Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, December 8, 2021 **science.gmu.edu**

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Newsletter Schedule for Final Weeks of Fall 2021
The last College of Science newsletter in 2021 will be on Wednesday, December 15. In 2022 we will continue to publish this newsletter on Wednesdays with a content deadline of the Monday prior. Our first issue of 2022 will be Wednesday, January 19.



Recognition resolution

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Let's face it, we're all so very busy at this time of the year. With finals, winter graduation, and the holidays all upon us, it's hard to imagine any free time to just take a moment and reflect on the past year.

But at the college's Celebration of Success this week, we did just that to meaningfully recognize members of our team who have made significant contributions to our shared success during this very challenging year.

I really appreciate all who carved out the time to attend this in-person recognition event (first time back like that since the pandemic began). Understandably, not all of our virtual workforce could be there, yet

we can share it with you, recounting the day with tons of pictures and stories. All can check the website and our social feeds where we will post nomination excerpts for the accomplished award winners. And we'll keep the celebration going each day throughout the week with a daily prize raffle for all to join in the fun. For the first time in the history of the Celebration of Success, you don't need to be present to win!

After all, we have much to celebrate. **Thank you all for a great year.**

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY



Dean's Award winners recognized for impact in the college and beyond

On Monday, Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm honored 11 faculty and staff for their service during the 2021 calendar year. These individuals were selected out of the more than 50 candidates nominated. In addition to public recognition and a certificate, each recipient received $1000.

Find out about their contributions

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

The invasion of the body snatchers… in the Chesapeake Bay

by Colleen Kearney Rich



The white-fingered mud crabs (Rhithropanopeus harrisii) and their short lives at the mercy of two diabolical parasites are the focus of research being conducted at Mason's Potomac Science Center. Amy Fowler, assistant professor of invertebrate ecology, aquatic ecology, parasitology and invasions, leads the research with Environmental Science and Policy graduate students Darby Pochtar and Sarah Greenberg, and several OSCAR students.

More on her research



Sun developing machine learning workforce for earth science studies

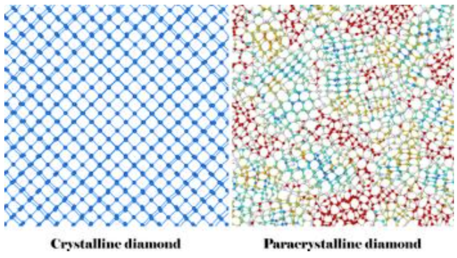
by Elizabeth Grisham

Ziheng Sun, Research Assistant Professor, Geography and Geoinformation Science, Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems (CSISS), received $16,530 from the University of Washington on a subaward from the National Science Foundation for the project: "CyberTraining: Implementation: Medium: GeoSMART: Developing a Machine Learning workforce for earth science studies through training and curriculum development."

Full story

IN THE NEWS

Mason physicist part of research team to discover uniquely structured carbon material



(c) Hu Tang

Howard Sheng, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy, worked with an international team of scientists to produce a carbon material with a unique structure that can inform our understanding of non-crystalline materials. The study, "Synthesis of paracrystalline diamond," was published in the multidisciplinary science journal, *Nature*.

More on the findings



Human activity is increasing Earth's temperature faster than ever before

by Barry Klinger

FOX43 recently ran a four-part series on climate change featuring interviews with Jim Kinter, Professor, Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Studies; Director, The Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies (COLA).

Watch the segment

Happening at Mason

Mason COVID-19 surveillance testing site upcoming schedule

Mason's COVID-19 surveillance testing site will be open for two Mondays during winter break, on December 20 and December 27 from 9 a.m. to noon in Fenwick Library on the Fairfax Campus. Mason's vaccine site will be closed for two weeks during winter break (December 20 – 31). The Mason community is encouraged to visit vaccinefinder.gov to locate clinics open during the winter break if you need a vaccine or booster. The Mason vaccine site will resume regular hours on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Testing site information

Events

Mason Holiday Party - Fairfax Campus
December 9, 2021 | 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. | Dewberry Hall
Join fellow faculty and staff for Mason's 2021 holiday party on the Fairfax Campus. Enjoy food, music, games, and prizes.

Fall Virtual Celebration of Student Scholarship
December 9 - 10, 2021
The Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities and Research (OSCAR) holds its Fall Virtual Celebration of Student Scholarship from Dec. 9-10. Check out the pre-recorded presentations by Mason scholars and ask them questions.

Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the College of Science Candidate Presentations
December 10, 2021 | 11 a.m. to noon ; 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. ; 3:30 to 3:30 p.m.

You must pre-register for each presentation individually. An email announcement for each candidate will be sent to faculty, staff, and students on Thursday with a registration link and candidate's resume. After registering, you will then receive an email that confirms your registration and includes the link to access the candidate's town hall.

Strategic Plan Survey Open for Responses

Deadline: December 10, 2021

Have your voice heard in the development of Mason's Strategic Plan. Information gathered from this survey will be collated along with insights gathered from interviews and focus groups to inform the components of Mason's five-year strategic plan.

Climate Action Plan Townhall

December 15, 2021 | Noon to 1 p.m.

Engage with the Mason Sustainability Council and share your thoughts about the future of climate action at Mason.

See Full Calendar

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