


# Psycho Philes


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

Issue 98:8

September 1998

## Reminders

 **Oct 21:** Faculty meeting, 3:00 pm room 135 Heyne.

 **Nov 6:** Submission deadline for thesis or dissertation binding.

The new faculty allocation process is in effect. If you decide to purchase basic supplies yourselves, please make sure you see Ashraf or Yolizma first to get the state tax exempt form. Without the form, we can not reimburse you for any tax charges.

## News and Notes

### ❖ Say Hello To . . .

The beginning of each new academic year brings new faces to the department---more wonderful an interesting people to add to our midst. We've asked our newcomers to provide a brief statement about themselves. Over the next several issues of *Psycho Philes*, we will share their statements. Enjoy the read and when the opportunity arises, make a point of introducing yourself.

**Dr. Barbara Ellis** received her BA in psychology from Hollins College and her MA and Ph.D. degrees in industrial/organizational psychology from the University of South Florida. As a graduate student she completed an internship with IBM's Personnel Research and Development Department in Stuttgart Germany and was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Giessen in Germany where she conducted research for her doctoral dissertation. Dr. Ellis' primary research interests are in applied psychological measurement and personnel psychology. She has been on the faculty at the University of Connecticut and the University of Texas at El Paso, where she was also the Director of the Center for Organizational Research.

**Dr. Kirsten Poehlmann** received her Ph.D. in 1998 from the Ohio State University, where she worked with Drs. **John Cacioppo**, **Jan Kiecolt-Glaser**, and **Robert Arkin**. Her dissertation focused on the effects of chronic stress on cardiovascular, neuroendocrine, and immune responses to short-term stressors. Participants in the longitudinal research project were women who were caregivers for their husbands who had Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and women who were sociodemographically matched. Cardiovascular, endocrine, and immune measures were taken to determine whether the two groups differed in terms of basal functioning or in terms of reactions to short laboratory stressors. Results revealed that the chronic stress of caregiving was associated with elevated levels of sympathetic cardiac tonus but did not alter responses to the short-term stressors for many of the measures of interest. Dr. Poehlmann has also conducted research on overachievers, focusing on how overachievers' experience their world.

**Rob Davis**, clinical student (neuropsychology track) graduated from the University of Michigan in 1996 with and a BA in psychology and philosophy. After graduation, he did research with **Denise Park** and **Susan Nolen-Hoeksema** in the areas of cognitive aging and depression, respectively. Rob's research interests are in the neuropsychology of aging: he is also interested in neuropsychological mechanisms in mood regulation. Outside of school, Rob thrives on distance running, reading, and maintaining a web page.

**Christie Burns** is a new I/O Psychology student and is equally excited and terrified to be here. She is from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Sociology from Louisiana State University in 1996. She loves her cats, football, NCAA baseball, and her boyfriend of 5 years (although not necessarily in that order). Christie also loves to read (or did until she became force to read at every the waking moment). She is looking forward to the challenges of the next few years and will seek (and try to provide) support to make them as painless and enriching as possible

**Valerie A. Bussell**, a social psychology student, is a native Houstonian, a future health psychologist, and former art teacher. She is married with one teenage daughter. Outside interests include art and tennis. Research interests are women's health issues. Valerie has studied as both an undergraduate and postbac at UH, so adjusting to graduate school has not been that hard yet.

Clinical student, **Stephen Baker** has had a nomadic life, being the son of a career Air Force officer - beginning life in London, England; however, the place he calls home is Rhode Island. It is there that he went to high school and then college, receiving his Bachelor's degrees from Rhode Island College in 1988. Stephen's second home is in Washington DC, where he received his Master's degree from The Catholic University of America in 1990. He began working as a clinical diagnostician for Johns Hopkins University on an epidemiological-genetics investigation of schizophrenia, and later as a clinical diagnostician on an investigation of the effects of residential stability on mothers and their children. It was at Hopkins that Stephen met his wife, **Debbie**. They settled in Silver Spring, MD, an area just on the borders of DC, and began their family, which includes two daughters, **Emma** (4) and **Mollie** (3). They now find themselves living in Northwest Houston. Debbie is working for HISD as a special education teacher of mentally retarded and autistic adolescents; and the girls enjoy their grandmother, who has retired and lives with them.

#### ❖ Update: College CBA Search Over

**Dean Richard Rozelle** has an accepted offer for the position of college business administrator. **Kal Marchi**, currently employed at the UH Budget Office, will assume the CBA position on October 6. Kal has extensive budget experience and will certainly bring a new level of technical experience to the college. We are all looking forward to his arrival, no more so than **Mani**, who has been interim college administrator for the past three and half months.

#### ❖ Update: The New Clinic

For the most part, the move is complete. After days of constant rain, and leaking in the new building, everything is beginning to dry out. The building doesn't look half-bad and the space inside is much more functional than the old clinic. Of course, there are still many, many, small items to attend to, but in general, it's not looking too bad. When you have time, go on over and take a peek.

## From the Academic Office

☑ **Graduation Extension:** It is that time of year. 9/18/98 is the deadline to apply for graduation. The

dean's office has extended the deadline for two more weeks 10/2/98. Send the student to 104 E-Cullen to complete the application. Dean's approval is not needed to apply during this extended period. A late fee will apply to those that do not make the 9/18

☑ **1998-99 Graduate Handbook:** The handbook is now available. Copies are available from the department's academic affairs office.

☑ **1998-99 Psi Chi Chapter Officers:** The Psi Chi office located 132K Heyne is well know haunt to many of us. For new members of the department looking something special to eat or drink, pop on over to enjoy the generally well stocked pantry.

This year's officers include:

President: **Nada Balius**  
VP: **Amanda Morvant**  
Treasurer: **Peggy Hsieh**  
Secretary: **Kevin Persad**  
Historian: **Claudia Tavera**

Officers can be contacted at 3-5583.

## What's New In Research

**Dr. Lois Tetrick** has been elected to be the Program Chair of the Human Resources Division of the Academy of Management. For the next five years, she will serve as Program Chair-Elect, Program Chair, Division Chair-Elect, Division Chair, and Past Division Chair.

**Dr. Dale Johnson** has just completed a time on the Center for Mental Health Services grant review committee--Housing for people with serious mental illnesses.

### Human Subject Reviews

The SSCPHS committee will not be doing sub committee meetings for a few months. At the first meeting August 28, 1998, the committee felt that until they were comfortable with the process and the type of human subject research that is being proposed that all applications should receive full committee consideration.

### FIPSE Call for Proposals

The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) is calling for proposals. FIPSE supports improvement efforts in a wide variety of disciplines, programs, and institutions. Although proposals to assess existing reforms, or to study the feasibility of reforms in the development stage will be considered, FIPSE does not ordinarily support basic research. FIPSE will support controversial or unconventional projects as long as they are well justified, carefully designed, and responsibly

managed. Grants may provide one, two, or three years of funding. FY 1998 projects may begin as early as September 1, 1999, but preferably no later than January 1, 2000. Grants usually range from \$15,000 to \$150,000 per year, with an average of about \$80,000/yr. The deadline for submission of proposals is October 22, 1998. A copy of the application materials is located in Mani's office.

### NIH Contemplating More Collaborative Research Efforts

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) was reported to be in agreement that, if the big budget increases (8 + percent) that are expected for the NIH for FY 1999 materialize, it should use much of the new funds to promote more collaborations, more big-science programs, and possibly more "goal-oriented" research, according to Washington FAX. The ACD, which advises NIH Director Harold Varmus, indicated at a meeting with Varmus in early June that the new funds should not simply be used for more investigator-initiated (RO1) grants. Varmus, who attended the June meeting, was reported to be in agreement with the ACD.---SRA NEWS, Vol. 30, No. 4.

### PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, & WORKSHOPS

Babcock, J. C. & Steiner, R. (1998, July). The effects of treatment and incarceration on recidivism of battering. Paper presentation at the Program Evaluation and Family Violence Research: An International Conference. Durham, NH.

Babcock, J. C., Waltz, J., Jacobson, N. S., Gottman, J. M. (1998, July). Testing a typology of batterers. Paper presented at the International Society for Research on Aggression XIII World Meeting. Mahwah, NJ.

Hannay, H. J. (1998). The functioning of the corpus callosum in hydrocephalic children. Presidential Address. Twenty-First International Neuropsychological Society Annual Mid-Year Conference, Budapest, Hungary, July 10.

Hannay, H. J. (1998). Conversation Hour: Houston Conference on Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology. American Psychological Association, San Francisco, August.

Johnson, D. (accepted for publication) 1998. The effects of early middle ear effusion on child intelligence at three, five and seven years of age. *J. of Pediatric Psychology* and Are mental health services losing out in the United States under managed care?. *PharmacoEconomics*.

Tetrick, L. E. (1998). Organizational Restructuring: When and How Does It Create Desirable Work? Paper to be presented at the American Psychological Association. San Francisco, August.

Tetrick, L. E. (1998). Occupational Health - A Multidisciplinary Approach Is Critical. Paper to be presented at the Academy of Management Meeting. San Diego, August.

Velasquez, MM., Carbonari, JP. & DiClemente (in press, Addictive Behaviors). Psychiatric severity and behavior change in alcoholism: The relation of the transtheoretical model variables to psychiatric distress in dually diagnosed patients.

Velasquez, MM. (1998). Tailoring Treatment: Using the stages of change and motivational interviewing to develop effective chemical dependency interventions. Invited workshop at the annual Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse conference, Austin, TX. July 26-August 7.

Velasquez, MM. (1998). "Stages of change in breast and cervical cancer screening" Invited workshop at the joint University of Texas Medical Branch and Texas Department of Health Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Conference, Houston, TX. July 26.

Waltz, J., Babcock, J. C., Jacobson, N. S., & Gottman, J. M. (1998, July). Test of a batterer typology using batterer and victim reports. Paper presented at the Program Evaluation and Family Violence Research: An International Conference. Durham, NH.



Our Psychology family has grown. Congratulations to **Chris** and **Amy Schatschneider** on the birth of their son. His name is **Thomas Zoldak Schatschneider** and he was born at home on July 24th. He weighed in at 8lbs 3oz and was 22 inches long. He and mom are currently doing very well. And just in . . . **Yolizma** and **Joe Zapata** are the proud parents of a 6lbs 13oz baby girl born Sunday, September 20. Baby and parents are fine. Yolizma will be on maternity leave for the next couple of months. We'll try to hold the fort down in her absence.

Our deepest condolences to the family of **Tricia Spinks**. Her father, **Nick Spinks** died in a tragic automobile accident last month. Tricia is currently on leave of absence. We all hope to see her smiling face again soon.

**Mani Kuffel** will be leaving the department at the end of this year. She and her husband **Lorne** will be moving to Williamsburg, VA. Lorne has accepted a position at the College of William and Mary. Mani hopes to take a couple of years off from work to build a home and maybe start a small business.

## On The Lighter Side

### THOUGHTS TO PONDER

"I just broke up with someone and the last thing she said to me was, 'You'll never find anyone like me again!' I'm thinking, 'I should hope not! If I don't want you, why would I want someone like you?'" > --Larry Miller

"What do people mean when they say the computer went down on them?" --Marilyn Pittman

"When you look at Prince Charles, don't you think that someone in the Royal family knew someone in the Royal family?" --Robin Williams

"Relationships are hard. It's like a full-time job, and we should treat it like one. If your boyfriend or girlfriend wants to leave you, they should give you 2 weeks' notice. There should be severance pay, and before they leave you, they should have to find you a temp." --Bob Ettinger

"I ask people why they have deer heads on their walls. They always say because it's such a beautiful animal. There you go. I think my mother is attractive, but I have photographs of her." --Ellen DeGeneres

"A lady came up to me on the street and pointed at my suede jacket. 'You know a cow was murdered for that jacket?' she sneered. I replied in a psychotic tone, 'I didn't know there were any witnesses. Now I'll have to kill you too.'" --Jake Johansen

"I'm a psychic amnesiac. I know in advance what I'll forget." --Michael McShane

"My mom said she learned how to swim. Someone took her out in the lake and threw her off the boat. That's how she learned how to swim. I said, 'Mom, they weren't trying to teach you how to swim.'" --Paula Poundstone

"In elementary school, in case of fire you have to line up quietly in a single file line from smallest to tallest. What is the logic? Do tall people burn slower?" --Warren Hutcherson

"I voted for the Democrats because I didn't like the way the Republicans were running the country. Which is turning out to be like shooting yourself in the head to stop your headache." --Jack Mayberry

Ever wonder if illiterate people get the full effect of alphabet soup?" --John Mendoza

"I had a linguistics professor who said that it's man's ability to use language that makes him the dominant species on the planet. That may be. But I think there's one

other thing that separates us from animals. We aren't afraid of vacuum cleaners." --Jeff Stilson

"Did you ever walk in a room and forget why you walked in? I think that's how dogs spend their lives." --Sue Murphy

"The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four Americans is suffering from some form of mental illness. Think of your three best friends. If they are okay, then it's you." --Rita Mae Brown

"I worry that the person who thought up Muzak may be thinking up something else." --Lily Tomlin

"The Swiss have an interesting army. Five hundred years without a war. Pretty impressive. Also pretty lucky for them. Ever see that little Swiss Army knife they have to fight with? Not much of a weapon there. Corkscrews. Bottle openers. 'Come on, buddy, let's go. You get past me, the guy in back of me, he's got a spoon. Back off. I've got the toe clippers right here.'" > --Jerry Seinfeld

"I think that's how Chicago got started. A bunch of people in New York said, 'Gee, I'm enjoying the crime and the poverty, but it just isn't cold enough. Let's go west.'" --Richard Jeni

Psycho Philes is published around the 1st week of each month. Submissions should be sent to Mani Kuffel at <a href="mailto:mkuffel@bayou.uh.edu">mkuffel@bayou.uh.edu</a> , or directed to the business office. All submissions are subject to editing for space and content.
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