

**From the Department Chair, Dr. Robert Morgan**

We are off and running as we look forward to another exciting academic year at Texas Tech. The 2018-2019 year promises to be one of many successes and opportunities. First, we welcomed Dr. Joseph Currin, Assistant Professor, Counseling Psychology program to the Department. Dr. Currin joins us after graduating from my alma mater, Oklahoma State (but we were both glad to see TTU beat the Pokes in Stillwater earlier this semester, right, Joe?).

This year is the beginning of two new alumni efforts. First, we hosted our first annual Alumni BBQ on the Friday before the Lamar Game (September 7, 2018). Although there was short notice for this event, we had several alumni in attendance, and I'm hoping that with more notice next year, we will have an even larger alumni turnout. We also took the opportunity to use this first BBQ to say thank you to the Physical Plant staff that aided us through the spring post department-flood. As you will see from the pictures in this newsletter, we had a very large turnout. This was a nice opportunity for us to feed the staff, to spend some relaxed time with them, and most importantly to thank them for their work. There was a rumor that

Raider Red would make an appearance at the BBQ, but that never materialized. Maybe next year!

I am also developing an Alumni Advisory Council for the department, and I used this Friday BBQ to invite initial council members to campus. The aim of this council is to involve our alumni more directly in department planning and operations. My vision is that this council will be composed of business, government, academic, and professional leaders who are interested in the vitality of our department. The council will advise the department on ways to strengthen our instructional and research programs, improve our facilities, expand our base of support, and better serve our alumni.

Initial Council members include the following alumni:

Ray Brown	Ph.D., 1977	Licensed Psychologist
Lilly Harris	B.A., 2002	Man-Machine Systems Assessment
Greg Liddell	Ph.D., 1997	Human Interfaces
Jane B. Piercy	B.A., 1983	Texas Tech University
Tori Skillings	B.A., 2017	Dallas Mavericks
Charles Smith	B.A., 1988	Charles R. Smith Consulting, LLC
Megan Thoen	Ph.D., 2013	Texas Tech University

We aim for a membership of 11-13 alumni, so if you are interested in serving, please contact me. Also, you can expect more updates regarding the workings of the Council going forward.

To the business of the department, we are in the process of searching for four new faculty—one faculty member in Human Factors and three in Clinical Psychology. Our current faculty have also been very successful obtaining funding to support research efforts with Drs. Andrew Littlefield, Roman Taraban, and Jason Van Allen all recently securing research grants.

The Red Raiders football team is off to a strong start this year, and we are already excited for basketball season. If you are in town for a game, to visit friends/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 in our department, and learn about your time at TTU and subsequent activities.

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Introductions Edition

Faculty**Graduate Students**

Plus appreciation day, division updates, our latest grants, and student awards!

Alumni and Staff Appreciation Day

The department hosted a BBQ luncheon for visiting alumni and to show our appreciation to the TTU Operations Division staff who worked so efficiently and expertly in renovating the building after the "great flood" of 2017.



Hundreds of alumni, Operations Division Staff, faculty, and students attended our first appreciation day on September 7



Drs. Roman Taraban and Molly Ireland were expert burger flippers for the day



Kay Hill led the extraordinarily helpful department staff in making sure there was food aplenty for everyone



The threat of a thunderstorm did not dampen our spirits

New Faculty

Dr. Joseph M. Currin

Assistant Professor, Counseling Psychology



My research focuses on three main areas, sexuality, sexual behavior, and sexual health. I work with colleagues both here at Texas Tech as well as other universities to explore and address issues related to sexuality-related stigma and health disparities for LGBTQIA individuals. I also explore motivations for sexual behaviors (e.g., condom use, sexting, etc.). Understanding sexual behaviors can help us design interventions like working with a client to help increase relationship intimacy. Finally, my work explores the sexual health of rural individuals and methods we can use to help increase knowledge about and prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

Watch Dr. Currin's introduction at youtu.be/03HatfgEU-Y

New Graduate Students

Clinical Program



From left to right: Tucker Short, James Barnett, Becca Bergquist, Gabi Lelakowska, James A. Ward

New Graduate Students

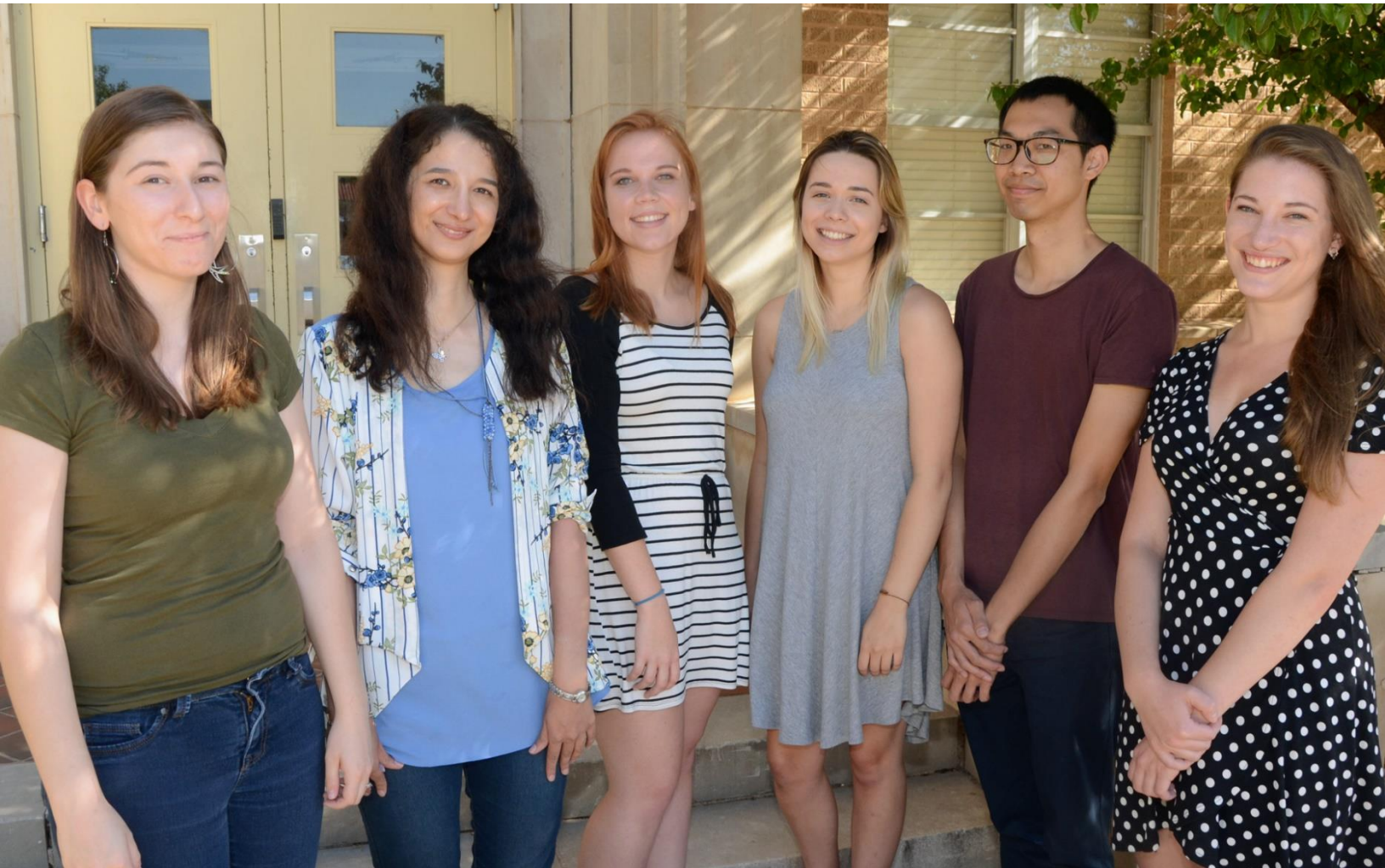
Counseling Program



From left to right: Nguyen Nguyen, Maria Sanchez, Kassidy Cox, Brittney Golden, Kymmalett Ross, Paul Burns

New Graduate Students

Experimental Program



From left to right: Katarina Swaringen, Bahar Javadi Khasraghi, Jessica Pittman, McKenna Tornblad, Winson Yang Fu Zun, Olivia Kuljian

Not Pictured: Lucas Hess

Division Updates

Clinical Psychology

From the Program co-directors, Drs. Andrew Littlefield and Jason Van Allen

The Clinical Psychology students and faculty are excited to begin another busy and exciting year. We had 100% of our students on the internship market successfully match to an internship site: Sarah Brown, VA Boston Healthcare System; Elissa Dougherty, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; Jessica Hoffmann, University of Florida Health Science Center, and Angela Stevens, Alpert Medical School of Brown University. We also had six students who received their PhD this fall: Evan Guidry, Shannon Harper, Aaron Haslam, Sean Mitchel, Jared Roush, and Paige Seegan. Congratulations to those students who are on internship and have recently graduated! Our clinical students and faculty work in a variety of practicum settings such as the Family Medicine Clinic at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, in Pediatric settings at the University Medical Center, and at the Sports Medicine/Athletic Counseling Services Center at Texas Tech University. Our faculty remain busy engaging in research, teaching, and providing consultation to various organizations. We are also excited that this fall we will be hiring three new clinical faculty to join our program. See www.depts.ttu.edu/psy/files/tenure_track_positions_ad.pdf for more detail.

Counseling Psychology

From the Program director, Dr. Sheila Garos

The counseling program is pleased to announce Joe Currin who is our new assistant professor. Joe graduated from Oklahoma State University and completed his internship at the TTU Student Counseling Center. Joe, along with Paul Ingram from our program, are partnering with the Student Counseling Center on campus to explore what aspects of theoretical orientation and style lead to effective supervision of interns and practicum students. We are excited to have Joe come aboard! Our counseling students and faculty work in a variety of practicum settings such as the Southwest Cancer Center, Internal Medicine, the VA, and the Student Counseling Center. Faculty are involved with pro-bono consulting and are expert advisors in several dozen clinics, hospitals, agencies, and schools in the West Texas region. We are approaching our accreditation renewal which means that the counseling director, Dr. Garos, will be working on a self-study report for American Psychological Association. We hope to be accredited for ten years during this next cycle. Emily Branscome and Maggie Piper from Dr. Garos's lab will be going on internship next year. Her two new students are Matthew Sharkey and Kassidy Cox.

Division Updates

Experimental Psychology

Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience, Human Factors, and Social Psychology

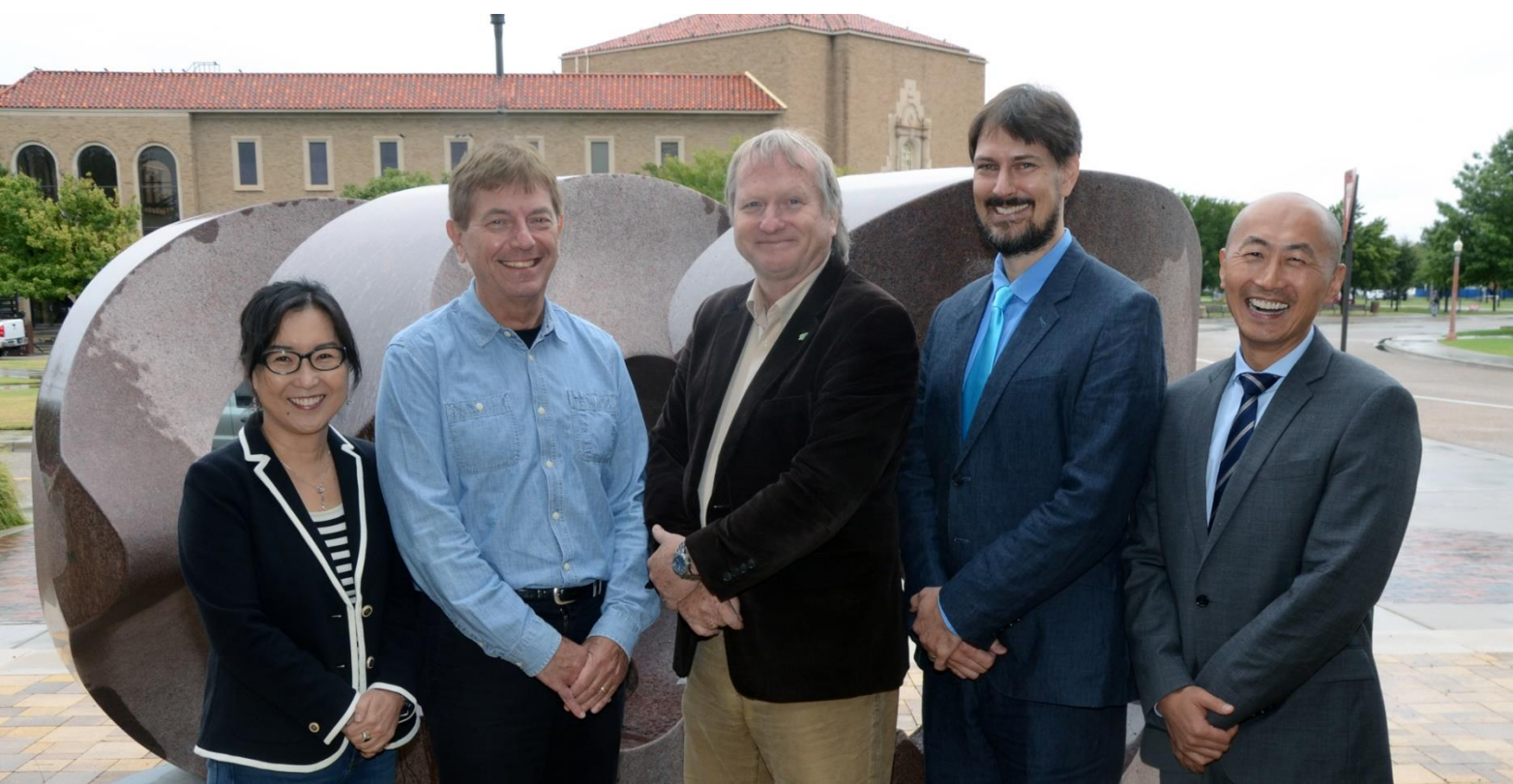
From the Program director, Dr. Michael Serra

A new academic year is upon us and that seems like a logical time to acknowledge some new beginnings. This year, the Experimental Psychology Program has seven new graduate students (across the three subareas of the program) starting their academic careers with us. These students have come to Texas Tech from impressive universities near and far, including the University of California Irvine, Virginia Wesleyan University, Converse College in South Carolina, George Fox University in Oregon, Humboldt State University in California, Maastricht University in the Netherlands, and Islamic Azad University in Dubai. We trust that these students will enjoy their time at TTU and we wish them the best of luck in their first year in our program.

Departures (i.e., graduations) might seem like ends, but they are also new beginnings. Our graduate students continue to find employment in a variety of academic and research settings. We are extremely proud to recognize those doctoral students who graduated in the past year and have since started new jobs in their fields. From our Social Psychology area, Ethan Dahl started a job as a research assistant professor at Wyoming University, David Hancock started a postdoctoral position at the University of Massachusetts, and Ashalee Hurst started a job as an assistant professor at Northeastern State University. From our Human Factors area, Michael Crites started a job as a user experience design researcher at Honeywell, and Samuel Levulis started a job as a design researcher at Microsoft. Finally, from our Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience area, Eevin Jennings started a job as a lecturer at Arizona State University, and Dmitrii Paniukov started a job as a postdoctoral associate at the University of Calgary.

Speaking of jobs, we are conducting a search this year to hire a new faculty member in human factors, to start in Fall 2019. Look for an update on this search in a future newsletter!

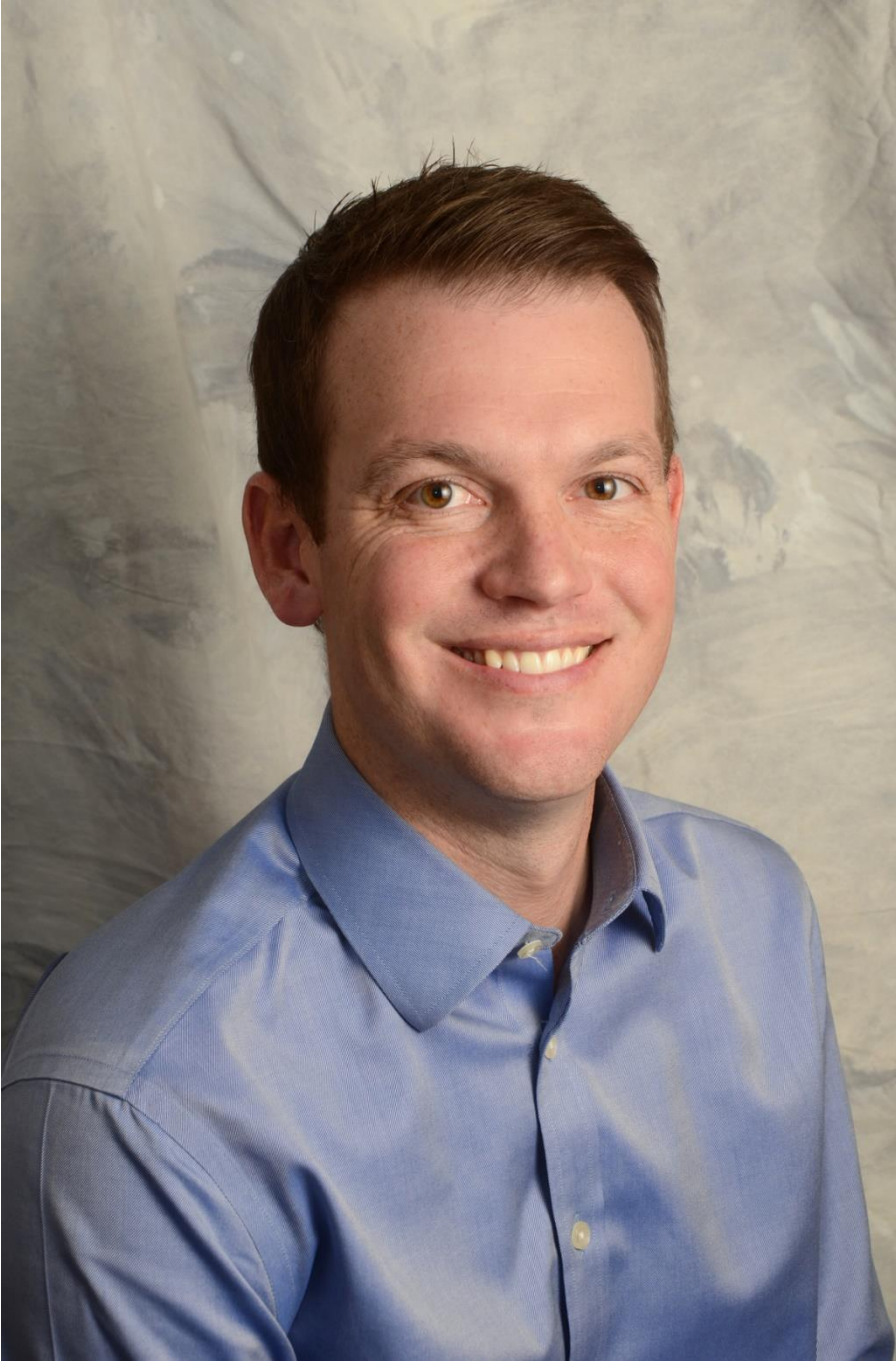
Latest Grants



JEONG-HEE KIM, Curriculum and Instruction. ROMAN TARABAN, Psychological Sciences. DANNY D. REIDLE (Principal Investigator), RYAN C. CAMPBELL, and CHONGZHENG NA; Civil, Environmental, and Construction Engineering. **Developing Reflective Engineers.** National Science Foundation. 2018-2021. Total costs: \$497,856.

While engineering provides basic infrastructure and is a major source of technological innovations, its work is embedded in complex social, cultural, and environmental contexts. Graduate education in engineering typically produces engineers who are highly competent technicians, but who may lack the ability to understand and successfully navigate those contexts. Important skills that may help engineers bring contextual perspectives into their problem solving include the ability to integrate across disciplines, to devise solutions to poorly-defined challenges, and to recognize and address broader societal and global issues. This National Science Foundation Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) award to Texas Tech University will test an approach designed to change the way graduate students in engineering conceptualize and reason about their work to better prepare them for real-world complexity. The project will use innovative methods, informed by arts and humanities education and grounded in the learning sciences, to help students become more reflective thinkers who have greater awareness of the complex, broader contexts of their work.

Latest Grants



JASON VAN ALLEN, Psychological Sciences (Co-Principal Investigator). NATHANIEL HALL, Animal and Food Sciences (Co-Principal Investigator). **The Effect of Pet Dog Ownership on Empirical Measures of Child Activity.** National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (R03HD095218). 2018-2020. Total costs: \$140,300.

Our objective is to use objective accelerometer measures of physical activity to evaluate the effect of pets (i.e., dogs) on children's overall physical activity (PA) and moderate-to-vigorous physical activity. The specific aims of this project are to (1) determine whether a pet dog in the home is associated with physical activity in children (compared to children without a pet dog), (2) identify the amount of physical activity a child engages in that is directly related to the dog (Dog Associated PA), and (3) evaluate the association between child attachment to their pet dog and Dog Associated PA.

Graduate Student Awards



Tran Le



Anthony Foster

Tran Le and Anthony Foster (experimental doctoral students working with Dr. Amelia Talley) have received travel awards from The Society for Personality and Social Psychology. The Society offers a limited number of awards nationwide to support students traveling to its annual convention, February 2019, Portland, OR. Awards originate from the SPSP Diversity Fund and are devoted to increase diversity within personality and social psychology.

Graduate Students Awards



Brittany Neilson

Brittany Neilson was awarded Student Member with Honors by the Human Factors & Ergonomics Society (HFES), which recognizes students who have made an outstanding contribution to the field of human factors and HFES during their tenure as a student.



Neilson was also awarded a Graduate Student Research Support Award by the Graduate School.

Gabriela Manzo

Gabriela Manzo, a counseling doctoral student working with Dr. Brandy Piña-Watson, was awarded the Lubbock's Hispanic Association of Women Scholarship, the ¡Lánzate!/Take Off! Higher Education Travel Award by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities and Southwest Airlines, and the National Latina/o Psychological Association Travel Student Scholarship.



Graduate Students Awards

Thomas J. Parkman

At the 2018 Annual APA Convention in San Francisco, T. J. Parkman was honored as the Division 51 (Society for the Psychological Study of Men & Masculinities) Student of the Year in recognition for his services as an Executive Board Member, Student Member-at-Large, and President of the Student Advisory Committee.



Maria Sanchez

Maria Sanchez received a recruitment fellowship after being nominated by the Department of Psychological Sciences and the Graduate School, based on a promising educational trajectory at TTU.



Contribute to the Department

There are many ways to donate 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 contact Dr. Robert Morgan (chairperson) with inquiries:

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