HELLO! Welcome to the latest edition of the Psychology Department Newsletter. This issue constitutes the Department’s Year End Report for the academic year 2010-2011. Faculty, staff, emeritus faculty, and alumni are recognized as contributors and valued resources of our department and we want to share with you our new initiatives and accomplishments.

**Brunelle Tomsky**

### Honoring Dr. Karen Howe

Karen began teaching in the Psychology Department at Trenton State College in 1973. Over the past 38 years she has taught countless Psychology courses, served on and chaired many college-wide and departmental committees, as well as been an inspiration and role model to so many.

From 1987-91 Karen was involved in the development and running of the College’s Center for Instructional Enhancement. An early Women’s Studies faculty member, she was Coordinator of the Women’s Studies Program from 1983-89. In that role, she participated in many local and state-wide Women’s Studies conferences, educational organizations, and advisory boards. Karen’s scholarship interests have included women’s achievement, mother–daughter relationships, impact of women’s studies courses, and teaching and learning about race, resulting in many national and local conference presentations and varied publications. Karen has served as a consultant for textbook and journal reviews, The New Jersey Project on curriculum transformation, and most recently an ETS/Harvard University *Voices of Diversity* Research Project on the experiences of racial/ethnic minority college students. Karen has been involved in the development and awarding of the two departmental student scholarships, the Marshall P. Smith Scholarship and the Laurie Ann Mandara, ’07 Scholarship.

Karen, thank you for your many outstanding contributions to the Psychology department and the College! We will miss you and wish you all the best in Retirement!

### Recognizing Dr. Ruth Hall

Ruth Hall was the recipient of the Award for Distinguished Contribution to Ethnic Minority Issues for 2011 from the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues (Division 44 of the American Psychological Association). The Division offers this award for distinguished contributions to the interests, goals, and purposes of Division 44 in the area of ethnic minority gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender psychology. The recipients of this award have each studied and worked with the realities of LGBT people of color, locating scholarship and practice at this intersection of identities.

**Additional Info**
- Please visit out website at:
  - [http://psychoogy.department.tcnj.edu](http://psychoogy.department.tcnj.edu)
Personnel
- This year marked the second year of Andy Leynes’ three-year term as Department Chair.
- Drs. Chu Kim-Prieto and Tamra Bireta were promoted to rank of Associate Professor and Drs. John Rusio and James Graham were promoted to rank of Professor.
- Drs. He Len Chung and Jason Dahling were reappointed to a 6th year with tenure.
Congratulations to all!
- Our thanks to all our adjuncts and especially those who were new this year: Marc Celentana and Keiko Bryndelsen. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Lisa Collier for all her wonderful contributions to the Department over the years. She will be missed.

Admissions
This year, 57 students applied in the fall and 61 students applied in the spring to declare a psychology major. These numbers were much higher than they had been in previous years, therefore the committee only admitted 35 students in the fall and 36 in the spring. The Admissions Committee also reviews the applications of students at other colleges who apply to transfer to TCNJ as psychology majors. This year, the committee reviewed a total of 89 applications (25 in the fall, 64 in the spring) and made recommendations to the Admissions Department about each applicant. It is clear that the psychology program is in high demand at TCNJ.

Specializations
This academic year saw the new requirements for the Social Specialization go into effect. The new requirements were the result of a self-study that the members of the specializations conducted the previous year. We will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the new requirements to ensure that students who graduate with the specialization in Social do indeed possess breadth and depth of knowledge in the specialized area of Social Psychology.

In addition to these structural changes, the Social Specialization was able to continue to offer a range of upper-level courses, including Psy375 on various topics, Psy350, and Psy470. We also added Dr. Lisa Grimm’s course on Gender Gap in Science to the list of approved Social Specialization 300-level courses.

Academic Programs
- Lisa Grimm’s “Gender Gap in Science Careers” course was approved and counts as a liberal learning gender course.
- He Len Chung’s internship survey was proposed as a new requirement for all Psy383, Psy399, and Psy499 students, which was then recommended to and approved by the full department.
- In accordance with the policy on summer courses passed by the department last spring, we reviewed courses to be offered in Maymester and summer sessions and provided feedback to instructors. The course reviewed included: Psy101, Psy121, Psy203, Psy213, Psy214, Psy217, Psy311, Psy366, Psy375.

Advisement
In Fall 2010, Brunelle Tomsky taught PSY 096, Freshmen and Transfer Seminar, as well as PSY 097, Sophomore Seminar and newly launched PSY 098, Junior Seminar in Spring 2011. Workshops included 2 alumni panels, graduate school information panels, interview techniques as well as other graduate school and career related sessions. This Fall, PSY 099, Senior Seminar will be launched, completing the development of the 4-year advising course sequence for the Department. Students have been completely engaged in these courses and have valued the experience as an important supplement to their academic coursework.

Piper & RPE
PIPER, under direction of Jason Dahling, offered 38 studies with 1860 occurrences and distributed 4883 points of credits to student participants in fall 2010. Spring 2011 was very comparable, with 39 studies, 2021 occurrences, and 4807 points distributed to participants. We continued our new practice of offering a small-scale PIPER pool for summer 2011 and are planning on using PIPER credit to incentivize our course evaluation of PSY121 next year.

Under the direction of John Ruscio and Shaun Wiley, the RPE, reviewed a total of 35 research proposals. The department supported a decision to make RPE feedback meetings with student researchers optional, at the discretion of the RPE reviewer.
**Department Resources**

The Department Resources Committee undertook several projects this academic year, including the renovation of SSB22 into useable research space. This space, formerly a map storage room used by the History Department, was divided into two rooms, one to be used as a dedicated research space, and a second to be used as a shared common research lab space.

A renovation request has been submitted to convert SSB B06 and B07 into three or four usable research labs and common work areas. The request would allow the room to be used as dedicated and shared research space and help provide added research space as the number of research active faculty grow.

**Assessment**

This year was marked by great progress in the assessment of PSY 121 as well as the continuance and beginning of other initiatives. In Spring 2011, students working with Jean Kirnan in an assessment/testing lab will develop similar items for PSY 203.

**PSY 121 –** Upon review of course descriptions and syllabi from the past 2 semesters, a Likert scale questionnaire was developed and completed by faculty who teach these courses to rate course-specific topics as “essential for inclusion,” “optional,” or “unessential for inclusion.” This resulted in 39 topics considered “essential” for course inclusion. Additionally, a Qualtrics survey was developed to measure the knowledge and skills learned in PSY 121. This survey was administered to 122 students in the Fall 2010 semester and the data underwent a preliminary analysis by the PSY 386, Psychological Testing class. Four students will continue work on assessment of the methodological core of the major in the upcoming academic year (2011-2012) as part of a new research lab. The revised instrument is now ready for administration in a "pre/post" methodology for the Fall 2011. An attitudinal measure, known as a knowledge probe, was designed developed to assess student familiarity/comfort level with the terms and concepts taught in PSY 121. Approval has been granted for the Fall 2011 administration of both the revised "knowledge" measure and a new attitudinal measure (familiarity/comfort) of the concepts taught in PSY 121. These will be administered in the first week of classes and after the Thanksgiving break for a pre-post design.

**PSY 203 –** The faculty content validity ratio survey was conducted last year. This data will identify essential topics for the course and the survey will be administered in a post course fashion in Fall 2011 or Spring 2012.

**ELOPsy**

The Internship committee created a binder containing Internship information summarizing the interns evaluation of their placement and site supervisor. This binder is housed in the main office. Additionally, the excel document listing potential internship placements has been edited and categorized.

Experiential learning opportunities are increasingly popular with our students. Statistics for the past four years appear below:

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<td>Independent Study</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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**Brown Bag Series**

- "Serotonin, SIDS, and the postnatal maturation of breathing behavior: Ongoing analysis of the serotonin-deficient Pet-1 knockout mouse" presented by Dr. Jeff Erikson, Biology Department, TCNJ
- “The Consequences of Perceptions of Racial Discrimination on Occupational Aspirations in Early Adolescence” presented by Julie Hughes, Psychology Department, TCNJ
- "Treatments for Pediatric Anxiety Disorders: Evidence to date, current advances, and the challenges in our future." presented by Dr. Muniya Khanna, University of Pennsylvania

**Best Practices**

- “Time Management Strategies”
- “Overseeing Internships” moderated by Jason Dahling and Betsy Ruddy
Day to Day Activities

Thanks to Nadirah Shakir who continues to manage the front office. We have been blessed with excellent assistance from student workers, Bijou Egwuonwu and DeAnna Varilias; Research assistant, Abbie Vachon; and Graduate assistant, Marybeth 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 & Betsy Ruddy), Ceremonies & Recognition (Margaret Martinetti), Colloquia (Jarret Crawford), Department Resources (Chu Kim-Prieto), Grievance (Jean Kirnan), Independent Study (Tamra Bireta & Lisa Grimm), Internship (Ashley Borders & He Len Chung), PIPER (Jason Dahling), Promotions (Andy Leynes), Research, Planning and Ethics (John Ruscio & Shaun Wiley), Psychology Club (Tamra Bireta & Art Hohmuth), Psi Chi (Jarret Crawford & 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 sponsored 2 presentations by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), and a speaker from Kaplan who talked about the GRE. They also cosponsored, with Psi Chi, a panel with 2 alums who spoke of their post graduation experiences. Psi Chi coordinated a professional interviewing workshop. The social events included movie night and game show night as well as a fund raising T shirt sale, with half the profits donated to NAMI.

Psi Chi inducted 44 new members. The chapter president, Bobby Melloy, was honored with the Outstanding Student Leader Award presented by TCNJ's Leadership Development Program (LDP) this spring for his commendable service to the organization.

16 students were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Ashley Silakoski and Caressa Slocum received the Phi Kappa Phi Student-Faculty Researcher Award and Dana Morton and Conor Byrne were recipients of the Academy of Management Best Paper Award.

Congratulations to Bryan Furman, recipient of the nationally-competitive 2011 Boren Scholarship for study abroad in Russia.

In May, our department graduated 127 majors and 40 double majors. We awarded Departmental Honors to 15 graduates and College-wide Honors to 4. Our student speaker was Michelle Ivey and our faculty speaker was Dr. Karen Howe. Thanks to Margaret and her committee with assistance from Nadirah.
Department Accomplishments

- Faculty published an impressive 39 peer-reviewed articles and 9 Book chapters this past academic year. Our faculty truly exemplify the teacher-scholar model.

- The Ad hoc Committee on Disciplinary Standards reviewed our department Disciplinary Standards document to bring the content of the document in line with guidelines recently developed by the Committee on Faculty Affairs as well as to clarify expectations for Psychology faculty at all levels of the personnel evaluation process. The revised document was approved unanimously by the faculty in May.

- An Ad hoc committee revised our Strategic Plan, including goals and objectives for the next five years centering around three themes: student education, faculty development, and community engagement. The plan was adopted in June.

- Three members of the Department welcomed new additions to their families. Congratulations to Lisa Grimm on the birth of daughter, Ada, He Len Chung on the birth of son, Felix and Betsy Ruddy on the birth of grandchildren, Jack and Anna.

- Four Faculty (Tamra Bireta, Ashley Borders, He Len Chung and Jason Dahling) won SOSA awards for 2010-2011 to support their research. Jarret Crawford won a one-year SOSA award to support his research during the 2011-2012 academic year.
Faculty Activities and Recognition

Conference Presentations

Tamra Bierta presented with her students the work, “Does working memory change with age? The interactions of concurrent articulation with word length and acoustic confusion” at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association and presented at the 51st Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society.

Ashley Borders and three of her students presented three posters at the annual meeting of Eastern Psychological Association. She also presented at the International Neuropsychological Society annual meeting and the APA Annual Convention.

He Len Chung presented with a student at the annual meeting of the Northeast Region Honors Council, the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association with six students, with a student at the American Psychological Association’s Society for the Teaching of Psychology (Division 3) Best Practices Conference, and with six students at the 2010 EPA meeting.

Jason Dahling presented at Vocational Designing and Career Counseling Conference, the 119th Annual Conference of the American Psychological Association, the 26th Annual Conference of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology with three students, at 2011 Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management with two students, and the 118th Annual Conference of the American Psychological Association. Multiple students have attended these conferences.

Candice Feiring presented with a student at the Society for Research in Child Development and with three students the Eastern Psychological Association Conference in 2011 and three students in 2010.


Lisa Grimm and five of her students presented their work titled, “Stereotype fit effects in information-integration classification learning” at the annual meeting of the Easter Psychological Association. She also presented at the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society and Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Ruth Hall presented “Shaken Not Stirred: Diversity in the 21st Century” at the Association of Applied Sport Psychology.

Julie Hughes presented with nine students at Annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association and she presented at Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development.

Chu Kim-Prieto and six of her students presented the work “Exposure to stereotypes and aggression towards others” at the annual meeting of Eastern Psychological Association. She also presented with another student, “Impact of mood on explicit stereotyping of Asian Americans,” at Winter Roundtable Annual Conference, and with nine students at the EPA meeting in 2010.

Andy Leynes presented the work, “How Does Visual Clarity Influence Fluency? An Event-related Potential Investigation” with two students at The Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association

Margaret Martinetti presented with seven students at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis International. She also presented at Research Society on Alcoholism with seven students.

Jeanine Vivona presented “Mum's the Word: Psychoanalysis and Research on Infant Speech Processing” at the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia Spring Meeting. She also presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

Shaun Wiley presented “Immigrant generation as a marker for intergroup percieptions” at European Association for Social Psychology (EASP) Annual Scientific Meeting and he presented at International Society for Political Psychology (ISPP) Annual Scientific Meeting. He also presented with four students at the Eastern Psychological Association.
Faculty Publications

Tamra Bireta was the author of the publication, “Backward serial recall and benchmark effects of working memory” published in Memory & Cognition; she also co-authored three other papers.

Ashley Borders published the paper, “Rumination partially mediates the associations between perceived ethnic discrimination, emotional distress, and aggression” in Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology/APA and “Trait and state hostile rumination facilitate alcohol-related aggression” in Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs. She also co-authored two other papers.

He Len Chung was the first author on three publications and co-authored another, two of which had student co-authors. With a student, she has also contributed to the book, Children of Incarcerated Parents (COIP): Developmental and Clinical Implications.


Jason Dahling was the first author on four papers and co-authored four additional publications including two with students. Dr. Dahling, with two students, have also written Machiavellianism, unethical behavior, and well-being in organizational life in Handbook of unethical work behavior: Implications for well-being; and he has contributed to the book, Emotional labor in the 21st century: Diverse perspectives on emotion regulation at work and to Proceedings of the Seventieth Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management.

Candice Feiring published three papers, including, “A narrative approach to understanding young women’s schemas of power in romantic relationships: Links to negative emotions and dating aggression.” Two publications included student co-authors.

James Graham has written the book, Children of Incarcerated Parents: Theoretical, Developmental and Clinical Issues.

Lisa Grimm was the co-author on the paper, “Priming insight in groups: Facilitating and inhibiting solving an ambiguously-worded insight problem” in Memory & Cognition. She has also written the book, Stereotype threat is no match for a regulatory fit: A reexamination of the psychology of this disadvantageous state and has contributed to Psychology of Stereotypes.

Ruth Hall has authored “On the move: Exercise, leisure activities, and midlife women” and “Sweating it out: Women and sport.”

Art Holmuth was the author for “Review of ‘The Cure Within’ in Transactional Analysis Journal.

Julie Hughes published “Predictors of African American and European American adolescents’ endorsement of race-conscious social policies” in Developmental Psychology. She has also co-authored Adolescents’ racial stereotyping: Consequences on their self-views and experiences in a diverse classroom setting in the U.S.A. and contributed to Encyclopedia of Adolescence.

Chu Kim-Prieto was the first author on five publications and co-authored two others. Three students co-authored papers with Dr. Kim-Prieto.


Andy Leynes was first author on the paper with a student co-author “Objective and subjective measures indicate that orthographically similar words produce a blocking experience,” which appeared in the journal, Memory. He also co-authored two others publications with a student.

John Ruscio was the first author on five papers, two of which included student co-authors, including, “Performing taxometric analysis to distinguish categorical and dimensional variables” in the Journal of Experimental Psychopathology. He also co-authored two magazine publications in Scientific American Mind and Skeptic and has written the book, Irrational beliefs stemming from judgment errors: Cognitive limitations, biases, and experiential learning.

Jeanine Vivona has authored “Is there a nonverbal period of development?” and “Between a rock and hard science: How should psychoanalysis respond to demands for quantitative evidence of effectiveness?” in the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association. She also wrote two reviews.

Shaun Wiley has written the book, Social categories in everyday experience and has contributed to Identity and participation in cultural diverse societies: A multidisciplinary perspective.
Our Faculty have published many books and journal articles during the course of the year, in addition to maintaining a high level of teaching excellence in the classroom. These contributions include:


Zielinski, M., Diorio, J. Feiring, C. Mitigation in women’s narratives about met & unmet needs in their romantic relationships. Poster presented the Eastern Psychological Association Conference. Cambridge, MA. (March 2011).


Ruscio, J.P. (in press). Why and how should we classify individuals? Introduction to the special section on categories and dimensions. Scientific Review of Mental Health Practice, 8, 1, 3-5.


Conference Presentations for 2010-2011 (students are underlined)


Zielinski, M., Diorio, J., Feiring, C. Mitigation in women’s narratives about met & unmet needs in their romantic relationships. Poster presented the Eastern Psychological Association Conference. Cambridge, MA. (March 2011).


