



## undergraduate neuroscience program **information digest**

### Undergraduate Neuroscience Program Outstanding Seniors

The UNP will be featuring some of our outstanding seniors throughout the spring semester. Take a moment and read all about how they have spent their time here at UAB and what they plan to do after graduation. [Natasha Mehra](#) is featured this week. We are so proud of you!

### Student Events:

**Tonight from 5 to 7pm!** The UNP, SciTech Honors, Active Minds, Graduate Biomedical Student Organization, and Student Health and Wellness/Counseling are proud to bring you the **Mental Health Positivity Picnic on the Green** (or in the Performance Lounge, first floor, Hill Student Center in case of inclement weather). Enjoy food, music, therapy animals, mental health resources, and more at this stress-relieving picnic right before finals! [Check out the Facebook event](#) for more information and see you there!

### Undergraduate Neuroscience Society:

2016-2017 UNS Officers are as follows:

**President:** Tie, Courtney Walker and Richard Trieu (will serve as co-Presidents)

**Vice President:** Rahul Gaini

**Lecture and Workshop Coordinator:** Joshua Purvis

**Tutoring and Mentoring Coordinator:** Cody Savage

**Service and Outreach Coordinator:** Jarrod Hicks

**Secretary:** Anna Khan

**Treasurer:** Ax Otamias

Thanks to everyone who voted and who ran, and congratulations to the incoming officers!

### Seniors:

**If you're writing a thesis you might as well publish it!** UAB's student-run and edited research journal *Inquiro* encourages you to [submit your research thesis for publication](#). Research manuscripts should give a substantial description of an original research project, thoroughly address background information, include detailed discussions of the methods utilized and the results obtained, as well as a discussion of the authors' interpretation of their results and their importance to the relevant field. The suggested length for a long paper is 2500–4000 words. All Research Manuscripts will be reviewed in a double-blind fashion by a member of the UAB faculty who is an expert on the topic. Last, but not least, everyone who publishes in *Inquiro* retains the rights to publish that research in any other journal. Thus, research mentors need not worry about not being able to publish work done in their labs anywhere else. [Guidelines for submitting a research manuscript can be found here](#). **The deadline for submissions in May 16**. Also, please note that **all students must**

have their mentor's permission to publish in *Inquiro* before submitting any research. Email [inquiro@uab.edu](mailto:inquiro@uab.edu) for additional information.

**SENIORS!** Your thesis needs to be turned in to Dr. Gavin by **5pm on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**. This is a requirement to graduate, so your application for your degree **WILL NOT BE PROCESSED** until the document is reviewed and approved by the program. PLEASE CHECK YOUR GPS TO ENSURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE REQUIREMENT. Detailed instructions for writing a research based thesis can be found on the UNP Sharepoint site. While the deadline is April 22<sup>nd</sup>, any early submissions will be welcomed (and much appreciated). Mentor approval can be emailed to Dr. Gavin as well.

### Program Information:

**We will be holding elections for UNP Class Representatives the week of finals.** A list of nominees will be posted the week before so you will have time to think about your vote. Want to put in a last minute nomination? Know someone who would be a great class representative? [Nominate them](#). Think you are the person for the job? [Nominate yourself](#). We will open nominations for one more week.

**Currently taking NBL 398 Research Credit?** Activity logs are due to Dr. Gavin by Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> to receive a grade for the class. Forms can be turned in M/W/F to Shelby 1007 or T/TH in Campbell Hall 237.

**Registering for 398 Research Credit?** If you have previously completed a 398 form, [go to this link and provide the requested information](#) and Dr. Gavin will issue the registration override. Not sure what research credit to register for? If your lab is in the Department of Psychology, register for PY 398. If your lab falls under the School of Medicine, register for NBL 398. Still not sure? Email Dr. Gavin and ask. 😊

**Freshman!** This is a reminder to send Dr. Gavin your Freshman Stories and get your headshots made if you have not done so already. Take a moment to [check out all the great stories](#) already up on the website!

### Brain Bee:

Brain Bee is a neuroscience competition for high school students held every year to promote Neuroscience awareness. The Directors of next year's Brain Bee are looking for **a rising junior or sophomore to help coordinate and plan the 2017 competition and serve on the board of directors**. Interested students should [email Marie Michenkova](#) for more information.

### Student Opportunities:

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Expo will be held TODAY AND TOMORROW here at UAB. **Students that are not presenting should plan to support their classmates!**

**The St. Jude National Undergraduate Research Symposium (NURS) is now accepting student nominations.** This competitive academic and professional development event allows undergraduate students from U.S. institutions to present their own research, in addition to learning about the cutting-edge research and facilities at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The goal of the symposium is to showcase St. Jude as a premier research institution and to provide St. Jude Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences recruitment information to top undergraduate students.

Nominees must be **U.S. citizens** and currently **Juniors or Seniors who are planning to attend graduate school** but have yet to commit to a program. The nomination form (attached) and reference letter (pdf please) must be submitted to me by **noon CST on Tuesday, April 26, 2016**. **The Graduate School will cover Symposium-related expenses for students who are invited to attend.**

**Gregg Dunn**, renowned [Brainbow artist](#), is looking for research assistants to help publicize a release of an artistic depiction of the brain's anatomy. If you are interested in contributing to this effort and changing how the average person and even professional neuroscientists think about the brain, [please read more here](#).

## Volunteer and Service Opportunities

**Mad Scientist Day Jr./ HS** - is on **Saturday May 7th** from 8 am - 3:30pm. **We are still looking for volunteers** to come help out [Go here to visit our volunteer sign up form](#). The event will be held here on campus in the chemistry building where we do 30-35 hands on demonstration for elementary - high school age kids. Sign up today!

## Paid Positions:

Alabama Power is coming to speak **TONIGHT April 14th from 7-8pm in CHEM 101** about [possible job opportunities](#) for people with a chemistry Major or minor (that's you, Neuroscience majors!). Please come if you are at all interested! They are sending out a recruiter to hire people for this summer!

**Dr. Laura Volpicelli-Daley** is seeking a recent college graduate (or soon-to-be graduating) as a research technician for a full time position in a lab focused on mechanisms of neurodegeneration in Parkinson's Disease. Duties will involve maintaining, stereotactic surgeries, Western blotting, immunohistochemistry, stereology, mouse breeding colonies, genotyping, preparing primary neuronal cultures, quantitative analysis of immunofluorescent images, and ordering lab supplies. [Contact Dr. Volpicelli-Daley](#) for more information.

The laboratory of [Dr. Kazu Nakazawa in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurobiology](#) is looking for one or two student research assistants from April 2016, with the possibility of continuation through 2016, depending on the extent of student commitment. The project will focus on understanding molecular mechanisms underlying psychiatric symptom of mental illness. Each student will be directly involved with various technical approaches used in the neurobiology field, including mouse tail DNA purification, PCR, quantitative RT-PCR, viral injection, brain sectioning, immunostaining, and behavioral testing. Course credits will be offered upon successful contribution. Paid position may also be considered after provisional period. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Dr. Nakazawa by email at nakazawk@uab.edu with (1) statement of research interest, (2) description of short and long-term career goals, and (3) resume, including GPA.

## Upcoming Events:

[The Cognition, Brain, & Autism Lab](#) at UAB will be at the **Autism Walk at Veterans Park** (4800 Valleydale Rd, Birmingham, AL 35242) this Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> from 7 am to 11 am. [Go here for more information!](#)

## Talks:

UAB GRADUATE SCHOOL DISCOVERIES IN THE MAKING SERIES at the Hoover and Homewood Public Libraries.

### HOOVER:

Monday, May 2, 2016

- Karen Albright: All Men Are Treated Equal: Or Are They? Observations from the National Inpatient Sample
- Stephanie Momeni: Exploring the Bacteria that Cause Cavities and their Role in Overall Human Health

## Acknowledgements

We would like to recognize the students that were honored at the 2016 John W.P. Ost Undergraduate Research Competition. Junior **Mary-Elizabeth Winslett** (Kana Lab) took home first prize for the poster session, and Seniors **John Decker** (Gamlin Lab) and **Daniel Gilliam** (Sweatt Lab) were recognized as Outstanding Students in Neuroscience. Congratulations to all of you!

Congratulations to Junior **Richard Trieu** and Sophomore **Rahul Gaini** on receiving the Presidential Summer Research Scholarship for 2016. Richard and Rahul were selected from a competitive pool of applicants to have their research funded for the summer. Congratulations gentlemen!

**UNP students at the National Council for Undergraduate Research Conference!** The Honors College sponsored trip to Asheville, NC for the 2016 NCUR conference as a huge success. Thank you to all of the Honors College leadership (especially Michelle Cook) for coordinating and chaperoning such a great experience for the students!



Back row, L to R: Courtney Walker (Roberts lab), Rhiana Simon (Day lab), Celeste Fong (Wang lab), Mohamad Moughnyeh (Clinton lab), Jarrod Hicks (Visscher lab), Tyler Orem (Knight Lab); Front row, L to R: Emily Jennings (van Groen lab), Jasmin Revanna (Day lab), Ramsha Farrukh (McMahon lab), Emily Milligan (Shacka lab), and Dailey Nettles (King lab).

Please like and [follow the UNP on Facebook!](#)

**Want to place an item in the digest?** Email information to [Cristin Gavin](#). Each digest is finalized on Wednesday morning the week of.