Mason SCIENCE

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Forward together: facts, compassion, love, and action

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Usually, at this time of year, I enjoy congratulating our graduating students whose perseverance and quest for scientific expertise have taken them to this major life achievement. Although I look forward to celebrating that milestone for our Class of 2022, I can't help but think of those on the path to that great accomplishment who are affected by the events our nation has recently experienced.

I am writing this with a heavy heart after the tragedies that have taken place within this past week. Reflecting back on the past few days where we saw senseless violence in Buffalo, NY, Laguna Woods, CA, and Dallas, TX. And unfortunately, the list continues to grow with additional examples of insensible violence and loss of life motivated by fear and the lack of understanding and respect.

Let's take stock of where we are as a community, a nation, a global society. Our world has just gone through an unprecedented COVID pandemic. Despite concerns for safety and perhaps driven by a sense of normalcy, people are starting to go back out to stores, to church, to work, and to learn. Each time one of these horrendous events occur, it tests our resilience, our well-being, our resolve.

Every single individual in our society should feel safe and respected at all times. We are clearly not living in a society where these basic expectations are being met.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Mason graduate says exploration and investigation are a way of life

by Lauren Reuscher



To biology senior Natalie VanderNoot, public health is a way to connect science with important social issues. She is particularly interested in the ways chemical exposures early in life or during embryonic development affect child development through adolescence. *Photo provided*.

Read about her Mason experience



Mason first step to a career in health care

by Damian Cristodero

Sean Diment, a biology major at George Mason University who is graduating this month, said he decided as a freshman, while in the hospital because of an injury he sustained playing basketball, to change his major and study to become a health care provider “Attending Mason was a great experience that prepared me so much for medical school,” said Diment, who will attend Ohio University on a Veteran's Health Administration (VHA) scholarship. *Photo by Roneyfield Photography*.

Learn more about Sean

#FacultyFriday highlights biology assistant professor

This week's #FacultyFriday features Elisabeth Epstein, Assistant Professor, Biology. Epstein made significant impact on the biology program after reviving the introductory biology courses with an emphasis on experimental learning. The new introductory biology courses give students the tools to become informed, evidenced-based decision-makers. Her goal is for students to develop a critical perspective, an understanding of the scientific method, and a curiosity about how life works.



Read Epstein's bio

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Studying compression and randomization for extreme-scale training and optimization

by Elizabeth Grisham



Harbir Antil, Professor, Mathematical Sciences, and Director, Center for Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence (CMAI) recently received $300,000 from the U.S. Department of the Air Force for a research project. Antil and his research team aims to enable scalable automated design, data analysis and optimization of highly nonlinear dynamical systems with uncertainty.

More on this study

STUDENTS AS SCHOLARS

OSCAR names top presenters of spring celebration

Each year, OSCAR celebrates the hard work of Mason students with an event highlighting student research and scholarship. Be sure to take a look at the Mason Science student excellence award recipients, and be sure to congratulate Jennifer Salerno, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, for receiving a 2022 Mentoring Excellence Award.

View the award recipients

IN THE NEWS

Alumna speaks on podcast featuring female scientists



Biology alumna Louise Risher recently appeared on the Women in Science & Medicine podcast that features women in science at West Virginia University and other institutions. Risher, an assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University, spoke about her research on the long-term effects of binge drinking on adolescent brains as well as her experience as a woman in STEM. *Photo by Will Francis on Unsplash.*

Listen to the episode

Happening at Mason



Stream this year's degree celebrations on YouTube

Can't join us on the Fairfax, VA campus for this year's Commencement or College of Science Degree Celebration events? Catch the live stream and check out the list of award-winning students across our various departments.

Mason Commencement Ceremony
Friday, May 20, 2022 | 10 a.m.

College of Science
Saturday May 21, 2022 | 10 a.m.



Thomas Lovejoy Symposium
May 19, 2022 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Fairfax Campus
Join us for a symposium honoring Thomas Lovejoy, hosted by George Mason President Gregory Washington and Smithsonian Under Secretary for Science and Research Ellen Stofan. Registration required.

College of Science Degree Celebration 2022
May 21, 2022 | 10 a.m. | Eagle Bank Arena
Join us for this year's spring Degree Celebration and celebrate the accomplishments of the class of 2022. Register to attend.

Career Launch 2022
May 23, 2022 | 9 a.m. to May 24, 2022 | 6 p.m. | In person and online
If you know a student ready to take the next step in their career, suggest they attend the Career Launch event. The event features both live and virtual sessions covering a range of career topics from resume writing to the best way to use your summer break.

Just-in-Time Hiring Fair
May 23, 2022 | 1 to 4 p.m. | Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center, Fairfax Campus
Do you know a student in need of a summer internship, part-time job, or full-time position? Connect them with employers at the Just-in-Time Hiring Fair. Employers will be on campus to network with students looking for all kinds of positions, including internships, entry level and summer employment.

See Full Calendar

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