

Spring / Fall 2011 Newsletter

School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences

Psychology's Contributions to Sustainability

The twenty-fifth anniversary of our first Claremont Symposium on Applied Social Psychology took place on Saturday, March 12, 2011. The Symposium series began in 1986 under the leadership of Dr. Stuart Oskamp. Now Faculty Emeritus of CGU's psychology programs, Dr. Oskamp's impact on the field has been widely acclaimed. (In 2009, for example, he was recognized with a lifetime achievement award from the American Psychological Foundation for "enduring contributions to the field".) To honor Dr. Oskamp's longtime contributions to "conversations that matter" in the discipline, one of his most distinguished former advisees, Dr. P. Wesley Schultz of California State University San Marcos, organized this

year's Symposium on Applied Social Psychology. In addition to being a prominent voice in the arena of Environmental Psychology, Dr. Schultz has been a co-author and collaborator of Dr. Oskamp's for decades.

"Psychological Contributions to Sustainability and Environmental Action" featured an international cast of prominent researchers in Environmental Psychology, including Drs. Oskamp and Schultz as speakers and panelists. Current cutting-edge topics were covered, ranging from organizational responses to environmental problems (a subject weighing heavily on the minds of Americans in the wake of recent disasters) to encouragement of pro-environmental behavior on an individual level. Speakers include Tom Crompton (beaming in remotely from the United Kingdom) who has developed the Strategies for Change Project for WWF-UK, three international environmental psychology researchers, Dr. Florian Kaiser from Otto-von-Guericke University in Germany, Dr. Linda Steg from University of Groningen in The Netherlands,

and Dr. Robert Gifford from University of Victoria in British Columbia. Dr. Janet Swim from Penn State, Dr. Susan Clayton from The College of Wooster, Dr. Amara Brook from Santa Clara University, and Dr. Edward Maibach from George Mason University rounded out the rest of the prominent and influential speakers on psychological contributions to sustainability and environmental action.

Building from the success of last year's Symposium, close to 100 people attended the event! If you weren't available to attend in-person, the event was taped and will be available for viewing in the CUC library.

Stay tuned for announcements about the 2012 Applied Social Psychology Symposium!

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Applying the Science of Psychology and Evaluation Across the Globe



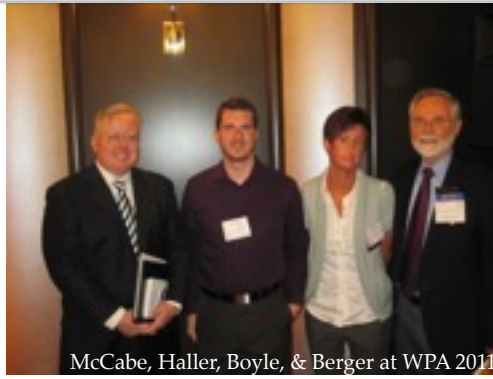
Marian Liu wins award from American Society of Aging

Pi-Ju (Marian) Liu is a doctoral student and she is interested in older adult's developmental trajectory on cognition and emotion. She came to SBOS after graduating from National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan. Her passion for working with older adults stemmed from her volunteer experience in a senior center in Taiwan. Emotional development and decision-making across the lifespan have been her research topics of interest. Her master's thesis is on senior's choice with Medicare prescription drug plans, and she found that the preference for fewer options in Medicare choices is related to personal belief about the importance of Medicare.

Currently, she is working with Dr. Stacey Wood at Scripps College on the topic of financial elder abuse, and developing interventions to prevent fraud. She is also working with Community Senior Services at Claremont to evaluate their volunteer-transportation program.

3 Students win travel awards at WPA 2011

Each year, proposals submitted to the Western Psychological Association's annual conference are reviewed blindly for merit, and the highest-rated proposals from students are selected for travel awards. This year SBOS students Sarah Boyle, John Haller, and (now alumnus) John McCabe received three of the eleven awards! Sarah presented on perceived normative fit within LGB communities, which is an extension of Self-Discrepancy Theory, to explore the degree of fit within salient gay and lesbian community norms, and to explore relationships between fit, depression, and anxiety. John Haller shared his work on the relationship between how uncertainty influences one's identification with



McCabe, Haller, Boyle, & Berger at WPA 2011

political ideology and the social justice values espoused by the group. John McCabe spoke on ways of correcting biases due to affect and the amount of cognitive effort involved in the judicial decision-making process.

Sarah, John, and John were honored during a ceremony in Los Angeles in April.

Michael Harnar wins award from American Evaluation Association

Michael Harnar, a doctoral candidate in the Evaluation and Applied Research Methods program, was part of a team that received the American Evaluation Association's 2011 Outstanding Evaluation Award. The project centered on a U.S. Department of Transportation safety project for changing at-risk behavior (CAB) on Union Pacific Railroad. The evaluation showed an 85% reduction of risky behavior, resulting in a significant cultural shift towards safer behavior. The program and the evaluation processes were highlighted as an outstanding evaluation. Jennifer Greene, President of AEA, commented "It is an honor to lead an association with the caliber of dedicated professionals like our award-winners."

Psi Chi arrives at CGU

Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, has landed at CGU! The group is advised by SBOS faculty member Dale Berger and led by President Stephen Miller, and the organization is tasked with producing well-educated, ethical, and socially responsible psychologists that will contribute to the science and profession of psychology. While still in the early stages, the CGU Psi Chi chapter is working hard to help offer events to help students collaborate on research, fundraise for charitable causes, volunteer in the local community, and help SBOS students connect with alumni to assist with research projects.



The group will also be taking on some of the responsibilities that were previously held by the Student Advocacy Association, such as the fall and spring picnics, and the annual Thanksgiving Potluck.

SBOS students that are already members of Psi Chi have the option of transferring their membership to the CGU Chapter, and new members can apply for membership by visiting the Psi Chi page on the SBOS website, or by connecting with any of the Psi Chi leaders.

Social students have big presence at EASP

The outstanding quality of our Social students was brought into stark relief during this past summer's meeting of the European Association of Social Psychology in Stockholm Sweden. EASP is attended by outstanding scholars from around the world, and not only did David Rast, Amber Gaffney, Fiona Grant, John Haller, and (now alumna) Janice Adelman attend, they all gave talks and two organized and chaired a symposium!

"This is a huge accomplishment for our students, and I seriously doubt any other U.S. social psych group had even one student attending, much less being as involved as our students were," said Professor Michael Hogg.



Students, faculty, and guests at EASP