The 2005 Lyman Briggs Nature/Nurture Symposium

“Why are we talking about the Nature/Nurture debate? (Isn’t it over?!)

A Mini-Symposium Exploring Current Knowledge of the Roles of Genes and Environment in Complex Social Behaviors

Rationale: The Lyman Briggs School of Science was founded on the idea of “Bridging the Two Cultures” (the Sciences and Humanities), an idea eloquently laid out by CP Snow in 1959. Few topics illustrate this cultural divide better than the “Nature-Nurture” debate.

Goals: The goal of this Mini-Symposium is to bring to the Lyman Briggs School of Science a number of scientists working in the field of behavioral biology. The primary audience for the symposium will be the LBS community (faculty, staff and students), which, in addition to biologists, consists of people in the physical sciences, social sciences, humanities, and lay people. We anticipate that the symposium also will attract interested people from elsewhere on campus in both the sciences and the humanities.

Each speaker has been asked to address a common set of themes in their talk. These are:

1. Tell us about your research
2. Reflect on how your research contributes to nature/nurture issues
3. Give us your opinion on the current state of the nature/nurture debate
4. Identify one problem in human society that persists due to misunderstanding of the nature/nurture issues
5. Suggest a way that those of us in the audience might address this problem

Schedule of Talks
All talks held at 11:30 am Fridays in room C-106 Holmes Hall

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>Friday March 25, 2005</td>
<td>Jim Smith, Assoc. Prof., LBS and Dept. Zoology, MSU</td>
<td>Introduction to and Overview of Nature/Nurture and the Symposium</td>
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<td>Friday April 1, 2005</td>
<td>Kay Holekamp, Professor, Dept. Zoology, MSU</td>
<td>Interaction of Social, Ecological, and Endocrine Variables in Behavior</td>
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<td>Friday April 8, 2005</td>
<td>Kelly Klump, Assistant Prof., Dept. Psychology, MSU</td>
<td>Phenotypic and genetic relationships between disordered eating and ovarian hormones during puberty</td>
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<td>Friday April 15, 2005</td>
<td>Marc Breedlove, Barnett Rosenberg Professor of Neuroscience, Depts. Psychology and Zoology, MSU</td>
<td>Sexual Differentiation of the Developing Brain</td>
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<td>Friday April 22, 2005</td>
<td>John Lyne, Professor and Chair Department of Communication Resident Fellow Center for Philosophy of Science University of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Why Nature/Nurture Isn’t Dead: A View From the Arts and Humanities</td>
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Symposium Sponsored by the Lyman Briggs School of Science
For Further Information, contact Jim Smith (jimsmit@msu.edu)

Please call if handicapper accommodations are needed.
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