



William B. Pavlik, Ph.D.

Photograph taken in 2000

Dr. Pavlik provided the following "Notes for a biographical sketch" at the website author's request. However, the website author thought it best to present the notes as they were written.

Notes for a biographical sketch

November 27, 2007

I was born in Cleveland, Ohio on February 29, 1932. It was not a good day. If I had known what the world was like out there, I would have stayed put. A winter storm was blowing in off Lake Erie. The world was in the midst of the Great Depression; people went hungry and couldn't find work. Our President, a Republican named Herbert Hoover, believed the government had no business trying to do anything about it. In Germany, the National Socialist (Nazi) Party had just taken control of the government. The first law they passed was one banning abortion. Some things never change. Late that day, a physician named Potts delivered me to my parents, William and Mary Pavlik. And off I went.

Things got better as I grew up. We survived the Depression and World War II. I enjoyed school and was good at my studies, even though I spent most of my spare time playing baseball and football — and reading. My parents were readers, and they taught me to read, and enjoy it, early on. Once it became apparent, in high school, that I was not going to replace Lou Boudreau at shortstop for the

Cleveland Indians, I decided to go to college, the first in my family to do so. And I got hooked.

I graduated from Cleveland's West High School in 1950, finished my B. S. degree at Western Reserve University in 1953, majoring in Psychology, and then got my Ph.D. in Psychology from Ohio State University in 1956. My doctoral dissertation tested predictions from Hull's theory in a social situation. It was the first to show that D and K (drive and incentive) combined additively and not multiplicatively as Hull had theorized.

The job market for new psychologists was not good in 1956 (it got much better a few years later), but I managed to secure a position as Assistant Professor at Western Michigan University, where I learned to "run rats." I stayed there until 1960, teaching five courses each semester and running a rat lab evenings and on weekends. I then moved to Rutgers College in New Jersey. A group of outstanding colleagues and graduate students made life both much easier and more exciting. I was promoted to Associate Professor and then Full Professor. In 1968, I moved to Virginia Tech to become the Head of the Psychology Department. In 1977, I moved to The University of Georgia to become Department Head (until 1984) and where I stayed until my retirement. Along the way I acquired two wives (Marilyn Clark in 1954, and Mary Katherine Findley in 1979), five children, and seven grandchildren (so far).

I was active over the years in a number of professional organizations, both regional and national. I served as President of the Southeastern Psychological Association in 1985. I published a number of research articles, mostly in the field of animal learning. I also turned out a number of doctoral students, of whom I am most proud. Toward the end of my career I became active in university governance, serving on both the Faculty Senate and University Council. I chaired the committee which engineered the switch from the Quarter System to the Semester System at UGA.

If I had it all to do over, I would.