

THE INKBLOT

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CONGRATULATION GRADUATES!

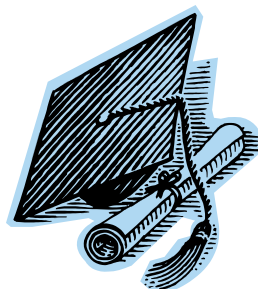
Graduation. It is a day that some thought would never arrive, yet, for others it has arrived all too soon. It is the day that all the classes, papers, tests and homework finally pay off. On behalf of your fellow students and everyone in the psychology department, we offer you congratulations on a job well done, and best wishes for all of your future endeavors!

December Graduating

Psychology majors:

Brittney E. Cofer, BA
Christina N. Formico, BA
Hayley D. Harwell, BA
Kyrstin A. Lokkesmoe, BA
Brianna N. Culberson, BS
A. Rebecca Danforth, BS
Katie E. Moxley, BS
Jessica L. Page, BS

ERIN MARKS



PSYCHOLOGY LAB STAFF

Lab Coordinator:

Dr. Kristen Diliberto-Macaluso

Lab Workers:

Kelly Bearden

Ashley Kotun

Melani Landerfelt

Kyrstin Lokkesmoe

Erin Marks

Hollie McClintick

GOOD BYE FROM A SENIOR LAB WORKER

I came into this institution as a young bright-eyed 18 year-old who knew enough about life and its hardships to stay afloat. I have, however, learned how to be interdependent, but not co-dependent. I have learned how to be assertive, strong, and a leader without being pushy, loud, and completely obnoxious. I have learned that it is not weak to ask for help, but it is not right to insist on helping when it is unwanted. I have had the

opportunity to work in a psychiatric hospital, a battered women's shelter, a children's hospital, and an orphanage. I have been able to form strong bonds with my professors and have formed lasting friendships with so many students. I consider myself absolutely blessed to have been able to know you (you know who you are).

I will be staying in Rome for the next year and a half. I plan on attending grad school in either

KYRSTIN LOKKESMOE

California, Florida, or Texas in the fall of 2007. I will be going for a Ph.D. in clinical psychology so that I can become a child psychologist. Eventually, I'd like to be able to work with a large Latino population. It has taken me 21 years to begin to know myself and what I am capable of. Good luck to you all. God bless.

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I'M GOING TO DO **WHAT?**: DR. BISSONNETTE'S STORY

Dr. Victor Bissonnette (Dr. B. to most of us) is our resident social psychologist, although he did not start out that way. Dr. B. is the first in his family to go to college. As he was making his decision out of high school about whether or not to pursue higher education, he was convinced to go by the undying thought that college was "the promise land of being able to make choices."

Dr. B.'s plan was to eventually get into the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in communication. This was the best school for him to attend in order to chase his dream of being a photo-journalist. He chose to move from Michigan to Texas in order to attend Tarrant College, a small community college in Texas. After taking a series of courses, he settled into a sociology major only to change his major again to psychology with a minor in sociology.

Dr. B. had to work between 20-30 hours each week, and he was unable to attend classes full time, forcing him to graduate in five years. This was no problem for Dr. B.; he loved learning and thoroughly

enjoyed "the growth process of school." This process was encouraged and flourished outside of school as well. During his college career he worked on commission selling cameras in a camera store and later selling computers in a Radio Shack in a mall. While at work, he started to closely observe individual and group behaviors in varying social settings. One observation that really stuck out for him was how hostile people can become when they conform. It was only a matter of time before social psychology was to become an undeniable part of his future.

With the end of his senior year coming, Dr. B. still had no idea in which direction to aim his future. Because he was so enthralled by learning and growing academically, his mentor, Dr. William Ickes, and now Dean Paul Paulace, at the University of Texas in Arlington convinced him to go to graduate school. He did not know what to focus on for his doctorate. He knew that therapy was not an option; he preferred the research aspect of the field. As a graduate student teaching his first class, Pam, his newlywed, decided to come along

KYRSTIN LOKKESMOE

and watch him teach. When the session was over, she looked at him and said, "If you don't know what you're doing with your career, I do." There was no argument there. Dr. Bissonnette then realized his love for trying to help students understand the complexities of psychology.

Within the 6 years at the University of Texas in Arlington, Dr. B. had published a number of papers that were of interest to Caryl Rusbolt, the editor of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. After forming a relationship based on mutual respect of each other's work, Rusbolt offered him a Post Doctoral position at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill where he stayed for one year. Later he moved on to Southeastern Louisiana University, and realized that teaching was what he wanted to do. "The markers of success for me are not the publications, but the people." After 7 years there, he moved on to Berry where Dr. B. has been happy ever since.

PSYCH SOCIETY NEWS



The showing of *October Sky* was a huge hit. The Cook classroom was jam packed—57 students. I hope everyone enjoyed the movie and the discussion that followed. For those of you not there, I will give you a synopsis of our discussion of the interpersonal relationships of Homer Hickam. His father, who works in the coal mine, isn't really that bad of a guy

KELLY BEARDEN

or a father. He was even a source of motivation. Even though Homer didn't want to work in the mine, he did admire his father and saw him as a hero. Ms. Riley, Homer's teacher, was the one person who really believed in the boys' ability to win the science fair; and the community became a network of support, even when things looked grim. Homer also received support

from the rocket expert Van Braun, who corresponded through letters. Ironically, when he finally meets him, he doesn't even realize who it is.

Coming Up:

White Elephant Party!

- Wednesday Nov. 30 in the Psych Lab from 7-8:30

SPOTLIGHT ON FORENSICS

Forensic psychology is one of the fastest growing areas of psychology. There has been a significant increase in the practice of clinical psychology within the legal system, and a growing interest expressed by undergraduate and graduate students.

The American Board of Forensic Psychology and the American Psychology-Law Society define forensic psychology as "the professional practice by psychologists within the areas of clinical psychology, and counseling psychology, when they are engaged as experts in an activity primarily intended to provide professional psychological expertise to the judicial system." More simply put, forensic psychology deals

with the intersection of psychology and the legal process. Forensic psychology, most commonly deals with the clinical practice of psychology, law enforcement, and the legal process itself.

In the forensic arena, clinical psychologists work with individuals suffering from a variety of mental illnesses within the context of criminal or civil areas of the law. Criminal areas of the law that necessitate the involvement of forensic psychology include: pleading insanity, issues of competency to stand trial, assessing future potential of violence during sentencing, or treating sex offenders. However, forensic psychologists are not limited to working in the court system, they can also be em-

ASHLEY KOTUN

ployed in a variety of settings, such as: jails, prisons, state hospitals, federal and local law enforcement agencies, community mental health centers, and juvenile detention facilities.

In order to become a successful forensic psychologist, one must first become a skilled practicing clinical psychologist. In order to obtain a career in forensic psychology, a graduate degree, master's or doctorate, is needed. Because of the increased interest in this field of psychology, a number of graduate programs are offering forensic coursework and practice. Our own psychology department is excited to be offering a new forensic psychology course in the spring 2006 semester.

Graduate Programs in Forensic Psychology

- American International College, Springfield, Massachusetts (MA)
- University of British Columbia (Ph.D.)
- Castleton State College, Castleton, Vermont (MA)
- Chicago School of Professional Psychology
- City University of New York: John Jay School of Criminal Justice (Ph.D. and MA)
- Marymount University, Arlington, Virginia (MA)
- Roger Williams University
- The Sage Colleges, Troy, New York
- Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia

LIFE AFTER BERRY

Do you ever wonder what you are going to do after you graduate? Making a decision about what path to take can be overwhelming. Tara Gilliland, a spring 2005 graduate, was faced with this decision last year and decided to apply to a special education graduate program at the University of Kansas. She is now pursuing a Master's in Education with a specialization in administering psychoeducational assessments and creating strategies to increase success in the classroom. She is also involved with a research project

HOLLIE MCCLINTICK

related to Asperger Syndrome, which is the largest study ever conducted pertaining to the disorder. The goal of the study is to change how Asperger Syndrome is currently defined in the *DSM-IV-TR*, specifically Autism Spectrum Disorders, which she began this fall. She chose to take this route while working with Dr. Haney on research related to Autism.

While pursuing her Master's she is currently involved with two projects. She serves as a consultant in local school districts through an IDEA grant where she

works with special needs children addressing issues related to adaptive behavior problems, sensory problems, and language issues.

Tara hopes that her current studies will help her achieve her ultimate career goal of becoming a therapist for an agency, such as UNICEF, and working with children in war zones.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TARA'S CURRENT RESEARCH COME TO HER LECTURE, "BEYOND GEEKS AND QUIRKY KIDS: A STUDY OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ASPERGER SYNDROME," ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER, 21ST AT 5 P.M.

WHAT'S UP IN THE LAB?

MELANI LANDERFELT

Many of you may have noticed that there has been a lot of commotion going on in the Psychology Lab lately. More students have been coming and going than usual, many senior students have been running around holding stacks of papers and stop watches and there are several sign up sheets taped to the front table.

Can anyone guess what might be going on? Well folks, it's that time of year again, the Methods students are conducting RESEARCH! Right now

there are three research studies going on at the same time! Dr. Bissonnette's Research Method's II class is in the final stages of collecting data for the "Names and Faces" study that we created. We are all so proud of our efforts and we are excited to finally be collecting some meaningful data. The first week of data collection was a little rough. A few of our participants asked weird questions, or didn't follow the directions, some of us had a hard time figuring out how to work the stopwatch or pressed the button at the wrong time (we are timing our students

during our study, but that's all I can say about it!). Fortunately, we have all got the hang of it now and our data collection has been running smoothly. We can't wait to see if we have some meaningful results! Dr. Bissonnette is also assisting with two survey studies entitles "Smoking Attitudes" and "Self-Concept and Locus of Control." If there are any professors out their who would like to offer their students some extra credit, encourage them to stop by the lab and sign up for a study or two. We would love to have more participants!

ADVISING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between earning a BS and a BA in Psychology? Does it matter which degree I have if I want to go to graduate school?

A Bachelor of Arts requires completing courses in a foreign language to the intermediate level in addition to the psychology major requirements. Getting a BA could be beneficial for graduate school because some doctoral programs require that you pass a competency exam in a foreign language before you can receive your degree.

2. How does the Senior Exit Exam affect me? Do I have to take it?

The Senior Exit Exam does have to be taken before you can graduate, but your performance on the exam will not count for or against you. Students are encouraged to take the exams seriously as they are used as a measurement of the knowledge students have acquired in their major field at Berry.

3. How can I link up with alums in my field of interest?

The Psychology Lab is currently creating an alumni database, which will list former Psychology students, their contact info., and their current occupation.

INKBLOT BLURBS: FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Upcoming Conferences

- GPA Annual Meeting
May 24-27
Sandestin, Florida
- SEPA Conference and Psi Chi Regional Convention Program
March 16-19, 2006
Atlanta, Georgia
- 18th Annual APS Convention
May 25-27
New York, New York
- 77th Annual Psi Chi National Convention
August 10-13
New Orleans, Louisiana

Psych Lecture Series

- Tara Gilliland
Beyond Geeks and Quirky Kids: A Study of the Characteristics of Asperger Syndrome
November 21
5-6 PM Evans Auditorium
- Ann Philips
February 9
11-12 Evans Auditorium
- Dr. Alan Pope
(In early spring)
Psychology of Bud-

Congratulations to the Who's Who among Students in American Colleges and Universities Recipients!

Brittney Cofer
Leslie Dunham
Kelly Eatman
Britt Hubier
Ashley Kotun
Melani Landerfelt
Kyrstin Lokkesmoe
Kirby Mardis
Hollie McClintick

Who's Who (cont.)

Jessica Page

Jenny Paterson

Stop by the Psych Lab

- Looking for an Internship? Stop by the Psych Lab and check out the internship database.
- The Psych Lab will be accepting applications in the spring to fill several openings left by our graduating seniors. Please stop by Cook 313 in the spring for an application.