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Sexualization of Girls Linked to Mental Health Problems: Tomi-Ann Roberts Cautions in APA Report

Tomi-Ann Roberts was asked to serve as a member of a six-person APA task force, based on her record of scholarly publications on the sexual objectification of girls and women, and women's own self-objectification. When the task force report was released in February 2007, the media grabbed hold of it and Tomi-Ann was featured in print and radio interviews all over the world. The report, available at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/sexualization.html> has garnered more public interest than any in recent years from the Women's Programs Office at APA.

The report found evidence that the proliferation of sexualized images of girls and young women in advertising, merchandising, and media is harmful to girls' self-image and healthy development. Sexualization and objectification undermine a person's confidence in and comfort with her own body, leading to emotional and self-image problems, such as shame and anxiety. Sexualization is linked with three of the most common mental health problems diagnosed in girls and women—eating disorders, low self-esteem, and depression or depressed mood.

According to the task force report, parents can play a major role in contributing to the sexualization of their daughters or can play a protective and educative role. Parents and teachers can help children develop media literacy skills, and schools should include information on the negative effects of the sexualization of girls in media literacy and healthy sex education programs.

Right now, Tomi-Ann is co-authoring a book with Oxford University Press on the sexualization of girls and girlhood. Tomi-Ann has involved many CC students over the years in research on this topic, including Cassie Power '99, Jennifer Gettman '00, Yousef Arefi-Afshar '03, Amber Rethwisch '04, Jenni Martin Kinkennon '05, Vanessa Baltazar '08, Kelsey Patterson '09, Kelli Christensen Byrnes '09, and Adam Korpusik '10.



New departmental member !!

The newest member of the Psychology Department arrived on June 17, 2009. Amalie Maren Driscoll, daughter of Professor Lori Driscoll (who has just been promoted to Associate Professor too!), had her first teaching "gig" in Professor Tricia Waters' Developmental Psychology course in Block 1. She plans to continue her visitor role in upcoming blocks as the need arises.

Kristi Erdal: An American Fulbright in Norway



The picture shows my family with the Erdal valley in the background – an added benefit of travel to Norway.

In the fall of '08, I was very fortunate to receive a Fulbright Fellowship to study differences in the conceptualization of depression between native Norwegians and immigrants and refugees to Norway. I was a visitor at the University of Bergen and enjoyed wonderful, warm colleagues, eager graduate students, and remarkably good weather (Bergen is not known for sun...). My project was an experiment in which participants read a vignette about a depressed individual (nationality randomly assigned) and then answered questions about his depression and his treatment. Participants included both native Norwegians and immigrants and refugees, and suffice it to say, they had different ideas about depression and its treatment. Currently, my results are being combined with the thesis data of Annie Tardif '05 and Namrita Singh '05 for collaborative publication.

Where are they now?

Rose Ann King '98 obtained an MA in counseling Psychology at the University of Denver in 1999 and enrolled in a school psychology program at the University of Houston in 2004. On August 3rd, 2009, she defended her dissertation on predictive variables in clinical diagnoses and global functioning in adolescents. In the fall, she is working with children and adolescents as a school psychologist in Houston, TX.

Michelle Murrey '99 completed her M.S. from the University of Texas in Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders in 2002. Over the last seven years, Michelle has worked, both domestically and internationally, with children who have medical needs and developmental delays. Currently, she is working with a non-profit agency for families affected by HIV/AIDS and other medical issues, providing developmental assessments and interventions for children under age five.

Monica Nielson Doherty '01 is currently an airline pilot: a Captain on the EMB-145 for Continental Express, based in Houston. She teaches Crew Resource Management (psychology for pilots) in the training center. She is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Aviation Human Factors from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Monica married a fellow pilot, John Doherty, in 2007 and they have a 4-month old daughter.

Avy Skolnik '01 is currently in the Counseling Psychology PhD Program at Columbia University

2009 Psi Chi Induction



Back Row from left: Rachel Pizzie, Kelsey Patterson, Mariah Golden, Eleni Bucuvalas, Kelli Christensen, Emily Houston, Sarah Stults, Johanna Barry

Front Row from left: Hunter Allen, Brianna Cushing, Breann Gingrich, Brittney Moore, Annisa Harsha

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Be featured in the next issue of our newsletter. We want to know how you are doing. Send us a one- or two-sentence description of "where you are now"; please include your full name and graduation year.

We are also seeking contributions to the "Alumni Voices" column. Send your submissions to psychology@coloradocollege.edu.

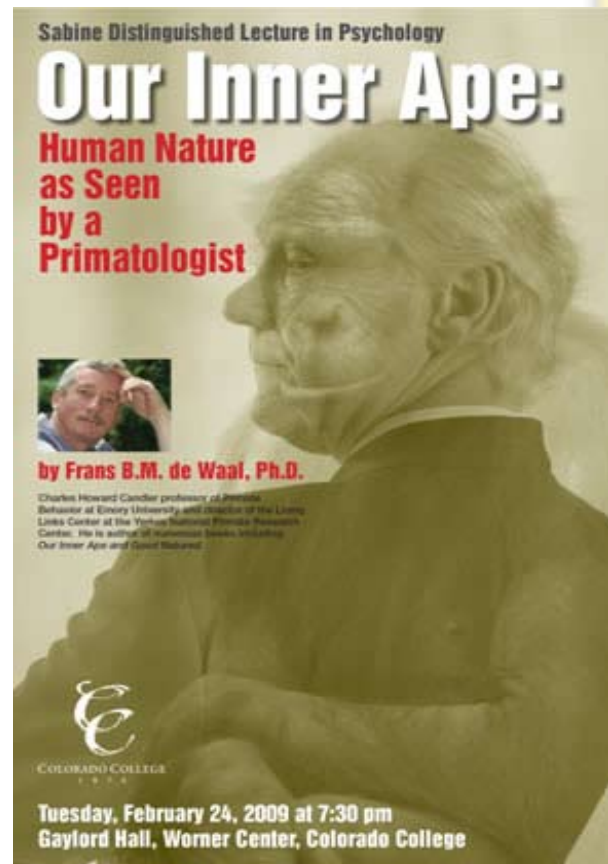
Sabine Lecture: Frans de Waal on Primate Behavior

The Psychology Department had the privilege of hosting world renowned primatologist Frans de Waal as our 2009 Sabine Distinguished Lecturer. Professor de Waal is the director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

De Waal delivered two public talks while at CC. In his first talk, he spoke about the behavioral patterns of bonobos. With an emphasis on the role of sexual relationships, de Waal illustrated the bonobos' strategies for approaching and resolving complex group behaviors such as the struggle for power and the use of aggression, while alluding to lessons that humans can obtain from our compassionate evolutionary ancestors. The evening lecture, held in Gaylord Hall, sought to elucidate similarities in a variety of social behaviors between humans, apes, and monkeys. Also included was de Waal's recent research on empathy, cooperation, and inequity aversion.

To read more about de Waal's work, you can read his latest books *The Age of Empathy: Nature's Lessons for a Kinder Society*, *Primates and Philosophers: How Morality Evolved*, and *Our Inner Ape*.

To get a sense of how we experienced this wonderful scholar, see him in a humorous interview with Steven Colbert at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Mu90-h4jSQ>."



CONGRATS TO OUR 2009 GRADUATES

Psychology 2009 Graduates

Andrew Abeyta
Colorado Springs, CO

Hunter Allen
Durango, CO
Distinction in Psychology,
cum laude

Anya Aylesworth
Denver, CO

Eleni Bucuvalas
Buffalo Creek, CO

Kelli Christensen
Colorado Springs, CO
Distinction in Psychology,
cum laude

Brianna Cushing
Broomfield, CO
Distinction in Psychology, magna
cum laude

Farrell Frankel
Englewood, NJ

Hanna Gleason
Cumberland, ME

Mariah Golden
Colorado Springs, CO
Distinction in Psychology,
magna cum laude

**Eileen Jennings
Hancock**
Phoenix, AZ

Emily Houston
Corvallis, OR
Distinction in Psychology,
magna cum laude

Sarah Huff
Evergreen, CO

Kelsey Patterson
Steamboat Springs, CO
Distinction in Psychology,
magna cum laude

Skylor Powell
Chagrun Falls, OH

Mischa Reiber
Mendocino, CA

Whitney Spooner
Draper, UT

Sarah Stults
Chicago, IL

Stephanie Tulp
Tenafly, NJ

Neuroscience 2009 Graduates

Kaeley Anderson
Portland, OR
Distinction in Neuroscience,
summa cum laude

Ryan Casserly
Newport Beach, CA
Distinction in Neuroscience, cum
laude

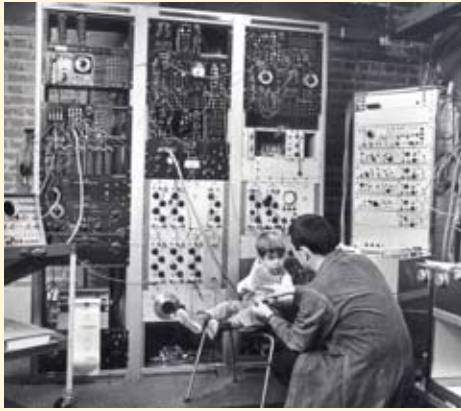
Pat Minot
Durango, CO
Distinction in Neuroscience,
magna cum laude

Hannah Potvin
Houston, TX

Jessica Rice
Old Lyme, CT

Tyler Smith
Floyds Knob, IN

MYSTERY SOLVED



CC Special Collections

Most Humorous Caption goes to Frank Balensiefer '50
"Look, I've had an MRI, a CTscan; and an EEG, and now
you want to do WHAT?!"

But for real....

This is a photo of Prof. Don Shearn using the Grass
Polygraph machine. Often thought of as used for lie-
detection, the polygraph machine was used to record
skin conductance response, cardiac response, reaction
times, and other measures in learning research.

NAME YOUR RAT!



Do you know these two students who were training
rats? (picture taken in 1979)

Tell us more about your "rat experience." For example,

What did you name your rat and why?

If you have a chance to name/rename your
experimental rat, what would it be?

What special things did your rat do?

Email your responses to psychology@coloradocollege.edu

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