



CNHS Newsletter

Spring 2024

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Dean Greenwood's Note



The Spring Semester has gotten off to an exciting start with a number of faculty members from the college learning about their successful tenure or promotion decisions. Congratulations to all of these exceptionally talented individuals!

Our students and faculty continue to work broadly across their scholarly disciplines and volunteering their time and expertise both locally, nationally, and internationally. This newsletter reports on just a few of these. I do want to note two particular areas of public accolades. 1) the formation of Seahorse National Park in the Bahamas, in an area where Dr. Heather Mason has been working for years. The work of Dr. Mason and her students was instrumental in defining the region as an important natural habitat, which led to the dedication of the park. This is truly important work. 2) the Burst Chasers citizen science initiative that Dr. Amy Lien is heading up. The initiative links scholarly astrophysics with the interests of citizens to aid in classifying Gamma Ray Bursts. This initiative truly exemplifies the CNHS mission of making and fostering connections.

I hope each of you enjoys the rest of the spring semester!

Cordially,



CNHS Happenings

The following professors have been granted tenure and/or promotion. Please join us in congratulating them!

Granted Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor:

Denija Crnojevic, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Physics and Astronomy

James Weiner, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Sport Management

Granted Tenure:

Susan Berg, DNP, Associate Professor, Nursing

Robin White, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Nursing

Granted Promotion to Professor:

Eric Freundt, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Biology

Padmanabhan Mahadevan, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Biology

Granted Promotion to Associate Teaching Professor:

June Llerena, Ph.D., Assistant Teaching Professor, Nursing

Kristian Taylor, Ph.D., Assistant Teaching Professor, Biology

Vincent Yannello, Ph.D., Assistant Teaching Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Granted Promotion to Lecturer II:

Shirley Franks, MSN, Lecturer I, Nursing

The T&P reception will be on Thursday, March 14th from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Fletcher Lounge of Plant Hall to honor these CNHS faculty members as well faculty from the other UT colleges.

Dr. Alex Landy (Biology), a long-time Visiting Assistant Professor in Biology, was recently hired as an Assistant Teaching Professor. Congratulations Alex!



Society of Physics Students Distinguished Chapter Award



SPS Outstanding Chapter Awards are determined each academic year after a careful review of the information, photos and supporting material presented in the annual SPS Chapter Reports. The reviewers include a team of four SPS National Council members, including Zone Councilors and Associate Zone Councilors, as well as the SPS office staff.

This year, **The University of Tampa SPS Chapter was acknowledged as a 2022-23 Distinguished Chapter**. All chapter award winners will be recognized on the Outstanding Chapter Award page in the coming weeks (see link below).

<https://www.spsnational.org/awards/outstanding-chapter>

Seahorse National Park in the Bahamas is officially open!



Seahorse National Park was made official by the Bahamian Government and the Bahamas National Trust on September 7th 2023, and invited **Dr. Heather Mason** (Biology) to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony on January 6th 2024. Dr. Mason was acknowledged at the ceremony for her research contributions to the park, as well as The University of Tampa for its role in funding Dr. Mason's research. Congratulations Heather on an outstanding accomplishment!

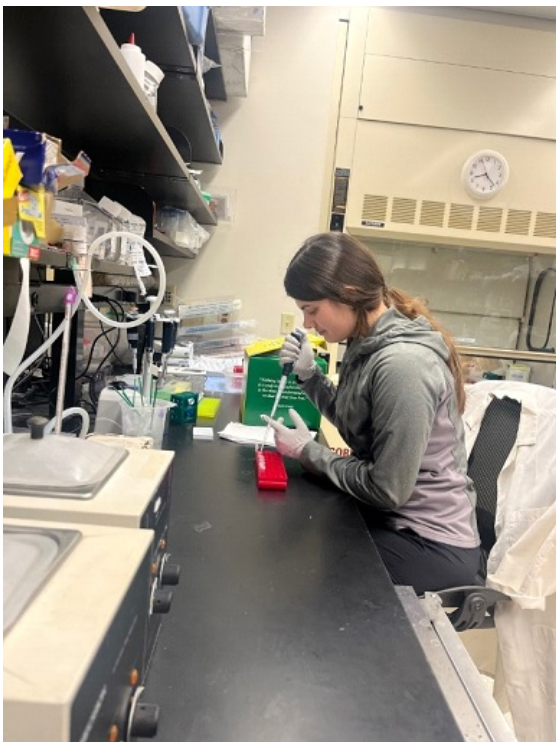
UT physics class offers chance to research mysteries of universe



Dr. Amy Lien (Physics & Astronomy) was featured recently on ABC Action News. The feature included an article and video interview covering The University of Tampa's citizen science project. The program is called Burst Chasers. Gamma Ray Bursts, where one of the brightest and most powerful explosions in the universe are captured on space telescopes. Dr. Lien states that despite how common they are, there is still so much left to discover. You can find the full article and video below:

<https://www.abcactionnews.com/news/region-hillsborough/ut-physics-class-offers-chance-to-research-mysteries-of-universe>

Student Success



Dr. Steve Kucera (Biology) and newly minted Ph.D. in genomics from a joint Johns Hopkins/NIH program and UT alum Dr. Leif Benner ('13 and pictured above) have had a productive collaborative research program for the past 5 years. Their work on female sterility involves using classic Mendelian mapping followed by DNA sequencing with the goal of identifying mutations that cause female sterility in *Drosophila* mutant screens.

They have heavily involved UT students who have been supported by multiple SURF and OURI grants. Past UT students Jill Gomez ('20), now in her 2nd year at Northwestern Medical School and Savannah Muron ('21), who is now pursuing her Ph.D. in genomics at UNC, with a full ride scholarship each, continued in Dr. Benner's lab in NIH post-Baccalaureate positions for 2 years after graduating from UT. Most recently, Charli Wingfield (December, '23; pictured above) just started her post-baccalaureate degree at NIH. Lorielle Raab will join Dr. Benner at NIH as well after she graduates in May '24. To round out their successful collaboration involving UT students, Myles Hammond ('19) recently completed his MS degree in genomics at UC Davis in the lab of former UT professor Dr. Becky Bellone and will be applying to medical schools in the very near future.



University of Tampa public health students recently attended a training by USF pharmacy students on asthma self-management. This training enables the public health students to attend events this spring and educate and empower community members who suffer from asthma.



Eta Sigma Gamma is the Public Health Honorary Society in HSHP with a primary focus on three pillars: Scholarship, Teaching and Service. The students spent a recent Friday participating in a beach clean-up on Davis Island for some service hours.



Empowering Nurses: Reflecting on Advocacy Days in Tallahassee

This January, a remarkable journey unfolded as faculty members from the Department of Nursing, including **Dr. Bryant, Dr. Ernewein, Dr. Parsons, and Dr. Pedroff**, joined forces with the executive board of the Student Nurses Association (SNA) - Ellie Bouchard, Karoline Grajewski, Becca Turner, and Caitlyn Whalen - to partake in the Florida Nurses Association's (FNA) Advocacy Days at the capitol in Tallahassee, Florida.

Advocacy Days, FNA's flagship annual event, offered both our faculty and student nurses a unique opportunity to delve into current legislative issues and specific bills affecting nursing practice and the healthcare landscape in Florida. More importantly, it provided a platform for meaningful one-on-one discussions with legislators, enabling our representatives to advocate passionately for the nursing profession.

The feedback from our student nurses about this experience has been exceptionally positive, underscoring the importance and impact of such advocacy work. **Dr. Botwinski**, the Director of Nursing, has recognized the value of this initiative and has pledged ongoing support for our annual participation.



During the winter break 15 University of Tampa Physician Assistant students, alongside Assistant Professors **Dr. Allison Kaczmarek**, **Dr. Roman Sereda**, and **Chris Taylor** went to San Jose Costa Rica to provide medical aid to South/Central American immigrant populations including children, elderly, refugees, as well as people of the local community including those without homes. Medical activities included physical assessments, medical consultations, pharmaceutical agent distribution for treatment, as well as patient education including basic hygiene. Students and Faculty had a chance to immerse in local culture and made a big impact in the underserved communities at hand.

Faculty and Student Scholarship

Dr. Emily Durkin (Biology) was highlighted in the Entomological Society of America's Entomology Today web newsletter. The article was entitled, "*Parasite Evolution: Why an Entomologist Studies Mites that Hitchhike on Flies*" written by science writer Emily Sandall, with the following text accompanying Dr. Durkin's photo: "*Meet Emily Durkin, Ph.D., whose research on parasitic mites at the University of Tampa earned her a spot in the Early Career Professional Recognition Symposium at Entomology 2023. Durkin says she also counts spiders among her favorite arthropods. "They are beautiful and have so many amazing adaptations," she says.*"



A link to the full article can be found here:
<https://entomologytoday.org/2023/11/29/parasite-evolution-entomologist-mites-flies-emily-durkin-standout-early-career-professional/>

Dr. Carlos Santamaria (Biology) recently published an article in the journal *PeerJ*

entitled, "Cryptic diversity and phylogeographic patterns of *Deto echinata* (Isopoda: Detonidae) in southern Africa."

A link to the full article can be found here:
<https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.16529>



Dr. Mary Martinasek (HSHP) recently published a paper in the journal *Tobacco Induced Diseases* entitled, "E-cigarette use and respiratory symptoms in adults: A systematic review and meta-analysis".

A link to the full article can be found here:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10720266/>



Dr. Jeffery Fasick (Biology) attended the annual meeting of American Conference of Academic Deans held in Tampa, FL. Dr. Fasick was invited to co-host a workshop entitled "Intentionally Leveraging Unique Positionality" where he lead a case study related to transitioning to the role of Assistant or Associate Dean.

Important Dates



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

March 3–10- Spring Break
March 25- Last day to withdraw from 14-week classes.
April 1- Registration begins
April 18 - CNHS Academic Awards
April 25 - College Meeting and reception
April 29- Last day of Spring classes
April 30 – May 3- Spring Final Exams
May 4- Spring Commencement

Please send future news items to jdavila@ut.edu or jfasick@ut.edu

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