Mason SCIENCE

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

We can stand strong together

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

During last week's State of the College address, I noted the pride we take in serving our students. Driven by access, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, we pursue exciting and consequential educational experiences and research. And we thrive by actively engaging within our community, collaborating with sought after professional partners.

On the one hand, these are exciting times. Mason Science total enrollment has grown across the board. And we seek to further invest in student support. We are preparing to launch the most ambitious advancement campaign in the college's history. And this week, the steering committee and working group members met to officially kick off our strategic planning effort. This process will provide the strategy and structure to reach our audacious, important goals over the next few years.

However, these are also tumultuous times, with challenges ahead. One of the challenges I noted in my address was the mental health crisis. For some, these unsettling times can be overwhelming.

And for those who need it, we must be there to help.

Read full message

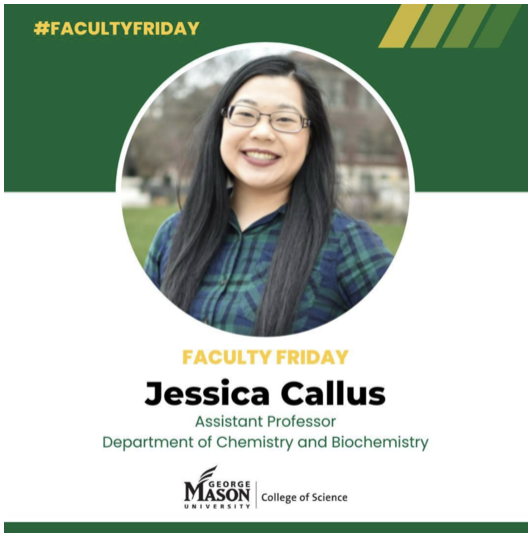
MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Bioscience PhD student cultivates Mason's hydroponic production system

by Buzz McClain

As an undergraduate, Doni Nolan, BA Biology '14, had no visions of a future profession until she visited the greenhouse on George Mason University's Fairfax Campus. "It was like a revolution in my life. Really, it was immediately so clear: This is what I want to do with my life," she said. "This is everything I want. Soil, pots, a huge diversity of plants. I want to be a farmer." She's now working as University Sustainability's Greenhouse and Gardens Program Manager and is a Biosciences PhD student. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services*.

Meet Doni



#FacultyFriday highlights chemistry and biochemistry assistant professor

Last #FacultyFriday welcomed new faculty member Jessica Callus, Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, Chemistry and Biochemistry. Her research focuses on curriculum development for general chemistry courses. More specifically, she is interested in the support of students' development of engaging in argument from evidence to make informed decisions. View the original Instagram post.

View recent faculty highlights

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Project funded to revise ionization rates and developing software for CHIANTI

by Elizabeth Grisham

Kenneth Dere, Research Professor, Physics and Astronomy, received funding from NASA for: "Revised ionization rates and software development for CHIANTI." Dere is in possession of the measured cross-sections and has completed the CHIANTI format for reproducing them. He will test those cross-sections by integration into the CHIANTI database and calculate a new ionization equilibrium. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services.*

More on this project

IN THE NEWS

Mason scientist named to NASA unidentified aerial phenomena study team

Editor: Emily Furfaro

On Monday, NASA began an independent study of unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP), referring to observations of events in the sky that cannot be identified as aircraft or as known natural phenomena. The team includes Anamaria Berea, Associate Professor, Computational and Data Sciences. The announcement made its way to numerous news outlets including USA Today, CBS DFW, and MSN. A full report containing the team's findings will be released to the public mid-2023. *Photo credit: NASA.*

Read the announcement

Happening at Mason

Take part in First-Gen Week this November

First-Gen Week at Mason is November 7 through 11, when we celebrate First-Generation Patriots: undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. The First-Gen+ Center is collecting student and employee stories about their first-gen experiences. Faculty and staff who identify as first-gen are encouraged to share their story and add themselves to the "I Am First" faculty and staff list. *Photo by Ron Aira/Creative Services.*

Check out the week's events

MITRE Capstones Project Portal

As part of its University Innovation Exchange (UIX) initiative, MITRE is partnering with universities to offer technical advisors and capstone project ideas that reflect real problems facing the United States government. The MITRE Capstones Project Portal is a web-based platform for university faculty and students to browse, select, and execute capstone projects with a MITRE technical advisor. There are several exciting opportunities currently on the project portal.

View the full list

Events

Support Group Meetings for Working Mothers at Mason
October 27, 2022 | noon to 1 p.m. | Virtual
Take part in the next fall meeting of the Support Group for Working Mothers at Mason. The group provides a way for Mason faculty, staff, and students to come together, discuss the issues confronting working mothers, and perhaps spur changes on campus.

Faculty Affairs and Research Development Faculty Matters Workshop
November 1, 2022 | 1 p.m.
How to Write Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work Statements, which focuses on effectively conveying

the impact of your research, scholarship, and/or creative work for promotion, renewal, and tenure. This workshop is recommended for tenured and tenure-line faculty. Registration required.

Engaging ideas for AJEDI - College of Science Faculty Meeting
November 3, 2022 | 1 to 2:30 p.m. | Exploratory Hall 3301 and Virtual
Faculty are invited to participate in the shaping and finalization of Mason Science's 5-Year AJEDI Strategic Plan.

Engaging ideas for AJEDI - College of Science Staff Meeting
November 8, 2022 | 1 to 2:30 p.m. | Exploratory Hall 3301 and Virtual
Staff are invited to participate in the shaping and finalization of Mason Science's 5-Year AJEDI Strategic Plan. Please register by November 1.

Veterans Day Luncheon
November 11, 2022 | 11:45 a.m. | Center for the Arts Lobby
Mason community members who have proudly served the country are invited and encouraged to join the Office of the President, ROTC, and the Office of Military Services as Mason celebrates and honors Veterans Day. Registration is required.

Save the Date: Celebration of Success
December 5, 2022 | 2 to 3:30 p.m.

See Full Calendar

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