

# Psycho Philes

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

Issue 2003:1

Spring 2003

## Reminders

**Feb 17:** Faculty Annual Activity Report due to Suzanne Kieffer. For copies of the form, please contact Suzanne.

**Mar 3-8:** Spring Break.

**Mar 7:** All University offices closed for Spring Break holiday.

**Mar 10:** Deadline for applications to the Social Sciences Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.

**Mar 14:** Staff meeting, 10:30 a.m. in the conference room of 126 Heyne. Contact Mary Watkins for agenda items.

**Mar 31:** Last day for undergraduates to submit an application for the Callicutt Scholarship. Applications are available in the Academic Office, 124 Heyne.

**Apr 1:** Last day to drop a course or withdraw.

**Apr 25:** Deadline for submitting signed approved original and two copies of a thesis or dissertation for binding.

**May 9:** CLASS Convocation, 6:00 p.m., Hofheinz Pavillion

## News and Notes

### ❖ Dr. Arturo Hernandez to Join Faculty

Dr. Arturo Hernandez will be joining the Clinical Program of the Department of Psychology beginning in Fall 2003. His appointment will be Associate Professor with tenure, and his presence will add to the department's research initiative in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience. Dr. Hernandez is coming to us from the University of California at Santa Barbara after spending this year at the Max Planck Institute for Cognitive Neuroscience in Germany. His Ph.D. is from the University of California at San Diego in Cognitive Science and Psychology. The Department is looking forward to this wonderful addition to the faculty!

### ❖ February Colloquia

The following colloquia were offered by the Department during the month of February in Heyne 135. A reception followed each of the presentations.

**Feb 5, 3:00 p.m.** Mr. Jeremy Pettit, Florida State University, "Putting together the puzzle of depression: Interpersonal and cognitive pieces."

**Feb 10, 4:00 p.m.** Dr. Cong Liu, University of South Florida, "East vs. West: Job stress in China and the U.S."

**Feb 17, 4:00 p.m.** Ms. Christianne Spitzmueller, Bowling Green State University, "Examining employee compliance with organizational surveillance and monitoring."

**Feb 20, 4:00 p.m.** Dr. Thomas Ashby Wills, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, "Transactional model of adolescent health behavior: Risk and protective processes."

**Feb 24, 12:00 p.m.** Mr. Peter Norton, University of Nebraska—Lincoln, "Development and evaluation of a broad-spectrum cognitive-behavioral group treatment for anxiety."

**Feb 24, 4:00 p.m.** Dr. M. Lynne Cooper, University of Missouri at Columbia, "Motivational perspectives on sexual risk-taking."

**Feb 26, 3:00 p.m.** Dr. John Edens, Sam Houston State University, "Psychopathy: A clinical construct in need of restraint."

### ❖ SPIT Conference a Success

On January 10-11, the annual conference of the Social Psychologists in Texas (SPIT) came to the University of Houston. Over fifty attendees from around the state gathered at the Alumni Center for a day and a half of presentations. Outside guest speaker, Dr. Edward Deci from the University of Rochester, discussed, "Basic psychological needs and the dynamics of human behavior." This conference was organized by Dr. Chip Knee and graduate students, Amy Canevello, Heather Patrick, Cynthia Tolton, and Astrid Cook, and was co-sponsored by the Department and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

# **A Word from New Faces**

## **A Word on Dr. Jason L. Anthony**

Dr. Jason L. Anthony is an assistant research professor in the Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics in the Department of Psychology at University of Houston. Dr. Anthony obtained a masters degree and doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from Florida State University in 1996 and 2001, respectively. Dr. Anthony also earned a postmasters degree in School Psychology, i.e., Specialist in Education, from Florida State University in 1999. His areas of specialization include child psychopathology, developmental disabilities, family- and school-based interventions, assessment of children, learning disabilities, and program evaluation. Dr. Anthony is a member of the American Psychology Association and the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading. He is currently pursuing licensures in the state of Texas as both a clinical psychologist and school psychologist. Dr. Anthony has successfully collaborated with professionals from many different disciplines, including clinical psychologists, school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, state policy makers, school district administrators, teachers, cognitive psychologists, and quantitative psychologists. These collaborations have centered on research concerning developmental psychopathology or the early identification and prevention of reading disabilities. Dr. Anthony's research in these areas has been nationally recognized through awards granted from the American Psychological Foundation and from the Division of Clinical Child Psychology of the American Psychological Association. Dr. Anthony currently serves as an ad hoc reviewer to the Journal of Experimental Child Psychology and Topics in Early Childhood Special Education. His areas of quantitative interest growth curve modeling, structural equation modeling, confirmatory factor analysis, and item response theory. Dr. Anthony currently collaborates on contracts and grants funded by NICHD, the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, and the National Science Foundation.

## **Research Assistant Professor, Dr. Paul Cirino**

I was a grad of the University of Houston clinical neuropsychology program in 1996. Then I did a postdoc in developmental neuropsychology at Georgia State University before heading to the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore where I was a neuropsychologist. I then returned to Georgia State University as a research psychologist and associate director of the Regents Center for Learning

Disorders, before finally returning to the University of Houston in August to work at the Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics (TIMES). In other news, Mary Prasad and I bought a house and married January 18 in Galveston. We honeymooned in New Zealand.

## **Greetings from Clara Cantu, Academic Advisor**

Hello everyone! The following is a little bit of information about myself. I was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. I graduated from Roy Miller High School in 1997 (Go Bucs!!) and attended college at the University of Texas Pan American. In May 2001, I received my Bachelors of Arts in Economics and Political Science. This past March I was hired as an academic advisor for undergraduates in Psychology. Right now, I'm completing a Masters in Secondary Education and teacher certification in social studies. I love it here in Psychology. The people I work with are great.

## **Adam Blanton, an addition to User Support**

My name is Adam Blanton and I'm very excited to be joining the Department of Psychology as the User Support Technician. I am currently a senior studying information systems technology, when I'm not around computers I'll probably be working nights at Amy's Ice Cream or cycling around town. My office extension is 3-8531 and if you are having any computer troubles I will be more than happy to help.

## **A Bit about Clinical Student, Poorna Kushalnagar**

Poorna Kushalnagar is a first year student in the clinical neuropsychology track. Poorna was born in India and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. Upon graduation with a BA degree in psychology from Gallaudet University, she worked at the Texas School for the Deaf as an educational researcher and pursued graduate studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research focus is on attention and learning disorders in deaf children. She is doing her neuropsychology practicum in the Learning Support Center at the Texas Children's Hospital. When not busy with her studies, she enjoys spending quality time with her husband and two sons, ages 3 and 4.

## **Hello from Clinical Student, Nisha Nayak**

Hi, I'm Nisha Nayak, a new first year clinical. I grew up in New Orleans, but moved to Houston at 18 for college, where I majored in Sociology. Since then,

I worked in medical research for several years. Here at UH, Dr. Rehm is my advisor. I like movies, rollerblading, and trying new things. Currently, I'm looking forward to going to Mexico for vacation in May. Meanwhile, I'd like to become better acquainted with people in the department.

## What's New in Research

### Update on clinical graduate students and graduates affiliated with Dr. Gordon Paul's Clinical Research Program

The assessment and treatment technologies developed through the Clinical Research Program at UH are being implemented at Fulton State Hospital (FSH), Fulton, MO, under the direction of **Drs. Tony Menditto** and **Paul Stuve**. In the past year, **Drs. Jan Cross** and **James Bridges** accepted staff positions at FSH. **Dr. Julian Salinas** completed a two-year postdoc there and moved on to a position with the Florida State Department of Corrections. Drs. Menditto, Salinas, Cross, and Bridges are all past clinical graduates of UH and all are continuing members of the Clinical Research Program.

**Drs. James Coleman** and **Will Newbill**, successfully defended their dissertations last summer and have accepted postdoctoral positions at FSH. **Susan Hall** was accepted for internship at FSH and is currently completing her predoctoral requirements at that site.

**Dr. Richard Evans**, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, is serving on two scientific advisory committees, the Cornell Medical School Prevention Research Center and the Harvard Institute for Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders. The Institute has convened two major research conferences in gambling and related disorders research. Dr. Evans' papers, along with other peer-reviewed papers from these conferences, were compiled for a special issue of the *Journal of Gambling Studies*.

**Dr. Richard Evans** is working with PBS to prepare a DVD of an edited version of Dr. Evans' interview with Dr. C. G. Jung. This interview is one of several interviews Dr. Evans conducted with notable contributors to psychology as part of a National Science Foundation oral-visual history project.

This summer, **Dr. Dale L. Johnson**, Professor, received an award for his prevention program, the Houston Parent-Child Development Center. The award was made by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), a division of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. In selecting prevention sites they began by reviewing more than 700 and reduced the number to 25 that received the award of Exemplary

Prevention Programs. The awards were made at the National Press Club. Among others receiving the award were Edna Foa (Penn), Mark Greenberg (Penn State), Alice Honig (Syracuse), Joseph Califano (Columbia) and Sheppard Kellems (Johns Hopkins).

**Dr. Dale L. Johnson**, was granted fellow status by the APA Division 7, Developmental, board at the August 2002 APA convention. He is also a fellow of Division 18, Public Service and Division 27, Community.

**Dr. Dale L. Johnson**, traveled to Puerto Rico and Japan where he presented a series of papers. In San Juan he gave the keynote speech on The Family's Experience of Schizophrenia at the beginning of mental health month. In Kyoto, Japan, he presented a paper on New Developments in Family Interventions for Schizophrenia. He was also re-elected president-elect of the World Fellowship for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders, an organization with more than 500,000 members world-wide.

**Dr. Dale L. Johnson**, presented a paper, "Family interventions in mental illness: India, Japan and Sweden," at the Latin American Psychiatric Association meeting in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on July 11, 2002. He also co-chaired the first ever meeting of Organizations for Families of People with Serious Mental Illness in Central and South America.

**Dr. Lynn Rehm**, Professor, has been elected President of Division 6: Clinical and Community Psychology of the International Association of Applied Psychology. The International Congress of Applied Psychology (IAAP) holds a convention every four years. Dr. Rehm became President Elect at the July 2002 Congress in Singapore and will become President in 2006 in Athens. He will be Past-President for 4 years beginning in 2010. Also at the Singapore meeting, he took office as President of the International Society of Clinical Psychology (ISCP). The ISCP meets annually in conjunction with different international meetings. As President-Elect, he organized a one day program for the meeting consisting of an invited address, two symposia and his presidential address. He hosted an ISCP reception as well.



control over chronic illness. Poster presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Washington, DC.

Canevello, A., Patrick, H., & Knee, C.R. (2003, February). Implicit theories of health: The role of implicit theories of eating behaviors on body image. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Los Angeles.

Carlson, C.D., & Francis, D.J. (2002). Increasing the Reading Achievement of At-Risk Children through Direct-Instruction: Evaluation of the Rodeo Institute for Teacher Excellence (RITE). *Journal for the Education of Students Placed at Risk*.

Castillo, E. M., Davis, R. N., Simos, P. G., Breier, J. I., Fitzgerald, M., Ishibashi, H., Zhang, W., & Papanicolaou, A. C. (February 2002). Two brain mechanisms mediating different levels of word processing and memory performance. Paper presented at the International Neuropsychological Society 35th Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Castillo, E. M., Davis, R. N., Simos, P. G., Breier, J. I., Ishibashi, H., Zhang, W., & Papanicolaou, A. C. (February 2002). Dynamics of activation in the medial temporal lobe structures during encoding and recognition. Poster presented at the International Neuropsychological Society 35th Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Chen, D.T., Chan, W., Francis, D.J., Shaywitz, B.A., & Shaywitz, S.E. (in press). Application of two-level negative exponential model to children's learning curve in reading. *Communications in Statistics*.

Cirino, P.T., Rashid, F.L., Sevcik, R.A., Lovett, M.W., Frijters, J.C., Wolf, M., and Morris, R.D. (2002). Psychometric stability of nationally normed and experimental decoding and related measures in children with reading disability. *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, 35(6), 525-538.

Coleman, J. C., & Paul, G. L. (2001). Paying attention to psychiatric inpatients: How staffing levels relate to unit effectiveness. *Psychiatric Services*, 52, 1374-1379.

Culhane-Shelburne, K., Chapieski, L., Hiscock, M., & Glaze, D. (2002). Executive functions in children with frontal and temporal lobe epilepsy. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*, 8, 623-632.

Davis, R. N., Atchison, T., Massman, P. J., & Doody, R. S. (February 2002). Growth curve analysis of decline in instrumental activities of daily living

## PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS

**Dr. Richard I. Evans**, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, was invited to meet with Dr. Stephen Sutton at Cambridge Univ. in England over the holidays to discuss Dr. Evans's theoretical models as they apply to the ongoing research of Dr. Sutton and his research group at Cambridge. Dr. Evans had also been invited to present a paper at the Annenberg Conference on Risk-taking Behaviors in Adolescents at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Dr. Gordon L. Paul**, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Professor of Psychology, presented a symposium paper entitled, *The Argument for Evidence-Based Treatment in the History of Psychotherapy*, at the 110th annual convention of the American Psychological Association (APA) in Chicago, IL last August. He was also an invited guest at APA's Task Force on the Seriously Mentally Ill. Dr. Paul served as an invited discussant for a symposium entitled, *Behavior Therapy in Hospital Settings: Opportunities for Collaboration with Accrediting Bodies*, at the 36th annual convention of the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy (AABT) in Reno, NV last November.

Anthony, J. L., Lonigan, C. J., Hooe, E. & Philips, B. M. (2002). An affect-based, hierarchical model of temperament and its relations to internalizing problems. *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*, 31(4), 480-490.

Anthony, J. L., Lonigan, C. J., Phillips, B. M., & Driscoll Bacon (in press). Preschool Phonological Sensitivity: A quasi-parallel progression of word structure units and cognitive operations. *Reading Research Quarterly*.

Best, R.G.; Hysong, S.J.; Moore, F.I. & Pugh, J.A. (2003, February). Knowledge Management and CPG Implementation: Developing Measures of Knowledge Management Constructs. Paper presented at the 26th Annual Meeting of the Veterans' Health Administration Health Services Research and Development Service, Washington, DC.

Bussell, V.A., Knee, C.R., Naus, M.J., Evans, R.I., Nash, S.G., & Farra, B.G. (2002, April). Realistic and unrealistic control beliefs and perceptions of

in AD patients. Paper presented at the International Neuropsychological Society 35th Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Davis, R. N., Massman, P. J., & Doody, R. S. (February 2002). WAIS-R factor structure in AD: Comparison of alternative models and assessment of generalizability. Paper presented at the International Neuropsychological Society 35th Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Davis, R. N., Massman, P. J., & Doody, R. S. (February 2002). Measurement invariance of the WAIS-R in AD among patients at higher vs. lower levels of dementia severity. Poster presented at the International Neuropsychological Society 35th Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Dennis, M., Fletcher, J.M., Rogers, T. Hetherington, R., & Francis, D.J. (2002). Object-based and action-based visual perception in children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society* 8, 95-106.

Fletcher, J.M., Foorman, B.R, Boudousquie, A., Barnes, M., Schatschneider, C., & Francis, D.J. (in press). Assessment of reading and learning disabilities: A research-based, intervention-oriented approach. *Journal of School Psychology*.

Foorman, B.R., Anthony, J., Seals, L., & Mouzaki, A. (2002). Language development and emergent literacy in preschool. *Seminars in Pediatric Neurology*, 9(3), 173-184.

Foorman, B.R., Seals, L., Anthony, J., & Durodola S. (in press). A Vocabulary Enrichment Program for Third and Fourth Grade African-American Students: Description, Implementation, and Impact. In B. Foorman (Ed.), *Preventing and Remediating Reading Difficulties: Bringing Science to Scale*. Timonium, MD: York Press.

Graczyk, A. J., Ellis, B. B., & Toney, L. P. (2001, October). Work/life conflict and organizational commitment. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Texas Psychological Association, Austin, TX.

Hiscock, M. (2002). Behavioural experimental techniques. In K. Hugdahl (Ed.), *Experimental methods in neuropsychology* (pp. 1-28). Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Hiscock, M. (2002, September). The rising curve: Professor Flynn's astonishing discovery and its implications for neuropsychology. Invited presentation to the Houston Neuropsychological Society, Houston, TX.

Hiscock, M., Inch, R., & Gleason, A. (2002). Raven's Progressive Matrices performance in adults with traumatic brain injury. *Applied Neuropsychology*, 9, 129-138.

Hysong, S.J. (2003, February). Integrating qualitative and quantitative research methods in health care research. Workshop delivered at the 26th Annual Meeting of the Veterans' Health Administration Health Services Research and Development Service, Washington, DC.

Hysong, S.J. & Mannix, L.M. (2003, April). Learning outcomes in distance education versus traditional and mixed environments. Paper to be presented at the 18th Annual Conference of the Society for Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Orlando, FL.

Jain, N., et al. (2002, May). Retest reliability and validity of a brief neuropsychological screen for childhood cancer survivors. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Pediatric Academic Society, Baltimore, MD.

Johnson, D. L. (2002). The global impact of schizophrenia. *Neurotherapeutics*, 2 (Feb).

Knee, C. R. (2001, October). Implicit theories of relationships: Who cares about a less than ideal partner? Invited colloquium for the Houston Psychological Association.

Knee, C.R., Patrick, H., & Lonsbary, C. (2003). Implicit theories of relationships: Orientations toward evaluation and cultivation. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 7(1), 41-55.

Knee, C. R., Patrick, H. P., & Lonsbary, C. (February, 2003). Implicit theories of relationships as orientations toward evaluation and cultivation. Invited colloquium at Rice University.

Knee, C. R., Patrick, H., & Vietor, N. A. (2002, January). Implicit theories of relationships: Moderators of how conflict changes commitment. Paper presented at the annual meeting of Social Psychologists in Texas, Waco, TX.

Knee, C. R., Patrick, H., & Vietor, N. A. (2002, February). Implicit theories moderate the link between conflict and commitment. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Savannah, GA.

Knee, C. R., Patrick, H., Vietor, N. A., Nanayakkara, A., & Neighbors, C. (2002). Self-determination as growth motivation in romantic relationships. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 28, 609-619.

Lonsbary, C. & Knee, C. R. (2003, February). The importance of the integrated self in relationship motivation and outcomes. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Los Angeles, CA.

Mariotto, M. J., Paul, G. L., & Licht M. H. (2002). Assessment in inpatient and residential settings. In J. N. Butcher (Ed.). *Clinical personality assessment: Practical approaches*. 2nd Ed., (pp.466-490). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Muthen, B., Khoo, B., Francis, D., Kim-Boscardin, C. (in press). Analysis of reading skills development from Kindergarten through first grade: An application of growth mixture modeling to sequential processes. In S.R. Reise & N (Ed.), *Multilevel modeling: Methodological advances, issues, and applications*. New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Papanicolaou, A. C., Simos, P. G., Breier J. I., Castillo, E. M., & Davis, R. N. (February 2002). Language mapping with magnetoencephalography (MEG) yields results comparable to the Wada test. Paper presented at the International Neuropsychological Society 35th Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Papanicolaou, A.C., Simos, P.G., Breier, J.I., Fletcher, J.M., Foorman, B.R., Francis, D.J., Castillo, E.M., & Davis, R. (in press). Brain mechanisms for reading in children with and without dyslexia: A review of studies of normal development and plasticity. *Developmental Neuropsychology*.

Patrick, H., Neighbors, C., & Knee, C.R. (2002, February). Self-determination, contingent self-esteem, and body-image concerns. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Savannah, GA.

Patrick, H., Neighbors, C., & Knee, C. R. (2003, January). Beauty in the I of the beholder: Contingent self-worth and appearance-related comparisons. Paper presented at the annual meeting of Social Psychologists in Texas, Houston, TX.

Patrick, H., Neighbors, C., & Knee, C.R. (2003, February). The role of contingent self-esteem in responses to appearance upward comparisons. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Los Angeles, CA.

Paul, G. L. (2001). The active unconscious,

symptom substitution & other things that went 'bump' in the night. In W. O. O'Donohue, D. Henderson, S. C. Hayes, J. E. Fisher, & L. J. Hayes (Eds.). *The history of behavioral therapies: Founder's personal histories*. (pp. 295-336). Reno, NV: Context Press.

Poehlmann, K. M., & Williams, P. (2002, January). If you're happy and you know it, go for a jog. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Social Psychologists In Texas, Waco, TX.

Salinas, J. A., Paul, G. L., & Newbill, W. A. (2002). Is paranoid status a positive prognostic indicator? It depends. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 70, 1029-1039.

Schatschneider, C., Francis, D.J., Fletcher, J.M., & Foorman, B. R. (in press). Relationships of rapid automatized naming and phonological awareness in early reading development. *Journal of Learning Disabilities*.

Schmidt, L., Amick, B. C., Katz, J.N., Ellis, B.B. (2002). Evaluation of an upper extremity student-role functioning scale using item response theory. *Work*, 19(2), 105-116.

Simos, Panagiotis G., Fletcher, Jack M., Foorman, Barbara R., Francis, David J., Castillo, Eduardo M., Davis, Robert N., Fitzgerald, Michelle, Mathes, Patricia G., Denton, Carolyn, & Papanicolaou, Andrew C. (in press). Brain activation profiles during the early stages of reading acquisition. *Journal of Child Neurology*.

Tolton, C., Patrick, H., & Knee, C. R. (2002, February). Whose bed have your boots been under? Implicit theories of relationships and romantic infidelity. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Savannah, GA.

Vietor, N. A. & Knee, C. R. (2002, February). Implicit theories of smoking in daily life. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Savannah, GA.

Williams, A. A. & Knee, C. R. (2002, February). The effects of realistic and unrealistic control on reports of subjective exertion during exercise. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Savannah, GA.

Wristers, K.J., Francis, D.J., Fletcher, J.M., Swank, P., & Foorman, B.R. (2002). Growth in precursor and reading-related skills: Do low-achieving and IQ-discrepant readers develop differently. *Journal of*

*Learning Disabilities: Research & Practice*, 17, 19-34.

Zuckerman, M., Gagne, M., Nafshi, I., Knee, C.R., & Kieffer, S.C. (2002). Testing discrepancy effects: A critique, a suggestion, and an illustration. *Behavior Research Methods, Instruments, and Computers*, 34(3), 291-303.



## Coffee Break

### Thesis Examines Dental Fear

**Eli Mohebzad**, undergraduate honors thesis student, received an award for Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis, along with \$250. The title was "Perceived Control in Easing Dental Fear: A Novel Experimental Approach". She conducted a theoretically-based experiment in a dental office with actual patients during an actual dental procedure. The study aimed to better understand the role of perceived control in treating dental fear. Control was

manipulated by either allowing patients to hold the suction device during the dental procedure (experimental group) or making no such offer (control group). Forty-three dental patients were randomly assigned to either condition. Dental fear and negative emotion were assessed before and after the procedure, along with several potential confounding variables. Hypotheses were supported with those in the experimental condition showing reductions in negative emotion and reductions in fear. The practical utility of such a simple procedure for reducing dental fear, that can be widely implemented with no additional cost or training to the dentist, is a significant contribution to both the social psychology and dental research literatures.

**Dr. Chip Knee** was the Chair and **Drs. Kirsten Poehlmann** and Ted Estess served as committee members. Ms. Mohebzad has been accepted into dental school at Harvard, University of North Carolina, Baylor, and UT-San Antonio. She will be attending UT-San Antonio and plans to merge her interests in psychology and dentistry accordingly.



### Graduate Student Secures Post-Doc

Social Psychology Ph.D. candidate **Heather Patrick** recently had six interviews for post-docs and tenure-track positions around the country. She received 4 official offers and has decided on a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in the Children's Nutrition Research Center, where she will continue her research on contingent self-esteem, body image, and health.

### Faculty Member and Student featured in *Monitor on Psychology*

**Dr. Julia Hannay** and clinical graduate student, **Poorna Kushalnagar** appeared in the January 2003 issue of the American Psychological Association's, *Monitor on Psychology*. The article, entitled, "Improving accessibility in psychology programs," focused on building better accommodations for students with disabilities.

## On the Lighter Side

### SAS commands that you won't find in the SAS manual:

```
PROC Analyzemythesis;  
PROC p<.05;  
PROC Graphthisd$#!interactionforme;  
PROC Writedissertation;  
PROC Shutup;  
PROC Publish;  
PROC Getthesepeopleoutoffhere;  
PROC Teach;  
PROC Teach / adequately;  
PROC Teach/ really good;  
PROC Teach/ teaching award;  
PROC Postdoc;  
PROC Job;  
PROC Tenure / barely;  
PROC Tenure / with raise;  
PROC Tenure / with sabbatical;  
PROC Retire;
```

--Submitted by Dr. Chip Knee

### A difficult faculty member...

Because of what they called a "history of unacceptable professional conduct," administrators at Lawrence Technological University (Southfield, Mich.) have ordered tenured engineering professor Sayed A. Nassar to remain inside his faculty office from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. weekdays (so that they can "monitor" him), except when he goes to class or has specific permission to leave, and not to go off campus during that time unless actually accompanied by the dean or his representative. According to faculty members interviewed for a May Chronicle of Higher Education story, the charges

against Nassar boil down to the fact that he argues with the administration alot. [*Chronicle of Higher Education*, 5-3-02]

Submissions for *Psycho Philes* should be sent to Dr. Suzanne Kieffer at [kieffer@uh.edu](mailto:kieffer@uh.edu) or directed to the business office (Room 126 Heyne). All submissions are subject to editing for space and content.