



The FORUM

The Newsletter of the SPSP Graduate Student Committee Spring 2006

Re-Visiting Palm Springs

The weather in Palm Springs was so fantastic during SPSP this year we just can't let it go, so we figured the last issue of the FORUM brought to you by the 2005/2006 GSC could re-cap some of events brought to you by the GSC at the annual convention.

Therefore, you will see articles about the Career Pre-Conference, congratulating the winners of the 2006 Graduate Poster Award, and finally an article containing some quotes from those of you who participated in this year's Mentoring Dessert Hour. You will also see some parting words from our 2006/2006 President Darin Challacombe (who you will see around for another year as our Past-President), and finally we will quickly introduce you to your newly elected 2006/2007 Graduate Student Committee

3rd SPSP GSC Career Preconference

For the third year, the GSC hosted another successful career preconference at the annual SPSP convention. The goal of this day-long session was to expose graduate students to information on career-related topics that may sometimes be difficult to obtain. In particular, sessions focused on the types of jobs available post-graduation, how to maximize time in graduate school, and options for employment outside academia.

In the first session, Steve Breckler, the APA Executive Director for Science, and Michael Zarate, professor of psychology at University of Texas at El Paso, led an informal discussion about entering the academic marketplace. The presenters infused the session with humor as they offered suggestions on grant writing, the academic interview, negotiating start up costs, and a wide range of other pertinent topics. They provided APA handouts related to

developing a CV and finding non-academic jobs, which are available online at http://www.apa.org/science/vitae_do_dont.html and http://www.apa.org/science/nonacad_careers.html.

In the second session, Rachel Mapes and Aris Karagiorgakis presented "examples from the field" of non-academic careers. Rachel works for the U.S. Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences (<http://www.hqda.army.mil/ari/about/index.shtml>) and discussed the variety of options for psychological research related to military personnel. Aris works as a research consultant with the police in the Los Angeles area and noted the need for psychological research in the domain of law enforcement.

After a break, Bettina Casad, Francesco Foroni, and Robyn Mallett offered perspectives on their post-doctoral positions. Bettina is a 'vesting researcher' working with

Brenda Major at UCSB, while she finishes up her grant-funded dissertation. Francesco is working on an unusually long (5 year) post doc at the Free University of Amsterdam, while Robyn has a more traditional position working with Tim Wilson at the University of Virginia. Despite differences, all panelists agreed that post docs were a valuable way to get focused research experience and build a more impressive CV. They also emphasized the flexibility in post doc positions and the need to contact potential faculty matches as early as possible.

Finally, Yuichi Shoda wrapped up the day's events with information on improving marketability for non-academic positions. As part of the training committee, he presented a brief report on what they were presenting during their symposium held later during the conference.

Introducing Your New SPSP Representatives

President: John Edlund

My name is John Edlund. I am a 3rd year student at Northern Illinois University. My main research lines investigate prejudice's affect on forensic psychology, resistance to persuasion, and sex differences in jealousy.

One of my focuses will be on continuing the success of the graduate poster award and the mentoring meeting. I look forward to a successful career symposium. One of my goals is to make students more aware of funding opportunities and have more assistance available for students seeking funding. There was a clear request from the recent survey that shows this is an issue that many students care about.

Member –at-Large: Vanessa Hemovich

I am Vanessa Hemovich and I'm a second-year graduate student at Claremont Graduate University. Recently, I made the move from the Social Master's to the Social PhD program and I am thrilled beyond measure. My focus is on adolescent drug use and message variables for anti-drug media campaigns. I am interested in differences in drug use across youth populations, as well as persuasion techniques to get preventative messages utilized by these groups. I also think I am starting to enjoy policy work, although I doubt I will ever make the jump to pursue it on Capitol Hill.

This will be my second term as a Member-At-Large for SPSP. This is a great opportunity to make contacts and "network" with those in the field who have similar interests. This committee has provided me with numerous opportunities to interact with other up-and-coming psychologists. My previous duties have included helping to run the annual conference and disseminating job opportunities for fellow graduate students. I look forward to serving this 2006-7 term.

Member-at-Large: Lavonia Smith LeBeau

I am Lavonia Smith LeBeau and I'm a third year at Penn State. My research revolves around self processes, especially those involving self-threats. I am interested in the way individual differences (i.e. mood, self-esteem) influence the seeking and processing of self-related information, the affective and cognitive strategies used to cope with stress, and the factors that impede or promote coping.

This is my second year as a Member–at-Large and I really enjoyed the contact I made with various SPSP graduate students last year so I am psyched about being re-elected. In the next year I am looking forward to continuing the work I started this year, with an eye towards increasing participation in GSC related activities, and continuing my work on the Mentoring event at the annual conference.

Member-at-Large: Elizabeth Lee

I'm Elizabeth Lee, a 1st year at Penn State's Social Psychology program. My research examines issues of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination as it interfaces with culture, gender, and ethnicity. One of my main goals for the GSC is to make sure student members have opportunities to network as well as access other resources that help prepare for and promote careers, whether academic or non-academic. I'd like to build upon the success of the SPSP conference Mentor Hour and further develop the website so it's an even more handy resource for relevant issues.

Member-at-Large: David Portney

My name is David Portnoy and I'm a 3rd year doctoral student in the Social Psychology program at the University of Connecticut. My research focuses on the intersection of social cognition and health behaviors, namely HIV prevention, Cancer screening and reactions to medical testing. I also have an interest in the use technology, specifically virtual reality, in research and intervention. I'm looking forward to serving on the GSC and I'd like to make the GSC even more of a resource for graduate students in their profession development. I welcome your input or suggestions on how we can best do that.

Graduate Poster Award: New and Improved!

This year marked the 4th year of red-tagged posters and the Graduate Poster Award. Created by the SPSP Graduate Student Committee in 2002, this award gains more interest each year. This year, a total of 120 graduate students competed for one of the coveted awards, with an average of 17 competitors in each session.

Nominees submitted a short summary of their presentation in November, and a draft of their poster two weeks prior to the conference. At each poster session, secret judges viewed competing posters and rated them for theoretical and methodological soundness and quality of presentation. Judges then chose one first-place and two runner-up winners at each session.

First-place winners received an award certificate and had their poster displayed in a special area of the exhibition hall for the duration of the conference. They also received a \$100 monetary award (courtesy of SPSP), free personal copies of MediaLab and/or DirectRT for the remainder of their graduate career plus one year post-graduation, for use on up to two computers (courtesy of Empirisoft), and their choice of either a DirectIN Millisecond Precision Keyboard (value \$290) or a DirectIN Precision Response Box with Custom Button Layout

(value \$390), also provided courtesy of Empirisoft. The following seven first-place winners received these awards:

Alishia Alibhai, for her poster “Tendencies towards underhelping following a mild provocation: A behavioural investigation into the nature of revenge between strangers versus intimates.”

Evan Apfelbaum, for his poster “Racial composition and the acknowledgement of group membership.”

Clayton Critcher, for his poster “Self-affirmation and defensiveness: Timing is everything.”

Noah Goldstein, for his poster “The spyglass self: A theory of vicarious self-perception.”

Whitney Heppner, for her poster “Fluctuations in daily reports of self-esteem: Predictions from authenticity, autonomy, competence, and relatedness.”

Laura Naumann, for her poster “Personality differences between Asians and European Americans: A test of several explanations.”

Bulent Turan, for his poster “Knowledge about trustworthiness: The prototype and individual differences in its accessibility.”

Runner-up winners received an award certificate and a \$50 monetary award, courtesy of SPSP. This year’s runner-up winners were: Scott Akalis, Mathew Curtis, Genevieve Dunton, Eden Epstein, Jesse Graham, Deborah Hall, Chris Hulleman, Inge Scweiger Gallo, Sei Jin Ko, Jennifer Kubota, Elizabeth Page-Gould, M Joy McClure, Kevin McIntyre, and Amanda Vicary.

The GPA could not be provided without the assistance of SPSP members willing to serve as judges. Thanks go to: Kristin Anderson, Stacey Anderson, Neal Ashkanasy, John Chambers, Lynne Cooper, Phebe Cramer, Amy Cuddy, Jamie Barden, Karen Douglas, Maire Ford, Cindy Frantz, Tim Ketelaar, Jeff Larsen, Yuri Miyamoto, Ian Newby-Clark, Kathryn Oleson, Wade Rowatt, Alecia Santuzzi, Wes Schultz, Lloyd Sloan, C. Veronica Smith, Michael Steger, Bill Todd-Mancillas, Julie Turchin, Carolyn Weisz, and Anne Wilson. Thanks also to Jonathan Cook, who coordinated the judging of one poster award session.

If you’ll be attending next year’s conference in Tennessee, please consider nominating yourself for an award. The nomination process is easy, and with the large number of awards given, the chances of winning a first-place or runner-up award are pretty good. Regardless, prior nominees have found that submitting their work for the competition helps ward off procrastination: the deadlines imposed to remain eligible for the award, are excellent motivators to prepare your poster, *ahead* of time!

Although prior recipients of the Graduate Poster Award are not eligible for the competition, they *can* serve as judges. If you are a GPA recipient who will be attending the 2007 conference, please consider serving as a judge. It is a small time commitment (only one poster session—an hour and a half!), and provides a great service to students running for an award.

Making Connections at SPSP: The Mentoring Dessert

Friday afternoon in Palm Springs, 120+ graduate students had the opportunity to sit down over dessert and talk about research and professional development issues with some of the most well-known people in Social and Personality Psychology. From the feedback we received from those who participated in this event, we can tell you it was a complete success.

The co-organizers, Lavonia Smith LeBeau and Darin Challacombe, as well as the rest of the 05/06 GSC would like to thank the mentors for this year's event: George Bizer, Eddie Harmon-Jones, Cynthia Mohr, Roy Baumeister, Janet Swim, Charles Carver, Tiffany Ito, E. Tory Higgins, John Jost, James Shah, Ed Deci, William Fleeson, Cheryl Kaiser, Allen Omoto, and Virginia Kwan as well as the SPSP training committee for their assistance in planning.

We would also like to thank all of the graduate students who participated in this event. The mentoring event grows each year, with the organizers having to go to a wait list within a day or two of announcing that year's line up. We are thrilled to be able to offer such a popular event at the conference and we continue to work hard to meet your needs. Just so you didn't have to take our word regarding how fantastic the mentoring event is for graduate students we asked participants in this year's event to say a few words about it...

"The mentor luncheon was great, low-cost way to meet a faculty member who is doing amazing work, had great advice, and now knows my name! Additionally, I also met like-minded graduate students who I now can talk to and correspond with about research. I would recommend that everyone try to participate!"

-Sarah Gervais, Penn State

"The dessert hour was great."

-Paul O'Keefe, Duke

".... It is a great way to meet like-minded (e.g., with similar research/goals) students."

-David Portney, UConn

"The conversations, much like the cookies, were delicious.".... "The mentor luncheon was a wonderful opportunity not only to get advice and insights from an expert in social psychology, but also to form relationships with other graduate students doing research in my area"

-David Frederick, UCLA

"....It was especially encouraging for me to meet researchers that also serve as role models. And it was helpful being able to practice networking skills in a less formal environment."

-Elizabeth Lee, Penn State

"I enjoyed listening to the person I signed up for (Tiffany Ito - social neuroscience). I thought it was a great way for several people who are all interested in the same topic to learn more about it - but it's not as intimidating as a one-on-one conversation."

-Jaye Derrick, Buffalo

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The Mentoring Dessert (cont)

*“This is my second year participating in the Mentor Luncheon, and it is quite possibly *the* best use of one hour during the SPSP conference. The luncheon creates an intimate setting that allows graduate students an invaluable opportunity to meet a mentor and other graduate students who are also interested in the same (research) topic. Through the Mentor Luncheon, I have now had the chance to speak one-on-one with two different researchers in my area of interest who have provided useful feedback and insight into a variety of career and research issues. More importantly, however, I have been able to continue communication with these mentors beyond the Mentor Luncheon and have continued to use them as long-term contacts and sources of support and information.”*

-Stephanie Chaudoir,
UConn

If you would like to have a say in next year's event be on the look out for emails through the student listserv (<http://www.spsp.org/student/> to sign up if you are not already on there) asking for suggestions regarding topics and mentors. Then as we get closer to SPSP 2007 be on the look out for registration information and be sure to send us your preferences so you will not be shut out of next year's event.

Past President's Corner

Wow! What can I say...it has been a tremendous year. Albeit stressful at times, I am pleased and honored to have served as President.

In the upcoming Dialogue, I say a few things about the accomplishments of this year. Instead of repeating them, I would rather like to focus on a few things that could better help all of us as graduate students.

First, get involved! This is the key to success in this field. The activities that I have been part of in the last year will be retained on my CV forever. I have made contact with many of you, many organizations, and am very pleased at what I have seen and done. You can do the same. If you are reading this, please feel free to get involved with this group. It is a great experience – very rewarding.

Second, keep the faith! As our comps and dissertations, etc come and go, the one thing that we should not lose sight of is what we are doing this for. Most of us are doing this to better mankind. There

is not much money in academia. In fact, there is not really much money in non-academic careers overall. But, as social psych grad students, many of you have forsaken the desire for money in exchange for knowledge. This is a noble goal. I hope you keep it.

Third, use the resources available! The student listserv is an ideal place for grad students to bounce ideas off each other. The original intention was to create a listserv free from the worries of “big brother” (in this case, our teachers, mentors, academic heroes, etc) watching. It is such an untapped resource.

I am very much looking forward to the coming year. The new GSC is composed of a dynamic group of grad students who have you in mind. The president is open to new ideas and full of vigor for the coming year.

Respectfully,
Darin Challacombe
SPSP GSC 2006 Past-President
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To learn more about the your SPSP GSC representatives, about the programs the GSC sponsors, and the other resources available from SPSP for graduate students, please visit our webpage at www.spsp.org/student.

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