**Caitlyn Edwards**

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**EDUCATION**

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, January 2016-Present

Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences (in progress)

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Naiman Khan, Ph.D., RD

GPA: 3.87/4.0

**New York University**, August 2008 - May 2012

Bachelor of Science in Dietetics, Minor in Psychology

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Graduate Research Assistant**

Dr. Naiman Khan, Ph.D., RD

Body Composition and Nutritional Neuroscience Laboratory

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Projects:**

“Utilizing Avocados to Reduce Abdominal Obesity and Improve Glycemic Control, Gut Microbiota, and Cognition”

*Investigating the Effects of Avocado Intake on Metabolic and Cognitive Health*

* Designed 7-day cycle of isocaloric research meals for control and intervention groups in a 12-week randomized control trial
* Set-up and manage a new Metabolic Kitchen
* Collect cognitive, psychometric, dietary, and metabolic data
* Analyze and design analytic tools for cognitive tasks

“The Human Gut-Microbiota-Brain Project”

*Investigating the relationships between cognitive function, metabolic syndrome risk factors, and markers of GI microbial composition and function among adults.*

* Responsible for recruitment, screening, scheduling, and communicating with participants
* Collect Collect cognitive, psychometric, dietary, respiratory, and metabolic data
* In charge of data analysis

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Carrolton Farmers Branch School District**, Carrolton, TX

*Teaching Assistant*, August 2014 - Present

* Assist in a Communications classroom aimed at teaching functional communication skills to nonverbal students with autism.
* Responsible for supporting the lead teacher in providing a reinforcing environment based on principles of Applied Behavior Analysis.
* Gather daily data to keep lead teacher informed of particular requirements or problems of individual students.

**The Elisa Project**, Dallas, TX

*Intern*, April 2014 - August 2014

* Intern at a non-profit dedicated to the prevention and effective treatment of eating disorders.
* Developed and implemented an awareness campaign on the effects of the media on body image and self-esteem.
* Updated resource and referral options for eating disorders for 5 states.

**Taste Buds Kitchen**, New York, NY

*Class Director and Executive Chef*, November 2012- March 2014

* Designed, tested, implemented, and taught cooking oriented curriculum for kid and adult chefs including semester long classes for after school programs, weekly in-house classes, summer camp curriculums for classes of up to 30 kids and a summer total of 500 kids.
* Taught classes to kids ages two-teenager including Mommy and Me classes, Autism Friendly classes, and Private Lessons for at least 10 hours a week.
* Handled all social media, marketing, and promotional events for public classes
* Managed a kitchen and a team of over 15 teachers

**AWARDS**

**Margin of Excellence Student Research Award**, 2016, Division of Nutritional Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, $1,600.00

**Margin of Excellence Travel Award**, 2016, Division of Nutritional Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign, $400.00

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Society for Nutrition

The Obesity Society