



College of Sciences & Mathematics Newsletter  
April 2023



CoSM Faculty Spotlight  
**Sweet Receives  
Kays Foundation  
Research Grant**

The Kays Foundation has approved a grant of \$12,223 to support research by **Dr. Andrew Sweet**, assistant professor of evolutionary biology. Sweet will use the award to apply cutting-edge DNA sequencing technologies for a better understanding of arthropod biodiversity in northeast Arkansas. The project, which will continue until September 2024, also will provide training for undergraduate students in the field of molecular biology.

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## CoSM Faculty Spotlight

# Journal Appoints Lorence as Associate Editor

**Dr. Argelia Lorence**, James and Wanda Lee Vaughn Endowed Professor, lead of A-State Phenomics Core, and professor of metabolic engineering, has been appointed to a three-year term as associate editor of *The Plant Phenome Journal*. The peer-reviewed open-access journal publishes original research, interpretations and datasets investigating all aspects of plant phenomics. These approaches are key to developing crops able to thrive under challenging environmental conditions.

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## CoSM Faculty Spotlight

# Bouldin and Regn to Study Nutrient Reduction

**Dr. Jennifer Bouldin**, interim dean, Sciences and Mathematics, and professor of environmental biology, is principal investigator for a project funded by the state Agriculture Department's Natural Resources Division. **Orithea Regn**, research associate, Ecotoxicology Research Facility, is co-PI. The department is implementing nutrient reduction-related projects that support the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force's program. They will analyze water quality data from drainage ditches designed to reduce nutrient loss. [Details are online.](#)

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## CoSM Faculty Spotlight

# McKay and Todorovic Write Textbook Chapter

A book chapter by **Dr. Tanja McKay**, professor of entomology and interim associate chair, Biological Sciences, and program alumna **Dr. Sofia Todorovic** has been included in the textbook *Human and Animal Filariases*, published by Wiley-VCH. Their chapter, *Vector Control Approaches for Canine Filariasis*, describes integrated mosquito management strategies for mosquito control districts, veterinarians and pet owners in order to reduce risks for canine heartworm.



## CoSM Faculty Spotlight

# Johnson Receives 'Excellence in Teaching' Award

**Dr. Bruce Johnson**, professor of physics, received the Excellence in Teaching, Tenure-Track, Award. Johnson's nominators emphasized his caring attitude, frequently making extra efforts to help students, especially with difficult concepts.

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