

# Psycho Philes

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

Issue 99:7

August 1999

## Reminders

☞ **Sept 6:** Office closed in observance of the labor Day holiday.

☞ **Sept 10:** Deadline for applications to the Social Sciences Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.

☞ **Sept 10:** Staff meeting 10:00 a.m. in the conference room of 126 Heyne. Contact Trasetta Jones for agenda items.

☞ **Sept 15:** Faculty meeting 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. in Room 135 Heyne.

☞ **Sept 17:** Last day for students to apply for Fall 1999 graduation.

☞ **Sept 20:** Last day for students to drop a class without a grade.

Beginning September 1, 1999, the State of Texas is implementing a new prompt payment law. When purchasing items where you receive invoices, the invoices must be processed within thirty days of receipt of the goods or invoice or there will be a 1% late fee charged to your account starting on the 31st day of amount due. The department has no control over this fee and it will automatically be taken from a designated account. Everyone should begin to keep track of the dates of receipt of goods and invoices. Equally important, please bring your invoices to the department business office as soon as possible upon receipt. This does not apply to goods purchased with out of pocket funds where reimbursement is being requested.

### ❖ **Selective Service Registration for New Hires**

Effective September 1, 1999, all males, ages 18 through 25, must show proof of registration with the Selective Service prior to being employed by a state agency. This proof is not required for persons already working for the University of Houston, but will be enforced for all new hires. A verification form must now be completed by the hiring unit and forwarded to the Department of Human Resources along with the standard sign-up paperwork. This form is available through Caroline Watkins in the Department Business Office, 126 Heyne. Please keep this new regulation in mind when hiring as the University will not be able to place someone on payroll until proof of such registration has been provided. How to register? The fastest way to register is through the computer on-line. Registration forms are available at any U.S. Post Office. A registration application card may also be filled out and sent in to the Selective Service System. When registering on-line, proof of registration will be sent within two weeks. When mailing in a registration card, it can take about 30 to 90 days to receive an acknowledgement card. Please see the Selective Service System web site for more detailed information at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov). To register on-line, the web address is [www4.sss.gov/regver/register1.asp](http://www4.sss.gov/regver/register1.asp).

## News and Notes

### ❖ **Welcome New Graduate Students**

The Department of Psychology extends a warm welcome to our new graduate students. The Fall 1999 entering class is comprised of:

#### **Clinical Program**

Rachel Burmeister, Robert Collins, Charles Green, Nicholas Pastorek, Gregory Schrimsher, Nancy Skopp, Monica Vann.

#### **Developmental Program**

Clare Caton, Shawn Davis, Linda Halgunseth, Jennifer Henk.

#### **Industrial/Organizational Program**

Gray Anderson, Leah Luse, Lebinh Luu, Lacey Schmidt, Edwin Sellas.

We wish all of you a wonderful graduate school experience!

### ❖ **Prompt Payment Law**

### ❖ OHP Research Methodology Exchange

In connection with the training grant in Occupational Health Psychology (OHP), Barbara Ellis and Lois Tetrick have organized a colloquium series entitled “**Research and Methodology Exchange**”. The colloquium series is designed to bring together faculty from various areas to talk about their research, a particular methodology, or both that are related to OHP. The Exchange will consist of monthly presentations that focus on a substantive topic relevant to OHP (e.g., research on stress), a particular methodology that could be used in conducting research on OHP-type phenomena (e.g., longitudinal data analysis), or both (e.g., the use of hierarchical linear models to analyze data on violence at home and at work). In addition, the Research and Methodology Exchange will include two one-day workshops conducted by experts who specialize in methodology that is relevant to OHP, for example, epidemiology. The Research and Methodology Exchange is designed to foster new research related to OHP, increase collaboration among participating faculty and graduate students, and identify OHP methodological topics for inclusion in the graduate curriculum.

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Joe Carbonari** will give the first lecture in the Research and Methodology Exchange colloquium series at **3:00 PM, Wednesday, September 1, 1999, in Room 135, Heyne**. Dr. Carbonari’s talk is titled: **Gender Differences in Alcoholism Treatment: A Structural Equation Modeling Investigation of a Second Order Interaction**.

All faculty and graduate students are invited to attend.

### GSC News

As usual, we have been busy. Our web page will be up anyday so check it out! We have also submitted to the Academic Office a list of courses that students from each program are eligible to teach in order to facilitate the match between our teaching interests and departmental needs. We also enjoyed helping out with the incoming graduate student orientation. We are pleased to note that our efforts to make the GIF a center of student activity is fast becoming a reality. Remember that there are filing drawers in the Conference room. If you were wondering where to place old teaching materials-this is it! There are only 15 drawers to share-so place your files with your name on it before the drawers are all full. To keep our stuff safe, remember to shut the doors behind you. We also want to extend our deep appreciation to both faculty and students who donated reference materials, appliances, utensils and even hot sauce for our convenience. On behalf of all the graduate students-Thank You!

As Fall nears, succession plans will be underway. Take a moment to look over our Electoral Protocol for the Chairperson Elections. To ensure that a vibrant GSC continues to represent your needs, cast your ballot anytime during Sept. 1-8.

--Aruni Nanayakkara

### GSC ELECTORAL PROTOCOL

- Area Representatives will submit to the Chairperson a list of Eligible voters (including last names) from each of their areas (The deadline was Aug. 2nd). Eligible voters are current graduate psychology students other than incoming first years.
- Elections for GSC Chairpersons will be held during the period Sept 1st – 8th.
- In order to inform eligible voters, this Electoral Process will be displayed on both LISTSERVE and Psychophiles.
- Candidates, who have announced their willingness to run and have been deemed eligible, will submit by email to the Chairperson a short paragraph (not more than 100 words) as to why voters should elect them. Submissions will not be accepted after 5 PM August 24th.
- Based on the list of Eligible voters, the Chairperson will create the appropriate number of ballots and put them in their respective mailboxes by Sept 1st.
- In the event that an eligible voter does not receive a ballot, s/he can contact the Chairperson to receive one.
- The ballots will be numbered so as to prevent ineligible ballots being cast.
- Voters can cast their votes for two current psychology graduate students (besides first years).
- Votes will be counted within a week and successful candidates informed of the results.
- The Graduate Student Director will provide independent oversight over the counting of ballots.
- The Chairperson will inform graduate students collectively by Listserve and Psychophiles, once successful candidates have accepted their positions.
- At our September meeting (usually held at the end of the month), reins will be handed over to the new officers..
- Any questions with regard to the above should be addressed to [aruni@bayou.uh.edu](mailto:aruni@bayou.uh.edu).

PsychoPhiles is published monthly. Submissions should be sent to Suzanne Kieffer at [kieffer@uh.edu](mailto:kieffer@uh.edu) or directed to the business office (Room 126 Heyne). All submissions are subject to editing for space and content.

### What's New In Research

IERI Grant for the Dr. David Francis Project

This grant was submitted as a group project involving **Dr. David Francis'** group at CARS-UH, Drs. Jack Fletcher, Barbara Foorman, and Patricia Mathes at CARS-UT, Dr. Andy Pappanicalou of U.T.H.S.C. Dept. of Neurosurgery, Dr. Charles Perfetti of the University of Pittsburgh, and Dr. Mark Seidenberg of Stanford. Dr. Fletcher is the P.I. with CARS-UH serving as the Data Center. IERI (Inter-Agency Educational Research Initiative) is an inter-agency initiative that requested grant applications related to educational research and improvement. It is jointly sponsored by NSF, Department of Education, and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. This first year, only NSF and DOE are providing funding and NICHD is an "intellectual partner." The final budget will be slightly under \$4M for three years, including indirects. The UH portion, including indirect costs, is approximately \$650K for the three years. There were over 250 proposals submitted and 14 were selected for funding. The Francis project members are very excited about this new project, and a very brief description of the proposal is provided below.

This proposal seeks to develop an interdisciplinary approach to large-scale educational interventions that provides for the integration of research and education around issues involving the development of beginning reading skills. Three projects were proposed, centered around a large-scale educational intervention in a local school district. Project 1 is the educational intervention study. Project 2 is a brain imaging study that investigates functional changes in brain activity that occur as children transition from being non-readers to being readers. Project 3 is a study of text decodability that will attempt to model how features of words and text interact with curriculum and child characteristics to make words decodable, which is a pre-requisite for text comprehension.

#### **Update on CARS from Dr. David Francis**

CARS-UH (Center for Academic and Reading Skills) and CARS-UT are very happy to learn that the Texas Education Agency's Reading Excellence Act grant application was awarded approximately \$35M. CARS-UH and CARS-UT assisted the TEA in crafting its application, and have been active participants in implementing Texas' State-wide Reading Initiative, which played a significant role in the application. Of the 17 state proposals funded under REA, Texas received the largest amount of

money. These funds are largely for direct assistance to schools that have large numbers of at-risk students and a willingness to implement research based reading instruction programs to improve student outcomes. These funds will provide much

needed assistance to students throughout the state. While the TEA deserves the credit for its successful application and the significant impact that the State-wide Reading Initiative has had on student outcomes, we at CARS-UH and CARS-UT are very proud to have been able to assist the TEA in these endeavors.

**Dr. H. Julia Hannay** began her term as President of the Association for Doctoral Education in Clinical Neuropsychology by chairing the meeting of the organization held on August 20, 1999 at APA in Boston.

**Dr. Gordon L. Paul**, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Chair in Psychology, received the 1999 Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions to Clinical Psychology from the Society of Clinical Psychology on August 21st at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association in Boston, MA. The Society of Clinical Psychology, Division 12 of the American Psychological Association, is the largest organization of clinical psychologists in the nation. Dr. Paul presented an invited address entitled, "Evidence-Based Practices in Inpatient and Residential Facilities."

**Dr. Gordon L. Paul** was also the subject of Dr. Robert Musburger's radio interview program, "Images," broadcast on August 22, 1999. Dr. Paul discussed effective assessments and psychosocial treatments for anxiety related problems and for psychoses--procedures that rely on education and training rather than drugs. While Dr. Paul's work with psychoses is primarily focused in hospitals, state-of-the-art nonpharmacological treatments for depression and anxiety related problems are available through the University of Houston's Psychological Research and Services Center.

**Dr. Mary Velasquez's** grant application to the National Cancer Institute entitled "Parent Assisted Smoking Cessation" has been funded. It will be a subcontract with the University of Texas School of Public Health and she will be UH PI.

#### **PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS**

Drotar, D., Olness, K., Wiznitzer, M., Schatschneider, C., Marum, L., Guay, L., Fagan, J., Hom, D., Svilar, G., Ndugwa, C., & Mayengo, R.K. (1999). Neurodevelopmental outcomes of Ugandan infants with HIV infection: An application of growth curve analysis. *Health Psychology, 18*(2), 114-121.

Oleson, K. C., Poehlmann, K. M., & Ross, L. L. (1999, August). Subjective overachievement: Individual differences in self-doubt and concern with performance. In K. M. Poehlmann & K. C. Oleson (Chairs), Self-doubt in thoughts, feelings, and actions. Symposium conducted at the meeting of the American Psychological Association, Boston, MA.

Poehlmann, K. M., & Oleson, K. C. (1999, August). Self-doubt in thoughts, feelings, and actions. Co-Chairs of Symposium conducted at the meeting of the American Psychological Association, Boston, MA.

Robie, C., & Ryan, A. M. (1999). Effects of nonlinearity and heteroscedasticity on the validity of conscientiousness in predicting overall job performance. *International Journal of Selection and Assessment*, 7, 157-169.

Robie, C. (1999). [Review of the book *Individual Psychological Assessment: Predicting behavior in organizational settings*]. *International Journal of Selection and Assessment*, 7, 181-182.

Schatschneider, C., Francis, D.J., Foorman, B.F., Fletcher, J.M., & Mehta, P. (1999). The dimensionality of phonological awareness: An application of item response theory. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 91, 1-11.

Smith, C. S., Robie, C., Folkard, S., Barton, J., Macdonald, I., Smith, L., Spelten, E., Totterdell, P., & Costa, G. (1999). A process model of shiftwork and health. *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*, 4, 207-218.

Velasquez, M.M., Carbonari, J. P., & Di Clemente, C.C. (1999). Psychiatric severity and behavior change in alcoholism treatment: The relation of the transtheoretical model variables to psychiatric distress in dually diagnosed patients. *Addictive Behaviors*, 24 (4), 481-496.

## Computing Notes

### Y2K Preparations

The current University plan is to request that all computing equipment on campus (with the exception of servers) be shut down during the holiday break of December 23, 1999 to January 3, 2000. Please let Suzanne Kieffer (kieffer@uh.edu) or Sean Woodward (psychservice@uh.edu) know if you will have any essential research activities continuing through that time period. At the very least, our

department must have our computing equipment off and no one should be in either of our department's buildings from December 31, 1999 to January 1, 2000. More details will follow as the date approaches.



A big welcome to **Patti Tolar**, the new Senior Advisor in the Academic Office. Patti comes to us from the advising office of UH's School of Communication and has an educational background in both Psychology and Counseling. We look forward to working with you, Patti!

## Job Announcements

The Center for Academic and Research Skills (CARS) – University of Houston is currently looking for individuals to join our research team in the following positions; Senior Database Manager, SAS Programmer, and Project Manager (or Research Assistant). CARS-UH is currently involved in eight projects, including four large federally funded grants, two state funded initiatives, and two program evaluation efforts in the Houston community. Most projects are related to reading and academic skills and development in young children.

For more information about the Senior Database Manager or Programmer position, please call Penny Kinsella at (713) 743-8529. For more information about the Project Manager (or RA) position, please call Dr. Coleen Carlson at (713) 743-8592.

## On The Lighter Side

Word Power - New Words for the Week  
Dopelar effect (n.) The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when you come at them rapidly.  
Grantartica (n.) The cold, isolated place where art companies dwell without funding.  
Intaxication (n.) Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.