Announcements

A huge congratulations to Drs. Scott Pickett and Michele Parkhill-Pudie for their recent tenure and promotion to Associate Professor!

Hard work pays off! Drs. Andrea Kozak & Scott Pickett received funding for their NIH grant: Examination of Habitual Sleep Trajectories across the First Two Years of College: Relation to Weight Gain Risk Behaviors and Outcomes ($426,251)

Dr. Todd Shackelford was named Fellow of the American Psychological Association, Division 8 (Society for Personality and Social Psychology). Great work Todd!

Congrats to Dr. Melissa McDonald, Dr. Annette Feravich, and PhD student Chinmay Aradhye for earning the Psychology teaching award!

Graduate student Sarah Donaldson officially defended her MS thesis and has been accepted to the Ph.D. program at the University of Oregon. Best of luck Sarah!

Student Leah McDiarmid, received the Raymond Corsini Student Poster Award for her poster presentation at APA. Great job Leah!

September Events

September 12 & 13: Starting off Right. (12-1PM) Psi Chi wants psychology majors to come mingle with classmates, meet professors, and learn about getting involved in psychology. Free and open to all OU students. Located in Pryale Hall.

September 20: Lunch Bunch (12PM – 1PM) Nicole Barbaro will be presenting her research in the Oakland Room at the OC.

October 13: President’s Colloquium (11:30-1PM) Dr. Scott Pickett will deliver a talk to the university entitled: ‘Sleeping on It: The Role of Sleep in Emotional Health.’

Summer Publications


Drs. Scott Pickett and Michele Parkhill-Purdie celebrate their recent tenure and promotion

Summer Publications (continued)


Summer Presentations


Dominick, W. S., & Taku, K. (2016, August). Gender and age differences in the perception of personal growth. Poster session at the APA meeting, Humanistic Psychology Division, Denver.


Summer Presentations (continued)


Mogilski, J. K., & Welling, L.L.M. (2016). The relative importance of sexual dimorphism, fluctuating asymmetry, and color cues to health during evaluation of potential partners’ facial photographs: A conjoint analysis study. HBES Meeting, Vancouver, Canada.


Seyburn, S., Taku, K., Dominick, W., & McDiarmid, L. (2016). Social support as a predictor of posttraumatic growth in adolescents. Poster session at the MPA Meeting, Chicago, IL.


Vonk, J. (2016). Bear-ly scratching the surface of Bear Cognition. Invited paper as part of the Fellows symposium at the APA Meeting, Denver, CO.


Walenski, A., Seyburn, S., McDiarmid, L., & Taku, K. (2016). The influence of experiencing multiple life stressors following the 3.11 earthquake on posttraumatic growth. Poster at the APA Meeting, Trauma Psychology Division, Denver, CO.


Welling, L.L.M., Moreau, B.J.P., Bird, B.M. Hansen, S., & Carré, J.M. Exogenous testosterone increases men’s perceptions of their own physical dominance. HBES Meeting, Vancouver, BC.
Psi Chi is the International Honor Society in Psychology. The purpose of Psi Chi is to encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship of the individual members in all fields, particularly in psychology and to advance the science of psychology.

The goals of Psi Chi are to provide academic recognition to its inductees and to augment and enhance the regular curriculum.

The mission of Psi Chi is to produce a well-educated, ethical, and socially responsible member committed to contributing to the science and profession of psychology and to society in general.

How to Apply to Psi Chi

To apply to Psi Chi as an undergraduate, one must meet the criteria listed below:

1. Registration for major or minor standing in psychology (or for a program psychological in nature)
2. Completion of 46 credits of college courses
3. Completion of 16 credits of psychology courses
4. Ranked in the top 35% of one's class (a minimum GPA of 3.31 average for psychology courses)
5. A minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) overall in cumulative grades

The application and more information regarding applying to Psi Chi can be located at: www.oaklandpsichi.net/content/apply-psi-chi or www.psichi.org under the “Join” tab
How to Apply to Psi Chi

To apply to Psi Chi as a **transfer student**, one must:

1. Follow the same requirements as the undergraduate student applicants (explained on page 1)
2. Complete at least 12 semester credit hours or equivalent of psychology coursework at the new institution unless the chapter’s bylaws specify fewer hours—check with our chapter

To apply to Psi Chi as a **transfer student who is already a member of Psi Chi**, one must:

1. Contact the Psi Chi faculty advisor (Dr. Sifonis) at the new institution to complete an online transfer of membership form

For transfer students, the application and more information regarding applying to Psi Chi can be located at: www.psichi.org under the “Join” tab

If one has any questions about applying or the application itself, they can contact the Psi Chi president, Aubrey Mercer, or the faculty advisor, Dr. Sifonis. Their contact information can be found on page 12 of this *PsychMatters* issue.

Get Involved!!

For those looking to join Psi Chi but do not yet meet the requirements to become a member, membership is **NOT** required to become involved! Simply being an active participant in our chapter of Psi Chi by attending our events, meetings, and helping out with our philanthropy efforts allows students to learn, get involved, and socialize with other students that share psychology and giving back to our community as common interests. Currently, Psi Chi is looking for students that are interested in becoming a class liaison for their psychology courses. A class liaison informs their classmates at the beginning or end of class (depending on the professor’s preference) about upcoming events, what is going on in Psi Chi, and other important information. Being a class liaison is a great place to begin your involvement with Psi Chi and can open doors to many more opportunities later on. To get more information or to get started as a liaison, contact Laina Townsend, Officer of Communications and Liaisons, at lktownse@oakland.edu.
2016-2017 Psi Chi Faculty Advisor

Faculty Advisor
Dr. Sifonis

Cognitive Psychology: Category Learning/User; Creativity; Analogy

Degrees:
B.A. Bemidji State University
M.S. Texas A & M University
Ph.D Texas A & M University

Research Interests: The relationship between category representation and category use. Specifically, the manner in which the use of category knowledge affects the representation of that knowledge and how the category representation affects category use.

Creativity: How concepts and categories are used when creating novel products and how examples constrain creativity when viewed immediately before generating new ideas.

Analogy: How a person's understanding and representation of a problem interact with the characteristics of the prior knowledge during analogical problem solving.

Biography:
Dr. Sifonis's training at Texas A & M University emphasized the creative cognition approach to creativity. This approach examines how people use normal cognitive processes such as analogy and their knowledge of the world they live in to produce creative products and ideas. Following graduation, she took the opportunity to further refine her research skills in the area of Cognitive Science with two years of post-doctoral training at the Beckman Institute at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. During the past ten years, Dr. Sifonis has used these skills daily to further both basic and applied laboratory research examining the various factors influencing the creative process. A main area of focus for this research is determining the processes underlying analogical reasoning and how people use existing knowledge to innovate.
2016-2017 Psi Chi Officers

President
Aubrey Mercer

"I am a junior currently working toward a double major in Psychology and Spanish Language & Literature. After looking into ways to become involved with the Psychology Department, I decided to seek out an officer position within Psi Chi in order to take on a leadership role and collaborate with others that share a similar enthusiasm for psychology. My primary field of interest is Industrial Organizational Psychology, however I also enjoy learning about both Social and Consumer Psychology. In the future, I hope to combine my passion for Spanish and Psychology by conducting research on workplace diversity, or more specifically, the effects of stereotypes in the workplace and improving efficiency in a multilingual work environment."

"For students interested in becoming more involved in the Psychology Department, I would encourage them to attend Psi Chi’s many workshops and meetings to discover what learning opportunities there are at Oakland University outside of the classrooms. It is important to take advantage of all that the Psychology Department has to offer in order to pave the way for future success."

- Aubrey Mercer

Vice President
Krystyn Niescier

"Hello, my name is Krystyn and I am this year’s Psi Chi Vice President. I am a senior psychology major with a sociology minor and a concentration in gerontology. I am interested in going to get my masters in social work to work with the elderly population in hospice. Currently I live and work on campus. I joined Psi Chi in March 2015 as a sophomore."

- Krystyn Niescier
2016-2017 Faculty Advisor

**Vice President**
Krystyn Niescier

I have been a research assistant for over a year now working two different projects. These positions have been a great hands-on experience for me. This year my goal is to create a safe environment for students, psychology interest or not, to help prepare them for careers down the road. This includes a variety of workshops to learn about different careers, research, GRE prep, leadership and more. "My advice to students at OU is to ask a lot of questions. Get involved as much as you can. Everything you do here is beneficial. There are a lot of resources out there for every topic and interest. Just start with asking questions. From research with professors on campus to clubs and sports, OU is waiting for you! If you are interested in Psi Chi you will find me or another officer on campus to give you further detail on this awesome honor society designed to building relationships and pursuing psychology. Psi Chi is a great way to meet people with interests like you!"

- Krystyn Niescier

**Officer of Major Workshops**
Jennifer Ishaq

"My name is Jennifer Ishaq. I am a psychology major with a business minor and am starting my Junior year. My main interests in psychology are developmental, social and cognitive theories. I plan to pursue a research-oriented career in one of these subfields. Currently, I am interning as a research assistant in Prof. Raman's developmental lab and serving as the Major Workshop officer for Psi Chi this year."
**2016-2017 Psi Chi Officers**

**Officer of Major Workshops**

Jennifer Ishaq  
"I joined Psi Chi in order to become more involved while attaining my undergraduate. I have already met amazing people that have similar interests in psychology and made connections with professors that I would not have been able to do otherwise. Planning the major events for psychology has taught me to stay on top of things and keep organized. I would highly recommend anybody interested in joining Psi Chi to do so and become as involved as possible by applying to leadership roles next year."

- Jennifer Ishaq

**Officer of Publicity & Web Management**

Emily Mertz  
"Hi! My name is Emily and I am a senior at Oakland University with a major in Psychology. I am very excited to be the Officer of Publicity for the 2016-2017 school year because Psi Chi is the perfect place for psychology enthusiasts. I am interested in pretty much every area of psychology, but am particularly intrigued by evolutionary and social psychology as well as social cognition and psychopathology. I love learning about how and why we do what we do as humans. I will be starting research with Dr. Welling in her lab this fall as well, so I am very excited to learn more about the research side of things. In the future I hope to attend graduate school to study clinical or counseling psychology and eventually work with children."

- Emily Mertz
Officer of Publicity & Web Management

Adam Buesching

"My name is Adam Buesching. Oakland University graduate of the School of Arts and Sciences with a major in psychology and a minor in creative writing. For as long as I can remember I’ve always been changing my mind as to what I wanted to do “when I grow up” – only now that I have, I'm still not sure.

"Since my freshman year, I made it my goal to get into Psi Chi. I didn’t really have a reason then, but I defiantly felt like it was something I could do; I’d taken every available psychology course in high school and my affinity for writing made the grueling essays and research papers possible. Before I knew it, my senior year came along and I was made a member (as well as the Officer of Publicity and the Web Manager) in the spring of 2016. Though, it was around this same time that I became aware that much of my involvement in the organization came too late for me to realistically go forth with the rest of my plans…"

"I'd made some loose-fitted plans to attend grad school after my graduation. Problem was, grad school prep often times takes the full four or so years you’re an undergraduate. I did not know this, until I went to Psi Chi’s Getting into Grad School Workshop (go your freshman year)."

"All is not lost, however. Even though grad school is off the table for now, a degree in the field can still get you places. The demand the classes place on writing techniques, group leadership, data analysis, and understanding human behavior are all highly favored traits in the workforce. So if you don’t have grad school plans, don’t worry. If you do…”

"Get on it before everyone else beats you to all the research assistant openings! GO!"

- Adam Buesching
**2016-2017 Psi Chi Officers**

**Officer of Philanthropy**  
Janelle Smith  
"My name is Janelle, and I am currently a junior at Oakland University double majoring in Psychology and Sociology. I have always had an interest in the social sciences, particularly the behavioral and developmental aspects. After completing my undergraduate degree, I plan to further my education by pursuing my Ph. D in Psychology with a Social and Behavioral concentration. In addition to being a Psi Chi officer, I am also involved in various other organizations at Oakland University including Sociology Club, Active Minds, and Fleece and Thank You. I am also a research assistant in Dr. Lisa Welling's lab."

"I chose to join Psi Chi because I was looking to get more involved on campus and with my major. I feel that Psi Chi has helped me to meet people with similar interests, become more involved in the psychological community, and open doors to many opportunities. I encourage all Psychology majors and minors to get involved with Psi Chi early on and be as active as possible in the department. Just coming to meetings or being a class liaison is beneficial to anyone’s academic career. Involvement will help you to stay updated on psychology related events, meet people with similar interests, and form connections that could lead to endless opportunities in your future."

- Janelle Smith

**Treasurer**  
Lauren Harrison  
"Hello! My name is Lauren and I am a junior Psychology major and Communications minor. After earning my Bachelors of Psychology I plan to continue my education and pursue a Masters of Social Work degree that specializes in Geriatrics. This is my first year serving on the Psi Chi E-Board and I will be the Treasurer of the club. I am looking forward to the collaboration that this position entails between faculty and members. Psi Chi is such a valuable resource to psychology students at Oakland University for many reasons."
Treasurer
Lauren Harrison
The organization offers students many resources and information that will benefit an educational career in psychology. An aspect of Psi Chi that I find to be most enticing is the unique opportunity to get connected with students that you might not otherwise get connected with. Oakland is predominantly a commuter campus and Psi Chi gives students the opportunity to form a community that can be difficult otherwise!" Besides being a Treasurer for Psi Chi, I am also a research assistant in Dr. Taku’s Post-traumatic Growth Lab (PTG). In the lab I am interested in researching the relationship between narcissism and PTG. The lab has presented me with so many amazing opportunities such as collecting data at high schools, creating a research proposal, presenting research findings at a local conference, and publishing in a local journal. I will also be a teaching assistant for Dr. Taku’s PSY 251 course in the upcoming Fall semester. Being involved in Psi Chi gets students in closer proximity to professors and can open doors to new opportunities!

- Lauren Harrison

Secretary
Geena Osowski
"I am a senior obtaining a psychology major and a women and gender studies minor. I became an officer to get more involved in the psychology department and to help others realize how they can get involved. As secretary, I will make note of meetings but also attend workshops and events to help other psychology students see what they can do to better enhance their experience as a psychology major." In addition to an officer in Psi Chi, I have been a research assistant in Dr. Taku's Post-traumatic Growth Lab since Winter 2016. In the lab, I am interested in researching adolescents and youth and the growth they experience after going through stress. I will also be a teaching assistant for Dr. Taku's PSY 251 class in the Winter 2016 semester. There, I hope to encourage and assist students in succeeding with statistics and to help them realize how they can use statistics in the real world." “After receiving my undergraduate degree, I plan to continue to get a master’s degree in counseling. I then hope to work with children and adolescents to help them overcome everyday stressors that they may face.”

- Geena Osowski
2016-2017 Psi Chi Officers

*PsychMatters* Editor
Stephanie Allor

My name is Stephanie and I am a senior majoring in Psychology with a minor in English. I am also working on getting my Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst certificate. I joined Psi Chi in 2015, my sophomore year. I have worked as a research assistant for the Detroit Zoo where I watched and recorded penguin behaviors. I also worked as a research assistant for Dr. McGinnis where I researched and wrote a paper on humor as a coping mechanism.

"My interests in psychology are varied as one can tell from my research experience; however, I am interested in getting my Master's in social work to become a family counselor. My goals for this year are to become more involved in Psi Chi and to make *PsychMatters* more recognized to the student population. One of my goals is already underway by deciding to become the new *PsychMatters* Editor. I hope to fulfill my other goal sooner rather than later in the year of making *PsychMatters* more well-known to students. I would like to make it more well-known to all students but specifically students on the fence about joining Psi Chi. I hope to put information that will be useful to those on the fence about joining so they can gain some insight about what Psi Chi is all about."

- Stephanie Allor
## 2016-2017 Faculty Advisor and Officers

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