

**THE EIGHTEENTH
LEWIS M. TERMAN WESTERN REGIONAL TEACHING CONFERENCE**
San Francisco, California
April 25, 2012

PSYCHOLOGY AND THE REAL WORLD

- 8:30 am **Continental Breakfast**
Provided by Worth Publishers
- 9:00 am **Welcome -- Chris Cozby**, WPA Executive Director
- 9:10 am **The Most Important Advice for Our Students Considering Psychology as a Major or Career Path**
Amira Rezec Wegenek, Saddleback College
- 10:15 am Break
- 10:30 am **Recipe for Psychology Student Success: Academic Degree + Applied Experience + Networking = Career Success**
Tanya Boone, California State University, Bakersfield
- 11:30** **Pair & Share**
Anne Duran, California State University, Bakersfield
- 12:00 –
1:30 pm Lunch Break
- 1:30 pm **Pavlov's Dogs Still Drooled and Freud Still Died in 1939 – Reinventing Introductory Psychology with a Theme Based Approach**
Diane Simpson Brown, Everett Community College
- 2:30 pm **Reality Bites: Challenging Cherished Beliefs with Critical Thinking**
Heidi Riggio, California State University, Los Angeles
- 3:30 pm Break
- 3:45 pm **Four Decades Professing Psychology: Lessons I Have Learned**
David Myers, Hope College
- 4:45 pm **Conference Closing and Evaluation**
Conference Coordinator
Anne Duran, California State University, Bakersfield

THE EIGHTEENTH LEWIS M. TERMAN WESTERN REGIONAL TEACHING CONFERENCE PRESENTERS AND PRESENTATIONS



TANYA BOONE, California State University, Bakersfield

Recipe for Psychology Student Success: Academic Degree + Applied Experience + Networking = Career Success

Is it enough for Psychology students to only learn about Psychology in the classroom? Probably not. At CSUB, we believe that students need three things to ensure career success: the academic degree; some kind of applied experience such as an internship; and networking opportunities. Thus, in the Department of Psychology, we offer students two specific types of applied experiences, both of which students can leverage for career success: Academic Internships and Service Learning. This presentation will address the elements of our academic internship program that are directly related to students' plans for the future and career success. This presentation will also address the specifics of a service learning class and project, and how the project connects to students' future career goals and plans.

Tanya Boone is an Associate Professor of Psychology at CSUB. She teaches classes in developmental psychology and research methods. In addition, she coordinates the Academic Internship program within the Department of Psychology. Since December 2009, Dr. Boone has been the Faculty Coordinator in CSUB's Center for Community Engagement and Career Education, where her primary duties are to facilitate service learning in courses across the campus. In that role, Dr. Boone developed a Community Engagement Fellows Program, where she teaches faculty how to create service learning courses, and helps faculty with implementation of the service learning component.



DIANE SIMPSON BROWN, Everett Community College

Pavlov's Dogs Still Drooled and Freud Still Died in 1939 – Reinventing Introductory Psychology with a Theme Based Approach

Have you taught Intro Psyc more times than you'd like to count? Introduction to Psychology, or General Psychology, is often the least desirable class for instructors to teach because it doesn't allow focus in our areas of expertise or much flexibility in content. As a result, the class can become stagnant for us and students are bearing the brunt. This session will share how to teach to your personal strengths and areas of interest by designing a theme based course to drive discussion and critical thinking while studying the theoretical approaches and major contributions to psychology.

Diane Simpson Brown is a Professor of Psychology at Everett Community College in Everett, Washington. She received her Ed.D. in Human Development from Boston University in 2006. She has a MA in Human Services from the University of Northern Iowa and a BA in art and art history from the University of Washington. She taught psychology at Emerson College in Boston, and Lasell College in Newton, Massachusetts prior to joining the full-time faculty at

Everett in 2008. Dr. Brown teaches General Psychology every quarter in addition to her specialty areas, Developmental Psychology and Human Sexuality. Her teaching approaches incorporate technology in the classroom, dynamic discussion on current controversial issues, and continued experimentation with ways to promote diversity and critical thinking. She is part of the newly formed Honors Council at Everett and serves on several committees.



DAVID MYERS, Hope College

Four Decades Professing Psychology: Lessons I Have Learned

Drawing from the experiences of celebrated teachers across North America and from his own teaching and writing about psychological science, David Myers will offers some practical strategies for professional development and effective teaching. Participants will, he hopes, feel encouraged in their teaching and be reminded (if not newly informed) of tips for engaging students, using new media, and finding satisfaction in their vocation.

Hope College social psychologist David Myers is a communicator of psychological science to college students and the general public. His research and writings, enabled by National Science Foundation grants and fellowships, have appeared in three dozen academic periodicals, four dozen magazines, and seventeen books.



HEIDI RIGGIO, California State University, Los Angeles

Reality Bites: Challenging Cherished Beliefs with Critical Thinking

Human psychology is characterized by many patterns of thought that function quite effectively in protecting us from feelings of uncertainty and terror, and promoting feelings of optimism, control, security, and happiness. Such beliefs are highly functional in maintaining feelings of psychological well-being and generally support cherished belief systems. At the same time, however, they prevent us from an accurate understanding of the nature of the world, a fair-minded assessment of our own capabilities and probable outcomes, and they may lead us to make negative, unfair judgments about the qualities and outcomes of others. Should we challenge such beliefs - and the cognitive processes underlying them (wishful thinking, belief in a just world, confirmatory biases) – in the classroom? I argue that while we may be uncomfortable challenging specific beliefs per se, effective teachers challenge the certainty of such beliefs and confront biases underlying them. This talk will focus on emotional and cognitive biases underlying cherished beliefs and effective ways to challenge them in the classroom.

Heidi R. Riggio is a social psychologist and Associate Professor of Psychology at California State University, Los Angeles. Her research interests include family relationships in young adulthood, consequences of parental marital conflict and divorce, attitudes in personal relationships and their strength, and group identification and emotional and cognitive consequences for attitude formation and change. She has been a regular contributor to WPA since 1996.



AMIRA REZEC WEGENEK, Saddleback College
The Most Important Advice for Our Students Considering Psychology as a Major or Career Path

Most undergraduates have misperceptions about the field of psychology and do not have realistic expectations about job prospects for individuals holding a BA/BS in psychology. Given the economic climate and fierce competition for jobs these days, it is especially important that we equip our students for success in college *and* the “real world.” This presentation will help you to provide undergraduate students with the critical knowledge and advice that will help prepare them for life before, during, and after they major in psychology. Dr. Wegenek will provide an overview of key information that can help students to capitalize on their skills and to identify, investigate, and pursue career goals. Special emphasis will be placed on how to incorporate this practical information into the teaching of traditional, theoretically based lecture courses in psychology.

Amira Rezec Wegenek is a professor of psychology at Saddleback College in California. Dr. Wegenek has taught, mentored, and advised undergraduates at the university and college level for over a decade. She has received numerous awards for teaching and leadership, including the Psi Beta National Honor Society in Psychology National "Rising Star" Award for mentoring undergraduates in scholarship, research, and service. Her students have won national recognition for their research and service activities as well. Her publications span the areas of sensation and perception, cognitive psychology, and teaching of psychology, and include a student-centered psychology laboratory manual. She is currently an active member of the Society for the Teaching of Psychology and conducts research related to student retention and success. Dr. Wegenek's Web site, www.mypsychmentor.com, offers resources related to careers in psychology for students and faculty.



Registration information at www.westernpsych.org



Conference Coordinator
Anne Duran, Associate Professor of Psychology
California State University, Bakersfield
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Thank you for attending!
We hope to see you next year at
The Nineteenth Lewis M. Terman Western Regional Teaching Conference
Reno, Nevada
April 24, 2013