College-Wide Strategic Priorities

Develop Scientific Leaders
Promote World-Changing Discovery
Create Impact

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Astronomy  Promote Discovery
McDonald Observatory will celebrate its 75th anniversary this year under the leadership of new director Dr. Taft Armandroff, who joins the university in June 2014. As the founding partner of one of the world’s largest telescopes, McDonald Observatory is pioneering the next generation of astronomical research.

Computer Science  Develop Leaders
Undergraduates pursuing careers in cybersecurity may now be eligible for scholarship support. A $1.25M NSF grant awarded to Bruce Porter and Bill Young makes possible student scholarships for those computer science majors who want to intensively study cybersecurity and privacy. The INFOSEC Certificate Program in Computer Sciences helps prepare students to emerge as leaders upon graduation.

Statistics  Create Impact
The Department of Statistics & Data Sciences has been officially approved by the UT Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, effective August 2014. What began as a small interdisciplinary division is now a thriving academic unit that serves thousands of undergraduate and graduate students each year while supporting faculty across campus through direct collaboration and research support. Departmental status will allow SDS to further advance statistics education and data-enabled research at the University.

Chemistry  Create Impact
Outreach efforts and priorities are getting a boost under the faculty leadership of David Vandenbout, Stacy Sparks and Jessica Meyer. This faculty team is establishing an outreach website that will track and expand faculty outreach involvement by helping assistant professors align their career/center/program grants with on-going outreach efforts in the department.
**Mathematics  Develop Leaders**

Dean Hicke has committed funds to strengthen and enhance the six R. H. Bing Fellowships in Mathematics as part of the College's commitment toward building prestigious post-doctoral fellowships. Each of the Bing Fellows will hold an Instructorship in Mathematics with a teaching load of two courses per academic year. Selected for their superior research ability and strong commitment to teaching, Bing Fellows have a powerful impact on both the research and teaching mission of the Department of Mathematics.

**Molecular Biosciences  Promote Discovery**

Creating a nationally prominent Center for Infectious Disease was a top priority for faculty in the College's largest and most interdisciplinary department. This Fall, the Center was formally established. Its long-term goals include promoting interdisciplinary infectious disease research, establishing mentoring programs for students and faculty, building ties to local and national medical centers, and translating the results of research into clinical and public health practice.

**School of Human Ecology  Develop Leaders**

A new student organization, the School of Human Ecology Ambassadors, was created by faculty and staff to strengthen the outreach to undergraduate students in Human Ecology. The inaugural 12 student ambassadors will force on service to the School of Human Ecology by implementing and supporting projects, events, and initiatives designed to serve all students.

**Marine Science  Create Impact**

Efforts to create a strong Marine Science presence on the main UT campus resulted in several important renovations and classroom modifications this Fall. Marine Science students now have access to a functional ERC A/V classroom and recording studio for distance learning with Port Aransas. In addition, Marine Science faculty and staff can now meet with students in furnished office space in BIO. Finally, four travel awards enabled students to present their own research at The Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans (SACNAS) in San Diego and The Coastal and Estuarine Research Conference in San Antonio.