



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Department of Psychological Sciences™

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

DEPARTMENT OF  
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

## From the Department Chair, Dr. Robert Morgan

We are heading down the homestretch of the 2018-2019 academic year, and what a year it has been for TTU. Although sports accomplishments include a National Championship in Men's Track, National Runner-up in Men's Basketball, and a top 4 finish in baseball that dominate the press clippings, academic efforts have also provided significant dividends. At the greater university level, TTU has enhanced Core Research funding, moved up 182 places in the Forbes Best Value Ranking to 72nd overall nationally among public institutions, and is developing a Veterinarian School. The Department of Psychological Sciences contributes to this academic mission via innovative research and teaching efforts resulting in several faculty, and the department as a whole, being recognized for outstanding performance. External research funding also increased substantially this past year. These are exciting times in the Department of Psychological Sciences, and you'll find much information about our growth and developments throughout this newsletter. Below I summarize some primary administrative efforts.

We successfully hired the following four faculty for the 2019-2020 academic year.

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

We continue to grow our undergraduate student body. In 2018-2019 we grew to almost 1200 students. Although this growth is exciting, it presents some logistical problems including an overburdened advising office. For those of you who recently graduated, you know that one full-

## Awards Edition

Faculty

Undergraduate

Graduate

Plus recent news, a message from the Alumni Advisory Council, and announcements!

# From the Department Chair, Dr. Robert Morgan

time academic advisor is insufficient to meet the student demand. This despite Dr. Maggie Durham's best efforts. Well, I'm pleased to report that we have been provided funding to hire an additional full-time academic advisor to better serve our students. We would be very pleased to receive applications from alumni, so consider applying and/or sharing this job announcement with your colleagues and friends: [bit.ly/TTUAdvisor2019](http://bit.ly/TTUAdvisor2019) (more at the end of this newsletter).

To further enhance the learning experience of our undergraduate students, in consultation with the Alumni Advisory Council (see below), I developed the Undergraduate Research Fund. The faculty provide excellent research opportunities for undergraduate students, but we have no funding to support these students' efforts. Thus, research expenditures such as materials (e.g., psychological measures) and equipment (e.g., data collection tools), as well as conference travel to present the results of research are non-existent for our undergraduate student body. This funding initiative will offset research costs for our students to conduct independent research studies, as well as travel to present their results at regional and national conferences. In addition to the development of problem-solving, communication including writing skills, data analytic and statistical skills necessary for the workplace, enhanced research experiences will better position our students that seek to pursue graduate degrees in psychology.

Beyond the Undergraduate Research Fund, if you visit our webpage ([www.depts.ttu.edu/psy](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/psy)) you will also see a funding button for the Psychological Sciences General Excellence fund. This category of donations will be used to support scholarships, graduate student research efforts, and capital upgrades (e.g., enhance our computing lab) in efforts to maximize our competitiveness against peer institutions when recruiting faculty and students.

Looking ahead, we will have our second annual Alumni BBQ on the Friday before the University of Texas El Paso (UTEP) game (September 6, 2019). Please see the flier in this newsletter, and I hope to see many of you there.

The Alumni Advisory Council has been busy in this first year of development as they adopted bylaws and assisted me in identifying the previously noted fundraising initiatives. Charles Smith (1988) is the Chair for the council and is busily preparing for our fall meeting to follow the Alumni BBQ. Please see Mr. Smith's article in this edition of the newsletter.

Wishing you all a safe and relaxing (or exciting for the more adventurous of you) summer, and I hope to see many of you in the fall. If you can't make it for the Alumni BBQ, but are in town for other reasons such as a sporting event, 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 to learn about your time at TTU and subsequent activities.

Best Wishes,

Bob

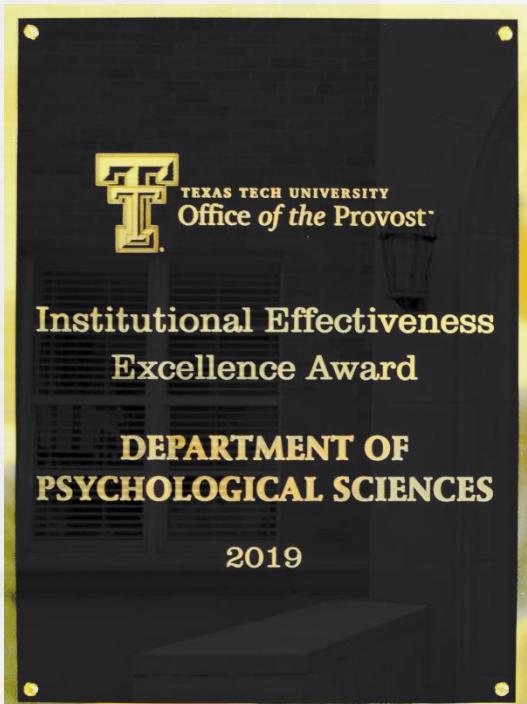
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# Faculty Awards

Provost's

## Institutional Effectiveness Excellence Award

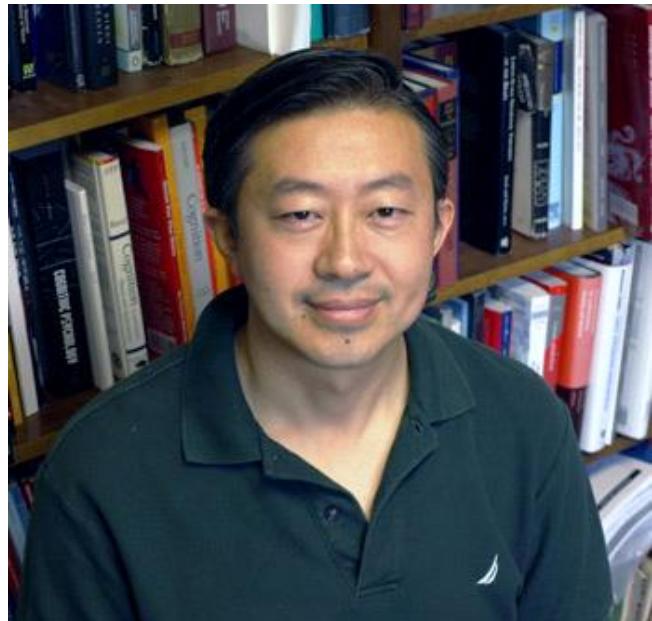


The Provost's Institutional Effectiveness Excellence Award is designed to recognize an academic department for institutional effectiveness, as evidenced by the department's commitment to continuous improvement and to improving student learning at the degree program level. The awarded department receives a cash prize of \$5,000. Our Department's nomination was coordinated by Dr. Keith Jones, working with a committee of outstanding faculty that included Drs. Michael Serra, Steve Richards, Amelia Talley, Andrew Littlefield, Lindsay Greenlee, Roman Taraban, and Zachary Hohman.

*Chancellor's Council*

## Distinguished Research Award

Dr. Andrew Littlefield



*Barnie E. Rushing, Jr.*

## Distinguished Research Award

Dr. Yi-Yuan Tang

# Faculty Awards

*President's*

## Excellence in Teaching Award

Dr. Zachary Hohman



*President's*

## Excellence in Diversity Award

Dr. Brandy Piña-Watson

*College of Arts and Sciences*

## Excellence in Research Award

Dr. Jason Van Allen



*College of Arts and Sciences*

## Excellence in Teaching Award

Dr. Catherine Epkins

# Undergraduate Awards

## H.Y. Price Scholarship

Tracey Ozoude and Aylin Castillo  
Presented by Dr. Catherine Epkins



## Shoemaker Scholarship

Amber Lopez  
Presented by Dr. Catherine Epkins

## Psi Chi Scholarship

Victoria Dennis and Julia Beard

# Graduate Awards



## *Clinical Psychology* **Research Award**

Brittany Blanchard

Presented by Dr. Littlefield



## *Counseling Psychology* **Research Award**

Faith Scanlon

Presented by Dr. Richards



## *Experimental Psychology* **Research Award**

Elizabeth Niedbala

Presented by Dr. Alquist



## *Departmental* **Diversity Award**

Anthony Foster

Presented by Dr. Ireland

# Graduate Awards



## **Undergraduate Lab TA of the Year**

**Rogelio Carrillo**

Presented by Dr. Scolari



## **Graduate Lab TA of the Year**

**John Schumacher**

Presented by Dr. Scolari

## **Undergraduate Course of the Year**

**Mindi Price**



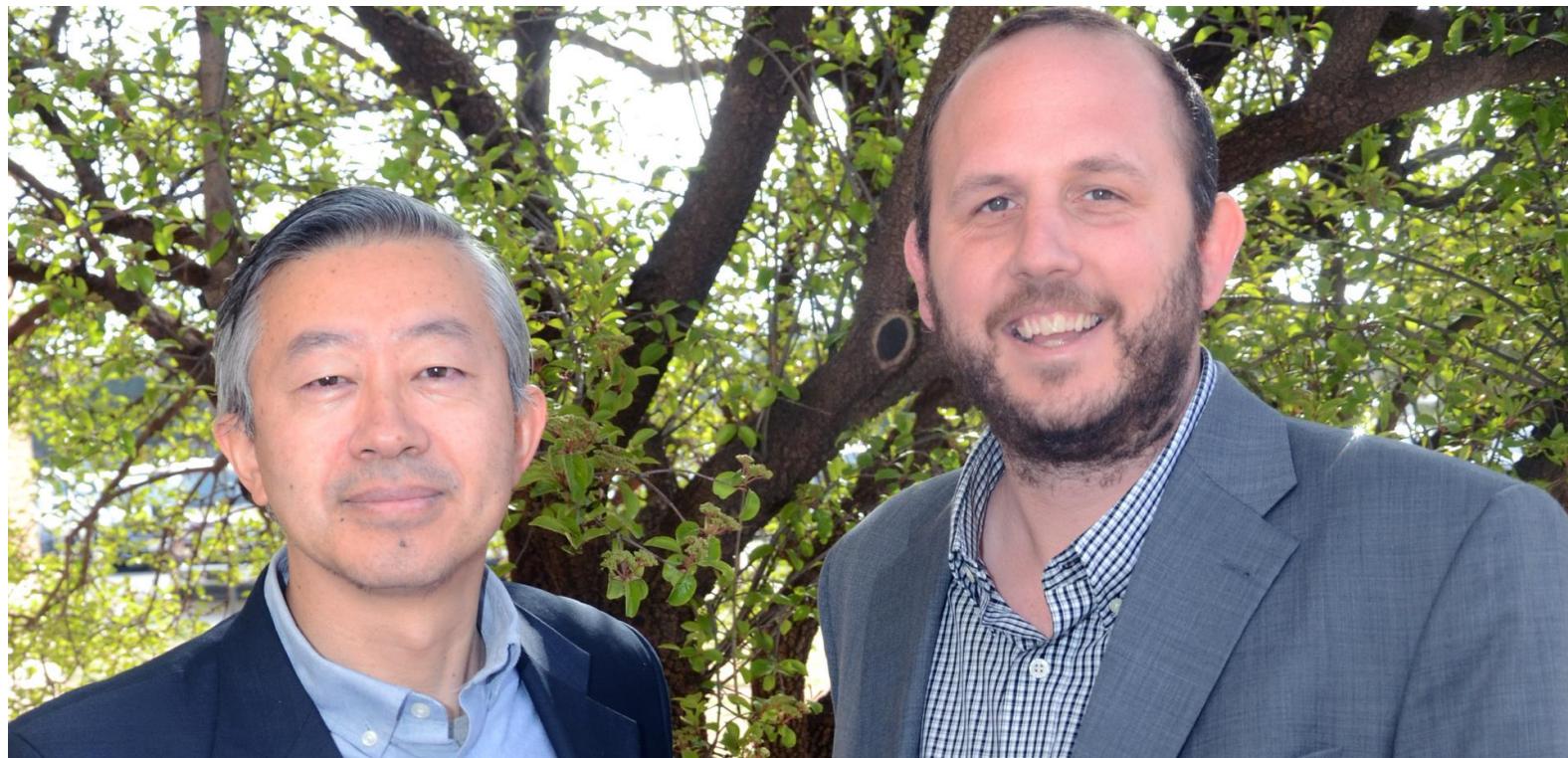
## **Psychology 1300 Instructor of the Year**

**Tran Le**

Presented by Dr. Hohman

# News

## Drs. Tang and Littlefield Receive NIH Grant



Polysubstance use, such as commonly used gateway drugs (alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis; ATC), is associated with numerous and deleterious consequences for college-attending, emerging adults, and they are often not motivated to quit or reduce drug use. Recent research has shown that mindfulness intervention is effective for craving and ATC reduction, but the underlying mechanisms remain unclear. This study will examine brain mechanisms of a brief mindfulness intervention (IBMT) that targets self-control networks in the brain, and will test whether combining with EEG Neurofeedback could optimize IBMT effects on ATC reduction.

Funders: National Institutes of Health, National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health. Total potential funding is \$3,005,223 for 5 years.

## Recent Headlines



[Dr. Schmidt Featured on KLBK News](#)



[Dr. Greenlee Interviewed On KCBD NewsChannel 11](#)



[Study by Dr. Greenlee and Colleagues Featured on Texas Tech Today](#)



[Elizabeth Green Briefs Training Group at Cannon Air Force Base](#)

# Alumni Advisory Council

## Running with the Pack

Charles Smith, Chair, Alumni Advisory Council

The 2018-2019 academic year has been a year of many firsts for Texas Tech. We saw the men's track team win the University's first men's national championship. The men's basketball team had another great year; culminating in the national championship game while the baseball team is making another trip to the College World Series.

We are proud of their accomplishments, but the desire to excel doesn't just exist in the athletic department. As Dr. Robert Morgan mentioned in the Fall 2018 newsletter, he created the Alumni Advisory Council to elevate the University and Department by providing valuable advice and input into four basic areas: 1) ways to strengthen our instructional and research programs, 2) improving our facilities, 3) expanding our base of support, and 4) better serving our alumni.

The Council has eight members who, despite busy careers and lives, have been fully engaged for the betterment of the Department. Because we were in the formation stages, the Council has held three meetings this academic year instead of the planned two meetings per year. During this period, the Council has worked on and approved its bylaws, adopted Robert's Rules of Order for its meeting proceedings, created an

organizational structure, and developed a meeting agenda template. In addition to these foundational areas, the Council received a presentation on fundraising, brainstormed on ways to improve the undergraduate experience and offset research costs for graduate students, and made informational and "thank you" calls to previous donors.

A lot has been accomplished, but future possibilities for the Council to make positive changes for the Department are endless. We can be even better and do more with your assistance! If you would like more information or are interested in serving with a dynamic group of individuals who love Texas Tech and are interested in making the Department of Psychological Sciences the best it can be, please contact Dr. Robert Morgan at [robert.morgan@ttu.edu](mailto:robert.morgan@ttu.edu) or (806) 834-7117.

# Announcements

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall **ALUMNI BBQ**



**September 6<sup>th</sup> 2019, 12 PM – 2 PM, Front of Psychological Science Building**

Come grill out with the psychological sciences department as we kick off Fall 2019!

Hamburgers, hot dogs, and vegetarian options will be available.

For more information, contact Kay Hill (<mailto:kay.hill@ttu.edu>)

## Academic Advisor Position

The Department of Psychological Sciences welcomes applications for an Academic Advisor. We are a large department serving over 1,100 undergraduate majors and over 130 graduate students. We are seeking applicants that can perform advising for our students regarding their educational goals, degree program, professional concerns, and other related duties as needed. Some responsibilities may require solving special and/or complex problems, so strong critical thinking skills are required for this position. Performance is based on individual advising effectiveness and overall program results obtained. The work environment includes standard supervision in accordance with established policies and procedures.

For more information, and to apply, visit **[bit.ly/TTUAdvisor2019](http://bit.ly/TTUAdvisor2019)**

Along with the application, you will be required to submit a cover letter, resume, and references. Posting will remain open until the position is filled.

# 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.

**Please contact Dr. Robert Morgan (chairperson) with inquiries:**

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