



May  
2015

THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL



# Department of Psychology Undergraduate Newsletter

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May 2015

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## EVENTS

*Summer Session I  
Final Exams  
June 17 - 18*

*Summer Session II  
Classes Start  
June 22*



## Student Spotlight

Meet **Katherine Koller**, a Psychology major that graduated this May. Katherine has been an undergraduate research assistant for Dr. Anna Bardone-Cone's eating disorder and body image research laboratory for the past two years.

**Tell us about your research.** I have assisted in the blood draw of participants with a history of anorexia and/or bulimia nervosa for the purpose of DNA and hormone analysis for the Road to Recovery from Eating Disorders Study. I have also had the opportunity to administer and score structured diagnostic phone interviews including modules from the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM Disorders (SCID) for the Missouri Follow Up Study. Finally, I also had the privilege of working with Dr. Eric Youngstrom and two clinical psychology students to develop a poster on the dysregulation of two biological systems in children diagnosed with conduct disorder, which I presented at the NCPA conference.



**What do you like most about research?** The opportunity to work with and learn from top researchers in the field of psychology and to contribute to meaningful research on the recovery of eating disorders.

**What is the most surprising thing you've learned about conducting research?** That I was given the opportunity to engage in meaningful research tasks and learned about my own ability to work and collaborate with others and contribute to the development of research studies.



## *Confessions of a GILer*

Meet **Dakota Foard**, a Spring 2015 Intern with the Karen M. Gil Internship program in Psychology.



She has been serving as an intern at Veritas Collaborative, an eating disorder treatment facility in Durham, North Carolina. She focuses on the inpatient and residential unit which is comprised of children and adolescents ages 10 - 19. Her internship experience is unique as Dakota spends her time observing therapy groups and spending mealtimes with patients, rather than working on a specific project.

Dakota has found the most remarkable part of her internship experience has been the realization of how close her courses and research have informed her experience at Veritas and vice-versa.

Many individuals with eating disorders often feel ambivalent about discarding or maintaining their disorders. This ambivalence is one of the most insidious parts of an eating disorder and a desire to recover is an essential part of working towards actually recovering. Dakota has seen this ambivalence through her experience and the many challenges for health professionals.

Dakota was also able to observe the symptoms, behaviors, and treatments associated with eating disorders. In classes, Dakota had learned about Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), but was able to observe countless DBT sessions at Veritas. This observation allows for a firmer grasp on the goals and structure of this type of therapy. Our Gil Internship is a rewarding experience! Read more experiences [online](#)!

## *Neuroscience Outreach: STEMville*

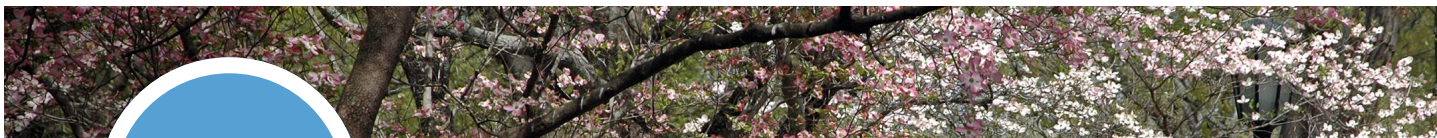
A team of Psychology students helped Dr. Marsha Penner design and deliver hands-on neuroscience activities to young scientists who attended STEMville at the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center.



STEM is an educational community outreach program developed by Morehead to promote the development of STEM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) through several programs, including a "Saturday of Science" event last month. Young scientists, grades 4 - 7, were in attendance to listen to their own muscle potentials, learn neuroanatomy, hold a human brain, and to play several fun brain games. Dr. Chris Emdin from Columbia University and #HipHopED was the keynote speaker for the event.

Are you a student who interested in getting involved in Neuroscience outreach? Contact Dr. Penner at [mpenner@email.unc.edu](mailto:mpenner@email.unc.edu).

*The STEMville outreach team pictured here include Mary Whatley, Shannon Powers, Caitlin Schirmer, Elizabeth Ulrich, Dr. Marsha Penner, Megan Villegas, and Toni Howell.*



## SURF Awards

The Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program is one of many programs administered through the Office of Undergraduate Research and is designed to enhance the educational experiences of our undergraduates by engaging them in research opportunities.

SURF recipients receive \$3,000 awards and are expected to engage in undergraduate research, scholarship, or performance for a minimum of 20 hours per week in Summer 2015. SURF projects are supervised by UNC Chapel Hill faculty research advisors and additional collaboration with postdoctoral fellows and graduate students is encouraged.

Congratulations to our 2015 Psychology SURF award winners:

**Lindsey Freeman**  
**Mia Lei**  
**Gabrielle McHarg**  
**John Ogunkeye**  
**Danny Rahal**  
**Haley Solomon**  
**Preethika Sundararaj**  
**Katherine Wiley**  
**Eleanor Wu**

Want to “get ahead” in major requirements? Seats are still available in Psychology Summer School classes!

Upper-level courses offered include: PSYC 463, 467, 503, 504, and 566. Read more about our [summer course offerings!](#)

The Computational Cognitive Development Lab at the University of Toronto welcomes applications for a Lab Manager position.

Requires a BA or BS in psychology, cognitive science, or computer science. For more information about the position, contact [manager.buchsbaum@gmail.com](mailto:manager.buchsbaum@gmail.com).



A full-time Research Assistant position is available at the Department of Psychology at University of Maryland College Park.

Bachelor's degree in a scientific field and previous research experience with human participants required. Questions can be directed to [Elizabeth Mulligan](#).



The Georgetown Laboratory for Relational Cognition has an open position for a part-time Research Assistant to conduct research on casual perception in young adults.

Start date is August 2015. Contact [Natalie Gallagher](#) with questions.



A Research Assistant position is available in the Cognition and Development Lab at Washington University in St. Louis. Starts by July 1; [apply online](#) (ID 30699).



## Job Opportunities

The Imagination and Cognition Lab at the University of Texas—Austin is looking for a full-time lab manager for a 1-year position.

The lab conducts research on conceptual development, including the role of testimony in children's beliefs and the development of supernatural reasoning. [Apply online](#) or contact [Jacqueline Woolley](#) for more information.



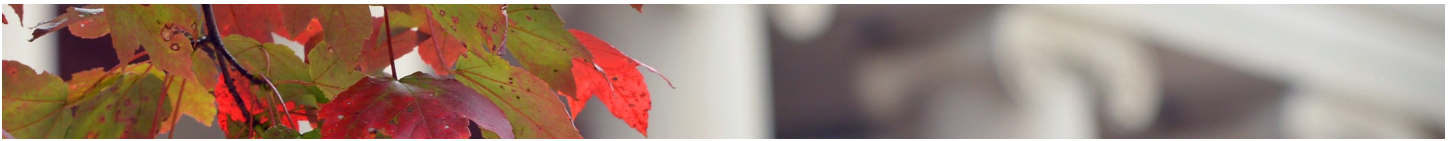
The UNC Institute of African-American Research (IAAR) is accepting applications for 3 Graduate Assistant positions to start June or July.

Positions include Social Media Coordinator, Website Manager, and Research Assistant. Apply by March 25 to [Karla Slocum](#).



The Brain Development Lab at the University of Texas—Austin is hiring a full-time entry-level Research Assistant. The lab is interested in how the brain changes over development and in individual differences, including disability, in brain organization.

Applications must be received by May 21 [online](#). Questions may be directed to Dr. James Booth via [email](#).



## *Commencement Award Winners*

We commend each of the following faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students who were honored with awards at the 2015 Commencement Ceremony held May 10.

**Lisa Brownstone** won the *Psi Chi Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student*. Lisa received this award for her dedication as a teaching assistant for the Clinical Psychology program.

**Alexis Duckett** won the *Undergraduate Prize for Outstanding Psychological Research that Enhances Diversity*. Alexis has been involved in research with racial minority youth since her sophomore year at Carolina and sought out a summer research internship at Rutgers where she examined racial differences in the mental health benefits of marriage. This year, she completed her honors thesis, working with Dr. Beth Kurtz-Costes, on the relation between parental racial socialization, self-esteem, and the academic achievement of African-American adolescents.

**Danielle Jameison** won the *Prize for Outstanding Psychological Research by an Undergraduate who Enhances Diversity*. Danielle has been involved with research in the Psychology Department since her first year at Carolina. She received highest honors for her thesis, mentored by Dr. Don Baucom, that examined romantic relationships in emerging adulthood. In particular, she examined when intimacy in young adult romantic relationships led to greater commitment, considering possible gender differences and differences in social power.

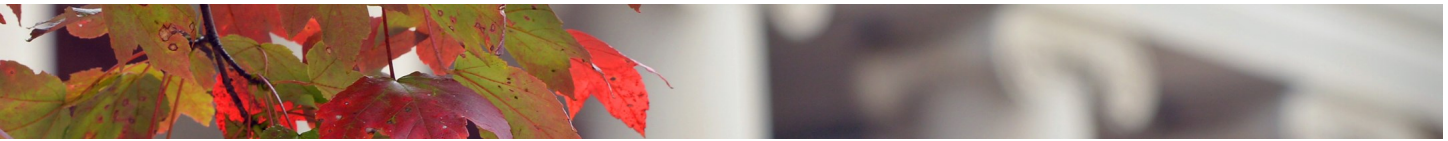
**Dr. Kristen Lindquist** won the *Carolina Neuroscience Club Advancement of Neuroscience Award*. Dr. Lindquist was chosen for this award based on her commitment to assisting the Carolina Neuroscience Club and the undergraduate neuroscience community grow through her teaching, research, and mentoring. She has mentored many Carolina Neuroscience Club mentors in her research laboratory, Carolina Affective Science Lab, and has educates undergraduate students on the topic of affective neuroscience through her first-year and upper-level seminar courses.

**Dr. Mitch Prinstein** won the *Psychology Club Award for Outstanding Research Mentorship by a Faculty Member*. Dr. Prinstein received this award via a student nomination indicating an infectious enthusiasm for his research in the Peer Relations Lab and his dedication to working personally with each of his students to make sure each individual has the most impactful research experience possible.

**Dr. Viji Sathy** won the *Psi Chi Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Faculty Member*. Dr. Sathy received this award for being one of the most dedicate, passionate, and stylish professors at UNC. She takes classes that aren't necessarily fun, such as Statistics and Research Methods, and makes them memorable - in the best way!

**Chelsea Schein** won the *Psychology Club Award for Outstanding Research Mentorship by a Graduate Student*. Chelsea received this award via a nomination indicating her invaluable guidance and support in the Mind Perception and Morality Lab. She is not only a mentor, but an inspiration to undergraduate students who wish to conduct their own research in the future.

**Nicole Seider** won the *Dashiell-Thurstone Prize*. The Dashiell-Thurstone Prize is awarded each year for the best senior honors thesis, as judged by a faculty committee. This award is named in memory of two significant figures in the life of the Department of Psychology: John Dashiell, who founded the Department in 1920, and Leon Thurstone, who founded the Psychometric Research Laboratory in 1953, which later became a significant component of the Department. Nicole won for her outstanding senior honors thesis, titled "Differences in White Matter: Microstructure Integrity between Heavy and Light Drinkers."



## Job Opportunities, cont.

The Infant and Toddler Development Project at Tulane is looking for a summer intern to start June 1. This position is a great opportunity for individuals looking to gain research experience and to expand their knowledge in the fields of infant and child cognition.

This internship is unpaid and requires 30 hours per week. Questions may be directed to [Emily Lewis](#).



The Indianapolis Peers and Schools Transition Study (IPAST) is currently accepting applications for a Project Coordinator position. The coordinator will oversee a longitudinal survey study of peer influence in middle school academic achievement.

Project spans until August 2017, but there is potential for the position to continue beyond this date. Applications must be submitted [online](#) and via email to [Kathleen Kennedy](#).



A full-time Research Assistant is needed for the Cognition and Learning Laboratory at Temple University. The project is dedicated to investigating specific mechanisms through which children's spatial skills impact their numerical development, using both longitudinal and experimental methods with children in Pre-K to 4th grade.

Position will July 1 and a minimum commitment of two-years is desired. Prior research in psychology, human development, neuroscience, or education is preferred, as well as previous experience with elementary school children. Applications must be received [online](#), but questions may be directed to [Dr. Elizabeth Gunderson](#).

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[Email your submissions](#) for the next Undergraduate Newsletter!

Visit our [Undergraduate Newsletter Archive](#) for past newsletters.

The Child and Family Research Section of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) is seeking a full-time Research Assistant to assist in literature reviews, subject recruitment, data collection, and behavioral coding for a study of children's play with toys.

Applicants will have a BS or BA in psychology or related field. Applications and questions may be submitted to [Dr. Melissa Richards](#).



A full-time Research Assistant is needed to oversee ongoing research at the Center for Autism and the Developing Brain at Weill Cornell Medical College (White Plains, NY). Research in the lab targets language development in minimally verbal children with autism spectrum disorder..

Candidates must possess a BA or BS in psychology and have some relevant experience. Anticipated start date is early summer. For more information, contact [Kyle Frost](#).



The Premature Infants' Skills in Mathematics-2 Study needs a Research Associate in Midlands, England. This study is investigating the nature and origins of mathematics difficulties in adolescents who were born prematurely, before 32 weeks of gestation. The study will also develop and evaluate a novel teacher-based intervention for improving these skills in pre-term children.

The role will include data collection through psychometric assessments of adolescents in their secondary schools or homes throughout East Midlands and London. Direct questions to [Dr. Samantha Johnson](#) and [apply online](#) by May 25.