Seniors! Your thesis is due on or before April 1st. 2 days from today. Your thesis can be emailed to Dr. Gavin, but your mentor must be copied for us to accept the document. If your file is too large to email, you can use UAB’s secure dropbox service.

Registration will be Monday, April 3rd. Today is last day to sign up for overrides for research credit. Go here to enter information to receive your override in advance.

Fall Upper Level Electives

NBL 425 – Methods in Human Neuroimaging – Thur, 5 - 7:30 pm, Dr. Kristina Visscher
NBL 433 – Diseases of the Nervous System – Tues/Thur, 3:30 – 4:45 pm, Dr. Vlad Parpura
NOTE: There will be no Mechanisms of Memory until spring 2018.
PY 453+ Lab – Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience – Mon/Wed, 12:20 – 2:10 pm (lec), 2:30 – 3:20 pm (lab)

Student Groups

Undergraduate Neuroscience Society

UNS officers for 2017-2018 are as follows:

President: Rahul Gaini
Vice President: Cody Savage
Service and Outreach Coordinator: Nisha Palanisamy
Lecture and Workshop Coordinator: Sam Castillo
Tutoring and Mentoring Coordinator: Samantha Thompson
Treasurer: Sameera Grandhi
Secretary: Baraa Hijaz

Congratulations!
**UNS March Outreach**

**Brain Awareness Week at the McWane Science Center on March 27-31**
Graduate students Mandy Biles and Christian Stackhouse will take the helm this year and direct the annual Brain Awareness Week for 2017! UAB students, trainees and faculty at all levels are needed to help bring the magic of neuroscience to the children of Birmingham. Volunteers are needed primarily for afternoon shifts (1:00 pm-4:30 pm) on each day of the week. Note that this week does NOT match up with UAB’s spring break as it has in previous years. If you’re interested in volunteering, please fill out [this form](#).

**Neuroscience Demonstrations for Local School Children**
The UNS is seeking volunteers to help turn our fun, interactive neuroscience demonstrations into short 30 minute lessons we can teach to local school children. If you’re interested in helping to develop lesson plans and/or volunteer to teach email Jarrod Hicks at jarrodh@uab.edu to set up a meeting.

**Taste of Science Festival**
Taste of Science is a week-long nationwide festival aimed at bringing science to the public. While this event actually happens in April, we are currently looking for volunteers to help organize the Taste of Science events in Birmingham. We need people who can assist with: contacting speakers, fundraising, coordinating events, managing social media, and publicizing the events. If you’re interested in joining the team, please email Jarrod Hicks at jarrodh@uab.edu to set up a meeting.

The Birmingham, AL Team Hope walk will be held on Sunday, April 2, at Oak Mountain State Park. The goal of the walk is to raise money to support the mission and services of the Huntington’s Disease Society of America. If you’re interested in participating or volunteering please visit their website. If you’d like to volunteer, please email Jamie Ansell to learn how you could help out.

The UNS needs volunteers to help run neuroscience demonstrations on Saturday, April 15, at Children’s Hospital as part of an event hosted by GirlSpring to promote STEM fields to high school girls. If you’re interested, please sign up by filling out [this form](#). The event will be from 9 to 2 and lunch will be provided to all volunteers!

**Student Opportunities**
The Honors College is pleased to announce the **Experiential Fellowship Program**. This new initiative provides funding to promote research, creative activity, and community service among honors students. To be eligible, you must be an Honors College student in good standing with 1.5 to 2 years left in your program of study. See the module on Canvas for additional eligibility requirements. Think of the project you propose for the EFP as an experiential learning activity. Supported projects can take a variety of forms – a traditional research project, a service initiative with a non-profit partner, or even a community arts project. You will need to find a faculty mentor to supervise your project. The EFP comes with a stipend of $2500 for the summer, as well as an allowance of up to $250 for project-related expenses. In addition to funding, this program also incorporates bi-weekly professional development workshops and the requirement that you present your work at the UAB Summer Expo. The deadline to apply for the EFP is April 12, and the program will run from May 22 to July 28.
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.

Registration is now open for the Civitan International/Simpson-Ramsey Neurodevelopment Symposium on Thursday, April 20th, 2017. Lunch will be provided to the first 100 registered guests and prizes will be awarded to top abstracts and poster presenters. To be considered for judging, abstracts must be received by Friday, April 7. Go here to register.

The Science and Technology Honors Program is hosting a drawing event and everyone is welcome to buy a ticket! We are raffling off many cool prizes such as 5 Organic Chemistry OWL codes, a necklace and earring set valued at $240, Snoozy's gift cards and more! Tickets can be purchased online at or in person until 2:15pm on April 3rd and the drawing will take place that day at the Science and Engineering picnic; you do not have to be present to win. Contact Amanda Lawrence for more information.

Upcoming Events

UAB alum from Vanderbilt, Pratik Talati, will be speaking TONIGHT at 7 p.m. at the Spencer’s Honors house about pursuing a MD/PhD. The talk should be of great interest to anyone interested in pursuing an MD/PhD program.

Fulbright Information Session TOMORROW, March 31 at 3:30 pm in HHB 524 to learn more information about studying abroad, conducting research, and teaching English!

The English Department’s Alumni Lecture Series this semester will be Lisa Zunshine, Bush-Holbrook Professor of English, from the University of Kentucky will be Wednesday, April 5th 5:00-6:00 at AEIVA. Professor Zunshine’s talk, “Minds at Work and Play: Researching Across Disciplines”, brings together research in literary studies and cognitive neuroscience to address such questions as, what does reading fiction have to do with doing well academically; what are some models of collaboration between cognitive scientists and literary scholars; and what are some immediate interpretive payoffs of “cognitive” literary and cultural theory?

Research Opportunities
Dr. Peter King is looking for a student to assist with mouse and human studies related to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and other neuroinflammatory diseases. The student will work with research associates in the laboratory to perform DNA assays, mouse behavioral analyses, immunohistochemistry and other disease-related assessments. The research themes of the laboratory are disease oriented and will provide the student an opportunity to gain experience in biomedical research and be part of research publications. This position is best suited for the motivated and inquisitive student who has an interest in pursuing a biomedical career, either in research or medicine. Ideally the student should be able to work for at least one year. Hours will be negotiable. Students should email their resume, schedule, and research interest statement to Prachi Matsye, PhD.

Dr. Zina Trost is looking for more research assistants that can start immediately in the lab. The position requires people who can dedicate around 10 hours a week, is very organized, and will be able to stay in the lab for the calendar year or longer. The study in question is a virtual blood draw, so the RA's will need to be able to see someone have their blood drawn on a video. All interested applicants should send their CV, completed courses and a semester schedule to Dr. Trost.

Drs. Farah Lubin and Aaron Fobian are looking for a talented and highly motivated student that would be interested in classically conditioning rats to have non-epileptic seizures and measuring epigenetic changes. The student will be trained to help with set-up and a validation of behavior apparatus and DNA assays, handling rodents, and in some cases assist with cranial surgeries. Students should email their resume, schedule, and research interest statement to Dr. Lubin.

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.

Senior Spotlight

Senior Emilee Anders Brodie is featured as this week’s Senior Spotlight. Go here to read about Emilee’s time in the Neuroscience program!

Acknowledgements

Congratulations to all our students that were selected for summer programs across the country, including our Amgen Scholars Jasmin Revanna (Day lab, CalTech program), Niharika Loomba (Kana lab, Stanford program), and Cody Savage (Cowell lab, Washington University St. Louis program). Tina Tian (Wilson lab) was selected for a summer internship at the Center for RNA Biology at Ohio State University. Stacey Niver (Wadiche lab) was selected for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Nanohybrid Functional Materials REU program. Congratulations to you all!

Emily Jennings (VanGroen lab) has been selected for the Fulbright Scholarship (study) to the Netherlands. She will pursue a Masters of Neurosciences at Vrije University Amsterdam this fall. We are so proud of you Emily!

Hriday Bhambhvani (Meador-Woodruff lab) was selected as a Fulbright Scholarship (research) alternate to Germany. Congratulations Hriday!

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.