



**Research Interns, Environmental Educators
and Work-Study Student Staff
Thomas More University Biology Field Station**



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

➤ **AQUACULTURE & ANIMAL HUSBANDRY LAB CREW**

ALEXIS BRANDENBURG (AmeriCorps Environmental Educator and Lab Technician)
Senior, Biology Major—Ecology Concentration, Marine Bio Track
Thomas More University

Alexis will be a senior at Thomas More University in the fall and is majoring in Biology. She will be an EEL Corps and AmeriCorps member for the station, as well as Lab Technician. She is the president of the Blue and Green Club on campus and is a member of the Biology club and is an Animal Husbandry work-study student at the station. In her free time, she enjoys spending her time in nature, painting, drinking coffee, and spending time with her dog, Winnie. This is her second summer at the station after being a member of the Lab Crew last summer. She is excited to share her passion for the station and aquatic biology with the interns and the public.



LENA BAUER
Senior, Biology major—Ecological concentration
Thomas More University

Lena is a rising senior at Thomas More University and is majoring in biology with a concentration in ecology. She is a member of the Villa Players Club and enjoys performing in theatrical shows and the Thomas More choir. Lena has spent the last two summers working as a camp counselor at the Cincinnati Nature Center where she taught about nature to children ages 5-10. She is excited to spend another summer outside while learning from experienced peers.



AMANDA CRESPO-GOMEZ
Senior, Natural Science Major
Universidad del Sagrado Corazón

Amanda Crespo-Gómez is a General Natural Sciences senior at the Universidad del Sagrado Corazón (USC), in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She is a multidisciplinary woman in science with passions for women's health, youth development, sustainability, nutrition, research, and education. She was part of "La Red," a drug-prevention volunteer youth group that helps children pursue a healthy lifestyle. Crespo-Gómez was the president of the Women in Science Student Association of the USC. Recently, she was invited by the Commission for Environmental Corporation (CEC), to participate in the 2020 Youth EcoInnovation Challenge as a sustainable project proposal evaluator. Currently, she is an intern researcher working on the topic "Trauma-related Conditions in the HIV Community of Puerto Rico: Impact on Viral Control & Stress Biomarkers" with Dr. Peter Barbosa from the USC, and Dr. Nawal Boukli from the Universidad Central del Caribe, P.R. Along with these experiences, she thrives to pursue a career as a medical researcher for adolescent and women's health. This summer, she will be joining the Animal Husbandry Team and is excited work with the other members and to gain valuable research experience.



LUIS E. TRON ESQUEDA

Senior, Biotechnology Major, Justice Systems Minor, Pre-Pharm Minor
Universidad del Sagrado Corazón

Luis will be a senior at University of Sacred Heart in the fall of 2021 where he is majoring in Biotechnology and minoring in Justice Systems and Pre-Pharmacy. He is the treasurer for the American Chemistry Society chapter and a member of the Microbiology association. After graduation, Luis aspires to complete a Ph.D. His hobbies include reading and collecting books and comics, playing videogames, exercising, and spending time with friends and family. He is thrilled to be part of the Animal Husbandry Lab crew and is excited to work with his peers and gaining valuable research experience this summer.



➤ ENVIRONMENTAL ACADEMY—STREAM TEAM**MADISON MCVEY**

Senior, Biology Major—Ecological concentration
Thomas More University

Madison is a senior at Thomas More University and will be graduating in the fall of 2021 and is majoring in Biology with a concentration in Ecology. Madison has been Vice President and President of the Marine Biology club, Historian of the $\beta\beta\beta$ Biological Honors society, and members of the education and biology clubs. Her interests include marine mammals, aquatic biology, oceanography, conservation, and field ecology. In her free time, Madison enjoys hiking, swimming, kayaking, and fishing. Madison plans to attend a graduate school program for fish and wildlife conservation biology and eventually work for a state department of fish and wildlife. Madison is excited for this summer and the new experiences she will encounter along the way.

**MAGGIE VOYLES**

Senior, Biology major
University of Sioux Falls

Maggie Voyles is a senior Biology major at the University of Sioux Falls. Throughout the 2020/2021 school year, she has worked with South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks at The Outdoor Campus East as a naturalist intern and has developed a passion for environmental education. Along with environmental education, Maggie is interested in macroinvertebrates and parasitology and is a life-long lover of natural waterways. She is excited to explore each of these interests on the stream team this summer! Outside of school and work, Maggie enjoys writing, hiking, reading and discussing philosophy, making music, and spending quality time with friends and family.



➤ OHIO RIVER BIOASSESSMENT CREW

SAWYER LORENTZ

*Junior, Biology Major—Environmental Science Minor
Thomas More University*

Sawyer is a junior Biology major with an Environmental Science minor at Thomas More University. She is excited to return to the Field Station for the second year, as Crew Leader for the Ohio River Bioassessment Crew, in addition to working as a Wildlife Technician for the local Conservation District.. Sawyer is involved around Thomas More's campus with the Blue & Green and Biology clubs. She is also a member of the women's volleyball team at Thomas More. She enjoys hiking, swimming, kayaking, and playing with her dog in her free time. In the future Sawyer, hopes to attend graduate school and eventually become a field biologist, specializing in aquatic conservation and ecology. She is excited for the summer and all the new experiences!



IGNACIO GOTELLI GERSTNER

*Sophomore, Natural Sciences major
Universidad del Sagrado Corazón*

Ignacio Gotelli Gerstner will be a junior in the fall semester at Sacred Heart University where he is pursuing a major in Natural Sciences. At his university, he participates of the Title V organization where he services as a tutor, and the Society of Student Oriented Academic Research organization. His long-term plan is to go to med school and follow a health-related career. Apart from his studies he enjoys being around the ocean or any water bodies: going surfing, paddle boarding, and any aquatic sports involve his weekly routine. He is passionate in conservation and purification of water bodies, and ocean lover, he is excited and proud to be a member of the River Bioassessment team and hopes to learn and apply the knowledge gained in his community.



HANNAH GILL

*Junior, Environmental and Field Biology Major
Ohio Northern University*

Hannah is entering her junior year at Ohio Northern University (ONU) where she is majoring in Environmental and Field Biology. She is a member of ONU's Honors Program and the Tri Beta Biological Honor Society. She is also part of ONU's religious life staff and works in the campus greenhouse. After graduation she plans to attend graduate school and earn a Ph.D. to eventually become a professor of biology specializing in freshwater ecology. Her interests include ichthyology, freshwater ecology and conservation genetics. She enjoys spending time outdoors, searching for wildflowers, fishing and drawing. She is excited to spend the summer conducting research on the Ohio River and to gain more field experience.



➤ OHIO RIVER BIOASSESSMENT CREW

SPENCER TRIMPE

*Junior, BIO Major, Environmental Science Minor, Ecology Conc, Marine Bio Track
Thomas More University*

Spencer is a junior in the James Graham Brown Honors Program at Thomas More University and is majoring in Biology on the Marine Biology Track and minoring in environmental science with a concentration in ecology. He will be a part of the Ohio River Bioassessment crew and work study crew this summer. Spencer is involved around Thomas More's Campus with the Marine Biology club, Biology club, Blue and Green club, James Graham Brown Honors Program, BBB Biology National Honors Society, and as a Biology Department work study student. For the past two years he has been an animal husbandry volunteer at the Newport Aquarium and this experience has solidified his interest in marine and aquatic biology and conservation. In his free time, he enjoys bike riding, hiking, playing basketball, herping, and kayaking. In the future Spencer plans to attend graduate school and eventually become an animal husbandry biologist or field researcher specializing in aquatic or marine biology. He is excited for the summer and looks forward to gaining more experience in aquatic biology and working with a new group of people!



CHRISTIAN SLONE

*Senior, Fisheries/Aquatic Biology Major
Murray State University*

Christian will be a senior at Murray State University in the fall and is majoring in Fisheries/ Aquatic Biology. He chose this field because he has a passion for aquatics as well as fish. He is the captain of the Men's Cross Country team, on the BCM leadership team, and is doing undergraduate research through a program called Students United in Preserving Educating and Researching Biodiversity. His hobbies include running, hiking, enoing, fishing, playing basketball, and listening to music with the windows down. He will be joining the river crew and is excited to work along side his peers this summer. After college, he plans to attend graduate school to help prepare him for his goal of becoming a fisheries biologist.



MOLLY WILLIAMS

*Junior, Biology Major, Spanish Minor
Hillsdale College*

Molly is a rising junior at Hillsdale College and is a biology major with a Spanish minor. On campus, she is the President of the Conservation Club and is Secretary of her sorority. While growing up exploring the beautiful lakes of Northern Michigan, she found a passion for freshwater ecology and aquatic conservation. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, eating greasy diner breakfast food, and hammocking. Although she does not yet know her exact career plans, she would love to stay in the Midwest and research how to keep the Great Lakes healthy. She is beyond excited to learn the process and methods of research as a part of the River Crew bioassessment team this summer!



INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS AND WORK-STUDY CREW

MICHAEL BRETT

*Senior, Biology Major
Thomas More University*

Michael will be a senior at Thomas More University in Fall 2021, majoring in Biology. Last summer, Michael was a member of the River Crew and performed a bioassessment of 12 Mile Creek. He will be continuing his role as a work-study this year at the Field Station. His hobbies include fishing, hiking, biking, and playing tennis. After college, he aspires to work in the field of aquatic conservation and ecology. He looks forward to working with a new group of peers and further his experience aiding in the research of aquatic systems.



SARAH GIBSON

*Sophomore, Biology Major, Marine Biology and Spanish Minor
Thomas More University*

Sarah is a sophomore at Thomas More University and plans to become a marine or aquatic biologist, with her fascination with all aquatic life and its unique diversity. She also loves language which is why she aspires to become fluent in Spanish. In her free time, she enjoys art, going out in nature, and being with friends. She is very excited to serve as a work-study student for new learning experiences and maybe a little adventure along the way.



JO-JO KELLY

*Senior Biology Major
Thomas More University*

Jo-Jo will be a senior at Thomas More University in the Fall of 2021 and is majoring in Biology. Georgia goes by Jo-Jo a nickname given to her by her family that she took a heavy liking too. She is a part of Alpha-Lambda Delta Honors Society, as well as, 4-C Honors Society, and has served as secretary for BBB Biological Honors Society. Growing up with a passion for science and animals led her to pursue Biology as her field of study in a hope of being able to work more closely with animals and nature as whole. In her free time, Jo-Jo enjoys reading, drawing, and riding her horse Tucker. She is not sure what career path she wants to pursue after college but she knows she wants to make a difference possibly through environmental science and conservation.



HAILEY OLDFIELD

*Junior, Marine Science Major, Environmental Studies and Scientific Computing Minors
Coastal Carolina University*

Hailey is a rising Junior in the Honors College at Coastal Carolina University located in Conway, South Carolina. She is studying Marine Science and has added minors in Environmental Studies and Scientific Computing. Originally, she is from the Northern Kentucky area, but her interest in environmental rehabilitation and sustainability drove her toward attending CCU. On campus, she is Vice President of the Women in STEM Fellowship and an Officer in her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi. In her free time, she enjoys reading, fishing on the ocean, and listening to podcasts. She is excited to be returning for her second summer at the Field Station as an Independent Researcher! Last summer, she conducted research on algae within the Ohio River was a member of the Animal Husbandry Lab Crew. She is looking forward to learning new things this summer while working with a group of like-minded peers.

