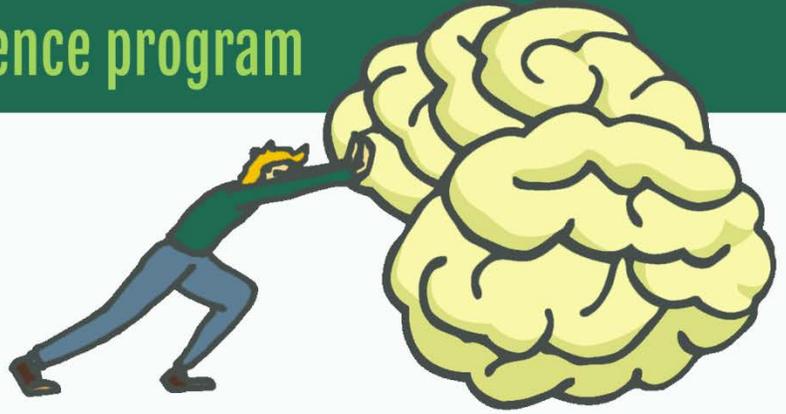


undergraduate neuroscience program

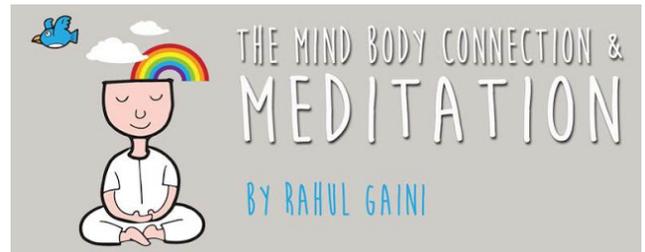
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PROGRAM INFORMATION

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.



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 NEXT Friday, February 3, 2017.**

STUDENT GROUPS

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

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

TONIGHT! 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.

Save the date: CENTER FOR NEURODEGENERATION AND EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS (CNET) will host its 5th annual retreat that is open to the UAB community. Internationally renowned featured speakers from the NIH, Industry, and Academia will be on-hand for networking and interaction opportunities. **Go here to register.**

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

Good luck to **all of our seniors who are interviewing for graduate programs**. Your list of invitations is impressive!

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.