



# *enPSYCHlopedia*

*A Standard Deviation Above the Mean*

Vol. XVII No. 2 An Award-Winning Psychology Newsletter Spring 2007

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Student Editor: Sarah Lashley

## Psi Chi Celebrates Their 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Belmont

### Sarah Lashley, Senior, Psychology Major, Psi Chi Vice President

Psi Chi National Honor Society was established in 1929 and is an organization that strives to fulfill two main goals. These two goals are academic recognition and creative development. Students are invited to join the Psi Chi National Honor Society because of their academic excellence in psychology and their overall academic excellence. To be invited to join is truly an honor. Psi Chi National Honor Society, in addition to recognizing academic excellence, furthers the science of psychology in individuals and in the community.

15 years ago, Psi Chi National Honor Society was only a vision held by the current chair of Belmont's Psychology Department, Dr. Pete Giordano. Dr. Giordano always has put students first and held the dream of beginning a Psi Chi chapter at Belmont University.



Induction Table



Sign-in Table

In 1991, Dr. Giordano's dream came true. Belmont University founded a chapter of Psi Chi National Honor Society on October 15, 1991. This organization has done many great things throughout its existence, including winning Psi Chi's Regional Chapter Award in 2005. November 28, 2001, the chapter was able to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Grand Salon of the Belmont Mansion with an invited speaker, who was a prominent figure in establishing the chapter, Dr. Steven Davis. As of today, after 15 years of service, this chapter has inducted a total of 229 members.

February 23, 2007, was the date that Belmont University Psi Chi chapter alums gathered with current members, faculty members, new inductees, and new inductee's family and friends to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Belmont University's Psi Chi National Honor Society. The anniversary celebration,

held once again in the Belmont Mansion, consisted of dinner, an excellent presentation of the history of the chapter, a formal induction, and a brilliant speech on Synesthesia by Dr. Randolph Blake of Vanderbilt University. This night was a night of celebration of the past 15 years, a celebration of special people who have made the chapter what it is, and a celebration of the new inductees' success.

The evening began with a brief introduction of the alums that came out to support the new members and was shortly followed with a delicious dinner. Kurt Niesner introduced a slideshow on the history of Belmont's Psi Chi Chapter that was created by Eileen Marks and Shandus Valentine. The slideshow celebrated the wide ray of events and accomplishments of the chapter's 15 years of existence.

After the presentation of the history of Belmont's Psi Chi Chapter, two very special awards were given to prominent figures in the development of our chapter. Dr. Michael Loftin was given the National Service Award for his dedication and contributions to this chapter. Dr. Loftin served as president of Psi Chi while he was a student at Belmont University.



Dr. Loftin Receiving Award

A second award was also handed out to a person who served almost 14 years as faculty advisor. Dr. Giordano served wholeheartedly as advisor and helped get the chapter off its feet. He was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award.

The formal induction ceremony followed shortly after the presentation of awards. This induction ceremony

was lead by Layne Murphy (President), Sarah Lashley (Vice-President), Kelly Witherbee (Secretary), Gunner Goodlad (Treasurer), and Shandus Valentine (Reporter). The 13 new inductees are listed below.

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Heather Cairl      | Taylor Cawley   |
| Jessica Chapman    | Rachael Haney   |
| Barbara Hutchinson | Matthew Kubicek |
| Luke Lancaster     | Laura Musten    |
| Stephannie Parker  | Monal Patel     |
| Taylor Shade       | Sarah Smith     |
| Kevin Stone        |                 |

Immediately following the formal induction, the group moved to the Massey Boardroom for a presentation on Synesthesia by Dr. Randolph Blake. Dr. Randolph Blake is Centennial Professor of Psychology at Vanderbilt University. He is also a Fellow of the Kennedy Center for Research in Human Development, a member of the Vanderbilt Vision Research Center, and a member of the Vanderbilt Center for Cognitive and Integrative Neuroscience. His main research interests are in binocular vision, perceptual organization, visual cognition, and auditory/visual interactions. His speech on synesthesia involved one of our own alums. He

### Psychology Club/Psi Chi Events in Spring 2007 –

By Sarah Lashley, Vice-President

- Vita and Personal Statement Convocation by Dr. Giordano: January 26
- Rose Fundraiser: February 14
- Psi Chi Induction Ceremony/15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration: February 23
- Rescue Mission Community Service Project: February 24
- Convocation to celebrate Brain Awareness Week: March 12
- Eastern Psychological Conference in Philadelphia: March 22-25
- Sybil Movie Night: March 28
- ABA Therapy Convocation: March 30
- Literacy Day: March 31
- Carwash Fundraiser: April 21
- BURP: April 16 & 19
- BURS: April 25
- Post BURS/Senior Day: April 27

### Dean's List --

*The following psychology majors and minors were on the Dean's List for Fall 2006.*

|                   |                           |                   |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Jennifer Acker    | Jessica Heacock           | Stephanie Parker  |
| Heather Cairl     | Alyssa Henning            | Monal Patel       |
| Zachary Caro      | William Howard            | Sarah Plotkin*    |
| Taylor Cawley     | Barbara Hutchinson        | Clayton Rothwell* |
| Margaret Cornwall | Chegameh Korvandi-Geledar | Taylor Shade      |
| Julie Dorian*     | Matthew Kubicek           | Kathryn Shelton   |
| Allison Dowling   | Sarah Lashley             | Molly Smith       |
| Juliana Duncan    | Eileen Marks              | Kevin Stone       |
| Tiffany Evins     | Elizabeth Murphy          | Irena Tepavcevic  |
| Jared Ezell       | Laura Musten              | Shandus Valentine |
| Hilary Goulart    | Kurt Niesner              | Jamie Vickstrom   |
| Ashley Griffin    | Christina Norwood         | Elizabeth Wiener  |
| Rosemary Harris   | Dan Oliver                | Kelly Witherbee   |
| Laura Hart        | William Parish            |                   |

### \*4.0 President's List

discussed how different letters and numbers are color classified to people with synesthesia and the difference it held from people without synesthesia. His speech was very informative and drew a large crowd from the community of Nashville.



Dr. Giordano receiving award

Overall, the night was a gathering of friends, family, faculty, and alumni to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Belmont University's Psi Chi National Honor Society chapter. We enjoyed one another and rejoiced in all the accomplishments this chapter has made. It truly was a memorable evening.

### December 2006 Graduate:

Elizabeth Katherine (Zea) Miller

## Psychology Students Present at BURS in April 2007

### **“The Effect of Mood on Accuracy in Problem Solving”**

Sarah L. Lashley, Kurt J. Niesner, and Shandus B. Valentine

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lonnie Yandell

### **“A Look at How Hindsight Bias is Used in Positive and Negative Situations”**

Molly Smith, Sarah Smith, Kevin Stone, & Kelly Witherbee

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lonnie Yandell

### **“Exploring Social Desirability: Are Athletes More Popular?”**

Margaret Cornwall

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Sullivan

### **“A Study of Factors contributing to Career Decisions of College Students”**

Sarah Smith

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Sullivan

### **“Situational Factors in Rule-bending”**

Carolyn Currey

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Sullivan

### **“The Influence of Media Images of Women on Men’s Attitudes”**

Afton Cole

Faculty advisor: Dr. Michael Sullivan

### **“The Effects of Attention to Relevant Information on Mindless Versus Mindful Processing”**

Jessica Marie Niesner

Faculty advisor: Dr. Michael Sullivan

### **“The Impact of Song Lyrics on Film Interpretation”**

Laura Musten

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Sullivan

### **“John Watson and Behaviorism: A Conditioned Response to Psychology”**

Gunner Goodlad

Faculty advisor: William N. Bailey

### **“Influence of Packaging on Brand Preference: National and Store Brands”**

Beth Wiener

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Sullivan

### **“The Effects of Attention and Conformity on Adherence to Instructions”**

Kurt Niesner

Faculty advisor: Dr. Michael Sullivan

### **“EEG Asymmetry during Emotional Face Recognition for Differing Personality Types”**

Eileen S. Marks, Carrie A. Brown, Kurt Niesner, & E. Layne Murphy

Faculty Advisors: Dr. Linda D. Jones and Dr. William N. Bailey

### **“The Effects of Distorted Words and Non-Distorted Words on the Stroop Task”**

Chey Korvandi-Geledar, Emily Kane, Jessica Niesner, and Robert Fernandez

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lonnie Yandell

### **“Multi-tasking and Memory Recall”**

Ashley Wilkins

Faculty advisor: Dr. Michael Sullivan

### **“The Rorschach Test and other Projective Personality Measures”**

Beth Wiener, Rosemary Harris, Hilary Goulart, and Clayton Rothwell

Faculty advisor: William N. Bailey

### **“Women in Psychology”**

Emily Kane, Chey Korvandi-Geledar, Sarah Lashley, and Molly Smith

Faculty advisor: William N. Bailey

### **“EEG Asymmetry, Personality, and Math and Verbal Working Memory Tasks”**

Eileen S. Marks

Faculty Advisors: Dr. William N. Bailey and Dr. Lonnie R. Yandell

## Psychology Students Present at EPA in March 2007

### **EEG, Working Memory, and Personality**

Eileen S. Marks, Carrie Brown, Kurt Niesner, T. Shardè Carney

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Linda D. Jones

### **“The Effects of Auditory Distractions and Confidence on Change Detection**

Carrie Brown, Eileen S. Marks, Jennifer Wallace

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lonnie R. Yandell

### **“Different Types of Distractions During Test-Taking Situations”**

James K. Goodlad

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael P. Sullivan

**“How the Pitch of Voice Affects Person Perception”**

Kelly L. Witherbee

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael P. Sullivan

**“The Effects of Initial Leadership Opinion on Small Group Decision-Making”**

Elizabeth Layne Murphy

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lonnie R. Yandell



Waiting at the Airport

**“Relationship Between Life Experiences and Alcohol Attitudes: Finding Regional Differences”**

Molly Smith

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lonnie R. Yandell

**“Social Integration and Institutional Commitment Differences Between Resident Students and Commuter Students”**

Shandus B. Valentine

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lonnie R. Yandell



EPA Attendees

**“The Effects of Speech Pitch, Volume, and Rhythm in Auditory Attention Capture”**

Clayton Rothwell

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lonnie R. Yandell

**Psychology Student Presents at NCUR in April 2007**

**“The Analysis of Alpha Activity During Relaxation, Alertness, and a Verbal Working Memory Task”**

Eileen S. Marks

Faculty Advisors: Dr. Lonnie R Yandell & Dr. William N. Bailey

**Psychology Student To Present at APS in May 2007**

**“Endorsement and Message Effects on Non-Profit Advertising Persuasiveness Depend on Social Character”**

Emily M. Kane

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lonnie R. Yandell

**Belmont Alumna To Present at APS in May 2007**

**Implicit Cognition and Social Justice**

Kate A. Ranganath ('03) and Jesse Graham, Ph.D.  
University of Virginia

This symposium will focus on how implicit measures and methods can benefit social justice research, from basic research findings on the causes and structures of injustice to new applications for furthering social justice causes. Areas of intersection will include prejudice and discrimination, moral intuitions, and attitude formation.

**Psi Chi celebrates 15 years!**



Formal Banquet in Belmont Mansion



Our New Inductees



Psi Chi Officers with Dr. Blake

## Our Alumni:

**Peggy (Miller) Artman ('90)** was married on September 20, 2006 to Jay Artman. She is a Compliance Consultant with Miller Regulatory Consulting in Franklin, TN.

**Daniel Cortis ('92)** and his wife welcomed a daughter, Sophie on August 11, 2006.



Sophie Cortis

**Lisa (Donati) Fields ('98)** and husband, Jeb, welcomed Sarah Mae on January 21<sup>st</sup>.



Sarah Mae Fields

**Kate Kelsey ('004 )** is teaching of Ocoee, FL. She writes that her experiences at Belmont help her with her students every day.

**Ronald L. Samuels ('71)** is a Senior Benefits Specialist with LifeWay Christian Resources from whom he recently received the Career of Excellence Award. He and his family are members of First Baptist church of Clarksville where he serves as chairman of the deacons.

**Brittany (Shupe) Spradling ('02)** is employed as a Clinical data Associate at Covance, a drug development company that performs clinical research. On July 27, 2006 she and husband, Tyler, welcomed Elizabeth Ryan Spradling to their family.



Elizabeth Ryan Spradling

## Spring CAS Awards Day

Kelly L. Witherbee was presented the Marie Hackel Means award for the outstanding senior psychology major at the spring College of Arts and Sciences Awards Ceremony. Kelly, a member of Psi Chi, has presented independent research at local and regional conferences. She has also served this past year as secretary of the Psychology Club. Congratulations Kelly.



Kelly & Dr. Giordano at awards ceremony

## A View from the Chair:

*Pete Giordano, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Psychology*

I am so impressed with what I read in this newsletter. Sarah Lashley's front page article describes a wonderful evening in the history of our department. I think her article captures the fun of the celebration and the intellectual stimulation of hearing Dr. Randolph Blake from Vanderbilt University present his research on synesthesia. Be sure to also notice the range and quality of our undergraduate research program. We have students presenting at local (BURS), regional (Eastern Psychological Association), and national (NCUR, Association of Psychological Science) meetings. In fact, this May at APS, Kate Ranganath ('03), a graduate student in social psychology at the University of Virginia is

presenting a paper, and Emily Kane, one of our current undergraduates is presenting a research poster. How excellent is that? It makes me want to break out and sing, "It's a Small World After All," but I won't. What you won't see in this edition of enPSYCHlopedia is some breaking news. April 19 at the Student Leadership Banquet sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs, two psychology majors, **Molly Smith** and **Shandus Valentine**, won *Bruin Awards* for excellence in campus leadership and service. Keep in mind that only a handful of these awards is given out each year, and Molly and Shandus took home two of them. All in all, it has been another exciting and rewarding year in the Department of Psychology. Who knows what new things our students will accomplish next year?

## Let Us Hear From You!

If you are an alum reader, please take a moment to fill out the form below and drop us a line. Just mail to the address on the back of the newsletter, or contact us by e-mail at [godwinm@mail.belmont.edu](mailto:godwinm@mail.belmont.edu). We would love to hear from you and to include your update in the next edition of *enPSYCHlopedia*. If you are ever in the Nashville area, please stop by our office to meet the new faculty and see the exciting things going on here in the Psychology Department. Check out our web pages at <http://www.belmont.edu/psychology>.

|  |                       |                       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b><i>Alumni Update</i></b>                                      |                       | Date _____            |
| Name _____   | Graduation Year _____ |                       |
| Address _____  |                       |                       |
| City _____   | State _____           | ZIP _____ Phone _____ |
| Spouse's name _____  | Belmont grad? _____   | Year _____            |
| Employment _____   | Title _____           |                       |
| Recent promotion, honor, award, etc.? _____                      |                       |                       |
| What else is going on with you (that you'd like to share): _____ |                       |                       |
| _____  |                       |                       |
| _____  |                       |                       |

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