Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, March 29, 2023 **science.gmu.edu**

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Celebrating the accomplishments of our fellow Patriots

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

My favorite part of the year is coming up, and plans are underway for our upcoming George Mason University commencement and the College of Science Degree Celebration, to be held on May 18 and 19 respectively. This is a time when we pause to take stock on the achievements of a long journey that started when each one of our graduates came to Mason to pursue a degree, an education, and many times a dream.

Over the past week, our university community has been discussing the selection of Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin as our spring commencement speaker when we honor our class of 2023. As Virginia's largest public research university, Mason invites society's leaders of the day to speak at our commencements, and debate about their selection is bound to occur at all levels within a university whose motto is Freedom and Learning. I greatly appreciate those of you who have taken time to share your thoughts with me on this issue.

If you haven't had the opportunity to see it, I am including President Washington's recent message to the university community on this matter.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Classes and city council are in session for this senior

by Colleen Kearney Rich



While most college seniors are counting the days until graduation and finishing up coursework, George Mason University physics major Billy Bates decided to take on a new challenge. In fall 2022, he ran for Fairfax City Council and won. He was sworn in this past January. *Photo by Ron Aira/Creative Services.*

More on Bate's work



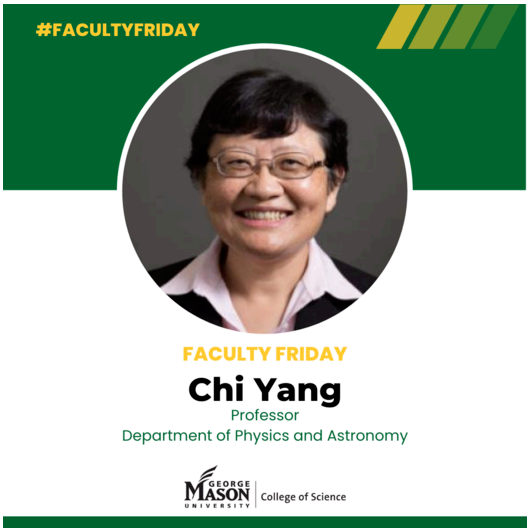
Volunteers still needed for College of Science Degree Celebration 2023

by Melissa Hayes

This year's Degree Celebration is scheduled for **Friday, May 19, 2023, at 10 a.m. in EagleBank Arena**. The college has more than 600 graduates this year; your participation is important to them and their families as they commemorate this achievement in their academic career. We need your help. A volunteer meeting will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 2 p.m**. Your participation will be greatly appreciated. Email to volunteer at cosevent@gmu.edu. *Photo by Ron Aira/Creative Services*.

Additional volunteer information

#FacultyFriday highlights physics and astronomy professor



This past #FacultyFriday featured Dr. Chi Yang, Professor, Physics and Astronomy. Yang's main research interests are in the field of Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) with focus on the development of computational methods and tools for marine hydrodynamics applications, including wave hydrodynamics; ship resistance and propulsion; large-amplitude motions and extreme loads on ships and ocean structures; dynamics of ships, underwater vehicles and offshore structures; fluid-structure interactions; and ship design optimizations. View the original Instagram post.

See recent faculty highlights

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason Science continues to support Mason's Honey Bee Initiative



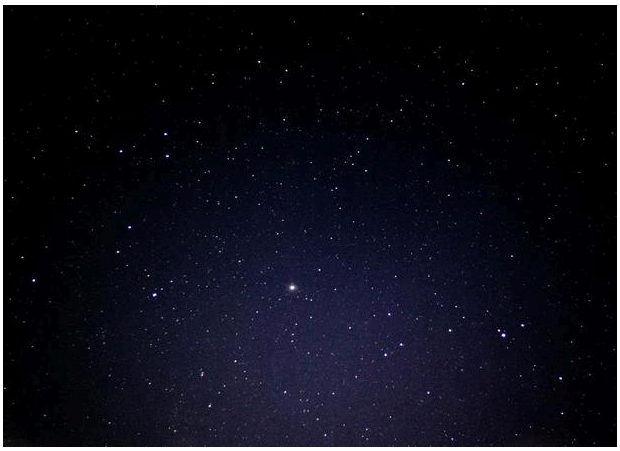
Mason's Honey Bee Initiative (HBI) remains an important interdisciplinary project shared between many colleges at the university, including the College of Science. The initiative taps the expertise of faculty across the university including Dr. Haw Chuan (HC) Lim, Assistant Professor, Biology and Dr. Alessandra Luchini, Professor, SSB, while also offering new interdisciplinary applications, such as forensic science.

Watch video on Mason's HBI

IN THE NEWS

Light pollution continues to jeopardize view of night sky

by National Public Radio (NPR)



Dr. Peter Plavchan, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy recently appeared with Mason alumna, Eileen Kragie, Dark Sky International Advocate Northern Virginia, on NPR's *All Things Considered* to discuss light pollution's effect on scientists' ability to view space while providing host, Pien Huang, a tour of Mason's Observatory. "With the launch of the increasing proliferation of satellites in low Earth orbit, which reflect a lot of sunlight down to us, we can't escape it," Plavchan said. *Photo by Kyle Gregory Devaras on Unsplash*.

Listen to segment on light pollution

Happening at Mason



Mason biologist shares the women who inspire her

by Shayla Brown

For Women's History Month, members of the Mason Nation, including Dr. Deborah Polayes, Professor, Biology, talk about the women who inspire them. Find out who Polayes said is her inspiration now, and the historical figure she'd want to meet.

Find out who inspires Mason Nation

Vegan and vegetarian options growing with Mason Dining

Did you know that nearly 50 percent of all food options available at Mason's resident dining locations are vegetarian? Vegan and vegetarian options from Mason Dining help meet the needs of our students and also benefit the environment. *Photo provided*.

See guide for eating vegan on campus



Events

College of Science Hiring Process Information Session
April 3, 2023 | 1 to 2 p.m. | Virtual
Dr. Paula Danquah-Brobby, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Myisha Washington, Director of Human Resources, will share updates that have been implemented in the hiring search processes for Mason Science. Registration required.

Reading as Active Learning in STEM Disciplines
April 4, 2023 | 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. | Virtual
Learn how to turn reading assignments into opportunities for active learning and discuss research on how students learn from reading, explore how to teach your students to get more out of reading, and practice strategies for designing more engaging reading prompts, guides, and classroom activities. All Mason affiliated faculty, post docs, and graduate students are welcome to attend. Registration required.

Staff Senate featuring President Washington
April 5, 2023 | 10 a.m. | Merten Hall 1201 or Virtual
George Mason University President Gregory Washington will attend this month's Staff Senate.

College of Science Strategic Planning Initiative Town
April 6, 2023 | 1 to 2 p.m. | Exploratory Hall 3301
Join us for a Strategic Planning Town Hall where we will review key insights from stakeholder outreach activities, provide updates on our progress and a timeline for the remainder of the process, and engage in open dialogue to gain your perspectives and insights on the direction of the strategic plan. A Zoom link will be available for those who may not be able to participate in person and a recording will be shared after the meeting.

AMPLIFY Spring 2023
April 11, 2023 | 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Merten Hall Lawn
You don't want to miss this fun celebration and see how you can Amplify Your Campus Experience. Join the units of shopMason including Dining, Parking & Transportation, Student Centers, Wells Fargo and more, as well as several off-campus Mason Merchants and Patriot Perks members in this exciting outdoor event. Share with your team, your friends, your students and register today for the chance to win a BONUS prize.

Teaching Systems Thinking Skills
April 14, 2023 | 11 a.m. to noon
Join this live webinar for tools and techniques for updates your courses and engaging students. Registration required.

See Full Calendar

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