Long Winter trailing into a Cool Spring

As the days get longer and the temperature gets warmer, we are reminded of the rejuvenating effects of spring. Flowers bloom, trees bud, and the grass begins to grow, but for us in Academia the spring semester feels more like a completion point than a starting point. Students are nearing the end of another year, others are preparing for graduation, and we are all looking forward to the summer break. But before we get to that point we have an exciting and busy semester ahead of us.

For starters, the spring semester brings us the Annual OPS Conference, to be held this year at UCO in Edmond. The conference is a great opportunity for students to showcase the research they have been undertaking during the Experimental Psychology courses. Attendance by ECU Faculty and students is expected to top last years numbers and includes at least eight student presentations.

The spring semester also brings with it the Annual Psi Chi Bake Sale, an event to which all of us “sugar and snack fiends” are looking forward. Look for Psi Chi on March 4th in the main hallway of the Education Building. Another noteworthy event was Marc Klippenstine’s completion of his Ph.D. He successfully defending his dissertation on January 6 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, entitled “Perceptions of sexual assault: Expectations regarding the emotional response of a rape victim”. He would like to thank all the students and faculty for their encouragement and well wishes along the way.

The spring semester also brings with it the Interscholastic Meet and Majors Fair, both of which were a resounding success. This years Majors Fair table was coordinated with Psi Chi members and featured “Pinky and the Brain” the Psi Chi Mice and Mascots (thanks Genia for loaning the boys for an afternoon). Dr. Burke coordinated the Psychology Exam and we received much interest in our psychology program from the visiting High-School students.

Enjoy the semester and hope to see you in the halls!

Psychological Experiments: Absolutely Worth the Effort

What would an undergraduate degree in psychology be without some form of experimentation? Psychology’s knowledge structure is based firmly on experimentation and without exposing our students to this process they are truly missing out. Either as a research participant, or as the researcher, the experience obtained from experimentation is invaluable.

It is in the lab where students get to see psychology come to life, where they get to hypothesize their own conclusions and test their own theories. While not every student who leaves Experimental Psychology has been convinced to become a “researcher”, all of them leave with an understanding of the process.

I’ve been on all three sides of experimentation, as a participant, a researcher, and now as a research mentor, and nothing beats the thrill of the first time a student finds significant findings.

Who knew that one little phrase . . . ‘p < .05’ could bring so much happiness and could justify the hours spent preparing, theorizing, hypothesizing, analyzing, and writing that goes into each experiment.

You can’t teach the importance of significant findings, they can only be experienced.

Happy experimenting and keep those brains working.

Marc Klippenstine
As a senior psychology student, there is a lot of stress and pressure associated with graduation: will I go into the job market or will I attend graduate school? I chose graduate school, and if it was not for the psychology faculty, I would not have made it.

My advisor, Dr. Klippenstine, was not only one of my letters of references but also gave me panoply of advice, sometimes as simple as “breathe Rob, it will be alright” to what points I should include in my letter of purpose and interview. Having just joined Psi Chi, I was surprised at how supportive members were. They always wanted to be informed of where I was in the process, and after being accepted, everybody congratulated me at the next Psi Chi meeting.

The graduate school process is not easy; there are multiple applications, letters of references to gather, essays to write and deadlines to meet. It is much easier when you are surrounded by a caring faculty, all of whom have been there.

Psi Chi is more than an honors groups, it is a wealth of resources and knowledge, assembled of some of the finest people on East Central’s campus, sponsored by faculty who legitimately care for students and want to see them succeed, both at ECU and in the future.

Upcoming/Recent Events

Feb 9
Interscholastic Meet and Majors Fair.

March 10
Annual Psi Chi Bake Sale
'Goodies' will be available from 9 until 3 in the main hallway of the Education Building.

April 5 to 9
Summer & Fall 2010 Pre-Enrollment
Encourage your students to enroll early and get into the classes that they need.

April 19
Oklahoma Psychological Society Annual Conference.
Deadline for submissions is March 31.

May 8
Graduation will be held at the Kerr Activity Center on Saturday at both 10:00 and at 2:00. Students and Faculty are encouraged to stick around afterwards at the ECU Reception Tent.

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