



# *enPSYCHlopedia*

*A Standard Deviation Above the Mean*

Vol. XVI No. 1 An Award-Winning Psychology Newsletter Fall 2005

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Student Editor: Sarah Lashley

## **Belmont Undergraduate Research Symposium (BURS): Why does Belmont have this event each spring?**

**Donald R. Ramage, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Biology**

There is an annual event conducted at Belmont University each spring that gives students the opportunity to move out of the classroom and share their own original research projects with others. This event is an academic program referred to as BURS, or Belmont Undergraduate Research Symposium.

The origin of this event dates back to Spring, 1988, when I was dean of the School of Sciences. The other deans and I had been challenged by President Bill Troutt to develop some innovative ways to encourage students to widen their focus of studies in their various disciplines as well as to attract more students.

In the following spring (1989), I attended the national Conference on Undergraduate Research and was impressed by what I saw. I felt that the students in the School of Sciences at Belmont could definitely benefit from sharing their own undergraduate research with faculty and other students. I also observed, however, that while this seemed to be a challenging way to go, no other institution in the state was sponsoring it. This fact even increased the desire to pursue the UR idea.

I came back to Belmont, anxious to present the idea of having students perform and present their undergraduate

research to a broader forum. The concept was discussed among the faculty. By 1991, an undergraduate research program was initiated for students in the field of sciences with 21 students participating.

The next year, 1992, the number of science students participating had grown to 30. At that time, students were encouraged to present their papers to the Tennessee Academy of Science, Collegiate Division. Some did. A number of the students even advanced to the level of national Undergraduate Research Symposium over the next few years, which gave them exposure to a much greater audience.

Even with this success, however, I was not satisfied. It was my desire to offer every student on campus the opportunity to present their research at a public forum, thereby creating a campus-wide symposium. With this idea in mind, students in other disciplines could likewise benefit from conducting their own research, then move out of the classroom and share their knowledge and results with the wider community.

Faculty from three of the university's schools met to discuss this notion. Creation of the Belmont Undergraduate Research Symposium was the result. BURS was an excellent

vehicle for facilitating this research-related activity.

By 1993, 53 independent projects were presented through the BURS forum. This represented participation by students in all six schools on campus and demonstrated significant growth from the inception of the idea three years earlier.



Dr. Ramage

By 1994, when 103 students in all disciplines were encouraged to participate, the belief was prevalent that research in any discipline encouraged students to think, regardless of whether the information and implications were limited to their own field of study. It also motivated them to consider graduate school, where research is important, while further providing them opportunities to present their work at regional or national conferences and to seek publication of their work in journals.

As more and more students participated in BURS, one of the obvious results was the growth and development within students that came about as a result of the BURS experience. The challenge to take the information that had been researched, and synthesize it with what had been learned in a variety of courses over several years was a life-shaping experience.

Another significant plus for the undergraduate research forum is that it provides a close academic collaboration between student and mentors which is normally reserved for graduate students. It also allows the student and professor to develop a strong relationship as the undergraduate student is given this opportunity to succeed in his/her major area of study, giving them a *sense of personal growth and maturity*.

I felt then, and continue to feel today, that this sense of accomplishment is not readily forgotten. It is something that students will remember for a lifetime. These memories will contribute significantly to a commitment to “life-long learning.”

*Dr. Ramage taught at Belmont from 1970 until his retirement in 2000. The following is the inscription for the plaque presented to him at his retirement.*

“Belmont University honors Donald R. Ramage for his outstanding leadership in promoting undergraduate research at Belmont University by envisioning the Belmont Undergraduate Research Symposium, by promoting the event campus-wide, and by actively supporting its continued success. Due to Dr. Ramage’s efforts, students and faculty who have participated over the last ten years have been richly rewarded.”

**December 2005 Graduates:**

Jennifer Bzdek  
Sarah King  
Emily Sheffer

Sarah DeNeal  
Ellen Norvell  
Peter Terwilliger

Radha Dunham  
Marcy Schroeder  
Rachel Work

**August 2005 Graduate:**

April Ring

**Alpha Chi Induction, Spring 2005**

Congratulations to Emily Sheffer and Jessica Hughes who were inducted on April 22, 2005.

## Dean's List --

*The following psychology majors and minors were on the Dean's List for Spring 2005.*

Michelle All  
Stacy Anderson  
Melinda Baker  
Geoffrey Ballard  
Laura Bear  
Zachary Caro  
Taylor Cawley  
Sarah DeNeal  
John DePriest  
Megan Dockery  
Julie Dorian

\*President's List – 4.0 GPA

Radha Dunham\*  
Douglas Durr  
James "Gunner" Goodlad  
Matthew Hearn\*  
Jessica Hughes  
Sarah Lashley  
Eileen Marks\*  
Sarah Miles  
Elizabeth "Zea" Miller  
Sarah Mudd  
Ellen Norvell

Dan Oliver  
Clayton Rothwell  
Marcy Schroeder\*  
Emily Sheffer  
Julie Smith  
Molly Smith  
Irena Tepavcevic  
Elise Tyler  
Shandus Valentine  
Kelly Witherbee\*  
Brittany Work

## Psychology Club/Psi Chi Events in Fall 2005 –

by Layne Murphy, Vice-President, Psychology Club

- 8/24/05 – Student Activities Fair



Fall Psychology Picnic

- 9/2/05 – "Introduction to Psychology Club/Department"
- 9/3/05 – Car Wash to raise funds for American Red Cross to support relief for Katrina



Car-Wash Fundraiser.

- 9/16/05 – "Thinking about going to Graduate School Now or in the Future???" – AL Convo.
- 9/19/05 – Psychology Department Cookout – a welcome to all new majors and minors.
- 9/30/05 – "You think you are OCD?" – Helen Hatfield, Psychiatric nurse practitioner from Vanderbilt – AL Convo.
- 10/1/05 – Car wash to fund service projects



OCS Convocation with Helen Hatfield

- 10/21/05 – "Do you Have the Blues" – P.J. Davis from Mental Health Association – PG Convo.
- 10/22/05 – Community Service – working at Graceworks Industries
- 11/4/05 – Club Meeting – topic TBA
- 11/16 & 11/21/2005 – Science Undergraduate Research Practice (SURP)
- 11/18/05 – Club Meeting – topic TBA
- 12/1/05 – Science Undergraduate Research Symposium (SURS)

### Our Alumni -

**Jessie Angel ('04)** is working for Nashville State Community College in their learning center.

**Jessica Bailey ('04)** is working as a law secretary – “lots of paralegal type stuff, but without the title” – and studying for the LSAT. Hopes to begin law school next fall.

**Rob Bearden ('04)** is working at Capital Bank & Trust in Nashville, where is is a credit analyst/loan assistant in the commercial real estate department. Rob indicates that “the reports have their own format that became easier to learn once I weened myself off APA style, but I’m still tempted to fall back into it every now and then.”

**Rebecca Wylie Carter ('99)** is working for Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee. Rebecca married Ralph Carter in July, 2003 and had a daughter, Emily Grace, in July, 2004.

**Lisa Donati ('98)** began the Master’s program in school counseling this fall at the University of Memphis.

**Radha Dunham ('05)** is attending Miami University working toward a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology

**Tonya Elkins ('98)** received her MSSW in 2001 and in the same year married Thaddeus A. Brew, IV. Her son Isaiah, born in 2004, joins step-son

Draven who is 10. Tonya is employed at the Vanderbilt Center for Health Services as the South Nashville Family Resource Center Director.

**Lori Lynch Gauger ('90)** lives in Nashville and works for the Department of Children’s Services as a Program Specialist (data quality). She has a 7 year old son named Ryan and a daughter 10 month old daughter named Lindsey.

**Jenn Jones ('03)** is living in Washington, C.D. and employed with the Federal Election Commission where she is in the position of Senior Campaign Finance Analyst. She writes that she is studying for the LSAT and hoped to be in law school by the fall of 2006.

**Futoshi Kobayashi ('94)** is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D.

**Alex Renes ('05)** enrolled this fall in the Sport Psychology Masters program at the University of Tennessee.

**April Ring ('04)** is completed her first full year of grad school in school psychology. She is also working toward obtaining her LPC licensure and working as an autism therapist. In addition she is planning a spring wedding.

### Cross Cultural Psychology: Fun Food & Facts

by Sarah Lashley, Student Editor

A person might have signed up for cross-cultural because they heard about all the fun trips and activities that occur, but there is more to the class than that. There is an underlying meaning to the activities. This underlying meaning is what



Students at Australian Festival

culture is and how cultures differ. There is no better or worse of cultures but rather a difference. Cross-Cultural psychology strives for students to experience

these differences. This is achieved by visiting many places. Some of the places the Fall 2005 class has visited includes the following:



Lunch at Sitar

The Greek Orthodox Church, the Islamic Center, Congregation Micah, Kwanzaa, Sitar (an Indian restaurant), Vanderbilt’s Black Cultural Center, Hindu Temple of Nashville, the Australian festival, Greek festival, and an African Street Fair.

### **Students Planning to Attend EPA**

The Psychology Department plans to attend The Eastern Psychological Association Meeting in Baltimore, MD this spring. This is the second time in recent years that the students have applied to present their research at a conference outside of the Southeastern Region.

Need to elaborate on this including why imp. To attend conferences.

Need paragraph/article on Sports Psychology

### **Psi Chi Induction -**

The Spring, 2005 induction for new members of Psi Chi was held on Tuesday, Mar 29 in the home of Dr. Giordano. Students inducted were:

Sarah DeNeal  
Anna Garr  
April Hicks  
Jessica Hughes  
Daniel Oliver  
Jessica Serkin  
Rachel Work

### **A View from the Chair:**

*Pete Giordano, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Psychology*  
Psychology Department at Belmont University!

## 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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