

department of
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES



From the Department Chair, Robert Morgan, PhD

I am excited to begin a new chapter in the Department of Psychological Sciences. I have been a member of the department for 15 years, and was appointed the new chair effective August 17. We have a lot to be excited about and the future is bright. I'm pleased to share some of the new developments in our department, but first I would like to thank Dr. Lee Cohen for his four years of service as chair of our department. Although we will miss Lee and his wonderful family, we wish him all the best in his new position as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Mississippi.



We remain one of the strongest and most well respected academic units at Texas Tech. As further proof of this, the university is investing mightily in our department with a building expansion. Yes, it is true. We will be expanding by 6000 square feet for additional research laboratory space in the near future. If you would like further information or would like to contribute to this expansion, naming rights for various lab space will be available. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

We are conducting five faculty searches this year: Clinical Psychology (three positions), Counseling Psychology (one position), and Human Factors program (one position). We are in the process of receiving applications, and are excited at the prospect of hiring five new faculty that will contribute to our excellence in teaching, research, and service.

We understand that as the university invests in us (space and faculty lines), the expectations of our department also increase, and we are poised and ready for this challenge. I will share with you my goals in the next edition of the newsletter.

That said, I can tell you that one goal is to continue Lee's efforts to enhance alumni relationships. If you are in town for a game, to visit friends or family, or for business, please let me know you are coming. I would like to meet with you, share more about all that is happening here, and learn about your time here at TTU and subsequent activities.

Best Wishes,
Bob



Honors College awards

Recognizing some of our department's recent graduates. [Read more...](#)



Graduate Scholarships

Awards to our outstanding graduate students. [Read more...](#)



In their own words...

Some recent personal video accounts of faculty research. [Read more...](#)



Going to the birds...

How one of our grad students is using her feathered friends to teach cognition. [Read more...](#)



Faculty awards and recognitions

Faculty efforts and contributions are recognized. [Read more...](#)



Where are they now?

An update on our retired Emeritus Faculty that many will remember. [Read more...](#)



Faculty publications

A broad sampling of recent scholarly activity. [Read more...](#)



Some recent updates...

Some recent updates from the Dept's blog. [Read more...](#)

Undergraduate Acknowledgements

At the Honors College graduating seniors ceremony last May several of our Psychology majors were recognized.

Brieann McDaniel

was named the 2015 Honors Student of the Year. She completed her Honors thesis *Development of a Measure to Match Inmates to Correctional and Mental Health Services* with Bob Morgan. She will enter our Counseling PhD Program this fall.

Amanda Miller

was awarded the 2015 Academic Excellence Award after completing her first year at TTU. She is a pre-med student who is also majoring in Psychology.

Kristin Boyd

completed her Honors thesis *Suicide Risk in Athletes: The Associations Between Participation in Sports, Sports related injuries, and the Acquired Capability for Suicide* with Kelly Cukrowicz.

Melissa Rafferty

completed her Honors thesis *Psychological Functioning in Children with Limb Abnormalities* with Jason Van Allen.

In their own words

A personal research statement from a few of our faculty members.



Dr. Tyler Davis



Dr. Michael Parent



Dr. Brandi Pina-Watson

Faculty Awards and Recognitions

We are very pleased to present a sampling of awards and recognitions received recently by our faculty. The awards cover the full spectrum of teaching, research, and service. They demonstrate once again that our faculty excel in these crucial areas while continuing to contribute to the overall mission of Texas Tech.

- Dr. Keith Jones*** Received the President's Excellence in Teaching Award.
- Dr. Amelia Talley*** Received the Texas Tech Alumni Association New Faculty Award.
- Dr. Clyde Hendrick*** Received the Emeritus Faculty Certificate
- Dr. Susan Hendrick*** Received the Emeritus Faculty Certificate
- Dr. Alice Young*** Received the Med Associates Brady-Shuster Award, sponsored by APA division 28. Awarded at the 2014 APA Convention in Washington D.C.
- Dr. Brandy Piña-Watson*** Was selected as a Fellow from the Leadership Development Institute of the Council of National Psychological Associations for the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Interests.
- Dr. Jim Clopton*** Was named 2015 Faculty Member of the Year for the Honors College
- Dr. Kelly Cukrowicz*** Given the Edwin S. Shneidman Award from the American Association of Suicidology for outstanding early-career contributions to research in suicidology.
- Dr. Andrew Littlefield*** Received the Addictive Behaviors Special Interest Group's Early Career Achievement Award. Awarded at the 48th Annual Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Convention.
- Dr. Brandy Pina-Watson*** Was selected as a fellow of NIH's National Research Mentoring Network program.
- Dr. Patricia DeLucia*** Received the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society's prestigious Paul M. Fitts Education Award.

To stay abreast of recent news and developments check www.depts.ttu.edu/psy/

Faculty Publications

Below is a reflection of recent publications from our faculty that we've chosen to share in this issue.

To be clear, this is by no means an exhaustive list of what has been accomplished lately.

Talley, A.E., Hughes, T., Aranda, F., Birkett, M., & Marshal, M. (2014).

Exploring Alcohol-Use Behaviors Among Heterosexual and Sexual Minority Adolescents: Intersections With Sex, Age, and Race/Ethnicity. *American Journal of Public Health*, 104, 295-303. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2013.301627

Compared with exclusively heterosexual youths, sexual-minority youths were more likely to report lifetime and past-month alcohol use, past-month heavy episodic drinking, earlier age of drinking onset, and more frequent past-month drinking occasions. Bisexual youths, sexual-minority girls, and younger sexual-minority youths showed the largest alcohol-use disparities.

Ortegren, F. R., **Serra, M. J.**, & England, B. D. (2015). Examining competing hypotheses for the effects of diagrams on recall for text. *Memory & Cognition*, 43, 73-84.

We examined competing hypotheses for why supplementing text-based learning materials with diagrams typically increases students' recall of the presented information. Specifically, although diagrams are visual, they also serve to repeat information from the text they accompany, and both visual presentation and repetition are known to aid students' recall of information. See, <http://www.psychonomic.org/featured-content-detail/picture-is-worth-thousand-words-or-it>

Levant, R. F., **Parent, M. C.**, McCurdy, E., Bradstreet, T. C. (in press).

Moderated mediation of the relationships between masculinity ideology, outcome expectations, and energy drink use. *Health Psychology*. *This collaboration between researchers at the University of Akron (Levant, McCurdy) and TTU (Parent, Bradstreet) explored energy drink use. We found that energy drink use was associated with a desire to appear more masculine to others, and also that heavier consumption of energy drinks was associated with sleep disturbances among men.*

Tang, Y. Y., Holzel, B. K., Posner, M. I. (2015) The neuroscience of mindfulness meditation. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, 16, 213-225

This is the first Nature publication that systematically reviews the brain mechanism and application of mindfulness meditation. The practice of mindfulness meditation might be promising for the treatment of clinical disorders and might facilitate the cultivation of a healthy mind and increased well-being.

Alquist, J.L., Ainsworth, S., Baumeister, R.F., Daly, M., & Stillman, T F.

(2015) The makings of might-have-beens: Effects of belief about free will on counterfactual thinking. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 41, 268-283.

Individuals often consider ways that situations could have turned out differently and this counterfactual thinking can help people learn from their mistakes. We found that people with a greater belief in free will generated more ways that a situation could have turned out differently than people with less belief in free will. This suggests that people's philosophical beliefs can affect how they reflect on their experiences.

Van Allen, J., Borner, K. B., Gayes, L. A., & Steele, R. G. (2014). Weighing physical activity: The impact of a family-based group lifestyle intervention for pediatric obesity on participants' physical activity. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, 40(2), 193-202. doi:10.1093/jpepsy/jjsu077

This study examined whether a family-based childhood obesity treatment resulted in changes in physical activity for children and parents. Results indicated that children in the treatment group had significantly higher rates of physical activity at 12-month follow-up compared to the control group, and that change in parents' physical activity was associated with change in children's physical activity at multiple time points.

Marshall, P.H., Ireland, M. E., & Dalton, A. (2015). Earliest memories of pets predict adult attitudes: phenomenological, structural, and textual analyses. *Human-Animal Interaction Bulletin*, 3 (1). Retrieved from <http://www.apa-hai.org/human-animal-interaction/human-animal-interaction-bulletin/>

In this study we examined various aspects of adults' recollections of their earliest pet-related childhood experiences and their relationships to current pet attitudes. People who recalled memories of their own pet and described more interactive pet memories had more positive adult attitudes towards pets. Linguistic analyses also showed that when describing their earliest pet memories people use words similar as when describing friends.

Graduate Scholarships.

We are very pleased to present the following graduate students and their recent scholarship awards.

<i>Hossein Eslami</i>	Anderson Counseling Psy. Endowment Scholarship
<i>David Hancock</i>	Robert Bell Endowment Scholarship
<i>Tyler Bradstreet</i>	Gulf Oil Endowment Fund
<i>Angelea Bolanos</i>	Sheri E. Holloway Endowment Scholarship
<i>Dianna Boone</i>	Sheri E. Holloway Endowment Scholarship
<i>Dominika Borowa</i>	Sheri E. Holloway Endowment Scholarship
<i>Parker Donner</i>	Sheri E. Holloway Endowment Scholarship
<i>Natalie Lodinger</i>	Sheri E. Holloway Endowment Scholarship
<i>Laurie Pascaul</i>	Sheri E. Holloway Endowment Scholarship
<i>Nicole Seymour</i>	Sheri E. Holloway Endowment Scholarship
<i>Stephanie Van Horn</i>	Sharon Shoemaker Memorial Scholarship
<i>Sean Mitchell</i>	Mahone Endowment Scholarship
<i>Chelsea Klinkebiel</i>	Mahone Endowment Scholarship
<i>Paige Seegan</i>	Robert Earl Maxey Memorial Clinical Psy. Scholarship
<i>Nate Taylor</i>	Robert Earl Maxey Memorial Clinical Psy. Scholarship
<i>Noah Wheeler</i>	Perez Scholarship
<i>Karen Grabowski</i>	Jane I. Winer Dissertation Scholarship
<i>Yuki Shigemoto</i>	Jane I. Winer Dissertation Scholarship

Extravagant Ornaments or Insights to Cognition?

Eevin Akers was 10 years old when she first began holding “bird” seminars for her peers. She knew from this early age that she had a passion for manipulating animal behavior and teaching others about mental processes (it took another 10 years to realize the word for this was “cognition”). Back then, parrots were still regarded as extravagant ornaments. It is now possible to see, thanks to comparative cognition pioneers like Dr. Irene Pepperberg, that parrots are actually cognitively and emotionally similar to 2-to-5-year-old children. Eevin feels a responsibility to circulate

these findings with the opportunities she is given, such as when teaching General Psychology.

Avian intelligence is still a “young” research subject. Since parrots are now the third most popular pet in the United States, it is vital to educate the community about these animals’ cognitive abilities. Learning, memory, and cognitive development are key components of a General Psychology course. Parrots species have different reinforcement preferences; Eevin’s cockatoo prefers physical affection as a reward, whereas her smaller birds will perform tricks for almonds. This provides students with an opportunity

to observe operant conditioning with an exotic specimen. Students in Eevin’s class write a reflective paper in which they integrate psychological concepts they observed during the demonstration. The advantages are twofold: First, they gain a memorable learning experience for the course content. Secondly, these students also gain valuable education about avian welfare and conservation.



Where are they now?

We asked emeritus faculty members to tell us what they've been up to lately... Here are responses from Dr. Jane Winer, Dr. Bill Locke, Dr. Richard McGlynn, and Drs. Bill & Ruth Maki.



Dr. Jane Winer

Monty and I have been retired for nearly five years. First we worked on the house since we wouldn't be just passing through it every day anymore. Then, thankfully, we overcame a medical crisis (Monty's). We focus more on the same volunteer organizations as we did before, and we've been taking much longer and more interesting trips to different places than before. Our Whippet, Sophie, is a source of joy, just as were all of her predecessors. Coffee seminars and e-mail conversations with valued friends keep me connected to Texas Tech. Now is an excellent time of life. Jane wanted us to use this picture of her beloved Whippet Sophie.



Dr. Bill Locke

My initial contacts with Texas Tech involved providing them with a resume. In that resume, I indicated that the most significant portion of my professional credential to that point had to be the former students with whom I had the good fortune to work. After sharing a few more decades at Tech, I would still make that same statement. I don't hear much about all of you but am pleased at the reports that I do hear. I formally retired from Tech in 1996 in order to handle family matters associated with the illness and subsequent loss of close family. Two years ago, my wife and I moved to a retirement community in Lubbock called Raider Ranch. There we find many from the Tech community with whom we shared experiences back in the day. (Bill was a player on our 1973 Faculty-Staff championship basketball team).



Dr. Richard McGlynn

After 39 years, three children, and two careers, Ann and I packed up and moved back to Chicago in 2008. We miss everything about Tech and our wonderful friends in Lubbock. But for being closer to family and all the great stuff to see and do in the city we love, we made the right decision. We have six grandchildren now in Michigan and New Jersey and spend as much time as possible watching them grow up. I left psychology behind when I retired although I hang out each year at MPA to see old friends and even attend a paper session now and then. I also do a couple of APA site visits a year. It makes me appreciate what a great department we had. Ann and I also get to do what every retiree dreams of: we are alternate community members for the IRB at Loyola which is conveniently just across the street. I am also volunteering as a grant writer for an affordable housing agency in the neighborhood. It's fun to write grants that actually get funded. We like to travel and particularly enjoy all the music and theater in Chicago. And for me, Wrigley Field is just a three-and-a-half mile walk down the street. Life is good even if the Cubs aren't. (Dick played guard on that same championship team).



Dr. Bill Maki & Dr. Ruth Maki

We have now been enjoying retirement for almost 7 years. We live in a 55+ community where there are many things going on. Ruth has taken up playing bridge again and also enjoys a putting group that putts once a week on our large 18-hole putting green. She is now serving her 5th year (of a 6-year term) as Secretary-Treasurer of the Psychonomic Society. Bill wrote software for a daily "What's Happening" announcement that is sent out to our community. He also served 3 years as president of the Democratic Club of the Santa Rita Area, and now he does a daily blog commenting mostly on Arizona politics. Both of us have learned how to play pickleball. It's great fun and wonderful exercise. We continue to SCUBA dive in places such as Indonesia, the Philippines, and Mexico. Last year, we visited Zambia, Africa for a two-week safari. The animals were incredible. We have also been to Peru to visit Machu Picchu and other Mayan cities, and we just returned from a trip to Chile, visiting fantastic wineries and the amazing Atacama Desert.

IN OTHER NEWS...



Nadeem Dabbakeh Receives Dr. Sarah Kulkofsky Scholarship.

Nadeem Dabbakeh, an undergraduate psychology major and research assistant, has been chosen to receive the 2015-2016 Dr. Sarah Kulkofsky Scholarship. He will receive \$500 dollars to assist with research, and was recognized during the annual TTU Undergraduate Research spring banquet. Dabbakeh is an RA in Dr. Ireland's Language and Social Interaction Lab, where he is currently working on a project involving Arabic monolinguals, and Arabic-English bilingual frame switching.



Cognitive faculty member Dr. Tyler Davis

Tyler is in *Texas Tech Today* (a news outlet for TTU) for his contributions to long-term memory research. By using fMRI, Dr. Davis has studied why some new experiences feel familiar. His work provides neurological evidence for global similarity models, which predicted that we judge familiarity by comparing a current experience to all of our storied memories, not just to those that are most recent or most relevant. "We often feel like we are just retrieving that previous trip to that one particular restaurant when we are asked whether we'd been there before, but there is a lot of behavioral evidence that activate many other memories as well when we judge familiarity." Dr. Davis' general research interests are in categorization. As well as working for the TTU psychology department, he is also the assistant director of the school's Neuroimaging Institute.



Brittany Neilson, has earned the Texas Space Grant Consortium Graduate Fellowship.

This fellowship is funded through NASA and awarded to applicants who demonstrate excellence in academics as well as an interest in space.



Graduate Student Award

Sean O'Bryan won Cognitive Neurosciences Society's Graduate Student Award for his abstract submission to do with selective attention and base-rate neglect. Sean will be presenting his findings in a specially-recognized session at the 2015 CNS Annual meeting in San Francisco, CA.

Contributing to the Department of Psychological Sciences

There are many ways to make a gift to the Department of Psychological Sciences. Can we count on your financial investment in the students and faculty of the Department? Funds may be used for a variety of purposes including scholarships, graduate dissertation support, research, service, and outreach initiatives.

Please consider a special donation to the Dr. Darcy Reich and Dr. Stephanie Harter Graduate Scholarships. We are approaching the amount of support necessary to make these permanent, endowed scholarships. Your help will be greatly appreciated

Please contact Dr. Robert Morgan (chairperson) with inquiries at

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