

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026- Volume 5

Clayton State University-College of Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics(CSTEM)

Faculty Spotlight

Penelope "Penny" Cliff, Director of the Archives and Information Studies program at Clayton State University, was honored with the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC) Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2025 Outstanding Archives Awards.

The Department of Mathematics and Decision



Science is proud to recognize **Dr. Mohsen Aliabadi** for receiving the prestigious AMS-Simons Travel Grant from the American Mathematical Society (AMS). This competitive award supports outstanding mathematical research and professional development by providing funding for research-related activities over a three-year period.



Dr. David-Murray Stoker has been selected as the 2026 Human Anatomy and Physiology Society (HAPS) Sam Drogo Technology in the Classroom Award recipient! This prestigious national honor recognizes educators who demonstrate exceptional innovation in using technology to enhance anatomy and physiology instruction.

Dr. Muhammad Rahman- During the 2025–2026 academic year, served as a PI or

Co-PI on two funded projects—"Zero Cost Teaching Materials for Cybersecurity Essentials" and "A Pilot Study on Coherent Multimodal Patterns of EEG Activity and Gray Matter Structure in Alzheimer's Disease"—securing more than \$26,000 in combined funding. These collaborative efforts were made possible with faculty partners Shuju Bai, Junfeng Qu, Ken Nguyen, Aysha Rahman, and K. M. Ibrahim Khalilullah, advancing both student learning and innovative research at CSU



New Faculty and Staff

Please join us in congratulating Briana Christensen on her promotion to Director of Archives & Information Studies and Dr. Xiangdong AN on his new position as the Chair of Computer Science & Information Technology. We wish them continued success in their new roles.

We also welcome Dr. Jesus Sanchez, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Blake Anderson, lecturer of Biology.

Grants

- "Zero Cost Teaching Materials for Cybersecurity Essentials course," Round 29 Affordable Learning Georgia Affordable Materials Grant, Spring 2026-Spring 2027, \$24,999, PIs Muhammad Rahman, Shuju Bai, Junfeng Qu, Ken Nguyen, and Aysha Rahman.
- "A Pilot Study on Coherent Multimodal Patterns of EEG Activity and Gray Matter Structure in Alzheimer's Disease," Clayton State University, STEM Minigrant, FY 2025-2026, \$1479, PIs K M Ibrahim Khalilullah and Muhammad Rahman.
- "Development of an Embedded Systems Course with Microcontrollers," Clayton State Retirees Association TLI Grant, 2025, \$500, PI Shakil Akhtar.
- "Google" \$355,000 towards student scholarships, outreach, summer camps and faculty training.
- "AMS-Simons Travel Grant" AMS will administer the grant for the first year, and the second and third years will be administered through the university. This award provides \$3,000 per year for three years to support research-related activities; and \$600 per year for your institution. PIs Dr. Elliot Krop, Dr. Mohsen Aliabadi

Student Spotlight

Jasmine Heath, a December 2025 graduate of Clayton State University, combined academic excellence with hands-on experience through research, leadership, and a competitive IT internship with Georgia Tech. Her achievements reflect a strong foundation for a successful career in technology.



Master of Archival Studies student **Lyric Rosser** has been awarded the First Families of Georgia (1733–1797) Scholarship in the amount of \$3,000!



Eric Washington is an undergraduate Chemistry major with a minor focus in Computer Science at Clayton State

University, with an anticipated graduation in December 2026. His current research focuses on the isolation and identification of bioactive compounds from Ghanaian traditional remedies using liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry (LC-MS) and gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC-MS), with interests in analytical chemistry, natural products, and pharmaceutical research. After graduation, he plans to pursue a career in analytical or research chemistry while continuing to explore applications of chemistry to improve human health.

Sponsored by Launchpad Academy, **Angelina Panamthottam** and **Aunesty Moreland**, a senior Computer Science student, helped modernize legacy SCORBOT robotic arms by developing a computer vision-driven automated sorting system using a Raspberry Pi, Pico microcontrollers, and custom Python programming. Her work showcases the innovative, hands-on learning experiences available through CSIT.

ACM Students- We are proud to announce that our CSU student team won Third Place in the undergraduate poster category! The winning

members were **Antania Bivens**, **Nadia Macias-Rodriguez**, and **Darren Harvey** (Advisor: Muhammad Rahman). This is the fourth consecutive year our ACM students have won an award at this conference. Kudos to our students for their excellent work!



College Events

The **Launchpad Leadership Academy**- hosted their 2nd annual networking event on October 23, 2025.

Companies from Hiscox Insurance, JP Morgan, Atl Gas light, Coca-Cola, National Guard, Microsoft, Truist Bank, MARTA, Southern Conservation Trust, Productive cloud solution, faculty, staff, CSU students and guests, were all in attendance. The purpose for this event is to create an environment for our students to learn about different industry and to give industry partners the



opportunity to meet and network with the students of Clayton State University.

5th Annual Symposium- On March 25 & 26 2026, the college of STEM hosted their 5th annual symposium. The theme for 2026 was "Think fast think deep: STEM insights for a changing world".

At the **Spring 2026 School of Sciences Experiential Learning Forum** on Friday, May 1, 2026, A total of 59 undergraduate students showcased their hard work across 39 engaging research posters, sharing insights with peers and 16 faculty members. From hands-on learning in



teaching labs to real-world experiences in internships and research, students brought their scientific journeys to life. Featured projects spanned fascinating topics in microbiology and environmental science, highlighting the innovation and dedication of our students.

Atlanta Science Festival- On March 18, Clayton State University, in partnership with the School of Science at Lakeview Discovery & Science Center, hosted an exciting evening of hands-on STEM exploration as part of the Atlanta Science Festival 2026! Attendees of all ages had the opportunity to engage in a dynamic lineup of interactive experiences designed to spark curiosity and inspire discovery.

Publications

- S. Akhtar, M. S. Islam, and M. F. Wyn. Face Recognition on Hexapod with a Low-Cost Raspberry Pi, 2025 International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Mechatronics (ICAIM25), Las Vegas, NV, December 10-11, 2025.
- (4) S. Akhtar and G. Nnourom. Skin Cancer Awareness, The 9th International Conference on E-Society, E-Education and E-Technology (ESET 2025), Hakodate, Japan, December 5-7, 2025.
- Junfeng Qu, Shuju Bai, Byron Jeff, Ebrahim Khosravi, Analysis of Programming Capability of LLMs in the Context of Computer Science I, Pages 98-110. 34th International Conference, SEDE 2025, New Orleans, LA, USA, October 20-21, 2025.
- Y. Shahzaad, S. Qazi, H. Pervez, M. Fahad, H. Beenish, and S. Akhtar. Online Proctoring System with Fingerprint and Eye Recognition Using Siamese Network, Journal of Circuits, Systems and Computers, ISSN (print): 0218-1266, ISSN (online): 1793-6454, Vol. 35 No. 6, September 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1142/S0218126625504559>
- M. A. Rahman, H. Shahriar, G. Francia, F. Wu, A. Cuzzocrea, M. Rahman, M. Faruk, and S. Ahamed. Fine-tuned Large Language Models (LLMs): Improved Prompt Injection Attacks Detection, 2025 IEEE 49th Annual Computers, Software, and Applications Conference (COMPSAC), Toronto, ON, Canada, 2025, pp. 1033-1039.
- Christensen, B. Scholarly article accepted for publication in the Journal of Education for Library and Information Science (JELIS), Fall/Winter 2026 issue.
- Christensen, B. Book chapter accepted and finalized for publication in Artificial Intelligence and Social Justice: Intersections in Library and Information Studies. The volume is forthcoming from Emerald Publishing in Winter 2026/Spring 2027.
- Christensen, B. Chapter abstract accepted for inclusion in Artificial Intelligence and Cultural Meaning: Language, Images, and Interpretation in the Digital Age. Full chapter submission is scheduled for November 2026, with final manuscript preparation due in March 2027. The volume is under contract with Anthem Press.
- Elliot Krop and Kimber Wolff, "A New Bound for Vizing's Conjecture," submitted 2025.
- L. Catalano, J. Leavens, T. Merchán, "On Vukman-type functional identities," Journal of Algebra and its Applications (2025) doi.org/10.1142/S0219498827501155.
- Mohsen Aliabadi, "Conditions for matchability in groups and field extensions II," Discussiones Mathematicae - General Algebra and Applications. 45(1) (2025) 135-157
- Mohsen Aliabadi "Classifying abelian groups through acyclic matchings," (with P. Taylor), Annals of Combinatorics. 29 (2025) 1019-1025.
- EG Alvarado, L Catalano, T Merchán, L Naples. "Asymptotics of maximum distance minimizers," Annali di Matematica Pura ed Applicata (1923-), 1-20 (2026).
- Alexander R. Klotz and Everett Sullivan, "Exactly-solvable self-trapping lattice walks in ladder graphs," Discrete Mathematics 349 (2026).
- Sol Addison, Sarah Blackwell, Puttipong Pongtanapaipan, Nancy Scherich, Lila Snodgrass, Everett Sullivan, "Danceability, a new definition of bridge index," Topology and its Applications 390 (2026).

2025-2026 STEM Advisory Council

Ken T. Takekawa, TDK, David Byrd, Google, Brandon Perry, ADP, Justin Haight, Metro Atlanta Chamber, Michael Olajubutu, Georgia Power, Ellie Magnant, Travelers, Colton Magnant, Altium Packaging, Tony Yaacoub, Delta Air Lines

New and Upcoming Programs

BS in Cybersecurity was launched in Fall 2025 & Certificate in Artificial Intelligence and Cyber security was launched in Fall 2025

A Workforce Exploration Experience

Google Site Visit- College of STEM Google Scholars spent Friday, February 27, touring the Google office asking great questions, exploring innovative workspaces, and enjoying lunch with Google staff. What an inspiring experience for our STEM students!



Zoo Atlanta- In conjunction with the Laker Wildlife Initiative, members of the CSU Pre Veterinary and Animal Science Association (PVASA) spent the day at Zoo Atlanta for an exclusive behind the scenes experience!

From veterinary care and animal welfare, to guest services and exhibit



design, students got an inside look at how a modern zoo truly functions. It was an incredible opportunity to connect classroom learning with real world animal care and conservation work!

BioSparks Lab- faculty and students explored biotech innovation up close—touring advanced research spaces, learning about entrepreneurship, and connecting with leaders in the field. Special shoutout to Ryan Lawler and Melissa Storey for hosting us and championing our academic community. BioSpark Labs' mission to fuel life-changing research in Atlanta made this experience unforgettable.



Behind the Scenes Tour- Each spring and fall semester, students in Clayton State University's Master of Archival Studies program have the special opportunity to tour the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) at Atlanta with Penny Cliff, Director of the Archives and Information Studies Program, along with interested CSTEM faculty and guests.



Reynolds Nature Preserve- CSTEM students partnered with Reynolds Nature Preserve board members and local community volunteers to help restore the forest and protect biodiversity by removing invasive species.

Clayton State University at the Metro Atlanta Chamber's First-Ever

Internship Job Fair! This inaugural event, hosted by the Metro Atlanta Chamber (MAC), was designed to link students with leading companies. Offering internships and co-op positions.



COLLEGE OF Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics

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Student Awards

Every spring semester our college holds a student award ceremony to celebrate our students and recognize their achievements. This spring on March 25th 2026, we held our 21th annual student award ceremony. We awarded 10 prestigious awards to our outstanding scholars:

Information Technology Outstanding Scholar Award:

AASIT- Dave Mastin BSCS: Melissa Mendoza-Mora, BIT:Kossi Sessou

Annita Hunt Award:

Jasmin Ordaz-Garcia

Billy R Nail Mathematics Award:

James Scott

Billy R Nail Mathematics Scholarship:

Mary Sims

The Rising Senior Award:

Elisabet Isleifsdottir

The Helen Davis Brown Endowed Scholarship for Biology:

Minal Nisar

O.C. Lam III Award for Excellence in the Biological Sciences:

Anistasua Keoseng

The Jim Braun Award for Excellence in Chemistry:

Oluwafunmilola Adebisi Raji

The CRC Press Chemistry Achievement Award:

Ebere V. Onuchukwu Gabriela Bonomi

Catherine Aust Award for the Best All-Around STEM Major:

Anzlett Goggans



5th Annual Symposium



5th annual symposium industry panel:

Steve Rimmer- Altium Packaging, Jonathan Kyle- TenSparrows, Ryan Lawler- BioSparks Lab, David Byrd- Google Cloud, Aziz Contractor- AWS, SRGT Rukiya Parsons- National Gaurd

Industry Partners

TDK, Google, ADP, Coca-Cola, Colonial Pipeline, Metro Atlanta Chamber, Georgia Power, Atlanta Gas Light, Altium Packaging, TenSparrows, BioSparks Lab, AWS, National Gaurd, Georgia Game Developers Association, MARTA

Thank you to our industry partners who are committed to providing our students with opportunities of growth professionally, personally, and academically.



The College of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics hosted their 5th annual symposium on March 25th and 26th 2026. The theme for 2026 was "Think Fast, Think Deep: STEM insights for a Changing World". The event hosted over 850 students, industry partners, faculty/ staff, and community members across the two-day event. This annual event is used to generate scholarships for our students, college of STEM workers hard to supply the workforce with talented, passionate, and educated STEM professionals. Thank you to our 2026 symposium sponsors and attendees!

High School STEM Exploration Day

March 26th the college hosted a "High School STEM exploration day" Where over 300 students from 8 different high schools from surrounding counties, came to campus to explore career opportunities.



Events like the high school exploration day help the college to expand opportunities in the community.

2024-2030 CSTEM Strategic Plan

Vision

The vision of the College of STEM is to empower students to become leaders and innovators in STEM fields, fostering a learning environment that embraces and encourages creativity, and promotes real-world problem-solving. We strive to shape future professionals who will advance scientific and technological progress, addressing global challenges and making a positive impact on society.

Mission

The mission of the College of STEM is to provide a strong foundation in the core areas of science, technology, and mathematics while actively recruiting, retaining, preparing, and graduating students to succeed in an interdependent global workforce.

Values

1. Excellence – Striving for the highest quality in education, research, and professional development.
2. Innovation – Encouraging creativity and forward-thinking to solve complex challenges.
3. Inclusive Environment – Promoting a supportive environment for all students, staff, and faculty.
4. Collaboration – Fostering teamwork and partnerships within and across disciplines.
5. Integrity – Upholding ethical standards and responsibility in all academic and professional pursuits.
6. Curiosity – Cultivating a passion for learning, exploration, and discovery.
7. Global Responsibility – Preparing students to address the needs of an interconnected and evolving world.

Strategic Priorities & Initiatives

1. Establishing Specialized Academic and Career Pathways in STEM
2. Enhancing STEM Student Success and Promoting Social Mobility
3. Expanding Enrollment in STEM Programs
4. Strengthening Partnerships with the STEM Community and Industry

Coding Boot Camp June 1- 11, 2026-



In collaboration with Clayton County, the College of STEM successfully hosted a dynamic Summer Coding boot camp. This immersive program introduced students to the fundamentals of computer science through hands-on experience with the Python programming language. Participants explored key concepts such as problem-solving and algorithm development, software design principles, testing and debugging techniques, and the use of data types and data representation. The camp provided an engaging environment for students to build foundational coding skills and spark their interest in STEM careers.

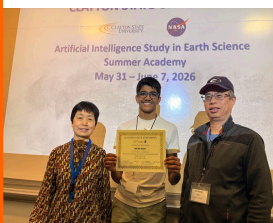


CSU Faculty AI Workshop June 15-17, 2026- In support of Google, the College of STEM recently hosted a faculty AI workshop focused on foundational concepts in artificial intelligence. The session explored practical strategies and key insights for integrating AI into academic settings. This professional development opportunity was proudly supported by the Launchpad Leadership Academy.

Summer Camps & Community Development

NASA (AISEE) Camp June 1-7, 2026-

The Artificial Intelligence Study in Earth Exploration (AISEE) Summer Academy is a five-year initiative (2023–2028) funded by NASA and hosted annually by the College of STEM. This immersive, eight-day residential program is designed to inspire and empower minority high school students through hands-on experiences in STEM. Each summer, participants are introduced to college life while engaging in cutting-edge



NASA-themed activities. The program focuses on the intersection of Earth science, NASA Earth data, and Artificial Intelligence (AI), offering students a unique opportunity to explore real-world applications of emerging technologies in Earth exploration.



AI & APP Development Summer Camp for CSU Students June 8-13, 2026- With the support of Google, the AI & App Development Summer

Camp offered an exciting opportunity for CSU students to gain hands-on experience in technology. The program included certificate training in basic programming skills, app development, and artificial intelligence systems and applications. Campers also participated in a dynamic hackathon, putting their new skills to the test in a fun and competitive environment.



Science Summer Camp

June 15-18, 2026- The College of STEM Recently Welcomed 10th -12th grade students to its annual Science Camp at Clayton State University



Campers participated in exciting hands-on lab experiments and engineering challenges across chemistry, biology, physics, and environmental science. In addition to the immersive academic experience, students had the opportunity to connect with STEM faculty, current college students, and alumni. These interactions provided valuable insights into college readiness, academic pathways, and life at Clayton State. The camp also included guided tours of the campus, giving students a glimpse into their potential future as college scholars.

