# Mason SCIENCE

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**Wednesday, March 9, 2022** **science.gmu.edu**

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**Newsletter Schedule**
There will be no newsletter shared next week due to Spring Break. The newsletter will resume Wednesday, March 23, 2022.

## A new dawn and a new day

*by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm*

As we move past mask requirements on Mason's campus, I can't help but review in my mind the journey our college community has completed, thus far, to address the COVID-19 global pandemic. Let's just take a moment to reflect on how important a milestone this is. On Friday, March 4, 2022, a little less than two years since COVID-19 changed our campus as we knew it, President Washington sent a message that Mason is at Mask Level Yellow. The arrival at this new level means that "effective immediately, masks are optional at Mason, except in classrooms and class labs during scheduled classes and or/lab activity," (with other minor and targeted exceptions).

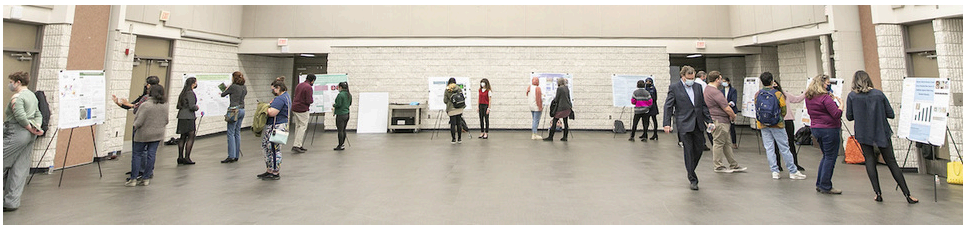
Granted, if one is more comfortable wearing a mask on campus, the Face Coverings page of the website notes, "feel free to continue." In addition, the new CDC guidance means Mason will not have a mask

requirement for events with 50+ attendees unless event organizers specifically require it which means, for the first time in two years, this spring we will have a traditional ceremony to honor our Mason Science graduates.

The transformational road to get to this point was significant. Yet this important milestone signifies the dawn of a new day. At this juncture, I can't help but ask, 'How are we feeling?' Are we feeling good, or are we still just as concerned, if not even more so, for the health and safety of those we hold dear?

Read full Dean's message

# MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY



## Mason Science Undergraduate Research Colloquium

*by Rebecca Jones*

The annual College of Science Undergraduate Research Colloquium will be held virtually on April 27, 2022, from 2 to 4 p.m. All undergraduate students engaged in undergraduate research at any level in any academic unit within the College of Science are encouraged to participate.

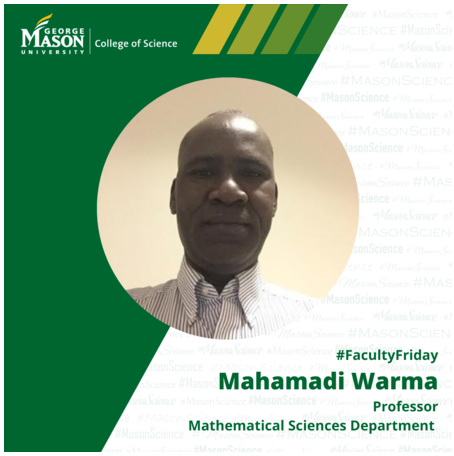
Students can now register to present at the Undergraduate Research Colloquium. Abstracts are due **April 4, 2022** and posters should be submitted by **April 18, 2022**.

Judging the Colloquium requires many volunteers. If you are interested or would like to nominate a graduate student to be a judge, please email Rebecca Jones. Please add the colloquium to your calendar and encourage your students to participate.

Student sign up

## #FacultyFriday highlights mathematical sciences professor

This #FacultyFriday features Mahamadi Warma, Professor, Mathematical Sciences. Warma is currently working on two major research projects with approaches based on the rich and fruitful mathematical apparatus offered by PDE, functional analysis, controllability, optimization, and numerical approximations. He has published a total of 79 papers, with seven of those published in 2022. Warma is very active in the Center for Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence (CMAI) at Mason. His passion for math started in high




school and continues to grow as he faces new challenges with an eagerness to solve them.

Read Mahamadi's bio

# RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

## Couch lab highlights human scent model advancements in new publication

*by Gerald Weatherspoon*

Robin Couch, Associate Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry and Allyson Dailey, Adjunct Faculty, Chemistry and Biochemistry, contributed a chapter entitled "Towards the Development of a Human Scent Model" in the recently published book, "Canines, The Original Biosensors". This compendium of material highlights the advances researchers have made during the past several years in an effort to mimic what canines have been able to do for centuries and to understand their intricate and innate abilities. *Photo: Christian Lue on Unsplash.*

More on the publication

# IN THE NEWS

## Mason's surveillance testing team honored for its efforts

India Education Diary recently highlighted Mason's recognition of the many dedicated scientists, first responders, program administrators, staff and medical personnel whose tireless efforts paved the way for the school's successful COVID-19 surveillance testing program during the global pandemic. *Photo: Evan Cantwell/Creative Services.*

Read the news highlight

# Happening at Mason

## Celebrate Mason at 50

Throughout 2022, the George Mason University community will celebrate Mason's first 50 years. From its origins as a branch campus of the University of Virginia to its current status as Virginia's largest and most inclusive university, Mason has experienced 50 remarkable years of growth and achievement.

Perhaps more importantly, Mason at 50 represents an inflection point for the university. As we look to the next half century, we celebrate the university we are becoming, the students we are graduating, and the world we are helping to shape.

It is Mason's time. #Mason50

Upcoming Mason at 50 events

## Share your thoughts with the Task Force on Reimagining Faculty Roles and Rewards

The Task Force on Reimagining Faculty Roles and Rewards is seeking feedback on the proposed options from the Community Forum that took place in February. You can view the PowerPoint slides or watch the Forum recording (Recording Passcode: !G33&B&H). Deadline to submit feedback is **March 11, 2022**.

Submit your feedback

**Geology Seminar**

March 10, 2022 | 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. | 1309 Exploratory Hall and Zoom

*Join Lily Pfeifer, University of Oklahoma, for a lecture on "Loess in Eastern Pangea".*

**Galileo's Science Café**

March 10, 2022 | 7 p.m. | Verizon Auditorium, Sci Tech and Virtual

*Professors Taylor Anderson, Andreas Züfle, Hamdi Kavak, and Tim Leslie from the Departments of Geography and Geoinformation Science and Computational and Data Sciences will discuss the key role of spatial-temporal data in better understanding the relationship between human behavior, mobility, and disease spread and how we can use this knowledge to improve predictive models. Registration required.*

**Combinatorics, Algebra and Geometry Seminar**

March 11, 2022 | 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. | Zoom

*Join Valeriu Soltan, Professor, Mathematical Sciences, for a lecture on "Boundedly Polyhedral Sets and F-Simplices".*

**Open Call Photo Session for Faculty, Staff, and Administrators**

March 16, 2022 | 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Outside of the Center for the Arts main entrance

*Need an updated head shot? Creative Services Photography will offer an opportunity to obtain a professional Mason head shot for use on Mason-affiliated websites and publications. Registration required.*

**Women of Color Circle**

March 22, 2022 | 4 to 5 p.m. | Virtual

*This collaborative program between The Counseling and Psychological Services and the Women and Gender Studies Program explores the college student experiences of women of color here at Mason. The Women of Color Circle will provide students with supportive discussion, self-care and well-being tips, and resources for continued growth.*

**See Full Calendar**

## Stay Connected

Read the College of Science's latest annual report

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