College-Wide Strategic Priorities

Develop Scientific Leaders
Promote World-Changing Discovery
Create Impact

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Chemistry  Create Impact
The faculty outreach team has established an outreach section on their website (http://www.cm.utexas.edu/department/demos) that tracks faculty outreach involvement and associated costs to maximize impact. The consolidation of the analytical lab courses provided a tremendous savings to the department and college. In an effort to enhance opportunities for departmental collaborations, the “Meet Your Colleagues” seminar lunch program has had a successful launch this spring.

Computer Science  Develop Leaders
The Turing Scholars program has recruited the strongest class of incoming Scholars in its history along with having the highest percentage of women (22%). Enrollment controls have been instituted with the help of Sacha Kopp and Cathy Stacy to help improve the educational experience for Computer Science majors. Final approval for the joint degree programs with ICES and the School of Information have been obtained as well.

School of Human Ecology  Develop Leaders
Rapid growth in the Honors program has been seen over the past 2 years with an anticipated 90 students next year. These students work directly with faculty members in the FRI program and are eligible to compete for 6 $500 awards in this year’s Undergraduate Research Forum (URF). In 2013-14, students from the School won 4 of the 6 awards.

Mathematics  Develop Leaders
Beginning September 1, 2014, with the support of Dean Linda Hicke, the six R. H. Bing Fellowships in Mathematics will have improved salary and teaching loads, as part of the College’s commitment toward building prestigious post-doctoral fellowships. The Mathematics Department is the proud recipient of two Dean’s Excellence Graduate Fellowships that include improved stipends. Mathematics is working closely with Kelsey Evans, the director of the CNS Development Office, toward establishing a Task Force for the department.
Marine Science  Create Impact
A newly developed career path seminar series has been established for the Marine Science Department. They have invited and scheduled leaders within the scientific community to speak to and guide students. This series was coordinated through the efforts of the CNS Career Development Office. In an effort to further improve the outstanding graduate program, with the generosity of various donors’ gifts, the department has successfully increased funding for its graduate students by more than 10%.

Physics  Promote Discovery
Additional laboratory space has been created in the Robert Lee Moore Hall building to further advance research efforts by moving the unused equipment to storage on the JJ Pickle Research campus. In order to strengthen graduate student support, the department has developed a system that uses Fellowship funds to increase that support by giving supplemental funds to our best graduate students.

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. The new department welcomes its first two faculty hires: Dr. Lizhen Lin and Dr. Purnamitra Sarkar. In Spring 2014, the corporate partnership program provided 2 MS in Statistics students the opportunity to work with Freescale on a real-world data problem. Lastly, the department has completed its 2nd recruiting season for the PhD in Statistics Program that resulted in 6 commitments, 2 of which received fellowship support.