

CAS Dean's Report to the UFC

Prepared by Dean Keith Mellinger

March 2021

The college completed searches for two tenure-track faculty in computer science, both positions funded by statewide initiatives (the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative and the Tech Talent Investment Program). TTIP is also the source of funding for the renovations currently under development for the basement of Farmer Hall. Physics is the only other program where we completed a tenure-track hire. In addition to these positions, the provost recently approved the hiring of four more visiting assistant professors in key areas where we have significant staffing challenges due to retirements or resignations: Studio Art, Psychology, Religion, and Environmental Science. In total, we will have 12 visiting faculty next year in Arts and Sciences, an unusually high number for us (there are 209 full-time faculty in CAS).

With the approval of the *Pipeline to Promise* funding, the nursing program will finally see some much-needed expansion. We have started the process of hiring a third faculty member for the program, subject to final approval of the state budget. In addition, we hope to be able to hire at least a part-time staff member to support coordination with area high schools and Germanna Community College.

Despite the challenges of COVID, the annual celebration of student work, Research and Creativity Day, will proceed this year in a virtual format (just as we did last year). Coordinated by Assistant Dean Betsy Lewis, the program will feature videos of students delivering their presentations and creative projects, or displaying their posters during a 2-day program, April 29-30. All can be viewed virtually at www.umwrcd.net, and we would like to encourage everybody to visit the site and leave comments for our student presenters. It is very meaningful to them.

Following the tremendous success of [COVID-19 in Context](#) last summer, we will be offering a summer course in 2021, free for all, including new and continuing UMW students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members. The 5-week, 2-credit course, titled *Life After COVID*, takes a more forward-looking approach to the pandemic, again pulling on the expertise of faculty from across the university. The course runs Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, June 1 – July 1, and more details, plus a link to register, are forthcoming. As was the case last year, everybody is donating their time to deliver this course, and all donations to the course will flow directly into our [Beyond the Classroom](#) endowment for student research and learning.

Please encourage your alumni and friends to give to your programs on April 13 - [Giving Day](#)!

Finally, if you have not yet heard, one of our physics majors, Henry Mills, is the recipient of a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship!