MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

New urban data science courses and degree offered by the Systems (CSISS)

The Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems (CSISS) received a grant from NASA to improve our understanding and prediction of extreme precipitation and floods in multiple urban systems. Over the previous year, the Outreach and Public Engagement program at CSISS has worked with one of the largest urban data science initiatives in the world, the New York City Open Data Portal. The goal was to provide a computational understanding of cities and explore ways to make these areas more sustainable and livable.

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, Melissa Hayes, Graduate Program Director, was mentioned. Melissa was noted as one of those individuals. Melissa, we thank you for your continued dedication to Mason.

President’s Vote

According to the counts noted on CNN.com, on Tuesday, a week before Election Day, early voters so far have cast 62,485,923 ballots, surpassing the total presidential votes cast four years ago. Our nation does not appear to be apathetic. We are taking this election seriously, just as we should. It’s time to vote.

It’s easy to just talk about what you might do or even to avoid difficult decisions altogether rather than taking a step toward making a change. When defining ‘apathy,’ Google offers ‘a lack of interest, enthusiasm or concern.’ Apathy can prevent progress being made. We believe 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.

Andrew Light speaks on Paris Climate Accord

At a recent science study group, students and faculty were treated to a lecture from Andrew Light, a University of California, Santa Barbara professor and graduate program director for the Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences department. At an event titled “The United States will officially leave the Paris Climate Accord,” Andrew Light told students that the U.S. would rejoin if elected. The vote is currently too close to call, but if Joe Biden wins, the U.S. will rejoin the Paris Accord.

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Preparation with urban’s data

The Data Science program at Mason has grown significantly in the last four years. Mason has many research centers and initiatives that focus on data science, such as the Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems (CSISS), and Mason’s Department of Computational and Data Sciences. Mason has several faculty members who have received funding from organizations like NASA, the Army, and the Department of Energy. Lopez recently received $99,259 for a aimed project to help the U.S. Army workforce focus on strategic goals.

IN THE NEWS

Ankrine Lepere speaks on the U.S. exit from the Paris Climate Accord

Ankrine Lepere, professor and graduate program director for the Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences department, recently spoke on the importance of understanding climate change and the need for international cooperation. Lepere emphasized the need for countries to work together to address global climate issues.

Events

Happening at Mason

By Alexia Schimoody, Mason Vibe News

The College of Science will hold a virtual celebration of success for all faculty and staff on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.