

The FORUM

The Newsletter of the SPSP Graduate Student Committee

Winter 2008/2009

The semester is winding down, and it's time to start thinking about the 10th annual SPSP conference. What better way to spend a February weekend than by mingling with social and personality psychologists in the Sunshine State! This issue of the FORUM is your source for conference information. First, take a quick look at the overview of GSC-sponsored events at the conferences. Next, learn all about where to go (and how to get there) in Tampa. Then read some advice on how to make the most of the conference, depending on your year in graduate school. And finally, check out the article outlining the growth of the Mentor Lunch, and read some tips on how to make the most of it. We also have the low-down on the next SISP, so be sure to read that piece if you're planning to apply!

Tampa Insider's Guide for Grad Students

SPSP's conference in February will be in downtown Tampa, the largest city in Tampa Bay. Two areas near the convention center (CC) will provide grad students with easy access to food, nightlife and entertainment: Channelside (or the Channel District) and Ybor City.

Channelside is east of downtown (.5 to 1 mile from CC area) and is home to the Florida Aquarium, museums, shops, and a complex of bars and restaurants. You can walk, take the Green Trolley or the Streetcar (see below for transportation info).

Ybor City is a historic neighborhood northeast of downtown (about 2 miles from the CC area) and was originally populated by Cuban, Spanish, and Italian immigrants. As a result you can find food and architecture in this area reflecting these influences. Ybor is known for its nightlife with dance clubs, music venues, bars, and restaurants mainly along 7th Avenue. There are also shops, galleries, and boutiques. You can take the Street-

car System to get here from the CC area.

The Gasparilla Festival will be the Saturday of SPSP. Keep in mind this will bring thousands more people to the city, so plan accordingly. Gasparilla involves a pirate invasion (11:30am-1pm), a parade that passes near the CC (2pm-5:30p), and a pirate street festival (10am-11pm). All events are free.

There are many places to explore within an hour's drive of Tampa. About 9 miles north, you can rent a canoe and paddle amongst alligators in Hillsborough River State Park. St. Petersburg is a 20-30 minute drive from Tampa. Here, The Pier offers a beautiful view of Tampa Bay and has shops, restaurants, and fishing. The Salvador Dali Museum and the Florida Holocaust Museum are a short distance from The Pier. If you want to spend some time relaxing, the Gulf beaches are about a 30-45 minute drive from Tampa (15-20 min from downtown St. Petersburg) and are free and open to the public.

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Benefiting from SPSP, from First-Year to Fifth-Year

The 10th annual meeting of SPSP in Tampa, Florida, is upon us! As you pack your shades, suit, and maybe your pirate hat, don't forget to bring along some business cards, a notepad, and this handy guide to the conference! It can be tempting to think of this trip as a short vacation, but the conference can be so much more!

If you are new to the field, plan to soak up all you can at your first conference. Plan to present a poster or symposia next year? Observe the quality of the presentations that you like best. Take notes on everything – poster mounting, font sizes, the use of humor, and even effective colors.

Secondly, networking at a conference is practically a given! Whether you are meeting your faculty idol for the first time, looking to impress potential employers, or

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GSC-Sponsored Conference Events

As you make your way through posters and symposia, don't forget to check out the GSC events at the conference! Below is a brief overview, but you can get more details at our conference information website, <http://www.spssp.org/student/confpage.htm>.

•Outstanding Research Award Symposium (Friday, 8:15-9:30am): Come see the winners of the 2nd annual Outstanding Research Award competition present their talks in this GSC-sponsored symposium! There were many high-quality applications, so these four truly represent "the best of the best" in social and personality psychology.

•Graduate Student Social Hour (Friday, 6:15-7:30pm): The 3rd annual social hour event is sure to be extra fun this year as we will have an expanded assortment of refreshments and prizes, thanks to the support of the Executive Committee. Not to be missed!

•GSC Poster (Saturday, 6:15-7:45pm): We surveyed both job applicants and recently employed SPSP members to find out what characteristics are associated with successful job placement. Check out our poster (during Session G) to see what we found!

•Mentor Lunch (Friday & Saturday, 1:00-2:00pm): Back for its 5th year, the mentor lunch is newly expanded to accommodate more students than ever! If you have signed up for a table, check out the Mentor Lunch article in this issue for some tips for making the most of your meeting.

By Jennifer Pattershall

From First to Fifth continued

simply brainstorming with fellow graduate students, conferences are the time to let your extroverted self out to play. Attendees are expected to meet and mingle, so don't be intimidated. Remember that even established psychologists can feel a little nervous when meeting someone new, and respect others' boundaries (i.e., the public restroom really isn't the best place to ask your favorite methodologist about your 2x2x2 study design).

Speaking of networking, this widely attended conference is also an opportunity to meet international colleagues who may not otherwise be in your vicinity! If you conduct cultural research and think you might like an international collaborator you have a prime opportunity to make an impression in person! Similarly, if you have considered seeking a job in another country, use this time to establish contacts and learn more about the specifics of an international job search.

A short primer by education status:

First-year or first-time attendee:

- Learn all you can about how the conference works, what events you

can attend, and how to prepare yourself for your next conference.

- Have everyone you know at the conference (e.g., advisor, labmates) introduce you to the people they know.

- Check out posters and symposia for new ideas – perhaps your burgeoning thesis idea?

Intermediate attendee:

- Continue meeting new colleagues and expanding your network. This can also be a good time to seek collaboration opportunities.

- Present at least one poster, as it's never too soon to build your CV.

- Attend events where you can gain skills or knowledge relevant to your future career, such as pre-conferences or the mentoring lunch.

Advanced or graduating attendee:

- If you're thinking about post-docs or jobs, now is the time to exercise your network. Bring business cards, and don't be afraid to mention that you are looking for a job while networking. If you've already applied for positions, you can take this chance to leave a friendly, in-person impression. Remember that your future employer could be watching you at any time, so maintain decorum.

- Present at a symposium.

- Attend events where you can gain skills or knowledge relevant to your future career, such as grantsmanship sessions.

By Helen Lee Lin

The 2008-2009 Graduate Student Committee

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Mentoring Luncheon 2009: Celebrating Five Successful Years!

Since 2004, the SPSP Graduate Student Committee has proudly sponsored a Mentoring Luncheon at the SPSP annual convention. The Mentoring Luncheon provides graduate students with an informal opportunity to meet with established scholars in the field to discuss various topics related to research and professional development. For the first three years, the Mentoring Luncheon had between 10 and 12 tables and accommodated between 50 and 60 students in total. Last year, we were able to double that number, with 20 tables accommodating approximately 140 students. This year, with the much-appreciated support of the SPSP Executive Committee, we are planning to double this number yet again. Our plan involves holding 18-table luncheons on both Friday and Saturday, allowing for up to 280(!) students to take part in the event. Of course, we owe most of our success to the mentors who have graciously volunteered their time and wisdom to this event over the last five years. To all of our mentors – thank you!

By the time this issue of the FORUM goes to press, sign-up for

this event will likely be underway. If you miss out this year, make sure to subscribe to the SPSP Student Listserv (<http://www.spsp.org/student/>) so that you don't miss out on any future GSC-sponsored events.

For those participating this year in Tampa, we have compiled a handful of helpful tips:

Tips for Attendees

- Be on time! Make sure that you are in line to pick up your box lunch at 12:30pm. This will give you more than enough time to pick up your lunch and find your table before the luncheon begins at 1:00pm. Being late for this event is disrespectful to our mentors and could be embarrassing for you.

- The discussion at your table will most likely begin with a round of introductions. Try to have your introduction prepared beforehand so that you are not figuring out what to say while the other students are introducing themselves. Your introduction does not have to be anything elaborate: your name, year of study, school, and a one-sentence description of your research interests is more than sufficient.

- Don't monopolize your mentor's time with detailed questions about your own work. The Mentoring Luncheon is best for everyone when the discussion is relevant and interesting to everyone. If you have specific questions about your own work, feel free to approach your mentor about meeting one-on-one later in the conference or discussing your questions over email.

- Get to know the other students at your table. Although you will probably focus much of your attention on your mentor, pay attention to the other students who have chosen to be at the same table as you have. These students are your future colleagues. Get to know them and exchange contact information. It's always nice to have a few more friendly faces at large conferences.

- Once you return home from the conference, take a few moments to write a thank-you card or thank-you email to your mentor. This is a great way to show your appreciation and to maintain an ongoing relationship with your mentor.

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

by Sonia Kang

The Outstanding Research Award is made possible, in large part, by the generous time commitment made by graduate student peer reviewers. The SPSP GSC sends a big THANK YOU to the following individuals for their service this year:

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Mingming Zhou*

Upcoming Conference Dates and Submission Deadlines

*Eastern Psychological Association
March 5-8, 2009
Pittsburg, PA*

*Rocky Mountain Psychological Association
April 16-18, 2009
Albuquerque, NM
Submission Deadline: Jan. 16, 2009*

*Western Psychological Association
April 23-26, 2009
Portland, OR*

*Midwestern Psychological Association
April 30-May 2, 2009
Chicago, IL*

*Association for Psychological Science
May 22-25, 2009
San Francisco, CA
Submission Deadline: Jan. 20, 2009*

*American Psychological Association
August 6-9, 2009
Toronto, ON
Submission Deadline: Dec. 1, 2008*

Spotlight on Tampa cont.

Weather can be variable during February, typically ranging from the mid 50's to the 70's, but it should be sunny. Be prepared for a variety of weather conditions. The Gulf of Mexico will not be extremely warm this time of year (50-60 degrees) so swimming might not be feasible. Tampa has several public transportation options. The Dick Greco Plaza Transportation Center located near the CC is a main transportation center. The trolley is 25 cents per ride and has

two lines: Green and Purple. The Green Line connects downtown to the CC and Channel District every 10 minutes on Friday and Saturday nights (6pm-2am). The Purple Line runs through downtown every 10 minutes Monday-Friday (6am-9am and 3pm-6pm). The streetcar system (called TECO; \$2.50/ride) runs every 15-30 minutes 7 days a week mainly from 11am -10pm during the week and until 2am on week-ends. The streetcar connects the downtown/CC area with the Chan-

nel District and Ybor City. City buses (called HART) will take you to other parts of the city (\$1.75). To save money, there is a daily (\$5) and 3-day unlimited pass (\$11) that allows you to ride the streetcar, trolley and bus. See our website at <http://www.spsp.org/student/trav-info.htm> for specific recommendations for restaurants and other fun activities. Have fun!!

by Megan O'Grady

Jennifer Pattershall served as the Editor of this edition of The Forum.
Camille Johnson created the layout and format.

NORTHWESTERN TO HOST 2009 SISP

The Graduate Student Committee is pleased to announce the fourth Summer Institute of Social Psychology (SISP). With National Science Foundation funding, SPSP offers a two-week intensive summer school for approximately eighty students. Held every two years, the 2009 SISP will be held on Northwestern's gorgeous, lake-front campus in Evanston, IL from Sunday, July 12 to Saturday, July 25. Students will attend one of five courses. Each course will have two instructors and approximately sixteen students.

COURSES:

- (1) Conflict and Negotiation (instructors: Adam Galinsky and Michael Morris)
- (2) Emotions in Group and Intergroup Contexts (instructors: Ernestine Gordijn and Eliot Smith)
- (3) Biological Basis of Social Behavior and Personality (instructors: Iris Mauss and Oliver Schultheiss)
- (4) Prejudice and Stereotyping (instructors: Jack Dovidio and Laurie Rudman)
- (5) Relationship Development and Maintenance (instructors: Eli Finkel and Jeff Simpson).

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS:

In addition to these five classes, students will have the opportunity to attend one of three day-long workshops focusing on methodological and statistical issues:

- (1) Item Response Theory (instructor: Steve Reise),
- (2) Meta-Analysis (instructor: Blair Johnson)
- (3) Ambulatory Assessment (instructor: Matthias Mehl).

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, January 30, 2008

ELIGIBILITY: Students in their second through fifth years of graduate school at the time of application are eligible.

COST: The generous sponsorships cover most student expenses, although students must provide their own travel to the Institute and pay a \$200 enrollment fee.

TESTIMONIAL ON BEHALF OF PREVIOUS ATTENDEES:

My colleagues and I can assure you that the 2007 SISP at the University of Texas at Austin was one of the highlights of our academic careers. SISP offered each of us the chance to learn about cutting-edge research from experts in research areas that are of vital importance to our thriving discipline. We enjoyed two action-packed weeks of stimulating intellectual and social experiences that we will always remember. In collaboration with our colleagues at SISP, a good number of us developed research ideas that will hopefully appear in our journals for many years to come. On a more personal level, each of us made friends that we look forward to seeing at conferences for the rest of our academic careers. We have no doubt that those who attend the 2009 SISP at Northwestern University will benefit from this once in a lifetime professional development opportunity as much as we did.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Detailed information will be posted soon at www.spsp.org/sisp. More details can also be found in an article by Eli Finkel and Derek Rucker in the SPSP Dialogue.

- By Greg Preuss