

PSI BETA® NEWSLETTER

Member of the Association of College Honor Societies

An Affiliate of the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society

THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN PSYCHOLOGY FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

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The President's Message—



Psi Beta Newsletter Exclusive: New Council Members Elected Psychic Predictions!

Kenneth Gray, PhD

National President of Psi Beta
College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois

As I sit down to write this, my third and final President's message for the Psi Beta Newsletter, I am forced to admit that I am a sentimental person. I am nearing the end of six-years on the Psi Beta National Council, and my natural inclination would be to look back, and reminisce and pine for what I am leaving behind. Fortunately for you, however, it is more appropriate for me to do that next year when I am Past-President and do not have this prominent space in the newsletter.

Instead, I will look ahead. Many psychology instructors cover psychic predictions in our General Psychology classes. I feel quite expert at it, so I will try my hand at prognosticating. We'll forget about that little misstep of my NCAA basketball tournament predictions; suffice it to say that I picked the University of Wisconsin to win the championship. Since then, I have perfected the subtle art of reading the stars and can confidently predict events yet to come. So, without further fanfare, here are my Psychic Predictions for the future of Psi Beta.

PSI BETA WILL BECOME MORE IMPORTANT IN STUDENTS' LIVES AND STUDENT RESEARCH WILL INCREASE.

Community colleges will continue to increase their role as a major provider of the first two years of baccalaureate education. Do not quote me on this, but I recall hearing recently that already, half of the college General Psychology courses in the US are taught at community colleges. Because of their increasing importance, community colleges will expand their roles in students' co-curricular lives. Becoming active in scholarly organizations, such as Psi Beta, will become an increasingly common experience for serious students. Importantly, prescient students who expect to attend graduate school will fight to overcome the barriers to conducting research during their community college years, and in so doing they will begin to break down those barriers. Over time, community college culture will shift to actively support student research, and Psi Beta will be a major ben-

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Ken Gray
Psi Beta National President

The Psi Beta Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the results of the National Council election. The President-elect for 2004-05 is Sharon Burson, EdD, Temple College (TX), currently serving as the Southwestern Regional Vice-president (2000-04). Dr. Burson is a professor and chair of the Psychology/Sociology Department, plus she has served as the Psi Beta faculty advisor since 1990. In 1993, she won the Virginia Staudt Sexton Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award. In February the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) Council adopted Dr. Burson's proposal, **A Matter of Ethics**, for the ACHS National Community Service Project to be implemented next fall by all interested ACHS member honor societies at 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities.

Regional vice-presidents elected by the active chapters will serve 2004-06 terms. Laura Bittner, MS, LCPC, Carroll Community College (MD), will serve the Eastern region. Replacing Dr. Burson in the Southwestern region will be John Phelan, MEd, Western Oklahoma State College. Ginger Osborne, PhD, Santa Ana College (CA), will be the Western/Rocky Mountain Regional Vice-president. Jaye Van Kirk, MS, San Diego Mesa College (CA), is presently serving as the W/RM vice-president (2000-04) and president-elect. She will be National President of the 2004-05 National Council. Pro-

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psibeta.org Revised

The psibeta.org home page has a new face! In August 2001, Donna Stuber-McEwen, PhD, unveiled a newly designed Web site for Psi Beta's 20th anniversary. Michael McEwen developed a new membership database to work with the Web site that allowed online registration of new members. There are daily behind-the-scene improvements to the Web site and database. Plus, Michael made all of Psi Beta's data housed at the Psi Beta Distribution Center accessible to Carol Tracy at the Psi Beta National Office.

This summer the talented McEwen team will present an upgraded Psi Beta Web site that will be more user-friendly. There will be menu buttons on the home page for moving directly around the site and a shopping cart. Psi Beta is fortunate to have the McEwens in charge of the Psi Beta Distribution Center, Web site and technology!

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PSI BETA®



THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN PSYCHOLOGY
FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

The mission of Psi Beta is professional development of psychology students through promotion and recognition of excellence in scholarship, leadership, research and community service.

SPRING 2004

Carol Tracy, Editor

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 1

Psi Beta National Council

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President's Message (continued from page 1)

eficiary of this shift.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACULTY AND STUDENTS WILL ATTEND MORE CONFERENCES.

My Psi Beta chapter has participated in a great variety of interesting activities during my years with them. Although the activities have all been valuable, even when not 100% successful, few have generated as much excitement as attending conferences and conventions (see my President's Message in the *Winter 2004 Online Newsletter* for a similar point). I realize that it is difficult and expensive to attend conferences. As Psi Beta students become more integrated into the scholarly world of psychology, however, they and their advisors will become a significant presence as regular

attendees of national, regional, and local conferences.


NATIONAL OFFICE/NATIONAL COUNCIL ACTIVITIES WILL BECOME MORE DISPERSED.

Okay, I admit it, this one is easy. But every good psychic knows that he needs to sneak in a couple of high probability hits. A great many National Council members have maintained an active role in Psi Beta well after their terms on the council expire. A few years ago, the National Council created the President's Circle, comprising all former Psi Beta National Presidents. Psi Beta will continue to leverage the knowledge, support, and devotion of current and former National Council Members. In addition, the Psi Beta Distribution Center, capably headed by former Psi Beta National President Donna Stuber McEwen and our Director of Chapter Relations Michael McEwen, will increase its already-indispensable role in the daily functioning of the national office.

The expansion of the reliance on current and former council members and the Distribution Center will be precipitated by the future retirement of the only Executive Director that Psi Beta has ever known, Carol Tracy. Under Ms. Tracy's guidance for nearly 25 years, Psi Beta has grown into a vibrant organization that has played a critical role in the professional development of students and faculty alike. Now, much like a mother bird nurtures her babies until they can take flight on their own, Carol Tracy has prepared Psi Beta to flourish without her daily guidance.

PSI BETA WILL STRENGTHEN TIES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

As I pointed out in an upcoming article for the *Psychology Teachers Network* newsletter, part of Psi Beta's success comes from our ability to form partnerships with other organizations. The stars have informed me that these partnerships and ties to other organizations will continue, and even increase. Psi Beta will maintain and build mutually beneficial relationships with APA, APS, Psychology Teachers at Community Colleges, Psi Chi, the Council for Teachers of Undergraduate Psychology, along with other outstanding organizations.

Well, there you have it, my Psi Beta Psychic Predictions for the next few years. I probably should have mentioned earlier that the events I predict have always been a mix of what I think will be and what I wish will be. I hope that you agree that these events, if they come to pass, will be positive developments. If you do, please consider taking an active role in ensuring that the predictions do come true. ☺ 

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Election Results

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fessor Van Kirk won the Virginia Staudt Sexton Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award in 1998 and 1999.

The 2004-05 National Council will be installed by outgoing Past-President Tonja Ringgold, EdD, Baltimore City Community College (MD), during the 2004 APA National Convention in Hawaii. $\Psi\beta$



Laura Bittner



John Phelan



Ginger Osborne

The Ultimate Transfer: Making the Connection to a 4-year Institution

Donna Stuber-McEwen, Ph.D.

Psi Beta National President 1994-1995, Professor, Friends University

Michelle L. Worley

Senior, Psi Chi Chapter President, Friends University

Although community colleges offer a variety of academic and vocational options, preparing students to transfer to 4-year institutions has traditionally been central to its primary goals. Jalomo (1995) indicated that a successful transition to senior institutions is determined by 1) how well students made the transition to college and 2) how well students form connections and become academically and socially integrated into campus life. Transferring involves more than simply being accepted into another institution. Rather, it requires the student to do some advance research, jump the "bureaucratic hurdles," and prepare to make the necessary academic and social adjustments that he or she is sure to face (Bricault, 1997).

The atmosphere just "feels" different.

Expect things to be different. Enrollment procedures may seem strange. Offices may not be centralized. Your familiar surroundings and support network are not as close. You may not feel as comfortable as in your previous college. Don't despair – just realize these feelings are normal for transfer students.

There was no orientation.

The social life of a college student has a great impact on the overall college experience. Consider students who attend orientation classes where they are given the opportunity to meet new people, faculty, and advisors. Although you most likely attended freshmen orientation at the community college, as a transfer student you may not be given the same amount of time and attention. Although some institutions are more sensitive to the unique concerns of transfer students, others will perceive that you are "seasoned" and already acclimated to college life. In these instances you may simply need to be prepared for the challenge. You may have to take it upon yourself to find your way around, learn about campus resources, and get to know others.

Not all of my credits transferred.

Few things frustrate a transfer student more than to lose college credits. If you are working toward an AA degree,

chances are most, if not all of these will count as general education courses toward the bachelor's degree. However, transferring vocational hours is much more difficult than traditional general education credits. Specialty courses may not transfer, or may transfer as electives. It is always wise to visit with potential transfer institutions and get in writing what courses will count toward your bachelor's degree. If you believe that a course should be counted, it is perfectly acceptable to appeal the decision – find out the appropriate steps to take and plan to present the required documentation, such as a catalog description and a course syllabus to support your case. Know in advance, before you transfer, what classes you need to graduate. Keep in mind that many 4-year institutions have a cap on the number of community college credits allowed, which may also effect what courses transfer.

Help! My GPA is spiraling downward!

Of particular concern is the phenomenon of *transfer shock* (Bricault, 1997). Hills (1965) defined transfer shock as the drop in grade point average (GPA) during the first semester of enrollment at a new institution and usually describes the experience of a student who transfers from a two-year institution. Several factors may contribute to transfer shock. Townsend (1993) showed academic performance as an important indicator - both from past colleges and at the current college. If you have a solid GPA now, transfer shock should have little impact on you. Accomplishment is another factor that can influence the level of transfer shock. Keeley and House (1993) reported that students who earned an associate's degree or accumulated a high number of credits before transferring felt a lower amount of transfer shock. Age may also play a role in the level of transfer shock. Townsend and Keeley (1993) found that students over the age of 25 showed less sensitivity to transfer shock (as cited in Bricault, 1997), which is likely due to their maturity.

It's lonely here.

Transfer students are more likely to feel disengaged from student life than native students. According to the National Survey of Student Engagement, "60% of ... [4-year] students said they 'worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments' often or very often, while only 51% of transfer students did so often or very often" (§ 4). Academic and social integration is the key to making campus connections (Davies & Casey, 1999) and the primary contributor to retention. Forming friendships early is a good way to feel at home more quickly. Get involved in study groups and attend Psychology Club meetings your first semester. Being visible in your department is also a crucial first-step to forming professional relationships with your professors and a key element to your professional development (Stuber-McEwen, 2000).

I'm broke.


It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that college students aren't made of money. Most have to rely on grants, scholarships, and loans just to pay for tuition and books and on top of that must work to cover living expenses. Be aware that some students receive a less percentage of assistance than they did at the community college, which means they may have to work more hours to make ends meet. More work hours reduces study time and limits your social life and social support (Davies & Casey, 1999). As you shop for a transfer school, ask about the types of financial aid and special scholarships available to transfer students and plan ahead to finish your degree under a tighter budget. If you

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Registering members (continued from page 1)

In 2003, the National Council created Director of Chapter Relations and selected Michael McEwen to serve as the first one. He wrote an article, "New Member Registrations," which can be found in the psibeta.org online newsletter. It gives detailed instructions for registering members online. Below is a condensed list of the steps for advisors to register new members.

1. advisor.psigbeta.org or go to psibeta.org ➔ Advisors ➔ Advisor Home. Enter your login and password.
2. Open Induction. Complete the required information. A confirmation with your chapter's induction number will appear.
3. Add Member. Type in the information from the registration card.
4. Edit Member. To correct errors or delete a member from the list.
5. Close Induction. To have certificates processed.

As always, contact Michael or go to <http://support.psigbeta.org> for assistance. 

michael@psibeta.org
877-PBETA DC

Transfer to 4-year (continued from page 3)

don't live on campus, you may want to find a roommate, or rent a room near campus for a while.

Once you transfer, everything is not gloom and doom. There are things you can do now and later to make the transfer experience a rewarding one.

1. COMPLETE YOUR 2-YEAR DEGREE: Community College students who complete their associate degrees are more likely to "have higher GPAs, have higher graduation rates, and have lower dismissal rates than those students who transfer earlier" (Best & Gehring, 1993, p. 38). Although 2-year college students may take longer to receive their 4-year degrees, they are just as likely to graduate as their native counterparts (Lowman, 1998).
2. GET INVOLVED: Although you may feel like the only transfer student on campus, keep in mind there are others like you. In fact, many native psychology majors don't know each other. Don't be a wallflower during class discussions. Organize a study session and exchange names and email addresses. Attend Psychology Club activities and join Psi Chi as soon as you are eligible.
3. DON'T LET TRANSFER SHOCK RUIN YOUR GPA: Although most students go through some degree of transfer shock, most students eventually go through what Diaz (1992) calls *recovery*. In recovery, the student's GPA returns to its entry level or near entry level (Bricault, 1997). Hang in there and get back on track.
4. DON'T LET FINANCIAL FRET GET THE BEST OF YOU: Many students are unaware that they can appeal a financial aid decision. If you are not awarded as much as you need (and who is?), contact the financial aid office and ask about the appropriate steps to follow. If the financial strain becomes too much, take a semester or two off to re-group. No one will fault you for taking some time off to save money for school.
5. ASK FOR ADVICE: If you need some direction or advice, ask your professors or student life personnel. That's what they are there for. The numbers game is pretty important in

higher education and it is in your institution's best interest to keep you happy and enrolled. Besides, most people are willing help if you just ask. Get the most from your college experience.

When you transfer to a 4-year college or university, keep in mind that you have already beaten the odds. Less than 50% of students who enter a community college ever transfer to a 4-year institution (Best & Gehring, 1993). Although you can expect upper division courses to be more demanding, remember that you a member of Psi Beta and have already demonstrated academic promise.

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Chapter Activities

The editor hopes that this report of activities will serve not only to inform and recognize members and others who participate in Psi Beta programs, but also to stimulate an exchange of program ideas among chapters. In addition, the contributions made by the chapters and their participants will be preserved for historical purposes, including preservation in the Archives of the History of American Psychology, Akron, Ohio.

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In December, Truman College (IL), one of the City Colleges of Chicago, chartered a chapter of Psi Beta. Thirteen students were inducted in a candlelight ceremony led by Professors Gregory D. Robinson, Olga Ruiz, and Dr. Cynthia Butcher. The inductees, challenged with the task of making its chapter grow, tackled community service and research projects! Heather's Teddy Bears community service project, along with a series of Stress-Management workshops, were selected. The focus of the campus workshops

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was to raise awareness about the effects of stress on the mind and body. There were sessions on test anxiety, time management and meditation techniques. A Valentine's Day bake sale was held to raise funds for members to attend "Joining Minds," the 11th Midwest Institute for Students and Teachers of Psychology, hosted by the College of DuPage who did a beautiful job and made participants feel very welcome. Seven members along with two advisors attended the institute for two days of informational sessions on a myriad of topics. The whole trip was an invaluable learning experience. The chapter sponsored a raffle with numerous prizes. Proceeds from the raffle supplemented the cost of conference fees as well as the cost of marketing Heather's Teddy Bear service project. Members are especially enthusiastic about attending conferences and completing research projects that will challenge them as well as give them priceless experiences to enhance their academic futures.

SOUTHEASTERN REGION
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 ajohnson@floyd.edu


Psi Beta at Brevard Community College (FL) kicked off another great semester! Beginning with Welcome Back Day on campus, Psi Beta ruled the Who Knows the Cheese Game Show (a "game show" covering school policies and guidelines) and beat the faculty in a rather competitive duel in tug-of-war. They also took a trip to Circles of Care in Rockledge, where members sat in on a staff meeting. The psychologists and therapists there were impressed with the members' knowledge of psychology. Psi Beta continued to collect for Heathers Bears, but focused on the Women's Drug-Free Center for Living. Members collected board games, toys, and other fun items to donate to the center. Their donations will allow mothers to reconnect and spend quality time with their children, which they may have lost during an addiction or other crisis. In addition to regular meetings, car washes, and other functions, the chapter has also raised money for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. The chapter theme was "Building a Cure for Cancer." Members wore hard hats, jeans, and tool belts to show their spirit.

SOUTHWESTERN REGION
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Collin County Community College (TX) Psi Beta Chapter members participated in several conferences with faculty advisor Jennifer Brooks and won numerous prizes for their presentations! At the 24th Annual Great Plains Student Psychology Conference held in Kansas City, MO, all of the students placed in oral competitions, with one first place winner and four second place winners. They won first place in oral presentations at the 2nd Annual Llano Estacado Undergraduate Psychology Conference in Lubbock, TX. They were the only 2-year college represented, beating the 4-year colleges in competition. Psi Beta members received certificates and a \$100 check.

WESTERN/ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
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The Psychology Club/Psi Beta Chapter at Cerritos College (CA) started the spring semester with a fresh new cabinet. Their chapter Web page was launched to provide members

with online information about what's going on in the club, what will be covered at the meetings, what upcoming activities are scheduled, a brief explanation of what Psi Beta is, what the cabinet contact information is, and lastly, to provide an opportunity to email or post in the message boards any feedback. The cabinet planned various psychology related activities and events. One of the activities implemented was to have a speaker every other Tuesday. Sociologist Amy Holzgang, Ph.D. spoke about her research on "Women in Religion." Next, John Williams, M.D., an assistant researcher psychiatrist talked about his research on "Sex on the Internet." Dr. Lester Mindus, a clinical psychologist, discussed his field. Professor Wendell Hanks gave a workshop about the importance of speech and communication in relationships. This workshop was a fundraiser similar to the one sponsored last semester on the topic "Serial Killing," which made over \$500! Besides having speakers, the officers provided to chapter members opportunities to work with mentally ill patients. They volunteered at two facilities. In Metropolitan State Hospital in Norwalk, CA, members could choose to work with boys or girls ages 12-18, or with adults. Another place where members volunteered was Founders House of Hope in Artesia, CA., where mostly schizophrenic or manic depressive patients live. One of the biggest goals for the officers is to provide members with experiences in the field of psychology and to increase involvement. 

Psi Beta Award Deadlines

Criteria ➔ psibeta.org/public_pages/awards.htm

Allyn & Bacon Research	May 15
College Life	June 1
Community Service	June 1
Faculty Advisor	June 1
Outstanding Chapter	June 1

New Chapters

ANNE ARUNDEL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI
 Arnold, MD (Eastern Region)
 Charter Date April 21, 2004
 Organizer Mary Therese Hinch

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE - MONROE
 Tannersville, PA (Eastern Region)
 Charter Date December 15, 2003
 Faculty Advisors Anthony Kraemer, Cyd Skinner

HARRY S. TRUMAN COLLEGE
 Chicago, IL (Midwestern Region)
 Charter Date December 9, 2003
 Faculty Advisors Gregory Robinson, Olga Ruiz,
 Cynthia Butcher, PhD

New Chapter Officers

<p>ANNE ARUNDEL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI (MD) President .. Renata Carneiro Vice-Pres/Secretary Mary Therese Hinch Treas Kalli Springer</p> <p>BREVARD COMM. COLLEGE (FL) President Amy Heaslet Vice-Pres Natalie Moss Secretary ... Sarah Woodard Treas Racheal Downing</p>	<p>Historian Mary Baran Pres-elect Melissa Hewitt</p> <p>CERRITOS COLLEGE (CA) President .Lady Ivory Chua Vice-pres Krista Toilolo Nancy Lopez Secretary Carlos Meza Treas Jesse Gallegos</p> <p>TRUMAN COLLEGE (IL) Historian Zana Tapia</p>
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New Members

These are the names of new members whose registrations were received by the Psi Beta national office after publication of the Fall 2003 PSI BETA NEWSLETTER. Registrations received after April 1, 2004, will appear in the Fall 2004 NEWSLETTER.

Allegheny County Comm. Clg. N (PA)

Daniel R. Arkus
Ashley Arlotti
Demetrius Copeland
Christine K. Dahlin
Amy B. Davis
Jamie L. Fischerkeller
Lindsay Sara Fockler
Monica R. Giovengo
Nicole C. Harrison
Lee P. Hedderman
Chris M. Hnatow
Teja Leigh Hough
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Glenora M. Kivador
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Elizabeth C. Long
Kayla R. Lynch
Jonathon J. Lynn
Matthew T. McDonald
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Pamela L. McVicker
Debra E. Samarín
Jamie L. Stone
Hope Ann Sweeney
Amy Marie Ulewicz
Jason C. Ussack
Janice L. Weaver
Mary F. Zeak

Anne Arundel Comm. College (MD)

Mark E. Allshouse

Baltimore City Comm. College (MD)

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Glen E. Conrad, Jr.
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Bernadette Dixon
Lauren Nicole Gates
LaKeisha L. Hawkins
Ramona-Felicia
Holmes
Elias Deffang Kima
Charlene D. Langston
Harold Moore-Bey
Jadranka Niksic
Jennifer P. Robinson
Crystal P. Warren

Baltimore Cty, Comm. Clg. of, Essex (MD)

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Jennifer L. Blom
Jeremy Scott Bohlen
Kimberly Kay Borries
Tammy Marie Brown
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Krystal Gail Dockrey
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Michael Massimini II
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Megan Marie Trump
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Ryan E. Cernovich

Jill Linn Hutchinson
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Kelly A. Rasmussen
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Mark Biondi
Stacey M. Campbell
Kelly E. Coleman
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Meagan P. Dolan
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Robert Joseph Kelso
Jennifer Marie Klue
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Ashley Mortimore
Natalie Moss
Michelle Petrillo
Sherry Lynn Quinn
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Alexandra T. Ho
Cheryl L. Hutchinson
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FRIDAY, JULY 30

9:00-9:50am, **PSI BETA LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP**
Hawaii Convention Center, Meeting Room 304 A
 Chair: Kenneth Gray, PhD, College of DuPage (IL)

Presenters:
 Sharon Burson, EdD, Temple College (TX)
 One Minute Leader

Loren Cheney, EdD, Comm. Clg. Rhode Island,
 Exercise to Develop Leadership Skills in Your Group

10:00-10:50am, **PSI BETA/PT@CC WORKSHOP: INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODS**,

Hawaii Convention Center, Meeting Room 325 B
 Chair: Tonja Ringgold, EdD, Baltimore City Comm. Clg. (MD)
 Participants:

Heather LaCost, MA, Waubensee Comm. College (IL)
Surfing the Online Wave: Possibilities and Wipeouts
 Jaye Van Kirk, MS, San Diego Mesa College (CA)
Personalizing Your Students' Learning Experiences

SATURDAY, JULY 31

8:00-8:50am, **PSI BETA INVITED ADDRESS:**
RUTH HUBBARD COUSINS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE
Hawaii Convention Center, Meeting Room 321B

Chair: Kenneth Gray, PhD, College of DuPage (IL)
 Presenter: Ann T. Ewing, PhD, Mesa Community College (AZ)
Teaching for Passion or Passion for Teaching?