

Kendall Bleu Clay

kendall.clay@uga.edu

www.linkedin.com/kendallbclay

EDUCATION

University of Georgia

PhD Student in Neuroscience (*est. grad 2025*)

Athens, Georgia

GPA: in progress

University of Georgia Honors Program

Bachelor of Science (BS) in Biology/Bachelor of Science (BS) in Psychology

Minors in Ecology, Cellular Biology/Emphasis in Neuroscience

Thesis: *Defeatist performance beliefs in youth at clinical high-risk for psychosis and outpatients with schizophrenia*

(Dr. Gregory Strauss)

Athens, Georgia

May 2020

GPA:3.84/4.00

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Roberts-Galbraith Lab, Department of Cellular Biology, University of Georgia

August 2018 – June 2020

Senior Research Assistant

Athens, GA

Advisor: Dr. Rachel Roberts-Galbraith

Project Title: Dopaminergic Neuron Maintenance and Regeneration in Planarians

- Cloned genes suspected to be represented in similar transcriptome clusters as tyrosine hydroxylase
- Performed in situ hybridization to characterize the location of these genes within planarians
- Performed RNAi knockdowns of these genes to elucidate roles in the maintenance and/or regeneration of dopaminergic neurons

Clinical Affective Neuroscience Lab, Department of Psychology, UGA

August 2018 – June 2020

Senior Research Assistant

Athens, GA

Advisor: Dr. Gregory Strauss

Project Title: Anhedonia and Reward Processing in Schizophrenia

- Recruited and screened participants from online survey questionnaires
- Administered a battery of computer tasks and validated questionnaires
- Collected saliva samples for cytokine analysis
- Revised and organized over 100 patient surveys for multi-site studies

Project Title: Diminished Hedonic Response in Youth at Clinical High Risk for Psychosis

- Engaged in compliance procedures as required by the IRB
- Analyzed data from validated computer tasks to assess hedonic response in clinical high-risk youth using SPSS

Project Title: Defeatist performance beliefs are associated with negative symptoms, neurocognitive performance, and global functioning in individuals at clinical high-risk for psychosis

- Analyzed data from validated cognitive batteries and demographic questionnaires to assess cognition and functioning in forty-eight clinical high-risk youth and one hundred eighty-six schizophrenia outpatients using R
- Compared clinical measures between clinical high-risk youth and schizophrenia patients

Neuroscience Summer Undergraduate Research Experience, University of Georgia

May 2019 – July 2019

Independent Research Assistant

Athens, GA

Advisor: Dr. Jonathan Eggenschwiler

Project Title: Eye Development in Hedgehog Signaling Pathway Mutants

- Sacrificed pregnant mice, dissected embryos, and genotyped embryonic tissue with the aid of PCR and gel electrophoresis
- Investigated eye development using cryostat sectioning and antibody staining
- Dissected lizard embryos at various ages in development

- Researched regeneration in planarians using RNAi feeding protocol
- Interdisciplinary, comprehensive research mentorship, supportive and diverse training, professional dynamism

Hargrett Library Technical Services Department, University of Georgia

August 2017 – December 2018

Archivist, Technical Services

Athens, GA

Supervisor: Jim StipeMaas

Project Title: Historic Textiles Collection

- Evaluated over 3000 records for accuracy, value, and status of preservation
- Designed innovative and interactive exhibits to showcase newly procured and digitized items
- Researched and recorded origins, provenance, and historical significance of archival materials
- Instructed students on handling techniques for historical items
- Streamlined usage by creating organizational systems for newly digitized records and documents through Archivist's Toolkit
- Organized textiles and stored in the temperature-controlled vault

Tropical Entomology in Ecuador Department of Entomology, University of Georgia

May 2017

Study Abroad Student Researcher

Ecuador and the Galapagos

Advisor: Dr. Robert Matthews, Emeritus Professor

Project Title: A Digital Collection of Ecuadorian Insects

- Photographed over 100 insects found in Ecuador, identified to the order and family
- Researched insect predators and resource management
- Collected and pinned a selection of twenty insect species for group presentation

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

UGA Women In Science

September 2020 - Present

Graduate Mentor

Athens, GA

- Mentor to an undergraduate student to provide possible research opportunities and advice

Advocates for Anti-Racism in Life Sciences

September 2020 - Present

Graduate Mentor

Athens, GA

- Mentor to an underrepresented minority undergraduate student seeking research opportunities and career guidance

Mathnasium of Athens

March 2019 – September 2019

Math Instructor

Athens, GA

- Covered topics such as: numerical fluency, algebra, geometry, and calculus
- Prepared students for standardized exams including the SAT, ACT, GRE, and MCAT
- Taught groups of 1-4 students of various levels from Kindergarten through college concurrently
- Adjusted teaching strategies to meet the diverse requirements of individual learning plans
- Worked with administrators on behavioral issues to support the needs of students

Mathnasium of Augusta

August 2015 – August 2016, May 2017 – August 2017, May 2018 – August 2018

Math Instructor

Augusta, GA

- Covered topics such as: numerical fluency, algebra, geometry, calculus, and physics
- Prepared students for standardized exams including the SAT and ACT
- Taught groups of 1-6 students of various levels from Kindergarten through calculus concurrently
- Adjusted teaching strategies to meet the diverse requirements of individual learning plans
- Organized student files and administrative documents

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Clay, K. B.**, Raugh, I. M., Bartolomeo, L.A., & Strauss, G.P. (2020). Defeatist performance beliefs in individuals at clinical high-risk for psychosis and outpatients with chronic schizophrenia. *Early Intervention in Psychiatry, 1-9*.
2. Brow, K. A., Carpenter, J. M., Preston, C. J., Ludwig, H. D., **Clay, K. B.**, Harn, D. A., Norberg, T., Wagner, J. J., & Filipov, N. M. (under review). Lacto-N-fucopentaose-III ameliorates acute and persisting hippocampal synaptic plasticity and transmission deficits in a Gulf War Illness mouse model. *Life Sciences*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **Clay, K. B.**, Raugh, I. M., James, S. H., Bartolomeo, L. A., Strauss, G. P. *Defeatist performance beliefs in youth at clinical high-risk for psychosis and outpatients with schizophrenia*. (2020, June). Poster presentation at the 18th Annual Georgia Undergraduate Research in Psychology Conference.
2. **Clay, K. B.**, Raugh, I. M., James, S. H., Bartolomeo, L. A., Strauss, G. P. *Defeatist performance beliefs are associated with clinical symptoms and conversion risk to schizophrenia in individuals at clinical high-risk for psychosis*. (2020, April). Oral presentation at the 43rd Annual Psi Chi Convention of the Behavioral Sciences, Athens, GA. (cancelled due to COVID-19)
3. **Clay, K. B.**, Raugh, I. M., James, S. H., Bartolomeo, L. A., Strauss, G. P. *Defeatist performance beliefs in youth at clinical high-risk for psychosis and outpatients with schizophrenia*. (2020, April). Poster presentation at the University of Georgia Center for Undergraduate Research Symposium.
4. **Clay, K. B.**, Raugh, I. M., Chapman, H. C., Bartolomeo, L. A., Visser, K. F., Grant, P. M., Beck, A. T., Strauss, G. P. *Defeatist performance beliefs are associated with negative symptoms, neurocognitive performance, and global functioning in individuals at clinical high-risk for psychosis*. (2019, September). Poster presented at the Society for Research in Psychopathology Conference, Buffalo, NY.
5. McCommon, S. A., Khevali, I., **Clay, K.**, Roberts-Galbraith, R. *Studying Neural Regeneration of the Planarian Schmidtea mediterranea*. (2019, July). Poster presented at the University of Georgia Research Experience for Undergraduates Symposium, Athens, GA.
6. **Clay, K. B.**, Eggenschwiler, J. T. *Eye Development in Hedgehog Signaling Pathway Mutants*. (2019, July). Poster presented at the University of Georgia Research Experience for Undergraduates Symposium, Athens, GA.
7. **Clay, K. B.**, Raugh, I. M., Chapman, H.C., Gonzalez, C.M., Bartolomeo, L.A., Strauss, G.P. *Diminished Hedonic Response in Youth at Clinical High-Risk for Psychosis*. (2019, April). Poster presented at the 42nd Annual Psi Chi Convention of the Behavioral Sciences, Athens, GA.
8. **Clay, K. B.**, Raugh, I. M., Chapman, H.C., Gonzalez, C.M., Bartolomeo, L.A., Strauss, G.P. *Diminished Hedonic Response in Youth at Clinical High-Risk for Psychosis*. (2019, April). Poster presented at the University of Georgia Center for Undergraduate Research Symposium, Athens, GA.

HONORS & AWARDS

Phi Beta Kappa	March 2019 – Present
Nu Rho Psi Neuroscience Honor Society	August 2019 - Present
Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society, Philanthropy Committee	August 2018 - Present
Alpha Epsilon Delta, Georgia Alpha Chapter	March 2017 - Present
Pell Grant	2019 – 2020
CURO Research Assistantship	Spring 2019, Spring 2020
CURO Conference Participation Grant	Fall 2019
Dean's List	2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2020
Jabez Sanford Hardin Scholarship	2016 – 2020
Zell Miller Scholarship	2016 – 2020

SKILLS

Records management, group and individual instruction, clinical research, insect pinning, gel electrophoresis, PCR, embryonic dissections, cryostat sectioning, antibody staining, proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Archivist's Toolkit, as well as Canva, intermediate understanding of SPSS and R

SERVICE PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

UGA Women in Science, Philanthropy & Outreach Committee, Social Media Coordinator August 2016 – Present

- Organized symposium events and optimized presentation layout
- Led a research experiment for children for Girls in STEM Day
- Implemented a new website design and optimized infographics for viewer engagement
- Mentor to an undergraduate student in science

UGA Impact Dawg Day of Service, Volunteer August 2016 – Present

- Partnered with:
 - Oasis Católico Santa Rafaela to transform the playground into an accessible space for after school care
 - Learning Ally to clean and organize the recording studio and collection of Braille textbooks
 - University Nursing & Rehabilitation Center to rejuvenate the outdoor space for residents
 - Hands on Athens to renovate a home for a local underserved resident of Athens

Georgia Junior Science & Humanities Symposium, Volunteer Judge February 2021

- Judged high school scientific research papers
- Inspected 7 papers for plagiarism and evaluated on criteria including originality and feasibility of the experiments

SciRen, Volunteer Lesson Planner January - February 2021

- Developed two high school level lesson plans in Neuroscience: *Synaptic Transmission & What Does a Neuron Look Like?*
- Presented the lesson plans and interactive modeling kits to Georgia educators

Virtual ExCEL Camp: Early Elementary, Volunteer June 2020 – July 2020

- Recorded a video of myself singing and playing an interactive song on the guitar for the incoming visually impaired students from kindergarten through second grade
- Assisted in the technological upkeep of the virtual presentations for international viewing

Undergraduate Neuroscience Organization, Secretary, Philanthropy Committee January 2017 – May 2020

- Recruited Neuroscience speakers for general body meetings
- Organized the annual Parkinson's Fundraising event, raising over \$5000

Athens Red Cross, Volunteer April 2019

- Engaged local homeowners in the practices of fire safety
- Installed smoke detectors according to fire department guidelines in resident's homes

Ecotones at UGA, Administrative Director, Former Creativity Manager and Eco-chair August 2016 – May 2020

- Acapella organization with a focus on ecological service
- Coordinated group activities including performances and service opportunities
- Optimized group scheduling and organizing

CERTIFICATIONS

CITI Social and Behavioral Human Research

valid until February 2023

CITI Biomedical Human Research