Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2024 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 the new Academic Sciences Building. Our space in that building will be comprised of 10 research laboratories, 8 shareable data collection rooms, and a graduate student workspace. We 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. We will move into our spaces in early August, so our laboratories should be operational for the Fall 2024 semester.

In addition, the university is preparing to renovate the Psychological Sciences Building. Once complete, the first floor and select areas of the basement, second, and third floors will be completely redone. We expect the renovations to begin this summer and to take a couple of years. Thus, the near future will be an adventure as we figure out how to run the day-to-day operations of our department while also tearing down and rebuilding large portions of our building. That is a wonderful problem to have; the result will be a building that provides the space we need to grow and elevate our teaching, research, and service missions.

Speaking of growth, I am happy to report that our department added 5 faculty lines. One is a tenure-track faculty member who will work with colleagues from the National Wind Institute to better understand how people interpret severe weather warnings. Another will be for a teaching-track faculty member who will serve as Assistant Clinic Director and supervise trainees in our clinic. The remaining lines are for teaching-track faculty members who implement our new fully-online Bachelor of Arts in Psychology degree program, which will open its doors in Fall 2025.

In this newsletter, we celebrate our faculty and students who were recognized for their excellence this year. As you will see, several faculty members received university-level awards, as did our graduate students. Further, faculty members received new grant funding this year. I congratulate each of them on their wonderful achievements.

Unfortunately, we also note the passing of three members of the Department of Psychological Sciences’ family: Dr. Rosemary Cogan, Dr. Bill Locke, and Dr. John Gillis. Each made significant contributions to our department and will be missed. Our thoughts are with their family and friends.
Lawrence Schovanec Teaching Development Scholarship
*Dr. Will Crescioni*

Texas Tech Chancellor’s Council Distinguished Research Award
*Dr. Sarah Victor*

Grant Awarded

**Title:** Piloting Stress Control as a universal, community-based suicide prevention strategy in the U.S  
**Funding Agency:** American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Pilot Innovation Grant  
**Investigators:** Sean Mitchell (Co-PI), Sarah Sparks (Co-PI), Jonathan Singer (Co-I), and Andrew Littlefield (Co-I)  
**Amount:** $50,000  
**Years:** 2024-2026
Departmental & University Graduate Student Awards

Kirsten Christensen
Angela K. Stevens
Clinical Psychology
Best Researcher Award

Megan Keen
Counseling Psychology
Best Researcher Award

Lucas Hess
Experimental Psychology
Best Researcher Award

Brad Howe
Graduate Lab TA of the Year

Michelle Shegedin
PSY 1300 Instructor of the Year

Hayden Holmes
Undergraduate Course of the Year

Jenna Donet
Undergraduate Lab TA of the Year

Hannah Snidman
Helen DeVitt Jones Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award & Graduate Student Research Support Award

Carol Fadalla
Graduate Student Research Award
The Texas Tech Psychology Clinic opened its new facility in August 2023 and celebrated its Grand Opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 28, 2024.

The clinic helps support two distinct academic programs: the clinical psychology doctoral program and the counseling psychology doctoral program. Each has different training requirements, and the clinic balances the needs of students in both areas.

At any given time, the clinic can be a whirl of activity with 20 to 30 therapists on site and four to six supervisors overseeing their work. The facility features treatment rooms that can accommodate individual therapy sessions or small groups for research initiatives depending on faculty and student needs. Likewise, multiple areas are available for students to get their work done.

“They can use space as they see fit,” said Megan Thoen, the clinic’s director (pictured left, above). “We want this to be a place where they want to come work and collaborate, where they can learn and grow.”

It is designed for efficient traffic flow with clients and therapists able to move from the lobby to therapy and back in a smooth and effective way. Rooms are equipped to handle in-person and remote (telehealth) therapy. The details matter because the clinic serves more than 200 clients through 2,000 appointments each year.

“The Department of Psychological Sciences and the Psychology Clinic have been offering services to the campus and greater Lubbock community since the 1980s,” said Tosha Dupras, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences (pictured middle left, above). “This new facility stands as a testament to the department and college commitment to provide mental health services and promote well-being in our community. The facility is larger and allows us to provide more services, and its new location provides community members easier access to these services.

“The facility, though, is more than just a physical space. It is a sanctuary where individuals can find solace, understanding and healing, and we are proud to have opened its doors.”

Enjoy the full Texas Tech Now article here.
Department News

Dr. Amelia Talley named Associate Dean for Research & Engaged Scholarship by the College of Arts & Sciences.

Dr. Sean Mitchell promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure.

Dr. Sarah Victor promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure.
In Memoriam

Dr. Rosemary Cogan
March 11, 1941 - May 3, 2024

Dr. Cogan graduated from the University of Missouri in 1971 and began teaching at Texas Tech University shortly after. She was the Chair of the IRB for 9 years and was a Certified IRB Professional. Her teaching centered on research, the history of psychology, and sexuality. She retired from Texas Tech University in 2016.

Read more, in Dr. Cogan’s own words, here.

Dr. Bill Locke
February 5, 1936 - March 14, 2024

Dr. Locke was a long-time psychology professor at Texas Tech University. He was committed to helping others by serving as a consulting psychologist at the Lubbock State School, helping establish the TTU Psychology Clinic and serving as a volunteer Red Cross Disaster Relief Psychologist.

Read more here.

Dr. John Gillis
March 21, 1937 - April 7, 2024

Dr. Gillis was a professor of clinical psychology at Texas Tech University from 1972 to 1976. He later joined the faculty of Oregon State University, where he resided until his recent death.

Read more here.
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
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!