

Psycho Philes

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

Issue 99:9

November 1999

Reminders

Dec 3: Deadline for applications to the Social Sciences Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.

Dec 4: Last day of classes.

Dec 8: College of Social Sciences Holiday Celebration 2:00-3:30 p.m. in Room 110 Heyne.

Dec 8: Faculty meeting 3:00-4:00 p.m. in Room 135 Heyne.

Dec 8-16: Final examination period.

Dec 10: Staff meeting 10:00 a.m. in 126 Heyne. Contact Ashraf Shafiei for agenda items.

Dec 24-Jan 2: University offices closed in observance of winter holidays.

News and Notes

❖ American Express Corporate Card Change

The General Services Commission (GSC) contracted with Bank of America (BOA) to issue corporate travel cards to state agencies and universities. These cards will replace the American Express corporate travel cards currently in use, which expire December 31, 1999. Bank of America will mail replacement cards for eligible American Express cardholders to Auxiliary Services around December 1. Eligible cardholders include those persons with active (used within the past 12 months) and current (no past due amount owed) American Express accounts as of September 1, 1999. Arrangements will be made for those cardholders to pick up their BOA corporate travel card, sign a BOA application (confirming name, social security number, and home address), and sign a UH cardholder agreement. Those employees who do not receive a replacement card or need to request one for the first time will need to submit an application to BOA through Auxiliary Services after December 1. These cards will be mailed directly to the employee's home address within one to two weeks after the application is processed. Employees should expect to travel at least three times a year or spend at least \$500 in out-of-pocket travel expenses annually to apply for the BOA corporate travel card. Of course, the corporate travel card can only be used for university-related travel expenses. Ann Lamar (Director, Auxiliary Services) and Mike Glisson (Director, Accounts Payable) will coordinate the distribution of cards, completion of UH cardholder agreements, and processing of BOA applications over the next few weeks.

❖ New Psychology Undergraduate Major and Minor

The Department is happy to announce that its proposed revised undergraduate major and minor has been approved by the University's Undergraduate Council and has been forwarded to the State Coordinating Board for final approval. Highlights of the proposal include the requirement of Psychological Statistics for majors, and a total of seven, instead of two, required courses for majors. The minor now requires eighteen, rather than fifteen, hours of course work.

❖ OHP Colloquium

The Occupational Health Psychology, Research and Methodology Exchange Colloquium Series will be held Wednesday, December 1, 1999 at 3:00 PM in room 135, Heyne Building. The speakers will be Drs. Richard DeFrank and John Ivancevich from the Department of Management, University of Houston. The title of their colloquium is: "Stress and Work: A Management Perspective". All faculty and graduate students are cordially invited to attend.



❖ Psychology Faculty Assist in Trial

Drs. Julia Babcock and Roy and Jan Lachman recently provided expert advice for a civil trial in which a Harris County jury awarded \$300,000 to a woman who said a sheriff's deputy raped her twice while she was in county custody. Drs. Babcock, Lachman, and Lachman assisted with the case pro bono and with great enthusiasm as they welcomed the opportunity to see psychological science have an impact on such a real world situation. In the past, psychology and other disciplines have been ineffective in protecting incarcerated women in states where male guards still supervise.

From the Academic Office

✔ **Special Advising Hours:** To better accommodate the needs of Psychology undergraduates, the Academic Affairs Office is offering (1) Walk-In and (2) Senior-Only advising hours. Walk-In advising is on Wednesdays only from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until December 15, 1999. Advising by appointment is available the remaining days of the work week. On Mondays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., advising appointments are reserved for seniors only from now until December 13, 1999 and January 3-31, 2000.

What's New In Research

Dr. Mary Marden Velasquez has been promoted to the rank of Research Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology.

On October 19, **Dr. Mary Marden Velasquez** was keynote speaker for the State of Missouri Department of Mental Health's Annual Program Director Conference in Columbia Missouri. It was a joint conference sponsored by the Department's Divisions of Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Comprehensive Psychiatric Services. The conference is attended by CEO's, Clinical Directors, and Program Directors of publicly funded substance abuse and mental health programs in Missouri.

On October 21, **Dr. Mary Marden Velasquez** was an invited speaker at the Interagency Council on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in Washington, D.C. The meeting was sponsored by NIH and included researchers in FAS prevention from NIAAA, CDC, NIDA, CSAT, and several other federal agencies. Dr. Velasquez discussed the intervention development and implementation for their current project entitled "Prevention of Alcohol-Exposed Pregnancies among High-Risk Women.

PsychoPhiles is published monthly. 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.

RESEARCH AWARDS

Psychological and Decision Theoretic Predictors of Child Abuse. Eighteen months, \$63,200, funded by the Texas Coordinating Board's 1999 Advanced Research/Advanced Technology Programs (ARP/ATP). Principal Investigator: **Dr. Roy Lachman**.

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS

Acitelli, L.K., Rogers, S., and Knee, C.R. (1999). The role of identity in the link between relationship thinking and relationship satisfaction. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 16, 591-619.

Acitelli, L.K. (1999). Can we talk about us? Talking about the relationship. In D.O. Braithwaite & J.T. Wood (Eds.) *Case studies in interpersonal communication: Process and problems* (pp. 165-180). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Atchinson, T. & Meyers, C. (1999, February). Differential Effects of Left Temporal Lobe, Right Temporal Lobe, and Left Frontal Lobe Tumors on Verbal Memory with Control for Attention. Poster presentation accepted for the International Neuropsychology Society Convention, Denver, CO.

Breitmeyer, B.G., Ehrenstein, A., Pritchard, K., Hiscock, M., & Crisan, J. (1999). The roles of location specificity and masking mechanisms in the attentional blink. *Perception & Psychophysics*, 61, 798-809.

Doody, R. S., Vacca, J. L., Massman, P. J., & Liao, T. (1999). The influence of handedness on the clinical presentation and neuropsychology of Alzheimer's disease. *Archives of Neurology*, 56, 1133-1137.

Hiscock, M., Inch, R., Hawryluk, J., Lyon, P.J., & Perachio, N. (1999). Is there a sex difference in human laterality? III. An exhaustive survey of tactile laterality studies from six neuropsychology journals. *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*, 21, 17-28.

Hiscock, M., Kinsbourne, M., & Inch, R. (1999). Allocation of attention in dichotic listening: Differential effects on the detection and localization of signals. *Neuropsychology*, 13, 404-414.

Hiscock, M., Kinsbourne, M., & Inch, R. (1999). Allocation of attention in dichotic listening: Effects on the detection and localization of targets within lists. *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*, 21, 265-278.

Hiscock, M. (1999, April). Is the PASAT just an arithmetic test? Invited presentation to the Houston Neuropsychological Society.

James, A.S., McQueen, A., Nash, S.G., & Evans, R.I. (1999, November). Is drug avoidance self-efficacy dependent on the situation? Poster presentation at the 127th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA), Chicago, IL.

James, A.S., Nash, S.G., & Evans, R.I. (1999, November). Toward prediction of school violence among junior high students. Poster presentation at the 127th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA), Chicago, IL.

Lewis, H., Nash, S.G., & Evans, R.I. (1999, November). Predictors of condom use at first incidence of intercourse among African American adolescents. Roundtable presentation at the 127th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA), Chicago, IL.

Stewart, N.J., Hiscock, M., Morgan, D.G., Murphy, P.B., & Yamamoto, M. (1999). Development and psychometric evaluation of the Environment-Behavior Interaction Code (EBIC). *Nursing Research*, 48, 260-268.

Stewart, N.J., Hiscock, M., Morgan, D.G., & Stoolmiller, M. (1999, February). Toward a definition of noise in dementia care units. Presentation at the Pan-American Congress '99, Aging in the Americas: Frontiers of care, policy and research, San Antonio, TX.

Stewart, N.J., Hiscock, M., & Morgan, D.G. (1999, April). The relationship of sound levels on special care units to behavior patterns of elderly residents with dementia. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Alzheimer Society of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

Stewart, N.J., Morgan, D.G., & Hiscock, M. (1999, November). Daily patterns of positive & disruptive behavior with advancing dementia. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, San Francisco, CA.

Williams, P. & Cash, T. (1999, November). A controlled study of the effects of circuit weight training on body image. Poster presentation at the annual meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy in Toronto.



Edward Garrido was married on November 6 here in Houston. His new wife's name is Monica. The happy couple will be honeymooning in Acapulco after the semester is over. Congratulations Edward and Monica!

Computing Notes

Be sure to check out the new items on the Department's web page (www.psychology.uh.edu):

(1) Advice To Prospective Students:

www.psychology.uh.edu/GraduatePrograms/advice.asp A big thank you to Kelly Anthony, Elaine Barry, Oscar Cabrera, Rob Davis, Melanie Duncan, Amy McQueen, Kirk O'Brien, and Laurie Smith for their words of wisdom.

(2) Graduate Student Directory:

www.psychology.uh.edu/GraduatePrograms/StudentDirectory

The Department appreciates the work of Oscar Cabrera, Rob Davis, Amy McQueen, and Mark Morris in collecting this information.

(3) SAS Student and Faculty/Staff Updates for Home Use: www.psychology.uh.edu/TechSupport/

(4) A link to a web page for the Psychological Research and Services Center: www.uh.edu/prsc The Department thanks Rob Davis for developing and maintaining this page.

And the Department especially thanks Sean Woodward for his work in the continuing development and maintenance of the web page.

Part-time User Support Position Available

The Department of Psychology is seeking an individual for a part-time position as **User Services Technician**. General systems abilities and problem solving skills are preferred. Job duties include the following:

1. Provides technical support to users on both software and hardware on personal computers running Windows NT 4.0, Windows 98, Windows 95 on an Intel platform.
2. Analyzes, configures and sets-up computer systems when requested by user departments.
3. Provides instructions on Microsoft operating systems and software to faculty, staff and students.
4. Analyzes, configures and troubleshoots network problems in Windows NT 4.0, Windows 98, Windows 95.
5. Analyzes departmental needs regarding computer hardware and software; provides assessments of technology trends in computer systems.
6. Performs other job-related duties as assigned.

This position will soon be posted through Human Resources. Interested applicants may contact Sean Woodward at psychservice@uh.edu.



