Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, November 3 2021 **science.gmu.edu**

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Your voice matters – Ubuntu

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

It's an exciting time, happening during a very challenging part of the year. Courses are in full swing. Family demands of the pending busy holiday season are high and many of us are already pretty exhausted. And, to add to the weight, our phones have been ringing off the hook making sure we get out and vote while your mountain of emails keeps inviting you to one meeting after another.

I've got the same ask of you though...please vote, or in our case, be present for and fully engaged in the meetings that matter. It's time to use your voice to help shape your, our college's, and Mason's bright future.

Participatory leadership and shared governance are crucial components of our success. With new leadership installed, strategic plans and listening tours almost complete, it's time to shift into high gear and start the initiatives we've outlined for our future-- research growth; inclusive excellence; innovative, impactful learning experiences; financial and facilities support for our people; and transparent, participatory leadership. Over the few days, you have opportunities to impact many of these priorities.

In essence, tomorrow there are two ways you can use your physical presence and voice, to expand your understanding of issues, to influence, and to hold leadership, and each other, accountable.

First: REGISTER, attend and ask questions **during President Washington's unit visit on Thursday November 4 from 2 to 3 p.m**. It's your chance to 'get out and vote.' Not to select the leader. Rather, (even better), to directly influence the priorities and have your voice heard about the challenges you face.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

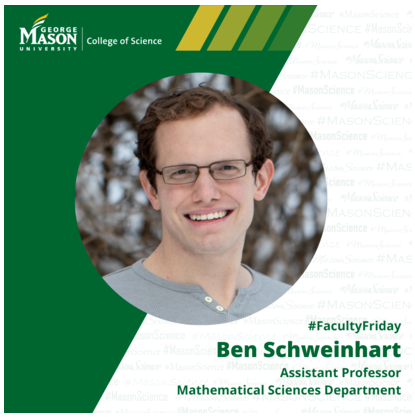


Mason alumnus named executive director of the University of California National Reserve System

Environmental Science and Policy alumnus, Steven Monfort, was recently appointed the executive director of the University of California National Reserve System that provides a library of ecosystems throughout California. Monfort brings extensive experience to the role, having served as the director of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) in Front Royal, Virginia and co-founding the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation.

Read the announcement

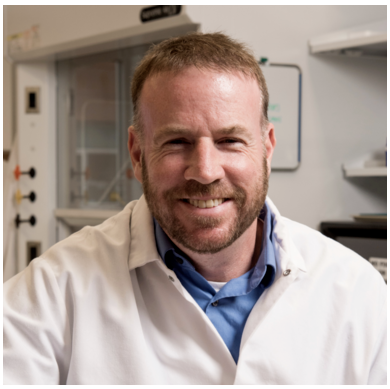
#FacultyFriday highlights mathematical sciences assistant professor



For this week's #FacultyFriday feature, we highlight one of our new faculty members, Benjamin Schweinhart, Assistant Professor, Mathematical Sciences. Schweinhart's research focuses on problems in applied, stochastic, and computational geometry and topology, with applications to materials science, physics, and biology. Currently, he is looking for graduate students to conduct research in the areas of stochastic topology and/or development of methodology for the quantification of materials geometry. Students wanting to participate in his research should email him at bschwei@gmu.edu.

Schweinhart's bio

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY



Couch Lab publishes paper, continuing work towards finding solutions to antibiotic resistant bacteria

ACS journal *Infectious Diseases* recently published a study by several Mason scientists including Chemistry and Biochemistry Associate Professor Robin Couch, recent PhD graduate Haley S. Ball, current PhD student Misgina Girma, and undergraduate student Mosufa Zainab. The study is titled *Characterization and Inhibition of 1-Deoxy-d-Xylulose 5-Phosphate Reductoisomerase: A Promising Drug Target in Acinetobacter baumannii and Klebsiella pneumoniae.*

Read the study

IN THE NEWS

Mason virologist speaks on the new "delta" strain of the coronavirus

by Cornelius Chandler



Ancha Baranova, Professor, School of Systems Biology, recently spoke to *TGSL* and said the AY.4.2 strain of the coronavirus, which has only been recorded in the United States in isolated cases, is 10 to 15 percent more infectious than the standard “delta."

More on this new strain

Happening at Mason

Join us for a screening of Picture a Scientist and a discussion with filmmakers



Mason's College of Science and other colleges and schools present a special screening of Picture a Scientist on **November 4 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the JC Cinema**. The film features leading female scientists discussing the inequalities they have faced as they write a new chapter in STEM for women.

More on the event

Pfizer and Moderna boosters now available at Mason

by Safety, Emergency, & Enterprise Risk Management

The CDC and FDA have approved and recommended booster doses for certain individuals who received any of the three Covid-19 vaccines available in the U.S.

Pfizer and Moderna boosters are available for eligible individuals who completed their initial series at least six months ago. Individuals who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are also eligible for a booster of any of the three vaccines available in the U.S., two months after their initial vaccine.

The vaccine clinic is open at Fenwick A on the Fairfax Campus, noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Schedule your vaccine appointment



President Washington's Annual Academic Unit Visit
November 4, 2021 | 2 to 3 p.m. | Merten Hall 1201
The one-hour town hall will provide a brief 'state of the university' update and discuss how unit goals and strategies fit within the overall plan. President Washington also looks forward to hearing directly from you and encourages in person attendance for full participation. A Zoom webinar link will be provided via email before the event. Register to attend.

Microbiology Journal Club
November 5, 2021 | 11 a.m.
Join Dr. Sina Bavari - Co-founder and Chief Science Officer of Healion Bio, and former Scientific Director at USAMRIID. Contact Ramin Hakami, Associate Professor, SSB, for the meeting ID and passcode.

Roundtable: Why Climate Literacy & Civic Skill Building Will Solve the Climate Crisis
November 5, 2021 | 7:15 to 8:30 a.m.

Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center affiliated faculty, A. Alonso Aguirre will speak on a panel at the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference COP26.

Applied and Computational Mathematics Seminar

November 5, 2021 | 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Join Giovanni Fantuzzi, Imperial College, London for a discussion on global minimization of integral functionals via polynomial optimization.

See Full Calendar

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