



College of Sciences & Mathematics Newsletter
October 2019



A-State Posts Impressive U.S. News & World Report Rankings

Arkansas State University moved into the "National Universities" category for the first time in U.S. News and World Report's annual "Best Colleges Rankings" and [led the state of Arkansas in two important areas](#). Arkansas State was tied for 76th in the nation and ranked first in the state of Arkansas for "Best Undergraduate Teaching," reinforcing a traditional point of strength often emphasized in recruitment messaging. A-State also led the state of Arkansas and ranked in a tie for #119 nationally on the new "Social Mobility" measurement. The ranking for social mobility recognizes how well colleges serve low-income students.

Additionally, the [rankings placed the graduate program in Biological Sciences](#) at A-State at #190, tying with such schools as UNC-Greensboro, University of Mississippi, University of Memphis, Texas Tech University, Southern Methodist University, George Mason University and Fordham University.



CoSM Faculty Spotlight

McKay Named Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. Tanja McKay received the Kansas State University, Department of Entomology Distinguished Alumnus Award on Oct. 15. The award recognizes alumni who have made outstanding achievements in the field of entomology. She visited with faculty and students and presented a lecture titled "Stored-product insects, mosquitoes and heartworms: Unraveling complexities."

CoSM Faculty Spotlight

Merten Presents DTRA Research

During the month of September, Dr. Jonathan Merten presented parts of his DTRA and NSF research at the COLA 2019 Conference in Maui, Hawaii, and presented his laser ablation research at a DTRA (Defense Threat Reduction Agency) program review in Washington, D.C.





CoSM Faculty Spotlight

Tunno, Perry Publish Research

A paper by Dr. Ferebee Tunno, associate professor of statistics, and graduate student Miranda Perry [has been published](#) in Communications in Statistics – Simulation and Computation.

CoSM Faculty Spotlight

Zhou Awarded NIH R15 Research Grant

Dr. Guolei Zhou, associate professor of cell and cancer biology, has been awarded a three-year grant from the National Institutes of Health for ongoing research on cellular functions of the cytoskeletal protein CAP1, as well as its roles in breast and pancreatic cancer.





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