

Undergraduate Research Assistantship Proposals

Faculty: **Angela J. Grippo**, Assistant Professor, Psychology

URA Title: Undergraduate Research Assistant

Requested for: **Fall 2012**

Eligible Majors: **Psychology, Biology, Sociology**

Position Description: The undergraduate assistant will conduct hands-on, translational research in the Department of Psychology in the laboratory of Dr. Angela Grippo. The research in this laboratory is focused on understanding how stress and social experiences contribute to our emotion, cardiovascular function, and changes in the brain. This research involves conducting experiments with a unique animal model, the prairie vole. This is a rodent that displays very interesting social behaviors similar to humans, including living in family groups, forming long-term social bonds, and sometimes mating with the same partner for life. The undergraduate assistant will participate in the following tasks, under the supervision of Dr. Grippo and/or other laboratory members: assisting with experiments involving behavioral tasks, responses to stress, cardiovascular function, hormonal function, and the brain in prairie voles; analysis of cardiovascular data; and analysis of social behaviors, depression-relevant behaviors, and anxiety-relevant behaviors.

List the duties and responsibilities of this position.

This position will involve the following duties and responsibilities (further information about the focus of our research can be found at this website: www.grippo.weebly.com): (1) Assisting with experiments that involve rodents (2) Working with computer programs to analyze behaviors in rodents (such as behaviors related to stress, depression, or anxiety) (3) Working with computer programs to analyze cardiovascular function in rodents (4) Regular interactions and research-related discussions with other members of the laboratory, including attending periodic meetings and communicating via email

List the position qualifications including any special requirements (be specific): Preference will be given to applicants that meet the following specifications: (1) Willingness to assist with experiments involving animals (rodents) (2) Availability to continue in the laboratory for at least 1 semester following the undergraduate assistant appointment (e.g., through volunteering or receiving course credit, depending on individual circumstances) (3) A minimum GPA of 3.5

Please provide information on how the students should apply and to whom they should apply: Send an email to Dr. Angela Grippo (angelagrippo@niu.edu) indicating your intention to apply for this position. Also attach a brief resume or curriculum vitae.