

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

Another academic year is almost behind us (we still have a couple months of summer school).

I do not have much new information to report on our building expansion. A design and construction team have been selected, but negotiations are in progress per our last report. We remain excited for this expansion, and are eager to break ground.

This was a busy year for new faculty hires. We had approval to search for five new faculty, and we were very successful in not only landing five tenure-track faculty, but we were fortunate to make two additional hires in non-tenure track lines. The following faculty will join us in the fall (full biographical statements will be included in the fall newsletter):

Clinical Psychology

Matt Cribbet, University of Utah
Jenny Cundiff, University of Utah
Adam Schmidt, University of Minnesota
Shin Ye-Kim, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Counseling Psychology**Experimental Psychology
(Human Factors Program)****Department Faculty**

Eric Greenlee, University of Alabama
Pamela Dubyak, University of Florida
Lindsay Greenlee, University of Alabama



We had a number of faculty, students, and staff receive university and/or college awards of which we are quite proud (see [pages 1-4](#)). These numerous awards are testaments to our entire

department community's ongoing commitments for excellence in teaching, research, and service.

Regarding alumni, we were fortunate to host a reunion in April for a number of graduate students from the clinical and counseling psychology divisions. It was a treat to have so many successful graduates return to share their successes (and the stories of their time in the department were quite entertaining as well). We would like to host similar reunions in the future so if you and a group of your colleagues would like to make a trip back to Lubbock to visit the university and the Department, do let us know and we'll help facilitate your visit as best we can. In this vein, we ask that all human factors graduates take the brief survey ([page 9](#)) about our plans to host the 50th-year celebration of the founding of that program. Your input will help guide the development of that event.

Warm regards,
 Bob

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Awards Edition**Undergraduate****Graduate****Faculty & Staff**

Plus From the Directors' desks, Recent Publications, and more...

Undergraduate Awards



Phi Beta Sigma

Dr. Robert Morgan presents the
Phi Beta Sigma Award to

Victoria L. Roberts

Lydia Kong

Maranda M. Vasquez

Psi-Chi Scholarship

Drs. Mike Parent and Andrew Littlefield
present the *Florence Louise Phillips*
Psi-Chi Scholarship to

Noelle Cavalier

Mizuka Yasouka

Miranda Crow



HY Price Scholarship

Dr. Catherine Epkins presents the
HY Price Scholarship to

Brittney Dean



Graduate Awards

Diversity Award

Dr. Christine Robitscheck presents
the *Diversity Award* to
Jared Roush



Teaching Awards

Dr. Steven Richards presents
Student Teaching Awards to (L-R)

Elissa Dougherty
PSY 1300

John Schumacher
Undergraduate Lab

Thomas Parkman
Undergraduate Course

Angela Stevens
Graduate Lab

Research Awards

Drs. Joaquin Borrego, Stephen Cook, and
Michael Serra present Research Awards to

Paige Seegan
Clinical Psychology

Tyler Bradstreet
Counseling Psychology

Ashalee Hurst
Experimental Psychology



The Department of Psychological Sciences

Faculty & Staff Awards



Assistant Professor

Mike Parent

Texas Tech
Alumni Association
New Faculty Award



Professor

Patricia Delucia

Texas Tech
Parents Association
Faculty Award



Associate Professor

Kelly Cukrowicz

Barnie E. Rushing
Jr. *Faculty Distinguished
Research Award*

College of Arts & Sciences
Excellence in Research Award



Associate Professor

Catherine Epkins

President's
*Excellence in
Teaching Award*



Professor

Roman Taraban

President's
*Academic Achievement
Award*

Faculty & Staff Awards



Special Recognition

A special thanks to
Dr. Stephen Cook
for 24 years of service

Distinguished Staff

Mark Hendley,
the department's unit coordinator,
received the university's
Distinguished Staff, Matador Award



From the Directors' Desks

From the desk of Dr. Joaquin Borrego, Director of the Clinical Psychology Program

Greetings! The Clinical Psychology faculty and students have had another productive and exciting year. We continue to go through exciting changes and growth. We very pleased to have the following students join our Clinical program in the fall:

Name	University (Undergrad/Masters)	Advisor
Jordan Gette	Gustavus Adolphus College	Littlefield
Zohal Heidari	University of Oklahoma	Van Allen
Amber Morrow	University of Oklahoma	Borrego
Lauren Pascarella	Catholic University of America	Epkins
Chelsy Simmons	University of Texas-Austin	Schmidt
Casey Thornton	Texas A & M University	Mumma

The following students successfully obtained an internship for the 2016-2017 year:

Evan Guidry	VA Portland Health Care System
Tishanna Hollins	Center for Behavioral Medicine (Kansas City)
Nathanael Taylor	VA St. Louis Health Care System

With these three matches this year, we are at a 100% match rate for the past two years. Congratulations!

As noted above, we are very proud of the accomplishments of our students! Our students are very productive while being busy with their own classes, teaching, engaged in different practicums, and conducting and disseminating their research through conference presentations and publications. Special congratulations to Paige Seegan for being awarded this year's Clinical Psychology Research Award. 2017! Look for details on how we will be recognizing this accomplishment in this issue and on the department website.

From the desk of Dr. Stephen Cook, Director of the Counseling Psychology Program

After completing her predoctoral internship at Kings County Hospital Center, in Brooklyn, NY, and then receiving her Ph.D. from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Dr. Shin-ye Kim will be joining the Counseling Psychology faculty. Dr. Kim, who also has a master's degree in Prevention Science and Practice from Harvard University, will bring expertise in the areas of work and family, multicultural issues, and health psychology.

Dr. Sheila Garos was honored to receive a developmental leave from Texas Tech University for the Spring, 2016, semester.

Dr. Mike Parent received the TTU Alumni Association's 2016 New Faculty Award, and is completing a term as Member-at-Large for APA's Division 51 (Society of the Psychological Study of Men and Masculinity).

From the Directors' Desks

Dr. Brandy Piña-Watson was selected as a fellow of NIH's National Research Mentoring Network program, and was elected as the Early Career Representative to the National Latina/o Psychological Association's Leadership Council.

One of our current doctoral students, Tyler Bradstreet, was selected to serve as President of the Student Special Interest Group of APA's Division 51 (Society of the Psychological Study of Men and Masculinity). He also received our division's Student Research Award, was chosen as our nominee for the Outstanding Graduate Student Award for the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs, received an APA Student Travel Award to the 2016 APA Convention, and began serving as a member of Lubbock's Board of Health.

After 24 years in TTU's Counseling Psychology division, I will be leaving Texas Tech University to become Dean of the Cynthia Ann Parker College of Liberal Arts at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. I look forward to this new opportunity, but I will miss the many good people in this department. Dr. Sheila Garos will step back into the role of Director of the Counseling Psychology doctoral division beginning this summer.

From the desk of Dr. Michael J. Serra, Director of Experimental Psychology Graduate Programs

It's been a great year for the Experimental Psychology Program, and next year looks to be even better!

The faculty and graduate students of the experimental program continued to achieve success in all aspects of research, teaching, and service. Of particular note, this past year Dr. Patricia DeLucia was awarded a \$350,000 grant from NSF and a \$37,000 grant from General Electric, and Dr. Keith Jones was awarded a \$350,000 grant from NSF and a \$45,000 grant from Microsoft. Cognitive graduate students Francesca Ortegren and Debbie Magreehan accepted tenure-track faculty positions at University of Southern Indiana and Odessa College, respectively, for Fall 2016. Other achievements by experimental faculty and graduate students (awards; publications) are noted elsewhere in this newsletter.

There will be many new faces in the experimental program in Fall 2016. Three new faculty members will be joining the program. Dr. Miranda Scolari (Ph.D., 2012, University of California, San Diego) will join the cognitive program. Dr. Eric Greenlee (Ph.D., 2015, University of Alabama) will join the human factors program, and Dr. Lindsay Greenlee (Ph.D., 2014, University of Alabama) will serve as the department's new Director of Undergraduate and Online Studies. Eleven new graduate students will also be joining the program. These students will be coming to us from universities all over the country including Purdue University, University of Cincinnati, University of Louisiana, University of Nebraska, and Western Illinois University. In administrative news, former Experimental Director, Dr. Keith Jones, is now an Associate Chair for the department, and former Undergraduate Director, Dr. Michael Serra, is the new Experimental Director.

Finally, our Human Factors program, which was founded in 1967, will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2017! Look for details on how we will be recognizing this accomplishment in this issue and on the department website ([page 9](#)).

A Few Recent Publications

Epkins, C. C., & *Harper, S. L. (2016). Mothers' and fathers' parental warmth, hostility/rejection/neglect, and behavioral control: Specific and unique relations with parents' depression versus anxiety symptoms. *Parenting: Science and Practice*, 16, 125-145. doi: 10.1080/15295192.2016.1134991

Anxiety and depression are often comorbid or co-occurring. This study put forth, and tested, ideas about how parents' depression and anxiety would be related, and differentially related, to the parenting constructs of hostility/rejection/neglect (HRN) and behavioral control (BC). Parents' depression, and *not* anxiety, was specifically related to more HRN. In contrast, mothers' and fathers' anxiety, and *not* their depression, was related to *higher* BC. Parents' anxiety was specifically related to *more* BC, whereas depression was specifically related to *less* BC. The findings were the first to show that mothers' and fathers' depression and anxiety symptoms are differentially related to parenting constructs, especially when comorbid symptoms are considered and taken into account.

***Levulis, S. J., DeLucia, P. R., & Oberfeld, D.** (in press). Effects of Adjacent Vehicles on Judgments of a Lead Car during Car-Following. *Human Factors*.

To avoid collision, it is important for a driver to notice that the car in front of her is slowing down and to accurately estimate how much time remains until a collision would occur with this lead car. We investigated whether such judgments were influenced by the presence of other cars in lanes adjacent to the lead car. Using computer simulations of car-following scenes, participants responded soon as the lead car decelerated (Experiment 1), or when they thought their car would hit the decelerating lead car (Experiment 2). The presence of adjacent cars did not affect how much time it took participants to report the deceleration of a lead car but did affect participants' sensitivity to deceleration. In addition, judgments of when a collision would occur with the lead car were shorter when adjacent car were present and decelerated before the lead car decelerated than when adjacent cars were absent. The results suggest that nearby traffic can affect a driver's ability to accurately judge a lead car's motion in situations that pose risk for rear-end collisions.

Serra, M. J., & *Magreehan, D. A. (in press). Instructor Fluency Correlates with Students' Ratings of their Learning and of their Instructor in an Actual Course. *Creative Education*.

Fluency is the feeling that what we are doing is easy to do or is going well. Concordantly, when students experience fluency during learning, they judge that they have learned content well, even if they have not. In this paper, TTU faculty member Michael Serra and graduate student Debbie Magreehan examined instructor fluency, which is the experience of fluency stemming from various attributes of the instructor and his or her presentation of the information. They found that students' experience of instructor fluency (e.g., speaking volume; eye contact) was related to students' judgments of learning for course content, their ratings of various qualities of the instructor and course, and their self-reported interest and motivation in the course, but was not highly related to their actual performance in the course. Therefore, students' experience of instructor fluency can bias their perceptions of their learning and of instructor and course quality.

Tang, Y.Y., Holzel, B.K., & Posner, M.I. (2015). The neuroscience of mindfulness meditation. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, 16, 213-225.

Research over the past two decades broadly supports the claim that mindfulness meditation — practiced widely for the reduction of stress and promotion of health — exerts beneficial effects on physical and mental health, and cognitive performance. Recent neuroimaging studies have begun to uncover the brain areas and networks that mediate these positive effects. However, we know little about the underlying mechanisms. In this paper, we outline the challenges of meditation research and propose that mindfulness meditation could affect brain structure and function through improved attention control, emotion regulation and self-awareness.

*denotes current graduate students

In Other News

Several Doctoral Alums Gathered for an Impromptu Reunion



Top Row:

John Leckie (*Counseling*), Bruce Lochner (*Counseling*), Phil Tate (*Clinical*), Greg Joiner (*Counseling*), and Brian Krylowicz (*Counseling*).

Bottom Row:

Bea Chapa (*Clinical*), Laura Lochner (*Counseling*), Beverly Pair (*Counseling*), and Sherry Whatley (*Clinical*).

Upcoming Human Factors Reunion

For TTU Human Factors Psychology Alums:

The TTU Human Factors Psychology Program, in our newly renamed Department of Psychological Sciences (www.depts.ttu.edu/psy/), will soon reach its 50th anniversary! We would very much like to celebrate this occasion during Fall, 2017. We plan to invite leaders in the field to give keynote presentations, and to invite alumni to present their latest research/professional activities and achievements in poster or paper sessions. Of course, there will be a reception and banquet, and opportunities to catch up with other alumni. We are also exploring whether attendees could be given special consideration at attractive campus facilities (e.g., recreational center, golf course).

The success of this celebration will depend on attracting a sufficient number of alumni. Thus, it is important to estimate how many alumni might attend before we start planning in earnest.

The exact date will be determined later, but for now it is important for us to determine your general interest in attending this 50th Anniversary celebration.

PLEASE GO TO THIS SHORT SURVEY LINK TO ANSWER SEVERAL BRIEF QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE CELEBRATION:

bit.ly/TTUHumanFactorsReunion

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, YOU MAY INQUIRE AT THIS ADDRESS:

50yearsttuhumanfactors@gmail.com

Congratulations on all that you have achieved, and thank you for the visibility and esteemed reputation you have brought to our Human Factors Program and to TTU. We hope to hear from you by **July 1st, 2016**, and we hope to see you at TTU in 2017!

Patricia R. DeLucia
Professor, Psychological Sciences
Coordinator, Human Factors Psychology Program
Associate Vice President for Research
Texas Tech University

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 consider a special donation to the Dr. Darcy Reich and Dr. Stephanie Harter Graduate Scholarships. We are approaching the amount of support necessary to make these permanent, endowed scholarships. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

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