Science instructional growth and creative engagement

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Subject: Mason Science Newsletter – September 8, 2020

Dear Mason Family,

As we approach the third month of the fall semester, I want to provide an update on our College’s academic programs.

In the past few weeks, we have seen growth across the entire College of Science. Our enrollment is up 5.3% compared to last year, and our credit hour growth is over 7.2% compared to last fall.

This growth is due to a number of factors, including new programs, increased student interest in our traditional sciences, and overall academic success.

Let’s take a closer look at the numbers:

- Chemistry, systems biology, and physics and astronomy have led our College’s overall credit hour growth for the fall 2020 semester.
- The College of Science is fueling Mason's growth in several ways. For example, our research proposals are set to generate over $32 million. (This was even the answer to one of the ScienceConnect trivia questions last week).
- The College has a strong focus on research, and our students, faculty, and staff are making significant contributions.

In addition to our academic programs, we have a number of events and initiatives happening this month:

- The Mason Science Department recognizes students for academic excellence. The Kinter join event is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, from 3 to 5 p.m. to celebrate outstanding students.
- The Virginia’s Climate Future event is on Tuesday, September 15, at 8 p.m. to discuss the impact of climate change and its solutions.
- Inside Science (Our Universe): Stellar Astronomy is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, at 11 a.m.
- Molecular probes and proteomics: discovery of new biomarkers and new therapeutic targets in the Fall.
- Maria Emelianenko from the Department of Mathematical Sciences will speak on a panel with other experts on the topic of firearm ownership and the LGBTQ community.
- The North American Nanohertz Observatory for Gravitational Waves (NANOGrav) is a joint effort between 10 research institutions, including Mason scientists. The team aims to find millisecond pulsars (MSPs) to add to an active pulsar timing array for nanohertz gravitational wave detection. The telescope is based in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. The team aims to find millisecond pulsars (MSPs) to add to an active pulsar timing array for nanohertz gravitational wave detection. This project is set to conduct an ambitious high time resolution survey of the entire sky visible with a single telescope.
- Mason scientists among the recipients of NSF grants.
- Department of Geography and Geoinformation is seeking new students.
- By Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

We are navigating uncharted waters at Mason, but our dedication to excellence and commitment to academics remains strong. We are proud of the work our students, faculty, and staff are doing, and we look forward to continuing our success.

Thank you for being part of the Mason family.

Sincerely,

Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm