

Message from the Editor

This is the second and last PsyConnect newsletter of 2013-2014. We have now completed a full three years and things could not have gone any better. The newsletter has elevated the department “happenings” not only within our department and university, but also within the alumni community. We have heard from many students and faculty that we haven’t seen in years, and the excitement and feedback about this new endeavor to better connect our psychology “family” has been tremendous. Please keep your comments coming! We would love to hear from you. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Tiamiyu, the founding editor of PsyConnect. She has decided to step down, but her leadership, hard work, and dedication to the newsletter will not be soon forgotten. Without Dr. Tiamiyu’s steady hand and “positive thinking,” PsyConnect’s success may have never materialized. Thank you Dr. Tiamiyu! I should also announce that I have moved from Associate Editor to Editor and have selected Dr. Jason Levine as the new Associate Editor. Please join me in welcoming him to the staff. Finally, we have changed the layout and graphics of the newsletter. I hope you noticed, and I hope you enjoy.

Dr. J.D. Jasper

Professor & Editor

Grad Life: Yopina Pertiwi

By Joanna Piedmont, Graduate Student

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A Familiar Face Returns to Give Talk and Advice

By Ryan Corser, Graduate Student

Why do videos, like “David after dentist” and “Antoine Dodson”, or other media go viral on the internet? Are males or females more likely to engage in deceptive self-presentation in online dating contexts? What’s the personality profile of a blogger? These are just a sampling of research questions UT alumnus, Dr. Brad Okdie, has examined during his career.

Recently, Dr. Okdie returned to UT to share his research and teaching experiences with the current faculty and students. After graduating from UT in 2003, Dr. Okdie earned his doctorate at the University of Alabama and then found a job

Mind Games: Self Monitoring

By Lindsay Roberts, Graduate Student

Community Minded (continued from page 6)

available to help clients in navigating community resources, build vital skills for daily living, and effectively manage their symptoms. Vocational counseling is also offered with a focus on matching clients to jobs based on their strengths and assisting clients with adjusting to being in the workforce. The agency now features five different buildings as well as three residential facilities.

In 2008, the Zepf Center expanded their services to include a variety of programs for child and adolescents due to observing a need in this area. They currently provide psychiatric evaluations, medication management, vocational services, and a summer youth program for clients aged 18 years and younger who show symptoms of SPMI. A range of therapy services are also offered to children and adolescents, including community-based therapy, home-based therapy, and more traditional office-based therapy.

In addition to the numerous health services provided by the Zepf Center to their clients, the organization has a long history of developing community-based programs designed to address different areas of need for people without SPMI. On January 1, 2014, the Zepf Center merged with one of the leaders of substance abuse treatment in the Toledo area, COMPASS. This merger represents a significant expansion to the drug treatment services available at Zepf and these services are available to anyone in the Toledo or Lucas County area. The Source, located in downtown Toledo on Monroe Street, also offers vocational counseling and a resource center that is available for anyone in the area to use.



Recent Honors and Awards

Tiffany Hairston, a graduate of our undergraduate psychology program, was recently awarded a National Board of Certified Counselors Foundation Minority Fellowship. Tiffany, who is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in counselor education and supervision at UT, also received \$20,000 to support her education and the work she does for under-served minority populations, which includes alcohol and drug treatment and mental health counseling. Tiffany expects to graduate with her Ph.D. in May, and we wish her nothing but the best as she pursues her passion to help under-served people. Congratulations and good luck Tiffany.

Jill Brown, an experimental area graduate student, was accepted into a very prestigious summer program organized by the European Association of Social Psychology. Furthermore, she was awarded a travel scholarship from the Society of Personality and Social Psychology to attend the summer program in Lisbon, Portugal. From our program, Jill is the first to earn a spot in this coveted international program and to win one of these scholarships. Scholarships for the program are allocated to only 5 graduate students across the globe who are seen as “rising stars” in the field. Way to go Jill!

Recent Faculty and Student Publications

Graduate students in the Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Lab, directed by Jon Elhai, have had a very successful semester, publishing several important papers and presenting several posters. Ateka Contractor and Tracey Biehn published a paper (as second and third authors, respectively) this year in the *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease* on depression outcomes from inpatient psychiatric treatment. Ateka recently had a first-authored research paper accepted in the *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*, titled “PTSD’s underlying symptom dimensions and relations with behavioral inhibition and activation.” Ateka also recently had a second-authored research paper accepted in the *Journal of Affective Disorders*, which validated a telephone-administered depression survey, and resulted from collaboration with UT’s Psychiatry Department personnel. Finally Ateka presented one paper and two posters at the Annual American Psychological Association and Annual International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies conventions respectively.

Experimental psychology doctoral student, Heather Rasinski, recently published a research article on confronting prejudice in the *Journal Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. In her research, Heather found that when observers fail to confront someone who made a prejudicial comment, this lack of action actually caused the observer to be less concerned about challenging prejudice in the future. This research is discussed in the June issue of the popular press magazine, *Psychology Today*. Heather’s graduate advisor is Dr. Andrew Geers.

Ryan Corser, an experimental area graduate student, recently published his first 1st-author publication. The article can be found in the journal *Laterality* and describes



Graduate Students at Work and in Training. Photo Collage by Chandrima Bhattacharya, Graduate Student.

two experiments in which Ryan over-activated either one’s right or left brain hemisphere via something called Schiffer goggles which force individuals to look only leftward (right-hemisphere activation) or rightward (left-hemisphere activation). His results suggest that enhanced activation of the left hemisphere (looking rightward) reduces at least a couple common decision biases – that is, the ratio bias and base rate neglect. Way to go Ryan! Keep up the good work. Ryan’s advisor is Dr. Jasper.

Research Talks and Presentations

Dr. Kamala London was an invited speaker at the 2nd International Conference on Forensic Research and Technology. The conference was held from October 7-9 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Dr. London was invited to present her work on children’s eyewitness abilities.

Graduate Student Lands Job

Jaquelyn Pidruzny has accepted a position as Trauma Team Leader at Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health where she recently completed her pre-doctoral internship. This position is full-time and includes administrative duties, clinical work, assessment, and consultation. Jackie describes this position as her dream job!

The Lighter Side: Fun with Words - Psychology Limericks

Penned By Eric Prichard, Graduate Student

The support of our alumni and friends is paramount to the success of our educational programs. Your generous financial support will impact the lives of current and future students in the Department of Psychology at The University of Toledo.

For more information about giving, including setting up scholarships or additional gift funds, please contact Mary Galvin, Principal Gifts Officer for the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences at 419.530.4134 or mary.galvin@utoledo.edu.

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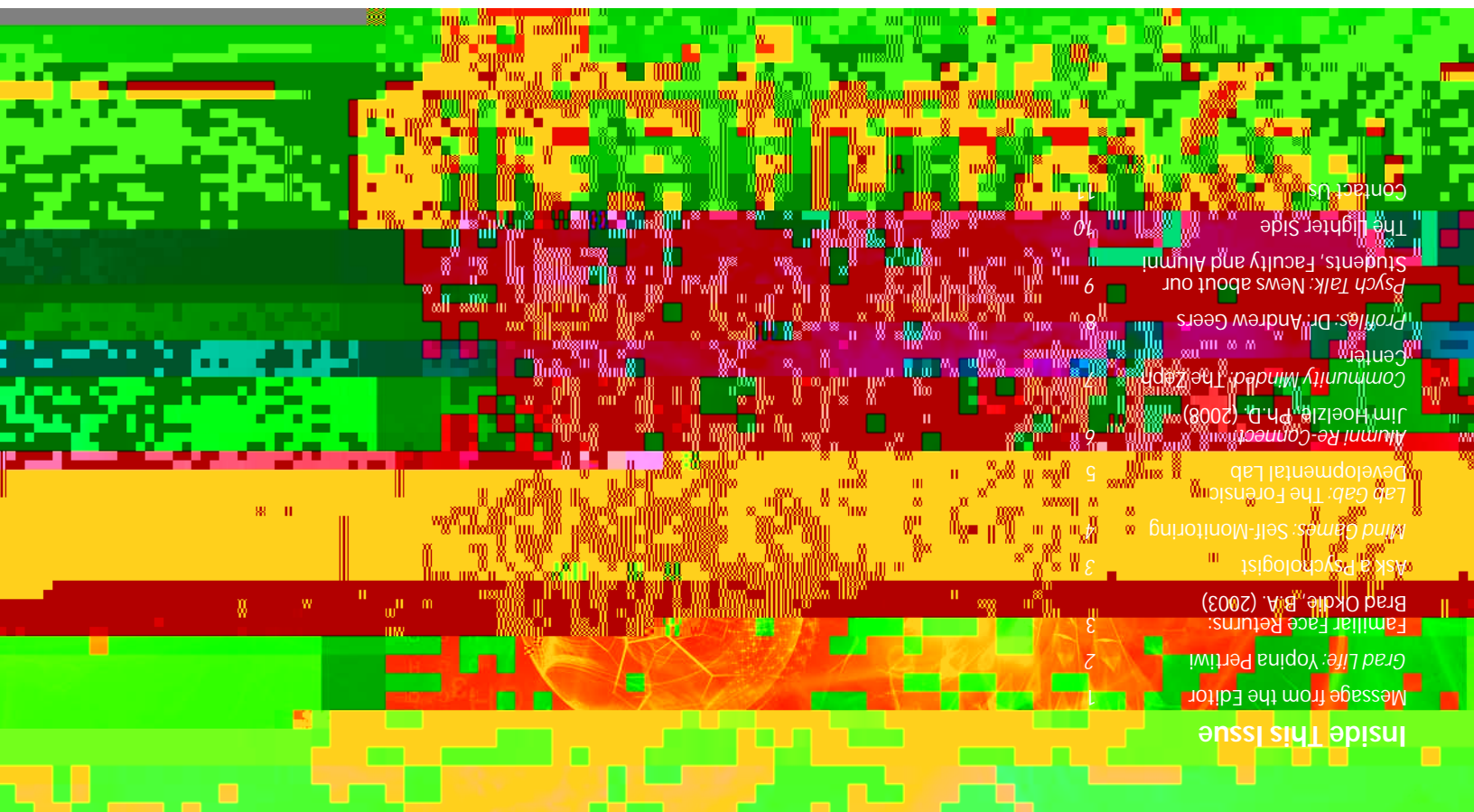
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