

# BERRY COLLEGE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

# THE INKBLOT

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1 EARLY FALL 2005 EDITION

## WELCOME TO THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

BY MELANI LANDERFELT

We have once again started a new school year! Now that everyone has had a chance to settle into their new schedules and new students have become more familiar with the psychology department, it is time for an official welcome and extension of assistance! First of all, welcome to all of the new freshmen who are currently taking any psychology classes and welcome to any students who have recently declared a Psychology Major or Minor. I would also like to welcome our new adjunct professors; Dr. Azar-Dickens teaching Introduction to Psychology and Life Span Development, and Mrs. Virginia Word, who is teaching Psychology of the Exceptional Child.

Last Spring four of the five Psychology Lab staff members ventured out into the real world, and as a result many new workers were hired. I would like to welcome all of these new students who filled the vacant Psych Lab positions. We are so glad to have Kelly Bearden, Ashley Kotun, Melani Landerfelt, Kyrstin Lokkesmoe, Erin Marks, Hollie McClintick, and Noah Bell. The lab workers would like to extend an invitation to all students to come and visit the psychology lab at any time. The lab is located in Cook 313, and is open from 8am-8pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 8am-7pm on Thursday, and 8am-6pm on Friday. The primary purpose of the Psychology Lab is to aid students with their courses and help them locate resources, internship, and graduate school information. All of the workers would like to encourage everyone to come into the lab, say "hi" and get to know us. We are excited to lend a hand. Welcome to the new year!

## FREQUENTLY ASKED ADVISING QUESTIONS

1. Do you have to make a "C" in all of your Psychology classes to graduate?  
No, the catalog does not state a student must earn "C's" or better in the major. What is stated is that the student must earn a 2.0 or better in the major.
2. Do my hours for PSY 101 and MAT 111 count for both my major and for Gen. Ed.?  
Yes. Both PSY 101 and MAT 111 will double count for the major and for Gen. Ed.
3. If I change my major, what catalogue should I use?  
When a major is changed, or declared, the major will be in the "current" catalog. If the student has been enrolled prior to Fall 2005, the Gen Ed requirements and any minor will remain in the original catalog.

These are questions generated by students, and the official answers from the registrar. Check future Inkblots for more FAQ's, and stop by the Psych Lab with any questions to be put in future issues!

### PSYCHOLOGY LAB STAFF

#### Lab Coordinator:

*Dr. Kristen Diliberto-  
Macaluso*

#### Lab Workers:

*Kelly Bearden*

*Noah Bell*

*Ashley Kotun*

*Melani Landerfelt*

*Kyrstin Lokkesmoe*

*Erin Marks*

*Hollie McClintick*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PSYCH SOCIETY PLANTS 2

PROFESSORS SUMMER  
EXPERIENCE 2

TOWNHALL MEETING 2

SUMMER ABROAD 3

SURE PROGRAM 4

INKBLOT BLURBS 5



Psych Society officers, Josh Castleberry and Chris Ready look on as students purchase shy plants in Krannert Center

## PSYCH SOCIETY AND PLANTS WITH PERSONALITY BY KELLY BEARDEN

Thanks to all who helped make the plant sale a success! In case you are curious, the proper name for the “shy” plant is *Mimosa pudica*. They are only open during the day, and basically droop to “sleep” at night. The closing and drooping of the leaves is also a defense mechanism. So if a bug tries to eat its leaves, the plant can save itself by closing up to make the bug think that there are no more leaves left to eat.

The officers of Psych Society put a lot of hard work into the germination and care of the plants. This fundraiser raised **\$320** for Psych Society, giving us a total of **\$720** in the bank. Since we finally have money for the club, we want to move in new and better directions. Here are some events to look forward to:

### Upcoming Events:

1st Monday of the month Meeting

October 8th Leukemia Walk

Trivia Tournament with Psych Professors

Movie: “The Lost Boys of Sudan” Cultural Events Credit!!

Look for flyers on: T-shirt sales, the Old School Games Tournament, and Bowling!

## PSYCH PROFESSORS SUMMER ACTIVITIES

BY NOAH BELL

During the long, hot summer the diligent Psychology Faculty were still hard at work. Dr. Bell worked on the Fulbright Grant for Israel for the fall of 2007. His Exceptional Child class went to Camp Good Times. Dr. Johnson-Pynn spent part of her in summer in Italy with 33 Berry students for Maymester. She also worked on a Fulbright Grant for Africa, and collected data with Dr. Diliberto-

Macaluso, who spent her time teaching summer classes at Berry and revising a paper on false memory. Dr. Hopkins did a great deal of traveling for the Yerkes Institute, and was the keynote speaker for the American Society of Primatology at a conference in Portland, Oregon. He was featured in an article in the New York Times, and worked on several grants. Dr. Logsdon-

Conradson attended the Annual GPA conference. Dr. Jennings taught graduate courses, and Dr. McBrayer “practiced retirement” by golfing and fishing. Dr. Bissonnette worked on research and the web, as well as traveling along the west coast. The Psychology faculty went far and wide, but they all returned to share their experiences with the rest of us.

## REPORT ON THE TOWNHALL MEETING

BY HOLLIE MCCLINTICK

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, the psychology department held its third annual Town Hall Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an open forum for students to discuss questions, comments, and concerns with the psychology faculty. Students who attended the Town Hall Meeting agreed that it was very informative.

Dr. Jennings led the meeting with some opening remarks about the department followed by an overview of the spring course offerings. During this time, students expressed interest in seeing courses such as Sports Psychology and Psychology and Law added in future semesters. The meeting concluded with “senior sage ad-

vice” from the fall semester Integrative Seminar course. Students from the course offered advice to underclassmen regarding a variety of topics including: internships, research experience, being a student athlete, applying to graduate school, and finding a job.

## SUMMER ABROAD

BY KYRSTIN LOKKESMOE

As I sit and ponder over the title of my article, I can't help but to think of how generic it sounds. It wasn't just a summer abroad for me; it was a life changing experience. I left Rome five days after classes ended, and a week later I was introduced to my host family in Cusco, Peru. I had a wonderful reception and immediately loved the people.

I worked at an orphanage about thirty minutes from my home. There, I met young boys in dire need of love and affection. They needed to be shown how to be fair, how to respect women, how to love themselves and each other, and how to use their circumstances for self-improvement instead of a downward spiral of self-destruction. I had long been under the impression that I wasn't fond of children; however, this experience moved me beyond understanding to pursuing a career in child psychology.

Once I decided to consider this a viable career choice, I began to think in terms of how it would work out. I wondered if I could handle a career in child psychology because I dealt with difficult, real life cases of child molestation, abuse of all kinds, and behavior problems that at times seemed insurmountable.

Throughout my time there, I was transformed from someone with little confidence with the boys to someone who could handle whatever problems the boys were facing, even those created specifically to test me. Finding ways to punish those who have nothing to take away was challenging, so I thought way back to Dr. Bell's child development, and of course, I recalled that there are more ways to discipline a child. When I realized that my sunglasses were a prized possession, I used them as a reward (positive reinforcement). If the boys behaved, they got the privilege to wear them, if they acted out, they watched as others wore them. I also found other ways of working with the boys, who spe-

cifically acted out- I gave all of them my full attention. I never avoided the boys, who the other teachers labeled as "behavior problems." When they wanted attention, these boys got attention...positive attention.

All in all, this was an experience of a lifetime, and I have never been one to escape a good challenge. To be honest, however, the whole experience was not as easy as it may sound. There was more than one occasion which I questioned my credibility and capability of doing this work. I pressed on, however, and will never forget what those young Peruvian children taught me: patience, love, respect, and humility. I will never be too proud to learn something from a child. Thus far, these children have been my best character-building teachers. I will forever cherish my time there, the memories, and the feelings. I am a changed person.

I encourage you to step (or fly) out of your comfort zone because there is so much to learn. The world is full of opportunities for helping others and yourself.



Senior Kyrstin Lokkesmoe with a Peruvian Child

## SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

BY ERIN MARKS


SURE is an acronym for Summer Undergraduate Research Experience. Leslie Dunham, a Senior Psychology major, was offered the opportunity to participate in SURE. SURE is a 10-week program that takes place at Emory University. It gives undergraduate students the opportunity to work in the research field. Dunham worked with

Berry's Dr. Hopkins at the Yerkes Primate Center reading MRI scans of chimps. She analyzed the size of the corpus collosum in their brains to determine if there was a correlation between size, the chimps' handedness, and their sex. The research showed a correlation between size and handedness. Dunham is now in the process of getting her results published.

She says that this experience was eye-opening, and that being able to work on and complete a project was enjoyable. Because Dunham was paid, she did not receive class credit. However, she recommends the program for anyone who is interested in going to graduate school or pursuing a career in the research field.

**\*For more info about SURE visit their website at:**

<http://www.cse.emory.edu/sciencenet/undergrad/SURE/SURE.html>

  
**Berry College**  
**Psychology Lab**

SPRING 2006 OFFERINGS

Human Sexuality  
Adulthood and Aging  
Counseling Practice  
Psychology of Interpersonal Relationships  
Abnormal Psychology  
Learning  
Psychological Testing  
Industrial Organization Psychology  
Psychology and Education of the Exceptional Child  
Seminar in Forensic Psychology  
Neuropsychology and Neuroscience

## ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS

It is time to start applying to grad school. Here are some general tips when obtaining that much needed letter of recommendation:

1. Provide professors with your biography, including your research experience, internships, volunteering, and employment. Also, provide your resume and an unofficial copy of your transcripts. Some professors want a copy of your GRE scores, as well as your statement of purpose.
2. Make time to meet with your professor individually to discuss schools, programs, and the recommendation letter content.
3. Provide the professors with clear deadlines for each of the schools you are applying to.
4. Please give professors three-four weeks advanced notice for December 1st deadlines.  

\* Dr. Conradsen asks that all letters of recommendation requests be received by November 1st since she will be on maternity leave in December.
5. It is customary to give professors envelopes with the address of the school you are applying to.
6. **Important:** make sure that the professor you ask for a letter of recommendation knows you well, and will write you a strong letter.

## INKBLOT BLURBS: FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- The Spring 2006 Seminar course in Forensic Psychology (PSY 435) will be taught by Tracy Alvord, Co-Director of the Northwest Georgia Forensic Counseling Center
- Dr. Pynn and Dr. Scordato will be taking students on Maymester in Italy again this summer. Students will travel to the islands of Sicily, as well as Rome, Florence, and Venice to learn about Italian approaches to educating young children. Students will visit schools in

Sicily, Rome, and Tuscany. Other sight-seeing events include: the Coliseum, the Vatican and Sistine Chapel, a Tuscan Winery tour, the statue of David, the Uffizi Art Gallery, as well as exploring the coastlines with the boat rides and beach trips.

Course credit for psychology majors can be PSY 435, special topics or PSY 298 for those who want to assist in research efforts related to inter-cultural awareness and development of college students.

- Attention students looking for research experience: Dr. Pynn is researching topics such as: early childhood numerical cognition, false memory in children, conservation education and civic engagement in youth.
- Summer Courses Available: PSY 360 and 361 Research Methods and Statistics I and II, PSY 225 Child Development, and PSY 304 Social Psychology. Look for more information to come!



Top: Dr. Scordato and Business Major/Psychology Minor, Jessica in Venice

Bottom: Dr. Pynn in Tuscany