



# East Central UNIVERSITY

Department of Psychology Newsletter: Spring 2009

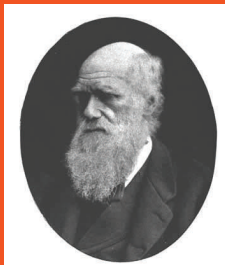
## SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Dr. Joanna Harris-Young receives Teacher of the Year Award @ OPS
- Ada, High School offers the Psi Chi group an opportunity to recruit.
- OPS Conference April 17—Oklahoma Christian University

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Charles Darwin in his later years

## Spring Semester Off to a Busy Start

The spring semester finds the Psychology Department off to a busy start. Planning has already begun for our year end panel discussion and we are reorganizing the teaching load to accommodate the retirement of Dr. Fred Patrizi.

Dr. Patrizi has been a staple of the Department, and was an integral component to the spirit of the department that attracts most students. His lively discussions with Dr. Burke, and his willingness to discuss his opinions means that he will surely be missed. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.

The Fall semester was a resounding success, with two suc-

cessful Psi Chi sponsored events (i.e., Career Talk and the PTSD Panel Discussion) along with the implementation of a Psi Chi Community Project. For the fall semester, the Psi Chi group presented a talk to 5th graders at Willard Elementary regarding the millennial version of "Stranger Danger". The group did an excellent job expanding "Stranger Danger" to include the electronic versions of danger that children are exposed to on a daily basis.

During the present semester, and in conjunction with the newly created Undergraduate Liason (held by Marc Klippenstine), the Psi Chi group is plan-

ning a second excursion to a local school (i.e., Ada High School) to discuss the virtues and misconceptions of psychology as a career path.

The Department also participated in the recent Interscholastic Meet and Majors Fair, with Dr. Burke administering the Psychology exam and Jody Alford & Marc Klippenstine overseeing the departmental table in the University Center.

The Department is looking forward to the upcoming OPS conference, and hopes to take a number of first time student researchers (see second page).

## "Origin of Species" Celebrates 150-Years

Darwin's the "Origin of Species" is celebrating its 150th year of publication this year. No scientific work in recent times has changed our perspective on the world, and been so debated, as that of Darwin's "Origin of Species". His mechanism of evolution (natural selection) provided the means by which animal behavior was placed on par with human behavior. It changed the way we viewed ourselves, and the methods that we could use to investigate human nature.

Despite this "paradigm shift" in how we view the world, Darwin's work has also spurred numerous debates between scholars, includ-

ing those that agree and disagree with his findings. I can personally say that no topic brings up more debate in my History & Systems of Psychology course than when we discuss Darwin's Theory of Evolution.

What is it about Darwin's theory that some find threatening and others find fascinating? Why has this topic spurred such intense interest over the past 150 years? While I personally take a Darwinian perspective towards psychology, what I find most interesting is the debates that this topic encourages. Therein lies the true psychological impact of his theory. Yes, it has changed the way we "DO"

Psychology, but it has also accomplished what few things nowadays ever do — captured our attention and interest for 150 years. And I'm sure it will capture our attention for many years to come.

If you would like to obtain a FREE full pdf version of Darwin's "The Origin of Species" you can follow the below link.

[http://embryology.med.unsw.edu.au/pdf/origin\\_of\\_Species.pdf](http://embryology.med.unsw.edu.au/pdf/origin_of_Species.pdf)

Marc Klippenstine

# OPS Conference, April 17, 2009

This years OPS conference was well attended by ECU Faculty and Students. During the conference there was 5 undergraduate poster presentations (representing 22 students) and 1 Graduate Student Presentation.

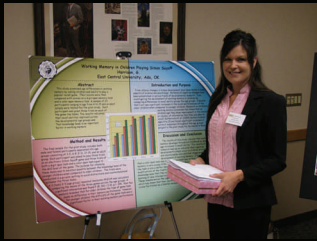
Of particular note, Psi Chi and the Department would like to congratulate Dr. Joanna Harris-Young on receiving the *Teacher of the*

*Year Award* at this years conference, and for encouraging student research over the years.

While we did not have any student placement in the poster competition, we did have a submission at both the undergraduate and graduate levels (see pictures at side).



**Marc Klippenstine & Dr. Joanna Harris-Young Represented ECU Faculty at the OPS**



**Genia Harrison with her poster on the assessment of memory span in children.**



**Michael Stanley & Kim Potter with their poster on Risky Behavior among College Students.**

## Upcoming/Recent Events

### Feb 11

**PSI CHI Bake Sale** In order to raise funds for the OPS conference in April, the Psi Chi organization held a bake sale in the Education building and raised over \$200.00!!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our conference fund. We hope you enjoyed your confections.

### March 25

During the month of March, the Psi Chi Chapter will be presenting a talk to Ada High School Psychology Students.

### April 6 to 10

**Fall Pre-Enrollment Week.** Enroll early and avoid the last minute rush to get into classes.

### April 17

The **Oklahoma Psychological Society Annual Conference** will be held at University of Central Oklahoma. Attending this year will be a number of Psi Chi members, along with students in both the undergraduate and graduate research courses.

To add an event or an article to the Newsletter please send an email to [mklippen@ecok.ede](mailto:mklippen@ecok.ede) or call me at (580)559-5342