

Provost Update to Senate February 25, 2021

As in recent months past, our office published a newsletter with lots of current information in it. Please take a look for more details: <https://provost.catholic.edu/newsletters>

TEACHING - SPRING

- Students have the option to elect to be fully remote in the spring by filling out this [form](#). If students tell you they are going remote, please have them complete this form as it will help with ongoing planning.
- We administered a progress report campaign for all undergraduate students. It opened on February 18 and will close on March 5. Thank you to everyone who has already responded. CACS is doing outreach to students as needed; please encourage faculty advisors to do outreach as well.
 - 18,720 evaluations sent.
- We are requesting that midterm grades be entered for all undergraduate students by March 12.
- The university is approaching our storage limit with Blackboard Learn. We will start removing course materials from Spring 2019 starting on March 1. Please make sure you have backed up any course materials you need prior to March 1.
- The Assistant Director of Academic Support, Grants and Fellowships oversaw nineteen student applications for nationally competitive fellowships during the 2020–2021 application cycle (2 Marshall, 7 Fulbright, 4 Critical Language, 4 Truman, and 2 Boren Scholarship applicants), a significant increase from 2019–2020 (1 Marshall, 4 Fulbright). Although this year’s Marshall and Critical Language Scholarship applicants were not successful, a remarkable five of the seven Fulbright applicants are now semi-finalists and await final decisions in March/April.
- We will be doing a mid-term course feedback process. In addition to this mid-semester survey administered by the university, instructors can create brief and anonymous course-specific surveys throughout the semester to gain immediate feedback from students. On March 10th at 1pm, the [Center for Teaching Excellence](#) will host a presentation on how to best collect and respond to student feedback; you can register here:
<https://cua.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqceGhqzMjGNPz5MhBIhKPDZEmeUbMnKv>

UNIVERSITY PRESS

- Even during the pandemic, when other universities are cutting such activities, Trevor Lipscombe led Catholic University of America Press to a record year in sales: <https://communications.catholic.edu/news/2021/02/catholic-press.html>
- Thanks to Trevor and all involved in the publication process, we publish world-class content, and we are one of very few university presses that is regularly making a profit.

NEW GRANT AWARDS

- Award from NASA to Simone DiMatteo, Physics, A&S, \$587,744 for “Geo-effectiveness of Solar Wind Periodic Density Structures”.

- Award from NASA to Martin Cordiner, Physics, A&S, \$790,692 for “The Origin and Evolution of Organic Matter in Interstellar and Planetary Environments”.

PROPOSAL ACTIVITY

- Proposal to Scintilex, Inc. from Greg Kalicy, Physics, A&S, \$504,573 for “High Performance Glass Scintillators for Nuclear Physics Experiments”.
- Proposal to NASA from Gang Kai Poh, Physics, A&S, \$755,044 for “Dynamics and Particle Energization Associated with the Dissipation of Earth-Moving Flux Ropes in Earth’s Plasma Sheath.
- Proposal to NASA from PEtr Pokorny, Physics, A&S, \$351,071 for “Next Generation Model of the Dust Environment in the Solar System”.
- Proposal to NASA from Juan Diego Carrillo Sanchez, Physics, A&S, \$321,328 for “Constraining the Seasonal, Spatial, and Diurnal Distribution of the Meteoric Metal Layers on Terrestrial Upper Atmospheres”.
- Proposal to NSF from Laura Micheli, Civil Engineering, Engineering, \$386,587 for “A Unified Multidimensional Fragility Framework to Impacts of Compound Flooding on Urban Coastal Systems ”.
- Proposal to NSF from Kiran Bhutani, Mathematics, A&S, \$299,988 for “Enhancing Student Help-Seeking Behavior and Reinforcing Problem-Solving Skills (E-SHARP)”.
- Proposal to NASA from Andrew Inglis, Physics, A&S, \$593,533 for “Understanding the Energy Balance of Solar Flares via Combined SDO/AIA and RHESSI Observations and Hydrodynamic Simulations”.
- Proposal to NASA from Cristian Ferradas, Physics, A&S, \$679,191 for “Investigation of the Causes and Effects of the Storm-Time Ion Ring Current Delay”.

FACULTY RESEARCH AWARDS

- The Provost's Faculty Research Awards nomination process is now underway.
- There was an email earlier this week to all faculty. You can also access the forms here: <https://provost.catholic.edu/forms/index.html>
- Nominations from tenured or tenure-track faculty will be due March 5, 2021 to the Dean of the nominee's School. The Dean may also add nominations.
- The Dean will forward selected nominees to the Faculty Research Awards Selection Committee will recommend awardees in each category which will then be forward to me
- Award recipients will be recognized during sessions at Catholic University Research Day, April 15, 2021.
- Contact Ralph Albano for questions: albano@cua.edu
- Thank you for the work you are doing, especially during these crazy times!

FACULTY GRANT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- The university will provide faculty webinars discussing proposal strategies for major federal agency programs. Previous and upcoming webinars include:

- January: Department of Defense Early Investigators Program (10 faculty attended)
- March: NIH
- April: NSF Early Career Program

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH DAY

- The Deadline for abstract submission for the 2021 University Research Day was February 19. We received 215 submissions for poster or oral presentations.. This is down only 14% from last year (250), where the deadline was pre-Covid.
- Dr. Venigalla Rao, Biology, A&S has been confirmed as the Keynote speaker. His talk will be on “Design of COVID-19 Vaccine by CRISPR Engineering of Bacteriophage T4”.

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

- Based on the February 17th Fall 2021 Graduate Application Statistics Report:
 - Fall 2021 Master’s Statistics (compared to Fall 2020 – comparison date of 2/13/2020)
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 26 applications (-5.9%);
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 5 admissions (-2.3%);
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 9 deposits (-23.1%).
 - Fall 2021 Doctoral Statistics (compared to Fall 2020 – comparison date of 2/13/2020)
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 69 applications (-14.6%);
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 29 admissions (-34.5%);
 - Overall, there is an increase of 2 deposits (+20.0%).

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

- See [here](#) for the February 17th Undergraduate [application report](#).
- See [here](#) for the February 17th Undergraduate [admit report](#).
- See [here](#) for the February 17th Undergraduate [deposit report](#).

GLOBAL STRATEGIES

- Rome Program opportunities for faculty. Application deadline is 03/05/2021. Regular full-time Catholic University faculty are invited to apply to teach undergraduate courses in the Catholic University Rome Program that are both appropriate to the location and suitable for a wide range of Catholic University undergraduate majors. Cross-listed courses are highly encouraged. Faculty in Rome may expect a teaching load of three undergraduate courses. The department chair or school dean will determine, based on the needs of the department or school, the teaching load for the semester spent at Catholic

University prior to or following the Rome Program appointment. More information in the OGS [call for proposals](#).

- The Rome Center [website](#) has been updated. Get to know our Rome Center faculty through [videos](#) they have made to introduce themselves and their courses in Rome.
- Virtual study abroad fair week was a great success with dozens of students participating online to learn more about study abroad at Catholic University.
- Summer 2021 and Fall 2021 study abroad is still under consideration. The University anticipates making decisions on a program-by-program basis no later than March 15 and June 1, respectively.