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](#).

**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

Download the Application
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.

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
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

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.
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.