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IMPT DATES

Classes Start
January 10

MLK, Jr. Day
January 15

Spring Break
March 10—18

Holiday
March 30

Classes End
April 27

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Psychology & Neuroscience Undergraduate Newsletter

Volume 6 | Issue 4

December 2017

Student Spotlight



Meet **Trinity Johnson**, a Senior Psychology Major who worked on a research project in PSYC 530 Design and Interpretation of Psychological Research with her classmates and instructor, Dr. Viji Sathy.

Tell us about your research. After receiving IRB approval for our project, my peers and I designed and distributed a survey to gauge feelings of inclusion for Makerspace users and non-users. We assessed inclusion on the basis of gender, race, and other diversity attributes using Imposter subscales. Our results revealed that user-perceived barriers, like inexperience with machinery and time constraints, were the main reasons for not attending. In response, we offered solutions for marketing campaigns and incorporating Makerspaces into class time to increase accessibility to all.

What did you like most? I enjoyed working on a project that was innovative and relevant to our immediate community. Producing results that would incite measurable change in the world around us was the most gratifying. Oftentimes, research is insightful and creates long-term impacts, and in contributing to this research, I can confidently say that our Heelprints will also extend beyond Carolina to other Makerspace communities.

Has this experience changed your ideas about research? I never would have thought that such a large team could have worked, but it was an amazing experience. We were able to focus on broader research topics and consolidate our findings into one cohesive event. We were able to address many variables and factors to Makerspace inclusivity and I truly believed this enhanced the overall quality of our research, and deepened our respect for, and bonds, with one another.



Reznick Grant Awardee



Congratulations to **Carrington Merritt**, a Senior Psychology major, who is the first recipient of our [J. Steven Reznick Diversity and Psychological Research Grant](#).

The Reznick Diversity and Psychological Research Grant supports a student from an underrepresented background or those who are interested in conducting research with, or applicable to, populations traditionally underrepresented in research. The student receiving this award may use funds to offset the need for other part-time work, to cover the costs of carrying out research, and/or to attend a professional conference.

The J. Steven Reznick Diversity and Psychological Research Grant honors Dr. Reznick, a close friend and colleague in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience. He earned his B.A. in Psychology from UNC Chapel Hill, his M.A. from Wake Forest University, and his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado. He was

a proud alumnus of UNC Chapel Hill and served on our faculty from 1998 until his death in 2016. Dr. Reznick made many contributions to enriching diversity in student experiences at Carolina and we thank him for his lifelong commitment to education, research, and Carolina.

Carrington Merritt will receive a \$4,000 Reznick Diversity and Psychological Research Grant in Spring 2018. She works in Dr. Keely Muscatell's laboratory and her research interests are in how social conditions influence physiological and neural functioning, which in turn, influence psychological well-being. In particular, Carrington is interested in investigating neurocognitive processes (using both fMRI and physiological assessments) of Black individuals as they process ambiguous social feedback from racial outgroup members, given that such ambiguous inter-racial interactions are thought to have adverse physical and mental health effects on racial and ethnic minorities. Congratulations to Carrington on receiving this prestigious grant!

Study Abroad with PSYC Professors!

King's College London with Dr. Patrick Harrison

Take PSYC 572 Sex & Gender with Dr. Harrison and one King's College London course of your choosing, taught by local faculty. Six weeks over the summer in the very heart of London!

King's College London with Dr. Charlie Wiss

Take PSYC 245 Abnormal Psychology with Dr. Wiss and one King's College London course of your choosing, taught by local faculty. Six weeks over the summer in the very heart of London!

Korea University with Dr. Eric Youngstrom and Dr. Jennifer Youngstrom

Several pre-approved Psychology courses are available and students can take 2-3 courses from a wide variety of offerings, all taught in English.

Stockholm, Sweden with Dr. Kurt Gray and Dr. Kristen Lindquist

Take PSYC 260 Social Psychology with Dr. Gray and Dr. Lindquist and one Danish Institute for Study Abroad course. Students will be immersed in Swedish culture.

Visit our [website](#) or [UNC Study Abroad](#) to learn more about these amazing opportunities!



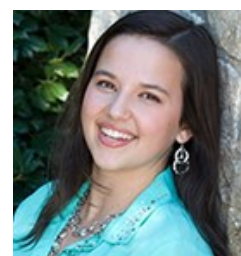
Reznick Grant: Honorable Mentions

We would also like to congratulate five Psychology majors who received honorable mentions for their outstanding research proposals: David Choi, Shelby Johnson, Saif Mehyar, Heather Ortega, and Ali Wiggins!



David Choi is a fourth year student working in Dr. Jon Abramowitz's lab. His research interests focus on the mental health of several groups underrepresented in psychological research: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and people who identify as sexual minorities. David is interested in an array of mental health topics in these groups including: prevalence of psychological disorders, attitudes toward and access to care, effects of stigma, effects of racial/ethnic and sexual orientation stereotypes, regional differences, and the development of treatments imbued with cultural humility.

Shelby Johnson is a fourth year student working in Dr. Eric Youngstrom's and Dr. Anna Bardone-Cone's labs. Her research interests are in expanding knowledge of evidence-based assessments (EBA) of mental health disorders and clinical diagnoses to Spanish-speaking populations. In particular, Shelby is interested in extending work on the Helping Give Away Psychological Science project that creates and edits Wikipedia pages on clinical assessments by translating pages on EBAs into Spanish and including research from cross-cultural studies as well as validity and reliability findings across cultures on these pages. Furthermore, she would like to add to assessment literature by comparing norms on EBAs using English and Spanish translations in the U.S., and Spanish translations in Spanish-Speaking countries.



Saif Mehyar is a fourth year student working in Dr. Keely Muscatell's lab. His research interests are in cognitive and neurocognitive mechanisms that are involved in risky decision-making. Saif is interested in following up on the finding that when participants are led to believe that earlier participants had highly varied levels of performance on a task, they made riskier decisions than participants led to think that prior participants varied minimally in their performance. In particular, Saif is interested in using fMRI to examine the neural processes examining decision-making in this experimental paradigm. He wonders if, in the context of being primed with great levels of inequality, riskier decisions are made due to factors such as heightened reward activity or loss of self-regulation.

Heather Ortega is a fourth year student working in Dr. Gina Carelli's lab. Her research interests are in neurobiological mechanisms that underlie reward processing and learning, and how drugs of abuse can alter neural signaling, contributing to addiction. In particular, Heather is interested in examining how prelimbic cortex activity changes during tasks that test behavioral flexibility after the devaluation of a prior rewarding outcome in both rats with cocaine exposure and those without. This research can shed light on how a history of cocaine use can dampen neural signaling in the prefrontal cortex, which in turn can provide insight on how to bring back "online" neuronal circuitry to potentially decrease drug relapse.



Ali Wiggins is a third year transfer student working in Dr. David Penn's lab, under the research mentorship of doctoral student Arun Nagendra. Her research interests revolve around socioeconomic status (SES) and schizophrenia. In particular, Ali is interested in measuring and understanding how SES affects people with schizophrenia, including the consideration of locus of attribution and self-efficacy as mediators, with an eye towards eventually developing targeted interventions for individuals with psychosis and low SES.



UNC SURF

Do you need research experience for graduate school or scholarship applications? Wish you could explore an idea that you love over the summer? Ready to launch your honors thesis research? It's not too soon to be thinking about your plan for Summer 2018.

The [Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship](#) (SURF) program is designed to enhance the education experience of undergraduates by engaging them in research opportunities. The typical SURF award is \$3,000 and the deadline is February 1, 2018.

Attend a SURF Information Session on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 from 5—6:30 PM in room 3411 of the Student Union. [Learn more about SURF online.](#)

Center for Developmental Science

Each semester, the faculty and fellows of CDS gather for a weekly consortium series organized around a theme and guiding questions. The Fall 2017 series will be held on Mondays from 2—3:15 PM at the CDS.

Check out the [fall schedule](#) online!

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!



Summer 2018 teaching positions are available to applicants with an undergraduate degree or higher at the Institute of Reading Development. Teachers will earn more than \$6,000, gain over 500 hours of teacher-training and teacher experience with a variety of age groups, and help students of all ages develop their reading skills. [Learn more and apply online.](#)



The Cognition, Affect, and Temperament Lab at Penn State is hiring three Research Assistants to start in early 2018 and in May 2018. Candidates who have a Bachelor's degree, past experience in a lab that conducts behavioral coding, psychophysiology, and/or eye-tracking studies will be considered a strong plus. Research experience with children is highly desirable. This is a fixed-term appointment funded for one year from date of hire, with the possibility of re-funding. To apply, visit <https://psu.jobs>, & search for job # 75940.



The Center for Anxiety and Traumatic Stress Disorders and Complicated Grief Program at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston is hiring a Research Coordinator. Qualified applicants must have a B.A. or B.S. in psychology or a related field, relevant coursework, research experience, or prior (volunteer) work. To apply, visit their [job site](#) and search for job # 3046872.



Camp Akeela is hiring multiple positions for their summer camp with locations in Vermont and Wisconsin. This camp is for kids who have been diagnosed with high functioning autism, Asperger's Syndrome, or a non-verbal learning disorder. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to get hands-on experience working in a residential setting with children on the autism spectrum. [Learn more online.](#)



UNC's Institute for Trauma Recovery is seeking a highly motivated undergraduate with an outstanding academic record to apply for a spring volunteer opportunity. Candidates must have demonstrated interest in health-related sciences. To apply, send a CV and cover letter to [Jessica Standek](#). [Visit them online to learn more.](#)

