



UNC CHARLOTTE

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

**PSYCHOLOGY
STUDENTS OF
DISTINCTION**



APRIL 26, 2019

ACADEMICS



SARAH ANWAR

Nominated by: Dr. Erika Montanaro

Sarah was a student in my Introduction to Health Psychology course in Fall 2018. She stood out quickly as a bright and engaged student. Notably, we had class debates about current health-related events and Sarah was one of the most engaged and vibrant debaters in class. She always elevated the discussion with her excitement and nuanced opinions.



ASHLEY CHIMATO

Nominated by: Alexia Galati

Ashley was the top student in my Research Methods II class in Fall 2018. For her term project, she examined associations between different types of content on pro-eating disorder websites, using an open dataset she located on the Open Science Framework. Beyond her stellar scores in the course, Ashley impressed me because she was the only student who wanted to understand every single line of code we used to run statistical analyses in our labs, following-up with questions. (For our labs, we use the statistical programming language R.) Given her intrinsic motivation to learn and her solid foundation in research methods, I invited Ashley to be TA for the course this semester. She's been a wonderful resource both to me and the students. My answer keys have improved thanks her input and class camaraderie has strengthened through activities she organized (involving donuts!). Ashley is a veritable student of distinction!

ACADEMICS



HALEY CUTRELL

Nominated by: Dr. Enrica Ruggs

I highly recommend Haley to be honored as a student of distinction. She is an excellent academic student who has a GPA of 3.6. She is a psychology major interested in attending graduate school, and I believe she will be highly successful. I have had Haley as a student in one of my classes and she is also entering her second semester as a research assistant (RA) in my lab. I have already spoken to her academic skills. As an RA, Haley has been amazing. She pays attention to detail, she is efficient, and she produces high quality work. She works well with others and she is also fun to be around. She is a great psychology major and she is very deserving of this recognition.



INDIA DANIELS

Nominated by: Dr. Enrica Ruggs

India is a psychology major who is an outstanding academic student. She has been in 2 of my classes and received an A in both courses. She is always present, prepared, and engaged in classes. Her academic record at UNCC is outstanding as her GPA is a 3.77 (this includes receiving an A in RMII, which is writing intensive). She is interested going to graduate school and is currently enrolled in my research lab. This student has a lot of promise. She is one of our shining stars and is very deserving of this honor.

ACADEMICS



MARVIENE FULTON

Nominated by: Dr. Alyssa McGonagle

Marviene Fulton is a Psychology major at UNCC, minoring in Anthropology. She is currently enrolled in my Research Methods II course and has demonstrated an exemplary level of engagement with the course material. She chose a research topic that she is passionate about and came up with novel research questions about self- and culturally-relevant semantic memory components and social functioning in amnesia patients. Her paper was excellent and would have held up to graduate school standards. She is also an active, engaged participant in class, and frequently contributes questions and responses to further our class discussion. I am very pleased to nominate Marviene as a Student of Distinction.



MATTHEW MCCUE

Nominated by: Dr. Lori Van Wallendael

Matt McCue was identified by Dr. Van Wallendael as one of the top students in his Research Methods 1 section, and subsequently served twice as a teaching assistant for that course. He has also served as a teaching assistant for Dr. West's capstone course, and has assisted Dr. Messinger as a teaching assistant on a volunteer basis. Matt also works as a research assistant in Dr. Levens' lab, and is beginning work on an Honors Thesis. We are lucky to have a student of his abilities and work ethic in this department!

ACADEMICS



KUSHAL PATEL

Nominated by: Dr. Katie Burke

Kushal has been my TA for three semesters now, and I don't want to let him go, but I know he needs to graduate! He is not only a phenomenal student academically, but he is also extremely professional and caring towards his fellow peers. As my TA, he goes above and beyond his duty in many ways by giving extra study sessions, meeting with students one-on-one, and reviewing material with students throughout the semester. Without me asking, he comes to every class and offers to do whatever he can to help our class understand the concepts presented. Kushal is a quality person all around, and I know he is going to do amazing things with his future career!

RESEARCH



BRITTANY COBB

Nominated by: Dr. Erika Montanaro

In Fall 2017 Brittany began working in my lab as a research assistant and eventually an honor's thesis students. Brittany shared that she found a love of the research process during her time in Research Methods 2 and wanted to continue learning about research methodology by working on her own independent project. Brittany has approached each road bump and deviation from her original research plan with excitement, persistence, and creativity to create a terrific piece of work. Brittany has emerged as a leader in the lab. I have witnessed her become a cooperative leader, as she is able to facilitate group cohesion as well as accomplish day-to-day and long-term laboratory goals. She has been pivotal in her own and the lab's success.



JESSICA CORN

Nominated by: Dr. Anita Blanchard

Jessica Corn is an undergraduate research assistant in Dr. Blanchard's Virtual Identity Community and Entitativity (VICE) lab. We knew she was going to be an excellent addition to our lab because she had the highest cumulative GPA we'd ever seen in our applications. Nonetheless, it was her insights from summarizing entitativity and identification research that made her a student of distinction with article summaries similar to what an advanced PhD student would provide. She participated in the 2019 UNC Charlotte Undergraduate Research Conference presenting the first analysis of the lab's research project for this year. After she graduates this semester, she starts a fulltime job in Human Resources and will determine her best options to attend graduate school in the future. Congratulations, Jessica!

RESEARCH



TYLER FORGEUTTE

Nominated by: Dr. Sara Levens

Tyler is a dedicated research assistant in my lab, he has been my Brain and Behavior research assistant for 2 semesters, and he is currently completing an ambitious Honors Thesis project under my mentorship. As part of his lab and Honors Thesis work, Tyler trained and managed a team of research assistants on processing physiological data from over 100 participants! He is a fantastic team player, and one of his best qualities, aside from his humor, is that he meets hard work and challenges head on. It has been an absolute pleasure to watch his skill level and dedication grow. Tyler is passionate about clinical psychology, biological mechanisms of trauma, and helping individuals recover from interpersonal trauma and I can't wait to see how he chooses to deepen and expand his interests and skills in graduate school.



STEPHANIE LEONARD

Nominated by: Dr. Linda Shanock

Stephanie Leonard is a senior, nominated by Dr. Linda Shanock. Stephanie quickly rose to the top of Dr. Shanock's Research Methods II class. She was a bright, inquisitive student and conducted a great research project with excellent writing. She has subsequently worked as a research assistant in Dr. Shanock's lab and has been an excellent addition. Stephanie is proactive, efficient, and has a thirst for learning along with a very pleasant demeanor. This year she essentially taught herself to conduct regression (including interactions) in SPSS along with factor analyses, and more. We have started to treat her like a graduate student. She is not afraid to ask questions and always wants to learn more about statistics. She has been a big help with data collection and survey design too, and presented a poster based on a project she worked on from our lab. Thank you Stephanie for all your great work!

RESEARCH



CHRIS PENLEY

Nominated by: Dr. Jeanette Bennett

Chris has been a responsible and reliable research assistant in my lab for over 2 years including summer research as a volunteer. He sees the big picture and asks questions that everyone in the room is thinking but might not ask. He takes on research tasks and completes them with a high conscientious lens and follows through with me -- sometimes multiple times -- to ensure the accuracy and validity of his work. He truly should be recognized for his research work as well as maintaining strong grades.



SAVANAH PERRINI

Nominated by: Dr. Erika Montanaro

Savanah has been a joy to have as a student and research assistant over the course of this year. In class, Savannah has been inquisitive and insightful in her work and during class discussions. She has used those same qualities as a research assistant where she has been responsible for consenting participants, running laboratory sessions, and compensating participants. Savannah has been an important member of the lab helping to great a supportive and productive lab culture.

RESEARCH



ALEX STONE

Nominated by: Dr. Jeanette Bennett

Alex is in her final semester at UNC Charlotte -- she will have completed a double major in Psych and Sociology and minor in Criminal Justice in 3.5 years. She has been an amazing student as well as research assistant. Her hard work earned her a spot in the Charlotte Research Scholar Program presenting her research locally in July. This semester she is headed to NC Honors conference to share her research regionally and in March she will be traveling to her first professional conference at the national/international level. She will be presenting her honors thesis at American Psychosomatic Society's annual conference taking place in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. She is going places. I am happy to have had the opportunity to work with her and look forward to seeing where she goes.



DEVIN SWEENEY

Nominated by: Sara Levens

I have the absolute pleasure of working with Devin in multiple capacities—she is an research assistant in my lab, she is a TA for my Brain and Behavior course, and I am mentoring her in her Honors Thesis. In all of these capacities Devin excels. In lab meeting and research team meetings Devin regularly makes valuable contributions and insightful comments. She communicates well with others, works hard, is detail oriented and is kind and compassionate. Devin is also deeply committed to others and their wellbeing. She is the definition of a team player and I am so pleased that I have gotten the opportunity to work with her and get to know her. I will miss her when she moves on to graduate school, but I can't wait to see the positive contribution she will make on the world.

RESEARCH



ZACHARY TUTTEROW

Nominated by: Dr. Hannah Peach

Zach is an ambitious, proactive, creative, and responsible researcher. For his honors thesis project, he developed an impressive experiment designed to test the impact of a two-week mindfulness intervention on self-efficacy among freshmen. Considering his methodology was more complicated than traditional survey research, Zach experienced significant setbacks obtaining IRB approval, but showed tremendous grace, patience, and perseverance as he handled unexpected delays. He successfully and single-handedly ran a series of in-person intervention sessions, defending his thesis in time for December graduation. However, being the motivated researcher he is, Zach strived to continue his research and partnered with me to recruit a team of interested research assistants (RAs) to continue data collection this semester. While working full-time, Zach trained and mentored four RAs to run sessions this spring. I am so proud of the work he has accomplished and can't wait to see the success he will achieve in the future.



TIFFANY WORLEY

Nominated by: Eriika Montanaro

Tiffany has been an excellent research assistant over the last year and a half. She has been a marvelous asset to my team. Tiffany has been instrumental in participant recruitment efforts, data cleaning, and qualitative data analysis. She has also been responsible for arranging times to meet with participants, interacting with participants during laboratory sessions, and distributing compensation. She has always been on time and diligent in her duties. Tiffany has been a pleasure to work with as a mentor and has helped make a wonderfully collaborative culture in the lab.

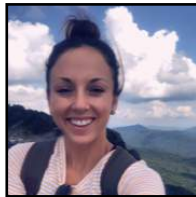
SERVICE



ANNA BUICO

Nominated by: Dr. Elaine O'Reilly

Anna Buico came to UNCC as a transfer student in the fall of 2017. She was a quiet yet attentive student, and I learned that while she may have appeared reserved, she had many thoughts and ideas brewing! During the spring of 2018, she and a couple of other transfer students quickly and effectively put together The Transfer Student Coalition. Meeting the needs of this population was very important to her. She has been able to assist transfer students and provide them with resources. Anna's steadfast determination has allowed her to continuously notice and address issues so that others will benefit positively. Her perseverance has been key to her and others' success! Beyond her work with our transfer students, Anna has been a wonderful Teacher Assistant, student, and a key point person for other students in our department.



AMBER HOFF

Nominated by: Dr. Katie Burke

Amber was a student in my positive psychology course in the fall semester. In that class, my students engage in community service projects throughout the semester. Amber participated in the group service event, but she also let me know that every winter she runs an independent coat drive and then personally hand delivers these coats to homeless men and women in Charlotte. She said all of this so nonchalantly, like isn't this what everyone does? Good deeds all the time? I was incredibly impressed and inspired by her selfless nature and acts. Her humility and thoughtfulness are personality traits that I think everyone can learn from. Her peers are lucky to know her, as am I! I am forever changed for the better having had in her my class!

SERVICE



ARIANA HOSSEINI

Nominated by: Elaine O'Reilly

Ariana Hosseini came to UNCC as a transfer student in the fall of 2017. I began to get to know her that semester, but in the spring of 2018, I was able to really see her in action! As a new transfer student, she saw the need for more services for students like herself, students who were new to our school and our major. She and other students went to work and started The Transfer Student Coalition. Her unbridled enthusiasm and tenacity were put into forward motion to make sure she met with transfer students, connected them to one another, and helped them transition. Ariana continues to see and address things that could be better for our students and takes a proactive approach. The aspect that stands out the most with Ariana is her passion and care for the well-being of her peers. She has been a joy to have as a Teacher Assistant, student, and ambassador in the Department of Psychological Sciences.



JENNA LANE

Nominated by: Dr. Kim Buch

Jenna Lane is a junior psychology major and former member of the Psychology Learning Community. She was a co-founder of the innovative professional development partnership between the Jamil Niner Student Pantry and the University Career Center called "Attire for Hire" She has completed three semesters of Undergraduate Research, and has produced two professional poster presentations and an in-press publication in the International Undergraduate Journal for Service-Learning, Leadership, and Social Change, entitled Closing the Gap between College Students' Professional Attire Needs and Career Readiness. Jenna has achieved distinction in service, research, and academic excellence.

SERVICE



JESSICA MITCHELL

Nominated by: Dr. Andrew Case

Jessica has served as vice president of Psychology Student Coalition (PSC) for the past two years. During that time, she has worked closely with the president to provide vision and leadership through a transitional period in which the organization has adopted a bold vision, one that includes a greater community presence in Charlotte. As such, she has been instrumental in planning community and social service opportunities for the membership. These have included making cookies for families of chronically ill children through the Ronald McDonald House, participating in the Joyful Hearts NC Joy Prom, which provides a full prom experience for persons with disabilities, and organizing presentations on important topics such as domestic violence and accessing mental health and career services on campus. Jessica has been and exemplary leader. She has brought fresh ideas and enthusiasm, which in turn have helped rebrand the organization.



ASHLEY RANKIN

Nominated by: Dr. Steven Rogelberg

Ashley is just amazing, she is the complete package. She is excelling in every domain. In the classroom, her grades are “perfect”. Outside of the classroom she is checking every single box and then some. She is active in research, the Jamil Niner Student Pantry, member of the Student Alumni Ambassador program, and LEAD Team. She is a key player in the Society of Emerging Organizational Scholars club. She attended the Org Science Summer Institute, and so on and so on. You just can’t have a more active undergraduate student. She touches so many activities and opportunities, but does it in such a deep and meaningful way. At the same time, Ashley is a wonderful and kind soul. She is deep and sincere. She is a total joy to be around.

SERVICE



SAFIYA RANN

Nominated by: Dr. Kim Buch

Safiya Rann is a junior psychology major and Civic Minor in Urban Youth and Community. She has distinguished herself in the areas of service, research, and academic excellence. She has been a dedicated volunteer and University Professional Development Intern at the Jamil Niner Student Pantry for the past three years. Safiya has completed over three semesters of

Undergraduate Research, and has produced two professional poster presentations and an in-press publication in the International Undergraduate Journal for Service-Learning, Leadership, and Social Change. Safiya has been selected as a Charlotte Community Scholar for the upcoming summer, and will investigate the problem of hunger and food insecurity among college students.



TAYLOR REDMOND

Nominated by: Dr. Maria-Carla Chiarella

Taylor is a Psychology / Criminal Justice Double-Major, who has distinguished herself with honors in both fields. Taylor is a dedicated student – always coming to class, often participating with thoughtful questions, and never missing an assignment or exam. In addition, Taylor has been a model Teaching Assistant, working diligently with me re-creating chapter power point slides to facilitate learning in my online Adulthood & Aging class. Students noticeably improved grades reflect Taylor's careful efforts. Lastly, Taylor has worked tirelessly as the Treasurer of Psi Chi. Taylor has demonstrated much maturity and responsibility in managing communication and dues payments with psychology students as well as navigating complex rules and regulations through Student Government Association (SGA) funding and organization accounts. While executing all her countless efforts, Taylor is gracious, cheerful, and enthusiastic. Taylor most definitely leaves an outstanding legacy of improvements benefitting many UNCC students.

SERVICE



BRIANA WILLIAMS

Nominated by: Dr. Andrew Case

Brianna has served as president of Psychology Student Coalition (PSC) for the past two years. During that time, she has led the organization in an exemplary manner. Her leadership style is consensus building, and she listens to and incorporates multiple viewpoints as she makes informed decisions. She has been unwavering in pursuing a bold vision for PSC and has created multiple opportunities for members to be involved in community service, educational, and social opportunities. These have included making cookies for families of chronically ill children through the Ronald McDonald House, participating in the Joyful Hearts NC Joy Prom, which provides a full prom experience for persons with disabilities, and organizing presentations on important topics such as domestic violence and accessing mental health and career services on campus. Her unflappable disposition has steadied the organization through a time of transition as the organization has reevaluated and realigned its goals.

