Meet Diana Bodea, a Junior Psychology and Business Administration double-major. She works in Dr. Barbara Fredrickson’s Positive Emotions and Psychophysiology Laboratory (PEP Lab) with Jieni Zhou serving as her graduate student mentor. In the PEP Lab, Diana researches the effects of interpersonal processes like gratitude and shared laughter on the well-being of romantic relationships.

What is your favorite thing about doing research? My favorite thing about my work is that it focuses on the positive side of things. It is rare to find an opportunity in psychology where you get to research the influences of positive actions.

What are your career plans? I would love to pursue a career in psychology. Being a professor in social psychology is my dream. I enjoy teaching and would like to make a positive difference by influencing the lives of students.

What have you learned in the lab that you didn’t know before? Something interesting that I have learned in my lab is that the positive way that one romantic partner responds to the good news received by the other partner usually has more of an impact on the relationship’s well-being than a response to negative news.

How has the pandemic affected your ability to do research? Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been continuing my research remotely. I have analyzed the effects of positive interpersonal processes by coding the results of numerous scientific articles.
Meet Glorimel Rodriguez, one of our Fall 2020 interns with the Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience.

Glorimel is a junior majoring in Psychology with a minor in Neuroscience. This Fall, Glorimel is interning at A Lotta Love, a non-profit organization that serves the homeless community in Chapel Hill. Their mission is to renovate shelters to create safe and emotionally inspiring spaces as well as to increase awareness about homelessness. Glorimel shares, “Most homeless shelters are funded minimally by local and state funds. Instead, a majority of the money received by shelters comes from private donors. My main tasks as a Gil intern are to write grants that help fund the organization and to work hands-on with the shelters to transform spaces into welcoming environments.”

For her hands-on work, she has been delivering room kits, which are packages that contain essentials like toiletries, blankets, and pillows to homeless shelters in Chapel Hill. She also has been renovating a space to house women escaping domestic abuse and has been helping by putting together beds, tables, and other furniture. She says, “It is definitely fun meeting other volunteers and knowing the work we do makes a difference in people’s lives! Overall, my experience so far has deepened by understanding of how non-profits serve vulnerable people. It is important to use our voices to bring awareness to those who are pushed away by society. I’m excited to continue my internship at A Lotta Love and support those in need!”

Want to be a Gil Intern? 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! Learn more about the application process online. Questions can be directed to Chelsea Ewing.

Exciting Classes this Spring!

SPCL 400-303 Everyday Psychology: You’ve heard of the different perspectives of psychology, such as Social, Cognitive, Clinical, and more. But what about a perspective that draws from these different branches and examines the most interesting, relevant information to our everyday lives? Everyday Psychology is an upcoming Spring 2021 course. In this course, students will read and discuss psychological publications and topics, curated by an undergraduate instructor for undergraduate interest and relevance.

SPCL 400-311 Clinical Approaches to Literature: Mental Illness in Fiction: Interested in literature? Psychology? Both? Then consider registering for SPCL 400-311, a one-hour pass/fail course available this Spring! This course is taught by a UNC senior as part of the C-START program and will cover several novels and films as well as sections of the DSM-5. This class is perfect for students who are interested in psychopathology and literature!
The Social Neuroscience and Health Laboratory at UNC Chapel Hill is recruiting participants for a research studying examining physiological responses to academic stress.

The study will take 2.5 hours of participation, including 3 online tasks, 2 study sessions, and a follow-up email.

By completing the study, you will receive $30.

If interested, please complete the screening questionnaire online!

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!

Wake Forest University is offering summer internships through its ENGAGED (Enhancing Undergraduate Education and Research in Aging to Eliminate Health Disparities) Program. Summer research internships will involve undergraduates in cutting-edge research in the field of aging. Application deadline is February 3, 2021. Apply online.

Are you a first year interested in a leadership experience? The NC Fellow programs is a cohort-based program through the Carolina Union Office of Student Life and Leadership. This is an opportunity to participate in the Spring semester of your first-year and remain engaged through graduation, and to deepen your understanding of ethical and effective leadership through academic leadership courses, retreats, and workshops. Deadline is January 22, 2021. Apply online.

The Department of Psychological Science at the University of California Irvine is accepting applicants for their post-baccalaureate program. Deadline to apply for Fall 2021 is February 1, 2021. This is a certificate program that combines psychology coursework with research and an internship experience. The program can be completed at the student’s pace (as quickly as 9 months or as many as 24 months). Learn more online.

Pathways to Science is an excellent resource for finding both paid summer research programs and fully-funded STEM graduate programs.

Use the website to search for over 630 paid summer research programs for undergraduate and graduate students, 138 fully-funded STEM masters programs, and 160 fully-funded STEM Ph.D. Programs.

Visit PathwaystoScience to search!