

Out of Our Minds...

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Volume 8



**University
of Victoria**

Department of Psychology
<http://www.psyc.uvic.ca>



Out of my mind ...

E. Brimacombe, Dept Chair

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Tuesday May 29th

Celebrate the end of a successful school year **with cake** and coffee!

Cornett A228, beginning at 9:30 am.

Everyone Welcome!

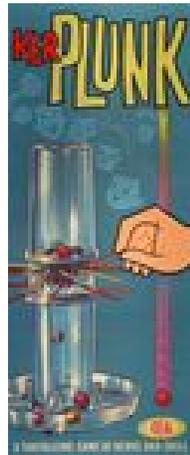


I don't think about juggling as a defining feature of my life – not because I only tackle one task at a time or because I've become supremely proficient at keeping a large set of balls in the air. Although I typically find life filled with a competing set of deadline-sensitive tasks, the image of a juggler is not what I see when I hold up the mirror.

Perhaps I am a KerPlunk-player not a juggler. In KerPlunk, a set of sticks is arranged in a criss-cross fashion in a plastic tube filled with marbles. Players take turns removing sticks from the tube. The goal is to not disturb the stack of marbles as you slide a stick from the tube. Inevitably the game rolls to a point of "KerPlunk!" where a stick slides from the tube and the entire tower of marbles crashes to the bottom, landing in the reservoir tray of the player who extracted the stick.

I've rolled through many KerPlunk situations in my life – situations where I did not foresee the complicated mess triggered by one small change. But I have maintained my zest for playing the game. Don't get me wrong. I'm not a masochist. I do not happily anticipate the crash of the marbles. But I do relish the challenge of putting a busy life picture together in a manner where I can sustain it.

So, I will continue to live life in a manner where I run the risk of crashing the marbles. I think potential KerPlunks emerge on the horizon of the most exciting paths of life.



Congratulations **Vincenza Gruppuso** and co-authors **Steve Lindsay** and **Mike Masson** on the recent acceptance of their article, "I'd Know that Face Anywhere!," in *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review* (Gruppuso, V., Lindsay, D.S. & Masson, M.E.J.).



Psi Chi Update

We have now successfully reached the end of another exciting and busy school year at the University of Victoria. In only the third year of Psi Chi here at UVic, our young chapter has continued to prosper and blossom. This year's advisors, executive, and members have continued to build up our chapter's reputation and popularity as we worked towards the central purpose of Psi Chi to: ".encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship of the individual members and to advance the science of psychology". Considering the many awards both our chapter and our members have received, our contributions to the UVic community, and the support provided to our members, it is clear that we have been extremely successful in attaining these goals.

Last year's executive, with Janet Stepaniuk at its helm, did an amazing job of sparking a young chapter. They raised awareness of Psi Chi in the department, and increased membership both amongst undergrads, but among many graduate students and professors. At the end of this year, Janet was awarded the Psi Chi J.P Guilford research award for her honors thesis. This year, the chapter was also awarded the Psi Chi Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference Grant that assisted us in putting on the inaugural Psychology Students of Vancouver Island Poster Session (PSOVIPS), which turned out to be an unparalleled success that can only improve in future years. Furthermore, our chapter has been presented the Psi Chi website award for our informative and aesthetic page that was created by Kyoko Urano and maintained by Lara Pierce. Finally, I was the recipient of the Psi Chi undergraduate research grant, and two of our members (Chris Warren and I) received NSERC masters award for the coming year.

In addition to our decorated awards, we have also made an effort to give back to the community here at UVic. During the holiday season, we organized a department food drive to raise items for the UVic Family Center, assisting students with families to make it through their time of need. Later in the year, we held a bake sale, with much of the proceeds going to the Family Center as well. Thank you to everyone who participated in both of these successful events, from donating food to baking goodies for the sale.

Finally, we have held a number of events aimed at supporting our members and the greater student population in their scholastic endeavors. We maintained a student resource room throughout the year, with senior members present and able to answer any questions inquisitive students might have. We also put on a graduate school information session later in the year, which was both well attended and extremely informative. Sharon Livingstone led the session, instructing attendees on the ins and outs of graduate school. Our PSOVIPS poster session was also an exciting opportunity for students to showcase their research, some of which was even featured on local radio stations.

Throughout this entire year, our chapter's advisors (Dr. Stephen Lindsay and Dr. Liz Brimacombe), and our executive board (Myta Langton, Brain Buchan, and Atlantis Minnings) have done an amazing job of pulling all the requisite strings together to make this year run as smoothly as it did.

The behind the scenes efforts of both these individuals afforded us the success we enjoyed. Our year concluded with elections for next year's executive board. The entering president, Mehul Gandhi, will assuredly work with our new executive (Jeffery Sun, Brain Buchan, and Kim Maynard) to continue to cultivate and enhance our growing chapter, increasing our visibility in the department, our provided support to our members, and our scholastic successes. I wish everyone involved all the best in their future endeavors, and wish to thank everyone for the unique and exciting opportunity to lead this promising chapter this past year.

- Kyle Mathewson, Past President - Psi Chi UVic



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PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS OF VANCOUVER ISLAND POSTER SESSION 2007

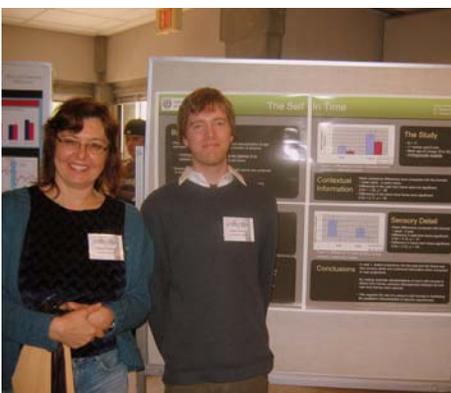
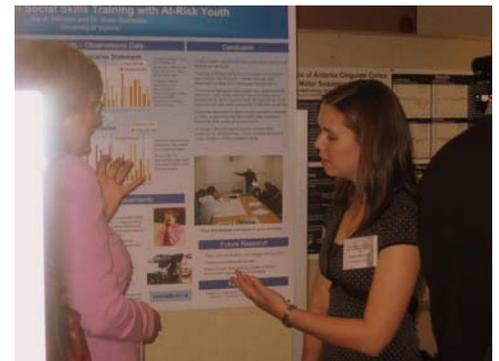
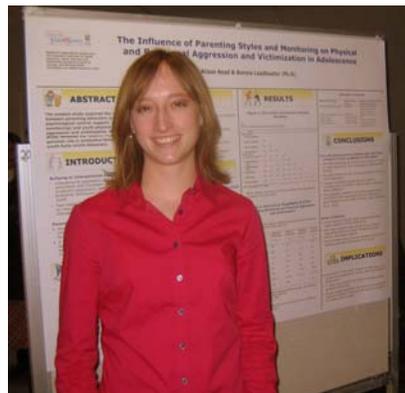
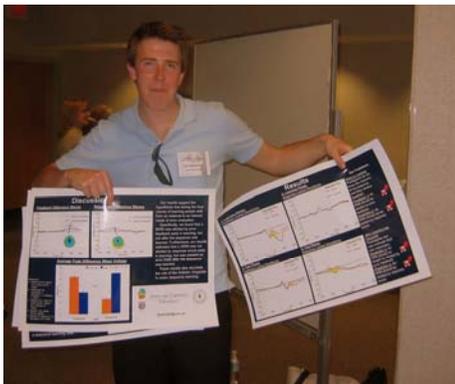
At the first annual Psychology Students of Vancouver Island Poster Session, or PSOVIPS, a select group of advanced undergraduate Psychology majors presented their research to faculty, classmates and the wider Vancouver Island community. The presenters included students in UVic's Honours Psychology program and students who have completed independent studies courses at UVic or at Malaspina University-College.

The inaugural PSOVIPS event took place at UVic in the Arbutus/Queenswood room of Cadboro Commons Conference Centre on Thursday, April 5 from 3:00 to 5:00. The poster session was followed by a Keynote Address by Professor Alan Kingstone of UBC, a renowned cognitive neuroscientist (and a very entertaining speaker).

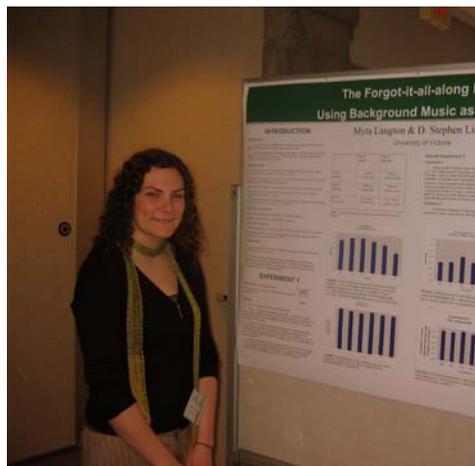
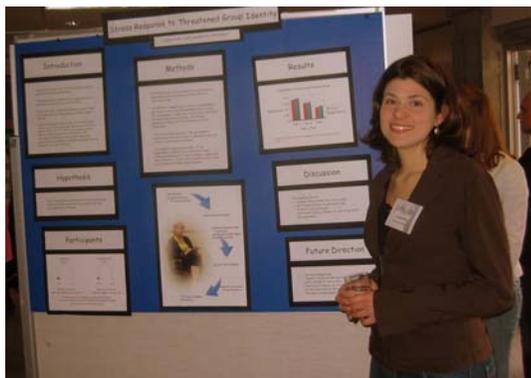
A major aim of PSOVIPS is to promote public awareness of the cutting-edge scientific psychological research being conducted by Vancouver Island undergraduate students. Students' projects explore such areas as human memory, children's cognitive development, interpersonal social interactions, and electrophysiological analyses of brain processes.

PSOVIPS, a student-oriented and student-run event, was sponsored by UVic's Learning and Teaching Centre and is funded in part by Psi Chi, the honours society for psychology students. There are a thousand chapters of Psi Chi in the U.S., and the first Psi Chi chapter outside the U.S. was established at UVic in 2003. Janet Stepaniuk, President of UVic's Psi Chi Chapter from 2005-2006, received a grant from Psi Chi to support PSOVIPS 2007.

PSOVIPS PHOTO GALLERY



For more PSOVIPS photos, visit the link below
<http://web.uvic.ca/~slindsay/teaching/499/psovips/>



PSOVIPS 2007

A Tremendous Success!

Bravo to all presenters & their research supervisors.

And kudos to Steve Lindsay for leading this successful event!

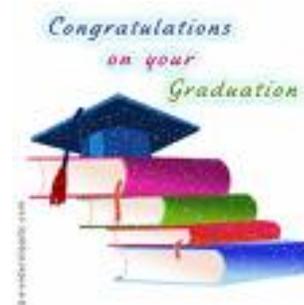
Bike to Work Week is Coming Soon!

Wendy Davies and Liz Brimacombe invite your participation in this wheely great event! E-mail Wendy @ wdavies@uvic.ca to be a part of our Department team.



Congratulations to graduate students who will convocate next month:

- Travis Baker, MSc** (supervisors: Ron Skelton and Clay Holroyd)
- Leora Dahl, PhD** (supervisors: Steve Lindsay and Liz Brimacombe)
- Erin Eadie, MSc** (supervisor: Marsha Runtz)
- Kathleen Foran, MSc** (supervisor: Bonnie Leadbeater)
- Celine Koryzma, MSc** (supervisor: Cathy Costigan)
- Robert McInerney, PhD** (supervisor: Kim Kerns)
- Brigitte Patry, PhD** (supervisor: Katy Mateer)
- Jodie Royan, PhD** (supervisor: Roger Graves)
- John Price, PhD** (supervisor: Ron Skelton)
- Brad Peters, MSc** (Supervisor: Marion Ehrenberg)



PsychOS News *By Tom Johnson*

Well the year is over and it is time for a reflective, nostalgic look at the 2006-2007 school year for PsychOS.

This year saw the birth of the first ever PsychOS newsletter, aptly named “Psychobabble”. Headed up by Brian Buchan, our editor-in-chief, the inaugural year of the newsletter was a great success. Our readership grew to the point that we were attracting advertisers willing to help subsidize some printing costs! We are looking to expand even more next year: the newsletter would be an excellent way to help foster a sense of community within undergraduate Psychology students, and this is precisely our goal.

Speaking of community building, our fundraising efforts for the Vancouver Island Head Injury Society culminated in April with us raising almost \$1100 through bake sales, a salsa-dancing formal and a Valentine’s day rose gram service. We recently purchased a new computer for VIHIS with some of this money; this was a much needed piece of equipment in their office and will greatly assist the clinicians and other workers with their work. The remainder of the money will be donated to VIHIS to be used at their own discretion.

PsychOS earned the reputation of being one of the most active course unions on campus through our popular events including 3 pub crawls, a winter dance, bake sales, a Valentine’s Day rose gram service, active recruitment, and very effective event advertising to the Psychology undergraduate student body. This of course could not have been accomplished without the help of Psychology professors, allowing us to interrupt their lectures with announcements, ticket give-aways and rose deliveries! In fact, the Psychology department staff in general deserve a big THANK YOU for helping us out so much this year and making everything work!

We finished off the year with a great retreat out to Lake Cowichan on the last weekend before classes ended. After a late night of swimming in the lake in our underwear, we held our executive elections for next year over a feast of bacon, eggs, burritos, toast, juice and tea. It was a little hard to focus on the political aspect of things with so much food in our stomachs, but at the end of the meal we managed to settle things for next year. Genevieve Roberts and Scott Myslajek will be sharing the President position, with Amanda Radil as Vice-President and Chris Dammeyer as Treasurer. It was also a sad occasion for some of us, as we said our goodbyes to Erika Johnson, Holly Eno and Sandy Barreda, key members of our team who are graduating this year. As for me, I decided to step down as President and let someone else have a crack at it. With an honours project on the horizon next year, I will be busy enough as it is! I will not be disappearing though: the members of PsychOS have created a special executive spot for me next year, the Past President. This will finally give me a chance to unleash the old man in me and rant to everyone about “how things were done back in my day”; I can’t wait.

This summer I will be tree planting for May and June, but will be back in July to begin my honours project in Dr. Chow of the Biology Department’s Retinal Development Laboratory. He is investigating the development of bipolar cells and what genetic networks contribute to forming the different subtypes of bipolar cells. It should be a pretty exciting summer! I hope it goes as well for all of you folks!

Thanks,
Tom Johnson

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