On the first week of the Spring 2016 semester the TWU School Psychology Graduate Student Organization (SPGSO) hosted two speakers for a conference. The main attraction for the 100 plus attendees was Cecil Reynolds, Ph.D., as he presented on the updated publication he co-authored of the Behavioral Assessment System for Children, Third Edition (BASC 3). In addition to the BASC 3 presentation, the attendees met Misty Benedit, LMSW from Samaritan Center in Ft. Worth. Misty, a Marine Veteran, presented a workshop on Military Informed Care which highlighted the need for cultural awareness when delivering care in the helping services to military affiliated clients. Attendees ranged from masters level social work students from UT-Tyler to private practice Licensed Psychologists practicing in the DFW area. There was a variety of DFW area school districts represented in the audience as well. Dr. Reynolds met with several graduate students in the School Psychology programs and discussed the importance of a collaborative approach to psychology services. He emphasized the need to keep professional relationships of integrative care open to meet the highly fluid needs of each client we encounter. Dr. Reynolds explained his passion for the affordability of graduate education for female student athletes. He shared information about a scholarship he endowed at the University of Texas in Austin specifically for female athletes that complete their collegiate eligibility (http://giving.utexas.edu/2013/11/08/home-court-advantage/). Throughout his presentation, it was obvious that Dr. Reynolds has made an investment of his scholarship and efforts to promote and advocate the distinct needs of students, parents, and the community as a whole. The SPGSO officers look forward to continuing to provide professional development opportunities that bring together various professions to build collaborative efforts toward meeting the needs of our communities.

By: Juan Rodriguez
Spotlight on Dr. Ronald Palomares

Assistant Professor of School Psychology

Dr. Palomares was recently awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Public Service Award by the Texas Psychological Association in recognition of his significant work with families and children in developing countries.

In November 2015, Dr. Palomares trained nurses to provide psychological first aid at Juba Teaching Hospital in South Sudan.

Dr. Ronald Palomares with his TPA award at the TPA conference in November 2015.

Dr. Ronald Palomares with a group of nurses in South Sudan.

Dr. Ronald Palomares resting with a group of Nepalese women he met on the way to nearby village.

Dr. Palomares provided psychological services and trainings during disaster relief following the earthquakes in Nepal during the summer of 2015. He also helped distribute school supplies to local principals and teachers.

Join Dr. Kenneth Foster & Dr. Brian Harding for The Faculty Spotlight Series

“Warps and Woofs: The Psychophilosohical History of Identity and Stigma”

Wednesday March 9, 2016
Stoddard Hall, Room 308
12:25pm to 12:55pm
Recent Publications by Faculty, Students, & Alumni


2015 Master’s Alumna Brittany Goter presented the findings from her thesis at the annual APA Conference in Toronto.
Presentations


Recognition & Achievements

Michelle LaSpata, doctoral student in school psychology, and Rachel Garza Foster, undergraduate, with their award-winning poster at the 2015 Annual TASP Conference.

Michelle LaSpata, Rachel Garza Foster, & Dr. Wendi Johnson received the Excellence in Research Award for Most Outstanding Poster Presentation at Texas Association of School Psychology Conference 2015, San Antonio, TX.

Alumna, Dr. Jen Mootz, received the Emerging Psychologist Award from the International Congress of Psychology (2016) . She was awarded travel and lodging to attend the conference in Tokyo, Japan.

Dr. Kenneth Foster received a grant from the TWU Small Grants Program to study treatment non-adherence among HIV-positive substance abusers.

Dr. Debra Mollen became the 7th professional in Texas to be designated a Certified Sexuality Educator by the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT).

Dr. Ryan McGill was awarded the Pearson/Trainers of School Psychologists Junior Faculty Award. The award includes a $500 scholarship and will be presented at the annual meeting of Trainers of School Psychologists in February 2016.
Presentations


Porras, C. V., Harris, D., Harris, J. (2014). A multitheoretical conceptualization of intimate partner violence. Workshop to be presented at the Texas Psychological Association Conference, Dallas, TX.


Recognition for the Department of Psychology & Philosophy

Our doctoral program in school psychology was named one of the top 50 school psychology programs in the nation by bestcounselingdegrees.net.

TWU’s doctoral program in counseling psychology was also among the top 50 counseling psychology programs ranked by bestcounselingdegrees.net. Additionally, counselingpsychology.org ranks the program 6th in the nation and psyccolleges.com ranks it 4th in the state.

Congratulations to both our doctoral-level psychology programs’ faculty, staff, and students!

Psychology Students Serve the Denton Community

Students from Dr. Rosen’s Fall 2015 Psychology of Women course participate in the Fall 2015 Research Symposium.

Students from Dr. Rosen’s Psychology of Women course engaging in a service project at Denton County Friends of the Family. Students painted, cooked, assisted with resumes, and practiced yoga with residents.
Alumni Outreach

Alumni Outreach Efforts

The Department of Psychology & Philosophy is currently working on gathering contact information for alumni from all of the department’s academic programs. These efforts will allow our alumni, current students, and faculty/staff to remain connected and celebrate their achievements, both personal and professional, together. Additionally, alumni may remain up-to-date regarding the department’s growth, goals, and achievements. It would be wonderful to see alumni give back to the department through connecting and working collaboratively with students and/or funding student scholarship and departmental projects.

Receive Updates About the Department

If you’d like to be included in alumni outreach and receive updates about the department as well as your colleagues, please provide your contact information to: twupsydept@gmail.com.

Alumni Updates!

We’d like to compile personal and professional updates for alumni from our department. If you have a new job, have been accepted to a graduate program, received an award, added to your family, or the like, please feel free to send these celebrations to is as well at: twupsydept@gmail.com.

Please follow us and stay up to date on all of the exciting events occurring within our department. Links and handles for both Facebook and Twitter can be found below:

www.facebook.com/twupsychphil
@twupsyphil

Congratulations, Millie!

Milagros “Millie” Gargurevich awarded an all expenses paid trip to attend the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences’s (USU) Summer

What excites you most about the upcoming institute?

Millie: I am excited about my selection to The Center of Deployment Psychology’s Summer Institute program because I believe it will be very beneficial for my continued training and career goals. Although my previous military experience has given me an overall understanding of the military culture, The Summer Institute will provide an invaluable opportunity for me to gain a better understanding regarding the role of a military psychologists. Additionally, although I have a number of civilian mentors (including VA staff psychologists) who fully support my career goals, they are not able to provide the type of mentorship that includes firsthand knowledge of the experience of serving as a military psychologist. Therefore, the Summer Institute will offer me additional mentorship and knowledge that will be vital for helping me fulfill my career goals of matching at an Air Force internship site and go on to serve in Active Duty as a military psychologist.

How has the counseling psychology program at TWU prepared you for work as a military psychologist?

I believe the program at TWU has played a very important role in preparing me to work as a military psychologist by providing excellent training opportunities and mentorship. Every class I have taken at TWU, from Cross-Cultural and Psychology of Trauma and Violence to Cognitive Assessment and Social Psychology, have involved independent projects that allowed opportunities for me to enhance my knowledge on issues impacting the mental health of military members. Finally, the program at TWU has provided great practicum training opportunities to work with military Veterans, which have provided specialized training in EBPs that are often used by the military, including Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and Motivational Interviewing/ Motivational Enhancement Therapy. Together, the learning opportunities in both classroom and practicum sites offered by the program at TWU have supported every step I have taken toward my military career goals.