CULICOVER TO HEAD NEW COGNITIVE SCIENCE PROGRAM

COLUMBUS -- Peter W. Culicover has been appointed as the first director of the Cognitive Science Program at The Ohio State University. The appointment, approved by the university's Board of Trustees Friday (4/7), will become effective Oct. 1.

Culicover has been associate provost for planning and a professor of linguistics at Ohio State since 1987. Before that, he was at the University of Arizona, where he directed the cognitive science program and was head of the linguistics department.

In his new position, Culicover will devote half his time to directing the Cognitive Science Program and half to his duties as a professor of linguistics.

Cognitive science is the interdisciplinary study of how people acquire and process knowledge and how the human mind represents information. At Ohio State, the primary areas that have been involved in the program are the departments of Linguistics and Psychology, and the Laboratory for Artificial Intelligence Research. The Division of Speech and Hearing -more
Science, the philosophy and political science departments, and faculty interested in neuroscience will also participate.

"Peter Culicover's administrative experience and strong background in cognitive science make him an excellent choice to serve as the first director of Ohio State's Cognitive Science Program," said Myles Brand, vice president for academic affairs and provost. "I am confident that under his leadership this multidisciplinary program will reach pre-eminence in the near future."

Culicover has been co-principal investigator on three cognitive science grants funded by the Sloan Foundation, and he is the author or editor of six books in linguistics and cognitive science, including one just published by the M.I.T. Press. In addition, he has written numerous articles in professional journals, primarily on the subjects of grammatical theory, syntax and semantics, language learnability, and natural language processing.

A graduate of the City College of New York, Culicover earned his Ph.D. in linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Before joining the linguistics department at Arizona, he taught at the University of California, Irvine.

"The cognitive science community at The Ohio State University has made dramatic progress in the past few years," said Culicover. "We are now in a position to consolidate our gains, broaden and intensify our activities, and make further significant strides. I am tremendously excited about the opportunity to be a part of what has already become one of the most stimulating and lively intellectual communities in the nation, and I'm looking forward to the next few years with great anticipation."

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(Trustees/35)
OSU hosts conference for women

By Samantha G. Haney
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State will host a conference this weekend to address the obstacles and rewards for women choosing careers in cognitive science.

The conference, "Women in Cognitive Science: Career Opportunities and Recent Research," is organized by Lindley Darden, a visiting professor from the University of Maryland. Darden works in the computer and information science department at Ohio State experimenting with artificial intelligence.

The conference is not only an outreach to undergraduate women interested in cognitive science, but also an "enriching experience for researchers," said Chris Putnam, research associate for computer information and Osurf projects.

Barbara Becker, a graduate student in the laboratory for artificial intelligence, will moderate five panelists in a morning discussion. The discussion will later be open to the audience.

Becker said the questions will be about problems women face, such as leading a career and a family, and about the benefits of interdisciplinary study. She said women are often the people expected "to find a way to juggle both her career and the family."

In the afternoon, researchers from Ohio State and other universities and research centers will make presentations about their research.

Putnam said the discussions will give the researchers a chance to share their experiences with peers and undergraduates. She said the conference should stimulate some interest in undergraduate women to explore cognitive science.

Mary Darr, administrative assistant at the Center for Cognitive Science, said cognitive science involves looking for the physical property that creates active thought and stimulates behavior. Artificial intelligence is one application of cognitive science.

Darr said the Center for Cognitive Science, which was established last fall, involves about 15 departments across campus.
PUBLIC INVITED TO SEMINAR SERIES ON CONSCIOUSNESS

COLUMBUS -- Anyone interested in "consciousness" is invited to attend all or some of the ten-part series of lectures, *Foundations of Consciousness*, sponsored by the Center for Cognitive Science at The Ohio State University this spring.

The topic of consciousness has generated substantial interest in recent years. Understanding what it is and what produces it is fundamental to an understanding of mind.

The seminar will focus on five areas. For each area, members of the Ohio State faculty have organized reading materials and discussions and have invited a distinguished speaker in the field. Each topic will be presented over two sessions. In the first week, Ohio State faculty will present an overview and discussion to prepare for the featured speaker on the following week. Reading materials for each topic are available from the Cop-Ez center in Bricker Hall, 190 N. Oval Mall, at costs ranging from about $5 to $15. There is no cost for attending the sessions.

All meetings will begin at 3:30 p.m. and will be held in 300 Journalism Building, 242 W. 18th Ave.

The schedule is:

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Conceptual Foundations of Consciousness
March 31 -- Diana Raffman and William Taschek, assistant professors of philosophy.
April 7 -- John Searle of the University of California, Berkeley. He is a leading philosopher of mind and language best known for his scathing critiques of strong artificial intelligence.

Computational Foundations of Consciousness
April 14 -- B. Chandrasekaran, professor of computer and information science, and Peter Culicover, director of the Center for Cognitive Science.
April 21 -- Ray Jackenoff of Brandeis University. He is a linguist who argues that consciousness is a byproduct of the computational organization of the mind for language.

Brain Mechanisms Underlying Consciousness
April 28 -- Jordan Pollack and Deliang Wang, assistant professors of computer and information science.
May 5 -- David Chalmers of Washington University. He is an expert on consciousness, computation, connectivism and artificial life.

Evolution of Consciousness
May 12 -- Sarah Boysen, assistant professor of psychology, and Susan Volman, assistant professor of zoology
May 19 -- Donald Griffin of Harvard University. He is an authority on animal physiology and behavior, best known for his work on the way bats orient themselves and find food by listening to echoes of their own voices.

Clinical Insights into the Nature of Consciousness
May 26 -- Ben Givens and Martin Sarter, assistant professors of psychology.
June 2 -- Dan Schacter of Harvard University. He is a neuropsychologist who has studied learning and memory for motor tasks among individuals with severe amnesia. His work shows dissociation between knowledge and the conscious experience of learning.

For further information, contact the Center for Cognitive Studies, 292-8200.