

Name: Samiksha (Sami) Raut

Current Position: Associate Professor of Biology

Organization: The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

Chapter Affiliation: The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Biographical Information:

Dr. Sami Raut received her PhD from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in Environmental Toxicology. She is currently an associate professor in the department of biology at UAB. She started at UAB in 2012 as one of the primary course masters for Introductory Biology. Prior coming to UAB, she was a tenure track faculty at a Hispanic institution in northwest Georgia- Dalton State College. In the classroom, her teaching philosophy is focused on creating an all-inclusive classroom by introducing cutting- edge pedagogical techniques with an emphasis on active- learning, sustainability, and service learning. She has designed the very first service-learning course in STEM for the general education majors. Through this endeavor, students in this course are now engaged in community-based projects targeted towards sustainability, opioid addiction and very recently on the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides, she has designed the “Biology Learning Assistant”, a peer-mentoring course on evidence-based practices for freshman gateway courses with an intent to reduce the STEM attrition. Her current research interests include exploring factors that lead towards the successful retention of first-generation, minority students specifically the transfer students. She also has an active interest in understanding the equity, diversity and inclusion issues affecting underrepresented minority students. Over the last few years, her research has actively led to the mentoring of many undergraduate students including a McNairs Scholar. Currently, she serves as a co-founder and an associate director of the NSF-RCN funded ROSE network at UAB. The goal of this network is to propagate active-learning and Course-Based Undergraduate research experiences among the community college instructors. Besides, teaching and research, she enjoys interacting with the undergraduates and serves as a faculty advisor for Phi Sigma Biological Honors Society, Disabilities Advocates Organization and International Rescue Committee.