

FAITH GILLIAN FRINGS

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EDUCATION

- In progress* **University of New Hampshire, Durham – Ph.D. Integrative Biology**
Advanced to Candidacy January 2025
Doctoral Advisor: Dr. Melissa Aikens | *Dissertation:* Developing data literacy in biology courses: Investigating students' programming motivation
- 2022 **University of South Florida, Tampa – M.S. Biology**
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Luanna Prevost | *Thesis:* Mixed method analysis of undergraduate student interpretation of different phylogenetic tree styles
- 2020 **University of South Florida, Tampa – B.S. Marine Biology**

SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Spring 2025 UNH Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award, *Department of Biological Sciences*
- Spring 2025 UNH Graduate Student Research Fund Grant, *School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering*
- Summer 2024 Bill Wood Poster Award (while at UNH), *Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER) Annual Meeting*
- Summer 2025 UNH Summer Teaching Assistant Fellowship Award
- Summer 2024, 2025 UNH DBER Travel Award
- Summer 2024 UNH Graduate School Travel Grant
- Fall 2020 - 2022 S-STEM Scholarship Award, *Integrative Biology Department, University of South Florida*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (while at UNH)

- Summer 2023 - 2025 **Graduate Research Assistant** – University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. Research Lab of Dr. Melissa Aikens. Conducted and co-analyzed 15 student interviews examining community college transfer students' supports and barriers at a four-year institution. Assisted with qualitative analysis of open-response data of biology student math reasoning.
- Spring 2024 **Graduate Research Assistant** – University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. Research Lab of Dr. Easton White. Created data science teaching materials, taught grad-level R and statistics mini workshops, and built a needs assessment for a data sciences training program.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (while at UNH)

- Fall 2022 - present **Teaching Assistant** – University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.
Data Science for Life Sciences (BIOL 706/806): Fall 2023, 2024, 2025
Applied biostatistics (BIOL 528): Spring 2023, 2024
Introductory Biology Laboratory (BIOL 412): Fall 2022

Summer 2024, 2025 **Teaching Assistant** – Shoals Marine Laboratory, Appledore Island, ME.
Field Animal Behavior (MEFB 714): June 2025
Research in Biology (MEFB 751): July - Aug 2024.
Ecology & the Marine Environment (MEFB 674): June 2024

January 2025 **Teaching Assistant** – Tohoku University, Japan.
R by the Sea (Workshop)

PUBLICATIONS & SCIENCE COMMUNICATION (* denotes while at UNH)

*Esparza D., Amin N.E., **Frings F.G.**, Halmo S.M., Hazlett Z.S., Heim A.B., Uminski C., Von der Mehden B., Wright A.M., & Yang M. (accepted). *For trainees, by trainees: Supporting Discipline-Based Education Research Scholars-in-Training through career transitions with inclusive, accessible professional development*. Lexington Books.

Frings F.G., Levine A., Madrigal L., Plank L., Richards C. (2021). Celebrating the Importance of Evolution. *Frontiers for Young Minds*. <https://www.frontiersin.org/news/2021/02/12/children-in-science-celebrating-the-importance-of-evolution>

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (while at UNH) (* denotes presenting author(s))

Frings F.G.*, Aikens M.L. (2025) Exploring student motivation in programming: Insights from a hybrid field-based data science course. Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER) annual meeting. (POSTER)

Frings F.G.*, Weigel E.G., Aikens M.L. (2025) Characterizing biology students' mindsets and task values towards programming. UNH Annual Graduate Research Conference. (TALK)

Frings F.G.*, Aikens M.L. (2024) Community college transfer students' perceptions of supports and barriers to persistence in their major at a four-year institution. Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER) annual meeting. (POSTER)

Frings F.G.*, Weigel E.G., Aikens M.L. (2025) Characterizing biology students' mindsets and task values towards programming. UNH Department of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Seminar. (TALK)

Frings F.G.*, Prevost L.B. (2022). Mixed method analysis of undergraduate student interpretation of different phylogenetic tree styles. UNH DBS Graduate Student Seminar Series. (TALK)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP (while at UNH)

Fall 2023 - present **Discipline-based Education Researchers–Scholars in Training (DBER-SiT) Leadership**– Subcommittee of SABER
Chair– Fall 2025 - present
Funding Co-Chair– Fall 2023 – Summer 2025

Fall 2022 - Fall 2023 **DBS Graduate Student Organization** – Co-founder; organized graduate student seminar series and outreach events

