



Neuropsychology on campus: The Psychology Club at Portland State University

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Abstract

The Psychology Club at Portland State University (Psych Club) is a student-run organization aimed at bringing psychological concepts and education to the greater Portland State University (PSU) community, regardless of academic major, GPA, or background. Through solo events and collaborations with other campus groups such as the Neuroscience Club at PSU, NAMI on Campus, and the now-defunct Mindful PSU, Psych Club has been an active promoter of psychological education on Portland's largest college campus. In the 2017-18 academic year, in addition to other psychology-related events, Psych Club has partnered with the Neuroscience Club to present an EEG-themed event, they have collaborated with local neuroscience outreach nonprofit NW Noggin to build pipe cleaner neurons to take to Congress, and in Spring term, they are planning an event about the current state of the neuropsychology field.

Introduction

The PSU Psych Club was formed in 2010 and has remained a part of the PSU experience since. We value inclusivity, diversity, and collaboration, as laid out in our mission and diversity statements:

“Our mission is to provide a safe space for PSU students who are interested in the field of psychology to network, communicate, discover volunteer and internship opportunities, relax, and enjoy the company of a diverse community. We also strive to promote the appreciation and advancement of psychology for any Portland State University student, regardless of GPA or major. We want all students to be welcome to share their unique interests in psychology and work alongside other students to advance each other's interests, knowledge, and action within the subject.”¹

“Portland State University Psychology Club recognizes that our student and community members have unique experiences influenced by race, culture, gender and gender identity, age, belief systems, social class and income, sexual orientation, physical ability, and other aspects of individual identity. We acknowledge the beauty, strength, and opportunities that come from such diversity as well as the destructive and pervasive consequences that come from prejudice and oppression. We are deeply committed to dismantling overt and covert oppression, and to building personal and institutional diversity and inclusiveness.”²

Throughout the year, the Psychology Club collaborates with students and other clubs to put on psychology related events and find interesting ways to engage and expand our interests in psychology. In addition, club members gain access to information and resources regarding graduate school, career options, scholarships, internships, conferences, and workshops.

Collaboration

The Psych Club recognizes that psychology is a diverse multi-disciplinary field and encourages collaboration with other students and groups. In the 2017-18 year, Psych Club has worked closely with the Neuroscience Club at Portland State University and the PSU chapter of NAMI on Campus to present fun and educational events.



Major 2017-18 Events

Get Psyched for Psychology!

As part of the annual PSU Viking Days celebration, the Psych Club hosted a two-day Jeopardy!-themed trivia event, sending participating psychology enthusiasts of various disciplines home with good memories and prizes.

It's All In Your Head

In collaboration with the Neuroscience Club, Psych Club hosted an electroencephalogram (EEG)-themed event where participants were invited to experience various EEG headsets, games, and more.

Graduate School and GRE Preparatory Workshops

The Psych Club hosted multiple workshops for students with information on preparing for graduate school, the GRE, and choosing the best post-Bachelor-degree option. These events have been solo ventures as well as collaborative events with the Neuroscience Club.

13th Film Screening

The Psych Club hosted a free screening of the documentary film 13th followed by a social justice panel discussion exploring the psychological and sociological implications of racism and our criminal justice system.

Self Destruction and Creativity with Sabrina Chap

In collaboration with the Neuroscience Club and NAMI On Campus, the Psych Club was honored to bring writer and musician Sabrina Chap to PSU to discuss mental illness and creativity.

Dead Week Daze Featuring Rojo the Llama

The Psych Club worked with Neuroscience Club as well as the Pre-Med Student Association and the Science Outreach Society to bring well-known therapy animal Rojo the Llama to campus.

The Psychology Club and Neuropsychology

The 2017-18 officers of the Psych Club are excited about neuropsychology, and are attending the Oregon Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience Conference in hopes of making connections and taking knowledge back to the PSU campus about upcoming developments in the field of neuropsychology. All of this is to be presented at an event outlining the basics of neuropsychology, where it is in 2018, and where it's going.

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