Mason SCIENCE

Understand. Innovate. Succeed.

Thursday, October 29, 2020 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Patriots Vote

by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

This is a time for courageous decision making, goal setting and taking action.

When defining 'apathy,' Google offers 'a lack of interest, enthusiasm or concern.'

The alternative, the definition of 'employee engagement' according to forbes.com is "the emotional commitment the employee has to the organization and its goals. They don't just work for a paycheck, or just for the next promotion, but work on behalf of the organization's goals. When employees care, when they are engaged, they use discretionary effort."

It's easy to just talk about what you might do or even to avoid difficult decisions altogether rather than act. But, thanks to the forethought of our university's leadership, we have been given a vacation day, next Tuesday, Election Day so we may exercise our right and privilege offered by the Twenty-fourth Amendment of the Constitution. It’s time to vote.

According to the counts noted on CNN.com, on Tuesday, a week before Election Day, early voters so far are younger and more racially diverse. More than 65.5 million votes have already been cast across the country, surpassing the 58.3 million total pre-election votes cast in 2016. That's almost half of the total presidential votes cast four years ago. Our nation does not appear to be apathetic. We are taking action.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

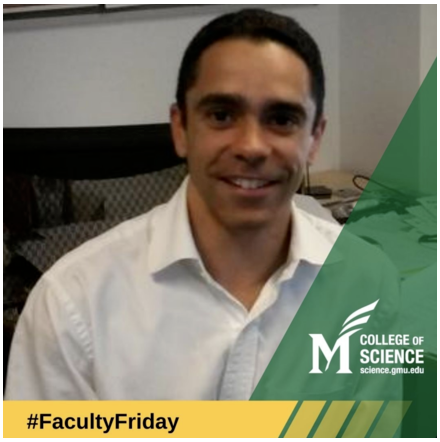
New urban data science courses and degree offered

by Laura Powers



Urban spaces create very data-rich environments and as result, there is an increasing need for individuals skilled in harnessing this data to address ongoing challenges often accompanied by urbanization. To fill this knowledge gap, our Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science (GGS) offers a new urban informatics minor to provide a computational understanding of cities and explore ways to make these areas more sustainable and livable.

Learn about the minor



Last week's #FacultyFriday highlights Eduardo López Atencio and his current research

by Elizabeth Grisham

Congratulations to Eduardo López Atencio, assistant professor and graduate program director for the Department of Computational and Data Sciences. López Atencio recently received $99,259 for a aimed project to help the U.S. Army workforce focus on strategic goals.

Full Story

Positively impacting students' Mason experience

At a recent student virtual lunch, Vice President of University Life Rose Pascarell asked if any students

would like to "shout out" someone who they feel makes a positive impact on their Mason experience. Unsurprisingly, Graduate Program Director Melissa Hayes was noted as one of those individuals. Melissa, we thank you for your continued dedication to Mason Science students and for supporting them now more than ever.



RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Precipitation within urban systems



The Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems (CSISS) Director, Liping Di and Computational and Data Sciences' Liying Guo recently received a grant from NASA to improve our understanding and prediction of extreme precipitation in multiple urban systems. Over the previous year, the CSISS received over $3 million in funded research in fiscal year 2020.

Research

IN THE NEWS

Andrew Light speaks on the U.S. exit from the Paris Climate Accord

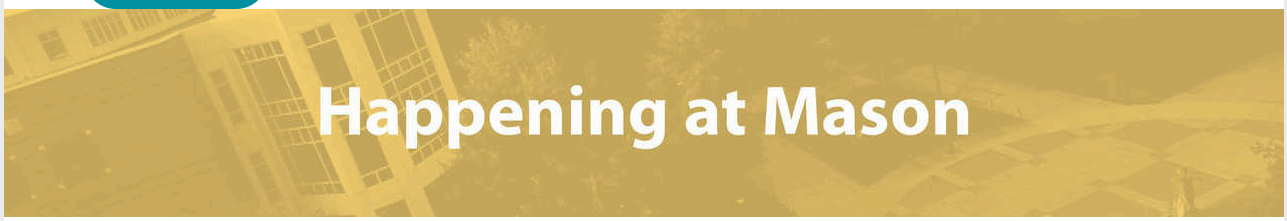
by Bob Berwyn



The United States will officially leave the Paris Climate Agreement on Nov. 4, though presidential candidate Joe Biden said the U.S. would rejoin if elected. Andrew Light, affiliate faculty for the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences told Inside Climate News that this initiative would need to be a

White House priority in order to gain the trust and credibility to be a leading voice again in global climate issues.

Full Article



Volunteer opportunities at Mason

Any Mason Science faculty, staff, student, or community member can volunteer with the Office of Sustainability in our Greenhouse & Gardens program - masks and social distancing required.

Sign Up

SUSTAINABLE MASON
green.gmu.edu



ESP Seminar: What is illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and how is the U.S. combating it?
October 30, 2020 | 3 to 4 p.m.

Colloquium on Computational Social Science/Computational Data Sciences: What has Happened to American Firms and their Employees During the Pandemic?
October 30, 2020 | 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Galileo's Science Cafe: COVID-19 Myth Busters
Thursday, November 19, 2020 | 7 to 9 p.m.

Save the Date: College of Science Virtual Celebration of Success for all faculty and staff
Tuesday, December 8, 2020 | 2 to 3:30 p.m.

See Full Calendar

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