Meet Selma Sabra, a junior Psychology major with a Chemistry minor. She works with the Classroom Memory Study at Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute with research mentors Drs. Peter Ornstein and Jennifer Coffman.

What encouraged you to get involved in research? Through the psychology listserv, I heard about the opportunity to work with the study during my sophomore year, and I knew that was the research experience I had been waiting for. Conducting cognitive assessments with children every week matched my interests of participating in more hands-on, applied research data, while also allowing me to learn more about the child development field.

What do you like most? My favorite aspect is the culture of inclusivity and support in the lab. My faculty mentors not only give us literature-specific guidance so that we are knowledgeable about the work we are doing, but they also help us with professional development and support us in our undergraduate journeys. I love the work I do in the lab, especially when I get to interact with kids and carry out assessments with them. I have to say, though, that the community that I get to do it with makes it all the better.

What are your career plans? My greatest desire is to become a doctor and to help make treatment more accessible for populations in need. In terms of specialty, I will likely be working with kids. This research experience has only made me more interested in early development and children’s cognitive skills. It also gave me a whole new perspective on research, and I know now that I want to incorporate it into my career path.
Meet Thalia Rivero, one of our Spring 2021 interns with the Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience.

Thalia is a senior majoring in Psychology and this Spring, Thalia is interning at NC Maternal Mental Health MATTERS. This program supports primary care providers in effectively screening, assessing, and treating behavioral health concerns in pregnant and postpartum patients and shares resources on perinatal mood disorders. Her duties include creating resource packages to distribute to patients, personalizing resources for specific cases, and contacting providers all over North Carolina to promote the services that NC Matters offers.

She says, “So far, what I have enjoyed most is attending talks, discussions, and meetings regarding women’s mood disorders, gender inclusivity in these types of services, and case conferences discussing a wide variety of patients across the state. It has been amazing to experience the efforts of the medical field to provide pregnant and postpartum women with the best possible experience, though sometimes it is extremely hard.” One of Thalia’s favorite parts of the internship is working with the people at her internship and also the rest of the Spring 2021 Gil cohort. Thalia shares, “I am thrilled to be working with a population that I haven’t had previous experience with, and soon I will start to attend live therapy sessions with real patients to further strengthen my clinical experience. Through this internship, I have also met my fellow Gil interns, who motivate me in ways I really did not anticipate. I have gotten to meet a group of bright young professions that I know will succeed wherever they end up going after their time at UNC.”

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.
The University of Nebraska Lincoln is holding its 3rd annual Diversifying Psychology Weekend and is intended to help workshop doctoral program application materials for applicants from underrepresented backgrounds in psychology. This virtual event will take place on July 30—31 via Zoom.

Applications are due May 31 and attendees will be notified by June 15. Application is brief and low burden; apply online!

Six laboratories in the Social Psychology Program at UNC are recruiting volunteer undergraduate research assistants! Depending on the lab, positions are in-person or remote. Positions are volunteer, but may also offer work study and/or research course credit in PSYC/NSCI 395.

The Social Psychology Program is hosting an optional virtual open house on April 27 at 7:00 PM if you are interested in learning more about research and how to get involved. RSVP online. Zoom link here (passcode: psych).

Jobs & Other Opportunities

Are you interested in getting involved in research, seeking out funding for your research, or considering graduate school? Check out a list of our resources on these topics online!

Durham Veteran Affairs’ Mental Illness Research, Education, and clinical Center is recruiting a full-time position in their national call center to help veterans and their families. Applicants should email their resumes and cover letters to cindy.swinkels@va.gov.

Guided Discoveries is looking for summer camp counselors for their AstroCamp and Camp Motorsport programs in Clover, VA. Interested in a summer position? Email John Swanwick for more details.

University of Miami’s Social ad Cultural Neuroscience Lab in the Department of Psychology is hiring a full-time lab manager to start summer 2021. Spanish language proficiency preferred. To apply, send a cover letter to Dr. Liz Losin and complete a supplemental application online.

Greenbrook TMS Neurohealth in Raleigh, NC is hiring a part-time position for an undergraduate nearing graduation to deliver transcranial magnetic stimulation therapy. Training provided. Apply online.

Students for the Rare is looking for executive members for the 2021-22 academic year. This club strives to spread awareness of rare diseases through research nights and guest speakers. Online application is due by 11:55 pm on 4/27.

A new chapter of the Epilepsy Foundation will be created this Fall at UNC. This organization raises awareness for and conducts events pertaining to epilepsy, and will host seminars with guest speakers and an epilepsy first-aid training. If you’d like to learn more, fill out this interest form online.

Volunteering is an excellent opportunity to make positive impacts and gain valuable skills. Two guides are available online to learn about ways to give back and to help college students find ways to volunteer while in school and how to balance volunteering and education. Check out the guides online here and here.