

Psychobabble

The Psychology Department Newsletter

ASC

March 2007

Psychology Theme House

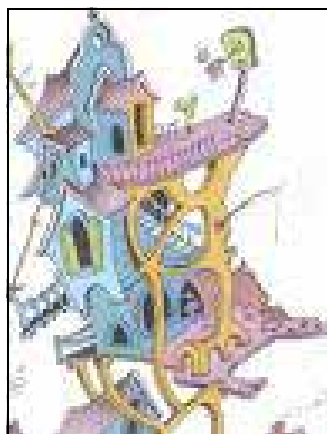
By: Jessica Bolton

I am pleased to share with the Psychology Community that there will be a Psychology Theme House for the 2007-08 school year. We applied for the house last year but the house was chosen as an alternate. Luckily, this year it was chosen as a main house. The Psychology House will be located at 138 E. College Ave. and there will be 9 housemates. This house will be a great opportunity for Psychology majors/minors and the Agnes Scott community.

Applications were made available to all students and were due by March 9. We had a great response and a great bunch of women apply to live in the house. All applicants had to meet the eligibility requirements of being an intended Psychology major/minor, having at least 1 Psychology course by the end of the spring semester,

and a minimum GPA of 2.5. We also asked applicants about their involvement within the Psychology Community. Based on this criteria student leaders will choose the group of women for the house and notify applicants following Spring Break.

(This article is continued on page 3)



House drawn by Dr. Seuss and provide by <http://he.wikipedia.org>

Save the Date!

The Agnes Scott Annual Psychology Picnic will be here soon...

Thursday April 19th

from 4:30-7 p.m.

on the main loop

(rain location—Rebekah)

Come enjoy food with current students, faculty, and alums!

Significant others and children are welcome.

Please spread the word to all that may be interested, especially alum (this is the evening before Alumnae Weekend begins)



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Talking with the Psychology Department's Newest Members

Interviews with Dr. William Hopkins and Dr. Jennifer Crosby

By Emma Atkinson

This semester, the psychology department welcomed two new professors: Dr. William Hopkins and Dr. Jennifer Crosby. To help students get to know them, I asked each of them four questions: What are your first impressions of Agnes Scott? When did you first decide to study psychology and why? What is a common misconception about

psychology that you would like to correct? Do you have a favorite psychologist?

Both professors seemed impressed with the students here at Agnes Scott. Dr. Crosby added that Scotties are not afraid to ask express their opinions or ask difficult questions, which she sees as a sign that her students are really

interested in the material. Their reasons for going into psychology, however, were quite different. Dr. Hopkins has known he wanted to study psychology since high school, when he developed a crush on a woman who was interested in psychology.

(This article is continued on page 2)

So, What Exactly is I/O Psych?

By: Bria Washington

Often times, after being asked my current major of interest, I get the response of "Really? Sounds interesting (pause).... So, what exactly *is* I/O Psych?" Even those persons who have studied and received degrees in psychology ask this question! I am sure there are many more of you who ask this, so I have sought out help from our very own ASC I/O expert, Dr. Jennifer Hughes*.

According to Dr. Hughes, the general definition of Industrial/Organizational Psychology is: applying scientific principles to the workplace. This branch of psychology is fairly new as it emerged from a focus on the industrial side in the 1900s to the development of the organizational side, and a combination of the two in the 1960s.

Different professions in the field require different characteristics. For instance, Dr. Hughes suggests consultants should possess qualities such as *extra-vertedness* and confidence

in order to delegate projects and report findings to clients. I/O faculty, on the other hand, should be more research-oriented as well as committed to informing students and other communities about the field. Faculty tend to be more introverted but Dr. Hughes adds that I/O faculty will have an advantage if they possess extravert qualities as well; they are more likely to engage their audience with creative approaches.

So...how do you get the job? Begin by taking PSY 205-Intro to I/O Psychology. The course provides a good foundation to general principles of the field, as well as opportunities for research and internships. Other colleges/universities might teach "I" the first semester, then "O" second semester whereas both sections are taught at once at ASC. The next step is graduate school. Both Master's and Ph.D. programs are offered throughout the U.S., but make sure to do your research! Acceptance



rates vary from program to program. Finally, in the business world, you find there are two jobs to every I/O psychologist in the U.S. Dr. Hughes confirms, "I've never had a student who didn't get a job". It always interests her to hear from alums and their success stories, so don't forget to write!

And this, my friends, is I/O psychology (in brief)---changing conditions in the workplace one day at a time.

*If you have any more questions, Dr. Hughes (SCI 120E) is available to answer them in more detail.



**Do NOT miss
SpARC 2007!**

AGNES SCOTT'S
**SPRING ANNUAL
RESEARCH
CONFERENCE**

Will be held on

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007

It is an entire event dedicated to talks, posters, presentations, and readings so surely it will "sparc" the interest of everyone!



**"I fell more in love
with psychology than
with the woman."**

-Dr. Hopkins

(Photograph below provided by
uanews.ua.edu)



**("Talking with the Psychology Department's
Newest Members"
Continued from page 1)**

Ultimately, he said, "I fell more in love with psychology than with the woman." Dr. Crosby made her decision during her sophomore year in college. She originally wanted to be a lawyer, but a Psychology in Law course with Dr. David Rosenhan, director of the Rosenhan experiment, changed her mind. She described him as a "really captivating teacher" who convinced her that psy-

chology is more interesting than law.

Both professors noted the same common misconception about psychology: that it is limited to clinical psychology. Dr. Hopkins said he wished psychology was "more appreciated as a science." He added that people tend to assume that all psychologists are counselors, which is "a very narrow definition." Dr. Crosby agreed that although she is a psychologist, she is not interested in psychoanalyzing everyone she meets. Many psychologists, she explained,

want to study daily life, not just abnormal psychology. For their favorite psychologists, Dr. Hopkins listed Harry Harlow, B.F. Skinner and Roger Sperry. Dr. Crosby prefers Dr. Rosenhan, naturally, as well as Claude Steele, for his work on "stereotype threat," and Al Hastorf, a whose study proving that Dartmouth and Princeton students viewed the same game very differently was one of the first empirical studies to explore the influence of background on people's perceptions.

Doctor Crosby 101

By: Bria Washington



www.fotosearch.com/illustration/multicultural.html

Dr. Jennifer Randall Crosby is one of the new faces in the Agnes Scott College Psychology team. As Assistant Professor of Psychology, she teaches Introductory Psychology, Social Psychology, Psychology of Women, and Research in Social Psychology. With her impressive background---Stanford BA with departmental honors and university distinction, Yale MS, Stanford Ph.D. and the Albert & Barbara Hastorf Teaching Prize---she exemplifies a woman of intelligence, confidence, perseverance, and might I add, "feistiness".

Prior to arriving at Agnes Scott, Dr. Crosby has been a teaching assistant at Yale and Stanford Universities. She has also taught her own classes for the Stanford summer session and for Academic Studies Associates, a summer program for high school students.

Dr. Crosby, a social psychologist, is particularly interested in issues of prejudice and interpersonal interac-

tions. One line of her current research is centered on how racism and concerns about racism can affect academic interactions such as advising and mentoring. "I'm excited about this research", says Dr. Crosby, "because of the real-world consequences for the findings, and I hope to use the research to find ways to help interracial academic interactions go more smoothly for the people on both sides." Another research project focuses on how people decide if they have witnessed racism, giving

insight into the burden minority group members may experience due to the tendency of others to seek out their individual response to prejudice situations rather than the reactions of the minority group as a whole.

Apart from her profession in academia, she took a break between receiving her MS and Ph.D. to work for a non-profit organization doing theater programs for elementary schools. Although she is again teaching, her love for the theater has not faded away. A mother of two little boys ages 4 and 6, Dr. Crosby's hands are kept full, but she expresses her sons' joy of coming to the Science Center on the weekends to "play teacher in the classrooms" and doodle Star Wars characters and dinosaurs on the chalkboard.

Dr. Crosby is grateful for the opportunity to get to know students individually rather than as a class body. She also believes the "Black Cat she-nanigans" are so far the most memo-

("Psychology Theme House" Continued from page 1)

We plan to have a wide variety of fun psychology activities for housemates and the ASC community. After the applicants are chosen, we will hold an informational meeting this semester about the activities we have planned and we'll visit the house to see what it looks like. In addition, for the fall semester we will have a "Welcome Home" house dinner, monthly Psychology movie nights, talks by psychologists in different fields (clinical, I.O., counseling, etc.), and a holiday celebration toward the end of the semester. In the spring, we'll continue with these activities and we'll encourage attendance of the Psychology Picnic, SEPA, and SpARC. Through the course of the year we'll also volunteer.

I look forward to living in what will be an exciting, interesting, and enriching house next year. If you have any questions or would like more information about the theme house please email me at

jbolton@agnesscott.edu. Please stay tuned in for more postings on activities and progress of the house.

2007 SEPA trip

By Kristen Runge

SEPA, the Southeastern Psychological Association annual conference was held this February in New Orleans, Louisiana. The conference lasted for four days and consisted of a variety of posters displays, paper sessions, and workshops. As is becoming tradition, both Agnes Scott College faculty and students attend this year's conference as a group. Many of these students had the opportunity to present on various topics; including I/O psychology commuting research as studied in Dr. Hughes's Research in I/O Psychology class. With the conference occupying only part of the day, students had a chance to explore the French Quarter and the Garden District. Memorably, many dined on beignets and coffee along the riverfront. One of the unique highlights of this years SEPA trip was a baby shower hosted by the group for former ASC social psychology



Picture of French Quarter Café provided by www.photo-mark.com/webpix/ds/NewOrleans.jpg

professor, Amber Garcia, which was held at Crescent City Brewhouse. The conference was an overall intellectually exciting and enjoyable experience for all the Scottie attendees. Many are looking forward to doing it again next year when the 2008 SEPA conference is held in Charlotte, North Carolina. More information about SEPA can always be found at www.sepaonline.com