HELLO! Welcome to the latest edition of the Psychology Department Newsletter. This issue constitutes the Department’s Year End Report for the academic year 2009-10. We are sending this to all faculty, emeritus faculty, and alumni. We recognize each of you as contributors and valued resources of our department and want to share with you our new initiatives and accomplishments.

Brunelle Tomsky

Personnel

- This year marked the first year of Andy Leynes’ three-year term as Departmental Chair.
- This year we welcomed Ashley Borders, Shaun Wiley and Lisa Grimm as new full-time faculty members.
- Dr. Jeanine Vivona was promoted to the rank of Professor.
- Our thanks to all our adjuncts and especially those who were new this year: Jack Lafayette, Samantha Chau, Melisa Greiner, Rebecca Casciano & Tom Quinlan.
- 5 Faculty (Grimm, Hughes, Martinetti, Ruscio, Vivona) won SOSA awards for 2010-2011 to support their research. 11 of 19 Full-time faculty (58%) have SOSA awards.
- 3 members of the Department welcomed new additions to their families. Congratulations to Brunelle Tomsky on the birth of daughter, Brenna, Shaun Wiley on the birth of son, Cooper and Karen Howe on the birth of granddaughter, Cassandra.

Department Accomplishments

- This year the Department’s Web site was reorganized and redesigned to better serve our students and campus community.
- Various faculty and outside speakers led the first year of department Brown Bag sessions.
- A Faculty Advising Handbook was created.
- The Psychology Admission Application was revised by Julie Hughes.
- The Department’s first scholarship newsletter was published.
- Psychology department policy for the assignment of advisees was developed.
- A policy regarding Collaborative Learning was established and scheduling that addressed implications for SOSA awards was implemented.
- A Psychology Facebook page was activated.

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Additional Info
- Please visit out website at:
  http://psychoogy.department.tcnj.edu
Admissions

The Admissions Committee was created this year to review external transfer applications for admission to TCNJ and additionally to review the applications of current TCNJ students who wish to transfer to the psychology major. The committee reviewed approximately 120 applications for admission to TCNJ in the 2009-2010 academic year as well as 70 internal transfer applications. 18 students were admitted as Psychology majors and 7 as second majors.

PIPER & RPE

PIPER, under direction of Jason Dahling, ran 35 unique experiments, scheduled 1771 occurrences with 6482 seats, and awarded 5068 points to students in the fall semester. A total of 110 students were designated as student administrators. In the Spring 2010, the system ran 52 unique experiments, scheduled 2304 occurrences with 5017 seats, and awarded 5475 points to students in the fall semester. A total of 158 students were designated as student administrators.

Under the direction of John Ruscio, the RPE, reviewed a total of 33 research proposals. Brunelle will be working on the design of an on-line RPE system and is waiting for IT to begin this project.

ELOPsy

Brunelle continues to work with IT and this summer will correct minor problems with the system. The reports generated from ELOPsy have greatly facilitated our accounting of faculty overload and student participation in ELOPsy. This year the Internship Committee created an “Application Instructions and Checklist” Handbook. A survey was created to document and track basic information about internship experiences as well as to obtain Internship statistics. The ELOPsy statistics for the past four years appear below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELOPsy Statistics</th>
<th>06-07</th>
<th>07-08</th>
<th>08-09</th>
<th>09-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Honors</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Participation</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specializations

Specific course requirements for specializations were reviewed and approved by the department. (http://psychology.department.tcnj.edu/academics/major.html). Many specializations added requirements and all web-based and hardcopy documentation were modified.

Additionally, the Social Specialization was able to offer 3 new upper-level courses in the Specialization.

Best Practices

Fall 2009
1. “Advising Workshop”
2. “Measurements”
3. “Writing Exam Questions”
4. “Instruments”

Spring 2010
5. “Navigating the Peer Review Process”
6. “How to write a great letter of recommendation”
7. “How to teach an impactful senior experience”

Department Resources

With the increase in faculty and need for research space, the Department Resources Committee oversaw the renovation of SSB6 and 5A into research space. Space was allocated to 3 new faculty in their transition into their new research lab space in SSB. A request has been made to convert existing storage space (SSB22) to be used as dedicated as well as shared research space for faculty. The committee also put together computer requests of the department, receiving 3 new computers (2 new, 1 replacement) for various faculty research needs.
Academic Programs
The AP Committee reviewed proposed changes to the developmental, cognitive, and social specialization requirements, which were then recommended to and approved by the department. A departmental policy on summer course offerings was also recommended and approved. The committee reviewed the variety of writing assignments in our foundation courses, compared this to peer institutions, and reported the findings to the full department.

Brown Bag Series
1. Dr. Jarret Carwford
   “Leadership, Social Identity & Social Change”
2. Dr. Jason Dahling “Studies on Career Expectations and Outcomes: Applications of Social-Cognitive Career Theory”
3. Dr. Andy Leynes “Stop Me If I’ve Told You This Before...’: Understanding Memory for Actions”
4. Dr. Emina Subasic “Predicting Political Biases in Social Cognition: An Empirical Journey”

Advisement
In Fall 2009 the Department completed the second year of PSY 096 for entering freshmen and transfer students and launched PSY 097, Sophomore Seminar, Spring 2010. Brunelle Tomsky is working on the development of the junior and senior seminars of our four-year advising sequence for majors. This year we will launch PSY 098, Junior Seminar, in the last 7 weeks of the spring semester.

An ad hoc advising committee developed a new policy concerning the assignment of students to faculty academic advisors, which the department voted to accept in November of 2009.

Conferences
Dr. Chung and two students (Cynthia Pierre, Stephanie Probert) presented research at the Conference on Emerging Adulthood in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Chung and 2 students also attended the Annual meeting of the Conference of Emerging Adulthood in Atlanta, GA. as well as the Biennial meeting of the Council on Undergraduate Research, Ogden, UT.

Dr. Kirnan and a student (Caitlyn Dwyer) presented research at NEAIR, North East Association for Institutional Research.

Dr. Bireta presented research at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Boston, MA.

Drs. Grimm, Crawford, and Wiley presented research at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in Las Vegas, NV.

Drs. Bireta, Borders, Chung, Crawford, Graham, Kim-Prieto, Leynes, with a total of 32 students, attended the Annual meeting of Eastern Psychological Society in Brooklyn, NY.

Drs. Hughes and Chung presented research at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence in Philadelphia, PA.

Drs. Borders and Ruscio presented research at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science in Boston, MA.

Dr. Martinetti and 3 students (Amanda Lister, Jessica Perkel & Ashley Silakoski) presented research at the annual meeting of the Association of Behavior Analysis International in San Antonio, TX.

Drs. Wiley and Crawford presented research at the annual meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA.
Pedagogical Workshops

Mandatory workshops for our instructional interns for 2009-2010 included the following topics:

**Fall 2009**
1) “The Use of Demonstrations in Lecture” by Tamra Bireta
2) “Commenting on Student Writing” by Shaun Wiley
3) “Facilitating Group Learning” by Julie Hughes
4) “Research Ethics Workshop” by Jean Kirnan

**Spring 2010**
5) “Research Ethics Workshop” by Jean Kirnan
6) “Using Powerpoint: Why & How” by Dr. Ashley Borders
7) “The Use of Demonstrations in Lecture” by Tamra Bireta
8) “Facilitating Group Learning” by He Len Chung

**Day to Day Activities**

Thanks to Nadirah Shakir who continues to manage the front office and is the “face” of the Psychology Department. We have been blessed with excellent assistance from student workers, Mahogany and Rebecca, Research Assistants, Melissa Chiu & Abbie Vachon; and graduate assistant, Mary Beth Competelli. There is insufficient room in this newsletter to cite all the day to day contributions of staff, student workers, adjuncts and faculty. Thanks for your ongoing efforts on numerous committees and ad hoc assignments. The department keeps functioning smoothly thanks to the following (with their chairs): Academic Programs (John Ruscio), Adjunct Mentoring and Support (Art Hohmuth), Admissions (Julie Hughes), Ceremonies & Recognition (Margaret Martinetti), Colloquia (Jarret Crawford), Department Resources (Chu Kim-Prieto), Grievance (Jean Kirnan), Independent Study (Tamra Bireta), Internship (He Len Chung), PIPER (Jason Dahling), Promotions (Andy Leynes), Research, Planning and Ethics (John Ruscio), Psychology Club (Tamra Bireta & Art Hohmuth), Psi Chi (Julie Hughes) & Student Awards (Karen Howe).

**Student Activities and Recognition**

Our student organizations, Psi Chi and Psychology Club sponsored many events and guest speakers.

- The Psychology Club had a successful year with a wide spectrum of social, mentoring, fundraising and academic events, including their Faculty Showcase Series and presentations by NAMI.
- Psi Chi inducted 38 new members and sponsored social and de-stressing events, informational meetings, and alumni speaking engagements.
- The first award of the Laurie Ann Mandara ’07 Scholarship was presented to Hope Fine at the Psi Chi Initiation Ceremony.
- Marshall P. Smith Scholarship was awarded to Elizabeth Ayad at the Psi Chi Initiation Ceremony.
- In May, our department graduated 117 majors and 41 double majors. Student speakers included Sweta Shah and Cynthia Pierre. 13 students were awarded Departmental Honors and 4 majors College Honors. Thanks to Margaret & Karen and their committees with assistance from Nadirah!