Queenie Kravitz has received an Outstanding Service Award from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The award will be presented at the Third Annual Staff Recognition Luncheon on Tuesday, April 16th. Congratulations to Queenie, and also many thanks for the hard work and dedication that led to the award!

Rachel Diana has been awarded a National Science Foundation Fellowship!

The Fall 2002 calendar has been modified to conform to University policy.

Mid-Semester break on Monday, October 21 has been removed.
Classes will now end on Friday, December 6. Final Exams will end on Tuesday, December 17.

The full calendar is available on the web at www.carnegiemellon.edu/hub/calendar.html

Do you know of someone doing interesting research that cuts across multiple areas? Or someone whose ideas would significantly enhance the scope of the views typically heard here? Here is your chance to suggest colloquium speakers of general interest to the entire department. Please send nominations to Rochelle Sherman via email before Friday, April 26, with a brief synopsis (3-4 sentences) of the candidate's background and area of research. Suggestions for specific-interest speakers will be discussed within each sub-area separately.

This is your chance to get the word out to the entire department!
Forward announcements to Rochelle Croom (rmcroom@andrew.cmu.edu).
You can also use the anonymous suggestion box in the 336B Lounge.

The Psychology Department Diploma Ceremony will be at 12:30 p.m. in Rangos Hall with a reception lunch to follow immediately after the main ceremony in Gesling Stadium.

Contact Theresa Kurutz (tk0w@andrew.cmu.edu) to request a cap and gown. See also, http://www.cmu.edu/commencement.
Can you identify the twins?

Eli and Lynne
Deep in Discussion

Marcel on Herr’s Island

Our Route:
(Compliments of David Klahr)

To see all of the trip photos...
Point your browser to http://www.psy.cmu.edu/~lholt/psychbike/
Lori Holt and Orna Rosenthal are organizing a summer reading group.

**TOPIC:**
This reading group will examine learning processes at the perceptual level. Specifically, we will focus 1) on the role of input information pattern in the formation of new representations and 2) on learning that has variously been described as “incidental”, “unsupervised”, “implicit”, “self organized” or “statistical” learning. The emphasis in the discussion will be on the context of brain representation and mechanisms.

- Self-organization of representation in the adult central nervous system as a function of stimulation pattern
- To what extent can learning be ‘implicit’, ‘incidental’ or ‘unsupervised’? Can learning occur without attention?
- An examination of the ways in which learning affects low-level perception
- Biologically plausible models of self-organization at perceptual level
- Perceptual constraints upon learning (resolution, anchors, discontinuities, dimensionality)
- What is categorical perception? How does it formed? Is it a unique representation/learning process?
- Is there a qualitative difference between “feature extraction” and “perceptual categorization”? What kind of representation may underlie these?

A common thread through each of these sub-topics will be the role of unsupervised learning in perception. The level of analysis will be perceptual, broadly defined. Although we may touch upon aspects of speech perception and object recognition, the focus will be toward perceptual processing (as opposed to semantic and linguistic processing, for example). Different approaches to target these questions including neurophysiology, computational modeling, and behavioral techniques with human adults, human infants and animals will be discussed and compared.

For a sample reading list or more information, please send email to lholt@andrew.cmu.edu or ornar@andrew.cmu.edu. Meeting times are still to be determined. Please include your preferences in your email to Lori or Orna.
DAN MIRMAN’S FIRST PUBLICATION COMES TO PRESS

Retroactive interference in neural networks and in humans: the effect of pattern-based learning

DANIEL MIRMAN and MICHAEL SPIVEY


Abstract. Catastrophic interference is addressed as a problem that arises from pattern-based learning algorithms. As such, it is not limited to artificial neural networks but can be demonstrated in human subjects in so far as they use a pattern-based learning strategy. The experiment tests retroactive interference in humans learning lists of consonant-vowel–consonant nonsense syllable pairs. Results show significantly more interference for subjects learning patterned lists than subjects learning arbitrarily paired lists. To examine how different learning strategies depend on the structure of the learning task, a mixture-of-experts neural network model is presented. The results show how these strategies may interact to give rise to the results seen in the human data.

Do you know of a recent paper that should be acknowledged? Send email to Rochelle Croom.

TERM-PAPERS-‘R’-US

Ever wonder where undergraduates get their prose? For entertainment purposes only:

http://essays-termpapers2go.com/

MORE CONGRATULATIONS!

Joy Geng, Kerry Reynolds, and Sarah Pressman have been nominated for Phi Kappa Phi!

Phi Kappa Phi is the national honor society that recognizes excellence in scholarship in all academic disciplines. Requirements for nomination: Must be candidates for an advanced degree and of superior scholastic rank, have had outstanding undergraduate records, and have been registered as post-baccalaureate students at Carnegie Mellon University on a full-time basis for at least one academic year or on a part time basis for the equivalent of at least one academic year.

Our very own Steve Gotts won last year!

PSYCHO? LOGICAL? BULLETIN ON THE WEB!

Past and present editions of Psycho? Logical? Bulletin are now available on the web.

www.psy.cmu.edu/bulletin

FROM OUR READERS

To the editor,

As a subscriber to PLB, I wanted to express my excitement about the constant development and improvement of this exceptional journal. If I can, however, may I make a suggestion?

You should consider an advertisement section. Collect a $1 here and $1 there. We could put the ad revenues in the faculty retirement fund (used to convince older faculty to retire), or use it to bring in a few additional graduate students.

I also think a fashion column would be good. For example, list of best and worst dressed faculty, graduate students and staff members would no doubt facilitate discussion among members of the department.

Finally, how about a section on pet pictures? Match the person to the pet. It would be better just to include cat owners, but if you must you could also have gerbils, white mice, birds, deer, raccoons, dogs, etc.

A faithful reader

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 18th, noon 336B Baker Hall
Raluca Budiu, Interpretation-based processing: a theory of sentence processing

April 22nd, noon 336B Baker Hall
Marsha Lovett & David Plaut, Wrap-up of COG-BOG presentation

April 25th, noon 336B Baker Hall
Evan Smith, TBA

May 2nd, noon 336B Baker Hall
Rachel Diana & Jason Arndt

SEE THE BROWN BAG SCHEDULE ON PAGE 5!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri., April 12, noon-1:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Beau Stephens</td>
<td>Are auditory context effects modulated by visual information?</td>
<td>BH 336B</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri., April 19, noon-1:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Phil Pavlik</td>
<td>Mental rotation transfer</td>
<td>BH 336B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., April 22, 4:00-5:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Brent Vander Wyk</td>
<td>Inflectional morphology following brain damage: a preliminary connectionist model with articulatory constraints</td>
<td>BH 336B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., April 23, noon-1:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Erin Hahn</td>
<td>When actions speak louder than words: patterns of comprehension and production</td>
<td>BH 336B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., April 25, noon-1:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Evan Smith</td>
<td>Cochlear processing and spiking population codes</td>
<td>BH 336B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., April 26, noon-1:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Rachel Diana</td>
<td>The effects of identity-irrelevant characteristics in face recognition memory</td>
<td>BH 336B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., April 29, noon-1:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Jen Shang</td>
<td>Long-term negative priming</td>
<td>BH 336B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., May 2, noon-1:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Julie Eyer</td>
<td>The development of numerical estimation</td>
<td>BH 332A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., May 3, noon-1:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Sarah Pressman</td>
<td>Stress and antibody response to flu immunization</td>
<td>BH 340A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., May 6, noon-1:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Steve Graham</td>
<td>Self-esteem and thoughts about relationship partners</td>
<td>BH 340A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., May 7, noon-1:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Dan Mirman</td>
<td>Formation of categories for complex novel auditory stimuli</td>
<td>BH 336B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., May 9, noon-1:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Sarah Novak</td>
<td>Insulin injections versus insulin pumps for adolescents: Quality of life, self-care, and metabolic control</td>
<td>BH 336B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., May 10, noon-1:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Jarrod Moss</td>
<td>Mental representation in engineering design</td>
<td>BH 336B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., May 13, 4:00-5:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Norma Chang</td>
<td>Interpreting distributional displays in statistics problems: Context vs. concepts?</td>
<td>BH 340A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., May 16, noon-1:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Tiago Maia</td>
<td>Learning the contingencies between events</td>
<td>BH 336B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jacques has received a prestigious National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Fellowship. The NSERC scholarship is the Canadian equivalent of an NSF scholarship. Jacques both won the award and a competition to be eligible to use the award outside of Canada.

Jacques as also received the Graduate Student Service Award. This yearly award is given for advancing the interests of and improving the quality of life for Carnegie Mellon graduate students and contributing to the university's academic community. You will soon be receiving an invitation to the award ceremony.

I haven't seen my analyst in 200 years. He was a strict Freudian. If I'd been going all this time, I'd probably almost be cured by now.

Woody Allen - Sleeper

As an avid, if not compulsive film watcher, I observed long ago that psychologists rank extremely high of all the careers that are portrayed in interesting roles in movies. Actually, let me be more specific: It's our often confused-with-what-we-do psychotherapist and psychiatrist cousins to which I refer. Don't believe me? Let me give you some examples. Recall Robin William's Oscar winning “it's not your fault” psychiatrist in Good Will Hunting? Judd Hirsch's “always there for you and will cure you after uncovering one traumatic event” psychiatrist in Ordinary People? Or Anthony Hopkin's warm, sensitive, and cuddly cannibalistic psychiatrist in Silence of the Lambs? There's more, so so many more. Barbara Streisand in Prince of Tides (you'd need therapy if she were your therapist), Richard Dreyfus in Nuts (counseling Barbara Streisand strangely enough), John Lithgow as the multiple personality child psychologist in Raising Cain, and Michael Caine as a cross-dressing serial killer psychiatrist in Dressed to Kill. In Basic Instinct alone, the character played by Sharon Stone had a psychology degree and the Jeanne Tripplehorn character on whom the murder was blamed was a psychiatrist.

So, what's going on? My guess is that Hollywood has figured out that psychologists are useful tools in movies. There's the Dr who is crazier than his patients, to much hilarity (!) such as Mel Brooks in 'High Anxiety' (or TVs Frasier), there's 'Dr. Evil' who-corrupts and controls such as Hannibal Lector, and the Dr who relies heavily on a rigid scientific viewpoint such as the disbelieving psychiatrist in Terminator II or the killjoy psychologist who tries to have Santa Claus committed as a lunatic in 'Miracle on 34th Street'. 
Then there is the Dr who crosses all ethical bounds and becomes romantically involved with a patient such as Streisand in Prince of Tides or Renee Russo in the instantly forgettable, um, Tin Cup, and the Dr who understands so deeply what it is to be human that they know exactly how to help their patient (think Good Will Hunting or Ordinary People). In other words, psychologists, like politicians, can play just about any role that someone else decides they should play. A lot of this effect also plays on the kind of stereotyping that is visible when you tell someone you're a psychologist: “Are you analyzing me?” or “Do you know what I’m thinking right now?” (I often know what I’m thinking when someone says this). The general public really believes that psychologists understand the essence of the mind's workings, and presumably the people who make movies know that this belief exists. Some might argue that this leads to a poor representation of psychologists on screen, and indeed the APA has set up a committee to help Hollywood more accurately depict therapists on celluloid.

But here's where things get interesting. Just as it's the case that psychiatrist and clinical psychologists are as common on screen as are null results in my experiments, it's also the case that we, the academic psychologist, are as about as frequent in the movies as is a sunny day in Pittsburgh during February. To support this claim, let me tell you that when I was looking for information on this topic I did a search on Yahoo: I found 37000 matches for “psychologist” and “movie” but only 6 (yes s-i-x) for “academic” and “movie”. To be fair, college professors do make it into films as lead characters, with Russell Crowe's painfully Oscar-overlooked role in A Beautiful Mind (I owe my summer salary to lots of people) and Michael Douglas’ role as a confused English Professor at some high-brow university as recent examples. But more usual is that the roles are secondary or tertiary, where the Professor is the foil to a posse of young attractive here-today-gone-tomorrow actors as students who engage in - insert incredibly sardonic tone - various side-splitting misdemeanors (Road Trip comes to mind).

If I’m right, then one has to ask: What's wrong with us? Why aren't Al Pacino or Meryl Streep lining up to play cognitive, social, or developmental psychologists? Unfortunately, there’s only one answer that I can think of and you're not going to like it: We’re not very interesting. I don't mean that we're not interesting in a bright, know lots of things, and are almost well rounded individuals with fulfilling lives kind of way. What I mean is that its hard to cast someone like us in a movie and spin a plot round our lives that people would pay 11 dollars (I’m including popcorn) to see. For instance, can you imagine pivotal points in such a movie? The heartbreaking scene where the student asks for an extension because a relative is ill? The drama as a submitted publication is returned with a status of “revise and resubmit”? The high jinks and hilarity when a graduate student accidentally opens mail from the wrong mailbox? The tension when two professors want the last Diet Coke at a faculty meeting? I just cannot see it happening anytime soon. That's not to say that movies won't be made about the folks who spend their working day on campus - I just don't think there'll be too accurate about how life is for those committed (to work) at a university. To this end, I leave you with a quotation from one of the best movies of the last 20 years, the title of which is invaluable to remember not just for factual information but also for the next time you play charades.

Dr. Kurtz, I'm unfamiliar with the academic guidelines at Radcliffe, but I would think any major university would consider warring on the United States and eating prisoners of war a serious breach of ethics.

Cannibal Women in the Avocado Jungle of Death

This periodical is not peer reviewed and as such, the editorial board takes absolutely no responsibility for its contents! This is an invitation to you. Submit us your stunning artwork (or doodles), your embarrassing departmental photographs, your biting satire, and your humorous stories. We’ll publish them here without the benefit of review! Submit what you wish to Rochelle Croom at rmicroom@andrew.cmu.edu or use the anonymous drop box in the 336B Lounge.