Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, February 1, 2023 **science.gmu.edu**

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A shared focus and compassionate approach

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

As our spring semester begins, consider how each of us views this opportunity and the way we approach the next chapter of our educational, professional, and personal lives. Do we embrace it like the clean slate or momentum building moment it is? Do we charge forward eagerly or with caution? Perhaps some of us are still somewhat or completely exhausted from the semester before.

Quite honestly, I'd suggest many of us are all across that spectrum of excitement and feeling overwhelmed based on the many things that are going on around each one of us; that is completely understandable. As I mentioned in a reflection earlier this week, there are many current events affecting or individual and collective physical and mental realities. Please know we will do our best to meet and support you wherever you are. As a Mason core value: we thrive together.

The good news is, there's not just one way to successfully navigate the academic, research, and personal situations and challenges we face. We are unique in the compilation of life's elements that

demand our focus and energy yet in our Mason Science community, we are brought together by two things, our scientific curiosity and commitment to our students' success.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Mason biologists collaborate on bee pollen DNA analysis research

by Charish Bishop



In collaboration with George Mason University's Honeybee Initiative, Dr. H.C. Lim, Assistant Professor, Biology with a background in evolutionary genomics, heads a project that lets Mason Science students use DNA sequencing and barcoding to investigate pollen resources of honeybees.

More on the collaboration



Mason Science offers Compassionate Conversations Workshop

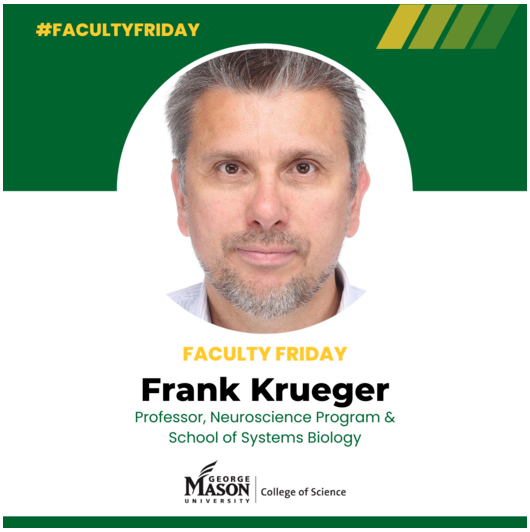
Join Dr. Erikca Brown, Office of DEI Inclusive Education Manager and Dr. Paula Danquah-Brobby, Director of AJEDI for a faculty and staff workshop on compassionate conversation. Compassionate conversation refers to the skillful ways people can talk together to feel understood and more able to understand one another.

Upcoming workshop dates and times:

- February 7, 2023 | noon to 1:30 p.m.
- February 15, 2023 | noon to 1:30 p.m.
- February 24, 2023 | 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Register for event access

#FacultyFriday highlights neuroscience and SSB professor



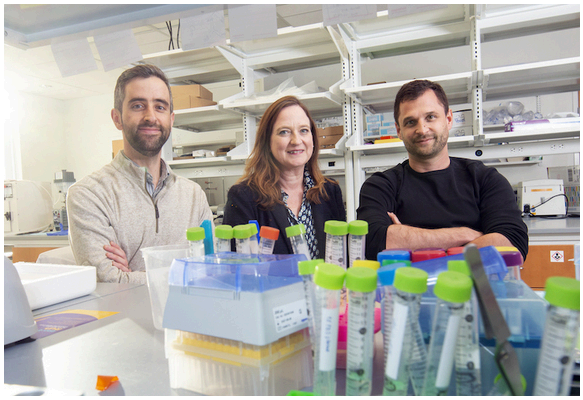
This past #FacultyFriday highlighted Dr. Frank Krueger, Professor, Neuroscience and School of Systems Biology. Krueger is interested in understanding the psychoneurobiological underpinnings of human-human and human-machine trust by combining methods from psychology, ergonomics, and neuroscience. His primary research focuses on the psychoneurobiological mechanism of interpersonal trust. In fact, he recently edited the book “The Neurobiology of Trust.” View the original post.

See recent faculty highlights



Multidisciplinary Mason team using technology to break down harmful biofilms

by CEC Communications



Professor Monique van Hoek, a microbiologist in the School of Systems Biology, as well as Mason Assistant Professors Jeffrey Moran in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Rémi Veneziano in the Department of Bioengineering, applied for and recently won the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) R21 Trailblazer award. Through the award funds, the team will use their backgrounds and spend about three years developing a brand-new technology that dissolves harmful biofilms, without harsh removal methods. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services*.

More on their work



Mason scientist to identify natural mechanisms of boosting immunity to fight infectious diseases

by Tracy Mason

George Mason University Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, Ramin M. Hakami recently received $265,000 to research natural mechanisms of boosting the immune response. The natural immunity effort will build on prior funded research on use of processed COVID-19 patient samples to explore natural mechanisms that are available to fight and protect against COVID-19 infection.

More on this research

IN THE NEWS

Northern Virginia Magazine highlights Mason's Forensic Science program

by Jesse Rifkin

Mason Science's Forensic Science Program is making headlines as a leader in forensic education. *Northern Virginia Magazine* spoke to several of the program's scientists including Assistant Professor Kelly Knight, Director Mary Ellen O'Toole, and Associate Professor Joseph DiZinno, as well as graduate student Maddie Bowers.



Read the article

Happening at Mason

The 2023 Cherry Blossom Prediction Competition is now open



Mason's second international prediction competition, “When Will the Cherry Trees Bloom?”, will be open throughout February 2023 for all statisticians and data scientists, from experts to students just beginning to use statistical software. Complete submissions include a short narrative and a link to a publicly accessible Git repository.

Compete for prizes of up to $5,000 and help scientists better understand the impacts of climate change. The competition organizers will provide all the publicly available data they can find on the bloom date of cherry trees. Competitors will use this data, in combination with any other publicly available data, to create reproducible predictions of the bloom dates at four locations around the globe. *Photo by Pavel Nekoranec on Unsplash.*

How to participate

MITRE Capstones Project Portal

As part of its University Innovation Exchange (UIX) initiative, MITRE is partnering with universities to offer technical advisors and capstone project ideas that reflect real problems facing the United States government. The MITRE Capstones Project Portal is a web-based platform for university faculty and students to browse, select, and execute capstone projects with a MITRE technical advisor. There are several exciting opportunities currently on the Project Portal.

View complete list



Mason Athletics celebrates Black and African Heritage Month
February 1, 2023 | 7 to 9 p.m.
George Mason Athletics will recognize Dr. Michael West Nickens "Doc Nix" at the men's basketball Black African Heritage Month game. As part of Black African Heritage Month, the Mason vs. UMASS game presentation will include performances by Doc Nix and the Green Machine Emerald Desire and a special halftime presentation.

Real Talk: Exploring the intersection of identity and career
February 7, 2023 | 4 to 5 p.m. | Virtual
During this virtual panel discussion, we will explore phrases like "professional attire" and "dress for success" and how you show up in your job. Bring your questions about cultural, religious, and gender inclusive clothing in the workplace, with a special focus on expectations for the Career Fair. Registration required.

Evening Under the Stars
February 7, 2023 | 7 to 9 p.m. | Mason Observatory and Virtual
Join us for the next Evening Under the Stars for a public talk followed by telescope viewings, weather permitting. For the foreseeable future, all Evening Under the Stars events will be held both in-person and virtually. All are free to attend.

Working Moms Support Group
February 8, 2023 | Noon to 1 p.m. | Virtual
The Working Moms Support Group is one way faculty, staff, and students can come together, discuss the issues confronting working parents, and spur changes on campus. Check out the full schedule. Or, join the Microsoft Teams group for more information.

Adjunct Faculty Social Hour
February 13, 2023 | 5 to 6:30 p.m. | Merten Hall 1201
Meet Provost Ginsberg and mingle with fellow adjuncts in this community-building event. Email RSVPs to Shannyn Snyder, Co-Chair of the Adjunct Faculty Committee.

East Coast Optimization Meeting: Optimization and Game Theory
April 13, 2023 |10 a.m. thru April 14, 2023 | 4 p.m.
The focus of the third ECOM will be on Optimization and Game Theory. Researchers from all optimization areas are encouraged to participate. The meeting comprises of mini-courses by two distinguished speakers targeted toward students and early career researchers, and public lectures. There will be some invited and contributed talks. Registration is mandatory and deadline to register is April 7, 2023.

See Full Calendar

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