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Summer research opportunities for undergraduates

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Programs in Paris, Rome, and Edinburgh

Now Hiring PALs!
Join our team in 2013-2014

Psi Chi
Honor society updates

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the credits

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**Academic Calendar**

- **Wednesday, January 23rd**
  Last Day to Add a Class

- **Wednesday, January 30th**
  Last Day to Drop a Class Without a “W”

- **Friday, March 9th**
  Last Day to Apply for Graduation for Spring, Summer I, or Summer II

- **Friday, March 29th**
  Last Day to Drop a Class

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**Does this ACE look familiar?**

**Want research experience?**

1) **Find a mentor**
   - Psychology Majors: Check out the “Undergraduate Research Opportunities” at [www.psy.miami.edu/undergraduate](http://www.psy.miami.edu/undergraduate)
   - Neuroscience Majors: Speak with Dr. Phil McCabe (pmccabe@miami.edu)

2) **Fill out the Permission to Register for Research for Credit Form** and/or the **Undergraduate Application for Volunteer Research Participation**

3) **Visit UASP** to add research credit and/or submit your volunteer paperwork

---

**Should you drop a class?**

Consider these 3 questions:

**How do I know if I should drop a class?**

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What is my current grade?
- What else will be used to calculate my final grade (e.g., exams, papers, etc.)?
- Am I working as hard as I could be?
- Have I exhausted all of my resources?
- How will dropping this class affect my graduation plan?

See an advisor to help you determine if dropping a class is the best decision for your particular situation.

**What resources do I have?**

- **Office Hours:** Discuss your progress and ask for help (Speak with your instructor!)
- **Academic Resource Center (ArC):** Get free tutoring, participate in study workshops, and more (UC 201)
- **Chemistry Resource Center:** Find help for all 100 and 200 level CHM classes (COX 304)
- **Math Lab:** Receive free MTH tutoring (CC 305)
- **Physics Academy:** Use this free tutoring service for any PHY course (Knight 105)
- **Writing Center:** Have your essays critiqued (5225 Ponce de Leon Blvd.)

There are many more resources on campus. Check out the Major’s Manual or speak with an advisor for more information.

**How long should I wait to drop a class?**

Ideally, you should drop before the last day to drop without a “W.”

If you are unable to do so, you should drop **as soon as possible**. Staying in a course in which you are struggling can pull down your other grades.

One or two “W”s are fine. See an advisor for details.
The Trip

On Thursday, December 13th, at 10:00 a.m., I began my adventure to meet Dr. Marc Gellman at his laboratory on the Medical Campus. I stepped out of the Flipse elevator, put on my sunglasses, turned up “Three Little Birds” on my iPod, and made my way to University Station. After a quick six minute walk, I purchased my $4 round-trip “Easy Ticket” – the machine takes cash and credit! – before a friendly security guard wished me well on my way up the metro stairs. Lucky for me, the northbound train pulled in just as I reached the top. For once my timing was perfect! The early-morning rush had passed so the train was deserted except for a gentleman who sipped his coffee while tapping away on his iPad – there is free Wi-Fi so it is easy to do work or check email – and a woman with her young son who peeked over my seat to show me his Transformers action figure.

After 8 stops and about 20 minutes, I reached my destination: Civic Center Station. The smell of onion rings and grilled sausages was in the air as I walked past all the food carts toward Dr. Gellman’s office. What should have been a 6 minute walk turned into 16 minutes because I realized I should have taken my other left when I exited the metro station. Nevertheless, I laughed it off, shook my head, and made it to the Clinical Research Building.

As we sat down for our interview, I admired the expansive view from his 15th floor office. The faint sound of reggae music played in the background. Dr. Gellman showed me his recently published, four-volume Encyclopedia of Behavioral Medicine (EBM), as well as photos of the launch party in Budapest, Hungary. Dr. Gellman, the Editor-in-chief of EBM, worked closely with Dr. J. Rick Turner, Co-Editor, on this publication that includes roughly 1,200 entries by over 700 contributing authors from 26 countries. His book is quite impressive because it is a comprehensive piece that incorporates works from leading experts in the fields that make up Behavioral Medicine.

The Interview

(Note: The following is a summary of my interview with Dr. Gellman. This text is not verbatim; direct quotes appear in quotation marks.)

Alida: What brought you to UM?

Dr. Gellman: Well, when I first came here as an undergraduate it was known as “Suntan U.” You could walk out of the LC and girls would have their bikinis on under their clothes, ready to lay out. That was great but I was worried because I was a serious student and I wanted to get a quality education. I actually thought about leaving the U so I spent Spring Break visiting friends who went to schools in New York, Chicago, and Boston, but I noticed all of these schools had two things in common with UM: parties and libraries. Every school had them so I realized I could choose how to spend my time no matter where I went to college. I chose to stay warm at the U and hit the library. Of course, I did go to some parties though! “Little did I know that exposure to UM would change my blood. I bleed orange and green.”

I did leave for about three years after undergrad to work various jobs. When I eventually decided to apply to Ph.D. programs in psychology, I applied to UM and got accepted. I figured it was meant to be so I came back and completed my Ph.D. in Behavioral Medicine under Dr. Neil Schneiderman. Dr. Schneiderman created the Behavioral Medicine program and is my “mentor for life.” The dedication page in EBM is to him.

Alida: What are your research interests?

Dr. Gellman: Generally speaking, I am interested in lifestyle factors (e.g., stress) and health (e.g., disease). More specifically, I am interested in modifiable risk factors related to health. You can’t change your biological sex or your genetics, but you can change your behaviors and habits. I look at things like diet, exercise, smoking, and other controllable factors related to health.

Alida: What studies are you currently working on?

Dr. Gellman: Most of my time is spent managing studies for which Dr. Schneiderman is the Principal Investigator (PI). I manage the protocols, the staff, and our facilities, as well as work with the IRB, sit on various committees, and things like that.

Our primary study right now is the Hispanic Community Health Study (HCHS)/Study of Latinos (SOL). This is the largest community-based study ever of its kind. There are four sites for the study: San Diego, Chicago, the Bronx (New York), and Miami. We look at different subgroups of Hispanics (e.g., Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Cubans, etc.) to see if there are any variations or patterns related to health problems. Researchers at each site recruited 4,000 participants who were selected from the areas’
Interested in working in Dr. Gellman’s lab?
PSY 367 and 368 students are welcome!
Contact William Arguelles at warguelles@psy.miami.edu.
Hispanic populations between 2008 and 2011. In Miami, we targeted areas known to have large Hispanic populations (e.g., Calle Ocho, Hialeah, etc.) and areas like the Gables in an attempt to represent all socioeconomic levels. Those who agreed to participate were picked up by our staff and brought to the lab to take part in a full-day health assessment. We took all the traditional health measures (e.g., blood pressure, temperature, etc.) and also more unique measures like physical fitness tests, dietary assessments, and sleep evaluations. We then did a follow-up phone call after two weeks to discuss their eating habits. Finally, we continue to conduct annual follow-up phone interviews with participants to discuss their health, hospitalizations, and other relevant health outcomes. We hope to continue this study with another full-day assessment to bring everyone back six years after their initial visit.

Alida: What makes your research lab unique?

Dr. Gellman: I would say it’s our interdisciplinary nature. We are primarily housed within the Department of Psychology but we collaborate a lot with other areas like epidemiology, medicine, neurology, cardiology, and others. The staff members also come from diverse backgrounds so we have Ph.D.s, physicians, nurses, nutritionists, and MPHs (Master’s in Public Health), etc.

Alida: What do undergraduate research assistants do during a typical day?

Dr. Gellman: They work mostly on the SOL studies. They learn protocols and do paperwork like in any lab, but they also do things like process blood samples in our biospecimen processing lab and upload and review data from participants’ physical activity monitors. Undergraduates do not typically interview or work directly with participants because they need extensive training to do so; however, we would consider training a student to do so if he or she is committed and stays with us for more than one year.

Alida: Were you ever a research assistant as an undergraduate?

Dr. Gellman: When I was an undergraduate research assistant, I used to clean animal cages. Back then, the Department of Psychology was in the Merrick Building and the animals were kept in these Army barrack-type structures we called “the Shacks” by the current School of Nursing. “I used to roll shopping carts full of rabbits across campus to Merrick for studies on behavioral conditioning.”

Alida: Who do the undergraduate research assistants work with?

Dr. Gellman: They work mostly with graduate students and post-doctoral fellows but also with me and our staff. What they do and who they work with depends on their interests and the needs of the lab.

Alida: What qualities or qualifications do you look for in a research assistant?

Dr. Gellman: Preferably someone who speaks some Spanish (although, that is not required). I also prefer they have completed or are currently enrolled in statistics because they will work with data (but again, that’s not a requirement per se). We like at least a one year commitment because we invest a significant amount of time and resources into training undergraduates. They inevitably start working in more specialized areas over time, which is normally an incentive to stay. Fit is also important so students are first interviewed by one of our grad students or post-docs before they meet with me. Our students have to be good!

Alida: Do you mentor Senior Honors Thesis students?

Dr. Gellman: Yes, I take one student per year.

Alida: What classes do you teach?

Dr. Gellman: I teach Drugs and Behavior (PSY 305) and will also be teaching FORUM (PSY 120) this spring. I only teach classes in the spring because I am primarily a research faculty member so most of my time is spent doing research. I spend more time on the Gables campus in the spring because I also interview candidates for the Health Division Ph.D. program.

I run into people all the time who have taken my Drugs and Behavior class. I was at a car show a while ago and a man recognized me and said, “Dr. Gellman, hey! Do you remember me? I took your PSY 305 class ...” It’s a popular class.

Alida: Is there anything we didn’t discuss that you think is important for undergraduates to know?

Dr. Gellman: They have to travel to the Med Campus if they work in my lab. Our lab is also open on Saturdays for the SOL Youth Study so students who have busy weekday schedules can do some of their hours then.

The Return Trip

Dr. Gellman and I left his sunlit office and the relaxing reggae music to tour his laboratory. He showed me the waiting area, exam rooms, relaxation therapy room, ultrasound room, blood draw room, and biospecimen lab. We then decided to grab lunch at Pasha’s Healthy Mediterranean Cuisine on the 9th floor where we discussed the holidays, travel, his love of cycling, and my half-marathon training while enjoying the birds-eye view of the entire Medical Campus.

As I walked back to Civic Center Station, I realized how lucky our students are to be able to work with such passionate mentors and dedicated researchers. But hey, don’t take my word for it. Contact Dr. Gellman’s lab to talk about openings and see for yourself!
Psychology Research Initiatives Mentorship Experience (PRIME)
Just for UM Psychology Students to Accelerate Research Training (JUMPSTART)
- 10 week program at UM, running from May 20th to July 26th
- $2,000 stipend for PRIME; $1,500 for JUMPSTART
- Work 20 hours per week in a laboratory with a UM faculty member
- Produce an original research project and poster for PRIME, or a research proposal and poster for JUMPSTART
- Present your research at a poster session on the Coral Gables Campus
- Open to all students but underrepresented minorities are especially encouraged to apply
- Requirements
  ◊ Minimum 3.0 psychology and cumulative GPAs
  ◊ At least 30 completed UM credits
  ◊ PSY 110, PSY 204, and PSY 316 (PSY 316 not required for JUMPSTART)
  ◊ Previous research experience (preferred)
- Additional Information: [http://www.psy.miami.edu/undergraduate/summer_research.phtml](http://www.psy.miami.edu/undergraduate/summer_research.phtml)
- Applications due: March 1st

Lois Pope Neuroscience Summer Research Scholarship
- 10 week program at UM, running from May 20th to July 26th
- $2,500 stipend
- On-campus housing is available
- Work 40 hours per week in a neuroscience research laboratory
- Present your research at the Neuroscience Research Day or a Coral Gables Campus poster session
- Open to neuroscience majors
- Requirements
  ◊ Minimum 3.0 major, science, and cumulative GPAs
  ◊ At least 30 completed UM credits
  ◊ Previous research experience (preferred)
- Additional Information: [http://www.psy.miami.edu/undergraduate/summer_research.phtml](http://www.psy.miami.edu/undergraduate/summer_research.phtml)
- Applications due: March 1st

Summer Research Program for Underrepresented Minorities and Women
- 10 week program at UM, running from May 19th to July 25th
- $3,000 stipend
- On-campus housing and meals provided
- Work 40 hours per week in a research lab with a UM faculty member
- Attend required weekly meetings and some weekend activities
- Open to minority and women students in the College of Arts and Sciences
- Requirements
  ◊ Junior standing
  ◊ Minimum 3.0 GPA
  ◊ Must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident
- Applications due: February 18th

“Beyond the Book” Summer Award for Research-Based Learning
- Receive a stipend of $2,500 for the summer
- College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) scholarship for CAS undergraduates who pursue learning outside of the classroom
- Include activities such as laboratory research, fieldwork, internships, and archival research
- Submit a 3 to 5 page paper at the end of the summer about your experience
- Additional Information: [www.as.miami.edu/scholarships/beyondthebook](http://www.as.miami.edu/scholarships/beyondthebook)
- Applications due: February 18th
Medical Doctor Summer Experience
Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- Cover topics of special interest in the field of Clinical Neurology
- Gain real clinical experience by working with patients as a “Patient Assistant”
- Examine current issues and practices in medicine
- Learn the basics of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- Work with a Clinical Neurology faculty mentor to develop a poster
- Additional Information: www.mdsummer.emory.edu/
- Applications Due: February 15th

Summer Program in the Neurological Sciences
National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke, Bethesda, MD, Rockville, MD, or Cape Cod, MA
- Stipends available based on educational level and financial need
- Get hands-on experience working with leading scientists in the Institute's Division of Intramural Research
- Supplement and give practical meaning to your academic course work
- Participate in the NIH Summer Research Program Poster Day and present before the NIH scientific community
- Attend formal lectures and symposia on the newest advances in health research
- Additional Information: www.ninds.nih.gov/jobs_and_training/summer/#faq
- Applications Due: March 1st

American Psychological Association’s Summer Science Fellowship
George Mason University, Washington, D.C.
- Summer salary is provided as well as funding for all travel and living expenses
- Work with some of the most outstanding researchers in Washington D.C.
- Explore the intellectual, personal, and social processes of scientific inquiry
- Experience cutting-edge psychological research through hands-on laboratory activities
- Open to rising senior psychology majors
- Applications Due: February 11th

Summer Research Initiative
University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- 8 week program, running from June 3rd to July 26th
- Learn about graduate study and research in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences
- Attend lectures, workshops, and didactic experiences
- Open to all students but minority students or students with research interests related to diverse communities are encouraged to apply
- Additional Information: http://www.bsos.umd.edu/diversity/summer-research-initiative.aspx
- Applications Due: February 15th

There is an abundance of summer research opportunities throughout the country. We have listed several of them below but we encourage you to search online, keep an eye out for our e-mails, and check out the UASP “Portfolio of Opportunities in Psychology” outside Flipse 508.
Undergraduate Summer Research Program in Science and Biotechnology
AMGEN Scholars, Various Locations

- 10 week program, running from May 28th to August 2nd at one of the following host institutions:
  - California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA
  - Columbia University/Barnard College, New York, NY
  - Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
  - Stanford University, Stanford, CA
  - University of California at Berkeley, Los Angeles, San Diego, or San Francisco, CA
  - University of Washington, Seattle, WA
  - Washington University in Saint Louis, St. Louis, MO

- Funding is provided but amounts vary based on host location
- Gain hands-on lab experience
- Interact with and receive guidance from faculty mentors, including some of the world’s leading academic scientists
- Attend scientific seminars, workshops and other networking events
- Additional Information: http://www.amgenscholars.com/about_amgen_scholars/program_overview/
- Applications due: February 1st

Summer Research Experience in Brain and Cognitive Sciences (SREBCS)
University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

- $4,000 stipend is provided as well as housing and some meals
- 9 week program, running from June 3rd to August 2nd
- Participate in hands-on experiences related to brain and cognitive sciences
- Attend semi-weekly seminar presentations of research by faculty and staff
- Minimum 3.0 GPA required
- PSY 110, 204 and/or 316, and one 300+ level course required
- Additional Information: http://www.psych.sc.edu/srebcs/
- Applications due: March 1st

Summer Research Opportunities (SROP),
Committee on Institutional Cooperation, Various Locations

- 8-10 week programs at one of the following host institutions:
  - University of Illinois at Chicago or Urbana-Champaign, IL
  - University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
  - University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
  - Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
  - Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
  - University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
  - Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
  - Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
  - University of Wisconsin at Madison or Milwaukee, WI

- Stipends vary by host institution
- Work on a faculty mentored project, attend GRE workshops, and present at a symposium
- Additional Information: http://www.cic.net/Home/Students/SROP/Home.aspx
- Applications due: Beginning February 10th (varies by host institution)
Study Abroad challenges students to step outside of their comfort zones and pursue knowledge in new and exciting ways. UM has study abroad programs in over 45 countries. The following programs represent only a few of the many opportunities students have to study at other universities.

**American University of Paris (AUP)**

AUP is a small, international university with about 1,000 students. The campus is located in the heart of Paris, France, near the Eiffel Tower and on the Left Bank of the Seine River.

- **Courses are taught in English**
- Two semesters of college-level French are required
- **Fall semester**: early Sept. to mid-Dec.
- **Spring semester**: mid-Jan. to mid-May
- [www.aup.edu](http://www.aup.edu)

**John Cabot University (JCU)**

JCU is located in the center of Rome, Italy. This university is a small, independent liberal arts university that is unique because of its small class sizes of roughly 15 students.

- **Courses are taught in English**
- Two semesters of college-level Italian or comparable proficiency is required
- **Fall semester**: late Aug. to mid-Dec.
- **Spring semester**: mid-Jan. to early May
- [www.johnabot.edu](http://www.johnabot.edu)

**University of Edinburgh**

This university is one of the world’s oldest universities. Home to the largest university library in Scotland, Edinburgh has an outstanding reputation for teaching and research. Located in the heart of Scotland and not far from the famous Edinburgh Castle and Princes Street, this university is a fixture in “The Athens of the North.” Edinburgh has about 16,000 students.

- **No language requirement**
- **Fall semester**: early Sept. to mid-Dec.
- **Spring semester**: early Jan. to late May
- [www.ed.ac.uk](http://www.ed.ac.uk)

Each of these programs requires a **minimum 3.0 GPA**. Applications for fall semesters are due **March 1st**. Applications for spring semesters are due **October 1st**. For more information, contact Elyse Resnick at (305) 284-3434 or eresnick@miami.edu. You can also visit [www.miami.edu/studyabroad](http://www.miami.edu/studyabroad) or Allen Hall 111 for more information on all UM study abroad programs.
Undergraduate Academic Services for Psychology (UASP) is now hiring friendly, talented, professional, psychology and neuroscience majors to join our team as Peer Advising Liaisons (PALs) during the 2013-2014 academic year. If you are passionate about psychology or neuroscience, like working with others, and are interested in getting more involved with your department, the PAL position might be perfect for you.

The PALs serve as the direct link between the UASP staff and the undergraduate student population. They are an integral part of our office and they make it possible for us to offer you the highest-quality advising services. PALs perform office duties, develop publications, answer student questions, serve as teaching assistants in FACT, FORUM, and TUMS classes, and much more. Our hope is this position will prepare the PALs for the future by providing valuable experience in customer service, organization, communication, teamwork, and leadership.

This is a **paid student employee position.** All PALs are paid $7.80 per hour during their first year and $8.30 per hour during each subsequent year. To be eligible for the PAL position, students must be a psychology or neuroscience major, have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA, and be able to work at least 7 hours per week.

The PAL position is described by some as “the best job on campus.” Here is what some of our current PALs said when asked why they love being a PAL:

- **“UASP provides a superb environment to grow and mature as a working professional, while allowing us to have fun. Also, PALs are the best people in the world.”**
  - Grace Madsen, 2nd year PAL
- **“I work with the best people. We all love our job and are proud of what we do.”**
  - Nicole Lavina, 2nd year PAL
- **“I get to work side-by-side with the best advisors at the [UASP]!”**
  - Lance Ludka, 1st year PAL
- **“Simply put: It’s just fun to be a PAL!”**
  - Will McAuliffe, 2nd year PAL

**Interested?**

You must attend one of the following information sessions:

- **Wednesday, February 6th**
  - 10:10 - 11:00 a.m.
  - 12:20 - 1:10 p.m.
- **Thursday, February 7th**
  - 9:30 - 10:20 a.m.
  - 3:30 - 4:20 p.m.
- **Friday, February 8th**
  - 3:35 - 4:25 p.m.
Congratulations December Graduates!

Roughly 800 students became Hurricane Alumni on December 13, 2012. Among those distinguished undergraduates were 49 psychology and neuroscience majors. Though their undergraduate coursework is finished, these students will always be ’Canes for life. Congratulations graduates! We hope you will keep in touch!

Rachel Adelman, B.A.
Yainee Alonso, B.A.
Carol Archaga, B.A.
Gabriel Banschick, B.A.
Kayla Barry, B.A.
Margaret Becker, B.S.C.
Samuel Boester, B.A.
Ariel Brent, B.S.
Claudia Briceno De Ratmiroff, B.A.
Priscilla Cabrera, B.S.C.
Courtney Canavan, B.A.
Callie Chavoustie, B.A.
Nicole Cheleotis, B.A.
Alexandra Cooper, B.S.C.
Monica Croushore, B.A.
Claudia Cruz, B.A.
Rosa de Oliveira Cubas, B.S.C.
Brian Demers, B.S.
Leonardo Dos Santos, B.S.C.
Robert Drake, B.A.

Daniella Fernandez, B.S.C.
Juniette Fiore, B.S.C.
Nicola Gonsalves, B.A.
Ana Guerrero, B.A.

Gisselle Hernandez, B.A.
Joseph Karas, B.A.
Ingrid LaPadula, B.S.C.
Maeva Lesparre, B.S.C.

Lauren Lococo, B.A.
Noe Lopez, B.S.
Camilo Martinez, B.A.
Gregory Masone, B.A.
Maria Mata, B.S.Ed.
Alexander Matzkin, B.A.
Tiffany Milakovich, B.S.C.
Victoria Novinger , B.A.
Maria Perez Flores, B.S.C.
Lauren Piperno, B.A.
Marcus Reamer, B.A.
Andres Rodriguez, B.A.
Katiana Rodriguez, B.S.C.
Cristina Rosado, B.A.
Christine Salas, B.B.A.
Daniela Serra, B.A.
Kristen Soller, B.A.
Kimberley Stanton, B.A.
Jayson Stewart, B.A.
Nrithya Sundararaman, B.S.
Nicole Yee-Nicholson, B.A.

Follow us on twitter

Follow @UASP for important updates and reminders about undergraduate psychology and neuroscience advising, research opportunities, professional development, special events, and more. Connect with us today to become better informed and more engaged with your advisors, faculty, staff, and peers in the Department!

UASP
@UASP

University of Miami’s high-quality advising services in the Department of Psychology. Providing students with knowledge to be self-directive in their education

Coral Gables, FL • psy.miami.edu/undergraduate/
Happy 2013! My name is Dris Stephen, and I am the newest Academic Advisor in the UASP office. I have met quite a few of you since I joined the staff a couple of months ago, and I truly appreciate the warm and enthusiastic reception.

I am excited by the opportunity to help our psychology and neuroscience undergraduates achieve their academic goals at the University of Miami. I have worked in the field of education for about seven years, primarily as a High School Teacher, but most recently as a College Admissions Advisor and Recruiter. I am sincerely interested in learning about your life, your motivations, and your aspirations, so don’t be shy about striking up a conversation if you see me in the halls of the Flipse building or around the UM campus.

When I am not in the office, I can usually be found taking graduate coursework at Florida International University or participating in some volunteer activity with high school and college students. I am a fan of classical literature, spontaneous road trips, and good music. I also tend to drink lots of coffee, so don’t be surprised to run into me at Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts at any time of day.

Good luck with your classes this semester, and definitely let me know if there is anything I can do to help make your career at UM a successful one!

Office of Student Employment
Building 37, room K
(305) 284-6641
ose@miami.edu
www.miami.edu/student-employment

If you are interested in a position within the Department of Psychology, check-out page 11 to find out how you can become a Peer Advising Liaison (PAL)!
Student Shout Outs

Senior neuroscience major, **Alexandra Wick**, was 2nd author on a poster, entitled *Perfluorocarbon Administration is Associated with Improved Glucose Utilization in the Cerebral Cortex Following a Penetrating Ballistic Brain Injury in the Rat*, presented at the 2012 Annual Neuroscience Day. She worked closely with her mentor, Dr. Ross Bullock, and she is now conducting a similar study for her Senior Honors Thesis.

**Samantha Wilker**, a junior neuroscience and philosophy double major, is a co-author on a project submitted to the 44th Annual American Association of Suicidology Conference. The title of her work is *Effects of Different Types of Childhood Trauma in the Development of Suicidal Ideation*.

Senior psychology major and 3rd year PAL, **Vandita Acharya**, was accepted to the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami and the Morsani College of Medicine at the University of South Florida. Vandita intends to specialize in pediatric oncology.

Senior neuroscience major, **Nrithya Sundararaman**, is a Division I athlete on the UM Volleyball team. Nrithya was selected for the 2012 Capital One Academic All-American Division I Volleyball Second Team. She is the first UM volleyball player bestowed with this prestigious honor and is one of only 18 student-athletes in the country to be chosen. Nrithya is an outstanding student and has maintained a 3.90 GPA as a Division I athlete. She hopes to one day pursue a career in medicine.

Alumni News

Neuroscience alumnus **Susan Geffen**, B.S. ‘08, was granted a two-year Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation for her dissertation project entitled *Infants’ Ability to Discriminate Statements and Questions*. She works under the direction of Toben Mintz, Ph.D., at the University of Southern California.

**Luke Heggeness**, B.S. ‘10, accepted a position as a full-time Research Assistant and Intern at the University of Houston. He will work with Dr. Peter Norton, the Director of the Anxiety Disorder Clinic in the Psychological Research and Services Center at UH. Luke also plans to apply to graduate schools in the near future.

UASP extends a special thanks and congratulations to our PAL, **Kimberly Stanton**, who graduated in December! Kim worked dutifully as a PAL for three years, completed the PRIME summer research program, and wrote a Senior Honors Thesis. As a PAL, Kim served on the G.R.I.P.P. committee to help plan informational events about research and graduate school for her fellow psychology and neuroscience majors. Kim has applied to several Ph.D. programs in Clinical Psychology but she will be working as a Research Assistant in the spring. Thank you, Kim, for all of your hard work and best of luck with your graduate applications. We will miss you!
Hello TUNS members,

I hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable break! TUNS has many new activities planned for the spring semester. **Dr. Jeffrey Goldberg**, a renowned researcher of central nervous system growth and regeneration, will be our first guest lecturer in January. We will also begin working on our student booth for the **Miami Brain Fair**, which is an annual community event where students and researchers reach out to the community and teach basic concepts of neuroscience to children of all ages. Additionally, TUNS will participate in a number of fundraising and awareness walks for various neurological conditions.

As always, TUNS membership is open to students of all majors and membership is free. If you are interested in joining or wish to receive more information regarding meetings and events, please email umtuns@gmail.com.
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