

# Psycho Philes

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

Issue 97:10

November 1997

## Reminders

Nov. 6: College of Social Sciences faculty meeting, Room 108 McElhinney Hall, 2:30 pm. President/Chancellor A.K. Smith will be the featured guest.

Nov. 7: Deadline for submissions to the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.

Nov. 10: Last day to drop with a grade.

Nov. 12: Faculty meeting, 3:00 pm, room 135 Heyne.

Nov. 26: Deadline for submitting thesis/dissertation.

Nov. 27-28: Offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Dec. 6: Last day of classes.

Dec. 11-19: Final exam period.

Psycho Philes is published the 1st week of each month. Submissions should be sent to Mani Kuffel at [mkuffel@bayou.uh.edu](mailto:mkuffel@bayou.uh.edu), or directed to the business office. All submissions are subject to editing for space and content.

## News and Notes

### ❖ Welcome to New Staff

The department is pleased to welcome several new staff members. **Ms. Rosa Mendoza** has filled the position of business office assistant. Rosa may look familiar to some of you; she worked as a Houston Works Student in our office during the summer of 1996. Rosa is currently attending North Harris Carver College in the evenings and is taking general college courses. **Kimberly Walters**, who worked the front desk for a while, has taken the position of Financial Assistant and will be working closely with our Financial Coordinators, **Ashraf Shafiei** and **Yolizma Zapata**. Kimberly is a senior Psychology major and previously worked for the Center of Public Policy and Congresswoman **Sheila Jackson Lee**. A third advisor has been added to the Academic Office, **Cecilia Corredor**. Cecilia and her family recently moved to the Houston area from New Jersey. Cecilia has a M.S. in Counselor Education and previously worked at Proceed Counseling Center in Linden, NJ and Kean College of New Jersey. Please take the time to stop by and meet our new staff.

### ❖ More Travel Related News

Do not be surprised if you are asked to show University of Houston/State employee identification at airport check-in, rental car agencies, or hotels when traveling on university/state government funds. We have been advised that checks of this kind will occur more often. Also, UH will not pay state rates for non-employees, (i.e., contracted individuals, candidates, speakers, etc.). Remember, state rates are often not the best rates. So make sure you ask your contracted travel agent for the "best rate" and not just the state rate.

### ❖ A Face Lift for Psychology News Bulletin Board

The Psychology News Bulleting Board, located in the hallway outside to the business offices, is undergoing a bit of a clean-up. If you have articles or news events you would like posted on the bulletin board, please direct them to Rosa Mendoza. Please let her know if you want the information back. Otherwise, it will be go into the circular file as new information is added.

### ❖ November Faculty Meeting Rescheduled

The November 5, 1997 faculty meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 1997. Please note the change on your calendars.

### ❖ Results of SOS Faculty Senate Elections

Congratulations to **Prof. Marco Mariotto** on his election to the Faculty Senate. Other SOS faculty

elected to the senate include **Professors Kathleen Knight** (Pols) and **Steven Craig** (Econ).

## Fall 1997 Clinical Forum Series

Programs are scheduled on Wednesdays, 1-2:30 in the PRSC conference room. Each program has been approved for 1.5 hours of Level 1 continuing education for psychologists. The cost of the certificate is \$3.00. Please call 3-8600 to register.

**Nov. 5:** Stress & Cancer: The Role of Intervention Research. Presenter: Lornezo Cohen, Ph.D.

**Nov. 19:** An Overview of Smoking and Depression. Presenter: Paul Cinciripini, Ph.D.

**Dec. 10:** New Trends in Obesity Management. Presenter: John Foreyt, Ph.D.

## From the Academic Office

 **Evening Hours:** The Dean's Academic Office is now offering evening hours on Tuesday and Wednesday until 7:00 p.m. to accommodate the needs of evening students.

 **Teaching Evaluations:** The teaching evaluations will be available November 17 for pick up by the instructors. The evaluations must be completed by December 19. A class representative should return all completed evaluations to the academic office.

 **Registration:** Beginning November 10 graduate students will be allowed to register for courses. The academic office will have a listing of all thesis and dissertation courses in the office. Remember when you register for thesis or dissertation hours to use the section number for the chair of your committee.

 **Spring Schedule:** The TA/TF listing will be available in the next two weeks. The graduate courses will be posted in the academic office along with the thesis/dissertation hours. Instructors for graduate courses, please remember to reserve the class rooms in the Heyne building in the business office.

 **Instructors:** The last day to drop is November 10. Any drops after that day will need to be a non-academic reason. If you have questions, please come by the office.

## What's New In Research

### Graduate RA Positions Available

A number of RA positions are currently available with the Francis/Foorman projects. We are looking for people with interest/skills in any of the following

areas: A) SAS programming, B) database skills, C) experience in elementary classroom observations and, D) experience in administering psycho-educational assessment batteries. For more information, please contact Pat McEnery at 713/500-3689 concerning C&D and Dr. David Francis at 713/743-8533 concerning A&B.

### Grants Available for Scientific Conferences

The Science Directorate of APA is seeking proposals for research conference in psychology. Funding ranging from \$500 to \$20,000 is available for each scientific conference. The purpose of this program is to promote the exchange of important new contributions and approaches in scientific psychology. The conference must also be supported by the host institution with direct funds, in-kind support, or a combination of the two. Conferences should take place within approximately 12 months after the funding decision is made. The deadline for applications is December 1, 1997. For application instructions see the APA web page at:

<http://www.apa.org/science/confer.html>  
or call (202) 336-6000.

### NEW RESEARCH AWARDS

We have had a number of new grant proposals awarded funding this fall. These awards mark a new milestone for the department. Psychology now receives more than 50% of its total funding from external grants. The year is still young and this winter we anticipate several additional awards. Congratulations to the following recipients.

The Change Assessment Research group boasts four new grants. **Dr. Mary M. Velasquez** will serve as Principal Investigator and **Kirk Von Sternberg** as Database Manager on a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant entitled "Preventing Alcohol-Exposed Pregnancies Among High-Risk Women". A proposal entitled "Program Evaluation of the Harris County Sheriff's Department 'New Choices' Program" was also awarded to the group by the National Institute of Justice **with Dr. Joseph Carbonari** as Principal Investigator, Dr. Mary M. Velasquez and Kirk Von Sternberg as Co-Investigators. **Dr. Joseph Carbonari** will also serve as Principal Investigator, **Dr. Mary M. Velasquez** as Co-Principal Investigator, and **Kirk Von Sternberg** as Database Manager on the NIAAA project entitled "Joint Behavioral/Pharmacologic Treatment of Alcoholism", which will continue for eight years. Also under the direction of the group is a study entitled "Secondary Prevention Among HIV Positive Alcohol Abusers". For this project **Dr. Joseph Carbonari** will serve as Principal Investigator, **Dr. Mary M. Velasquez** as Co-Principal Investigator and **Kirk Von Sternberg** as Database Manager.

**Drs. Alan Jones, Louis Tetrick** and **Dr. Jean Latting** of Social Work have a new Texas

Higher Education Coordinating Board grant entitled "Improving Nonprofit Organizational Productivity: The Effects of Risk-taking and Innovation on Service Quality."

Newly hired Assistant Professor, **Dr. Ana Abraido-Lanza** has been awarded a grant by the Mexican-American Studies Research Grant Program. The project is entitled "A Test of the Health Behaviors and Acculturation Hypotheses."

**Dr. Lynn Rehm** is Co-Investigator on a four year Department of Veterans Affairs project entitled "Treatment of Depression in Patients with PTSD."

**Drs. David Francis** and **Julia Hannay** received funding on their University of Texas subcontract project entitled "Spina Bifida: Cognitive and Neuropsychological Variability."

**Dr. David Francis** is the Principal Investigator on a University of Texas data management and analysis subcontract entitled "Early Interventions for Children with Reading Problems."

## PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, & WORKSHOPS

- Abraido-Lanza, A.F. (1997). Latinas with arthritis: Effects of illness, role identity and competence on psychological well-being. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 25, 5 (Oct.), 601-627.
- Dement, D., James, A., Nene D., Nash, S., & Evans, R. (1997). Self-Efficacy in the Prediction of Health Risk Behaviors: The Impact of AIDS Apprehension. Paper presented at the American Public Health Association 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, Nov. 9-13, 1997.
- Evans, R. (1997). Applying the Social Inoculation Model to Prevention of STD in Adolescents. Paper presented at the International Congress of Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Seville, Spain, Oct. 19-22, 1997.
- Nash, S., Dement, D., Evan, R., Perry, S., & James, A. (1997). Longitudinal Analysis of Peer Influence Variables in the Prediction of Drug Use Intention and Behavior. Paper presented at the American Public Health Association Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, Nov. 9-13, 1997.
- Paul, G.L., Stuve, P., & Cross, J.V. (1997). Real-world inpatient programs: Shedding some light--A critique. *Applied & Preventive Psychology: Current Scientific Perspectives* 6, 193-204.
- Stephens, N., Ezell, E., & Secrest, L. (1997). Project SUPPORT: For Families Departing Shelter. Workshop presented at the 16th Annual Statewide Family Violence Conference, Houston, TX, Oct. 5-8, 1997.
- Tetrick, L. E., DaSilva, N., Hutcheson, J., & Weathington, B. (1997). The effects of compensation package components on attractiveness of positions and the relations of individual differences in the relative importance

of these components. Paper presented at the Academy of Management Meetings, Boston, Aug. 1997.

- Tetrick, L. E., Slack, K., DaSilva, N., & Sinclair, R. (1997). Comparison of the stress-strain-outcome model incorporating the demand-control model and social support for owners and non-owners. Paper presented at the Academy of Management Meetings, Boston, Aug. 1997.
- Tetrick, L. E., Shore, L. M., & Malatesta, R. L. (1997) Sources of perceived organizational support: Social support and HR practices. Paper to be presented at the Southern Management Association Meeting, Atlanta, Nov. 1997.

## PROJECT UPDATE

### LATINO MORTALITY & HEALTH

(Courtesy of Asst. Prof. Ana Abraido-Lanza)

An inverse relationship between socioeconomic status (SES) and poor health is well-documented, both in terms of morbidity and mortality. Relative to non-Latino whites, Latinos in the U.S. are at lower SES levels. It is surprising, therefore, that a number of studies find a lower mortality rate among Latinos relative to non-Latino whites. This finding has been cited as an epidemiologic paradox. Although a number of explanations for the paradox have been proposed, few studies have systematically tested these hypotheses.

One hypothesis centers on factors that lead to an undercount of Latino deaths. Reflecting the desire to die in one's birthplace, the "salmon bias" hypothesis (Pablos-Méndez, 1994) proposes that many Latinos return to their country of birth upon retirement or becoming seriously ill. Foreign deaths are not tabulated in U.S. mortality statistics, resulting in an artificially low Latino mortality rate.

Direct tests of the salmon bias hypothesis are difficult to conduct due to the methodological issues it presents (e.g., the need for large samples of Latinos whose immigration patterns can be traced over time). Instead, my colleagues and I recently tested the hypothesis by considering the heterogeneity of Latino groups and those for whom the salmon effect is implausible. For example, Cubans and Puerto Ricans are not subject to the salmon effect, but for different reasons. Cubans cannot return easily to their home country, nor is there a strong desire to do so (as the communist regime from which most Cubans fled still exists today). Although Puerto Ricans can access their homeland, as a commonwealth, deaths occurring in Puerto Rico are tabulated in U.S. mortality data. Thus, even if individuals return to Puerto Rico and die, their deaths will be tallied in U.S. mortality data. Therefore, if the salmon bias is solely at work, the mortality paradox should be limited to other groups (e.g., Mexicans). In addition, the salmon effect is not likely to occur among Latinos born in the United States, who would have little motivation to move to a

country where they were not born. Among other reasons, US-born Latinos establish supportive family and other ties in the United States, making return migration to the ancestral country less desirable.

Using data from the National Longitudinal Mortality Study, the pattern of findings in our study did not support the salmon hypothesis. For example, Cubans and Puerto Ricans had lower mortality rates than non-Latino whites, and US-born Latinos had lower mortality than US-born whites.

If the salmon bias hypothesis does not provide a parsimonious explanation for lower mortality among Latinos, what other factors might account for the paradox? An alternative hypothesis proposes that Latinos have more favorable health behaviors and risk factor profiles than non-Latino whites. Some studies, for example, find a lower rate of smoking among Latinos (especially Hispanic women) than non-Latino whites. Ironically, however, there is also evidence that among Latinos, these positive health behaviors worsen with acculturation. Moreover, the Latino mortality paradox does not hold across all types of diseases, Latino groups, ages, or gender. A remaining empirical question is whether these inconsistencies are a consequence of SES differences, health behavior/acculturation processes, access to health care, or some combination of these. I am currently undertaking a second study to examine these issues, and encourage interested students and colleagues to contact me for more details.

## Get to Know . . .

*This is the final installment on our new grads.*

**Amy McQueen** - - - Amy hails from Walnut Creek, CA (just a BART ride away from San Francisco). She graduate from UC San Diego, after spending two summers in Detroit and a year in Canterbury, England. England taught Amy many things, but map reading and beer drinking have the most valuable. Amy enjoys dancing, taking leisurely bike rides, cooking, travelling, and sitting around talking with other in a cool bar or pub. Amy is a social student working under the direction of **Dr. Richard Evans**.

**Yelena Gerasimova** - - - Yelena comes from New York and received her BA from Hunter College, NY. Yelena is a clinical student working under the direction of **Dr. John Vincent**. She enjoys theater, swimming, and tennis.

**Lynne Cole** - - - Lynne, from Philadelphia, PA received a BA in psychology and French in psychology and french in 1994. She is a clinical student working under the direction of **Dr. Paul Massman**. Lynne's interests include sports, especially tennis, and travelling.

**Wendy March** - - - Wendy, a clinical student under the direction of **Dr. Ernest Jouriles**, calls

Bethesda, MD home. She received her undergraduate from Yale and spent the past 4 years working as a research assistant in Child Psychiatry at NIMH, on a project involving ADHD. Wendy interests include travel, reading, and spending time with her friends and family. Since her family is so far away, she and her boyfriend **Joel** (a 1<sup>st</sup> year medical student at Baylor) are hoping to get to know the students here and have lot of fun (especially at Happy Hour!).

**Jennifer Adams** - - - Jennifer grew up in Langhorne, PA but most recently lived in Golden, CO. She received a BA in psychology from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. Jennifer has one husband (Steve) and one dog (**Maggie**) and enjoys hiking, reading, and playing with Maggie. Jennifer, a clinical student, works under the direction of **Dr. Lynn Rehm**.



Well, it is final---**Richard Williams** is leaving us for UT (traitor). He offers the following goodbye.

Dear Everyone,  
My move over to UT will be complete on 10/31. I will still be working on my degree with the Dept. of Anthropology and will be coming on campus, occasionally for the next year. However, I won't be seeing a lot of you very often. My 6 years with the Dept. of Psychology have been great. I still consider Psychology as the best department at UH with the best staff and faculty. Thanks to everyone for their friendship and camaraderie. I will miss working with all of you. Thanks and best wishes,  
Richard Williams.