Looking Forward …
Looking Back.

Mary Ainley
University of Melbourne, Australia
STAV VCE Psychology Conference, 2005

Psychology as a science for the future …

➢ A judicious blend of basic and applied insights into behaviour

➢ A science that moves forward by challenging the accepted understandings and accepted paradigms.

maryda@unimelb.edu.au
Example 1.

- Harlow: contact comfort and the beginnings of attachment research
- Observation: distress in infant moneys when the comfort blanket was taken from the cage to be laundered.
- Challenge to theory that mother-infant bond learned through primary reinforcement of feeding.
- Modern example of early deprivation – Romanian orphans.

Scars heal slowly as Romanian orphans find new lives

Author: Julie Szego, Date: 10/08/2002
The Age, Page: 14

Fresh air, good food and love have transformed the lives of more than 80 children who have been adopted by Australian families, reports Julie Szego. Michael was two when his adoptive parents, Michelle and John Levine, collected him from a Romanian orphanage. They found a toddler who recoiled from blankets and teddy bears, but watched with intense concentration the pouring of water from a cup or blades of grass gliding to the ground. He cuddled up to complete strangers and, for reasons still mysterious, shrieked in distress during visits to the doctor, especially if they involved removing his shoes. Ms Levine recalls that her son - now "articulate, energetic and exuberant" - couldn't speak at all, despite his age. "He made funny little sounds," she says, "although he always seemed to understand what we were saying."
Example 2.

- Piaget: measurement of ability – the number right versus the types of errors.
- The paradigm shift from the development of intelligence tests to the identification of qualitatively different modes of thinking.

maryda@unimelb.edu.au

Example 3.

- The technology of measurement.
- Shift from early activity based experiments – questionnaires – computer based technologies.
- For example our research on student interest.

maryda@unimelb.edu.au
Motivation and engagement …

- Psychological processes of motivation and affect
  - Achievement goals
  - Intrinsic motivation
  - Self-efficacy
  - Interest
  - Curiosity

- Role of emotions in learning
  - Guiding or attuning
  - Differential effects of positive and negative affects
  - Person and situation

- A research program to investigate some processes of student motivation.
Using the potential of interactive computer technology to monitor action and reaction. Giving students:

Choice and control …

When writing on a social issues problem.

maryda@unimelb.edu.au
Choose the problem you wish to work on

The 1998 Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race

The 1998 the Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race saw major loss of life and costly rescue dramas. Your task is to write a letter to the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia presenting your point of view on who should ultimately be responsible and bear the cost of such risky and hazardous events.
**Resource Instructions:**

When you roll the cursor over the button you can see what information is available.

When you click on a button the information will be displayed on this main screen.

You can access these resources in whatever order you like and as often as you like.

Remember you have a "NOTEPAD" to record things as you go.

Click "NOTEPAD" to open your notes.

Click NOTEPAD to open your notes.

---

**Resource Information (Click to enlarge image):**

**SCUTTLEBUTT EXTRA - June 1, 1999**

**SYDNEY HOBART RACE REPORT**

The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA) established a Review Committee in the wake of the 1999 Sydney to Hobart Race in which eight yachtsmen died tragically at sea as one of the worst storms in the 54-year history of the 630 nautical mile race battered the 118 boat fleet in Bass Strait. Seven yachts were abandoned, five subsequently sank and, in a major search and rescue operation, 55 crew members were rescued by helicopters and surface vessels.

The following summarises the key findings and recommendations:
- No one cause can be identified as being responsible for the 1999 Sydney Hobart Yacht race fleet...
When reading text passages.
First, click on a number to show how interesting you expect each text to be.
(1 = not at all, 5 = very)

Next, click on the text you wish to read first.
Immediate on-task responses …
Select a face to show how you are feeling.

Click on a number to show the strength of your feeling.
Guiding or Attuning Behavior

- Higher interest (expectations) associated with:
  - Text choice
  - Persistence with text
  - Continued activation

Example 4.

- Statistical treatment of behavioural data.

- The paradigm shift from variable-centred to person-centred approaches.
Positive and Negative Affect

- How do they influence achievement?
- How do they combine in achievement settings?
- Applying the person-centred research approach

Mood was measured before the task and three mood profiles identified

- Comparison between
  - Sad → Sad
  - Sad → Happy
Mood was measured after the task and three very similar mood profiles identified.

One third of the previously sad profile group were now in the happy profile group
Students who reported mood change from Sad → Happy had:

➢ Higher sense of achievement reported after submitting their answer to the problem task.

   How well did you do?
   How well did you achieve your goals?
   How satisfied were you with your answer?

maryda@unimelb.edu.au
This research program is continuing. If you are interested in further information contact me at:
maryda@unimelb.edu.au