SCIENCE

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Our Resilient Clemson Family

On behalf of Clemson's College of Science, I wanted to reach out to you and say that we are thinking of you and are wishing that you and those you love remain healthy in the days ahead. Like many of you, we are adjusting to a new reality at Clemson because of COVID-19. I have witnessed the formidable efforts of our faculty and staff as they rapidly pivot to online classroom and lab instruction, remote work environments, and continued essential business and research operations, including the preservation of our most important research assets (cell lines, animal colonies, sensitive compounds and essential equipment). I am indebted to our leadership team (see a screenshot from one of our Zoom meetings below) for the way that everyone has jumped "all in" and provided outstanding support for our faculty, students, and staff – with clear communications and effective transition strategies for this new normal.

The lives of so many students have been upended, and we are amazed at their positivity and adaptability as they finish their semester in the best manner possible. If you know any of our graduating seniors who will finish their undergraduate careers in this way, I hope you emphasize to them that their place in the Clemson Family will be defined beyond this one semester.

To our alumni and friends, we hope that you and yours are well and safe. Thank you for your concern for our students, staff, and faculty, and for taking care of yourselves and others as we look forward to brighter days. There are many alumni and friends of SCIENCE and Clemson who are serving communities as health professionals and in other essential roles. THANK YOU for what you each do to help us and others stay safe! We wish you strength and fortitude during these trying times. The Clemson Family is unquestionably caring and resilient, beyond what words can describe.

Amid these unprecedented times, the Clemson SCIENCE Family continues to accomplish great things that are important to celebrate. I am proud to share with you some good news from the last few weeks.

- **Biological Sciences** assistant professor Kara Powder received a coveted NSF CAREER award for young faculty to study how altered gene regulation can cause changes in the facial skeleton.
- The **Chemistry** Undergraduate Teaching Laboratory and lab coordinators worked with the Office of Research Safety on a project spearheaded by graduate student Anthony Santilli. Their initiative led to scores of disposable nitrile gloves being donated to local medical institutions.
- **Genetics** professors Trudy Mackay and Robert Anholt published research that may significantly **advance science's understanding of a number of genetic disorders**.
- **Mathematics** alumni Jeff and Karen Camm provided a **generous gift** to establish an endowed lecture series in the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences that will encourage collaborations between math, business and statistics.
- **Physics** professor Apparao Rao was selected as a **2020 Fellow of the Materials Research Society** for developing methods to manufacture carbon nanotubes.

Thank you for all you do to support our students, staff and faculty. Please continue to stay safe and well.

Best wishes from Clemson SCIENCE, and GO TIGERS!

CYNTHIA Y. YOUNG
FOUNDING DEAN, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

SCIFORWARD

Karen and Jeffrey Camm pose with their dog Tucker.

Alumni couple establishes endowed lecture series to promote intersection of mathematics and business

Jeffrey and Karen Gambrell Camm know that Clemson is a special place. After all, they met on campus in the early 1980s. Jeff's career trajectory was influenced by exceptional faculty whose research applied mathematics to real-world problems, and Karen's mathematical sciences degree prepared her well for a career teaching computer classes in industry.

Recently, Jeffrey (Ph.D. 1984) and Karen (B.S. 1982) provided the College of Science with a $100,000 gift to establish a new lecture series in the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences that will draw speakers from math or statistics who address challenges encountered by business, industry or government.

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Physics professor Rao named Fellow of prestigious Materials Research Society

Apparao Rao

Clemson University professor Apparao Rao of the Department of Physics and Astronomy was selected as a 2020 Fellow of the Materials Research Society (MRS) for developing liquid-based scalable synthesis methods to manufacture carbon nanotubes — a class of nanomaterials used in numerous applications, including energy storage, medicine, electronics, and composites.

MRS confers this prestigious honor to only 0.02% of its members each year for lifetime recognition of their research, leadership or service to the materials field. Rao is the first faculty member at Clemson and in the entire state of South Carolina to earn Fellow status in this society.

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Clarice Seifert Clemmens

Alumni Spotlight: Clarice Seifert Clemmens

"I don't even know how to put into words what a tremendous impact Clemson had on my life," said **Clarice Seifert Clemmens**, a successful pediatric otolaryngologist and faculty member at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

As a student, Clemmens (B.S. 2005-Biochemistry) played cello in the campus orchestra; participated in the Clemson National Scholars program, Calhoun Honors College, Dixon Fellows, and Genetics and Biochemistry Club; and was a member of the women's varsity soccer team.

Clemmens conducted research in the lab of Biochemistry professor Jim Morris, a leading expert on the Trypanosome parasite that causes African sleeping sickness. She also contributed to a chapter in the book "Trypanosomes: After the Genome," which included Morris, biochemistry associate professor Meredith Morris, and others.

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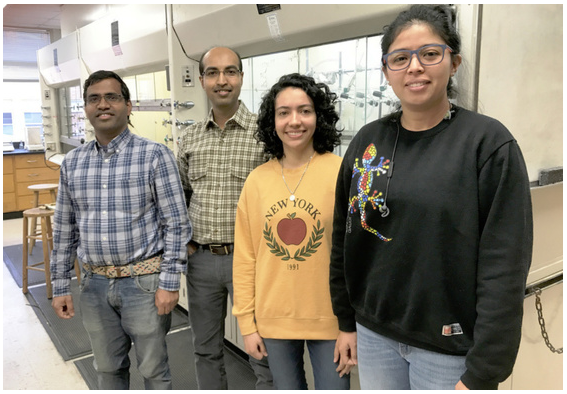
Clemson scientist's research featured on cover of American Chemical Society journal



Team members are (from left) graduate post-doctoral researcher Dillip Panda, faculty member Sourav Saha, and students Monica Gordillo and Paola Benavides.

Metal–organic frameworks (MOFs) are emerging multi-functional materials that are gradually finding their way out of the research labs and into a myriad of real-world applications. For example, MOFs can store dangerous gasses, catalyze chemical reactions, deliver drugs in controlled fashion, and might even be used in rechargeable batteries and solar cells.

A team of researchers led by associate professor Sourav Saha of the Department of Chemistry recently demonstrated that a novel double-helical MOF architecture, in a partially oxidized form, can conduct electricity that potentially makes it a next-generation semiconductor.

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Clemson researchers receive seed grant funding from Prisma Health

Clemson University researchers from the College of Science; College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences; and the College of Engineering, Computing and Applied Sciences have been awarded 14 seed grants from the Seed Grant Program of the Health Sciences Center at Prisma Health. The grants will fund projects on a variety of topics, including opioid exposure and genetic origin of addiction, cancer care, and stroke patient rehabilitation.

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