



November 2018

Redefining Impact Factor

With a world-class faculty of researchers in every discipline and a student body constantly creating new opportunities for engagement in each aspect of campus life, the University of Memphis is creating impact in ways and rates not typically experienced by a university. With a new partnership between the UofM and the Czech Republic and a host of new collaborative efforts with Memphis' legal and corporate community, the University is showing that the impact factor is more than just citation counts.

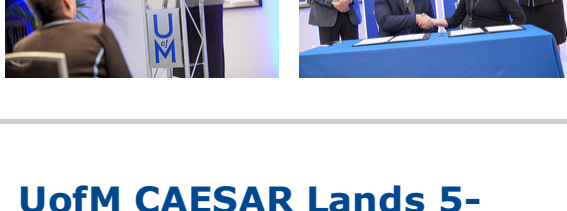


UofM Inks Research Collaboration with Prestigious Czech Academy of Sciences

On Oct. 25, the UofM became the first university in the U.S. to sign a Research Collaboration Agreement with the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS). Comprised of 54 research institutions, the organization is responsible for leading research in the Czech Republic across a range of natural, technical, social sciences and humanities topics. The agreement will pave the way for interactions among research faculty and students in areas of mutual interest with the goal of developing high-impact projects sustained through grant funds. It is expected to significantly enhance the UofM's research and innovation profile in the European Union.

"Internationalization of our research portfolio is a key strategic priority for us as we move rapidly toward the highest research classification in the Carnegie system," said UofM President M. David Rudd. "Strong partnerships like this with the Czech Academy of Sciences will allow us to leverage research funding on both sides of the Atlantic based on our respective strengths."

For more information on this collaboration, click [here](#).



UofM CAESAR Lands 5-Year, \$5M Contract with MLGW to Identify and Address Water Quality Issues with the Memphis Aquifer

The Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research (CAESER) at the University of Memphis has been selected to receive a \$5 million contract for a five-year period to conduct extensive research addressing water quality issues with the Memphis aquifer.

Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW) has grown increasingly concerned over water quality impacts to our sole source of drinking water, the Memphis aquifer. Above the Memphis aquifer is a protective clay layer which shields our drinking water from pollution, but gaps, or "breaches" in the clay have been discovered.

The five-year, \$5 million budget infused with University dollars will allow CAESER to support at least 30 graduate students to investigate breaches within the MLGW water service area. The contract currently covers the MLGW Memphis water service area. CAESAR is working with other municipalities towards potential expansion to cover the broader Memphis metropolitan area.

"These breaches pose a risk to the excellent water quality of the Memphis aquifer whereby contaminants are able to bypass the protective nature of the confining clay and enter the aquifer," said Dr. Brian Waldron, director of CAESER. "Over the next five years, we will bring the brightest student minds from around the world to the University of Memphis to tackle the problems we face."

Read entire press release [here](#). For more information on CAESER, visit their website at <http://strengthencommunities.com/>.

Sociologist Evaluates Promise Communities in Mississippi Delta

UofM sociologist Dr. Wesley L. James evaluates dozens of programs designed to expand the health care and educational opportunities for children and their families in the Mississippi Delta. The Indianola Promise Community and Deer Creek Promise Community are federally funded projects (over \$28 million and nearly \$30 million, respectively) run by Delta Health Alliance (DHA). DHA and the University of Memphis partner to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs, which extend from early childhood into adulthood and create a pipeline of academic, family, and community resources to create a path to better careers and outcomes. Thus far, promising results are observed both in academic outcomes for children K-5th grade and also health care access for children and adults. You can learn more about Dr. James via his [website](#), and the DHA [here](#).

Harrell-Williams Leader in Measuring Statistics Teaching Efficacy

Dr. Leigh M. Harrell-Williams, Assistant Professor of Quantitative Research Methods in the Educational Psychology and Research Program and affiliate faculty in the Institute of Intelligent Systems, is leading a multi-institutional team of mathematics and statistics educators. Her team developed instruments to address the increased focus on statistics content in middle and high school mathematics standards.

The Self-Efficacy to Teach Statistics (SETS) instruments (<http://www.memphis.edu/sets/>) are the only instruments that exist to measure statistics teaching efficacy for teaching grades 6 - 12. The initial activities for the ongoing instrument improvement project were partially funded by a 2017 College of Education Faculty Grant to Dr. Harrell-Williams. Dr. Harrell-Williams traveled to the 10th International Conference on Teaching Statistics held in Kyoto, Japan in July 2018. Her presentation was a small part of a larger instrument improvement project for the SETS instruments.



BIOLOGISTICS

CAST

DRONES

SMART Cities

New Awards for October:

- Brian Waldron, director of CAESER and associate professor in Civil Engineering, was awarded a 5-year, \$5M contract from MLGW for his project "MLGW Aquifer Breaches."
- Charles Langston, director of Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI) and Professor of Seismology and Earth Structure, was awarded \$187,000 for his project titled "Partitioning Signal and Noise Using Non-linear Thresholding" with the United States Air Force Office of Scientific Research.
- Dan Strahl, associate director of the Center for Research in Education Policy (CREP) was awarded \$89,000 from the federal Department of Education in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Education for his project, "21st Century Community Learning Center."

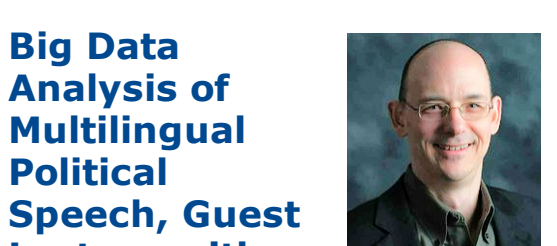
* Data is reported on the 18th of each month. Any awards finalized after the 18th of each month will be reported in the following month's report.



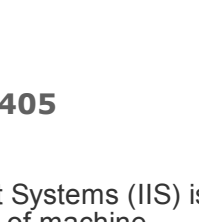
[Training From the Back of the Room](#)
Nov 8-9

[SAS Programming 2: Data Manipulation Techniques](#)
Nov 12-14

[SAS Programming 3: Advanced Techniques and Efficiencies](#)
Nov 28-30



Big Data Analysis of Multilingual Political Speech, Guest Lecture with Penn State's Dr. Burt Monroe



Nov 14 | 4 PM | FIT 405

The Institute for Intelligent Systems (IIS) is pioneering the application of machine learning for speech text analysis in multiple languages. Dr. Burt Monroe, professor of Political Science, Social Data Analytics and Informatics at Penn State, will be the featured Cognitive Science Seminar speaker in November. His talk will explore novel methods for extracting topics and trends from multilingual bodies of works.

For more information on the Fall 2018 Cognitive Science Seminar and its schedule, visit the IIS webpage <https://www.memphis.edu/iis/talks/config/cogsci-fa-2018-announcement-schedule-final.pdf>

Urban Child Institute Partners with University to Transform Research and Community Engagement

The Institute for Interdisciplinary Memphis Partnerships to Advance Community Transformation (iIMPACT) is an umbrella structure designed to transform community engagement and research within the University of Memphis. Supported by a partnership between the Urban Child Institute and the UofM, iIMPACT is collaborative, cross-disciplinary and designed to create a culture of health for children and families.

iIMPACT features seven distinct projects led by UofM faculty and a robust evaluation to ensure that project outcomes are monitored. The projects topics are vitally important to the Memphis community, and include legal issues, adverse child experiences, asthma, early childhood, healthy development and autism. iIMPACT features administrative leadership from executive director Teresa Franklin. To learn more about the individual projects, visit the Institute's [website](#).

CLE BLOCKCHAIN

WORKSHOP

International Smart Contracts Leaders Train Memphis Legal Community

The FedEx Institute of Technology and the Memphis Bar Association partnered to bring training on Smart Contracts to the Memphis legal community. As blockchain becomes more mainstream, it is necessary to provide opportunities to understand how it can affect various industries. And, as blockchain technology grows and unfolds in the legal community, law firms and attorneys in nearly every practice area will be impacted in some way. Practitioners are seeking opportunities to better understand how this technology can be leveraged to the benefit of their clients. Participants in this workshop received 5 CLE credit hours certified by the MBA.

To learn more about future training opportunities or to inquire about or request specialized training for your company, visit our website at fedex.memphis.edu or contact us at fedex@memphis.edu.

Faculty Workshop Series

Nov 9 & 16 | 12:45-1:45 PM | FIT 225

The Division of Research & Innovation is working hard to build resources that help our faculty find success in their research, in the lab and in the classroom. Review upcoming sessions for the 2018-2019 [Faculty Workshop Series](#).

Nov 9 | Bruce Nix, Lokion, focuses on Agile Methodology for Teams & Labs. RSVP [here](#).

Nov 16 | Mary Earheart Brown speaks on Finding Funding in Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences. RSVP [here](#).

SAS

PROGRAMMING II: DATA MANIPULATION TECHNIQUES

Nov 12-13 | 8 AM - 5 PM | FIT 225

This course is for those who need to learn data manipulation techniques using the SAS DATA step and procedures to access, transform, and summarize data. The course builds on the concepts that are presented in the SAS Programming 1: Essentials course and is not recommended for beginning SAS software users.

This course can help prepare you for the following certification exam(s): SAS Base Programming for SAS 9, SAS Certified Clinical Trials Programmer Using SAS 9. Register here: <https://support.sas.com/edu/schedules.html?ctry=us&crs=PROG2>

SAS

PROGRAMMING III: ADVANCED TECHNIQUES AND EFFICIENCIES

Nov 28-30 | 8 AM - 5 PM | FIT 225

This course is for SAS programmers who prepare data for analysis. The comparisons of manipulation techniques and resource cost benefits are designed to help programmers choose the most appropriate technique for their data situation.

This course can help prepare you for the following certification exam(s): SAS Advanced Programming for SAS 9. Register here: <https://support.sas.com/edu/schedules.html?id=1917&ctry=US&locationId=la>

DevSecOps Done Right

The FedEx Institute of Technology's Renewal Technical Tenet Academy (RTTA) has brought aboard its first regular instructor. Dan Petit, formerly of Front Door and ServiceMaster, was hired to provide scaled DevSecOps Training for FedEx teams across the country as transformation takes hold throughout Memphis' largest and most critical corporate partner.

DevSecOps brings together three critical parts of IT development to ensure faster and more frequent releases, creating better business value for the organization. For more information on how the Institute can help with your company's training needs, contact fedex@memphis.edu.



CALENDAR

[ESports Meetup: League of Legends Worldwatch Rebroadcast](#)
Nov 3 | 7-10 PM | FIT 103

[DevMemphis Meetup](#)
Nov 6 | 6-9 PM | FIT 225

[Machine Learning/Data Science/R](#)
Nov 6 | 7-8 PM | FIT 225

[ESports Meetup: Casual Gaming Night](#)
Nov 8 | 6-10 PM | FIT 205

[MEMPass/Power BI Meetup](#)
Nov 8 | 5:30-8:30 PM | FIT 225

[Drones/Biologistics Meeting](#)
Nov 12 | 4-7 PM | Fishbowl 203/205

[MemTech Meetup: Memphis WebWorkers](#)
Nov 13 | 6-8 PM | FIT 225

[GS1/AIM Global F2F](#)
Nov 13-16 | 8 AM - 5 PM | FIT 225

[Memphis Game Developers Meetup](#)
Nov 14 | 6-9 PM | FIT 225

[DAMA Meetup](#)
Nov 15 | 3:45-6 PM | Fishbowl 203/205

[ESports Meetup: End of Semester](#)
Nov 30 | 6-9 PM | Fishbowl 203/205

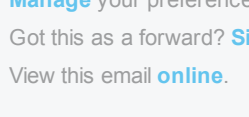
[MemTech Meetup: Python](#)
Nov 19 | 6:30-8:30 PM | FIT 225

[MEMTech Meetup: PHP](#)
Nov 27 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM | FIT 225



Division of Research and Innovation Leading Through Innovation

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