



College of Sciences & Mathematics Newsletter
June 2021



CoSM Student Spotlight
**Matthews Awarded
Two Grants**

Alix Matthews, Ph.D. student in molecular and biosciences was awarded two highly competitive and prestigious grants. First, she received the Margaret Morse Nice Research Award from the American Ornithological Society to study feather mite diet and resource selection. Her proposal was ranked No. 1 out of more than 175 students from around the world. Matthews also received a Ernst Mayr Grant from Harvard University to travel to Brazil and conduct research on feather mite systematics and evolution.

CoSM Student Spotlight

Worm Wins Max Parker Award

Alex Worm, Ph.D. student in environmental sciences, was awarded the Max Parker Award for best in-state bird research proposal from the Arkansas Audubon Society for his proposal to study the genomics of hybridization in several species of flycatchers.



CoSM Student Spotlight

Guy Awarded Audubon Grant

William "Cayce" Guy, M.S. student in environmental sciences, was awarded a grant from the Arkansas Audubon Society for his proposal to study the costs and benefits of early season flooding of rice fields for both waterbirds and greenhouse gas emissions.

CoSM Faculty Spotlight

Alam, Gilmore Publish in European Journal

Dr. Mohammad A. Alam (left) and Dr. David Gilmore (right) published a paper in the [European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry](#). They describe the synthesis of 80 pyrazole compounds as potent antimicrobial agents. Several of these compounds are potent growth inhibitors of MRSA and vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE), two of the more worrisome of the antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The compounds appear non-toxic in mice, indicating that they have potential to become new antibiotics.



CoSM Student Spotlight French Awarded Fulbright Grant

Congratulations to **Rachel French**, a senior triple major in Spanish, biological sciences, and chemistry, who has been [offered a Fulbright grant](#) to teach in Spain.



A-State Students Compete Against Ivy League

A-State biological sciences majors **Hannah Seats** of Jonesboro, **Claire Greene** of Conway and **Katherine Willis** of Blue Springs, Mo., competed among Ivy League universities as they prepare to [send an experiment to space](#) in April 2022. The competition was part of NASA's Student Payload Opportunity with Citizen Science (SPOCS) program. Also on the [team are engineering students](#) **Benjamin Whitfield** of Little Rock, **Landon Perdue** of Brookland, **Mason Rhodes** of Benton and **Jacob Oster** of Bay. Faculty advisers are **Maureen Dolan** and **Shea Harris**.



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