First Year Student Introductions

By Ryan Mills

Sean Foley

What's your hometown? St. Louis, Missouri.
Where did you go for undergrad? Colby College (Waterville, ME).
What are your research interests? Training, leadership, OCB.

What is your favorite part about living in San Diego? It’s smaller, cheaper, and has less traffic than LA but with a lot of the same benefits. It’s LA lite.

What’s your favorite thing to do during study breaks? Read.

What’s one of your unique talents? I can clap really, really loudly.

Zach Girgis

What's your hometown? Orinda, California.
Where did you go for undergrad? Santa Clara University.
What are your research interests? Personnel selection & personality.

What is your favorite part about living in San Diego? Being a Raiders fan living in enemy territory.

What’s your favorite thing to do during study breaks? Study breaks???

What’s one of your unique talents? Carrying a full sized stapler in my backpack.

Faculty Interview: Dr. Allison Vaughn

By Marisa Sklar

Dr. Allison Vaughn is currently an Assistant Professor at SDSU. She is an alumna of the MA psychology program at SDSU and received her Ph.D. at the University of Utah. Her research focuses on social relationships (family, friends, etc.) and health (mental and physical).

Being an alum of the MA program, what have you been up to since graduating SDSU?
I went to the University of Utah for my PhD in Social/Health psychology.

What brought you back to San Diego?
Aside from it being the most perfect place to live? I have lots of family in LA and OC and so it was nice to come back “home.” That and there is no snow like in Salt Lake City.

What are your primary research interests? Have they changed since your work as an MA student?
My research is focused on relationships and health. I am still interested in the general stress and coping process (my work as an MA student), but I have narrowed my focus more to the process of social support as a coping strategy while at the same time I have broadened the concept of health to include cardiovascular health. I use impedance cardiography in my lab examine heart rate and blood pressure and their underlying components.

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Madeline Schmidt, a Training and Leadership Development Consultant, recently spoke with current SDSU students about her work experience after graduating from the Applied Program in 1999. Since graduating, Madeline has held several different positions in San Diego, including HR Manager at the Westin Hotel and Leadership Training Manager at AMN Healthcare. Although beginning her career in Human Resources, Madeline knew she always wanted to specialize in training. She spoke extensively about the process she implemented in her current organization for developing an effective training program, noting that the main obstacle in developing the training program was not the actual training itself but the transfer of training back onto the job. Madeline mentioned that having an HR background from her first position has helped immensely in more specified jobs later on. Madeline’s advice to students currently in the program is to get involved as much as possible in order to network and gain valuable experience.

Mike Smith
Senior Human Resources Specialist
Boeing Company

Mike Smith recently spoke to the Applied Program students and faculty about his experience working for Boeing. Mike completed his MS in 1999 and began working for Boeing where he has been for 9 years in various HR generalist and workforce specialist positions. He currently works as a Senior Human Resource Generalist at Boeing, where he leads various initiatives within his team. Mike also does what he refers to as “HR for HR Employees” for the IDS HR division. Because Boeing primarily employs engineers, he emphasizes the need to understand the business that you work for and be able to connect what you do as an HR employee to the overall business strategy. One of the most valuable lessons he learned from the program was how to think critically on his feet, and his advice to current students is to network as much as you can, especially with your peers. He also mentioned that when applying for jobs, it is important to capitalize on the statistics and research knowledge gained while in the program because that is what will set you apart from others within the field.

Presentations


Note: Names in bold indicate faculty, students, or alumni affiliated with the Applied Psychology program.
Publications


Announcements

- Erica Anderson, class of ’05, married Aaron Carlin on October 11th, 2008 in San Diego and honeymooned in Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay.


- Taylor Peyton now works at Sempra energy as an HR research analyst, was elected to serve Secretary/Webmaster for SDIOP, and got engaged in June to Brian Roberts to be married next summer.

- Emilio C. Ulloa and his wife, Monica Ulibarri had their second child on December 12. Josephine “Josie” Ixchel Ulloa weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

- Emilio C. Ulloa received SDSU’s “Mortar Board Outstanding Faculty 2008” and “Quest for the Best Faculty/Staff Award 2008.”

- Alice Wastag now work as a Client Manager at Denison Consulting, focusing on culture and leadership.

Thesis Defenses


Note: Names in bold indicate faculty, students, or alumni affiliated with the Applied Psychology program.
First Year Student Introductions continued…

Lindsay Palmer

What’s your hometown? Pleasanton, California

Where did you go for undergrad? SDSU

What are your research interests? OCB, emotional labor, occupational stress.

What is your favorite part about living in San Diego? There’s always something new and exciting to do!

What’s your favorite thing to do during study breaks? I like cooking and trying out new recipes.

What’s one of your unique talents? I can beat almost anyone in Super Mario Brothers 3 on Nintendo.

Viet Pham

What’s your hometown? Born in Saigon, raised in Weatherford, OK.

Where did you go for undergrad? Cal State Fullerton

What are your research interests? Policy enforcement in the customer service industry.

What is your favorite part about living in San Diego? It’s very diverse and eclectic.

What’s your favorite thing to do during study breaks? Reading a novel, watching a movie, or exploring SD.

What’s one of your unique talents? I really like photography, film, and new outdoor activities.

Faculty Interview continued…

Do you currently teach any classes here at SDSU?

I am currently teaching PSY 301 (research methods) but I hope to be teaching health psychology or a grad seminar on health.

What do you enjoy most about your career? Which aspects are most challenging?

Strangely enough, I enjoy teaching methods I think in part because I enjoy doing research so much, which makes it easier to teach with enthusiasm. I enjoy the applicability of my work on relationships and health because most people can think of good and not-so-good relationships that they have in their lives and how those folks affect them, both mentally and physically. I think the most challenging thing at this point would have to be automatic autonomy that you gain in academia. There is no longer an advisor “checking” your work which is exciting but also scary at the same time.

When you have free time, what kinds of activities do you enjoy doing? Hobbies?

I love playing tennis, especially because there is no snow covering the ground which prevented me from playing for 5 months of the year in Utah. I also enjoy books and films. One of the perks to living in Utah was the Sundance Film Festival every year and the involvement of Sundance with the city of Salt Lake throughout the year. I am also an avid baker—so if anyone is needs of goodies or snacks, let me know.

Do you have any secret talents?

I wouldn’t call my baking a secret but my abilities in the kitchen are pretty good. I also like to sew (for a sample, please ask the Roesch kids to see some of their blankets).
Mannheim Student Introductions

By Ryan Mills

David Dwertmann

What’s your hometown?
I was born in Engelskirchen, Germany.

Where did you go for undergrad?
University of Mannheim.

What are your research interests?
Performance, organizational commitment, change management, program evaluation.

What’s your favorite part about San Diego?
The weather, the beaches.

What do you like to do during study breaks?
Travel.

What’s one of your unique talents?
In general, I am good at finding solutions for bad situations.

Christina Eisenbach

What’s your hometown?
Gross-Gerau Germany, close to Darmstadt and Frankfurt.

Where did you go for undergrad?
University of Mannheim.

What is your favorite part about living in San Diego?
The sun and the beaches.

What’s your favorite thing to do during study breaks?
Sleep or spend time with my friends.

What’s one of your unique talents?
I can eat a lot of cookies in a short time.

Congratulations to
Keith Hattrup!
As of Fall 2008, Dr. Hattrup was promoted to Full Professor.

Faculty Interview continued…

As a former master’s student, do you have any advice for the current students?

Take advantage of your time here, both in the program and in San Diego. I like the saying “work hard, play hard.” I did lots of work as a MA and a PhD student and I feel it paid off (getting a job and all). But what most students don’t realize is that you will only get out of the program what you are willing to put in. If you only do what is required, you will only get the degree. If you work hard, you can get so much more than that (conferences and travel to conferences and publications). But all work and no play, especially in a city as awesome as San Diego, would also be criminal. There is so much to do that some students fall into the trap of doing no work while playing all the time so I think it’s important to find that balance.

Any post graduation advice for the 2nd year students?

My advice for post graduation is really for the students going on to PhD programs because that is what I know. And that advice would be to use the skills you got here at State because you get lots of them. When I arrived in Utah, I had stats and methods skills as well as content knowledge that were far ahead of others. Also, use the contacts you get here later on in life. I continued my collaboration with my advisor well into my PhD program and it led to some presentations and publications. Mentoring doesn’t have to end when you graduate.

Don’t forget to join the APSA Linkedin Group. For more information, contact Dr. Lisa Kath (lkath@sciences.sdsu.edu).
Mannheim Introductions continued…

Andree Sievers

What's your hometown? Paderborn.
Where did you go for undergrad? Mannheim.
What are your research interests? Selection and recruiting.

What is your favorite part about living in San Diego? My apartment close to the ocean.
What’s your favorite thing to do during study breaks? Traveling.
What’s one of your unique talents? I am good at forgetting my personal stuff everywhere.

First Year Student Introductions continued…

Heather Yamashita

What's your hometown? Torrance, California.
Where did you go for undergrad? SDSU.
What are your research interests? Effectiveness of sensitivity training.

What is your favorite part about living in San Diego? If I had to pick a favorite, it would be the beaches.
What’s your favorite thing to do during study breaks? Watching my favorite TV shows and going shopping.
What’s one of your unique talents? I can stand on my head.

Fall 2008 APSA BBQ Group Photo
The student editor of this issue is Stephen Vong.

If you would like additional information on the Applied Psychology Student Association (APSA) or anything discussed in this newsletter, please e-mail Dr. Lisa Kath at lkath@sciences.sdsu.edu.

Left: First year students (left to right): Heather Yamashita, Zach Girgis, Sean Foley, Christina Eisenbach, Andree Sievers, Lindsay Palmer, and Viet Pham.

Right: Second year students (left to right): Marisa Sklar, Stephen Vong, Jessika Reliford, Tressa Schultze, Brandon Roberts, Linsey Dirkes, and Ryan Mills.

Left:: Faculty (left to right): Georg Matt, Scott Roesch, Mark Ehrhart, Lisa Kath, Jeff Conte, and Allison Vaughn.

Additional Information

The student editor of this issue is Stephen Vong.

If you would like additional information on the Applied Psychology Student Association (APSA) or anything discussed in this newsletter, please e-mail Dr. Lisa Kath at lkath@sciences.sdsu.edu.