

## **First Stanford Undergraduate Psychology Conference**

By: George M. Slavich, Stanford University

*The Western Psychologist*

This year, for the first time ever, Stanford University will be hosting an undergraduate psychology research conference. Sponsored by the Stanford chapter of Psi Chi and the Stanford Undergraduate Psychology Association, the conference will be held on Saturday, May 19th, 2001, and will serve as a showcase for high-quality undergraduate research, as well as an opportunity for participating students to exchange ideas and make valuable contacts.

In addition to giving, and hearing, traditional paper and poster presentations, students will meet in small groups during lunch with Stanford professors and graduate students to discuss research in each student's respective area of interest. Among the professors already scheduled to attend are Albert Bandura, Robert B. Cialdini, John H. Flavell, John D. E. Gabrieli, James J. Gross, Mark R. Lepper, Eleanor E. Maccoby, Ellen M. Markman, Lee D. Ross, Claude M. Steele, and Robert B. Zajonc.

Participating students will also hear a keynote address by Robert B. Cialdini, Regents' Professor of Psychology at Arizona State University and currently Visiting Professor at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. A world-renowned researcher of social influence, persuasion, and altruism, Cialdini has authored more than 125 articles and books, the most notable of which include *Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion*, *Influence: Science and Practice*, and *Influence: How and Why People Agree to Things*. Beyond having received numerous awards for his writing, teaching, and research, Cialdini is a fellow of the American Psychological Society and Past President of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

The faculty advisors for the conference are James J. Gross, Director of the Stanford Psychophysiology Laboratory and recent recipient of the American Psychological Association's 2001 Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contribution to Psychology, and Philip G. Zimbardo, current President of the Western Psychological Association and President-Elect of the American Psychological Association.

We are currently looking for students to present at the conference. To be eligible, students must either (a) currently be enrolled as an undergraduate student or (b) have graduated, but have completed the research they intend to present while still an undergraduate (e.g., if you graduated last year, you can present the research you completed as an undergraduate student).

Those who have performed interesting, high-quality research and who are excited about presenting their research to other psychologists are encouraged to apply. These students should also be excited about hearing others present their research.

Proceeds from the conference will be donated to a class of high school students studying psychology, to be used toward the purchase of new academic materials.

For more information and to apply online, visit the conference website at <http://www.stanfordconference.org>. The abstract deadline is March 30th, 2001.

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George M. Slavich, Founder and Executive Director of the First Annual Stanford Undergraduate Psychology Conference, is currently a coterminal master's student in psychology and a terminal master's student in communication at Stanford University. Slavich is Co-President of the Stanford chapter of Psi Chi, a member of the Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects at Stanford, and has served as a lecturer and teaching assistant for a number of classes in Stanford's Department of Psychology. His research investigates the role that stressful life events and cognitive biases play in the genesis and maintenance of major depressive disorder. Slavich has also spent time researching aschematic perception, violations of expectation, persuasive computing, and cultural influences on, and responses to, television.

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