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**Send us your  
questions,  
requests, and  
updates!**

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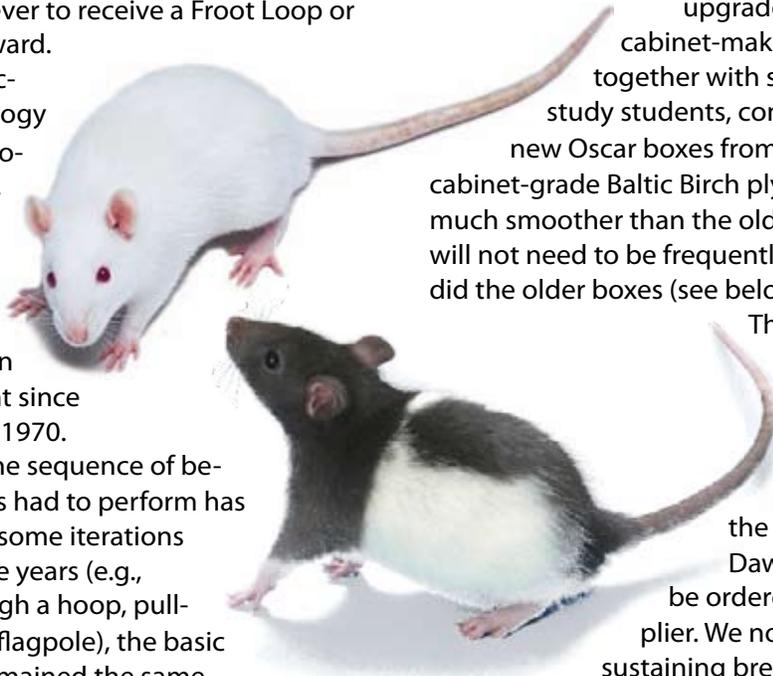
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## The Rat Lab: Then and Now

For many alumni of Colorado College, one of the most vivid memories of their alma mater is that of staring hopefully into the depths of an Oscar box, waiting for Timmy the rat to press that lever to receive a Froot Loop or other tasty reward.

The Introduction to Psychology Behavioral Laboratory Exercise, more commonly referred to as "The Rat Lab", has been an institution in the department since approximately 1970.

Although the sequence of behaviors the rats had to perform has gone through some iterations throughout the years (e.g., jumping through a hoop, pulling a flag up a flagpole), the basic exercise has remained the same for several decades: the rat must retrieve a marble from a hole in one corner of the box, roll the marble down a track to the other side of the box, push the marble out of a second hole, press a lever, and then retrieve the food reward from a small hole next to the lever.



In fact, the original 1970s Oscar boxes constructed of plywood by Alan Campbell remained in use until 2009, when Professor Emily Chan decided that it might be time for an upgrade. The campus cabinet-maker, Dan Crossey, together with several work-study students, constructed brand new Oscar boxes from beautiful cabinet-grade Baltic Birch plywood, which is much smoother than the old plywood and will not need to be frequently re-painted as did the older boxes (see below).

The department has also recently switched to a new strain of rat. Gone are the albino Sprague Dawleys that had to be ordered from a supplier. We now have a self-sustaining breeding colony of Long-Evans rats, which sport brown eyes and unique dark brown and white spots.

Do you have any rat lab stories that you would like to share? Animal training stories inspired by your rat experience? Please send them our way!

## THANK YOU

The Psychology department would like to officially thank all of the alumni who participated in our recent external review, specifically in the self-study aspect of the process. The external review has now been completed with a positive assessment of where we are now as a department. Nevertheless, we will be addressing several issues in the next few years to try to further improve the major.



## Bismarck the Rat - 1979

From: Mark Friederich '82

I am pretty sure that the young lad in the white tee is me. Tough to tell with my back to the camera, but I was in Intro to Psychology in 1979 and semi-trained my rat. I named him Bismarck, a play on words in German. Otto von Bismarck was the first Chancellor of the unified German Empire in 1871 and I had just moved to Colorado College from having lived in Germany most of my life. Translated with an odd sense of humor, Bismarck could be seen as "bite Mark (in the past tense)," Mark being my first name. Suffice it to say that my negative attitude going into the training session did not help my bonding experience with "bite Mark."

From: Kimberly Morris '82

In the picture, the man on the left is Steven B. Vaughn '82. He was essentially pre-med and went on after graduation to become a chiropractor. He is now living in his hometown of Peoria, IL.



## Rat Lab Stories

Barry Rhoades '76 - In my day the boxes were painted gray. The sequence was to find the marble, roll it along a trough and out through a hole, run through a hoop, press a lever, pull a stick in through a hole, tap, tap, food pellet. I remember a fellow student who was so deathly afraid of her rat that she would pull out its cage, upend the cage to drop the rat a couple of feet into the box, watch it in the box for few minutes - trying to get up the nerve to go near it, then upend the box back into the cage. Needless to say, her rat did not learn to do much besides getting agitated whenever she came into the colony room.

Joel Blechman '77 also shared his rat story. It was about a particularly lethargic rat who met a rapid demise.

## Alzheimer's Association walk in honor of Doug Freed



On September 18, 2010, department secretary Ann DeStefano joined Doug Freed, his wife Maria Daniels, and several others at America the Beautiful Park in Colorado Springs to participate in a 5k walk to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. The team, christened "The New Guys", raised nearly \$10,000 for the organization on behalf of Doug, who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. We are proud of Doug, Maria, and Ann for their continued support of this outstanding organization.

*The "New Guys" at the 5K walk. Doug and Maria are both in a white t-shirts in the top row. Ann is in the front.*



# ???

Who are the students in the photo?

What was the experimental task?

[Email](#) us your answers, as well as humorous answers!

## Notes from Africa: Ernst '08 in Congo and Pfeffer '12 in Rwanda



**Amy Ernst '08 (Psychology)** is in Congo, working alongside COPERMA, a small Congolese organization devoted to helping rural villagers recover from the material and emotional devastation resulting from the country's 15-year-long war. Amy is connecting victims of the rampant rape crisis with medical services in the city of Butembo, and she is working to establish centers to help young raped victims, many of whom have subsequently given birth, to obtain vocational training, basic primary and secondary schooling, and safer family placements. Several of her written accounts of her experiences in Congo have been published in blog form in *The New York Times* this fall:

<http://kristof.blogs.nytimes.com/author/amy-ernst/>

**Charlotte Pfeffer '12 (Psychology)** This fall I studied post-conflict transformation in Uganda and Rwanda. For my independent research I examined the perceptions of reconciliation after the 1994 Tutsi genocide in Rwanda, from the perspective of the perpetrators. Participants of my study included those who are currently finishing their prison sentences, or who have recently finished their terms, at Travail d'Interet General (TIG), a community service program created by the Rwandan government to address the overcrowded prisons. While listening to the perpetrators' experiences in the aftermath of the genocide, I have found myself thinking about social psychology and concepts of inter-groups relations. I was particularly interested in how dehumanization helped perpetuate the genocide in 1994, and how, when the perpetrators are dehumanized by society, it remains a hindrance to reconciliation today. My research documented the perpetrators' experiences post-genocide, and recognize the humanity in them, despite their decisions in the past. On the last day of my interviews at the TIG camp, another student and I held a farewell party for our research participants. We sat around drinking sodas and eating samosas and chapatti, for the first time not talking about the genocide. I was struck by the shift in my attitude towards them--after having spent a month on and off at their camp, learning about their experiences and seeing them as individuals has helped me feel empathetic towards them rather than angry. It was then that I realized first-hand how important humanization was in the process of reconciliation, by promoting understanding and acceptance rather than fostering fear and resentment.



## Where are they now?

**Laura Glen '10** spent 5 weeks post graduation volunteering in children's care centers/schools run by the Cape Mental Health Society in Cape Town, South Africa. She documented her journey in her blog <http://www.lauraelizabethglen.blogspot.com>

**Nina Kaiser '01** is now a clinical psychologist and doing quite well. <http://www.ninakaiserphd.com>

**Mark Lassleben '74** is currently doing management diagnostics in a small firm where he is one of 7 partners in Switzerland.

*To current student and recent graduates, Mark recommends, " [As you consider] how you going to make a buck as a psychologist [,] it is important to have a career plan, but it is just as important to be flexible, and be willing and able to modify it. . . . If you asked me during my studies if there was anything I would never consider doing, I would have said, 'Only two things, I will never work for big business, and never work for the prison system.' Well, I never worked for the prison system, although I have conducted more than one psychological assessment in a jail cell, and here I am working almost exclusively for big international corporations." Mark is happy to support young psychologists who are trying to figure out how they are going to make a difference for themselves and for society. You can find Mark at <http://www.papilio.ch>*

**Patrick Shannon '02** is in New Jersey working as an administrator for a residential program for 13-18 yr olds. In his free time, he does a lot of long distance hiking (last year's adventure was the John Muir Trail from Mt. Whitney to Yosemite Valley) and photography.

**Barry Ken Rhoades '76** completed an MA in Behavioral Science (Biopsychology) at the University of Chicago and a PhD in Physiology at UC Berkeley. He is currently an Associate Professor of Biology and the Neuroscience Program Director at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. His research is in the functional circuitry of the mammalian olfactory bulb and the development of simulations for ethological and neurobiological education. He has two children, Andrew - age 22 and Lauren - age 20. <http://pierce.wesleyancollege.edu/faculty/brhoades/index.html>

**Namrita Singh '05** received a Fulbright Foreign Scholarship and has been named a Boren Fellow. She is using the grant to conduct fieldwork in the Republic of Georgia to study how political insecurity is linked to psychosocial insecurity among displaced people.

**Jamie Taylor '87** fills his days working on Freebase, teaching computers about semantics. After getting his Ph.D. from Harvard he has written a book, *Programming the Semantic Web*, published earlier this summer. [http://www.freebase.com/view/en/jamie\\_taylor](http://www.freebase.com/view/en/jamie_taylor)

## OUR WEBSITE NEEDS YOU

In order to strengthen our online community, the Psychology Department would like to invite Psychology and Neuroscience alumni to create a personal profile on our website. Find the profile submission form at

<http://www.coloradocollege.edu/dept/PY/Alumni.asp>

Contact Mark, our Technical Director, at [msaviano@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:msaviano@coloradocollege.edu), if you have questions.

## NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU TOO!

Share your story and your wisdom! Be included in the next issue of our newsletter! We want to know how you are doing.

Write to us at

[adestefano@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:adestefano@coloradocollege.edu)

(photos welcome). Please include your full name and class year.

## BOB BOBS FOR CHARITY

This past September, Bob was "dunked" to raise money for the Kids As Self Advocates (KASA) charity.



Photo credit: Eric Einstein

## CONGRATS TO OUR 2010 GRADUATES

### Psychology

**Johanna Engler Barry**

*Concord, New Hampshire*

*Distinction, magna cum laude*

**Emily Sarah Cohen**

*Englewood, Colorado*

*Distinction in Psychology*

**Carlyn Littler Farquhar**

*Glenwood Springs, Colorado*

**Breann Danielle Gingrich**

*Littleton, Colorado*

**Laura Elizabeth Glen**

*Highlands Ranch, Colorado*

**Madeleine Bernice Gordon**

*New York, New York*

**Katherine Emily Groothuis**

*Evanston, Illinois*

**Annisa Genevieve Harsha**

*Jakarta, Indonesia*

**Samara Michael Haver**

*Portland, Oregon*

**Paige Nicole Honsbruch**

*Grinnell, Iowa*

**Daniel S. Lenzen**

*Chicago, Illinois*

**Michael Donham Leonard**

*Arlington, Massachusetts*

*cum laude*

**Amy Helen Lisberg**

*Golden Valley, Minnesota*

*cum laude*

**Sarah Handforth Lukens**

*Leverett, Massachusetts*

**Amanda Emelyn Lyles**

**Macfie**

*Asheville, North Carolina*

**Ariel Dobbs MacMillan**

*Hood River, Oregon*

**Benjamin Samuel Melito**

*Belmont, Massachusetts*

**Kameron Jean Moding**

*Manitou Springs, Colorado*

*Distinction, cum laude*

**Brittney Marie Moore**

*Colorado Springs, Colorado*

*Distinction*

**John Megaw Myers**

*Winnetka, Illinois*

**Rachel Gabriella Pizzie**

*Centennial, Colorado*

*Distinction*

**Scarlett Kuryla Prati**

*Cloverdale, California*

**Andrew Woodward Rice**

*Danville California*

**Lauren Michelle Talbot**

*Highland Village, Texas*

### Neuroscience

**Zachary Jarret Bailey**

*Wheat Ridge, Colorado*

**Jessica L. Borst**

*Colorado Springs, Colorado*

*Distinction, magna cum laude*

**Andrew Zane Bowen**

*Lexington, Massachusetts*

**An Dang**

*Aurora, Colorado*

**Mark Christensen Dunlop**

*Darien, Connecticut*

**Somhrita Dutta**

*Kolkata, India*

**Benjamin Alexander**

**Ehrlich**

*New York, New York*

**Anthony Joseph Groth**

*Phoenix, Arizona*

**Markus Clemens Hannan**

*Colorado Springs, Colorado*

*Distinction*

**Michael Christian Harrison**

*Tualatin, Oregon*

**Joshua Lake Hoerger**

*Oakland, California*

**Breann Rose Jeffries**

*Colorado Springs, Colorado*

**Alison Kreisler**

*Escondido, California*

**Marisa Mae LaFontaine**

*Plymouth, Minnesota*

**Diana Teresa Martinez**

*Denver, Colorado*

**Alexander Miller**

*Colorado Springs, Colorado*

**Vanessa Nicole Kramer**

**Newman**

*Chevy Chase, Maryland*

**Bailey Cristina Eileen Peck**

*Colorado Springs, Colorado*

**Catherine Rosewood Platt**

*Concord, New Hampshire*

**Jordan Ryan Reese**

*Montrose, California*

**Alex Rittel**

*Lee's Summit, Missouri*

**Aaron Isaac Snyder**

*Manitou Springs, Colorado*

*cum laude*

**Jessica Ashley Van Doren**

*Boise, Idaho*

**Rachel Faye Weitzenkorn**

*Aspen, Colorado*