

Christina Thibodeaux

Interview:

How would you describe your area of study to a novice?

Industrial and Organizational Psychology is the scientific study of the workplace. I/O psychologists are interested in studying how organizations can best develop, implement, and manage human resource programs.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

I have always wanted to an advanced degree in psychology. So the satisfaction of knowing that I am on track to accomplish one of my major life goals keeps me motivated.

Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?

Absolutely! Everyone can benefit from hearing perspectives different from their own. Also, you never know what contacts other graduate students may have or even if they may end up your colleagues one day in the future.

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

Listening to music works wonders for me. Israel Kamakawiwo'ole's somewhere over the rainbow is such a beautiful song that always relaxes me.

What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?

The last book that I technically finished was the hunger games last summer. Right now I am almost done reading Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell. Good thing too because it really helped when I saw the movie which would have been really confusing to watch without having read the book.

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

I personally learn the most through discussion, so the conversations I have had with my advisor and other graduate students about topics in I/O have helped me grow the most on an academic and also on a personal level.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

The importance of time management in every single aspect of your life. You can't survive without it.

If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?

I would love to go to Mars, but more as a tourist than a scientist. I don't think I have any scientific contributions to offer that wouldn't already be covered by a NASA astronaut. But as a tourist I would be more than happy to contribute by bringing plenty of cupcakes which is a tried and true method for increasing crew morale.

What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?

I love chocolate chip cookies. Sometimes I bake them, but other times I eat them right out the package which is probably ever so slightly unhealthy. Regrettably I only bake them once every few days.

If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?

I would have continued working and submitting many more graduate school applications for the following year.

When do you expect to complete your degree?
May 2013.