

**LAB CREW—ANIMAL HUSBANDRY and AQUACULTURE**

**LILLIANA BUNGIRO**

***Junior Environmental Studies Major, Biology Minor, Salve Regina University***

Lilliana Bungiro is a rising junior at Salve Regina University, where she is majoring in Environmental Studies with a minor in Biology. Her passion lies at the intersection of working with animals and environmental conservation, focusing on how hands-on stewardship can support healthy ecosystems and communities. Lilliana has been working with horses since she was ten, developing a lifelong connection and understanding of their care and behavior. On campus, Lilliana serves as Treasurer of the Campus Activities Board, where she organizes events that bring students together and foster community engagement. She is particularly interested in projects that combine environmental education with outreach and hands-on learning. In her free time, Lilliana enjoys hiking, exploring the outdoors, and being around all kinds of animals. She is excited to join the Animal Husbandry Lab Crew this summer and looks forward to gaining practical experience while working alongside peers and mentors who share her passion for animals and the environment.



**LAUREN CROWLEY**

***Senior, Life Science and Educational Studies Majors,  
Marine Biology and Environmental Science Minors, Thomas More University***

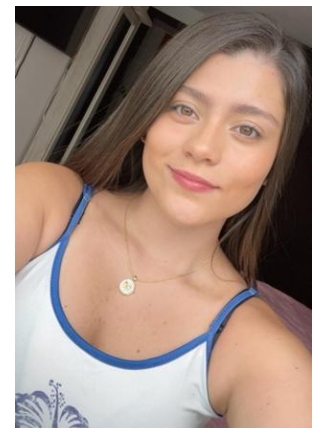
Lauren is a rising Senior at Thomas More University. She is majoring in Life Science and Educational Studies with minors in Marine Biology and Environmental Science. She is a member of the Marine Biology club and holds animals of all kinds close to her heart. She works at the Thomas More Biology Field Station and is excited to continue this summer. After graduation, she wants to educate people of all ages about the importance of taking care of our environment and the animals that live in them. In hopes to make people fall in love with biology like she did. In Lauren's free time she likes to go SCUBA diving, reading, and learning new things. She is excited to join the Lab Crew and explore any and all opportunities given to her.



**SARA GÓMEZ TRIANA**

***Senior, Biology Major, University of Caldas***

Sara is a senior biology student at the University of Caldas in Colombia. Her academic interests focus on marine biology, molecular biology, and genetics, with a particular interest in biodiversity and the study of microorganisms in aquatic ecosystems. She volunteered at the Natural History Museum of the University of Caldas, where she gained experience in taxidermy and biological collections management. Sara also participated in a research internship studying polymorphisms in the P-glycoprotein gene in a healthy university population, where she developed laboratory and genetic analysis skills. Her undergraduate thesis focuses on the marine and aquatic microbial biodiversity of San Andrés, Colombia, in connection with the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve project. Sara is excited to gain new knowledge and hands-on experience through this internship and to continue developing her research skills while working with other scientists. In her free time, she loves reading, learning about science, SCUBA diving, and spending time with her family and friends.



## RIVER CREW

### ISABELLA BENNETT

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

Izzie is a rising Junior at Thomas More University this fall, where she is majoring in Biology with a minor in Environmental Science. On campus, she serves as an active member and officer of the Biology Club and Marine Biology Club, as well as working with the campus Theater program. After graduation, she plans to continue her education with Ecology and Conservation and pursue a career in wetland preservation and restoration. When not at work or school, Isabella enjoys reading, hiking, and hanging out with friends. She is excited to work with like-minded individuals and gain research experience on the River Crew!



### BROCK BOSTICK

*Senior, Biological Sciences and Environmental Studies Major, University of Cincinnati*

Brock is a senior double-majoring in Biological Sciences and Environmental Studies at the University of Cincinnati. Post-graduation he hopes to work in field ecology, conservation, fisheries management, and research. In previous summers, he has worked with Keeping it Native Land Management, removing invasive plants from private and public land, National Ecological Observatory Network as a Field Ecologist Intern in the Pacific Northwest, and volunteered at Brukner Nature Center, caring for animals in rehab. On campus, he is employed as a student lead at a package dock and is a member of the fishing club and Beta Theta Pi. In his free time, Brock enjoys fishing, hiking, traveling, sports, and family and friends. He is excited to be a part of the TMU River Crew and develop as a student researcher while making great memories.



### AARON DENNEMANN

*Sophomore, Biology Major, Thomas More University*

Aaron is a rising sophomore majoring in Biology at Thomas More. He has a strong interest in ecology, environmental science, and natural resource management. He is looking forward to conducting fieldwork in conservation and ecology while continuing to educate the public on how they can support conservation initiatives. He has been involved in numerous local efforts in land management, invasive species removal, and community outreach, both as a volunteer and as a project leader and coordinator. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with friends and family and staying active through hiking, traveling, sports, and anything related to the outdoors. He is thrilled to gain hands-on research experience and to connect with other like-minded individuals who are passionate about protecting our natural world.



### REESE JOHNSON

*Senior, Biology Major, College of Saint Mary*

Reese Johnson is a fourth-year student at the College of Saint Mary pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biology after earning an Associate of Arts from Iowa Western Community College. Her academic interests include environmental science, ecology, and conservation. Through her coursework, Reese has developed a strong interest in understanding ecological systems and the importance of protecting biodiversity. She is currently working as a wildlife rehab intern at Nebraska wildlife rehab. Reese is also a former collegiate soccer player who competed for four years. Outside of academics, Reese enjoys spending time outdoors and exploring nature. She loves hiking, playing pickleball, running, kayaking, camping, and traveling. Reese is excited to continue building her field research skills, connect with others who share her passion for environmental protection, and contribute to meaningful conservation efforts that help protect ecosystems for the future.



## STREAM TEAM

### FRANCISCA DUARTE MATUTE

*Sophomore, Biology Major—Ecology Concentration, Berea College*

Francisca Duarte is an international student from Chile and a rising sophomore majoring in Biology at Berea College, with a concentration in ecology. Her interests within the field of ecology are broad, but she is especially interested in behavioral ecology and how it can support the conservation of local wildlife. In the future, she hopes to pursue graduate studies in these areas. Francisca is passionate about animals and climate change awareness, which has led her to work at Berea College's herpetarium, where she assists with snake husbandry and ecology outreach education for children. Francisca is also involved in environmental youth initiatives, having been part of the organizing team for the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Chile and now helping to organize LCOY USA. She is excited to join the Stream Crew at the TMU Field Station and looks forward to working with and learning from her teammates this summer.



### JULIA OBERG

*Senior, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Major, Art and Design Minor  
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign*

Julia Oberg is a rising senior at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign where she is majoring in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences with a concentration in Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology. Julia is in the university's honors program and has done undergraduate research for UIUC's Poultry Research Farm and a bat-field technician graduate project, where she gained hands-on experience working with wildlife habitats and in lab settings. She is also on the executive board of a social and environmental entrepreneurship organization that addresses social and environmental problems in the local community. Julia previously worked as a fawn project field technician in Southern Illinois and is now hoping to expand her experiences on the river crew working with fish and small invertebrates. Some of her interests include hiking, reading, running, playing guitar or piano, and painting. She looks forward to meeting like-minded peers.



## INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS

### DANIEL SCHMIDT

*Junior, Biology Major, Marine Biology minor, Ecology concentration, Thomas More University*

Daniel is a rising junior majoring in biology with a minor in marine biology and a concentration in ecological studies at Thomas More University. At TMU, Daniel is a member of several on-campus clubs, including Biology Club, Marine Biology Club and Blue and Green Club. His research interests include the migratory and dietary patterns of humpback whales, and he is fiercely passionate in conservation. He is a firm believer in the idea that the first step of conservation should be to educate the public on why what we do is important. His post-undergraduate plans include graduate school where he will continue his education in marine biology. In his free time, Daniel loves hiking, swimming, making music on the piano or with his guitar, sci-fi shows, and nature documentaries. He is super excited to gain hands-on experience as an independent researcher among like-minded peers at the Biology Field Station.



### Ella Schulte—Independent Researcher

*Recent Graduate, Conservation biology and Ecology, Arizona State University*

Ella Schulte is a recent graduate from Arizona State University where she got her BS in conservation biology and ecology. Her research has spanned from studying nutrient cycles and soil fauna diversity in Namibia to large mammal management in Arizona. Her recent focus has been on renewable energy sustainability and the potential for anthropogenic ecosystems. In the future, Ella wants to move on to higher education focused on a combination of ecology and sustainability. She is particularly interested in the intersection of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. Beyond academics, Ella enjoys most things outdoors, travel and animal-related such as hiking, road trips, rock climbing, and gardening. During her time at the field station, she hopes to gain more knowledge in the processes behind water quality analysis, algal monitoring and husbandry techniques relevant to Ohio River species.



**Greg Wilkins—Senior Volunteer**

Greg came “aboard” Thomas More, literally, when he volunteered for PaddleFest 2009, an annual kayak, canoe and standup paddleboard event on the Ohio River. An amateur radio operator, he was paired with Dr. Lorentz, Director of the Biology Field Station, and the Station’s boat “Sea Ark”, as a Safety Communicator for the next 16 years, paired for more PaddleFest events. The result has been Greg’s continuing contributions to the Field Station, in time, talent and financial support. Greg, as previously mentioned, is a HAM radio operator; a certified National Weather Service “Weather spotter”; was the first in his family to be born in a Hospital; represented the Boy Scouts of America as a Cub Scout live on National TV on “The Ed Sullivan Show” in 1966; is an Eagle Scout; Thomas More University’s first “Honorary” Alumni, and a member of MENSA. While you may not see much of him on site, he’s looking forward to working with all the 2026 interns in whatever capacity he can.



**Dr. Jonathan Frommeyer—Field Technician, Laboratory Coordinator and Instructor**

Dr. Jonathan Frommeyer is a 2020 graduate of Thomas More University and has been involved with the Biology Field Station since 2016. Over that time, he has contributed across multiple roles, including Environmental Educator, river crew member, volunteer researcher, and AmeriCorps/EELCorps member, developing a strong connection to the station’s work in research, education, and conservation. His professional work focuses on freshwater ecology, particularly fish-mussel interactions, community structure, and demographic approaches used to inform conservation efforts. He will be returning to Field Station this summer as a Field Technician. In addition to his research, Jonathan is committed to undergraduate mentorship, helping students gain hands-on experience in aquatic science, and develop skills for careers in biology and environmental science.



**Molly Pope—Field Station Residence Director**

Molly serves as the Deputy Director of the Ohio River Way, a non-profit and recently designated National Water Trail whose mission is to grow the economies of Ohio River communities through promoting nature-based recreation and regional tourism. She also serves as Website Manager and Administrative Assistant for the Ohio River Basin Alliance, a regional collaborative that advocates for water resource priorities throughout the Ohio River watershed. Molly has previously worked as the Biology Field Station Manager, Sustainability Coordinator for the University of Michigan alumni family camp, and was a river crew intern in 2021—an experience that strengthened her abilities as a scientist, researcher, and environmental educator. She holds a B.S. in biology from Hillsdale College, and when she’s not at the Field Station, resides in Lexington, Kentucky with her husband, Merrit, and dog, Cali.



**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.

