

# Psycho Philes

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

Issue 99:1

January 1999

## Reminders

 **OUT OF STATE STUDENTS**, did you remember to submit your Non Resident Tuition Exemption form?

 **Feb 1:** Last day to drop a course without dropping all courses to receive a tuition refund.

 **Feb 12:** Staff meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the clinic. Contact Yolizma for agenda items.

 **Feb 12:** Human subject applications due.

 **Feb 16:** Last day to drop a course or withdraw without receiving a grade.

 **Feb 17:** Faculty meeting, 3:00 p.m., 135 Heyne.

 **Feb 19:** Last day for filing application for graduation.

 **Mar 15-19:** Spring Break.

 **Mar 19:** Office closed for spring break.

## News and Notes

### ❖ Update: Department Remodeling

I'm sure it is no surprise to anyone that the department remodeling in Heyne is behind schedule. Construction on the main office is complete. We are waiting for new carpet and baseboards before our move in. Our fingers are crossed for a move-in sometime around the first week of February. The Academic Affairs suite will follow just behind. Finally the Graduate/Instructional suite should be ready for operation around the third week in February. This suite will house the GSC office, a lounge, computing and phone resources, and instructional mailboxes.

With the move, some furniture, perhaps even some file cabinets and bookcases will become available. We'll send out a "come and get it" call in the next few weeks.

### ❖ New Rental Car Contracts

New car rental contracts for Jan. 1, 1999 through Dec 31, 2000 include:

Advantage Rent-A-Car	1-800-777-5518
Dollar Rent A Car Systems, Inc.	1-800-800-4000
Enterprise Rent-A-Car	1-888-291-0359

Please note that AVIS is no longer a contracted agency. Use of non-contracted vendors is not acceptable for reimbursement.

### ❖ Personnel Psychology Marks 50th Anniversary

*Personnel Psychology* marked the 50th anniversary of the Journal by identifying the most cited article from each of its five decades of operation and inviting the authors to reflect on why their articles were so influential. The most cited article of the 1980's was authored by two University of Houston Professors, **Richard D. Arvey** (now at U. of Minnesota) and **James E. Campion**. Their reflections are presented in the article, *Being There: Writing the Highly Cited Article*, which appeared in the Winter (1998) edition of the Journal.

### ❖ 10-Didget Dialing

With the addition of Houston's new 832 area code, Houston telephone users now need to dial ten digits (area code + telephone number) to call anyone in the metropolitan area. Ten digit dialing began Saturday, January 16, 1999. Long distance dialing (1 + area code + telephone number) will not change. Houston area telephone users also need to re-program any devices that have been programmed to automatically dial telephone numbers. At the University of Houston, these devices may include ROLM phones (Repertory Dialing buttons or Station Speed Dial buttons), fax machines with auto dial features, and telephone lists used by computers for modem dialing.

must now be in the Human Resources department no later than 5 p.m. January 29.

### ❖ Staff Excellence Awards

The application deadline for Staff Excellence Award nominations has been extended. All nominations

## ❖ Human Subject Process Discussion

**Rosemary Grimmet**, Director of Office of Research Policies, Compliance & Committees, will speak to the I/O graduate students on February 4, 1999 at the I/O Research Seminar, Room 135, 4:00-5:00. She has been invited to discuss the human subjects review process and to answer students' questions. Non I/O graduate students are invited to attend as well. This discussion will provide an opportunity for students to be educated about the review process so that they can interact more efficiently with the CPHS committee. This would also be an opportunity for students (and faculty) to make the committee aware of any difficulties they have getting approval to conduct research that may not fit neatly into fixed categories, for example, conducting research in organizations or conducting research using archival data.

## Lost and Found

Missing in the big move: one box labeled "Erica Klein, 1 of 2" containing journal articles in folders. If you spot it, please leave a note in her mailbox (located with the graduate student mailboxes).

## GSC Announcements

The GSC wishes everyone a happy and productive New Year! We will resume our activities this year with a general meeting on January 29th. At this meeting, we will discuss how best to meet the department's and our needs for ensuring both security and access to teaching fellows and assistants in the bullpen. Other issues will be whether we should have a social event this semester and possibilities for bringing in speakers. As always, we encourage input from all graduate students.

## What's New In Research

Congratulations to **Dr. Gordon Paul**, Cullen Distinguished Professor, has just been named by the Society of Clinical Psychology (Division 12 of APA) as its 1999 winner of the Distinguished Scientific Contributions award.

**Dr. Richard I. Evans**, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, will be chairing the Research Proposal Review Panel for the Center for Responsible Gaming in Las Vegas. In February, he will be chairing the Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Conference on New Directions in Gambling Addiction Research at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

### OMB A-110 Revision

The Omnibus Appropriations Act for FY99 contained several new requirements of the OMB. Of potential concern is the impact of the new requirement on the

confidentiality of human subject research. While the Freedom of Information Act does include provisions that protect personal information, it is unclear that the existing provision would be adequate under the new requirements. There exists the potential that researchers may no longer be able to guarantee that their human participants' complete anonymity would be protected which, in turn, could negatively impact a volunteer's willingness to participate in various research projects.

### New Research Opportunities For Undergrads

Research on Marital Violence, Supervised by Dr. Julia Babcock, Special Problems Course #4398, Section 12595 Prerequisites: Psyc #2301 Intro to Research Methods, G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher. Interested students, please call Dr. Julia Babcock at 743-8621 or email her at [jbabcock@uh.edu](mailto:jbabcock@uh.edu)

#### *Emotions in Marital Conflict Study*

Interested in applying to graduate school in psychology? Most psychology programs require that applicants have applied research experience. This study will provide approximately 10 students with experience in a new psychophysiology lab and conducting studies that employ observational coding systems. Students responsibilities include: attaching electrodes to research participants to collect physiological recordings, administering questionnaires, interviewing participants, learning a complex coding system to categorize facial affect, coding videotapes or marital conflict for facial affect, entering data, assisting graduate students, and attending lab meetings. Students must have flexible schedules that allow running subjects on evenings and weekends. Must be able to attend a weekly lab meeting on Wednesdays 2-3:30.

### From the Division of Research

The University of Houston is co-sponsoring, with the Public Health Service Office of Research Integrity, a conference entitled "Research Integrity: A Professional, Ethical, and Social Obligation". The Conference will focus on shared accountability among members of the scientific community and the general public. Other co-sponsors include The University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Texas Woman's University-Houston Center, Prairie View A&M University, and Texas Southern University. The Conference will take place on March 11-12, 1999, at the University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center.

More conference information, including the Agenda, is available via the Division of Research web page, [www.research.uh.edu](http://www.research.uh.edu). Select News from the Division, then click on Conference to Examine Research Ethics and Accountability. This will link directly to the agenda that is being maintained by the University of Texas Houston Health Science Center. Early Bird Registration is in effect and cost for UH

faculty, staff and students who register before February 15, 1999, is only \$50. The cost of registration will be an allowable cost on most sponsored projects. Check with the Office of Grants and Contracts if you have questions about allowability of the expense.

UH faculty will be actively participating in the ORI Conference. **Dr. Joseph Eichberg**, Professor of Biochemistry and Biochemical Sciences, will be on a panel that will discuss issues related to Ethics of Authorship and Publication. **Dr. John Lienhard**, M.D. Anderson Professor of Mechanical Engineering and History will moderate a panel that will discuss The Public View of Biomedical Research.

Some limited funding will be available to assist graduate students who wish to attend the Conference (early bird registration only) and have no source of funding. Contact Rosemary Grimmet at X39201 or rgrimmet@uh.edu for additional information. (Provided by Rosemary Grimmet)

Psycho Philes is published monthly. Submissions should be sent to Mani Kuffel at mkuffel@bayou.uh.edu, or directed to the business office. All submissions are subject to editing for space and content.

#### The Latest from Dr. David Francis

Dr. David Francis just returned from Washington D.C. (he presented and consulted with the National Reading Panel (NRP)). The NRP was convened by **Dr. Duane Alexander**, the Director of NICHD, at the request of Congress. The NRP is charged with identifying the most common instructional practices used to teach children to read and to determine the extent to which these practices are supported by scientific evidence. In fulfilling its charge, the NRP is to establish criteria for the evaluation of research in Education in order to provide stakeholders with standards of evidence to assist them in evaluating "research based" claims about instructional practices. Dr. Francis was asked, along with **Dr. Harris Cooper** of the University of Missouri, Columbia, to consult with the panel in meeting their charge. Dr. Cooper is well known for his work in meta-analysis and research synthesis. The work of the panel has been directly tied to the Reading Excellence Act, a \$260 million appropriation from Congress to assist states in teacher training and adult literacy programs. The criteria established by the NRP are to be used in the evaluation of proposals for REA funds.

On a somewhat related note, Dr. Francis has been working since last year on the Task Force on Accountability for Adult Education of the Texas Education Agency. On that Task Force, Dr. Francis directed the evaluation of commercial tests that were under consideration, helped craft an accountability plan, and achieved a consensus from the Task Force in recommending the plan to Commissioner

Moses. In order to achieve the consensus, he proposed engaging two test developers to statistically equate their tests. The two tests measure similar skills in somewhat different ways, which leads one test to be favored over the other by groups whose primary audience are adults trying to enter the work force. Dr. Francis will meet in Austin with other members of the Task Force and with representatives of the test developer to discuss preparations for the equating study.

Additionally, Dr. Francis attended the Governor's inauguration on Tuesday. The Governor spent a lot of time talking about the importance of education, working with kids, solving problems of juvenile crime, teen pregnancy, and several other "health and human service" related issues of relevance to faculty in our department. This emphasis should be played up by our department in discussing the university's legislative strategy with the administration. (Provided by Dr. D. Francis)

#### NIOSH Funding Available

Funds from APA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to develop a graduate level training specialty in Occupational Health Psychology (OHP) are available. This would be a subspecialty within our existing graduate programs. The RFP defines OHP as "the application of psychology to protecting and promoting safety, health, and well being of workers and to improving the quality of worklife." Examples of appropriate topic/content areas for training activities are:

- \* relationship between workplace psychosocial factors (i.e., work organization) and occupational well-being, illness, and injury;
- \* human factors aspects of occupational illness and injury
- \* interface of work and nonwork/individual factors and occupational well-being, illness, and injury risk
- \* workforce issues (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender, aging), and occupational well-being, illness, and injury risk;
- \* health aspects of stressful work, including affective, psychophysical, clinical psychological and other health outcomes; social and economic costs;
- \* risk perception, health risk communication and training
- \* organizational interventions (e.g., work design) and programs (e.g., EAP) for reduction of occupational illness and injury risk
- \* research methods and practice in public/occupational health and epidemiology.

The guidelines indicate that "these training experiences should draw upon and integrate knowledge and faculty from several relevant areas, such as psychology, management, public health, human factors engineering, occupational medicine, occupational health nursing, and epidemiology". In addition to drawing on resources from outside psychology, **Drs. Lois Tetrack and Barbara Ellis**

would like to know if colleagues from within psychology are interested in joining this effort.

At present they are thinking of proposing a training specialty in OHP that will include the development of a graduate survey course in OHP plus other activities (courses, research seminars, etc.), including a workshop/conference that would focus on the different methodologies used in various disciplines that may be applicable to OHP research. The goal of increasing our understanding of these methods would be to integrate and enhance our research efforts in OHP. An interdisciplinary approach is difficult or impossible to achieve without a common language, and we propose that methodology may function as our common language, or at least one that can be translated from one discipline to another. If you are interested in this idea or if you have research interests in another area that is related to OHP, please e-mail **Drs. Lois Tetrick** (ltetrick@uh.edu) or **Barbara Ellis** (bellis@uh.edu). We must submit a letter of intent by February 1.

#### **PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, & WORKSHOPS**

- Ellis, B. B., & Guerrero, G. (in press). Job reclassification using the Common Metric Questionnaire method of job analysis. In *Best practices in compensation and benefits handbook*, Madison, CT: Business and Legal Reports.
- Greguras, G. J., & Robie, C. (1998). A new look at within-source interrater reliability of 360-degree feedback ratings. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 83, 960-968.
- Johnson, D. L. (1998). Are mental health services losing out in the U.S. under managed care? *Psychoeconomics*, 14, 597-601.
- Johnson, D. L., Swank, P. R., Baldwin, C. D., & McCormick, D. (1999). Adult smoking in the home environment and children's IQ. *Psychological Reports*, 84, 149-154.
- Knee, Neighbors, & Vietor (1999, January). Motivational orientations, driving anger, and aggressive driving behavior. Paper presented at the annual meeting of Social Psychologists in Texas, Austin.
- Robie, C., & Ryan, A. M. (1999). Performance monitoring as a moderator of the relations between two conscientiousness measures and task performance. *Journal of Business and Psychology*, 13, 391-406.

## **WEB SLINGING**

Take advantage of the many hours spent sifting through web sites to uncover the gems vital to graduate student survival and prosperity. Are you a data hound? A stat-junkie? A quant-jock? Or just

happy to survive Multivariate? The web sites below provide actual data that anyone can download in numerous formats and use for research no matter how much trouble you had with SAS. Use these files and online table generators to look up demographics, create customized data files for your own research or to answer questions about your sample size (is it adequate?).

- <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/> The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research at the Univ. of Michigan, has the world's largest archive of computerized social science data
- <http://www.census.gov/> Home page of the Census Bureau includes many downloadable data files, demographics
- <http://www.mp1-pwrc.usgs.gov/powcase/powlinks.html> Online Power Analysis calculators

## **On The Lighter Side**

### **Word Power - New Words for the Week**

Kinstirpation (n.) A painful inability to move relatives who come to visit.

Cashtration (n.) The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.