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Message from the Dean

Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Congratulations, Mason class of 2022! A weeks ago, we processed into Eagle Bank Arena, and celebrated the accomplishments - and futures - of these scientists of tomorrow.

There is always a sense of pride as we send these scholars out into the world for the next chapter of their journey. Perhaps we will even see them this fall as some return for graduate school, in research positions, and even as colleagues. No matter where their

degree takes them, we know they will be Patriots for life, and welcome them with open arms as members of the COS Alumni Chapter.

In April, we honored Dr. Jagadish Shukla and his contributions to the field of climate science. I must admit, it was a dream to spend Earth Day with Dr. Shukla and his mentor, Nobel Laureate Dr. Syukuro Manabe.

We are excited to see many of you at the kickoff event for the Dr. Don Kelso Learning Pier Campaign at the Potomac Science Center on Saturday, June 11th. We invite all COS alumni to join us for this special day.

On behalf of Mason Science, I wish you and your loved ones a safe and relaxing summer. And I thank you for your ongoing support and friendship.

With gratitude,
FMW

Support Science

Alumni News

Welcome to our newest class of Mason Science Alumni!

A message from Mark Monson:

Hello New Alumni! Congratulations on your graduation! Getting here has required a lot of hard work and your diploma is well earned. We would like to officially welcome you into the College of Science Alumni Community. We are here for you and want to help you stay engaged, however you'd like to be involved. The College of Science Alumni Chapter is here to support your endeavors.

Please visit science.gmu.edu/alumni to learn more about networking, mentorship, volunteering, and other opportunities we as an alumni chapter work to make available

for you. If you have ideas, please share them with us.

Best of luck in what lies ahead. We hope to see you again at one of our upcoming alumni events!

Mark Monson
COS Alumni Chapter President

This note was shared in the Commencement program for the Class of 2022. Click the link below to watch George Mason Univesity's 55th Commencement Ceremony.

Watch Now

Alumni Spotlight: Walter McLeod, MS Chemistry '94

Walter McLeod, MS Chemistry '94 shared words of wisdom with the Mason Science Class of 2022 in his commencement speech:

"One of the world's most beloved Scientists, the late Dr. Carl Sagan, revealed the 'WHY' that makes Science so powerful.

'Science is a way of thinking, more than it is a body of knowledge.' — Carl Sagan

You Mason Science graduates know that better than most. Science is exhilarating. Inspiring. It keeps us curious. It is not rote memory.

As someone who was trained as a scientist, I can attest to Sagan's words. I studied chemistry here at Mason, but today I'm a clean energy investor and developer. Scientific thinking has guided my entire career – and the same can be true for you.

Science has the power to shape the future of life as we know it - here on earth and beyond. That's why we have such faith in you graduates, because you will determine the future of science in our lives.

Let's start here on planet earth."

Watch His Speech

Natalie VanderNoot, Photo provided

Mason graduate says exploration and investigation are a way of life

To biology senior Natalie VanderNoot, public health is a way to connect science with important social issues. She is particularly interested in the ways chemical exposures early in life or during embryonic development affect child development through adolescence.

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Sean Siment, Photo by Roneyfield Photography

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Mason first step to a career in health care

Sean Diment, a biology major at George Mason University who is graduating this month, said he decided as a freshman, while in the hospital because of an injury he sustained playing basketball, to change his major and study to become a health care provider “Attending Mason was a great experience that prepared me so much for medical school,” said Diment, who will attend Ohio University on a Veteran's Health Administration (VHA) scholarship

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Two Mason graduate students awarded prestigious Boren Fellowships

Ashley Robertson, who is in the Master of Science program within Mason's Environmental Science and Policy Department, and Kiernan Hogan, an Interdisciplinary Studies graduate student with a specialization in Energy and Sustainability, will travel overseas and immerse themselves in foreign languages while working toward their master's degrees.

Ashley Robertson, Photo Provided

Kiernan Hogan, Photo Provided

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Mason News

Renowned Mason scientist recognized for climate research contributions and philanthropy

More than 90 guests gathered Friday, April 22, 2022 to celebrate the achievements of College of Science Professor Dr. Jagadish Shukla. Considered a trailblazer in the Mason community, Shukla's esteemed career spans the globe, from establishing the Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies (COLA) and modernizing India's weather enterprise to serving as lead author of the 2007 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change that shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Vice President Al Gore.

In 2020,Shukla and his wife established the Jagadish and Anastasia Shukla AOES Fellowship Endowment to support graduate students pursuing their PhD in climate dynamics. It is among the largest philanthropic commitments ever made by a Mason faculty member.

Dr. J. Shukla and his wife Anastasia Shukla.

Photo by Max Taylor Photography.

(L-R) Nicole Washington, Dr. Syukuro "Suki" Manabe, Dr. J. Shukla, Alia Wofford, Dr. Gregory Washington. Photo by Max Taylor Photography

(L-R) Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm, Dr. J. Shukla, and Dr. Syukuro "Suki" Manabe.

Photo by Max Taylor Photography.

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Events & Announcements

Join us on Saturday, June 11th for the

Don Kelso Learning Pier Campaign Kickoff!

Dr. Don Kelso is Mason's first marine and freshwater ecologist, joining in 1970 what is now the Department of Environmental Science and Policy. Kelso's legacy includes a lasting impact on many students, who hold him in the highest regard.

Join Mason Science faculty, alumni, Dr. Kelso, his friends, and the Kelso family as we celebrate the kickoff of the Don Kelso Learning Pier Campaign.

Register

Support the Don Kelso Learning Pier

College of Science establishes the Elissa Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund

In September of 2021 the Mason Science community lost Dr. Elissa Heather Williams, a brilliant scientist, revered friend and loved one in her community. In honor of Elissa and her dedication to chemistry students, the Chemistry Department tutoring center, and the Univesity, the Elissa Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established.

This fund will provide scholarship assistance to graduate level chemistry students. Students will be awarded this scholarship on the basis of academic merit and can be in-state or out-of-state, as well as part-time or full-time.

The College of Science is also working with Elissa's friends and fellow alumni on a car show event in her honor on the Fairfax Campus on **August 14th**. If you'd like more

information about this summer event email Marie at mconnole@gmu.edu.

Make a scholarship donation in her honor

To stay up-to-date on our events, you can follow our **calendar here**.

E-mail us for more information.

If you have a question you'd like us to answer in a future newsletter, please write to us!

Follow us on social media:

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