

## Call for Papers: Behavioral Sciences Conference of the North

The Behavioral Sciences Conference of the North (BSCN) is an important annual event hosted by the Department of Psychology. The conference features research presentations by students, faculty, and guest speakers. It is an exciting opportunity for students to experience a professional conference and interact with others who are interested in psychology.

Undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and community professionals from all behavioral science and human service disciplines are invited to submit proposals for oral or poster presentations at the 2004 Behavioral Sciences Conferences of the North (BSCN). Empirical and theoretical papers will be considered.

The keynote addresses this year will feature Drs. John L. Holt and Steven P. Verney. Dr. Holt, who has a Ph.D. in Biopsychology and Behavioral Neuroscience from Rutgers University, will discuss "The Application of Neuroimaging Techniques to Schizophrenia Research." Dr. Verney, who has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and Philosophy from a joint program at San Diego State University and the University of California at San Diego, will discuss "Cultural Differences in Cognitive Ability Assessment: Strategies and Pitfalls." This year's conference will also feature an alumnus round table: "Reflections on Career Options in Alaska with a Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Psychology."

The conference will be held at UAA's College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) building. All students are welcome and encouraged to attend. The cost of the conference is free for student presenters, \$5.00 for all other students, and \$20.00 for faculty members and community professionals. The conference is Saturday, April 17th. Proposals are due April 8, 2004. Please e-mail questions and proposals to BSCN Coordinators: Prof. Vickie Wesolowski (afvlw@uaa.alaska.edu) or Dr. Mari Ippolito (afmfi@uaa.alaska.edu).

## Psychology Exit Exam

The Psychology Exit Exam will be given on April 9th at 2:00 pm and again on April 16th at 9:00 am. The test is given in the Advising and Counseling Center located in BEB 115. No appointment is necessary. The exam is standardized so late arrivals cannot take the exam.

The Psychology Exit Exam is a requirement for the BA/BS degree in psychology. The technical name for this test is the Psychology Area Achievement Test, a two-hour multiple choice test of psychology knowledge. Students are not asked to make any special preparation prior to taking the test, but to simply come and do their best to answer the questions. The graduation requirement is to simply take the test - no minimum score is required.

The purpose of the exam is to evaluate UAA's psychology program. It is not intended to assess individual students. The results of the test allow the Department of Psychology to compare its perfor-

## Kudos Corner

Congratulations to Prof. Kim Murphy who passed the licensing examinations for counseling.

Congratulations to Kristen Yearsley and Erin Trimble for winning Student Leadership Awards. Each winner was given \$1000.00.

Congratulations to Mareen Dennis, Jennifer Gonzalez, Anthony Johnstone, and Dana Salo for having their project on "Body Images..." selected for UAA's Student Showcase Competition. Their project was supervised by Prof. Vickie Wesolowski.

Student Showcase is UAA's annual academic conference that recognizes and promotes excellence in all fields and disciplines. The Conference is a forum for students to present papers or other works in a professional and academic atmosphere. Students whose works achieve a high level of excellence receive cash rewards and may have their works published in the 2004 Student Showcase Journal.

mance with the national average. Since the exit test requirement started in 1992, UAA's psychology program has scored above the national median, usually near the 60th percentile.

## Psychology Club and Psi Chi News

The Psychology Club and Psi Chi are organizations for psychology majors and minors. Psi Chi is the honor society for majors in psychology. The Psychology Club is for everyone interested in attending. Both clubs meet together. For more information on these organizations please contact Jared Smith (email: [asjps8@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:asjps8@uaa.alaska.edu)), President of Psi Chi, or Abigail Nauman (email: [asabn@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:asabn@uaa.alaska.edu)), President of the Psychology Club.

Want to get involved in the clubs? Please attend their joint meeting on March 17th, 2004 at 7:00 pm in CAS 218. Many important items will be discussed, including the t-shirt design contest, the Behavioral Sciences Conference of the North, and bake sales. Join the fun! The clubs are also looking for volunteers to sit at the booth or to bake something to sell. Please contact Abigail Nauman for details.

New officers for each club were elected for the 2004-2005 school year. The results will be announced in the April issue of PsychoBits.

## Peer Mentorship Program

If you have questions about the Department of Psychology, getting more involved, career paths in psychology, preparing for graduate school, or just want some support while working toward your

degree, please contact a Peer Mentor. The program is open to all declared psychology majors, regardless of class standing. Please check out the following website to contact a Peer Mentor: [www.uaa.alaska.edu/psych/undergrad/peermentoring/](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/psych/undergrad/peermentoring/).

Kristin Yearsley, the Coordinator for the Peer Mentorship Program, is graduating in May (hooray!). Therefore, her position needs to be filled for the 2004-2005 school year. If you are interested in becoming the Coordinator for the Peer Mentorship Program, you must be a member of Psi Chi. Duties include volunteering as a peer mentor, working with the faculty sponsor (Dr. Patt Sandberg), recruiting new peer mentors, scheduling and attending training sessions and meetings, updating the Peer Mentorship Program website, coordinating the program, and being a liaison between faculty members and peer mentors. For more information, please contact Kristen Yearsley (email: [askky@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:askky@uaa.alaska.edu)), Coordinator for Peer Mentorship Program, or Abigail Nauman (email: [asabn@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:asabn@uaa.alaska.edu)), President of Psychology Club.

## ALERT! New Deadlines

Deadlines for Application to Degree Seeking Programs have been changed. The new deadlines are July 1 (Fall), November 1 (Spring), May 1 (Summer). These deadlines are effective with Summer 2004.

Deadlines for applying for graduation have also been changed. The new deadlines are May 1 (Fall), September 15 (Spring), March 1 (Summer). In addition, the fee has been raised to \$25.00 beginning with those applying to graduate in

## Psychology Students – Do You Need Help?

ANPsych Graduate Tutors will assist you in improving your study skills, including time management, textbook reading, note taking, and much, much more! ANPsych Graduate Tutors will be conducting a workshop on Test-Taking Skills on April 15 and 16. Tutoring is available for psychology students every Thursday (1:00 pm - 3:00 pm) and Friday (9:30 am - 12:30 pm) in CAS 253. Please contact Dr. Kathy Graves (786-6131; email: [anksg@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:anksg@uaa.alaska.edu)), Director of ANPsych, for more information.

Summer 2004. Please contact Mary G. Howard (email: [anmgh@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:anmgh@uaa.alaska.edu)), University Registrar, for more information.

## UAA Gerontology Minor Program

Are you interested in pursuing a career in the area of aging? Get a minor in Gerontology! The Undergraduate Multidisciplinary Minor in Gerontology is comprised of a selection of courses specifically related to issues concerning the aging process. A total of 18 credit hours are required for the minor. For more information, please contact Dr. Sharon Araji (email: [afska1@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afska1@uaa.alaska.edu)) or Dr. Rosellen Rosich (email: [afrmr@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afrmr@uaa.alaska.edu)).

## Reel Eyes: A Look at Life with Disabilities

During the month of March, 25 films that challenge your perception of disability and diversity will be presented at the Bear Tooth Theater Pub and Grill, Anchorage Museum of History and Art, Out North Contemporary Art House, and University Campus Center South Café. For a complete film listing, please visit: [www.alaskachd.org/reel-eyes/](http://www.alaskachd.org/reel-eyes/) or call 272-8270.

## Careers in Aging Week

The Alaska Geriatric Education Center announces Careers in Aging Week, April 5-9. The week will be highlighted with an exhibit hall in the Student Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Educational and career opportunities including offerings of the new minor program in gerontology at UAA will be displayed. The Association

for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) and The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) are providing materials which will be supplemented by those of Alaska based professional groups.

Speakers will discuss research on the variety of careers in aging, Thursday, April 8, from 4:00-5:30pm in the Campus Center Den. Receptions for faculty, students and the community will be held during the week. Friends of Alpha Kappa Delta will display a video describing Careers in Aging at their book sale Wednesday, April 7 in CAS.

AGHE has created a website called [www.careersinaging.com](http://www.careersinaging.com) that provides extensive information on different career tracks in gerontology. The activities of UAA's Alaska Geriatric Education Center will be included in AGHE's publicity campaign. For more information, please contact Ann Jache 786-1955 [jache@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:jache@uaa.alaska.edu).

## Participate in Brain Awareness Week

Psychology majors are encouraged to participate in Brain Awareness Week, March 15-21, 2004. Please visit the Society for Neuroscience's website (<http://www.sfn.org/baw>) or speak with Dr. Eric Murphy (email: [afesm@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afesm@uaa.alaska.edu)) for more information about recent advances in brain research.

Please check the back for important dates and Psychobits submission info...

## Full Lives Conference

The 3rd annual Full Lives Conference will be held on April 29th and 30th at the Anchorage Marriott Hotel Downtown. Three tracks are available. Track I examines "Caring for Yourself in Changing Times." Track II addresses "Focusing on Quality in Changing Times." Track III concentrates on "Serving Individuals with More Than One Diagnosis." Student rate: \$80 for 2 days; \$45 for 1 day if registered on or before April 9, 2004. For more information please visit: <http://www.alaskachd.org/fullives/>.

## About PsychoBits

PsychoBits is published three times per semester by the Department of Psychology at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Psychology majors and others are encouraged to submit items for inclusion in future issues. Please submit items to Dr. Eric Murphy (email: afesm@uaa.alaska.edu). To add or delete your name from the mailing list, please send a request to aypsych@uaa.alaska.edu.

## This Month in the History of Psychology

### 1959 (March 18th):

Leon Festinger and J. Merrill Carlsmith's article "Cognitive Consequences of Forced Compliance" was published in the *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*. This was the cognitive dissonance study in which participants were paid either \$1 or \$20 to lie about their enjoyment of a boring task.

### 1904 (March 20th):

B. F. Skinner was born. Skinner's radical behaviorism provided a systematic analysis of the effects of consequences on behavior. His principles of operant conditioning affected nearly every field of psychology. Skinner earned the APA Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award, 1958; National Medal of Science, 1968; APA Citation for Lifetime Contributions to Psychology, 1990.

*From: Street, W. R. (1994). A chronology of noteworthy events in American psychology. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.*

## Important Dates

### March 15-21

Brain Awareness Week

### March 21-28

Spring Break

### April 5-9

Careers in Aging Week

### April 9 (2:00 pm)

Psychology Exit Exam in BEB 115

### April 16 (9:00 am)

Psychology Exit Exam in BEB 115

### April 17

Behavioral Sciences Conference of the North

### April 22-25

Western Psychological Association's Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ (<http://www.westernpsych.org>)

### April 27 - May 1

Final Exams

### April 29 & 30

Full Lives Conference, Anchorage Marriott Hotel (Downtown)

### May 1

Application for Fall Graduation Deadline

### May 2

Commencement

### June 25-27

Treatment of PTSD and Complex PTSD III: Research and Practical Applications in Vancouver, BC (<http://www3.telus.net/trauma/Conference3.html>)