

## Neuroscience Program

### The Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience for Undergraduates at Vanderbilt

presents

## January 2018 Newsletter

Welcome back and Happy New Year!  
As a way to keep students and faculty  
informed of significant events and  
happening, we will provide a newsletter  
at the start of each semester. Enjoy!



### Honors Program

**This year's 2017-2018  
Neuroscience Honors class  
is the largest in the college!**

If you're interested in the Honors  
program, be on the lookout for  
meeting announcements to come  
later in the semester. **Applications  
will be due by May 15th.** For more  
general information about the  
program's requirements, please visit  
the [Honors page](#) on our website.

### Noteworthy Events

**Thursday, January 11, 2018**  
**Neuroscience Brown Bag Seminar,**  
Chris Smith, Ph.D., 12:10pm, WH 316

**Wednesday, February 7, 2018**  
**Seminars in Neuroscience: Brain,**

### Vanderbilt Neuroscience Summer 2018 Research Fellowship Opportunity

The Vanderbilt Brain Institute is  
providing funding for students who wish  
to conduct neuroscience research in a  
Vanderbilt University laboratory during  
the summer. The Vanderbilt  
Neuroscience Summer Research  
Fellowship provides a stipend of \$5,000  
to pay for living expenses in Nashville.  
Students must be a declared  
Neuroscience major, and must already  
be conducting research in the lab that  
they are hoping to work in during the  
summer. The number of spots is  
limited; preference will be given to  
students who have already completed  
both NSC 3861 and NSC 3862 by the  
end of the Spring semester.

Applications are due **February 1, 2018**  
and should be turned into the [Program  
Office](#).

Applications can be downloaded by  
clicking the button below or on our  
[website](#).

[Download the Application](#)

### Neuromajors Club

Greetings Neuromajors,  
The Neuromajors Club is excited to  
work with all of you next semester.  
This club focuses on improving the  
lives of neuroscience majors at  
Vanderbilt, whether it be through  
hosting events to help with class  
scheduling or having de-stress  
sessions during finals. We have  
plenty of amazing events coming up  
next semester including an event  
that looks at all the career paths a  
person with a neuroscience degree  
can go towards as well as a fun  
brunch at Dr. Smith's house. Also,  
keep a lookout for a new  
Neuromajors sweatshirt to improve

**Mind, and Society**, "Risk Factors For, and Consequences Of, Adolescent Substance Abuse" Hugh Garavan, Ph.D., 4:10pm, U1220 MRBIII

**Monday, February 19, 2018**  
**Intro to Research Requirements Seminar**, 6:00-7:00pm, Location TBA

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018**  
**Seminars in Neuroscience: Brain, Mind, and Society**, Title TBA, Helen Burgess, Ph.D., 4:10pm, U1220 MRBIII

**Saturday, March 17, 2018**  
**BRAIN BLAST!** 9:00am-1:00pm, Martin Professional Development Center

**Monday, March 19, 2018**  
**Neuroscience Extravaganza!**  
1:00-5:00pm, 208 LH

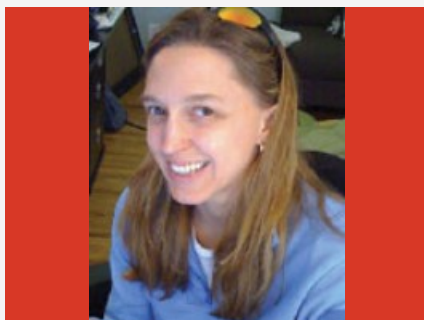
Details about these and future events will be announced on the neuromajors listserv or are listed on the right banners of our [website](#).

### Introduction to Research Requirements Seminar

#### SAVE THE DATE

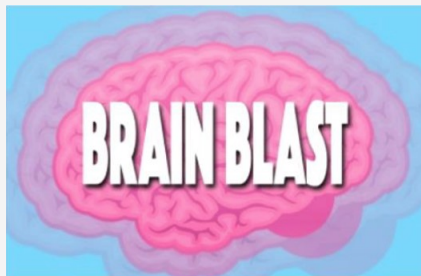
Monday, February 19, 2018  
6:00-7:00pm

Join us to learn about the requirements for NSC 3861 and to discuss ways to make your search for a research lab easier! Attending one of these seminars before registering for NSC 3861 will be mandatory starting Spring 2019 — if you're starting research next semester or in a year, come now and get it out of the way! *More details coming soon.*



your wardrobe with! If you are not on the listserv and want to hear more about these fun events, add us on Anchorlink!

--- Mukhi Bhupatiraju, Neuromajors Club President



### BRAIN BLAST 2018: Call for Volunteers

The Vanderbilt Brain Institute's annual public outreach event, Brain Blast, will take place on Saturday, March 17th, 2018, at MNPS Martin Professional Development Center near Fannie Mae Dees Park (Dragon Park). K-8 kids and parents will visit booths designed by VBI labs and groups to build a neuron, touch real brains, and learn about cool science. Interested in participating at this event?

Sign up to volunteer by visiting [HERE](#).

Contact [Jacob Ruden](#) if you have any questions.

## Neuroscience Extravaganza!

### SAVE THE DATE

Monday, March 19, 2018  
1:00-5:00pm  
Light Hall 208

We are excited to announce the second edition of the Neuroscience Extravaganza! Join us in the audience and enjoy a fun and science-filled afternoon, or sign up and become part of the program: students are invited to try to **beat the gong and compete for best 3-minute talk**; faculty are welcome to stand up to the challenge and deliver a **2-minute presentation of their current research interests** (followed by a **student-research lab match-making poster session**); and

## Faculty Spotlight Dr. Liz Catania

Director of Undergraduate Studies  
Director of Independent Studies  
Assistant Professor in Neuroscience  
Department of Biological Sciences

### Q: How did you get into Neuroscience?

A: I was more than halfway through my undergraduate degree and just hadn't found something that really excited me. I was a double English and Psychology major and I signed up for Introduction to Neuroscience because a friend was taking it and it counted as an elective. That was it — I was hooked. I changed majors and got into a lab to do an Honors project before the end of the semester. My undergraduate research mentor is the reason I went to graduate school — he was a truly brilliant scientist, passionate, careful and an inspiration.

### Q: What do you like most about teaching at Vanderbilt?

A: Vanderbilt is a great environment for so many things — teaching included. Small classes, great resources from the university. But, the best part is the students — my students have been very engaged and a lot of fun to teach and interact with. I love it when I see students going past the “what do I need for this grade” part of class and get really excited about the science and what it means.

### Q: Do you have any advice for students wanting to continue in this field?

A: Do it because you love it — if you find joy in your “job” you'll be greatly successful at whatever you choose to do. But, be prepared for hard work and frustration on the way. Science is slow and full of failures, just dig in when that happens and it'll pay off in the long run. Also, not everyone

all are invited to **Sing Your Science** with new lyrics on your research sung to the tune of your favorite song. Save the date!

The first edition of the **Neuroscience Extravaganza!**, a one-of-a-kind event organized by the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience in association with the Vanderbilt Brain Institute Outreach Committee for young scientists, happened on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting gathered ca. 50 students and postdoctoral fellows of the Middle Tennessee area, including Lipscomb University and Austin Peay State University in Clarksville.



Ron Emeson, Suzana Herculano-Houzel and Laura Mariani spoke to the public about different career paths in science (academia, science communication and recruiting); Ariel Deutch, David Sweatt and Isabel Gauthier talked about issues that remain unknown in cellular, molecular and cognitive neuroscience; Jessica Murray, a PhD candidate at Lipscomb University, avoided the gong and won the \$100 cash prize for best three-minute presentation; Ron Emeson beat all but two of ten contenders who tried to keep a straight face at his flurry of neuroscience jokes; and the event concluded with the premier of the song *Dopamine*, composed and performed by David *Stickman* Zald.

## Consider having your research mentor be your Neuroscience Major advisor

Beginning this semester, we are encouraging students who are working in labs with A&S faculty to recruit your PI to becoming your

who is passionate about Neuroscience has to be a research scientist or physician- the world needs teachers (not just at the college level), policy makers, lawyers and journalists that are expert in and love the field too!

major advisor. Not only will this create a better distribution among the current Neuroscience advisors, but will also allow for a more personal student-advisor relationship.

If you or your mentor have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to our [Program Office](#) for more information.

Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience  
322 Wilson Hall  
Nashville, TN 37240  
Phone: 615-343-3209

Visit our [Website](#)

CONTACT  
[Program Office](#)