



## CNHS Newsletter

Spring 2023

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### Dean Greenwood's Note



Dear CNHS Friends and Colleagues,

It has certainly been a busy year in the College of Natural and Health Sciences! This newsletter celebrates a variety of student and faculty work over the past semester; I hope you enjoy learning about it all. Students and faculty are busy working on their respective parts of final exams, and our graduating seniors are preparing for commencement on May 6<sup>th</sup>. While the hallways of Plant Hall become much quieter this week, I did want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Professor Ronda Sturgill for the exceptional work she has done as Assistant Dean of the College over the past two years. Ronda has worked on a wide variety of projects for the College, and I have appreciated the care, the calm demeanor, and the intelligence she brings to all that she does. While I will miss working with Ronda in her capacity as Assistant Dean, I look forward to continuing to work with her as she returns to her role in HSHP. I also welcome Jeffrey Fasick, Associate Professor of Biology, who will replace Ronda as Assistant Dean of CNHS.

And thanks to all of the faculty and staff of CNHS who worked so hard (as usual) this academic year. I am most appreciative of the great work you do with, and for, our students, and for your wisdom and expertise. I wish you all a relaxing, safe, and satisfying summer.

Most sincerely,



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## Faculty Awards and Recognition

**Congratulations to the following professors who have been granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor:**

Claudia Aguado Loi, Public Health  
Michael Bronikowski, Chemistry

**Congratulations to the following professors who have been granted promotion to Professor:**

Ethan Deneault, Physics  
Mary Martinasek, Public Health

**Congratulations to the following professors who have been granted promotion to Associate Teaching Professor:**

Melissa Culp, Nursing  
Kimberly Dobrinski, Biology  
Michael Flynn, Sport Management  
Adrienne George, Environmental Studies  
Fraser Houston, Health Sciences and Human Performance  
Nathan Scharf, Chemistry  
Melissa Williams, Health Sciences and Human Performance

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Congratulations to **Professor Charrita Ernewein** for being selected as an American Association of Nurse Practitioners Fellow!



Congratulations to **Professor Cindy Parsons** on her retirement.  
Thank you for your years of service to UT!



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**Congratulations to the following CNHS 2022-2023  
Academic Award Winners**

Innovation in Teaching Award ~ Rhonda Feldman  
Outstanding Student Research Supervision Award ~ Michelle Osovitz  
Outstanding Scholar Award ~ Simon Schuler  
Outstanding Service Award ~ Michael Flynn  
Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Award ~ Jason Rabe

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**CNHS Happenings in and Around the Community**

**Professor JC Andersen** was interviewed by ABC Action News on the preparation of athletic trainers regarding life saving skills.

<https://www.abcactionnews.com/news/region-hillsborough/experts-share-tips-for-life-saving-skills-after-damar-hamlin-medical-emergency>



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Congratulations to **Dr. Allison Kaczmarek** for a successful doctoral dissertation defense:

*The Environment of Interprofessional Education in Graduate Education:  
Exploring Professional Programs in Occupational Therapy, Physician  
Assistant, and Physical Therapy*



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**UT's Phi Kappa Phi** was designated as a Circle of Excellence Platinum Chapter in 2022. The chapter has many new inductees and a UT student has been awarded a fellowship grant from the national chapter the past two years.



The chapter completed a Fall Service Project and local elementary kids were ecstatic when the chapter delivered 450 books to their school. Congratulations and great job!

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**Professor MaryAnn D'Alesandro** was interviewed by WTSP (Channel 10) regarding the nursing shortage.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWTR93UGDAg>





worked the Wounded Warriors golf event in Temple Terrace. 2023 graduates **Serena and Soraya Hernandez** are pictured here with 1956 UT graduate **Stan Hines**.



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**Professor Abe Miller** taught First Aid/CPR to middle school students. He was invited by their science teacher to spark interest in becoming certified and responding to emergencies.



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Congratulations to **Professor Baron Thompson** and **Professor Abe Miller** who participated in the Florida Trail Run at Alafia River State Park. Proceeds from the event benefited the State Park.



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Congratulations to **Professor Dan Huber** who received a Senior Class Gift of \$33,360. These funds will be used to install a permanent air quality monitoring system on the UT campus.



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**The Health Sciences and Human Performance Department** honored long standing adjuncts in the department for their many years of service. Thank you to **Professor Michael Shirley, Professor David Mitchell, Professor Craig Bobik, Professor Leo Haggerty, Professor Kelly Spivey, and Professor Ron Woods (not pictured)** for their continued commitment to the students and the department!





MSN Students of **Professor Shirley Frank** and **Professor June Bryant** visited Creekside Charter Academy in Riverview. They screened 400 elementary school students for vision, BMI, and scoliosis. Great job!



**Professor June Llerena** and **Professor Sandra Coleman** along with nursing students volunteered at the Grace Community Health Fair.



Congratulations to Professor Michael Middlebrooks who had his seagrass grant featured on Bay News 9:

<https://www.baynews9.com/fl/tampa/news/2023/04/27/university-of-tampa-researcher-says-algae-in-tampa-bay-could-guide-seagrass-restoration>





The inaugural UT Nurse Practitioner Student Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) experience took place on April 5th, 2023. This event provided graduating students with the opportunity to conduct a patient visit utilizing our Standardized Patient program. The importance of this event is in response to the new national requirement of the inclusion of simulation in the Nurse Practitioner curriculum. Nursing and PA faculty worked together to conduct this simulation and the next OSCE event will occur in the Summer.



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The 2nd Annual Eric Vlahov Spartan Open took place in April. Thanks to **Professor Nauris Tamulevicius** for coordinating and organizing this great event!



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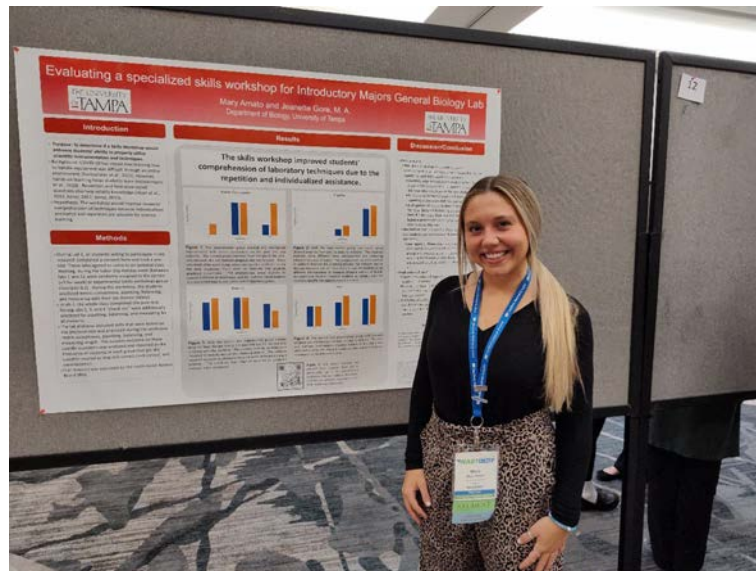
CNHS Rising Stars: Children of **Professor Eric Werner, Professor**

**Lori McCrae, Professor Mark McCrae, and Professor Sarah Wilson** performed Beauty and the Beast at the Brandon Youth Theatre



## Student Success

**Mary Amato** (Marine Science-Biology senior) won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the National Association of Biology Teachers Student Competition for Biology Education Research for her poster presentation on “Evaluating a specialized skills workshop for Introductory Majors General Biology Lab.”



**Jessica Hanson**, a senior in the Public Health program has accepted a position in the Peace Corps as a Community Health Promotor In Sierra Leone. She will be partnering with the clinic and collaborating with local health workers to educate the community on priority areas including malaria prevention/control, maternal and child health/nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and youth sexual health. Her tasks include things such as youth classroom lessons, supporting household gardening practices, conducting health promotion workshops, co-facilitating nutrition training, and regular home visits with pregnant women/new mothers to encourage the use of recommended health practices. She will live within the same means as the local community and have her own house without electricity or running water. She will likely be a 15-minute walk from the nearest potable water source and several miles from the nearest market. Jess is taking the UT Spartan spirit to impact health globally, one community at a time.





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Students involved in the Roots and Shoots organization on campus participated in an event with Jane Goodall. The students gave short speeches and moderated the Q&A. Great job!

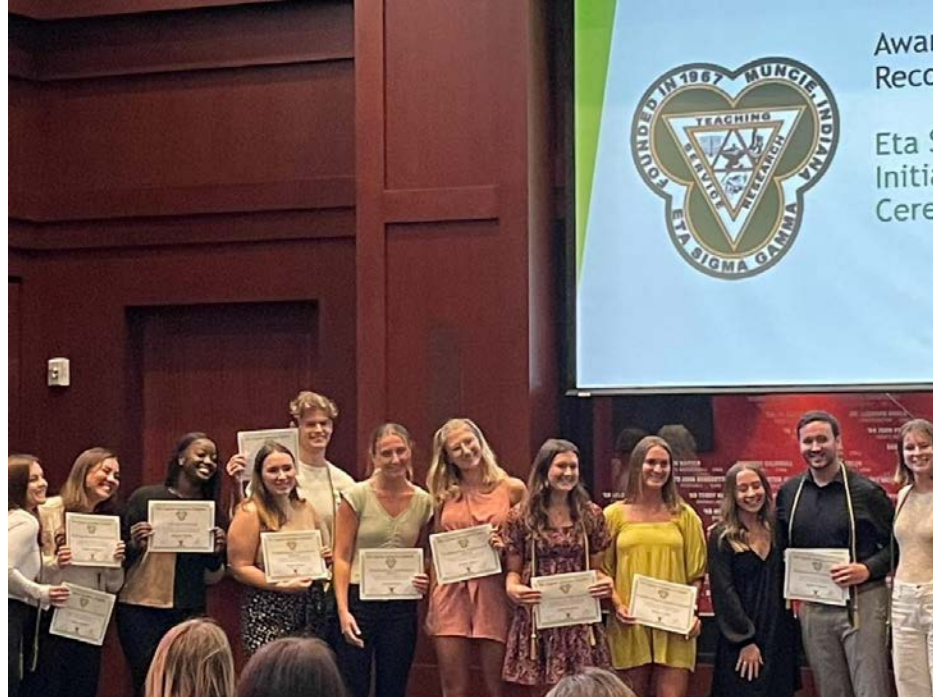


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Congratulations to Eta Sigma Gamma (health education honorary) for receiving the Research Activity Award from the National office. This award is provided to chapters who emerge in multiple activities in the community with a focus on promoting health or activities that elevate students' professionalism in health education.

The UT Chapter was also awarded the Chapter Excellence Award and the National ESG Undergraduate Health Educator of the Year individual award to the student President, Jacob Hoffman. Congratulations!





## Faculty and Student Scholarship

**Professor JC Andersen and Professor Heather VanOpdorp**

co-authored an article,

"Low Back Pain and the Social Determinants of Health: A Systematic Review and Narrative Synthesis: A Critically Appraised Paper," in the Human Kinetics Journal:

<https://doi.org/10.1123/ijatt.2022-0091>



**Professor Simon Schuler** co-authored an article, "A Spectroscopic Analysis of a Sample of K2 Planet-Host Stars: Stellar Parameters, Metallicities and Planetary Radii," in The Astrophysical Journal.



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**Congratulations to CNHS Faculty and Students**  
who have publications in the  
6th Volume of Acta Spartae. The Volume can be accessed at the link below:  
<https://www.ut.edu/academics/acta-spartae/current-issue>

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**Professor Mary Martinasek and Professor Kim Dobrinski** along with  
Frederic Montz and Nicole Tosto (former Biology students) and  
Allison Calvanese (former Public Health student) co-authored:  
"Indoor Carbon Monoxide Levels of Hookah Lounges" in the  
Health Behavior and Policy Review.  
<https://doi.org/10.14485/HBPR.9.6.3>



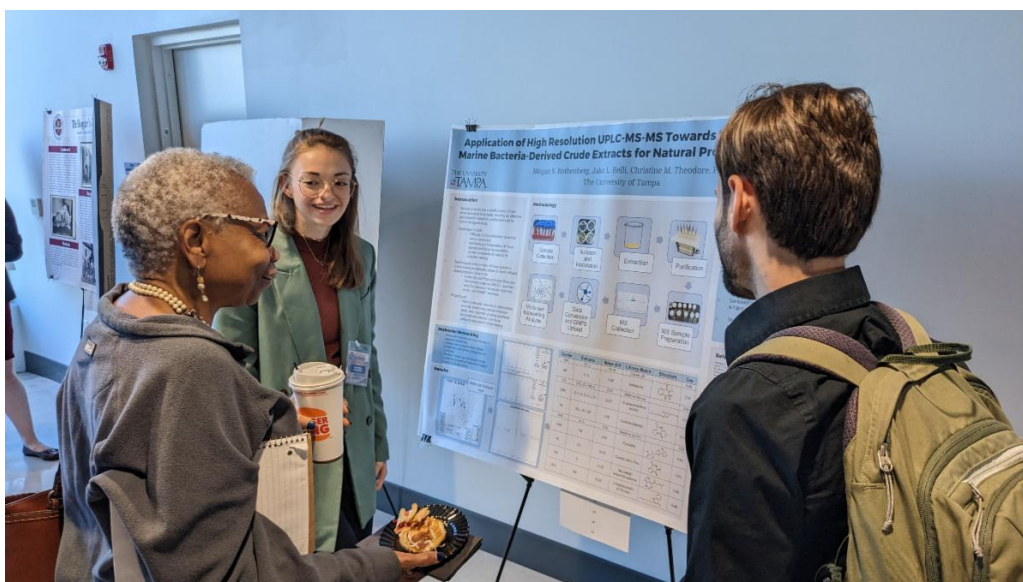
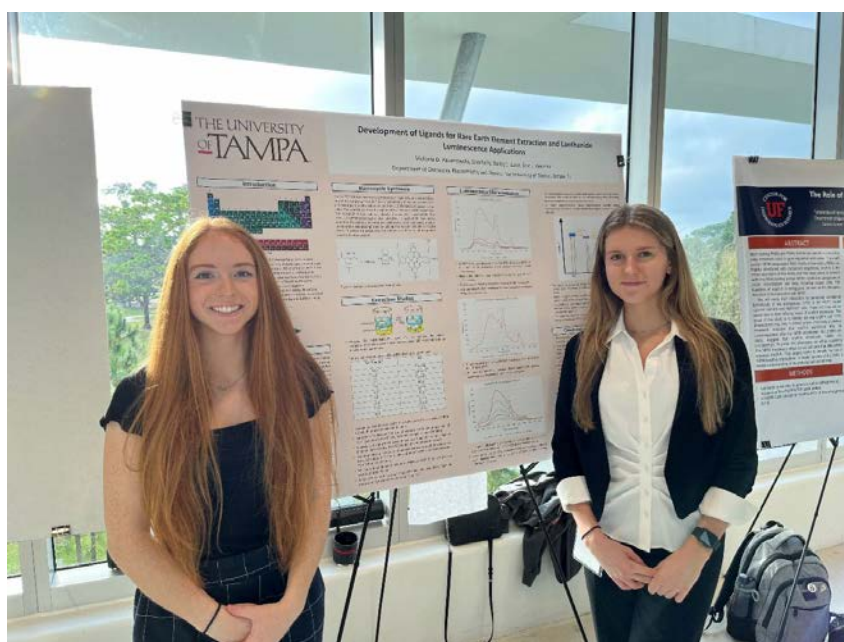
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Several students representing the Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Physics presented their research at the 2023 Florida Undergraduate Research



Conference held over February 17 – 18 at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens. Megan Rothenberg presented her poster (co-authored by Jake Belli and **Professor Christine Theodore**) entitled “Application of High Resolution UPLC-MS-MS Towards the Prioritization of Marine Bacteria-Derived Crude Extracts for Natural Product Drug Discovery.” Her work focused on the utilization of mass spectrometry based molecular networks to characterize and prioritize marine bacteria-derived extracts with the ultimate goal of identifying pharmaceutical drug leads. Victoria Pacanowski and Erin Kelly presented a poster over their work in **Professor Eric Werner’s** lab entitled “Development of Ligands for Rare Earth Element Extraction and Lanthanide Luminescence Applications.” This presentation highlighted their efforts toward developing molecules for recovery of the technologically relevant lanthanide metals from discarded consumer products and for promoting their unique optical properties for possible luminescent sensor applications.

The students are grateful for support from the UT Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry to attend the conference.





Tennis Association and Nemours Family Zone's Impact on Youth Tennis," in the **Journal of Medicine and Science in Tennis**.



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Congratulations to  
**Professor Carlos Santamaria** for co-authoring, "Cryptic Genetic Diversity in the Coastal Isopod *Alloniscus oahuensis* from the Pacific Ocean," in **Zoological Studies**.



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**Kelsey Higgins** (Public Health) led an interdisciplinary team of students, including **Kaitlyn Anderson** (Public Health), **Jack Dodds** (Nursing) and **Caroline Carlson** (Allied Health) to analyze the UT 2019 and 2021 Victim Advocacy Surveys to better understand student tolerance of violent/sexist remarks as well as student confidence in the university response. On Monday January 23, students presented their findings to the UT group RAIVEN (Reducing Assault and Interpersonal Violence Educational Network). Kelsey and Kaitlyn have also been accepted to present their findings at the 2023 Teaching Prevention conference in New Orleans.

Students worked under the direction of  
**Professor Tracy Zontek**.



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Congratulations to **Professor Michael Middlebrooks** who has a recent presentation now available on TED:

[go.ted.com/michaelmiddlebrooks](https://go.ted.com/michaelmiddlebrooks)



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Congratulations to **Eamon Hennessy** (2023 Biology Major) who was awarded the best undergraduate poster presentation award at the 2023 Southeast Estuarine Research Society conference in Charleston SC, March 16-18. He was presented this award by Dr. Amanda Kahn, UT alum (class of 2002) and president elect of Seers. Eamon is mentored by **Professor Kevin Beach**.



Congratulations to the following students who presented at The Association of Prevention Teaching and Research Conference in New Orleans:

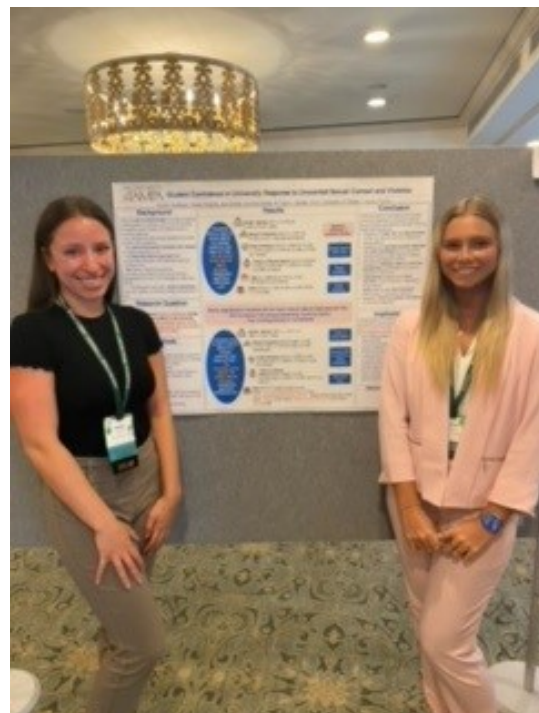
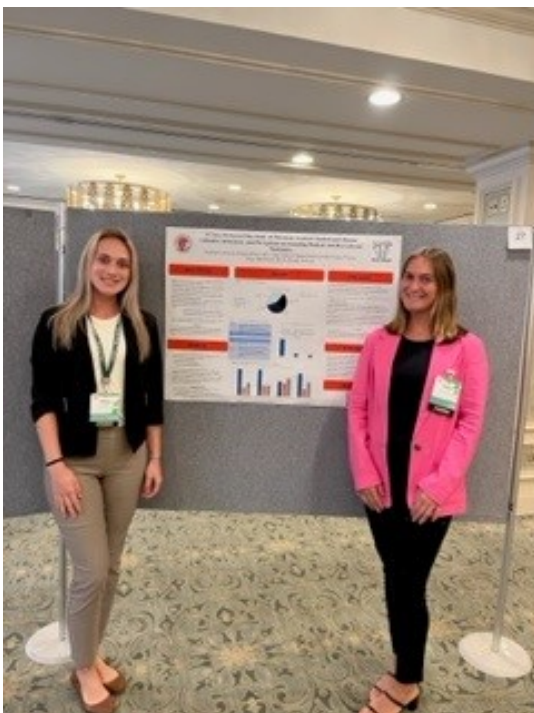
Kaitlyn Anderson and Kelsey Higgins presented on behalf of their team. “Student Confidence in University Response to Unwanted Sexual Contact and Violence”

Kaitlyn Anderson, Kelsey Higgins, Jack Dodds, Caroline Carson and faculty mentor, **Professor Tracy Zontek**

Abigail Strauss (Graduate) and Kathryn Lawler presented on behalf of their team and were awarded second place in the student poster competition. Congratulations!

“A Cross-sectional Pilot Study of Physician Assistant Student and Alumni Attitudes, Awareness, and Perceptions surrounding Medical and Recreational Marijuana”

Kathryn Lawler, Abigail Strauss and faculty mentors, **Professor Allison Kaczmarek** and **Professor Mary Martinasek**





**Professor Mary Martinasek** co-authored the article "Vaping Behavior in Young Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic: An International Cross-Sectional Study on the Prevalence and Associations" in **Respiratory Care**.  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37024281/>

**Professor Mary Martinasek** and **Professor Nauris Tamulevicius** co-authored the article "Perceived Stress and Impact on Role Functioning in University Students with Migraine-Like Headaches during COVID-19" in **The International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health**.  
<https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/20/8/5499>



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Graduate students in the MS in Exercise and Nutrition Science program are participating in a research study with scientists from the University of Applied Sciences, Dusseldorf, Germany. The research focuses on physiological parameters in elite cheerleaders on the German National Team. Graduate students (**Sean Lubiak, Saida Riddell, Travis Foster, and Gillian Tiralla**) collected blood samples for lactate, jump forces using a force plate, body composition data using bioelectric impedance, and assessed fatigue using heart rate variability monitors. **Professor Nauris Tamulevicius, Professor JC Andersen, and Professor Mary Martinasek** are involved in this collaborative project.



## Important Dates



May 5th - Spring Semester Ends  
May 6th - Spring Commencement  
May 8th - Classes begin for May Term  
May 22nd - Classes begin for Summer I  
July 3rd - Classes begin for Summer II  
August 28th - Classes begin for Fall Semester

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

Please send future news items to [jdavila@ut.edu](mailto:jdavila@ut.edu)