

20 April 2013

Dear Friend,

Thank you for attending Alumni Day at the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. In the Psychology Department, we are very excited about our achievements and are looking forward to many more in the coming years. Some recent highlights include:

* Students in Dr. Cyrille Magne’s Brain and Language Laboratory use cutting-edge EEG technology to study speech rhythm and language acquisition. This research may enable other researchers to develop new methods for reading assessment and intervention.
* Students and faculty in the Industrial/Organizational program are working with the Aerospace Department in the NASA-funded FOCUS lab. This state-of-the-art facility is training the next generation of air traffic controllers, flight dispatchers, schedulers, and pilots to work more closely together.
* Drs. Cathy Crooks and Stuart Bernstein involve their classes in health literacy with a local elementary school. Their pilot project was so successful, they’ve been asked to expand it to other schools in Rutherford County.
* Psychology has developed a custom textbook that covers topics emphasized by our faculty. It costs half as much as a regular textbook and monies from the custom textbook return to the department where they are used to fund peer-tutors, student travel to conferences, and other student expenses.
* Dr. Teri Davis developed a peer-tutoring program for Introductory Psychology. Preliminary results indicate that struggling students who attend a tutoring session increase their scores by two letter grades. To increase student retention, we plan to expand peer-tutoring to all of our core courses.
* About 60 students a year participate in research experiences; approximately 5 students a year receive financial support for their research. These experiences provide the types of skills that employers value.

Our continued success is greatly dependent on the support of our alumni, and we hope we can count on a contribution from you in the future. Of course we would gratefully accept a monetary donation. However, there are countless ways that you could contribute to the success of our students. Consider a class visit or a brownbag presentation to share your expertise and experience. Perhaps one of our students could serve an internship in your organization or shadow you at work to learn more about their chosen field of study. And, of course, if you are looking to fill a position in your organization, we have intelligent, hard-working graduates ready to step in.

Please call on me directly if you would like to volunteer your time or learn more about MTSU Psychology.

Sincerely,

Greg W. Schmidt, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department Chair