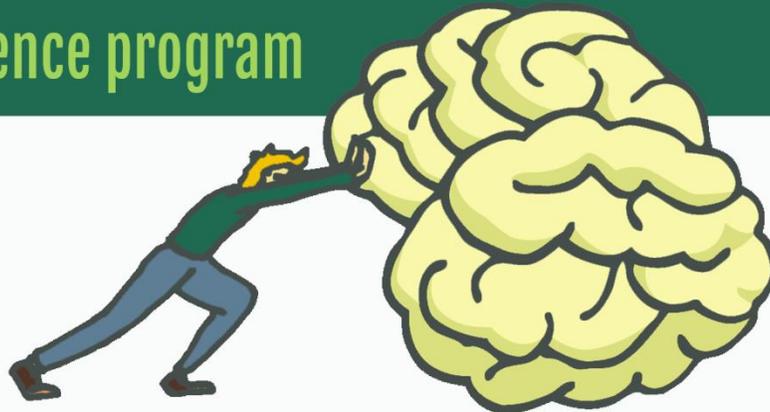


# undergraduate neuroscience program

## information digest 9.15.16



### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Want a chance to flex your creativity? Wish you had better inside resources as a fledgling student? We are excited to announce the creation of a **UNP student blog** to allow current Neuroscience students a platform to talk about the things that matter most to them! Email [uabneuroblog@gmail.com](mailto:uabneuroblog@gmail.com) if you are interested in writing for the blog, or to suggest ideas and topics that you would like to see covered.

**ALL UNP Freshmen are required** to attend the Office of Undergraduate Research's Fall 2016 Undergraduate Research Workshop Series "A Map for Success". Space is limited so **RSVP to Gareth Jones** ASAP. The next workshop is Wednesday September 21<sup>th</sup> at 12pm in HSC room 203. Lunch provided with RSVP.

### UNDERGRADUATE NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETY

Freshmen are strongly encouraged to join the **Undergraduate Neuroscience Society**. The UNS is a student operated organization dedicated to serving and representing the members of UAB's Undergraduate Neuroscience Program, as well as promoting interest in the neurosciences within the larger UAB community. More information about how to join can be found on the **UNP website, here** or in the UNP student handbook.

**Call for shirt designs!** The UNS sells t-shirts to fundraise for their student programming and they are in need of a winning design. If you or someone you know would like to submit a design for consideration, please email UNS Treasurer **Ax Otamias** by next **Friday, September 23rd**. After submissions are received, UNS members will vote for the favorite. The winner will receive a shirt for free.

The UNS is currently in need of **student mentors for incoming freshman and student tutors**. As a student mentor, your responsibilities are simply to be available to answer questions and offer advice to your mentees when needed. Mentors would also be expected to reach out to their mentees at least once each month during the semester. Tutors will be matched to students based on subject competency. If interested in becoming a student mentor OR tutor, or if you have any questions about the positions, **email Cody Savage**, UNS Mentoring and Tutoring Coordinator.

### STUDENT GROUPS

**Thinking about taking the road to graduate school? Join the Pre-Ph.D. Society!** The purpose of the Pre-Ph.D. Society is to provide advisement, service opportunities, and professional development for undergraduates looking to pursue a Ph.D. in any discipline. We will host lectures to help guide an undergraduate through the graduate admissions process, to learn more about various career opportunities for Ph.D.s, and to be the most competitive applicant that they can be. **Their first meeting will be held TONIGHT September 15th at 7pm in Education Building 145.** Email **Josh Purvis** or **Remy Meir** to RSVP. Dinner is provided.

**Building Bridges** is looking for more volunteers! The organization was founded with the purpose of tackling social isolation and loneliness, which the elderly are particularly vulnerable to. They have implemented two programs at Highland Manor, a Section 8 Assisted living facility at Five Points: The Buddy System and the Technology Tutors program. If you are interested in volunteering with Building Bridges, fill out **this interest form**. Also, check out **the official website** and **Facebook page** to learn more!

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

**The Comprehensive Neuroscience Center (CNC) Annual Retreat will be held Friday, October 7th at The Club.** UNP students are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract for the evening poster session. Winning posters will be awarded \$100, \$50, and \$25 dollars for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, respectively. Go **here to view the schedule**, go **here to register** to attend any part of the retreat, and go **here to submit an abstract** for the poster session. On the registration form, for "Status", select "Other" and write in "Undergraduate". **Abstract submissions are due by September 29th!**

**Science Olympiad** is a science competition for middle and high school students and the competition at UAB is completely run by student volunteers. Student volunteers help write and grade tests as well as assist with running errands on the day of the tournament. This year's Science Olympiad @ UAB will take place on **Saturday, February 18th!** Volunteers will be given free food, a free t shirt AND the satisfaction of assisting with the only completely student run Science Olympiad tournament in the country. For more information contact **Katie Herron** or **Amanda Lawrence**.

**New Frontiers of Pain Research in the 21st Century – October 14-15th.** Attend a two-day conference in the new Hill Student Center to discuss new frontiers in pain research and treatment. The agenda is online. **Registration is open** and abstracts are being accepted. All pain researchers, clinicians and students are welcome.

**Camp Fire Alabama** is currently looking for volunteers for **Links-Up**, a Mentoring Program that works with students in grades K-8<sup>th</sup>. Undergraduate student volunteers work in pairs, conducting age appropriate activities and lesson plans that are both fun and educational. These activities help increase the children's positive interactions with their environment and encourage appropriate behavior. During the mentoring sessions students discuss: self-esteem, teamwork, bullying behavior, conflict resolution, and other pertinent topics. **Links-Up has approximately 150 spots to fill this semester.** The majority of volunteers come from the UAB Community and is an excellent opportunity for students that need service learning or volunteer hours. Students can enroll in **PY397 (Community-Based Practicum)** while volunteering with Camp Fire to receive

course credit for their volunteer activities. See the attached flyer for additional details and contact information.

The **UAB Research Civitan Club** will be holding their annual charity art auction, **The Art of Giving**, on **October 20th, 2016 from 6-9 PM at the Civitan International Research Center** (CIRC) here on campus. All proceeds from the event will go to benefit local charity **Mitchell's Place**. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres, live music, and great art up for auction! If you would like to submit artwork for donation, **please go here**. In addition to artwork, we also need many student volunteers in order for the event to succeed. Please **go here to sign up to volunteer**. Support our local neuroscience initiative to give back to the community! Official event flyer attached.

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

**Dr. Jacques Wadiche, PhD, Department of Neurobiology** is seeking an undergraduate research assistant for credit. Go here to view his **faculty information**. The Wadiche lab uses the synapses between climbing fibers and Purkinje cells in the cerebellum to study fundamental properties of neurotransmitter release. Specifically, they are interested in why some presynaptic terminals release only a single vesicle of neurotransmitter per action potential while others release multiple vesicles. They are looking for a motivated, reliable undergraduate researcher to assist with stereotactic surgeries in young mice as well as pre- and post-operative care. Interested students should email a copy of their CV, completed courses, fall schedule, and a few sentences about why the research interests them to **Dr. Wadiche** (hyperlinked).

**Dr. Jarred Younger, PhD, Department of Psychology** is seeking an undergraduate research assistant for credit. Go here to view his **faculty information**. He has an opening for a research assistant to work on a clinical drug trial. Trainees will learn data collection, database procedures, how to perform informed consent process and necessary skills for working with a clinical population. Dr. Younger is only looking for highly motivated students that can make a significant contribution to the lab. Interested students should email a copy of their CV, completed courses, fall schedule, and a few sentences about why the research interests them to **Kate Wesson Sides**.

**Dr. Edward Taub, PhD, Department of Psychology** is seeking an undergraduate research assistant for credit. Go here to view his **faculty information**. He has an opening on a project working with a patient with Tetraplegia. Trainees will learn EMG biofeedback and shaping procedures using Constraint Induced Movement Therapy. Dr. Taub is only looking for highly motivated students that can make a significant contribution to the lab. Interested students should email a copy of their CV, completed courses, fall schedule, and a few sentences about why the research interests them to **Dr. Taub**.

**Dr. Chris Strang, Department of Psychology**, is seeking an undergraduate research assistant for credit. Go here to view her **faculty information**. The work is part of a larger project that combines molecular, anatomical, and functional analysis of the retina and hippocampus in a rat model of Alzheimer's disease (AD). This portion of the project has a particular emphasis on testing the hypothesis that there are AD-related losses of retinal cell populations as well as changes in acetylcholine and its receptors that have the potential to measurably affect vision. Dr. Strang is working toward the identification of retinal biomarkers that can be used to assess

the progression of AD, or lead to the development of non-invasive visual screening tests that can contribute to the early diagnosis of AD. Techniques include immunohistochemistry, imaging, and semi-automated cell counting. Interested students should email a copy of their CV, completed courses, fall schedule, and a few sentences about why the research interests them to [Dr. Strang](#).

**Dr. Bulent Turan, Department of Psychology** is seeking an undergraduate research assistant for credit. Dr. Turan is a social psychologist (and formidable tennis player) who researches the effects of negative social evaluations on biological markers of health and stress. Go here to view his [faculty information](#). The research involves music performance anxiety and includes the collection of saliva for cortisol and other hormone assays. Interested students should email a copy of their CV, completed courses, fall schedule, and a few sentences about why the research interests them to [Dr. Turan](#).

## EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience is pleased to announce the return of **Neuroscience in Germany Summer Study Abroad** (BIOL/PSYC 359; 4 Credits) for Summer 2017. This FUN supported course is open to students from any institution. Past students have returned to Germany to pursue research through the German RISE program and the Fulbright program. **Course Description:** Neuroscience Seminar in Germany is a summer study abroad program for undergraduate students, which emphasizes the international nature of neuroscience research and the collaborative educational opportunities that are possible in today's scientific community. The course content will focus on current topics in neuroscience research while taking advantage of the historical lens Germany provides to examine the origins of our knowledge about nervous system function. We will be hosted by two German universities: Ludwig Maximilians Universität (LMU) in Munich and Charité Medical University in Berlin. Both universities are members of the German Graduate Schools of Neuroscience (GSN). The course topics have been selected based both on the research specialties of the faculty at these institutions and the unique historical perspective provided by the location. Cultural excursions into Berlin and Munich are also part of the program. Berlin and Munich are exciting cities, providing a view into the spectrum of German culture. The capital city of Berlin teems with museums, galleries, restaurants and rich diversity of cultural opportunities. Munich blends historical Bavarian culture with a vibrant modern city dynamic. [Go here for more information](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**UAB to host inaugural Physician Scientist Symposium Nov. 5-6. Register by Oct. 15 to attend** the UAB Physician Scientist Symposium to be held in the Hill Student Center. Students, residents, fellows and junior faculty should [submit abstracts by Sept. 15](#). Registration includes meeting attendance, dinner Saturday and breakfast/lunch Sunday. [The agenda and speakers](#) are online. Flyer attached.

Please mark your calendars for the **English Department's fall Alumni Lecture Series** guest, Dale Bauer. Her talk, "Brain Aneurysm, Coma, Stroke: An English Professor Speaks about Losing Her Language" will be on **October 6th at 3:30 p.m. in the Hill Student Center room 318**. Flyer attached for more details.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Like and follow the UNP on Facebook** for more 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.