My project with Professor Bhatia was preliminary research on the intersection between memory and preference studies. We started out with a pilot study on Mturk with 150 participants, giving people 25 movie names in succession and then asking them to write down as many as they remembered in one condition and those they like in another condition. Once analyzed, this showed patterns we expected, including primacy, recency effects and contiguity, which are commonly found in memory research. What we were looking for was the same patterns showing themselves in the liking condition, as we called it. Indeed, we found a similar but less pronounced pattern of contiguity in the second condition. The second study was done in the lab and found similar effects. With this result, Professor Bhatia and I will write a short paper and during the semester, when I will be continuing as a volunteer, conduct a few more studies to add and make a longer paper.

This research experience taught me the necessary skills to do research in the psychology field as well as how to go about studying what I want in the best way possible. Participating in the project allowed me to learn more about choice theory, a field of study I was interested in since before college but found hard to broach because it was in its early stages of application. Now I know all the paths available to me and it makes me much more confident in myself as I continue my education knowing I can follow any one of them because I have the skills required to do it.