

The COSM Newsletter

Spring 2015

College of Science and Mathematics

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**GEORGIA
SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY**

**COLLEGE OF
SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**

Spring 2015

The Department of Biology

Laura Regassa, GSTA 2015 Teacher of the Year



Dr. Laura Regassa, professor of Biology at Georgia Southern University has been selected as the 2015 University Science Teacher of the Year for the State of Georgia by the Georgia Science Teachers Association.

Upcoming Common Grounds Seminar Series

Feb 20, 3 pm, MP/3314, Hua Wang (Mathematical Sciences)

Mar 30, 12:30 pm, MP/3001, Li Ma (Physics)

Apr TBA (ICPS)

The Department of Biology receives the Kay T. Reissing Terrestrial Snail Collection

Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Ted and Kay Reissing, this collection will now be available for study by Georgia Southern University faculty and students.

Biology Professor Invited to United Nations Meeting in Rome

In the Fall of 2014, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) hosted the International



Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition at its headquarter in Rome, Italy.

Charles and Sandra Chandler Research Scholarship Program

The Department of Biology is very fortunate to receive funding from Mr. Charles and Mrs. Sandra Chandler to provide the Chandler Research Scholarship Program.

Biology Student Kym Coley

Congratulations to Biology major Kym Coley! The senior volleyball player was named a Capital One Academic All-American. Kym maintains a 4.0 GPA in her biology major.

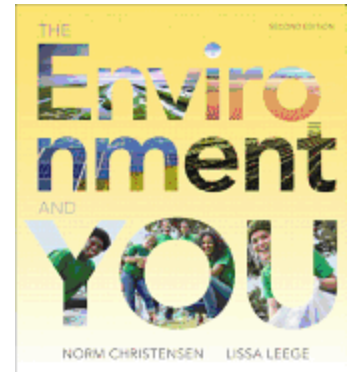


Announcing a New Scholarship in Biology

The Department of Biology is excited to announce the creation of the Dr. Bill and Martha Lovejoy Scholarship and Travel Grants. These are to be awarded yearly to rising junior, seniors or graduate students having a demonstrated interest in vertebrate zoology. Recipients will be awarded after going through a selection process. The Department is very grateful to Dr. Bill Lovejoy, Professor Emeritus, for establishing this scholarship. We are honored to remember Dr. Lovejoy and his wife Martha who contributed so much to the development and success of the Department of Biology.

Biology Professor coauthors environmental science textbook

Lissa Leege, Professor of Biology and Director of the Center for Sustainability at Georgia Southern University coauthored an environmental science textbook, Christensen and Leege. 2016. Environment and You, 2nd Edition. Pearson, San Francisco. 700pp.



Biology faculty member makes research presentation in Bali, Indonesia

In December 2014, Dr. Subhrajit Saha presented a talk on the Effects



of Biochar on Soil Water Retention, pH and Dill (*Anethum graveolens*) Plant Growth at the International Conference on Agriculture, Biology and Environmental Sciences in Bali, Indonesia organized by the International Academy of Arts, Science & Technology. The study that Dr. Saha presented was part of a project that was funded by the Georgia Southern Internal Seed Funding Program. Dr. Saha was also invited for a guest

lecturer at the Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, Kolkata, India, where he holds an adjunct professor position.

The Department of Chemistry

Chemistry students attend NOBCChE Conference

Four of Dr. Eric Gato's students recently attended the 41st Annual Conference of NOBCChE in New Orleans. They were all awarded the Advancing Science Travel Grant. This grant paid for cost of registration and lodging for five days during the conference.

Richard Govan was awarded one of three best poster awards sponsored by the Biophysical Society. The title of his poster: Investigating Pancreatic Response of Pups Exposed to 2-Aminoanthracene in Utero.



Graduate student gives talk at UGA

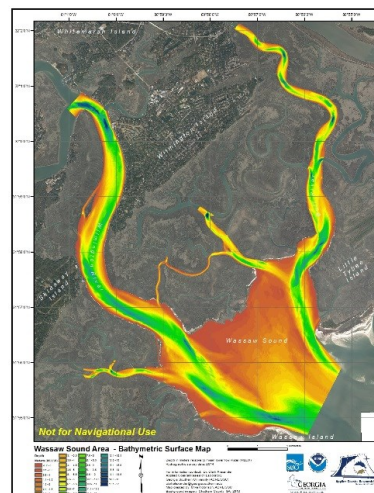
Shamaya Whitby, an MS in Applied Physical Science graduate student, was asked to give a platform talk at the annual Southeastern Regional meeting of the Society of Toxicology held at the University of Georgia. The title of her lecture: Examining the Effect of 2-Aminoanthracene Exposure in Sprague Dawley Dams from Gestation through Postnatal Period.



The Department of Geology and Geography

Georgia Southern Scientists Map Wassaw Sound

A research team from the Georgia Southern University Applied Coastal Research Laboratory (ACRL) has completed the first high-resolution, bathymetric (bottom-depth) survey of Wassaw Sound in Chatham County.



Graduates go to sea

There aren't many opportunities for Georgia Southern students interested in marine geology to go to sea and get real-world experience. In the past year, recent geology graduates Albert Killingsworth and Clara Rucker both got that opportunity through research being done at the Applied Coastal Research Laboratory on Skidaway Island. Between April and December 2014, these two went to sea on multiple cruises of the RV Savannah, where they collected sediment samples from the Georgia continental shelf as part of a sand resources assessment study funded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. While onboard, they also learned about many advanced oceanographic tools used to measure, monitor and assess the physical, chemical and biological status of the oceans. These samples will be analyzed for similarity with beach sands in Georgia, so if beach rebuilding is ever needed following a hurricane, compatible sand resources will already be located.

The Department of Mathematical Sciences

Department News

The department hosted its XIth Distinguished Lecture on November 6th. Professor Sergei Tabachnikov delivered his lecture "Proofs (not) From The Book". Several hundred students and faculty attended the lecture.

Our colloquium series as well as discrete mathematics, analysis, number theory, and probability and statistics seminars all meet regularly. Faculty and students have numerous opportunities to participate in these events.

Registration is underway for the 27th Annual Invitational Mathematics Tournament. Tests have been created and are ready for approximately 900 students to take on February 28th. This is a department effort, led by Dr. Susie Lanier. We are appreciative of the participation of our faculty and the support from the COSM Dean's Office.

Student News

Our students began the fall 2014 semester with a welcome back event hosted by the Student Chapter of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). The group held regular meetings throughout the semester and ended with a finals week lunch of pizza and sub sandwiches.

The Department of Physics

Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries

In mid-January, the Georgia Southern Museum proudly hosted the Annual Conference of the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries. Nearly one-hundred and twenty-five museum professionals from across the state gathered for the three day workshop filled with presentations and spurts of entertainment as attendees reach to grow in their respective museum professions.

Professor Xiao-Jun Wang appointed as Editor

Professor Xiao-Jun Wang of the COSM Physics Department was appointed as an editor of Materials Research Bulletin (a journal of Elsevier), managing the research area of luminescence. He also continues to serve the editorial boards for Light:Science & Applications (Nature Publishing Group), Journal of Rare Earths (Elsevier), and Chinese Journal of Luminescence.



Nanotechnology Computational group conducts research

The COSM Physics Department Nanotechnology Group, led by Professor Maxim Durach, conducted research of plasmonic drag effects in metals with nanostructured surfaces.



Updates from the Astrophysics groups ALMA and GRAM

To the right are the results of observations taken with the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) high in the Chilean Andes by Drs. James & Sarah Higdon of the COSM Physics Department to measure the distribution and motions of cold molecular gas in the Cartwheel ring galaxy.

Georgia Southern Physics team attends Math and Science Night



In November of 2014, a team from the Physics Department at Georgia Southern brought innovative and intriguing demonstrations to Math and Science Night at May Howard Elementary School, located in Savannah.

