

## Letter to the Editor



This is an open letter to the graduate student members of SIOP, especially those in terminal master degree programs. I just returned from the River Cities I-O (RCIO) conference (<http://www.utc.edu/psychology/rcio/>) hosted by the I-O faculty in the Department of Psychology at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga: **Chris Cunningham, Mike Biderman, Brian O'Leary, and Bart Weathington**. This was the sixth year they have hosted the conference. The conference is specifically directed toward graduate students, not the established members of our profession. The attendees are typically first and second year graduate students from universities in the region. It is held on a Saturday in late October, and every year there is a theme to the conference. The theme for 2013 was "Trends in Training." I have found the conference to be a true educational delight! There are posters authored by students and professors, as well as two tracks of sessions offered by faculty presenters from various universities. There is also a panel discussion by the faculty presenters on the theme of the conference. I host a Q&A session over the luncheon where I talk about issues that we all face in our careers but are rarely aired publicly, as the types of things that professionally give us the highest highs and the lowest lows. Students ask me all manner of questions to which I reply as honestly as I can. In my opinion, RCIO strives to offer a "RCP"—a realistic career preview. The highest accolade I can give RCIO is to say I wish I could have attended such a conference 45 years ago when I was a beginning graduate student.

Registration for the conference is minimal, \$20. In 2013, they had over 130 attendees, including graduate students, faculty and I-O professionals. While you can contact the folks who hosted the conference for formal feedback, I can safely attest that everyone had a good experience, and just like PBS, it is "time well

spent." The conference is learning the old fashioned way---the kids learn from the village elders in a welcoming environment. I urge all first and second year graduate students in SIOOP to make the trek to RCIO in October 2014 when the theme will be "Perspectives on Personality." If faculty wish to serve as presenters in educating the next generation of our profession, your participation would

be welcomed. I have met people at the SIOOP conference who were first "baptized" into I-O at the RCIO conference. They think highly of the conference, and I believe you will too.

Sincerely,  
Paul Muchinsky

<a href="#">Contents</a>	<a href="#">Features</a>	<a href="#">Editorials</a>	<a href="#">Reports</a>	<a href="#">my.SIOOP</a>
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