



Fall 2024 Newsletter

MIPS *News*

Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Dean's Address:

As we officially enter the fall season, I hope that the semester is going well for everyone. I am very pleased to share a newsletter with you once again, and hope that we will be able to share some exciting news and happenings every semester. Note that you can also follow the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences on social media (Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn) to see the exciting happenings that are ongoing across the division. This Fall, we have welcomed 7 new faculty members, with 4 more arriving in January 2025. As you can see from the sampling of news below, our people continue to excel in all aspects of our mission, publishing breakthrough scientific discoveries and winning awards for teaching and research. Our research teams brought in over \$48M in new research funding in FY 2024. We completed the first year of offering a full suite of undergraduate programs in Data Science, leading to a certificate, minor, and major (BS or BA degree), graduating an inaugural class of 17 Data

Science majors. The School of Arts and Sciences has also published a [Strategic Plan](#). I look forward to working with everyone as we in MPS consider how we can contribute to advancing this strategic plan.

Thu D. Nguyen



Image Credit: Nick Romanenko, Rutgers University

Top Highlights:



This past year, MPS Staff and Faculty were widely recognized and honored for their dedication, performance, and commitment to excellence. Read more about the honorees of the [Presidential Employee Excellence Recognition Program](#) and the [New Brunswick Chancellor and Provost Awards for Faculty Excellence](#).



We completed the first year of offering the full suite of undergraduate program in [Data Science](#) with 17 students graduating as majors, 72 earning minors, and 33 earning certificates. The related program [SEED2S](#) (Student Excellence Equity and Diversity in Data Science) served an inaugurated cohort of 41 students and has accepted a second cohort of 86 students this Fall semester. Our faculty is also hard at work to develop novel learning platforms to meet the demand for Data Science education- [read more here](#).

Departmental Highlights:

Department Highlights

Robert Kopp

Jing Li

Kristen McQuinn

Dimitris Metaxas

Annie Wei



Chemistry and Chemical Biology- The Rutgers University Board of Governors has appointed Jing Li Board of Governors Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology in recognition of her academic accomplishments that surpass the extremely high standards of distinction. The designation celebrates the most decorated academic scholars at the university. [Click here to read more.](#)

Computer Science- The Rutgers University Board of Governors has appointed Dimitris Metaxas, internationally recognized for his extensive and seminal contributions to the research areas of computer vision, medical image analysis, and graphics, including novel contributions to deep machine learning, a Board of Governors Professor of Computer Science. [Click here to read more.](#)

Earth and Planetary Sciences- Distinguished Professor Robert Kopp, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, was named Guggenheim fellow. Kopp was one of 188 fellows selected this year from a pool of 3,000 across 52 disciplines. This fund will help support Prof. Kopp's upcoming project on sea-level change and climate adaptation. [Click here to read more.](#)

Physics and Astronomy- Rutgers astronomer Kristen McQuinn has been selected mission head for the Science Operations Center for NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, an observatory designed to answer many scientific questions while deepening humankind's understanding of dark energy – an unknown energy source causing the universe's expansion to accelerate. [Click here](#)

[to read more.](#)

Mathematics- Annie Wei was one out of four Rutgers University-New Brunswick students who have been selected as Goldwater Scholars, a prestigious national honor for undergraduates who plan to pursue research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering. [Click here to read more.](#)

Additional Department Highlights:

Computer Science- Rutgers Computer Science Department is pleased to share Professor James Abello and his team were awarded The Best Paper Award at the 13th International Conference on Data Science, Technology and Applications (DATA 2024). [Click here to read more.](#)

Earth and Planetary Sciences- NASA has selected Juliane Gross, a professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, to be a member of the geology team supporting the Artemis III mission, the first crewed lunar landing mission in more than 50 years. "We can't wait to get started," Gross said. "As one big team, we will plan the areas to be explored within the South Polar region of the Moon, map out the paths the astronauts will take on the surface and determine the science activities they will carry out. [Click here to read more.](#)

Mathematics and Computer Science- Andrew Krapivin, Mathematics and Computer Science double major was named a Churchill Scholar, becoming the first Rutgers student in a decade to win this prestigious award that will fund his graduate study at the University of Cambridge in England. [Click here to read more.](#)

Physics and Astronomy- Newborn galaxies looked weirder than expected and according to images captured from the James Webb Space telescope their elongated appearance suggests a three-dimensional structure skin akin to that of a banana. A former RU undergraduate Viraj

Pandya (BS'13) discusses his study as featured on the front page of NY Times article. [Click here to read more.](#)

MPS by the numbers

244

Tenured/Tenured Track

94

Non-Tenured Track

106

Staff

79

Postdocs

1,144

Graduate Students

1,174

Awarded Majors

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