

## Creighton Hosts 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Great Plains Conference

By: Adam Greteman & Brittany Travers

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Great Plains Convention, held at Creighton University, created a forum for psychology students to present their diverse research and learn more about psychology from peers and faculty. These diverse research projects spanned from

experiments on classically conditioned rats to literature reviews on experimenter effects. Students generally seemed to appreciate the opportunity to present their research to their peers. "I've never been to a conference before," explained Rachel Fouts of William Jewell College, "But it's really been a good experience. It was great seeing people come

together for the love of psychology."

Faculty members tended to agree with Fouts and found inspiration in the number of research projects and the general student interest. "The opportunity for students, particularly undergraduates, to present their research and to view the work of others has been pivotal in our efforts to engage students in learning about and valuing the central role of research in the theory and practice of psychology," stated Dr. Calvin Garbin, a professor at University of Nebraska- Lincoln.

According to Dr. Stephen Davis of Emporia State College, the founder of the conference, 25 years ago the conference began as an opportunity for Kansas

students to present papers. It has grown significantly since then, now including 32 participating universities from a number of different states. The Great Plains Conference has also grown to include the *Journal of Psychological Inquiry*, a journal in which

undergraduate students from the conference can publish their research.

In essence, the Great Plains Conference has spread its influence over the last 25 years. "For it [the conference] to have survived—and to be thriving! That is the key," stated Dr. Davis. "The conference has grown beyond my imagination."

In terms of Creighton

University receiving the honor of hosting the 25<sup>th</sup> conference, Dr. Davis commented, "The

Hixon-Lied building is a beautiful building, and the Creighton psychology faculty are committed to the conference, which is reflected in the commitment of the students."



Senior, Jordan Winter presents the award for \*\*\* at the Great Plains Awards Ceremony on March 19, 2005



Checkout the online edition of *Inpsyght* at <http://puffin.creighton.edu/psy/> for updates throughout the year.

# A Year in Psi Chi

By: Jordan Winter

The 2004-2005 Creighton University Phi Chi Chapter was led by President Jordan Winter, Vice-President Liz Hunziker, Secretary Meredith King, and Treasurer Hilary Harper. During the year, the chapter was involved in numerous activities on campus including: a bake sale to raise funds for the Sienna Francis House, a pot luck movie night to get to know psychology faculty and staff, new member induction and dinner, and Christmas party, besides the monthly chapter meetings. At the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Great Plains Conference hosted at

Creighton University, Psi Chi members played a pivotal role in facilitating this larger than ever conference event. This has been a big year for Creighton's Phi Chi chapter and only looks to hold more for future students.

## **Congratulations to the 2005-2006 Officers**

- President: Adam Greteman
- Vice-President: Leah Skovran
- Secretary: Brittany Travers
- Treasurer: Jariel Rendell

# Undergraduate Research Grants

By: Jariel Rendell

Congratulations to seniors Hilary Harper, Jordan Winter, and Elizabeth Hunziker! Harper and Winter received a grant that allowed them to spend the summer studying preschool-age boys and girls' perceptions of toys.

"We received 1 of 4 Creighton University College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Summer Research Scholarships," Winter said. "The total amount was \$2000 so we each got \$1000."

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*"I would love every student who does independent research to be able to get an undergraduate research grant"*

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"The grant money allowed me to spend several days a week working on my research instead of working at a summer job," Hunziker said.

Harper and Winter's grant also allowed them to focus on their research.

"The summer research scholarship allowed me and Jordan to dedicate more time and energy to the project than we may have been able to during the school year," Harper said.

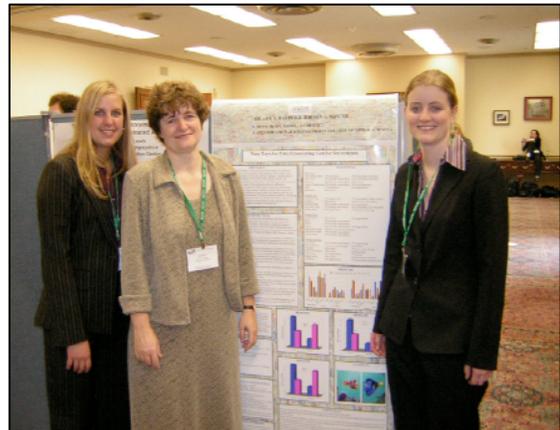
They applied in early 2004 and learned they received the scholarship two months later.

"It was not a lot of work to apply," Harper said. "Our faculty advisor, Dr. Cherney, was very helpful with the application process."

Isabelle Cherney, PhD, encourages undergraduates interested in research to apply for grants.

"I would love every student who does independent research to be able to get an undergraduate research grant," Dr. Cherney said. There

are several grants and scholarships available to students interested in conducting summer research. This year, the College of Arts and Sciences will offer six



Jordan Winter, Dr. Isabelle Cherney and Hilary Harper display their research at Posters on the Hill, a conference in Washington D.C. in April

Undergraduate Summer Research Scholarships; application began in early-February. Psi Chi members are eligible for numerous summer research grants; more information is available on the Psi Chi website: <http://www.psichi.org/awards/undergraduate.asp>. For students who are interested in presenting their research, Creighton offers grants that cover expenses for travel to conferences.

"Our grant allowed us to complete a project that [was] presented at the Great Plains Conference, the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, and the CUR Posters on the Hill event, and hopefully published in a major journal," Harper said.

# Flipping Burgers with a BA in Psychology?

By: Jordan Winter

A common myth surrounding a Bachelor of Arts degree, specifically one in psychology, is that it will get one a job flipping burgers and not a whole lot else! However, this statement is just that a myth. As the number of psychology majors on college campuses continues to climb, the ever present question of what to do with that degree once it is obtained. This question exists because there is not an exact connection between a BA in psychology and a precise job. For example unlike receiving a degree in accounting with which one will most likely become an accountant, a BA in psychology opens the door to a wide variety of fields. Psychology is a well rounded degree that incorporates communication skills, problem solving skills, historical statistical skill, and

experience with scientific research, to name a few. This makes a bachelor degree in psychology universal to job markets as wide as human services to business to government policy, the possibilities are endless. For all of those current and future psychology majors, please be aware that the future is not as desolate as many may think. For more information on the possibilities that are open to anyone with a BA in psychology please check out the following full length article:

Morgan, B. L. & Korschgen, A. J. (2001). Psychology career “exploration made easy” *Eye on Psi Chi*, 5(3), 35-36.

## Former Creighton Students in Action

By: Nick Basalay & Liz Hunziker



**Michael Kavan, PhD**

*Associate Dean of Student Affairs—Creighton University School of Medicine*

Job Description: Administrative functions, as well as dealing with medical school admissions, financial aid, student programs, and events. In addition he also does academic and personal counseling for the medical students.

Favorite Memory of Creighton: “I truly enjoyed my interactions with the faculty of Creighton, especially the psychology faculty. Dr. Ware, Dr. Leak, Dr. Lupo and many other of the faculty were genuinely good people to interact with both academically and socially.”

Advice for Creighton students: “Take advantage of the numerous research and clinical opportunities. We have one of the best universities in the country in terms of undergraduate research, and it will prepare you for anything.”



**Tessia Hovden**

*Lead Program Aid for Alternative Education Family and Children Center, Lacrosse, WI*

Job Description: Supervises at a detention program for 12-17 year-old at risk youth. She supervises the students and staff during the evening hours and notifies parents, trackers, and social workers of the students’ progress.

Favorite Memory of Creighton: The mock-trial in Psychology and the Law. “It was a lot of hard work but I really enjoyed going out and talking to people and doing research on the case”

Advice For Those Graduating with a B.A. “It can be kind of frustrating at first [finding a job], so be patient, don’t give up, use all the resources available to you—including your professors. Ask yourself where you want to be after college and what. Then take the necessary steps to get there!”

# They Said What?!

By: Hilary Harper

I am sure that each of you at one point or another in your academic lives has been told by a teacher or professor that you are using filler words and phrases when you speak. What are filler words and phrases you ask? Do "like," "um," and "you know" ring a bell? I decided to do some detective work of my own in order to identify the words and phrases commonly used by our very own psychology professors. As you may notice, not all of the professors made the list. Those that were left out are either very lucky that no one will give me the dirt on them or they do an incredibly good job of varying their filler words and phrases. Enjoy!

**Dr. Budesheim:** "Ok folks" and "Don't be a cognitive miser!"

**Dr. Leak:** While many of us may know Dr. Leak for his infamous "meeting (sleeping) room" he is also known for saying, "I'm smelling a rat."

**Dr. Finken:** Luckily for Dr. Finken, her commonly used phrase is a welcomed one. You may have heard her asking, "Any questions, comments, or concerns?"

**Dr. Badura:** When asked a random question she says, "Hmm, what do I think about that?" and gives herself ample time to ponder the question before giving an answer to the inquiring mind.

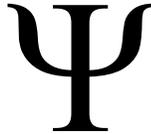
**Dr. Jefferson:** He has a unique way of arguing (or perhaps I'll use the gentler word "discussing") with students. When someone disagrees with Dr. Jefferson he calmly responds, "I hear what you're saying but..."

**Dr. Stone:** If you have ever taken a class with Dr. Stone you may know what I'm talking about. Dr. Stone enjoys rattling off "Ok?" and accompanying this question with a tilted head nod.

**Dr. Cooney:** She has a favorite transition phrase. If you listen closely you'll hear her using a delayed and louder "so that."

**Dr. Cherney:** This one was very difficult, however I think "In Switzerland..." will suffice.

**Dr. Huss:** "I'm a trained mental health professional!" "Outstanding!" "I brought my A-game today!" and anything that has to do with Canadians



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