Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, April 13, 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Celebrating Trailblazers

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Last week was historic on many fronts. George Mason University celebrated 50 years as an independent institution of higher education anchored in Northern Virginia. A far cry from its humble beginnings, Mason's global footprint now includes campuses in Fairfax, VA, the expanding SciTech location in Manassas, VA, the recent groundbreaking at Mason Square (Arlington, VA), and unique learning experiences at the Potomac Science Center (Woodbridge, VA), the Smithsonian Mason School of Conservation (Front Royal, VA), and even in South Korea (Songdo).

In a relatively short period of time, in comparison to other higher education institutions in our area, we have grown into Virginia's largest and most diverse public research university. To begin the celebratory week, Mason dedicated the Enslaved People of George Mason Memorial. Our university's namesake was a bold thinker and trailblazer, yet even he at his time in society made choices counter to Mason's vision and values of today. As we bravely and boldly go forward in our next chapter as a University, as a College, and as a nation, we should learn lessons from our past-- study them, understand them, and

Mason's President Washington proclaimed "It's Mason's Time" unveiling a video which identified the attributes that symbolize our trailblazing brand. The Mason Nation is diverse and inclusive, proud Patriots filled with grit and audacity, determined to pursue a quality education and impactful research. Merging different points of view to create new ideas, innovative solutions, and unheard of opportunity. We are united in tackling the most pressing challenges the world has ever faced. Driven by the pull of possibility to think fearlessly, to inspire, to protect, and to heal the planet. We are fueled and made stronger by difference, difference in where we come from, and how we think but the same in our dreams for tomorrow.

We know the world will change, because together we will be the ones who will change it.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Mason Trailblazer: Jagadish Shukla

by Rob Riordan

A remarkable journey has brought George Mason University Professor Jagadish Shukla from his childhood in rural India to world prominence as a climate researcher. Shukla, a professor since 1994 and founder of the university's Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences (AOES), has gained international recognition for Mason in that field. He established the Climate Dynamics PhD program at Mason—first in the country—which has produced 50 PhDs. *Photo by Lathan Goumas/Strategic Communications*.

More on his contributions

Mason Science seed award applications due June 1

by Pat Gillevet

It is my pleasure to announce the launch of the 2022 COS Seed Awards by the College of Science, with three annual awards of up to

the scientific connection between the investigators in the college, or enable investigators to explore new areas of research. As such, interdisciplinary projects are highly encouraged. Eligible applicants must include at least one tenure-track faculty who has not yet received tenure. Applications are due **June 1, 2022 by 5 p.m.** Please submit applications to Lillian Virgil. Direct all questions to Pat Gillevet. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services.*

#FacultyFriday highlights ESP assistant professor

Our #EarthMonth celebration continues with this week's #FacultyFriday highlight, Jennifer Salerno, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science and Policy. Salerno's research focuses on symbiotic and free-living microorganisms and the role that they play in maintaining and destabilizing organism health and ecosystem function. When she is not teaching Environmental Microbiology and Coral Reef Ecology courses, she leads the Salerno Lab at the Potomac Science Center. Don't miss Salerno at the next Galileo's Science Café on Thursday, April 21, where she will discuss the life and death of coral reefs.

View Jennifer's bio

Funding received to examine ovarian cancer detection

by Elizabeth Grisham

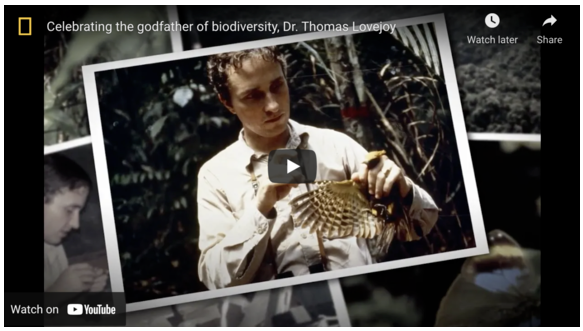
Emanuel Petricoin, Co-Director, Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine (CAPMM), received $160,939 from the University of Arizona on a subaward from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for a project examining ovarian cancer detection with blood- and imaging-based biomarkers.

More on the study

IN THE NEWS

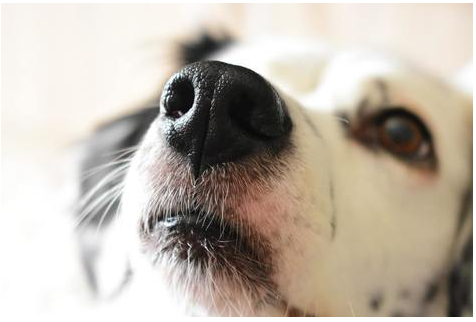
National Geographic Society honors Lovejoy with Hubbard Medal

by National Geographic Society



In recognition of Thomas Lovejoy's contributions to conservation biology, the National Geographic Society awarded him its most prestigious honor, the 2022 Hubbard Medal. This award recognizes individuals for the highest distinction in exploration, scientific research, and discovery.

Read full article



Is it possible to smell cancer before it develops?

by Iris Kulbatski

A recent study from Monell Chemical Senses Center and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital found detectable odors that could diagnose certain benign tumors before becoming malignant. Research by Robin Couch, Associate Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry often looks at the development and utilization of sensing technologies, like an electronic nose, and says this research further demonstrates how a sample's scent will be able to be used similarly to a fingerprint, providing a unique identifier of disease. *Photo by Evi Kalemi on Unsplash*.

Read full article

Happening at Mason

Have your voice heard through Mason's Faculty and Staff Experience Survey

by Lester Arnold, Sr.

On Monday, April 18, Gallup will send a unique survey link to your Mason email address for the Faculty and Staff Experience Survey. When you receive Gallup's email, please take the time to open your unique link and participate in the survey. The survey will take approximately ten minutes.

We ensure the results will remain confidential. Data will only be shared in a way that no one individual can be identified. Your participation will:

- Help create a workplace that better understands, creates space for, and engages in inclusion and belonging practices
- Share your well-being needs in a pandemic-altered workplace
- Co-create an environment where you can continue to make a meaningful impact at Mason
- Be a part of actionable plans and results because of your response

Learn more about the survey

Attend Mason's Climate Action Plan Launch Event

Join the Mason community on **Wednesday, April 20,** from **noon to 2 p.m.** in the **Johnson Center Atrium** on Mason's Fairfax Campus or virtually to celebrate the launch of the new Climate Action Plan (CAP). Mason commits to be carbon neutral by 2030 with the release of its new CAP. The plan charts a path forward for Mason to accelerate its response to the climate emergency and ensure a healthy planet for all.

More on the Climate Action Plan

Living with Disaster: Housing Instability and Post-Disaster Migration
April 15, 2022 | Noon | Virtual
Hear from Matthew Sedlar, graduate student, Sociology and Anthropology who's ongoing research focuses on how survivors of the 2021 Caldor Fire in Northern California are navigating the struggles of finding a place to live and how that intersects along the lines of gender, race, and age. Registration required for event access.

General Faculty Meeting with President Gregory Washington
April 20, 2022 | 3 to 4:15 p.m. | Merten 1201 and Virtual
This faculty meeting is an opportunity to engage with and hear from the President, Provost, and key university leaders in a public forum on institution-wide initiatives, as well as participate in discussions on several issues that are important to the general faculty.

Galileo's Science Café

You are invited to a fascinating, free, and interactive science night featuring Dr. Jennifer Salerno's research on Life and Death on Coral Reefs: Microbes as Messengers of Coral Health and Disease. Registration required.

College of Science Undergraduate Research Colloquium
April 27, 2022 | 2 to 4 p.m. | Virtual
Find out the amazing work our undergraduates have been working on the past year at our annual undergraduate research colloquium. Contact Kerin Hilker-Balkissoon for access details.

Save the Date: 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.

Save the Date: 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.

See Full Calendar

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