IN MEMORIAM

HUGH CARLTON BLODGETT

Dr. Hugh Carlton Blodgett, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, of The University of Texas at Austin, died in Austin on October 15, 1972 after a long and distinguished career as teacher, research worker and administrator.

Hugh Blodgett was born in Zamora, California on November 21, 1896, the son of Carlton S. Blodgett and Esther Heard Blodgett. After a childhood spent in Zamora and Woodland, California he attended college in 1917 at College Park Academy in San Jose and enlisted in the Navy that year. He became an Ensign in submarines and was discharged with that rank in January 1919 at which time he enrolled in the University of California at Berkeley. There he obtained the A. B. degree in 1921 and the Ph.D. with a major in psychology and a minor in physiology in 1925.

His earliest published research was a study with Professor George Malcomb Stratton of the effect of the sight and smell of blood on the behavior of cattle. (Contrary to popular belief there was no discernible effect.)

His Doctor's dissertation, done under the supervision of Professor Edward Chase Tolman, was published under the title, "The effect of the introduction of reward upon the maze performance of rats," became a classic in the field of animal learning and is frequently cited even today.

While a graduate student at Berkeley, he married Georgia Colombat, and after he received his degree, the couple moved to Cambridge where Blodgett served as a teaching assistant at Harvard University. The following year, 1927-28, Blodgett served as Instructor at Lehigh University. The next year he moved to The University of Texas.

Their first child, Joan, was born to the Blodgetts while they were at Lehigh, and a second, a son, Carlton, was born after they had moved to Austin. Both children have survived them.
In 1932 he was invited to the Bekhterev Institute of the Brain where he spent some months as Visiting Scientist. Back at The University of Texas, after serving as Instructor and Assistant Professor, he was promoted to Associate Professor in 1936 and to Professor in 1944. During 1950 and 1951 he was Visiting Professor at the University of California at Los Angeles and Visiting Research Scientist at Berkeley.

In 1933, after the death of his former wife, Georgia, Blodgett married Yvonne Bledsoe with whom he lived until his death. They had one child, a daughter Carol, who with his wife survived him and live in Austin at the present time.

In the forties, Blodgett became active again in research--the previous decade had provided virtually no funds for research and Blodgett had been able to maintain only a token laboratory. He now pioneered work in "space" learning and was able to show through the use of a uniformly-lighted dome that rats had great difficulty learning a maze when the surroundings lacked visual structure.

With the formation in 1951 of the psychophysics section of the Defense Research Laboratory, Blodgett was able to investigate another research field that had interested him for years, that of hearing. He was active in the Laboratory until the formation in 1957 of the Radiobiological Laboratory attracted him back to the study of animal learning. He was one of the trainers of our first space voyager, the monkey, Sam.

Blodgett served as chairman of the Department of Psychology from 1948 to 1950 and again from 1960 to 1962 when his age brought about his mandatory retirement from administration. He retired from teaching in 1971.

In addition to his place in the field of psychological research, Blodgett will be long remembered because of his role for many years as Graduate Advisor. In that capacity he made great friends with scores of graduate students, not only in his own fields, but throughout the department. As a consequence of the warmth, the humanity and the wisdom he brought to that service, the Department is naming the graduate student lounge in his memory. All of us who knew him are richer for having had that privilege.
This Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors Robert K. Young, chairman, Ivan C. Belknap, Ira Iscoe, and Lloyd Jeffress.
Important publications


1929  The effect of the introduction of reward upon the maze performance of rats. The University of California Publications in Psychology, 1929, No. 8, 113-134.

1929  An analysis of the behavior units in maze learning. Procedures of the 9th International Congress of Psychologists, 1929, 9, 85-86.

1944  With Kenneth McCutchan
Choice point behavior in the white rat as influenced by spatial opposition and by preceding maze sequence. Journal of comparative Psychology, 1944, 37, 51-70.


1946  With Kenneth McCutchan

1947  With Kenneth McCutchan

1947  With Kenneth McCutchan

1947  With Kenneth McCutchan

1948  With Kenneth McCutchan

1949  With Kenneth McCutchan and Ravenna Mathews

1952  With L. A. Jeffress and B. H. Deatherage
Masking of tones by white noise as a function of the interaural phases

1953 With B. H. Deatherage and L. A. Jeffress


1956 With W. A. Wilbanks and L. A. Jeffress
Effect of large interaural time difference upon the judgement of sidedness. *Journal of the acoustical society of America*, 1956, 28, 639-643.

1958 With L. A. Jeffress and R. W. Taylor

1958 With L. A. Jeffress and C. A. Wood, III

1959 With W. Lynn Brown and John E. Overall

1960 With W. Lynn Brown, D. B. Gisler, and C. A. McTee
Clinical assay of debilitating effects on the Rhesus monkey of varying conditions of medication, restraint, and isolation. *Psychological Reports*, 1960, 6, 461-462.

1962 With L. A. Jeffress and B. H. Deatherage

1962 With L. A. Jeffress and R. H. Whitworth
Effect of noise at one ear on the masked threshold for tone at the other. *Journal of the acoustical society of America*, 1962, 34, 979-981.

1962 With L. A. Jeffress
Effect of switching earphone channels upon the precision of centering. *Journal of the acoustical society of America*, 1962, 34, 1275-1276.

1963 With W. L. Brown
Participated under contract with School of Aviation and N.A.S.A. in one aspect of Mercury project concerned with life support systems
and with the behavioral and physiological implications of launch, space flight, and recovery using the Rhesus monkey. Work was done at the Radiobiological Laboratory at The University of Texas, at Holloman Air Base, Wright Patterson Air Base and at Wallops Island, Virginia. Now published in reports of the Air Force School of Aviation.

1963 With W. Lynn Brown

1964 Completed work on classified task with School of Aviation Medicine, Aerospace Division, on incapacitating effects of neutron radiation, at Radiobiological Laboratory, The University of Texas, and at the Armed Forces Radiobiological Institute, National Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

1966 With W. Lynn Brown, Donn Henderson, R. M. Ritter and J. S. Pizzuto