Mason SCIENCE

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What is your new normal?

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

On March 12, 2020, I walked out of my office, a bit early since we were told we were going into lockdown (for three to four weeks max they estimated). I haven't set foot in that office since. Actually, I got a new job here at Mason that started just over a year ago, which I have largely done remotely.

For most of us, our lives were upended by COVID-19. After the initial shock and concerns regarding health, safety, and daily livelihood were established and better understood, we collectively pivoted to a virtual work environment, finding ways to navigate this uncharted professional landscape. Then some of us ventured back to campus slowly for hybrid learning and working.

With changing CDC guidelines and vaccine availability, our society can start to think more about what a healthy and sustainable ‘New Normal’ might look like.

Let’s face it, the initial disruption was not easy. Yet, after a while, many of us found ways to leverage this

new flexibility (no more commute around here is a big deal and saves tons of time). Yet Zoom fatigue was also quite real (has it kicked in for you too?).

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

STEMNoire 2021 helping Black women succeed in STEM

by John Hollis

Mason's College of Science and Volgenau School of Engineering were the premier sponsors for a first-of-its-kind research conference and holistic wellness retreat for women of the African diaspora in STEM. Forensic Science Professor Kelly Knight served on the event's Planning Council. The conference included opening remarks from Presidential Partner Nicole Washington, as well as a panel on how to build a competitive skillset featuring doctoral student and CAPMM Graduate Research Assistant, Marissa Howard, third-year PhD student and Academic and Student Affairs Coordinator, Carissa Hunter, and College of Engineering and Computing Associate Professor, Rochelle Jones.

More on the event

Add your voice to the conversation surrounding College of Science faculty salaries

Participate in the conversation surrounding College of Science faculty salaries by completing the following survey **no later than Friday, July 16, 2021**. To ensure anonymity, copy and paste the survey link into your browser: https://gmu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6x0eRBGTk8nwr6S. Aggregated results will be shared with college administration and in a future faculty meeting.

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Hinnov to coordinate research on history of Earth-Moon parameters and solar system fundamental frequencies



by Elizabeth Grisham

Linda Hinnov, Professor, Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences, is coordinating a new three-year, $4.4 million project funded by the Heising-Simons Foundation called the CycloAstro Project that will integrate science from paleoclimatology, geophysics, and astronomy together with collaborators at University of Wisconsin, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Yale University, UC Santa Barbara, and University of Hawaii. Part of this project includes an educational/early career program called the CycloCohort Program at Mason led by Rocio Caballero-Gill (AOES; Award 223874), to study the evolution of the Solar System, Earth-Moon dynamics, and the Earth's paleoclimate system.

More on this project

IN THE NEWS

Lemon Frost Geckos key to improve treatments for skin cancer



by Maria Temming

Ylenia Chiari, Associate Professor, Biology, recently appeared in *ScienceNews* for her contributions to a study of Lemon Frost Geckos and how their skin characteristics could unlock future treatments for melanoma.

More on the study



Restoration of woodlands and wetlands could have positive economic impact

by Thomas Lovejoy and Ruben Valbuena

Thomas Lovejoy, Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, recently coauthored an article in *The Conversation* on the global market's impact on forest areas.

Read the full article

Happening at Mason



Mason to reopen campus fall 2021

Mason campuses will reopen beginning **August 2** to welcome a record number of students for the fall semester. Employees will also return to campus, though the University will pilot a hybrid environment, allowing telework/remote work one to two days per week. Find out what you need to know for returning to campus. Be sure to submit your vaccination information by **August 1**.

Information on returning to campus

Events

Smithsonian Associates Lecture: "Our Deceptive Universe"

July 12, 2021 | 6:30 to 8 p.m.

In trying to understand our deceptive universe, Astrophysicist Hakeem Oluseyi examines spacetime, the illusion of mass, the large-scale structure of the universe, dark matter, and dark energy. Tickets required.

Females of Color and those Underrepresented in STEM (FOCUS) Camp (virtual)

August 2, 2021 to August 6, 2021

Participants (6 through 8 graders) engage in four different interactive and hands-on STEM workshops and on the last day, the participants present what they learned in these workshops in a conference-style setting.

Transfer Science Bridge 1 (virtual)

August 6, 2021 | 10:30 a.m. to noon

Transfer students are invited to join us for an interactive, virtual bridge session that builds on New Student Orientation and fully prepares you for life as a Mason Science student.

Females of Color and those Underrepresented in STEM (FOCUS) Academy (virtual)

August 9, 2021. - August 13, 2021

High school students will participate in STEM workshops as well as enhancement sessions including college and SAT prep, goal setting, fitness classes, a farewell party, and more.

See Full Calendar

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