Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program

The Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program (VUSRP) provides Vanderbilt undergraduate students with the opportunity to fulfill 10 weeks of full-time research (June 1, 2020 - August 7, 2020) under the mentorship of any full-time Vanderbilt or VUMC faculty member during the summer. The goal of VUSRP is to encourage and enhance student-faculty mentoring and joint research efforts.

- The main component of the program is the scholarly work done by the Vanderbilt undergraduate student (VUSRP student) in collaboration with their faculty mentor.
- VUSRP involves full-time work. Participants cannot enroll in summer session courses.
- Additional requirements are listed below.
- Out of 184 applicants, 87 students received awards in 2019.
- A $5000 stipend is awarded, with a limited number of $6000 Littlejohn and Goldberg Fellow awards made for exceptional applications.
- Students who accept VUSRP stipends are required to:
  - attend a spring workshop to review program logistics
  - complete 10 weeks of full-time research with their faculty mentor over the summer
  - present at a roundtable discussion toward the end of the 10-week period
  - present at the Vanderbilt undergraduate research fair
- An information session for students was held on November 6. Slides from the presentation are available here.
- Vanderbilt faculty may sponsor only two applications per competition.

The deadline to submit is January 30, 2020 at 12 p.m. CT (noon)

Application, eligibility information, and FAQs are available here.

Honors Program

Congratulations to Caroline Bodnya for successfully defending her theses in the Fall!

- Modeling the Function of the BCL-2 Family Effectors in Early Human Brain Development, Caroline Bodnya, Vivian Gama Laboratory

For more general information about the program’s requirements, please visit the Honors page on our website.
If you are interested in the Honors Program, there will be an informational meeting on Tuesday, February 4th at 5:00PM in Wilson Hall 316.

The NEUROMAJORS CLUB hopes that you had a wonderful winter break! We will be sending out order links for Neuroscience apparel soon, so keep an eye out for that. We have several exciting events coming up this semester, including an event that shows the diversity of careers that people with a neuroscience degree can pursue, academic registration tips, and brunch at Dr. Smith’s house. If you are not on the listserv and want to hear more about these events, add us on Anchorlink!

— Francine Erfe
Neuromajors Club President

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Vanderbilt University neuroscientist James B. Booth is publicly releasing two large scale neuroimaging datasets on reading and language development to support other researchers across the world who are working to understand how academic skills develop in childhood.

“We have been able to follow our curiosity and answer some really interesting questions with these datasets,” said Booth, the Patricia and Rhodes Hart Professor of Educational Neuroscience at Vanderbilt. “By making these datasets publicly available, we hope is that others will be able to reproduce some of our core findings and extend them in interesting new directions.”

Available in the digital repository OpenNeuro, together the datasets include more than 3,000 magnetic resonance imaging scans that explore brain structure and function in school-age children.

To read the full article, click HERE.

Dr. Booth currently teaches one of the Neuro-major courses, Language and the Brain, which is offered in the fall semesters.

Research News @ Vanderbilt

Eight Vanderbilt faculty elected AAAS fellows for 2019

Program director David Zald, and research faculty Gordon Logan elected as fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world’s largest general scientific society. Election as a fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers.

Gordon D. Logan, Centennial Professor of Psychology, for theoretical and empirical contributions to the understanding of attention, skill and executive control.

David H. Zald, Cornelius Vanderbilt Chair, professor of psychology and professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, for distinguished contributions to the field of neurosciences, particularly for uncovering the neural and neuropsychological systems involved in emotion and motivation.

To read the full list of elected fellows, click HERE.

Are you interested in having your research mentor be your Neuroscience advisor?

We are encouraging students who are working in labs with A&S faculty to recruit their PI to becoming their 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.