

THIS ISSUE

Meet a Gil Intern: Page 2
Summer School: Page 2
Commencement: Page 3
Jobs & Opps: Page 3

IMPT DATES

[COVID-19 Changes:](#)

Spring Break Extended
through March 22

Remote Instruction
Begins March 23

Holiday/No Classes
April 10

[Senior Honors Program](#)

Juniors must apply by
April 15

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Psychology & Neuroscience Undergraduate Newsletter

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March 2020

Student Spotlight

Meet **Joe Thompson**, a junior Psychology major who works in two psychology laboratories, including Dr. David Penn's Penn Lab and Dr. Keely Muscatell's Social Neuroscience and Health Lab.

What encouraged you to get involved in research? The trauma I experienced coming home from combat in Afghanistan led to me having a significant mental health crisis. I was diagnosed with Schizoaffective disorder and forced to face all of the negative stigma and lack of positive stories around the condition. I hope to use my story of recovery in conjunction with research to provide hope and practical solutions to those in need.



What made you choose to work with these labs? I have been working for graduate student Carrington Merritt since I was admitted to UNC last semester. She was the lab manager for the Penn Lab, so I emailed to see if I could do research around the effectiveness of horticulture therapy in the treatment of Schizophrenia. I found out that I probably wouldn't be able to do that until I become a more mature researcher, but she gave me an interview to work with her in the Social Neuroscience and Health Lab. I got the position, and haven't looked back since.

What do you like most? I have been doing recruitment with the Penn Lab for a walking group study for people with conditions similar to my own (Schizophrenia spectrum). Sitting and talking with these individuals about our shared experience has been a true pleasure. They inspire me and remind me why I am out here trying to make a difference.



Meet a Gil Intern



Meet **Ziqian (Clara) Xu**, one of our Spring 2020 interns with the [Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience](#). Clara is a junior double-majoring in Psychology and Computer Science and minoring in Statistics. This Spring, Clara is interning at UNC's Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders (CEED). Her goal for this internship is to explore how computational and statistical approaches can be used to better capture human behaviors. Her mentors are Dr. Jessica Baker and Dr. Laura Thornton. Clara says, "Working with these two wonderful mentors, I am currently learning about different psychometric scales used to collect information about eating disorders and other covariates of eating disorders." She compiled data dictionaries at the CEED which describe both psychometric data and biological data collected from a longitudinal study. The data as well as the dictionaries will be added into a data repository which will be accessible to more researchers.

With her Gil Internship, Clara was also able to start her own independent research project at CEED about the interaction effect of childhood traumatic experience and reward sensitivity on eating disorder symptoms. She's using SAS, a statistical analysis software, to recode data, score data, detect outliers, and construct linear models to fit the data. She shares, "What I am doing might not be the most sophisticated quantitative work, but I am familiarizing myself with countless unexpected statistical subtleties which researchers could encounter every day."

Want to be a Gil Intern? The Fall 2020 Cohort is currently being reviewed. Rising Juniors and Seniors can apply to be a part of the Spring 2021 Cohort. The application deadlines will be announced soon. Learn more about the [application process online](#). Questions can be directed to [Chelsea Ewing](#).

Summer School 2020

Get ahead on your major requirements by taking courses during the summer! Check out the [Summer School website](#) to see current offerings. Note: all study abroad courses for Summer 2020 are cancelled; summer courses may transition to online courses pending a decision by UNC Summer School.

Maymester

NSCI 225 Sensation & Perception

PSYC 245 Psychopathology

PSYC 490 Gender and Pronouns

PSYC 501 Personality

Summer Session I

PSYC 101 Intro to Psychology

PSYC 101 *Online* Intro Psych

PSYC 210 Statistical Principles

NSCI 222 *Online* Learning

NSCI 225 Sensation & Perception

PSYC 230 *Online* Cognitive Psych

PSYC 245 *Online* Psychopathology

PSYC 250 Child Development

PSYC 260 *Online* Social Psych

PSYC 270 Lab Research in Psych

PSYC 564 Interprsnl Relationships

Summer Session II

PSYC 101 Intro to Psych

PSYC 210 Statistical Principles

PSYC 220 Biopsychology

PSYC 230 Cognitive Psychology

PSYC 245 Psychopathology

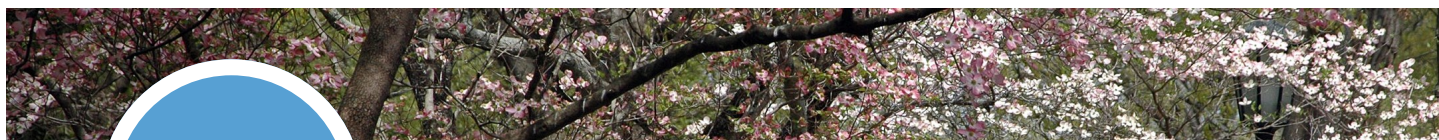
PSYC 250 Child Development

PSYC 270 Lab Research in Psych

PSYC 504 Health Psychology

Senior Honors Program for 2020-2021—Deadline Approaching!

Join our Senior Honors Program next year by applying by April 15 of your Junior year. Current Juniors—this means the deadline is quickly approaching to graduate with Honors, get in-depth research experience in psychology and neuroscience, and to complete a Senior Honors Thesis. Eligibility to join the Honors Program includes a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 and currently be in-process or have already completed PSYC/NSCI 395. [Learn more about Honors in Psychology and Neuroscience!](#)



Commencement 2020

Please note that we still hope to have our Department Commencement Ceremony to celebrate our majors. Due to the changing nature of COVID-19, the University will update their website at <http://unc.edu/coronavirus>.

Our [Departmental Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony](#) will be held on Sunday, May 10, 2020 at 3:30 pm in Carmichael Arena. We ask that graduates arrive 3:00 pm to line up for the processional.

Students must register for Commencement. [Please register by April 8 online!](#)

The ceremony is open to the public and no tickets are needed. There is ample handicapped and accessible seating in Carmichael Arena, but we strongly recommend that your guests, especially those who may need extra time, arrive as early as possible.

Parking is limited. [Several parking decks are available to the general public](#) and are first-come, first served. Shuttles will be continuously running from the Friday Center. Learn about parking online. Questions? [Email us](#) or call (919) 843-5467.

The University Commencement Ceremony will also be held on Sunday, May 10 at 9:00 am in Kenan. For more information, visit the [UNC Commencement website](#).

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!



The Lundquist Ph.D. Program in Translational Research at UCLA has extended its application deadline to April 3 for Fall 2020 admissions. The program takes four years to degree, provides a \$37,000 annual stipend, graduate housing, and there is no application fee to apply. [Learn more and apply online.](#)



The Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC) at the University of Pittsburgh is seeking summer undergraduate interns to promote broader participation in training in the learning sciences. Interns will work with faculty in psychology, education, and computing and information. These internships will provide valuable experience for students who are interested in applying to graduate programs. The internship will run June 1–July 31, 2020. Housing and a stipend will be provided and a limited number of travel supplements are also available. Eligibility to apply includes a minimum GPA of 3.0,

although promise can be demonstrated through other means, such as letters of recommendation, student background, and research experience. Application deadline is March 30. Learn [more and apply online](#).



Carolina BioOncology Institute in Huntersville, NC is seeking Junior and Seniors for their summer internship. Ideal candidates have prior research experience. Preference will be given to those with local residency near Charlotte, NC during the summer. Apply by sending your resume to [Dr. Cody McHale](#).



Fund for the Public Interest, a national non-profit organization that runs campaigns for environmental and social change organizations, is offering summer job opportunities to students. Students can join summer campaign staffs in over 25 cities across the country, gain first-hand experience in grassroots organizing, and learn valuable communication skills. Staff typically earn an average of \$6,000–\$8,000 over the summer. Students can work on issues like tackling climate change, saving bees from dangerous pesticides, and stopping single-use plastics from polluting oceans. [Learn more and apply online.](#)

