Program Information

Are you a senior looking for an opportunity to fulfill your presentation requirement? The UAB Spring Expo will be held April 13-14th in the Hill Center Ballroom. Go here to submit an abstract, final day to submit is April 5th.

Check out the latest UNP Brainstorm Blog by Rahul Gaini. Rahul dives into the mind-body connection and how meditation can help your brain and your body to CHILL.

The UNP will be offering travel awards for five UNP students (all expenses) that attend NCUR. THIS IS THE FINAL WEEK TO APPLY. Applications for travel awards can be submitted HERE. Awardees will be determined by February 15th.

Now accepting applications for the UAB Alumni Society Patsy W. Collat Endowed Scholarship in Neuroscience. This is a one-time award valued at $1,250. Recipients are eligible to apply for the award in subsequent years as long as they continue to meet the requirements. All applications must be completed through B Smart.

Requirements for applicants:
- currently enrolled in or admitted to a degree-granting program in the Neuroscience Undergraduate Program
- earned at least an overall GPA of 3.0 in coursework completed prior to the time of application,
- female

Applicants are required to submit a personal statement, of at least 250 words and not to exceed 500 words, on what you plan to do with your Neuroscience degree. You will be notified via e-mail regarding their status after the selection committee has met. The deadline to apply is Friday, February 3, 2017.

UNP students are encouraged to update their publication information here. This includes any authorship position on a peer-reviewed research or review article, or submissions to Inquiro.

Student Groups
Pre-PhD Society
Interested in pursuing a PhD (in any discipline) after graduation? Come to an interest meeting for the Pre-PhD Society on Wednesday, January 25 at 6 pm in Heritage Hall 102. Find out about what resources the group can offer you and GET INVOLVED! For more information, email Erin Ross.

UNS T-Shirt Fundraiser
The UNS will be selling these amazing T-shirts to raise money for student activities! T-shirts are available in gray or green, both with the design in white ink, with sizes ranging from XS to XXL. They have short sleeve shirts ($15, or $17 for XXL) and long sleeve shirts ($20, or $22 for XXL). Please note that both styles can be either color. You also have the option to buy both a short and long sleeve shirt for only $30! Orders can be made online with credit or debit cards. Alternatively, cash payments can be made in person. If a cash transaction is necessary, please email ckwalker@uab.edu to place your order. The sale will end on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 and you will be notified when the shirts are ready for pickup.

UNS Raffle
This semester, attendance will be taken at all UNS-sponsored events. For every event you attend, your name will be entered into a raffle. Attendance at select events sponsored by other organizations will be counted as well – we will notify you in advance if an event counts! At the end of the semester, 2 names will be drawn for prizes (more info on the prizes to come).

LOTS OF VOLUNTEER AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES BELOW!
The UNS will participate in a service project at Turkey Creek Nature Preserve on Saturday, February 4th at 9:00am. If you're interested in volunteering, fill out this form and we will send you directions and more information.

The UNS is partnering with the Brain Awareness Week team and the McWane Science Center to offer neuroscience demonstrations on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at the McWane Science Center. To make this happen, we need your help!!! If you're involved with Brain Awareness Week or are interested in learning what it's all about, this is a great way to get some experience teaching neuroscience to lay audiences through fun interactive demonstrations. The first two demonstration sessions will be held on February 11 and 25. If you'd like to sign up to work either of these sessions, or a future session, please fill out this form and we will contact you shortly with additional information.

Mitchell’s Place, a local non-profit organization that offers services for children, adolescents, and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities, is holding their largest fundraising event on Sunday, February 26th. They need our help preparing for this event. Fill out this form indicating your availability for February 24-26 and we will provide you with more information.

Student Opportunities
CUR's Health Sciences Division is offering a limited number of travel grants of up to $400 each for undergraduates presenting original research results at NCUR 2017 at the University of Memphis in April. The application deadline is January 31, 2017. To apply, visit the travel awards webpage.

The Civitan International Research Center is announcing the availability of trainee travel awards to facilitate presentations at meetings, conferences or symposia related to research and/or clinical activities addressing neurodevelopmental disabilities. Individual awards of up to $1000 will apply toward conference registration fees, airfare, hotel and meals according to UAB travel policy. Application deadlines will be April 1 and September 1, 2017. Mentors, this is a great opportunity to procure support for undergraduate conference attendees! Submit applications to: Vicki Hixon vhixon@uab.edu

Applications should include the following in a single pdf file:
- A description of the travel opportunity and relationship to the trainee program of study
- A one-page CV from the trainee
- A letter of endorsement from the mentor clearly stating how the student will benefit from participation and also that no other support is available for this travel
- Travel budget details
- Copy of abstract – include letter of acceptance

The HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology in Huntsville will be hosting summer internships for undergraduate students. The BioTrain Internship program places students in engaging experiences in the research labs and associated biotech companies and departments of HudsonAlpha Institute. This unique internship program accepts 20 - 30 interns each summer for a nine-week session that includes a week of Biotech BootCamp and weekly professional development seminars in addition to eight weeks of employment for students.

We are looking for qualified applicants with all levels of experience that are interested in the following areas:
- computational informatics
- genetics and genomics research
- molecular biology
- economic development/business
- marketing and communications
- science education
- chemistry
- computer programming
- graphic arts
- genetic counseling

In addition to traditional wet bench lab work, many of the research labs at HudsonAlpha focus on using sequence data to gain insight into disease and learn more about the world around us. For that reason, several of the intern positions will involve computer programming and informatic work with databases. Students with experience and interest in these areas are encouraged to apply. Our researchers have said that they particularly need people with experience and education in programming, basic biology, and math/statistics.

Students who have graduated high school and are currently enrolled at a college or university in the state of Alabama are eligible to apply. Online applications will be open January 15 - February 15, 2017. Students will need a resume, a personal statement and two letters of recommendation. The 2017 BioTrain Internship will be held May 30 - July 28th. Visit the BioTrain Internship website or see attached flyer for more information.
**Research Opportunities**

The **West lab** (Neurology) is looking for a student research scientist to help with ongoing preclinical Parkinson’s disease (PD) projects. PD is a debilitating movement disorder affecting millions of people worldwide. Patients diagnosed with PD typically suffer from progressive loss of fine motor control and resting tremors. At the cellular level, PD is characterized by a drastic loss of dopaminergic neurons in the brain and by the presence of intracellular protease resistant inclusions. In West lab we model PD by injecting abnormally folded α-synuclein protein into the brains of mice and rats. This abnormally folded α-synuclein protein “corrupts” the normal α-synuclein present in the brain cells of mice. The disease progression and presentation we observe in mice and rats is nearly identical to that observed in human post mortem tissue. Using this model we are currently testing several promising compounds that have the potential to be in human trials in the very near future! We are looking for self-motivated individuals who would like to pursue a career in neurodegenerative disease research with a focus on PD. All interested applicants should contact Dr. Delic with a copy of their CV, completed courses and a semester schedule. **Priority consideration will be given to students able to make a commitment of 15 hours a week.**

The **Visscher lab** (Neurobiology) is looking for a few spectacular students to help with two ongoing projects. One project is understanding what it means to be a healthy aging brain: how brain activity and structure relate to behavioral function in adults over age 85. The other involves examining human brain plasticity when adults change the way they use their vision. You’ll be working on data collection, scoring cognitive assessments, data entry, and quality control of these data to start, and then doing data analysis. We love organized folks, and if you have experience programming, that’s a plus. Interested students should email a copy of their CV, completed courses, semester schedule, and a few sentences about why the research interests them to Dr. Visscher.

**Upcoming Events**


**Thursday, January 26th**, Homewood Public Library SciCafe – Homewood Public Library – Drs. Katherine K. Weise and Jennifer Braswell Christy: The Eyes are Windows to the Brain in Concussion. 6:30 – 7:30 PM.

**Save the date: CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL / SIMPSON-RAMSEY NEURODEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM**

Thursday, April 20th, 2017. The symposium will be held at the UAB Hill Center from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with a poster reception at The Edge of Chaos to follow at 4:00 p.m. This event satisfies the UNP presentation requirement for seniors.

**Darwin Day!** NPR Science Correspondent Joe Palca (host of “Joe’s Big Idea”) will be delivering a lecture for the UAB Biology 2017 Darwin Day celebration. This will take place at on Friday, February 10th, at 7 PM at the Alumni House, and afterward there will be a reception and poster session. Those interested in presenting a poster should send an email to evolve@uab.edu (subject line: “Poster”) with their name, department, poster...
title, and indication of whether they are eligible for the poster competition (undergraduate or graduate students). **Deadline: Friday January 20th, 2017.**

**Acknowledgements**

We would like to congratulate the following UNP students for being selected as semi-finalist for the Fulbright Scholarship! Hriday Bhambhvani – Research, Germany; Emily Jennings – Study, Netherlands; Anisha Das – English Teaching Assistantship, India. We are so proud of you!

Imani Alexander has been selected to participate in the Atlantis Project Fellowship, a shadowing experience for pre-med students abroad. She will travel to Spain and Portugal over the summer.

UNP Mentor and Neurobiology faculty member Dr. Farah Lubin was awarded the Dean’s Excellence in Mentorship Award for 2017. Dr. Lubin was nominated by her mentees, and will be honored on Wednesday, April 5th at a special Mentorship Awards event. Congratulations!

**Like and follow the UNP on Facebook** for more student opportunities, graduate information, events, and neuroscience-related content!

**Students, faculty and staff - want to place information in the digest?** Email your content to Dr. Cristin Gavin by Tuesday night the week of. The digest is finalized on Wednesday mornings, so any submissions received on Wednesday will be included in the digest the following week.