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Wednesday, July 21, 2021 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Transparency as a core culture value: more is always better

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

As part of the hiring process for this job as Dean of George Mason University's College of Science, I had the opportunity to meet with faculty and staff in an informal town hall. During that discussion, I shared my vision for the college and explained my leadership style as I fielded questions from the group.

One of the attendees asked me to describe my communication style and how I handle information. I explained my belief that transparency and information sharing builds trust and empowers ideation from among our scientific community. And I promised that this two-way information exchange would be an important part of our strategy for growth and prosperity.

Over this first year at Mason, I've worked to prioritize connecting and communicating within our Mason Science community as much as possible. Although that discussion during my interview early in 2020 couldn't have considered our virtual situation thanks to COVID-19, when and where possible, as promised, I have shared information from the Mason administration and within our own leadership team

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Former ASSIP participant leads exceptional STEM research

by Madison Rudolf

High school student Comfort Ohajunwa is making extraordinary strides in mathematical and computing research. She first gained exposure to research through membership in Mason's Aspiring Scientists Summer Internship Program (ASSIP) and her mentor, Padmanabhan Seshaiyer, Professor, Mathematics, in the summer of 2020.

Find out what she's doing now

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Assessing Ecosystem Services Associated With Kelp Aquaculture Development

by Elizabeth Grisham

Diego Valderrama, Term Assistant Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, is conducting a comprehensive economic assessment of the ecosystem services provided by the emerging kelp aquaculture industry in the United States, including strategies for monetization of these services.

Find out more on this research

IN THE NEWS

Soil Conditions Fueled 2018 European Drought

by Barry Klinger

Paul Dirmeyer, Professor, Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences, is the lead author of a paper that uncovers the role of soil dryness in intensifying the extreme heatwave over much of Europe in 2018. The article was selected as an Editor's Highlight on the *Advancing Earth and Space Science*'s website and for the American Geophysical Union's journal *AGU Advances*.

More on the paper's findings

SIAM highlights the research of Mason's Antil and Löhner

by Harbir Antil and Rainald Löhner

The world's largest association devoted to applied mathematics, SIAM, recently shared an article by Harbir Antil, Associate Professor, Mathematics and Rainald Löhner, Professor, Physics and Astronomy. Their research looks at the modeling and simulation of pathogen propagation, transmission, and mitigation.

More on their research

Happening at Mason

Mason launches new brand awareness campaign

by Preston Williams

Mason launched a brand awareness campaign that aims to reintroduce Mason to Northern Virginia and to remind the on-campus community, alumni, and supporters how Mason has emerged as an educational, cultural, and economic driver over the past half-century. Check out the campaign's main web page.

Find out more about the campaign

Single-use plastics and polystyrene ban begins July 21

by the Mason Sustainability Council

Gov. Ralph Northam signed Executive Order 77 in March, effectively banning single-use plastics and polystyrene from state agencies, including Mason. Mason purchasers and vendors should review guidance about acceptable items they can use as alternatives **after July 21**.

What you need to know

Events

Deadline to submit COVID-19 vaccination documentation
August 1, 2021
All faculty and staff are expected to be fully vaccinated in time for the fall semester. Those who have been fully vaccinated will be required to upload vaccination documentation into the Health Services Patient Portal before August 1.

Females of Color and those Underrepresented in STEM (FOCUS) Camp (virtual)
August 2, 2021 to August 6, 2021
Participants (6 through 8 graders) engage in four different interactive and hands-on STEM workshops and on the last day, the participants present what they learned in these workshops in a conference-style setting.

Transfer Science Bridge 1 (virtual)
August 6, 2021 | 10:30 a.m. to noon
Transfer students are invited to join us for an interactive, virtual bridge session that builds on New Student Orientation and fully prepares you for life as a Mason Science student.

Females of Color and those Underrepresented in STEM (FOCUS) Academy (virtual)
August 9, 2021. - August 13, 2021
High school students will participate in STEM workshops as well as enhancement sessions including college and SAT prep, goal setting, fitness classes, a farewell party, and more.

Save the Date: College of Science Faculty Meeting
August 19, 2021, 3 to 4 p.m.

See Full Calendar

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