

DURGA KULLAKANDA

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EDUCATION

Cornell University, College of Arts and Sciences, Ithaca, NY
Bachelor of Arts, Biological Sciences – Neurobiology & Behavior
GPA: **4.10/4.30**, Phi Beta Kappa

Expected Dec 2018

Parkway North High School, St. Louis, MO
GPA: **4.00/4.00**, Rank: **6/329**, National AP Scholar

Graduated May 2015

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Neural Circuitry of Reward and Motivation – Warden Lab** August 2016 to present
Dept. of Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Investigating the role of dopaminergic ventral tegmental area neurons in learning temporally and spatially distant reward seeking tasks using fiber photometry and optogenetics.
- **Neuroethology and Systematics – Hopkins Lab** January 2016 to August 2016
Depts. of Neurobiology and Behavior/Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Used MATLAB to digitize electric organ discharges for the Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Metadata from the Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates was used to make EOD data publicly available through the Macaulay Library website.
- **Pollinator Study – Camilo Lab** May 2014 to December 2014
Dept. of Biology, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
Aided with field work to capture pollinator species in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Learned proper methods of how to collect and pin various insects, and identify different species of pollinators.

LAB SKILLS

Mice behavioral training, fiber photometry, optogenetics, stereotactic surgery techniques including viral vector microinjections and fiber optic cannula implants, perfusion, microtome slicing, histology, slide preparation, immunohistochemistry, confocal microscopy, and insect collection.

COMPUTER SKILLS

Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Fireworks, InDesign, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, PHP/MySQL, MATLAB, R, Python, LabVIEW

LEADERSHIP/SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- Teaching Assistant August 2017 to Present
BIOMG 3300 (Principles of Biochemistry), BIONB 2210 (Intro. to Behavior), BIONB 2220 (Intro. to Neuroscience)
- Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity September 2016 to Present
Pledge project leader - took on leadership roles to help new brothers get involved with service projects.
Webmaster - updated chapter website and took on projects to make finding community service easier.
- Editor-in-chief for SYNAPSE journal, CUSN's neuroscience publication August 2016 to May 2017
- Learning Strategies Center – Study Group Leader, Cornell University January 2016 to May 2016
Facilitate group discussions and learning, and teach study skills in small groups for cellular biology.
- Executive Board, Cornell Undergraduate Society for Neuroscience August 2015 to August 2016
Engagement chair - web developer for website, logo designer, worked with Listserv.