Welcome to the Fall Semester

We hope you had a good summer, and that you are off to a strong start this semester at Hood. The leaves are changing, the wind is blowing, and there are papers to write and exams to prepare for – fall has officially arrived. The psychology department has been busy over the past few months, and we want to share some important changes taking place with our major as well as in our graduate program. This is our inaugural departmental newsletter. We will be using this forum to share key pieces of information with our students, and to showcase the exciting events in the department this term. Welcome back and enjoy our ink blot!

New Psychology Major

Beginning this semester, the new psychology major is now in place (see departmental website for the specifics). Any student who was registered prior to this semester has the choice of using the new major requirements or staying with the old. You should review your records with your advisor to determine which option is best for you. Incoming students this semester must use the new major.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are following the "old" major and have taken either Psyc 237 or 238, you have completed the developmental course requirement. If you have not taken one of these two courses, and choose to complete the old major, you will need to take the new Psyc 239 to fulfill the developmental course requirement.

Save the Date!

It is early to think about the end of the semester - but never too early! The end of the semester party will be Friday, December 6th from 12:30-2:00 in Room 1 of Rosenstock. There will be food – some of your favorites supplied by the faculty, games, prizes and seasonal decorations. Don’t miss the fun!

Special Courses

We have two special courses currently running:

Dr. Jelena Kecmanovic is teaching Positive Psychology (a first for our department!), and the notable Dr. Dan Robinson is leading a course entitled “Fundamental Issues in Psychology”.

Dr. Shannon Kundey is teaching one of Hood’s new Freshman Seminar classes and has chosen to focus on paranormal phenomena such as near-death experiences.

During the January Term, Dr. Kundey will be offering a course on human sexuality.

Dr. Kundey and Dr. Martin will teach our spring term seminar courses on cognitive psychology and death and dying respectively. Dr. Morse will be teaching a new course on the psychological basis of criminal behavior on Tuesday nights.

Location of the Department

Beginning last year the physical location of the Psychology Department has been in flux. For reasons of long-term air quality issues, the department requested a change in location of our offices. The Administration is trying to accommodate our request. For the time being: Dr. Farreras, Dr. Kundey, Dr. MacDougall, Dr. Oliver, and Dr. Kecmanovic maintain offices on the fourth floor of the Library. Dr. Boyle, Dr. Ruffin, and Dr. Martin maintain offices in the basement of Rosenstock, along with Ms. Kerri Eylar, our administrative assistant.
**Psychology Club Corner**

The goal of the Psychology Club is to promote awareness for mental disorders, as well as to provide a fun environment for both psychology majors and non-psychology majors to interact. This year, we are incorporating fun experiments for members to do. At the end of the semester, we will experiment with Miracle Berry, which is a small pill that you suck on which alters taste buds for a short time to make sour things taste sweet and sweet things sour! Some activities that we have planned are: partnering with Safe Harvest, staff tables in Whitaker devoted to psychology-related awareness months (e.g. last month we had a table for Suicide Prevention, and this month we have a table that is dedicated to World Mental Health Day), and we are also organizing a screening of *Girl, Interrupted* to be shown in Hodson Auditorium on October 19th. We are also planning an Autism Awareness program for the month of April. We plan to coordinate efforts with other campus clubs as well as some campus sports teams to help raise money for Autism Speaks.

**Psychology Club meets every other Wednesday at 7:30 pm in Rosenstock Room 1. The next meeting will occur on October 17th.**

**Officers:** Kimi Brunot (President), Lauren Engle (Vice President), Mary Hickman (Secretary), Raymond Rivera (Treasurer), and Kaitlin Morris (Historian).

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**Psi Chi Honor Society**

This semester Psi Chi plans to increase our visibility and encourage new members. We are planning tutoring sessions for struggling Psych 101 students, as well as planning test preparation Jeopardy! review sessions for those students.

The first of these fun Introduction to Psychology review sessions will be Wednesday, October 10 at 8:00 p.m. in Whittaker 220 (the conference room outside of residential life). All are welcome!

We want to build the psychology program and make it more enjoyable for students who are not necessarily psychology majors. We will be partnering with the Psychology Club frequently this semester in efforts to promote mental health awareness. We have some great ideas for the year as a whole. For example, we want to start ‘end of the semester’ book drives to donate used books (e.g. books that the bookstore will not buy back) to area schools and libraries.

As an organization, we want to go out into the community and volunteer with places like the Mental Health Association of Frederick. We also plan to establish a Psychology Professor of the Year Award through popular vote that we will announce at the end of the year Psych Department Party. Finally, we want to establish a "Psi Chi Research Project Award" that will be awarded to a PSY 315 student that completes the best research project.

Overall, Psi Chi is looking at a very exciting year. As Psi Chi is an academic honor society, membership is based on several requirements that are posted outside of the Psychology Suite in Rosenstock. Applications for admissions will be available during spring semester.

**Officers:** Kimi Brunot (President), Steven Powell (Vice President), Christopher Catalfamo (Secretary), and Deryka Nairne (Treasurer).

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**Quiz Questions**

How well do you know your psych? Well, we’re giving you a chance to find out. Here’s the deal: In every issue of the newsletter we will have three psychology quiz questions. Email your answers to our editor, Dr. Diane Oliver (oliver@hood.edu), no later than the end of the newsletter month (in this case, October 31st). At the end of the semester all correct entries will be entered into a drawing for a $25 gift certificate to the bookstore. What have you got to lose?

**Q1:** The sounds “ch”, “b”, “l” and “th” are:
- Morphemes
- Semantics
- Phonemes
- Syntax
**GRE Subject Tests**

The GRE SUBJECT tests will be given at Hood on Saturday, November 10th, 2012. The regular registration deadline was October 5th, but late registration is available. To register, visit the GRE website [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre) Only the SUBJECT TESTS are offered at Hood (Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Literature in English, Mathematics, Physics, and Psychology). If you are not majoring in one of the above subjects, the appropriate test for you is most likely the GRE GENERAL TEST which is computer based and offered year-round at other testing facilities. Be sure to check the requirements for admission to the graduate school you are planning to attend. You can visit the GRE website for testing locations and registration information for the GRE General Test.

**Faculty Transitions**

At the end of this year, we are sad to announce that Dr. Jelena Kecmanovic will be leaving Hood to expand her private practice. We will all miss Dr. "K" greatly, and wish her good luck in the future. We hope that we can convince her to come back and teach a course from time to time. We have initiated a search for her replacement and anticipate bringing candidates on campus at the end of this semester and the beginning of next term. Each candidate will speak with students and give a demonstration class. We will need everyone’s help with this selection process. Stay tuned!

**Q2.** When you hear a noise in the woods walking back to your dorm room, the information travels through a direct emotional pathway, from the _______ to the _______, and produces your unconscious physiological response.

a. Thalamus; cerebral cortex  
b. Amygdala; thalamus  
c. Thalamus; corpus callosum  
d. Thalamus; amygdala

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**Professional Announcements**


**Dr. Elizabeth MacDougall** was awarded a competitive Summer Research Institute grant to work closely with students on her investigations of several geriatric cognitive assessment tools. She also recently co-authored several publications: Mansbach, W.E., & MacDougall, E.E. (2012). Development and validation of the short form of the Brief Cognitive Assessment Tool (BCAT-SF). *Aging & Mental Health*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1080/13607863.2012.702729; Mansbach, W.E., MacDougall, E.E., & Rosenzweig, A. (2012). The Brief Cognitive Assessment Tool (BCAT): a new test emphasizing contextual memory, executive functions, attentional capacity, and the prediction of instrumental activities of daily living. *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*, 34(2), 183-194. Dr. MacDougall has been selected to direct the graduate psychology programs here at Hood.

**Dr. Terry Martin** was the recipient of the Association for Death Education and Counseling's 2012 Death Educator Award. The prestigious award is given annually to a candidate who demonstrates expertise and continuous growth in the field of dying, death and bereavement, excellence in teaching and scholarship. Dr. Martin has been working in conjunction with the National Civil War Museum, the Frederick Civil War Roundtable and the National Park Service to bring a photographic history of the battle of Antietam. These photos that have not been seen in public since 1862. The graphic nature of the images created a lasting impression of the reality of war and led to censorship of photos of future wars. Please visit the site at [www.wartoor Doorsteps.net](http://www.wartoor Doorsteps.net).

**Dr. Diane Graves Oliver** presented a poster on parents’ perceptions of their children’s religiosity and spirituality at the National Convention of the American Psychological Association in August. Dr. Oliver also gave a paper presentation on racial matching and cross-racial dynamics in clinical supervision at that meeting. This summer, Dr. Oliver was awarded a competitive Hood College Board of Associates McCardell Grant to continue her work on children’s perceptions of religion and spirituality from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions.
The ever-popular lunch series in which psychology faculty and invited guests share their most compelling clinical cases continues again this semester. This series was developed to showcase our faculty outside of the classroom and to provide an interactive opportunity to learn about applied clinical and counseling professions. These sessions are informal meetings. Students bring their lunch (dessert provided!) and hear 30-minute presentations, followed by a question-and-answer period. Sessions are held monthly during the fall and spring semesters in room 1 (the Thanatology Library) in Rosenstock during common hour (12:45 – 1:30pm).

**September 25:** Dr. Terry Martin spoke on the role of parental guilt following a child’s accidental death.

**October 11:** Dr. Diane Oliver will present an adolescent girl’s struggle with clinical depression and suicide.

**November 15:** Rebecca German will present a compelling case of a child with autism. Ms. German is a recent graduate from our department and can talk about job options available to someone with a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

**Research Activity**

The following projects are currently in progress:

Dr. Shannon Kundey: Comparative cognition research with humans, dogs and ants. Dr. Kundey is accepting applications for her research team at this time.

Dr. Diane Oliver: School-age children’s perceptions of religion and spirituality from diverse religions traditions. She is accepting applications for her research team.

Dr. Elizabeth MacDougall: Normative and validity study of the Brief Cognitive Assessment Tool, Development and validation of the Kitchen Picture Test and Reliability Generalization Study of the Inventory of Complicated Grief. Dr. MacDougall is not accepting applications for her research team at this time.

**Internships**

It is not too early to be thinking about internships for the winter, spring or summer semester. Please check with your advisor and the Career Center if you are interested.

The deadline for application to the department is December 1st for spring and summer.

In addition, he served as the principal consultant to the BBC and PBS for their award-winning series "The Brain" and "The Mind" (many of your psychology 101 courses showed video clips from this series). Dr. Robinson is on the Board of Consulting Scholars of Princeton University's James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions and is a Senior Fellow of BYU's Wheatley Institution. Last year he received the Gittler Award from the American Psychological Association for significant contributions to the philosophical foundations of Psychology.

Q3. Bob has a wooden ruler that is marked as being 6 inches long. Bob doesn’t know it but each inch on his ruler is marked incorrectly at 2 inches, making it really 12 inches long. Scores from this measuring instrument have:

a. high reliability and high validity
b. low reliability and low validity
c. high validity and low reliability
d. low validity and high reliability

If you have anything you would like to share with the readers of Ink Blot, contact the newsletter editor, Dr. Diane Graves Oliver at oliver@hood.edu.