Meet Emilia Mazzolenis, a Senior Psychology and Economics double-major with a Statistics and Analysis minor, who works as a Research Assistant in Dr. Bharathi Zvara’s laboratory. She is also an Undergraduate Research Consultant (URC) for Dr. Jane Fruehwirth. As a URC, Emilia researches the impact of COVID-19 on first-year UNC students’ health, particularly across student demographics, which will be shared with the University.

What made you choose this lab to work with? Ever since I met Dr. Fruehwirth, I knew we both shared similar research interests and the same passion for psychological phenomena. Therefore, when she presented me the opportunity to study mental health through an economic lens, I knew it was the perfect fit for me!

What encouraged you to get involved in research? I have been interested in research from a very young age. Even though conducting research can be challenging, findings have the potential to help people around the world. Witnessing that the pandemic was exacerbating preexisting disparities across certain demographic groups encouraged me to get involved in this research. I hope my findings can provide University officials a clear picture of what is happening within our community so they can help the most vulnerable groups.

How has the pandemic affected your ability to do research? Since the research we are conducting focuses on the effects of the pandemic, we did not start working on it until after the University shifted to an online format! Therefore, the entirety of the research was conducted online. Luckily, our Zoom meetings and the openness of all team members allowed us to build a sense of community and thrive in spite of the challenges we faced.
Meet a Gil Intern

Meet Joshua Lopez, one of our Spring 2020 interns with the Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience.

Joshua is a junior majoring in Neuroscience and Music. This past Spring, Joshua interned with Dr. Kyle Burger in the Neuropsychology of Ingestive Behaviors Lab (NIBL). The mission of this lab is to discover the underlying determinants of food choice and ingestive behaviors that drive weight-related diseases. He shares that his role as an intern was multifaceted: “I learned to run behavioral assessments, aid in neural exams, prepare literature searches, utilize R, and generally help where I can. Working as an intern in NIBL has substantially broadened my understanding of scientific research and working with human participants.”

Part of the Gil Internship experience is also attending a course that works to improve students’ professional development. Joshua shares, “Through the assignments and discussion topics completed every week, I have greatly enhanced my understanding of how to succeed in a career in neuroscience. From streamlining my resume to practicing interviewing and networking, the Gil program has helped me gain valuable tools for where my professional career takes me.”

Want to be a Gil Intern? Applications for Spring 2021 internships are due by September 28.

The Gil Internship gives you the opportunity to earn course credit and receive a monthly stipend—plus, you’ll gain valuable experience in the field of psychology and neuroscience!

We’re looking for 10-12 Gil interns for the Spring. Learn more about the application process online. Questions can be directed to Chelsea Ewing.

Virtual Internship & Research Info Night

Attention majors—the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience is hosting a virtual Internship and Research Night on Wednesday, September 23 at 5:00 pm via Zoom. If you are interested in participating in research experiences or want to find an internship, this is a great information session to attend.

There will be faculty and staff who will present and talk about how to find a research mentor; what research mentors are looking for in a student; internship opportunities in the Department; the Karen M. Gil Internship Program; examples of the types of projects and research our undergraduates work on; how to receive course credit for research opportunities and/or internships; and more!

To attend, we ask you please sign-up so we know who will be in attendance. If you are unable to attend, we ask you still sign-up so that we can distribute the recording to you after the information session.

The Zoom link for our information is: https://unc.zoom.us/j/95077099879. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, September 23 at 5:00 pm via Zoom! Questions can be directed to Chelsea Ewing.
Interested in meeting employers for full-time job and internship opportunities? Don’t miss these opportunities to meet with companies that are looking to hire talented students! Click here to see the list of employers that will attend.

September 16, 9 am to 6 pm, Carolina STEM/Healthcare/Business Career Fair Click here to register

September 17, 9 am to 6pm, Carolina Humanities/Social Sciences Career Fair Click here to register

Interested in pursuing a career in healthcare? Learn more about health professions through two upcoming events!

September 21 at 4:00 pm “Getting Started on a Pre-Health Plan” - Learn about available resources to apply to health professional schools. RSVP.

September 24 at 4:00 pm “AMA: A Pre-Health Panel” - Join a panel of alumni and peers to get answers to your pre-health journey. RSVP.

Virtual Career Fairs

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!

A new student volunteer organization, Tar Heel Pen Pals, works with UNC Hospitals to provide patients with handwritten messages, especially important in this time of isolation and social distancing. Fill out an interest form to learn more.

Hearts for Homeless Carolina provides homeless populations with free health screenings and education. Students partner with local clinics and shelters to gain clinical outreach and rewarding experiences by addressing healthcare needs of the homeless in the community. Email to join and learn more.

NC State is looking for qualified applicants for their graduate program in Lifespan Developmental Psychology. Students learn and research human development across the lifespan and can develop specializations within specific sub-areas and age groups. Applications for graduate school are due by December 1. Learn more about the program and how to apply.

Duke University’s Neurobiology Graduate Training Program is beginning its recruitment and is seeking students with training in math, physics, computer science, engineering, and biology. Deadline for applications is December 1. Learn more and apply online.

Applications for APPLES Spring internships are now open. APPLES interns work 150 hours (12 to 15 hours per week) with a community or government organization, earn a monetary stipend, and earn class credit. Deadline to apply is September 21. Applications may be submitted through the online portal and questions may be directed to Becca Bender.

The Pink Bowz are hosting Dr. Jonathan Hernandez of the National Institutes of Health and Chief of Surgical Oncology for a talk about his career journey and research on tumors, as well as a Q&A. Join the group on Zoom on September 23 from 7 to 8:30 pm and RSVP online here.

Health Professions Advising