CSDP Summer Travels and Updates

Over the past few months, we at the Chicago Social Drinking Project (CSDP) have been busy. We have engaged in both national and international travels to present research findings from CSDP and other studies in our lab.

In June 2010, several staff members accompanied Dr. King to San Antonio, Texas for the 33rd annual Research Society on Alcoholism Scientific Meeting. We presented findings on environmental factors and substance use patterns over time, how drug-induced changes in emotion may impact cognitive function, and individual differences in the effects of alcohol and other substances on eye movement responses.

In August 2010, Dr. King was invited as part of a delegation of University of Chicago researchers presenting at the Psychiatry Research Workshop at Central South University in Changsha, China, and also the Second Hospital in Beijing, China. While there, Dr. King met with researchers to discuss culturally relevant themes in drinking and smoking behavior. Dr. King returned enthusiastic about a possible extension of CSDP to social drinkers in China. (see photo below).

There may be important cultural and biological factors underlying these differences compared to Americans. Needless to say, it was a thrilling trip. Dr. King met her lifetime goal to see the Great Wall of China.

Other Staff Updates

Sarah Butler, a research assistant with CSDP for the past year, recently took a position at the University of Michigan to pursue her interests in autism research. We wish her all the best with her work!

Follow-Up Raffle Announcement:

If you completed your Annual Follow-Up between April to September 2010, you will be enrolled in our upcoming October 15th Raffle. Prizes include a $100 gift card and CSDP gifts. All winners will be announced by e-mail that week.

CSDP Staff Receives Award

Daniel Roche, a current graduate student mentored by Dr. King, was honored at the Research Society on Alcoholism meeting in June, 2010 with the Enoch Gordis Research Recognition Award. This is a prestigious award given annually to only one graduate student conducting human research. Kudos to Daniel, and keep up the good work!
Drinking Alcohol in 2010

A Gallup Poll conducted in July 2010 showed that of 67% of adults in the US currently drink, the highest percentage reported in the last 25 years. The all-time peak was recorded in 1977 with 71% of the adult population identifying as drinkers.

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Do you have occasion to use alcoholic beverages such as liquor, wine, or beer, or are you a total abstainer?

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Income. The investigations reveals that, of those polled, those with the highest income were most likely to drink.

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Beverage Type. Preference for beer still prevails, though this has been declining slightly for the past two decades.

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Age. Those 18 to 34 engaged in the highest rates of drinking. These rates remain fairly similar among the middle aged (age 34 to 54) while adults over 55 years of age appear to drink less on average.

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Quantity. As assessed in 2009, among those who consume alcohol, the average number of drinks consumed each week was 4.8, with 65% of US drinkers having had at least one drink within the past seven days while those consuming eight or more drinks in the past week was tallied at 14%.