

Another academic year has begun! Here in the Division of Natural Sciences & Mathematics, there is a buzz in the air as both new and old faces appear in our classrooms, offices and hallways.

Looking ahead to fall quarter and beyond, I'm excited to announce new developments and initiatives. We have seven new faculty members joining the Division this fall, with expertise ranging from climate change to vertex operator algebra. I'm proud that NSM has attracted this cadre of superbly qualified teacher-scholars who will help take our research programs to the next level and foster transformative experiences for students.

Speaking of students, NSM continues to offer its students—undergraduates as well as graduates—unprecedented access to research opportunities. It is thanks to generous scholarship funds that we can provide the world-class research opportunities associated with a large university while maintaining the intimate class sizes and one-on-one mentoring expected from a small liberal arts college.

Over the coming year, we look forward to developing our biophysics program – a graduate program that brings together a large and dynamic cluster of researchers with aligned interests in biology, physics, and biochemistry. We will also continue to grow the Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging (KIHA), in which NSM faculty will have a central role in research that improves quality of life, wellness, and community.

In May 2017, NSM hosted its inaugural Dale Tooley Cancer Research Lecture. Dr. Dan Theodorescu from the University of Colorado Medical School at Anschutz campus presented his research, "Translating Cancer Biology into Cancer Therapies," to a crowd of nearly 100. We plan to host our second such lecture during the upcoming academic year.

Also on the research front, we are gearing up to submit proposals for scientific instrumentation grants from the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health next year. For smaller instruments, we can always use help from our friends and supporters.

Over the past year, we've been working to bolster our STEM outreach efforts. In addition to our NSMentoring: Face2Face program for first year students, we're proud to offer E-STEM (Equity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) this fall. A new program, E-STEM aims to nurture the strengths of incoming undergraduates from historically underrepresented backgrounds who elect to major in STEM subjects at DU. Our faculty have also been involved in the launch of Math|Culture|Environment, which serves Native American youth

in the Denver area. In addition, this past summer our faculty brought high school students from underserved communities in the Denver metro area to campus for a week-long immersion camp in the health professions. We also hosted the SciTech Science Camp for girls for the second year.

I encourage you to engage with us. Find an alumni event near you, whether it's a fun evening out for a sporting event or a professional development opportunity, there are several DU alumni events happening this year. We look forward to engaging with you in 2017-2018.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrei Kutateladze", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrei Kutateladze, Dean

To view this letter or make a gift online please visit advancing.du.edu/vision.