



From the Department Chair, Dr. Robert Morgan

As we come to the close of another academic year, we have much to celebrate. It was not an easy year, but we managed to survive. First and foremost we were disappointed to learn that the building expansion that we were so eagerly expecting was delayed pending additional funding. The college will be initiating a capital campaign drive this fall (2017) and it will hopefully provide us with the funding necessary to move forward with an expansion. To accommodate current research needs we have converted three classrooms in English into research lab space. This is not as satisfying as a building expansion, but it will allow us to meet current faculty and student needs so that research productivity is not damaged.

On a brighter note our faculty continue to get recognized for their outstanding work (see awards section). In addition we have truly outstanding graduate and undergraduate students that we were very pleased to recognize with awards at our last faculty meeting. Research productivity and teaching quality remain high, and faculty and students are active in service. We are also reporting on the research laboratories of just two of our thoroughly engaged assistant

professors. Their research is not only interesting and important, but it also demonstrates the common integration of undergraduate and graduate students in such efforts.

This summer will be particularly exciting as we welcome eight students to the department as part of the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduate students (REU). This REU is an 8-week summer research program aimed to: (a) engage undergraduates in behavioral research that shows the value of such research in solving real-world problems; (b) develop research, teamwork, and communication skills applicable to any career in social and behavioral sciences; (c) increase the number of undergraduates who pursue graduate education and Human Factors careers; and (d) increase the number of underrepresented groups in Human Factors, and in social and behavioral sciences more generally. We are very excited about this program and a thorough summary of the program will be in the fall newsletter, so stay tuned.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable and relaxing summer. Of course, should you find yourself in Lubbock, please do stop by to say hello. We are always pleased to see and hear from our alumni.

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Awards Edition

Undergraduate

Department

University

Plus *Featured Research*, and our *NSF REU site*!

Undergraduate Awards



Shoemaker Scholarship

Courtney Longway

Presented by

Dr. Catherine Epkins

Psi Chi Scholarship

Alexandra Abide

Maxine Hernandez

Presented by

Dr. Michael Parent



HY Price Scholarship

Bailey Gomez

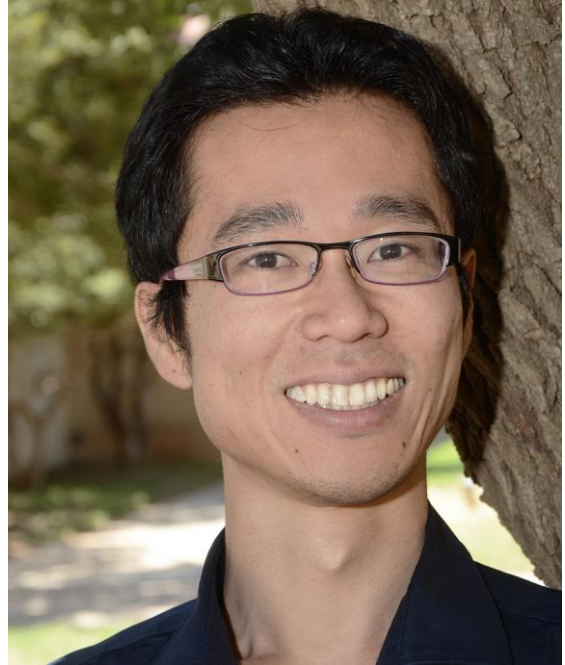
Department Awards

Diversity Award



Dominika Borowa

Counseling RA Award



Yuki Shigemoto

PSY 1300

Instructor of the Year



David Hancock

Clinical RA Award



Angela Stevens

Department Awards



***Undergraduate Lab
Teaching Assistant of the Year***
Ellie Niedbala

***Undergraduate
Instructor of the Year***
Sarah Jo David



***Graduate Lab
Teaching Assistant of the Year***
Brittany Blanchard

University Awards

President's Academic Achievement Award

Dr. Patricia Delucia



Arts & Sciences

Teaching Innovation Award

Dr. Roman Taraban



President's Excellence in Teaching Award

Dr. Michael Serra

University Awards



Helen DeVitt Jones

Excellence in Teaching Award

Mandril Das

Quality of Service

Denae Jackson



***Nancy J. Bell Graduate Faculty
Excellence in Mentoring Award***

Dr. Kelly Cukrowicz

Featured Research



Back: Kirstie Jamison, Mindi Price, Alec Stinnett, Kaitlin Pate

Front: Ruby Lopez, Tammy J. Core, Dr. Jessica Alquist, Ashalee Hurst

The Alquist Lab — Dr. Alquist

My research focuses on when people are successful at self-control. Self-control is necessary for overcoming an immediate desire or impulse in order to achieve some particular goal. People need self-control to avoid snapping at their bosses and children, to persist on difficult tasks, and to eat healthy foods.

One line of research I have been conducting with some collaborators demonstrates that experiencing uncertainty impairs participants' self-control on tasks unrelated to the uncertainty. In one study testing this effect, participants who were told they might have to give a speech later made less progress on a difficult task than even participants who were told they would have to give a speech later. Participants who were left uncertain performed worse than participants who were sure of the worst-case scenario. This suggests that, as far as self-control is concerned, no news can be worse than bad news.

In another line of research, my lab is developing an intervention to increase the speed at which people recognize their goals when faced with temptation. Previous research has shown that people who think of their goals more quickly when faced with temptation are more likely to be successful at achieving their goals than people who are slower to think of their goals. We are testing ways to help people become more successful at reaching their goals by increasing the speed at which they think of their goals when faced with temptations.

Texas Tech students play a pivotal role in these projects. Tammy Core is a graduate student in my lab who has been instrumental in recent studies on the effects of uncertainty. Mindi Price, another graduate student, played a large role in developing a goal activation intervention. I typically have a relatively large group of Texas Tech undergraduates involved in my research as well. Recent undergraduates from my lab have gone on to do graduate work in social psychology, counseling psychology, school psychology, and law.

Featured Research



Back: Paige Seegan, Brittany Lancaster, T. J. Parkman

Front: Dianna Boona, Dr. Jason Van Allen, Zohal Heidari

The ENERGY Lab — Dr. Van Allen

The Examining Nutrition, Exercise, and Rest in Growing Youth (ENERGY) Lab in the Department of Psychological Sciences at Texas Tech University is dedicated to the study of child health behaviors and child health behavior change, broadly construed. One line of research in our lab involves the examination of psychosocial variables, environmental contexts, neuroanatomical correlates, and child/parent behavior that contribute to pediatric health outcomes. Another line of research involves the treatment of pediatric health conditions, including pediatric obesity, behavioral sleep disorders, and others.

In particular, our lab has done considerable work in the area of pediatric obesity, including both observational and intervention work. For example, we are currently funded by Division 54 of the American Psychological Association to pilot an obesity intervention for rural children using telemedicine. Our recent observational studies include an examination of psychosocial variables that may be important mechanisms of change in pediatric obesity (Van Allen et al., 2016), assessing the impact of parents in the treatment of children who are obese (Van Allen et al., 2014, Van Allen et al., 2015), and the assessment of self-efficacy in children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes (Noser et al., 2016; Van Allen et al., in press). We have also recently completed a neuroimaging study that examined neuroanatomical correlates of food reinforcement in young adults.

Graduate and undergraduate students play vital roles in our lab and are involved in all stages of the research process, including study design, data collection, therapy delivery, peer-reviewed journal publications, and book chapters. Paige Seegan, the first doctoral student graduating from our lab, will be completing her internship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia beginning this summer. In addition, many of our undergraduate students have been successful in their pursuit of graduate training at outstanding programs across the country.

NSF REU Site



Students and their universities, from left to right:

Madeline Niichel	Arizona State University—Polytechnic Campus
Joselyn Hathaway	Elizabeth City State University
Auriel Jasper-Morris	Xavier University of Louisiana
Cooper Rodriguez	Meredith College
Jada Elleby	North Carolina A&T State University
Cecilia Garza.....	Texas A&M University—Kingsville
Kristen McGatlin.....	Kansas State University
Vivian Nelson.....	University of Arkansas Pine Bluff

Research Experience for Undergraduates

We are happy to report that a new grant to support a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) site was recently awarded to Texas Tech University by the National Science Foundation. This REU Site is led by Dr. Patricia DeLucia (Principal Investigator, Psychological Sciences) and Dr. James Yang (Co-Principle Investigator, Mechanical Engineering). Senior personnel include Drs. Tyler Davis, Zachary Hohman, Keith Jones, Martina Klein, Michael Serra, and Amelia Talley who, along with Drs. DeLucia and Yang, will each mentor one of the visiting undergraduate students in research.

The main goals of the REU site are to engage undergraduates in behavioral research that has clear value in solving real-world problems, to develop research, teamwork, and communication skills applicable to any career in social and behavioral sciences, and to increase the number of undergraduates, particularly those from underrepresented groups, who pursue graduate education and careers in human factors psychology.

Our visiting students, who were chosen from an applicant pool from other colleges and universities across the United States, will each receive a stipend of \$4,000 for the 8-week summer program and travel funds to present their research at a professional conference.

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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