

Christmas 1978

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

First the gossip, I had a great time going with Harry Sinaamon to the Neuroscience Society meetings in St Louis last month. Two of the best papers at the conference (of course, I'm objective!) were Danny Simons' work on anatomy and physiology of the cortical vibrissae projections and Michael Lehman's paper on role of corticomedial amygdala in hamster social behavior. It was great to spend time with both of them. Also, two Wesleyan undergraduates with whom I have been working came out to the meetings and presented a paper with me: Rob Blumenshine and Jon Mink. We presented the data on the theory which you may recall from the 'the course on evolution of the brain: that brain size (or more precisely, CNS size), is just large enough to use 5% of the body's basal metabolism in all vertebrates. Harry Sinaamon presented a paper with Cheryl Miller from Wesleyan on basic physiology of reticulospinal connections. And Allan Berlind also participated in the meetings.

Rich Ladd was married last summer; he and his wife Paula will be living in Phoenix at 18006 North Villa Rita Drive. I was sorry to miss them at graduation! Also, I am looking forward to seeing Mike Edward and Pam back in the East. Mike is finishing his Ph.D with Jacobson who moved to Salt Lake City, and is looking for a postdoc in this region of the country. Steve Lum and Gwyned are in Pasadena where Steve is working at the Huntington Memorial Hospital in a three year internal medicine program. Steve, you and Nina would have lots to share, since Nina is now working as a nurse practitioner in internal medicine at the Yale Health Plan. Gwyned is a special ed instructor at a Junior High School. I had hoped to see Jane Witten this year, if she got an interview at Yale, but somehow we lost touch. How are things, Jane? I haven't talked with Walter Severini lately, but his boss, Don Reis, bumped into me at Neurosciences and told me that he is doing well in the laboratory. I was going to see Bill Smith before he and his wife went to South Dakota, but also missed a connection there. Fred Pond, I see occasionally, including for our annual Thanksgiving Day feast in New Haven. Fred has twenty people working under him at a Department Store in Bridgeport and he is very happy in his new work. And then there is good news from both Danny Simons and Michael Lehman. Danny and Susan have a child and love living in St Louis (which is where I was born). Michael is planning to be married next summer to Kathy Wysocki, and is having time for music as well as Kathy and an excellent thesis. As for John Zook everyone at Neurosciences tells me that he is thriving at Duke. I missed you, John. Finally, some sad news. Billy Dse died, last month in Bristol at the age of 82. For many of us he was a friend and an inspiration, and it was very sad when he left Wesleyan. Some of you may not have known that he preceded Pam Edwards as our animal caretaker.

This has been more of a writing than a research year for me. I've been on sabbatical this fall writing up long review papers; at last, I'm putting together a general model of social behavior in the rat and other muroid rodents. One paper is at the journal, one is ready to send out, and one is in the typewriter and will hopefully be out by Christmas. Alice Gold and I got wonderful publicity for the sex research which came out as the lead article in the New England Journal of Medicine on Thanksgiving Day and made all of the press services and most newspapers and radio stations across the country and even abroad. On the sad side for me, however, was the fact that Alice was discouraged from standing for tenure and is probably leaving academia. So there will be no women at all at Wesleyan. By the way the behavior genetics work continues and I finally published a note at the Behavior Genetics Association meetings last summer and will put together a full article next year. About time, don't you think? Also, I have applied the rat theoretical model to monkey interactions in another study which is presently being written up. All-in-all a productive time.

I look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible, And to seeing some of you, either at Wesleyan, in New Haven, or at Neurosciences next year.

Regards from Nina.

Peace, David