Theme Overview
Many of the core problems of our time – climate change, financial crises, addiction, and social inequality – arise from individuals and their choices. Brain research on cognition, emotions, expression, and decision-making will be translated in this theme to address collective challenges and increase understanding of how behavior influences society and vice-versa.

Theme Objectives
Bass Connections in Brain and Society will engage students and researchers to build connections between basic research in neuroscience and socially challenging questions in medicine, the humanities, public policy, economics, ethics, and law. Each vertically-integrated, cross-disciplinary team will tackle a current issue relating to the brain and its link to society as a whole.

Student Activities
Teams will be formed around faculty-initiated projects drawing on new research and educational connections. Students may apply to the Brain & Society theme or to specific faculty-led teams. Students without a team affiliation may participate in co-curricular activities or take Discovery Courses. Interested students should contact Nicole Schramm-Sapyta.

Theme Requirements
Students can participate in the Brain and Society theme through two primary paths:
- **Research Teams.** Students participating in a typical research program will complete a full-time summer experience and 2 academic semesters of independent study or other project work, along with other activities. No prior research experience is necessary, and details will vary by project.
- **Co-curricular Activities.** Students can participate in Brain and Society activities without joining a research team. Students are encouraged to create a coherent course of study that combines classes, independent or directed research, and co-/extra-curricular activities.

Fall 2013 Courses
Bass Connections Brain and Society Scholars will enroll in independent study courses either through Trinity/Pratt or through their chosen major, depending on the nature of the project. Teams for the 2013-2014 academic year are being formed on a rolling basis. For subsequent years, a formal application process will be instituted; students will apply in early spring 2014 for teams to begin in summer/fall 2014.

Other Fall 2013 Experiences
Brain and Society Teams will meet regularly to discuss research progress. Brain and Society Scholars will also engage with one another across teams, through shared co-curricular activities.

Future Courses
The program will sponsor Discovery Courses that are open to students inside and out of the program. Courses are being planned for Spring 2014 and thereafter. In future years, students will have the option of a Brain and Society capstone course that explores ethical and practical problems from a team-based perspective.

Future Experiences
Summer activities by teams, including data collection, analysis, and other research activities. Student-directed co-curricular activities, including seminars, dinner conversations, and interactions with faculty and students from throughout campus. Project presentations, in the form of scientific posters, seminars, artistic performances, and other types of engagement.

Contact Information
Interested students, please contact: nicole.schrammsapyta@duke.edu
Interested faculty, please contact: scott.huettel@duke.edu
deborah.jenson@duke.edu
For more information and application forms: http://dibs.duke.edu/education/brain-society