

# HOUSTON

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# HELIX

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*Alumni Newsletter for The  
University of Texas Genetic  
Counseling Program*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



Program Director Update ...	3
Hello, UTGCP! ...	5
Insights on the New Asynchronous Rotations ...	7
Check Out the Fun at Camp PHEfever ...	8
Expanding Services at MD Anderson ...	9
UTGCP Research & Education Fund ...	11
Meet the Class of 2025 ...	12
Thesis Updates with The Class of 2024 ...	16
Where are They Now? Class of 2023...	17
Outstanding Clinical Supervisor Award ...	18
2022-2023 Award Winners ...	19
Upcoming Events ...	21
Alumni Directory ...	22
From the Editors ...	26



# PROGRAM DIRECTOR

## Update



They say that the only constant is change, and 2023 has lived up to that at the UTGCP. We always strive to incorporate new ideas and to respond to student feedback, and we embrace the notion that in genetics and genomics if you do not change you will be left behind. We are lucky that the Texas Medical Center positions us to have access to cutting edge research and technology, including the incorporation of telehealth into routine clinical practice. We are also grateful for the flexibility to constantly add to and revise our curriculum, including further incorporation of professional issues such as racial and ethnic health disparities and social determinants of health. We strive to hold true to our core values in the face of change, as evidenced by the UTGCP Resilience Scholarships that will be a part of our admissions cycle this year.

We will also be a part of UTHealth Houston's Giving Day that coincides with GC Awareness Day, aiming to strengthen the Jacqueline T. Hecht Founding Director Scholarship fund to increase the overall number of scholarships available, and to strengthen our Research and Education endowed fund to drive initiatives that support our students' wellbeing.

Change is apparent in our leadership team for 2023-2024. As new individuals come into the leadership team, it gives us a chance to reimagine our roles and responsibilities. It also means that we have to say a fond farewell to those whose careers move in new directions. No words could adequately express all that Jennifer Czerwinski has done for the UTGCP over her 17 years at UTHealth and 10 years in Program Leadership. We were sad to have her step away this summer, but are so grateful for the lasting legacy she gave the program with the investment of her time, energy, and expertise over many years. Meagan Choates, who was the Assistant Director of Research, was named the Assistant Program Director of the UTGCP. Meagan is a prenatal counselor at UTHealth Houston and UTGCP alumnae (Class of 2016). She has transformed several courses at the UTGCP, namely Embryology and Approaches to Research, and now takes on additional course coordination and has expanded her administrative profile with the program from recruitment and outreach to admissions and advising. Please see the article in the Helix for more information about Meagan.

# PROGRAM DIRECTOR

## Update

Last fall, Leslie Dunnington joined the team as our Assistant Director of External Fieldwork and oversaw exciting changes to the supplemental rotations. Having both synchronous and asynchronous options in 3 week blocks was well received by the students and faculty. With Jen's departure, Leslie has added additional administrative rotation duties to her role, now titled Assistant Director of Fieldwork. She is preparing to launch several new asynchronous options for spring semester, such as a case report module and program leadership module, to join modules such as cardiovascular, neurogenetics, and business of healthcare. If you have ideas for a module and/or would like to be involved in the creation of one, please let us know. We have so many alumni in exciting roles and would love for you to share your expertise with our students.

More change is on the horizon in 2024, with the incorporation of the new ACGC Practice Based Competencies into our evaluation systems. They were published, along with changes to the ACGC Standards, August 31st of this year. If you have not seen them, I encourage you to visit ACGC's website. We also hope change will be coming to the boards, and we will continue to support and advocate on behalf of our graduates with ABGC.

It was wonderful to see so many alumni and past supervisors at NSGC in Chicago. Reconnecting in person has been a treat, and I hope to run into many more of you at meetings throughout the year. Make plans to attend NSCG next fall in New Orleans close to home here in Houston.

Take care,

*Claire*



# Hello UTGCP!

It was with the greatest enthusiasm that I accepted the position as the new Assistant Program Director beginning with this academic year. Despite having a not-so-quiet goal of integrating into and expanding my involvement within program leadership for some time, I can't help but acknowledge the complex feelings that came with this opportunity being due to Jen's departure from our team. I can only hope to fill at least a part of the sizeable hole that she has left in the heart of this program.

For those who don't know me, I graduated from the UTGCP in 2016, and have been practicing as a prenatal genetic counselor here in Houston ever since. I am a mother to the most perfect 2-year-old son and (nearly perfect) 4-year-old cavapoo, and have very few hobbies these days outside of embracing a Horizontal Lifestyle (being on my couch, watching every documentary on every streaming platform), and enjoying a deep-dive podcast.

The vision of what program involvement would look like for me has morphed over time, with the through line being a passion for teaching and student training in all its forms. As a new graduate, it started with some basic concept that I wanted to give back to the program I loved. Over the last several years, it has looked like (happily) saying yes to too many things and being embedded in various aspects of teaching, mentorship, and leading our students' thesis research efforts. Things I am most proud of to date are redesigning and developing our students' Embryology and Approaches to Research courses to be better tailored to the needs of genetic counselors. The Embryology course launched with success in 2021; our current second years are serving as my first set of guinea pigs in Approaches, so I'm looking forward to their insight and feedback for the benefit of subsequent cohorts. It was an honor and so validating to have been nominated for the McGovern Award for Outstanding Teaching by the Class of 2023 for these efforts. I look forward to continuing to evaluate and adapt our students' curriculum to benefit their training experience and career development.

My goal is to use this first year to get better acquainted with the aspects of the program I haven't yet seen, or haven't thought about since I was a student myself. One of my favorite things has been sitting in on as many classes as is reasonable to better appreciate our students' didactic experiences and needs – it's like getting to go back to grad school with nearly none of the pressure!

For those with any questions about my role, I am always reachable by email. I'll also share that I'm the hidden face behind the UTGCP Instagram account, so if you have any achievements you wish to highlight, please send them my way! I love to see our alumni's professional recognitions be celebrated.

Thank you for your trust and support as I navigate this new role. Best to all my UTGCP alumni!

Meagan Choates

The page features a grey background with white line-art illustrations of various flowers and leaves in the corners. A central wreath of green leaves and brown seed pods frames the text. The text is centered and reads:

A huge

Thank You

to Jennifer Czerwinski  
for all that you've done  
for the UTGCP

INSIGHTS ON THE NEW

# asynchronous rotations

**From Leslie Dunnington, Assistant Director of Fieldwork**

In January and February of 2023, second year students embarked on a new supplemental rotation experience. Realizing that rotation needs are not “one size fits all”, the supplemental rotation enables placements which meet students’ educational needs and interests and provides an individualized track to their genetic counseling education. This year, the UTGCP transitioned to having two three-week block supplemental rotations rather than one extended rotation.

Another change was the addition of an asynchronous learning track. Four asynchronous modules were created with the help of our talented colleagues and enabled students to develop a deeper understanding of the business of medicine, industry, cardiogenetics and neurogenetics. The students appreciated the flexibility offered by this format while being able to learn from field experts.

Rotation placements are made based on student preference, their academic and clinical performance and rotation availability. Students were able to complete two synchronous blocks, two asynchronous blocks or one synchronous, one asynchronous block.

We are eagerly planning the 2024 supplemental rotation and will be adding an asynchronous module in which students work with a mentor to construct a publishable case report. We have also developed an asynchronous program leadership module for those with career goals in genetic counseling programs. The business of medicine, industry, cardiogenetics and neurogenetics modules will continue to be available to any interested students. Patient facing opportunities in a variety of specialties will be available to students who are needing or desiring more clinical experience.

Overall, the transition to two supplemental rotations was a success. Moving forward, we plan to continue to add to the learning and rotation options available to our students.

Providing these individualized opportunities to our students allows them to explore genetic counseling beyond their core rotations. We would like to thank all of those who have helped to make these rotations a success and look forward to continue expanding this program. We welcome rotation ideas from anyone in the UTGCP network.





# CHECK OUT THE FUN AT

## *Camp PHEver*

From Kate Richardson & Megan Morand



Kate Richardson (Class of 2018) and Megan Morand (Class of 2021) are the co-directors for Camp PHEver, a week long camp for children with PKU ages 6-18 years old every year. Kate and Megan both began their advocacy for patients with PKU by being a counselor for Camp PHEver as part of their summer rotations while they were students at UTGCP. Now, they have grown camp to be more than pre-pandemic numbers through increasing campers from across the country and even internationally.



While there are several other PKU camps across the country, most of these camps are family camps, where children with PKU come to a camp for a long weekend with their parents. Camp PHEver provides a true summer camp experience for children who often are met with challenges of diet accommodations not being possible for other camps. One of our favorite parts of camp every year is hearing our new campers realize that everyone around them has PKU, and they aren't the only ones drinking formula, eating a modified diet, or taking extra medications.



# EXPANDING SERVICES AT *MD Anderson*

## **Julie Moskowitz Shares Updates on Telehealth Services**

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we all live and work. At the MD Anderson Cancer Center, this change has manifested itself as the permanent implementation of telemedicine services for genetic counseling, via both video and telephone consultations. A new, fully virtual Clinical Cancer Genetics clinic opened in May 2022, and provides genetic counseling via telemedicine for all hereditary cancer indications. Since its implementation through March 2023, the Clinical Cancer Genetics Virtual Clinic has served 1,612 patients. Many of our additional cancer site-specific clinics (including Breast, GU, GI and Gynecological Oncology) also offer the option of telemedicine appointments in order to increase access to and convenience of scheduling genetic counseling appointments. All genetics counselors at MD Anderson have obtained, or are working to obtain, genetic counseling licensure in at least ten states that individuals most frequently travel from to seek care at MD Anderson. This has allowed us to broaden our reach of genetic counseling for our out-of-state patients.

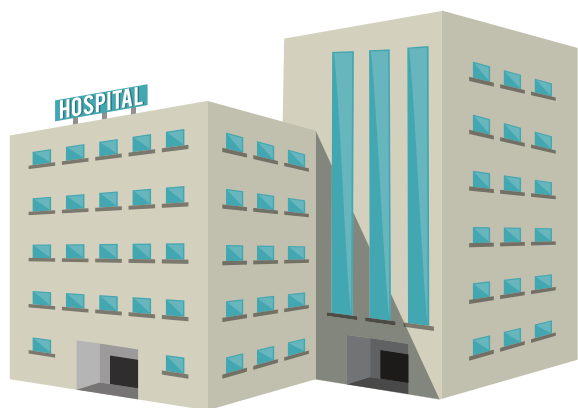
One patient population where implementation of telemedicine has been beneficial is patients who are new to MD Anderson, presenting specifically for genetic counseling. A number of departments allow for seeing new patients for genetic counseling via telemedicine along with our dedicated genetics providers, which has given us the ability to facilitate cascade testing for unaffected family members of our patients who test positive for a hereditary predisposition to cancer, without necessitating travel to the Medical Center. We hope that the ease of new patient telemedicine appointments will allow for increased uptake of genetic counseling and testing leading to future cancer screening and prevention options for our patient's family members. We are excited about our current telemedicine genetic counseling services here at MD Anderson and look forward to seeing where telemedicine takes us in the future.

# EXPANDING SERVICES AT *MD Anderson*

## Autumn Vara Provides Updates on Services at LBJ Hospital

MD Anderson Cancer Center has expanded their outreach services at LBJ Hospital, a community, safety-net hospital mainly serving low-income and uninsured patients in Harris County. A year and a half into the COVID-19 pandemic and the introduction of telehealth services at LBJ, we discovered there was a drastic decrease in the test completion rate at LBJ. We realized that there are unique and unknown barriers in this patient population that made telehealth genetic services less superior.

To improve quality of care, we now have a dedicated on-site genetic counselor embedded into the general oncology clinic twice a week. This allows patients to have same day visits as their medical oncology appointment, improving the show rate for genetic counseling appointments, as well as complete all necessary steps prior to leaving.



We were fortunate to present an abstract about our experience titled “Overcoming Barriers and Improving Genetic Testing Completion Rate for Hereditary Cancer in an Underserved Population at a Large Safety-Net Hospital” this past June at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) annual meeting.



# EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS

## *UTGCP Research & Education Endowed Fund*

**With Kate Sagaser and Carol Brooks**



With Giving Day just around the corner, we are excited to spotlight the tremendous strides made by UTGCP students thanks to the Research & Education Endowed Fund. The fund proudly supported the work of Teresa Heller and Yusra Aziz, both Class of 2023. Teresa's research, "The Impact of Treatment with Palynziq on Quality of Life for Individuals with PKU," was presented as a poster at the NSGC Annual Conference this year. At the same meeting, Yusra's abstract from her thesis project entitled "The Need for Racial and Ethnic Health Disparity Curriculum in Genetic Counseling Programs" won the distinguished Beth Kaplan Best Student Abstract Award. These achievements are stellar examples of how the Fund enables our students to reach new heights in their academic and professional journeys!

The Fund's impact echoes through our alumni as well. Class of 2022 members Emile Moura, Katie Baudoin, Natalie Stoner, and Gina Sanchez each also received backing from the Fund for their studies. These successes are the fruits of your generosity, and exemplify the profound difference each donation makes.



## **JOIN US IN MAKING A FUTURE**

As we approach Giving Day, let's continue this tradition of support and excellence. Your contributions empower our students to explore innovative research avenues and achieve prestigious accolades! We invite you to extend your generosity and encourage others to do the same by donating to the "Genetic Counseling Research and Education Endowed Fund" at <https://giving.uth.edu/donate/graduate-school>. Every gift, large or small, builds a stronger, more vibrant future for our students and the communities they will serve.



**From left to right, top to bottom:** Grace Ra, Nicole Talaba, Karli Livingston, Brenna Albracht, Farren Lopez, Ava Henson, Nadia English, Cindy Canales, Hilliary Esplen, Jessica Clark

# MEET THE CLASS OF 2025



BRENNA

*Albracht*



Pampa, TX



Baylor University



Biology

CINDY

*Canales*



Round Rock, TX



Texas A&M University



Biology

NADIA

*English*



Eden Prairie, NM



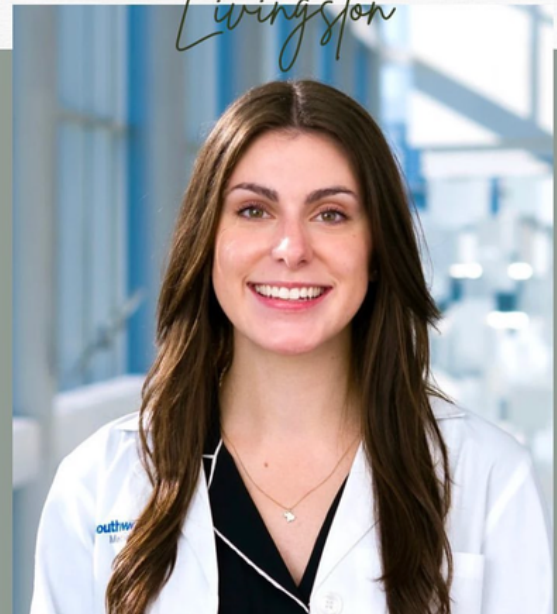
Gustavus Adolphus  
College



Biology & Spanish

KARLI

*Livingston*



Colleyville, TX



Rensselaer Polytechnic  
Institute



Biology



NICOLE

*Talaba*



Laguna Hills, CA



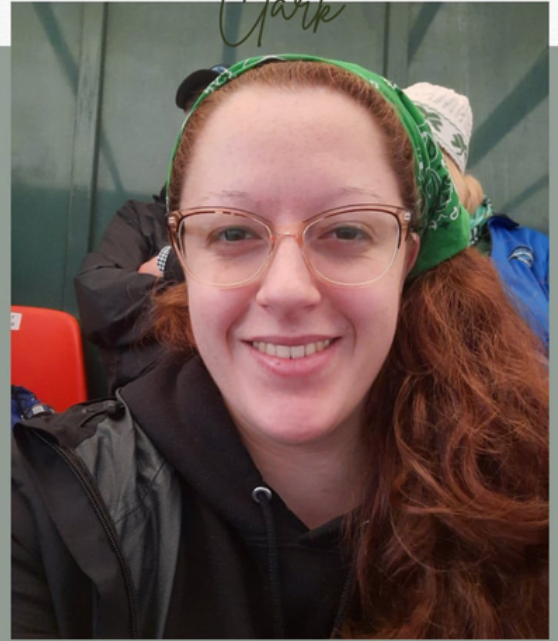
University of California,  
San Diego



Biology

JESSICA

*Clark*



Morton Grove, IL



Purdue University



Genetics

HILLARY

*Esplen*



New Braunfels, TX



Southwestern  
University



Biology

AVA

*Henson*



Spring, TX



The University of  
Alabama at Birmingham



Genetics & Genomic Sci. 14



GRACE

*Ra*



Sante Fe Springs, CA



UCLA



English

FARREN

*Lopez*



Rosenberg, TX



Texas State University



Biology

*Welcome!*



# THESIS UPDATES

## CLASS OF 2024

**Emma:** "Adoption Education in Genetic Counseling Training Programs"

**Chair:** Leslie Dunnington & Jen Czerwinski

**Carley:** "Assessing What Prepares/Empowers Women with Fetal Anomalies"

**Chair:** Blair Stevens

**Laura:** "Assess Factors and Views of Disclosing TSC Diagnosis with Romantic Partners"

**Chair:** Kate Richardson

**Maria:** "Dysmorphology in Genetic Counseling Education"

**Chair:** Katie Shields

**Mindy:** "'Sex' vs 'Gender' Usage by Patients"

**Chair:** Shannon Mulligan

**Nicolette:** "Pregnancy Yields and Screening Methodologies for Skeletal Dysplasias and Craniosynostosis Syndromes"

**Chair:** Theresa Whittman

**Rachel:** "Fraud, Waste, and Abuse in the Genetic Testing Industry"

**Chair:** Claire Singletary

**Disha:** "Soft Signs in the Presence of NIPT"

**Chair:** Meagan Choates

**Kiki:** "The Relationship Between TSC and Sleep Disorders"

**Chair:** Kate Richardson

**Jordan:** "Attitudes and Motivations for Anonymous Predictive Testing in the Huntington's Disease Population"

**Chair:** Leslie Dunnington





# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

UPDATES FROM CLASS OF 2023

**Latonya Alexander**

Cancer Genetics in Houston, TX

**Madeline Alpar**

Prenatal Genetics in Fort Worth, TX

**Erin Atkinson**

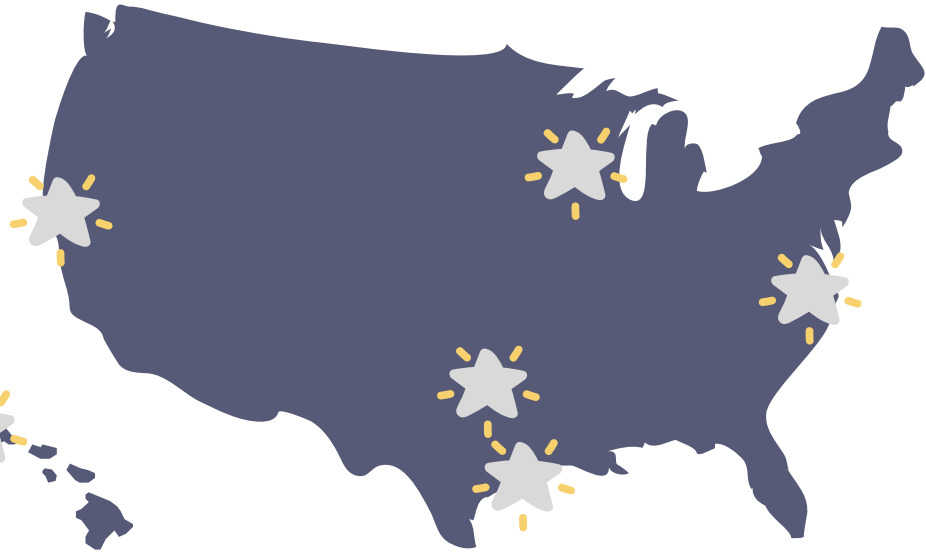
Prenatal Genetics in Houston, TX

**Yusra Aziz**

Cancer Genetics in Dallas, TX

**Jack Colleran**

Prenatal Genetics in Twin Cities, MN



**Emily Daykin**

Prenatal Genetics in Twin Cities, MN

**Tessa Heller**

Medical Genetics in Norfolk, VA

**Cindy Hernandez**

California

**Jasmine Tyson**

Adult, Pediatric, and Prenatal Genetics in Honolulu, Hawai'i

**Jordon Zeiger**

Pediatric Genetics in Houston, TX



# 2022-2023

## UTGCP AWARDS

### 2023 Outstanding Clinical Supervisor Award

Meagan Choates, class of 2016



### Here's what students had to say about Meagan:

*"Meagan is a supervisor who has shown, time and time again, her commitment to and passion for teaching. She has gone above and beyond what is expected of a supervisor to help students succeed, whether it is in the clinic space, didactic classes, or thesis projects. She is incredibly kind, supportive and approachable. She encourages students to try new things. Her feedback is specific and detailed, and instills confidence in students. Meagan goes the extra mile to talk through things that would be helpful for boards, and she challenges and supports students in a way that makes them feel confident in their abilities. Her ability to tailor to students' learning styles, be a role model in clinic, and her extra efforts to help with thesis show what a wonderful person Meagan is. She truly cares about the successes of her students.*

*We cannot imagine UTGCP without her!"*

*2022-2023*

# UTGCP AWARDS

## 2023 Outstanding Alumni Award

Carla McGruder, class of 2015



## 2022 Outstanding Alumni Award

Christina Falugi, class of 2016





# PAST AWARD WINNERS

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## Previous Winners of the Excellence in Publication Award

Class of 2013 — Kate Dempsey

Class of 2014 — Jacqueline  
Mersch

Class of 2015 — Sarah  
Huguenard

Class of 2016 — Theresa  
Wittman

Class of 2017— Jordan Berg

Class of 2018—Kate Mowrey

Class of 2019— Danielle Williams

Class of 2020 — Sarah Burke

Class of 2021 — Megan Morand



## Previous Winners of Outstanding Clinical Supervisor

2018 — Sarah Bannon

2019 — Blair Stevens

2020 — Shannon Mulligan

2021 — Brittanie Morris

2022 — Leslie Dunnington

## Previous Winners of the Outstanding Alumni Award

2005 Recipient — Catherine Wicklund

2006 Recipient — Sarah Jane Noblin

2007 Recipient — Michelle Strecker

2008 Recipient — Jennifer Hoskovec

2009 Recipient — Marianna Raia

2010 Recipient — Jennifer Czerwinski

2011 Recipient — Jamie Chance

2012 Recipient — Blair Stevens

2013 Recipient — Sandra Darilek

2014 Recipient - Carolyn Wilson-Brackett

2015 Recipient — Kaylene Ready

2016 Recipient — Laura Amendola

2017 Recipient— Julia Wynn

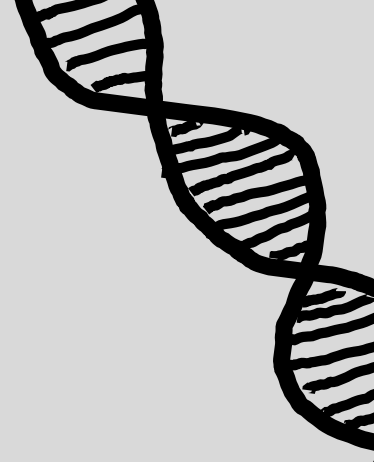
2018 Recipient—Salma Nassef

2019 Recipient— Jennifer Eichmeyer

2020 Recipient — Carol Brooks

2021 — Tamara Solomon

# UPCOMING EVENTS



In Houston?  
Join Houston GCs at Lodge 88  
for food, drinks, and Bingo!  
Email Ayisha Hawkins  
(Ayisha.M.Hawkins  
@uth.tmc.edu)  
for more information.

**Genetic  
Counselor  
Awareness  
Day**

*Partners in Your Genetic Health Care*  
**November 9, 2023**

More information and scheduled events can be found at:  
<https://www.nsgc.org/Education-and-Events/Genetic-Counselor-Awareness-Day>

Consider joining UT Health Houston  
on **November 9th** for

**GIVING  
DAY**

to support the research and education  
endowed fund and the Jacqueline T. Hecht  
Founding Director Scholarship fund.

For more information, go to  
<https://www.uth.edu/giving/> and see  
page 11 of this newsletter.



**Class of 1991**

Deb Durand

**Class of 1992**

Patricia Sculley

Pamela (Nackajski) Welgenhausen

**Class of 1993**

Becky Finkboner

Marnie Rocklin

Cathy Wicklund

**Class of 1994**

Fara Etzel

Jennifer McKeand

Cassidy Rodnick

**Class of 1995**

Melanie Andrews Casal

Robin (McKenney) McGoey

Jill Sawyer

**Class of 1996**

Heather (Ferguson) Coldebella

CarolLynn (Lockmiller) Crossman

Sadie Ellen (Maynard) Blake

Tricia Zartman Page

**Class of 1997**

Noelle (Agan) Danylchuk

Ellen (Friday) Steinwachs

Andi Hillard Evans

**Class of 1998**

Erika (Martin) Miller

Joylnn Swantkowsi

Melissa Trant-Kline

**Class of 1999**

Sara Cooper

Ashley (Nelson) Solomon

Michelle Strecker

Sarah Jane (Tew) Noblin

**Class of 2000**

Saleen Chenevert

Angie (Gibson) Jacobson

Amie (Ortman) Blanco

Leslie (Rogers) Evans

**Class of 2001**

Betsy Clark-Gaye

Kendra Waller

Lauren (Wright) Nelsen

**Class of 2002**

Valerie Banks

Jennifer Bayliss Saucier

Stephanie (Manzo) Hill

Laura Pine Ellis

Jennifer (Seifert) Eichmeyer

**Class of 2003**

Sandra Darilek

Emily (Gutter) Burke

Jennifer (Malone) Hoskovec

Carolyn Wilson-Brackett

**Class of 2004**

Andrea Atherton

Colleen (Buechner) Wu

# ALUMNI DIRECTORY



### **Class of 2004 (continued)**

Jamie Chance  
Carol (Linsner) Brooks  
Alice Schindler

### **Class of 2005**

Jennifer LeMoine  
Tamara Solomon  
Cindy Trotter

### **Class of 2006**

Marianna (Horz) Raia  
Gabriel Lazarin  
Stacey Miller  
Kaylene (Whetstone) Ready  
Jennifer (Sherrill) Czerwinski  
Julia Wynn

### **Class of 2007**

Jennifer (Defant) Burgess  
Alyssa (Knisley) Wright  
Erin Salo-Mullen  
Cathy Sullivan Crapitto  
Catherine (Tipps) Vendola  
Amy (Stanford) Wells

### **Class of 2008**

Lauren (McNair) Baggett  
Sarah Guerra Seth

Lauren (Spurck) Youngborg  
Blair Stevens  
Matt Tschirgi

### **Class of 2009**

Laura Amendola  
Sarah Colosimo  
Jennifer Fowler  
Travis Morgan  
Lauren Murphy  
Rebecca (Sample) Carter  
Marisa Vineyard Andrews

### **Class of 2010**

Justine Cooper Pickarski  
Carrie Crain  
Deanna Darnes  
Leslie (Newman) Dunnington  
Gina Nuccio

Amy (Sommer) Poole

### **Class of 2011**

Emily Gabitzsch  
Laura Godfrey Hendon  
Trisha Nichols  
Sarah (Swain) Barnett  
Laura Panos Smith  
Ashley (Henriksen) Woodson

### **Class of 2012**

Nevena (Cvjetkovic) Krstic  
Carolyn (Garby) Haskins  
Roya Mostafavi  
Salma Nassef

# ALUMNI DIRECTORY

### **Class of 2012 (continued)**

Sam (Penney) Douglas  
Katie (Rock) Forster  
Ann (Simmons) Bunnell

### **Class of 2013**

Allison (Copeland) Ortega  
Jessica (Davis) Lopez  
Kate (Dempsey) Principe  
Michelle McDougale  
Nikki Mohrbacher  
Brad Rolf

### **Class of 2014**

Amanda Hanson  
Andi (Lewis) Ybarra  
Jackie Mersch  
Shannon Mulligan  
Emily (Parham) Nazar  
Aarti Ramdaney  
Stephanie Thompson

### **Class of 2015**

Lizzie (Baack) Bowdish  
Callie (Jenevein) Diamonstein  
Carla McGruder  
Sarah (Mayes) Huguenard  
Katie Sagaser

Haley Streff

Kayla (Vaughn) Rosnau  
Caiqian (Wu) Cropper

### **Class of 2016**

Torry (Breen) Howell  
Katie Chan

Christina Falugi  
Meagan (Giles) Choates  
Jessie (Ross) Corredor  
Ginger Tsai  
Victoria Wagner  
Theresa Wittman

### **Class of 2017**

Jordan (Berg) Hunter  
Maggie (Clifford) Hendrix  
Leslie (Durham) Granger  
Amanda Gerard  
Meagan (Kaulfus) Bolin  
Katy (Reese) Winfrey  
Chelsea Wagner  
Ellen (Zirkelbach) Jarret

### **Class of 2018**

Sarah (Azam) Khan  
Taylor Beecroft  
Lauren Fleddermann  
Ellie (Gould) DeCristofaro  
Kate (Mowrey) Richardson  
Jess (Omark) O'Shea  
Annelise Pace  
Sara Wofford

# ALUMNI DIRECTORY

### **Class of 2019**

Peyton (Busby) Nunley  
Alexa Bream  
Georgiann Garza  
Emily (Krosschell) Thoreson  
Allison Moats  
Samantha Montgomery  
Carol Nowlen  
Cayleen Smith  
Angelica Starnes  
Danielle (Williams) Carr

### **Class of 2020**

Kaitlyn Amos  
Caroline Bertsch  
Wendi (Betting) Gill  
Sarah Burke  
Aranza Gonzalez-Cendejas  
Addison Johnson  
Bradley Power  
Autumn Vara  
Emily Stiglich

### **Class of 2021**

Renee Bardini  
Grant Bonesteele  
Lauren Douglas  
Katlyn Frane

Katie Huang

Luke Kruidenier

Emily Martin

Meaghan (Mones) Taggett

Megan (Pope) Morand

Rose Rogers

Katie Shields

### **Class of 2022**

Michelle Appel

Emilyn Banfield

Katie Baudoin

Mandy Chamberlain

Jenny Do

Jenna Lea

Émile Moura Coelho da Silva

Gina Sanchez

Natalie Stoner

Shelly Zelnick

### **Class of 2023**

Latonya Alexander

Madeline Alpar

Erin Atkinson

Yusra Aziz

Jack Colleran

Emily Daykin

Teresa Heller

Cindy Hernandez

Jasmine Tyson

Jordan Zeiger

# ALUMNI DIRECTORY



# EMILY MARTIN

## CLASS OF 2021

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It has been such a great experience to work on this year's edition of the Houston Helix. I always enjoy learning about new updates within the UTGCP and sharing the successes of its students and alumni. I am still based out of Atlanta, Georgia and working in clinical cancer genetics.

I love collaborating with a large team of genetic counselors and being able to spread education and awareness on hereditary cancer genetics to surrounding communities.

Outside of work, my partner and I have enjoyed traveling, both to new places, like the Swiss Alps and Northern Italy, and to destinations we know and love, like the Great Smoky Mountains and the Pacific Northwest.

Thank you for taking the time to read this year's Houston Helix!

## FROM THE EDITORS

Emily and I are so excited to have the opportunity to work together again this year to put together the 2023 edition of the Houston Helix! We may live in two separate states now, but our hearts are still in the Houston Medical Center. For the past two years, I have been working as a cancer genetic counselor at BayCare Health System and assistant professor for the USF Genetic Counseling Program in the Tampa area. It has been a blast serving our 16-hospital-wide health system, running our Lynch syndrome database, and working with USF genetic counseling students.

The past year has been full of fun as I have recently gotten married and continue to settle into life with my husband, Brian, and our dog, Salchicha. Thank you for all of your help, time, and attention as a UTGCP alumni/current member. Enjoy!

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**MEAGHAN TAGGETT**  
**CLASS OF 2021**