College of SCIENCE

Alumni, Donors & Friends Newsletter

The Significance of SCIENCE

We have entered 2021 with much gratitude. Thank you to our incredible students, staff and faculty for their efforts last year and their resilience as we continue to navigate through the situations this pandemic has created. Thanks to all of our donors and stakeholders for investing in our people and science in so many ways. And thanks to our alumni and friends for engaging with Clemson Science.

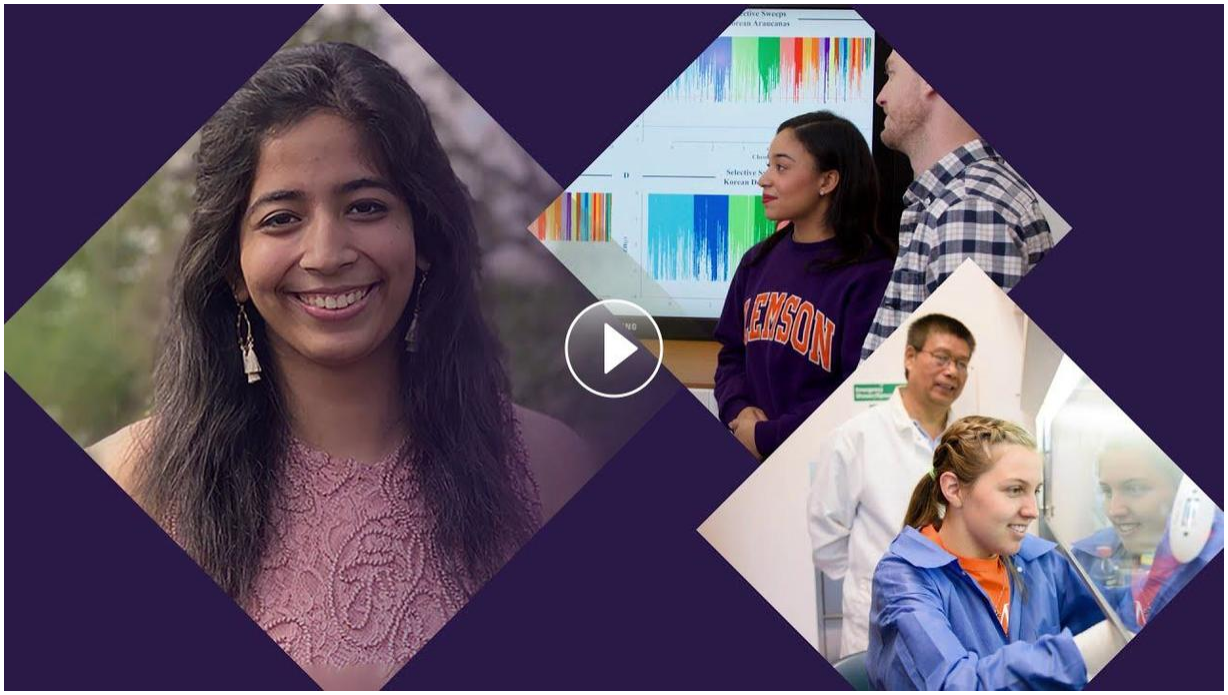
Earlier this month I had the opportunity to present the state of our College to the Clemson University Board of Trustees. It was such a joy for me to share with them some of the significant accomplishments of our outstanding faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends. Each of you help us advance science through your engagement and support — and as ambassadors of SCIENCE, I'd like to share with you a few key points of pride:

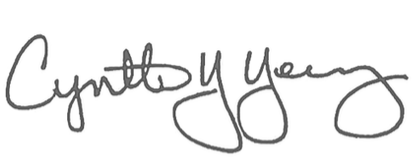
- Freshman Retention Rate of SCIENCE students (2015: 91.1%; 2020: 93.8%).
- Six-Year Graduation Rate of SCIENCE students (2015: 78.7%; 2020: 85.9%).
- SCIENCE students are 13% of the university undergraduates yet 26% of the Honors College.
- SCIENCE attracts and retains students who are typically underrepresented (60% women; 16.9% URM).
- 52% of our SCIENCE graduates go onto graduate programs (Ph.D.s) or professional school (medical).
- 30% of SCIENCE students conduct research under the guidance of a faculty member annually.
- Several of our undergraduate and graduate students have won prestigious national awards.
- Our faculty have increased external funding of their research 86% in five years ($9M to $17M)!
- Dr. Trudy Mackay has recruited a world-class team paving the way for precision medicine, and the Department of Biological Sciences and School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences had faculty win the first NSF CAREER awards in their units.

The College of Science has made significant gains in student success and faculty national prominence in scientific discovery, and we are collectively focused on catapulting through this pandemic. Thank you for your support as we accelerate science at Clemson in 2021 and beyond. As SCIENCE ambassadors, please share the new College of Science video!

Save the date for **GIVE DAY** which will be April 21! We ask you to consider a gift to the College of Science General Scholarship Fund, the Science Annual Fund or Science fund of your choosing. Gifts to the link below between now and April 21 will count toward the University's GIVE DAY totals, and each and every gift will make a difference.

Thank you, and Go Tigers!





CYNTHIA Y. YOUNG
FOUNDING DEAN, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

SCIFORWARD

Give to the College of Science

Students

Chemistry undergrad's skincare products showcase skills honed at Clemson

Nia Grant

Clemson University student Nia Grant has a higher purpose for her cosmetics company than merely selling skincare products.

“I want to help change the narrative for women in STEM,” said Grant, a junior in the Department of Chemistry.

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Grad student’s NNSA fellowship is the latest in research group’s federal lab pipeline

Tyler Williams

When Ph.D. candidate Tyler Williams received a National Nuclear Security Administration Graduate Fellowship, he became the second Clemson University chemist in three years to receive the prestigious fellowship designed to develop the next generation of national security leaders.

Williams also became the latest student in professor Ken Marcus’ pipeline to make the leap from Marcus’ laboratory to federal research laboratories and organizations.

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Faculty

Clemson researcher studies cancer in fellowship through School of Health

Hugo Sanabria

Hugo Sanabria is researching cancerous genetic mutations and personalized medicine to treat cancer as part of an embedded fellowship within the Prisma Health Cancer Institute.

Sanabria, an associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, has been named the newest Clemson University School of Health Research (CUSHR) Faculty Fellow. CUSHR Faculty Fellows serve as leaders in collaborative health research between Clemson and Prisma Health–Upstate. Faculty Fellows are strategically embedded in a Prisma Health–Upstate department, shifting their focus from their regular teaching duties to developing a comprehensive research agenda with their embedded Prisma Health department.

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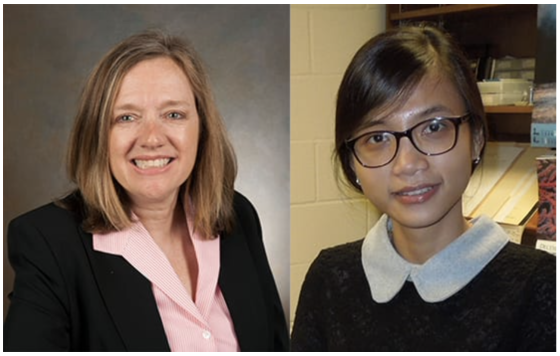
Four College of Science researchers awarded funding from CU SEED Grant Program

From left, Sharon Bewick and Jennifer Mason



from left, Lesly Temesvari and Thao Tran

The Clemson Support for Early Exploration and Development (CU SEED) Grant Program has awarded four College of Science faculty members up to $10,000 each to help fund the initiation of research, scholarly projects or the development of products.

The CU SEED Grant Program provides two tiers of funding support to certain Clemson faculty each semester. This semester, 28 Clemson faculty received awards.

Initiation activities can include establishing baseline data, completing a phase of a research process that will lead to greater funding opportunities or developing research partnerships with collaborators at other institutions. Projects or products can include finalizing peer-reviewed publications, scholarly books, chapters in books or showings such as visual and performing arts.

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K-12 Engagement

‘Something Very Fishy’ takes new approach to deliver marine conservation awareness message

Instead of having a live Broadway-like theatrical show and a science exhibit to teach elementary school students marine conservation, “Something Very Fishy” will go online this year. “Something Very Fishy” Images Credit: Robert Bradley.

Concerns over climate and our oceans’ health haven’t changed since a Clemson University scientist, some graduate students and a local playwright started “Something Very Fishy” two years ago.

But the way the program delivers its marine conservation message to elementary school students this year is changing because of the coronavirus pandemic.

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Awards

Meet the 2020 MLK Excellence in Service Award recipient, Sharetta Bufford

Sharetta Bufford

The winner of the employee award is Sharetta Bufford, assistant director of recruitment and inclusive excellence for the College of Science and current Ph.D. student in learning sciences. Bufford designed and launched new initiatives to support underrepresented students in science and mathematics at Clemson, including COSMIC (College of Science Mentoring and Inclusion Collaborative), a program providing upper-class mentors to first-time, first-year underrepresented students majoring in science.

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