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Psi Alpha Begins a New Research Project:

*A message from Nevin; Psi Alpha's
Research and Program Coordinator*

Psi Alpha, along with Dr. Douglas Bernstein of the psychology department at the University of South Florida, are currently undergoing a research project focused on discovering the beliefs of high school psychology teachers regarding human behavior and mental processes. As high school psychology continues to grow, high school teachers become an important demographic to study as they are often a student's first source in learning about psychological science. Building upon a study focused on identifying misconceptions in first year psychology students (Bernstein et al., 2023), high school psychology teachers that are Psi Alpha chapter advisors will take a carefully crafted survey aimed at discovering knowledge and certain beliefs revolving around psychology. This data may help reveal what beliefs that many have about certain aspects of the field and subjects that may require a heavier focus when teaching and learning about human behavior and mental processes.





TOPSS Offers Valuable Resources for Teachers and Students

Natasha Alston, Virginia Welle, and Emily Leary Chesnes

The American Psychological Association (APA) Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (TOPSS) is the voice of high school psychology teachers within APA. TOPSS was formed in 1992 as both a committee and a membership group within the Association, and Committee members and staff work tirelessly to promote excellence in teaching and support high school psychology teachers - and through teachers, high school students. TOPSS shares Psi Alpha's interest in enhancing high school student's understanding and knowledge of psychology, promoting how psychology benefits society, and sharing career opportunities available in the field.

We encourage interested teachers and students to visit the TOPSS and APA websites to find multiple resources and opportunities to enhance both teaching and learning in psychology. Teachers can find resources - and join TOPSS as a member - through the [TOPSS website](#). Resources and opportunities for teachers include:

- [The National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula](#), which outline learning targets for the course and come with free resources for teachers,
- [A new project to increase representation and diversity in the high school psychology curriculum](#), with psychologist profiles, research summaries, guiding questions, and additional resources on race, disability, and neurodiversity,
- A [revised vetting rubric](#) for teachers to use when selecting resources for class,
- Free [lesson plans for teachers](#) and [resources to help teachers engage students in research](#),
- Funding (e.g., grant support for travel to conferences and [for regional teaching networks](#)) and recognition opportunities, and
- Professional development webinars and workshops throughout the year.

For students, TOPSS to date has provided an [annual student competition](#), teacher recognition certificates for academic achievement in psychology, [and a webpage and video that highlight the value of learning psychology](#). The APA website provided additional useful resources for both students and teachers, such as:

- [Psychology Topics](#)
- [APA Dictionary](#)
- [APA Style Site for Beginners](#)

Additionally, teachers and students may be interested in the following two publications; subscriptions are free and both newsletters share valuable content and announcements:

- [Psychology Teacher Network newsletter](#)
- [Psychology Student Network newsletter](#)

APA is also offering free membership to Psi Alpha student members through December 2024, [all new members who join APA this year will receive memberships that last through December 2025](#). We hope Psi Alpha student members and advisors will take advantage of what TOPSS and APA have to offer this school year.

Dear Abbey Column

COMING TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!



WHAT IS THE DEAR ABBEY COLUMN?

Inspired by the original *Dear Abby* column found in the newspaper, established in 1956. Readers of the paper could send in their questions to “Abby” and she would respond with an answer.

Psi Alpha would love to answer your questions about memberships, scholarships and anything Psi Alpha related!

Questions can be sent in privately through Psi Alphas media direct messages, a post on X or emailing @mediaintern@psialpha.org.

HOW WILL IT LOOK?

EXAMPLE

Dear Abbey:

I am a new advisor this year and we just had our first induction of students. I have 25 students in my chapter and they are all very eager to get started. Can you help me with some ideas for service projects? My students really like to volunteer and they want to make a difference somehow, but I am not totally sure where to start!

Sincerely, New Advisor

Dear New Advisor:

Congratulations on your first induction! Some ideas to get your students started in volunteering can begin with school related services such as volunteering to help with a fundraiser or an after school activity like a recycling club. Local volunteering at a food bank or other community organizations are also great options to stay close to the school. Find out what your students are interested in and utilize their brains to even find a national organization to volunteer for! The possibilities are endless.

Congratulations!

Scholarship and Award Recipients



Psi Alpha Outstanding Psychology Student Award

Daniel Tepedino was the Chapter Delegate for the Martin High School Chapter for two years. During his time at Martin, he was involved in the varsity choirs, orchestra, and show choir, as well as National Honor Society and Psi Alpha. Daniel said that his years of membership and involvement in Psi Alpha truly shaped him to be the person he is today. Daniel is now pursuing his undergraduate studies within the University of Texas at Austin at the McCombs School of Business. He is incredibly thankful for his wonderful experience as a part of Psi Alpha, as well as the amazing mentorship of his sponsor and AP Psychology teacher, Rachael Peterson.

Chapter Excellence Award

The Psi Alpha chapter of The School of Science and Technology joined forces with Dell Children's Hospital to collect Pajamas for Peyton's Pajamas event. This event was created by a girl named Peyton who found the help she needed at Dells Hospital. She wanted the long term patients to find comfort in their stays and had the idea to collect pajamas to be donated to them! This wonderful chapter collected over 250 pairs of pajamas to be donated!



Stanton College Preparatory, advised by Mary Krieger also completed all of the necessary requirements to earn a chapter excellence title as well. Chapters are free to apply for this award on an annual basis and are awarded a plaque and metal plate for every year they successfully complete the requirements. See psialpha.org for more information on chapter excellence!

Congratulations!

Scholarship and Award Recipients

The Dr. Jerry Rudmann Award for Outstanding Psychology Advisory Nomination

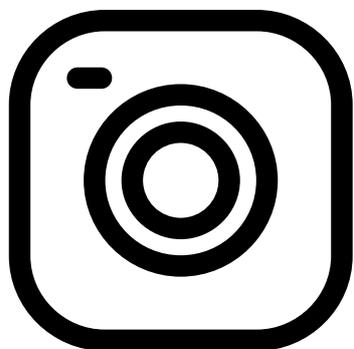
Rachael Peterson of James Martin High School was nominated by her student, Madison Olokpa. According to her student, she sees potential in everyone she has the opportunity to educate.

"Her classroom is a greenhouse of ideas, where she encourages us to question, explore, and expand our understanding of the human mind." -Olokpa

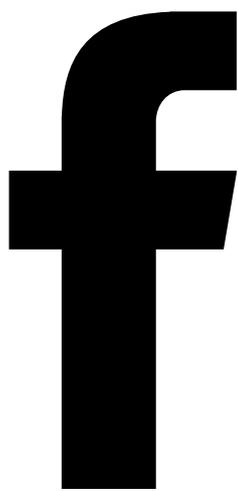




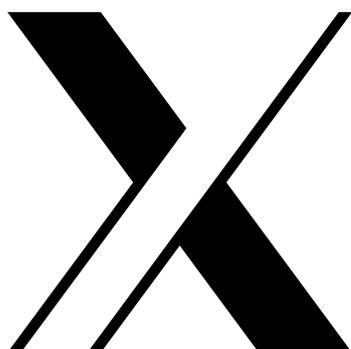
Exciting social media updates!



Psi Alpha has been working to grow their social media platforms! Their posts range from famous psychologists birthdays, national awareness initiatives, APA divisions and more.



Social media is a great way for advisors and students to keep up to date on scholarship information and important Psi Alpha updates.



Psi Alpha can now be found on X (formerly known as Twitter). Leave a comment on the Psi Alpha page in regards to content that you would be interested in seeing!

PSI ALPHA MEMBERS BACK TO SCHOOL SWAG!



Check out these items and more!
www.acgreek.com/psialpha

Advisor's Corner

Do you have advice or ideas to share with other advisors? Welcome to the advisor corner! Please consider joining our facebook group for advisors, and sending your thoughts and ideas to media@psialpha.org!



If you haven't already, head on over to Facebook and become a member of our advisor corner! This is a space for advisors only to talk about their chapter happenings, ask questions, share ideas, and more! All of the national council are members, and you can get connected with all of them! You will be approved by an admin once you request to join! This page is for current and former advisors, as well as those interested in chartering their own chapter!

Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/PsiAlphaNational>

And don't forget to like and follow our main page for all the Psi Alpha updates you need!

2023-2024 Advisor Survey

We need YOUR opinion!

Psi Alpha consistently reviews this google form survey asking for feedback from all advisors. Please go to <https://forms.gle/WN5kyaEpDy7bWQH58> and share your thoughts and ideas with us!