

Argosy University, Chicago's Division 52 (D52) Student Group

Argosy University, Chicago's Division 52 (International Psychology) student group was started by students in the fall of 2007 under the auspices of Dr. Neal Rubin. The group's founding members, Erica Green, Jenna Stowell, and Amy Paderta, sought to bring together students who are passionate about cross-cultural and international work and who wish to be involved in the international psychology community. Argosy's D52 group seeks to promote the mission of APA's Division 52 by: (a.) encouraging awareness and discussion surrounding international issues, (b.) promoting community participation on international and cross-cultural issues, (c.) inviting local and international professionals to conduct presentations, (d.) encouraging international learning experiences and research, (e.) incorporating issues of self-care and secondary trauma prevention, and (f.) encouraging membership at the APA level.

Since 2007, D52 has brought many enriching speakers and events to the Argosy's Chicago campus. We hold an annual pot luck whereby we host faculty from local institutions who discuss the role of psychologists in an international capacity. We have also collaborated with other student groups and campus organizations in order to bring speakers and events to the student body. During the 2009-2010 academic year, we honored World AIDS Day by hosting local and international speakers who presented on their work with those who are living with HIV/AIDS. We also co-hosted members from the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC), an organization based in Washington D.C., who spoke about their personal experiences as torture survivors. To show appreciation to our speakers, we provide honoraria to the organizations which they represent. We have also just begun to donate a portion of our annual budget to local and international charitable organizations.

Having supportive faculty has allowed our group to thrive; we have formed important relationships with faculty who are dedicated to our professional development. Dr. Rubin has been instrumental in encouraging D52 members to take advantage of opportunities to publish articles, present in national and international conferences, and to conduct international research. Our members are active in the Chicago chapter of the United Nations and APA's Division 52. We also have members who travel internationally to conduct workshops, trainings, and do clinical work. Some of us also attended Psychology Day at the United Nations in New York City in the spring of 2010 and plan to attend in 2011 as well. Dr. Zakowski has also been pivotal in forming the D52 Journal Club, a group which meets monthly to discuss journal articles and books pertaining to the role of psychologists in an international context.

Argosy, Chicago's D52 student group has many exciting plans for the 2010-2011 academic year. We invite all students take advantage of the opportunities that we offer. For more information, please contact us at argosyd52@yahoo.com.