Spring Is in the Air...
We hope your spring semester is off to a strong start. We are in the midst of the last of the winter storms this week, but spring is in the air. This upcoming break cannot come soon enough for many Hood students. The psychology department has been busy over the past few months, and we want to share some important changes taking place with our courses and share news from Psychology Club, Psi Chi, and the graduate program. Faculty have been conducting exciting research with students and presenting their collaborations all over the country. Two of our faculty received prestigious awards, and we have delicious Girl Scout cookies to share at our weekly psychology coffee meetings and our monthly In-Depth sessions. Read more about these exciting events in our departmental Ink Blot!

Save the Date!
Mark your calendars for Friday, May 3rd. Starting at 10:00, there will be a poster session showcasing the student research from Psychology 315 followed by a picnic to honor graduating seniors at noon. Induction into Psi Chi, the psychology honor society, is scheduled for 4:00. Don’t miss the fun!

Summer Closure of Rosenstock
To complete a series of repairs and updates, Rosenstock Hall will be closed for the summer. Until further notice, the offices of psychology faculty are as follows: Drs. Farreras, Kundey, MacDougall, Oliver, and Kecmanovic will maintain offices on the fourth floor of the Library. Drs. Boyle, Ruffin, Martin, and Ms. Kerri Eyler, our administrative assistant, will remain in the basement of Rosenstock until the end of spring term.

Four-Credit Course Conversion
The department has recently converted all of our undergraduate courses from 3 credits to 4 credits beginning in the fall of 2013. Graduate courses will remain at 3 credits. In addition, we have split our double-numbered undergraduate/graduate courses into individual classes, so they will be offered at the 400- and 500-level separately. Some classes will include more class time each week, as well as additional readings and assignments. Other classes have added a service-learning or applied experiential component as part of this conversion process. Be sure to talk with your advisor during Advising Day about how this will impact courses needed for the psychology major. As many of you know, the major was just changed this year, so this new conversion to 4-credit courses has merited a few additional key changes.

In-Depth Lunch Series
This series of compelling clinical case presentations was developed to showcase our faculty and staff outside of the classroom and to provide an interactive opportunity to learn about applied clinical and counseling professions. Students bring their lunch (dessert provided!) and hear 30-minute presentations followed by a question-and-answer period. Sessions are held in Rosenstock, room 1.

March 19: The clinic director and a resident from ClearView Communities (a local therapeutic residential care facility) will discuss challenges faced by someone diagnosed with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia. The resident will give a first-person account of their experience/understanding of living with a serious mental illness. Definitely our most compelling in-depth to date! April 11: Beth O’Malley will discuss psychopathology on college campuses and her role as Chaplain.
Awards and Research Activity

Dr. Robert Boyle and Dr. Ingrid Farreras published their findings on the effect of faculty self-promotion on student evaluations of teaching in the College Student Journal.

Dr. Ingrid Farreras recently returned from New York City where she presented a paper, “Binet testers, psychoclinicists, and psychiatrists: Training and boundary issues in the 1910s,” at the Eastern Psychological Association’s annual meeting.

Congratulations to Dr. Ingrid Farreras and Dr. Shannon Kundey on receiving competitive Summer Research Institute grants to work with Hood students this summer!

Dr. Shannon Kundey and several students in her research lab published three articles in the following journals: Learning & Motivation, Annual Review of Clinical Psychology, and Animal Cognition. Dr. Kundey also presented several posters with students at the annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition in Florida.

Dr. Elizabeth MacDougall and two students who worked with her this past summer through Hood’s Summer Research Institute will present two posters at the Southeastern Psychological Association’s annual meeting in Atlanta this month.

Dr. Diane Oliver and a student in her research lab have a poster accepted for presentation at the upcoming national convention of the Association for Psychological Science in May, being held in Washington D.C.

Dr. Wanda Ruffin was recently selected as the winner of the 2012 Maryland-DC Campus Compact Service Learning Faculty Award. MDCCC recognizes and honors one faculty member in each of the three higher education sectors (state universities, community colleges, and independent colleges and universities) for contributing to the integration of service-learning into the curriculum, including innovative approaches to connecting community service with students’ academic study.

Psi Chi and Psychology Club News

Psych Club is organizing a walk to support Autism Awareness. The walk is going to be around campus on April 13th beginning at 9 am. Registration is $10, and any donations are accepted and welcomed. If you would like to register or donate, please visit bit.ly/Hood2013.

This semester, Psi Chi sold flowergrams for Valentine’s Day, and the sale was extremely successful. With the fundraised money, we are planning to purchase some gifts/awards for Psychology Professor of the Year (which will be based on popular vote), as well as some superlatives for the Psych 315 students that are busy working on their experiments. We are also continuing to run the Psych 101 Jeopardy Review Sessions, although a date has not been confirmed as of yet. We also offer Psych 101 tutoring for anyone who is interested. Please contact Kimi Brunot for additional information: kimsy29@verizon.net.

Graduate Program Addition!

We are pleased to announce the newest addition to our unique psychology graduate programming: the graduate certificate in gerontology. This program recently received official certification and is an option for graduate students in our master’s degree program. We will showcase this certificate program in detail in our next newsletter!

Psychology Coffee Hour

Need a warm cup of amazing coffee and something sweet? Looking for a faculty member to sign a form or to answer a question? Come by the Than Library in Rosenstock on Thursdays, 12:45-1:45 for our departmental coffee hour. We brew the coffee and bring desserts. You come with an open mind and your lunch to enjoy the lively conversation about topical psychological issues and fun experiments. All are welcome! Stay a while, or just grab a cup o’ Joe and go. Great chance to meet informally with faculty and Psychology Club members.

Under the Weather...

Dr. Wanda Ruffin is out on medical leave this semester. We are happy to report she is doing well, and we wish her a speedy recovery.