

# PSI CHI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2014, ISSUE 1



Roger Williams  
University

*Welcome to the first issue of Roger Williams University Psi Chi Chapter Newsletter. Our goal is to provide you with information about the field of psychology, psi chi, and RWU psychology faculty, students, and events. Please send any newsworthy items to the Newsletter Editor, Emily Phelan, at [ephelan527@g.rwu.edu](mailto:ephelan527@g.rwu.edu)*

## A FRESH PERSPECTIVE WORDS FROM BRITTANY PEREIRA, FRESHMAN PSYCH MAJOR

I have always been a person who follows their gut instinct, so deciding to major in psychology was not a difficult decision; it was kind of like a calling. Several aspects of psychology interest me, but it all boils down to my desire to help people who have difficulties coping with something so complex that it has yet to be unraveled-- the mind.

As a freshman, Dr. Berman has been my favorite psych professor so far. His class was a breath of fresh air.

People have discouraged me from pursuing my interest in psychology because it doesn't secure a top-earning position post-graduation. Dr. Berman's passion for psychology is evident inside the classroom and out. He's incredible helpful in informing students of how to be successful in a field he loves.

Dr. Berman recently offered me a position on his research team of which he is very proud. I'm excited to get involved in the studies the

team is working on that focus on the psychology of law and cognitive psychology. When I graduate, I intend on continuing to graduate school and eventually attaining a Ph.D.

*If you know of a student who has "A Fresh Perspective", please contact Emily so that she is able to arrange an interview and share the student's ideas in this format.*

### PSI CHI Funding Opportunities:

PSI CHI has a tremendous offering of opportunities to fund your research. Whether you are a graduate or undergraduate student member, Psi Chi is the outlet for applying for funding.

Please visit their site for how to apply for funding:

<http://www.psichi.org/?page=awards>



***Becoming a member of Psi Chi***

Apply online at [www.psiichi.org](http://www.psiichi.org), \$75.00 membership fee (payable to RWU Psi Chi). The check is given to the faculty advisor of Psi Chi.

Requirements...

- ✚ Be enrolled as a major or minor in a psychology program (or a program psychological in nature)
- ✚ Have completed at least 3 semesters or equivalent of college courses
- ✚ Have completed at least 9 semester hours (or equivalent) of psychology courses
- ✚ Have earned an overall GPA that is in the top 35% of their class in general scholarship (minimum GPA of 3.3 on a 4-point scale)
- ✚ Have earned a minimum of 3.5 GPA in psychology courses.

The Psi Chi Faculty Advisors will double-check your eligibility and notify you of your status in the application process.

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***Psi Chi Induction  
Spring 2014***

When: Sunday, April 27, 2014

Where: TBD

Time: 4:00 pm – *Mark your calendars!*

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*Pictured above is Mr. Brown, the community leader of the Jamaican village the students resided in, with Becky's 2013 team of students after finishing their last discussion.*

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT DR. BECKY SPRITZ

This semester's spotlight shines brightly on one of Roger Williams' most loved psychology professors and newly appointed Director of the Honor Society, Dr. Becky Spritz. With her background as a child psychologist and research interest in family life, Dr. Spritz has been channeling her energy into the development of an evolving global-service learning project that aims to confront the stigma of mental illness and assesses how to manage prevalent developmental disorders such as autism when resources are scarce. For the past two winters, Dr. Spritz has led dynamic teams of students through rural communities in Jamaica to facilitate important conversations about autism and children's mental health. Looking forward, Dr. Spritz' goal is to design culturally specific interventions and build a support system for parents with children that have disabilities. The program is currently offered as a 3-credit psychology course, scheduled to continue annually. Spritz finds that the most authentic learning occurs when students become passionate in hands-on experiences where they can apply their knowledge. Students involved in the project in Jamaica speak highly of their experience and are invested in the evolution of the program. Dr. Spritz is also excited about her new position as the Director of the University Honors program. She's looking forward to bringing together the many honor societies on campus in collaboration and celebration.

*Note: If you're interested learning more or getting involved with this global service-learning experience, contact Dr. Spritz at [bspritz@rwu.edu](mailto:bspritz@rwu.edu)!*