



College of Sciences & Mathematics Newsletter
March 2022

CoSM Faculty Spotlight

**Tunno Co-Authors
Statistics Research**

Dr. Ferebee Tunno, associate professor of statistics, and former faculty member Dr. Latia Carraway, now at Valley View High School, co-authored a paper accepted for publication in [*Communications in Statistics: Case Studies and Data Analysis*](#). They present a new way to measure the volatility of financial time series, which is shown to be on a par with arc length for such endeavors. An application involving the clustering of 30 prominent stocks is also presented.





CoSM Faculty Spotlight **Neuman-Lee Speaks at Biology Conference**

Dr. Lori Neuman-Lee, assistant professor of physiology, was an invited speaker for the Society for Comparative and Integrative Biology Conference. Her talk described an in-depth review she and her student lab employees conducted when their lab and fieldwork was shut down in 2020 due to the pandemic. They found there are huge gaps in the basic knowledge of reptilian immunology, presenting key challenges in their studies of how immune systems work.

CoSM Faculty Spotlight **Medina-Bolivar Research Published**

A paper co-authored by **Dr. Fabricio Medina-Bolivar**, professor of plant metabolic engineering, was [published in *Molecules*](#). The paper describes the antioxidant properties of extracts from peanut hairy roots. Antioxidants are important compounds that may play a role in preventing diseases in humans. The co-authors of this study were Medina-Bolivar's Ph.D. students in molecular biosciences, Gaurav Gajurel and Rokib Hasan.





CoSM Faculty Spotlight Merten and Undergraduates Present at SciX

Dr. Jonathan Merten, associate professor of chemistry, presented an invited talk recently at SciX in Rhode Island. Undergraduate co-authors Anna G. Anders, Erin Nicholas, Aaron Hopson, Jackie Brees and Shawnda Ethridge also participated. Their presentation was “Influence of atmosphere on laser-ablation atomic absorption measurements – findings and potential for artifacts.” These students and Merten also presented research posters. In addition, Merten gave an invited seminar at Florida, his alma mater, on “Hyphenating the laser-induced plasma.”

CoSM Faculty Spotlight Alam’s Pyrazole Review Published

An invited review by **Dr. Mohammad A. Alam**, associate professor of chemistry, has been [published in *Future Medicinal Chemistry*](#). In the review, “Antibacterial pyrazoles: tackling resistant bacteria” Alam notes that development of bacterial resistance to antibiotics has been described, and has been followed in recent years by antibacterial properties of pyrazole derivatives. He also discussed the mode of action of these compounds.





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