Off to a Running Start! Just a Few Minor Details...

Back to school list: backpack (check), textbooks (check), notebook paper (check), roommate drama (hopefully this is blank), iPad (check), charged cell phone (check)…looks like you are all set for a great start to your fall semester at Hood! Welcome back to our sophomores, juniors, and seniors, and a special greeting to the class of 2018! Exciting things are happening this year in the psychology department, and we can’t wait for you to be part of the fun.

We have a new minor in psychology and a minor in gerontology for students, as well as a terrific line-up of presenters for our monthly clinical case presentation series, In-Depth. We have updates on the March on Frederick as well as the Contemporary Civil Rights Conference, and the interfaith service taking place that weekend on campus. The Psychology Club and our chapter of the psychology honor society, Psi Chi, are busy preparing activities that will support and encourage you to get involved in campus life and local volunteer opportunities.

Our faculty are engaged in numerous research studies, and many professors are looking for students this semester to join their research labs. We are pleased to have a new cohort of psychology majors, and we celebrate the selected seniors who have chosen to participate in our psychology honors program. So pack up those backpacks, hit the books, and make a plan to get involved in our thriving Hood community!

Now That You’ve Made a Major Decision…

**Psychology Minor?**

Interested in going beyond your Introduction to Psychology course? Starting this semester, you have the opportunity to add a minor in psychology to your course of study. The required courses are PSY 101 (Introduction to Psychology), PSY 211 (Elementary Statistics), and PSY 312 (Non-Experimental Research Methods). Students must earn a grade of C- or higher in each of them for credit toward the minor. Two additional courses from one of four tracks (clinical, experimental, developmental, or social/organizational) will then complete the 20 credits needed for the psychology minor requirements. Specific courses for each track are on our departmental website, the registrar’s website, and listed on posters located throughout the basement of Rosenstock Hall.

**Gerontology Minor?**

Interested in adding a gerontology specialization to your academic path? The required courses for the new gerontology major are: BIOL 138 (The Human Health Mosaic), PSY 373 (Psychology of Aging) and GERO 370 (Gerontology Practicum). One of the following courses must also be selected: PYSO 221 (Social Gerontology) or SOWK 327 (Gerontological Social Work: Policy and Practice). Your choice of two additional courses from the following list complete the 19-22 credits for the gerontology minor requirements: MGMT 205, MGMT 301, PE 225, PSY 204, PSY 239, SOC 215, SOC 260, SOWK 301, and SOWK 330. It is important to note that a minimum of 12 credits in the minor must be taken outside the student’s major and may not overlap with the major. If there is additional overlap, the credit must count toward the major. The course may be used to fulfill a requirement in the minor, but the credit may count only in the major.
Dr. Ingrid Farreras Honored with Psi Chi Teaching Award

Following the induction of new members into Psi Chi (the psychology honor society) in May, 2014, the Hood chapter announced the recipient of the Psi Chi Robert Boyle Professor of the Year Award. Psi Chi members vote each year for the faculty member they believe has been an outstanding mentor or teacher, in and out of the classroom. The winner of the 2013-2014 award was Dr. Farreras, Associate Professor and Chair of the department, who teaches the PSY 312-315 research methods sequence that culminates in students’ research poster showcase every spring semester. Dr. Farreras has dual training in clinical psychology and the history of psychology. Her personal, historical research includes the first eugenic involuntary commitment law for “feeble-minded” individuals, the professionalization of the field of clinical psychology during the first half of the 20th century, and the establishment of the National Institute of Mental Health. Her collaborative research includes using a novel natural language processor to trace the evolution of psychological knowledge from 1885-2000 via college introductory psychology textbooks (with Dr. Ford at UMUC), validating the Multidimensional Orientation Toward Dying and Death Inventory on an American sample (with Dr. MacDougall), and investigating the notion of “wisdom of the crowd” (with Dr. Boyle). She also works with former PSY 315 students to improve select papers for presentation or publication.

Going “In-Depth” this Fall

This will be the fourth year that we offer our exciting clinical case presentation series. In-Depth was created to address student interest in applied careers in psychology. Each month a clinical faculty/staff member or outside speaker presents a provocative and challenging applied case.

Last semester, Rev. Beth O’Malley shared her experiences as a college and hospital chaplain, highlighting her professional and personal challenges. We also heard a riveting presentation by a courageous woman diagnosed with severe anxiety. She shared what it is like to live with a serious mental illness, her experiences as an inpatient hospital patient, and her transition to outpatient care.

We have another great line-up for students this year. We are now pleased to announce this semester’s presenters and topics for this exciting, informative clinical case series:

SEPTEMBER 15: Dr. Diane Oliver will present a case of a teenage boy with significant anger management problems.

OCTOBER 20: Dr. Wanda Ruffin and her research assistant Caitlin Presley will share fascinating life stories told by African American older women in their research study on resilience and wisdom.

NOVEMBER 14: Dr. Melanie McEntee, a guest presenter, will share a case from her active private practice.

All students are welcome to attend these informal presentations from 12:15-1:00. Students are encouraged to ask questions following the talk, and related literature will be available for interested students. Bring your lunch and your curiosity. Dessert is always provided!

March on Frederick: Friday, September 26th - Register to Attend

Hood College is joining the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. Several exciting key events will be taking place in Frederick and on our campus. There will be a March in Frederick on Friday, September 26th. On Saturday morning, September 27th, Hood is hosting a contemporary civil rights conference, with a keynote address by the Honorable Robert M. Bell, retired chief justice of the Maryland Court of Appeals (1996-2013). Panelists will discuss current civil rights issues, including mental and physical health, women’s issues, immigration, HIV/AIDS, LGBT and marriage, and homelessness. On Sunday, September 28th, Hood will host a brief interfaith worship service followed by a gospel fest in Coffman Chapel.

The psychology department faculty encourages the Hood community to participate in these events: reflect on the past, evaluate the present and move toward a future where all U.S. Citizens are afforded their fundamental civil rights. Please visit the website: www.hood.edu/civilrights for more information and to register. Many of our classes are giving extra credit for attendance at these exciting events, so be sure to check with your professor. All events are free and open to the public, registration is required.
Psi Chi: Big Plans Ahead

This semester, the members of Psi Chi are looking forward to a few events, including a mock GRE to help prepare seniors who are considering applying to graduate school later this fall, as well as underclassmen who would like to sample what the GRE is like. The mock GRE will be administered on October 15th and 17th. The specifics will be announced shortly, so stay tuned! Additionally, we will be planning a research showcase of recent and ongoing studies by members of the department. Our hope is that exposure to this research will help students to think about the research that they may want to conduct for their 315 projects or to see if they would like to join one of our faculty research labs.

As an organization, we are also looking into a tutor placement program in order to connect students with each other as mentors and mentees for specific classes that may be causing difficulty. Details of this program will be announced soon.

Psi Chi is looking forward to a great year! If you are interested in this national honors society, information is posted outside of the Psychology Suite in Rosenstock, and applications will be available in the spring. For additional information, you can email the Psi Chi President, Mary Hickman (mh13@hood.edu).

Psychology Club Corner

Welcome back psychology majors and a “Hood Hello” to our freshmen! The Psychology Club has a new group of officers this year who will be working hard to help psychology club play an active role in raising awareness of mental illness, as well as allow students to explore the field of psychology. We welcome not only students pursuing a psychology major, but also all other majors. At the Organization Fair on Wednesday, September 3rd, three members represented our club. We collected emails from potential new members, but we are still looking for more interested students! Feel free to email us at psychologyclub@hood.edu or contact any of our officers. We will be creating a Facebook page for students to “like” and check out our upcoming events. Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 8pm in Rosenstock Room 1. We will be having pizza and soda for all new members and those just looking to check us out! Please stop by and learn more about our club!

2014-2015 Officers: President- Krystal Wood (kaw14@hood.edu), Vice President- Gemma Hunt (gh2@hood.edu), Secretary- Guiliana Burton (grb13@hood.edu), and Treasurer- Jared Ford (jif1@hood.edu).

The Seniors Move On... and a New Mascot Comes In

The department has adopted a new “mascot” of sorts. Our latest acquisition is a statue of a blue jay–ish looking bird, perched atop a water spigot. Katie, our department’s wooden mallard duck, now has a friend, but no one knows what to call her/him. This is where you come in! Please take a moment, ponder the beauty of this work of art (on display in the psychology department’s main conference room), and submit a name for our bird to Dr. Diane Oliver (oliver@hood.edu) no later than Friday, October 10th. The department will take all suggestions under advisement and select the best name for the bird (or at least the one that makes us laugh the most). The bird’s new name will debut in the next newsletter, so stay tuned!
Faculty Updates

Dr. Ingrid Farreras hosted the annual Cheiron (The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences) conference at Hood this summer, attended by over 75 international and American historians of psychology. She also presented two papers at the conference on the evolution of psychological knowledge based on research analyzing changes in the semantics and syntax of introductory psychology textbooks published between 1885-2000.

Dr. Shannon Kundey would like to thank Justin McPherson and Roberto Millar for working hard with salamanders and squirrels as part of Dr. Kundey’s SRI grant. Dr. Kundey also published additional research findings with several Hood students as well.


Dr. Kundey is currently seeking research assistants this semester, especially those students interested in working with salamanders, dogs, humans, or squirrels.

Dr. Elizabeth MacDougall taught Hood’s first fully online graduate course in Thanatology. She worked with Ingrid Gooch and Noel Jones on an SRI project entitled, “Lifetime influences of religion/spirituality on health outcomes in older adults.” In October, they will be submitting abstracts to the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) for poster presentations. This annual conference is on Hilton Head Island, SC in March, 2015. Dr. MacDougall collaborated with Dr. Farreras, Dr. Kundey, and Dr. Oliver on a proposal for a new master’s in counseling program. Dr. MacDougall has two manuscripts in press:


Dr. MacDougall has at least one opening for a research assistant in her Geriatric Assessment Research Lab this fall. If you are interested, please contact her by e-mail to discuss the requirements.

Dr. Diane Oliver established a new line of research inquiry this summer focusing on the college admissions process, in particular the impact of independent college admissions advising on racially diverse high school students and students with mental health issues. Dr. Oliver continued her collaboration with colleagues at the University of Michigan investigating identity in Arab American college students.


Dr. Oliver is looking for students to join her research lab. Available research projects would involve the continued development of mnemonics for undergraduate statistics, and her new project on college admissions advising.

Dr. Wanda Ruffin would like to thank Caitlin Presley for her commitment and dedication to the SRI project entitled “Treasured wisdom initiative: Lessons learned from resilient African American senior citizens. In addition to conducting videotaped interviews in Frederick, Baltimore, and South Carolina, Caitlin and Dr. Ruffin traveled to Gulfport, MS (see Caitlin’s interview on Hood’s Blog dated August 12, 2014) gaining valuable information about this ever-growing population.

Dr. Ruffin is currently seeking a research assistant willing to be trained to transcribe and code information from the videotaped interviews. Contact Dr. Ruffin for more information.

Dr. Jason Trent would like to recognize the hard work Nicole Wilson did this summer, analyzing data and helping to identify potential studies to conduct this academic year. This work is leading to submissions for presentations at multiple upcoming research conferences.