Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, November 10, 2021 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Taking our collective scientific success from Good to Great

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Last week, two very important conversations took place on our campus which set a starting point and foundation for future dialogue and action. Both occurred on Thursday, November 4.

First, we visited with Mason's president, Dr. Gregory Washington to review the University's and our contributions to accomplishments over the past year and the challenges we collectively will face in the months ahead. I appreciate all those staff and faculty who attended this discussion, especially those who were able to join us in Merten Hall, and those who took the initiative to ask questions and share their concerns.

Dr. Washington outlined his Access to Excellence vision including the Mason Virginia Promise: a pathway toward the bachelor's degree or one's own business for every Virginian who wants it—touting our academic and research pathways along with Mason's 26 small business development centers across the state ready to train and support entrepreneurs who seek to turn their innovative ideas into businesses.

I refer to us as being in the 'science success business.'

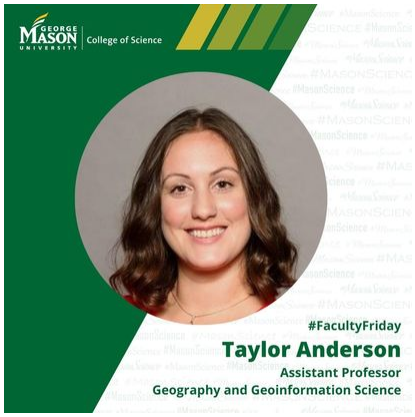
President Washington also reviewed the campus transformation ahead, detailing changes to the Fairfax and SciTech campuses that will affect our teaching and research environments—the strategy: future growth will be dictated by investment (a $1 billion capital campaign) and partnerships. The president also described new initiatives.

Read the full blog

Apply to be a Dean's Fellow

The Dean's Fellow Faculty Leadership Development Program advances institutional excellence by fostering a climate of inclusive and diverse leadership. The year-long program is designed to enhance the career development of Fellows by providing a leadership assignment and development experience to promote the next generation of diverse faculty leaders. Applications should be submitted to tfede@gmu.edu, by **November 19, 2021**, for the calendar year 2022.

More on the fellowship



#FacultyFriday highlights Geography and Geoinformation Science Assistant Professor

With #GISDay2021 around the corner, we highlight Taylor Anderson, Assistant Professor, Geography and Geoinformation Science. Over the summer, Anderson was a Summer Team Impact Project (STIP) mentor, guiding #MasonScience students conducting research in areas such as disease modeling, COVID-19 genome data, and human mobility prediction. Don't miss Anderson's talk on the role of GIS in the COVID-19 pandemic, Wednesday (11/17) in Exploratory Hall, second floor. Register to attend.

Learn about STIP

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

FDA funds Mason mRNA LNP vaccine research

by Elizabeth Grisham

Michael Buschmann, Department Chair and Professor, Bioengineering; Patrick Gillevet, Professor/Director, MicroBiome Analysis Center, Biology; and Mikell Paige, Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry, received $498,998 from the Food and Drug Administration for the study: "Manufacturing and Characterization of Potent mRNA Lipid Nanoparticle Vaccines at Multiple Scales."

Find out more about their study

IN THE NEWS

Mason climate expert shares warming potential from current climate models

In preparation for a report on the U.N. summit, *Fox43* (Harrisburg, PA) recently spoke to Jim Kinter, Professor, Atmospheric Oceanic and Earth Sciences, Director, Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies for his perspective on climate change and our planet's future. According to Kinter, countries will need "increased ambition going forward."

Read the full article

Happening at Mason

Attend the Title IX Coordinator Candidate Open Forum

The Mason community is invited to the Title IX Coordinator candidate presentation from 1 to 2 p.m. on Friday, November 12 in 1201 Merten Hall or by Zoom. The candidate will make a 30-minute presentation and then answer questions from those attending in person or virtually.

Please register before **9 a.m. on November 12.** After you register, you will receive an email from dei@gmu.edu with the Zoom link as well as the candidate's CV and cover letter.

Register to attend

Faculty Affairs and Research Development Interactive Workshop Series

Faculty Affairs and Research Development Services introduce a new yearlong Interactive Workshop Series designed to address key issues central to faculty development and success. Faculty from across disciplines and fields are welcome. The next event on "Navigating Politics in Academia" will take place Thursday, December 2 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Registration required

Racial Healing Circles
November 17, 2021 | 9 a.m. to noon
Mason students, faculty, staff, and alumni are invited for powerful well-being conversations on racial healing, founded on the principles of jettisoning the hierarchy of human value and narrative change through storytelling. Register to attend.

Mason Hunger Banquet
November 17, 2021 | 5 to 7 p.m.
Unique and memorable, the Hunger Banquet helps raise awareness, as organizers and participants alike experience first- hand how our decisions affect others in the world. Registration required.

Finding Earth 2.0: The Search for Habitable Worlds with George Mason University Observatory
November 17, 2021 | 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.
Join us for a Smithsonian Associates Lecture with Sara Seager, a professor of physics and planetary science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Galileo's Science Cafe
November 18, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.
Join us for a lecture on "The Selfish Microbiome and Human Cognition" from Patrick Gillevet, Professor, Biology, Director, MicroBiome Analysis Center.

Save the Date: Celebration of Success
December 6, 2021 | 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Nominations are now open and will be accepted until November 29 at 11:59 p.m.

See Full Calendar

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