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 if you are interested in writing for the blog, or to suggest ideas and topics that you would like to see covered.

Students are encouraged to review the 2016-2017 Undergraduate Neuroscience Program Student Handbook, available here (and on the Canvas site). This book is designed to provide information for our students in a centralized location to help you best navigate your undergraduate experience. It has in-depth information on academics, students groups, and common program policies and procedures. Inform yourself!

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 14th 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.

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 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 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 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”.

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 September 15th at 7pm in Education Building 145. Email Josh Purvis or Remy Meir to RSVP. Dinner is provided.

Women in STEM, a group dedicated to the professional development of undergraduate women in STEM majors, is starting this fall and we need you! It is true that bias against women exists. Knowing that, how do you prepare? Well, the same way you prepare to be competitive in every other aspect of your life, educate yourself, plan, and be prepared to compete at the highest possible level. Women in STEM will seek to educate students about the unique challenges facing women in the STEM workforce and provide them with skills to manage these challenges. If you are interested in either participating in Women in STEM as a group member or helping develop the group’s goals, please plan to meet September 12, 2016, Hill Center 206/204 at 12:30pm. If you have questions, can’t make the meeting but want more information, or need have questions, please contact Dr. King (gdking@uab.edu) or Mugdha Mokashi (mmokashi@uab.edu).

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!

Camp Fire Alabama is currently looking for volunteers for Links-Up, a Mentoring Program that works with students in grades K-8th. 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. Victor Mark, MD, Department of Physical Medicine** is actively seeking undergraduate research assistants for credit. Go here to view his [faculty information](#) and here to view recent news from his lab. He has positions open on a project to evaluate the organization and integration of simultaneous eye and hand movements during visuomotor search in visually complex environments, in both healthy adult subjects and following brain illness, and the relationship of such quantified patterns to neurological recovery. 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. Mark](#).

**Dr. Edward Taub, PhD, Department of Psychology** is actively 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 actively 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 actively 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](#).

**Upcoming Events**
Research - MD, DO, PhD, or MD/PhD? Interested in pursuing research but not sure about the path to higher education? This professional development series aims to answer that question! This week's speaker, Dr. Lebensburger's, D.O., primarily focuses on children with disorders of the blood, especially sickle cell disease, thalassemia, disorders of iron metabolism, and marrow failure syndromes including aplastic anemia. His research focuses on linking knowledge from basic science to clinical care (translational research) especially in sickle cell disease. A long term goal of the research is gene therapy for blood disorders. Dinner will be provided with RSVP. See you Wednesday, September 12th from 6-7PM in HHB 524 – go here to RSVP!

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

Congratulations to our newly elected UNP Class Representatives!
Undergraduate Neuroscience Program class representatives, from left: Vidushi Sinha, sophomore class; Remy Meir, junior class; and Hriday Bhambhvani, senior class.

Students voted for one student from each class to serve in the role of representative. They were encouraged to select students that were reliable, approachable, assertive, fair, and most importantly, good listeners and effective communicators. Elected representatives will work with program leadership to help make the Neuroscience program the best it can be, and serve as a valued student voice in program development. Current Neuroscience students are encouraged to contact their representatives with any topics they would like to see addressed in the coming school year.

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.