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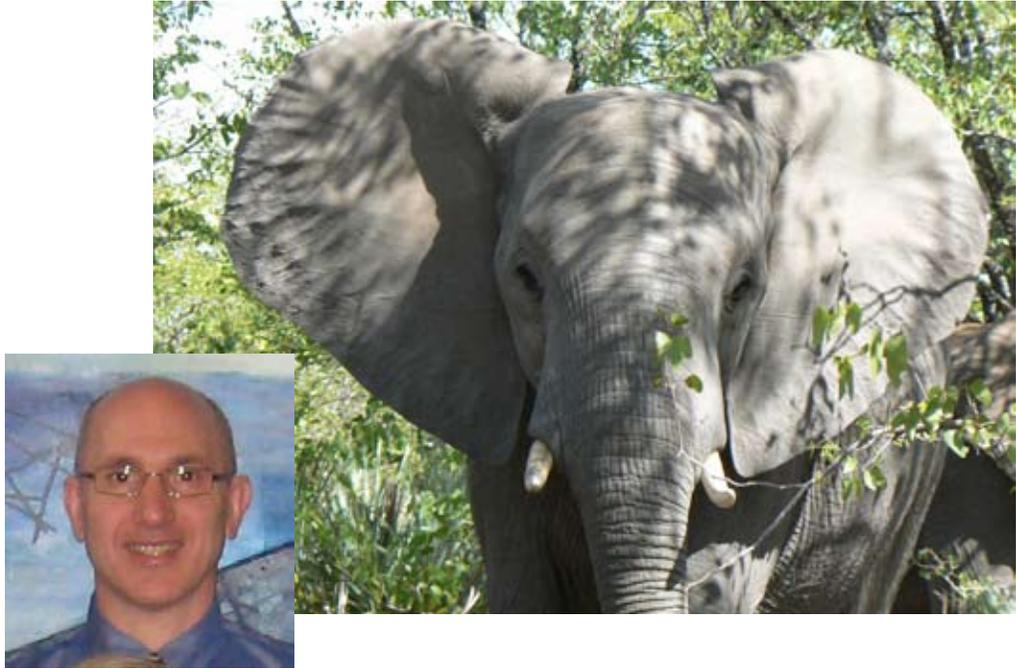
Send us your questions, requests, and updates!

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First Laboratory to Explore Cell Types in Elephant Cortex



This past summer, Professor Jacobs began collaborating with Paul Manger in South Africa, Patrick Hof in New York, and Chet Sherwood in Washington, DC on an exploration of the elephant cerebral cortex. This is the first ever investigation of cellular morphology in the African elephant cortex. Two students, Markus Hannan and Jessica Borst, have been conducting their senior theses on this topic. Jacobs noted, "Many things fell into place for this to happen, and I am very excited about this research opportunity as it has long been a dream of mine to examine the elephant brain. It's hard to fathom that we were the first lab in the world to actually see what some of these cells looked like." The research is currently being written up for publication.

How are We Doing? Self-Study and External Review

Here is a short update from Kristi on the department's external review:

"The Psychology Department Self-Study is underway in preparation for the Psychology Department's External Review in 2010. Every 10 (or so) years, academic departments undergo a time of self-reflection when we focus on evaluating the Psychology and Neuroscience majors and try to assess the impact recent changes in personnel, major revisions, and facilities have had on our students. For those of you (alumni from 1999 – present) who

participated in our survey in fall, 2009, thank you! The data you provided for us are currently being analyzed and will be combined with data we have collected on ourselves. The report of these data will be submitted to a team of External Reviewers who will evaluate us from an outsider's perspective. We will keep you posted as we and they come to conclusions about our strengths and weaknesses."



Connect with Us on Facebook



The Psychology Department now has a group on Facebook! We welcome all current students and alumni (both Psychology and Neuroscience majors) to join us. We plan to use the page to alert group members to events and interesting news relevant to Psychology and Neuroscience. If you need an incentive, here's one: Our group page contains pictures of the professors dressed up in pirate gear for our 2008-09 departmental "Pirate Day," and in glamour for our 2009-10 departmental "Black-tie Day." Here are portions of the pictures with the faces concealed. Go on facebook to see who's who!



2010 Psychology Award Winners



Congratulations to Johanna Barry '10 (left) and Shiho Ushijima '11 (right) on winning the 2010 departmental awards. Johanna won the Cornelia M Sabine Award, which is presented annually to the outstanding graduating senior. Shiho won the William Arthur Blakely Memorial Award, which is presented an outstanding non-senior who shows exceptional seriousness of purpose in psychology.

Emily Chan Awarded Tenure



The Board of Trustees has granted tenure to Emily Chan and promoted her to the rank of Associate Professor. A member of the CC faculty since 2004, Emily focuses her research on social cognition and stereotyping. Emily's primary teaching responsibilities include Research Design, Social Psychology, and Social Cognition. Post-tenure, Emily plans to further her research on stereotyping and poverty, develop a new block-8 course on applied social psychology for graduating seniors, and grow her flock of backyard chickens. Congratulations, Emily!

Above: Emily with her Speckled Sussex hen, Coconut.

Kudos to Kaeley '09

Following her conference presentation at the Society for Neuroscience (2009 Chicago) and her publication with Bob in *Cerebral Cortex* (2009), Kaeley Anderson '09 will be publishing her second first-author publication with Professor Bob Jacobs: Anderson, K., Yamamoto, E., Kaplan, J., Hannan, M., & Jacobs, B. (2010). *NeuroLucida Lucivid versus NeuroLucida Camera: A quantitative and qualitative comparison of three-dimensional neuronal reconstructions. Journal of Neuroscience Methods, 186, 209-214. doi:10.1016/j.jneumeth.2009.11.024.*

Sabine Endowment: Undergraduates @ Conferences

In the past year, seven psychology and neuroscience majors presented their research at regional and national conferences, with the generous support of the Cornelia Sabine Endowment. Below are some highlights from the winter semester.

On embodied grounding . . . Ryan Casserley '09

Did you know that the way you are sitting while reading this newsletter may influence your impression of the content? Embodied grounding research has indeed suggested that the body's position sets the foundation for other mental processes like emotion, language and cognition. Professors Tomi-Ann Roberts, Bob Jacobs and Ryan Casserly designed *Like a Rock: Contributions of Proprioceptive and Motor Systems in Embodied Grounding* to tease apart the neural composition of Embodied Grounding, which had been untested. At the International Society for Self and Identity pre-conference to SPSP (Las Vegas 2010) and the Society for Neuroscience Conference (Chicago 2009), Tomi-Ann, Ryan, and Bob presented the results that suggest the brain relies on not only bodily feedback but also signals from the motor cortex to create Embodied Grounding.



On self-objectification and posture . . . Kelsey Patterson '09

According to previous research and theoretic paradigms, physical comportment appears to influence individuals' emotions and cognitive abilities. In this study, Kelsey Patterson and Professor Tomi-Ann Roberts examined a previously-found gender difference in the impact of posture on men's and women's affect and performance on cognitive tasks, in which women felt and performed better while slouched than while upright, while men demonstrated the opposite (and more intuitive) effect. By asking women to wear either a sweatshirt or a tank top, they manipulated the participants' level of body consciousness, finding that the effect of posture on the women's affect and performance was moderated by self-objectification. When they minimized body consciousness as a variable, the impact of posture remained consistent with theories of proprioceptive feedback, but this effect was interrupted by self-objectification in the body-consciousness condition. Kelsey and Tomi-Ann presented this research at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference (Las Vegas 2010).

On victim derogation. . . Dan Lenzen '10

Under what conditions do people derogate outgroup members? Examples of blatant dehumanization against outgroup enemies are plentiful in historical and current conflicts. However, enemies are not the only outgroups who are derogated. Dan Lenzen and Professor Emily Chan studied the process of *Infrahumanization*--where outgroup members, while not being completely dehumanized, are deprived of some human qualities. How does one measure *infrahumanization*? In their study, they measured if people attribute *primary emotions* (emotions shared by human and other animals -- happiness, fear) versus *secondary emotions* (uniquely human emotions -- e.g., pride or disappointment).



Based on the Just World Hypothesis, Lenzen and Chan predicted that outgroup members who are victims of natural disasters would be *infrahumanized*. In their study, participants read fictional natural disaster scenarios which resulted in massive mortality. Their results showed that, regardless of who was held responsible for the deaths -- in some cases, the negligence of one's ingroup caused the deaths, and in other cases, the outgroup itself was responsible, and in yet another version, the deaths were completely unavoidable and no one could have been held responsible --the victims were *infrahumanized*.

Psi Chi Artists at Work

This past fall, Colorado College's Psi Chi chapter participated in the city-wide "Miracle Meters" service project. Through this project, parking meters were painted, feathered, bejeweled, and altogether creatively "spruced-up" in order to be placed within participating stores and restaurants in the Colorado Springs area. Bob Holmes, of the Homeward Pikes Peak organization, was the brains of the outfit, creating the project to enable people to donate money to the local homeless. The coins collected in each meter were donated directly to the Housing First program, dedicated to providing safe housing to local homeless individuals and to finding them jobs within the city. In all, more than 103 meters were created by local organizations, and it is hoped that more than \$10,000 will be raised by year's end.

Our Psi Chi Miracle Meter in a CC Tiger theme is installed at the Downtown eye-wear shop, Eye Calibre. It proudly displays Bob's retired hockey stick.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Be included in the next issue of our newsletter! We want to know how you are doing. Any interesting career developments? Exciting adventures? Career tips for current students and recent grads?

Write to us at adestefano@coloradocollege.edu (photos are welcome). Please include your full name and graduation year.



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