



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

I hope this message finds you and your families healthy and safe as we navigate these very difficult times. First, we experienced the closing of states in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and then more recently, the death of George Floyd again highlighting instances of police brutality and racial injustices. We have an incredibly resilient (and resourceful) faculty, staff, and student body that are admirably rising to these challenges. I am proud to provide you this update on how we have managed these issues and the work we are doing to prepare for an immediate future of unknowns.

In response to COVID-19, we moved to remote instruction in mid-March. With just over 1-week to prepare, faculty and graduate student instructors had to move online their face-to-face (F2F) classes. We closed the department and work continued remotely where possible. Although this was an unprecedented change of course resulting in the reduction or suspension of research, I am extremely proud of how our faculty and graduate students pulled together to ensure the continuation of a quality learning experience for our undergraduate students. We are continuing with online classes this summer, but we look forward to returning to F2F classes in the fall which we will do while practicing social distancing and using other procedures to ensure a safe environment for our students. Research will also resume with the use of personal protection equipment and policies to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Certainly we will look different, but I am confident that our team in the Department of Psychological Sciences will persevere and ensure a safe and productive learning environment for all of our students.

Although we are planning to return to F2F instruction in the fall, other fall non-classroom activities are still on hold. For example, our Alumni BBQ scheduled for September 18, 2020 may be suspended. Although we are eager to see many of you at this great function and are excited about the potential for increased attendance this year, it is simply too early to know if we can

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host a safe event. Even being outdoors and with appropriate social distancing measures, it is too early to know if a group activity of this size is possible by September. If we are unable to host this event in September, we will let you know and postpone it to a later date. You may also check our web site for a posted update (<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/psy/>).

As we prepare for the fall semester a greater social challenge awaits us. With the death of George Floyd we are again tragically reminded of the racial injustice that continues to be present in our country. We in the Department of Psychological Sciences are committed to providing a welcoming environment to all and celebrate the diversity of our community (see our website). We support #BlackLivesMatter and will contribute efforts to confront racism, racial inequities and injustices through research, education, and service. Although I do not have specifics yet, this will be an emphasis of my leadership this year and I will provide more details regarding steps we are taking as a department to confront racism and to contribute to a decrease in social injustice.

Although 2020 has already proven to be a challenging year, we have much to celebrate in the department. Several faculty and graduate students have been recognized for their work and productivity and we congratulate them in this issue.



I want to especially recognize, congratulate, and give my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Cathy Epkins. Cathy retired at the end of the spring semester after 26 years of service to the department, college, and university. Cathy has been the life of many faculty meetings, and she was always willing and eager to serve and help others. Although we will miss Cathy's many talents and contributions, what I think we will miss most is her spirit and enthusiasm, and of course, her always stylish "croc" in the halls of our building.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and that it finds you and your families safe, healthy, and well. Although now may not be the time to visit, when life returns to some sense of normalcy, I hope you will find time to visit us in Lubbock. We have much to be proud of and much to show you if you visit us in the department. You are always welcome!

Best Wishes,

Bob

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# Faculty Awards

*Chancellor's Council*  
**Distinguished Teaching Award**

Dr. Roman Taraban



Above: Flanking Dr. Taraban, left-right, Dr. Robert Morgan, Chairperson Department of Psychological Sciences, Dr. W. Brent Lindquist, Dean College of Arts & Sciences

Left: Flanking Dr. Taraban, left-right, Dr. Tedd L. Mitchell, Chancellor of the Texas Tech University System, Dr. Lawrence Schovanec, President, Texas Tech University



*President's*  
**Academic Achievement Award**

Dr. Alice Young



**RaiderReady First-Year Advocate and  
Faculty Fellowship Award**

Dr. Brandy Piña-Watson



**Dudley Knight Award for Outstanding  
Vocal Scholarship**

Dr. Tyler Davis & Sean O'Bryan



# Graduate Awards - Departmental



*Clinical Psychology*

**Best Researcher Award**

Kelsey Maloney



*Counseling Psychology*

**Best Researcher Award**

Brittney Golden



*Experimental Psychology*

**Best Researcher Award**

Taleen Nalabandian



*Departmental*

**Diversity Award**

Gabriela Manzo



# Graduate Awards - Departmental



## **Best TA for Undergraduate Class**

Alec Stinnet



## **Best TA for Graduate Class**

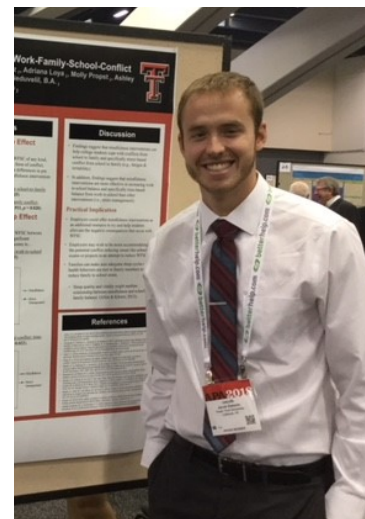
Taleen Nalabandian



## **Best Undergraduate Course**

Tabitha Fleming

*for Child and Adolescent Psychology*



## **PSY 1300 Instructor of the Year**

Jacob Daheim

# Graduate Awards & Scholarships

## **Graduate Student Research Support Award** (2019 - 2020)

Jacob Daheim, Elizabeth Green, Natalie Lodinger, Taleen Nalabandian, Lauren Pascarella, Tabitha Fleming, Zohal Heidari, & Nguyen Nguyen

## **Helen DeVitt Jones Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award**

Anthony Foster & Elizabeth Green

## **TTU Professing in Excellence Award**

Brittney Golden

## **Covenant Health and Social Services Fellowship**

Anthony Foster & Amber Benet

## **Doctoral Dissertation Completion Fellowship**

Anthony Foster & Lisa Briones

## **Clay E. George Scholarship**

Becca Bergquist

## **National Institute on Drug Abuse Student Travel Award**

Jacob Daheim

## **American Psychology-Law Society Student Travel Award**

Becca Bergquist

## **American Psychology-Law Society Outstanding Student Poster Award**

Becca Bergquist

## **Jane L. Winer Dissertation Scholarship**

Travis Brace

## **Julie Kyle Memorial Scholarship**

Elizabeth Green

## **Mahone Clinical Psychology Endowed Scholarship**

Zohal Heidari

## **Society for Personality and Social Psychology Graduate Student Travel Award**

Taleen Nalabandian

## **Vernon Perez Scholarship**

Taleen Nalabandian

## **National Register Credentialing Scholarship**

Sarah Jo David

## **Inclusive Excellence Award from the Office of LGBTQIA**

Phoenix Crane

# Undergraduate Award

## **Shoemaker Scholarship**

Victoria Dennis



# News



The Psychology Clinic in the Department of Psychological Sciences responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, offers *pro bono* therapy for first responders



Dr. Joseph Currin featured on Texas Tech Today - "Social Distancing Shouldn't Mean Social Isolation"



Clinicians at Texas Tech adapt their services during the pandemic



New research by Mark LaCour and Tyler Davis, Ph.D. on anti-vaxxers

## Announcements

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall **ALUMNI BBQ**

September 18<sup>th</sup> 2020, 12 PM – 2 PM, in front of the Psychological Sciences building

Come grill out with the psychological sciences department as we kick off Fall 2020!

Hamburgers, hot dogs, vegetarian, and gluten-free options will be available.

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

**\*event pending COVID-19 updates**

# 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. To make a donation, please visit: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/psy/about/donate.php>

