MISSION
The College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics is committed to excellence in each of its primary missions of teaching, research, and service. The College is dedicated to being a leading resource for research and education within Texas and throughout the world.

DEAN
Dan E. Wells, Ph.D.

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS
- Biology and Biochemistry
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Chemistry
- Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
- Physics

CORE VALUES
- Outstanding Teaching
- Innovative Science with Global Visibility
- Collegiality and Academic Freedom
- Commitment to Diversity among Faculty and Students
- Academic Excellence

OUR FACULTY
Tenured or Tenure Track: 210

OUR STUDENTS
- Undergraduate Majors: 3,800
- Graduate Students: 1,021
- Post-Baccalaureate Students: 253

DEGREES AWARDED
- Bachelor’s: 710
- Master’s: 202
- Doctoral: 83

DEMOGRAPHICS
- Female: 43%
- Male: 57%
- African-American: 6%
- Asian-American: 29%
- Hispanic: 21%
- International: 15%
- White: 25%
- Other: 4%

RECENT STUDENT AWARDS
- Goldwater Scholarship:
  - Khanh Nguyen (2014)
  - Lindsey Brier (2013)
  - Mason Biamonte (2012)
- Top 10 College Women:
  - Vanessa Alejandro (2015)
- Udall Scholarship:
  - Vanessa Alejandro (2014)

RESEARCH EXPENDITURES
$32 Million (Grants & Contracts)

RECENT FACULTY AWARDS
- American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellows:
  - Dan Graur and Mary Ann Ottinger (2014)
- American Chemical Society Arthur C. Cope Award:
  - Olafs Daugulis (2014)
- American Chemical Society Fellow:
  - Richard Willson (2014)
- American Physical Society Fellows:
  - Kevin E. Bassler and Wu-Pei Su (2014)
- Geological Society of America Fellow:
  - Michael A. Murphy (2014)
- Humboldt Research Fellowship:
  - Bernhard Bodmann (2014)
- National Academy of Inventors:
  - Allan Jacobson and Richard Willson (2014)
- NSF CAREER Awards:
  - Yuliya Gorb, Jeremy May and Thamar Solorio (2014)
- Society for Exploration Geophysicists J. Clarence Karcher Award:
- Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics Fellow:
  - Suncica Canic (2014)
- UH Teaching Excellence Awards:
  - 32 faculty recipients (2010-2015)
INNOVATIVE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Freshman Interest Groups (FIGs)
NSM offers an interactive, small-group course designed to improve the first-year experience of students, making the transition to university life easier. Groups consist of 10-15 students who are taking two to four science courses together. FIGs meet weekly, creating a support system for students and leading to built-in study groups. Course modules cover Getting Connected, Academic Growth, Academic Advising, and Career Development, and introduce students to university programs and resources. The course, overseen by the Undergraduate Advising Center, also provides opportunities to discuss concerns, issues, and successes.

Increasing Student Success in Entry-Level Math and Sciences Classes
A $1.5 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute supports NSM faculty members’ efforts to redesign introductory chemistry, biology, physics and mathematics courses. Through the program, professors are changing the way the material is presented and increasing the amount of hands-on learning in the classroom. Students also have access to peer-led learning sessions designed to reinforce difficult topics and improve study skills.

Scholar Enrichment Program (SEP)
This program focuses on improving the academic experience and performance of NSM students. Through peer-to-peer workshops that improve learning and problem-solving skills, SEP helps nearly 1,200 students each year succeed in basic science and math courses. SEP also has tutoring programs and funding to assist students with the financial aspect of school.

teach HOUSTON
A partnership between NSM and the College of Education, teachHOUSTON is changing the way future secondary math and science teachers are trained. Students participate in classroom teaching throughout their four years at UH with rotations at local elementary, middle, and high schools. They learn valuable teaching skills from mentor teachers at public schools and master teachers at UH. Ninety percent of the graduates continue as public school teachers beyond two years.

RECENT SIGNIFICANT GRANTS

“Mutation Accumulation in the Ciliate Tetrahymena thermophila”
Investigator: Rebecca Zufall, Ph.D.
Funding: $1.9 Million from National Institutes of Health

“Epithelial Mesenchymal Transition in Gastrointestinal Homeostatis and Disease”
Investigator: Seema Khurana, Ph.D.
Funding: $1.8 Million from National Institutes of Health

“New Methods for Direct Carbon-Hydrogen Bond Functionalization”
Investigator: Olafs Daugulis, Ph.D.
Funding: $1.8 Million from National Institutes of Health

“Selected Problems in Relativistic Heavy Ion Physics in ALICE at the LHC”
Investigator: Rene Bellwied, Ph.D.
Funding: $1.7 Million from U.S. Department of Energy

“Particle Physics Research at the University of Houston”
Investigator: Kwong Lau, Ph.D.
Funding: $1.3 Million from U.S. Department of Energy