Welcome to the latest edition of the Psychology Department Newsletter!

This issue constitutes the Department’s Year End Report for the 2012-2013 academic year. 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.

This year was another successful and prosperous year for the psychology department. To name a few overall accomplishments, the faculty produced 38 publications with 26 student contributors. The faculty also participated in 43 conference presentations, and 55 students participated as well.

Flip through this newsletter to see what the various committees were up to this year, and check out the department accomplishments to see the individual faculty achievements as well.

Don’t forget to keep in touch with us! We’d love to hear from you!

Maddie Weinland
Assessment

This year, the assessment committee worked on the following projects:
• Pre-post 096 surveys, and post 097-099 surveys were modified and implemented, with help from GA John Eldis
• Updated and implemented the first year out alumni survey
• Jean Kirnan lead a learning community on student outcomes and assessment, and Maddie Weinland is a member of the learning community. They are working with the career center to update the career center’s first year out survey.
• Using a pre/post methodology, the TAPLab determined that the curricular goals of PSY203 are largely being met. As the TAPlab, did last year with the PSI121 data, a senior researcher in the lab compared the validity of direct vs. indirect measures of student knowledge for PSY203. While both showed an increase from pre to post; the two measures did not correlate.
• In the TAPLab, a preliminary measure of Psychology Knowledge was successfully developed and administered in spring 2013 via PIPER.
• At the request of our Dean, the Learning Outcomes and Course matrix has been revised by Maddie, Jean and Jason to incorporate Middle States and HSS Learning Outcomes.
• We implemented the first phase of our 5 year Department Assessment Plan. This included collection of indirect data as follows:
  • Ethics — review of PIPER surveys (John completed for Fall 2012), RPE report (Shaun is preparing this for our report), NIH certificate reporting (Maddie completed for Fall 2012 and Spring 2013)
  • Diversity— review of PAWS offerings/syllabi (In Progress)
  • Applying Psychology — review of PAWS offerings/syllabi (In Progress); and ELOPsy placement.

Brown Bag Series

- Jarret Crawford: The social and psychological roots of political intolerance in the United States, and Using different message frames to increase candidate support in Presidential primaries.
- Jessica Barnack-Tavlaris: Women’s Beliefs about Reproductive and Sexual Health
- Jeanine Vivona: How does talking cure?
- Lee Jussim, Rutgers University: “I’m a loser baby, so why don’t you kill me?” -Confessions, concessions, cautions, constructions, and conclusions of a politically incorrect social psychologist?

Best Practices: Using Canvas learning system, Conducting Research using Amazon’s Mechanical Turk

RPE

Reviewing new and revised research proposals was our committee’s primary work. We reviewed a total of 27 new proposals this year, a lower volume than in the recent past. The change can be attributed to an increasing number of faculty members seeking IRB approval in lieu of RPE approval for student projects in PSY 299.

All but two proposals were approved, although minor revisions were frequently requested. However, for the first time in more than a year, we rejected two RPE proposals in the spring. Both proposals requested sensitive information from participants that would have put them at more than minimal risk. Proposals that exceed minimal risk cannot be reviewed by the RPE. The students who submitted the rejected proposals eventually submitted new proposals that were accepted. Further, a third proposal that was initially accepted by the RPE was terminated after the RPE chair learned that the student researchers had changed the study materials after the proposal was accepted. To avoid rejecting and terminated proposals in the future, the RPE committee will work more closely with faculty members who teach 299 in the coming years. We will remind faculty members that the RPE committee can only review minimal risk studies. We will also emphasize that faculty members have the responsibility to oversee student research and ensure that it upholds ethical standards even after RPE approval.
The internship committee approved 10,399/499 applications for Spring 2013, 9 applications for Summer 2013, and 5 applications for Fall 2013. All students who applied received approval for their internship. The committee also administered the Internship Survey via Qualtrics at the end of the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 semesters. Students in PSY 383, 399, and 499 complete the survey. Anonymous responses are added to the Internship Binder (in the front office) for other students to peruse as they are choosing internships.

- We proposed some changes to the summer course policy to include blended learning. Following discussion at a Department meeting, the “Psychology Department Policy on Summer Course Offerings” document was edits to incorporate these changes.
- We reviewed and provided feedback on 10 new summer courses.

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The surveys also allow the committee to identify internships that are not providing students with appropriately educational experiences. In Fall 2012, several items were added to the survey by Jean Kirnan for the purpose of collecting departmental data about internships. These data may be included as part of the department’s annual assessment report. With the help of Maddie Weinland and office staff, the internship spreadsheet was updated. Specifically, each of the sites listed on the spreadsheet were called to see if they still offer internships. If not, they were removed from the list. Names and contact information were also updated. Also with the help of Maddie Weinland, the internship website was updated and consolidated. 41 students also completed an independent study over the course of the school year, and 34 students were instructional interns. 7 students completed their senior honors project as well.

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Admissions

Psychology continues to be a popular major among TCNJ students looking for a new major and among students at other institutions. In 2012-2013 academic year, the Admissions Committee reviewed almost 60 applications from current TCNJ students wishing to declare psychology as their major, and we were able to accept the majority of those students. We also reviewed over 90 applications from students applying to transfer to TCNJ from other institutions who were interested in majoring in psychology if admitted. The coming year promises to bring even more applications our way!

Psi Chi

Psi Chi was advised by Jarret Crawford for the 2012-2013 school year. In March, 2013, 60 students were inducted into Psi Chi.
Faculty Accomplishments: Publications
(Students Underlined)
38 Faculty Publications , 26 Student Contributors


- Crawford, J. T., & Xhambazi, E. (in press). Predicting political biases against the Occupy Wall Street and Tea Party movements. *Political Psychology*. (Xhambazi is student)


Faculty Accomplishments: Conference Presentations

(Students Underlined)


- Prajapati, B., & Borders, A. (2013, May). Rumination moderates the association between perceived control and academic performance. Poster session to be presented at the annual convention of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC.

- Rothman, D., Borders, A., McAndrew, L, Markowitz, S., Lu, & Quigley, (2013, May). Unit cohesion as a resilience factor during combat. Poster session to be presented at the annual convention of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC.


Faculty Accomplishments: Conference Presentations Continued

(Students Underlined)

Poster presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Houston, TX.


- **Schmitt, N., Kirnan, J. P., Roemhild, A., & Yang, Y.** “Why industrial/organizational psychologists should review tests for MMY”. Invited panel discussant at the annual meeting of the Society for Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Houston, Texas, April, 2013.


Department Accomplishments

- **Dr. Barnack-Tavlaris** received SOSA, as well as a TCNJ TAP Travel Grant, and the Society for Teaching of Psychology Early Career Travel Grant to attend the 2013 American Psychological Association Convention.
- **Dr. Bireta** received SOSA for the next 2 years (2013-2015) and MUSE 2013.
- **Dr. Borders** HSS Professional Developmental Award in Fall, 2012, a TAP External Mentor Award all year, and a SOSA award this spring for the next two years. She had her first child, a son named Evan Borders Dave, on July 24, 2013.
- **Dr. Chung** received a research sabbatical for fall 2013, and a 2 year SOSA award for 2013-2015. She had a daughter, Henna Grace Morris, in January 2013.
- **Dr. Crawford** was awarded an HSS mini-grant and MUSE. He was also promoted to Associate Professor.
- **Dr. Dahling** won a best poster award at the 2013 SIOP conference for our paper, "Effects of financial strain and unemployment on job search self-efficacy." He was also appointed to review boards for two journals - "The Industrial and Organizational Psychologist" and "Journal of Service Management" and was awarded SOSA.
- **Dr. Graham**’s article, “The use of multiple evaluation approaches in program evaluation” is consistently ranked one of the Top 25 Most-Read articles in American Journal of Evaluation each month for the past 8 years (since 2005). He was also elected to the Board of Directors of TEDI (Trenton Education Dance Institute) in 2012.
- **Dr. Grimm** received a 2-year SOSA award to study how to improve performance in high pressure situations. Her son, Nikolas, was born in April.
- **Dr. Hughes** was tenured in the summer of 2012 and will be promoted to associate professor in the summer of 2013.
- **Dr. Kim-Prieto** received SOSA and sabbatical this year.
- **Dr. Kirnan** proposed and received approval to lead a learning community “Facilitating Student Outcomes Assessment: Common Problems, Common Solutions” in the Spring of 2013. Along with eight colleagues, representing academic departments as well as campus programs, she identified barriers and common misconceptions related to assessment. They also identified and shared tools and procedures that have proven effective as well as ineffective in our own assessment efforts. The learning community has been renewed for the following academic year. Dr. Kirnan chaired the "Panel on Student Assessment" as part of the Teaching and Pedagogy Workshops sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. She also served as an external reviewer for the School of Psychology at Kean University.
- **Dr. Leynes** completed a semester-long sabbatical in the spring of 2013, working on an NSF grant proposal.
- **Dr. Martinetti** spent the year in France on sabbatical. She is returning for the fall 2013 semester.
- **Dr. Ruscio** will be going on sabbatical during the Fall 2013 semester. He plans to write a book on the applications and policy implications of behavioral economics.
- **Dr. Vivona** was awarded The JAPA Prize “for excellence in psychoanalytic scholarship and distinguished contributions to the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association” for her 2012 article, *Is There a Nonverbal Period of Development?* This is the second time she has received this prestigious honor. She was also invited to join the Editorial Board of Psychoanalytic Quarterly, a top-tier journal in clinical psychoanalysis, for a 5-year term. She received SOSA from 2012-2014. She will be taking over the role of chair from Fall 2013-Spring 2015.
- **Dr. Wiley** had a daughter, Nina Day Wiley, born on November 13, 2012.

Pedagogical Workshops

Mandatory Workshops for Instructional Interns Included:

- Research Ethics (both semesters)—Dr. Kirnan
- How to Lead a Successful Review Session- Dr. Borders
- Using Prezi for Powerpoint—Dr. Leynes
- Using PowerPoint Effectively -Dr. Cascio
- Use of Demonstrations in Lecture (both semesters)— Dr. Bireta
Day to Day Activities

Many thanks to Nadirah Shakir who continues to manage the front office. We have been blessed with excellent assistance from student workers, Alexis Jaffe, DeAnna Varilius, and Eva Carrara, research assistant, Jessica Fredericks, and graduate assistant, John Eldis. 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 (James Graham), Colloquia (Jarret Crawford), Department Resources (Tamra Bireta), Grievance (Art Hohmuth), Independent Study (Lisa Grimm), Internship (Ashley Borders), PIPER (Jason Dahling), Promotions (Jeanine Vivona), Research, Planning and Ethics (Shaun Wiley), Psychology Club (Tamra Bireta & Art Hohmuth), Psi Chi (Jarret Crawford ) & Student Awards (Ruth Hall).