

**THE KRASNOW
INSTITUTE FOR
ADVANCED STUDY**

AT

**GEORGE MASON
UNIVERSITY**

The Institute:

In 1989, the late Shelley Krasnow decided to bequeath a substantial portion of his estate to establish an Institute for Advanced Study at George Mason University. He specified that the work of the institute be for the betterment of mankind. Before he could narrow his vision he died and the directors of the institute in collaboration with the university undertook to substantiate the vision and elaborate a program. An extraordinary group of consultants including four Nobel laureates was called in to help define the mission. That exercise led to a major conference on The Mind, the Brain and Complex Adaptive Systems held at George Mason University and cosponsored with the Santa Fe Institute.

These events have set the institute on the path of trying to understand the human mind: how it came to be, how it relates to the electrochemical activities of networks of nerve cells in the brain, how it can be modelled on computers, and how it is the vital component of what we are. A second strand emerged; how can understanding the human mind be applied to help us in education, decision making, and all those countless activities that involve events in our cerebral cortexes and end up in our real world actions? All of these areas of interest came under the general heading of cognition. Thus the institute moved to its general area of research - Cognition is the mission.

Location:

The Institute is currently located in a suite of rooms in space rented by George Mason University on University Drive, Fairfax, Virginia. Operations began in August of 1994. Plans are being completed for the construction of a building on a site on the campus of the university in Fairfax, Virginia. The building will have space to house about 40 researchers, a state of the art electronic library, and laboratories designed for neurobiological studies. The planned completion date is summer of 1996. In the meantime through faculty joint appointees, outreach postdoctoral fellows and a small in-house staff the institute is functioning and defining its direction in more detail. The director is Harold J. Morowitz, Robinson Professor of Biology and Natural Philosophy at George Mason University, formerly Professor of Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics at Yale University.

Serving as a Scholarly Advisory Committee are the following individuals:

Kenneth DeJong, Department of Computer Science,
George Mason University

Charles DeLisi, Dean, School of Engineering, Boston
University

Daniel Dennett, Director, Center for Cognitive
Studies, Tufts University

Steven Diner, Department of History, George Mason
University

Jane Flinn, Department of Psychology, George
Mason University

Murray Gell-Mann, Santa Fe Institute

Patricia Goldman-Rakic, School of Medicine -
Neurobiology, Yale University

Robert W. Kenny, Emeritus - Department of History,
George Washington University

John F. Kihlstrom, Department of Psychology, Yale
University

Frank Loew, Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine,
Tufts University

Andrew Sage, Dean, School of Information
Technology & Engineering, George Mason
University

Jerome Singer, Department of Psychology, Yale
University

Charles Stevens, Salk Institute for Biological
Sciences, San Diego

William Summers, Department of Radiology, Yale
University

Irving Winters, Chairman, Department of Industrial
Engineering, Morgan State University

The Board of Directors consists of Mark Friedlander, Chairman, Robert Gambino, George Johnson, Frederick Rossini and Gene Samburg.

Foremost among the initial activities of the Institute is to select those areas of cognitive research and applications where we may expect to make an optimum impact. This is focusing on two major areas.

- a) The evolution of cognition over the entire domain of the animal kingdom. This is an important part of the great goal of science to ask what is the essence of our humanness, what is our

past, and what may be inferred about the future.

A workshop in June of 1995 will bring together an extraordinary group of scientists from around the world to synthesize what is now understood about how cognitive behavior emerged from its biological roots. This will help to elaborate our evolutionary program.

- b) The application of cognitive sciences to optimize the use of scientific knowledge to improve in the near future the education of those more than 10% of children with learning disabilities ranging over a wide spectrum of deficits.

We hope to combine basic science with concern for that wide range of cognitive activities that are so fundamental to solving the problems of our society.

The strategy for moving toward the Institute's goal is to involve 30 of the brightest young cognitive scientists and related specialists in the world as staff, visiting staff, postdoctoral fellows and joint appointees with George Mason University and to turn them loose to carry out research and form a network with scholars around the world.

The offices, library, laboratories and computer facilities will be the best available and senior scientists will be brought in to consult and serve as mentors to the more junior staff. The gamble is on our ability to attract and identify a superb group of researchers and to provide them with the intellectual and physical milieu to produce. We accept that challenge with enthusiasm.

The physical location of the campus with respect to downtown D.C., the NIH in Bethesda and the growing Northern Virginia Biotechnology Initiative is ideal for serving as a

network node. The Krasnow Institute is in the process of building bridges to the Santa Fe Institute, the Woods Hole Marine Biology Laboratory, the National Institute of Child Health and Human

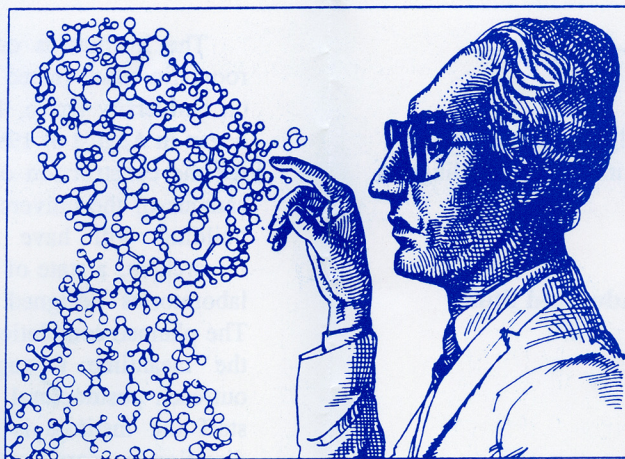


ILLUSTRATION BY VICTOR JUHASZ

Development and other similarly first rate institutions around the world.

The starting activities of the Institute consist of:

- a. Running a program of outreach postdoctoral fellowships at Yale, Brandeis, University of Pennsylvania and the University of California at San Diego,
- b. The work of two researchers at George Mason University,
- c. A weekly seminar on cognition bringing together psychologists, computer scientists, biologists, physicists, engineers, and social scientists to discuss the foundations of the cognitive sciences. This activity has a formal similarity to the Harvard Mind, Brain and Behavior Interfaculty Initiative,
- d. A starting program in neuroanatomy,
- e. The design and supervision of the building of the research facilities of the institute,
- f. A summer 1995 workshop on Evolution, Neurobiology, and Behavior,
- g. The publication of the proceedings of the first Krasnow Institute Conference on "The Mind, the Brain and Complex Adaptive Systems." This appears in the Santa Fe Institute Conference Proceedings, Volume XXII (Addison-Wesley, 1994),
- h. Beginning a development activity. Since it is clear that the Krasnow endowment cannot support the activities of all the people necessary for our dream of an optimum institute, we seek grants, gifts, and additional endowment. We, of course, welcome any help in this area.

The Krasnow Institute is currently located at 4085 University Drive, Fairfax, Virginia. The mailing address is:

**Mail Stop 2A1
The Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study
George Mason University
4400 University Drive
Fairfax VA 22030-4444**

(703) 993-4333

Harold J. Morowitz Director
Anne R. McCauley Administrator
Jennifer L. Sturgis Librarian/Information
 Specialist

February 1995

Development and other similarly that rate institutions
around the world.

The meeting activities of the Institute consist of:

1. Providing a program of advanced professional education at Yale University, University of Pennsylvania and the University of California at San Diego.
2. The work of two laboratories at George Mason University.
3. A study center on computer-aided learning, cognitive psychology, language, education, and other activities in relation to the field of artificial intelligence. This activity has a formal connection to the Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Artificial Intelligence.

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CHARLENE HURT

FEB 24 1995

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The Institute is currently located at 1085
University Drive, Fairfax, Virginia. The meeting
address is:

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The Center for Advanced Study
George Mason University
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