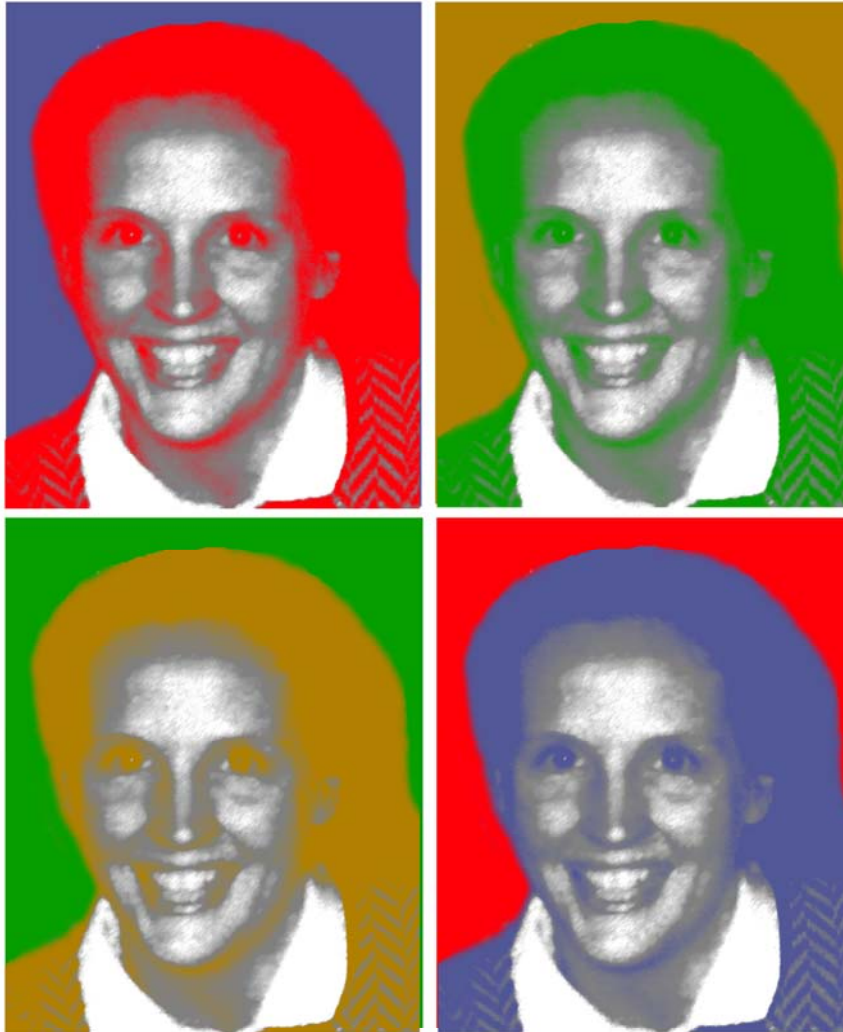


# PSYCHO? LOGICAL? BULLETIN

August 31, 2004

The Margaret Kinsky Edition!



## The Margaret Kinsky Edition

Celebrating the "Kinsky Years"  
Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Psychology  
1978-2004

# PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT LOSES ONE OF FEW IN-TUNE VOICES CONTINUATION OF ANNUAL KAROKE PARTY IN QUESTION

PITTSBURGH, PA - 11:15am e.s.t.

The Carnegie Mellon Psychology Department has announced the loss of one of its vocal divas to a competing recording label. In a not completely unexpected move, Margaret Kinsky will leave the Psychology Department to pursue a new direction. Experts suggest that she is exhausted by her yearly performances of Solid (as a Rock) and will try her hand at opera, hip-hop, and perhaps yodeling.

Kinsky's move has prompted a flood of sympathy for her plight, as she was often required to practice 12 hours a day, 6 days a week. "I could hear here screaming in her office at all hours", said Department Head Mike Scheier. There has also been a rise in anxiety in the Psychology Department, and the college, at the thought of losing one of their most talented performers. "Vocal harmony is just one measure of the overall excellence of our educational programs and confirm something we know - that Carnegie Mellon and its many staff, student and faculty singers rank among the best in the nation, if not the world. Nevertheless, the Psychology Department has lagged behind other units of the university in holding a tune. The loss of Kinsky will surely be felt throughout the echoing acoustics of Baker Hall", said Carnegie Mellon President Jared L. Cohon.

Long time duet partner, Dr. Robert Klatzky, was said to be particularly worried about finding a new partner in time for the Holiday Party. For those interested in filling the vacancy, open mike auditions will be held every Tuesday outside Sheldon Cohen's office.



# Reflections on Margaret's Career from her Husband, Dave

Margaret started her career at CMU as an administrative assistant for David Klahr, Bill Chase & Jill Larkin. Bill Chase had a contract from the Department of Navy, and all of his reports required a security clearance statement and broad distribution. Margaret, who was late in her first pregnancy (with what turned out to be twins) prepared the report and used an early version of spell checker to make sure the entire document was free of errors. Imagine her surprise when she opened the box of reprints and saw a typo: each report was

**"APPROVED FOR PUBIC RELEASE"**

Margaret always put in long hours; when she finally went into labor with the first baby (the surprise twin showed up later) I called her in sick. It was a pretty good excuse for missing work: "Margaret can't come in today; she's giving birth."

Since she's been the Business Manager I know she liked planning the annual off-site meetings with the staff. I looked forward to it too; she'd show up with rubber duckies prior to the duck tour of Pittsburgh, or baseball caps prior to an outing at the Pirate game.

Margaret spent over 25 years with the Psychology Department and made many enduring friends. While she took her job seriously she looked for the light side, finding humor in such things as trying to change "Oracle" to "Obstacle" in only 4 moves, and joy in the yellow begonia that bloomed wildly in the window light of her office.

*-Dave*



# KINSKY WITHDRAWS FROM THE PSYCHOLOGY TEAM GIVES TEAMMATES HER PLACE IN FINALS

PITTSBURGH, PA. Margaret Kinsky completed the race of her life then topped herself again.

Capping a magnificent CMU career with a magnanimous gesture, she gave up her coveted spot on the Psychology team to her teammates.

With three golds and two new titles, Kinsky is content to win an historic fourth medal while sitting in the stands tonight. Her teammates will continue the race without her. Kinsky stands apart from her CMU teammates who focus on single events, Kathy Majors, Rochelle Sherman, Theresa Kurutz, Kim Murray, Rochelle Croom, Tisha Anderchak, Queenie Kravitz, Ginger Placone and Erin Donahoe. True to her CMU roots she is multi-disciplinary seeking and attaining gold medals in the newly recognized little known sports of Obstacle Speedwalking (for which she trained during lunch breaks on the bridle trail with her psychology teammates), Step Weightlifting while climbing stairs (for which she trained by carrying 5 cases of bottled water up two flights of stairs in Baker Hall and navigating the third floor corridor), as well as in the Business Manager's Triathlon consisting of preparing hundreds of fruit trays, remembering every core staff member's birthday with a card, plant and treats, ordering thousands of telephones, placing millions of work orders, creating unlimited budgets, recruiting and hiring dozens of workers all done while walking, biking and kayaking. Kinsky has thus earned the titles of KIA (Know It All) as well as DIA (Does It All). First in the office and last to leave the question on everyone's lips is whether there will be another like her. When asked about her decision to leave it all behind at the peak of her career, Kinsky said, "It's the right thing to do." Her three coaches with whom she trained, David Klahr, Bobby Klatzky and Michael Scheier, watching Kinsky's victories from the front-row seats had this to say, "Kinsky is going to be one of the icons of the CMU games and the Psychology team." Fighting back their tears the Psychology team replied, "We will greatly miss Margaret but will try to live up to her high standards and be back in 2008 to win the gold". End of press release.

And now we would like to give Margaret the gold...



# A Longitudinal Study of Dynamic Cognitive Restructuring in a Dedicated Staff Member's Brain: Long term effects of exposure to the Da Vinci Effect

G. Gonzo, K. Frogg, M. Piggie, B. Bird, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

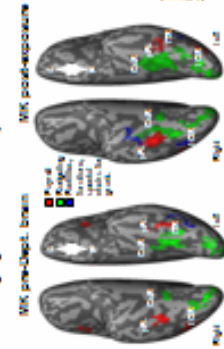
## Introduction

The purpose of this study was to analyze the Da Vinci Effect (the collision of left and right hemispheric regions due to prolonged exposure to the CMU environment, and in particular, the Psychology Department) in a dedicated female employee who shall heretofore be referred to as "MK".

## Background:

This study began with MK's work in the Psychology Department in 1978 at which time she began as a secretary to Dr. David Klahr. The study concluded after she had performed with 100% success in her many roles, including the last 13 years as Business Manager during the Klahr, Klatzky, & Scheier administrations.

3. Imaging data: Pre- and post-Da Vinci Effect



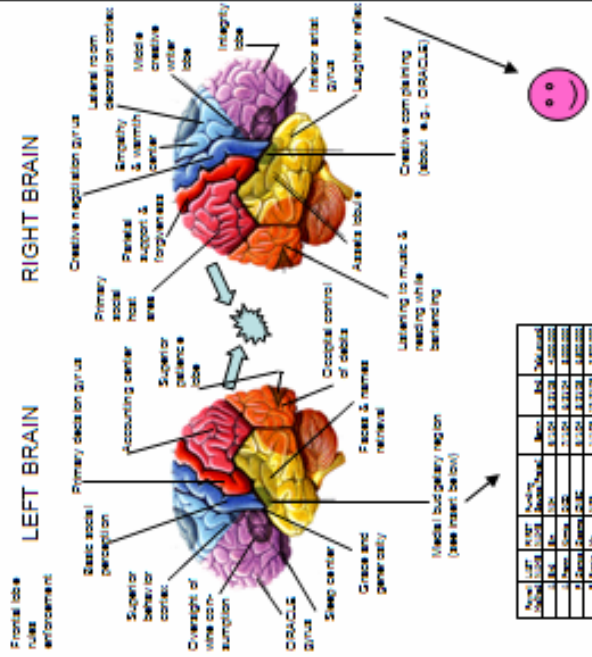
## The current study:

Here, we utilized more sensitive and specific paradigms that could better explore the mechanisms giving rise to the Da Vinci Effect.

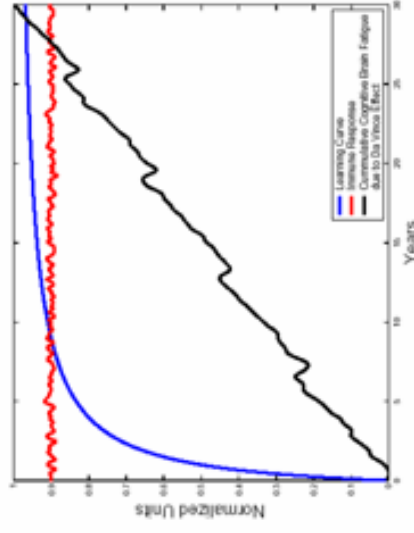
## Methods

- Subject was immersed as a Secretary, Research Assistant, Department Accountant, Business Manager, Social Host, Toilet Plunger, Friend, Shoulder-to-Cry-on, and general organizer of the department, with the presentation of a wide range of challenges.
- Scans were performed on a 3T Siemens Allegra scanner. BOLD contrast was acquired because subject's brain is naturally very colorful & bright as is she. At all times, subject was kept unaware of being scanned. Persons disguised as faculty and staff performed the scans, unbeknownst to subject (and the IRB).
- Data analysis was performed using just the personal opinions of all personnel exposed to subject. At no time were animals harmed in the conducting of this study.

## MK's Brain at a Glance



## Results



Cum Cog Br Fatig  $\rho = .20$

- Learning Curve or time to actual score (objects appear no smaller than they actually are)
- Immune response based on number of colds not had by MK per year
- Cumulative Cognitive Brain Fatigue due to Da Vinci Effect greatly exaggerated

## Conclusions

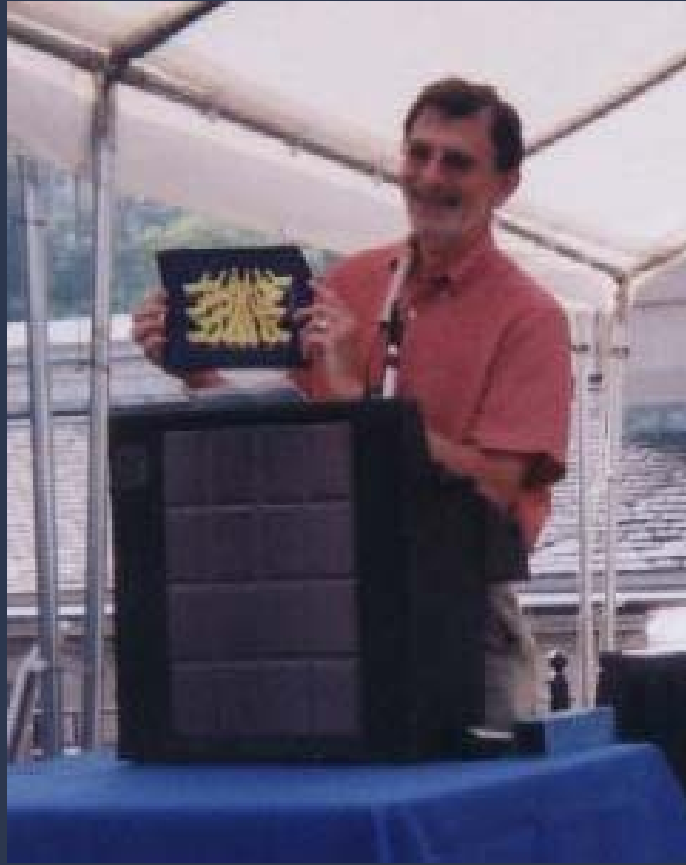
- MK learned each job quickly and performed so well that it had the effect of making students, faculty, staff, and postdocs feel very secure.
- Though MK's physical self remained healthy and hearty throughout the years, her brain will never be the same and it will be filled with memories of the department's "cast of characters" forever (a reciprocal effect).
- MK's cognitive and social development over the past 25 years will now benefit "Development" at CMU and she will be terribly missed by the Psychos.
- A heartfelt thanks from all in the Department is extended to Margaret (oops, "MK").

## The adaptation experiment



Artist's rendering of MK's "Split brain" resulting from a severe case of the Da Vinci Effect's lesser known "Rebound Disturbance" or "Nasty Hemispheric Bounce".

## KLAHR WONDERS HOW HE'LL KEEP HIS 'DUCKS IN A ROW' WITHOUT MARGARET



At her farewell celebration, Margaret is awarded possession of an important Psychology Department textile, discovered by Theresa Kurutz in 1999.



# REMARKS ON THE OCCASION OF MARGARET KINSKY'S FAREWELL CELEBRATION

Bobby Klatzky

When I was asked to make some remarks on the occasion of Margaret's abandoning us -- I mean, moving on to a new position -- I thought, how can I tell people how much she has meant to the department? Then I remembered that during my 10 years as Head, I kept a daily journal. Surely, I thought, there would be entries documenting her contributions. Well, there were, and I'd like to share some of them with you. I've taken the liberty of disguising the dates, and some of the people, to preserve anonymity. So here goes:

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**AUGUST X, 19VV.** First day on the job. Gee, the furniture in this place is ugly. The former Head had terrible taste. I share an office suite with my Business Manager, Ms. Kinsky. I wish I knew what a business manager does. She seems to keep busy. I guess sooner or later we'll have to talk to one another.

**SEPTEMBER X, 19VV.** Wow, a month has gone by so fast. Ms.Kinsky told me today we had to go over the annual budget. It seems really complicated, but she has a chart of how it fits together. There's an entry in there called "Head's discretionary fund." It doesn't seem to have much in it. Ms. Kinsky told me we could use it to redecorate my office, as long as we cut down on the budget for the annual party. I thought that was a fine trade.

**OCTOBER X, 19VV.** People keep coming to me about space, especially Professors P, Q and R. This building seems really complicated, but luckily, Margaret has a map of how it fits together. She says to tell people to put their extra stuff in the machine room, wherever that is, and use the space that they already have. It seems to be working.

**JANUARY Y, 19WW.** I learned today we have to prepare for something called an advisory board, and the faculty want to have a retreat. Planning one seems kind of complicated. I asked Margaret about it, and luckily she has a scheme for how a retreat fits together. She also has a complete map of the Allegheny County area with possible retreat sites. I told her to just pick one.



MAY X, 19XX. What luck. I finagled the offices in the 362 wing out of our Dean. Margaret suggested that I tell him this space thing was really getting me down. I mean, the faculty can get kind of rude. He seemed to be busy writing a book at the time I asked him for the space; he just waved his hand and said OK.

JUNE X, 19XX. I've been trying to think about what to do with the 362 wing, but it got kind of complicated. Luckily, Margaret had a map of the offices and a plan for moving people around. I told her just to go ahead, as long as she didn't use any of the Head's discretionary fund. My sofa is starting to look kind of shabby.

OCTOBER N, 19YY. Margaret came up today with a great new plan for the Head's discretionary fund. Whenever we have a faculty opening and we don't hire anyone, we'll put the salary in that. I hope the faculty stay picky.

JANUARY N, 19ZZ. We're going to get a new wing on our building! Finally, the faculty should be satisfied about that space thing. Luckily Margaret had a preliminary building plan, and she came up with a scheme that will justify 80% of the wing going to the department. I showed it to the Dean, who said that as long as we didn't call it the Psychology Wing, he really didn't care how much space we got. He seemed to be busy writing a book.

I guess I'll skip ahead a bit here:

APRIL M, 20XX. The Head's discretionary fund hit a new high today. Our latest job candidate refused to come when we couldn't guarantee him space at the kennel for his dog when he went on trips. Margaret had prepared a set of alternate schemes, including an inexpensive room with maid service at the William Penn, but he just wouldn't budge. I think I'll paint my office to match my new carpet.

MAY L, 20YY. Margaret seems to be serious about a new job. I told her I'd step down if she was going to be leaving. She was sympathetic, but firm. Gee, this situation could get complicated. Luckily, she told me she has come up with a complete personnel assessment that would help steer the department toward an excellent replacement. She meant for me, not for her! **But what will we do with the Head's discretionary fund?**

\*\*\*\*\*

Well, after 10 years as Head, I still don't know what a Business Manager does, but I do know what Margaret has done. She has managed the finances and infrastructure of a multi-million dollar enterprise. She has maintained a warm, supportive, and facilitative staff environment. As a result, we have had extraordinary staff loyalty and very little turnover. She has worked with a brilliant, but -- let's face it -- sometimes trying faculty, always endeavoring to meet their needs and foster their science within the limited resources available. Somehow she managed to do all this while raising a brood of bright, cheerful, well-rounded kids from diapers to young adulthood, not to mention maintaining the adoration of her husband.

Margaret, I could not have functioned as Head without you. Whatever a business manager means, **you've** been a partner and a friend. I'll miss having your daily presence in my life, but I know you will do wonders in your new job.

*-Roberta Klatzky*





## REMARKS FROM KATHY MAJORS ON THE OCCAISION MARGARET'S FAREWELL CELEBRATION

I'd like to say a few words about Margaret as she departs on her new adventure:

Margaret has been in the Department of Psychology for 25+ years and her primary roles have varied from our boss to our mom, and professionally from Secretary to Research Assistant and Maintenance to Business Manager. Margaret, you have made such an impact on all of us regardless of the hat you were wearing.

### *A Few Words from Kim:*

Oh my what do I say about Margaret Kinsky who I silently refer to as our fearless leader. Not that I have an image of you in tights and a cape with a giant 'S' on it. But I'm sure if you needed to you could leap a tall building or two. The way you would move furniture around this department I thought maybe you were popping pills that gave you super human strength. I had a hard time accepting the fact that you were leaving. For the 15 years that I have been in Psychology you have always been here, and I mean that you are always here, working in your office. When I would arrive at 8:30 you were here and when I left at 5:00 you were still here. I thought my goodness does she live here. Well obviously not cause you do have a husband and four children, and there simply isn't room under your desk for all of them. You are just such a big part of the Psychology Department that it is hard to imagine that you won't be here. Your door was always open and you were such a good listener. But don't worry I am starting to accept the fact that you are leaving, and realize that I might have to seek help from Dr. Phil. Anyway, I have tried to list what I will miss:

- the morning coffee talks, the travel talk
- where you've been, where I've been and where we wanted to go
- the staff retreats
- playing power ball
- watching Law & Order (how many of those are there now 10?) we both started falling asleep during the show and couldn't remember what the show was about or if we cared....
- playing power ball
- learning DRIVE, liking DRIVE and seeing DRIVE go away
- learning ORACLE, hating ORACLE and praying that ORACLE would go away
- playing power ball
- talking current events
- playing power ball
- talking about the movies we saw
- the birthday celebrations
- playing power ball
- the many thank yous
- the social events
- the goodie bags

But seriously you will be missed more than words can say and playing power ball.

## KATHY MAJOR'S REMARKS... Continued

For myself, you have been a wonderful teacher and have allowed me to experience and grow in the department. And now, you have provided me with a chance to grow even further. And I thank you for this opportunity. I hope I can fill your shoes.

You have qualities I will always admire. Your calm, laid-back response to issues fosters the perfect environment for discussion and problem resolution. And because of this, I never hesitated to bring anything to your attention.

You were always willing to help me regardless of how busy you were.

You have so much knowledge about the department. You know everything Margaret. You are a true KIA.

Remember all of the chairs we've put together over the years.

I'll miss being able to come in to your office and poke fun at a situation to make it less stressful. Situations like how some think we only work for them. When we're being told we're doing something wrong. Not being appreciated like we think we should at that time. Or how about having deadlines change before our eyes. I guess I will be sending you a lot of email.

Remember when someone asked both of us the same question to see if we knew what we were talking about? Or maybe it was to see which answer he liked the most. It was amusing at any rate.

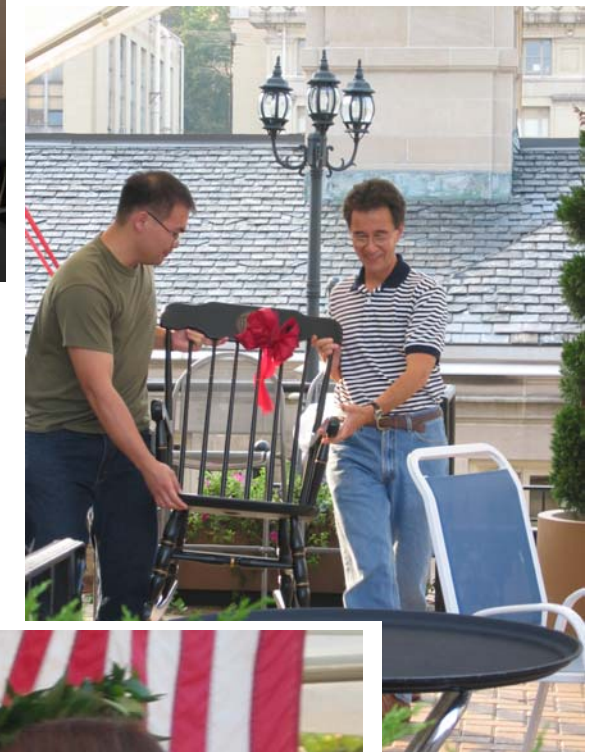
You have always been there when I have had a problem...both professional and personal...I've always been able to talk to you.

And what's very special to me, you've been my on-again, off-again walking partner for quite a few years. I've enjoyed and looked forward to the many walks where I could say anything to you in confidence. I have treasured many of these moments and have already missed having them. And don't forget all of my moaning and complaining about going on these walks. This was a must for the routine. And now, who else is going to put up with my attitude about walking?

I wish you all the best at your new job. Make sure I get your work telephone number.

Boss, co-worker, my friend. Thanks Margaret. It's been wonderful.

*-Kathy*



*Farewell Margaret  
You will be missed!*

