

Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2025



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

TEXAS TECH

College of Arts & Sciences

Awards Edition

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Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2025 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 hard at work renovating the Psychological Sciences Building. The interior of the south portion of the first floor has been completely redone and we moved the main office into its new location. Further, the interior of the north portion of the first floor has been demolished and will be redone over the course of the next few months. The basement now has a bathroom, the bathrooms on the first, second, and third floor have been redone, and the bathroom on the fourth floor will soon be redone. Currently, the whole project is expected to be completed this October. We are looking forward to having the renovations behind us and using our newly renovated spaces.

We have also been busy with a different kind of building project. Specifically, we have been building out our new fully online Bachelor of Arts in Psychology degree program [<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/online/programs/bachelors/psychology/>], which will open its doors in Fall 2025. Tech is making a strong push into the online education space, which is a key element of our strategic enrollment management plan. The Department of Psychological Sciences is proud that our new online Bachelor of Arts in Psychology degree program will be one of Tech's flagship programs. Our aim is to offer a high-quality Psychology degree to our fully online students and our online Lecturers have been hard at work making that happen. Interest in our online program has been strong. We are excited about what the future holds for this new program.

In this newsletter, we recognize four outstanding faculty who have received promotion in rank, and two others for awards they've received. We are also happy to congratulate many graduate students for their achievements in teaching and research.

If you are on LinkedIn, please join the Texas Tech University Psychological Sciences Alumni Group [<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8998067/>] and encourage your fellow alumni to do so as well. We hope this group will be a hub for the TTU Psychological Sciences network. Our department has a tremendous network and we hope this group will help to better connect its members.

As always, you can visit [<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/psy/about/donate.php>] 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.

If you are ever in Lubbock, please stop by the department. I would love a chance to catch up.

Dr. Keith S. Jones
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Faculty Promotions & Recognitions



Dr. Amelia Talley, Dr. Andrew Littlefield, Dr. Jason VanAllen, and Dr. Miranda Scolari (Left to Right) received promotions. Drs. Talley, Littlefield, and VanAllen are now full Professors of Psychology and Dr. Scolari is now an Associate Professor of Psychology. Congratulations to these hardworking and talented faculty members!



Jonathan Singer won the 2025 College of Arts & Sciences Excellence in Research Award and was named 2025 Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research's 2025 Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) Program Fellow. His student awards included 2025 Faculty Mentor for Hazim Hashmi-1st Prize Well Being Impact Award, Texas Tech University, 2025 Faculty Mentor for Lauren Elliott-James D. and Mary Hazlewood Graduate Fellowship (\$3,000), Texas Tech University, and 2025 Faculty Mentor for Carol Fadalla-James D. and Mary Hazlewood Graduate Fellowship (\$3,000), Texas Tech University. Dr. Singer gave two invited talks as well, to the Texas Legislature 2025 session: "Testifying as an Expert on SB 5 to Texas State Legislature" in March, and "DPRIT: The Importance of Advancing Dementia Research in Texas," in February.



Dr. Megan Thoen, Associate Professor of Practice & Director of TTU Psychology clinic, was recognized as a recipient of a 2024 Good Citizen Award by the Lubbock Police Department for her work with them establishing and maintaining a comprehensive wellness program for their employees.

Texas Tech University was pleased to host the [North American Meeting Of The International Society for Ecological Psychology 2025](#), July 9-11. The event was organized by Drs. Keith Jones and Balagopal Raveendranath, with participation by graduate students Abigail Loddeke and Dylan Daniel.



Graduate Student Awards & Recognitions



Malvika Narayan serves as the President Pro Tempore & Representative from Texas Tech University on the Texas Psychological Association (TPA) Student Senate, as well as First Place & the "People's Choice Award" at the American Psychological Association 2024 Psych Science in 3 Competition, and a Fulbright Award to Australia by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Fulbright Award period will span January 2026 - August 2026.



Abigail Kortenhoeven won a Fulbright Scholarship for 10-12 months at the University of Bordeaux to complete dissertation research through the grant. Abigail's research will be piloting cognitive control training as an intervention for visual processing deficits in survivors of intimate partner violence with symptoms of PTSD.



Victoria Dennis was awarded the Criminal Justice Section of APA Division 18 Gavel Award (\$500) to help fund this dissertation project, as well as the American Academy of Forensic Psychology (AAFP) Dissertation Grant with an award of \$2000 for this dissertation entitled "On the Brink: Identifying Immediate Precursors to First-Time Juvenile Offending Using a Case-Crossover Design."

Department Graduate Student Teaching & Research Awards

PSYS 1300 Instructor of the Year	Tristen Herring
Undergraduate Course of the Year	Daniela Navarro Verdugo
Graduate Lab TA of the Year	Amanda Bianco & Victoria Dennis
Counseling Program Outstanding Research Award	Tristan Herring
Angela K. Stevens Clinical Research Award	Katie Himes
Experimental Psychology Outstanding Research Award	Daniel Leibman

Further Graduate Student Awards & Recognitions

Daniela Navarro Verdugo received the Crossing Latinidades Mellon Humanities Fellowship for the 2025-2026 academic year from the Crossing Latinidades Humanities Research Initiative, which includes a \$30,000 9-month stipend, as well as the Helen Devitt Jones Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award, which includes a \$1,250 award.

Aundrea Garcia was awarded the Amplifying Latinx Voices Scholarship (\$10,000) for the 2024-2025 academic year as well as the Texas Tech University Covenant Health and Social Service Graduate Fellowship Award (\$4,000) for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Hannah Yoo was awarded a Dissertation Support Award from the American Psychological Association Minority Fellowship Program (\$4,395), and was also reappointed as an APA Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Doctoral Fellow as funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Samantha Gonzalez was awarded the Covenant Health and Social Services Graduate Fellowship (\$4,000) for the next academic year.

Marvin Cole selected to represent the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) West Texas Chapter at the Annual Advocacy Forum, taking place on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. in June, 2025.

Swanaya Gurjar received the PEO International Peace Scholarship (\$12,500), and a Graduate Student Research Support Award, TTU (\$1,500).

Lizzie Hoelscher was awarded the Outstanding Student Poster Award at the American Psychology-Law Society annual meeting in March 2025 and the Outstanding Poster Award at the Suicide Research Symposium annual meeting in April 2025.

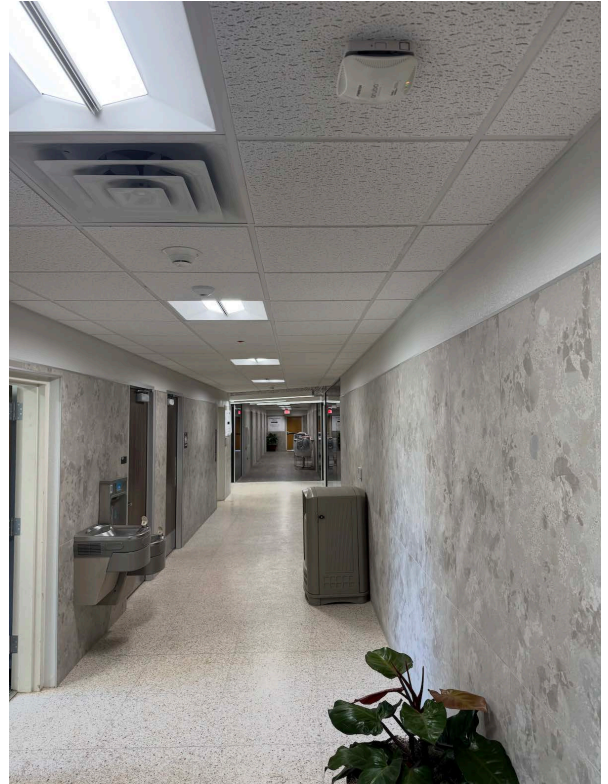
Michael LeDuc won the 2025 New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center Firearm Suicide Prevention Fellowship.

PHI BETA KAPPA INDUCTEES

The Texas Tech Psychological Sciences Department would also like to recognize the following talented undergraduate students who have been inducted into the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society [<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/pbk/>]: Madison Alexander, Catherine Cespedes, Keely Esch, Trinity Hoover, Reagan Lee, Skylar Millhouse, Amanda Pedraza, Charlize Reyes, Kyle Roth, Savannah Trevino, and Logan Vizzini. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

Update on Remodeling Our Building

Below: Updated First Floor Office Hallway



Above: Remodeled Front Office



Left: Updated Function Rooms

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
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Counseling

Dr. Sheila Garos
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Clinical

Dr. Jason Van Allen
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Final Notes

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. For example, thanks to the generous support of our alumni and friends who contributed to our department's Cost of Education fund, we were able to award a total of \$9,500 in scholarships to nine undergraduate students who have excelled academically and who required financial assistance.

To provide your support for these efforts, please visit our [Donate Page](#).



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