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Psychology & Neuroscience Undergraduate Newsletter

Volume 7 | Issue 2 October 2018

Student Spotlight

IMPT DATES

Reznick Grant Info Session November 1 @ 5 PM Davie 347

Psych&NeuroFest November 9 2:30—4:30 Davie Lobby

Thanksgiving Break November 21—23

Last Day of Class December 5

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Meet **Nicole Debruyne**, a Junior Biology and Mathematics double major and Neuroscience minor. She was a member of Dr. Patricia Estes' laboratory at NC State as part of an NSF-REU awarded internship this past summer.

Tell us about your research. My project was concerned with a particular line of fruit fly in which a certain group of neurons expressing the transcription factor single-minded had been genetically silenced using tetanus toxin. These are called sim-



silenced flies, and they were hyperphagic, obese, and exhibited a significantly shortened lifespan. I used next-generation sequencing technology to compare the microbiome of these flies to what of the wild-type to determine differences.

What did you like most? I enjoyed learning and practicing techniques that are relevant to modern genetic and neurobiological research. I got the chance to utilize cutting-edge technology to explore an area of study I am interested in, while also gaining exposures to all aspects of the research process.

Has this experienced changed your ideas about research? I discovered how much thought and planning must go into any research project. Outside research must be done throughout the entirety of the study, as new problems and possible new directions constantly arise. The sheer number of complications that come up during scientific research was new to me and is very relevant knowledge to have as I move forward with my studies.



Meet a Gil Intern



Meet **Brianna Baker**, one of our Fall 2018 interns with the <u>Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience</u>.

Brianna is a senior majoring in Psychology and Interdisciplinary Studies, with a minor in Health and Society. This Fall, she is interning at AHB Center for Behavioral Health and Wellness with Dr. April Harris-Britt. This private practice treats children and adults with various levels and types of psychopathology. Brianna shares, "I have observed clients ages 3 to 95 and seen first-hand the practice of multiple types of types of psychotherapy, including play therapy, mindfulness training, and CBT. My internship has given me

the opportunity to observe therapy sessions, score and administer psychological evaluations, and understand the inner-workings of a private practice."

In addition to observations and assessment, Brianna has been working on a large project that involves the creation of a database of free, community resources that the Center can refer clients to. She says, "Working at AHB has taught me that psychological wellness and distress are often the product of environment. Many people experiencing psychological issues have inadequate housing, abuse substances, or have a lack of quality and sustainable social connections."

Want to be a Gil Intern? Learn more about the <u>application process</u> online. Questions can be directed to <u>Molly Corrigan</u>.

Reznick Grant for Undergrads!

The J. Steven Reznick Diversity and Psychological Research Grant will support undergraduate students in the Spring 2019 semester. Two grants will be awarded to two undergraduate students and each student will receive \$2,000 to use to offset the need for part-time work, to cover the costs of carrying out research, or to attend a professional conference. One grant will be awarded to an undergraduate who is fairly advanced in psychological research and the second will be awarded to someone who is just starting out in psychological research.

Applications are due by November 21st. An online application must be completed and an unofficial transcript

JOIN US FOR AN INFO SESSION ABOUT OUR REZNICK GRANT!

REZNICK GRANT INFO SESSION

NOVEMBER 1ST. 5:00 PM. DAVIE 347.

TWO \$2,000 GRANTS WILL BE GIVEN
TO UNDERGRAD IN SPRING 2019
TO SUPPORT THEIR RESEARCH!

must be emailed to tfoote@unc.edu. You can learn more about eligibility, how to apply, and can find the application online: https://psychology.unc.edu/reznick/.

If you are considering applying and want more information—we strongly encourage you to attend our upcoming Information Session! Join us on Thursday, November 1 from 5—6 PM in Davie Hall, room 347. At our info session, you will receive an overview of the grant, the application process, and last year's awardee will be present to share her experiences. A Q&A will follow the event!

Psych&Neuro Fest

Join us for Psych&NeuroFest on Friday, November 9th! Drop in anytime between 2:30 and 4:30 pm in Davie Hall's first floor lobby to meet faculty, graduate students, and postdocs!

We'd love to share our research with you—and some labs will even be recruiting undergraduate research assistants!

This is our favorite event as the year as it is a great opportunity to talk about research and get involved in research in our Department! See you there!

NIMH Fellowships

The National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, MD's Mood, Brain, and Development Unit is recruiting applicants for a two-year paid fellowship! Employment starts June 2019.

This unit uses fMRI data to study pathophysiology, treatment, and prevention of childhood mental illnesses, with an emphasis on depression in children and adolescents.

Apply <u>online</u> and send a CV & unofficial transcript to <u>Christine</u> Wei. A <u>NIH universal application</u> must be completed as well.

Jobs & Other Opportunities

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



Dr. Harrop's lab at UNC's Department of Allied Health Sciences has research assistant openings for students who want research experience looking at sex differences in children with autism spectrum disorder. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Harrop via email. You can learn more about her work online.



Dr. Grzadzinski is looking for undergraduates to work on research at UNC's Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities (CIDD). Research involves treatment outcomes in children with autism spectrum disorder. Interested? Email Dr. Grzadzinski with a resume and a cover letter, detailing your interest.



Are you interested in improving health outcomes, increasing equitable education, and working with you? Classroom to Community (C2C) is looking for volunteers at Maureen Joy Charter School in







& Other Opportunities

Durham, NC. Volunteers will plan and deliver age-appropriate lessons in a variety of health topics, including puberty, nutrition, exercise, mental health, sex ed, and substance use. Contact c2c.unc@gmail.com to apply.

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The PanLab for Precision Mental Health and Translational Neuroscience at Stanford School of Medicine is hiring a Research Coordinator. This position screens potential human participants, schedule testing sessions, and performs participant assessments using surveys, fMRI, and cognitive testing. Required qualifications include two year college degree and two years related work experience, or a Bachelor's degree. Apply online!

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PSYC 490-003 "Genetics of Brain Diseases" will be offered in Spring 2019 by Dr. William Snider. This new course will explore the manifestations and causes of important neurological and psychiatric diseases, including autism, schizophrenia, and Alzheimer's Disease. This course is excellent preparation for further study of brain disorders. PSYC 200 or 315 is the prerequisite. Students should register in Connect Carolina and may contact Dr. Snider with any questions.