Mason SCIENCE

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

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Playing with a Dream Team

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

As we ease into March, I can't help but think of a term usually used to describe NCAA basketball, March Madness. Yet, after hearing about the research efforts of faculty across the college during last week's ScienceConnect, I can't help but think of another phrase well known to basketball fans--"Dream Team."

We've formed our own Dream Team to play our pandemic version of March Madness. Our team of faculty, researchers, and staff are stars in their respective domains. Each one bringing something important to our effort. Day after day, we 'play our game,' teaching students, running efficient, effective operations, performing research of consequence, some of these efforts virtually through technology instead of face to face. Mason has assembled the best in their respective fields. And we play to win.

Read full message

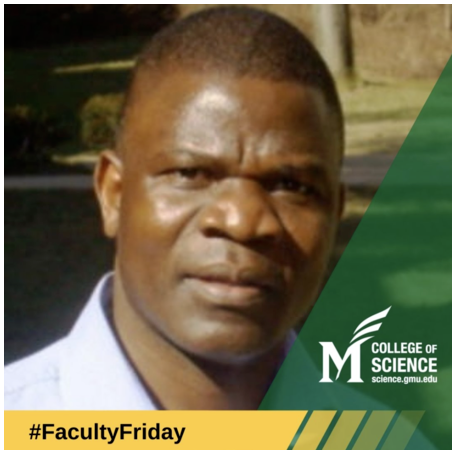
MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Chemistry student seeks sustainable battery solutions for new technologies

By Laura Powers

As industries work to advance technologies, many strive to adopt more sustainable approaches. PhD in Chemistry student Kathryn Holguin's research focuses on developing sustainable alternatives to lithium-based batteries—looking specifically at designing sodium ion and potassium ion batteries.

Read full story



#FacultyFriday - Maction K. Komwa

Last week's #facultyfriday highlighted Geography and Geoinformation Science Assistant Professor Maction Komwa. He has twice received the Provost's Excellence in Teaching Award (2007, 2016) for his high-quality teaching in general education courses. Komwa is actively involved in research projects involving georesearch analysis for natural resources conservation and environment, sustainable development, sustainable food systems, geographic information systems, and infectious disease epidemiology.

Read Komwa's bio

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason COVID antibody testing shows a lot of promise in the body's ability to fight the virus

by John Hollis

Mason researchers, including Lance Liotta, SSB professor and co-director, co-founder and medical director of CAPMM, say their study of COVID-19 antibodies in people previously infected with the virus reveals the human immune system's strong ability to fight the virus, even if they showed minimal or no symptoms. Additional early results are showing that the vaccines being rolled out to combat the global pandemic generate a strong immune response.

Full story

IN THE NEWS

GGS PhD Graduate Makes Geospatial World's List of 50 Rising Stars

Geospatial World recently identified GGS alumnus Zhenlong Li as one this year's 50 Rising Stars for his work regarding social media posts and emergency response. Li graduated from Mason in 2015 with a PhD in Earth Systems and Geoinformation Sciences under the supervision of Chaowei Yang. Li now works as an Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina, leading a research team in their Department of Geography.

Read Li's Bio

Happening at Mason

Attend the second Anti-Racism Inclusive Excellence (ARIE) Task Force town hall

On **Thursday, March 4, from 2:30 to 4 p.m.**, Mason will host the second of two town halls to share the recommendations from the Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Task Force. The town hall provides an opportunity for the Mason community to learn more

semester and the recommendations for action being put forward to meet President Washington's charge of "establishing the university as a national exemplar of anti-racism and inclusive excellence". The town hall is an invitation to all members of our community.

Register to attend

Microbiology Journal Club (MJC_COVID-19) Presentation
March 5, 2021 | 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Presention led by Lance Liotta, Co-Director and Co-Founder of the Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine, School of Systems Biology.

Colloquium on Computational Social Science/Computational Data Sciences
March 5, 2021 | 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Hear Dr. James L. Doti, President Emeritus and Professor of Economics at Chapman University, discuss "Benefit-Cost Analysis of COVID Policy Intervention at the State and National Level."

Galileo Science Cafe: Creating the Next Generation of Practicing Physicians and Medical Researchers - The Role of Physics in Medicine and Medical Education
March 11, 2021 | 7 to 9 p.m.
Join us for the next Galileo Science Cafe presented by affiliate faculty member, Edward Szuszczewicz.

The Future of Humanity in Space
March 17, 2021 | 6:45 to 10 p.m.
Michael Summers, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, discusses how the use of space resources could propel human colonization throughout the solar system in the coming decades and beyond. Register to attend.

See Full Calendar

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