

## Inside This Issue:

- ▶ MEET THE NEW FACULTY ..... 1
- ▶ PIPER UPDATE ..... 1
- ▶ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ..... 1
- ▶ CLUB CORNER ..... 2
- ▶ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ..... 2
- ▶ GETTING TO KNOW: DR. GRAHAM ..... 2
- ▶ MARK YOUR CALENDARS ..... 2

○ ISSUE 1 | ○ VOLUME 2 | ○ FALL 2007

# The Synapse

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

Thank you to all the students who took the time to enter the Newsletter naming contest last Fall. We would like to congratulate Caitlyn Dwyer for her winning entry "The Synapse". Caitlyn is the recipient of a \$50 gift card.

## Meet the Faculty

We welcome **Dr. Jason Dahling** and **Dr. He Len Chung** who have joined our department this fall in full time faculty positions. Dr. Dahling is an I/O psychologist who will affiliate himself with the I/O concentration. Jason's research interests include performance management, emotional labor in customer service settings, and deviance from organizational policies. Dr. Chung is a clinical psychologist who will affiliate herself with the counseling/clinical concentration. He Len's research and teaching interests include socio-contextual influences on adolescent development, causes and consequences of juvenile delinquency, resilience during the transition to adulthood, and community-based services research.

## PIPER Update

This semester, PIPER has become fully automated! The updated site is more informative than ever. It includes information such as: PIPER requirements, important PIPER rules, and doing the alternate assignment for those who qualify. It is also very easy to navigate with links for the participants, instructors, and researchers. Once you are comfortable with how PIPER works, there is also a link right on the main page that will take you to the list of available studies being conducted. After logging in, you are able to peruse the experiments and sign up for the ones that interest you. To check PIPER out visit the website: <http://tcnj.edu/~piper>.



## Interesting Psychology Fact...

According to studies made at Northwestern University, men change their minds two to three times more often than women. Most women, the experiments found, take longer to make a decision than men do, but once they make a decision they are more likely to stick to it. <http://www.skygaze.com/content/facts/psychology.shtml>

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Is there another way to fulfill my PIPER requirement if I am ineligible to complete it, and if so how?**

**A:** Yes! You may complete an alternate assignment. Starting this semester, please log onto the PIPER website ([www.tcnj.edu/~piper](http://www.tcnj.edu/~piper)), click on the participants link, and follow the instructions to register yourself for an alternate assignment by the **October 20th deadline**. However, students are encouraged to participate in PIPER, as it is a great way to learn about research.

**Q: What types of research experience can I gain through the Psychology Department?**

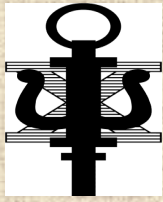
**A:** Every student majoring psychology must take PSY299, a research seminar where you will get the opportunity to conduct your own study. In addition, there are many research labs within the department that you can get involved in. The different labs can be found at <http://psychology.department.tcnj.edu/facilities.html>. Many faculty also sponsor independent studies.

**Q: How do I find out information about the various psychology concentrations?**

**A:** There are two ways to learn about the various concentrations. You can log on to the psychology website <http://psychology.department.tcnj.edu/academics/major.html> where the requirements and associate faculty members are listed or you can pick up the psychology brochures outside of the Psychology Office (SB 109).

## Club Corner

### Psi Chi and Psych Club



**Psi Chi** is the National Honor Society in Psychology. The officers this year are:

**President:** Sonia Reso

**Vice-President:** Jessica Wong

**Secretary:** Megan Geerds

**Treasurer:** Drew D'Amore

For more information visit:

<http://www.tcnj.edu/~psichi/>

**The Psychology Club** meets every Wednesday at 1:30pm in Social Sciences 130. Get involved in opportunities to enhance your understanding and appreciation of Psychology through social and educational activities.

For more information visit:

<http://www.tcnj.edu/~psychclub/>

## Getting to Know: Dr. James Graham



Dr. James Graham has been a professor with the Psychology Department for 10 years. Dr. Graham received his B.A. from Miami University; and his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Memphis. He is a developmental psychologist whose work explores the social-cognitive aspects of children's relationships. Currently, he is the Coordinator of the Developmental Concentration. He has published articles on the roles of race and sex in children's friendships, children's evaluations of social situations, children's relationship to media, and program evaluation. During the summer, he teaches graduate education and psychology courses in Johannesburg, South Africa through The Colleges' Graduate Global Program.

Dr. Graham has co-authored this major new textbook that introduces students to issues that have an impact on the lives of African American children but have typically been ignored (or inadequately discussed) in mainstream child development textbooks. The authors hope to familiarize students with a sampling of research that moves beyond a deficit view of the development of the African American child while stimulating critical thinking about future directions for research on African American children and their families.



Dr. Graham has co-authored this major new textbook that introduces students to issues that have an impact on the lives of African American children but have typically been ignored (or inadequately discussed) in mainstream child development textbooks. The authors hope to familiarize students with a sampling of research that moves beyond a deficit view of the development of the African American child while stimulating critical thinking about future directions for research on African American children and their families.

**Check out Dr. Graham's interview with Springer Publishing at:** <http://www.springerpub.com/default.aspx?pid=92>

## Volunteer Opportunities



- ◆ **Art Therapy** with children at the TCNJ Graduate Clinic in Forcina Hall. Contact Dyana Reisen at [reisen2@tcnj.edu](mailto:reisen2@tcnj.edu)
- ◆ Psychology club is initiating a new mentoring program called "Psy'dkick". These mentors will help acclimate incoming freshman into the Psychology department as well as TCNJ. For more information on how to get involved email [psychclub@tcnj.edu](mailto:psychclub@tcnj.edu)
- ◆ The psychology department is looking for volunteers to sit at the alumni table and represent the department for **Homecoming 2007**. If interested, please email [reso2@tcnj.edu](mailto:reso2@tcnj.edu) ASAP.

## New Features

In future issues, we would like to add a column called "Ask the Profs". Please access the Student Newsletter link on the Website to submit questions about graduate school, research, resumes, etc. that you would like featured and answered in the newsletter. Also feel free to email the psychology department with column topics you would like featured in the newsletter.



## Mark Your Calendars

**Oct 10** Graduate School Day: A Panel Series, 12:30-7pm TBA

**Oct 17** Speaker Linda Hershman—Careers in Marriage & Family Counseling @ 12pm in SSB Room 105

**Oct 31** Psychology Lab Info Session

**Nov 2** Fall Career and Internship Day, 9am-1pm BSC 202

**Nov 7** Speaker Donna Tonrey—Different disciplines and licenses within Psychology @ 12pm in SSB Room 105

**Nov 14** Ask the Seniors—Sponsored by Psi Chi @ 12-1pm in SSB Room 105

For more details on these events, please visit our website at:

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



TCNJ Psychology Dept

Social Sciences Building  
Main Office, Room 109

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