Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, April 21, 2021 **science.gmu.edu**

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It's award season

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

In the entertainment world, January and February mark the “Award Season” where the Hollywood community comes together to nominate and recognize standout performances. For academia, our award season typically occurs each spring semester in April and May when countless nominating committees review recommendations for student performance, advisor and instructional excellence, community engagement, and successful demonstration of intellect and research impact.

During our spring graduation and within our program, we will highlight the various student awards for each department. As this is my first spring at Mason, I had the opportunity to expand the awards from the dean. These now include the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academics or Research, Dean’s Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, Dean’s Award for Excellence in Graduate Research, and Dean’s Award for Excellence in Service. I will be presenting them during our in person mini degree celebration on May 10.

In addition, I am proud to announce that many of our faculty, staff, and students have distinguished

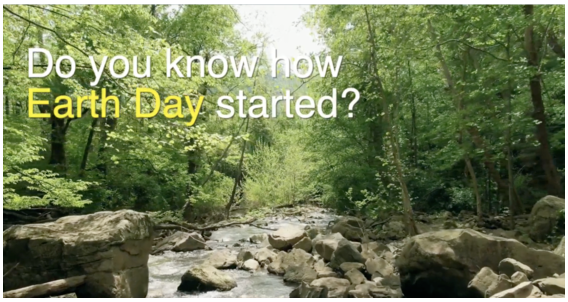
themselves during what some might say is an unprecedented year to navigate. Join me in congratulating them both in this post and via social media and accolades throughout the coming months.

Read full message

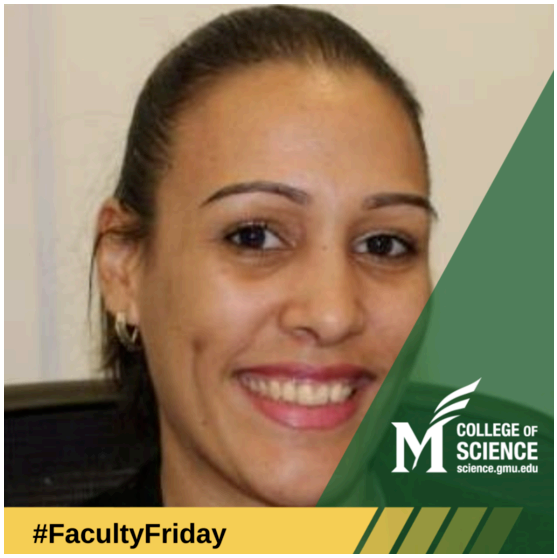
MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Happy Earth Day from ESP

The Department of Environmental Science and Policy wishes Mason a happy Earth Day and shares some of the day's origins and impact. They also recently released a video on ways to limit plastic use to help the environment.



Watch the video



Biology faculty among the top advisors at Mason

Congratulations to Department of Biology Assistant Professor and #FacultyFriday highlight Valerie Olmo, recognized alongside ten other university advisors for outstanding care and commitment to supporting undergraduates' academic development. The 2021 V. Ann Lewis Academic Advisor of the Year received 130 unique advisor nominations, with Olmo among the top ten most nominated.

See her bio

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason scientist part of group that helped create UN report offering global climate change solutions



by John Hollis

Department of Environmental Science and Policy Professor Thomas Lovejoy was among roughly 100 scientists that helped craft the United Nation's "Making Peace with Nature" report.

Learn about recommendations

Chemistry scientists help improve breast cancer detection and treatment



Chemistry and Biochemistry Associate Professor Mikell Paige and Chemistry PhD student Greg Petruncio recently contributed to a study on an imaging technique that helps visualize Breast Cancer intratumor heterogeneity (genomic and biological variations within the same tumor specimen).

Read the publication

IN THE NEWS

NASA National Public Health Week website features Mason researcher



by Lia N. Poteet

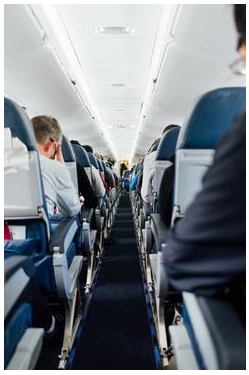
Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences Associate Professor Daniel Tong leads a NASA-funded team who, for the first time, aim to enhance current forecasting and surveillance activities related to dust storms and the airborne spread of Valley fever across the southwestern states.

Full story

Mason researcher's work informs known risks of flying during COVID-19

by Mika Gröndahl, Tariro Mzezewa, Or Fleisher and Jeremy White

The *New York Times* recently published an article on flight safety during COVID-19 informed by Physics and Astronomy Professor Rainald Löhner's research on air circulation.



Watch graphic simulation

Happening at Mason

Student COVID-19 vaccinations begin this week



Mason is vaccinating students at EagleBank Arena starting **Wednesday, April 21** and **Friday, April 23**. Please help us spread the word to our student who will receive an email from Mason with instructions on scheduling an appointment. Thank you to those in the Mason Science community who helped make this possible.

Watch the video

Events

2021 Undergraduate Research Colloquium

April 21, 2021 | 1 to 3 p.m. (posters available to view throughout the week)

You're invited to attend this year's showcase to view a variety of undergraduate research projects in the College.

Mason Science Series: Seeking the Invisible: Detecting Supermassive Black Holes in Space

April 27, 2021 | 4 to 5 p.m.

Join a discussion with Shobita Satyapal on black holes as well as her group's recent research.

Virtual Evening Under the Stars with Jenna Cann

April 28, 2021 | 8 to 10 p.m.

Join the Mason Observatory for a virtual evening under the stars with graduate student Jenna Cann.

Learning Assistant Virtual Poster Session

April 30, 2021 | 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Celebrate the work of Mason Science's Learning Assistants by attending a virtual poster presentation where they will share their teaching experiences. Register to attend.

See Full Calendar

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