



From the Department Chair, Dr. Robert Morgan



The 2019-2020 academic year promises to be another year of growth and opportunity. First, we welcomed four new faculty to the department:

HeeSun Choi , Ph.D.	North Carolina State University	Human Factors
Sean Mitchell , Ph.D.	Texas Tech University	Clinical Psychology
Michael Murphy , Ph.D.	Northwestern University	Professor of Practice
Sarah Victor , Ph.D.	University of British Columbia	Clinical Psychology

We are continuing to expand our physical footprint as well. Plans are being finalized for the Psychology Clinic to move out of the department and into the TTU Plaza. This will provide clinical and counseling psychology students significantly more workspace, clinical growth opportunities, and will enhance access for our community clients. For example, parking will no longer be a major nuisance. This will also provide a substantial increase in our department research space as the current clinic space will be converted to research space. I will share more details and the floor plan in the Spring issue of the newsletter.

This fall we hosted our second annual Alumni BBQ on the Friday before the University of Texas - El Paso game. It was great seeing several former students in attendance, and we are hoping for an even bigger crowd next year. In fact, we are already planning next year's event, and to give you ample time to plan we have set the date for September 18, 2020 (the Friday before the Arizona Wildcat game). I hope that with this advance notice we will see even more of you in attendance next year.

As I write this letter on December 3, I am reminded that today is National Giving Day. In the spirit of the day, I want to share with you several initiatives for which we are seeking your support. At the forefront of my fund-raising agenda is the enhancement of our research support for undergraduate students. Currently, our students have limited access to funding for research expenditures such as psychological measures, research equipment, and funding for conference travel to present the results of their research. Thus, I have developed an "Undergraduate Research" fund. You can easily access and contribute to this fund for your end of year giving at www.depts.ttu.edu/psy/about/donate.php. You will also see that we have a Department of Excellence fund if you wish to give a gift to enhance department operations overall. All gifts will help and we thank you for your support.

As we enter the last stretch of the fall semester it has already been a productive year. Several faculty have received grants and awards, and our graduate students are being recognized for their work. You will learn more of just some of our collective accomplishments in this issue of the Newsletter. We hope you will enjoy this read. And if you find yourself in Lubbock please let me know you are coming. I would like to meet with you, share more about what we are doing in the department, and to learn about your time at TTU and subsequent activities.

Best Wishes,
Bob
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Introductions Edition

Faculty

Graduate Students

Plus *In Memoriam*, *The Barbecue Reception*, and recent news!

New Faculty

Dr. HeeSun Choi

Assistant Professor, Experimental (Human Factors) Psychology

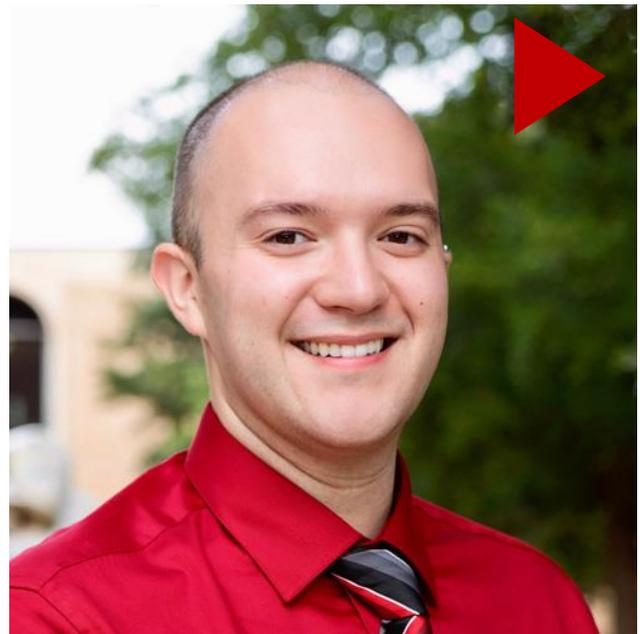


My research addresses safety issues associated with attentional and cognitive impairments and age-related declines, using behavioral measurements and simulation technologies. I am especially interested in special populations such as older adults and industry workers. My current research focuses on workplace injury risks involving collaborative and wearable robots, increased crash risks among older drivers, and perceived risks in workplaces.

Dr. Sean Mitchell

Assistant Professor, Clinical Psychology

My research focuses on suicide risk and prevention among high-risk individuals, such as individuals with severe mental illness and individuals involved in the criminal justice system.



New Faculty

Dr. Michael Murphy

Professor of Practice

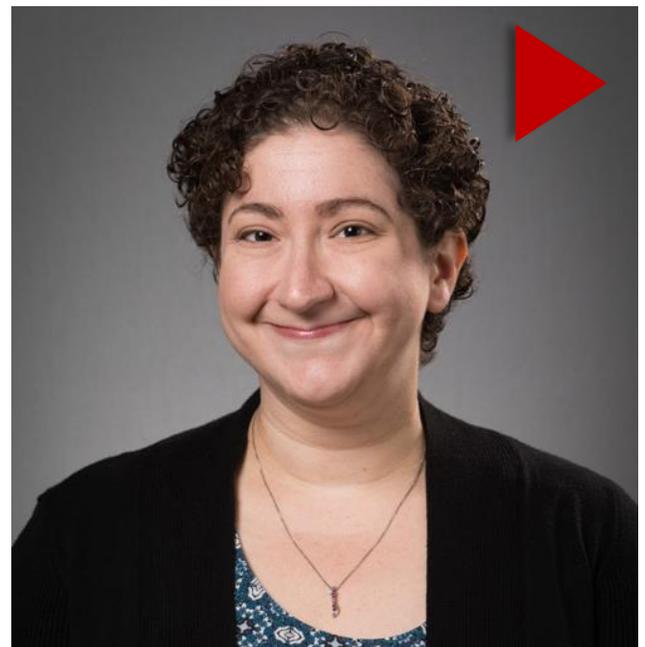


Humans are fundamentally social beings. Our connections with others help instill meaning and joy into our lives. During life's difficulties, our social relationships can help support and carry us. Yet, these same connections can also be potent sources of conflict, stress, and pain. I study how our social relationships "get under the skin" to affect our health, for better and for worse. I am particularly interested in understanding the role our immune system plays in linking our social experiences to our health.

Dr. Sarah Victor

Assistant Professor, Clinical Psychology

My research is focused on non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) and suicide. I am interested in identifying factors that increase risk for these problems across people, as well as intra-individual factors that contribute to short-term changes in self-harm risk in daily life.



New Graduate Students



Counseling Psychology

Top Row Jessica Mattera, Megan Guresh, Amelia Evans, and Aundrea Garcia

Bottom Row McCown Leggett, Crystal Chambers, Nicole LeMaster, and Gisel Bonilla Suarez

New Graduate Students



Experimental Psychology

Top Row Burch Carter, Daxton Mitchell, and Hayden Holmes

Bottom Row Lucas Hess, Hannah Snidman, Ashley Worley, and Jordan Rodriguez

Barbecue Reception



Latinx Mental Health and Resiliency Youth Ambassador Program Begins



Dr. Brandy Piña-Watson (back left) and students in her Latinx Mental Health & Resiliency Lab (middle and front rows) launched the Latinx Mental Health & Resiliency Youth Ambassador Program with ten Lubbock youth (back row).

The program was funded by a grant from the Center for Transformative Undergraduate Experiences, takes a Youth-led Participatory Action Research approach in which the participating youth conduct their own research projects.

Recent Headlines



[Dr. Currin's Research Highlighted on Texas Tech Today](#)



[Dr. Piña-Watson Receives Inspiradora Award](#)



[New Children's Behavioral Health Clinic](#)

In Memoriam

Dennis Clark Cogan, a faculty member in the Psychology Department at Texas Tech from 1966 to 2006 died on 12/4/19. He completed a doctorate in psychology at the University of Missouri—Columbia in 1966, specializing in learning theory and working with Dr. Melvin Marx. Dennis came to Texas Technological College in September, 1966 (yes the name was not changed to Texas Tech University until 1969). He taught a variety of courses including learning theory, physiological psychology, and history and systems. His research interests included topics related to the partial reinforcement effect and to fetal alcohol syndrome. He chaired the doctoral dissertation work of 14 graduate students. Dennis served a term as President of the Southwestern Psychological Association (1994), and as the director of the former College of Arts and Sciences Honors Program. As a Mel Marx student, he was inclined toward philosophical issues in psychology, and was always up for a good discussion or debate. Dennis was a robust individual with diverse interests, who could often be seen riding his Harley to and from campus. In the last years of his life, he lived in Palmetto, Florida. As we note his passing, we acknowledge his contributions to the department and the profession.

Contribute to the Department

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.

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