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The 24th Carnegie Symposium on
Cognition: The Neural Basis of High-Level
Vision

Final Report

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Report on the 24th Carnegie Symposium on Cognition

The 24th Carnegie Symposium on Cognition, entitled "The Neural Basis of High-Level Vision," was held on May 29-31, 1991. The papers presented covered the following topics: perception and object representation; category-specificity and object recognition; visual processes in reading; recognition and conscious awareness; and top-down processes in vision including attention and imagery. These topics were addressed by speakers from the fields of cognitive psychology, neuropsychology, and neurobiology. Our speakers, listed below, came from the United States, Canada, England, and Scotland. They were:

Marlene Behrmann, University of Toronto
Daniel Bub, Montreal Neurological Institute
Susan Carey, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Patricia Carpenter, Carnegie Mellon University
Branch Coslett, Temple University
Alan Cowey, University of Oxford
Martha Farah, Carnegie Mellon University
James E. Hoffman, University of Delaware
Glyn Humphreys, University of Birmingham
Mark Johnson, Carnegie Mellon University
Marcel Just, Carnegie Mellon University
James McClelland, Carnegie Mellon University
Freda Newcombe, Radcliffe Infirmary Neuroscience Group
David Perrett, University of St. Andrews
Michael Posner, University of Oregon
M. Jane Riddoch, University of Birmingham
Eleanor Saffran, Temple University
Dan Schacter, Harvard University
Tim Shallice, University of Toronto
Andrew Young, University of Durham

Between 100 and 170 visitors attended each session. Our visitors included distinguished scientists from the field who travelled to Pittsburgh in order to attend, including Dr. Mel Goodale of the University of Western Ontario, Drs. Charles Butter and Henry Bachtel of the University of Michigan, Dr. Elaine Funnell of the University of London, and

Dr. Ian Robertson of the MRC Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge, England. We also had an excellent turnout of graduate students from distant universities, as well as CMU and the University of Pittsburgh. Students from Johns Hopkins University and Cornell University personally wrote to us after the meeting to thank us for arranging such a stimulating and educational experience, and for making it available to students.

The talks from the Symposium have been written up in the form of chapters for a book, to be published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. The title of the book is "The neural bases of high-level vision: Collected tutorial essays." In order to make the book especially useful as a reference source and text, each of the authors has been to incorporate a "tutorial overview" of their area into their chapter. The authors have been extremely cooperative in doing this, so that each chapter introduces readers to the field and then presents a more detailed look at one research project within the field. Virtually all of the chapters are ready, and we plan to send them into production with the publishing company by early December.

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