



Awards Edition

*Faculty
Graduate Students*

Also Featuring

*New
Faculty Members
&
Graduate Students*

Recent News



From Interim Department Chair, Dr. Keith S. Jones

Welcome to the Fall 2021 edition of the department newsletter!

This summer, our Chair, Dr. Robert Morgan, assumed a new position as Dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Southern Illinois University. I want to thank Bob for his twenty-one years of dedicated service to our department and university. He will be missed, and we wish him well as he enters into an exciting new chapter in his career.

During my eighteen years at Texas Tech, I have served the department in various capacities, including as Human Factors Program Coordinator, as Director of Experimental Psychology Programs, and as Associate Chair. I am excited to now serve our department as Interim Chair. My aim is to make a positive impact in the lives of students, faculty, and staff.

COVID-19 has made this a challenging time to be an educator. I am proud of our department's response. Our instructors have found creative new ways to provide excellent educational opportunities despite the pandemic forcing us to temporarily shelve tried-and-true approaches, and have gone above and beyond to ensure that students receive the high-quality instruction they deserve. I thank them for their tireless efforts.

On a more positive note, we are excited to welcome three new, highly qualified, and enthusiastic faculty members to our department. We are also excited to welcome a new class of superb graduate students into our doctoral programs. I am sure these additions will greatly enhance our department.

As always, you can visit our [media page](#) to stay abreast of department news, and our [donate page](#) to find ways to support our department's 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.

To conclude, I want to note that you are always welcome in our department, and I would love to hear from you. One of the things I enjoy most about being a faculty member is listening to stories about the awesome things that our alumni's education has enabled them to do. I would love to learn more about your story.

Dr. Keith S. Jones

keith.s.jones@ttu.edu



Welcome Our New Faculty Members



Nicholas C. Borgogna, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Counseling Psychology

Dr. Borgogna received his Ph.D. in combined-integrated Clinical and Counseling Psychology from the University of South Alabama and completed his pre-doctoral internship in health service psychology from the College of William and Mary in 2021. He is currently teaching introduction to counseling psychology for the counseling Ph.D. students. Other teaching interests include research methods, statistics, psychopathology, ethics, and practicum at the graduate level, as well as abnormal psychology and introduction to counseling at the undergraduate level. His research primarily examines the intersection of human sexuality and psychological distress. He is also interested in improving clinical approaches to a variety of mental health problems, and is in the process of starting a new lab at Texas Tech and anticipates taking a new graduate student in the fall of 2022.



Caroline Cummings, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Clinical Psychology

Dr. Cummings received her clinical psychology doctoral degree from the University of Nevada, Reno. At TTU, she plans to pursue a program of research that examines the interconnections between emotion, related self-regulatory systems, and health in youths and young adults with or at-risk for chronic and complex medical conditions (e.g., type 1 diabetes, overweight/obesity, substance use). She enjoys mentoring both undergraduate and graduate students to assist in their professional development and is currently accepting applications to work as a research assistant in her lab. Also, she looks forward to teaching a developmental psychopathology graduate course in the fall and an undergraduate abnormal psychology course in the spring.



Dr. Jonathan Singer, Ph.D.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Clinical Psychology

Dr. Singer dedicates his research and clinical work to improving the psychological and physical health of patient-caregiver dyads. More specifically, he examines the interconnection of the biopsychosocial processes within individuals with life limiting illnesses (e.g., cancer; dementia) and their caregivers. Using multiple methods, the ultimate goal of his research program is to translate basic and applied research into scalable, technology-based interventions. Jonathan will be teaching objective personality assessment to graduate students in the fall and research methods to graduate students in the spring. He hopes to start a health and aging course at the undergraduate and graduate level in the future. He also looks forward to mentoring both undergraduate and graduate students. Jonathan enjoys playing golf, watching the Steelers beat the Browns and Ravens, and eating lots of food!



Welcome Our New Graduate Students

Clinical

Clockwise from top left:

Tristen Hefiner, Carlos Sanchez,
Michael LeDuc, Alexandra Bammel,
Victoria Dennis, Amanda Bianco



Counseling

Clockwise from top left:

Daniela Navarro-Verdugo,
Samantha Gonzalez, Bryce
Robinson, Nina Clinton, Megan
Keen, (not pictured) Joe Grossman



Experimental

Back row: Joseph Opdenaker,
Jacob Vaughn, Bradford Howe,
Yves Valentin

Middle row: Tyler Owen, Marissa
Tharp, James Peabody, Jordyn
Glick

Front row: Nicolasa Villalobos,
Jenna Donet, Chidera Azubike,
Jesse Saxon, Najib Nia
Not pictured: Aleksei Proskurin,
Irina Lavrova



Faculty Scholars & Grants

University Integrated Scholar

Dr. Adam Schmidt

This award recognizes faculty whose research, teaching, and service activities reflect significant accomplishments and effective synergy. Integrated scholars are recognized for infusing the results of their scholarship and creative activity into the learning experiences they provide to students and their service and engagement activities.



External Funding Received

Dr. Jason Van Allen

2021-2024

Title: Equine-Assisted Positively Fit – A Family-based Obesity Intervention for Rural Youth

Sponsor: United States Department of Agriculture; National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Multiple Projects Directors: Jason Van Allen, Department of Psychological Sciences; and Katy Schroeder, Animal & Food Sciences

Amount Awarded: \$150,000

This study will primarily (1) measure the effectiveness of the EAPF intervention to decrease children's sedentary behaviors, and increase their self-efficacy for healthy eating and physical activity; and (2) measure treatment team adherence to intervention fidelity and develop curriculum training materials for future dissemination of the curriculum to other EAAT centers across the United States, among other secondary study objectives.



External Funding Received

Dr. Keith S. Jones

2020-2023

Title: Automatically measuring phishing victim susceptibility from publicly available information

Sponsor: Office of Naval Research

PI: Keith S. Jones, Department of Psychological Sciences

Co-PI: Akbar Siami Namin, Department of Computer Science

Amount Awarded: \$784,732

This project will develop a system that measures users' phishing susceptibility from publicly available information about those users (e.g., the organization's website, individual's social media, etc.). To do so, we will accomplish four research objectives: Objective 1): Develop a large phishing susceptibility data set, Objective 2): Determine the best set of phishing susceptibility predictors, Objective 3): Identify and evaluate publicly available data about model factors, and Objective 4): Develop a prototype and test its effectiveness against truth data.



Faculty & Staff Awards



Assessment Innovation Award Winners

Drs. Brandy Piña-Watson & Sheila Garos

This award is granted to faculty and staff who are actively engaged in assessment activities within their department or unit. The counseling program is developing an assessment of program climate and outcomes in areas including diversity, inclusion, curriculum and will be used to enhance current curriculum and efforts to maintaining APA accreditation.



Alumni Association's New Faculty Award

Dr. Paul Ingram

This award is granted through the College of Arts & Sciences based upon positive student evaluations, innovative teaching, initiation of research and creative activities, evidence of interaction with students, publishing efforts, service to the college, and attitudes that draw favorable attention from the academic community.



Texas Tech's 2021 President's Emerging Engaged Scholarship Award

Dr. Megan Thoen & Dr. Sean Mitchell

This award recognizes a relatively new project or initiative that demonstrates high potential for the advancement of engaged scholarship. The project or initiative shows outstanding promise for having a significant impact on communities and the university.



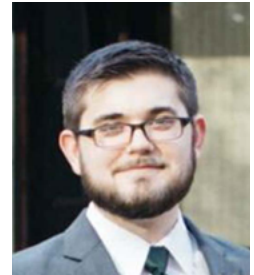
Departmental Graduate Student Awards



Nguyen Nguyen
Counseling Psychology
Best Researcher Award



Brittany Lancaster
Clinical Psychology
Best Researcher Award
&
Department of
Psychological Sciences
Research Support Award



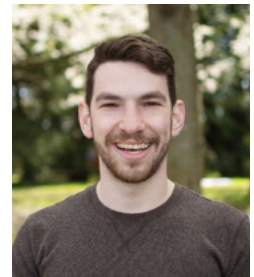
Mark Lacour
Experimental Psychology
Best Researcher Award



Tran Le
Departmental
Diversity Award



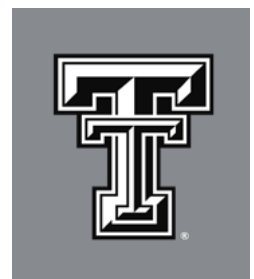
Tiffany Lui
Graduate Lab TA
of the Year



Ben Widlus
Undergraduate Lab TA
of the Year



**Taleen
Nalabandian**
Best Undergraduate Course
for Close Relationships



Ema Bidiwala
PSY 1300 Instructor
of the Year

Graduate Student Honors & Awards

University Honors & Awards



**Amber
Morrow Benet**

*Covenant Health
& Social Services Fellowship*



Gabriela Manzo

*Helen DeVitt Jones Excellence in
Graduate Teaching Award
Jane L. Winer Dissertation
Scholarship*



Zohal Heidari

*Covenant Health and Social
Services Fellowship
Graduate Student Research
Support Award*



Taleen Nalabandian

*Doctoral Dissertation Completion
Fellowship
Helen DeVitt Jones Excellence in
Graduate Teaching Award*



Miriam Armstrong

*Alphonse Chapanis
Best Student Paper Award
from the Human Factors and
Ergonomics Society*



Travis Brace

*Frances Fowler Wallace Memorial
for Mental Health Dissertation
Award
from the Hogg Foundation*



Brittany Lancaster

*Graduate Student Research
Support Award*



Faith Scanlon

*Horn Distinguished Professors
Graduate Achievement Award*

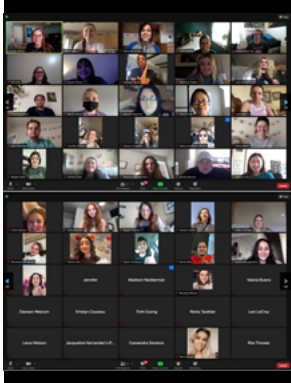


Brittany Lancaster

*2020 CASA Virtual Advocate
of the Year
from the Court Appointed Special
Advocates of the South Plains*



Department News



A Statement from Psi Chi and the Psychology Club

Read more [here](#).



Lisa Briones and Anthony Foster are Recognized for Their Winning Posters

Read more [here](#).



Dr. Sarah Victor Quoted in USA Today

Read more [here](#).



In Memoriam: Angela K. Stevens, Ph.D.

April 1, 1989—August 1, 2021

2019 Clinical Psychology Graduate

Read more [here](#).

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.

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 our [donate page](#).

Follow us throughout the year on social media!

