

Psycho Philes

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

Issue 2000:3

March/April 2000

Reminders

Use a **tax-exempt** form when making University purchases. See Ashraf Shafiei or Yolizma Zapata in the main office for details.

April 14: Staff meeting, 10:00 a.m. in the conference room of 126 Heyne. Contact Yolizma Zapata for agenda items.

April 14: Deadline for applications to the Social Sciences Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.

April 17: First day of registration for summer/fall 2000.

April 19: Faculty meeting, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m., 135 Heyne.

April 28: Deadline for submitting signed approved original and two copies of a thesis or dissertation to the Dean's Office for binding.

May 1: Last day of classes.

May 3-11: Final examination period.

May 13: College of Social Sciences Commencement ceremony confirmed for 6:00 p.m. in Hofheinz Pavilion.

News and Notes

❖ Dr. Chet Robie's New Position

Dr. Chet Robie, Assistant Professor in the I/O Program of the Department of Psychology, has accepted a position as Senior Researcher at Personnel Decisions International (PDI) in Minneapolis, MN. He will begin there on June 1, 2000. Dr. Robie joined this department in Fall 1997. Best wishes to Dr. Robie as he joins PDI!

❖ Upcoming Clinical Program Events

- April 19, 2000, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Clinical Program Town Hall Meeting, Room 135 Heyne Bldg.
- April 26, 2000, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Clinic Forum Series, **Drs Kevin Krull, John Vincent, and Su Bailey**, "Interviewing for Jobs, Internships, and Post-Doctoral Positions," PRSC conference room.

❖ Fall 2000 Course Offering

Dr. Kirsten Poehlmann will be offering a graduate seminar in Health Psychology this fall. This course will focus on social psychological perspectives on various health-related phenomena. In addition, the course will emphasize psychoneuroimmunological techniques, findings, and contributions relevant to health psychology.

Please contact Dr. Poehlmann if you are interested in taking the course at kpoehlmann@uh.edu or 713-743-8511

❖ Epidemiology Workshop

Plans have been finalized for the second Occupational Health Psychology methodology workshop. Dr. Susan Tortolero and Dr. Sharon Cooper, faculty members in the School of Public Health at the University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center, will conduct a workshop on "Epidemiology". Dr. Tortolero and Dr. Cooper specialize in Epidemiology, Occupational Health, and Aerospace Medicine. **This one-day, intensive workshop will be held on the UH Campus, on Friday, May 12, 2000.** The workshop is sponsored by the OHP training grant from APA and NIOSH, and is open, free of charge, to graduate students and faculty. Please contact Dr. Barbara Ellis (bellis@uh.edu or 713-743-8547) if you would like to attend so that a place can be reserved for you.

❖ Reminders from the Business Office

- Please remember to provide your name and the name of the account to be charged on your Airborne Express forms. It is difficult for the business office to "guess" such information!
- Atlas and All Season Travel now charge a service fee of \$20 and \$15, respectively for airline tickets. Remember that your flight arrangements must be made by one of these contracted travel agencies or you will not be reimbursed for your travel.

- When traveling to Washington D.C., you must complete a Travel Request Form at least two weeks prior to your travel as state-related travel to the country's capitol requires additional approval.
- You can no longer be reimbursed for state tax when traveling within the state of Texas unless the tax exempt form that is given by the state is not accepted at the hotel in which you are staying. Anyone traveling within the state of Texas must take a tax exempt form (the Texas Hotel Occupancy Tax Exemption Certificate) to the hotel so that they will not be charged the tax. If and only if the tax exempt form is not accepted by the hotel will the traveler be reimbursed for the state tax they will be charged. The state will only reimburse for 6 percent state tax and 7 percent city tax (no matter what, even if the hotel's state and city charge is over the 6 or 7 percent they will only reimburse the traveler up to the 6 or 7 percent). Remember that the traveler will only be reimbursed the 6 percent state tax if the tax exempt form is not accepted at the hotel. These rules do not apply to out-of-state travel. For out-of-state travel the traveler will be reimbursed for whatever rates and taxes that they actually pay. Questions? See Trasetta Jones in the department business office.

What's New In Research

Dr. Linda Acitelli has been invited to serve as the opponent at a doctoral disputation, a public event, in the Psychology Department at Stockholm University in Sweden. In addition, she will also conduct a research seminar for the department. This will be taking place in early October, 2000.

Clinical graduate student, **Rob Davis**, recently served as a guest reviewer for the journal, Psychological Methods. He reviewed an article on web-based research, an area in which he has published previously.

Dr. C. Raymond Knee has been chosen as the recipient of the INPR (International Network on Interpersonal Relationships) Steve Duck New Scholar Award for 2000. This award is based on the evaluation of a research proposal in the field of interpersonal relationships.

From **Dr. C. Raymond Knee's Interpersonal Relations and Motivation Research Group**: Here comes more research on relationship conflict and quality! As a function of our internally-funded RIG and PEER research over the past two years, we've been lucky enough to secure external funding from NIMH to take our research a step further. The purpose of the research is threefold: (1) To examine the role of individuals' implicit theories of

relationships in the link between experienced conflict and relational quality; (2) To further examine the aforementioned association using a naturalistic diary-recording procedure; and (3) To explore the extent to which implicit theories of relationships manifest different relations between conflict and quality, as a function of sex and ethnicity. To realize these objectives, we will study heterosexual couples from the multi-ethnic Houston metropolitan area who will be videotaped while discussing areas of improvement in the relationship. Another study will involve having people who are currently in a heterosexual romantic relationship record relationship disagreements as they occur naturally. This will afford an opportunity to examine how implicit theories operate over time within relationships on a daily basis. Generally, the research moves toward the integration of social cognition and motivation in close relationships. The significance of the research is to develop a better understanding of how implicit theories of relationships function in the presence of relational adversity and to study how people think about, perceive, evaluate, and react to conflict in marriages and other romantic relationships. We are gearing up to get evermore busy!

Dr. C. Raymond Knee, and graduate students, **Clayton Neighbors**, and **Nate Vietor**, were recently interviewed by the Houston Chronicle regarding their research on motivation and driving anger.

Dr. Gordon L. Paul, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Professor of Psychology, was interviewed for an article in Psychiatric Times on treatment of people with diagnoses of schizophrenia with psychosocial technology rather than drugs.

RESEARCH AWARDS

Parent Interventions to Improve Pre-School Language Development in Children at Risk for Reading Failure. Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. \$50,000, one year, Co-Investigators: **Dr. David Francis** (PI) and **Dr. Coleen Carlson**.

Implicit Theories of Relationships as Moderators of the Link Between Conflict and Relational Quality. National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). \$36,876, one year, Principal Investigator: **Dr. C. Raymond Knee**.

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS

Bussel. V. (2000, April). Toward an Understanding of the Role of Optimism in Sexual Health Behavior among African-American Adolescents. Presented at the 21st Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Nashville, TN.

Cole, L.C., Glosser, G., Hiscock, M., & Wefel, J.S. (2000, February). Implications for Mesial Temporal

Lobe Involvement in Memory Retrieval: Evidence from Temporal Lobectomy. Presented at the 28th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Denver, CO.

Culhane-Shelburne, K., Chajeski, L., & Hiscock, M. (2000, February). Executive Functions in Children with Frontal and Temporal Lobe Seizures. Presented at the 28th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Denver, CO.

Gleason, A., & Hiscock, M. (2000, February). Raven's Progressive Matrices Test as an Indicator of Premorbid Cognitive Functioning in Patients with Traumatic Brain Injury. Presented at the 28th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Denver, CO.

Johnson, D. L., Swank, P. R., Owen, M. J., Baldwin, C. D., Howie, V. M., & McCormick, D. P. (2000). Effects of early middle ear effusion on child intelligence at three, five, and seven years of age. Journal of Pediatric Psychology, 25, 5-13.

Robie, C., Adams, K. A., Osburn, H. G., Morris, M. A., & Etchegaray, J. M. (in press). Effects of the rating process on the construct validity of assessment center dimension evaluations. Human Performance.

Robie, C., Born, M. P., & Schmit, M. J. (in press). Personal and situational determinants of personality responses: A partial reanalysis and reinterpretation of the Schmit et al. (1995) data. Journal of Business and Psychology.

Schmit, M. J., Kihm, J. A., & Robie, C. (2000). Development of a global measure of personality. Personnel Psychology, 53, 153-193.

AND A LITTLE BRAGGING...

Did you know all of the following research groups are part of the Department of Psychology?!

- Psychological Research and Services Center
Attention Problems and Impulsivity Clinic (APIC)
—Kevin R. Krull, Ph.D., Director

Child and Family Studies – Ernest Jouriles, Ph.D., Director

Clinical Research Project – Gordon L. Paul, Ph.D., Director

Community Violence Project – Melanie Duckworth, Ph.D., Director

Depression Research Clinic – Lynn P. Rehm, Ph.D., Director

Emotions in Marriage Laboratory – Julia Babcock, Ph.D., Director

Otitis Media Research Program – Dale Johnson, Ph.D., Director

Parent-Child Research Center – Dale Johnson, Ph.D., Director

Project Support – Ernest Jouriles, Ph.D., Director

Texas Young Autism Project of Houston
– Gerald Harris, Ph.D., Director

Victim's Resource Institute – John P. Vincent, Ph.D., Director

- Change Assessment Research Project – Joseph Carbonari, Ed.D., Director; Mary Velasquez, Ph.D., Co-Director
- Couples and Well-Being Project – Linda Acitelli, Ph.D., Director
- Health Psychology Research Group – Mary Naus, Ph.D., Director
- Interpersonal Relations and Motivation Research Group – C. Raymond Knee, Ph.D., Director
- Interviewing Institute (Personnel Psychology Services Center) – James Campion, Ph.D., Director
- Jury Research Project – Roy Lachman, Ph.D., Director
- Occupational Health Psychology – Barbara Ellis, Ph.D. and Lois Tetrick, Ph.D., Co-Directors
- Social Psychology / Behavioral Medicine Research Group – Richard I. Evans, Ph.D., Director
- Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics (TIMES; formerly Center for Academic and Reading Skills, CARS-UH) – David Francis, Ph.D., Director
- Texas Multi-Ethnic Sibling Study – Beth Manke, Ph.D., Director

Computing Notes

Y2K

February 29, 2000 was the last Y2K significant date. As expected, computers around the world did not crash en masse. Year 2000, as you know, is a leap year. The 29th was the leap day. Some computers were predicted to have trouble with this date. Owners of older computers, pagers, watches, or other electronic devices that display the date may have been mildly inconvenienced by having to manually change the date on the first of March. Although, this was the last major hurdle for computers during Y2K, you should not stop worrying about Y2K. Will the world come to an end? No. Will your computer crash? No. However, if you continue a widespread habit of representing the year with a two digit number, (i.e. 00 for 2000 or 1900) you will most likely experience difficulties in the near, if you're lucky, or the distant future. Herein lies the nature of the Y2K problem. Any application that performs calculations with the dates can potentially return erroneous data. So, be warned the symptoms may not appear right away. For instance, say you collect data over a period of time and enter each subject as the data is collected, and record the dates with two digit years.

You may not perform any analyses or calculations on this data for some time. Of course, by then, the Y2K problem is long forgotten. As you run your analyses or calculations on the dates, you realize that your reports are in error, but you can't necessarily tell why. Then you remember the dates were recorded with two digit years. Slapping your palm to your forehead, the cause of the errors comes to light. Now, to remedy the problem, change the dates on the few hundreds or thousands of recorded dates in your data. For some data, this is no small task. The moral of the story is, of course, use four-digit years when representing the date. Just be thankful, we won't be around for the Y10K problem.

Profiles

One of the features of Windows NT is the Roaming Profile. This allows you to move from one computer to another and still retain your personal preferences, program settings, personal files, etc. Many users have been experiencing problems with these profiles. The symptoms of these problems related to the profiles are subtle. When you log on to a computer, you find that all your previous settings have changed and you get the Windows NT Welcome Message without the checkbox in the bottom-left corner to disable it. You may not be able to add a network printer. The computer responds with a message telling you, "you do not have sufficient access to this machine..." You may not be able to map a network drive that "reconnects at logon".

Currently, User Support Services is working with the Instructional Support Network to research the cause of these problems. The research includes network connectivity issues in the Heyne Building, gathering evidence in the form of corrupted or damaged profiles, and monitoring the login and logoff procedures on selected machines. Our goal is to successfully reproduce the errors in an isolated lab environment and report our findings to Microsoft. At present, we can remedy the problems you experience on a case by case basis. In some cases, the profiles can be repaired. In others, the corrupted profiles must be deleted. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms listed above, please contact User Support Services

(<http://www.psychology.uh.edu/techsupport/contact.asp>). To best serve you with this remedy, you must not be logged on to any computer in the SOCIAL SCIENCES domain at the time of repair. Unfortunately, this remedy will most likely be short lived. We can treat the symptoms, while we look for a cause.

As a rule, DO NOT save files to your Personal directory. **Saving files to your Personal directory can lead to a loss of data in the likely event of a profile corruption.** Save them to a temporary directory on the local D: drive. When finished working, copy the files to your home drive (H: or Z:).

Once the copy has successfully completed, delete the files from the D: drive. Save your work frequently. And as always, if you cannot afford to lose the information, keep multiple copies in multiple locations. These steps will best serve you while we research the network connectivity issues.

--Sean Woodward



Coffee Break

Several graduate students from the clinical program have been accepted for predoctoral internships next year. Congratulations to:

Renee Dominguez	Baylor College of Medicine
Patty Daza	University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston
Kelli Wright	Veterans Affairs- Loma Linda, California
Katherine De Laune	University of Texas Medical Branch-Houston
Elizabeth Ezzell	Duke Medical School
Danielle Hale	Veteran's Affairs- Houston
Melissa Friedman	VA in Arizona

Fourth-year clinical graduate student, **Lara Rizzo**, and her husband, Mike, announce the birth of their new beautiful baby girl, Julia Vanessa Rizzo. She was born on March 20, 2000 at 9:52 p.m. She was born 7 lbs 8 ounces and 19 1/2 inches. She is very healthy and was born the same day as another new and healthy arrival, Eric Babcock, **Dr. Julia Babcock**'s new baby boy! Congratulations to all!

Would you like to help out the Health Psychology Research Group? This research group, directed by **Dr. Mary Naus**, will receive 1% of the quarterly purchases you make with your Randalls card if you link number 8668 to your card. Simply tell the checker (prior to checking out) that you want the number linked to your Randall's Remarkable Card. Once linked, every time you shop, the amount of your purchase will be recorded into the research group's account. The Health Psychology Research Group, a multi-disciplinary team, was formed to examine the psychological aspects of survivorship of women with breast cancer, in hopes to better understand those factors which could improve the quality of life for breast cancer survivors and their families. The project thanks you in advance for your participation through Randalls!

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