

# Newsletter

Spring 2023

## Awards Edition

*Faculty Awards,  
Grants & Funding*

*Departmental  
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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Department of Psychological Sciences™

*From Department Chair,  
Dr. Keith S. Jones*

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2023 edition of the Department of Psychological Sciences newsletter! I hope you and yours are well and enjoying the summer.

As I write this, the university is putting the finishing touches on our new state-of-the-art Psychology Clinic, which will be housed on the first floor of the Texas Tech Plaza Building. This will be a wonderful new facility and we are excited to start seeing clients in the new Clinic in early Fall 2023. I want to thank our Clinic Director, Dr. Megan Thoen, and Denae Jackson for their work with the design team.



The university is also rapidly constructing the new Academic Sciences Building, a three-story, 131,000-square-foot building that will house facilities for five departments from the College of Arts and Sciences: Biological Sciences, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Geosciences, Physics & Astronomy, and Psychological Sciences. Our space in this new building will be comprised of 10 research laboratories, 8 shareable data collection rooms, and a graduate student workspace. Our department will also have access to a state-of-the-art shared facility for collecting, processing, and storing biological samples, as well as an excellent new computer classroom. Once we have moved into our new facilities, the university will turn its attention to renovating portions of the Psychological Sciences Building, primarily focused on converting the current-Clinic space into offices and laboratories. Our building will receive important infrastructure upgrades as well.

We are excited about these new and renovated facilities that will allow our department to thrive and grow. Accordingly, I want to thank President Schovanec and Dean Dupras for their support of our department. None of this would have been possible without their support.

You can visit our [Media Page](#) to stay abreast of department news, and our [Donate Page](#) to find ways to support our ability to train the next generation of psychological scientists and practitioners. Please consider giving if you are able. Your support enables us to do things we simply could not do otherwise.

If you are ever in Lubbock, please stop by the department. I would love a chance to catch up. You are always welcome here.

Dr. Keith S. Jones  
[keith.s.jones@ttu.edu](mailto:keith.s.jones@ttu.edu)

# Faculty Awards

## 2023 Nancy J. Bell Graduate Faculty Excellence in Mentoring Award

*Dr. Paul Ingram*

Congratulations to Dr. Paul Ingram, the recipient of the Nancy J. Bell Graduate Faculty Excellence in Mentoring Award for 2023. This award recognizes dedicated and passionate graduate student mentors and is a well-deserved honor. Dr. Ingram is deeply committed to his mentees' success in graduate school, in their professional careers, and in their personal lives and he routinely goes above and beyond to ensure his mentees succeed.



## Distinguished Phenomenal Woman of Texas Tech Award

*Dr. Brandy Piña-Watson*

Congratulations to Dr. Brandy Piña-Watson for being awarded the Distinguished Phenomenal Woman of Texas Tech Award, which recognizes women at Texas Tech University who make a positive impact.



## 2023 Integrated Scholar

*Dr. Mike Serra*

Congratulations to Dr. Mike Serra who was named a 2023 Integrated Scholar. This award is given to faculty members who not only demonstrate outstanding teaching, research, and service, but also are able to generate synergy among the three functions. These faculty members consistently promote active learning and infuse the results of their research and scholarship in courses and other learning experiences.



## 2023 President's Engaged Scholarship Award

*Dr. Jonathan Singer*

Congratulations to Dr. Jonathan Singer for being the recipient of Texas Tech University's 2023 President's Engaged Scholarship Award, which recognizes exemplary and sustained commitment to community engagement and the positive effect that has on our community and university.



# Grants & Funding



**Title:** *Evidence-based Face to Face and Telehealth Groups Project*

**Funding Agency:** U.S. Department of Treasury/Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

**Mechanism:** Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC) Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

**Investigators:** **Piña-Watson, B.** (Lead PI); **Schmidt, A.** (PI); **Cummings, C.** (PI); **Singer, J.** (PI); and Smith, D. (PI)

**Groups Funded:** 1) Mindfulness and Self-Compassion (Piña-Watson); 2) Assessments (Schmidt); Pain (Cummings); Bereavement (Cummings & Singer); CBHC (Smith)

**Amount:** \$1,396,825.00

**Years:** 2023-2024



**Title:** *Examining the Link Between Gun Storage Practices and Attitudes, Masculine Gender Norms, Threat Sensitivity, and Suicide Ideation Among U.S. Uniformed Law Enforcement Officers*

**Funding Agency:** New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center, Rutgers University

**Investigators:** **Julianne Cary** & **Michael LeDuc** (Student Co-PIs), **Sean Mitchell** (Faculty Sponsor PI)

**Amount:** \$4,650

**Year:** 2023



**Title:** *Family Intervention for Suicide Prevention in Primary Care within a Zero Suicide Framework*

**Funding Agency:** Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC) Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

**Investigators:** **Sean Mitchell** & **John Cooley** (Co-PIs)

**Amount:** \$1,538,402

**Year:** 2022-2023

# Grants and Funding (continued)



**Title:** *Behavioral and Psychosocial Effects on Study Outcomes in End-Stage Cancer Treatment (BEST End-Stage Cancer Study)*

**Funding Agency:** NIH-R35 Subcontract

**Co-I, Site PI:** *Jonathan Singer*

**Total Costs:** \$20,000

**Award year:** 2023-2025

**Title:** *Curcumin and Retinal Amyloid-beta Pilot Study*

**Funding Agency:** Sabinsa Corporation

**Co-PI:** *Jonathan Singer*

**Total Costs:** \$95,000

**Award year:** 2023-2024

**Title:** *Examining Changes in Biopsychosocial Factors Following Treatment and Reduction of Pre-death Grief in Family Caregivers of Dementia Patients*

**Funding Agency:** Garrison Foundation

**M-PI:** *Jonathan Singer*

**Total Costs:** \$50,000

**Award Year:** 2023-2024

**Title:** *Utilizing telehealth to reduce mental health in family caregivers of persons with AD/ADRD in rural Texas.*

**Funding Agency:** Center of Excellence for Translational Neuroscience and Therapeutics

**PI:** *Jonathan Singer*

**Total Costs:** \$30,000

**Award Year:** 2023-2024



# Departmental Graduate Student Awards



**Becca Bergquist**  
*Angela K. Stevens  
Clinical Psychology  
Best Researcher Award*



**Maria Sanchez**  
*Commitment in Diversity,  
Equity and Inclusion*



**Olivia Kuljian**  
*Graduate Lab TA  
of the Year*



**Amelia Evans**  
*Counseling Psychology  
Best Researcher Award*



**MacKenzie Wantje**  
*Undergraduate Lab TA  
of the Year*



**Melisa Williams Ibora**  
*PSY 1300 Instructor  
of the Year*



**Alec Stinnett**  
*Experimental Psychology  
Best Researcher Award*



**Arianna Delyse Albertorio  
&  
Danielle “Dannie” Nicole  
Haakinson**  
*Sharon Shoemaker  
Research Scholarship Awards*



**Hannah Snidman**  
*Undergraduate Course  
of the Year  
&  
Research in Diversity,  
Equity and Inclusion*

# Department News



**Dean Dupras appointed  
Dr. Keith Jones as  
Permanent Chair of  
the Department of  
Psychological Sciences**

[Read more here.](#)



**Dr. Michael Serra elected  
chair of the Academic  
Programs Committee**

[Read more here.](#)

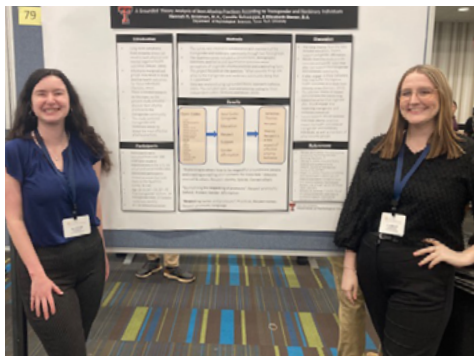


**Lizzie Hoelscher  
received the Graduate  
Student Research  
Support Award from  
Texas Tech**

[Read more here.](#)



# Department News (continued)



**Camille Schweppe** (right) works in the SHARC lab under the direction of Dr. Amelia Talley and Hannah Snidman (left). She is currently working on a project titled “A Grounded Theory Approach to Examining Allyship to the TGNC community”. The purpose of this study is to examine concrete aspects of allyship to members of the transgender and gender non-conforming community. The **Transformative Undergraduate Experience (TrUE) Program** and Texas Tech University Psychological Sciences Department generously allowed Camille to present this important work in person at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual convention.



**Members of the Tracking Risk over Time Lab (TRTL;** Director: Dr. Sarah Victor) completed a department-wide clothing drive to support people receiving care at Sunrise Canyon Hospital. Sunrise Canyon provides inpatient psychiatric treatment to adults from Lubbock and the surrounding region, serving a critical need for our community. Many patients arrive with limited means and benefit from donations of clothing and other personal items. By asking for the support of our department’s graduate students, faculty, and staff, the TRTL team was able to gather hundreds of clothing items for donation, as well as monetary donations to purchase items that are needed but not appropriate for donation (e.g., socks, underwear).



**Psi Chi** has had a successful semester! The club hosted eight meetings ranging from professional development meetings about what to do with a psychology degree or how to get involved in research labs to social events like game nights. Psi Chi has also helped psychology majors get involved in the Lubbock community by volunteering at places such as Voice of Hope, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lubbock, and CASA of the South Plains. Many members also planted flowers around campus for Arbor Day this year. Ultimately, Psi Chi has been incredibly active and involved around campus!



Save the Date: Fall Alumni BBQ

# Annual **FALL** Alumni **BBQ**

**Please  
save the date!**

***Friday***  
September  
**• 15 •**



# Recruitment

Our American Psychological Association (APA) accredited doctoral programs in **Clinical Psychology & Counseling Psychology**, and the programs in **Experimental Psychology** (Cognition/Cognitive Neuroscience, Social Psychology, and HFES accredited Human Factors) **wish to continue to recruit and enroll the VERY BEST students each year!**

*Please help make students you may know aware of these programs and the opportunities for an outstanding graduate education at TTU. Encourage them to visit our department website, with special attention to our graduate programs' pages.*

Interested students may address questions to our program directors listed below. They may also contact individual faculty for opportunities in their unique areas. That complete listing along with their areas of focus may be found [here](#).

## Experimental

*Dr. Jessica Alquist*  
jessica.alquist@ttu.edu

## Counseling

*Dr. Sheila Garos*  
sheila.garos@ttu.edu

## Clinical

*Dr. Jason Van Allen*  
jason.vanallen@ttu.edu



# Final Notes

## Join our Alumni Advisory Council

The department's Alumni Advisory Council is composed of business, government, academic, and professional leaders who are interested in our department's vitality. The council works with the department to strengthen our instructional and research programs, improve our facilities, expand our base of support, and better serve our alumni. If you are interested in serving on the Council, please contact Dr. Keith S. Jones at [keith.s.jones@ttu.edu](mailto:keith.s.jones@ttu.edu).

## Contribute to the Department

There are many ways to make a gift to the Department of Psychological Sciences. May 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 our [Donate Page](#).

## Follow us throughout the year on social media!

