Mason SCIENCE

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Thursday, October 22, 2020 **science.gmu.edu**

In this Issue

- Message from the Dean
- Mason Science Community
- Research & Discovery
- In the News
- Happening at Mason
- Events



A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Mandela quote of "*Hope*" helps us stay the course

by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

At the beginning of this semester, we selected a few meaningful quotes to help guide us through these unprecedented times. These sentiments appear on our t-shirts, stickers, and social media channels as a means of support. Of inspiration.

“Your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.”

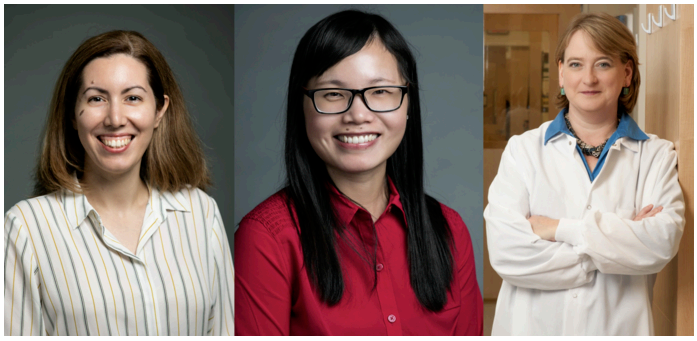
Many may recognize this quote from Nelson Mandela, the great anti-apartheid revolutionary, Nobel Peace Prize-winning president of South Africa, included as a way to motivate against difficult circumstances.

Throughout 2020, we have looked beyond our unimaginable fear of a global pandemic, bolstered by the hope of a safe campus, classroom, and laboratory environment or the evolving ability to leverage technology to build meaningful virtual connections, all to provide a high quality science education, foster innovative learning opportunities, and perform important research.

Mandela also said, “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY



Mason Science researchers receive 4-VA collaborative grants for 2020-21

by Elizabeth Gillooly

Computational and Data Sciences' Olga Gkountouna, Chemistry and Biochemistry's Xiaoyan Tan, and School of Systems Biology's Monique van Hoek received 4-VA collaborative grants to conduct research on artificial intelligence, thermoelectric materials, and antimicrobial peptides, respectively.

Explore their research

At the Scene of the Crime: Modern Scientific Approaches for Studying the Time Since Death



This year's Mason Science Series is in full swing. Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm will host the next virtual discussion, **Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 4 p.m**. featuring guest speakers Mary Ellen O'Toole and Anthony Falsetti from the Forensic Science Program. This event is free and registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

Register

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY



Klimov studying origami antibodies for threat sensing

by Elizabeth Grisham

Dmitri Klimov, Professor, Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, is creating a computational platform for designing an antibody-antigen interface based on DNA origami.

Full Story

Yang receives funding for services in support of COVID-19 mitigation mapping events and research

by Elizabeth Grisham



Chaowei Yang, Professor, Geography and Geoinformation Science and Director, NSF Spatiotemporal Innovation Center, received $90,000 from the U.S. Department of State for a project foscusing on possible long-term and second-order impacts of COVID-19 and the responses that have been enacted at multiple scales, from multinational regions to neighborhood levels.

Learn More

IN THE NEWS

O'Toole comments on Prince Andrew's legal troubles

by Victoria Bekiempis



Mason Forensic Science Program Director, Mary Ellen O'Toole, recently spoke to *The Guardian* on the legal risks Great Britain's Prince Andrew may face in speaking to U.S. authorities about the Jeffrey Epstein case.

Full Story

Froelich studies flesh-eating bacteria found along Carolina coast

by Sammy Fretwell, Ali Raj, and Sofia Moutinho



After providing the recent lab tour for the Dean, new Mason Department of Biology assistant professor Brett Froelich welcomed his new students in the lab through an engaging Twitter campaign (@DrBrettFroelich) and is already making headlines. Learn about his research on a dangerous, deadly flesh-eating bacteria, Vibrio, increasingly found in the rivers, creeks, and sounds of the Carolinas.

Full Article

Happening at Mason

Mason confirms spring semester calendar



President Gregory Washington recently updated Mason on plans to finish out the year, the schedule for courses next spring and continued efforts to keep campus safe. The goal: Continue to safely expand the University's on-campus operations.

Review the announcement

Events

CMAI Colloquium: Large-Scale Topology Optimization
Friday, October 23, 2020 | 10 a.m.

Roundtable Discussion – Research Announcement from DARPA
Friday, October 23, 2020 | Noon
Registration required

CSS/Computational Data Sciences Research Colloquium: Disease Spread Network Model Dynamics
Friday, October 23, 2020 | 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Free Mason Arts at Home Series - Gaining Ground: A Celebration of Diverse Voices in Musical Theater
Friday, October 23, 2020 | 8 p.m.

Mason Science Series - Modern Scientific Approaches for Studying the Time Since Death
October 29, 2020 | 4 p.m.
Registration required

Save the Date: College of Science Virtual Celebration of Success for all faculty and staff

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 | 2 to 3:30 p.m.

See Full Calendar

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