Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, March 1, 2023 **science.gmu.edu**

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Making a difference through meaningful appreciation

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

About a year ago, we asked all staff and faculty to participate in the COACHE Faculty Satisfaction Survey. This national, research-based initiative from the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education at the Harvard Graduate School in Education was also completed at Mason before the pandemic in 2019 and provides a roadmap of workplace issues and opportunities as measured by the change between the survey's results.

A number of priorities emerged which have become our focus, including salary and compensation; Renewal, Promotion, and Tenure (RPT); mentoring and mentoring support; and appreciation and recognition.

Work groups across the college and throughout Mason have engaged to make progress across the first three priorities. Today, in celebration of the upcoming **National Employee Appreciation Day** on Friday, March 3, I am excited to encourage efforts to enhance appreciation and recognition within our Mason Science community to enrich our culture of appreciation and recognition; and at its core is a sea star

philosophy.

Do you know of the ‘Star Thrower’ or ‘Starfish story?’

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Bazaz Gettys promoted to Assistant Dean



Please join us in congratulating Jennifer Bazaz Gettys on the recent expansion of her role as she becomes the college’s new Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and Strategic Enrollment.

Part of the college administration since 2011, Jen will continue to oversee the college’s enrollment, facilitate and guide curricula development and optimization, and manage academic affairs for the college. With this change, her role will pivot to a more strategic and long-term mindset as many of the routine tasks will be delegated to a direct report. Jen will report to Dr. Cody Edwards, and will join the college’s leadership team in its ongoing monthly Dean’s and Chairs meetings and strategic planning efforts.

Admirably serving our college for over a decade, Jen was a crucial player in the college and university’s extremely favorable SACSCOC reaffirmation in 2022, and has represented and advocated for the college on numerous university-level committees, including: Mason Academic Assessment Council, Academic Enrollment Planning Team, Cross-college Curriculum Committee, and others. Jen has received both her undergraduate and master’s degrees in Psychology from Mason, and will soon complete a Strategic Enrollment Management Endorsement Program. Jen’s office is located in the Exploratory Hall first floor administration suite on George Mason University’s campus in Fairfax, VA. Jen can be reached via email at jbazaz@gmu.edu. *Photo by creative services*.

College of Science Hiring Search Approval Requests - New dedicated generic email

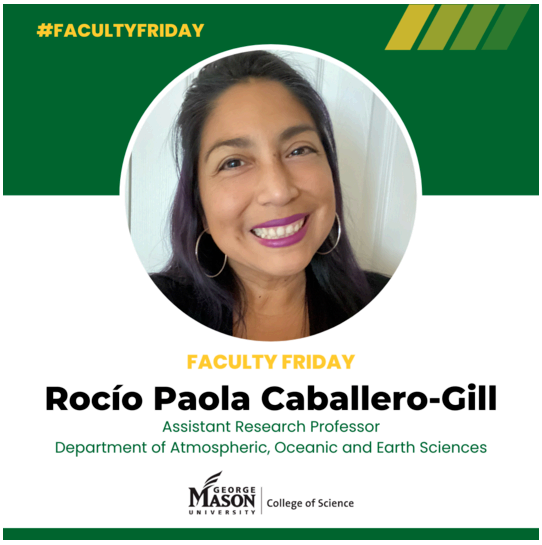
by Dr. Paula Danquah-Brobby and Myisha Washington

As we continue to improve and evolve the hiring process throughout the Mason Science community, this is notification of a new addition as it relates to that process.

To further streamline hiring related approval requests, a new dedicated generic email has been created to assist in the process for hiring search approvals. The email address is coshire@gmu.edu. Moving forward, please send correspondence related to hiring search approval requests (i.e., job announcement for review, CAP (Certified applicant Pool) form, list of search committee members for review) to this new email address. You will no longer need to send information to Paula or Myisha's individual Mason emails.

This new email address is solely for hiring search approvals. All other hiring or salary related approvals, requests, etc. should continue to follow the same process you've been using.

Paula and Myisha will continue to present the changes/updates in the hiring search process to everyone in the Mason Science community. They will be presenting next at the March 24 Mason Science Faculty Meeting and will schedule future ad hoc meetings to ensure they capture everyone.



#FacultyFriday highlights AOES assistant research professor

This past #FacultyFriday featured Dr. Rocío Paola Caballero-Gill, Assistant Research Professor, AOES. She currently serves as one of the Principal Investigators in a collaboration, funded by the Heising-Simons Foundation, between six main research institutes in the U.S. The collaboration aims to investigate astrochronology and Solar System dynamics, while also addressing known inequities in science. For this collaboration, she is the Lead Director of The CycloCohort Program, where they address known barriers for early career scientists in Geoscience and Astronomy, in addition to promoting inclusion, diversity, equity and justice-focused leadership. View the original Instagram post.

See recent faculty highlights

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

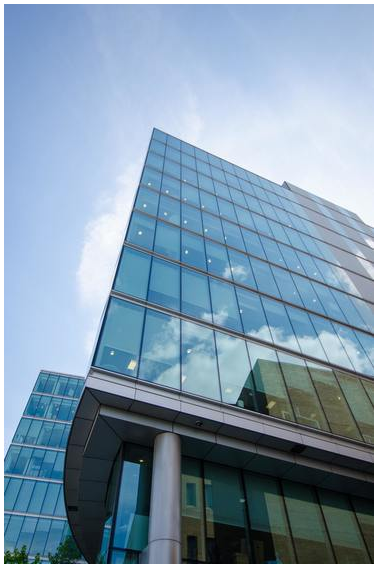
Mason researchers receive funding for driver visual searching behavior when navigating through alternative intersections

by Elizabeth Grisham

Duminda Wijesekera, Professor, Cyber Security Engineering and Computer Science, and Dr. Cing-Dao Kan, Professor/Director, Center for Collision Safety and Analysis, received funding for the study: "Driver Visual Searching Behavior when Navigating through Alternative Intersections." The project is an evaluation study of protected intersections focused on better handling of conflicts involving motor vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists. *Photo by Denys Nevozhai on Unsplash*.



More on the study



Mason scientist receives funding for bird safe glass contract service

by Elizabeth Grisham

Dr. Daniel Hanley, Assistant Professor, Biology, received $8,500 from the American Bird Conservancy, Inc., (ABC) for: "Bird safe glass – contract service." For this project, Hanley and his collaborators will provide careful spectral measurements to the ABC to aid in the production of bird-friendly glass. Specifically, the ABC will have their glass manufacturing partners ship Hanley and his collaborators glass that they will then measure. *Photo by Carl Newton on Unsplash*.

Details on this study

IN THE NEWS

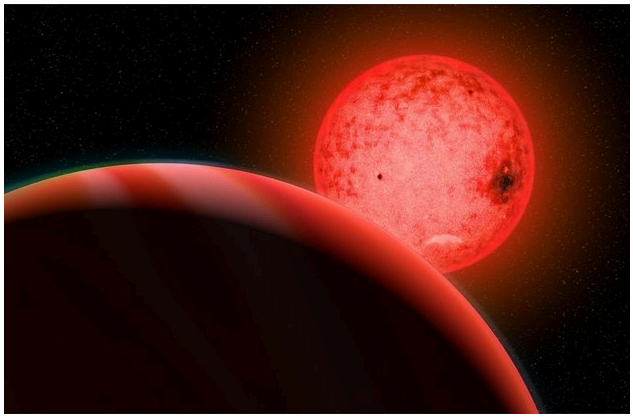
'Forbidden' planet orbiting small star challenges gas giant formation theories

by Carnegie Institution for Science

Science Daily and *Phys Org* report that a team of astronomers, including Mason senior research scientist, Dr. John Wisniewski, discovered an unusual planetary system in which a large gas giant planet orbits a small red dwarf star called TOI-5205. Their findings, published in *The Astronomical Journal*, challenge long-held ideas about planet formation. *Photo is of artist's conception of a large gas giant*

planet orbiting a small red dwarf star called TOI-5205. Credit: Katherine Cain, the Carnegie Institution for Science.

Learn more



Happening at Mason

New Student and Family Programs offers Family Support Series March 2 at 7 p.m.



Mason families are invited to join the March 2, 2023 Family Support Series webinar to hear from campus partners in Student Success Coaching, the Office of the University Registrar, and Career Services to learn how to help your student through whatever transition they face this semester, whether it's preparing for the fall semester or entering the workforce.

Register to attend



OSCAR nominations due Friday

The Mason community is encouraged to nominate outstanding undergraduate student researchers, faculty, staff, or graduate student mentors for the OSCAR Student Excellence Award or the OSCAR Mentoring Excellence Award. The deadline to submit nominations is **Friday, March 10**.

More details



Motivating Students in STEM Courses

March 3, 2023 | 10 to 11 a.m. | Virtual

Join the Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning's Laina Lockett for a seminar on ways to motivate students struggling in STEM. Registration required.

Quantum Computing Seminar

March 6, 2023 | 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. | Johnson Center 325, meeting room A or Virtual

Join Suresh Nai and Tim Akers, INA Solutions for a lecture on "Unlocking the Potential of Quantum Machine Learning with IBM Qiskit and INA Solutions."

Evening Under the Stars

March 7, 2023 | 7 to 9 a.m.

Join us for the next Evening Under the Stars for a public talk followed by telescope viewings, weather permitting. For the foreseeable future, all Evening Under the Stars events will be held both in-person and virtually. All Evening Under the Stars events are free to attend, and do not require registration.

AOES Climate Dynamics Seminar

March 8, 2023 | 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. | Johnson Center 334 meeting room E or Virtual

Join Dr. Paul Dirmeyer, Professor, AOES, for a discuss on land-atmosphere coupling from satellites.

Term Faculty Committee Call for Nominations

Deadline: Friday, March 10, 2023 | noon

The Term Faculty Committee is accepting nominations for a two-year term beginning in fall 2023. To be considered for membership, email facaffs@gmu.edu with the subject line "Term Faculty Committee Nomination." Include a statement addressing the nomination criteria, your academic unit affiliation(s), and copy of your current CV.

UL Faculty Engagement Series 2022-2023: Justice, Education, Diversity, Inclusion

March 15, 2023 | 2 to 3 p.m. | SUB I 3B

Because Mason is Virginia's most diverse and largest public research university, we must take steps to make sure that every student experiences a sense of belonging and knows what resources are available on campus and how to access those resources. Join Dr. Creston Lynch, Assistant Vice President, University Life.

See Full Calendar

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