Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, March 17, 2021 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

A transformative year

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

What a difference a year makes!

Around this time last year, I had just accepted the position of Dean for Mason's College of Science and was eager to move over to campus. Little did I know, perhaps like many of you, that a 'novel corona virus' would upend our world, forever changing the face of higher education, the virtual work environment, and even taking the lives of many we hold dear.

Think back to the early days of this pandemic: trying to understand what the SARS-CoV-2 virus was, how it spread, and how to keep safe--literally how to survive. We went into isolation, turning homes into offices and classrooms, at times separating from our family, friends, and community.

Brave healthcare workers identified symptoms and treated those infected. Our Math Maker Lab and Forensic Science teams created and distributed personal protective equipment, face shields, and masks

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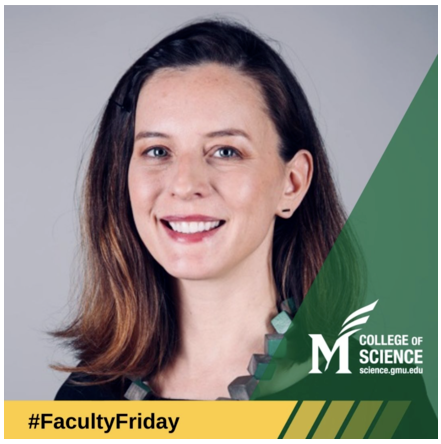
to local first responders. We stocked the Patriot Pantry to feed the hungry, even making meals for those working around the clock to save lives.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

#FacultyFriday highlights the work of Jennifer Salerno



Environmental Science and Policy Assistant Professor Jennifer L. Salerno specializes in environmental microbiology and coral reef ecology. Her current research includes a study on “Diversity and function of deep-sea coral-associated microorganisms” and “Microspatial distribution of soil microorganisms” (in collaboration with U.S. Naval Research Laboratory - NRL). Her work has led to numerous publications and awards.

Explore her research

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason scientists receive funding for roadside safety research and outdoor laboratory support

by Elizabeth Grisham

Steve Kan, Professor/Director, Center for Collision Safety and Analysis (CCSA), and Dhafer Marzougui, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy, received funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation to conduct modeling and simulation analyses and conduct vehicle crash impact tests for highway safety research.

Full story

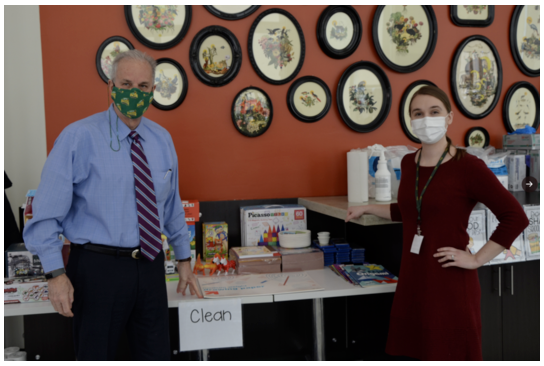
IN THE NEWS

Mason helps develop tool that provides access to high-resolution NASA data on soil moisture

NASA recently announced the release of a new tool that farmers, researchers, and meteorologists can now access for information on soil moisture. Mason's Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems, led by GGS Professor Liping Di, developed this tool alonside the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and NASA. *Photo credit: NASA/GSFC/METI/ERSDAC/JAROS, and U.S./Japan ASTER Science Team.*

Read the article

Happening at Mason



Check out Mason's upcoming Learning Pod

Mason's Patriot Learning Pod will hold an Equinox Explorers Club for K-3 to run during the spring break of most area school districts (March 29 – April 2). Cost is $199 for those affiliated with Mason and $219 for those outside of the Mason community. This is a great Mason resource for parents trying to figure out what to do with kids that were back to school and now home for break.

Learn more

Events

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.

Center for Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence Colloquium

March 19, 2021 | 10 a.m.

Join Michael Hintermüller from WIAS and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin for a discussion on "Optimization with learning-informed differential equation constraints and its applications."

Spring 2021 Biology Researcher Panel

March 24, 2021 | 10 to 11 a.m.

Learn about the Department of Biology and the University Biology Research Semester, and get your research questions answered. Event features Ylenia Chiari, Brett Froelich, Daniel Hanley, Kathleen Hunt and David Luther.

Microbes and the Stories They Tell: Microorganisms as Sentinels of Organism Health and Ecosystem Function

March 30, 2021 | 4 to 5 p.m.

Hear Jennifer Salerno discuss the roles that microorganisms play in maintaining and destabilizing the health of organisms and what they can tell us about the health state of ecosystems.

East Coast Optimization Meeting 2021

April 1, 2021 to 2, 2021

The annual East Coast Optimization Meeting (ECOM) introduces students and early-career researchers to the current trends in optimization as well as to create a strong networking environment among academia, industry, and the national laboratories. Registration is required.

Save the Date: Giving Day 2021

Thursday, April 8, 2021

See Full Calendar

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