












Psycho Philes

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

Issue 97:11

December 1997

Reminders

-  **Dec. 3:** Faculty meeting, 3:00 pm, room 135 Heyne.
-  **Dec. 5:** Deadline for submissions to the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.
-  **Dec. 5:** UH Teaching Excellence Awards nominations due in E. Cullen.
-  **Dec. 6:** Last day of classes.
-  **Dec. 10:** Winter Holiday Turkey Party, 12:30-3 pm, Heyne Bldg.
-  **Dec. 10:** Clinical Forum Series: New Trends in Obesity Management. Presenter: John Foreyt, Ph.D.
-  **Dec. 11-19:** Final exam period.
-  **Dec. 24-Jan. 2, 1998:** Office will be closed for winter holidays.
-  **Jan. 19:** Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King birthday.
-  **Jan. 20:** First day of classes.
-  **Feb. 2:** PEER proposals due at OSP.

News and Notes

❖ Winter Holiday Turkey Cook-Off Celebration

The College of Social Sciences is hosting a college-wide winter celebration party on Wednesday, December 10, 1997. This year's theme is a turkey cook-off, where teams from each of the departments choose a theme menu to include turkey as the main dish. The festivities will begin around noon in the Heyne building and continue until the food and drink are gone. So far, 8 teams have entered the competition, with 5 of those teams from Psychology. Each team, with themes ranging from a Tex-Mex Holiday Feast to Holiday Turkey Talk - - Hawaiian Style, has been assigned a booth along the hallway. The center lobby of Heyne will be transformed to a ski-lodge complete with a fireplace, hot toddies, and live music. In addition to the ton of food at the team booths, a separate set of tables will be set up for dishes brought by non team participants. We anticipate a grand time and look forward to sharing great food, drink, and lots of laughs with our friends and colleagues. Make sure to mark your calendars. If you have questions or would like to participate on a turkey cooking team, contact party coordinator, Yolizma Zapata. (Note to 1st floor Heyne residents: teams will begin to assemble their booths the evening before and morning of the party. Access to some of the electrical outlets will be needed in your suites. Don't be alarmed if oddly dressed people start poking their heads into your rooms.

❖ Room Change for Dec. 10 Clinical Forum Series

The Wednesday, Dec. 10 Clinical Forum Series: *New Trends in Obesity Management*, presented by John Foreyt, Ph.D., **will be held in room 135 Heyne from 1-2:30 pm.**

❖ Shutdown of Air Conditioning in UH Bldgs.

From December 24 to January 3, the Central Plant chilled water distribution system will be shutdown for repair. As a result there will be no chilled water supply to campus buildings for air conditioning. The air handling systems in the building will be in service for ventilation and heating as required.

❖ Holiday Check Pick-Up Schedule

The college is offering to pick up January checks from McElhinney on Friday, January 2, 1998 and opening the college, room 110 Heyne, from 8:30-9:30 for employees who need to get their checks before Monday, January 5. Remember, the campus is closed Dec. 24 - January 4, so this is a very nice gesture by the college. Special thanks to **Michelle Herrera** who is willing to come in on her day off to do this for us.

❖ Security Awareness

The department has been victim to thefts and the unauthorized access of individuals in areas of the Heyne building that are considered security sensitive. Please be aware that your presence in an office, especially after normal working hours, may be questioned by other students, faculty, staff, or Police and Security. Hopefully, a solution to the security problems in this building will be found that provides both the access to resources needed by members of the department while ensuring adequate safety of department property. Until then, please be understanding if you are stopped and questioned.

❖ Voucher Limit Increased to \$2,000

This is maybe not a big deal for most of you, but for research projects and those of us involved in purchasing and accounting it is great news. Effective November 15, 1997, all voucher limits, regardless of funding source, will be raised to \$2,000.

From the Academic Office

📁 **Book Orders for Spring 1998:** We are still missing book orders for the coming spring semester. The UH Bookstore sent out the book orders too early and some people should not have received orders. This is a total mess and those instructors who still need to order books, please come by the office and we can assist you.

📁 **Teaching Evaluations for Fall, 1997:** The evaluations are available in the academic office. Please remember it is o.k. for the instructors to pick up the blank evaluation packs, but a class representative must return the completed pack.

📁 **Video Library in the Resource Room:** The locked cabinet which will protect the videos has arrived in the academic office. Videos are available for viewing in the office and a check out procedure has been developed. Every instructor must leave his/her name, phone number, e-mail, and office number to check out the videos with the front desk. Each video will be check out on a computer data base. Currently there is not a return policy date, because we need feedback from the users. What would be a good turn around policy on the check out videos? Please let Tricia know your response.

📁 **Grades:** The final grade sheets will be coming the first week of December. Please remember that the final grades must be returned 72 hours after the scheduled final exam. If you have questions about incomplete, withdrawals, or students without grades, please come by the office and speak with Tran or

Tricia. There are some additional forms involved if incomplete or withdrawals are on the grade sheets. Every student must have a grade. If any damage occurs to the grade sheet or it is lost, a blank sheet must be typed by the instructor.

📁 **Registration for Thesis/Dissertation Hours:** We have changed the set up of the Thesis and Dissertation hours registration for Spring, 1998. Each student trying to enroll for these hours must consult the list in the academic office. Students will register by finding his/her committee chair section number and call VIP with that section number. If your chair is missing on the list, please let us know and we will get a section number for that faculty member. This process will help the office with the return time on completed Thesis and Dissertation final grades, because the committee chair will get a grade sheet with his/her appropriate students.

📁 **TA/TF Spring Employment Commitments:** Dr. Doughtie and Tricia are putting the finishing touches on the TA/TF list for Spring, 1998. We promise it is coming soon. If you have any questions or concerns, please see Tricia or Dr. Doughtie.

📁 **THANK YOU:** Tricia, Patty Daza, and Dr. Chet Robie participated with UH Psychology Club in a "How to Get Into Graduate School" presentation on Wednesday, November 19th. The trio did an excellent job with their presentation.

📁 **Farewell Dr. Gene Doughtie:** This is Dr. Doughtie's last semester in the department as professor and Director of Undergraduate Education. He will be missed greatly and we appreciate all he has done for the department. A presentation will be made to Dr. Doughtie at the Winter Holiday Party on December 10. Please make sure you attend.

Statistics Jokes

What is the angriest stat concept?
Answer: The mean

What's it called when two elderly twins suck their thumbs?
Answer: Simultaneous regression

What's New In Research

Dr. Richard Evans, recently returned from a trip to Europe where he presented research papers on two of the National Institutes of Health Research Projects of his Social Psychology/Behavioral Medicine Research Group. In Seville, Spain, he made a presentation at the International Congress of Sexually Transmitted Diseases on the Research Group's large scale "Prevention of AIDS in

Adolescents Project.” Among the discussions going on at the Congress was the extraordinary increase of AIDS in India and the increase of AIDS in women in the United States.

In London, he made a presentation at the Institute for Psychiatry at the University of London on his Research Group's “Adolescent Smoking, Alcohol, and Drug Use Prevention Project.” Just as in the United States, the initiatives against smoking are evidenced by the increasing number of public establishments which are now featuring “no smoking” areas, but the smoking rate among adolescents continues to be of great concern as it is in the United States.

On November 20-21, 1997, **Dr. Dale Johnson** conducted a workshop on New Ways of Working With Families of the Seriously Mentally Ill in Bismarck, ND. The workshop was sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. About two hundred mental health professionals from throughout the state participated in the workshop.

Congratulations to **Dr. Lynn Rehm** on his recent appointment to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology. Dr. Rehm was also an invited attendee November 13-15 at the “Supply and Demand Conference” put on by APA and the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers. The conference discussed the job market demand for psychologists and whether we are overproducing psychologists.

Call for Proposals-PEER

Guidelines are currently available for the Program to Enhance External Research (PEER). PEER is an externally funded program designed to provide preliminary “seed” money assistance for research and scholarly activities that show a relatively high probability for attracting, increasing, and continuing levels of support from external funding agencies. All full-time faculty members who are tenured or in the tenure-track are eligible to apply. Application guidelines are available from the Extramural Center, Room 101 Heyne, or contact OSP at 3-9212.

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, & WORKSHOPS

- Abraído-Lanza, A.F. (1997). Latinas with arthritis: Effects of illness, role identity and competence on psychological well-being. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 25, 5 (Oct.), 601-627.
- Johnson, D. (1997). Ethical issues in the prevention of schizophrenia. Paper presentation at the Association for Clinical Psychosocial Research, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, Oct. 25, 1997.

- Manke, B., Robertson, R., O'Brien, K., MacDonald, P., Wyche, C. And Berglund, J. (1997). Developing Multi-Ethnic Family Studies on a Shoestring: Emphasizing University-Community Collaborations. Paper presented at the Ethnicity and Development conference: Integrating Cross-Cultural and Developmental Perspectives. Lincoln, Nebraska, Nov. 1997.
- Manke, B., Robertson, R., & Carlson, C. (1997). A social relations model analysis of humor use in adolescent familial interactions. Invited talk given in the Psychology Department at Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA, Oct. 1997.
- Rehm, L. and Wagner, A. (1997). Psychotherapy Research for Depression: Status of Outcome Studies. Invited talk in the Scientific Presentation series at the meeting of the Texas Psychological Association, Nov. 8, 1997.
- Shapiro, R., Siegel, A.W., Scovill, L.C. & Cousins, J.H. (in press). Risk taking patterns of female adolescents: What they do and why? *Journal of Adolescence*.
- Siegel, A.W. & Hartup, W.W. (Eds.). (1997). Special Issue on History. SRCD Newsletter, 40 (3).

BRIDGING UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITIES

(Our thanks to Dr. Beth Manke and her project staff for this new Psycho Philes section)

As you are well aware, public universities across the country are being asked to reevaluate their mission. Particular attention is being paid to the relationship between universities and the communities and states in which they reside. Citizens are asking university presidents to justify both their current budgets and their requests for increasing public funds in terms of what the university is providing in return for the citizens' investments. In short, public universities are in grave danger of losing state funds unless they can provide more visible and meaningful evidence of their commitment to the state's well-being.

As a new section of Psycho Philes, we will be highlighting persons and research teams in the Psychology Department that are addressing the need to provide more meaningful contributions to the populations we study and teach. Dr. Beth Manke's research project, The Texas Multi-Ethnic Sibling Study (TiMESS) is an excellent example of how faculty and students can successfully work to bridge the gap between university and community goals.

As part of her research program, Dr. Manke has developed explicit collaborations with several local nonprofit organizations. To date, collaborations have been established with the YMCA, YWCA, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, I Have A Dream Houston, The Jewish Community Center, and the Julia C. Hester House (a community center). As part of their

commitment to the collaboration, these organizations assist in the recruitment of children and families for the research project. In short, these organizations serve as advocates for the project and help the university establish legitimacy in the community. Families have been more willing to participate in the project when encouraged by trusted community organizations. In return for their assistance, TiMES project staff provide nonprofit organizations with several free services including parenting seminars, staff training, program evaluation, needs assessment, internship program development, and consulting services. At the present time, Dr. Manke and her students are involved with the following two community outreach endeavors:

Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Houston Internship Program: Dr. Manke, along with her graduate students Pam MacDonald and Rebecca Robertson, have developed an internship program for the Jewish Community Center. This internship program was designed to give undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to gain valuable applied experience at the JCC while earning course credit. Activities include in the internship include direct service with children or teens, program planning, research and development and administrative duties. This internship program is currently being piloted in the Houston area and will eventually be implemented in JCC's across the country. Undergraduate and graduate students interested in learning more about the internships available at the Houston JCC should contact Dr. Beth Manke.

Program Evaluation for the Houston I Have a Dream Program: The I Have a Dream program (IHAD) provides support and motivation to inner city youth to help them earn a high school diploma. Program activities include tutoring, mentoring, scholarships, and a broad range of enrichment and intervention activities. Dr. Manke and her students have worked with the staff of IHAD to develop and implement a comprehensive evaluation of the program. Over this past semester, program evaluation packets were developed and administered to the students participating in the program. Additional packets are currently being developed for the program mentors, parents, teachers and IHAD staff. In addition to developing the evaluation materials, Dr. Manke and her students trained volunteers to administer the evaluation packets.

Psycho Philes is published the 1st week of each month. Submissions should be sent to Mani Kuffel at mkuffel@bayou.uh.edu, or directed to the business office. All submissions are subject to editing for space and content.



Welcome to **Michelle Herrera**, the college's new office assistant. She previously worked for Arte Publico Press here on campus and is a Journalism student at HCC. Michelle is very helpful and you can contact her at 3-4000 or at mgherrer@bayou.uh.edu.

Congratulations to **Joan (I/O) and Bruce Glaman** on the November 9 birth of their daughter, **Erin Mairi Glaman**. Erin came into the world weighing 7 lbs, 3 ounces and was 20.5 inches.

SHARE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

The Texas Multi-Ethnic Sibling Study Families

The faculty and students involved in the Texas Multi-Ethnic Sibling Study need your help! As part of our work in the community we come into contact with many families who need our assistance. It is especially difficult for many families during the winter season--these families often can't afford coats and shoes for their children, let alone Christmas gifts. In an effort to give back to the community on a more personal level we have decided as a project to "adopt" a family for the holiday season. We will be helping out a Houston family from Gregory Lincoln Elementary School and hope to provide them with food, clothes and gifts. If you or your research team would like to donate items (e.g., canned food, used clothing, toys for kids, etc.) for our adopted family please contact Beth Manke (743-8575) or Rebecca Robertson (942-7430). Won't you please help us share the holiday spirit?!

Donations Needed For Families Supported by PRSC Projects

Two PRSC projects are again sponsoring low income families for the holiday season. Both families are in need of clothing, food, and Christmas gifts for their children. Your contributions will go a long way in brightening the holiday season for these families. Please direct your donations to Gwen Moore at the Clinic or call 3-8600 for more information.

Project Support Family: Mother and father with three children; 6 and 4 year old girls and 22 month old boy. Need everything—food, cloths, and toys.

VRI Family: Single mom with three children; 9 and 3 year old boys, and 7 year old girl.

Donations can be directed to the clinic, contact Gwen Moore at 3-8600.

On The Lighter Side

WHAT IF DR. SEUSS DID TECHNICAL COMPUTER WRITING?

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,
and the bus is interrupted as a very last resort,
and the address of the memory makes your floppy disk
abort,

then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash,
and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash,
and your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash,
then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna
crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house,
says the network is connected to the button on your
mouse,

but your packets want to tunnel on another protocol,
that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall,
and your screen is all distorted by the side effects of
gauss,

so your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse,
then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang,
'cause as sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the disk,
and the microcode instructions cause unnecessary risk,
then you have to flash your memory and you'll want to
RAM your ROM.

Quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your
mom.

From the MA Bar Association Lawyers Journal

The following are questions actually asked of witnesses by
attorneys during trials and, in certain cases, the responses
given by insightful witnesses:

1. "The youngest son, the twenty-year old, how old is he?"
2. "Were you present when your picture was taken?"
3. "How far apart were the vehicles at the time of the collision?"
4. "You were there until the time you left, is that true?"
5. Q: "You say the stairs went down to the basement?"
A: "Yes."
Q: "And these stairs, did they go up also?"
6. Q: "How was your first marriage terminated?"
A: "By death."
Q: "And by who's death was it terminated?"
7. Q: "Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?"
A: "All my autopsies are performed on dead people."
8. Q: "All your responses must be oral, OK? What school did you go to?"
A: "Oral."
9. Q: "Do you recall the time that you examined the body?"
A: "The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.."
Q: "And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?"
A: "No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy."
10. Q: "You were not shot in the fracas?"

A: "No, I was shot midway between the fracas and the navel."

11. Q: "Are you qualified to give a urine sample?"

A: "I have been since early childhood."

12. Q: "Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?"

A: "No."

Q: "Did you check for blood pressure?"

A: "No."

Q: "Did you check for breathing?"

A: "No."

Q: "So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?"

A: "No."

Q: "How can you be so sure, Doctor?"

A: "Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar."

Q: "But could the patient have still been alive nevertheless?"

A: "It is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere."

FROM ALL OF US...WISHING YOU A
SAFE, JOYOUS, AND RESTFUL
HOLIDAY SEASON.