

UNC



THIS ISSUE

- Summer Courses: Page 2
- Gil Intern: Page 2
- Jobs & Opps: Page 3

IMPT DATES

- Classes Start
January 9
- MLK Jr. Day
January 21
- Spring Break
March 11—15
- Easter Break
April 19
- Classes End
April 26

FOLLOW US!



Psychology & Neuroscience Undergraduate Newsletter

Volume 7 | Issue 4

December 2018

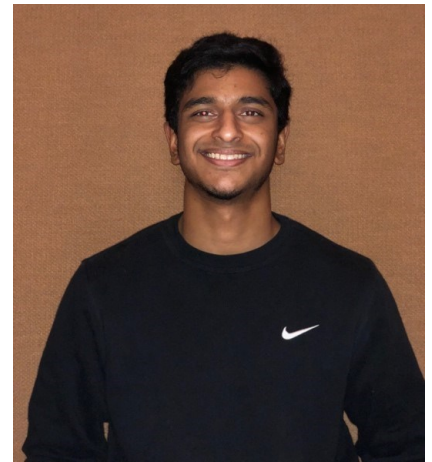
Student Spotlight

Meet **Varun Kasula**, a Senior Psychology major with minors in Neuroscience and Chemistry. He works in Dr. Keely Muscatell's Social Neuroscience and Health Lab.

Tell us about your research. Currently, I'm involved with two separate ongoing studies. In one, our goal is to determine if stimulating the vagus nerve (using tVNS) enhances one's ability to recognize emotion as well as regulate stress. The other is an fMRI study that aims to measure the relationship between economic inequality and risk-taking behavior.

What did you like most? The projects I'm involved in allow me to play a small role in shaping our collective understanding of human behavior on a physiological and social level. Our country's rising levels of stress and wealth inequality also make this research quite relevant. Ultimately, what makes this entire experience so rewarding is being able to be a part of something greater than myself.

Has this experience changed your ideas about research? I am constantly learning more about the nuances and challenges of conducting a methodologically-sound experiment. The quality of a research study can only be as good as the technology it uses. I've dreamt of one day conducting ground-breaking research on the human brain—but those dreams never including devising a way of doing so while keeping participants claustrophobically immobilized in a giant magnetic scanner! They definitely did not include having to deal with the IRB either...





Summer Courses in PSYC!

Get ahead on your major requirements!
Consider taking courses during the summer and
avoid the registration challenges
of the academic year!

Maymester

PSYC 225 Sensation & Perception
PSYC 245 Abnormal Psychology
PSYC 330 Intro to Cognitive Science
PSYC 501 Theoretical, Empirical Perspectives on Per-
sonality

Summer Session I

PSYC 101 General Psychology
PSYC 175 Introduction to Neuroscience
PSYC 210 Statistical Principles of Psychology Research
PSYC 225 Sensation and Perception
PSYC 230 Cognitive Psychology
PSYC 242 Introduction to Clinical Psychology
PSYC 245 Online: Abnormal Psychology

PSYC 250 Developmental Psychology
PSYC 260 Online: Social Psychology
PSYC 270 Laboratory Research in Psychology
PSYC 320 Drugs and Human Behavior
PSYC 566 Attitude Change

Summer Session II

PSYC 101 General Psychology
PSYC 175 Online: Introduction to Neuroscience
PSYC 210 Statistical Principles of Psychology Research
PSYC 220 Online: Biopsychology
PSYC 222 Online: Learning
PSYC 230 Cognitive Psychology
PSYC 245 Abnormal Psychology
PSYC 250 Developmental Psychology
PSYC 260 Social Psychology
PSYC 270 Laboratory Research in Psychology
PSYC 504 Health Psychology

Meet a Gil Intern



Meet **Elissa Scherer**, one of our Fall 2018 interns with the [Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience](#).

Elissa is a senior majoring in Psychology and Global studies, with concentrations in Global Health and Latin America. This past semester, she has interned with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) in the Prison Behavioral Health Division. Elissa says, “The work that I have been doing involves the Therapeutic Division Unit, which is an alternative to solitary confinement for inmates struggling with mental illness. During my time at NCDPS, I have been working on formatting a database that contains information on the inmates’ demographic information, psychological diagnosis, and self-injurious behavior, before, during, and after the program. The work that I do prepares data for analysis that will evaluate the effectiveness of the program—thereby ensuring the inmates are receiving quality and effective care.”

In addition to the data management work, Elissa also shadowed therapists in the prison, allowing her to better inform her work on the database and giving her a deeper understanding of the challenges and benefits of psychological care within the prison system. She shares, “My experiences with the Gil program have generated significant growth for me as a profession. I am deeply grateful for this incredible opportunity that has shaped my approach to applying to graduate school and my future professional goals.”

Want to be a Gil Intern? Learn more about the [application process](#) online. Questions can be directed to [Molly Corrigan](#).



Camp Hope— Greensboro, NC

The Guilford County Family Justice Center offers Camp Hope America, a camping and mentoring program designed for children impacted by violence and abuse. Camp Hope exists to change the destinies of youth exposed to domestic violence-related trauma.

Camp Hope is now accepting applications for the week of August 11—16, 2019 in Greensboro, NC.

[Submit a brief application online](#)—interviews will start January 2019.

TedxUNC Conference

TEDxUNC is an independently organized TED event held annually on campus and is an opportunity for artists, inventors, explorers, and storytellers to come together to share ideas worth spreading.

They are seeking student speakers for the conference on February 16, 2019. They are holding a student speaker competition on January 17th for anyone interested in speaking at the event. If you are interested, please visit their [Facebook page](#) to learn more and to apply.

Jobs & Other Opportunities

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!



Camp Akeela is a summer camp with locations in Vermont and Wisconsin for kids who have been diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome or a non-verbal learning disorder. They are hiring energetic young people who are interested in hands-on experience working in a residential setting with children on the autism spectrum. [Learn more.](#)



LING 460 Special Topics: Methods in Textual Data Analysis will be offered Spring 2019, MWF 2:30—3:20 pm. This course will teach you the basic principles and techniques in data analysis, using the software R. There are no prerequisites and the course is targeted to beginner programmers. Email [Dr. Pertsova](#) with questions!



University of Virginia’s Department of Psychology is hosting “Diversifying Psychology Visit Day.” This event is for research-oriented juniors or senior undergraduates

who are from underrepresented groups (first-generation, minorities) who want to learn more about getting a doctoral degree in psychology. Accepted students will have their travel, meal, and hotel costs covered to visit on April 12th. Application deadline is January 23, 2019. [Email the Department](#) to ask how to apply.



UNC Chapel Hill’s Developmental Social Neuroscience Lab is seeking an undergraduate bilingual research assistant, who is fluent in English and Spanish. You must be able to volunteer 8 hours per week in the Spring and Summer. Email [the lab](#) to apply!



A 6-week summer research experience is available to undergrads at Syracuse University! The program includes hands-on research, guest speakers, training seminars, enrichment sessions, and opportunities for travel awards. A stipend, travel assistance, and room and board are provided. Application deadline is March 1st for the program, which starts May 20 and ends June 27, 2019. For more info and the online application, [visit their website.](#)

