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THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL



Psychology & Neuroscience Undergraduate Newsletter

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ADVISING

Need information on department requirements, graduate school, or career counseling?

Our academic advisors are on-hand to meet with you!

[Make an appointment!](#)



Student Spotlight

Meet **Yasemin Cole**, a senior Biology major with minors in Medical Anthropology and Cognitive Science. Yasemin is a [Carolina Research Scholar](#) and an [OUR Ambassador](#).



Tell us about your OUR Ambassador experience. My work as an OUR Ambassador has exceeded my expectations. All OUR Ambassadors have the opportunity to help out at OUR events such as workshops, class presentations, and the Welcome Brunch for incoming Carolina Research Scholar participants. What I find most exciting is the opportunity to personally connect with undergraduates in my field of study who are interested in becoming more involved in biology research. I have helped a number of students start biology research in many departments. Conducting research has been a significant part of my undergraduate journey. It brings me joy to encourage students to cultivate a genuine curiosity and passion for research.

What are the advantages of the Carolina Research Program? As a CRS, students must complete a multidisciplinary course, a research intensive course, and present their research at either the OUR's annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research or another professional conference. While this list may seem like only a checklist of items, the experience of being part of these classes and, more broadly, a research community at Carolina is absolutely amazing. These opportunities sharpen your critical thinking skills and build curiosity and scholarship. Joining a community of research-oriented students at Carolina enables students to make connections with peers, mentors, and professors who are deeply involved and passionate about research.

- *continued on page 2*



Help us improve!

The Department of Psychology and Neuroscience **needs your help!** Can you commit 3 to 5 minutes of your time to help us improve?

We are currently reviewing many aspects of the Department as part of the 2015-16 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) report and need to obtain feedback from as many undergraduate students as possible.

Therefore, we are asking you to complete a brief survey about your experience as a Psychology and Neuroscience student. The survey is in preparation now and will be sent to you in a week via the major listserv and by your instructors.

In order to help us anticipate our participation rates, please click here and respond to the **one-item** questionnaire about your likelihood of completing the 2015-16 SACS report survey when it is released. Thank you for your help!

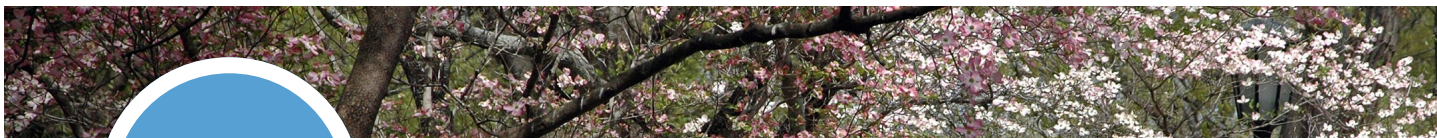
Student Spotlight· continued

How did you get involved in undergraduate research? I conducted research at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences with the Cell Biology group for two summers, which introduced me to molecular biology research and triggered my interest in protein interactions. Currently, I work in the Cook Lab at the UNC School of Medicine investigating how Cdt1, a protein, is involved in the cell cycle and how it is regulated. This research will help to elucidate how mutational alterations of this protein contribute to human diseases, such as cancer, where proteins tend to be overactive and unregulated. This exciting lab experience has allowed me to develop fundamental laboratory skills, scientific writing skills, and critical analysis.

What do you like most about research? What I like most about conducting research is the ability to form hypotheses, design experiments to test them, and to ultimately learn something new about the world around us. Working at the bench and with tissue culture has given me deeper exposure to the amazing ways we can explore the unknowns of the molecular world through scientific research. Scientific research is an amazing way not only to become involved on campus, but also to explore and contribute to incredible work at UNC aimed at discovery.

How can students get more involved in undergraduate research?

- [Visit OUR's website to "meet" OUR Ambassadors](#) who have experience in research, ranging from comparative literature and classics to biochemistry.
- Furthermore, the OUR has a [database of research opportunities](#) that is updated frequently. Check out all the available opportunities!
- To stay up-to-date with the events and workshops organized by the OUR, please [join the OUR listserv and social media sites](#).
- You may be interested in [attending the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Information Session](#) on January 19 from 5:00—6:30 in Gardner 105. Learn more about research and how to get the financial means necessary to conduct research over the summer.
- [Learn how to become a Carolina Research Scholar](#)— a program to help undergraduates build a community based on research and scholarship.



SURF Awards

Need research experience for graduate school or scholarship applications? Want to earn money over the summer? Have a desire to do something unique?

The Office of Undergraduate Research provides Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows to full-time undergraduates to enhance their educational experience by engaging them in research opportunities.

Attend the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Information session **Tuesday, January 19 at 5:00 PM in Gardner 105** to learn about SURF and ask how the SURF experience can help you reach your goals!

Important Spring Dates

Deadline: Abstracts for the 2016 Celebration of Undergraduate Research
Due by March 1

Deadline: Applications for the Fall 2016 Gil Internship Cohort
Due by 4 PM on March 28

Deadline: Applications to Graduate with Honors
Due by April 1 of Junior Year

Department Commencement
Sunday, May 8 at 1:00 PM

Jobs & Other Opportunities

Green Corps is looking for college graduates who are ready to take on the biggest environmental challenges of our day. Green Corps' yearlong program begins in August 26 and candidates must be willing to relocate. The early fall application deadline is January 24th. [Learn more online.](#)



Several positions are available at the Institute for Medical Research/Durham VAMC for students who are graduating this spring. Positions include data technician, clinical research associate, and clinical trials assistant. [Applications must be submitted online.](#)



The University of Chicago is hiring a project manager for the Thirty Million Words team. This individual's role will be to carry out the day-to-day operations, liaise with community partners, and fulfill grant and contract requirements. Bachelor's degree required. [Apply online.](#)



The Infant and Child Cognition Laboratory, headed by Dr. Sara Cordes at Boston College, is now accepting applications for a full-time laboratory assistant with benefits beginning Summer 2016.

Responsibilities include managing research projects in the lab, programming experiments, creating stimuli, recruiting participants, and testing infant, child, and adult subjects.

To apply, submit a cover letter, resume, and contact information for 2 or more references to [Emma Lazaroff](#). Review of applications begins on January 22.



The Cooperation Lab at Boston College, directed by Dr. Katherine McAuliffe, is seeking a lab manager to begin in 2016. The position is full-time for up to two years with full benefits.

Ideal candidates will have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent in psychology, research experience in an experimental psychology lab, and at least some experience managing others.

The position offers substantial research experience and the potential for co-authorship on posters and manuscripts and would be perfect for someone highly motivated to undertake graduate study in psychology.

To apply, please send a resume, cover letter, and information for two or more references to [Dr. Katherine McAuliffe](#).

