

Psycho Philes

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

Issue 98:11

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Reminders

IMMEDIATE: All out-of-state graduate students must submit their Non Resident Tuition Exemption form for spring semester before the beginning of the new semester.

Dec 24-Jan 3: Offices closed in observance of winter holidays.

Jan 8: Deadline for submission of CPHS applications.

Jan 18: Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King's birthday.

Jan 19: First day of classes.

Jan 26: Fee bills must be paid or courses will be cancelled.

Feb 1: Last day to drop a course without dropping all courses to receive a tuition refund.

Feb 16: Last day to drop a course or withdraw without receiving a grade.

News and Notes

❖ Business Office Moves and Remodeling Underway

Planning and Construction tell us that the administrative remodeling is still on schedule. The plan is to start demolition on the 132, 128, and 122C space on December 28. Construction should only take a couple days and the space should be ready for occupancy the first week in January. Then the work begins on the 122 suite. Again, they tell us it should only take about 10 days to complete. We hope the dust is cleared by the time classes start.

❖ Houston Neuropsychological Society

The Houston Neuropsychological Society (HNS) is a local professional organization open to students and faculty with an interest in neuropsychology/neuroscience. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month on an alternating time schedule. The next meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on January 7th in the 4th floor auditorium of the VA (Corner of Almeda and Old Spanish Trail). Dr. Pim Brouwers, formerly of the National Cancer Institute and now a Baylor Professor of Pediatrics - Hematology/Oncology Section, will present on "The Neuroscience of Pediatric HIV-1 Disease". All interested students and faculty are welcome. For those of you interested in formal membership to HNS, please contact Laura Jeffries, Ph.D. at (713) 468-3344.

❖ From Psychology User Support Services

Beginning on Saturday, December 19 until the first of the year, electrical service to the Heyne building will be interrupted temporarily for maintenance work. In preparation for the temporary disconnection of power on December 18, be sure to shut your computers down (turn them off) before you leave.

❖ American Express Spending Reminder

There is a \$200 limit on retail charges on all state-issued individual American Express cards. This means that card members can charge only \$200 in non-travel expenses per billing cycle. Attempting to charge more than \$200 will result in the charge being denied by American Express. Travel expenses include air/rail, rental car, lodging, restaurant, some public transportation (taxi, buses), some gas stations/convenience stores, and some parking. Sometimes, taxi, gasoline, and parking charges are coded with "retail" industry codes and will count as part of the \$200.

❖ Payroll Checks

The official payday for monthly and biweekly payroll checks this year is Monday, January 4, 1999 (as

published by the State Comptroller's Office in the *Notice to State Agencies* dated July 2, 1998). January 1 is a State of Texas holiday and the banks

are closed in observance of New Year's Day. We have inquired about early release of paychecks. Unfortunately this is not possible because the State does not allow payment of state funds prior to the official payday.

❖ **Less Than Full Time Enrollment for Grads**

All graduate students are reminded that they must file a General Petition for any reduction in full-time status, that is, enrollment less than 12 hours. The General Petition must include a statement of why you are requesting permission to enroll below 12 hours (e.g. "I have met the core requirements and have completed two years of study," or "This is my last semester and am taking only dissertation hours."). The petition must all be signed by your faculty advisor and must be submitted to the Academic Affairs office prior to the first day of classes. Remember that a general petition is a request to do something it and does not constitute approval until all reviews and signatures are completed. This process is required whether you have met the minimum core requirements, years, or any of the exceptions. Be aware that enrollments will be monitored and academic stops will be placed on students who are under enrolled and do not have a petition on file.

❖ **Department Updates Its Web Site**

Dr. Roy Lachman is busy overseeing the much needed revamping of our department web site. This will include transfer of the department home page to the IT mainframe and the division of the home page into separate home pages for each of the graduate programs. By March an undergraduate home page will be added.

From the Academic Office

☑ **VIP Registration** is from Jan 9 - 23. Fee bills must be picked up on Jan 26 at the UC and paid or classes will be cancelled.

Psycho Philes is published monthly. 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.

☑ **12th Day Class Rolls:** Please check and make sure the students enrolled in the class should indeed be in that section and class. If students are missing from the roll, please see the academic affairs office with the student's SSN and full name so the student's records can be researched. Please sign the bottom page of the class rolls, keep the middle copy and return the class rolls to the academic affairs office.

Get to Know . . .

Here's more of the "dirty" on our new graduates

Pam Williams-Pam is a first year Social Psychology student. She received her BS in Psychology from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA and her MS in General/Experimental Psychology from Old Dominion University, primarily researching body image issues. Prior to coming to UH, she taught undergraduate Research Methods and conducted clinical drug trials at Eastern Virginia Medical School's Sleep Disorders Center. Current research interests are in the areas of health psychology and behavioral medicine, especially exercise behavior. Since moving to Houston, Pam has enjoyed thwarting would-be intruders from her home.

What's New In Research

Call for Papers

The *Journal of Behavioral Health Services and Research* invites manuscripts for publication consideration in the *Children's Mental Health Services*: 1) Prevention & Early Intervention of Children's Mental Health Services, 2) Parental Role I Behavioral Health Planning for Children, 3) Grandparents as Parents: Implications for Behavioral Health Services, 4) The Implementation of Children's Health Insurance Program [CHIP]: Impact on Mental Health Services. The deadline is June 1, 1999.

Additionally, there is a call for manuscripts for publication consideration in upcoming special issues addressing: 1) Linking Mental Health & Substance Abuse Systems Delivery, 2) Quality of Life & Mental Health Morbidity in Persons with Chronic Illnesses, 3) Children's Services Reform in the Juvenile Justice System. The Deadline is March 1, 1999. To request more information, contact Bruce Lubotsky Levin at levin@fmhi.usf.edu or call (813) 974-6400.

Changes in NIH Grants Policy Statement

NIH recently published a "Grants Policy Statement" which is effective for all grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods beginning on or after October 1, 1998. The statement supersedes, in its entirety, the PHS Grants Policy Statement.

Among the major changes are:

- The rebudgeting threshold for alternation and renovations in a single budget period has been increased up to 25% of the single budget period amount, not to exceed \$400,00. Rebudgeting in excess of that

amount will continue to require approval from NIH.

- Prior approval for audiovisual activities in excess of \$25,000 has been eliminated.
- The threshold for negotiation of a patient care rate agreement has been increased from \$25,000 in a single budget period to \$100,000 in a single budget period.
- The definition of "significant rebudgeting" has been retooled as follows:

"significant rebudgeting occurs when expenditures in a single direct cost budget category deviates (increase or decreases) from the categorical commitment level established at the categorical commitment level established at the time of the computing award by more than 25% of the total amount awarded. The basis for determining significant rebudgeting excludes the effects of carryover of prior year unobligated balance, but includes computing or administrative supplements."

The statement also contains additional information on roles and responsibilities, cost considerations, inventions and patents, and the inclusion of the noncompeting award process. Copies of the statement can be found at <http://www.hih.gov>.

Research Projects Highlighted In Recent UH Pub
Hope everyone has had a chance to read *the Fall '98 Collegium* publication, pp. 20-23. There is a nice article on four of our clinical faculty, **Drs. Babcock, Duckworth, Jouriles, and Vincent**. The article affectionately refers to them as the "Gang of Four" and describes their research projects.

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, & WORKSHOPS

Robie, C., Ryan, A. M., Schmieder, R. A., Parra, L. F., & Smith, P. A. (1998). The relation between job level and job satisfaction. *Group & Organization Management*, 23, 470-495.



Congratulations to our own **Kimberly Walters**, Financial Assistant. Kimberly graduates this month with her BA in Psychology and a minor in Spanish. Consider the following:

On The Lighter Side

Misinterpretations

Every village has a village idiot, except in Washington D.C. where idiot is plural.

The world isn't crazy, only 90% of it. The other 10% is certifiably insane.

The pen stings worse than the sword, especially when you get ink in your eye.

Politics is not an exact science, it s more like a sex ed. class

Don't let the beaten dog see the stick, blind him with pepper spray first.

Every new song can be sung to an old tune, although it could lead to major copyright lawsuits.

No amount of political freedom will ever satisfy the hungry masses. Only McDonalds can do that.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth will set ye free, not including the 8% sales tax, that is.



**HAVE A PEACEFUL, LOVING,
AND SAFE HOLIDAY
SEASON. SEE YOU ALL IN
THE NEW YEAR.**