Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, November 16, 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

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The College of Science **will not release** a newsletter Wednesday, November 23, 2022 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.



Support for the unimaginable

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

First and foremost, we send thoughts of care and concern for all affected by the recent tragedies on grounds at the University of Virginia and the murders of four university students in Idaho. It is beyond heartbreaking for students to have to worry about and live through such violence during what should be one of the most exciting times of their lives.

I am not going to expound on the need for legislation to prevent such gun violence—suffice to say what we have in place policy-wise does not seem to be working if events like these continue to occur.

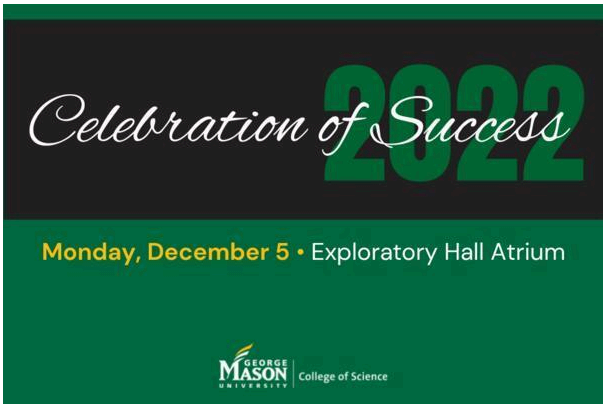
What I will suggest is that we collectively reflect on these experiences and support each other. I am aware the sad stories of the past few days may remind some in our Mason Science community, our families, co-workers, and friends, of other such events and sudden loss. I encourage you to please be

there for them as we collectively process what has happened and work towards some semblance of healing.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

There's still time to nominate your colleagues



Take a moment to nominate the colleagues you feel deserve recognition for their contributions to the Mason Science community. Submit nominations by **11:59 p.m. on November 21**. Visit the Celebration of Success web page for a full list of awards.

Join us Monday, **December 5 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in Exploratory Hall Atrium** for the annual College of Science Celebration of Success, recognizing faculty and staff for their service during the 2022 calendar year

With a theme of *"Season's Eatings"* we will celebrate while enjoying food, beverages, a chance to win a number of fabulous prizes, and some sweet treats. You must register to attend. Please note that this is a **College of Science faculty and staff only event.** Ready to show off your baking skills? Enter to participate in this year's bake off. Check out the website for a complete list of entry categories (includes gluten free options) and information on how to enter.

Additional event information

#FacultyFriday highlights GGS researchers

Last #FacultyFriday featured a handful of Department of Geography and Geoinformation researchers. Professors Dieter Pfoser, Chaowei Phil Yang, Taylor Anderson, Edward Oughton, and Alireza Ermagun all take a multi-disciplinary approach to their research, covering areas like infrastructure, mobility, urban systems, spatiotemporal data, and more. View original Instagram post.



View recent faculty highlights

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Virginia Climate Center receives $1.9M in funding

by Elizabeth Grisham



James Kinter, Professor, Climate Dynamics, Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences (AOES), Director, Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies (COLA); Edward Maibach, Director, Center for Climate Change Communication, and University Professor of Communication; Celso Ferreira, Associate Professor, Civil, Environmental and Infrastructure Engineering; and Luis Ortiz, Assistant Professor, AOES, received funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for: "The Virginia Climate Center."

This funding will support a two-year community project under the NOAA Operations, Research and Facilities Program to establish the Virginia Climate Center to serve as a climate extension service to help communities in the Commonwealth increase resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Explore the project

Mason scientist conducting limousine crashworthiness safety research

by Elizabeth Grisham



Cing-Dao Kan, Professor/Director, Center for Collision Safety and Analysis (CCSA), received $763,109 in funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for:"NHTSA Finite Elements Modeling Services IDIQ Limousine Crashworthiness Safety Research." For this project, Kan and his collaborators will focus on side impact protection, roof crush resistance, airbag systems, and perimeter seating configurations for rear occupants. *Photo by Yunming Wang on Unsplash*.

More on their research

IN THE NEWS

What can ancient monsoons tell us about future climates?



A team of researchers from George Mason University, Syracuse University, the University of Connecticut, the University of Arizona, and Harvard University aim to predict future southwestern climate through analysis of ancient climate data.

Climate modeling expert Ran Feng, professor in the University of Connecticut's Department of Geosciences and second author on the study, carried out simulations to determine how sea surface temperatures may have factored into the stronger North American Monsoon during the mid-Pliocene. Climate Dynamics doctoral student Scott Knapp, and Department of Atmospheric Oceanic and Earth Sciences Associate Professor Natalie Burls, aided in this effort by performing water isotope enable climate model simulations with enhanced sea surface temperature warming along the California Margin. *Photo by Eugene Triguba on Unsplash*.

Explore their findings

Happening at Mason

Free speech at Mason

By Human Resources and Payroll

In 2018, the Virginia Legislature passed a law regarding constitutionally protected speech on university campuses. The law, Virginia Code 23.1-401.1, requires universities to develop materials about their policies regarding free expression and speech on campus. Virginia Code 23.1-401.1 also requires universities to notify all employees who are responsible for the discipline or education of enrolled students of its policies related to freedom of expression.

All employees who are responsible for the discipline or education of students are encouraged to review the materials and policies on the website, which has information about Mason's policies that relate to speech and expression at Mason.

View free speech policy



Knowing and 'Owning' Your Worth
November 17, 2022 | 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. | Exploratory Hall 3301
Participate in the next Women Leaders in STEM Event where you will hear best practices for negotiating opportunities to maximum benefit, restate skills and job descriptions for resumes and interviews, and navigate awkward job interview questions and professional discussions. This is a learning experience for all identities, including allies. All students, staff, and faculty are welcome to participate to empower yourself and others. Register to participate. Register to participate.

The Role of Science and Scientists at U.S. EPA: A Roundtable Discussion
November 17, 2022 | 4 p.m. | Virtual
Access this special panel event online and hear from experts in their field.

Galileo's Science Cafe
November 17, 2022 | 6 to 9 p.m.
Join this month's event with a lecture from Klaus-peter Koepfli on how genomics helps save endangered species. Registration required.

Forensic Genetic Genealogy Webinar Series: Part 5 - Potential Legal Issues When Using FGG **CLE Eligible
November 28, 2022 | 3 p.m. | Virtual
This session, moderated by Forensic Science Associate Professor Joe DiZinno, will address constitutional, statutory, and ethical issues that may arise for prosecutors when using FGG during an investigation or introducing evidence at trial.

Biology Research Semester Celebration
November 29, 2022 | 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center
You're invited to the annual research semester poster session and celebration of success, open to the public. Come celebrate the achievements of our research semester class and learn more about undergraduate research in Biology.

Learning Assistant Poster Session Registration Deadline

November 30, 2022 | 11:59 p.m.

Register to attend the Learning Assistant Poster Session taking place on Tuesday, December 6 from noon to 2 p.m. in Exploratory Hall Atrium.

See Full Calendar

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Read the College of Science's latest annual report

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