



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Peter Baum '07

Behavioral neuroscience



Q: How did you choose your major?

A: When I first arrived at Connecticut College, I thought I was going to major in chemistry. One

week into advanced general chemistry, I realized it wasn't what I wanted to do. I soon discovered that behavioral neuroscience is the best of both worlds. It is an interdisciplinary major, so you can choose from a wide range of classes in a variety of departments.

Q: Did you study abroad?

A: One of the reasons I chose behavioral neuroscience is that it allowed me to integrate all of my pre-med requirements into my classwork and to study abroad in Ecuador. Usually if you're pre-med or a science major, it is more difficult to study abroad because of your major requirements.

Q: Did you have an internship related to your major?

A: I interned in a children's hospital in Quito, Ecuador, where I spent time with patients and doctors, making rounds and reviewing case histories. My time abroad enabled me to become fluent in Spanish.

Q: What are your plans now?

A: I'm not 100 percent sure. I may want to be a doctor, a teacher or go into international development. Right now I'm living in Quito and am working for an environmental non-governmental organization (NGO). Next, I will be applying to medical school. We'll see where I end up!

Behavioral Neuroscience

Overview

Behavioral neuroscience has been a major at Connecticut College for just over a decade, and it has established a strong presence during that time. The number of students choosing this major has grown from a handful to nearly three dozen, and our course offerings have grown with them. As a behavioral neuroscience major, you will take courses in many different departments. That's because your exploration of the neural basis of behavior will take you into the realms of chemistry, psychology, philosophy, molecular biology and cellular biology.

Research

We emphasize research skills in our behavioral neuroscience courses, and we use animals extensively to help students learn. Both of your core courses, behavioral neuroscience and psychopharmacology, have a lab course in which we use animals. This emphasis on research will continue throughout your studies in the behavioral neuroscience major. The experience you gain will be invaluable as you prepare for medical school, graduate school or research positions.

Community Outreach

We encourage behavioral neuroscience majors to get involved with the local community by participating in events such as the College's Kids Judge! Neuroscience Fair. You'll plan and create an interactive demonstration, game or craft to teach elementary school students about how the brain works and your project will be judged by these students. It's one of the many ways that Connecticut College reaches out to its surrounding community and inspires the next generation of scientists.

Internships and Study Abroad

There is a great deal of learning that takes place beyond the classroom for our behavioral neuroscience majors. Many students spend their summers doing internships either at Connecticut College or at outside research institutions. You'll have the opportunity to participate in the College's extensive study abroad and internship programs, which can take you across the United States and around the world.

Conferences and Scientific Societies

You'll get to participate in both the annual meetings of the Society for Neuroscience and NEURON, the NorthEast Under/graduate Research Organization for Neuroscience. The Society for Neuroscience, which draws



Photo: Janet Stephens (National Cancer Institute)

15,000 or more people to its annual meeting, only recently began offering membership to undergraduates. Attending NEURON will put you in contact not only with other undergraduates majoring in behavioral neuroscience, but also with graduate students and faculty.

Faculty

Ruth Grahn, *Associate Professor of Psychology; Director of Behavioral Neuroscience Program*

B.A., Mount Holyoke College; M.A., Ph.D., University of Colorado
Impact of stress on behavior and neural function; animal models of psychopathology; role of serotonin in fear/anxiety-related behaviors; protein immunohistochemistry

Joseph Schroeder, *Assistant Professor of Neuroscience*

B.A., Franklin & Marshall College; Ph.D., Thomas Jefferson University
The neurobiological mechanisms of psychostimulant-related behavior; animal models of Parkinson's disease and psychostimulant abuse; the role of vanilloids in the central nervous system

Selected Courses

Behavioral Neuroscience; Psychopharmacology; Psychology as a Natural Science; Neurobiology of Disease; Sensation and Perception

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers 47 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities as well as innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

What can you do with a major in behavioral neuroscience?

Meghan Hewitt '06

A biology teacher at West Haven High School.

Developed and ran the Science Educators Group at Connecticut College, which placed science majors into the New London public schools as mentors and teachers.

Jenn Vlasaty '04

Studying at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, specializing in large and small animal behavior.

Captain of the equestrian team at the College and the recipient of the Cameron Horner Smyser '92 Award for Scholarly Achievement in Psychology. Also was a neurology research assistant at Harvard Medical School, and interned at VCA Northside Animal Hospital in Pennsylvania with a veterinary behaviorist.

Maya Koike '03

Working toward a Ph.D. in neurobiology and behavior at the University of California, Irvine. Focusing on Alzheimer's disease co-morbidities, including stroke.

Worked as a research technician at the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University and the University of California, San Francisco.

For more information, visit
www.conncoll.edu/academics/