Reminders

Dec 3: Deadline for applications to the Social Sciences Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.

Dec 4: Last day of classes.

Dec 8: College of Social Sciences Holiday Celebration 2:00-3:30 p.m. in Room 110 Heyne.

Dec 8: Faculty meeting 3:00–4:00 p.m. in Room 135 Heyne.

Dec 8-16: Final examination period.

Dec 10: Staff meeting 10:00 a.m. in 126 Heyne. Contact Ashraf Shafiei for agenda items.

Dec 24-Jan 2: University offices closed in observance of winter holidays.

News and Notes

❖ American Express Corporate Card Change
The General Services Commission (GSC) contracted with Bank of America (BOA) to issue corporate travel cards to state agencies and universities. These cards will replace the American Express corporate travel cards currently in use, which expire December 31, 1999. Bank of America will mail replacement cards for eligible American Express cardholders to Auxiliary Services around December 1. Eligible cardholders include those persons with active (used within the past 12 months) and current (no past due amount owed) American Express accounts as of September 1, 1999. Arrangements will be made for those cardholders to pick up their BOA corporate travel card, sign a BOA application (confirming name, social security number, and home address), and sign a UH cardholder agreement. Those employees who do not receive a replacement card or need to request one for the first time will need to submit an application to BOA through Auxiliary Services after December 1. These cards will be mailed directly to the employee’s home address within one to two weeks after the application is processed. Employees should expect to travel at least three times a year or spend at least $500 in out-of-pocket travel expenses annually to apply for the BOA corporate travel card. Of course, the corporate travel card can only be used for university-related travel expenses. Ann Lamar (Director, Auxiliary Services) and Mike Glisson (Director, Accounts Payable) will coordinate the distribution of cards, completion of UH cardholder agreements, and processing of BOA applications over the next few weeks.

❖ New Psychology Undergraduate Major and Minor
The Department is happy to announce that its proposed revised undergraduate major and minor has been approved by the University’s Undergraduate Council and has been forwarded to the State Coordinating Board for final approval. Highlights of the proposal include the requirement of Psychological Statistics for majors, and a total of seven, instead of two, required courses for majors. The minor now requires eighteen, rather than fifteen, hours of course work.

❖ OHP Colloquium
The Occupational Health Psychology, Research and Methodology Exchange Colloquium Series will be held Wednesday, December 1, 1999 at 3:00 PM in room 135, Heyne Building. The speakers will be Drs. Richard DeFrank and John Ivancevich from the Department of Management, University of Houston. The title of their colloquium is: “Stress and Work: A Management Perspective”. All faculty and graduate students are cordially invited to attend.
Psychology Faculty Assist in Trial
Drs. Julia Babcock and Roy and Jan Lachman recently provided expert advice for a civil trial in which a Harris County jury awarded $300,000 to a woman who said a sheriff’s deputy raped her twice while she was in county custody. Drs. Babcock, Lachman, and Lachman assisted with the case pro bono and with great enthusiasm as they welcomed the opportunity to see psychological science have an impact on such a real world situation. In the past, psychology and other disciplines have been ineffective in protecting incarcerated women in states where male guards still supervise.

From the Academic Office
Special Advising Hours: To better accommodate the needs of Psychology undergraduates, the Academic Affairs Office is offering (1) Walk-In and (2) Senior-Only advising hours. Walk-In advising is on Wednesdays only from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until December 15, 1999. Advising by appointment is available the remaining days of the work week. On Mondays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., advising appointments are reserved for seniors only from now until December 13, 1999 and January 3-31, 2000.

What’s New In Research
Dr. Mary Marden Velasquez has been promoted to the rank of Research Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology.

On October 19, Dr. Mary Marden Velasquez was keynote speaker for the State of Missouri Department of Mental Health’s Annual Program Director Conference in Columbia Missouri. It was a joint conference sponsored by the Department’s Divisions of Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Comprehensive Psychiatric Services. The conference is attended by CEO’s, Clinical Directors, and Program Directors of publicly funded substance abuse and mental health programs in Missouri.

On October 21, Dr. Mary Marden Velasquez was an invited speaker at the Interagency Council on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in Washington, D.C. The meeting was sponsored by NIH and included researchers in FAS prevention from NIAAA,CDC, NIDA, CSAT, and several other federal agencies. Dr. Velasquez discussed the intervention development and implementation for their current project entitled “Prevention of Alcohol-Exposed Pregnancies among High-Risk Women.”

RESEARCH AWARDS
Psychological and Decision Theoretic Predictors of Child Abuse. Eighteen months, $63,200, funded by the Texas Coordinating Board’s 1999 Advanced Research/Advanced Technology Programs (ARP/ATP). Principal Investigator: Dr. Roy Lachman.

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS


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**Computing Notes**

Be sure to check out the new items on the Department’s web page (www.psychology.uh.edu):
1. Advice To Prospective Students: www.psychology.uh.edu/GraduatePrograms/advice.asp. A big thank you to Kelly Anthony, Elaine Barry, Oscar Cabrera, Rob Davis, Melanie Duncan, Amy McQueen, Kirk O’Brien, and Laurie Smith for their words of wisdom.
2. Graduate Student Directory: www.psychology.uh.edu/GraduatePrograms/StudentDirectory
3. SAS Student and Faculty Staff Updates for Home Use: www.psychology.uh.edu/TechSupport/
4. A link to a web page for the Psychological Research and Services Center: www.uh.edu/prsc. The Department thanks Rob Davis for developing and maintaining this page.

And the Department especially thanks Sean Woodward for his work in the continuing development and maintenance of the web page.

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**Part-time User Support Position Available**

The Department of Psychology is seeking an individual for a part-time position as User Services Technician. General systems abilities and problem solving skills are preferred. Job duties include the following:
1. Provides technical support to users on both software and hardware on personal computers running Windows NT 4.0, Windows 98, Windows 95 on an Intel platform.
2. Analyzes, configures and sets-up computer systems when requested by user departments.
3. Provides instructions on Microsoft operating systems and software to faculty, staff and students.
5. Analyzes departmental needs regarding computer hardware and software; provides assessments of technology trends in computer systems.
6. Performs other job-related duties as assigned.

This position will soon be posted through Human Resources. Interested applicants may contact Sean Woodward at psychservice@uh.edu.

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**Coffee Break**

Edward Garrido was married on November 6 here in Houston. His new wife’s name is Monica. The happy couple will be honeymooning in Acapulco after the semester is over. Congratulations Edward and Monica!