Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, January 25, 2023 **science.gmu.edu**

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Learn from leaders

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

This is the time of year when many thousands of students and their families are deciding whether and where to apply to university or even considering college acceptance letters to make one of the most important future decisions of a young person's life. Where should they pursue their education and explore their professional future?

To make this decision, some people consider the success of a university based on the success of their athletics program. Others look at whether their educational experience should be closer to or far away from home. I would contend, one of the top considerations should include the expertise of the faculty and the connections of the programs within the fields one intends to pursue.

It's also about a student-centric culture.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Graduate's best advice: 'Take advantage of as many opportunities as you can'

by Mariam Aburdeineh

Emily Synoski has had an interest in the medical field since high school. She said she chose to be part of a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program, and now works in a rehabilitation center, where she also has the opportunity to shadow doctors.

The Honors College alum from Dover, Delaware, who graduated in December from Mason with a biology degree, also participated in Georgetown University's competitive CORE pre-med program, where she and her team pitched an idea to deliver opioid overdose treatment to houseless populations via drones. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services*.

Learn more about Emily

Attend the upcoming Compassionate Conversations Workshop

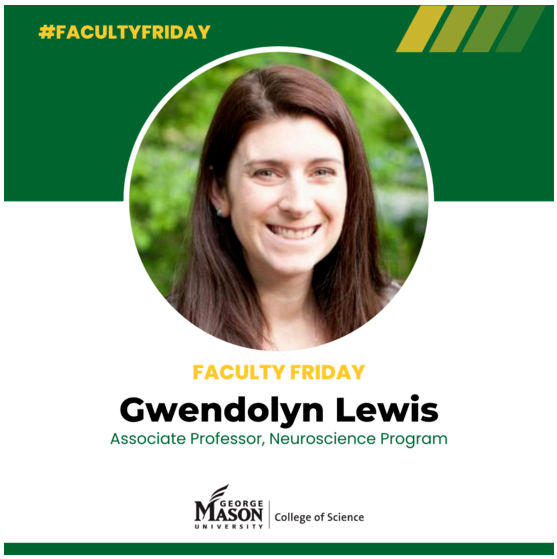
Join Dr. Erikca Brown, Office of DEI Inclusive Education Manager, and Dr. Paula Danquah-Brobby, Director of AJEDI on Tuesday, February 7 from noon to 1:30 p.m. for a workshop on compassionate conversation - the skillful ways people can talk together so that we feel understood and better able to understand one another.

Participants will develop skills for communication and interaction across cultures and expand opportunities to engage in authentic and compassionate communication to exchange multiple perspectives and lived experiences around inclusive excellence, diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-

racism. Can't join us Tuesday, February 7? Consider attending the February 15 or February 24 workshop.

Register for the workshop

#FacultyFriday highlights neuroscience assistant professor



This past #FacultyFriday featured Dr. Gwendolyn (Wendy) Lewis, Associate Professor, Neuroscience. With a focus on teaching while also serving as the IPN undergraduate coordinator, Lewis focuses on guiding students through the research process while also making research experiences accessible to undergraduate students. One of her biggest contributions to the program includes the launch of NEUR 406: Zebrafish Neurodevelopment Laboratory, a research-based course where students use zebrafish embryos to study the development of the vertebrate nervous system. Lewis also helped develop the introductory neuroscience course that is open to non-majors and fulfills the natural science Mason core. View the original Instagram post.

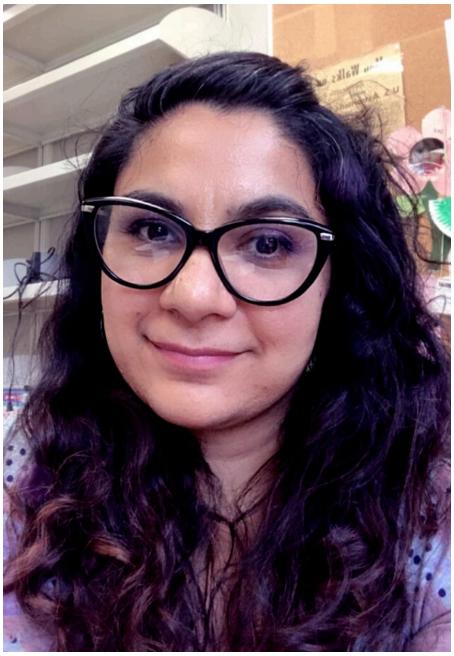
See recent faculty highlights

Mason astrophysicist part of multidisciplinary team to test self-interacting dark matter with realistic galaxy formation simulations

by Elizabeth Grisham and Laura Powers

Dr. Ferah Munshi, Assistant Professor, Physics and Astronomy received $216,115 from the National Science Foundation for testing self-interacting dark matter (SIDM) in galaxy formation simulations. This work will result in the largest-ever suite of dwarf galaxy simulations within both the Cold Dark Matter (CDM) and SIDM paradigms, to comprehensively test both models. The resulting hundreds of simulated galaxies will test whether CDM or SIDM can reproduce (1) the diverse densities observed in real galaxies, and (2) the diverse shapes of dwarf galaxies.

More on her work



Birds of a Feather: Alum's detective work can improve flight safety

by Priyanka Champaneri

In the Feather Identification Lab at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, Mason alum Dr. Carla Dove, MS Biology '94, PhD Environmental Science and Public Policy '98, identifies the specific birds involved in collisions, with samples coming to her from various branches of the U.S. military, commercial airlines, and more. *Photo courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution*.

Explore her research

IN THE NEWS

A greener, healthier future for Virginia

by Kaitlyn McGrath

An analysis recently released by the Virginia Climate Center is shedding a very positive light on the benefits of the Virginia Clean Economy Act. Dr. Luis Ortiz, Assistant Professor, AOES spoke to *WUSA9* about the team's findings.

Hear what Ortiz said

Mason scientist explains new clean energy breakthrough to MSNBC

by José Díaz-Balart Reports

Dr. Hakeen Oluseyi, Robinson Professor, explains a new nuclear fusion breakthrough that greatly influences the future of clean energy. "This really is the holy grail of extracting energy from matter," said Olyseyi.

Watch the segment

Happening at Mason

Invite your students to apply to Mason's Noyce Scholarship

The application is now open for Mason's Noyce Scholarship that supports students seeking to inspire the next generation of STEM professionals. The scholarship is open to Mason students pursuing a career in Secondary STEM education.

The program provides pre-scholarship engagement and professional development, robust funding to support BAM/graduate study, and mentoring support through the first year of teaching. Applications are open year-round and scholarships are awarded on a rolling basis. For further information, contact Dr. Tina Bell. Please encourage your eligible students to apply.

More on scholarship eligibility

Mason Science Service Project: Donation boxes available for Patriot Pantry Donations

In December, President Washington shared a video about the Patriot Pantry Challenge, a charge to the Mason Nation to help stock Mason's Patriot Pantry with 5,000 pounds of non-perishable food and hygiene items between now and February. All donations will support our fellow Patriots who are facing food insecurity

1. Spread the word and encourage participation. Discuss the effort with your MasonScience coworkers. If you are on social media, donate and share with us using #PatriotPantryChallenge and #MasonNation in your post.
2. If you are still on campus or throughout the month of January, you can take donations to the brightly labeled donation boxes:

   Fairfax: Exploratory/Planetary Hall atrium, outside room 1450 or come visit in the dean's suite lobby.
   SciTech: check the box in first floor IABR

3. If you're not on campus, there are additional ways to support the Patriot Pantry Challenge. Check the Amazon Wishlist or set up your Amazon Smile shopping account to support the effort. Select "George Mason University Foundation" to make the Patriot Pantry your preferred charity on smile.amazon.com and with each purchase you make, you'll contribute a donation to this important effort.

Make sure to visit the Patriot Pantry web page to see which items the pantry specifically needs.

Please remove and cease all use of Mason's 50th anniversary logos

As Mason's 50th year has now come to a close, the University asks that all units no longer use the Mason 50th anniversary logos seen throughout 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Mason.

Galileo's Science Café
January 26, 2023 | 6 to 9 p.m.
Attend a lecture by Dr. Frank Krueger and Kelsey Mitchell about their fascinating research on human-dog relationships as a framework exploring for human-robot affiliation. Registration required.

Quantum in Your Classroom
January 28, 2023 | 10. a.m. to 3 p.m.
Help spread the word: area elementary, middle and high school teachers are invited to learn about what quantum is, why it is important for students, and where to find resources to integrate it into the classroom. No prior knowledge of quantum is required. Future professional development opportunities will be available to participants. Registration required.

Call for Papers: 2023 Annual Modeling and Simulation Conference
Deadline: January 29, 2023 | 11:59 p.m.
The Society for Modeling and Simulation International seeks presenters contributing to the theory and practice of modeling and simulation in any scientific or engineering discipline. The conference takes place in May.

Anti-Racism and Inclusive Teaching: An Introduction to Developing More Inclusive Educational Spaces
Tuesday, Jan. 31 | 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. | Virtual
Explore some of the definitions and terms often found in conversations about creating more inclusive classrooms, led by Dr. Rachel Yoho of the Stearns Center. Registration required.

Inclusive STEM Teaching Project
March 6 through April 28, 2023
The Inclusive STEM Teaching Project will offer a FREE, 6-week online course (with the option to receive a completion badge for $49).The next session will run from March 6 through April 28. Registration required.

Spring Family Fling
March 31, 2023 | 10 a.m. thru April 2, 2023 | 4 p.m. | Northern Virginia
Experience the beauty of springtime in Northern Virginia at this smaller, spring version of Mason's fall Family Weekend.

See Full Calendar

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