory

May 9th, 2011

Special Spring Colloquium:

***Graduate Student Emerging Scholar
Presentations and Awards***

University Club

**All Presentations will take place in
Chafee 277**

3:15-5:00pm.

*Light snacks will be available immediately
afterwards in Chafee 301*

50th Anniversary Committee:

Larry Grebstein, Lisa Harlow, Al Lott, Peter
Merenda, Patricia Morokoff, James Prochaska,
Nelson Smith, Wayne Velicer

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Carlene Fiorito is a senior at URI. She is majoring in Psychology with a minor in Women Studies. While pursuing her undergraduate degree, she has engaged in various activities ranging from didactic and research experiences to field applications.

More specifically, she has been a Teaching Assistant, working with Jody Lisberger, Ph.D., Director of Women Studies. She taught weekly recitation classes and directed Student Action Projects. Carlene interned at Women & Infants Behavioral Health, as a Research Assistant at the day clinic for women coping with Post-Partum Depression.

She is currently working with Dr. Jasmine Mena, Ph.D., of the Department of Psychology on an Independent Research Project investigating the experiences of social support among women of color at

URI. Other research involvement includes Partner abuse in perinatal women involved in psychiatric treatment and changes in clinical and demographic profile of perinatal women seeking day hospital treatment.

Carlene is a founding member of “*On Even Ground*,” a peer group for students with disabilities on the Feinstein campus. She is also a “Self-Help Leader” for the *Arthritis Foundation*. In addition, she has volunteered at health fairs and facilitated workshops for patients living with chronic illness. She is also a founding member of *The National Coalition of 100 Black Women*. The NCBW is a non-profit organization that enables African-American women to address the diverse needs of their community, through organizing programs, establishing networks, developing leadership talent and recognizing the achievements of African-Americans.

Carlene is a member of Psi Chi, the Psychology National Honor Society chapter at the University. Carlene is pursuing a career in Clinical Psychology with a focus on women’s mental and physical health. She plans to pursue graduate studies in Multicultural and Health Psychology.

PSY 489 RESEARCH APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 31ST!

The Department of Psychology at U.R.I. strongly encourages students to get involved in conducting research throughout their college careers. Research is absolutely necessary to be accepted into most graduate programs today. Here is how you can get research experience:

- 1. Find a psychology faculty member who will supervise you, or whose graduate student can use an assistant,**
- 2. Register for Psy 489 with that faculty member. It is a 3-credit course! Applications can be downloaded at: http://www.uri.edu/artsci/psy/nav_research.shtml**

The Benefits of Research Experience

- Undergraduate research looks great on your resume or curriculum vitae
- Our students typically receive departmental awards for their research
- Great opportunity to get hands-on experience in your potential field of interest
- You get close mentorship from faculty and the work may result in an excellent recommendation
- Puts classroom knowledge to work
- Allows student to make educated future career decisions
- Lets you stand out in graduate school applications from peers who did not participate in research

UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY WORKSHOPS SPRING 2011

All workshops will be in Pastore Hall, Room 129

Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:30pm

(Come late or leave early... Just come and join us!)

Wednesday, March 2nd

*“Counseling Psychology and Working with
College Students”*

Suzanne Danish, PhD

Wednesday, March 3rd

*“The Importance of Undergraduate Statistics in
Careers in Psychology”*

Karen Stamm, PhD

Wednesday, March 30th

*“How to Get Into Graduate School In Clinical
Psychology”*

Monica Nanda, MA

Thursday, March 31st

“Entry-Level Jobs in Psychology”

Patrick Lennahan, PhD

Thursday April 6th

“Multicultural Psychology”

Jasmine Mena, PhD

Thursday, April 7th

“How to Write a Great CV or Resume”

Maggie Gorraiz, B.S.

Elizabeth Reichert, MA

Nathan Cook, MA

Wednesdays, April 13th

“Pediatric Psychology”

Allison Smith, MA

Thursday, April 14th

“Peace and Non-violence Psychology”

Paul Bueno De Mesquita, Ph.D.

Wednesday, April 20th

“School Psychology”

Gary Stoner, PhD

Thursday, April 21st

“Diversity in Psychology School Settings”

Margie Rogers, PhD

Thursday, April 28th

*“Teaching Opportunities as a Psychology
Graduate Student”*

Lara Goodrich, MA

Thursday, May 5th

“Taking the GREs”

Nicole Amoyal, MA

For more information, please contact Dr.
Su Boatright, Director of the Undergraduate
Program



THE NEW GRADUATE SCHOOL MENTORING PROGRAM

If you are interested in attending a graduate school program in Psychology, we are here to help! URI Psychology graduate students (Clinical, School, and Behavioral Science) can advise you on your CV, research, letters of recommendations and statement of purposes!

Please email, **Maggie Gorraiz** at (mlgorraiz@gmail.com) to get connected with a graduate student mentor! Take advantage of this opportunity!

SPRING 2011 UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY OPEN HOUSE



More than 100 visitors came to Chafee 301 on March 3rd, 2011 for...

- refreshments
- hourly drawings for prizes
- networking
- social activism

Students said the Open House was a “warm,” “welcoming,” and “fun” event!!!

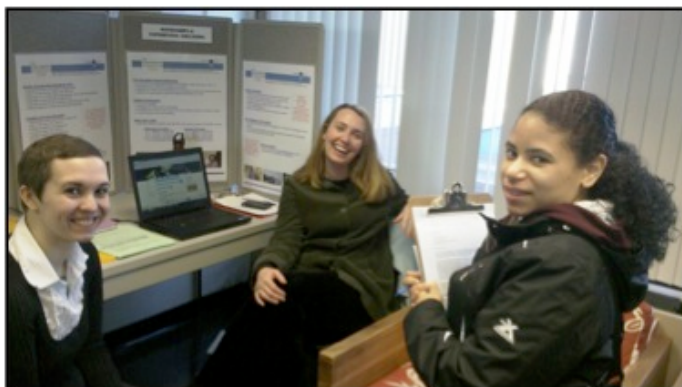
Student Charity Efforts

- The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
- Rhode Island Food Bank
- Special Olympics
- Autism Foundation
- Health Care
- Relay for Life
- The Innocence Project



Career Resources

- Graduate programs
- Getting into Graduate School
- Undergraduate Research
- Interviewing Tips
- Taking the GREs
- Entry-level Jobs



BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE PSYCHOLOGY NEWS



In situations of hunger and poverty, families are faced with limited choices. Psychology professor Kathleen Gorman is the director of The Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America at the University of

Rhode Island, which has helped locate and provide nutritional assistance to thousands of low income families since its start in 2000. Dr. Gorman has said that their long-term goal is to solve the problem of hunger and make sure that all people have access to adequate and high quality nutritional food. Her work was recently highlighted in the Providence Journal ([link](#)) and the Good 5-Cent Cigar ([link](#)).

The center’s main program is the SNAP Outreach Project, which helps promote participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP is the single most important government assistance program aimed at improving the nutritional intakes of low-income families. In 2010, over \$200 million federal dollars

entered the Rhode Island economy as people used their SNAP benefits.

Outreach is conducted almost entirely by URI students who are hired, trained and supervised to work in low income communities to assist people who need help or have questions about getting through the SNAP screening and application process of receiving benefits from this program.

“My involvement with the Hunger Center has been, perhaps, the most powerful experience of my graduate career at URI- and certainly the most hands-on. To go from the classroom to research studies to discussing the experiences of real families has provided me with a multifaceted, moving experience that has altered the way I see the world.” –Alli Smith, Clinical Psychology Graduate Student

In addition, Dr. Gorman is a Behavioral Science Professor in the Department of Psychology. She teaches a 100-level general education course about the problem of hunger in the United States, teaches a core graduate course in Developmental Psychology, and also conducts research on malnutrition and food insecurity and its effects on children’s health, cognitive and social development.

Hunger & Poverty Facts

There is enough food today for every man, woman and child in the world to lead a healthy and productive life. However, more than 1 billion people suffer from chronic hunger and malnutrition globally; this constitutes nearly 15 percent of the world’s population. Find more information at: www.oxfamamerica.org.

For more information on current programs and events supported by the URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America, please visit: www.uri.edu/endlunger. Learn more about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach Project or to access a benefits application: www.eatbettertoday.com

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY NEWS

The National Association for School Psychologists (NASP) Annual Convention, is the world's largest and most important gathering of school psychologists. This year's convention is took place February 22-25th, 2011 in San Francisco, CA. Check out the impressive list of presentations from our School Psychology students and faculty:

Parental Illness and Psychological Health: A Counseling Case Study

Presenter: Robyn Bratica

Instructional Practices Used to Support English Language Learners in Classrooms

Presenters: Elisabeth O'Bryon and Margie Rogers

Improving Teacher Attitudes Towards Consultation

Presenters: Robyn Bratica and John Moore

Implementation and Evaluation of Violence and Bullying Prevention Programs

Presenters: Anthony Swentosky and Robyn Bratica
Contributors: Drew Wood and Paul Bueno de Mesquita

The Impact of Vocabulary Knowledge on Word Reading Skills.

Presenter: Alison Mitchell
Contributor: Susan Brady

Supporting the Vocabulary Growth of Preschool English Language Learners

Presenters/Contributors: Susan Loftus, Alison Mitchell, Drew Wood, and Michael Coyne

A Review of Programs to Prevent Bullying of GLBTQ Students.

Presenter: Karen Sherman

A Stage-Based Expert System for Teen Dating Violence.

Presenter: Karen Sherman
Contributors: Deborah A. Levesque, Deborah F. Van Marter, Janice M. Prochaska.

NONVIOLENCE AND PEACE STUDIES



Dr. Paul Bueno de Mesquita, School Psychology Professor and Director of the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies has been selected to receive the first Silvia

Chandley Professorship in Nonviolence and Peace Studies in recognition of his impressive accomplishments in nonviolence and peace. In particular, this award recognizes his leadership work directing the URI Center for Nonviolence and Peace studies.

Dr. Bueno de Mesquita recently completed an international trip to Nepal to conduct nonviolence trainings on behalf of the URI Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies. This was a collaborative project for nonviolence training being

organized in partnership with the Collective Campaign for Peace and Social Work for Development. The training was the first introduction into Nepal of Kingian Nonviolence, the URI Center's signature training program.

The following week, Dr. Bueno de Mesquita, accepted an invitation to visit the Ghandian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Jammu, in Jammu-Kashmir, India. was in Jammu-Kashmir, India lecturing and training at Jammu University.

Dr. Bueno de Mesquita is also currently running a School Psychology "Violence Prevention Team" consisting of 10 URI School Psych graduate students and 2 undergraduates. They have had a successful start this semester, delivering prevention programs to children in Central Falls Schools, including a bullying prevention program at Calcutt Middle School, and an after school program "Playing for Peace" project at the Robertson Middle School.

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication!

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY NEWS

DIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT: COMPARING POPULATION CESSATION SERVICES WITH EMPHASIS ON UNMOTIVATED SMOKERS.

Principal Investigator: James O. Prochaska, Ph.D.

Co- Investigator: Jasmine Mena, Ph.D.



The goal of the parent grant is to address the gaps in health services research for nicotine addiction treatments for the entire population of smokers and for the underserved 80% who are not motivated to quit. Specifically, a comparative research design will be used to evaluate the treatment effectiveness, cost effectiveness, and enhancement of quality of

life. The diversity supplemental grant will use qualitative research methods to discern participant engagement based on various demographic characteristics including race and ethnicity.

Dr. Mena will have the opportunity to work on various aspects of the post intervention phase of this randomized comparative treatment design investigation.

Dr. Mena's tasks will focus on qualitative evaluation of the three treatment groups (i.e., Motivation Enhanced Treatment, Transtheoretical Model tailored, and combined Treatments) with a special focus on racial/ethnic minority smokers and their perceptions of engagement with their respective interventions.

She will participate in the process and outcome quantitative interventions. She will participate in the process and outcome quantitative analysis of the project as a member of the research team.

Along with assisting with project objectives, she will also have the opportunity to explore her current and developing research interests, especially in the area of behavior change sciences.

New Practicum Slots at Hasbro Children's Hospital for the 2011-2012 Academic Year!

The pediatric psychology group would like to invite students to apply for practica placements in the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012.

Sibling Group Rotation: This is a clinical and research program that addresses the need of siblings of children with chronic medical, developmental, and behavioral disorders.

Adolescent HIV Rotation: This is a part of a clinical research program (NIMH/ NIDA-funded) for adolescents at risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections due to mental health and substance abuse disorders.

Pediatric Weight Management Rotation: This is an interdisciplinary treatment team conducting evaluations and providing behaviorally-based intervention for overweight children and their parents.

Community Asthma Programs: This comprises several community-based educational interventions for children with asthma and their families. Program staff include physicians, a respiratory therapist, community health educators, and psychologists. Families are ethnically diverse and generally of lower income, although a range is represented.

- 1) **CVS Pharmacy/Draw a Breath Program**
- 2) **Asthma School Partnerships**

For more clinically experienced students (e.g. students in their final year of graduate school) there are some individual opportunities that are not included on this list.

*If students are interested in doing one of these practica at Hasbro Children's Hospital, please contact Dr. Ellen Flannery-Schroeder, Director of Clinical Psychology Program, **BEFORE** contacting the externship.*

UPCOMING AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (APA) ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT

To maintain accreditation, the clinical psychology program submits an annual report summarizing the year's activities with respect to accreditation criteria. Every 5-7 years, the program undertakes a more detailed self-study followed by a site visit from an accreditation team. The program will undergo an accreditation review in Spring 2011.

MULTICULTURAL FOCUS AREA NEWS

Have you considered adding a multicultural focus area to your training?

Overview

The Department of Psychology is committed to creating a climate of inclusivity through our multicultural values and philosophy. We are also dedicated to training future psychologists that are culturally competent in their practice and research. We offer a multicultural focus area for those who share our value for multiculturalism and want to pursue training above and beyond the departmental requirement. This specialization may be entirely based on course offerings within the Department of Psychology, but may also be interdisciplinary with course offerings drawn from within the Department of Psychology and other departments as listed below. Preparation for a multicultural focus should include courses, applied experiences, and research which together address the pillars of multicultural competence: awareness, knowledge, and skills.

Goals of the Multicultural Focus Area

To formalize a graduate training program with a substantive focus in multicultural psychology we aim to;

- Develop a collaboration among psychologists and scholars from other disciplines on campus to study multicultural issues in psychology;
- Establish research funding in the Department of Psychology for the study of issues in multicultural psychology;
- Attract graduate students with interests in multicultural psychology;
- Generate research assistantships and other funding for graduate students;
- Recruit and retain faculty and postdoctoral fellows in the area multicultural psychology;
- Encourage greater interest and multicultural competence among Department of Psychology faculty and graduate students;
- Promote infusion of multicultural issues into existing courses, applied training experiences, and research activities;
- Provide students who specialize in this focus area with awareness, knowledge, and skills in multicultural psychology to better prepare them for their future career and professional life.

Student Preparation

Students pursuing a multicultural focus area are expected to take at least **three** courses in multicultural psychology. The courses need to address and provide opportunities to acquire multicultural competencies in each of the major pillars of competence (awareness/attitudes/beliefs, knowledge, and skills) and should be preceded by approval by your committee.

Courses that address cross-cultural issues in psychology; issues of privilege, marginalization, and institutional and interpersonal oppression; self-reflection and examination of pre-existing beliefs, biases, and social identities, and socio-cultural-political issues with psychological implications would be considered for this specialization. With program committee permission, up to two directed readings/special topics courses may be included in the total of three multicultural psychology courses with the concentration addressing the three pillars of multicultural competence.

When students prepare for their comprehensive exams, they should ensure that at least one question pertains to multicultural psychology. Alternatively, a published book chapter, journal article, or grant submission in the area of multicultural psychology may fulfill this requirement.

Finally, students are expected to have several research and applied experiences (15 weeks in duration) with a focus on multicultural issues. These could include: research with faculty, externships, practica, and internships.

NEW UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ADVISOR FOR PSYCHOLOGY

Mary M. Versteck, a native of Cranston, RI attended Bay View Academy and Rhode Island College. She was a psychology major at Rhode Island College and upon her graduation became a psychiatric aide at Butler Hospital. She pursued a master's degree in counseling psychology at Assumption College in Worcester, MA and remained there for a second master's degree in marriage and family counseling. She served the psychology department as a teaching assistant during her stay there. As a result of this experience, service to students was to become the most important aspect of her professional life.

Upon her graduation from Assumption, she moved to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida where she had a private practice in marriage and family counseling with her husband, Dr. Roger Barker. She also taught through the Broward College Women's Center. She was responsible for many courses designed to help divorcing women put their lives back together. As a result of this work, she was selected

by the Governor of Florida to speak at the "International Women's Year Conference" in 1980.

At that point, she was asked to join the full time faculty at Broward College. She decided to close her private practice and devote her time to academic teaching. She began to offer courses in the psychology department at Broward College and eventually chaired the Department of Behavioral Sciences there. At the same time, she was acting as liaison and consultant to South Florida State Hospital. The hospital had been placed under state administration and was in a great degree of flux. So, Broward College offered a program to the psychiatric aides eventuating in both the acquisition of higher level skills and the award of associate degrees. The Broward program was recognized by administrators in the Department of Mental Health as having served a critical role in enhancing the skills of over 150 psychiatric aides.

In 1982, Mary moved to New York to pursue her doctorate at Columbia University's Teachers College. Upon receipt of her degree, she was hired by Pace University in lower Manhattan where she served for over 20 years as assistant, associate then acting dean of the School of Education. Although she was responsible for recruitment and advisement of students, she never lost her love for teaching and interacting with students in an academic setting. Thus, she maintained a teaching schedule throughout her years as an administrator. She was able to return to full time teaching/advising in 1995. Through her faculty position at Pace, she was fortunate to have many varied teaching experiences

including: several semesters "on loan" to the Beth Israel School of Nursing and a stint at the University of Tirana in Albania.

In 2006 she retired from Pace and returned to her native Rhode Island. She began to teach at URI in the spring of 2009. She was not unfamiliar with the university since during her 1989] sabbatical she was invited as guest speaker in an education law class, interviewed several faculty members for her research study and availed herself of the Carother's Library resources.

Since 2009, she has taught "Developmental Psychology" and "Theories of Personality". In addition to her teaching, she has recently taken on advising responsibilities serving as a psychology department advisor for University College. She is excited to once again be: working with students in and outside the classroom, returning to her original academic home in psychology and serving Rhode Island's flagship university!

Having issues with registration? Already met with your advisor and still have questions?

Come to University College "Walk-In Advising" weekdays from 9-11:30am & 1-3:00pm.

Just sign in first in Room 108 Roosevelt Hall. We are happy to help!

For more information, visit: www.uri.edu/uc/

Enhancement of Graduate Research Awards 2010-2011

The Provost, the Vice President of Research and Economic Development, and the Dean of the Graduate School provided small grant awards to support research, creative or artistic projects. Each student chosen for support received an award up to \$1000 to support his or her project. The total amount of funds made available by Provost DeHayes and Vice President Alfonso for this initiative was \$40,000. One of the goals of the committee is to distribute the awards to students with quality projects representing a wide variety of departments within the University. Funds will be provided to graduate students to participate in original research, creative or artistic projects in which they have a major responsibility.

Department of Psychology EGRA Grant Recipients by Program

Clinical Psychology:

- Cerissa Blaney
- Anne Fernandez
- Alexis Lamb
- Andrea Lavigne
- Radhika Pasupuleti

School Psychology:

- John Moore
- Elizabeth O’Byron
- Lora Scagliola

Behavioral Science:

- Elsa Larson

Join Psychology Honor Society

Psychology majors are strongly encouraged to apply for Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. This is an honor that looks wonderful on your resumes and curriculum vitae. We are an active group on campus, engaging in numerous philanthropic,

educational, and fun events. Please visit, www.uri.edu/artsci/psy/psychi for more information.

Remember that our Psychology Club welcomes you to join us, even before you qualify for Psi Chi! We all meet together in **Chafee 203 at 2pm on Thursdays**. It is going to be a busy semester and your participation would be enormously helpful!

16th Annual URI Symposium on Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Intersex Queer and Questioning Issues

Narrating Equality: Speaking our Truths

April 5th-10th, 2011

The symposium invites you to join in a celebration of GLBTIQQ diverse communities, rich history, and ongoing struggles by participating in stimulating programs.

All events are free and open to the public.

Contributors

PATRICIA MOROKOFF, PHD



Chair & Professor of Psychology

MAGGIE GORRAIZ



Graduate Assistant to Department Chair & Clinical Psychology Doctoral

Department Calendar

Spring 2011

March

7 Department Meeting 1-3pm

7 Colloquium: “Psychology as a STEM Discipline”

Dr. James Bray

11 School Program Interview Day

11 Last day to complete written comprehensive exams

17 Midsemester

21-27 Spring Break!

28 Last day to DROP

April

4 Department Meeting: 1-3pm

4 Colloquium: “Health Disparities”
Dr. Gary King

26 Psi Chi Induction Ceremony 5:00-6:15pm

May

2 Department Meeting: 1-3pm

2 May Breakfast

2 Colloquium: “The New and Improved Gay Teenager”

Dr. Ritch Savin-Williams

5 Undergraduate Awards Ceremony

9 Graduate Student Colloquium and Awards Dinner

21 Graduate Commencement

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