



RESEARCH + INNOVATION

NEWSLETTER



Memphis Research Leader, Jasbir Dhaliwal, Calls for Open Agricultural AI in Davos

UofM EVP for Research and Innovation spoke during a high-level panel discussion, urging global institutions to recommit to research that impacts the public good.

[Read Full Story](#)



Spinout Bootcamp Earns Statewide Commercialization Award

UofM's pilot initiative designed to accelerate the commercialization of high-potential university research and expand Tennessee's innovation ecosystem.

[Read Full Story](#)



Beetle Believed to be Extinct Rediscovered by UofM Researchers

Dr. Duane McKenna and PhD candidate Michael Charles announce the rediscovery of the greater chestnut weevil; the last known observation of the weevil, according to Charles, was in 1997. Also featured on the [cover of the journal *Current Biology*](#).

[Read Full Story](#)



Research in a Minute: Featuring researcher Dr. Laura Casey

As a professor in the College of Education's Department of Instruction and Curriculum Leadership, Casey's research centers on applied behavior analysis and special education.

[Read Full Story](#)



Dr. Ricky Leung Receives Prestigious NIH Award to Advance AI-ML Solutions for Public Health

New AI Lab positions the UofM at the forefront of responsible public health innovation and strengthens University's leadership in AI-driven health solutions.

[Read Full Story](#)



Distracted Driving Project Advances Traffic Safety Across the State of Tennessee

ATHSO-funded research and outreach combines crash data dashboards, behavioral studies and public awareness campaigns to reduce roadway distractions.

[Read Full Story](#)



AHRQ, Burroughs Wellcome Fund, DOT, HRSA, NIH and NSF Funding Opportunities

Learn more about recently published funding opportunities and notices from various organizations.

[See Full List](#)



Calendar of Events and Activities for Research and Innovation: February

Learn about upcoming events with Research and Innovation, UMRF Research Park and FedEx Institute of Technology events.

[See Full List](#)

Research Awards December 2025

Ladonnal Curry awarded \$5,400,000 from the State of Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs.

Dr. Stephanie Ivey awarded \$1,605,125 by the Federal Railroad Association and \$45,000 from the Transportation Research Board.

Kathryn Ramsey awarded \$300,000 from the Urban Child.

Dr. Sabyasachee Mishra awarded \$179,999 from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and \$50,000 each from StartCo, Tennessee Valley Authority and FedEx Corporation.

Dr. Randolph Dupont awarded \$132,000 by the City of Memphis.

Dr. Michael Brown awarded \$37,173 from National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Carolyn Kaldon awarded \$33,320 by National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Leslie Luebbers awarded \$10,800 from the Tennessee Arts Commission.

Dr. Raghav Jha awarded \$10,000 from the American Speech Language Hearing Foundation.

Dr. Jani Johnson awarded \$1,750 by Samsung Research America, Inc.

Dr. Keith Bowers awarded \$1,450 from the American Ornithological Society.

Dr. LaSheba Hilliard awarded \$1,000 from the Tennessee Council for Exceptional Children.

**Data reported on the 18 of each month. Awards finalized after the 18 will be reported the following month.*

[Full project and award details available here.](#)

Research Awards January 2026

Edmond McDavis III awarded \$321,118 by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Mary Tucker awarded \$5,000 by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

**Data reported on the 18 of each month. Awards finalized after the 18 will be reported the following month.*

[Full project and award details available here.](#)

Upcoming Events and Announcements



FedEx Institute of Technology

Speed-Networking for University Spinouts

The Office of Technology Transfer will host this speed-networking event to connect potential executives interested in working with university spin-out companies, and with faculty who have, or are, thinking about forming companies to commercialize their research.

Five of the University's current Spinout Bootcamp companies will be presenting. The companies include:

UpCycle Farma - <https://www.upcyclefarma.com>

ChormatoCare Innovations - <https://www.chromatocareinnovations.com>

Mighty Zebras - <https://www.mightyzebras.bio>

CuesHub - <https://cueshub.com>

P3ARL - <https://www.p3arltech.com>

Join us!

Feb. 25 | 3-5 PM

The Fishbowl (203/205) | FedEx Institute of Technology

Register



Technology Serving Humanity
"Climates and Change in the Mediterranean" with Dr. Brandon McDonald

The Mediterranean region has experienced dramatic climatic shifts throughout history — from era-defining prehistoric transitions to influential phases of Classical antiquity — through to today's unprecedented warming. This talk examines the ways in which climate change and weather events affected diverse Mediterranean societies, with focus on the Greco-Roman period. It challenges simplistic environmental-determinism narratives, exploring how ecological change impacted the trajectories of ancient societies and what their outcomes might teach us about navigating our current climate crisis.

Feb. 26 | 3-4:30 PM

Methodist Presentation Theatre (103) | FedEx Institute of Technology

Register



Memphis Data Professionals **Speed Networking for Data and Finance**

Join Memphis Data Professionals for a structured, professional speed networking event designed to build high-quality connections across Memphis's data and finance ecosystem. This event brings together data analysts, engineers, AI/ML practitioners, finance professionals, CPAs and students for efficient, focused conversations. Through guided five-minute rotations, participants engage in intentional discussions that prioritize relevance and mutual value. Ideal for professionals and students in data-driven fields seeking purposeful connections, insights and long-term professional relationships.

Feb. 26 | 5:30-7:30 PM

Register



Division of Research and Innovation **CoRS Pitch Competition**

Selected CoRS applicants that are preliminarily approved will be invited to pitch their project concept to their peers and the CoRS evaluation committee. For more details, contact Research Development at researchdev@memphis.edu.

Feb. 27 | NOON-2 PM
Bluff Room (304) | Maxine A. Smith University Center

Learn More



FedEx Institute of Technology **GiveCamp Memphis Hackathon**

GiveCamp Memphis is a weekend-long, volunteer-driven event where technology and creative professionals donate their skills to support local nonprofits. Web developers, designers, marketers, social media strategists and data professionals collaborate to deliver websites, branding, databases and digital strategies in just one weekend. Selected nonprofits receive hands-on support and practical solutions to strengthen their impact. Volunteers gain meaningful community experience, build connections and use their expertise to help organizations do more good, more effectively.

Feb. 27-March 1

The Zone, Lobby, MPT, Fishbowl (203/205), Innovation Classroom (225)

FedEx Institute of Technology

Register



2026 Research Celebration Faculty Book Publications

The Division of Research and Innovation is hosting the **2026 Research Celebration on March 30**. As part of this event, we compile a list of faculty book publications from the past year. This list is self-reported by faculty.

Faculty members who have published or will publish a book (monograph, edited volume, etc.) between **May 2025 and June 2026** are asked to email the book citation to researchdev@memphis.edu.

Please note that only books will be included. Book chapters, journal articles, or other scholarly publications will not be listed. The submitted information will be published on the [Research Celebration website](#).

Please share this request with faculty in your respective schools or colleges.

[Submit Book Citation](#)



Research Study Participation Opportunities

Research study participation opportunities should be posted to the main college/departmental website versus individual/PI links to appear in This Week.

- [Center for Information Assurance >](#)
- [Cognition, Language and Speech Lab \(CLaSLab\) >](#)
- [College of Health Sciences >](#)
- [Department of Psychology >](#)
- [Hearing Aid Research Laboratory >](#)
- [Pediatric Auditory Research Laboratory >](#)

If your department or college would like to have its research study participation opportunities listed, email thisweek@memphis.edu.

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