



The Nu Rho Psi Newsletter
May 1, 2010
Volume 3, Issue 1

Welcome to the Spring 2010 Nu Rho Psi newsletter! The goal of this newsletter is to report on and promote the activities of Nu Rho Psi chapters. Please feel free to send your suggestions, story ideas and news to Jan Thornton (Jan.Thornton@oberlin.edu) or Ruth Grahn (regra@conncoll.edu).



Nu Rho Genesis

This section contains information about how to establish a chapter at your school and news about new chapters and their inductions. In this newsletter we list new members, report on inductions at UC Irvine and the honorary member induction of Robert Sapolsky.

The newest chapters are housed at:

Miami University (Oxford OH)

Trinity College (CT)

U California - Irvine (CA)

Tulane University (LA)

Union College (NY)

Dominican University (IL)

All but one of the many Nu Rho Psi chapters across the nation are housed at individual colleges and universities. There are many small institutions that are eager to join Nu Rho Psi, but are struggling with how to sustain a full chapter on their own. One chapter that was established in 2009, is jointly housed at Smith College in Northampton, MA and at the University of Massachu-

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Nu Rho Genesis, continued

setts at Amherst, MA. Nu Rho News asked the president of the Smith-UMass chapter how it all came together and how the joint venture is working out. Here is the interview with the chapter president, Gretchen Evans:

First question: How did the Smith-UMass chapter get started? Who initiated the idea to apply for a chapter and what factors contributed to the decision to form a joint chapter?

The Smith-UMass chapter of Nu Rho Psi began when Professor Mary Harrington, Past-President of Faculty for Undergraduates in Neuroscience, mentioned her interest in initiating a chapter to me, an undergraduate research assistant in her lab. We believed the neuroscience program would benefit from its own honors society and such an organization would enhance the larger neuroscience community. Moreover, we wanted to create opportunities for undergraduates in neuroscience to socialize and collaborate within and between the five-college consortium. Smith College seemed too small to host its own chapter. Since the University of Massachusetts at Amherst is the largest college in the consortium, we thought it best to first merge with their brain and behavior department. Our long-term vision is to recruit all 5-colleges.

Second question: How have you arranged the executive committee? Does each school have a Chapter Advisor? How many meetings are held each year at each school?

While the Smith-UMass Chapter of Nu Rho Psi is just in its infancy, we are working steadily to increase its visibility on both campuses as well as strengthen the communication and bond between the two schools. The executive committee consists of a President (Gretchen Evans, Smith College), Vice President (Luisa Tsang, Smith College), Secretary (Elyse Macksoud, Smith College), and Treasurer (Celeste Diglori, of UMass). Officers were nominated and elected in a democratic voting process open to all Nu Rho Psi members.

Celeste and I also serve as student representatives for our school's respective neuroscience department. We promote Nu Rho Psi through announcements at their departmental events (Student-Faculty meet & greets, departmental lectures, presentations of the major, student research information sessions). In time our member base may be strong enough that we may hold formal Nu Rho Psi meetings at each school.

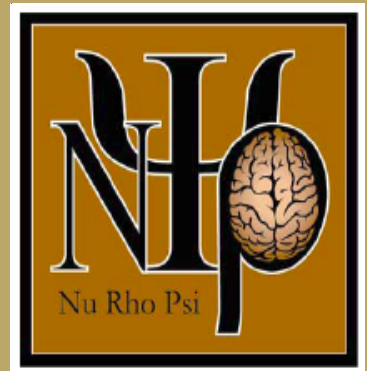
At Smith, we have instituted a webpage for students who are interested in neuroscience. It features information about Nu Rho Psi and also lists neuroscience opportuni-

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Nu Rho Tracts

Look here for future stories about how members chose to focus on neuroscience. Please let us know if you've had and interesting or unusual "tract".

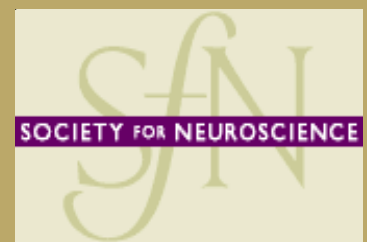
**Psi-napses:
Links to useful stuff**



www.funfaculty.org/NuRhoPsi/



www.brainweek.dana.org



www.sfn.org

Nu Rho Networks

This section relates to undergraduate conferences, jobs and internships.



Internship Information

Jared Young, assistant professor at Mills College and a Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience councilor, has drawn our attention to the the FUN website, which includes a list of undergraduate internships that Alan Gittis, professor at Westminster College has collected. You can find the list at: www.funfaculty.org/drupal/undergrad_internships_neuroscience.



Undergraduate Conferences

NEURON: NorthEast Under/graduate Research Organization for Neuroscience

The first of the regional meetings focused on neuroscience for undergraduates, has been sponsoring an annual meeting each year since 1997. Now NEURON holds two meetings each year, one in Boston, MA and the other in New York City. The next meeting is scheduled for April 24 at Hunter College in New York City. The keynote address will be delivered by Eric Nestler, and is titled "New Insight into the Neurobiology of Depression". See www.albany.edu/neuron/conference/index.html for more information.

SYNAPSE: Symposium for Young Neuroscientists and Professors of the Southeast

SYNAPSE hosted its first meeting in 2003 and established an annual meeting in 2006. The most recent meeting took place in March 2010 at Wake Forest University.

The Keynote speakers at this meeting were:

Linda Bartoshuk, Ph.D.

University of Florida(Center for Smell and Taste, "Behavioral Neuroscience: Taste psychophysics from the laboratory to the table" and Sharon Letchworth, Ph.D.(Targacept), "Neuroscience drug development-past, present and future."

More information can be found at: spinner.cofc.edu/synapse/?referrer=webcluster&

MIDBRAINS: The first MidBrains meeting was held on April 28, 2007 at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. MidBrains 2010 is scheduled for May 1 at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. Abstract submission is due by April 15 and online registration needs to be completed on April 24. See www.macalester.edu/midbrainconference/ for more information or contact Eric Wiertelak at wiertelak@macalester.edu.

mGluRs: The newest regional neuroscience meeting is the "Midwest/Great Lakes Undergraduate Research Symposium in Neuroscience" affectionately known as mGluRs. Ohio Wesleyan University hosted the first annual conference for States Touching Ohio (and Ohio, of course) on September 26, 2009 in Delaware, OH. Ohio State University's Randy Nelson was the keynote speaker. The conference included oral and poster presentations by students, workshops, a graduate school panel, and not least, breakfast and lunch. For updates, see: <https://sites.google.com/a/owu.edu/mglurs/>

Nu Rho Genesis, continued

ties within and beyond college, as well as upcoming neuroscience lectures and events at Smith. For example, this past term Nu Rho Psi hosted a meet & greet for upperclassmen advising lower classmen. We also arranged a trip to the Northeast Undergraduates in Neuroscience conference in Boston. This coming spring we will be hosting formal and informal colloquium speakers, and an alumnae-in-neuroscience panel.

At UMass, where neuroscience was just recently declared an official major, Celeste Diglori helps organize various departmental lectures and meet & greets for the UMass Neuroscience Club. Celeste informs me of the times and locations of these events and I advertise them via email to Nu Rho Psi and neuroscience students at Smith. These events have helped to increase our visibility on both campuses, as well as promoted interest in joining the academic society.

Currently, initiation is the only time when Nu Rho Psi scholars from both campuses are scheduled to gather formally. Recruitment begins in early February and culminates with the induction ceremony in late February. Expanding our member base will further improve the communication and activity between Nu Rho Psi students on both campuses

Last question: Did other colleges in the 5-college system consider joining Smith and UMass to shelter a chapter of Nu Rho Psi?

Other colleges have expressed interest, but so far no faculty member has taken the lead to complete the application forms necessary for them to formally join with our chapter. We would welcome and encourage such applications. Indeed, our initial intention in creating a joint chapter involved the membership of all 5 colleges. As we work to build a solid UMass-Smith Nu Rho Psi community we hope to recruit other colleges in the 5-college consortium. Our efforts to increase Nu Rho Psi's visibility should continue to initiate interest from other colleges to consider joining. Certainly the national popularity and reputation of Nu Rho Psi will help with this as well.

Nu Rho News thanks Ms. Evans for her contribution to the newsletter and wishes the Smith-UMass chapter the best of luck!



Would you like to establish a Nu Rho Psi chapter at your school? Here are instructions:

www.funfaculty.org/NuRhoPsi/#Application

NRP Chapters

Baldwin-Wallace College
Berea, OH

Baylor University
Waco, TX

Denison University
Granville, OH

Dominican University
River Forest, IL

Drew University
Madison, NJ

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD

Knox College
Galesburg, IL

Macalester College
St. Paul, MN

Miami University
Oxford, OH

Pioneer Valley Chapter,
Smith College & U Mass
Northampton, MA

St. Mary's College
St. Mary's City, MD

Trinity College
Hartford, CT

Tulane University
New Orleans, LA

Union College
Schenectady, NY

University of California at
Irvine, CA

University of Scranton
Scranton, OH

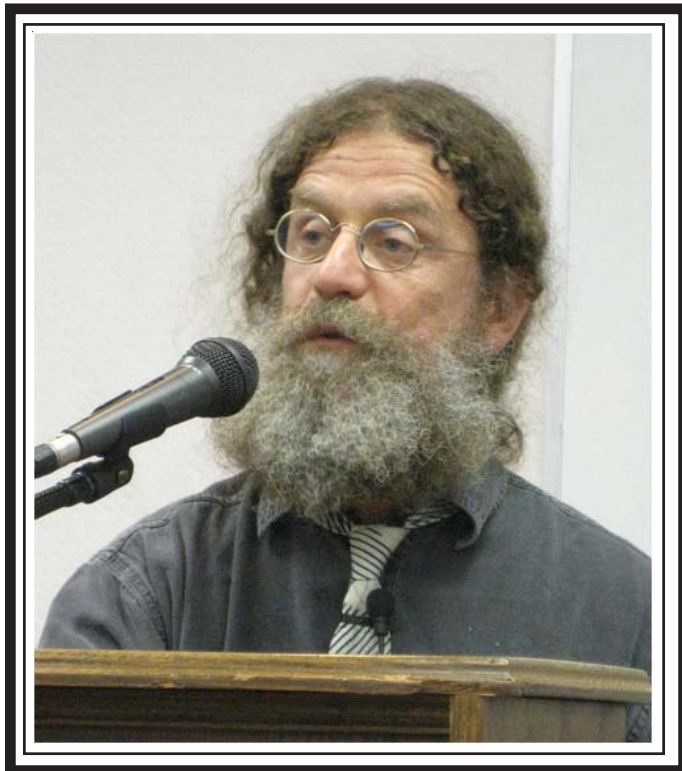
University of Southern
California
Los Angeles, CA

University of St. Thomas
St. Paul, MN

Ursinus College
Collegeville, PA

If your chapter has news for Nu Rho News, please e-mail your information to Ruth Grahn, regra@conncoll.edu. Nu Rho News is published Nov. 1, Feb. 1, and May 1.

It's an honor: **Robert Sapolsky** is Nu Rho Psi's newest honorary member.



Robert Sapolski, Ph.D., Stanford University

Dr. Sapolsky was inducted as an honorary member of Nu Rho Psi in September 2009 at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. He is well known to many of us who have enjoyed his books and have endeavored to understand his journal articles. His host, Professor Andrew Mickley at B-W, included the following information in his introduction of Dr. Sapolsky:

He received his A.B degree from Harvard University and his Ph.D from The Rockefeller University, is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a winner of a MacArthur "Genius" award. Dr. Sapolsky is the John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn Professor at Stanford University, holding joint appointments in several departments, including Biological Sciences, Neurology & Neurological Sciences, and Neurosurgery. He is also a research associate with the Institute of Primate Research at the National Museum of Kenya.

More information about Dr. Sapolsky can be found at:
www.barclayagency.com/sapolsky.html

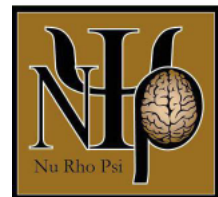


Part 1 of 2: The History of Nu Rho Psi: The National Honor Society in Neuroscience

Nu Rho Psi, the National Honor Society in Neuroscience, was founded in 2006, but its history can be traced to the early 1990s with the founding of Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience (FUN) (Ramirez and Normansell, 2003).

Early History of Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience

In the spring of 1991 conversations involving Sally Frutinger at Denison University, Stephen George at Amherst College, Dennison Smith at Oberlin College, and Julio Ramirez at Davidson College led to a proposal for a social event at the 1991 Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience (SFN) in New Orleans, Louisiana, for neuroscientists interested in educating undergraduate students, particularly at predominantly undergraduate institutions. Ramirez explored the idea of creating an organization for undergraduate neuroscience faculty with Patricia Goldman-Rakic, Past President of the Society for Neuroscience, and with her encouragement, Ramirez, Frutinger, George, and Smith formed a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee mailed out invitations to individuals with interests in undergraduate neuroscience education and 67 individuals attended the social. The response to the proposal for a formal organization was very positive and those in attendance were energized to embark on the formation of this as yet unnamed organization.



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