



## Happening in SRO

You can find this “Happening in SRO” and all similar newsletters on the SRO Intranet Home Page, located at: <http://isr-wp.isr.umich.edu/srointranet/> under Recent News.

*If you have items for the newsletter or if you would like to highlight an event, please let Brenda Spaulding or your unit director know.*

### Reminder – SRO Closure Day on Friday, April 1

This is a reminder that Friday, April 1, 2022 will be an SRO Closure day.

Staff members have the option of taking Friday as vacation time off or making arrangements with their supervisor to work, if that is preferable.



### Health and Retirement Study 2022 Interviewer Training (Eva Leissou)

In February, the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) held the first large scale, in-person training since the start of the pandemic two years ago. During planning, the project team considered conducting the training via a combination of in-person and Zoom sessions, but given the size of group and material to cover, it was more efficient to hold only in-person sessions.

Minimizing health risks was a priority. A lot of planning went into creating safety protocols, communicating them to all staff (trainees and trainers), and developing a system that ensured protocols were followed. The project team also worked on contingency plans that addressed various scenarios, if staff were not able to start, or complete the in-person training due to health issues.

Two study specific training sessions were completed between February 23 and March 3. The first was a six-day session for 72 new hires (who had just completed their GIT session – see below) and 11 on-staff interviewers who had no previous experience in HRS. The second was a four-day session for 51 HRS experienced interviewers.

Twelve days before the in-person training, all interviewers were invited to complete a home study, a set of modules on CANVAS, approximately eight hours long. The home study material helped introduce the study and reduce lecture time at the in-person sessions. At the training, interviewers were grouped into “communities” of 14, and each community was staffed with five trainers who delivered presentations and guided practice. The HRS training team included staff from PDMG, DCO, and TSG. A total of thirty one trainers, one training coordinator, three site coordinators, and six help desk staff!

The first group of trainees spent a day and a half learning the questionnaire, a day on the physical measurements and bio-specimen (PM/Bio) protocols, half day on new sample screening protocols, half day on respondent relations, and a day on certification (interview and PM/Bio). On the sixth day, the HRS experienced interviewers joined the training, had team meetings, and attended presentations from the Principal Investigator, Dr. David Weir, and a co-investigator, Dr. Helen Levy. The HRS experienced interviewers then spent 3 additional days at training -- a day getting updates on questionnaire changes made since the 2020 data collection, and a refresher on the PM/Bio protocols, half day of new sample screening protocols, and finally a day in interview and PM/Bio certification.

A heartfelt thank you to all the coordinators, Help Desk staff, and trainers for all their hard work to make this training successful and safe for everyone!

Production started on March 7<sup>th</sup> with 130 interviewers and 19 field leaders!

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## **General Interviewing Techniques Training (Sharon Parker)**

Data Collection Operations (DCO) successfully trained all 72 Health and Retirement Study new hires in General Interviewing Techniques (GIT) February 21 - 22. The new interviewers were a diverse group coming from 26 states and were all hired entirely remotely for the first time. Eleven production managers and coordinators presented and led practice sessions on the standards of General Interviewing Techniques, SurveyTrak, Blaise Basics, Safety, Interviewer Support, Introductions and more. Although we have been able to continue improving training content and optimizing the use of remote training tools over the last two years, it was energizing to train new interviewers in-person and see their progress toward becoming successful interviewers. GIT culminated in a new staff Orientation presentation by Ken Szmigiel. Our sincere thanks go out to Ashanti, Jim, Matt, Ken, Vivienne, Misty and all the DCS team that make GIT training successful!

## **CCP Corner – Burnout and Managing Workplace Stress (Aimee Miller)**

Burnout is defined by the World Health Organization as “a syndrome conceptualized as resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed”. While it is considered an occupational phenomenon, its effects are felt well beyond the workplace and can impact our health, relationships, and overall sense of well-being. The articles below discuss how to identify the signs, prevent, and recover from burnout.

- [What is Burnout](#)
- [Avoiding Burnout](#)
- [Feeling Burned Out? These Expert-Approved Strategies Will Help You Recover](#)

## SRO Wellness News (SRO Wellness Committee)



**WANT TO JOIN US?** *The SRO Wellness Committee is looking for new members with an interest in learning and sharing wellness news and activities with their colleagues. Please reach out to us if you are interested or have ideas:*  
[srowellcomm@umich.edu](mailto:srowellcomm@umich.edu)

**SPRING LUNCH CONNECTIONS** – SRO Lunch Connections will begin the week of April 4<sup>th</sup> on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:15-12:45pm. An email with calendar links will be coming early next week.

**SRO VERSION OF FREecycle** – Planning is under way to hold another Freecycle event at Perry in the month of May. As you clean your offices and homes, put aside items that you would like to bring to participate in this event.

Please note: extra office supplies should still be given to your unit administrative team to distribute among SRO members in their work. When in doubt – send us a message at [srowellcomm@umich.edu](mailto:srowellcomm@umich.edu)

What is Freecycle? The mission of The Freecycle Network is "**to build a worldwide gifting movement that reduces waste, saves precious resources and eases the burden on our landfills while enabling our members to benefit from the strength of a larger community.**"

As we approach April and May, we will be looking for more ways to be environmentally conscious and share ideas and events with you.

**30-MINUTE WORKSHOP – DEVELOPING HEALTHY HABITS DURING CONSTANT CHANGE** - During this virtual mini workshop, we will look at the “one percent better each day” concept as a way to form healthy habits. Attend either March 24, 12-12:30pm or April 19, 12:30-1pm. No pre-registration required!

[Learn More about Program Here](#)

**APRIL AND MAY FREE COOKING CLASSES** – classes are 12-12:45pm. April’s theme is Celebrate the Joy of Spring with Colorful, Flavorful, and Satisfying Meals and Snacks. May’s theme is Hooray for May!

[April and May Cooking Class Registration Details](#)

**TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE** - April 18 is Tax Day. Tax preparation can be costly and time-consuming, but assistance and resources are available to help you get through tax season.

[Read the UHR News article.](#)

## From the Archives (Kelly Chatain)

The first time the Survey Research Center asked a distinct set of questions about attitudes towards the Supreme Court was in 1966. The Michigan Election Studies (what we now know as the American National Election Studies) had asked a question here and there in earlier waves<sup>i</sup>, but in a broader context, where attitudes towards government and authority were being measured, opinion data on specific institutions and public offices were harder to find. The program continually faced funding issues<sup>ii</sup> so, in 1966, the new section of questions about the Supreme Court were included in one wave of an omnibus study which primarily measured consumer attitudes and was conducted quarterly. 1966 was a non-presidential election year, John Dingell just won his 5<sup>th</sup> term in the house, John Conyers his 2<sup>nd</sup>, and mid-term years allowed room for other measures of political attitudes in the survey.

Interviewers were doing it all on this survey, receiving a full packet of materials in the mail including segment folders, coversheets, questionnaires and show cards, letters, and “Why do we ask you?” folders. Some segments were pre-listed, others needed full listing or updates<sup>iii</sup>. Respondents were selected from both primary and secondary families in a dwelling unit, answering economic questions or political questions or both depending on their role in the household. The initial data collection effort didn’t get enough responses to the political section of questions, so interviewers were sent out again in January 1967 to reach the goal. There was a total of 1291 interviews in the final data set. The final charges ran to almost \$66K, which would be \$575K in today’s money.

A contemporary article analyzing data from a few surveys, including Michigan’s, found that opinions of the Supreme Court were structured primarily by party affiliation, further focused by whomever was president at the time. People generally didn’t know much about the court and its decisions, so these opinions were measured in a low-knowledge context, but certain court decisions could temporarily change opinion if they broke into public awareness<sup>iv</sup>. Examples in the decade prior to this study were *Brown v. Board of Education* and the decision on school prayer.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://electionstudies.org/data-center/1966-time-series-study/> ANES Website accessed March 22, 2022

<sup>ii</sup> House, James S., & Juster, F. Thomas. (2014). *Telescope on Society* Survey Research and Social Science at the University of Michigan and Beyond. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. P. 81

<sup>iii</sup> “Study Manual”, 1966, SRO Project Archive, Project 504

<sup>iv</sup> Kenneth M. Dolbeare, Phillip E. Hammond, The Political Party Basis Of Attitudes Toward The Supreme Court, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, Volume 32, Issue 1, Spring 1968, Pages 16–30, <https://doi.org/10.1086/267576>

6. Sometimes suggestions are made for changing the Supreme Court or its membership in some way or other. Do you remember hearing about any suggestions for changing the Court?

/Yes/  
↓

/No/ → (GO TO C50)

C49a. What was that?

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C49b. How do you feel about that? Do you agree or disagree?

/1. Agree/    /5. Disagree/    /7. Depends/    /8. Don't know/

C49c. Are there any other suggestions you have heard about?

/Yes/ (SPECIFY)  
↓

/No/ → (GO TO C50)

C49d. What's that?

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C49e. How do you feel about that? I mean, do you agree or disagree?

/1. Agree/    /5. Disagree/    /7. It depends/    /8. Don't know/