



# Department of Psychology

Fall 2011 Newsletter

## VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

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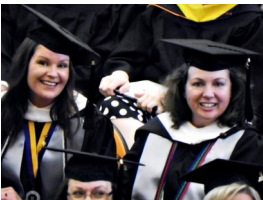
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### SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ONTOP Conference well attended by Faculty.
- HLC arrives on Campus Oct.31 .
- NEW Psi Chi Officers are elected.

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY!!!

The Psychology Department Faculty, Staff, and Students would like to welcome two new faculty members to the department.

**Dr. Susan Brigman**, comes to us with her Doctorate from Louisiana State University and has a research focus on cognitive aging; while **Dr. Santa Velez**, comes to us with her Doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin and most recently from Norman where she has served as a Certified School Psychologist for their Public Schools.

The Psychology Department is extremely pleased to add two more talented and

friendly faculty members to our roster.

Late September also brought the annual Oklahoma Network for the Teaching of Psychology (ONTOP) held once again on the OSU campus in Stillwater. We had a great turn out with all full time faculty attending the conference.

Some of the highlights of the conference were presentations by Dr. Bill Buskist called "Learning To Do What Excellent Teachers Do", in which several tips on improving our teaching were discussed.

A personal favorite was the "Envy up, Scorn Down" talk by Dr. Susan Fiske, a world renowned researcher in the area of Social Cognition.

As always, the Conference offered the opportunity to meet with like-minded individuals and discuss the topic of teaching of psychology.

This semester is set up to be a busy one with the upcoming HLC site visit, homecoming, the Annual Graduate School & Licensing Luncheon for undergraduate students, and t-Shirt orders for Psi Chi.

Have a Great Semester!!

## ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION: THE KEY TO IMPROVEMENT AT ALL LEVELS

While nothing gets more groans than an upcoming test, examinations are also the way to assess how well we are doing. This semester ECU is preparing for its own "Midterm Exam" as the Higher Learning Commission

arrives on campus Oct.31 -Nov 2.

In preparation, the Psychology Department will be engaging in various activities at the course level to encourage awareness of this evaluation process and to

bring an awareness to both ECU's & the Department's Mission statements (see below).

Stay tuned for more information regarding the accreditation process.

*East Central University's mission is to foster a learning environment in which students, faculty, staff, and community interact to educate students for life in a rapidly changing and culturally diverse society. Within its service area, East Central University provides leadership for economic development and cultural enhancement.*

*The mission of the Department of Psychology is to generate, disseminate, and apply knowledge in the field of psychology. We foster an atmosphere in which scholarship, learning, and service to the community are supported and carried out by students and faculty.*

## PSI CHI CORNER BY MARC KLLIPPENSTINE

Psi Chi is a fixture within our Department and every new academic year brings renewed interest and new faces along with comfortable predictability. This year is no exception with **Cerina Crespo** taking on the task of Presi-

dent, with both the usual events (i.e., *Licensing and Graduate School Luncheon*) and new events (i.e., *Sound Body/Sound Mind: Coat Donation Drive*) on the calendar for this semester.

This semester I would like

to welcome all our new members and also note the following changes to our elected officials:

**President:** Cerina Crespo.

**Vice President:** Michelle Danielson & Mark Robinson

**Treasurer:** Nicole West

Psi Chi Meets every other Wednesday @ 2:00 in EDUC 311 (our next meeting is Oct. 20th).

“A sound mind in a sound body is a short but full description of a happy state in this world”

**John Locke**

## AWARDS & HONORS

**Melissa York:** Undergraduate student - Received First Place in the Undergraduate Paper Competition at the Oklahoma Psychological Society Annual Conference for her paper entitled: “*Emotional Timeline: Expectations Regarding the Emotional*

*Reactions of Sexual Assault Victims*”

**Markia Matthews & Trisha Swift:**

Graduate Students -Received 2nd Place in the Graduate Poster Competition at the Oklahoma Psychological Society Annual Conference for their poster enti-

tled: “*Fate or Free Will: The Relationship of Locus of Control to Academic Cheating*”

**2nd Place—OPS College Bowl:**

ECU Psychology Students

## UPCOMING/RECENT EVENTS

**October 15**

**Homecoming Day and Parade**

Join us as we represent our Department in the Homecoming parade.

**October 31 to November 2**

**Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Site visit**

In-service Training Dates for Students - **October 25**, 10:30 – 11am & 2-2:30pm AND **October 26**, 11-11:30 & 2-2:30pm, ESTEP AUDITORIUM

**October 31 to November 4**

**Pre-Enrollment Week**

**For Students:** Get your classes picked early and enroll before classes close.

**For Faculty:** Remind your advisees & classes about their ability to enroll, being sure to keep in mind the changes to our program, and the course progress of PSYCH 3833, 3933, & 3114..

**November (to be announced)**

**Graduate and Licensing Lunch**

Students are encouraged to attend this semesters Psi Chi sponsored event and come learn about graduate school (e.g., how to apply, where should I apply, what do I need to do now) and the various types of licenses that are available to students with a MSPS.

**December 5 to 9 Exam Week**

**December 10 Graduation Day**



**Award Winners:**

Markia Mathews & Trisha Swift; Melissa York

To add an event or an article to the Newsletter please send an email to [mklippen@ecok.ede](mailto:mklippen@ecok.ede) or call me at (580)559-5342

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## FACULTY AND STUDENT RESEARCH

## OKLAHOMA PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE: APRIL 25

The annual OPS conference was well attended in April by 35 Undergraduate and Graduate Students. Below is a listing of the projects that were presented.

**Graduate Student Posters:**

Branscum, M., & Madume, F. (2011). Religion or Personal Beliefs: Influence on Abortion Attitudes.

Dominguez, M., & Laurent, M. (2011). Existential Communication Between Couples.

Duncan, J., & Ollila, J., & Rauch, B. (2011). Personality Traits and Their Effect on Handshaking Behaviors and Attitudes.

Garrison, J., & Brady, L. (2011). Motivational Factors of Teens Attending College: Is It Simply A Rite of Passage or Something More?

Matthew, M., & Swift, T. L. (2011). Fate or Free Will: The Relationship of Locus of Control to Academic Cheating

**Undergraduate Student Posters:**

Bailey, K., Dean, T., Cook, K., Pruitt, J., & Perryman, M. (2011). "You'll never guess what I heard": The differential impact of gender on perceptions of gossip.

Green, M., Long, K., Morton, E., Soden, C., & Thielecke, A. (2011). Color association: Does colored text affect memory acquisition.

Jennings, E. (2011). Lateralization of the cerebral hemispheres and choice in undergraduate major.

Lindeman, T., Smith, K., Danielson, M., & Cotton, D. (2011). Attitudes and decisions of jurors in heterosexual and homosexual assault cases.

Osteen, N., Mims, B., Kiest, A., Rushing, A., & Woods, C. (2011). Technology: Are computers getting smarter or are people becoming less intelligent.

Wolf, S., Copeland, S., Coppenbarger, G., Griffin, C., & Hill, T. (2011). Religious affiliation in relation to pre-marital sexual behavior and attitudes.

**Undergraduate Student Papers:**

York, M. (2011). Emotional timeline: Expectations regarding the emotional reactions of sexual assault victims.

## HONORS THESES DEFENDED

Emotional timeline: Expectations regarding the emotional reactions of sexual assault victims by Melissa York

**Abstract**

The present research examined the existence of participant expectations regarding a female sexual assault victim's emotional response. The first expectation is that the victim should be emotionally distraught and the second being that after a certain amount of time, the victim should act differently. In both cases, it is expected that when emotions of the victim are seen as incongruent, the victim's claim will be less likely to be believed. This study examined the role of undergraduate college student expectations regarding the type of emotional response expected by manipulating the victim's emotional reaction following the alleged assault in a brief scenario. It also examined how expectations regarding the consistency of a victim's emotions at multiple points in time influenced perceptions of an alleged assault within the context of a sexual assault trial. Results revealed that, generally, more support was found for the victim's claim when she was *tearful/upset* rather than *calm/controlled*, with participants' perceptions of the victim more negatively influenced by emotional information that was incongruent (i.e., victim being tearful and then calm rather than tearful and then tearful) with what would be considered typical of a sexual assault victim. However, this study also revealed that emotions displayed at different points in time over the course of a sexual assault incident (i.e., immediately following the event, one month later, and one year later) interact with each other to influence perceptions of the victim, the perpetrator, and the event (e.g., credibility, blameworthiness, guilt). The results of the study were supported by analyses which found that an expectation for a typical emotional response mediated the impact of her actual response on perceptions of the incident.

**May 2011 Graduation:**

Dr.'s Klippenstine, Lynd, Burke, & Duncan

**OPS Keynote Speaker:**

Dr. Ronald Comer of Princeton University

