Dear Mason Science Community,

The year has come to an end and I hope that everyone had a chance to take a long weekend to rest and recharge. So many things happened this year and I feel grateful to have gotten to know you all better. As I reflect back on the last year, I appreciate the hard work that everyone did to keep our community a safe and challenging environment. Especially at a time where so many challenges were faced, the commitment that Mason Science community showed is simply remarkable. Thank you for your sacrifices and your perseverance.

I’ve enjoyed working with more of you this semester and hope to continue doing so. The last issue of the 2020 College of Science newsletter will be published Thursday, December 17, and the first newsletter of 2021 will be published Thursday, January 21.

In the past year, Mason Science has had the opportunity to work with different parts of the campus on COVID-19 research targeting individual’s immune or antibody status. The study aims to refine COVID-19 testing and antibody testing to identify individuals immune or antibody positive. It also aims to help frontline workers deal with the stress and anxiety of working during the pandemic. The study was led by Dr. Mary Ellen O’Toole from the College of Science and College of Health and Human Services professor Amira Roess. The research underway by Mason’s Center for Forensic Science and the Forensic Science Program is just becoming the eighth forensic science program to be recognized by the Standards for the Proficiency of Forensic Laboratories.

The Office of the Provost is offering grants for Summer Team Impact Projects (STIP) for Summer 2021. These grants are intended for Mason students and faculty and will support multidisciplinary projects that explore a central theme, a research question, or a community identified problem. Proposals are due Friday, December 4.

The Mason Science Community will celebrate the accomplishments of the College of Science faculty and staff on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, through a virtual Celebration of Success. Join Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm to recognize and appreciate all College of Science faculty and staff.

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Each December, the College of Science celebrates our faculty and staff. Why is it critical to take time to nominate and celebrate such good works? Because I believe meaningful employee recognition is a cornerstone of a healthy, growing culture of positive recognition so critical to our organization during this time of unprecedented change. Thank you also to the people who took time to nominate their peers for you are driving the unprecedented change.

Despite the virtual nature of our workplace, thanks to the annual Dean’s Awards to be shared at next Tuesday’s Celebration of Success, I feel I’ve gotten to know a good bit more about the excellent work being done by many across the college. Of course, I’d have much preferred to connect with you during face to face meetings. I still may have only met some of you by Zoom or shared my thoughts with you about this organization by email.

It’s been almost 6 months since I’ve joined Mason’s College of Science and it seems crazy to me that I’ve been here 6 months already. The last half of this year has been busy for Mason Science and I’m excited to see what next year will bring.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to Mason and its students’ safety and education is unmatched.

By Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm