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Message from the Dean

Science instructional growth and creative engagement

By Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

Well…we can also take pride in the fact that the College of Science is fueling Mason's growth on the instructional side as well. As of Friday, September 4, 2020, our college had an overall enrollment of 11,398 students. This was an overall growth of 6.9% over last year's fall semester. This is the second biggest growth in the college's history and a leading contributor to the university's fall instructional growth.

In a previous newsletter, I shared our college is at the heart of Mason's R-1 research success; that is set to conduct an ambitious high time resolution survey of the entire sky visible with a digital camera.

By Elizabeth Grisham

The North American Nanohertz Observatory for Gravitational Waves (NANOGrav) pulsar timing array for measuring fundamental physics is about to embark on its most ambitious mission yet. This high time resolution survey of the entire sky visible with a digital camera will explore the role of black holes and neutron stars in the universe.

Iulia Deneva, a scientist at the National Science Foundation's office and part of the NANOGrav scientific collaboration, is part of an international research team that is working to link plate tectonics, weathering, and ocean oxygenation across the two most important geobiological events in Earth history—when oxygen first entered Earth's atmosphere and the rise and fall of the supercontinent Pannotia. Deneva, along with colleagues at the University of Arizona, discovered the Neoproterozoic Era in Siberia, a critical time period for understanding the formation of Earth's first atmosphere.

Maria Emelianenko, Assistant Professor, Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences, for a discussion with Mason’s President, Gregory Washington. Other sessions will be held with Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Student Officer, our own Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm, and Mary Ellen O'Toole, Director of the Women Building Bio Women’s Leadership Program.

Inclusion Officer, our own Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm, and I are working together to establish a fund to support underrepresented women who seek to continue their education in the STEM fields.

In the News

Thought Leadership

Mason President and Science Dean Debut as Leaders in Supporting Women Building Bio

Speaking on stage at the recent Association for Women in Science (AWIS) annual conference, Mason President and former president of Texas A&M University, Gregory Washington, and Science Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm, highlighted Mason's support of the Women Building Bio organization.

Washington and Miralles-Wilhelm both discussed the need for increased diversity in STEM fields, pointing out that women and minorities are underrepresented in these fields. They emphasized the importance of supporting women in STEM, and noted that Mason is committed to doing so.

Washington and Miralles-Wilhelm also discussed Mason's support of the Women Building Bio organization, which aims to provide opportunities and resources for women in STEM. Mason is a member of this organization, and Washington and Miralles-Wilhelm spoke about the importance of having strong representation in STEM fields.

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