

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL
JAMES C. SMITH LECTURE



***Department of Psychology
and the Program in Neuroscience,
College of Arts and Sciences***

Friday, March 4, 2016
Psychology Building Auditorium

The Eighth Annual James C. Smith Lecture

Welcome and
Introductory Remarks

Dr. Sam Huckaba
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Florida State University

Introduction of Speaker

Dr. James C. Smith
Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor
Florida State University

The Neural Basis of Salt Taste: The Interpretive Power of Animal Psychophysics

Alan C. Spector, Ph.D.

Distinguished Research Professor, Department of Psychology and
Program in Neuroscience, Florida State University

About the speaker



Alan C. Spector, Ph.D.

Dr. Alan C. Spector received his B.S. in Psychology at the Pennsylvania State University in 1977. While there he met Dr. James C. Smith who, in the 1975-76 academic year, was a Visiting Professor from FSU. Dr. Smith recruited Alan (and 5 of 11 others in a small class he taught) to enroll in graduate school at Florida State. Alan went on to receive his Ph.D. in Psychology in 1984 under Dr. Smith's tutelage. He did his postdoctoral training with Dr. Harvey Grill at the University of Pennsylvania. While at Penn he also worked closely with Dr. Ralph Norgren, who was at the Penn State University College of Medicine, 2 hours away in Hershey. Alan has said he considers Drs. Smith, Grill, and Norgren the holy trinity of mentorship.

Alan's research program, which has continuously received funding from the NIH since 1988, focuses on the use of psychophysical and behavioral techniques coupled with manipulations of the gustatory system to help understand the neural basis of taste and feeding. In 1990, he accepted a faculty position at the University of Florida where he eventually attained the rank of Professor. While there, he helped Dr. Barry Ache establish the UF Center for Smell and Taste, for which he served as Assistant Director. In 2007, he

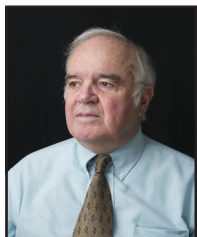
moved to the Florida State University where he currently holds the rank of Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of Psychology and Program in Neuroscience.

Currently, Alan has three major research projects ongoing in his laboratory. The first is funded by an R01 grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communicative Disorders (NIDCD) that is focused on using behavioral approaches to understand the functional role of the gustatory cortex in rodent models. A second active program also funded by an R01 from the NIDCD involves the application of rigorous psychophysical methods to test mice genetically engineered to be lacking key proteins in an effort to assess the relative contribution of putative taste receptors in the maintenance of sensitivity and discriminative capacity to prototypical and atypical taste compounds. Finally, in April, R01 funding from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) will begin to support a project that is part of the US-Ireland Research Partnership Program that involves a major international collaboration to study the basis of the effects of bariatric surgery on taste preference, food intake and food selection.

Alan is a prior recipient of the Ajinomoto Award from the Association for Chemoreception Sciences (ACheM), the Hoebel Award for Creativity from the Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior (SSIB), and a Research Career Development Award from the NIDCD, and is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has served as President of AChem and SSIB and has been a member of several NIH study sections over the years and is currently serving as an Executive Editor for the journal *Chemical Senses*.

Alan firmly believes that any research success he has enjoyed is the product of the dedicated mentors, students, postdocs, technicians, and collaborators with whom he has had the good fortune to work since meeting Dr. Smith in 1975. He is also grateful for the seemingly limitless tolerance of his wife Mary Jo and his two sons Aaron and Eliot who allowed him the liberty of fully pursuing his scientific passions.

The James C. Smith Lectureship Series



James C. Smith, Ph.D.

Established by a generous gift from Mr. Stan and Mrs. Paula Warmath, long-time friends and associates of Dr. James C. Smith, the annual lecture features an invited internationally renowned speaker who is conducting behaviorally oriented research on scientific problems in neuroscience. The Warmaths' gift, coupled with continuing donations from other friends, former students, and colleagues of Dr. Smith, as well as support from the Department of Psychology and the Program in Neuroscience, provides the opportunity for FSU faculty and students to interact with these distinguished scholars during their visits to campus.

If you are interested in contributing to the James C. Smith Lecture Endowment then please contact Nancy Smilowitz (nsmilowi@fsu.edu; 850-644-9324) in the College of Arts and Sciences for more information.

James C. Smith, Ph. D.

After he earned his Ph.D. from Florida State University in 1959, Dr. Smith joined the faculty, and since that time has received every award that the university has to offer. In 1992 Smith was named a Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor, the highest award bestowed upon a faculty member by the University. Smith was also the recipient of the University Distinguished Teacher Award based on a lifetime of teaching excellence, and in 2005 the College of Arts and Sciences honored Dr. Smith as their Graduate of Distinction. Dr. Smith has also received international recognition for his scientific achievements including The Distinguished Career Award from the Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior, a National Sigma Xi Lectureship, and the Mozell Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Chemical Senses from the Association for Chemoreception Sciences. After 52 years on the Department of Psychology faculty, Dr. Smith retired but still remains active in research at FSU as Professor Emeritus.