

# 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 Travel Award, *Department of Biological Sciences*
- 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 science 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 Series. (TALK)

**Frings F.G.\***, Prevost L.B. (2022). Mixed method analysis of undergraduate student interpretation of different phylogenetic tree styles. UNH Department of Biological Sciences 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

