The Shipley Prize

The Shipley Prize is granted to a graduate student in psychology to assist with his/her research. Your gift will to the Shipley Award fund will ensure that every other year, a deserving student can receive up to $1000 to put toward data collection or travel. Dr. Thomas E. Shipley, Jr., for whom the award was named, was a special faculty member in the Psychology Department in the Clinical Psychology area. Beloved by students and appreciated by faculty for his dedication to social and humanitarian issues, Tom studied homelessness, poverty, and addiction in times before the significance of the problem was popularly recognized. He was dedicated to his students and to the notion that scientific study of psychological problems could address important social issues.

Tom was a faculty member at Temple from 1959 to 1997, when he became an Emeritus Faculty member. Even after his retirement, Tom continued writing regularly in his campus office. During his tenure, Tom was known for many things, one of which was serving as a dissertation director and facilitator of student research. After Tom’s death in 2007, the Shipley family very graciously began this award in his honor. Many alums and faculty members have added to this award, so that now, the Department has funds available to award a graduate student every other year up to $1000 to support their research.

The Shipley Prize honors Tom’s memory by providing important support to students working on their dissertations, just as Tom was so important when he helped students with their dissertation research. A gift in support of the Thomas F. Shipley Award will ensure that students continue to remember and benefit from Dr. Shipley’s beneficence.

Applicants for this Prize are required to submit a two-page summary proposal for a major, independent research project. These proposals are reviewed by Faculty members of the Awards Committee. The most important criteria for the award are excellence and feasibility of the research. Students whose research relates to social issues such as homelessness, substance abuse, and urban poverty, are particularly encouraged to apply since these are the kinds of research areas Dr. Shipley had been involved in for most of his career. The prize is not, however, limited to these areas.
The Bersh Award

The Philip J. Bersh Student Award goes to a graduate student for a first author paper in the general area of Psychology or Experimental Psychopathology. Your gift to the Bersh Prize fund will ensure that each year, a deserving student can receive up to $1000 to put toward data collection or travel.

Dr. Bersh began teaching at Temple, his Alma matter, in 1967. His research on human heart rate conditioning is considered to be “classic” and appears in many psychology textbooks. He was teaching as a full-time faculty member just two weeks before his death at age 82 and was also awarded a research grant, posthumously, shortly thereafter. At Temple University for 35 years, Phil and his students assessed negative reinforcement and stimulus control in learned helplessness as a model in the Pavlovian tradition. This led to some work in his lab in mid-80’s on opioid mediation of Learned Helplessness at the time when that was in its heyday. One of Phil's former graduate students once said that he, Phil, believed that “Pavlovian conditioning is operant conditioning in disguise and operant conditioning is Pavlovian conditioning in disguise.”

He taught a graduate seminar course on experimental psychopathology, which of course was Pavlovian-(Ganttian-) based. Phil’s students were close to him intellectually, and his mentorship style endeared him to many of his former students. He was described as a family man as he spoke much about the importance of family and activities outside of academia (e.g., sports, music, politics, and economics). He was described as a true mentor and teacher of Pavlovian conditioning. Several graduate students in his later years referred to him as “Dad”. After Phil's death in 2004, the Bersh family very graciously began this award in his honor.

Many alums and faculty members have added to this award, so that now, we have funds available to award a graduate student every other year with up to $1000 to support their research. The Bersh Award honors Phil’s memory by providing important support to students working on their dissertations, just as Phil was so important when he helped students with their research. A gift in support of the Philip J. Bersh Student Award will ensure that students continue to remember and benefit from Phil’s scientific and intellectual leadership.

Contributions are tax-deductible as charitable gifts and are formally acknowledged by the University’s Office of Institutional Advancement.