

The Freudian Slip

CSB/SJU Psychology Department Newsletter



College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University

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Welcome Dr. Ben Faber! by Natalie Thompson

Newsletter Staff

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The psychology department is pleased to welcome Dr. Ben Faber to the CSB/SJU campuses. Ben was kind enough to sit down with us and answer some questions.

Q: Where are you from?

A: Rochester, NY

Q: Where did you go to school (undergrad and grad)?

A: UG: University of California at Santa Cruz, Grad School: University of Rochester

Q: What is your specialty in psychology?

A: Cognition and Cognitive Development



Pictured: Dr. Ben Faber

Q: What made you decide to come teach at CSB/SJU?

A: I wanted to be at a school that focuses on the education of students and close student-faculty interactions.

Q: What is your favorite thing about CSB/SJU?

A: The sense of community amongst faculty and with students and staff.

Q: What made you interested in pursuing a career in psychology?

A: I always wanted to know what made humans different from other species and how we accomplish complex mental feats with ease.

Q: What is your most memorable experience from grad school?

A: The 5 days I spent writing my comprehensive exam and the feeling of knowing my place in the larger field of psychology at the end of it.

Q: Do you have any advice for those who are thinking about pursuing a career in psychology?

A.: Consider your options broadly and pursue them with rigor.

Q: In your opinion, what is the most difficult thing about going to grad school?

A: The freedom you have academically, and learning to treat yourself as a colleague to faculty instead of as a pupil.

Q: Is this your first job teaching? If not, where did you teach before?

A: Yes and No. It is my first full time teaching position, but I have been teaching at the University of Rochester for over three years.

Q: What is your favorite vacation spot?

A: Anywhere with natural quiet beauty.

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Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Nouveau French Vegetarian tasting menus.

Q: What do you like to do outside of teaching (hobbies)?

A: Cycling with my wife, Kiera, and playing with my Greyhound, George.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: I don't think I could pick just one, not all

books can be compared to each other.

Q: Who is the psychologist from the past who you think contributed the most to psychology?

A: Not a psychologist per se, but Charles Darwin.

We would like to thank Ben for his time and contributions to this interview. If you happen to see Ben around the Psych Department or biking to work (as he does every morning) say hi and make him feel at home.

MUPC Update

The Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference will be hosted by The College of St. Benedict and St. John's University this year. The conference will take place on the CSB campus on Saturday, April 18th, 2009, and will feature positive psychologist Laura King as the keynote speaker.

Trevare Sherman has been named the MUPC student coordinator. Please forward any questions you may have about participation, logistics, or other specifics to Trevare.



Pictured: Last year's MUPC at Hamline University

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Current Faculty Research by Brianna Ricci

Dr. Steve Stelzner is currently involved in two research projects and is about to embark on a third. At the moment, he is writing a case study which focuses on the Healthy Start and Head Start programs used in the Anoka County Community Action Program. He is also collaborating with the Chair of Physical Education, Don Fischer, in evaluating a physical activity program for children and adults. (As a side note, this program—Generation Endurance—was started by two women, one of whom is a graduate of St. Ben's.) Finally, Dr. Stelzner is about to begin collaborating with Don Fischer and Dr. Richard Wielkiewicz on research examining the leadership attitudes and beliefs of first-year college students on several different campuses.

Dr. Rodger Narloch, the CSB/SJU Psychology Department Chair, has been involved with research on how college students change over the course of their college years. His particular interest is identity development: how people come to understand who they are. He also studies other aspects of development—spiritual beliefs, decision-making, etc.—that relate to identity formation.

News/Events by Brianna Ricci

This past summer, Dr. Narloch was a small-group leader at a Massachusetts conference called Collegium. This conference examined what it means to be a Catholic college and how education at a Catholic college might be different from other colleges.

Creating your Personal Essay For Graduate School - hosted by CSB/SJU Career Services—the event will be taking place at 6 p.m., October 7th in the Academic Service Building (ASB) room 222. Contact Career Services for more information.

Pizza with the Profs—hosted by the Psychology Club—Monday, October 23rd starting at 4:30 pm. Come out, get to know your Profs and get some free pizza! Contact the Psychology Club for more information.

What Can I Do With a Psychology Major? - Hosted by CSB/SJU Career services at 7p.m. on October 27th in Gorecki 204C. If you are in the process of trying to figure out what to do after graduation this is the perfect event. Professionals working within the field of psychology will

offer helpful tips and advice on how to find and land the job that is meant for you. The Panel will include recent SJU Psychology Graduate Jacob Reichert ('08)

National Conference for Undergraduate Research—or NCUR—will be taking place on April 16-18th 2009. Applications are due in mid-November. For more information about NCUR speak to your advisor. Click the following link to learn more about the conference www.ncur.org.