



College of Sciences & Mathematics Newsletter
November 2020



CoSM Staff Spotlight

McGregor Earns CRLA Tutoring Accreditation

Congratulations to **Porsha McGregor**, academic coordinator, College of Mathematics and Sciences, who has received accreditation for her tutoring program through the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). Accreditation certifies the training program that each of their tutors goes through, and then the tutors are certified by the center once they have completed training and the required number of tutoring hours.

CoSM Faculty Spotlight

Lorence Researches Growth of Rice Grain

Congratulations to **Dr. Argelia Lorence**, professor of metabolic engineering and James and Wanda Lee Vaughn Professor, who co-authored a major paper from a National Science Foundation research project. She and colleagues are examining the effects of heat stress on growth of rice. The team describes a gene that controls the size of rice grain under the stress of high nighttime temperatures. Their paper was [published online in *New Phytologist*](#).



CoSM Student Spotlight

Linh-Chi Ho Awarded First Place

Linh-Chi Ho, a student of Dr. Fabricio Medina-Bolivar, professor of metabolic engineering, received the first place award for her presentation “Prenylated stilbenoids from peanut as potential therapeutic agents for triple negative breast cancer” at the IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) Conference.

CoSM Student Spotlight

Ahmed Named Honorable Mention

Izzeldin (“Izzo”) Ahmed, a student of Dr. Fabricio Medina-Bolivar, professor of metabolic engineering, received Honorable Mention for his presentation “Effect of root biomass on prenylated stilbenoid yield in hairy root cultures of peanut” at the INBRE Conference.



CoSM Faculty Spotlight

Artim's Goal is More Research for Undergrads

Another new full-time faculty member this fall at A-State is **Dr. John Artim**, lecturer in biology. Most recently he taught in a temporary capacity. Before earning his Ph.D. in environmental sciences at A-State, he worked as a software engineer. His current research focuses on coastal marine ecology, and one of his goals in his new position is developing research projects involving his undergraduate students.

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