

# PSYCHOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE NEWSLETTER

FALL SEMESTER

NOVEMBER 2014

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

Happy November, Tar Heels! With exams just around the corner, you're almost finished!

Registration for the spring semester began November 10. If you have any questions about psychology registration, reach out to the student services manager, [Christopher Coffey](#). If you plan to graduate in May 2015 but were unable to register for all the psychology courses you need in order to graduate, please contact Mr. Coffey **NOW** -- don't wait until January.

The annual Winter Blood Drive will be held at Fetzer Gymnasium on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 from 7:30 am – 1:00 pm. We hope you will come by to donate.

Lastly, a big congratulations to the Spring 2015 cohort of Karen M. Gil Interns! Through a rigorous and demanding application and interview process, 11 of our top Psychology majors were selected to be interns for the spring semester and we are looking forward to yet another successful and productive semester. We are also excited to be representing five of our six sub-fields of psychology; these range from Clinical to Developmental psychology as well as Cognitive, Social and even Behavioral-Neuroscience!

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Welcome (pg. 1)*
- *Employment Opportunities (pg. 2)*
- *Graduate School Opportunities (pg. 3)*
- *Other Opportunities (pg. 4)*
- *Student Spotlight (pg. 5)*



Event	Date
Thanksgiving Break	11/27-11/28
Final Exams	12/5-12/12
Winter Blood Drive	12/9
Winter Commencement	12/14
Spring Semester begins	1/7



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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**Project Horseshoe Farm** in Alabama is seeking applicants for a one-year fellowship. Design and manage adult day programs that build upon strengths of the community, staff a supported housing program for elderly women with mental illness, work with vulnerable members of the community to facilitate wellness and improve quality of life, manage after school programs for 4th-10th graders, and gain first-hand experience in community healthcare, non-profit management, and education.

For more information, visit the [website](#). Please send any questions to either [hsf.fellows@gmail.com](mailto:hsf.fellows@gmail.com) or current fellow [Linda Yang](#).

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**Cangrade** is seeking both junior and senior consultants/research scientists to help run cutting-edge research, develop new projects and work closely with high-level consulting clients.

Check out their [website](#) for more info.

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**Georgetown University** is seeking a full-time RA in the Laboratory for Relational Cognition to coordinate and conduct research on relational thinking in young adults.

Contact [Natalie Gallagher](#) for info.

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The Developing Minds Lab at **Boston University** is seeking a full-time lab manager beginning January 2015. Research focuses on the development of object, numerical, and social cognition in infants, children, and adults.

Visit the [website](#) for more info.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

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**Illinois State University** is accepting applications for their Master's Degree Program in developmental psychology. Applications are due by 1/15/15.

Visit their [website](#) or contact [czimmer@ilstu.edu](mailto:czimmer@ilstu.edu) for more info.

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**UNC's Professional Science Master's programs** represent a relatively new approach to graduate education, allowing students to pursue advanced technical training and development of workplace skills at the same time. The flexible curriculum combines rigorous science education with courses on business and organizational management, and includes an internship with a business, nonprofit or government organization. All this, and students can earn a graduate degree in 16 months of full-time study.

Contact [Heidi Harkins](#) for more info.

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The **University of Chicago** is accepting graduate applications for their Department of Comparative Human Development which is a unique, interdisciplinary department in which development is approached from psychological, biological, anthropological, and applied statistics perspectives.

Contact [lrichland@uchicago.edu](mailto:lrichland@uchicago.edu) for more info and check out the website.

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**Florida International University's** Legal Psychology Doctoral Program is accepting applications. The application deadline is December 15.

For more information, contact [Nadja Schreiber Compo](#) or [Steve Charman](#).

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The new Computational Cognitive Development Lab at the **University of Toronto** is seeking talented and motivated graduate students with a background in cognitive science, developmental psychology and/or computer science, to begin in Fall 2015. Applications are due December 1.

Visit the [website](#) for more info.

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

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The [National Security Education Program](#) (NSEP) is a unique scholarship opportunity for U.S. undergraduates to gain knowledge of languages and cultures in areas of the world that are less frequently studied (including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East). All recipients of NSEP awards must attempt employment with a federal agency or office involved in national security affairs. Duration of study may be a summer, semester or a full academic year; maximum awards range from \$8,000 to \$20,000 for a full academic year. The campus deadline for this year's competition for the Boren is Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 5PM ET.

Contact [ods@unc.edu](mailto:ods@unc.edu) or visit the [website](#).

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Undergraduate and pre-doctoral level students who are interested in conducting mental health research in Mexico during the summer of 2015 are encouraged to apply for the [NIH/NIMHD-funded Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training program](#) (MHIRT).

Visit the [website](#) for more information.

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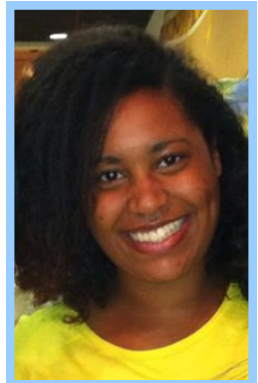
Grants of up to \$250.00 are available to help fund undergraduate research projects (e.g., buy needed equipment, buy software, recruit participants) or to offset costs related to presenting or publishing research through the [Department of Psychology Undergraduate Research Program](#).

To apply, undergraduates, with faculty approval, will submit a 1-page letter of application briefly explaining the research project, the proposed use of grant funds, and a projected budget. Letters of application should be in PDF format and contain the signature of the faculty mentor. Please submit applications to Dr. [Marsha Penner](#).

The deadline for applications is December 15th, 2014. Successful applicants will be notified at the beginning of Spring semester 2015.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Senior **Crystal Ibe** is conducting research with the mentorship of Dr. Mitch Prinstein in the UNC Clinical Psychology Program. During the summer of 2014, Crystal received UNC's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Grant and with the assistance of Dr. Prinstein created her own study assessing racially relevant psycho-social factors involved in African American student retention in predominately white institutions. Survey data was first collected via email from incoming African American first-year students at UNC and in mid-November, follow-up data will be collected to assess the students' transition from high school to college. When asked about misconceptions of undergraduate research Crystal said, "I think students need to know the great variety of types of research one can do both within and between fields. Too often people only imagine research as someone in a white lab coat painstakingly handling test tubes when, in reality, researchers take on a multitude of modes of investigation. Moreover, the misconception that social science research isn't real scientific research is ill-informed and I hope that people can understand the extremely controlled process and statistical work that goes into social research."



Senior **Michael Parrish** is conducting research with the mentorship of Dr. Charlotte Boettiger in the Cognition and Addiction Biopsychology Lab and Dr. Kristen Lindquist in the Carolina Affective Science Lab. Michael first became interested in neuroscience research in high school after completing a series of seminars led by local undergraduates. Michael's research in the Boettiger Lab examines how personal and family history of alcohol-related problems associates with connectivity changes in large-scale brain organization. For his honors thesis project last year, he found that two major brain networks are decoupled in adults who report a family history of alcoholism. This is the first finding of its kind in our field and suggests a specific genetic or epigenetic contribution to the development of alcoholism in families. Additionally, in the Lindquist Lab, he is using neuroimaging meta-analytic methods to investigate how social context and conceptual knowledge affect the neural correlates of affect. Through this meta-analysis, he hopes to better understand how our brains enable a construction of emotional experience.