

# Youth Scholars Institute

## 2010 Program

**TITLE:** Behavioral Neuroscience: Drugs, the Brain and Behavior

**INSTRUCTOR:** Michelle Niculescu, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology

**DESCRIPTION:** Why do we act the way we do? Is it nature or nurture? How do our senses integrate to form perceptions? Can I trust my senses and perceptions? How do our brains control our behaviors? How do drugs of abuse work, and how do they relate to how people act? These questions, and many more, will be addressed during this program, as students will explore topics related to neuroscience, behavioral genetics, sensory & perceptual processes, psychopharmacology, motivational processes, and behavioral disorders. Furthermore, the class will examine how these processes and behaviors are treated in an attempt to answer the many questions related to biopsychology. Students will participate in a variety of interactive activities, including the participation and administration of experiments illustrating psychobiological principles. The goals of the program are to give participants an appreciation of the neuroscientific approach to studying human behavior, and show how the nervous system and behavior interact. Additionally, the program will enable students to discuss available career opportunities in behavioral neuroscience, and provide students with a snapshot of the academic and social elements of college life.