Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, May 5, 2021 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Dean's Blog: Proud of our team

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Last week, many across America watched the 147th Running of the Roses, the Kentucky Derby, perhaps the ultimate single event honor in equestrian racing. Bob Baffert, the trainer of the winning horse, Medina Spirit, set a Kentucky Derby record with his seventh career win at Churchill Downs. When discussing the accomplishment during a postrace interview, in addition to acknowledging the accomplishment, Baffert also said. "I couldn't be prouder of my team."

There were many times over the past week I found myself saying the same thing…"I couldn't be prouder of my team."

Recently, Thomas Lovejoy became the first Mason College of Science faculty inducted into the National Academy of Sciences recognizing his numerous and significant contributions to conservation biology. A University Professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy and a United Nations Foundation Senior Fellow, Lovejoy has conducted environmental research in the Brazilian Amazon for over fifty years, and is among the world's foremost experts on biodiversity, coining the term in 1980. As a recent member on the Scientific Advisory Group. Lovejoy helped craft the United Nations

Environmental Programmes' "Making Peace with Nature" report that envisions a sustainable economy driven by renewable energy and nature-based solutions as a way to combat global warming.

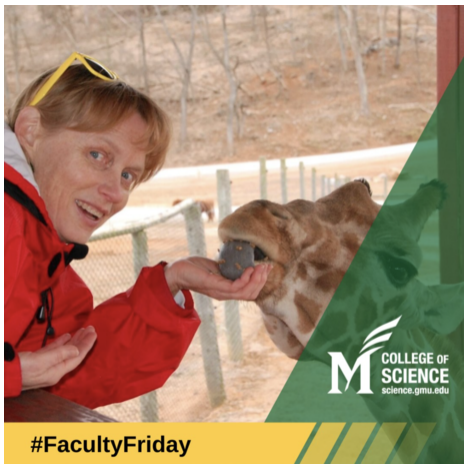
As if that wasn't exciting enough, then I learned three of the five presidential medal recipients at Mason this year will be College of Science faculty, honored for their impactful career of work. Congratulations to Jagadish Shukla, Padhu Seshaiyer, and Gerald Weatherspoon.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

There's still time to vote

Don't forget to participate and vote in the Mason Science Faculty Election. Deadline to vote is **today, May 5, 2021.** If you have not received a ballot, please check your junk or trash folder for the message coming directly from Qualtrics.



Mason Science highlights ESP Associate Professor Cindy Smith

To conclude Earth Month and celebrate Arbor Day, Mason Science highlights Cindy Smith, Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy and Director of K-12 Education and Outreach at the Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC). Congratulations to Smith who recently received a Teaching Excellence Award from the Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning. She and her team at the Mason Aboretum also received the Seeds Of Change Outstanding Partnership, Project and Collaboration Award from SAIL at Mason. Learn more about the award.

Read her bio

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Researchers test Mason wastewater to catch potential COVID-19 outbreaks early

Each week, samples of wastewater are taken from sewers across George Mason's campus and tested for COVID-19 RNA, an efficient way to catch COVID-19 outbreaks early. This research is led by Chemistry and Biochemistry Associate Professor Benoit Van Aken, Environmental Science and Policy Assistant Professor Jennifer Salerno, and Biology Professor and Associate Dean of Research Pat Gillevet. Research is funded by the GMU COVID surveillance program (Diann Stedman, Mason Biosafety Manager). Learn more about wastewater research with the Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center.

Watch the video

IN THE NEWS

Lovejoy warns that the Amazon rainforest may have reached climate tipping point

CBS News recently interviewed Environmental Science and Policy Professor Thomas Lovejoy about changes to the Amazon rainforest. Lovejoy, who coined the term "biodiversity" and has devoted his career to the health of the Amazon and climate change, was recently one of 120 scientists worldwide elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

Full story

Happening at Mason

Earn your Resilience Badge from the Center for the Advancement of Well-Being

The Resilience Badge program, offered by the Center for the Advancement of Well-Being, helps you develop existing individual resilience by

presenting new strategies and bringing the science of resilience into the conversation. Successful completion of the six modules results in a digital credential in resilience. Mason students and employees can enroll in the program by logging in with their NetID and password. The Resilience Badge is an asynchronous program for you to work through at your own pace in Blackboard.

Sign up today

Events

Mathematics Was My First Love; Economic Inequality Is My Passion: A Conversation with WISER President Dr. Rhonda V. Sharpe
May 5, 2021 | 1 to 3 p.m.
Join this interdisciplinary conversation with Dr. Rhonda V. Sharpe, president of the Women's Institute for Science, Equity, and Race.

AOES Geology Seminar
May 6, 2021 | 4:30 p.m.
Join Steve Meyers from University of Wisconsin for a discussion on Paleoclimatology. Email Linda Hinnov for access to the event.

Mason Online Pandemic MODeling Forum - Co-Pierre Georg
May 7, 2021 | 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Join Co-Pierre Georg, Associate Professor with the African Institute of Financial Markets and Risk Management at the University of Cape Town for a discussion about his co-authored paper, "Social Learning in a Network Model of Covid-19."

College of Science Mini Ceremony
May 10, 2021 | 10 a.m.
All the Lot L Mini Ceremonies will be streamed on Mason's main YouTube channel.

Commencement 2021
May 14, 2021 | 2 p.m.
George Mason University will conduct its 54th Spring Commencement virtually. The ceremony is set for 2 p.m. Friday, May 14, 2021. The university-wide commencement ceremony will be live-streamed.

See Full Calendar

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