



From the Department Chair, Dr. Robert Morgan



Wow, what a year 2020 has proven to be. The challenges we have faced as a society this year have been unlike anything I have seen in my lifetime. For those of you that have lost loved ones I am sorry for your loss. We grieve for you. For those of you dealing with COVID-19, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families. For those fortunate enough to avoid COVID-19, it is unlikely that you have been able to avoid the number of stressors presented by a pandemic: financial uncertainty, social unrest, political upheaval. My hope is that you all can fall back on your training and education during your time in the department to find psychologically proven strategies for coping. And I am reassured in the knowledge that we are a resilient country and a strong people such that we can survive all that 2020 has thrown our way.

In spite of the challenges of 2020, it is important to reflect on the positives whenever we can. In fact, as I write this in advance of the Thanksgiving holiday, I recognize that I have much for which to be thankful. First and foremost is the team of faculty, staff, and

graduate students in the department. There are times when I wish I were more poetic as I simply cannot put into words the pride I have in how our staff, faculty, and graduate students have managed the challenges of teaching and providing a quality learning experience to our 1200+ undergraduate students during this global pandemic. I have received very few complaints and many many acknowledgments of the extraordinary efforts taken to ensure a successful semester. Much of my workplace gratitude and satisfaction goes to our team.

With recent news reports of a potential COVID-19 vaccine, I am optimistic that the spring semester will present an opportunity to resume some aspect of business as usual. Although I was saddened to have to postpone our Annual Alumni BBQ, I am happy to report that in consultation with the Alumni Advisory Council we are looking to now have our BBQ on either April 23 or 30. One consideration for the selected date will be the TTU sport schedule as I know many of you would like not only to enjoy connecting with the department, but rooting on the Red Raiders. We are waiting for the full spring sport schedule before finalizing our BBQ date. I will finalize the date in mid- to late January so please check the department webpage (<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/psy/>) so you can plan your return to Lubbock. I hope to see many of you at the BBQ.

Speaking of the Alumni Advisory Council, during our Fall meeting they developed an exciting plan for better connecting with our graduating seniors to strengthen our alumni base and enhance alumni engagement. The council will send a letter to all graduating seniors welcoming them to the department alumni family and requesting their contact information so we can remain connected. I am absolutely thrilled at the prospects of even greater alumni engagement.

This fall also brought some new life and energy to the department. First, I am excited to introduce you to our newest faculty member – Dr. John Cooley. John comes to us having graduated from the Clinical Psychology program at the University of Kansas (yes, he is a Jayhawk, but he's starting to wear the Raider red and it looks good on him!). You

Introductions Edition

Faculty

Graduate Students

Plus recent news!

can learn more about John and his work in this newsletter. We also welcomed a large class of 31 new doctoral students into the department which always brings new energy (student details included in the newsletter). In addition, we are in the process of three faculty searches. We have two openings in our Clinical Psychology program and one in our Counseling Psychology program. The pool of candidates is quite impressive, and I am optimistic we will add three vibrant, productive, and energetic faculty to the team in fall 2021.

As we approach the end of the year, I know many of you will be thinking of your annual giving. I ask that you keep us in mind as you contemplate your yearly gifts. Your support is essential for us to continue to enhance educational opportunities to our undergraduate students (e.g., by way of scholarships, funding for travel to present their research at conferences, updated and enhanced facilities). To make giving as easy as possible, you can simply go to our funding page on the department website (<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/psy/about/donate.php>), select where you want your gift to go and follow the instructions. It is simple and will take only a few minutes. Your consideration and gifts are greatly appreciated.

With that I will conclude our 2020 newsletters. I hope you find this issue informative and enjoyable, and I wish you all a safe, healthy, productive, and enjoyable 2021!!!

Best Wishes,
Bob
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New Faculty



Dr. John Cooley *Assistant Professor, Clinical Psychology*

My program of research is guided by two overarching questions: "Why are some children and adolescents more impacted by peer victimization than others?" and "How can we address the mental health needs of peer-victimized youth?" More specifically, my lab is focused on investigating a) factors that influence risk for peer victimization and its associated negative outcomes, by methods for identifying victims of peer aggression in need of intervention, and c) prevention and intervention approaches. For additional information, please visit www.peerrelationslab.com.

[Click to view his introduction.](#)

New Graduate Students

Counseling



Serena Moses



Mikaela Trussell



Kara Gray



Hannah Yoo



Sarah Hirsch



Keegan Diehl



Cody Meyer



Ester Shaw



Emily Kopchick

New Graduate Students

Clinical



Julianne Cary



Katie Himes



Dan Petrovitch



Brianna Ricker



Terry Trieu



Sarah Sparks



Kirsten Christensen



Katlin Moffis



Joseph Choi



Isabel Meza



An Le



Dana Wilder



Carrington Ream



Carl Alfert



Melisa Williams Ibora



Chidera Azubike



Daniel Leibman



Emma Pasiuk



Julia Shull



Shinyoung Jung



Heidi Martin

Experimental

News



Dr. Sarah Victor introduces new research project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health [read more](#)



Dr. Paul Ingram discusses depression in men - Featured on *Texas Tech Today* [read more](#)



Dr. Amelia Talley and colleagues to host *#WhyNotMe* conference to increase the number of women and people of color in STEM [read more](#)



Dr. Tyler Davis receives National Science Foundation grant for research modeling the role of the rostrolateral prefrontal cortex in category learning [read more](#)



Dr. Brandy Piña-Watson receives 2020 Reuben Hill Award [read more](#)



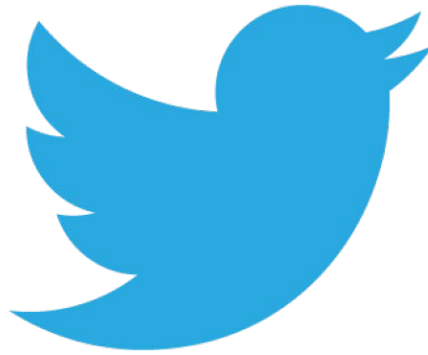
Dr. Jason Van Allen is a collaborator on a large research project examining childhood obesity through gardening [read more](#)



Dr. Megan Thoen assumes new role as director of the department's Psychology Clinic [read more](#)

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