GRADUATE VISITING WEEKEND

Don’t forget – this weekend 17 prospective students will visit the department to find out more about CMU Psychology.

Prospective students will be in the department all day Friday, February 21.

DAVID PLAUT AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS TROLAND AWARD

David Plaut is among an elite group of scientists being honored this year by the National Academy of Sciences as a winner of the Troland Research Award.

The academy has announced that Plaut, an associate professor of psychology who also teaches in Carnegie Mellon's School of Computer Science, has been selected as one of its 2003 award recipients. Plaut is one of two winners of the Troland Research Award, which carries a prize of $50,000 to support research.

Plaut is one of 18 people nationwide to be honored by the academy for outstanding scientific achievements. The awards will be presented April 28 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., during the academy’s 140th annual meeting.

David received one of this year’s Troland Awards for his penetrating computational analyses of reading, language, and other aspects of cognition, which elucidate normal function and the consequences of brain injury.

PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH YIELDS CRITICAL FINDING FOR SIMPSON’S FANS

A recent report in the Journal of Applied Social Psychology by Cooper and Cooper on “subliminal motivation” reports some unusual effects of watching the Simpsons.

In two experiments, participants watched an episode of THE SIMPSONS.

Embedded in the program were verbal and pictorial stimuli related to thirst that were presented below conscious awareness. Compared to their pre-exposure ratings and to a control group, those viewing the subliminal “thirst” stimuli became thirstier following exposure.

Future research will be necessary to address whether participants exhibit a stronger preference for “Duff” beer as compared to other beverages following exposure.

NEW PSYCHOLOGY JOURNALS ON CAMPUS

In an effort to improve library resources, the faculty have been working to update the psychology journal collection. We will no longer be subscribing to Ergonomics, Journal of the Neurological Sciences, and Computers in Human Behavior. We will replace them with the following journals (Good deal, huh?). The journals below will become available in 2003. When possible, online subscriptions have been purchased.

- Experimental Brain Research
- Spatial Cognition and Computation
- American Educational Research Journal
- Educational Researcher
- International Journal of Science Education
- Journal of Cognition and Development
- Journal of Research on Science Teaching
- Trends in Cognitive Sciences
- Cognitive Systems Research
- Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience
- Neural Computation
- Emotion
- Journal of Social and Personal Relationships
- Personal Relationships
- Neuroimage
- Human Brain Mapping
Has it really been a year since I first wrote one of these movie columns? It must be because it’s unbearably cold, students are talking about Spring Break, and it is Oscar time again. As you may recall, last year at this time I made some seemingly sensible predictions about who would win the big award at the Oscar ceremony. I was right about best picture, but that was about all (I’m not including my correct prediction about best foreign short-animated movie original soundtrack). In my defense, I don’t think that there was any way to predict what happened last March. Perhaps, and not for the first time, politics had a huge influence on the voters’ decision. That isn’t to say that Denzel and Halle aren’t good actors - who can forget Denzel’s role in the must-be-missed Virtuosity (yes, you forgot it) or Halle’s heart moving performance in X-men. But, I just don’t think they were the right choices last year.

So, what to do? The Oscar nominees have just been made public, so I’ll get to them quickly and without much ado. I detested Gangs of New York, and the only potential winner I can see from the movie is Daniel Day Lewis who was thoroughly believable (except for his flannel pants). However, Jack Nicholson gets my vote for his terrific role in About Schmidt - he was so un-Jack that I had to watch the credits to make sure it was him. I’m also plumping for Diane Lane (I hope plumping means the same here as it does in England) from Unfaithful, Chris Cooper from Adaptation, and Julianne Moore from the Hours. I don’t think there was a “great” movie this year and so the best picture vote is tough. Perhaps The Hours, or maybe Gangs if post 9-11 sentiment draws the voters’ consideration to the movie.

Maybe you’re astonished: this is all a bit quick for someone who is typically so keyboard verbose. Where’s the gossip, the theory, the interesting stuff? Well, here it is. In light of the sham that was last year’s Oscars, I am defecting. This year I’m going to pay far more interest to the 23rd Razzie Awards. Yes, the Razzie Awards. “What the hell are the Razzie Awards?” I hear you say. They are annual Golden Raspberry Awards, dis-honoring the year’s Worst Achievements in Film. And if you’re still wondering, yes, this is for real. The awards, which involve an ultra-low-budget ceremony just before the Oscars, present to the winners (or losers depending on your point of view) a handcrafted golf-ball-sized raspberry atop a mangled reel of Super 8 film, spray-painted gold. The award has a projected street value of $4.89. The ceremony will apparently open with a semi-extravagant opening number of “All That Razz!” a parody of you-know-which tune from likely Oscar winner Chicago. There will be 11 categories, and in a mocking bash at the “other” award ceremony, the presentations will last no longer than an hour. As with every Razzie Awards, there will be traditional categories such as Worst Screen Couple and Worst Remake or Sequel, as well as some newer and brighter ones such as Most Flatulent Teen-Targeted Movie. I kid you not.

So, who has been nominated this year? Well, Madonna and Eddie Murphy (for a whole host of movies) have done well (or poorly), and Tom Green makes the list for the second consecutive year. My favorites? Brittany, poor misguided Brittany, will hopefully take home an award for the supposedly terrible Crossroads (no, I didn’t see it!), though she faces stiff competition from soon-to-be-Mrs Affleck Jennifer Lopez for not one but two movies (Enough and Maid in Manhattan). Steven Segal deserves to win a Razzie for every movie he has ever been in, though Adam Sandler, who suddenly believes he is an actor, could steal the Worst Actor Award. But of all the movies that deserves an award this year, I vote for Attack of the Clowns: George Lucas managed to write, direct, produce (and so on) the lamest love story CGI-fest in history. Sample line from the soon-to-be-lovers in the movie: “I don’t like sand, it is rough and scratchy; not like you, you are soft and smooth”. Kill me now.

So, sell the car, and buy a ticket for California. At 11am/PST on Saturday, March 22 at the Four-Points Sheraton Hotel in Santa Monica exactly 24 hours before the Oscars you can attend the real award ceremony. No politics, no long speeches, just a whole lot of losers.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE…
23rd Annual RAZZIE Award® Nominations (from the Razzie website)

**KEY:** (*) Indicates Former Oscar® Winner or Nominee (#) Indicates Former RAZZIE® Winner or Nominee

**WORST PICTURE:**
- THE ADVENTURES of PLUTO NASH (Warner Bros.)
- CROSSROADS (Paramount)
- Roberto Benigni’s PINOCCHIO (Miramax)
- STAR WARS: EPISODE II: ATTACK OF THE CLONES (Fox/Lucasfilm)
- SWEPT AWAY (Screen Gems)

**WORST ACTOR:**
- Roberto Benigni (Dubbed GODZILLA-Style by Breckin Meyer) PINOCCHIO*#
- Adriano Giannini/SWEPT AWAY
- Eddie Murphy/ADVENTURES of PLUTO NASH, I SPY and SHOWTIME#
- Steven Segal/HALF PAST DEAD#
- Adam Sandler/ADAM SANDLER’S 8 CRAZY NIGHTS and MR. DEEDS#

**WORST ACTRESS:**
- Angelina Jolie/LIFE, OR SOMETHING LIKE IT*#
- Jennifer Lopez/ENOUGH and MAID IN MANHATTAN#
- Madonna/SWEPT AWAY#
- Winona Ryder/MR. DEEDS*
- Britney Spears/CROSSROADS

**WORST SUPPORTING ACTOR:**
- Hayden Christensen/STAR WARS/EPISODE II: YADA-YADA-YODA
- Tom Green/STEALING HARVARD#
- Freddie Prinze, Jr./Scooby Doo
- Christopher Walken/TH e COUNTRY BEARS*
- Robin Williams/DEATH TO SMOOCHY*

**WORST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:**
- Lara Flynn Boyle/MEN IN BLACK II
- Bo Derek/MASTER OF DISGUISE#
- Madonna/DIE ANOTHER DAY#
- Natalie Portman/STAR WARS: EPISODE…WHO CARES? #
- Rebecca Ramijn-Stamos/ROLLERBALL

**MOST FLATULENT TEEN-TARGETED MOVIE** *(New Category!)*
- ADAM SANDLER’S 8 CRAZY NIGHTS (Sony/Columbia)
- CROSSROADS (Paramount)
- JACKASS: THE MOVIE (Paramount)
- SCOObY DOO (Warner Bros.)
- XXX (Sony/Revolution)

**WORST SCREEN COUPLE:**
- Adriano Giannini & Madonna#/SWEPT AWAY
- Roberto Benigni & Nicoletta Braschi / Benigni’s PINOCCHIO
- Hayden Christensen & Natalie Portman# STAR WARS/EPISODE II: SEND IN THE CLONES
- Eddie Murphy# & EITHER Robert deNiro# (SHOWTIME) Owen Wilson (I SPY) or Himself Cloned (THE ADVENTURES OF PLUTO NASH)
- Britney Spears & Whatever-His-Name-Was/CROSSROADS

**WORST DIRECTOR:**
- Roberto Benigni/PINOCCHIO*
- Tamra Davis/CROSSROADS
- George Lucas/STAR WARS/EPISODE II: ATTACK OF THE GROANS *
- Guy Ritchie/SWEPT AWAY
- Ron Underwood/THE ADVENTURES of PLUTO NASH

**WORST REMAKE or SEQUEL:**
- I SPY (Sony/Columbia)
- MR. DEEDS (Columbia/New Line)
- Roberto Benigni’s PINOCCHIO (Miramax)
- STAR WARS/EPISODE II: WHAT-EVER (20th Century-Fox)
- SWEPT AWAY (Screen Gems)
By THERESA TREASURE

A RECENT FINDING OF NOTE
From Psychosomatic Medicine, 2002.

In a 6 year study of older community residing couples, husbands who were named by their spouses as confidants, but did not name their spouses as confidants were LESS likely to have died after 6 years. Wife’s results showed the same pattern, but it was moderated by whether or not they were parents. Those who never had children were similarly protected if they were not listed by their husband as a confidant, but listed their husbands as confidant. The reverse occurred (greater mortality with this relationship) if they had had children.

Moral: (at least for men) Avoid talking to your wife about your feelings at all costs... but listen carefully when she talks.

RAZZIES TRIVIA

Last year, Actor Tom Green became the first actor ever to accept a Golden Raspberry Award for his much-reviled comedy “Freddy Got Fingered” (Worst Picture).

Green also was chosen as worst actor and director and was cited for worst screen couple - "Tom Green and any animal he abuses". Green also shared the worst screenplay award with his co-writer.

Tom Green brought along his own length of cheap red carpet and unrolled it across the sidewalk to walk on as he entered a magic shop whose small theatre was the site of the awards.

HEALTH TIP FROM DR. SHELDON COHEN
OSCAR CONTEST

The 75th Annual Academy Awards air March 23rd at 8:30pm.

What? You haven’t seen all of the Best Picture nominees? You haven’t checked out the Short Animated soon-to-be-classic “ChubbChubbs”?

There is still time.
And you can vote like an academy member.

Prove your movie prowess by making your picks public.
Use the form on the next page to register your votes.
Drop the form in the box in the Psychology Department Lounge by Friday 3/21.

The movie-meister with the most votes wins a prize at least as good as a Razzie.

TRAVEL PHOTOS WANTED

Every self-respecting periodical needs a travel section.

You may never be a National Geographic Photographer, but you can submit your favorite travel photo to the Psycho? Logical? Bulletin for publication. You may never have a travel column for the New York Times, but you can share your stories with us.

Drop a photo/article in the box in the Psychology Department Lounge or dash off a digital file to Lori Holt (lholt@andrew.cmu.edu). All photos will be returned.

Don’t be intimidated…this one really is by a National Geographic photographer.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Nominees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Film -- Animated</td>
<td>THE CATHEDRAL, THE CHUBBCHUBB!, DAS RAD, MIKE'S NEW CAR, MT. HEAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Film -- Live Action</td>
<td>FAIT D'HIVER, I'LL WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE... (JATTENDRAI LE SUIVANT...), INJA (DOG), JOHNNY FLYNTON, THIS CHARMING MAN (DER ER EN YNDIG MAND)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound</td>
<td>CHICAGO, GANGS OF NEW YORK, THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS, ROAD TO PERDITION, SPIDER-MAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound Editing</td>
<td>THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS, MINORITY REPORT, ROAD TO PERDITION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screenplay -- Adapted</td>
<td>ABOUT A BOY, ADAPTION, CHICAGO, THE HOURS, THE PIANIST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screenplay -- Original</td>
<td>FAR FROM HEAVEN, GANGS OF NEW YORK, MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING, TALK TO HER, Y TU MAMA TAMBIÉN</td>
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</tbody>
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Total Number of Categories Correct: [Blank]
ACADEMIC SKILLS AND SURVIVAL WORKSHOP

March 22 – Creative/Intellectual Property
April 5 – Succeeding in Your First Job
9am – 3pm
Series are presented by the University of Pittsburgh
www.pitt.edu/survival

COGNITIVE SCIENCE SOCIETY VIRTUAL COLLOQUIUM

Virtual Colloquium Series
February 18, 2003

Time: Friday February 28, 2003
1:00pm US Eastern Standard Time

Presenter: Dr. John Anderson
Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Psychology

Topic: Use of a Cognitive Architecture and fMRI to Mutually inform Each Other
or A Tale of Three Buffers

We will describe the interaction between cognitive modeling and brain imaging. Two fMRI studies will be described. The first was concerned with the solution of algebraic equations. We tried to relate the brain regions discovered to components of a prior ACT-R model that had been developed. A left posterior parietal region corresponded to the behavior of a module in ACT-R that maintains an image of the equation and performs mental transformations on it. A left prefrontal region corresponded to the behavior of a module that retrieves relevant information such as arithmetic facts. A left motor region corresponded to the behavior of a module that programs hand movements. We will describe how we were able to fit precisely the BOLD functions obtained from these regions given the operation of the ACT-R model. To show that these regions were not specific to mathematics and to turn our model-fitting exercise from postdiction to prediction we performed a second study using a more abstract symbol-manipulation task. The model fits were equally good if not better, although we had to adjust our a priori rehearsal assumptions. The second study identified an anterior cingulate particle whose behavior appears to correspond to the conflict resolution process in ACT-R. This research illustrates profitable back and forth that is possible between brain imaging and cognitive modeling. The basic methodology can be applied to help shape any information processing architecture, not just ACT-R.

AN ANONYMOUS SUBMISSION FROM A GRADUATE CORRESPONDENT

Top Ten Ways to get Kicked out of Graduate School

Can’t face the shame of dropping out of grad school? Avoid the emotional turmoil and get kicked out rather than drop out!

10. Move into the lounge and take daily sink baths. Yell at people when they enter without knocking.
9. Insist upon observing undergraduate holidays such as spring break, carnival, and “Fridays”.
8. Bring homemade “brownies” to the next department party.
7. Back-up your porn collection on the department server. If anyone asks, they’re stimuli.
6. Cite Dr. Phil in your dissertation proposal.
5. Hunt down and kill a participant no-show; leave the body outside Vicki’s office with a note.
4. Write your dissertation about “space babies”.
3. Liberate the gerbils.
2. Offer to teach your own class.

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 rmcroom@andrew.cmu.edu or use the anonymous drop box in the 336B Lounge.