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# The Synapse

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT  
THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

*Welcome to the third edition of the Psychology Department Student Newsletter. We hope this newsletter serves as a helpful resource in providing you with important information about Departmental events and topics of interest within Psychology.*

## Psychology Department Introduces new Four Year Plan for majors

Starting Fall Semester of 2008, a new non-credit program (Graded P/U) will be implemented with the aim of helping students with the different needs of each academic grade level. The different non-credit courses were developed through research of other departmental four year plans, committee meetings with representatives from every year and concentration within psychology, and previous initiatives of the psychology department to create a structured format for students to reference during the course of their studies. As a **freshman** or external psychology transfer student, general information about the College and services are offered, as well as information regarding the registration processes, academic advisement, degree requirements, academic standards and integrity, and time management.

As a **sophomore**, students will be introduced to the psychology department's Experiential Learning in Psychology (ELOPsy) opportunities, as well as receiving guidance on professionalism and ethics, resumes, and cover letters.

**Junior** students will learn about career options available to Psychology graduates through workshops, presentations, and panel discussions.

Students with **Senior** standing, will be aided in the transition from college to graduate school or the professional industry. This will be done through career planning, interview techniques, professional responsibilities, and graduate school requirements.



## Interesting Psychology Fact...

The first human lobotomy was performed on six schizophrenic patients by physician Gottlieb Burkhardt in Switzerland in 1892.

Sabbatini, R. M. (1997). The History of Psychosurgery. *Brain & Mind Magazine*.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: How do I reserve a basement room for meetings, PIPER sessions, or presentations?**

A: Go to the Psychology Office (Room 109) and have the student worker sign you in to the room and time-slot of your choice if available.

**Q: If I show up to a PIPER experiment and no one is there, do I still receive credit and if so, how?**

A: If you have stayed until the time the study was scheduled to begin and there is no one there, you can call or email the contact person of your study letting them know that you showed up, and they will credit you as if you actually participated.

**Q: Does the Psychology Department advertise job postings for graduating seniors?**

A: Yes! If you click on the student resources link on the psychology department website (<http://psychology.department.tcnj.edu/StudentResources.html>), there is a link for scholarships and job opportunities that the department is aware of.

## SCHOLARLY APPLICATIONS

**Psi Chi** Membership applications are due **February 14, 2008**

### Requirements:

- 3.5 in your psych course
- 3.5 overall
- Must have attended TCNJ for at least 3 semesters
- Must have taken at least 12 psychology credits.

To submit the online application click [here](#) or visit the PSI CHI website at [www.tcnj.edu/~psichi](http://www.tcnj.edu/~psichi)

**Marshall P. Smith scholarship** applications are due **February 25th** at 5:00pm.

To access the application click [here](#) or visit the psychology website at <http://psychology.department.tcnj.edu/>

Senior biopsychology major **Jessica Wong** has been selected as TCNJ's first Honors Program Outstanding Scholar. This year Jessica has been conducting her Senior Honors Thesis with help from the Event-Related Potential (ERP) Laboratory at TCNJ on *The Influence of Imagination and Interruption on Source Confusions: An ERP Study of Action Memory*. She will be presenting her study with the ERP Lab this March at the EPA national conference in Boston, Massachusetts. Aside from Jessica's research she embarked on a research opportunity she was involved in was the *graduates (REU) Program in Ap-worked with Dr. Christopher Pagano Lab*". After reading literature in visics, she designed an experiment that visuo-spatial abilities and robot sight and teleoperation. There were search which were: individuals overall robot navigation performabilities; and robot navigation per-tion than during direct line of sight. Implications include using spatial measures as a tool in teleoperator selection. Jessica presented her research in August at the 2007 Clemson University Annual Applied Psychology Conference. The project manuscript has been submitted for publication and for presentation at other professional conferences.

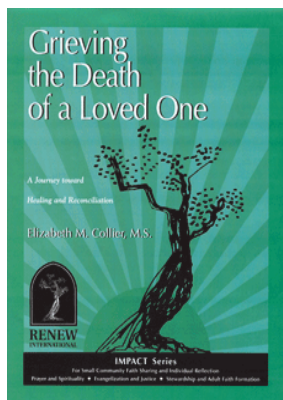


In the next issue of TCNJ's Journal of Student Scholarship (JSS) a paper by **Drew D'Amore**, also a senior biopsychology major, will be appearing under the sponsorship of Dr. Alex Skolnick. The article, titled "Social awareness as an indicator of self-awareness: The Mead-Cooley model and research methodology in nonhuman primates" which postulates that the analysis of the social structure of nonhuman primates (their social awareness), reflects their more complex self-awareness. The findings from the article can be used to make claims about meta-cognition and other things that are generally thought to be uniquely human. Psychology students have been generally under-represented in the JSS, making Drew's paper the 2nd one from the department of psychology in the past 5 years!

## Faculty Highlight

Though professor **Elizabeth M. Collier's** book, *Grieving the Death of a Loved One: A Journey Toward Healing and Reconciliation*, was published in the fall of 2002, it continues to gain popularity as a tool to help individuals deal with bereavement. Originally in December of 2002, a little over a year after the September 11th attacks, 3,500 copies of Professor Collier's book were sent to churches that were located near where the towers had collapsed. In addition, during that same time frame, copies were also sent to Washington, D.C. More recently, RENEW International, a Catholic organization focused on fostering spiritual renewal, has arranged to send

1,000 copies of *Grieving the Death of a Loved One* free of charge to the students at Virginia Tech after the tragic shooting that took place in April of 2007. As it can be seen, Professor Collier's book continues to be a source of inspiration and healing for the many people dealing with the loss of their loved ones.



## Graduating Seniors



Every spring semester the Psychology Department emails out an "exit survey" to all graduating seniors. This survey is designed to give the Psychology Department accurate statistics, as well as allowing the department to keep in touch with alumni. Make sure to keep an eye out April of this semester for the survey!



TCNJ Psychology Dept

Social Sciences Building  
Main Office, Room 109

<http://psychology.department.tcnj.edu>