Psychology Happenings:

This semester, as every Spring Semester, Goshen College students participated in the Bluffton/Goshen/Manchester Student Research Symposium. There was a very strong Goshen College showing, with over 20 students piling into cars and driving down to Manchester College. Goshen College students presenting at the conference were: Liz Nafzinger ('10), Alli Hawkins ('10), Molly Burrows ('10), and Maria Rodriguez ('10) presented Priming for Greed and Selflessness; Annali Smucker ('10), Javier Rios ('10), and Brian Martin ('11) presented Effects of Stereotype Threat Among Religiously Affiliated Students; Charlotte Barnett ('11) presented Yall’s “Come-Back: Use and Perceptions of the Word “Yall” by Native Virginians; and Tana Birky ('11) presented An Analysis of Parents’ Role in Childhood Behavioral Problems.

Psychology Department Updates:

The first year with the new psychology professor, Christine Noria, has been full with strengthening the existing scientific basis and expanding on new possibilities for the department. Christine implemented the first poster session assignment in Developmental Psychology where students presented their false data in a format similar to professional conferences. Christine taught Statistics and Research Methods I & II and the quality of her teaching was evidenced in the three strong presentations at the conference noted above. Christine also was granted a research grant from Center for Intercultural Teaching and Learning (CITL) where she will study attribution theory of student success among minority students. The Psychology department was granted a departmental grant from CITL to assess, critique, and revise the department’s curriculum. This comes at an optimal time with having new expertise in the department.

News of Grads:
Alice Schermerhorn was an author of a recent article, "The Differential Impact on Children of Inter- and Intra-Community Violence in Northern Ireland", in the journal Peace and Conflict (Vol. 15 (4), pp. 367-383).

Brooke Kandel '97 received her Ph.D. in educational psychology with an emphasis in Hispanic bilingual education in May 2009 from Texas A & M University. She is currently an assistant professor of ESL and literacy at Butler University.

Anthony Showalter '99 married Chelsea Vaughn on September 12, 2009. Anthony is the senior associate for strategy and technology at Echoing Green, a nonprofit organizaiton providing financial support to nonprofit companies.

Anne Albrecht Lehman '03 is a case manager with Victim Offender REconciliation Program (VORP) at the Center for Community Justice in Elkhart, IN.

Katrina Onyskow '03 received a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling in May 2007 from Valparaiso University. Currently she is a mental health worker at Indiana State Prison in Michigan City.

Sarah Pachulicz '05 finished her M.A. in industrial/organization psychology at Michigan State University in 2008 and is now self-employed as a consultant in Germany.

In the Literature:

Everyone has been embarrassed at some point in his or her life. However, research suggests that how easily a person is embarrassed is affected by a stable personality trait, called embarrassability. Embarrassability is not affected by the person's objective social abilities, but seems rather to be affected by the degree to which a person pays attention to deviations in the social script by themselves and other people. Some researchers suggest that there are three different types of embarrassment: misplayed identities, lost poise, and lost confidence (Gross and Stone, 1964, as cited in Miller, 1987). Buss (1980) added two more types: conspicuousness and over-praise (as cited in Miller, 1987). Interestingly, it seems that the propensity to be embarrassed by the actions of other people is influenced by the same factors as embarrassment for ones own actions. While people can be embarrassed for strangers, they are more embarrassed by friends, but the amount that they are embarrassed seems to be mediated by the individuals propensity to self-monitor themselves in relation to social systems (Snyder, 1974, as cited in Kelly & Jones, 1997). Gender seems to be a factor in embarrassability. Rowland S. Miller (1987, 1995, 1996), a leading researcher in the trait of embarrassability, elaborates on the difference in the sensitivities that men and women have to embarrassment. He referenced studies that have found women to also be more emotionally reactive, with stronger and more volatile emotions (1996). He cautioned that this
might be because of cultural upbringing rather than inborn differences, but that it was difficult to say for certain. He postulated that these factors might be partly due to women’s relatively low social status; they might be more sensitive to social errors because how people perceive them can conceivably have a stronger impact on their well-being.

Sources:


