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Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

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2010 Psychology Research Day a Success

The annual Psychology Research Day was held on Wednesday March 31, 2010 in the Lakehead University Agora. The event showcased new research conducted by students, faculty, and adjuncts and was an excellent demonstration of the breadth and depth of research being conducted in the field. Afterward an informal gathering was held at the Outpost.



Did you miss out on 2010 Psychology Research Day?
This year the event will be held on April 1 in the Lakehead
University Agora

Do You Care2talk?

We asked graduate student Liane Kandler to describe her M.A. research, which was recently nominated for Quality and Innovation Awards from the Cancer Quality Council of Ontario. Congratulations Liane! Here's what she had to say about her research:



www.care2talk.ca

Care2talk.ca, an online support network for young adults with cancer, was developed as a component of my Master's level research under the supervision of Dr. Scott Sellick and Dr. John Jamieson. The program was piloted over a ten-week period in the spring of 2010, allowing participants from across Northwestern Ontario to connect with one another, local and online resources, and with counsellors through professionally-facilitated group chat. Thanks to the success of this endeavour, care2talk.ca has since been

implemented as a standard component of the Supportive and Palliative Care Program at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

The care2talk program was recently nominated by the Thunder Bay Regional for both Quality and Innovation Awards from the Cancer Quality Council of Ontario (results pending). Care2talk.ca was also nominated, and awarded, a place at the 2010 Innovations in Healthcare Exposition taking place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on November 10th, 2010. This contemporary approach to psychosocial oncology offers promising treatment solutions by addressing the unique challenges of a disparate demographic and geographic client base.

~ Liane S. Kandler, PhD Student (Clinical Psychology)

Psychology Association of Lakehead Students: PALS

'PALS' stands for the Psychology Association of Lakehead Students. Our mission? PALS intends to serve as a social networking group for undergraduate and graduate students as well as alumni. We want to raise awareness of the psychology profession as an exciting and rewarding career through numerous guest speaker series, presentations, and other social events.

Guest speaker series (coming up soon!) will consist of presentations by various professionals to show our psychology students the wide range of jobs out there for them. In terms of social events, we are currently planning a 'Mixer'-type gathering, where professors and fellow students will be able to meet and discuss shared interests while enjoying beverages and appetizers.



Current undergraduate and graduate students, as well as alumni, are welcome to join PALS, and we encourage you to check us out on Facebook! Our group is called "Psychological Association of Lakehead Students (PALS)". Feel free to visit our Facebook page to find out how you can get involved, make suggestions for the club, and help us get PALS up and running!

~ Christina Foresto (ciforest@lakeheadu.ca)

Psychology Graduate Students Awarded SSHRC Grants

Last Fall, Lakehead University announced a number of SSHRC grants awarded to students and researchers. Psychology graduate students Jennifer Newby, Justin Gates and Sarah Arthurs were awarded Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships at a media event on October 4.

Jennifer Newby is a doctoral student whose dissertation is titled “Can individual differences in competitiveness predict affective and physiological responses to competition?” Her research will help determine whether individual differences in competitiveness can explain real-world reactions to competitive situations. She hopes to examine whether individual differences in competitiveness influence the likelihood of experiencing adverse mood, cognitions and physiological responses when exposed to different experimental conditions. For instance, why is it that competition can serve to motivate some people while others will simply give up if the competition is too fierce? Jennifer is supervised by Dr. Rupert Klein.

Justin Gates is a masters student working with Dr. Michel Bedard. Justin’s thesis is focused on driver safety and will utilize the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data set. He is interested in the influence of stimulant use on unsafe driving actions for individuals involved in fatal car accidents.

Masters student Sarah Arthurs is working with Dr. Josephine Tan and Dr. Peter Voros. She is studying gender differences in self-harm, selecting participants from the general mental health population. Sarah’s study will explore individual characteristics, like personality, attachment style, prior diagnoses of any Axis I or II disorders, etc., and also the ways in which self-harm behaviours manifest in each gender.

The Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrate a high standard of academic excellence and research potential. Congratulations to Jennifer, Justin, and Sarah on their achievements!



Doctoral student Jennifer Newby at the SSHRC awards press conference



Check us out on Facebook!

Dr. Josephine Tan Awarded APA Section 1 Fellow Status

In our last edition, we acknowledged Dr. Josephine Tan, Associate Professor, who was awarded Fellow status with the American Psychological Association Division 35 (International Psychology). At this year’s conference, she also received Fellow status for Division 1 (Society for General Psychology). Please join us once again in congratulating Dr. Tan.

First Intern Starts with NORPIC

The NORthwestern Ontario Psychology Internship Consortium (NORPIC) is happy to announce that their first intern started this fall. As many of you already know, this is Thunder Bay's first Psychology Doctoral Internship. Children's Centre Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, and St. Joseph's Care Group have come together to create a unique internship experience here in our city.

Major and minor rotations are available in child, adolescent, and adult mental health at 3 different sites. Our first Intern will complete 1 major rotation in Children's Mental Health and 2 minor rotations in Adult Mental Health.

If you have questions or comments about the internship consortium, please feel free to contact Dr. Peter Voros at (807) 684-6471 or by email at vorosp@tbh.net.

~ Dr. Peter Voros, NORPIC Director

Meet the New CPA Undergrad Student Rep

My name is Chantal and I am a 4th year psychology student and Lakehead Undergraduate Student Representative for the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) for 2010-2011.



*Chantal Poirier,
CPA
Undergraduate
Student
Representative*

As liaison between fellow undergraduate psychology students at Lakehead and the CPA, my primary goal and responsibility this year is to encourage and support the CPA and Section for Students initiatives, activities, deadlines and requests through effective communications with you and our Department. Moreover, I will try to ensure that only the most current, relevant and valuable CPA information is made available to you.

If you are a newer psychology student here at Lakehead and interested in learning more about the CPA, or want to become a Student Affiliate (now or in the future), I encourage you to visit the Student Section of the CPA's website: <http://www.cpa.ca/students/>. Here, you can familiarize yourself with how students can benefit from Student Affiliate Membership. Plans for future information sessions for students are also in the works.

I look forward to my new role representing the CPA and fellow psychology students here at Lakehead. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me anytime.

~ Chantal Poirier,
Undergraduate Student Representative
cpoirier@lakeheadu.ca

LU Graduate Student Conducts End of Life Research in Belgium

In April-May 2010 I went to stay with the multidisciplinary (Psychology, Sociology, Medicine, Public Health, etc.) End of Life Care Research Group (EOLCRG) in the Department of Medical Sociology, Faculty of Medicine, at Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium on a 5 week invited research collaboration. I met Dr. Joachim Cohen when he was speaking at a Palliative Care conference hosted by LU in 2009 and kept in touch as we both do research about physician decision making.

I was interested in the use of Belgium's euthanasia laws by vulnerable groups (eg., older adults) and individuals who had been diagnosed with a mental illness (the law does not preclude euthanasia due to psychological distress if it is accompanied by a physical illness). After several Skype conversations I was asked to submit a formal research proposal to the group's director, Professor Luc Deliens (a prominent EOL researcher) which was subsequently accepted. I negotiated an arrangement to have first authorship on the work I completed and was provided with computer/office space, data, translation services as needed (VUB is a Flemish University, but I was mostly able to get by in French), and library access at my host university. I was supervised by Dr. Kenneth Chambaere.

During my stay in Brussels I worked closely with several of the researchers in the ~20-person group (all PhD students or graduates), attended seminars, and read endless dissertations on the topic of EOL care. It was an amazing experience to participate in such a collaborative and stimulating environment, aided by the fact that they each research different aspects of the same topic. The research I completed there was recently presented at the International Congress on Palliative Care and the abstract published in the Journal of Palliative Care. I recently completed some follow up analyses and submitted a proposed talk to the European Association of Palliative Care conference in Portugal this May. A manuscript is in progress and should be completed soon.

I highly recommend seeking out this type of learning experience. The personal and professional growth I experienced from meeting and working with some of my academic heroes was well worth the efforts it took to make it happen and I hope the relationships I established there will be career-long. The continued support of my LU Supervisor, Dr. Klein, made it possible for me to manage both completion of my thesis and the collaboration and ensured that it was a worthwhile learning experience.

~ Kathleen Bailey, Ph.D. Student (Clinical Psychology)



*The Royal Palace in
Laeken, Brussels, Belgium*

Another Successful Santa Shuffle!

A big thank you to all the members of Team Psychology who participated in the Santa Shuffle Fun Run (5 kilometres) and Elf Walk (1 kilometre) on December 4th, 2010. The Santa Shuffle is an annual event organized by the Salvation Army that is held nationwide in select cities. The proceeds from the event benefit local families in need over the holiday season and throughout the year. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the participants and the generosity of those who donated, Team Psychology won the award for most fundraised for the second consecutive year. In addition, we also doubled our participant numbers this year with 20 runners. The Shuffle is a great event, and a wonderful opportunity to support a local charity...hope to see you out there next year!



~ Liane S. Kandler

Save the Dates

Building Bridges VI: Northwestern Ontario Mental Health & Addictions Conference

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Louis Mehl-Madrona
March 3-4, 2011
Valhalla Inn, Thunder Bay, ON
For more information: www.buildingbridgesconference.ca

Professional Issues – Dr. Rick Morris

Friday March 11 (afternoon)
Lakehead University
More information to be announced
Contact: (807) 343-8322 (A. Maranzan)

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