

*CSMConnect is the College of Science and Mathematics' (CSM) biannual newsletter designed to keep you informed of the latest activities and developments going on in the college. CSM is soaring into the next level of national prominence through cutting-edge research. The College is active in local and international scientific communities and promotes innovation in teaching. CSM values the networks developed with partners on and off campus. You are important in our network of partners.*

## KSU/SPSU CONSOLIDATION

### *Kennesaw State and Southern Polytechnic Will Consolidate*

During the 2012-2013 academic year, Kennesaw State University (KSU) has been celebrating the 50th anniversary of the chartering of the University. On Nov. 1, 2013, another very important event in the history of KSU happened. Chancellor Hank Huckaby of the University System of Georgia announced that KSU would be consolidated with Southern Polytechnic State University. Once consolidated, the new KSU will be a comprehensive university with nearly 32,000 students. In the span of just over 50 years, KSU will have transitioned from a two-year community college into a large comprehensive university! The hard work of our faculty, staff, students and alumni of CSM helped grow KSU's visibility and reputation in the community, and that reputation contributed to the decision to form this large University.

In addition to the growth and changes that consolidation will bring, CSM has been expanding our graduate program offerings. The Master of Science program in Integrative Biology is in its second year of operation, and the first students from that program will graduate in May. The Master of Science in Chemical Sciences program welcomed the first group of graduate students in the fall. To support these programs, the College hired two new faculty, Dr. Susan Smith in Biology and Dr. Michael Van Dyke in Biochemistry, to new Foundation Faculty Fellow positions. These positions have financial support from the KSU foundation to advance their research programs. The college was recently invited to submit a full proposal to the Board of Regents for a Ph.D. program in Analytics and Data Science. Once approved,



(ABOVE) Photograph collage of KSU and SPSU signs.

this would be the first Ph.D. program in the College of Science and Mathematics, and only the second Ph.D. offered by Kennesaw State University. In anticipation of this proposal being approved, the college is in the process of creating an independent Department of Statistics and Analytical Sciences, and Professor Jennifer Priestley has been appointed the Director of the Ph.D. in Analytics and Data Science.

Consolidation is occurring during an exciting time for Kennesaw State University, and for the College of Science and Mathematics. We look forward to the opportunities and challenges offered by integrating two different and complex operations. Once completed, the consolidated KSU will continue on a positive growth trajectory in both size and reputation. We are looking forward to this exciting time and invite you to participate by visiting and seeing all that is going on in the College of Science and Mathematics at Kennesaw State University.

**For more info. about the KSU and SPSU consolidation, please visit the website:** <http://www.ksuspsuconsolidation.com/>

ATLANTA  
SCIENCE  
FESTIVAL

March 22-29, 2014  
[atlantasciencefestival.org](http://atlantasciencefestival.org)

## CSM SPONSORS COMMUNITY EVENTS ON CAMPUS: JOIN US!

### **Monday, March 24, 2014 - "Bring Home the Science!"**

Learn how to share science-based activities with pre-K to third-grade-aged children. Science experiments and demonstrations will be presented by Seesaw Science LLC. Registration is required.

### **Wednesday, March 26, 2014 - "Chemistry on the Green"**

Join members of the KSU Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society & Phi Lambda Upsilon for fun chemistry demonstrations and hands-on activities.

### **Friday, March 28, 2014 - "Science on the Screen: Europa Report"**

Film screening of the new science fiction movie "Europa Report." Following the screening, a panel composed of authors, scientists (CSM professor, Dr. Marcus Davis), moviemakers, and theorists will discuss scientific, artistic, literary, moral, and cultural aspects of the movie.

For more info., please visit: <http://science.kennesaw.edu/atlantasciencefestival.html>

## RETIRED PROFESSOR FINDS A HOME WITH KENNESAW STATE

Joseph Cook was instantly drawn to Kennesaw State. Despite no previous connection to the University, the retired professor from Florida has recently established himself as a dedicated supporter. Cook's generosity has launched one of most unique and innovative projects currently in development on campus, a hands-on outdoor classroom in the College of Science and Mathematics that will enable biology students to study native Georgia plant life.

Cook grew up throughout the South, spending childhood summers with his grandfather and extended family in Braselton, Ga. He served as a Navy recruiter before establishing his career as a higher education professor at several state universities in Florida.

Having received his doctorate in 1968, Cook holds several degrees from the University of Florida and has taught at both Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University. As a self-proclaimed "program builder," his field of instruction covered all post-secondary

education, including the history and philosophy of higher education, curriculum development, and leadership in universities. "We taught [students] how to teach, how to operate a college, how to build a curriculum, and so on," he explains.

Eager to return to an academic environment, Kennesaw State campus, Cook recalls, his first visit to campus several years ago as "a vibrant place, and it reminded me of the Florida colleges." "I had this longing to be involved again with people of a like mind."

Ellen Jones, director of gift planning and major gifts officer for the College of Science and Mathematics, worked closely with Cook to learn how he wanted to be engaged with the University. "I've always been dynamically involved wherever I've been," Cook says. "As we interacted, she began to understand what I wanted to do, even more so than I did. She really knows how to become involved and understand people and help them continue their own growth."

As they began to discuss ways in which he could contribute, Jones's connection to Science and Mathematics led to the proposal of an outdoor classroom in an unused courtyard space between the three science buildings. This initiative, which will include a water basin containing and surrounded by a diverse array of plant species, is currently underway and is expected to be completed this summer. "My major interest through the years has been helping students grow," he says. "My job was always to help fan the flames, to help students find their way."

In addition to Dr. Joseph Cook's generous contribution, he has asked that the students come up with a name for the hands-on outdoor classroom. CSM will be running a naming contest during the spring 2014 semester (open to all KSU students) and hope to have a finalized name announced by early May 2014.

(ABOVE) Photo of Dr. Joseph Cook.

**"I'm glad to be with Kennesaw State," says Dr. Joseph Cook. "You helped me find an academic home."**

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

### CSM Distinguished Award Recipients

2013-2014 Distinguished **Advising** Award:

*Dr. Melanie Griffin*

2013-2014 Distinguished **Scholarship** Award:

*Dr. Greg Rushton*

2013-2014 Distinguished **Service** Award:

*Dr. Carol Chrestensen*

2013-2014 Distinguished **Teaching** Award:

*Dr. Taha Mzoughi*

2013-2014 Distinguished **Staff** Award:

*Dale Zaborowski*

(RIGHT) Names left to right: Top: Distinguished glass Award; Dr. Mark Anderson and Dr. Melanie Griffin; Middle: Dr. Greg Rushton and Dr. Mark Anderson; Dr. Mark Anderson and Dr. Carol Chrestenson; Bottom: Dr. Mark Anderson and Dr. Taha Mzoughi; Dr. Mark Anderson and Dale Zaborowski.





# SCHOLARSHIPS

In Memory of **Marian Fox**, Ph.D., Professor of Mathematics Education  
Dec. 12, 1947 — Oct. 25, 2013

Dedicated to teaching at KSU for 22 years, Dr. Marian Fox passed away on Oct. 25, 2013. Marian could be described as an inspiration, mentor, and friend who will be remembered for her love of math. Marian's career was centered on training the next generation of math teachers. She was often acknowledged by outstanding senior students in the University Scholars Program as the faculty member who most influenced their success.

(ABOVE) Photo courtesy of Vickie Burris.

A scholarship has been created in Marian's honor and will be awarded to a Mathematics or Mathematics Education student in Fall 2014. Donations to the scholarship award can be made through March 31, 2014.

To donate, visit <https://community.kennesaw.edu/givetoscholarships>. Make sure to select "Scholarships - College of Science and Math" in the 'Designation' drop down menu and type "Memory of Marian Fox" in 'Tribute Information' description box, at the bottom of the form.

**Are you a **KSU Alum** with a great job that you love?**

Have you learned to navigate the murky waters of career success and are you eager to share that knowledge?

**Then Join the KSU Alumni-2-Student Mentoring Program**

The A2SMP connects KSU alumni with current students and recent graduates who are seeking firsthand knowledge, guidance, and advice as they explore potential career options. *Log on today to get started!*



**Alumni-2-Student Mentoring Program**  
[CareerCtr.Kennesaw.edu/mentor](http://CareerCtr.Kennesaw.edu/mentor)

# RESEARCH

## 2014 Victoria Finnerty Undergraduate Travel Awards

**Katharine Majeski**, senior at Kennesaw State, was one of 11 undergraduates to receive travel awards to present research at the 55th Annual Drosophila Research Conference in San Diego. Katherine will present her poster titled "Live Imaging of Muscle Development in Akirin Mutants," from research with Dr. Scott Nowak and graduate student, Fatima Ali.

Fifty-two students applied for this prestigious award; these winners represent the top tier of our early career geneticists. The 11 recipients will be presenting posters on their research at the 55th Annual Drosophila Research Conference, March 26-30, 2014, in San Diego.

# K-CLUE PROJECT FOLLOW-UP

## Learning Assistants take the lead

The K-CLUE Project, funded by a \$40,000 AT&T contribution launched in Fall 2013 at KSU, boasts multiple components to reduce the historically high drop, fail, withdraw (DFW) rates in core STEM classes of calculus, precalculus and physics, increase the percentage of students who continue to the next STEM class levels, and influence interest of future teachers in STEM subjects.



(ABOVE) Photo of poster presentation on Dec. 3, 2013. Photo courtesy of Nancy Burney.

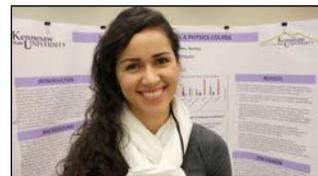
The Learning Assistant (LA) program, coordinated by Nancy Burney, is one component to boost student success. Burney mentored 12 student learning assistants (LAs) who used teaching techniques they learned in a pedagogy class created specifically for the LA program. The LAs attended class and helped when students worked in small groups. They also each led 2 hourlong study sessions each week. The goals for this class were to teach the LAs different pedagogies and how to implement them, culminating in a poster presentation based on pedagogical research performed by each LA.

Each LA selected a topic covered in class or chose another appropriate topic. The LA designed a study, collected and analyzed data, and created a poster to present at the end of the semester. LAs expressed the positive experience the program has been and all 12 LAs plan to continue as Learning Assistants in Spring 2014. The LAs will continue their research during the semester and present their updated findings at KSU's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning's (CETL) 18th Annual Symposium of Student Scholars and Undergraduate Research in April.

The LA program is significant to meeting the expectations set forth in Governor Deal's "Graduate Georgia" initiative. A second desired result for the program is to influence the LAs to become teachers in a STEM subject. In a final semester survey, 50 percent of the Learning Assistants responded with an interest in teaching.

The second component introduced for boosting student success was the Study Buddy app for Smart Phones, created by Solomon Negash. Using the app, students create study groups, invite other students to the groups and find study sessions to attend. This app is not yet available.

If you would like more information about the program, please contact Nancy Burney at [nburney@kennesaw.edu](mailto:nburney@kennesaw.edu).



(ABOVE) Photo of Learning Assistant, Luciana Araujo (Fall 2013). Photo courtesy of Nancy Burney.



(ABOVE) Photo of AT&T Check Presentation. Photo courtesy of Sara Blunk.



College of Science and Mathematics

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## DISCOVER KSU & Atlanta Tech Edge



(ABOVE) TV commercial, featuring Dr. Jennifer Priestley.

KSU's College of Science and Mathematics is a major sponsor of 11Alive's program, Atlanta Tech Edge. The

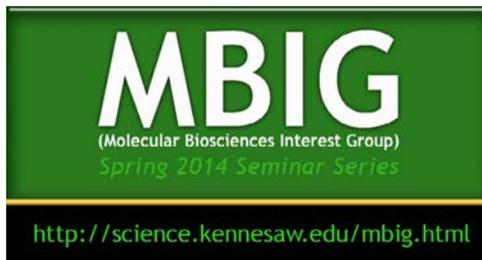
weekly program airs on Sundays at 11 a.m. on WXIA-TV 11Alive. Check out the Atlanta Tech Edge CSM TV commercials on our YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/KennesawStateCSM>



This newsletter is a collaboration between the College of Science and Mathematics and the KSU Alumni Association.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



<http://science.kennesaw.edu/mbig.html>



College of Science and Mathematics



ScienceTALK is a seminar series focusing on the recent developments in the fields of Mathematics and Science. For more information, please visit the website: [science.kennesaw.edu/sciencetalk.html](http://science.kennesaw.edu/sciencetalk.html)

### Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Location: SC 109 (auditorium)

Time: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

**Manu O. Platt, Ph.D.**, Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology & Emory University

### Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Location: SC 109 (auditorium)

Time: 12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

**Allison Ashley-Koch, Ph.D.**, Professor of Medical Genetics, Duke Center for Human Genetics at Duke University Medical Center



CELEBRATING OUR PAST, IGNITING OUR FUTURE

<http://www.kennesaw.edu/50th/>