We’ve Got Issues

Willamette University Psychology Department Quarterly Newsletter

From the Chair

Welcome back, everyone! It’s hard to believe that we’re already almost halfway through another academic year!

The psychology department is delighted to welcome a few new faces this year. In this issue of the newsletter, you will be introduced to the newest member of the psychology department, Melissa Witkow. Professor Witkow, a developmental psychologist, is teaching Introduction to Psychology, Developmental Psychology: Lifespan, and a Topical Seminar on Peer Relationships this term.

Professor Witkow received a B.A. degree in psychology from Pomona College in California. She completed an M.A. (2001) and a Ph.D. (2006) in Developmental Psychology at UCLA.

Her primary research area is on adolescent peer relationships, school motivation and achievement. In addition, Professor Witkow is interested in ethnicity and ethnic contexts, and methodological and statistical issues.

David Kerr has also joined us as a visiting professor this Fall. He is teaching Abnormal Psychology and is sharing Smullin 253 with Professor Goldberg-Eledson.

In addition to new faculty members, Honey Wilson was hired in August as our new Administrative Assistant. Her office is in Smullin 220, ext. 6520 and she is here Monday–Friday 7:30-4:30pm.

To help us make our new members feel welcome, please stop by to say hello when you have a moment.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns with which I might be able to help!

Again, welcome back, and have a wonderful year!

Susan M. Koger, Ph.D
Professor and Chair
Department of Psychology

Introducing Professor Melissa Witkow ...

I’m originally from the Los Angeles area and didn’t venture far for either my undergraduate or graduate work. I studied psychology at Pomona College, which is where I first became interested in developmental psychology. As a student, I worked on a research project with a professor in which we examined achievement motivation in preschool age children. While the topic interested me, I was eager to apply what I knew to an adolescent population. During my time as a graduate student at UCLA I was able to do just that, and I explored how adolescents manage both their peer relationships and their school demands at the same time. Given the ethnic diversity of the Los Angeles area, I also became interested in studying how adolescents from varying backgrounds negotiate the demands in their lives.

After receiving my Ph.D. I spent a year as an Assistant Professor at Eastern Michigan University but quickly realized how much I wanted to be at a liberal arts college, where I would have opportunities to teach and work closely with motivated undergraduate students. So far my expectations have been met, and exceeded, and I’m looking forward to getting Willamette students involved in my research program.

Melissa

And now... a word from the Psych Club...

Greetings from the Psych Club!

We hope that everyone is having a fun-filled psychological semester involving paired sample T-tests, semantic and episodic memory functions, and APA guidelines. That being said, we are excited for the upcoming events planned for this year. We have routine Psych Movie Nights like we’ve always had in the past, but this year we intend to incorporate psychological discussions on various topics of interest as well. Also, we are hosting a Psychology Bowling Night sometime in November, so keep your calendars open. After the winter break we are planning another trip to the Oregon Primate Research Center in Portland, so everyone who missed the opportunity last year has a chance to see monkeys doing whatever they do. Usually we have our meetings every other Wednesday, and we encourage you to stop by and say hi. Other than that, there really isn’t anything else to say other than occasionally ask yourself, WWFD (What Would Freud Do?).

Email jelcano if you have any questions. Come join Psych Club!

Joey Elcano

Prometric Testing Center
1020 Green Acres Rd., Suite 11
Eugene, Oregon 97408
(541)485-4589

University of Oregon
720 East 13th Avenue, Suite 302B
Eugene, Oregon 97403
http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~testing
(541)346-2772

Prometric Testing Center
14623 McLoughlin Blvd S.E.
Milwaukie, Oregon 97267
(503)369-0486

Prometric Testing Center
1122 NE 122nd Avenue, Suite 106 A
Portland, Oregon 97230
(503)254-4159

Psych Subject Exams for GREs are still pencil-paper tests, offered only three times a year, and will be administered on October 6, 2007, November 3, 2007 and April 12, 2008. For further information, please visit www.gre.com or call Nancy Norton at Career Services, x6413.
Happy Halloween!!

Mark Your Calendar...

October 31st
Happy Halloween!!

November 2nd
Last Day to Withdraw

November 3rd
Subject Exams for Graduate Record Examinations (GREs)

November 4th
Daylight Savings Ends!!!

November 19-29
CLA Web Registration

November 22-23
Thanksgiving Vacation—NO CLASSES!!

December 7th
CLA Last day of classes.

December 10-15
CLA Final Exams

December 8, 9, 12
CLA Study Days