Fall Semester is Up and Running

As it with every fall semester, it seems like we just get classes underway and it is already Mid-terms. Along with the usual departmental business, the Psychology Faculty and Students have been busy preparing a centennial celebration.

As part of the celebration the Psi Chi Chapter took a look into our departments past finding all sorts of experimental equipment from a working skinner & shuttle box to a series of biofeedback equipment designed to help therapists “read” their patients responses.

As a relatively new psychology faculty member my excitement could barely be contained at the chance of exploring the equipment that I teach about in the History & Systems of Psychology. Rarely do psychology students get the chance to “feel” the past and the work the Psi Chi Chapter put into finding and preparing this equipment will have an impact on future students for years to come.

Also this semester was the Oklahoma Network for Teaching of Psychology (ONTOP) conference at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. The conference was attended by both faculty (Dr. Joanna Harris-Young, Marc Klippenstine, Jody Alford) and Graduate Students (Sunshine Fox, Genia Harrison, & Kim Potter). Two of the graduate students presented a poster presentation representing the exciting research that is being undertaken in our department.

Another noteworthy event was Jody Alford’s start of her Ph.D. at OSU this summer. Between teaching and commuting to Stillwater to attend her coursework Jody is always on the go and all of us in the department (Faculty and Students alike) want to wish her all the best in her new endeavor.

While it seems that this is a semester worth of events, we are only just getting started and are looking forward to having a departmental presence at ECU’s Hosting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science Conference on November 6th and the Oklahoma Research Day on November 13th.

Enjoy the warm days while they are here, cool is in the air.

History of Psychology - It’s Closer Than You Think

Sometimes we overlook the best source of Historical information, those faculty members that we see everyday in the hall. Indeed, I have found in the recent month that the best place to find information about a historical topic is often not from a textbook or the internet but rather from a colleague sitting in their office.

The collective knowledge of a department is often overlooked as a valuable source of information and during our quest to figure out the nature of many historical experimental devices, it was the faculty of our department and not the internet that proved to be the key.

Sure you can look up the technical information once you know what to call it, but it doesn’t come alive like it does when you ask a colleague. Their experiences, their knowledge, their excitement about the topic cannot be found on the internet. It can only be experienced as a casual conversation in the hall, as a question asked in hopes of an answer, as two people interested in the same topic discussing their knowledge.

So my advice to students and faculty alike is that next time you have a question about a topic you’re unsure about - start with the person next door and use Google as a backup.

Marc Klippenstine
I would like to extend an open invitation to everyone that is interested in psychology to stop by and see what Psi Chi is all about. The Psi Chi chapter of East Central University is a small group of dedicated individuals who donate their time and energy to bring attention to the Psychology Department and provide services to the community. We enjoy seeing the faces of our original members and especially enjoy the opportunity to introduce new faces into the group. If you are a Psych major or minor with a 3.0 GPA you may qualify for the National Honors Society in Psychology that includes lasting lifetime benefits. We also allow any interested parties to participate under the code name Psychology Club.

As of today our group is small but what will tomorrow bring? We have been blessed this semester with an outgoing project director – Kim Potter, a heart of gold treasurer – Nicole Allen, a specially chosen and dependable secretary – Carissa O’Dell, and a vice-president who is ready for a challenge – Brandy Rauch. Continuing to guide us are the two greatest advisors that we could hope for – Dr. Joanna Harris-Young and Marc Klippenstine. Let me also mention the awesome members who do not hold offices but work hard to make things exciting for all of us. Hope to see you soon.

- Genia Harrison, Psi Chi President 09-10.