

PSY-CHICALLY SPEAKING

The Undergraduate Psychology Newsletter
Volume 16, Number 2 Spring, 2004

Department of Psychology of Western Kentucky University
Editor: Patty Randolph

Topics included in this newsletter are:

- Spring colloquia
- Attend PSY 390 info sessions to learn how to get a field placement for college credit!
- Join Psi Chi or Psychology Club
- Psychology scholarships available for next year
- One student's experience: The best advice for getting into graduate school

Great Faculty Candidate Colloquia This Month !

Psychology students are invited to attend, along with the Psychology faculty, colloquia presented by visiting psychologists who are being interviewed for jobs with our department. If you look at the presentation titles and the areas the candidates represent, you'll see there is something for everyone, so mark your calendar, and your faculty will be tickled to see you there!

Ann Rinn (Educational Psychology Candidate)

Colloquium: **Tuesday, February 10th, 3:30 - 4:30 in TPH 134**

After High School: Experiences of Gifted College Students

Katherine White (Experimental Candidate)

Colloquium: **Monday, February 16th, 4:00 – 5:00 in TPH 134**

Title unknown

Jeff Schimel (Social/Personality Candidate)

Colloquium: **Wednesday, February 18th, 3:30 – 4:30 in TPH 132**

Forgiveness, Empathy and Perspective Taking: Searching for a Softer Side of Terror Management

Martin Bink (Experimental Candidate)

Colloquium: **Thursday, February 19th, 4:00 – 5:00 in TPH 134**

Remembering the Future: Prospective Memory in the Aviation Environment

Kathi Miner-Rubino (Social/Personality candidate)

Colloquium: **Monday, February 23rd, 3:30 – 4:30 in TPH 132**

Beyond Targets: Vicarious Exposure to Hostility Toward Women in the Workplace

(Editor's Postscript: When attending one of these presentations, either from personal interest or for extra credit, please remember that we are all contributing to the job candidate's perception of WKU at the same time that he or she is trying to impress us! Be especially careful to avoid ringing phones, backpack digging, sidebars, leaving early, etc... it's a case of reciprocal determinism in action!)

**TAKE PSY 390 FOR REAL LIFE
EXPERIENCE
– and you can do it online (well, partly
online!)**

PSY 390 – Field Experience in Psychology - is available to students in fall, spring, and summer. It's a chance to get real life hands-on experience, contribute to your community, and earn college credit as well. It is excellent for your resume, too! A number of local agencies (most of the United Way agencies, in fact) provide opportunities for supervised psychology-related experiences. It takes 120 hours of agency time to earn 3 hours of credit.

You can also get PSY 390 credit for placement at a community agency in your hometown, if you are supervised by someone with a master's or Ph.D. in psychology, social work, or counseling, **and this summer you can participate in the required "class sessions" via the web!** Come by the Careers Table outside TPH253 to pick up a brochure, and/or contact Dr. Libby Jones, 745-4414, TPH 260, elizabeth.jones@wku.edu. You can also visit the PSY 390 website: <http://edtech.tph.wku.edu/~ejones/psy390/homepage.htm>

PLEASE DO ATTEND a PSY 390 Information session at one of the following times if you are interested!

Monday, March 8th 2:30 - 3:30 in TPH 277
Tuesday, March 9th 2:00-3:00 in TPH 334
Wednesday, March 10th 5:00 - 6:00 in TPH 404
Tuesday, March 16th 10:00-11:00 in TPH 418
Wednesday, March 17 1:30 - 2:30 in TPH 277
Tuesday, March 30 11:00 - 12:00 in TPH 304
Tuesday, March 30 2:30-3:30 in TPH 404

**GOOD FOR YOUR RESUME, GOOD FOR
YOUR LIFE:**

PSY 490 - Independent Study in Psychology - can be your ticket to research that one topic you love so dearly but no one covers in class! It also can be used for doing hands-on work with faculty on their projects, and can result in a professional presentation and/or publication. Speak to your favorite professor about doing independent study today and read the article containing Ken Brasel's **best advice** below!

Join Psychology Club or Psi Chi this year

Psi Chi and Psychology Club sponsor speakers and help you to network with other psychology majors while adding to your resume. Dr. Rick Grieve, our clinical training coordinator, is the faculty advisor, and Heather Kossick is the current Psi Chi president. Contact Dr. Grieve at 745-4417, rick.grieve@wku.edu, or in TPH258; and visit the Psi Chi lobby display on the second floor for an application form.

**HAVE YOU BEEN WISHING FOR A
PSYCHOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP?
HERE'S HOW TO APPLY!**

Five in-state tuition scholarships are awarded each year to psychology majors, made possible by the will of Dr. Lourine Cave, a long-time Western psychology professor. Recipients must be Kentucky residents, a junior or senior during the scholarship year, and have strong academic records. Financial need is also considered.

To apply for a Jagers-Cave scholarship:

1. Complete the Scholarship Application for Returning Students, available from either the Admissions Office (Potter Hall 117) or the Psychology Department (TPH 275). Write "For Cave Award" on the top and take it to the Admissions Office by March 15, 2004.

2. Complete the Jagers-Cave Scholarship Financial Need Statement, available from the Psychology Department secretary and return it to the Department office, TPH 275, by March 15, 2004.

My experience:

“The best advice I received as an undergraduate at Western”

by Ken Brasel



(Editor’s note: When last fall’s issue of Psy-chically Speaking came out, Ken Brasel said to me, “It would be nice if you’d provide students with the same good advice that I received about preparing to get into graduate school.” So I asked him to share his experiences and advice with all of us, and these are his responses.)

I have had several classes with Dr. Bruni, and he begins each class with similar questions including the typical, “Why are you in Psychology”, and “What are you going to do after you get your degree?” The majority of students will always state they want to go to graduate school, and he asks us what are we doing to stand out. He stresses the importance of getting research experience, and I can’t thank him enough for that advice. I worked on two research projects with Dr. Bruni and this gave me the tools and the confidence to work on other projects with other professors.

Another professor (anonymously) was fond of saying, “ Lie to everyone else, but don’t lie to yourself.” You can translate this in many different ways. I took it to mean that while we always try to present ourselves in the best possible light, we really know our weaknesses all too well. As a result we should work to strengthen those weaknesses, whether it is in the area of study habits, habitually being late to class, or simply following through on our commitments.

Commitment brings me to the best advice I received; it was not so much in words, but was clearly spoken his daily routine and work ethic. Dr. Sam McFarland patiently demonstrated the core factors of quality research and time management with me on a consistent basis. Shortcuts were never considered, yet questions and direction was always doled out with clarity and purpose.

While I received quality advice from all of my professors and continue to depend on my professors now that I am in graduate school, **I have learned the real power behind advice is not what advice is heard, but what advice you actually act on.**

If asked what advice I would give, it would be to take your commitments seriously and professionally. I have learned that professors will give you responsibility freely, but failure to act responsibly will come at a cost. I am impressed with the passion professors have in the area of their research interests, and I am thankful for the opportunities that allowed me to empirically reinforce Dr. Bruni’s statement from the first day of his class, “After grades and the GRE, it’s the research experience that grabs the interest of the graduate school acceptance committees.”

(Editor’s postscript. I would also recommend that you be a “proactive” student like Ken!

