



College of Sciences & Mathematics Newsletter
March 2021



CoSM Faculty Spotlight
McKay, Starkus are
Article Co-Authors

Dr. Tanja McKay (left), professor of entomology and director, environmental sciences program, and **Laura A. Starkus**, former research associate in McKay's lab, and others are co-authors of an article published in *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*. The article, "Long-Lasting Insecticide-Incorporated Netting and Interception Traps at Pilot-Scale Warehouses and Commercial Facilities Prevents Infestation by Stored Product Beetles," is [online](#).

CoSM Faculty Spotlight

Kays Foundation Approves Gustafson Proposal

A grant proposal to the Kays Foundation from **Dr. Kyle Gustafson**, assistant professor of biology and environmental health, has been approved. His department will receive \$18,949 to purchase 12 Olympus CX-23 microscopes, which will enhance teaching infrastructure in biological sciences courses. The compound microscopes will allow faculty to better educate students in microscopy, from introductory classes to graduate-level classes.



CoSM Faculty Spotlight Alam Lab Receives Kays Grant

Dr. Mohammad Abrar Alam (left), associate professor of chemistry, and **Dr. David Gilmore**, professor of microbiology, professor of microbiology, have received a \$13,966 grant from the Kays Foundation. They will continue their research on potential antibiotics synthesized in their lab. The award will fund students, equipment and supplies needed to investigate how these novel compounds work against the pathogenic bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Acinetobacter baumannii*, which are leading causes of antibiotic resistant infections.

CoSM Faculty Spotlight Sikkel and Team to Study COVID-19 Impact

Dr. Paul Sikkel, associate professor of aquatic biology, and his research team received a National Geographic Society grant to study COVID-19's effects on marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Philippines. Coastal communities there rely heavily on ecotourism, now virtually non-existent during the pandemic. Many locals, deprived of tourism-related livelihood, have resorted to poaching in some MPAs. Sikkel's team includes his graduate student, **Mary Shodipo**, and two Philippine scientists.



CoSM Faculty Spotlight Boves Discusses Effects of Cold on Animals

Northeast Arkansas was one of the regions of the country that experienced record harsh winter weather conditions in February. **Dr. Than Boves**, associate professor of wildlife ecology, was interviewed by a local television station last week regarding the extreme weather's likely impact on wildlife. Boves noted several straight days of below-freezing temperatures left some animals, like birds, struggling to meet basic needs. The interview is [online](#).



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