



# *College of* **SCIENCE**

*Alumni, Donors & Friends Newsletter*

## **SCIENCE is how we get back to normal**

It's starting to feel like fall in Clemson! The days are becoming sunny, breezy and cool, and students are moving into residence halls this week! Although the semester has already kicked off virtually, starting Sept. 21 we welcome our freshmen and returning students back to campus for some in-person learning. You might be wondering what it looks like around here. We've gotten creative! Fike gym has been converted to a large classroom where several courses will be taught. Everyone is masked up and carrying Clorox wipes. But most importantly, we get to see each other!

**We are focused on a Healthy Clemson – United as Tigers.** The science supports the wearing of face coverings and physical distancing. Science is how we get back to normal. On campus, we all wear masks and maintain physical distance – and we look out for each other. As we say at Clemson, we're *All In* – just 6 feet apart.

We are grateful for your support during this time and always. Many of you have reached out with messages, questions and gifts as we've navigated the past few months. To further support our students now and for generations to come, I am happy to announce a new **College of Science General Scholarship Endowment** that, when completed, will support current and incoming students in all SCIENCE majors. Our goal is to complete this endowment within this academic year, and we are well on our way to making this happen. With special thanks to the Yoder Family for making this a part of their larger gift to Clemson, I ask that you also consider a philanthropic commitment to this new endeavor. Amy and Rob Yoder have given \$25,000 to this endowment as a challenge to other friends and alumni to make this happen. Your gifts will be matched one-to-one in helping us reach our goal. Our collective impact through this scholarship will help develop the next generation of health and medical professionals, data scientists, biologists, chemists, biochemists, geneticists, mathematicians, microbiologists, physicists, and math and science teachers. With your help, we can be the first college to reach our \$50,000 goal and beyond. A very special thanks to the Yoders for doubling every dollar you give!

As we welcome home our Clemson Family, I encourage you to stay engaged with us by learning about the great things happening in SCIENCE highlighted in this newsletter and on our social media.

There really is something magical in these hills! I wish all of you and your loved ones great health and bright days ahead.

With much appreciation and gratitude for all you do!

Go Tigers!



**CYNTHIA Y. YOUNG**  
FOUNDING DEAN, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE



[Click Here to Give Today to support the College of Science General Scholarship Endowment and other areas you are passionate about.](#)



*A welcome back video was sent to incoming SCIENCE students in August.*

## *Faculty Excellence*

### **Physics lecturer Pope wins national teaching award**

Amy Pope has been awarded the Outstanding Teacher Award from the Association of General and Liberal Studies, the national organization for general education program administrators.



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*Amy Pope has been teaching for 18 years.*

## Richards named one of the two Clemson's Researchers of Year

Vincent Richards, associate professor of biological sciences, was recently named junior faculty Researcher of the Year. Richards is a geneticist who is developing strategies to prevent tooth decay.



*Vincent Richards is an emerging leader in the College of Science.*

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## Scientists receive \$2.5M NSF grant to study ecosystem health

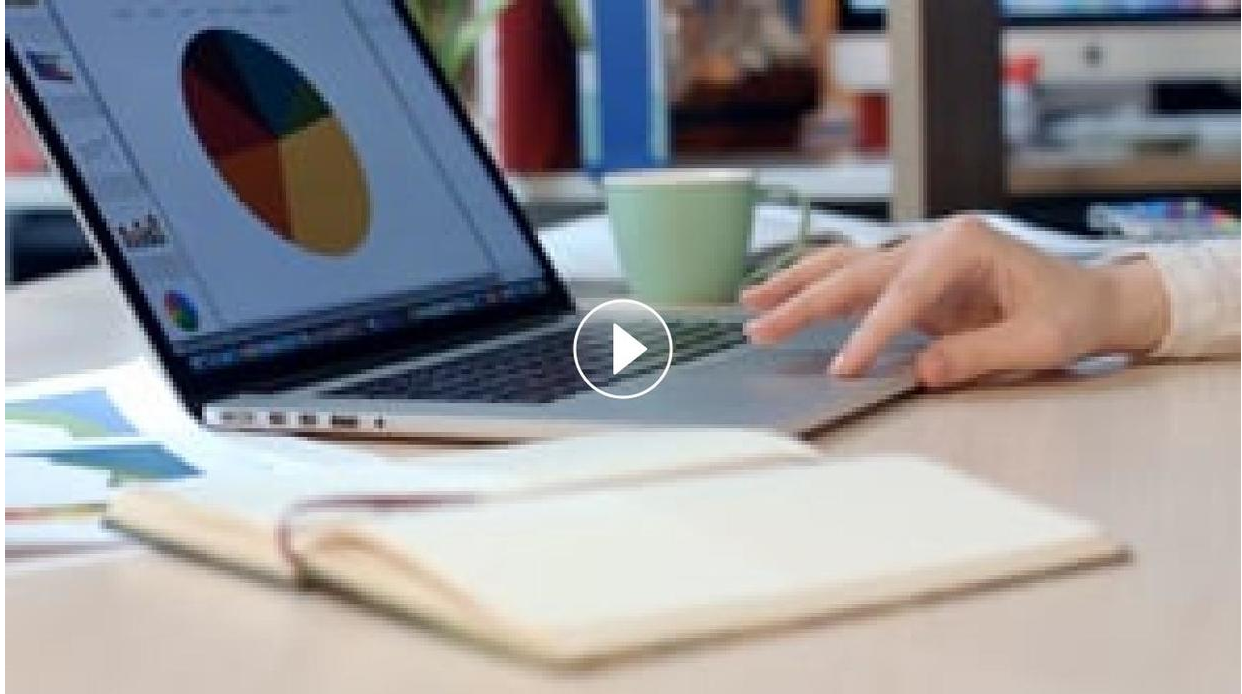
Clemson researcher Barbara Campbell and her collaborators have received a five-year, \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to identify the functional mechanisms of microbes that relate to the health of ecosystems.

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*Barbara Campbell's grant was awarded by NSF's 10 Big Ideas program.*

## Data Science Analytics program launches!

The Masters of Science in Data Science and Analytics (DSA), which launched this summer and has been thriving ever since, is an online degree program developed cooperatively by the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences and Department of Management. For more information, watch the video below and go to [msdsa@clemson.edu](mailto:msdsa@clemson.edu).



## COVID-19 & SCIENCE



*Biological sciences undergraduate  
Erika Ludden helped design the  
sophisticated app.*

### COVID-19 online tool estimates risks on college campuses

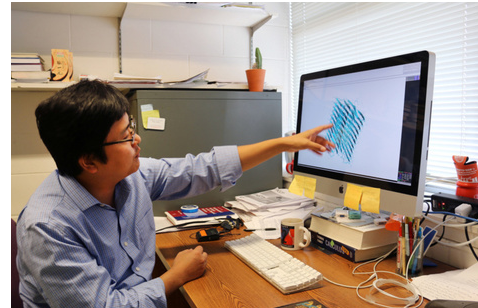
A faculty and student collaboration leads to the creation of the “COVID-19 Consequences of College Continuity Calculator,” an online tool that can help students, faculty and staff estimate their own personalized risks of returning to in-person classes in Fall 2020.

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### Researcher works to create much faster COVID-19 test

Clemson scientist Feng Ding is working to develop a quick detection test for COVID-19 with funding from a one-year National Science Foundation RAPID grant.

➔ [READ MORE](#)



*Feng Ding is hoping to help speed up the  
turnaround rate for COVID-19 testing.*



# Scientific Discovery

## Doctoral candidate uses rockets to surf the Alaskan sky

Physics and astronomy's Rafael Mesquita and a multi-institutional research team documented “surfer waves” in the upper atmosphere that create a pipeline of energy between layers in space. His research was published in the Journal of Geophysical Research – Space Physics.

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*Rafael Mesquita was lead author on the paper.*



*Clemson graduates Kaylee Clark (left) and Lauren Skrajewski are the principal authors on the paper in Soft Matter.*

## Clemson graduates make cover of journal Soft Matter

As part of the research work of undergraduate students majoring in chemistry, two Clemson graduates have developed groundbreaking work showing that laser engraving of paper can result in the formation of fluorescent compounds similar to those present on carbon dots.

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### Science News

## Announcements



*Clayton's hiring comes at a time when genetics and biochemistry degrees are in high demand.*

## Clayton named chair of Genetics and Biochemistry

David Clayton, whose internationally renowned research on songbirds has deepened our understanding of how genetics and molecular biology shape the brain and behavior, has been named chair of the College of Science's Department of Genetics and Biochemistry.

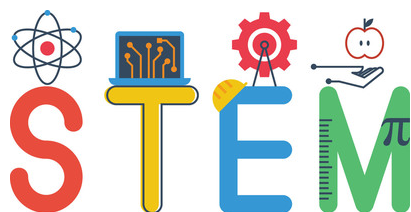
## Herbarium renovation sprouts new research opportunities

For every child who tenderly pressed a flower or a four-leaf clover inside a beloved book, there is a treasure awaiting in the basement of Long Hall, the new location of the spruced-up and enhanced Clemson Herbarium.

→ [READ MORE](#)

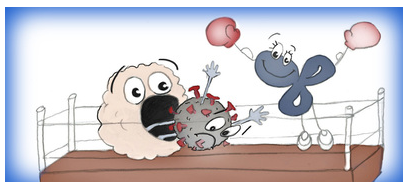


*Dixie Damrel has been curator of the Clemson University Herbarium for more than a decade.*



## Science Outreach Center

The mission of the Clemson University Science Outreach Center is to inspire and empower the scientist within each of us. See below for upcoming opportunities:



→ [Virtual STEM Club](#)

→ [Community Heroes: A guide to being brave in the face of coronavirus](#)

SCIENCE Events

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