Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, May 3, 2023 **science.gmu.edu**

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Decision Day – Opportunity's great equalizer

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

According to the "Common App" college admissions application, more than 1.24 million distinct first year applicants made their submissions to 841 colleges via their process for the academic year starting fall 2023. This current admissions cycle achieved record applications across the country, including here at George Mason University. For the near 4,500 who applied to Mason's College of Science, you're in very good company and we appreciate the trust you put in us to help advance your goals and transform your future.

But, as we know, there's no guarantee that those applicants across the country will be accepted to attend their learning environment of choice. Although some universities have not fully published their final numbers, to put it in perspective, according to the 2022-2023 academic year US college data, the average acceptance rate was 57.85% (the average acceptance rate for public colleges 63.09%, and the average rate for private schools 51.07%).

At Mason, we believe talent is broadly and diversely distributed among people, but opportunity is not. At

Mason, education is opportunity's great equalizer.

With that guiding principle in mind, in just 50 years, Mason has become Virginia's largest, most diverse, and highest ranked institution for innovation in part by rejecting the traditional university model of exclusivity. The globally ranked and youngest-ever university to attain top-tier research university status, Mason welcomes all students who are prepared for a rigorous academic experience. We proudly accept nearly 90 percent of undergraduate applicants, because we believe in inclusivity over exclusivity. A view that makes us *All Together Different*.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

New course gives a tasty spin to chemistry education

by Laura Powers



Chemistry in the Kitchen (CHEM 460) is a new course offered at George Mason University that uses everyday recipes to demonstrate chemical concepts taught in the classroom. The idea came to Dr. Rebecca Jones, Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry a year ago, who worked closely with the Department of Nutrition to secure a cooking classroom for the lab component of the course. "Every kitchen is a lab when you think about it," said Jones. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services.*

Learn more about the class

Attend the upcoming learning management system (LMS) demonstrations

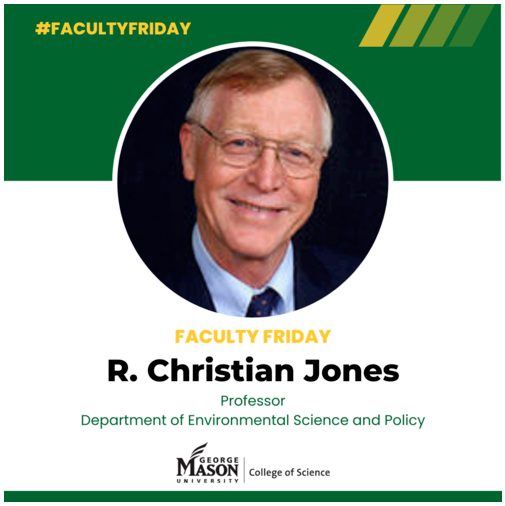
Blackboard Learn has served as George Mason University's enterprise Learning Management System (LMS) since 2010. The education landscape has since evolved and the ways universities engage with and educate students via various modalities has shifted, as have best practices learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, Mason began its search for a new LMS at the start of the academic year, reviewed the submitted proposals, and has invited three finalists to campus to share their solutions with the university community.

These demonstrations, scheduled for May 8 – 10, will be held in-person and live-streamed via Zoom. Faculty, staff, and students will have the opportunity to view the solutions, ask questions, and engage

with the vendor representatives. Those unable to attend will be able to watch recordings and still provide feedback.

Canvas – Monday, May 8, Merten 1201 (9 to 10:30 a.m.)
BrightSpace – Tuesday, May 9, Merten 1201 (9 to 10:30 a.m.)
Blackboard Ultra – Wednesday, May 10, Merten 1202 (9 to 10:30 a.m.)

Find out how to participate



#FacultyFriday highlights ESP professor

#FacultyFriday congratulates Dr. R. Christian Jones for earning the Earle C. Williams Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Social Impact. Jones is a professor of aquatic ecology for the Department of Environmental Science and Policy, which he co-founded in 2000 and led as its first chair. He is also the founder and director of the Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center at the Potomac Science Center. View the original Instagram post.

See recent faculty highlights



Mason researcher conducting climate vulnerability, impact and adaptation analysis

by Elizabeth Grisham



Dr. Luis Ortiz, Assistant Professor, Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences (AOES), with a multi-disciplinary team of researchers from The New School, Columbia University, and Stevens Institute of Technology, is developing projections of the thermal environment of New York City using a combination of physical and statistical models and accounting for contributions from large-scale climate as well as local urban impacts.

More on this study

IN THE NEWS

Pentagon launches post-leaks review, but experts warn more change is needed

by Caitlin Doornbos



As the Pentagon reviews the circumstances surrounding its most recent information leak, Mason forensic scientist and former FBI agent Steven Burmeister says its more than a security issue, but rather an issue in attitude. “Government officials are not emphasizing enough the need to uphold the laws and that if you violate the laws there will be consequences," he said in an interview with the *New York Post*.

Read full article

Happening at Mason

Encourage graduating students to complete the 2023 Career Plans Survey



The Career Plans Survey is now open for ALL May 2023 graduating students (undergraduate and graduate). Please encourage your graduating students to take the survey even if their plans after graduation are not yet final. Students are invited to share what they know their plans are right now and will have the chance to update the information later. Mason uses this information to highlight the overall outcomes of Mason students to area employers, graduate programs and future students. Share the survey using: http://go.gmu.edu/CareerPlansMay23.



Students invited to apply for the President-Student Advisory Group 2023-2024

The application for the President-Student Advisory Group (PSAG) for the 2023 - 2024 academic year has just gone live on Mason360. This is an opportunity for students to discuss current issues and actions relating to the student experience at George Mason University with President Washington, Vice President for University Life, Rose Pascarell, and fellow student members. PSAG meets for approximately 90 minutes, over lunch, twice a semester and, if selected, attendance is required. **Application due by May 15, 2023.**

Student application link



College of Science Undergraduate Research Colloquium
Now through May 5, 2023 | Virtual
View this year's poster presentations for the 2023 Undergraduate Research Symposium in the College of Science.

Learning Assistant Poster Session
May 8, 2023 | 1 to 3 p.m. | Exploratory Hall Atrium
Celebrate Mason Science LAs who will present posters reflecting their teaching experiences, their students' learning, and new instructional initiatives that they have implemented.

The OSCAR Celebration of Student Scholarship and Impact

May 9, 2023 | 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. | Center for the Arts

Join OSCAR to celebrate our students' scholarship through student posters and live performances. Student videos highlighting their work will be shared May 8 through May 12, with the main event taking place in the Center for the Arts on May 9, 2023 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Find out more at celebration.oscar.gmu.edu. Contacts oscar@gmu.edu with questions.

Chemistry in the Kitchen Poster Session

May 15, 2023 | 1:30 to 3 p.m. | Exploratory Hall Atrium

See what students from CHEM 460 achieved this semester and the results of their final food experiments.

Faculty Writing Retreat

May 15 through May 17

This 2.5-day event offers an active approach to uninterrupted writing time, a chance to learn from guest speakers, and a supportive community of peers to boost writing productivity. Register to attend.

George Mason University Commencement

May 18, 2023 | 10 a.m. | EagleBank Arena

Celebrate the Class of 2023 at Mason's university-wide graduation celebration.

College of Science Degree Celebration

May 19, 2023 | 10 a.m. | EagleBank Arena

Celebrate the 2023 College of Science graduates at the college-level degree celebration.

See Full Calendar

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