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## Feature Story: The MSUM Psychology Club

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With a blend of useful information, community service projects, and fun, the MSUM Psychology Club is a great way to fill an hour of your time every other week! Our team of club officers and faculty advisors are dedicated to providing our members with a variety of services, including: the opportunity to become part of Psi Chi, the distinguished honors society for psychology majors; information about research opportunities in the department; preparing for the GRE; jobs you can obtain in the community that relate to the field of psychology; and fun activities that get our members involved on campus and with other clubs. Perhaps one of the most noteworthy parts of being involved in Psychology Club and the psychology department is the opportunity to attend guest speaker events. Just this past semester we had three major guest speaker events.

Our first speaker was Dr. Kolotkin, holder of a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and who is now retired from teaching at MSUM and from private practice, gave a 20-minute overview of the field and how it has changed over the years. After, he held a 30-minute-long Q & A session in which students asked a wide variety of questions, from the types of clients he worked with to his post-doctoral internship. Dr. Kolotkin offered a real-world viewpoint regarding the circumstances and obstacles one could expect in pursuing a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and in clinical practice itself

For students interested in higher education aside from that of clinical

psychology and obtaining a Ph.D., we brought in three people from different areas of post-bachelor life. This panel consisted of a Master's student in MSUM's School Psychology program, a Ph.D. student, and alumni of MSUM currently at NDSU for Developmental Science, and another MSUM alumni who is currently a lawyer and is going back for her Master's degree in psychology. These speakers gave students an idea of what life was like as a graduate student today and shared information about different paths that psychology can take you on. Many times when someone hears psychology, he or she thinks of clinical psychology and therapists in their offices; this panel showed students that there are many other options for them if they want to pursue higher education but do not want to get a Ph.D. or be a clinical psychologist.

Lastly, we had Michelle Colvert from Creative Care for Reaching Independence (CCRI) come in and present students with job options requiring only a Bachelor's degree. For students who do not know if they would like to attend graduate school right away, or do not want to go onto graduate school at all, this talk was beneficial. Michelle explained the many different positions that CCRI has for those either still in school or graduated with a Bachelor's degree; these would be great for those who would like to work in the human service industry and make a difference in many lives.

The MSUM Psychology club provides its members with information pertinent to





their future plans by means of: student lead information sessions, experts in their field, and members of the community. The meetings are informal and a round table format where everyone is able to voice their thoughts on activities that the club does and share ideas on topics related to psychology. Overall, the MSUM Psychology Club would be a great addition to your weekly schedule!