



The FORUM

The Newsletter of the SPSP Graduate Student Committee Spring 2003

Graduate Poster Award

This year's SPSP convention in Los Angeles, California was the site of the first *Graduate Poster Award Competition*. We are pleased to announce that the competition was a success! Anonymous judges visited each poster session and rated over 90 participating posters for quality of the work, clarity of the presentation, and extent to which the presentation reflected participating students' own work.

A total of six winners

(one from each poster session) were selected. This first winners of the Graduate Poster Award were: David M. Amodio, Elizabeth Dunn, Crystal L. Hoyt, Catherine J. Norris, Kathleen P. Pierce, and Melissa J. Williams. All winners received a \$50.00 publisher gift certificate and had their posters displayed in the poster area for the remainder of the conference.

Students receiving honorable mentions were: Chris Bauman, Eden Bendetto King, Eliza Bliss-Moreau, Dana Carney, Marci Gleason, Jodi Grace, G. Tarkan Kumkale, Ethan Kross, Brandon J. Schmeichel, Pamela K. Smith, Jessica L. Tracey, and Rick van Baaren.

Both faculty and student members of SPSP seemed enthusiastic about this award, so look for it to become a regular fixture at the conference. Keep your eye out for the call for submissions!

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to the many judges and to our sponsors at Guilford Press and the University of Connecticut. Thanks to all of you for making the award a success!

2003 Poster Award Winners and Judges



Winner Elizabeth Dunn with judges Felicia Pratto, Mark Kiviniemi, Lisa Sinclair, and Andy Eliot



Winner David Amodio with judges Maureen O'Sullivan, Markus Kemmelmeier, Kathryn Oleson, and Yuichi Shoda



Winner Catherine J. Norris with judges Cindy Pickett, Jeff Sherman, Connie Wolfe, Linda Skitka



Winner Melissa J. Williams

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Spotlight on...Laurie B. Slone *Dartmouth College*

This ongoing series will feature graduate students randomly selected from the subscriber list of the SPSP Graduate Student Listserv. We hope to profile students with a wide range of interests and experiences.

As an undergraduate, Laurie was a business major and a psychology minor, and decided not to pursue graduate school directly after finishing her senior year. However, she says that “after ten years out in the working world...I finally made my way back to graduate school.” Laurie was specifically attracted to the area of social psychology because “social psychological findings seemed to help explain why people did not always act rationally or in their best interest.”

Laurie says that her program is “a very research oriented department,” yet main-

tains an almost 1:1 student to faculty ratio. She says that the small size of the program was one of the things that initially attracted her as a prospective student.

Laurie’s research interests “center around how small influences in our environment influence our behavior even without our awareness.” Among other things, she has done research in behavioral priming effects, self-awareness, and contrast and assimilation effects.

Laurie is a fourth year graduate student working with Dr. Jay G. Hull.

Coming soon... the SPSP GSC Student Survey

The GSC is intended to represent the broad array of interests and concerns of the student members of SPSP. To help us meet this aim, we will be administering a survey later this year about your experiences as a graduate student in social/personality psychology. We are specifically seeking information that characterizes your life as a graduate student, including the amount of institutional funding students receive, research assistant and teaching assistant commitments, and your experiences at the SPSP conference. This information will assist us in identifying those areas in which GSC can most benefit students. Please watch for more information about the survey in upcoming issues of the FORUM and over the GSC listserv.

Upcoming Conferences

APA: Toronto, 8/7 to 8/10

APS: Atlanta, 5/29 to 6/1

Regional Meetings

EPA: Baltimore, 3/13 - 3/16

MPA: Chicago, 5/8 - 5/10

NEPA: Salem, MA, 11/7 - 11/8

RMPA: Denver, 4/11 - 4/13

SEPA: New Orleans, 3/26 - 3/29

SWPA: New Orleans, 4/17 - 4/19

WPA: Vancouver, 5/1 - 5/4

2003 Poster Award Winners and Judges (cont.)



Winner Kathleen P. Pierce with judges Marilyn Brewer, Bruce Bartholow, Bryan Gibson, Michael Schmitt



Winner Crystal Hoyt with judges Kirsten Poehlmann, Dolores Albaracin, Lynne Cooper, Bob Arkin

Find out more...Go to the SPSP GSC Website: www.spsp.org/student/index.html

President's Corner

Hello SPSP graduate student members! In case I didn't meet you at the SPSP conference in February, I want to take this time to introduce myself as your new SPSP Graduate Student Committee president.

The Graduate Student Committee accomplished many things last year. In addition to posting a new student web page and publishing the first edition of the *Forum*, the committee developed a graduate student poster award (see the 2003 winners in this edition of the *Forum*), and sponsored our own well-attended symposium titled "Alternatives to Academia", where representatives and recruiters from RAND, NIH, Earthlink Marketing, and the Gallup Organization discussed non-academic career opportunities.

The upcoming year also promises to be an exciting one. We are taking on many projects, in large part thanks to your helpful suggestions at the graduate student roundtable, and to the great ideas generated by our new student members-at-large, Jacek Jonca, Arlen Moller, Chandra Osborn, and Michele Schlehofer-Sutton.

One goal is to increase communication with SPSP graduate students so that we can better represent you. To accomplish this goal, we are increasing the production and distribution of the *Forum* to four times a year, updating the web site and contact information for committee members, and administering a survey to graduate student members about their academic programs (see page 2 of this issue of *The Forum* and the website).

A second goal of the committee is to increase diversity among SPSP graduate students. To accomplish this we will be developing a webpage with opportunities for student members from under-represented groups, links to volunteer mentors, and resources for individuals interested in conducting research with under-represented populations.

Lastly, we would like to offer more opportunities for graduate student recognition and visibility at the annual SPSP conferences, and offer more activities that address student's needs. This goal has largely been met by last year's creation of the graduate student poster award. Thanks to financial support

from SPSP, we will be offering this award at future conferences! In addition, we are trying to organize another non-academic career workshop, possibly in conjunction with the APA pre-conference on academic careers. We are also attempting to organize a formal mentoring lunch, where students can contribute topics of interest, and we will locate mentors to host a lunch table with students. Stay tuned for conference planning information in up-coming editions of the *Forum* or on the student web page.

These are ambitious goals, but not unobtainable! On behalf of the graduate student committee, we are very excited to represent you this year, and we promise to work hard to meet and address your needs as graduate students. Please contact any of the committee members if you have any suggestions, concerns, or feedback, as we cannot do our jobs without you. Thank you for your time and support, and we look forward to hearing from you in the near future!

Jennifer J. Harman
President, SPSP GSC
University of Connecticut