



College of Natural And Health Sciences Newsletter

April 2019

[Visit Our Website](#)

Dean Greenwood's Note



Colleagues,

It is difficult to believe that another academic year is already nearing completion; faculty are preparing their final classes, and students are completing their remaining assignments. For some it is a next chapter in their lives as they advance their degrees or seek employment in their chosen field. The culmination of everyone's efforts leads us to commencement on May 11, where we celebrate the achievements of the class of 2019.

*As evidenced by this newsletter, this has been a very productive year filled with news of the scholarship and many awards of our faculty and students. Clearly, our motto: **Connect, Transform and Succeed** weaves through these and other untold accomplishments. I applaud all of these individuals and the many others who have been so dedicated to the mission of the College of Natural and Health Sciences.*

I look forward to attending the end-of-year events as we continue to celebrate the successes of our students, and of course, I'll see you at commencement!

Faculty and Student Accomplishments

Professors Ethan Denault, Simon Schuler and Denija Crnojevic along with physics major **Stacey Thomas** attended the 233rd annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Seattle.

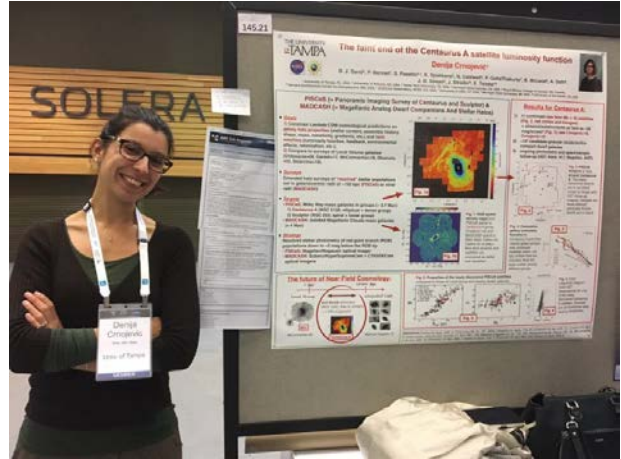
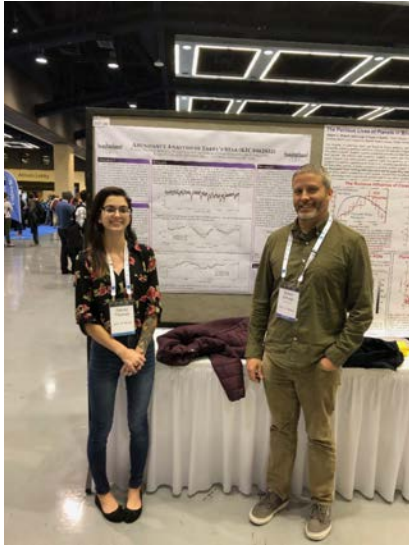
Title: The faint end of the Centaurus A satellite luminosity function
Authors: [Crnojević, D.](#); [Sand, D. J.](#); [Bennet, P.](#); [Pasetto, S.](#); [Spekkens, K.](#); [Caldwell, N.](#); [Guhathakurta, P.](#); [McLeod, B.](#); [Seth, A.](#); [Simon, J. D.](#); [Strader, J.](#); [Toloba, E.](#)

Title: Pushing Automated Abundance Derivations Into the Cool Dwarf Regime: A Test Using Praesepe Stars

Authors: Simon C. Schuler, Marwan Gerban, Marcel A. Agüeros, Keith Hawkins, and Brett Morris.

Title: Abundance Analysis of Tabby's Star (KIC 8462852)

Authors: Stacey Thomas, Simon C. Schuler, Cintia Martinez, Katia Cunha, and Verne Smith



Professor Greg Burns was chosen by the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)-Board of Directors to be a Trustee of the Political Action Committee (PAC) of the AAPA. He will serve a three year term as President-Elect starting in July.

Additionally, Greg was recently elected by the PAs of the State of Florida to be the next President-Elect of the Florida Academy of Physician Assistants (FAPA). He was also elected by these same PAs to be a member of the House of Delegates (2020 and 2021) for AAPA representing the State of Florida.

This spring, Greg gave three presentations at the 2019 FAPA Winter Symposium in Lake Buena Vista, FL.

Titles included: Updates in Hyperlipidemia, The ABCs in New High Blood Pressure Medicine, and Update in Medical Errors (Required for all State of Florida PAs for initial and renewal licensure).



Congratulations to the following Athletic Training students: **Tatiana Barrera**, **Nick Grage**, **Julia Napoli**, **Mia Pagano**, and **Brianna Rosa** who passed their national exam on the first try! The program is five for five this year. After graduation these students will apply for their national certification and then be eligible to apply for licensure to practice in the state where they intend to work.

Professor Mark McRae and his undergraduate students, **Kassandra Weeks** (senior) and **Ryan Tharp** (junior), both Marine Science majors, recently attended the Florida Chapter of the



American Fisheries Society's Annual Meeting in Haines City, FL. They presented a poster on their work studying the ecology of Mayan Cichlids, an invasive fish species in Tampa's rivers and tidal creeks.



Professor Mike Carastro and several undergraduate students recently attended and presented at the Experimental Biology 2019 meeting in Orlando, Florida. Several of the students presented their undergraduate research in both the ASBMB undergraduate student poster competition and in the larger open sessions.



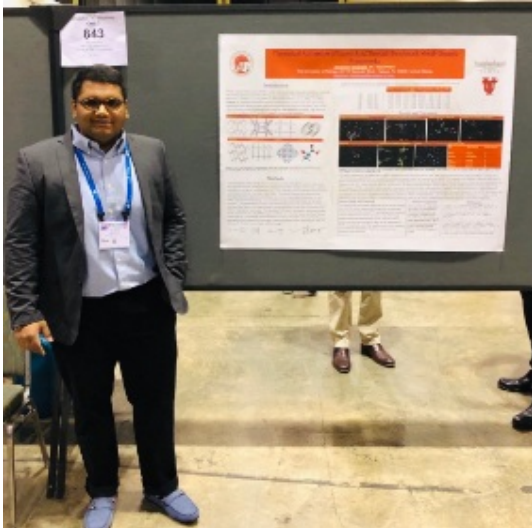
Front: (from left to right) Maya Gonzalez, Devon Grey, Taylor Collignon, Emily Adis
Back : (From left to right) Tamir Galili, Madison Donovan, Christopher Couming, Angelo Nicolaci, Christopher Murtagh, Thordis Snaedal, Professor Mike Carastro

While attending the Human Patient Simulation Network conference, **Professor Marisa Belote**, Director for Simulation with the Physician Assistant Medicine Program was interviewed by Tampa Bay Fox 13 regarding the use of augmented reality in medical education.

<http://www.fox13news.com/news/local-news/medical-simulators-help-train-healthcare-providers-on-simulated-patients>



Congratulations to undergraduate student, **Abraham Varghese**, whose poster was awarded first place in the recent American Chemical Society Conference. Abraham was mentored by **Professor Tony Pham**. The research was titled:



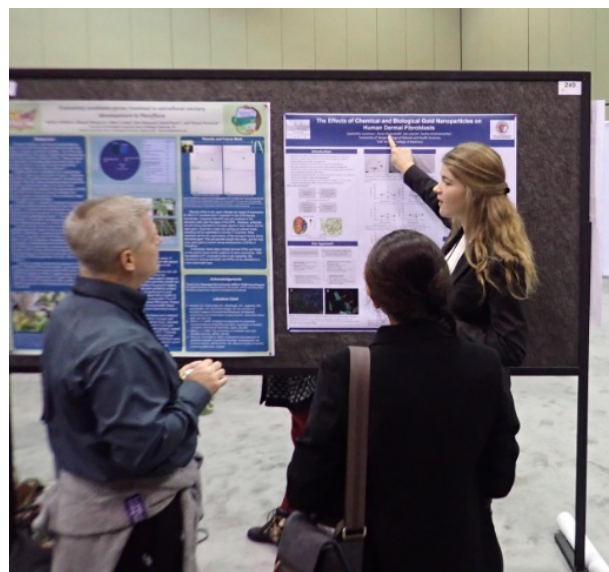
Theoretical Adsorption of Lactic Acid Through Benchmark Metal-Organic Framework. This research was made possible by a grant from the UT Office of Undergraduate Research.



Professors **Kristine White** and **Sneha Krishnamurthy** along with their undergraduate students, **Christa Edwards** and **Samantha Courtney** presented at the Association of Southeastern Biologists Meeting in Memphis. Congratulations to **Christa Edwards** won the award for Best Student Paper in Aquatic Biology. Her paper was titled: Anthropogenic Sound in the Sea: Are Ascidians Affected?
Authors: Christa Edwards, Kristine N. White, and Louis J. Ambrosio

Professor Sneha Krishnamurthy also presented a poster titled: The effect of chemical and biological nanoparticles on human dermal fibroblasts.

Professor Kristine White presented her RISE award research: I am your father, or am I? Parentage analysis in amphipod crustaceans.



Kudos to **Professors Johnna Yealy** and **Todd Doran** whose research was recently published in the Journal of Physician Assistant Medicine. The research article was titled: Current State of Physician Assistant Pain Medicine Curriculum.

https://journals.lww.com/jpae/Fulltext/2019/03000/The_Current_State_of_Physician_Assistant_Pain.3.aspx



Faculty Annual Awards



Awards & Recognition

University Awards



CNHS Innovation in Teaching Award
Professor Ann Williams



CNHS Outstanding Service Award
Professor Kim Morris



CNHS Undergraduate Student Research Award
Professor Eduardo de Souza



CNHS Faculty Advisor Award
Professor Kimberly Dobrinski



CNHS Outstanding Scholar Award
Professor Daniel Huber



CNHS Outstanding Part-time Faculty Award
Professor Joseph Foley



UT Research Grant Award
Professor Taegan McMahon



UT Research Grant Award
Professor Natalia Belfiore



UT Research Grant Award
Professor Denija Crnojevic

CNHS Student Awards



Sports Management Awards

Sport Management Academic Achievement Award: **Colleen Ridings**
Dr. Robert Birrenkott Professional Development Award: **Sophia Carbone** and **Jordan Bender**

Health Sciences and Human Performance Awards

Allied Health Physical Therapy Concentration Award: **Jenna Delvescio**
Allied Health Occupational Therapy Concentration Award: **Cassandra Polak**
Allied Health Medical Sciences Concentration Award: **Erin Wessel**
Human Performance Award: **David Amundson**
Outstanding Student Research Award: **Daniel Aube**
Anatomy and Physiology Award: **Graham Carvalho**
Athletic Training Award: **Briana Rosa**
Public Health Award: **Kathleen Becker**

Nursing Awards

Academic Excellence in BSN program: **Molly Graves**
Academic Excellence in MSN program: **Sarah Dosanjh**

Chemistry, Biochemistry and Physics Awards

2018-2019 Outstanding Biochemistry Student - Senior Class – **Erica P. Matich**
2018-2019 Outstanding Chemistry Student - Senior Class – **Melissa A. King**
2018-2019 Outstanding Forensic Science Student - Senior Class – **Victoria Kanya**
2018-2019 Outstanding Physics Student – **Vincent Clanzly**
2017-2018 Outstanding General Chemistry Student – **Emma Graves**
2017-2018 Outstanding Organic Chemistry Student - **Daniela Gutierrez Andrade**
2017-2018 Outstanding Analytical Chemistry Student – **Anna L. McCormick**
2017-2018 Outstanding Biochemistry Student – **Victoria Kanya**
2018 Outstanding Inorganic Chemistry Student – **Forrest Lundy**
2017-2018 Outstanding Physical Chemistry Student – **Christopher M. Couming**

Biology Awards

BBB Outstanding Senior Award - **Samantha Courtney** and **Christa Edwards**
Outstanding Service Award-Aaron Joseph
Outstanding Academics in Environmental Science - **Paige Harris**

Outstanding Academics in Biology - **Allison Popelar**
Outstanding Academics in Marine Science-Biology - **Christa Edwards** and **Samantha Stewart**
Outstanding Academics in Biology - **Madison Morgan**
Outstanding Academics in Marine Science-Biology - **Nicole Rothmeyer**

Biology Summer Fellowship Awards

Paige Gallo – will be working with Professor Mahadevan this summer on “An Investigation into Horizontal Gene Transfer between Viral and Bacterial/Eukaryotic dUTPase Proteins.”

Matthew Gamache – will be working with Professors Hitchman and Rose on “Environmental DNA: a tool for quantifying cryptic fishes within Tampa Bay”

Ryan Tharp – will be working with Professor McRae on “Stomach Content Analysis of Introduced Mayan Cichlids (*Cichlasoma urophthalmus*) in the Tampa Bay Watershed”

Office of Undergraduate Research Awards

2019 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Recipients

Megan Ashworth

Exosome guided differentiation of umbilical cord stem cells to neuronal lineages for treating chronic traumatic encephalopathy

Faculty Advisor: Pavan Rajanhalli, Biology

Sherrea Brown

Tissue specific compensatory regulation of gene expression associated with copy number variation

Faculty Advisor: Kimberly Dobrinski, Biology

Coley Tosto

Investigating the impact of endocrine disrupting compounds on wild population of Gulf pipefish, *Syngnathus scovelli*, in Tampa Bay by combining genetic and physiological approaches

Faculty Advisor: Emily Rose, Biology

Daniella Gutierrez Andrade

Investigating the function of autotomy in the sea slug *Cyerce antillensis*

Faculty Advisor: Michael Middlebrooks, Biology

Stephanie Walker

Aspergillosis prevalence in sea fans, and pathogen presence in the adjacent water column

Faculty Advisor: Michael Slattery, Biology

Alexis Garcia

Acquired Resistance: what is the most effective amphibian vaccine for chytrid?

Faculty Advisor: Taegan McMahon, Biology

Tyler Weinhold

Constructing Carbon-Carbon Bonds with Carbazole Photocatalysts

Faculty Advisor: Ashely Longstreet, Chemistry, Biochemistry and Physics

Luis Llano

Modeling Nucleation of Grains in Supernovae

Faculty Advisor: Ethan Deneault, Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Physics

Abraham Varghese

Theoretical studies of CO₂ adsorption and separation in two isostructural scandium-based metal-organic frameworks

Faculty Advisor: Tony Pham, Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Physics

Alexandra Perez

Free-loading vs. free-living: morphological and molecular analysis of Tampa Bay copepods

Faculty Advisor: Kristine White, Biology

Lyndsey Moore

Isolation of biologically active compounds from *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*

Faculty Advisor: Christine Theodore

Wyatt Larrinaga

Rare Earth Element Extraction with Tripodal CMPO Ligands

Faculty advisor: Eric Werner

2019-2020 Undergraduate Research and Inquiry Grant Recipients

Arielle Pollock, Megan Osgood and Jachelle Araiza

The ecology physiology of algal turfs on soft sediments in Florida mangrove forests

Faculty Advisor: Kevin Beach, Biology

Byron Ward, Shivani Desai and Madeline Kaczmarek

Investigation of copy number changes caused by obesity in *Danio rerio*
Faculty Advisor: Kimberly Dobrinski, Biology

Katherine Serba

The visual pigments of filter-feeding Elasmobranchs and their role in foraging ecology
Faculty Advisor: Jeffrey Fasick, Biology

Devon Grey

The role of the cytoskeleton in replication of Theiler's virus
Faculty Advisor: Eric Freundt, Biology

Hayley Kudzmas, Shannon Twyman and Ella Hampson

How much does anthropogenic activity affect *Staphylococcus aureus* and MRSA levels in Tampa Bay
Faculty Advisors: Bridgette Froeschke and Michelle Osovitz, Biology

Tyler Weinhold and Melissa Chin

Utilizing carbazole photocatalysts to derivatize pyridine molecules
Faculty Advisor: Ashely Longstreet, Chemistry, Biochemistry and Physics

Carley Reid and Miranda Conley

The potential impact of aquifer storage and recovery on the Everglades and the Floridan Aquifer: what could happen when Lake Okeechobee water is injected into the Floridan Aquifer and then subsequently pumped into the Everglades?
Faculty Advisor: Robert Masserini, Chemistry, Biochemistry and Physics

Taylor Brunson and Addison Donnell

Anatomy of an isolated population of Bahamian seahorses: how different are the Sweeting Pond seahorses?
Faculty Advisors: Mason Meers and Heather Masonjones, Biology

Vincent Clanzly and Mohammed Mourabit

Stellar astrophysics with open clusters
Faculty Advisor: Simon Schuler, Chemistry, Biochemistry and Physics

Nicholas Greenberg and Lilli Sutherland

Identification and antibiotic susceptibility of bacteria found in the shark oral cavity for the successful treatment of shark bite victims in Tampa Bay.
Faculty Advisors: Ann Williams and Daniel Huber, Biology

Nicole Scott

Best health and safety practices for university fabrication laboratories
Faculty Advisor: Tracy Zontek, Health Science and Human Performance

Committee Service Elections

The following faculty have been nominated to serve the university and college for the upcoming academic year.

Thank you in advance for your service!

Tenure & Promotion Committee

Eric Ballard (CHE) 2019-2021
Dan Huber (BIO) 2019-2021
Mason Meers (BIO) 2019-2021
Tom Jackman (CHE) 2018-2020
Jay Jisha (SPM) 2018-2020
Cindy Parsons (NUR) 2018-2020
Eric Vlahov (HSHP) 2018-2020

Curriculum Committee

Carol Botwinski (NUR) 2019-2021
Pad Mahadevan (BIO) 2018-2020

Faculty Grants Committee

Abe Miller (HSHP) 2019-2021
Leslie Williams (HSHP) 2018-2020
Scott Witherow (CHE) 2018-2020

Faculty Sabbatical Committee

Ann Williams (BIO) 2019-2021
Jen Wortham (HSHP) 2018-2020

Senate Committee

Lori McRae (BIO) 2019-2021
Allison Kaczmarek (PAM) 2019-2021
Eric Vlahov (HSHP) 2019-2021
Kim Morris (HSHP) 2018-2020
Mike Smucker (SPM) 2018-2020
John Struss (CHE) 2018-2020
Robin White (NUR) 2018-2020

In The News!



The University of Tampa's Sports Management Program has been ranked at number 25 in our ranking of the Top 25 Best Value Sports Management Degrees 2019. , the Value Colleges Top 25 Best Value Sports Management Degrees 2019 ranking points to the business schools that excel in sports management. VC features only reputable, accredited colleges and universities that have proven their value across the board, by combining affordability and quality for a real return on investment.

You can read more at <https://www.valuecolleges.com/ranking/best-sports-management-degrees/>

Student Organization Recognition



The student chapter of the American Chemical Society was selected to receive an Honorable Mention award for its activities conducted this past year. The student group and faculty advisors,

Professors John Struss and Laura Henchey, were recognized for this award at the 257th ACS National Meeting in Orlando this spring. Additional information can be found on the UT site: <http://www.ut.edu/UT-Chapter-of-American-Chemical-Society-Recognized.aspx>



The Public Health Education Honorary Program, Eta Sigma Gamma, was awarded national recognition at the annual meeting in San Diego. **Professor Claudia Aguado Loi**, faculty advisor, noted that few chapters meet the criteria for this award (research, education, and service in health education). The ESG chapter at UT was established in 2017. The UT chapter also received two additional awards. The individual



award for Outstanding Undergraduate of the Year was awarded to **Elizabeth Khoury** and a certificate of recognition for the team's research poster which showcased their Ybor City research project and outreach activities.



Alumni News



UT Alumna Brittany Chatman, who now serves as the Statewide Tobacco Policy Manager for Florida was pivotal in advancing legislation in Alachua County focused on penalties for tobacco sales to minors.

[Alachua County Makes it Illegal to Sell Tobacco to anyone under the age of 21](#)

Brittany graduated from the Public Health Program in 2012. Brittany was also instrumental in the efforts to move UT to a smoke-free campus.

Brittany noted, "*The thing about it is that I was able to use many of the foundational public health principles I learned while at UT to assist them with this massive policy change feat. It always end up coming full circle back to the University I'm proud to call my alma mater.*"

Annual Evaluation FAQs

As we near Annual Faculty Evaluations questions may arise. We currently have an [FAQ sheet](#) on the CNHS page. It links you to Spartanweb where you can log in and view the questions and answers.

UT Give Day April 23 #AllinforUT

This Tuesday marks UT Give Day! There are a lot of activities planned, so don't miss out on this opportunity. Details can be found here!
<http://www.ut.edu/allinfort/>

On Campus Activities for Current UT Students, UT Faculty and UT Staff (free unless noted)

8 a.m. - Coffee and Donuts - lobbies of Vaughn Center and Plant Hall

9 a.m. - Sparty Scavenger Hunt - find the hidden Spartys all over campus

10 a.m. - Golf Cart Rides - catch a ride to class

11 a.m. - Spartan Bucks - show your support and vote for what matters most to you - Vaughn Center Lobby

11:30 a.m. - Pieathon - make a donation and pie your favorite professor, Campus Safety officer or staff member

- schedule announced soon

12 p.m. - Pie Day in cafeteria - a smorgasbord of pies

1:30 p.m. - Presidential Golf Cart - catch a ride to class with President Vaughn

5 p.m. - Grads Grab and Go - Graduate students grab a perk up before your class with coffee and snacks

DONATE

Important Dates and Links

[UT Master Calendar](#)

[UT Academic Calendar](#)

CNHS Undergraduate Research Symposium - May 3 at 2 p.m. Vaughn Center 9th Floor

Steve Hendrix Retirement Celebration - May 1 at 3 p.m. Vaughn Center 9th floor

CNHS Social - May 6th at 3 p.m. Vaughn Center 9th floor

MSENS Hooding Ceremony - May 10 at 11 a.m. in Music Room

May Commencement for CNHS - May 11 at 2 p.m. - Fairgrounds

Wishing Everyone a Safe and Healthy Summer!

Please send future news items to jdavila@ut.edu