

Welcome Letter from the Chair

August 2016

Dear Psychology Major:

On behalf of the WJU Department of Psychology faculty, I want to take this opportunity to both welcome our new students and welcome back our returning students. This is going to be a particularly exciting year because WJU Psychology is turning 50! There will be events throughout the year to celebrate this major milestone with you.

The Department of Psychology is committed to excellence in teaching, internationally recognized research, and outstanding service to our university, community and profession. To give you some examples from the past few years:

- Our students have made research presentations at professional psychological conferences in New York (NY), Philadelphia (PA), New Orleans (LA), Huntington Beach (CA), Waikiki Beach (Hawaii), St. Petersburg (FL), Boston (MA), Zurich (Switzerland), Paris (France), Lisbon (Portugal) and Berlin (Germany)...all with their costs subsidized by WJU. We want you to engage in novel and meaningful independent research, and we will make sure that your voice is heard around the world.
- Our students completed and received course credit for internships at local organizations such as the Augusta Levy Autism Center, Harmony House, Faith in Action Caregivers, Special Olympics, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Northern Regional Juvenile Detention Facility, Oglebay Zoo, Northwood Health Systems, Wheeling Soup Kitchen, and the YWCA Family Violence Program, as well as at local facilities for the elderly, those with developmental disabilities, and those needing hospice care. Each semester psychology students also volunteer with the campus HESS (Helping Enrich Someone Special) program to mentor local middle-schoolers, much like the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program.
- Our top students were inducted into Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. At graduation, these students wear the distinctive honor cord and membership pin, signifying their achievement. Nearly 500 WJU Psychology Alumni who have been inducted into Psi Chi.
- Our seniors scored in the top 1.5% NATIONALLY on a standardized test of Psychology knowledge. When you graduate, you definitely know Psychology...and potential graduate schools and employers realize that.
- Many of our students completed certification or concentration programs in intensive areas such as Advanced Statistics and Data Management, Behavioral Psychopharmacology, Mental Health Sciences, and Cognitive Neuroscience. New for this past year, we now offer training and certification in the "Child and Adolescents Needs and Strengths Assessment" which can make you a certified test administrator.

One of our shared goals is to have you complete your degree in an efficient and timely manner, while at the same time enjoying the benefits of being part of the Wheeling Jesuit University family. Your Psychology Department faculty are committed to advising and working with you to guide your progress to meet these, as well as other, academic, professional and personal goals. This letter contains important information for our new students, as well as updated information for our returning Psychology majors, so

please take a few minutes to read through it.

I. CERTIFICATE AND CONCENTRATION OPTIONS

The Department of Psychology offers one certificate option and three concentration options. While a certificate or concentration is not required, students who wish to pursue graduate studies in one of these areas can benefit from the advanced coursework and skills they develop, thus making for a stronger graduate school or employment application. These options are:

1. Certificate Program in Advanced Statistical Analysis and Data Management, which is offered through a joint venture with IBM, Inc. This certificate program will provide you with an integrated academic and practical background in statistical analysis and data management, and enhance your eligibility for employment or further study in a variety of fields. Upon completion of the required courses, students are awarded a certificate from IBM and WJU noting the accomplishment.
2. Behavioral Psychopharmacology is the study of how the human body acts and reacts to pharmacological agents and ways to both intervene and counsel individuals who may be having addiction issues. This concentration program will provide you with an integrated academic and practical background in psychopharmacology and the behavioral sciences. It is designed to enhance your eligibility for employment or further study in fields such as pharmacy, medicine, biology, nursing, psychiatry, drug and alcohol counseling, physical therapy, sports medicine, athletic training, and other health-related industries or occupations.
3. Mental Health Sciences is the study of the etiology, symptomatology, treatment, and prevention of behavioral and psychological disorders. Completion of the Mental Health Sciences Concentration will enhance your readiness for graduate study in several fields, such as counseling, clinical psychology, medicine, nursing, social services, social work, psychiatry, and special education, and prepare you for immediate employment in a variety of human service agencies.
4. Cognitive Neuroscience is the study of how the brain, the mind, and behavior interact. The human nervous system is central to all areas of neuroscience; however, analytical approaches and theoretical perspectives range from the molecular and cellular, to the behavioral and cognitive, to the philosophical. The Cognitive Neuroscience Concentration reflects this field's interdisciplinary nature by combining strengths from several academic departments, such as psychology, biology, anatomy, chemistry, and philosophy.
5. NEW!!! Human Development focuses on development throughout the lifetime, in areas such as physical, intellectual, social, moral, perceptual, cognitive and interpersonal. Completion of the Human Development Concentration will prepare you for working with developmentally disadvantaged individuals, in day care and school settings, and with the elderly.

More information concerning the requirements for these programs can be found in the Psychology Student Lounge or online at the Psychology Department's home page which is www.wju.edu/academics/psy

II. E-MAIL – THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT'S OFFICIAL MODE OF COMMUNICATION

Each Psychology Major has been given an official WJU e-mail account. It is through this, AND ONLY THIS, e-mail account that our department will send you important information, such as course information, upcoming events, requests for an appointment, updates from your advisor, etc. It is your responsibility to check this e-mail account on a regular basis (at least twice a week). Please note: To guarantee the safety of your academic information, ALL correspondence MUST be directed through a WJU e-mail account.

III. PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT LOUNGE

As a Psychology Major, you can enjoy the privilege of having the only departmentally provided student lounge on the WJU campus, which is located in Donahue 244. The Psychology lounge contains a mailbox for each of you, which will allow other students and faculty members to leave you notes, course materials, handouts, etc., and should be checked on a regular basis. Check your mailbox NOW...there is something special waiting for you!

The lounge has comfortable seating, a microwave, a refrigerator, snacks, computer terminals, games, and other “distractions” for your downtime during the day. New for 2016 is a popcorn machine, Xbox 360 gaming console, Wii gaming console, internet television, DVD player and additional seating.

The lounge also has lockers for students who would like to store their “stuff” throughout the day...this is a great option for our Psychology commuter students. There is a “Psychology Student Locker Request Form” next to the lockers...fill that out, drop it off in Dr. Raudenbush’s office, and you are good to go!

IV. COMPUTER LAB

As a Psychology Major, you can enjoy the privilege of having a dedicated computer lab within the department. The Computer Lab is located in Donahue 234, and contains 10 computer terminals. You don’t need to leave the second floor of Donahue Hall to work on statistical analyses, course assignments, check e-mail, write your papers, etc...it is all right here for you.

V. WI-FI

The Department of Psychology is Wi-Fi integrated, so you can access the internet from anywhere within the Department, which encompasses the second floor of Donahue Hall.

VI. DEPARTMENTAL LABORATORIES

The Department of Psychology houses over a dozen specialty laboratories, such as...

- The Chemical Senses Laboratory, where research related to taste, smell, disordered eating and body image are conducted.
- The Health Psychophysiology Laboratory, where physiological measurements (heart rate, blood pressure, GSR, EEG, EKG, ultrasounds, etc.) can be performed. This laboratory also has a telemetry unit, which can record physiological measurements while participants are on any area of the campus.
- The Sensory Attenuation Laboratory, which houses the only research-dedicated sensory deprivation tank within 300 miles.
- The Pain Psychophysics Laboratory, designed to research those aspects related to decreasing the pain response.
- The Small Animal Laboratory, which focuses on training specific behaviors in small animals using Classical and Operant learning techniques.
- The Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory, designed to assess mental and memory processes.
- The MediaLab Center, which provides for customizing and administering research questionnaires via computer or the internet.
- The Athletic Performance Laboratory, containing a variety of athletic equipment, designed to determine those factors which may influence athletic performance.

- The Video Game Performance Laboratory, where participants are assessed on measures such as balance, skill and hand/eye coordination using various video game platforms such as the X-Box, Wii, and PlayStation.
- The Sleep Performance Laboratory, which assesses factors related to the quality of sleep.

...and many more.

VII. FACULTY INFORMATION

The Department of Psychology faculty represent a broad range of interests and expertise. Dedicated to the creation and dissemination of knowledge in the psychological sciences, your Psychology faculty members are outstanding teachers, researchers and professional leaders at the local, regional, national, and international levels. We take great pride in creating an environment conducive to learning, growth and development for all of our students. Because of this, our graduates have an excellent record of achieving admission to graduate programs, have succeeded as academicians, clinicians and researchers, and have gained employment in a variety of fields.

Contact information and areas of expertise for each faculty member are noted below:

Dr. Debra Hull **304-243-2325** dhull@wju.edu
 Clinical Psychology, Psychology of Teaching, Learning Theory, Research Design, Human Sexuality/Intimate Human Relations, Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Personality, Abnormal Psychology, Psychopathology, Psychotherapy, and Counseling Theory. Dr. Hull also coordinates our Mental Health Sciences Concentration and our Internship Program.

Dr. Michael Kirkpatrick **304-243-4429** mkirkpatrick@wju.edu
 Behavioral Analysis, Health Psychology, Sports Psychology, History and Philosophy of Psychology, and Cognitive Psychology. Dr. Kirkpatrick also coordinates our Cognitive Neuroscience Concentration.

Dr. Julie Osland **304-243-2329** oslandj@wju.edu
 Social Psychology, Lifespan Development, Child Psychology, Adolescent Psychology, Adulthood and Aging, and Tests and Measurement. Dr. Osland is also our liaison to many other disciplines, such as Professional Education and Nursing and coordinates our Human Development Concentration.

Dr. Bryan Raudenbush **304-243-2330** raudenbc@wju.edu
 Physiological Psychology, Psychopharmacology, Statistics, Sensation and Perception, Taste and Smell, Motivation and Emotion, States of Consciousness, Psychology in Film, and Disordered Eating. Dr. Raudenbush also coordinates our Advanced Statistics and Data Management Certificate Program and our Behavioral Psychopharmacology Concentration.

VIII. RECENT RESEARCH OUTCOMES

The Department of Psychology consistently engages in research dedicated to improving the human condition, per the core Jesuit values. You can check out this research at www.wju.edu/academics/psy/recentresearch.asp

IX. OUR WEBSITE

We keep our website up-to-date! You can check it out at www.wju.edu/academics/psy
 Here you can find information concerning course requirements, facilities, faculty members, research, internship opportunities, concentration options, the Psychology Club, our Psi Chi International Honor Society, Scholarships and Awards, what you can do with a psychology degree, career information, and much more. I encourage you to visit our website and make it your homepage!

X. OUR 100% CLUB

Our 100% Club has come about because of the outstanding accomplishments of our students. Did you know that...

100% of Psychology majors completed at least 3 research projects.

100% of Psychology majors completed the National Institute for Mental Health Ethics Certification Program.

100% of Psychology majors can use SPSS to manage and analyze data.

100% of Psychology majors have completed a Institutional Review Board submission.

100% of Psychology majors who attempted the Advanced Statistics and Data Management Certificate completed it and were awarded certification by IBM.

100% of Psychology students who attempted the Cognitive Neuroscience Concentration Program completed it.

100% of Psychology students who attempted the Behavioral Psychopharmacology Concentration Program completed it.

100% of Psychology students who attempted the Mental Health Sciences Concentration Program completed it.

100% of Psychology majors who applied to Medical School were admitted.

100% of Psychology majors who completed an independent research project through the Directed Research course were admitted to graduate school.

100% of Psychology majors who completed a Senior Thesis were admitted to graduate school.

100% of Psychology majors who applied to Law School were admitted.

100% of Child Psychopathology students obtained a "Child and Adolescents Needs and Strengths Assessment" certification.

XI. PSYCHOLOGY CLUB AND PSI CHI

Student clubs are an essential element of the WJU community, providing students with meaningful ways to interact outside of the classroom and connect with their peers. As a Psychology major, you are automatically a member of our Psychology Club. The Psychology Club promotes interest in Psychology, informs others of the science of Psychology, provides service to the local community, and helps students network among themselves and the local community.

Psi Chi is an international honor society whose purpose is to encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship within the field of Psychology. Induction into the society is accomplished by being a Psychology major or minor, completing at least three semesters of coursework, maintaining an overall GPA in the top third of your class, and maintaining a minimum Psychology GPA of 3.0.

Both the Psychology Club and Psi Chi provide outside speakers on topics of interest to our students, provide fun time activities (such as movie nights and kickball games) and provide service for events (such as a dance for developmentally challenged individuals, Secret Santa gifts for children living in poverty, and Special Olympics).

You will be getting more information soon from the elected officers of each, so keep checking your email!

XII. OUR OTHER ENDEAVORS

The Department of Psychology engages in many other endeavors, almost exclusively with our students. You can check out some of the press releases concerning these activities at:

www.wju.edu/academics/psy/press.asp

I hope the information provided here has informed you about the many opportunities available to you in our courses, research laboratories, internships, extracurricular activities and the department in general. Please feel free to contact any faculty member if you would like additional information. And, most importantly, welcome to (or back to) the Department of Psychology for the 2016-2017 Academic year! We are all happy to have you here!

My best,

Dr. Bryan Raudenbush, Ph.D., L.Pharm
Professor of Psychology and Department Chair
Director of Undergraduate Research