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IMPT DATES

Cowan Lecture
September 16
3:30 pm @ Carolina Inn

University Day
October 11

Fall Break
October 20—23

Thanksgiving Recess
November 23—27

Last Day of Class
December 7

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Psychology & Neuroscience Undergraduate Newsletter

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Student Spotlight



Meet **Isabel Marrero**, a junior double-majoring in Biology and Psychology and minoring in Neuroscience. Isabel is currently conducting research in Dr. Todd Thiele's laboratory.

Tell us about your research. I work in a behavioral and integrative neuroscience lab that studies addictive behavior in animal models. I research binge-like ethanol consumption in mice, focusing on the medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) and how the 41-amino acid polypeptide corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) modulates binge-like ethanol consumption. CRF in the mPFC plays a role in anxiety-like behavior. Anxiety has been linked to addictive behavior and I am studying the effects that antago-

nizing the primary CRF receptor in the MPFC has on ethanol consumption.

What do you like most about your research? In neuroscience research, you are actually becoming part of the science community that you read about in your textbooks. For a small period of time, you are the only person in the entire world that knows something that no one else does.

What is the most valuable lesson you've learned from this experience? The most valuable lesson that I've learned is how to be fascinated with the unknown. I have found it very valuable to learn that—just because Google doesn't know the answer to something does not mean that you have to be okay with not knowing. Instead, let that motivate you to find the answer.



Meet a Gil Intern!

Meet **Colleen Watson**, one of our Spring 2016 interns with the [Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience](#).

Colleen worked as a Gil Intern in the Neurocognition and Imaging Research Laboratory (NIRL) with Dr. Ayse Belger. She was part of a Department of Defense funded study seeking cognitive rehabilitation solutions for veterans of the Iraq War suffering with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Colleen's role in the five-year study was to run control participants, who have neither disorder.

Day-to-day life as an intern involved screening potential participants over the phone to determine eligibility for the study and then scheduling eligible participants. Colleen was responsible for meeting participants at the MRI scanner in Marisco Hall to prepare them for the tasks they would complete while in the scanner. Her favorite role was neurocognitive testing, a series of written and verbal tests of attention and memory. Colleen says, "To me, neurocognitive sessions felt like a game, during which I was able to establish rapport with my participants and see how they performed on the tests, which never failed to be interesting. When Dr. Belger first told me I would be running participants through MRI and neurocognitive testing by myself, I thought, there is no way I'm qualified to do that. Without a doubt, though, the skill I honed the most over the course of the semester was independence."

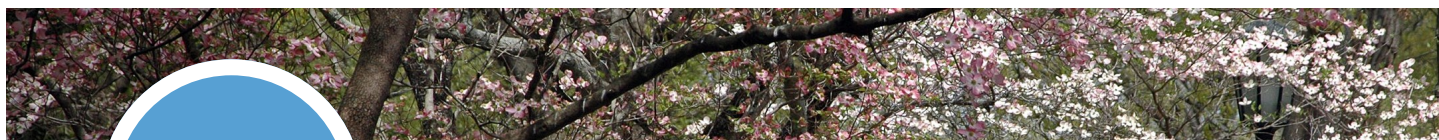
Colleen found her role as a NIRL intern stimulating because she joined the lab in the middle of several studies. She quickly found she had to learn how to ask the right questions, but also how to make safe inferences and decisions on her own when no one was immediately at-hand to make them for her. In order to make the best of her internship opportunity, Colleen says, "I frequently asked if there was anything else I could do to help and said yes to every task that came up. This is how I came to observe an EEG, despite the fact that my focus was on MRI and neurocognition and how I eventually began working on a second project at Duke. Thanks to my 'in' as a Gil intern, I will be spending the summer working fulltime in the NIRL as well as completing an honors thesis with Dr. Belger in the fall. The greatest takeaways of my wonderful experience as a Gil intern have been independence, experience, fantastic connections, and yet more opportunity for the future."



Interested in becoming a Gil intern? Applications for the Spring 2017 Cohort are due Oct 31.

The Karen M. Gil Internship Program offers undergraduates students an opportunity to deepen their understanding of psychology and develop professionalism skills. The Gil Internship places students in a worksite in the Chapel Hill area, offers a monthly stipend, and a 3 hour course credit toward the Psychology major. [Learn how to apply and the requirements for eligibility](#).

We also encourage interested applicants to attend our Gil Internship Information Session on Monday, September 19 at 6:00 pm in Davie 112. This is a great opportunity to meet our Gil Internship Program Director and hear how the Gil Internship can help your aspirations in entering graduate school or the workforce after earning your degree. Learn what we look for in applicants and how to improve your chances of becoming an intern.



Carolina Conversations

Join us for a Carolina Conversation at the Frank Porter Graham Student Union on **Monday, September 19 at 5:00 pm.**

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend a discussion on the multiple identities of individuals and their interplay in inclusive classrooms. Light refreshments will be served and Chancellor Carol Folt will host.

Presents on "Inclusive Classrooms" include Dr. Kelly Hogan, Senior STEM Lecturer and Director of Instructional Innovation and Viji Sathy, Senior Lecturer in Psychology and Neuroscience.

Academic Advising

UNC offers academic advising several different ways. Students can see an advisor during [afternoon drop-in hours](#), make a [one-on-one appointment](#), or use an [online chat service](#).

In addition to UNC advising, our Psychology and Neuroscience academic advisors can also meet with you!

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

[Make an appointment!](#)

Jobs & Other Opportunities

Looking for a post-baccalaureate position in psychology? Check out an [online database of active positions](#)! You can also subscribe by email to be notified of new postings. This is a great resource for new graduates!



Splash UNC is an education enrichment program that lets intellectually curious high school students explore new subjects in classes taught by students at UNC. Splash is currently looking for student teachers to teach a class on anything. Examples of courses are available on the [website](#). [Students can register to teach online.](#)



The [North Carolina Therapeutic Riding Center](#) exists to empower children and adults with cognitive and physical disabilities through horseback riding and other equine assisted activities. NCTRC is looking for volunteers to work together to ensure the participant has a successful therapy session. Volunteers must be able to commit to at least 1 session per week (30 minutes to 1 hour). No horse experience necessary. [Email for more information.](#)



The Health Psychology Ph.D. Program at UNC Charlotte invites stu-

dents to learn more about their doctoral program, the application process, and to meet with current students and faculty on September 23 at 1:00 pm in the Cone Center at UNC Charlotte. [Students can learn more about the program online.](#)



Two Research Assistant positions are available with the Gaab Lab in collaboration with the Fetal-Neonatal Neuroimaging and Developmental Science Center at Boston Children's Hospital. These positions are ideal for anyone considering future graduate study in cognitive developmental neuroscience, developmental psychology, computer science, cognitive science, or neuroscience. A Bachelor's Degree is required. Some programming experience, knowledge of psychological experiment software, and/or fMRI analyses software is preferred. Apply via [email to Dr. Nadine Gaab](#) with a cover letter and resume.



Best Colleges offers an online guide, [Scholarships for Psychology Majors](#), which takes a look at college financing options for Psychology majors and includes a look for federal student aid, a glimpse into the field of psychology, and \$225K in featured and segmented scholarships.

