



College of Sciences & Mathematics Newsletter
September 2022

CoSM News

**Bouldin to Serve
as Interim Dean**

Dr. Jennifer Bouldin, professor of environmental biology and associate dean of COSM, will [serve as interim dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics](#). Bouldin will step in following the retirement in August of current dean Dr. Lynn Boyd. Bouldin joined A-State in 2002 as a member of the staff at the Ecotoxicology Research Facility, and was named the director of the “Eco-Tox” unit four years later.





CoSM Student Spotlight SPOCS Team Project Launches Aboard SpaceX

On Thursday, July 14th, A-State students watched as a SpaceX rocket lifted off at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The rocket was carrying their research project to the International Space Station. Read the [preview story](#) about the project, and [watch the follow-up video](#) to learn about what these students accomplished.

CoSM Faculty Spotlight Wijeratne and Students Present Workshop

Dr. Asela Wijeratne, assistant professor of bioinformatics, and two of his graduate students, **Brett Hale** and **Sandarwuan Ratnayake**, [presented a workshop](#) at the International Plant Biology meeting in Portland, organized by the American Society of Plant Biologists. Their workshop included analysis of high-throughput gene expression data. In addition, they also presented a poster session on their work regarding plant-pathogen interactions.





CoSM Faculty Spotlight

Sweet's Article Analyzes Change in Cell Function

An article co-authored by **Dr. Andrew D. Sweet**, assistant professor of evolutionary biology, was recently [published in Communications Biology](#). The researchers found that parasitic lice evolved fragmented mitochondrial genomes many times over the last 60 million years. In most other animals, these fragmented genomes are associated with cell death and aging, but lice seem to function normally. The results could challenge assumptions about how eukaryotic cells function.



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