



CNHS Newsletter

Fall 2025

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Dean Greenwood's Note

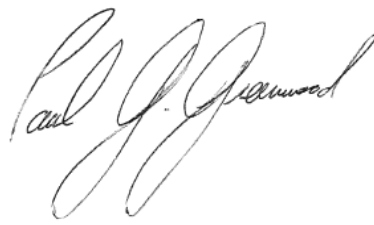


I hope the fall semester has started well for each of you, and that classes are engaging, interesting, and informative. We welcome a number of new faculty members and staff to the college across most of our departments. Aside from their professional expertise in their academic disciplines, they range from a national marble champion, to the head coach of a national goal ball team, to being raised by professional water skiers, to being trapped routinely in elevators.

This newsletter celebrates the many accomplishments of our faculty and students during the summer. I am proud of all the work our faculty and students do, but I am particularly proud of the many ways CNHS students and faculty reach out into the community to forge connections between the University and others. I encourage you all to read how our students and faculty are extending the reach of the College.

I wish all the students, faculty, and staff of CNHS a continued excellent semester.

Most sincerely,



Welcome all New and Returning Faculty!

2025 New CNHS Faculty and Staff



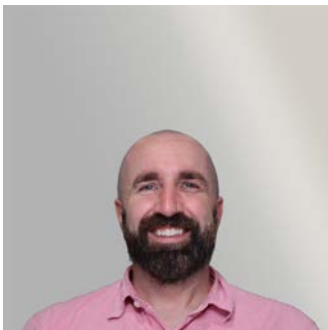
Professor Thi Nga Do
Physics & Astronomy



Professor Mariana Dupont
Health Sciences and Human
Performance



Professor Shirley Franks
Nursing



Professor Colin Goodman
Biology

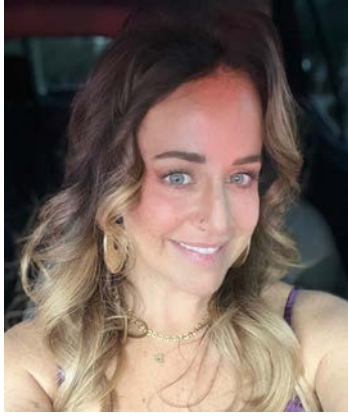


Professor Jonathan Hulse
Biology



Professor Kendal Jackson
Environmental Studies





Professor Nicole Kemper
Health Sciences and Human
Performance



**Professor Jessica Libby-
Roberts**
Physics & Astronomy



Professor Sarah Orr
Biology



**Professor Anna
Pavlishchuk**
Chemistry & Biochemistry



**Professor Payton
Phillips**
Biology



Professor Michael Roscoe
Physician Assistant Medicine



Professor Anna Tansik
Biology



Professor Brandi Torres
Nursing



Professor Katie Vasenina
Health Sciences and
Human Performance



Professor Wellington Vazquez
Health Sciences and Human
Performance



Professor Stephanie Watkins
Physician Assistant Medicine

CNHS Happenings

Convocation 2025

Convocation was held in the Falk Theater on Saturday August 23 and was attended by approximately 700 new students along with our platform party of faculty and student organization officers. Our honored speakers were **Dr. Coral Bender**, Assistant Professor in Sport Management and Ms. Hannah Gartrell (Forensic Science major, Biology minor Class of '26). Following the ceremony, new students were able to meet with student officers representing over a dozen clubs and organizations. New to this year's event, three departments hosted break-out sessions for new students interested in Biology, Marine Biology, Environmental Studies and Sport Management. These sessions were well attended and we hope more departments will consider participating in future convocations.



Nursing Students Study Abroad in the Dominican Republic



Nine junior and senior UTampa nursing students accompanied **Dr. Robin White** (Nursing) on this year's study abroad experience to the Dominican Republic August 2-9, 2025. Along with two Dominican physicians and a handful of translators, this group was able to provide mobile medical care, provide medications, and provide shoes and dental/hygiene supplies to approximately 500 Dominican men, women, and children in the rural barrios surrounding San Juan de La Maguana, DR. These patients may not have had access to medical care otherwise. This provided hands-on nursing experience for these students as they rotated through areas such as triage, observing the medical providers, assisting in the mobile pharmacy, and providing home visits with the pastor. The students also were immersed in the Dominican culture, language, and customs, visiting places such as the local market, hospital, and cathedral.

Sport Management on the Road with Interns

This summer, **Professor Michael Flynn**, sport management internship coordinator, road-tripped nearly 18 hours across New England to visit students on the job. An article written by Alyssa Cortes (CAL '26) entitled, "On the Road with UTampa Sport Management Interns" can be found here: <https://www.ut.edu/news-and-ut-life/2025/on-the-road-with-utampa-sport-management-interns>



Cardiac Electrophysiology Mission Team in Nicaragua



Dr. Dee Dee Brumfield (Chemistry) and her husband Jeffrey Brumfield, M.D. took their cardiac electrophysiology mission team to Nicaragua for their annual trip from July 31st to August 11th. This year's trip was the largest ever, with 21 participants. Three UTampa students assisted in clinics, operating rooms, and electrophysiology labs and worked alongside physicians, fellows, residents, and medical students from around the country, representing many different professional programs. The mission serves indigent patients in a developing nation, and students gain deep appreciation for the striking differences in the availability of advanced medical care. UTampa students serve vital roles on the trip, such as medical record keeping, translation, and assisting physicians. To quote Dr. Brumfeld, "We often say, we couldn't do the trip without student help", the three UTampa CNHS students attending this year were:

Kiera Johnson (Junior, Biochemistry major). Kiera says, "I am a third year, biochemistry major in hopes of attending med school after undergrad. My end goal is to hopefully be a surgeon, either working in cardiology or oncology. During this trip I

not only hope to gain shadowing hours in the OR but also work within communities that struggle to access healthcare.

Arianna Hosca (Senior, Biology major, pre-med). This is Ari's second trip with us. Airanna says, "I can speak Spanish fluently and will love to aid in translating again on the trip. I am a rising senior with a BS majoring in Biology Pre-Medicine. My goal in the Future is to become a Surgeon in either Neurology, Cardiology, or Trauma, I hope to gain hands-on experience that will deepen my commitment to medicine and strengthen my ability to care for patients in real-world clinical settings."

Sienna Martano (Junior, Allied Health major). Sienna says, "I am a rising junior and I want to go on the trip to expand my view of medicine in the third world. I hope to get real world experience working with doctors in the hospital and understanding the challenges of healthcare in remote areas. I am really looking forward to this trip."

Dr. Brumfield says, "When students attend the trips, on the first day in country I always have a goal-setting session where they write down what they hope to achieve for themselves from the trip. I encourage them to keep a journal for the week making as many observations as possible. At the end we meet again, and even though everyone is exhausted, we reflect. Students compare their goals with what they experienced. They are always so surprised to discover how small their visions were going into the trip and how much more they were able to accomplish for themselves and others."



Congratulations to **Dr. Roman Sereda** (Physician Assistant Medicine) at this year's annual Florida Academy of PAs awards ceremony. Below is an excerpt from the award announcement.

As part of this week's Membership Monday, we are honored to recognize and celebrate the recipients of our 2025 Annual Awards. These individuals exemplify excellence across every facet of the PA profession — from clinical care and education to leadership, advocacy, and humanitarian service.

Please join us in congratulating the following outstanding professionals:

***Roman Sereda, DMSc, PA-C
Faculty Member of the Year***

An exceptional PA educator who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, mentorship, and academic leadership. The recipient embodies a commitment to shaping the next generation of PAs through innovation, inspiration, and dedication to student success. Roman's innovative approach to education and unwavering mentorship continue to shape and inspire future generations of PAs.

We extend our deepest congratulations and gratitude to this year's awardees. Your dedication, leadership, and compassion continue to move our profession forward and inspire the next generation of healthcare leaders.

Thank you for being a part of the FAPA community and for supporting excellence within our profession.

Jaylin Crockett, PA-S2

PA Student of the Year

A PA student who exemplifies academic excellence, leadership, professionalism, and a strong commitment to the PA profession. The recipient stands out through their dedication to service, advocacy, and meaningful contributions to their program, peers, and community.

Jaylin leads with purpose, embodying the future of the PA profession through her excellence and service.

Thank you for being a part of the FAPA community and for supporting excellence within our profession.

AP Science Day at UTampa



Through collective coordination by **Dr. Sarah Wilson** (Biology), **Jeanette Gore** (Biology), **Dr. Matt Wilson** (Chemistry & Biochemistry), and **Dr. Heajin Lee** (Chemistry & Biochemistry), advanced placement students from Sickles High School spent a day at UT on Saturday, May 3rd, participating in AP Science Day. Following opening remarks by Dean Greenwood, faculty and student mentors from Biology and Chemistry engaged the AP students and their teachers in a variety of activities and experiments in our labs. Thank you to all the faculty, students, and staff who participated in this day of learning and community engagement!

CNHS' New Mission Statement

CNHS Mission Statement

COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Areas of Study

Message from the Dean

CNHS Mission Statement

CNHS Dean's List

Contact Information

Newsletter

CNHS Faculty Resources

Mission Statement

The mission of the College of Natural and Health Sciences is for faculty and staff to educate a diverse student body through a high-quality curriculum focused on community engagement, critical thinking, experiential learning and comprehensive research, which equip students to navigate the rapid advancements in science, health, sport and environmental issues.

Vision Statement

The college aspires to cultivate a community of well-educated students in the concentrations of science, health, and sport and to prepare them for complex challenges through inquiry, knowledge sharing, and collaboration, as well as the ability to work independently, all while encouraging personal growth and mutual respect.

Values Statement

Connections occur through partnerships, collaborations, and internships that facilitate research, clinical practice, and scholarship fostering creativity and developing effective scientific and communication skills to address and solve local to global problems. We value an in-person education with small student to instructor ratios that involve faculty-student collaboration and mentoring through experiential learning.

Transformations occur through a liberal arts education focused on the sciences, health, and sport. Faculty and staff provide a transformative education rooted in a culture of respect and well-being, preparing students for future challenges and opportunities. We value fostering academic success through critical thinking, effective communication, creativity, and service, which provides students with the tools needed to succeed.

Success is achieved by providing an accessible, healthy environment that emphasizes the well-being of our students, faculty and staff. Success relies on the continual evaluation and strategic planning pursuant to the growth of the college and its departments. Effective academic advising as it pertains to student course work and professional ambitions fosters success through retention, persistence, and a timely graduation. Student success is reflected with the attainment of critical thinking skills, their applications to life experiences and contributions to society.

Motto: Connect - Transform - Succeed

The link to our new CNHS Mission Statement can be found here:

<https://www.ut.edu/academics/college-of-natural-and-health-sciences/cnhs-mission-statement>

Student Success

2025 SURF Undergraduate Fellows

SUMMER UNDERGRAD RESEARCH FELLOWS

CARTER ALVARADO

Chemistry

is studying with Dr. Michael French how proteins break down. The focus is on a key protein called Ubiquitin, which highlights damaged proteins and link together to form chains. They are testing these different chains to see how efficient or inefficient different types of chains breakdown proteins in hopes to uncover a way to use this system to treat diseases caused by the buildup of damaged protein cells.



[UT.EDU/INQUIRY](https://www.ut.edu/inquiry) to Apply for a SURF- deadline February 1st, 2026

SUMMER UNDERGRAD RESEARCH FELLOWS

RYAN STEWART

Biology

is investigating the effects of antioxidant treatment on drug-resistant breast cancer. Under the mentorship of Dr. Kimberly Dobrinski, his research centers on Resveratrol, a naturally occurring antioxidant found in the skin of grapes and various plants. This compound has the potential to enhance current cancer treatment by targeting and eliminate cancer cells while preserving healthy breast tissue.



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SUMMER UNDERGRAD RESEARCH FELLOWS

JULIA MORELLI

Forensic Science

working with Dr. Evans-Nguyen is looking into a new technique for analyzing fingerprints and documents. By analyzing the chemical composition of these samples using MALDESI (a chemical technique that uses a laser) and imaging, she hopes to increase the efficiency of identifying individuals and/or document forgeries by forensic scientists in the case of a speculated crime.



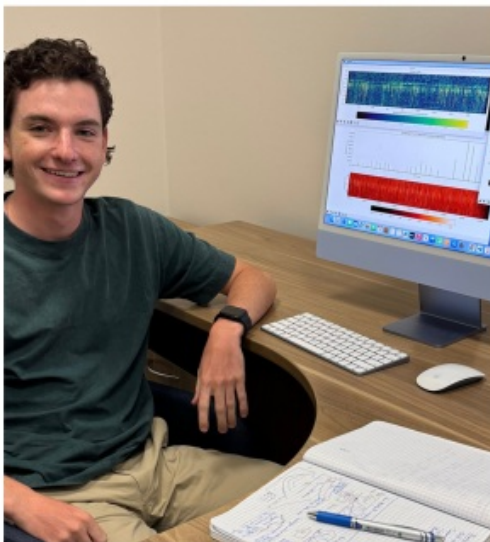
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SUMMER UNDERGRAD RESEARCH FELLOWS

RYAN HOMER

Marine Biology

is studying Bryde's whale calls under the guidance of Dr. Rose Hilmo. By creating and running codes in Python, they are able to analyze data from sensors on the bottom of the western Pacific ocean to detect whale calls, then estimate their densities. This research adds to the essential knowledge of whale movements around the Pacific ocean.



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SUMMER UNDERGRAD RESEARCH FELLOWS

ANDREW REIDENBAUGH

Biology

is investigating the novel antioxidant breast cancer treatment capsaicin to fight drug-resistant cancers. 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and he is hoping to improve these patient outcomes with naturally-occurring therapies. He is working with his mentor Jeanette Gore.



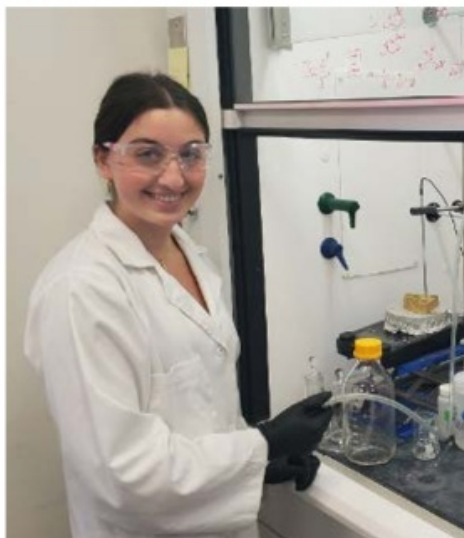
[UT.EDU/INQUIRY](https://ut.edu/inquiry) to Apply for a SURF- deadline February 1st, 2026

SUMMER UNDERGRAD RESEARCH FELLOWS

MADISON CHUPELA

Biology

working with Dr. Brett Hemric to develop a way to make molecules stick to a specific spot on carbon chains--the building blocks of many chemicals. By analyzing the results of her reactions, Madison can figure out where the molecules are connecting and how it's happening. This research can make it easier and more affordable to use commercially available chemicals to help create new medicines.



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SUMMER UNDERGRAD RESEARCH FELLOWS

GABRIELLA BUICE

Marine Science-Biology

is working with Dr. Makhijani using fruit flies to determine if a mutation in their two genes of interest could be a potential cause for Alzheimer's Disease. Since 60% of a fruit fly's genes are conserved in humans, the results of this study could be used for future Alzheimer's research, which could impact treatments of the disease.



[UT.EDU/INQUIRY](https://ut.edu/inquiry) to Apply for a SURF- deadline February 1st, 2026

An Exploration of Vaping Among College Students

Sarah Amideneau
Public Health Major '25

Abstract: Vaping has become a crucial concern among college students in the US. It continues to increase in popularity, while also raising concerns about potential health effects. This study examines the prevalence of the use of vapes from students at The University of Tampa. A qualitative research approach was used, beginning with five observations that took place around campus at UTampa. Then, ten students were asked to be interviewed, and all ten interviews were coded and transcribed. One focus group took place to go deeper into students' knowledge and experiences related to vaping. This qualitative data indicated that vaping has a strong correlation with peer influence, along with mental health, and students are aware of the negative health effects of vaping. These findings suggest the need for further research and interventions to increase awareness and reduce vaping among universities. This essay was produced in Dr. Mary Martinasek's HSC 340 course.



Sarah Amideneau (Public Health) published her research in the UTampa journal *Q* this past May under the guidance of her research mentor, **Dr. Mary Martinasek** (Health Science & Human Performance). A link to the article can be found here:

https://ut.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/collectionDiscovery?vid=01UTAMPA_INST:SpartanSearch&collectionId=81120158510008186

Faculty and Student Scholarship

BioOne DIGITAL LIBRARY

Unexpected Presence of *Elysia chlorotica* (Gould, 1840) in Tampa Bay, Florida, U.S.A. with Notes on Population Decline

Nicholas E. Curtis¹ · Michael L. Middlebrooks²

Received: 27 February 2025 / Accepted: 10 July 2025
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Abstract
Elysia diomedea is a sacoglossan sea slug found on the Pacific coast of North America. This study identifies their algal food sources. This is the first study to identify the source of these stolen chloroplasts by Illumina next-generation sequencing technology. *de novo* genome sequencing of a single specimen from Juan de la Costa, Mexico showed that over 50% of its chloroplasts were from a single species of *Bryopsis* and contained other species of *Bryopsis* and species from the genera *Derbesia*, *Codium*, and *Parvocaulis*.

Dr. Michael Middlebrooks (Biology) has published two new papers from his slug lab. The first paper Ambrosio *et al.* 2025 was published in the journal *American Malacological Bulletin* and is a description of the discovery of a previously unknown population of the sea slug *Elysia chlorotica* in Tampa Bay. Authors include Dr. Middlebrooks, **John Ambrosio** (Marine Science Field Station Coordinator) and Samantha Schlegel (UT Marine Science Biology '24). Samantha worked on the EM imaging and description of the slugs' radula, skills that she learned taking the electron microscopy course at UTampa.

The second paper was published in the journal *Symbiosis* and is the first dietary

description of the sea slug *Elysia diomedea* using DNA barcoding. Dr. Middlebrooks is very excited about this work as he has been trying to get samples of this animal for years. Both papers can be found at the links below:

<https://doi.org/10.4003/006.042.0102>

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13199-025-01069-8>



Dr. Christine Theodore (Chemistry & Biochemistry) had her book chapter entitled, "Enhancing NMR Spectroscopy Learning in the Undergraduate Classroom" accepted to be published in the American Chemical Society Symposium Series volume tentatively titled "Engaging Students in Organic Chemistry Volume 2."

Alumnae news



Former UTampa student, Lorielle Raab (Biology '24) published her first peer-reviewed article in the journal *microPublication Biology*. The article is entitled, "*The v^{24} Allele is a Missense Mutation Within the Predicted Tryptophan 2,3-dioxygenase Protein Domain of vermilion*" and was co-authored by her NIH mentor Dr. Leif Benner (Psychology '13) and **Professor Emeritus Steve Kucera** (Biology). The link to the article can be found here:

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12402933/>

Important Dates



[UT Master Calendar](#)
[UT Academic Calendar](#)

September 24-October 12 - Midterm progress reporting process
October 13- First 7-week classes end
October 15- Second 7-week classes begin
October 25 & November 8- Open House
November 3-20 - Registration begins for Spring and Winter
November 3 - Last day to withdraw from 14-week class
November 14 - College Meeting: Vaughn Center Crescent Club, 1 pm
November 26–30 Thanksgiving Break
December 6- Last Day of Fall Classes
December 8-11 - Fall final exams
December 11- Fall Semester ends
December 12- Fall Commencement
December 15- Fall Grades Due

Please send future news items to jfasick@ut.edu

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