



College of Sciences & Mathematics Newsletter
January 2023



CoSM Faculty Spotlight Merten and Chestnut Address SciX Conference

Dr. Jonathan Merten, associate professor of chemistry, and undergraduate researcher **Shealyn Chestnut** spoke at SciX. Merten presented two talks (with five undergraduate co-authors), “Probing LIP-Atmosphere Interaction with Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy,” and “A Critical Comparison of Laser-Ablation Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy Paradigms.” Chestnut presented her research as a poster, “Mass and Morphology of Yttrium Plasma as Function of Ablation Energy.” Their work came out of Merten’s National Science Foundation funding.

CoSM Faculty Spotlight

McKay and Lett Present to Joint Meeting

Dr. Tanja McKay, professor of entomology and interim associate department chair, and student Becca Lett made a presentation to the Joint Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Entomological Society of Canada, and the British Columbia Entomological Society in Vancouver. Their work was titled “Dung beetle biodiversity in cattle pastures and forested habitats in Northeast Arkansas.” The theme for the Joint Meeting was “Entomology as Inspiration: Insects through art, science, and culture.”



Ewald to be Darwin Day Speaker

Dr. Paul Ewald, professor at the University of Louisville, will be the guest speaker on [Darwin Day 2023](#). Ewald's presentation, "What Evolutionary Considerations Tell Us About the Future of COVID" will take place Friday, Feb. 10, at 5 p.m., in the Reng Student Union Auditorium.

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