Psychology Moves to CSI

In July 2013, the psychology department bid farewell to Oakmont Street and moved into the newly renovated Cowles Life Science Building, which is now a wing of the Center for the Sciences and Innovation (CSI). Located on the second floor of CSI, the new home for psychology has completely redesigned lab spaces, classrooms, offices, and student study areas.

The new building is not only brighter and more attractive, but it connects psychology to the other STEM disciplines that are housed in CSI, including Biology, Chemistry, and Neuroscience. Eventually, when all construction is completed, CSI will be home to eight departments in the sciences.

New Faces in the Psychology Department

This year, the psychology department will welcome postdoctoral fellows Dr. Lisa Kilpela and Dr. Diana Platas, as well as visiting assistant professor Dr. Linsa Jabeen. Dr. Kilpela will be working with Dr. Carolyn Becker on body image research. Dr. Kilpela received her Ph.D. from Emory University and her B.A. from Trinity. Dr. Platas will be working with Dr. Kimberley Phillips on research concerning interhemispheric connectivity in primates and learning advanced imaging techniques. Dr. Platas received her Ph.D. from the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Dr. Jabeen joins us from the University of Texas at El Paso, and will be teaching statistics and social psychology.

Dr. Lisa Kilpela
Dr. Diana Platas
Dr. Linsa Jabeen
BY DR. CAROL YODER, CHAIR OF THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

We also want to welcome Dr. Lisa Smith Kilpela (Trinity ’04 alum) back. She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Emory and completed an internship at Duke. She will be working once again in the Becker lab but as a post-doctoral fellow, planning and running research. In addition, she will be teaching psychopathology.

I hope you enjoy perusing the eleventh issue of this newsletter. As you well know, current students, Trinity alums, and faculty members are busy, engaged in a wide range of activities and events. Many of our returning Trinity students had amazing experiences this summer, in labs and around the world. Indeed, many have fascinating stories to share about what they learned. But they are not the only ones! It is always fun to hear about what Trinity people have been doing so let us know about your life. We hope you will keep in touch.

Best, Carol

Greetings! We have moved! Please don’t ask about how much fun we had packing and unpacking. Needless to say, I am not the only one with lots of boxes awaiting opening. Psychology is housed again in the old Cowles Life Sciences, which is the north wing of the Center for Sciences and Innovation. We are now located on the second floor.

Although this past year had many disruptions, there are also several events worth mention. A new Common Curriculum has been approved in principle and is projected to be in play by 2015. With this plan and the new building, we are moving towards an increasingly integrated interdisciplinary approach to learning which has many exciting potentials. All the usual hands are on deck, with Dr. Childers on leave in the fall and Dr. Phillips this spring. In addition, Dr. Phillips was promoted to professor. We also have some new faces on board. Dr. Linsa Jabeen comes to us most recently from University of Texas at El Paso, where she earned her doctorate in social psychology. Dr. Jabeen will be teaching statistics and social psychology this year. Her dissertation explored cartel violence and terrorism.

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It is with deep sadness we announce the death of Daniel Wegner, a former professor of psychology at Trinity University. Wegner passed away Friday, July 5, at his home in Massachusetts.

Throughout his almost 40-year academic career, Wegner was recognized for his work that focused on the role of thought in self-control and in social life. He is remembered for his famous “white bear” studies, in which people become preoccupied with a white bear when they are merely asked not to think about it. Wegner first came up with the study and wrote about it with help from a pair of Trinity students and a colleague from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

He was also known for his controversial work, The Illusion of Conscious Will, where he argued that the human sense of free will was an illusion.

Known for his sharp sense of humor, his office at Trinity featured posters of b-grade movies such as “Beach Girls and the Monster” and “Goliath and the Vampires.” He was also one of the authors of “The Pysch-Ilogical Dictionary,” a column in Psychology Today that featured odd definitions to everyday terms. Examples include “Eye contact: the result of a very narrow nose” and “Propaganda: what to do with a male goose that has slumped over.”

A native of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Wegner attended Michigan State University, where he received a bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate in psychology.

Wegner joined Trinity’s psychology department as an assistant professor in 1974 and was promoted to associate professor in 1979. He became a full professor in 1985 and served as chair of the department from 1988 to 1989.

"Dan Wegner had a transformative impact on the department of psychology. His national reputation, indeed international reputation, marked a time of incredible change in the Trinity faculty in psychology,” said Charles White, vice president for Information Resources, Communications and Marketing and professor of psychology. “That he was sought and hired by universities like the University of Virginia and Harvard was based upon work he began at Trinity with his students. He is still fondly remembered by colleagues and alumni at Trinity."

Wegner left Trinity in 1990 to become a professor and Director of the Graduate Program in Social Psychology at the University of Virginia. In 2000, he joined Harvard University, where he was named the John Lindsley Professor of Psychology in Memory of William James in 2011.

During his distinguished career, Wegner was a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Palo Alto, California, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a recipient of the William James Fellow Award from the Association for Psychological Science.

Among his additional honors, he received the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award from the American Psychological Association and the Distinguished Scientist Award from the Society of Experimental Social Psychology.

His books include Implicit Psychology (1977) and A Theory of Action Identification (1985), both with Robin Vallacher; White Bears and Other Unwanted Thoughts (1989) and The Illusion of Conscious Will (2002), with Dan Schacter and Dan Gilbert; Psychology (2nd ed. 2011); and Introducing Psychology (2010).

In September 2011, Harvard organized “A Conference in Honor of Daniel Wegner” to celebrate his life and work.

He is survived by his wife, Toni, a Trinity alumna, and daughters Kelsey Hurlburt and Haley Wegner.

--Sharon Jones Schweitzer
Assistant Vice President for External Relations
Junior Kristell Muniz interned with the U.S. Olympics. Here she is with 5-time medalist Teresa Edwards.

Junior Christian Tovar-Vargas and Dr. Wallace celebrate a successful summer of research.

Recent graduate Maribel Plasencia receives an award from University President Dennis Ahlburg.

Trinity alumnae Elizabeth Stephens, Amy Hirshkowitz, Dr. Childers, and Allison Jessee at the SRCD Conference.

Senior Nupur Agrawal explains her research to Dr. Childers and Senior Jaclyn Bowes.

Recent graduate Annie Simpson and Dr. McIntyre present their research at the SPSP Conference.
Our department has a very active research program which allows undergraduate students to be able to have intensive research experiences. Students are involved in all aspects of research, including study design, data collection and analysis, and the preparation of publications and presentations. Below are recent publications by Trinity faculty (Trinity student co-authors are in bold).

**PUBLICATIONS**


**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**


Blaine Carr, Ph.D. (1992): I will start a 2-year psychodynamic psychotherapy fellowship program this fall, with the Center for Psychoanalytic Studies (formerly the Houston-Galveston Psychoanalytic Institute). I am in private practice in Austin, working with adults and children doing in-depth psychotherapy and psychological testing.

Stephanie Morgan (1993) “is a professional singer and voice actor. She also does adoption work.” (Trinity Magazine, January, 2013)

Steve Gotts (1994) has been working as a Staff Scientist in the Laboratory of Brain and Cognition at the National Institute of Mental Health, NIH, since 2010. He’s been doing research on topics in high-level vision, attention, and conceptual memory within the broader field of Cognitive Neuroscience, using a variety of brain imaging and neurophysiological techniques (fMRI, MEG, intracranial EEG). He and his wife (Carol Druzbick) live in Northern Virginia, just outside of Washington D.C., with their two children, William (7) and Audrey (3).

Corey Snipes (1994): I’m thrilled that we're having our 2nd child (both daughters) in August. This year I've continuing my work as a web consultant, launched a software service for artists and galleries, and am wrapping up a new service for conference planners later this year. I’m active in the Denver-area bluegrass and tech startup communities.

http://coreysnipes.com

Roni Mitchell Santos (1999): Last September I left UTSA Counseling Services to accept a position as a General Mental Health Psychologist at the VA in San Antonio. I work in the Frank Tejeda Outpatient Center assessing and treating veterans for various mental health concerns. I am also working on obtaining provider status for Cognitive Processing Therapy and treating employees as a provider in the EAP program.

Liz Chiarello (2000) “received a PhD in sociology at UC Irvine and is completing a 2 yr postdoc at Princeton at the Center for Health and Wellbeing.” (Trinity Magazine, January 2013)

Erica Montague (2002): I defended my dissertation last August at the University of New Mexico and started a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at Akron Children's Hospital in Ohio. I survived my first real winter, and I am enjoying life in the Midwest!

Becky Brott Powers (2003): I completed my geriatric medicine fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) in June, 2013. I am now continuing my training in the Pittsburgh VA GRECC (Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center’s) Advanced Fellowship in Geriatrics Research. As a part of this fellowship I am taking courses towards a Masters of Science in Clinical Research at the University of Pittsburgh. I plan to study the intersection between hearing loss, cognitive problems, and functional abilities in older adults. Clinically I am seeing patients in the VA’s Geriatric Evaluation and Management clinic and the Dementia Telehealth Clinic. I am also the new head of UPMC’s medical student area of concentration in geriatrics. AND, I just got married by Elvis in Las Vegas!

Faith Brozovich (2003): I'm enjoying my job as a [Ed: PhD level] research associate at Stanford. I'm also getting married in October in the Bay Area.

Allison Jessee (2005): I just finished my first year as Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. This summer I'm working with several undergraduate students collecting data on the transmission of emotion understanding from moms to their preschool-aged children. On a personal note, my husband and I are expecting a baby girl at the end of September.
Rebecca Grider (2006): After graduating from Trinity University with a B.A. in Psychology in 2006, Rebecca received her M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Texas at Austin, and is in her third year working for the software company VMware. She develops a server performance measurement tool called VMmark and uses it to investigate datacenter performance. This year Rebecca also participated in a program to introduce High School girls to Computer Science, and designed tutorial lessons in which VMware’s customers interact with a virtual datacenter through a web browser. Last but not least, Rebecca is marrying her fiancée Jennifer in August.

Beth Ready (2006): I had an eventful year at the University of Delaware in which I passed the Clinical Science qualifying exams and successfully proposed my dissertation, which will examine productive and unproductive cognitive processing in an exposure-based cognitive behavioral therapy for childhood PTSD. I also had the opportunity to spend several weeks in Exeter, England with my lab for a collaboration examining mechanisms of change in cognitive behavioral therapy for chronic depression. Future excitement includes traveling to Peru in a couple weeks to present at the World Congress for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (a thinly veiled excuse to explore and eat my way through Peru!). After an enjoyable year working with PTSD and anxiety at the Center for the Treatment and Study of Anxiety, I am looking forward to a new practicum with the Trauma Recovery Program at the Baltimore VA to continue my clinical work with PTSD. Hopefully my upcoming 5th year will live up to the excitement of this previous year!

Erin Weitenhagen (2006): I used to be the president of the Psychology Club back at Trinity. How time has flown! I graduated from Trinity University in 2006 and after working at Child Protective Services in San Antonio for a few years in Foster/Adoption Development, I went to graduate school and received my Master’s degree in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin in 2010. After getting my LMSW, I moved to Houston and was employed as a Clinical Case Manager, specializing in providing services for those living with HIV/AIDS. After earning my LCSW at the end of 2012, I became a Staff Therapist at The Montrose Center, which provides a combination of traditional therapy, outreach, education, peer support, advocacy and case management to the Montrose community, primarily GLBT individuals and their families. I provide individual and group therapy for our IOP, youth, and senior programs in the community. I recently bought a house and am enjoying fixing it up! Hope everyone is well in San Antonio!

John William Keedy (2007): I received a Masters of Fine Art in Imaging Arts from the Rochester Institute of Technology in the Spring of 2013, with my thesis exhibition featuring work from my series It’s Hardly Noticeable. The series explores the world of a character who navigates living with an unspecified anxiety-based mental illness. Through constructed tableaus and metaphorical still lifes, the series reveals the relationship between reality and perception and questions stereotypes of normalcy. I have recently moved back to San Antonio, Texas, and am working as a fine art and commercial photographer, as well as a photography educator.

Marney Babbitt (2008) “is assistant director of aquatics/facility management and university recreation at Angelo State University and was listed as one of the area’s ‘brightest leaders of tomorrow.’” (Trinity Magazine, July, 2013)

Meghan Farrell (2008): I finished my graduate program at Vanderbilt University in the fall of 2011. I am a board certified Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. Currently, I am working in Anchorage, Alaska at an outpatient psychiatric clinic as a psychiatric nurse practitioner specializing in children and adolescents. I have worked in Alaska for the past two years in the outpatient setting and part time for student health services at University of Alaska Anchorage. I enjoy my job and love Alaska.

Leta Gatton (2008): I’ve got good news to share! I was accepted into the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the Health Science Center here in San Antonio. Classes start on the 29th of July and I’m very excited to begin this new and challenging chapter of my life. I need to thank both Dr. Yoder and Dr. Becker for writing wonderful letters of recommendation for me. It’s been a long process, but well worth the effort!
Chelsea Gilts (2008): My biggest news is that I got married this spring and we started our new life in a little Houston Heights bungalow! On a more professional note, I am wrapping up data collection for my dissertation, which is examining the effect of brief mindfulness meditation on anxiety and pain for patients undergoing breast biopsy at MD Anderson Cancer Center, and I will be applying to a clinical internship this fall to finish up my Clinical Psychology program at the University of Houston.

Jenna Kah Bardwell (2008): I was recently promoted to the position of Program Development Specialist II at my current employer, the HIV/AIDS Education and Training Center National Resource Center located at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. I still live just across the Hudson from Manhattan in Hoboken, New Jersey with my husband. In September 2012 I began taking classes towards my masters degree in public health (MPH) from New York University.

Alyson Knapp Burnett (2008): Within the last few months, I started a new job in institutional research at UMUC (University of Maryland University College), and also bought a 100-year-old house in the Petworth neighborhood in Washington, DC. I'm enjoying my new job and house!

Leda McDaniel (2008) has been working on a small organic farm in the Sierra Foothills of northern California for the past three years. This season, she transitioned from that to a position with the University of California Cooperative Extension. The main project she will be working on with UCCE involves promoting the consumption of locally grown fruits and vegetables and supporting the economic viability of small farmers in the Sierra Foothills.

David Houghton (2009): It's good to hear TU Psychology checking in with the alumni. I just finished an M.S. in Clinical Psych at Missouri State University, and I'm starting a Ph.D. program in the same field at Texas A&M this fall.

Jeremy Schwark (2009): I am starting my fifth and (hopefully) final year of graduate school at New Mexico State University. My big news for the summer is that I am now engaged! I am nearly done with my Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology and am in the process of writing my dissertation, with aspirations to defend sometime this fall. Along with my work in visual perception and working memory, I received an NSF fellowship to investigate computational thinking, which will fund my last year of graduate school. I am currently working on securing a post-doctoral or academic position as I prepare for life after graduate school.

DJ Goldstein (December 2009): Greetings from the West Coast! I've just completed my first year as a doctoral student in the Psychology & Social Behavior program here at the University of California-Irvine under the guidance of my advisor Dr. Jennifer Skeem. Over the summer, I will continue my work on a project investigating specific dimensions of Psychopathic Personality Disorder as they relate to abnormal patterns of autonomic arousal in response to social evaluative stress. My prospective research interests pertain to investigation of etiological mechanisms underlying the development of psychopathy with the ultimate goal of novel intervention development. Particularly, I will be examining the role of pubertal development as it relates to both the progression and treatment amenability of psychopathy.

Elaina Vasquez Garcia (2009): My husband and I have moved back to San Antonio from Houston. We are thrilled to be home again! We built a house on the north side of San Antonio, which we are excited to finally be living in. Last year we had a baby boy named Aaron Isaiah. He is such a blessing! I currently work part-time with NEISD and will be starting my masters in School Psychology in the fall.

Kristin Benavides (2010): I currently live in West Philadelphia and work as a case manager at a domestic violence agency in the city called Women Against Abuse. I have worked at the agency’s Emergency Shelter since August 2012. We have a 100 person capacity, and serve women and children who are fleeing domestic violence situations but have no other options of places to stay. I really love working directly with the DV population and it has been eye opening, challenging, and inspiring to work in a residential setting with clients in crisis. In personal news, I am getting married this October in Austin, TX to a wonderful guy I met here in Philadelphia. Life is good!
Amy Braid (2010): I'm currently living in Allen, TX and an adult reference librarian at the Allen Public Library. I’m having tons of fun at this job.

Amanda Benbow (2011): I am entering my second year as Clinic Coordinator for the Yale Center for Anxiety and Mood Disorders. I will soon be co-administering a mindfulness and meditation group, and am currently editing a manuscript on motivational systems, emotion regulation, and symptoms of anxiety and depression. I will be applying for clinical psychology PhD programs for Fall 2014. I am also teaching hip hop dance at Neighborhood Music School, and am a Residential Coordinator for New Haven Home Recovery, which provides shelter and case management for homeless women and children. In my free time I have been enjoying my explorations of the east coast, including skydiving in Washington D.C. and swing dancing at MIT. New England may not have breakfast tacos but they have great lobster rolls!

Amy Oliver (2011): Following graduation in 2011, I worked for over a year at the Eating Disorder Center at San Antonio as their first ever Milieu Therapist. Working there was a wonderful experience and reinforced my decision to become a counselor. I am currently pursuing a Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling at the University of West Florida in Pensacola. I will always thank ... for encouraging me to leave my comfort zone and to apply out of state! At UWF I am also a Graduate Assistant in the University Advising Center working as a first-year Academic Advisor. I really enjoy my position and love working with my advisees. Although, I can honestly say that I have a new appreciation for my advisor back at Trinity (...)! This summer I am finishing up the third semester of my first year and looking forward to beginning my second year in the fall. I am grateful for the preparation I got from the Psychology program at Trinity and also from my position at the Eating Disorder Center. While the coursework is far from easy, I am struggling a lot less than many of my classmates! My new life in Pensacola is going very well and I plan to squeeze in as much Emerald Coast beach time as I can before I return to Texas in 2015.

Jamila Reynolds (2011): In June 2013 I obtained my Masters of Science degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Northwestern University. In the fall I will be attending Florida State University to obtain my doctorate in Marriage and Family Therapy.

David Russak (2011): I am starting my third and final year of graduate school at the University of Southern California working towards my Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree. I just completed my fifth clinical rotation that focused mainly on hospital patients with neurological disorders. It was a rewarding experience that not only put my physical therapy skills to use but clinical and social psychology skills as well. I am also working as a research assistant in Dr. Carolee Weinstein’s Motor Behavior and Neurorehabilitation Laboratory working on the NIH’s largest funded study for stroke rehabilitation known as the Interdisciplinary Comprehensive Arm Rehabilitation Evaluation (I-CARE). This year, I am serving as a board member on one of the California Physical Therapy Association’s committees, and volunteering as an assistant coach for the local Special Olympics swim team. I continue to remain close to my Trinity University friends and we vacation together once a year.

Ali DeLizza (2012): I am currently working as the lab manager at the Chicago Laboratory of Emotion and Physiology under Dr. Stewart Shankman at the University of Illinois at Chicago. I am working on a study funded by the National Institute of Health's Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) Initiative. The study is examining underlying dimensions of anxiety and mood disturbances in age matched sibling pairs and other first degree relatives. I will begin applications to Clinical PhD programs this fall and hope to begin graduate school next year.

Chance Raymond (2012): I work as a legal assistant for a criminal defense firm in San Antonio. I'm also currently studying to take the LSAT in October.
Molly Holmes (2012): I'm wrapping up my first full year of my Master’s program in Counseling, working at a pain management and neuroscience clinic, and will be presenting my proposal for a new group therapy program at the Louisiana Counseling Association conference this fall. And, of course, my undergraduate thesis is being published in Memory!

Rachel Olson (2012) is starting law school at The University of Texas this fall and is getting married in January.

NEWS AND NOTES

NEWS
ψ Dr. Kimberley Phillips was promoted to the rank of full professor.

AWARDS AND GRANTS
ψ Dr. Hertel was co-PI on a grant from the United States – Israel Binational Science Foundation. The project is entitled Changing habits of rumination by modifying cognitive biases. With Nilly Mor as co-PI, 2012-2016.
ψ Student Jaclyn Bowes received a Murchison Award to work with Dr. Hertel.
ψ Student Matthew Peebles received a Murchison Award to work with Dr. McIntyre.

MEDIA COVERAGE
ψ Dr. Carolyn Becker’s research was featured in the New York Times, The Huffington Post, and The Today Show.

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS
ψ Dr. Glenn Meyer gave an invited talk entitled Preparing for disaster: Psychological Factors at Cabelas – Buda, Texas.
ψ Dr. Paula Hertel organized a symposium on Interpretation Biases at the bi-annual meeting of the Society for Applied Research on Memory and Cognition, in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, June 28, 2013.
ψ Dr. Glenn Meyer gave an invited talk entitled How do juries view defendants in gun cases to the Texas Bar Association, Fort Worth, TX.
ψ Dr. Kimberley Phillips was a guest editor for a Special section of the American Journal of Primatology on Primate Neuroethology.
ψ Dr. Janie Childers gave an invited talk as part of the Winston School’s annual Learning Disabilities Symposium.
ψ Dr. Paula Hertel was the guest speaker at a one-day workshop at Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands, June 25, 2013. She gave two talks on Memory Modification and The Modification of Interpretation Bias: Recent Experiments.
ψ Dr. Becker gave invited talks to the Female Athlete Conference, the Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders, and Eating Disorders: State of the Art Treatment Symposium.
ψ Dr. Kevin McIntyre gave an invited talk on his research for the Spring Colloquium Series at Ashland University.

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We enjoy hearing from our alumni. Please send your updates to: phertel@trinity.edu