

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- Undergraduate Internship Class: A "hands-on" Experience
- Take a look at the latest faculty changes in the department
- Job Hunting? Check out your Options
- Catch up with Psi Chi

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## Undergraduate Internship Class: Develop Independence, Job Experience and Confidence!

By Kristin Jones

Perhaps a well kept secret of the Creighton psychology department is the undergraduate internship class. The class is taught by Dr. Ware and students have placement opportunities in a variety of education, law, and social service related settings. The class meets once a week and provides a foundation for students' internship experiences by requiring the completion of a goals statement, reading summaries, and critical incident reports.

When asked, Dr. Ware emphasizes the importance of Internships in an undergraduate arena as an opportunity for students to "compare and contrast the classroom and the work world." The internship experience often provides students with opportunities for person growth. John Gunderson, a senior psychology major who interns at the South Omaha Probation Office agrees, "I have learned to be more independent on the job and have more confidence in my ability to function properly in

a real-world environment." On the job-site, John was trained to act as a replacement probation officer in case one was out of the office.

Dr. Ware points out that because Creighton focuses exclusively on undergraduate

placements which include a respectable GPA, extracurricular involvement, individual initiative and interest in providing a service.

The students meet once a week as a class to talk about their experience in their internship and compare their stories. When asked whether the class was more of a time commitment than your average undergraduate psychology class, John Gunderson responded, "It's the perfect situation. You get a real sense of what is expected in that particular field, but they understand we are students first so it is never too taxing on our schedules."

Junior psychology major Krista Poetting's experiences at the Children's Respite Center may best sum up the mission of the undergraduate internship class, "I use what I've learned in my classes and apply it toward what I do at my site. Internships are a great way to combine learning experience while having fun at the same time."

psychology education, the department is able to have access to a wide variety of placement settings. The community service and involvement that students provide through their intern duties are also reflective of Creighton's emphasis on Jesuit values of service and leadership in the community. To participate in the class, students must meet certain academic and personal require-



Internship class student, Kristin Jones presents about her experience at Abraham Lincoln High School during a class poster presentation

## Spotlight On



### Jariel Rendell

**Astrological Sign:** Aries

**Academic History:** Jariel was home-schooled by his parents and entered Creighton as a freshman in the fall of 2002 at the age of 14

**Fun Fact:** He will graduate in May 2006 at the age of 19, the youngest graduating psychology major in Creighton's history

**Involvement:** Jariel served as the treasurer for the Creighton Psi Chi chapter, as well as an active member on the mock trial team.

**Future Plans:** Jariel has been accepted to several prestigious law schools, but is currently "keeping his options open."

**Advice for Future Psychology Students:** Take Advanced Statistics from Dr. Stone because "I know how to do a logistic regression" would be a great pick-up line."

By Claire Brabec

INPSYGHT

# Dr. Jefferson: Changing Things Up

By Megan Mazur

Dr. Stephen Jefferson will be leaving the Creighton University Department of Psychology at the end of the summer session. Dr. Jefferson has been a part of this department for the past three years, and has made significant contributions to the department, university, and community. His primary research focus deals with prejudice and racism, but Dr. Jefferson is also interested in African American racial identity. His expertise in these areas has led him to be involved in many lectures and seminars on campus. Additionally, he was involved in the Tunnel of Oppression this spring.

Dr. Jefferson's favorite class to teach at Creighton has been Multicultural Issues in Psychology. He particularly enjoys reading over reflections for this class, especially when he can tell that students "get it." The faculty members of this department are another one of Dr. Jefferson's favorite memories.

The next endeavor for Dr. Jefferson will be as an Assistant Professor on tenure tract at Eastern Michigan University. Although Dr. Jefferson has fond memories, he is looking forward to reuniting with his partner, and cheaper parking, which

await him in Michigan. He will be missed, and we all wish him the best of luck!



Dr. Jefferson and Dr. Stone share a laugh at the Psi Chi Picnic

# Tackling the Great Job Hunt Head-on

By Annie Watson

So you made it through four years of psychology classes and are ready to move on! Maybe you decided graduate school is not for you—after-all, you are ready to start making some money to pay off those student loans—now starts the Great American Job Hunt. Don't worry—we're here to help.

With a degree in psychology there are a variety of jobs an individual can choose from. According to Jim Breti, director of Career Services at Creighton University, "when you choose to get a job directly out of undergraduate school, you are faced with a wide range of opportunities that you can apply your degree to." Therefore, it is important to follow a few key steps in preparing yourself for the job market:

**1. Start early:** Graduation comes quickly and many people find themselves income-less for a longer period of time than they projected. This is avoidable. Research prospective employers that fit your interests: youth counselor, rehabilitation adviser, case evaluator, admissions counselor, and social worker are a

few popular occupations for psychology majors. Visit the Career Center at Creighton University for ideas, network, attend career fairs and join professional associations to get some ideas!

**2. Do Your Research:** After you have narrowed down your search to a few jobs that may fit your interests, it is essential to research the company or organization to which you will be applying. Employers perceive research as a critical factor in the evaluation of applicants because it reflects interest and enthusiasm. Know the company's expectations for employers, what they specialize in, and most importantly what you can add to their already dynamic staff.

**3. Create a Résumé:** This is potentially the most important factor in applying for a job. Your résumé is the ticket to an interview. It should highlight your strengths, your research/work experience and should sell you as a potential employer. The Career Center at Creighton University can provide you with information to help you produce a résumé that will leave a lasting impres-

sion.

**4. Nail the Interview:** When a potential employer invites you for an interview, there are a few things to keep in mind. Dress professionally. The first impression is often the most lasting. Prepare several questions you have for your interviewer about the company, what your responsibilities would be, benefits, pay, etc. When answering questions, sell yourself! Show the employer evidence of well thought-out career goals, strengths and knowledge of the chosen field, and a genuine interest in their organization. Follow up with a thank you note or phone call the day after your interview. It will show your potential employer that you are, in fact, interested in working with them!

**5. If at First You Don't Succeed.... Keep Trying!:** Very few people receive the very first job they apply for. Competition for jobs can be very intense, but if you use each experience as a learning one, you are bound to succeed! With some persistence and a killer handshake, you will receive the job you know you are qualified for.

# Moving Forward with Dr. Cooney

By Allison Osborn

Most students knew Dr. Ramie Cooney through the classes she taught as a developmental psychologist. Her passion though, was in the area of mentoring students.

Collaborating with Dr. Laura Finken, the two developed the Marriage and Family Relationships course and even acquired funding for the computerized infant simulators to make the transition to parenthood a concrete experience for students in the class. Dr. Cooney was an extraordinary mentor for students, as she was often thought of as warm and inviting. Her friendly and bubbly personality was a draw for students who could easily relate to her. Dr. Cooney is currently living with her family in a suburb of Seattle, cherishing the opportunity to stay home with her two daughters, Caitrin and



Courtney. While in Seattle, Dr. Cooney is continuing her work evaluating the Health Careers Opportunity Program at the Creighton University School of Medicine, with Principal Investigator Dr. Sade Kosoko.

The HCOP program provides valuable preparation for health careers for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Dr. Cooney also plans on doing some adjunct teaching in Seattle. The Cooney family hopes to return to Nebraska someday, as John's company is based in Omaha.

Dr. Cooney has impacted the lives of countless students, faculty and staff who will miss her dearly. Students will remember her as they graduate and continue on into post-graduate work, or continue with their academic careers at Creighton. Faculty will miss her direct but gentle comments at meetings, her generous friendship, and will always think of her when they take a lunch trip to Indian Oven. As Dr. Finken said soon after Dr. Cooney left, "There will never be another Ramie."

## Department Welcomes Maya Khanna

The department would like to welcome Maya Khanna as the newest faculty member of the psychology department! Growing up in Ringling, Oklahoma, a town of 1,000, she is a self-proclaimed "big math and science nerd." She completed her undergraduate education at Washington University in St. Louis with a double major in psychology and a combined program in psychology, neuroscience, and philosophy. She has served in the

Teach for America Corps as a high school science teacher in San Jose, California and is still actively involved in the program. Maya attended graduate school at the University of Michigan where she studied cognitive development and the acquisition of reading, language, and memory skills. In March, she married Michael Cortese who will be

joining the department of psychology at UNO this fall. In her free time, she enjoys watching Oklahoma Sooners' sports, listening to folk and bluegrass music, and playing with their dog Libby! Welcome to the psychology department Maya!

**"I am a big math and science nerd."**



## A Note From the Editor

As I sat down to put together this issue of *INPSYGHT*, I began to reminisce about the four years I have spent in the halls of the psychology department. My thoughts are simple. Over the next few years, we will forget many of the theories we have been taught, but we will never forget that we learned them together. We have learned friendships, hard-work, trust, loving commitment, and sacrifice. What we will take away

**"What we will take away from Creighton does not merely come from books, but from our experience"**

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As some of us leave for graduate schools, others to professional schools, the workforce, or even other countries, we are leaving prepared. Spending our fall breaks in the statistics lab, revising a paper for the 12th time, and late night help from our peers has all paid off. I know I speak on behalf of the graduating senior class in thanking the faculty for your guidance, support, and endless

hours of help in mastering SPSS, APA style, and Freud's many and useful theories. Thank you also for sharing your stories, your families, and your friendship. Your efforts have paid off more than you know.

Best of luck to all graduating seniors! I wish you happiness, now and always.

Sincerely and Thankfully,  
Leah Skovran, Editor

*"A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother."*

*-Author Unknown*

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## A YEAR IN PSI CHI

By Adam Greteman

Psi Chi has had an exciting and growing 2005-2006 academic year! The year began with a new executive board and new moderators, Dr. Isabelle Cherney and Dr. Ramie Cooney. With such changes, there was a little time for adjustment, but soon everyone took the reins and the organization began getting big things done. Nineteen new members were inducted this year. During the fall semester we broke up into subcommittees to divide the tasks on hand which proved to be a huge success. T-shirts for the psychology department as a whole were designed and used as a fundraiser. The holidays brought everyone together to adopt-a-family and sincerely look at our own blessings. The holidays also brought everyone out to the annual Christmas party to celebrate the semester and the joys of the holiday season.

Spring semester began with a whirlwind and beautiful weather. Our second Brown Bag lunch with

faculty members took place, a Relay-for-Life team was created, the culminating event for the Kenefick Race

Lecture Series has been headed and planned by Psi Chi, and numerous other exciting events were planned for the semester – including many members attending the Great Plains Undergraduate Research Conference and several other professional conferences. Psi Chi has truly had a wonderful year filled with many traditional activities, but also new activities to broaden the scope of the organization!



Leah Skovran, Allison Osborn, and Chrissy Alcorn prepare to answer a question during Psych Bowl

**Congratulations to the  
2006-2007 Psi Chi  
Executive Officers!**

*Claire Brabec—President*

*Kristin Jones—Vice-President*

*Emily Polachek—Secretary*

*Lindsey Arkfeld—Treasurer*