

Psycho Philes

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

Issue 2001:1

Jan/Feb 2001

Reminders



Feb 16: Last day to file an application for Spring graduation.



Feb 21: Faculty meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., 135 Heyne.



Mar 1: Faculty annual merit review activity report due to either John Vincent or Suzanne Kieffer. For copies of the form, please contact Suzanne.



Mar 2: Deadline for applications to the Social Sciences Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.



Mar 9: Staff meeting, 10:00 a.m. in the conference room of 126 Heyne. Contact Tonnelt London for agenda items.



March 12-16: Spring break; no classes.



March 16: Academic, Business, and User Support Offices closed for Spring Break holiday.



Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day



Mar 21: Faculty meeting, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., 135 Heyne.

News and Notes

New Visiting Faculty Member

Beginning with the Spring 2001 semester, the department is pleased to welcome **Dr. Anthony Risser** as a Visiting Assistant Professor through Spring 2002. His graduate training in clinical neuropsychology was at the University of Victoria and his clinical neuropsychology post-graduate fellowship was at the University of Wisconsin Medical School His dissertation was on parental stress in families of children with neuropsychological anomalies; his thesis was about a laterality index for newborns.

Dr. Risser has been providing clinical neuropsychology services for about 15 years, and for the past 6 years, has been developing a Web presence, converting the majority portion of his private practice to Internet content management services.

He comes to Houston from Philadelphia, where he was the Project Director for a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded program of research examining the pharmacotherapy of attentional problems in adults with moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injuries. His applied and research interests include assessment-related issues in life-span neuropsychology and Internet applications in health care.

Business Office Personnel Update

Rosy Mendoza has joined the department business office as a Financial Specialist. She is located in Room 128A Heyne. Please see Ms. Mendoza for assistance with your travel, purchasing, and cash handling needs. **Mary Watkins** is now located at the business office front desk in Suite 126 Heyne, serving in the position of Secretary. Ms. Watkins is your first point of contact within the office. The Department is thrilled to be working with both of these talented individuals!

Department Mail Code Changing

Currently, the four-digit code after the zip code on the department address is an internal code, assigned by University Postal Services. University Postal Services has been working for years to possess a specific United States Postal Service zip code for each delivery drop on campus. They have succeeded and official notice will be sent shortly regarding this change. As such, the department zip code will change to 77204-5022 and will NO LONGER be 77204-5341. Please keep this in mind when you are ordering letterhead, envelopes, and business cards.

Tax Exempt Purchases

Do not forget to bring a tax-exempt form with you when making University purchases. Without that form you will be charged tax for which you cannot be reimbursed. See Ashraf or Yolizma in the business office for details.

From the Academic Office

▣ Graduate Students! You Need to Submit a Petition for the Following:

1. A 2-week extension if you will not have your thesis or dissertation defended and ready for binding by the deadline. For Spring 2001 graduation, this deadline is Friday, April 27, 2001.
2. Each semester you are requesting reduced enrollment.
3. To transfer hours or have your masters thesis from another school accepted here.
4. To waive thesis hours if your thesis was accepted by the program.

If you have a question regarding these or other issues please do not wait until you are graduating to find out. Do it early before I have to complete your graduation certification so we have time to fix what you need. Take the time to review your hours along with your department and program requirements. Do not assume grade changes, posting of grades, etc. have been done. Check everything twice. Please feel free to come by my office with any concerns you may have.

Have a Great Semester,
Sherry Beran (formerly Rivera)

What's New in Research

Dr. Richard Evans, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Director of the Social Psychology program, recently served as a visiting fellow at Indiana University's Department of Psychology, at the invitation of the Institute for Advance Studies. This is the second week that Dr. Evans has served in this capacity at Indiana University. He made a series of three presentations to faculty and graduate students and met with various research groups.

Dr. Richard Evans, as a member of the Advisory Board of the Institute for Pathological Gambling at Harvard Medical School, has served as a member of the Planning Committee for the Institute's three-day conference on Comorbidity and Gambling, held December 3-6, 2000 in Las Vegas. Dr. Evans served as Chair of the session on Prevention at that conference and presented and updated on his National Academy of Sciences paper on Prevention.

Recently **Dr. Richard Evans** participated in the Editorial Board meeting in Washington, D.C. of the *Journal of Social Psychology*, of which he is Executive Editor.

On October 6, 2000, **Dr. David Francis** was interviewed by 740 KTRH regarding his NICHD (National Institute of Child Health and Human

Development) grant, "Oracy/Literacy Development in Spanish-Speaking Children."

Members of TIMES (Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics), **Dr. David Francis**, **Jacqueline Juarez**, and **Lee Branum-Martin**, recently participated in a day dedicated to "Research Education in Texas" in Austin, TX. They highlighted student involvement in research at the University of Houston, focusing on, "All Children Can Learn: From Classroom to Brain."

Dr. Dale L. Johnson received the Hildreth Award from Division 18 of the American Psychological Association at the August 2000 APA Convention. This is APA's highest award for Public Service. *Please note this is a correction from the last issue of PsychoPhiles where it was incorrectly stated that Dr. Gordon Paul received this award. – S.K.*

Dr. Dale Johnson gave an invited talk on "The American Experience with Mental Illness," at the Suwa Hospitals in Osaka, Japan on November 30, 2000 and made several presentations at the Zenkaren Psychosocial Rehabilitation Centers in Tokyo the next day. Dr. Johnson has also been elected to Fellow of Division 18 (Public Service) of APA.

Dr. Mary Naus was interviewed by Weeknight Edition, on November 16, 2000. This live interview aired on KUHT Channel 8. Dr. Naus is the Director of the Health Psychology Research Group.

Dr. Mary Naus was interviewed on November 16, 2000 for the Weekday show on KUHT Channel 8. This episode focused on death and dying. Dr. Naus spoke about the effects a parent's terminal illness has on children and how we can help children understand the process.

Dave Fehling, from KHOU, Channel 11 did a report on the effects of journal writing, interviewing Health Psychology Research Group members, **Dr. Mary Naus**, **Jen Adams**, and **Stephen Baker** as part of his report. This segment aired on November 19, 2000.

Dr. Gordon L. Paul, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Professor of Psychology, and **Dr. Jannette V. Cross**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychology, presented an invited address, entitled 'Cost-Effective Programs Designed to Treat People With Serious Mental Disorders' at The Nevada Conference on Medical Cost-Offset, January 19 and 20, 2001, at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR).

In July, 2000, **Dr. Lynn P. Rehm** attended the Second International Conference on Licensure,

Certification and Regulation of Psychology in Oslo, Norway where he presented a paper on the US and Canada licensing exam. He then went on to Stockholm where he attended the International Congress of Psychology. Following the Congress there was a one day meeting of a relatively new group, the International Society of Clinical Psychology, of which Dr. Rehm has been elected the new President. He will serve as President-Elect for the 2001 meeting in conjunction with the European Congress in London, and will be President for the 2002 meeting in conjunction with the International Congress of Applied Psychology that will be meeting in Singapore.

Research Awards

Dr. Paul Massman and graduate student, **Jeff Wefel**, have been provided a \$30,000 dissertation award from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Their application was entitled, "Psychoneuroendocrinology in Breast Cancer: The Effect of Tamoxifen on Cognitive and Emotional Functioning."

Dr. Mary Velasquez, adjunct faculty and former Research Associate Professor, received a grant from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention to conduct a clinical trial for prevention of fetal alcohol syndrome in high-risk women. The grant is a follow-up to a feasibility study conducted while Dr. Velasquez was in this department. The award is for three years and totals \$980,078. Dr. Patricia Mullen is co-principal investigator, and **Dr. Joseph Carbonari** is the study statistician. Kirk vonSternberg is co-investigator.

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS

Cacioppo, J. T., Berntson, G. G., Larsen, J. T., Poehlmann, K. M., & Ito, T. A. (2000). The psychophysiology of emotion. In M. Lewis & J. M. Haviland-Jones (Eds.), The handbook of emotions, (pp. 173-191). New York: Guilford Press.

Cacioppo, J. T., Bursleson, M. H., Poehlmann, K. M., Malarkey, W. B., Kiecolt-Glaser, J. K., Berntson, G. G., Uchino, B. N., & Glaser, R. (2000). Autonomic and neuroendocrine responses to mild psychological stressors: Effects of chronic stress on older women. The Annals of Behavioral Medicine, *22*, 140-148.

Carbonari, J. P., & DiClemente, C.C. (2000). Using transtheoretical model profiles to differentiate levels of alcohol abstinence success. Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, *68*, 810-817.

Castillo, E. M., Davis, R. N., Simos, P. G., Breier, J. I., & Papanicolaou, A. C. (2001, February). Is the left

superior temporal gyrus specialized for speech processing? An investigation using magnetoencephalography. Paper presented at the 19th Annual Houston Conference on Biomedical Engineering Research, Houston, TX.

Davis, R. N., Castillo, E. M., Simos, P. G., Breier, J. I., & Papanicolaou, A. C. (2001, February). Mapping of receptive language cortex in English-Spanish bilinguals using magnetoencephalography. Paper presented at the 19th Annual Houston Conference on Biomedical Engineering Research, Houston, TX.

Davis, R. N., Massman, P. J., & Doody, R. S. (2001, February). Neuropsychiatric symptoms and functional status in Alzheimer's disease: A canonical correlation approach. Poster presented at the 29th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Chicago, IL.

Davis, R. N., Massman, P. J., & Doody, R. S. (2001, February). Relationships between neuropsychological functioning and caregiver-rated symptoms in AD. Poster presented at the 29th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Chicago, IL.

Ellis, B. B., & Mead, A. D. (2000). Assessment of the measurement equivalence of a Spanish translation of the 16PF Questionnaire, Educational and Psychological Measurement, *60*, 787-807.

Hughes, D.C. and Naus, M.J. (2001). Health care professionals perspectives on physical activity and lymphedema. Texas American College of Sports Medicine, Ft. Worth, TX.

Johnson, D. L. (2000). Family role in recovery. Journal of NAMI-California, *11*, 75-76.

Johnson, D. L. (2000). Working with people with serious mental illnesses. In Cullari, S. (Ed.), Basic psychological treatment methods. Needham Height, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Johnson, D. L. (2000). Das "Houston Parent-Child Development Center." In Scheithauer, H., Niebank, K., & Petermann, F. (Eds.), Risiken in der Fruhkindlichen Entwicklung, Hogrefe.

Knee, C.R., & Neighbors, C. (in press). Self-determination, perception of peer pressure, and drinking among college students. Journal of Applied Social Psychology.

Massman, P. J., Doody, R. S., & Davis, R. N. (2001, February). The Baylor Cognitive and Behavioral Status Questionnaire: Psychometrics in AD. Poster presented at the 29th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Chicago, IL.

Morris, M. A. Davis, S.E., Naus, M.J. and Tetrick, L. (2001). Cancer survivorship: Implications for the workplace. Annual Meeting of the Society of Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

Neighbors, C., & Knee, C. R. Self-determination, ego-involvement, and social comparison. (2001, February). Poster presented at the 2nd annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX.

Nanyakkara, A., & Knee, C. R. Parental support, cultural orientation, and relationship commitment. (2001, February). Poster presented at the 2nd annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX.

Patrick, H., & Knee, C. R. Self-determination and relationships: Coping, emotion, and behavior. (2001, February). Poster presented at the 2nd annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX.

Schatschneider, C., Carlson, C. D., Francis, D. J., & Foorman, B. R. (2001, January). The relationship of naming speed and phonological awareness to early reading problems: Issues and evidence. Symposium presented at the Pacific Coast Research Conference, San Diego, CA.

Vietor, N. A., & Knee, C. R. Implicit theories of smoking behavior. (2001, February). Poster presented at the 2nd annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX.

Vincent, J.P. & Jouriles, E.N. (Eds.). (2000). Domestic violence guidelines for research-informed practice. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, Philadelphia, PA.



Coffee Break

Developmental graduate student, **Cindy Stewart**, and her husband Jason, are thrilled to announce the arrival of Ethan Drew Stewart on Friday, February 16, 2001 at 9:12 p.m. He was 20" long and weighed 7 lb. 12 oz. Congratulations to the family and to Cindy, who defended her dissertation just days before Ethan's birth!

The Asian American Family Counseling Center (www.AAFCC.org) is presenting "Meeting the Growing Needs of Asian American Youth and Families: Practical Approaches." This program will be offered by Dr. Stanley Sue, University of California at Davis, and takes place on Friday, February 23, 2001 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at St. Luke's United Methodist Church at 3471 Westheimer. You may register on-site between 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. the day of the program. Cost is \$110, \$60 for students.

The Health Psychology Research Group (HPRG), 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. HPRG, 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!

Undergraduate Internship Opportunity

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is interested in students who would like to intern with their Patient Services Program. Student interns would be involved in all aspects of this program, including information and education to patients, financial assistance for outpatient expenses, family support groups, back to school support, and governmental advocacy. The Society would like for interns to have some experience working with client populations, computer skills, and a desire to work cooperatively. Interested students should contact Elba Ruibal, Patient Services Manager, at (713) 680-8088.

On the Lighter Side

Enjoy your Valentine Chocolate!

"More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate changed hands in the United States on Valentine's Day this year. The holiday's total chocolate sales approached \$1 billion. Yet, this confection's link to hearts is extending even beyond the lucrative candy business. Chocolate and cocoa powder are derived from beans that contain hefty quantities of natural antioxidants called flavonoids. In recent years, research has correlated consumption of tea, red wine, and other foods rich in these compounds with a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease. Though preliminary, the research indicates that cocoa and chocolates not only contain natural

compounds that can protect the heart and blood vessels but also that the quantities present in commercial products may be sufficient to exert measurable effects.”

Science News, Vol. 157, No. 12, March 18, 2000.

Submitted by Dr. Alex Siegel.

PsychoPhiles is published bimonthly. Submissions should be sent to Dr. 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.