



College of Sciences & Mathematics Newsletter  
May 2022

CoSM Faculty Spotlight

**McKay and  
Rolland's Research  
is Published**

**Dr. Tanja McKay** (left), professor of entomology, and **Dr. Virginie Rolland** (right), associate professor of quantitative wildlife ecology, with former grad student **Rachel Hampton** co-authored a paper published by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. They looked for detrimental effects from using infrared technology, used in drying rice, on germinating rice seeds destined for the next field season. They concluded lower-power intensities did not affect germination.





## CoSM Faculty & Student Spotlight

### Gustafson and Students Present at Conference

**Dr. Kyle Gustafson**, assistant professor of biology, accompanied six science students to the state conference of the Arkansas chapter of The Wildlife Society, held at DeGray Lake Resort State Park. Doctoral degree student **Zachary Campbell**, master's student **Taylor Fiedor**, and undergraduate students **Landen Ho**, **Maria Bollinger** and **Benjamin Brown**, along with Gustafson, all made presentations for the conference participants.

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## CoSM Faculty Spotlight Marsico Appointed to Jefferson Science Fellowship

Congratulations to **Dr. Travis Marsico**, professor of botany and associate department chair, on his appointment by the U.S. Department of State to the 2022-23 class of Jefferson Science Fellows. This program, for which Marsico will live in Washington, D.C., is designed to enhance capacity for science, technology and engineering expertise within the Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Marsico gives details in a [video report](#).





## CoSM Faculty Spotlight Wijeratne Receives USDA Research Funding

**Dr. Asela Wijeratne**, assistant professor of bioinformatics, has received a research grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Working with colleagues from Iowa State, he and his team will examine how certain soil-borne pathogens alter microbes in the vicinity of soybean roots, and they will look for novel materials for biocontrol of phytophthora stem and root rot.

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## CoSM Faculty Spotlight Izadyar to Conduct Reviews for Swiss NSF

**Dr. Anahita Izadyar**, associate professor of chemistry, has been invited by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) to conduct grant proposals for two projects, one involving sensing systems in aquatic ecosystems and the other involving ion recognition in electrochemistry. She also completed invited reviews of research articles in four different professional scholarly journals, including *Journal of ChemElectroChem*, *Electrochemistry Communications Journal*, and *Journal of Nanostructure in Chemistry*.





## Contact Us

### A-State Alumni Association

Cooper Alumni Center  
2600 Alumni Blvd.

P.O. Box 1990  
State University, AR 72467

Phone: (870) 972-2586  
Toll-Free: (888) 225-8343  
alumni@AState.edu



A-State College of Sciences & Mathematics  
PO Box 1030,  
State University, AR 72467 USA  
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