Mason SCIENCE

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Thursday, September 10, 2020 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Science instructional growth and creative engagement

by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

Let's face it. We are navigating uncharted waters. New leadership within a pandemic that upended our day-to-day on all levels. Yet we must take time to recognize and celebrate our strengths and successes.

In a previous newsletter blog post, I shared our college is at the heart of Mason's R-1 research success; over the past year, we generated the largest share of Mason's research proposals receiving more than $32Million for funded research. (This was even the answer to one of the ScienceConnect trivia questions last week).

Well…we can also take pride in the fact that the College of Science is fueling Mason's growth on the instructional side as well. As of Friday, September 4, 2020, our college had an overall enrollment growth of 5.3% and an increase of over five thousand credit hours (7.2%) vs prior fall semester. This is the second biggest growth in the college's history and a leading contributor to the university's fall enrollment growth.

Some of this is due to new programs; the climate dynamics (AOES), neuroscience, and forensics science programs are bringing in many new students. Kudos also to our Computational and Data Sciences department which is experiencing double digit growth across all undergraduate and graduate level course offerings. And, just as exciting, we're also seeing growth in the traditional sciences like chemistry, systems biology, and physics and astronomy as well.

Yet today, I want to highlight a department that led our College's overall credit hour growth for the fall 2020 semester: Mathematical Sciences.

Read the full story

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

GGS Department recognizes students for academic excellence

The Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science recognized seven exceptional undergraduate and graduate GGS students for their educational achievements and commitment to academics. Learn more about these high achieving graduates and where they are now.

View the award recipients

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason scientists among research team surveying the entirety of the Earth's Sky

by Elizabeth Grisha

Physics and Astronomy Associate Professor, Iulia Deneva, is part of an international research team that is set to conduct an ambitious high time resolution survey of the entire sky visible with a telescope based in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. The team aims to find millisecond pulsars (MSPs) to add to the North American Nanohertz Observatory for Gravitational Waves (NANOGrav) pulsar timing array for nanohertz gravitational wave detection.

Learn more

Studying rise and fall of Neoproterozoic Era in Siberia

by Elizabeth Grisham

Geoffrey Gilleaudeau, Assistant Professor, Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences, is working to link plate tectonics, weathering, and ocean oxygenation across the two most important geobiological events in Earth history--the big bang of eukaryotic evolution and the Cambrian Explosion of animals.

Discover more

IN THE NEWS

Firearm ownership among LGBTQ adults

Mary Ellen O'Toole, Director of the Forensic Science program, appears in both Science Codex and Health Medicine Network discussing firearm ownership and the LGBTQ community.

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Read the article

Thought Leadership

Mason President and Science Dean present at upcoming Women Building Bio conference

By: Amy Adams and Tracy Mason

Women Building Bio will be held on **September 16** as a half-day, virtual conference. The event will include a panel with Janice Underwood, Commonwealth of VA Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, our own Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm, and Mason's President, Gregory Washington. Other sessions will feature Bioscience PhD student and ASSIP alumna, Marissa Howard and a high school student from the College's FOCUS program.

Mason's Institute for BioHealth Innovation and the College of Science are sponsoring the upcoming VA Bio Women Building Bio conference. As part of the sponsorship, the College's attendance fees are waived for faculty, staff and students so all can freely participate in the annual event which brings bio-focused academia, industry, and government entities together. Just use the promo code **WBB2020.**

Register

Events

Friends Talks during Computer Science Virtual Research Day

Friday, September 11, 2020 | 1 to 2 p.m.

Mark Uhen *and* ***David Straus*** *from the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences and*

Molecular probes and proteomics: discovery of new biomarkers and new therapeutic targets in the era of personalized medicine
Tuesday, September 15, 2020 | 11 a.m.

Inside Science (Our Universe): Stellar Astronomy the Fall Colors of Stars
Tuesday, September 15, 2020 | 8 p.m.

Virginia's Climate Future: The Path Forward in the Face of COVID-19, Economic Crisis, and Inequity
Thursday, September 24, 3030 | 5 to 7 p.m.
*Join **Alonso Aguirre**, Chair of the the Department of Environmental Science and Policy, and **Jim Kinter**, Chair of the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences, for a discussion with environmental activists, a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and Mason students.*

See Full Calendar

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