Meet Katherine Dalton, a junior double-majoring in Psychology and Biology. Katherine works in Dr. Ben Philpot’s laboratory under the supervision of Dr. Bin Gu.

Tell us about your research. I am involved in epilepsy research in which we use a mouse model to study spontaneous recurrent seizures. Dr. Philpot’s lab is currently searching for genetic variants that determine seizure thresholds and for candidate biomarkers in the genome of a collaborative cross cohort of mice that could be potential targets for therapeutic or other treatment options.

What do you like most about your research? I originally wanted to get involved in research to get more experience with it. During my time at Carolina, I have become increasingly interested in neuroscience and research is a great way to see I am more interested in a graduate school or a medical school track.

What is the most valuable lesson you’ve learned? Research has taught me that patience is very important. The experiments might not go as planned, the data might be tedious to analysis, or the results might not be what you expect, but it is all part of science and the process.

What encouraged you to get involved? In the long run, my research may lead to a life-changing discover for someone who lives with epilepsy—and that is amazing! The best part of my research is learning new techniques and getting to work with incredible scientists on a common goal.
Meet Breanna Dede, one of our Fall 2016 interns with the Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience.

Breanna is a senior majoring in Psychology with a double-major in Social and Economic Justice and Spanish for the Healthcare Professions. In Fall 2016, she interned with Dr. April Harris-Britt at the AHB Center for Behavioral Health and Wellness, a mental health clinic in Durham, North Carolina, centered around helping children and adolescents with psychological issues.

Breanna says, “This practice matches well with the areas of psychology that I hope to pursue a career in, as I hope to pursue a clinical psychology doctoral degree with a focus on adolescents in minority communities. While working at AHB, I have gained both invaluable exposure to adolescent clinical populations and skill development in areas such as psychological therapy techniques and conference planning. As an intern, my responsibilities have varied from week to week and this has been advantageous in many ways, as I have been able to learn more about the many individual pieces that make up the larger puzzle of the career of a clinical psychologist.”

Her favorite experiences at her Gil internship involved interacting with patients during therapy sessions. “By sitting in on therapy sessions with different clinicians, I’ve been able to learn about the multitude of approaches to individualized therapy for children in adolescents,” Breanna explains. “With younger patients, I get to play soccer and use play therapy to teach skills such as collaboration and physical activity as a means of connecting to mental states. With older children, I’ve learned about the importance of emotional expression in fully understanding the root of psychological issues beyond the surface letter.

The Gil Internship Program has been a valuable experience for Breanna. She says, “I could not imagine any other program that could provide such a plethora of opportunities to psychology students at UNC! These clinical experiences have been extremely influential in convincing me that this is the work that I want to be involved with for the rest of my career.”

Applications for the Fall 2017 Intern Cohort are due by March 24. Please join us for information sessions about the program and meet representatives who can tell you more about the application process! Join us on Monday, February 20 at 6:30 pm or Tuesday, February 21 at 12:30 pm. Locations to be announced.

Learn more online!

2017 Distinguished Alumnus Lecture

Students are welcome to join the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience for its 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Lecture, “Identifying Expertise to Extract the Wisdom of Crowds,” on March 22 at 3:30 pm in Howell Hall, room 205. Dr. Budescu is a Professor of Quantitative Psychology at Fordham University. He earned his Ph.D. in Quantitative Psychology from UNC Chapel Hill in 1980. His research is in the areas of human judgement, individual and group decision-making under uncertainty and with incomplete and vague information, and statistics for the behavioral and social sciences.
The Carolina Research in Social and Personality Psychology (CRISPP) conference will be held in Durham or Chapel Hill on April 22, 2017 and will feature research presentations and a faculty keynote address.

Conference submissions and presentations are limited to graduate and undergraduate students from fields related to social psychology, including consumer and organizational behavior.

The deadline for submission is February 15. Visit CRISPP for more info and how to apply.

Looking for a post-baccalaureate position in psychology? Check out an online database of active positions! You can also subscribe by email to be notified of new postings. This is a great resource for new graduates!

The Carolina Global Food Program is now seeking applications for a Summer Scholarship Program. Rising juniors and seniors should apply by March 5. Scholars with projects that support the goals of the pan-university theme, Food for All: Local and Global Perspectives, will be awarded up to $5,000. Apply now.

Jobs & Other Opportunities

The University of Delaware is holding its 1st Annual Summer Workshop in Cognitive and Brain Sciences from June 5—16, an intensive workshop for undergraduates interested in cognitive research. Participants will be covered (travel, tuition, room, and board) and some students may receive a stipend. Applications are due March 1. Learn more online.

The Department of Psychology at Virginia State University will hold its 6th Annual Black Psychology Research Conference on April 14-15. VSU is accepting submissions for presentations from students representing all sub-disciplines of psychology in relevant fields or incorporating interdisciplinary perspectives. The deadline for submissions is March 6 via Qualtrics.

The Kids’ Thinking Lab at the University of Pittsburgh is hiring a Research Lab Coordinator to start June 1. Preferences include B.A. or B.S in psychology, substantial research or work experience with young children, experience with Microsoft Office, and experience or coursework in computer programming. Apply online.

The Wilbourn Infant Lab at Duke University is offering three paid summer internships for undergraduates interested in research in developmental psychology and in attending graduate school in psychology. Interns will receive a $1,500 stipend, free on-campus housing, travel reimbursement, and funds to travel to a conference to present research. Applicants must be US citizens and from an underrepresented/minority group, including LGBTQ, ethnic/racial minority, need-based financial aid recipient, or first-generation). Applications are due by March 15. Learn more online.

Summer School!

Didn’t get into a PSYC course you wanted this Spring? Consider enrolling in summer school. Four popular courses will be offered in Maymester:

- PSYC 222 Learning
- PSYC 501 Personality
- PSYC 503 African American Psychology
- PSYC 566 Attitude Change

Visit Summer School to learn more course offerings this summer!