



# Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference



April 23, 2005

33rd Annual WPUPC at Chatham College

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    We ask that faculty and attendees not presenting also complete the on-line  
    conference registration form by Friday April 15th. This will allow us to get an  
    accurate count of the number of people who are attending so that we can arrange for  
    adequate parking, seating and food. The conference fee will be \$10.00 and will  
    include a conference program, continental breakfast and a deli buffet-style lunch.  
    All fees can be paid at morning registration. Please bring either cash or a check  
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## Welcome...

to the homepage of the Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference (WPUPC).

The 33rd annual conference will be held at [Chatham College](#) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on Saturday April 23rd, 2005.

The Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology conference has been providing the opportunity for undergraduate psychology students to present their research since 1973, when six organizations, under the sponsorship of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Psychological Association (NWPPA) presented the first conference at Alliance College.

In the 33 years since then, thousands of students have presented, and many of them have gone on to become noted psychologists. We expect that this year's conference will be an exciting experience for our students and a wonderful opportunity for faculty to meet colleagues and share new ideas.

On-line submissions of papers and posters and on-line advanced registration will be available soon (see link "registration" at the top of this page).

Due date for conference submission is Saturday April 9th. We ask that all participants (faculty, students and people who would like to attend) advance register on-line by Friday April 15th. On-site registration will also be accepted the morning of the conference.

We would like to invite our guests to submit their research to the 33rd annual Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference. The conference will be held at Chatham College from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday April 23rd, 2005 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We feel that the opportunity for undergraduates to present their research is important to their professional development. Attending a conference provides a wonderful opportunity for students to practice their presentation skills and to discuss their ideas with other faculty and students.

We will accept submissions for both paper (oral) and poster sessions. The paper sessions will be 10 minutes, plus 5 minutes for questions. Participants will be able to use PowerPoint, slides, overheads, and TV/VCR for their presentations. (Please indicate your audiovisual needs on the registration form). This year we ask that the poster presenters present their posters on the standard poster presentation boards available at most campus bookstores and office supply stores such as OfficeMax, Staples, and Office Depot. These boards, which measure 36" X 48", are tri-fold, and they will allow the posters to stand on tables for the poster session. Students should also bring copies of a one-page handout of their presentations. Poster presenters should plan to come 10-15 minutes early to register



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and set up their posters by 8:15 as the poster session will immediately follow morning registration.

Students can submit their abstracts on-line by following the links in the menu on the top of this page. Each presentation should be submitted only once by the first author. Authors should prepare an APA style abstract that is no more than 600 characters (approximately 100 words) on their word processor, proof and spell check, and then copy it into the conference form. We will e-mail each faculty advisor with a confirmation of acceptance. If anyone does not have access to an internet compatible computer to use the web forms, please contact the conference organizers. Students submitting their abstracts on-line are automatically registered for the conference (the conference fee will be \$10.00).

**Abstracts are due Saturday April 9th, 2005.**

**We ask that faculty and attendees not presenting also complete the on-line conference registration form by Friday April 15th. This will allow us to get an accurate count of the number of people who are attending so that we can arrange for adequate parking, seating and food. The conference fee will be \$10.00 and will include a conference program, continental breakfast and a deli buffet-style lunch. All fees can be paid at morning registration. Please bring either cash or a check made out to Chatham College.**

The conference web site contains detailed information about the conference, including a conference schedule, directions to Chatham College, a map of campus, helpful information for students on presentations and posters, as well as additional information about the keynote speaker and address.

We hope that you will encourage your students to present at the conference, and we look forward to meeting and sharing ideas with you and your colleagues. Please take the time to announce this information to your students and to distribute the flyers to your fellow faculty members.

We hope to see you all in April. If you have any questions, feel free to email [Dr. Tom Hershberger](mailto:hershberger@chatham.edu) (hershberger@chatham.edu). Or you may call 412.365.1128.



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## Keynote Speaker



**Kathie L. Olsen**

**Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy**

Dr. Kathie L. Olsen, Associate Director with the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in the Executive Office of the President, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in August 2002. As Associate Director she serves as OSTP Director Dr. John Marburger's deputy for science. She is responsible for overseeing science and education policy, including physical sciences, life sciences, environmental science, and behavioral and social sciences.

Prior to her confirmation, she held the position of the Chief Scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) (May 1999 - April 2002) and the Acting Associate Administrator for the new Enterprise in Biological and Physical Research (July 2000-March 2002). As NASA Chief Scientist, she served as the Administrator's senior scientific advisor and principal interface with the national and international scientific community, as well as the principal advisor to the Administrator on budget content of the scientific programs.

Before joining NASA in May 1999, Dr. Olsen was the Senior Staff Associate for the Science and Technology Centers in the National Science Foundation (NSF) Office of Integrative Activities. From February 1996 until November 1997, she was a Brookings Institute Legislative Fellow and then an NSF detail in the Office of Senator Conrad Burns of Montana. Preceding her work on Capitol Hill, she served for two years as Acting



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Deputy Director for the Division of Integrative Biology and Neuroscience at the NSF, where she has worked and held numerous other science-related positions.

Dr. Olsen received her B.S. with honors from Chatham College, Pittsburgh, Pa., majoring in both biology and psychology and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She earned her Ph.D. in Neuroscience at the University of California, Irvine. She was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Neuroscience at Children's Hospital of Harvard Medical School. Subsequently at SUNY-Stony Brook she was both a Research Scientist at Long Island Research Institute and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at the Medical School. Her research on neural and genetic mechanisms underlying development and expression of behavior was supported by the National Institutes of Health. Her awards include the National Science Foundation Director's Superior Accomplishment Award; the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society Award; the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Award for outstanding contributions in research and education; the Barry M. Goldwater Educator Award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics-National Capital Section; the Barnard Medal of Distinction, which is the college's most significant recognition of individuals for demonstrated excellence in conduct of their lives and careers; and the NASA's Outstanding Leadership Medal. She has also received honorary degrees from Chatham College, Clarkson University, and the University of South Carolina. Her first research presentation was at the 2nd Annual WPUPC.



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## Directions

### To get to Chatham College:

#### **From the Pennsylvania Turnpike (east or west):**

Take exit 57 and follow I-376 (the Parkway) west towards Pittsburgh. (The campus is 12 miles from exit 57.)

Continue on the Parkway through the Squirrel Hill tunnel and exit immediately after the tunnel at exit 5 - Squirrel Hill (old exit 8). Merge to the extreme left and follow the exit ramp to the left toward Squirrel Hill.

Proceed to the multiway intersection (Forward and Murray Avenues) and bear left onto Murray Avenue. Follow Murray Avenue to the end where it meets up with Wilkins Avenue. Turn right on Wilkins and within one-half block turn left onto Woodland Road which leads directly to campus.

#### **From the North:**

Take I-79 South to I-279. Stay on 279 until you reach I-376 East (Parkway) to Monroeville. Continue on the Parkway to exit 5 - Squirrel Hill (old exit 8). Merge to the extreme left and follow the exit ramp to the left (toward Squirrel Hill).

Proceed to the multi-way intersection (Forward and Murray Avenues) and bear left onto Murray Avenue.

Turn right on Wilkins and within one-half block turn left onto Woodland Road which leads directly to campus.

#### **From the South:**

Take I-79 to I-279. On the downtown side of the Fort Pitt Tunnel, I-279 becomes I-376 Ea. Follow I-376 to exit 5 - Squirrel Hill (old exit 8). Merge to the extreme left and follow the exit ramp to the left (toward Squirrel Hill).

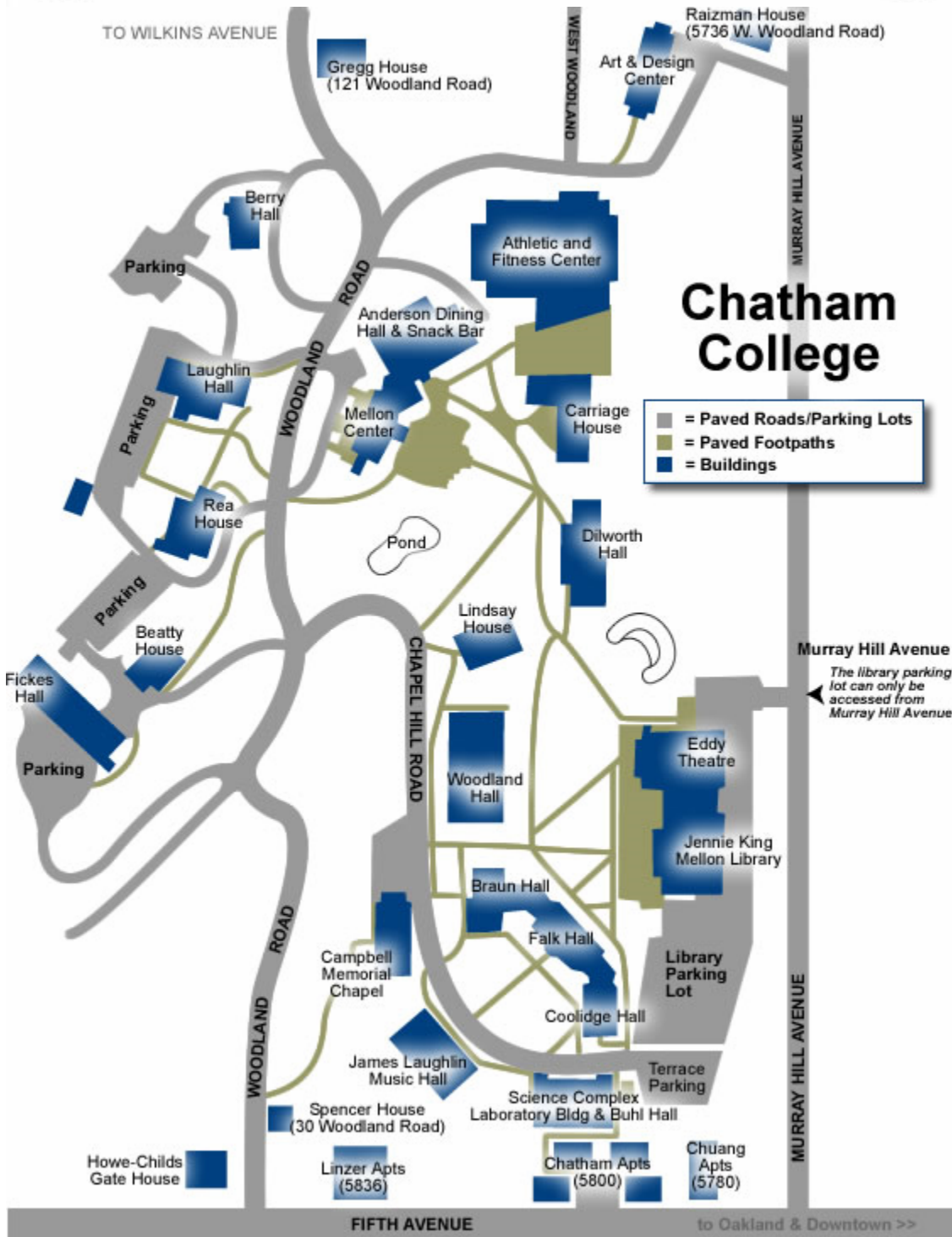
Proceed to the multiway intersection (Forward and Murray Avenues) and bear left onto Murray Avenue. Turn right on Wilkins and within one-half block turn left onto Woodland Road which leads directly to campus.

Registration for the conference is in Carnegie Hall (#6 on the [Campus Map](#)) Parking will be available behind the library (# 28 on the Campus Map. Turn right off of Main Street on Sherman Street.)

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## Presentation Information

### Paper Sessions

The paper sessions will be 10 minutes long, plus 5 minutes for questions. Participants will be able to use PowerPoint, slides, overheads, and TV/VCR for their presentation. In a paper session you should prepare a clear and concise 10 minute oral presentation: introduction, methods, results, and discussion. Be sure that the listener understands: 1) the major problem or question you are studying 2) the methods that you used 3) what you found 4) what it means to the major theories in the field. At the end of your 10 minutes ask the audience if they have any questions and smile and act like you really do want to hear their questions and comments! Never read the presentation to your audience; it is boring and difficult to follow. Rather, practice your talk until you can explain your study in your own words. Remember that no one knows your work as well as you do - you are the expert!

You may use visual aids such as overheads, PowerPoint, or brief video clips to illustrate important information to the audience. However, remember that you should never have complete sentences that you read to the audience. Otherwise the audience will read your talk and ignore you! Use an outline or graphical form on your visual aids and then explain in your own words what it means. Try to limit your overheads or PowerPoint slides to things that enhance your talk. Be sure that the audience is focusing on what YOU are saying not on fancy special effects. If you use PowerPoint, you will need to get to the conference early to load your slides from disk onto the hard drive of the machine so that you can start right away when your time begins. Fumbling with your slides will take time from your talk and negatively impact your presentation. If you are not comfortable with technology, then reduce your stress and just bring overheads. It is always a good idea to bring backup overheads of your PowerPoint presentation just in case something goes wrong with the technology. If you have multiple authors who are speaking be sure to practice your transitions so that the presentation flows. Most people find it distraction to move back and forth between speakers. Most of all, practice, practice, practice!!

### Poster Sessions

We ask that the poster presenters present their posters on the standard poster presentation boards available at most campus bookstores and office supply stores such as OfficeMax, Office Depot, and Staples. These Tri-Fold corrugated presentation boards cost \$7-10 and measure 36" X 48". Although they are somewhat smaller than the typical boards at major conferences, they will allow the poster to stand on tables for the poster session. Another advantage is that you can put together your poster at home and it will set up quickly the day of the conference, giving us more time for discussion. Students should also bring copies of a one-page handout of their presentation. This handout should have a title,



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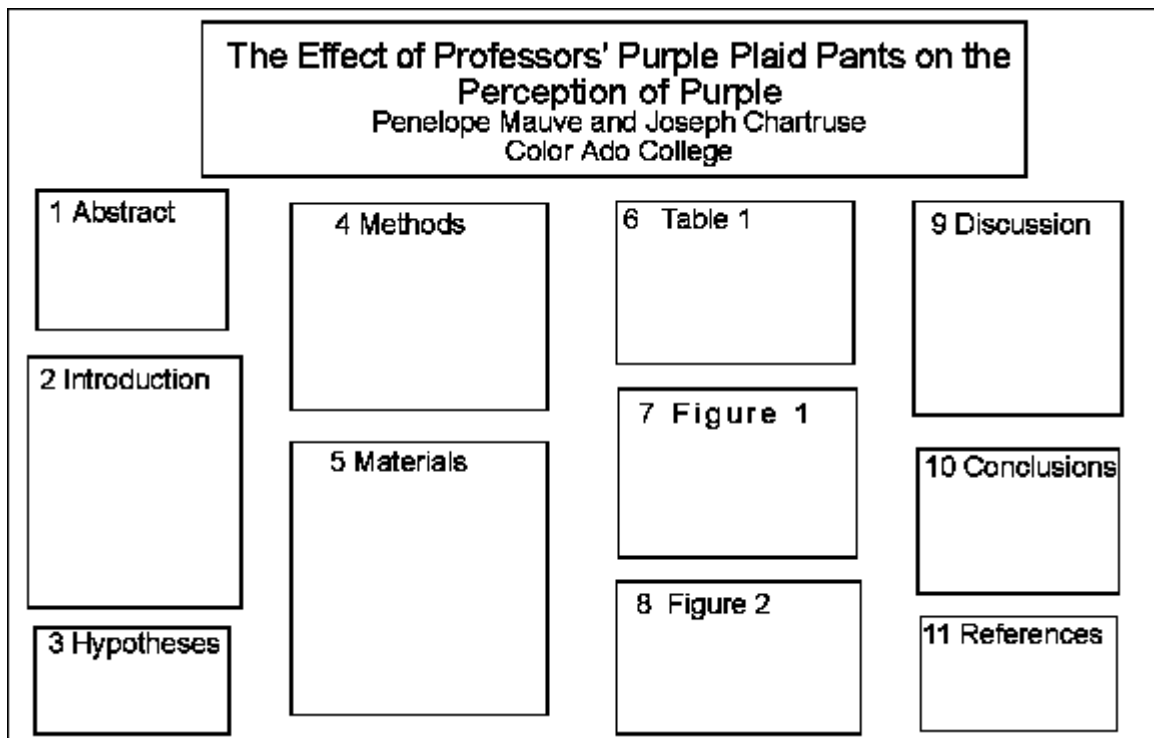
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authors, affiliation, contact information and time and date of the conference at the top and be followed by a concise summary of the research.

Poster presenters should plan to come 10-15 minutes before their poster session to allow time for setup. When you get to the conference you will get a program. In the program will be your poster number. You can find the location for setting up your poster by looking for your number on the tables in the room where the poster session will take place.

Below (or next page on the printable version) is a common layout for a professional poster. It is usually easier to read if you use columns and move left to right. It often helps the viewer to read your poster if you number each section. It is usually best to follow the basic APA organization of introduction, methods, results, and discussion. However, you should use whatever headers best fit your project. Use as many graphical representations as possible and avoid long sections of text, which are hard to read on a poster. Text should be read easily from 3-4 feet away. The best fonts are large (around 24 point) and easy to read (like Arial or Helvetica). Use an outline format with main points, and then verbally explain the details to your viewers. You should practice using your poster by preparing a brief, flexible 3-5 minute verbal description of your work.





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poster example

To register for the conference, please read the text below and click on the link.

We ask that each person who is planning to attend the conference, even if you are not presenting, complete the form below. This will allow us to get an accurate count for food and parking and will speed up registration the morning of the conference. We would like to have advanced registration by April 15, 2005, but we will accept registrations the day of the conference. The conference fee is \$10.00 and can be paid in cash or check (made out to Chatham College) at registration the day of the conference.

If you have already filled out the conference submission form, you do not need to fill out a registration form. You are automatically registered for the conference. However, your faculty sponsor and any co-authors **MUST** fill out separate registration forms.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Note that the deadline to submit papers is Saturday, April 9, 2005. Registration can be completed by clicking the submission link above.



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## Submission Information

**Submissions are due Saturday, April 9, 2005.**

You should only submit each project once. If you have more than five authors, please email us with your title and the additional authors. Please type your abstract in a word processor first, proof, spell check, and do a word count, and then copy it to the form below. Note that your abstract can have no more than 600 characters. Check your work carefully before you click on the submit button.

Note that you are also agreeing to stay at the conference the whole day. This helps us make sure that each session is well attended. If you make a mistake and submit incorrect information, please send an email to the address below ASAP and let us know exactly what you sent and your corrections.

By filling out the submission form, you will be automatically registered (please bring your \$10.00 registration fee to the conference). However, your faculty sponsor and any co-authors MUST fill out separate registration forms (the link is above). This will allow us to get an accurate count and will speed up registration the morning of the conference. Note that all fields are required except for co-authors.

If you have questions or difficulty with this form, please email the information to [Dr. Tom Hershberger](mailto:hershberger@chatham.edu) (hershberger@chatham.edu).

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A PROJECT AND REGISTER](#)