

Psycho Philes

University of Houston Department of Psychology
A Newsletter for Faculty, Students, and Staff

Issue 97:5

May 1997

Reminders

 **May 17:** General and College commencement ceremonies.

 **May 26:** Office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

 **May 27:** Summer I, II, and III first day of class.

 **May 28:** Public access authorization forms due.

 **Jun 6:** Deadline for submissions to the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.

 **Jun 19:** Summer I last day to drop a course or withdraw.

 **Jun 26:** Summer II last day to drop a course or withdraw.

 **July 4:** Office will be closed in observance of July 4 holiday.

 **Jul 7:** Summer IV first day of class.

 **Jul 16:** Summer III last day to drop a course or withdraw.

 **Jul 29:** Summer IV last day to drop a course or withdraw.

For Your Information

Professor James C. Baxter Retires After 33 Years of Service

Long-time friend, colleague, and mentor, Dr. James C. Baxter retires this month after 33 years of accomplished and outstanding service.

Dr. Baxter joined the University of Houston in September, 1964, as Associate Director of Counseling and Testing and Assistant Professor of Psychology. At that time, Dr. Joseph Schnitzen was Director of Counseling and Testing and Dr. Laurie Callicutt was Chair of Psychology. He was promoted to Associate Professor of Psychology in 1965, and moved into the department full-time in the fall of 1966. In 1967 Dr. Baxter became the Director of the department's Applied Master's Program, remaining in that position for several years. During 1979-1980, he was a Visiting Professor at Texas A&M. After returning, his focus of interest moved from the clinical area to the social area. In 1989, Dr. Baxter became the Director of Graduate Studies; a position he maintained until the present.

Dr. Baxter has also served on an impressive list of department, college, and university committees. After 30 plus years in one department, Dr. Baxter had the opportunity to work with a number of different department chairs. They have included: Laurie Callicutt, Dale Johnson, Ken Laughery, Roger Maley, Alex Siegel, Milt Hakel, Richard Rozelle, and Marco Mariotto. "An impressive lot," says Baxter. Beginning this summer, Dr. Baxter will take on yet another role in the department, that of Professor Emeritus.

On Tuesday, May 6, a group of close friends and colleagues gathered for a farewell lunch in honor of Dr. Baxter. During desert, current chairman, Dr. Marco Mariotto, made a surprise visit interrupting the luncheon to present Dr. Baxter with a recognition plaque and card on behalf of the department. A small token of respect and appreciation for a career characterized by dedication, honor, and humor. Dr. Mariotto commented that, "Dr. Baxter is a scholar in the true sense of the word and his sage counsel will be surely missed."

As to the future, Dr. Baxter says, "My plans are to do something completely different, to paraphrase Monty Python. Actually, I hope to do some serious (to be read as profitable) ranching, followed by some travel, if I can arrange it. They tell me there are some amazing things to be seen and done beyond the borders of Texas. I am also considering offers not to write my "tell-all" memoirs."

Dr. Baxter wants everyone to know that he can still be contacted at jcbaxter@uh.edu, "Y'all write. Best wishes to all!"

❖ Security Alert

There have been some recent incidences of theft in the building. Please use common sense in ensuring

that your valuables are locked away. Police and security have also asked that we make building residents aware of a rapist working the 3rd Ward. He is described as a black male driving a red Chevy S10 Blazer. Again, be sensible and do not put yourself into high risk situations. If you work weekends and evenings, bring a friend along or call police and security and let them know that you are in the building and alone.

❖ Travel Updates From Ashraf and Yolizma

If you have any questions about travel arrangements or reimbursements, talk to our experts, Yolizma and Ashraf.

- ◆ Meals for in-state business trips are not reimbursable unless you stay overnight.
- ◆ For reimbursement of mileage, keep an itemized log between cities and within cities mileage. The reimbursement rate is .28 cents/mile.
- ◆ Fill out a travel request for business travel even if you do not expect reimbursement. Travel requests can be used for insurance purposes only and provide good protection for the traveler.
- ◆ If you are traveling in Texas and staying overnight in a hotel, remember to take along a tax exempt form. Otherwise, we can not reimburse you for the tax on the room.
- ◆ Remember to keep your airline ticket stub or a copy of your travel ticket and submit it to the main office. We need this even if you are not requesting reimbursement for your airline tickets.
- ◆ Research groups who pay consultants on contract must remember to submit the contract along with the travel request to the travel agency.

❖ Revised Room Scheduling Procedures

The main office is now your one stop scheduling center for department controlled room scheduling requests. These requests include classrooms, meetings, dissertation and thesis defenses, special events, etc. Department controlled rooms include: 125, 135, 226, and 234. The Academic Office will continue to post graduate classroom changes, but will no longer schedule the rooms.

❖ Capital Equipment Inventory Exercise

The capital inventory exercise is underway. The research groups have received a listing of equipment thought to be in their areas. Please return your completed inventories to Caroline by May 27. Caroline will conduct a room-by-room inventory of all other equipment in the department. Please be patient with the intrusions.

❖ Semester 1 Copy Allocations Expire May 31.

All department faculty receive semesterly copy allocations. These allocations will expire on May 31. Have no fear, you will receive your summer allocations on May 31. Faculty who have not or will not make use of their allocations may want to consider giving their colleagues use to any remaining allocation. See Caroline or Nicole to get your balances.

❖ Foreign Travel Using Sponsored Funding

The bottom line is this---

If you are use federally sponsored project funds to support foreign travel, you must travel on a U.S. flag air carrier. This is true even if the costs are less on a non U.S. flag carrier. Of course, there are some exceptions. Before you make your travel arrangements, see Yolizma first, or better yet, have Yolizma assist you in making your arrangements.

Graduate Students
Have you submitted your graduate agreement and tuition waivers for the summer?

❖ New Physical Plant Work Request Forms

Physical Plant has a new work request form that should be used immediately. SCR are no longer required. Copies of new form are available from Caroline.

From the Academic Office

📁 If you registered during April 12 - May 7, your fee bill will be mailed to you. If you registered May 8 - May 28, you MUST PICK UP YOUR FEE BILL on May 30 at the University Center. You will be dropped from all courses if you do not pick up your bill.

📁 Instructors who have graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in Spring '97 Special Problems, turn in the grades to Tran Le, Rm. 122H.

Congratulations to May Graduates

MASTERS

Kelly Anthony, "The effects of category based selection procedures on the evaluations of potential affirmative action beneficiaries."

Heather M. Herbert, "Adolescent risk-taking: an individual differences approach."

Patricia Klass, "Interhemispheric transfer of sensory information in children with partial agenesis of the corpus callosum."

Claudia Yanez, "Adolescent risk taking: the roles of self-esteem and optimism."

DOCTORATE

Marie Junkin-Jones, "Perpetuation of explanation?: personality traits, attitudes, and racism."

Seth Kamen, "Examining the construct validity of readability: usefulness of readability information for the validation of multiple choice tests."

Frank R. Larkey, "Categorization effects during expository text processing: a multiple memory approach."

James F. Osburn, "Construct irrelevance and application reaction: an investigation of two threats to test interpretation."

Katheryn M. Pacey, "Attachment loss as discontinuity in self system development at adolescence."

Jennifer Rothfleisch, "Comparison of two measures of stages of change among drug abusers."

Our August graduates will be featured in the August edition of *Psycho Files*.

Faculty Promotions & New Hires

The UH System Board of Regents recently approved the promotion of **Dr. Paul Massman**, Clinical Neuropsychologist, to associate professor with tenure. Dr. Massman, who has a split appointment between UH Psychology and Baylor College of Medicine was also approved for full-time status at UH. His promotion and full-time appointment with Psychology will begin September 1997.

It's been a faculty recruiting frenzy these past two months. Recent efforts have paid off. The department is pleased to announce the following new hires for September 1997.

- ◆ **Dr. Raymond "Chip" Knee**, assistant professor in social psychology. Dr. Knee has been on a visiting assistant professorship in the department since August 1996. Chip comes to us from the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.
- ◆ **Dr. Chet Robie**, assistant professor in industrial/organizational psychology. Chet received his Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH.
- ◆ **Dr. Julia Babcock**, assistant professor in clinical psychology. Julia received her Ph.D. from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

There is still one social psychology position yet to fill. Dr. Mariotto and the social group anticipate having an accepted offer in the coming weeks.

What's New In Research

Dr. Ernest Jouriles was recently acknowledged in a new publication by The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (CB), Research, Planning and Finance Division for the success of his Advanced Research Program (ARP) project. The project

entitled "Treatment of Child Conduct Problems of Families Characterized by Marital Violence" was selected for funding in 1993. The granting period ended in August 1996. The following is an excerpt from the CB report about the project.

Help for Troubled Families

Conduct-disordered behaviors (aggression, theft, etc.) are among the most common and costly psychological problems of childhood, and are extremely prevalent among children in maritally violent families. An ARP grant has allowed Ernest Jouriles at the University of Houston to provide, at no cost, comprehensive and innovative intervention services to families (mothers and children) referred by local women's shelter. Results to date indicate that this intervention reduces children's conduct problems, improves mother-child interaction and improves mothers' and children's emotional functioning. The project has been well received by leaders in the Houston community and mental health professions, and has opened the door for several intriguing university-community and multi-university collaborations. Six graduate students and 51 undergraduate student have worked on this project, and external funding of more than \$2.3 million has been acquired.

This project was one of 373 ARP/ATP proposals to receive funding from a pool of 3,071 submitted proposals from 59 different state institutions.

Dr. Lynn Rehm has been invited to teach at the other UH this summer--the University of Hawaii. Dr. Rehm leaves June 25 to teach two courses during the second summer session, July 1 through August 8: an undergraduate Abnormal Psychology section and a graduate Depression seminar. The Rehms have rented a house in Kailua with a view of the ocean. Assuming the island's allure does not entice them to stay longer, the Rehms will return to the mainland August 9.

Graduate student, **Donald Dement**, went to Baltimore on May 6 to give poster presentation entitled "Low Degrees of Perceived Invulnerability as a Factor in Resisting Social Influences to Use Harmful Substances" at the Society for Prevention Research 5th Annual Meeting. While he was there, he met National Institute on Drug Abuse's **Zili Svoboda**, Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Prevention Research and **William J. Bukoski**, Associate Director for Prevention Research.

Web Site Updates

The Community of Science (COS) web site is now available to PI's. The site provides information on potential funding sources and new initiative moneys. The site is located at <http://cos.gdb.org/>. The Office of Sponsored Programs is willing to provide faculty and staff with training and a demonstration of this new resource. If you are interested in a demo, contact Mani. If we get enough people interested, we will set up a group demonstration.

For those PI's who use the PHS 398 forms, the Baylor Excel spreadsheets continue to be the best available. The forms are located at <http://www.cpb.uokhsc.edu/Pharmacy/nihform.html>. Once you get to the site, click on the Mark Danielsen direct before using the files. He provides good instructions for using and customizing the forms (i.e., changing the IDC and fringe rates).

Psycho Philes is published the 3rd week of each month. Your submissions should be received in the main office by the end of the 2nd week of each month and can be sent to Mani Kuffel at: mkuffel@bayou.uh.edu, or put in the department mail drop box, room 105 Heyne. All submissions are subject to editing for space and content.



Robin Corbit, Technical Assistant for the Social Psychology/Behavioral Medicine Research group, will be leaving her position to attend an alternative teacher certification program this summer. Robin hopes to become a high school science teacher. Robin has worked for Dr. Evan's group since June 1994. There will be a fond farewell pot luck lunch for Robin at 12:00 noon in Rm. 226 on Friday, May 30. Please contact Wanda Gaddis at 3-8556 if you will be attending.

Congratulations to **Tisha Nicole Johnson** on her graduation this May with a BS in Human Development and Family Studies from the UH College of Technology. Tisha is a long-time clinical work study student and **Gwen Moore's** right hand helper.

Several of our friends and colleagues in the Dean's office across the hall have a lot to celebrate. **Dean Rozelle** is surrounded by a host of May graduates that include: Executive Secretary **Sandra Medellin**, BA, Political Science, minor Psychology; Work-study student **Susana Henriquez**, BA Finance, minor Spanish; and Financial Coordinator **Brian Woodward**, BS Political Science, minor Business. The Houston Delphian Association of Women awarded **Montisha Hines** (the smiling face you see as you walk into the Dean's office) a \$1,200/semester scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to women in the Houston area who are continuing their education, maintain a 3.0 GPA or better, and show community involvement and leadership capabilities. Montisha was one of 19 women to receive the scholarship from a pool of over 300 applicants. Congratulations everyone!

Employee Policy Update

In the past, employees were permitted to make trips to the restroom under informal guidelines. Effective June 1, 1997, a Restroom Trip Policy (RTP) will be established to provide a consistent method of accounting for each employee's restroom time and

ensuring equal treatment of all employees. Under this policy, a "Restroom Trip Bank" will be established for each employee. The first day of the month, employees will be given a Restroom Trip Credit of 20. Restroom Trip Credits can be accumulated from month to month. Within two weeks, the entrances to all restrooms are being equipped with personnel identification stations and computer-linked voice print recognition devices. Before the end of May, each employee must provide two copies of voice prints (one normal, one under stress) to Data Automation. The voice print recognition stations will be operational, but not restrictive, for the month of May. Employees should acquaint themselves with the stations during that period. If an employee's Restroom Trip Bank balance reaches zero, the doors to the restroom will not unlock for that employee's voice until the first of the next month. In addition, all restroom stalls are being equipped with time paper roll retractors. If the stall is occupied for more than three minutes, an alarm will sound. Thirty seconds after the alarm sounds, the roll of paper in the stall will retract, the toilet will flush and the stall door will open. If the stall remains occupied, your picture will be taken. The picture will then be posted on the Departmental bulletin board. This is being done to eliminate DAILY DALLYING in the restrooms. Anyone's picture showing up three times will incur disciplinary action, with future possibility of being terminated. If you have any questions about the new policy, please take up the matter with your supervisor.

--- Yea, it's just a joke—for now anyway.