



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

**Research Interns, Environmental Educators
and Work-Study Students and Staff
Thomas More University Biology Field Station
Summer 2024**



➤ **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS AND WORK-STUDY CREW**

LINDSAY BARNES

*Junior, Biology Major—Marine Biology Concentration
Thomas More University*

Lindsay Barnes is a rising junior at Thomas More University. She is majoring in Biology with a minor in Marine Biology. Her interests involving this field include husbandry care, research, and fieldwork. On campus she has become involved in the Blue & Green club and the Marine Biology Club. She loves working on the biology floor with Professor Barbour, whether it be laboratory setups or acquiring new data for a research project. She also currently is involved at Newport Aquarium as an Animal Care Intern with the different species of penguins that are in their care. She enjoys new experiences that are anything biology related and grateful for opportunities to come. When Lindsay is not in lab, lecture, the field station, or the aquarium she loves playing her ukulele, reading new novels, hanging out with friends, hammocking, or traveling home to see family!



GEORGE GRAMZA

*Senior, Marine Biology and Ecology Major
University of Miami*

George will be a rising senior at the University of Miami in the fall, where he is majoring in marine biology and ecology and hopes to pursue a graduate degree in aquaculture after graduation. George works as an academic advisor to first-year students at UM and at the UM Experimental Hatchery, where he primarily helps with day-to-day operations, including tank upkeep. George stays engaged with his campus community by being a member of the UM aquarium club, service organizations, and the winter drumline. In his free time, George enjoys fly-fishing, skating, drumming, and golfing. He spent last summer working as a member of the TMU Lab Crew and is excited to be returning to the Field Station to complete an independent research project this summer, where he will gain valuable experience related to his goal of attending graduate school for aquaculture.



DANI MARTINEZ

*Senior, Life Science Major, Marine Biology, Environmental Science, and Political Science Minors
Thomas More University*

Dani is a rising senior at Thomas More University where she is majoring in Life Science and minoring in Marine Biology, Environmental Science, and Political Science. She is an active member of the Marine Biology Club and Vice President of the Blue and Green Club. In addition, Dani is a part of the Thomas More Band. After graduation, her plans are to go to law school and become an environmental lawyer. Her hobbies include hiking, kayaking, paddle boarding and collecting succulents. Dani is really excited to gain more research experience. She is looking forward to working with her peers and mentors with similar interests!



➤ LAB CREW—ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND AQUACULTURE

LILLIE DANIEL—AmeriCorps Environmental Educator and Lab Technician

Senior, Life Science and Educational Studies Majors, Environmental Science, Biology and Psychology Minors—Sustainability Concentration

Thomas More University

Lillie will be a senior this upcoming fall at Thomas More University. She is dual majoring in life science and educational studies with a concentration in sustainability and minors in environmental science, biology, and psychology. At Thomas More, she is the President of the Blue and Green Club and serves on the University Sustainability Committee. Over the past year, Lillie worked in forest health and ecology with Boone County Conservation District where she gained experience in field work, research, and wildlife monitoring techniques. Her interests include geology, conservation, hiking, and drawing. This summer she is excited to share her passion for nature through the environmental education program while gaining experience in husbandry and continuing research.



JOE DONOHUE

*Senior, Biology Major—Ecology Track
University of Louisville*

Joe will be a senior in the fall at the University of Louisville. He is a Biology major on an Ecology track and looks forward to pursuing a career in some sort of wildlife biology or zoology. He has had the pleasure of volunteering since the beginning of high school at the Louisville Zoo, and Joe most recently completed an undergraduate research project where he rehydrated a desiccated natural history collection of fish. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, working out, watching games and shows, and reading. He is also a huge Pittsburgh Steelers and Pirates fan.



NOELIA MARTINEZ GARCIA

*Senior, Biology Major, Marine Biology and Chemistry Minors
Thomas More University*

Noelia will be a senior at Thomas More University in the fall and is majoring in Biology with a minor in Marine Biology and Chemistry. She grew up in a coastal city in the north of Spain, so the ocean has always been a big part of her life; inspiring her to become a Marine Biologist. At Thomas More, Noelia is part of the Women's Tennis Team, the Blue & Green Club, and the Marine Biology Club. Moreover, she is taking part in the TMU William S. Bryant Arboretum Project; which goal is to implement educational signage about the TMU's campus tree population. She also enjoys playing sports, going to the beach, hanging out with friends, listening to music, and playing the guitar. Noelia is excited to work with the Newport Aquarium and being part of the Lab Crew at the TMU Field Station this summer.



➤ **STREAM TEAM**

ELLE FARIS

*Senior, Environmental Studies Major, Communication Minor
University of Cincinnati*

Elle Faris is a senior at the University of Cincinnati with a major in Environmental Studies and a minor in Communication. She currently serves as the president of Leaders for Environmental Awareness and Protection, the largest environmental club at UC. Elle has worked at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden for 2 years as the Sustainability Communications Intern, where she developed effective science communication skills. Apart from work or school, Elle enjoys reading, zero-waste living, upcycled crafts, and being outdoors. This summer she is part of the Stream Team and looks forward to gaining hands-on experience with a great group of interns!



AIDEN STARRY

*Junior, Zoology Major, Philosophy Minor
Union University*

Aiden will be a junior at Union University in the fall and is a Zoology major with a Philosophy minor. He is very excited to join the Stream Assessment Crew this summer at the Biology Field Station. On campus, Aiden is involved with the Raptor Rehabilitation Center, Critter Club, and University Student Leadership, among other things. He plans to attend graduate school after graduation and pursue a career in research zoology. Aiden loves to learn about all types of animals, so spending time exploring the outdoors is one of his favorite pastimes. Besides this, Aiden enjoys playing piano, playing sports, and hanging out with friends. This summer, Aiden is looking forward to gaining real-world research experience and getting to know his fellow interns!



➤ RIVER CREW

EMILY DUFF

*Sophomore, Environmental Engineering Technology
Cincinnati State Technical and Community College*

Emily is going into her second year at Cincinnati State. Although she is from Hamilton Ohio, her love for the environment started out when her parents had a canoe rental place in Ross, along the Great Miami River. During that time, they were involved with Friends of the Great Miami River, Rivers Unlimited, and various other watershed, and conservation groups. At the time she was around 7 years old. So early on she spent many hours taking part in river clean ups, water sampling, and lab analysis. She is still taking part in these activities through her hands on experiences at Cincinnati State and the EVT program. She has goals to continue her education and work in stream conservation in the Southwest Ohio region, so she is excited to meet others with similar aspirations and further her knowledge in the areas of research and conservation.



OLIVIA FARIS

*Senior, Environmental Science Major, Biological Sciences and Psychology Minors
Northern Kentucky University*

Olivia Faris is on the brink of completing her Environmental Science degree at Northern Kentucky University, where she also works as a part-time forest technician for NKU's Center for Environmental Restoration. Throughout her time at NKU, she has also gained experience in land management, notably through her involvement with Groundwork Ohio River Valley. Her contributions span from invasive species removal to community garden initiatives and extensive community outreach efforts. She is currently working on her senior capstone project, which focuses on the significance of proper land management practices. Beyond her academic and professional work, Olivia can be found enjoying activities such as hiking, camping, finding new music, and catching the latest episodes of Survivor. Thrilled for the opportunity to join the river crew, she looks forward to making new friends, learning new skills, and experiencing an unforgettable summer experience.



LILAGRACE HAAG

*Sophomore, Wildlife Conservation Major, Forestry Minor
Virginia Polytechnic and State University*

Lilagrace will be a sophomore at Virginia Tech in the fall, where she is majoring in Wildlife Conservation with a minor in Forestry. During the past 2 summers, she worked on research projects involving freshwater mussels and assists with several undergraduate research projects at Virginia Tech. She is also very interested in trees, fungi, and forest ecology. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, backpacking, fishing, and foraging for mushrooms. She is very excited to be part of the River Crew this summer and to get to know the other interns and staff at the field station!



ANTHONY MCCLENDON

*Junior, Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences Major, Film Production Minor
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

Anthony will be a junior at the University of Illinois majoring in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences with a concentration in human dimensions of the environment. Additionally, he is minoring in Film Production and is a member of the Marching Illini in which he plays cymbals. He has loved the outdoors from a young age, beginning in middle school Anthony attended monthly campouts with his scouting troop. And over the past few years he has enjoyed spending time biking and experimenting with photography. He is very excited to be part of the River Crew this summer and looks forward to meeting new friends and working together.

**AMANDA POWER**

*Junior, Biology Major—Field Studies Concentration
Bates College*

Amanda will be a junior Biology major with a concentration in Field Studies at Bates College. She is on the varsity volleyball team and is so grateful to have the opportunity to work hard on the court and in the classroom! Her hobbies are photography, hiking, and going on late night drives with my little sister. She is so excited to begin my research experience at TMU this summer as she works towards her career goal of becoming a marine biologist.



➤ FIELD STATION YEAR-ROUND STAFF

MOLLY WILLIAMS—*Field Station Manager*

Molly has served as the Field Station Manager since spring of 2023. Molly has always loved the outdoors and realized her passion for ecology partway through 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. 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. Thirteen 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 16-year-old Grandson, and married to his wife for 29 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. 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.

