

Psycho Philes

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

Issue 2004:2

Fall 2004

Reminders

-  **Aug 23:** First day of classes.
-  **Sept 6:** Labor Day Holiday.
-  **Sept 20:** Last day to drop a course without receiving a grade.
-  **Sept 17:** Last day to file an application for Fall graduation. Forms are available in 124 Heyne.
-  **Oct 2:** Department Picnic, Lynn Eusan Park, 1-6 pm.
-  **Oct 31:** Daylight Saving Time ends. Turn clocks back one hour.
-  **Nov 2:** Election Day.
-  **Nov 3:** Last day to drop a course or withdraw.
-  **Nov 24-27:** Thanksgiving Holiday.
-  **Dec 3:** Deadline for submitting two copies of thesis or dissertation for binding. A two-week extension may be requested by petition. See 124 Heyne for petition form.

❖ Welcome New Faculty

A very warm welcome to our new tenure-track faculty! **Dr. Leigh Leasure** has joined us as an Assistant Professor in the area of Biological Bases of Behavior. She comes to us after serving as a post-doctoral fellow at the Salk Institute, and her Ph.D. is from the University of Texas at Austin. **Dr. Lisa Penney** has joined the Industrial-Organizational Program as an Assistant Professor after working at Personnel Decisions Research Institutes (PDRI) and completing her doctorate from the University of South Florida. **Dr. Lynne Steinberg** has arrived at UH from her previous position at Portland State University and is now an Associate Professor here in the area of Psychometrics/Quantitative Methods. Her Ph.D. is from the University of Kansas. And **Dr. Stephanie Tobin** has joined the Social Program as an Assistant Professor, with her focus on social cognition. She recently completed her doctorate from Ohio State University. The entire Department is delighted you have joined us!

❖ Faculty Farewells

Visiting assistant professor **Dr. Sylvia Hysong** has begun a full-time position as a Research Health Scientist with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Clinical assistant professor, **Dr. William (Dub) Norwood** will be joining the Department of Psychology at UH-Clear Lake as an assistant professor, beginning Fall 2004. Assistant professor, **Dr. Kirsten Poehlmann** will be leaving the department in mid-September 2004 to move to San Diego. Many thanks to all three of you for your contributions to the Department!

❖ Staff Comings and Goings

Congratulations to **Ms. Robin Raborn**, who has vacated her position as Dr. Julia Hannay's Program Manager to accept a position as a Guided Studies (reading) instructor at Houston Community College System (HCCS)-Northeast. She will also be in charge of the NE Dual Credit program in the area high schools. Academic advisor, **Ms. Clara Cantu**, has left the department to begin at the Galena Park School District as a 10th grade World History and 12th grade Economics teacher. And **Ms. Adilia Vargas** from the department business office has joined the Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics' (TIMES) Research Center on campus as their business administrator. Best wishes to all of you and your new endeavors!

News and Notes

❖ New Graduate Students

The Department of Psychology extends a warm welcome to our 23 new graduate students. The Fall 2004 entering class is the following enthusiastic group:

Clinical Program

Lindsay Carr, Russell Jenkins, Lauren Miller, Daniel Mortensen, Charlotte Parrott, Jaclyn Peters, Laura Phillip, Mona Rauof, Leslie Schart, Garrett (Matt) Thornton, Natalie Tobin, Christi Washington, and Susan Wood

Industrial/Organizational Program

Sally Chee, Emily Hunter, Kathryn Keeton (formerly Dayton), Kayo Sady, and Sara Jansen

Social Program

Amber Bush, Marilyn Ishler, Helen Lin, Christina Rubino, and Robert Suchting

We wish all of you a great graduate school experience!

From the Academic Office

✔ Greetings from New Advisor

Hello, my name is **Ms. Dana Gazda** and I am the new undergraduate academic advisor for the Psychology Department at University of Houston. My husband, Dan, and I recently relocated to the Houston area from Ames, Iowa. I graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree in May 2002. Before moving to Houston, I worked and volunteered at nonprofit organizations assisting youths and young families. I hope that my previous experiences will enable me to assist students in meeting their academic goals. My office is located at Academic Affairs 124 Heyne Building, please stop in to say hello, I look forward to meeting you.

✔ Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines:

The guidelines for the binding of Thesis and Dissertations may have changed since the last time you viewed them. While the changes tend to be minor, you need to be aware of them so that your thesis or dissertation will be accepted by the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences when you submit it for binding. If you are working on the preparation of your thesis or dissertation, please stop by the Academic Office in 124 Heyne to pick up a copy of the guidelines. Also, please note that if you will not have your thesis or dissertation ready by the Fall deadline of December 3, 2004, you may request a two week extension by completing a General Petition form. Do not forget to apply for Fall graduation by September 17, 2004; even if you filed last semester you will need to reapply for this semester. General Petition forms and graduation applications are available in 124 Heyne. Good Luck!

PsychoPhiles is published biannually. 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.

What's New In Research

Anxiety and Depression Clinics at PRSC

Drs. Peter Norton, Jeremy Pettit, and Lynn Rehm, in conjunction with a number of graduate student volunteers, have started specialty services in the Psychological Research and Services Center (PRSC) for individuals with depression or anxiety. Existing for treatment provision, research, and clinical training, the Anxiety and Depression Clinics (ADC) began recruiting clients in Spring 2004. Currently both anxiety and depression treatment groups are underway, and another round of publicity and referral seeking is planned for early in Fall 2004.

The National Organization of Oral History has asked **Dr. Richard Evans** to give the keynote address, on his dialogues with well-known psychologists, at the organization's upcoming annual meeting in Portland, OR.

Dr. Dale Johnson was elected president of the New Mexico National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). It has 350 members in about 12 cities, and Dr. Johnson will work to expand membership. He also plans to contact 31 Community Mental Health Centers to make sure they meet the state recommendation that they use evidence based treatment and include families.

The fellows committee of the International Society of Clinical Psychology (ISCP) has named **Dr. Lynn Rehm** a Charter Fellow of ISCP.

RESEARCH AWARDS

To **Dr. Heather Patrick**, PI, and **Dr. C. Raymond (Chip) Knee**, Co-I: *On the move: A self-determination exercise intervention*. Funded by the National Cancer Institute, \$291,327.

To clinical graduate student **Adam Leventhal**: Predoctoral Fellowship-Tobacco Research and Treatment Program, Department of Behavioral Science, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Mentored by Dr. Andrew Waters (MD Anderson) and **Dr. Bruno Breitmeyer**. Funded by the National Cancer Institute, and entitled, *Subliminal processes in tobacco dependence*, \$31,800 annually.

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS

Asmundson, G. J. G., Norton, P. J., & Vlaeyen, J. W. S. (2004). Fear-avoidance models of chronic pain: An overview. In G. J. G. Asmundson, Vlaeyen, J. W. S., & Crombez, G. (Eds.), *Understanding and Treating Fear of Pain* (pp. 3-24). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Britt, T.W., Davison, J., Bliese, P.D., Castro, C. A. (2004). How leaders can influence the impact that stressors have on soldiers. *Military Medicine*, 169, 7:541.

- Bussell, V.A., & Naus, M.J. (2004, March). *Causal attributions for breast cancer and perceived control over cancer outcome: Association with distress-linked coping*. Presentation at the 25th annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Bussell, V.A., Naus, M.J., & Knee, C.R. (2004, February). *Realistic and unrealistic control beliefs: Divergent associations with coping for chronic illness*. Presentation at the 5th annual conference for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Austin, Texas.
- Canevello, A., Knee, C.R., & Lonsbary, C. (2004, July). *Self-determination, need satisfaction, and commitment in romantic relationships*. Paper presented at the International Association for Relationship Research Conference. Madison, WI.
- Graczyk, A. J., Dunleavy, E. M., & Barr, C. (2004, August). *A test-taking motivation model explaining relations between test reactions and test performance*. Paper presented at the Academy of Management 2004 Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Ham, L. S., Stewart, S. H., Norton, P. J., & Hope, D. A. (in press). Psychometric assessment of the comprehensive effects of alcohol questionnaire: Comparing a brief version to the original full scale. *Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment*.
- Knee, C. R. (2004, July). *Final thoughts on the state of the construct of commitment*. Paper presented in J. Lydon, B. Le, & T. Loving (Chairs), Measuring commitment to predict relationship cognitions, behaviors, and outcomes: Theoretical and methodological considerations. Symposium conducted at the International Association for Relationship Research Conference. Madison, WI.
- Knee, C.R., & Cook, A. (2004, July). *Relationship-contingent self-esteem and the ups and downs of romantic relationships*. Paper presented at the International Association for Relationship Research Conference. Madison, WI.
- Leventhal, A. (2004). Virtual reality approaches to addiction treatment. *Psychotherapy Bulletin*, 39(1), 23-25.
- Leventhal, A., DeLaune, K., Mooney, M., & Schmitz, J. (2004). *Distinguishing between substance-induced and independent depression in cocaine dependent patients*. Poster session presentation at the annual scientific meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence.
- Lonsbary, C., Knee, C.R., & Canevello, A. (2004, July). *The importance of autonomy in relationship conflict*. Paper presented at the International Association for Relationship Research Conference. Madison, WI.
- Massman, P. (2004, July). *Longitudinal Analyses of the Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale in a Large Cohort of Probable AD Patients*. Presentation at the International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders. Philadelphia, PA.
- Mehta, P. D., Neale, M. C., and Flay, B. R. (2004). Squeezing interval change from ordinal panel data: Latent growth curves with ordinal outcomes. *Psychological Methods*, 9, 1-31.
- Mooney, M., Sayre, S., Leventhal, A., Hokanson, P., and Schmitz, J. (2004). *Blindness integrity in a pharmacotherapy trial for smoking cessation: An analysis of Mechanisms and effects*. Poster session presentation at the annual scientific meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence.
- Naus, M.J., Bussell, V.A., Llewellyn, A., & Baker, S. (Eds.). (In press). *Health psychology and behavioral medicine: A book of readings*. Pearson Prentice Hall: New Jersey.
- Norton, P. J. (in press). A psychometric analysis of the Intolerance of Uncertainty Scale among four racial groups. *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*.
- Norton, P. J. & Asmundson, G. J. G. (in press). Anxiety sensitivity, fear, and avoidance behavior in headache pain. *Pain*.
- Norton, P. J., DeCoteau, T. J., Hope, D. A., & Anderson, J. A. (2004). The factor structure of the Anxiety Sensitivity Index among Northern Plains Native Americans. *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, 42, 241-247.
- Norton, P. J. & Hope, D. A. (in press). Preliminary evaluation of a broad-spectrum cognitive-behavioral group therapy for anxiety. *Journal of Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry*.
- Norton, P. J., Sexton, K. A., Walker, J. R., & Norton, G. R. (2004). *Hierarchical model of vulnerabilities for anxiety: Replication and extension with a clinical sample*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Anxiety Disorders Association of America, Miami, FL.
- Patrick, H., & Knee, C.R. (2004, July). *Responses to conflict: The benefits of need satisfaction in relationships*. Paper presented at the International Association for Relationship Research Conference. Madison, WI.
- Rosenkranz, S. A., Temple, S. R., Garcini, L. M., Price, E. C., & Norton, P. J. (2004). *Relationship between specific risk factors and symptoms of anxiety disorders across ethnicities*. Poster submitted for presentation at

the annual meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy, New Orleans, LA. Ross, J. M. & Babcock, J. C. (in press). Book review of Programs for men who batter: Intervention and prevention strategies in a diverse society, Aldarondo & Mederos (Eds.), *Contemporary Psychology*.

Psi Chi News

A few words from **Mr. Clarence Davis**, the 2004-2005 president of the department's chapter of the national honor society for Psychology:

Recap from last year:

Collectively our officers made last year's chapter one of the most active ever. This resulted in our chapter being selected by Psi Chi National as one of the top three in the country. That was a tremendous honor. While it certainly would have been great to win first place, it was still a real honor to be third out of all Psi Chi chapters.

Our chapter realized significant growth in membership as well as member involvement.

Our graduate forum designed to bring together potential graduate students with representatives from various graduate programs from several universities was a success that we hope to duplicate during the upcoming year.

Future Plans:

Our goal this year will be to increase membership growth and visibility for our organization both on and off campus.

In addition, we will continue to offer assistance to students with standardized testing preparation (GRE). With input from our members, we will attempt to create additional academically based programs in a continuing attempt to better serve our members.

As always, we readily welcome and truly appreciate the efforts of both our members and faculty / staff.

We invite all new and current students to come see what we are all about and get involved. While we are an honor society, we still try to organize several social events during each semester for students to just get together and have a little fun. In addition, we are very active in the community.

Psi Chi is located in Room 105 Heyne Building and Mr. Davis may be reached at UHCougar2004@yahoo.com.

Coffee Break

Magner Award Recipient!

Congratulations to **Ms. Patti Tolar**, the Department's Coordinator of Academic Affairs. She was recently awarded the University's highest honor in undergraduate advising, the George Magner Staff Excellence in Academic Advising Award. Ms. Tolar has worked at UH for seven years, the first two as an Academic Advisor for

the School of Communication. For the past five years, she has worked in the Department of Psychology's Academic Advising Office. She was also recently re-elected to Staff Council, and serves as Co-Chair of both its Career and Compensation Task Force Committee, as well as the University Commission on the Status of Women. For more information on the Commission on the Status of Women, please see www.uh.edu/wrc/pages/comm.html.

Mr. Eric Dunleavy, I/O graduate student, has accepted a job offer at the American Institute for Research in Washington, DC. He will begin there in September 2004 as a Research Psychologist (work force analysis division). Way to go! And we know he'll visit us soon to defend his dissertation!

Social graduate student, **Ms. Molly Verrati**, is engaged to Mr. Michael Dimitt. Their wedding date is May 14, 2005. Best wishes to you!

I/O graduate student, **Ms. Leah Toney Podratz**, and her husband are happy to announce the birth of their son! Noah Dean Podratz arrived on May 21, 2004, weighing in at 8lbs, 9oz, 21.5 inches. Congratulations!

User support technician, **Mr. Adam Blanton** graduated from UH's College of Technology in Summer 2004 with his BS in Information Systems Technology. Way to go, Adam!

Ms. Charlenette Jones, academic advisor, has been accepted into the Masters in Counseling program at Texas Southern University. Good luck in you studies!

Congratulations to lecturer, **Dr. Pam Miller**, and her husband, who are celebrating the birth of their third child, Aidan O'Dell Miller. He was born on March 2, 2004, was 21.5 inches long and weighed in at 9 pounds.

Help out the **Health Psychology Research Group (HPRG)**, directed by **Dr. Mary Naus**! Link your Randalls Food Market card to number 8668 and 1% of your purchases will go to support the HPRG. See www.randalls.com/community_caringneighbor.asp for how to link your card!

Remember **Dr. Thomas Power**? On a recent visit to Washington State University (WSU), **Drs. Merrill Hiscock** and **Lynn Chapieski** had the pleasure of seeing Dr. Power, a former faculty member here who is now the Chair of the Department of Human Development at WSU. He looks happy (see center below)!

