



**Research & Environmental Education Interns and Staff
Thomas More University Biology Field Station
Summer 2025**



➤ **LAB CREW—ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, AQUACULTURE, & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS**

AARIANNA BESS

*Sophomore, Biology Major
Howard University*

Aarianna Bess is a rising sophomore at Howard University, where she is majoring in Biology. Her passion lies at the intersection of environmental science and public health, focusing on how environmental factors impact human health and broader societal outcomes. Aarianna's interests stem from her desire to address inequity and explore how environmental issues affect communities. Aarianna is a Gates Scholar and has gained valuable research experience through the SEA-PHAGES program, where she worked on isolating and characterizing bacteriophages. She also enjoys volunteering her time teaching kindergartners math, reading, and science, finding joy in helping young students develop a love for learning. In her free time, Aarianna enjoys reading, drawing, and learning new things. She is excited to deepen her understanding of the environment and its societal impact while working alongside peers and mentors who share her commitment to making a difference.



MARINA DEANE-GONZALEZ

*Senior, Biology and Marine Sciences Majors
University of Miami*

Marina is a rising senior double majoring in Biology and Marine Science at the University of Miami. Post-graduation she hopes to work in fisheries management or restorative aquaculture. In previous summers she has worked with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection doing stream surveys, volunteered at an aquaponics lab at the University of Maryland, and worked as an exhibit guide at the Baltimore Aquarium. On-campus she volunteers at the UM Experimental Hatchery helping with daily maintenance and feeding, and is the Co-Coordinator for IMPACT, a yearly three-day leadership retreat. In her free time Marina enjoys taking walks outside, reading, watching reality TV, and sketching. She is excited to be a part of the TMU Lab Crew and can't wait to see what the summer will hold!



BAILEE STIDHAM

*Senior, Biology Major, Marine Biology Minor
Thomas More University*

Bailee will be a rising senior at Thomas More University where she is majoring in Biology and minoring in Marine Biology. Bailee is an active member of the James Graham Brown Honors program and The TMU Compassion Pantry. After graduation, Bailee hopes to pursue a career in animal husbandry or coral reef restoration. She also enjoys SCUBA diving, going to the beach, and reading. Bailee is excited to join the animal husbandry lab crew as well as work with the Newport Aquarium this summer where she hopes to gain many new friends as well as experiences!

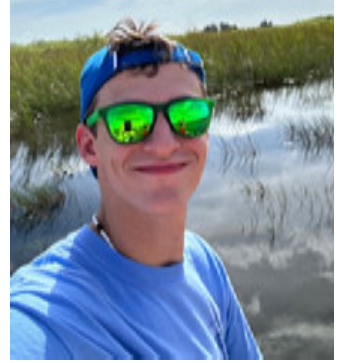


➤ STREAM TEAM & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS

CARSON BARCLAY

*Junior, Aquatic and Marine Biology Major, Tourism and Hospitality Minor
Bowling Green State University*

Carson Barclay will be a junior at Bowling Green State University in the fall and is majoring in marine and aquatic biology with a minor in tourism and hospitality. At BG, Carson works as a head guard and LGI at the rec center, volunteers with the Toledo Zoo, swims with the Club Waterpolo Team, is on the Falcon Fanatics leadership board, and works in the BGSU Marine Lab as a coordinator. When at home Carson volunteers with the Animal Care Team at the Newport Aquarium, and in his free time he enjoys Scuba Diving, hanging out with friends, going to amusement parks, and watching movies. This summer, Carson is excited to work with the Stream Team at the TMU field station.



JESSICA LARKA

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

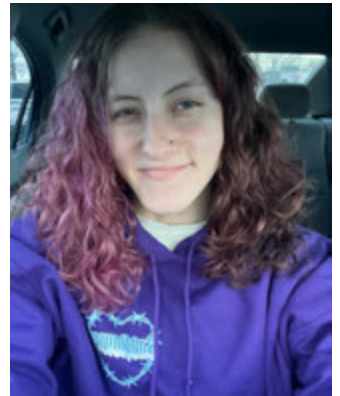
Jessica is a rising junior at Thomas More University where she is majoring in Biology with an Environmental Science minor. On campus, she is a member of the Blue and Green Club. She has always enjoyed spending time outside and learning new things, especially by completing 4-H projects on trees, geology, and birds. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, riding horses, and sewing. She is excited to gain hands-on experience this summer as a member of the Stream Crew!



CHELSEA MCINTOSH

*Senior, Biology Major, Marine Biology Minor
Thomas More University*

Chelsea McIntosh is a senior at Thomas More University. She is majoring in Biology with a minor in Marine Biology. She is interested in working with animals and educating everyone she can about them. She is the social media officer for the Marine Biology Club and enjoys educating others through that outlet. She also gets to educate others on marine life through her work at the Newport Aquarium as a Guest Experience Specialist. When she isn't working and educating, she likes to read, go to concerts, hang out with friends and unicycle.



RIVER CREW & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS

EMERSON AMY

*Senior, Environmental Biology Major, Sustainability Minor
University of Dayton*

Emerson Amy is a rising senior at the University of Dayton where she is majoring in environmental biology and minoring in sustainability. Emerson volunteers in the student ambassador program for her college where she represents the environmental biology major and also assists with student orientation in the university's honors program. She has been involved with undergraduate research throughout her college career, but she has spent the last two years working as a laboratory assistant in an amphibian ecology laboratory. Emerson completed her first research project on the effects of invasive fish in Lake Erie and now plans to pursue a graduate degree in aquatic ecology. Her interests include reading, field work, hiking, kayaking, and fishing. She is excited to be working as a member of the River Crew this summer.



MADISON GINN

*Junior, Biology Major—Emphasis in Natural History and Ecology
University of Pikeville*

Madison will be a junior at the University of Pikeville where she is majoring in biology with an emphasis in natural history and ecology. On campus, she serves as a Resident Assistant and holds a work-study position, where she frequently assists with research projects. Her work has included contributing to the potential development of habitats for various species, and she is eager to begin her own on-campus research soon. Beyond academics and work, Madison is an active member of the university's women's bowling team. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, searching for interesting rocks, and spending time with friends and family. This summer, she looks forward to connecting with like-minded individuals who share her passion for the natural world. She is especially excited to join the river crew where she hopes to build lasting friendships and create unforgettable memories.



LANA LISCHGKE

*Senior, Biology Major
Mount St. Joseph University*

Lana is a senior at Mount St. Joseph University, where she is working on a Bachelor of Science in Biology. After graduation she is looking to put her studies to work in a career in conservation biology or environmental restoration. She is excited to be part of the River Crew and to learn and gain valuable field experience at the Thomas More Biology Field Station. Lana has a great love for biology and the environment however she also loves art. Currently, she works part time as an art instructor at an art studio. She teaches people of all ages the art of fused glass, as well as pottery painting. When she is not studying or working Lana loves to be outside hiking, boating, swimming, and gardening.



CAITLIN TOOLAN

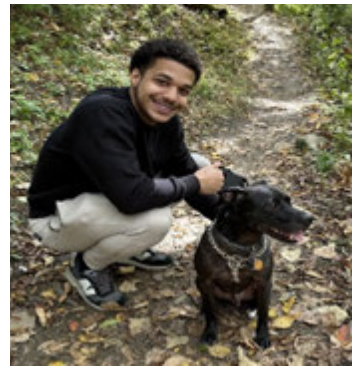
*Senior, Environmental Science and Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Majors
University of Connecticut*

Caitlin will be a senior at the University of Connecticut this fall and is double majoring in Environmental Science and Ecology & Evolutionary Biology. At UConn, she is a research assistant in Dr. Mark Urban's Eco-Evolution Lab, where she studies macroinvertebrate population shifts in response to climate change. In addition, she is an active member of UConn's co-ed STEM fraternity, Alpha Beta Epsilon, and tutors UConn freshmen in biology. After graduation, Caitlin plans to get her master's in either conservation biology or ecology. Her hobbies include reading, hiking, photography, going to the gym, and hanging out with friends. Overjoyed to be a part of the river crew this summer, she looks forward to meeting like-minded peers and mentors while gaining hands-on fieldwork experience.

**ISAIAH VOET**

*Junior, Biology Major—Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Track
Northern Kentucky University*

Isaiah will be a junior this upcoming fall at Northern Kentucky University and is a biology major focused on the Ecology/Evolution/Organismal track. He has developed a love for the ocean from seeing the diverse marine life while traveling. He plans to continue his education in marine biology and is excited to expand his skills and knowledge about aquatic life. Isaiah is a part of the Scuba Club at NKU and works at the Newport Aquarium, taking every opportunity to be around aquatic life that he can. When not at work or school, Isaiah enjoys being outdoors, playing sports, and swimming. He is looking forward to meeting new people with similar interest and gaining experience at the field station.



➤ FIELD STATION YEAR-ROUND STAFF

MOLLY WILLIAMS—*Field Station Manager*

Molly has served as the Field Station Manager 2023. Molly has always loved the outdoors and realized her passion for ecology during her undergraduate career as a biology major at Hillsdale College. She interned at the Field Station during summer 2021 on the river bioassessment crew which strengthened her abilities as a scientist, researcher, and educator. Upon her return to college, she studied abroad in Sevilla, Spain and completed her Spanish minor. The following summer, Molly conducted her senior thesis on the impacts of agricultural land use on stream macroinvertebrate communities in northern Michigan while working as the Sustainability Coordinator for the University of Michigan Alumni Family Camp Michigania and published her work in the Journal of Freshwater Ecology. Since taking the role of Field Station Manager, she has enjoyed coordinating the STEM outreach programs of the Field Station, overseeing the laboratory programs, and helping with the maintenance and operations associated with the facilities. When she is not in the Laboratory or STEM Outreach Center, Molly enjoys cooking, taking her dog into town, and visiting her family in Michigan.



GREG WILKINS—*Field Station Senior Volunteer*

An Amateur Radio operator, Greg volunteered for PaddleFest in 2009, and was assigned to the Sea Ark and Dr. Lorentz. Thus began his connection to and involvement with Thomas More and the Field Station. Sixteen years later, he volunteers at the Station in many areas; locating needed supplies at reduced cost (i.e. free), fixing something that is broken, teaching how to make coffee in a French Press, walking the dog, if that's what it takes. Greg has multiple undergraduate degrees, none of which have anything to do with Biology or the Earth Sciences. After matriculation, his 'productive' years focused on Warehousing, Transportation and Distribution. He retired 12-31-17, a birthday gift to himself. Greg has a daughter who married a wonderful son in law, a remarkable 20-year-old Grandson, and married to his wife for 32 years. Other interesting facts: he is the first person in his family to be born in a hospital; he represented the Cub Scouts live on "The Ed Sullivan Show" for National Scout Week; he holds the rank of Eagle Scout with bronze palm, class of 1972. Greg is always willing to listen and learn, asking "why?" or sometimes "why not?" Working with "kids," learning from them, interacting with them, and more importantly gaining mutual respect from them is what keeps him "wandering over" to the Station to "do what he can."



DR. CHRIS LORENTZ—*Field Station Director and Biology Professor*

Dr. Lorentz began at Thomas More University in 1994. Since then, he has taught a variety of classes, including Aquatic Bio, Evolution, Genetics, and Invertebrate Zoology, among others. In 1999 and in 2015, he received the award for the Outstanding Full-Time Teacher of the Year. Alongside his teaching, he serves as the Director of the Center for Ohio River Research and Education at the Biology Field Station. Through the Center, he has been awarded several teaching & research grants and collaborates closely with the USEPA, USFW, and other agencies on projects related to the ecology of the Ohio River watershed. Dr. Lorentz currently serves on the Board of the Ohio River Basin Alliance and serves as the President of the Organization of Biological Field Stations, an international community of Field Stations in 21 countries spanning six continents. The most rewarding aspect of his work is the development and training of undergraduate students in the STEM fields.

