Insight 2012

Department of Psychology

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Recommended Citation
Department of Psychology, "Insight 2012" (2012). Insight.
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In this Issue:

Introductory Message
Awards Night Photos
Experimental Program Update
Counseling Program Update
Clinical Program Update
Faculty Spotlight—Jennifer Bolden
Counseling Center
Clinical Staff News
PGSA Update
Publications
Alumni Update
Donation Information
Donors
As the new Department Head of Psychology, I am delighted to share some of the impressive departmental accomplishments and news of the past year. It has been a busy year for us, one filled with a lot of change and promise.

Our biggest news is that, after more than 20 years of trying to obtain adequate facilities for our Psychological Clinic, we have finally succeeded. The Psychological Clinic is moving to a larger, more professional location with nearby parking located on Henley Street in the UT Conference Center Building.

It will be a much needed improvement from our current location. The facility is being renovated now and we are hoping to move in March of 2013. We hope to find resources to be able to update the Clinic’s technology in order to provide the best clinical training, facilitate clinical research, and meet emerging national best practices in clinical psychology. We also hope to hire a Post-doctoral, provisionally-licensed clinician to provide emergency clinical coverage for our student therapists.

We are delighted to announce that we successfully recruited five outstanding new faculty members. Erin Hardin will be moving to Knoxville shortly and will assume the important role as the Director of our Undergraduate Program in January 2013. Dr. Hardin is moving from Texas Tech University, where she has enjoyed teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, doing research on the scholarship of teaching and learning, and has trained graduate students how to best teach psychology. Dr. Hardin brings to us some excellent ideas for improving our Psychology Undergraduate Program.

We are also excited about hiring three new junior faculty members. Dr. Jennifer Bolden recently joined our faculty in the Clinical Program. Dr. Bolden received her Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Central Florida. Her research is focused on understanding neuropsychological correlates of attention, learning, and disruptive behavior problems in children.

Dr. Garriy Shteynberg also recently joined our faculty in the Social area. Dr. Shteynberg received his Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Maryland and previously held a postdoctoral position at Northwestern University. His research is focused on the emergence of culture, cross cultural differences, and social identity.
We are looking forward to Dr. Jeff Larsen joining our faculty in the Social area in January. Dr. Larsen received his doctorate at Ohio State University and is currently an Associate Professor and Director of the Experimental Psychology Program at Texas Tech University. Dr. Larsen’s research program investigates affective processes including attitudes and emotion. He uses self-report and physiological techniques including facial electromyography, event-related brain potentials and autonomic measures to understand human emotions.

Finally, we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Dr. Christopher Elledge to the Clinical Program in August 2013. Dr. Elledge received his Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas and is currently finishing a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Kansas. Dr. Elledge’s research examines the development and prevention of child aggression. We are thrilled to expand our faculty to include such outstanding new colleagues.

We had several important faculty transitions in the Department this year. We gratefully acknowledge the outstanding service to the Department of two very important faculty members who stepped down from administrative positions this year. Dr. Jim Lawler served as our Department Head for the past fifteen years and his numerous contributions to the evolution of the department are too great to begin to mention in this article. Dr. Rich Saudargas has generously and capably served as the Director of our Undergraduate Program for the past 15 years. The Department is deeply indebted to both men and will honor their service at a dinner on April 13, 2013. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us for the dinner celebrating Drs. Lawler and Saudargas.

The Psychology Department and its faculty received national and international recognition this year. The Counseling Program received APA’s 2012 Innovation Award in Graduate Education for its focus on Social Justice. Our faculty won international teaching awards including a Fulbright teaching award (Todd Freeberg) and APA’s Division 52 Henry David International Mentoring Award (Brent Mallinckrodt). Two of our faculty members received national recognition for the contribution of their scholarship (Dawn Szymanski received the 2011 Outstanding Contribution Award from Division 17 of APA and Todd Moore’s article was selected as one of the best research articles of 2011 on violence by the APA journal, Psychology of Violence.

The Psychology Department had a total of over $5.7 million in active grants during AY2011-12. As just one example, Dr. Kristi Gordon received a new major federal grant of $2.17 million to conduct a brief motivational intervention to help low-income couples improve the quality of their relationships. Dr. Gordon aims to reach over 600 couples in our community over the next 3 years. Psychology faculty members are dedicated researchers who aim to make a difference with their scholarship.
The Psychology Department leads the University with around 900 majors and the department graduates approximately 25% of the bachelor’s degrees in the College. A few undergraduate highlights include increased undergraduate participation in research, study abroad, and service learning. Two hundred and thirty undergraduate students worked in research labs of Psychology faculty this past academic year. Undergraduate students presented their research at the annual Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement and a Psychology student won First Place. Several students also attended regional and national conferences. For the past 5 years, we have had a successful study abroad class in Greece (Social Psychology) and this past year a second study abroad class was initiated in England (History and Systems of Psychology), giving more Psychology students opportunities to gain valuable perspective, skills, and stepping stones to career opportunities. Majors continue to learn how psychology is applied by serving with organizations in the community. We had 21 students participate in service learning placements including Helen Ross McNabb Community Mental Health, the Norris Academy, Children’s Hospital, Youth Villages, and the Knoxville Zoo.

Awards Night 2012
The Experimental Psychology Program has three primary areas of research: Biological Psychology, Developmental Psychology, and Social Psychology. We additionally have a small research area in Industrial & Applied Psychology. We currently have 16 faculty members, 23 Ph.D. students, and 7 Masters students. We are excited to welcome two new faculty members to our program. Dr. Garry Shteynberg joined us this summer, and Dr. Jeffrey Larsen will join us this winter; both are faculty in our Social Psychology Research Area.

Our program has several noteworthy accomplishments recently, but first I wanted to bring up some information about 'business as usual' – the general productivity of our students and faculty. In 2011-2012 our faculty published 50 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals (from a mid-October 2012 database search on Web of Science; note that this does not take into account the articles faculty currently have ‘in press’). In the time span of 2009-2010, our faculty published 44 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals. We are increasing our publication rate, and our faculty and students are continuing to publish in strong journals. Continuing with the output seen in last year’s Experimental newsletter item, our 2012 PhDs and current graduate students are authors on nearly 30 articles in peer-reviewed science journals, and have been authors on over 150 presentations at national and international science conferences in the last two years.

In terms of grants and awards, we have been increasingly successful. Here I will provide a few highlights over the past couple years. Matt Cooper has a grant from NIH for a study entitled Neural mechanisms underlying stress-induced changes in behavior and recently obtained a grant through the National Science Foundation (Acquisition of Infant/Robot Grasp Learning Instrumentation for which she is Co-PI). Todd Freeberg was a Fulbright Scholar at Daugavpils University (Latvia) during the spring semester of 2012 and was recently named a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science. Lowell Gaertner was recently named Fellow of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, and has a grant from NSF for a study entitled A Bio-Social Model of Positive Ingroup Regard. Jessica Hay has a grant from NIH for a study entitled Canonical syllable production and perception in infants with hearing loss for which she is a Co-PI. Greg Reynolds recently obtained two grants through the National Science Foundation (Infant Visual Attention: Neural Mechanisms and Individual Differences for which he is PI, and Acquisition of Infant/Robot Grasp Learning Instrumentation for which he is Co-PI).

Our three research areas, and our Experimental Program as a whole, continue to grow stronger in terms of the science we are producing. We continue to attract strong students to our program, and are working to provide students with the learning and research environment that will make them highly competitive for the academic, research, and teaching positions they will pursue after graduating from our program.

--Todd Freeberg,
Experimental Psychology Program Director
This has been a very exciting year for the Counseling Psychology program at the University of Tennessee. In 2011, the American Psychological Association (APA), Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) presented our program with the BEA Award for Innovation in Graduate Education in Psychology in recognition for our novel curriculum emphasizing social justice and community empowerment. In April 2012, an award ceremony was held on campus where representatives from APA officially presented faculty and graduate students of program with the award. Our program and this award were also featured in an article in the APA Monitor on Psychology (October 2012, Vol. 43, No. 9, p. 66). In short, this award recognizes the revision of our doctoral training model from “Scientist-Practitioner” to “Scientist-Practitioner-Advocate.” This revision went into effect in 2008, which included coursework and practical experiences in advocacy training (e.g., training in needs assessments, program development, and program evaluation) and a yearlong social justice practicum. Graduate students in our first offering of the social justice practicum in 2011 gained rich advocacy experiences in several Knoxville area organizations including: the Sexual Assault Center of East Tennessee, the Family Justice Center, Global Seeds (organization working with Iraqi refugees resettled in Knoxville), Spectrum Café (organization serving sexual minority youth), and UT’s Vol Aware mental health initiative for anti-stigma and suicide prevention.

Graduate students in Counseling Psychology have been very active and productive this year. We had an excellent student-recruiting year, with 2/3 of the entering class being international or US ethnic minority students. Of the 33 students currently enrolled in the program, now 27% are US ethnic minority students, 24% are international students, and many others bring other forms of diversity to our department. Below are list of graduate student accomplishments, publications, and national presentations (counseling psychology students in Bold):

**Adrian Rodriquez**’ proposal for an APA Minority Fellowship received an “honorable mention” with strong encouragement to revise and resubmit his proposal.

**Philip Held** was awarded the Department of Psychology, Science Alliance Research Award - Counseling Psychology. He also received an award from the Department of Psychology Alumni Support Fund for Dissertation Research ($600).

**Catherine Herrera** completed her APA Fellowship in the fall of 2011.

**Arnett, J. E., & Miles, J. R. (2012, August). Career development in lesbian, gay, and bisexual college students. Poster presented at the American Psychological Association Convention, Orlando, FL.**


In addition to our collective accomplishments, several faculty were recognized with individual awards and accomplishments this past year:

**Dr. Brent Mallinckrodt** was named the 2011 recipient of the APA Division 44 (Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues), Evelyn Hooker Award for Distinguished Contribution by an Ally (for research, clinical practice, education and training, public advocacy, and/or leadership that contributes to depathologizing and destigmatizing people with minority sexual orientations). Dr. Mallinckrodt was also the 2012 recipient of the APA Division 52 (International Psychology), International Graduate Student Mentoring Award.

**Dr. Joe Miles** was awarded, along with his co-PI Dr. Patrick Grzanka of Arizona State University, a National Science Foundation Science, Technology, and Society grant for their project entitled: “Collaborative Research: Institutional Settings and the Transmission of Social Scientific Knowledge”. This award was funded for $56,472. In addition, Dr. Miles was awarded a Creative Teaching Grant ($5,000) by the University of Tennessee Teaching and Learning Center.

**Dr. Gina Owens** was granted tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

**Dr. Dawn Szymanski** was named Woman of the Year 2012 by Division 17 (Society of Counseling Psychology) of the American Psychological Association, Section for the Advancement of Women. In addition, Dr. Szymanski along with two of her former UT graduate students, **Dr. Erika Carr and Dr. Lauren Moffitt**, received the Outstanding Major Contribution Award in *The Counseling Psychologist* by APA Division 17 for their contribution on Sexual Objectification of Women. This award came with a monetary prize of $5,000.

Finally, in August 2012, Dr. Brent Mallinckrodt completed a five-year appointment as Director of the Counseling Psychology doctoral program. Under his leadership, our program made numerous strides and advancements toward training competent and accomplished counseling psychologists. Dr. Mallinckrodt remains an active faculty member in our program and department, but decided to step down from his administrative duties. The program faculty recommended the appointment of **Dr. Jacob Levy** to become the new director. This appointment was confirmed by the department, and Dr. Levy began his appointment as program director in August. Dr. Levy had previous served as interim co-Director with Dr. Dawn Szymanski in 2006-2007.

We look forward to another outstanding year!

— Jacob Levy
The Clinical Psychology Program has experienced some impressive accomplishments over the past year. First and foremost, we completed our search to hire two additional faculty. We are thrilled that Drs. Jenn Bolden and Chris Elledge are joining our program. Dr. Bolden completed her doctoral education at the University of Central Florida, her internship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and joined the faculty in fall 2012. Dr. Elledge completed his doctoral education at the University of Arkansas, his internship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and is currently completing a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Kansas. He will be joining the faculty in fall 2013.

We are extremely proud that one of the research projects developed by our faculty received funding from the Administration for Children and Families. Dr. Kristi Gordon recently received a 3-year, $2.16 million demonstration grant to implement the Marriage Check-up in a community-based integrative health care facility. In addition, we have many outstanding new research projects being conducted by our graduate students and faculty, and are very proud that this one received national recognition and substantial financial support.

We are honored that three of our faculty were recently promoted. Dr. Todd Moore was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure and Dr. Kristi Gordon was promoted to Full Professor. Dr. Deborah Welsh was promoted to Department Head in Psychology. Our faculty also received some impressive honors this year. Dr. Gregory Stuart became a Fellow in the Association for Psychology Science (APS). Dr. Todd Moore was honored this past year as the Contributing Editor of the year for the APA journal Psychology of Violence.

The clinical students also received some prestigious awards this year. For example, our graduate students were recipients of the Carl Cowan Scholarship, the Multi-Year J. Wallace and Katie Dean Graduate Fellowship, the Knoxville Association of Women Executives Marcia Katz Scholarship Award, and the Science Alliance in Psychology Research Award for Overall Excellence in Research. One of our students was also named one of the UT Quest Scholars of the Week. Several students also received the Student Merit Award from the Research Society on Alcoholism. Several of our graduate students received external travel awards to present their research at national meetings. Our undergraduate students also received special recognition this past year. One student received the Undergraduate Psychology Professional Promise Award and another student received both the Undergraduate Psychology Extraordinary Achievement Award and 1st place for a poster in the Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement. We are very proud of these accomplishments.

Once again, this was a strong year for the clinical program in graduate admissions. The clinical program received 227 applications this year and offered admission to 10 of the most outstanding of these applicants in order to fill seven available spots. The new clinical class is outstanding and diverse, coming from all over the country.

This year we had 3 clinical students receive prestigious full-time paid APA-approved internships. This year’s internship bound students left this summer to help clients, contribute to research, and impress psychological communities around the country. This year we have 12 students planning to apply for internship and we are excited to watch them transition to the next phase of their careers.
We obtained one new external placement opportunity this year for our graduate students to receive applied training. We are partnering with the Family Justice Center to provide clinical training in working with adult victims and children of domestic violence. This new training opportunity complements our existing training placements at Cherokee Health Systems, Cornerstone of Recovery, Y-12, the East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Helen Ross McNabb Center, and our primary training facility, The UT Psychological Clinic.

We are also quite proud of our graduates this year. They have obtained excellent positions including Post-Doctoral Fellowships at Yale, Brown, Harvard, Penn, Baylor, and the Portland VA, Knoxville VA, Honolulu VA, Hampton, VA, Institute of Living, and Vanderbilt VA.

The Clinical Program remains committed to training outstanding researchers and clinicians, to contributing to the scholarly literature in clinical psychology, and to providing valuable service to the local, national, and international community. We look forward to another strong year.

—Todd Moore

The Psychology Department welcomes Jennifer Bolden as one of our newest faculty members in the clinical psychology program. Dr. Bolden received her bachelor's degree from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University and her master's degree and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Central Florida. Her current translational research program seeks to understand the complex interplay among memory, behavior, and learning to inform the development of impairment-specific interventions for individuals with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Specifically, her research utilizes objective physiological and behavioral measures to understand the underlying processes and mechanisms associated with cognitive performance to assist individuals with attention and learning problems.
Dr. Bolden accepted two graduate students, Megan Carl and Brianna Pollock, this academic year into the Behavior and Learning Lab (www.utkbehaviorandlearninglab.org). She holds a weekly journal club with the lab’s three undergraduate research assistants in which the students read and discuss a research article related to various cognitive models and ADHD. Dr. Bolden has been impressed by community support describing that one member of the Knoxville area donated a Wii video-game console to the lab as a way to measure attention and focus during video game play.

Overall, the lab is beginning three research projects. The Focus on UT project examines factors associated with self-reported attention problems in college students, such as psychological well-being, and the utilization of university resources. They hope to provide information for the university about how and where to reach students with attention and learning problems. The Big Orange and Little Orange studies aim to examine mechanisms and cognitive processes unique to adults and children with ADHD. For these studies, participants spend time in the laboratory and complete cognitive tasks or watch stimulating or nonstimulating video clips on the computer. While completing tasks, an actograph sensor measures movement and a Q sensor measures skin conductance. On and off-task participant behavior is also recorded for later coding.

Dr. Bolden provides supervision for second year graduate students who are conducting psychological assessments. She has been appointed as a faculty representative to the department’s recently established Diversity Council. Additionally, she teaches one section of Childhood Psychopathologies at the undergraduate level. Overall, Dr. Bolden reports that one highlight of her new position is working with graduate and undergraduate students. She enjoys becoming acquainted with Tennessee culture by learning about the numerous small towns that her students call home.

She is excited about collaborating with other faculty members in UT’s developmental psychology area. In the future, Dr. Bolden plans to expand her research interests to encompass attention problems across the lifespan and to “go pink” which she describes as an effort to study attention and learning problems in girls who are often overlooked in the ADHD research literature. Dr. Bolden is engaging, energetic, and offers an area of expertise that will be extremely valuable to the Psychology Department.
The Counseling Psychology program trains PhD students in a variety of settings, one of which is the University of Tennessee Counseling Center. During this training, students participate in a number of campus and community outreach projects targeting mental health awareness and decreasing stigma related to seeking mental health services. Many of the outreach programs involve providing the community population and university students with skills to intervene when someone they know is in distress or suicidal, providing coping skills development, training on prevention and early intervention of mental health-related problems, training other mental health service providers, and enhancing community awareness and collaboration.

The Counseling Psychology is committed to training its doctoral students in a number of clinical and academic settings, including the University of Tennessee Counseling Center.

This year, the counseling center opened its doors in the new Student Health Building. This 109,242-square-foot state-of-the-art facility houses the Student Health Center on the first floor and the Student Counseling Center, along with psychiatric staff, on the second floor. The facility boasts private offices for all senior staff members, interns, and graduate assistants, a spacious reception and waiting room area, conference rooms, group rooms, intimate individual therapy rooms, and much more. Graduate students also enjoy offices equipped with a personal computer and a DVD recorder/monitor.

Staff at the Counseling Center provide a variety of services for students, faculty, and staff, for conditions ranging from mild stress to acute psychiatric and long-term conditions. These services include walk-in consultation, psychological assessment, crisis intervention, and individual, couples, and group therapy.

During their training, graduate students also participate in a number of campus and community outreach projects geared to increase mental health awareness and decrease stigma related to seeking mental health services. Many of the outreach programs involve providing university and community members with skills to intervene when someone they know is in distress or suicidal, providing coping skills development, training on prevention and early intervention of mental health-related problems, training other mental health service providers, and enhancing community awareness and collaboration.

The Stress Management Clinic, more specifically, offers an array of services including mindfulness training, meditation, biofeedback, and interpersonal skills training.

Another integral part of the developmental and preventive emphasis of the Center, the staff is committed to providing consultation services and outreach to the campus community. Recent or ongoing consultations include the Division of Student Life, the Black Cultural Center, Campus Ministers, the Center for International Education, the Counseling Psychology Department, Dining Services, the Office of Equity and Diversity, UT Police Department, the Safety, Environment & Education Center (SEE Center), University Housing, and Women’s Athletics. Outreach programming has included participation in the orientation program for new students, First Year Studies classes, fraternity and sorority groups, the annual Health Services Fair, the Vol-Aware Street Fair and the QPR Gatekeeper trainings. University faculty and staff, community organizations, or student groups can request staff members and trainees to conduct presentations and trainings specific to their needs and organizations as well.
Our Annual Awards Night was held this year in May at the UT Welcome Center.

As always, Sandy did an outstanding job in coordinating this event, and we are so appreciative of the work she puts into this event every year. Thanks, Sandy! Once again, there were several administrators in attendance, and we are always grateful to them for taking time to join us as we celebrate each other at the end of the year. Several of our students participated in a poster presentation at Awards Night again this year, and seeing their work and the effort they put into their posters is always interesting for us. Our students work hard for these presentations, and we like to have a chance to talk with them about their research.

**Charlotte Berry** received the Staff Appreciation Award this year, and it was a very well deserved recognition. Charlotte works at the front desk of our Psychological Clinic, and she takes care of many duties in the Clinic. She is the “meet and greet” for our clients, and her calm and friendly demeanor is a wonderful attribute. She is always helpful, both to our clients and to our students, and we appreciate her efforts. Charlotte received a plaque and a cash prize for her award. Congratulations, Charlotte!

We had one service award presented this year as well. **Sandy Thomas** was recognized for twenty-five years of service to the Department and the University. Sandy joined the Department in 1986, and now serves as the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. In addition, she serves as “The Hill” representative for the Employee Relations Committee, a position she has held for several years. Sandy was presented with a gift card in recognition of her efforts and we extend our thanks and appreciation to her for her service.

As always, Psychology Staff look forward to this upcoming year and to the great things in store for our Department. We truly appreciate your continued support of the Department, and we wish you well as you go about celebrating your life and the lives of those you love.
The PGSA officers would like to thank everyone for their involvement and support this year. During the 2011-2012 school year, PGSA continued to assist students’ progression through the program and promote unity among students and faculty.

We will be having our biggest fundraiser in April 2013. The 20th Annual Austin Peay Golf Classic at Three Ridges Golf Course promises to be successful and lots of fun for all participants. The money raised will make it possible for PGSA to provide additional travel funding for students who attended various research conferences throughout the year. Be on the lookout for more information about this great event!

We will also hold our 2nd Annual Clothing Drive to benefit the Child & Family Tennessee (CDF)- Family Crisis Center of Knoxville, TN. All gently worn professional clothing will be welcome.

PGSA would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Todd Moore, PGSA faculty advisor, for his contributions to PGSA and dedication to the students in the department.

The 2011-2012 PGSA officers are:
Kat Ritter - President
Jon Bourn - Vice President
Crystal McIndoo - Treasurer
Kanwarjit Kanwar - Secretary
Katie Wischkaemper – Historian
Joe Salvatore – Social Chair


Shteynberg, G., & Galinsky, A. D. (2011). Implicit coordination: Sharing goals with similar others intensifies goal pur-


Faculty & Student 2012 Publications


Faculty & Student 2012 Publications


Waters, R. M. & Burghardt, G. M. Prey availability influences the ontogeny and timing of chemoreception-based prey shifting in the striped crayfish snake, *Regina aleni.* *Journal of Comparative Psychology (in press).*


Burghardt, G. M. Beyond suffering: Reflections on “What (if anything) do we owe wild animals?” by Clare Palmer. Between the Species (in press).


Faculty & Student 2012 Publications


Kendrick, R. V., & Olson, M. A. (in press). When feeling right leads to being right in the reporting of implicitly-formed attitudes, or how I learned to stop worrying and trust my gut. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology.*


We’d like to know what you’re up to! If possible, please answer the following questions in addition to giving us the information above.

1. What are you doing with your degree from UT? [e.g., nothing at all related, pursuing more education; practicing clinical psychologist (if so-describe what sorts of people you see and services you offer); professor (where?)

2. What personal/professional milestones/achievements have you attained since graduating from UT? (e.g., married, had kids (how many?), professional awards/achievements, research grants)

3. What do you do when you’re not doing psychology?

4. Tell about a significant memory you have of being a student at UT. For example:
   - an experience that shaped or defined your career as a student or your later career
   - an important lesson you learned
   - a special moment in mentoring

5. What advice do you have for current students? What is something you wished you had known when you were in school at UT?

6. Are you currently affiliated with UT in any way? If so, how?

7. Anything else you’d like to tell us and/or suggestions for questions we might ask in the future.
Please consider donating to the Department of Psychology

The faculty of the Psychology Department collectively created and approved a new Strategic Plan in 2012. This plan affirms our four-part mission and details how we plan to work toward this mission. The UT Psychology Department mission is to: 1) provide excellent undergraduate education in Psychology; 2) deliver world-class, graduate education of psychologists in preparation for leadership roles as scientists and practitioners in their specialties; 3) maintain our internationally recognized programs of original, scientific research that continue to advance knowledge and practice of Psychology while continuing to attract external funding; and 4) maintain constructive community engagement & service, by appropriately applying psychology, delivering psychological services locally and beyond, and providing regional, national, and international service to our communities and our discipline – all in support of the larger mission of the University of Tennessee.

The current economic situation has impacted most organizations in our society and the Psychology Department is included. We must increasingly rely on the generosity of our alumni and friends to support the important mission of the Department. We have the following most critical short-term, intermediate, and long-term needs to support our mission and hope that you might help us with them.

Our most important short-term goal in support of our mission in graduate education, scientific research, and community engagement is to raise funds to support the purchase of new digital technologies in our Psychological Clinic. We are currently using VHS-VCR technologies to record sessions for training and research purposes. We need to transition to technology of the current century and upgrade our equipment to digital systems.

We have two pressing intermediate-term needs. First, in support of our graduate mission, we need resources to support the travel of graduate students so that they can present their research at conferences and have the opportunity to talk with the leaders in their fields at these conferences in order to facilitate the development of their ideas and their careers. Second, in support of our undergraduate mission, we need resources to support our undergraduate Psychology Major’s academic development. We would like to have resources to present our strongest undergraduate students with annual cash awards, and to provide scholarships to Psychology Majors for travel abroad opportunities, and to provide travel funds to support undergraduate Psychology Majors presenting their research at national conferences.

Our most important long-term goal, in support of all four parts of our mission, is to raise endowed funds to support faculty professorships to keep our strongest faculty at the University of Tennessee. Unfortunately, we lost two Psychology Professors over the past two years to other universities that provided more attractive offers. We need resources to retain our best faculty.

If you can help support the Psychology Department, we will be very grateful.

Best wishes for a healthy, peaceful, and productive New Year!

Please send your alumni update (optional) and your donation to:

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Knoxville TN 37996-0900
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