

Monica Kashi

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

July 2019 – Present

Ph.D. Student

Nutritional Sciences

Stonehill College, Easton, MA

August 2015 – May 19, 2019

Bachelor of Science

Major: *Neuroscience*

Minor: *English*

CERTIFICATIONS

Certifications: Pharmacy Technician Trainee (January 2018), Lab Safety Certification (July 2019), Animal Safety Certification (May 2018), One Love (June 2017), CPR & First Aid (February 2013, recertified January 2017, renewed April 2019)

LABORATORY SKILLS and ANALYTICAL PROGRAMS

Tissue culture, sterile technique, Bradford assay, western blots, immunofluorescence, electroscope imaging with Image Pro Plus 6.0, ImageJ, SPSS, JMP, MATLAB

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

Body Composition and Nutritional Neuroscience Laboratory, Urbana, IL

July 2019 – Present

- Conduct research under Dr. Naiman Khan
- Responsible for starting “Lutein and Multiple Sclerosis Experimental Study,” a clinical feasibility trial using supplementation on persons with Multiple Sclerosis
- Currently working on the “Role of Omega-3 Lipid Metabolites in Obesity and Cognitive Function,” a study analyzing past cognitive functional data with omega-3 lipid metabolites present in access adiposity

Poster Session Presenter

NEURON Conference, Quinnipiac University

February 2019

- Presented my research at an undergraduate and graduate open forum that allows both students and faculty to discuss their work

Student Undergraduate Research Experience

Stonehill College, Easton, MA

May 2018 – July 2018

- Awarded the competitive *S.U.R.E. (Stonehill Undergraduate Research Experience) grant* to conduct full-time summer research under the supervision of Dr. Nicole Cyr. The grant was titled: “Effect of Palmitic Acid on PC2 in Hypothalamic Neurons”
- Tested the hypothesis that the free-fatty acid, palmitic acid, decreases the levels of the neuropeptide processing enzyme PC2 in cultured hypothalamic neurons
- Used immunofluorescence and western blots to compare PC2 levels in palmitic acid and vehicle control samples
- Worked with the lab members to present our group projects to other SURE participants, and presented (individually) my project at a poster presentation that was a campus-wide event

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Nicole Cyr’s Lab, Stonehill College Neuroscience Department

January 2017 – July 2018

- Conducted research with Dr. Nicole Cyr in her lab on the project of understanding factors that alter the production of appetite-regulating neuropeptides
- Collaborated with Dr. Nicole Cyr on all aspects of the project including, experimental design, assays, troubleshooting, analysis and presenting

Intern

Harvard Medical School Research Lab at Veteran’s Affairs Boston Healthcare System, Brockton, MA

September 2015 – May 2019

- Volunteered since first-year of college until being hired as an intern senior-year of college
- Ran neuropsychological tests on healthy controls and patients diagnosed with schizophrenia
- Scored and double-scored neuropsychological tests to collect data to later be analyzed by primary investigators of research studies
- Entered and reentered data into SPSS to further be analyzed by personal investigators of multiple research studies

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Writing Fellow

Center for Writing and Academic Achievement, Stonehill College July 2018 – May 2019

- Tutored students with writing specifically for NEU300: Research Methods in Neuroscience

Poster Session Liaison

Stonehill College Conferences and Events June 2018 – July 2018

- Represented Stonehill College at Poster Sessions that scientists from visiting institutions presented and attended
- Interacted with scientists visiting the campus that are there for the *Gordon Research Conferences*

Pharmacy Technician Trainee

Rite Aid Pharmacy, Weymouth, MA June 2017 – May 2019

- Participated in 160 hours of online training as well as six-hundred hours on hands-on training to become certified to assist Pharmacist with preparing prescriptions, patient services, and inventorying drugs

Teacher's Assistant

Stonehill College Neuroscience Department May 2017 – May 2019

- Assisted students taking class “NEU 200: Introduction to Neuroscience” and “LC 351: Mind, Health, and Education” with learning the course material
- Reported to Dr. Nicole Cyr on progress of students as well as aid her with lecture materials and course agenda
- Attended Norton Middle School and The Children’s Museum in Easton, MA, with students and aid students teach younger children introductory neuroscience information

Lab Assistant

Stonehill College Psychology Department May 2016 – May 2019

- Prepared animals and work stations in classroom (Skimmer boxes) based on protocol used in Experimental Psychology class taught by Dr. John Hurley for specific experiments for 12 student participants
- Participated in training with professor to learn how to attend to and care for animals used in class (rats)
- Independently conducted daily check-ups on animals including recording conditions, and maintaining their living environment
- Entrusted by professor to be accountable for independent work hours and report progress and/or issues effectively

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

First-Year Experience Seminar Student Facilitator

Stonehill College August 2018 – December 2018

- Worked with Professor Greene, Health and Wellness Coordinator, to facilitate course for first-year students
- Guided first-year students through their first year of college by helping them adjust and prepare for the years ahead of them

Service Trip Leader

Habitat for Humanity of Stonehill College, New Orleans, LA March 2018

- Lead a group of students to Louisiana during Spring Break to build homes for a week
- Worked with student leaders, faculty leaders, and student volunteers in the club to achieve specific goals on build days
- Helped build teamwork, encouraged volunteers to achieve their goals, and created a positive environment with reflections

Student Panelist

Stonehill College Welcome Day March 2018

- Served as a representative for the Neuroscience program at Stonehill College’s Welcome Day
- Represented the Neuroscience Department with the Department Head at the Majors Fair

STEM Peer Tutor

Chemistry Department, Stonehill College January 2018 – January 2019

- Assisted first-year STEM majors with study techniques and skills, course material, and learning academic resources available to them

Vice President

Habitat for Humanity, Stonehill College May 2017 – May 2019

- Planned and organized events with e-board committee to fundraise for the Alternative Spring Break Trip, a one-week trip that takes students in the club to a different state to volunteer with the Habitat for Humanity organization
- Delegated tasks to e-board members concerning logistics prior to events, fundraisers, volunteering on build sites and at the Habitat ReStore, and the Alternative Spring Break Trip

Peer Health Educator

Health and Wellness Office, Stonehill College November 2016 – May 2019

- Hosted events to bring awareness to the peer community about aspects of proper health strategies and dangerous behaviors including conducting programs in collaboration with Residence Life staff

Tour Guide

Science Center Tour Guide, Stonehill College

March 2016 – May 2019

- Lead groups of prospective students through the Shields Science Center while explaining programs in the sciences
- Spoke with parents, professors, and prospective students about Stonehill College and my experiences

Vice President of Productions

Relay for Life, Stonehill College

September 2015 – May 2019

- Partnered with Relay for Life community manager by setting up event scheduling, weekly meetings, food preparation, and logistics for the day of Relay for Life's event on Stonehill College's campus

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Writing Consultant

Center for Writing and Academic Achievement, Stonehill College

April 2018 – May 2019

- Guided students in their higher-order writing concerns for writing in any discipline

Wonder Partner

Children's Museum, Easton, MA

January 2018 – May 2018

- Created projects to help children's cognitive development, growth, and overall interactive skills

Student Worker

Health and Wellness Office, Stonehill College

September 2017 – May 2019

- Communicated with students of Stonehill to engage and inform them of Health and Wellness activities, events, and resources to improve their health and wellbeing

COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Service Trip Participant

Habitat for Humanity of Stonehill College, Birmingham, AL

March 2017

- Traveled to Alabama as a volunteer during Spring Break to build homes for a week
- Worked with the community and students in the Habitat for Humanity club to achieve specific goals on build days

Volunteer

Habitat for Humanity ReStore and Build Sites, Hanover, MA and other locations

September 2016 – May 2019

- Visited to building sites both inside and outside of Massachusetts to assist the organization with building or repairing homes
- Volunteered in "ReStore", a retail store that accepts donations of furniture and other home goods to profit the organization

COMPUTER SKILLS

Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Google Docs, TutorTrac (for laboratory analytical programs see: laboratory skills and analytical programs above)

ACADEMIC AWARDS

North Start Award 2019

Excellence in Research Award 2019