Mason SCIENCE

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Thursday, December 10, 2020 **science.gmu.edu**

In this Issue

- Message from the Dean
- Mason Science Community
- Research & Discovery
- In the News
- Happening at Mason
- Events

Newsletter Schedule for Final Weeks of Fall 2020
The last issue of the 2020 College of Science newsletter will be published Thursday, December 17, and the first newsletter of 2021 will be published Thursday, January 21.

A message from the Dean
FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

What does it take to be a top scientist?

by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

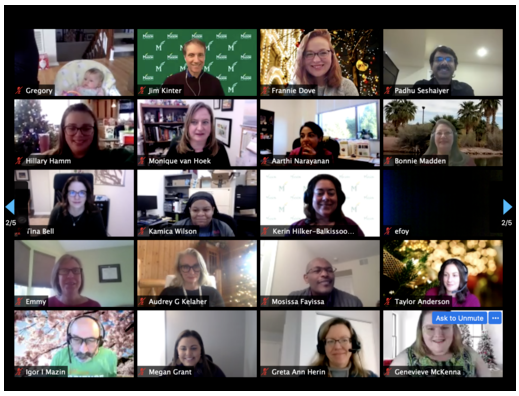
When asking that question, you might get many answers: winning a Nobel Prize in your field, discovering a vaccine or curing a dreaded disease, securing multi-million dollars of funded research, crafting policy that saves a species, directing a multidisciplinary research collaboration, having a theorem named after you, editing your sector's top scholarly journal, being identified in the top 2% of global scientist citations, or perhaps helping many thousands of students realize their own true scientific potential.

Yes. Those are all applicable answers. In my first six months at Mason, I've come to realize that I am surrounded by a cohort of top scientists and professionals whose inspirational work significantly furthers science in our community, our region, our nation, across the globe, even into the beyond.

Read full message

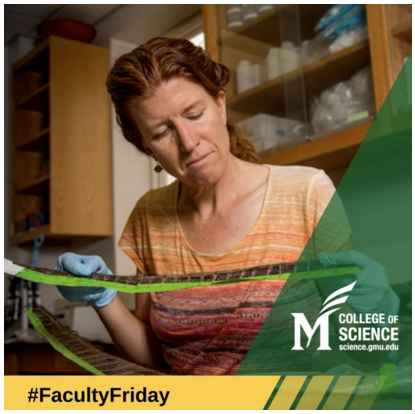
MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Celebration of Success recognizes College of Science faculty and staff



On Tuesday, Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm presented his first Dean's Awards to ten faculty and staff for their service during the 2020 calendar year. In addition to the many prizes won, 14 staff also received special recognition and ESP faculty Lee Talbot received the Career Achievement Award.

See this year's award recipients



#FacultyFriday highlights research on causes and consequences of stress in endangered species

What do whales from World War II, African antelope, and Alaskan birds have in common? They are all part of the research portfolio of comparative endocrinologist, Department of Biology assistant professor, Kathleen Hunt.

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

A Department of Justice $2 million grant helps expand forensic science training in rural areas

By John Hollis

The Department of Justice National Institute of Justice funding will allow Mason's forensics science program create a National Center on Forensics at Mason to provide training for medical examiners and coroners in rural

Full story

Master's student focuses thesis research on fish in the Chesapeake Bay

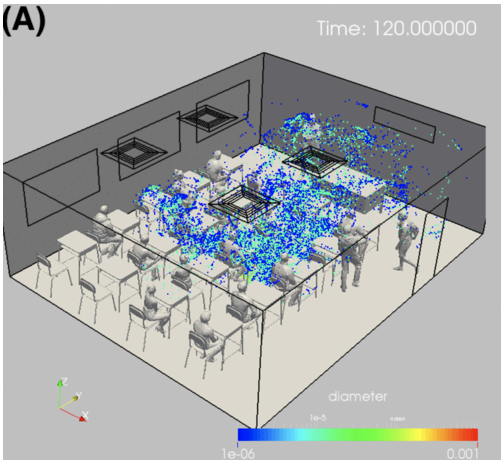
By Kim de Mutsert

Environmental Science and Policy assistant professor, Jen Salerno, and her master's student, Kim Magalona, recently aquired IACUC approval, as well as scientific collection permits, for Magalona's thesis research investigating mycobacteriosis in striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay.

Full story

IN THE NEWS

National Science Foundation features Mason scientists' COVID-19 airflow insights



Department of Mathematical Sciences associate professor Harbir Antil and Physics and Astronomy professor Rainald Löhner were recently featured in the National Science Foundation's internal newsletter. The article referenced their work studying air flow and the spread of pathegens, like COVID-19.

Research highlight

Happening at Mason

Working together to keep Mason safe now and in 2021

President Gregory Washington announced plans for the spring semester, including a January 25 start, bringing more people back to campus, and increased Mason-led surveillance testing, a charge led by our own Ali Andalibi, Lance Liotta and Ginny Espina. If conditions should warrant a change in these plans, the university will notify all faculty, staff, and students by email before January 15.

View plans

Cozy up for Mason Holidays at Home

Although we cannot celebrate in person with Mason's usual holiday party, the University wants to spread cheer throughout the MasonNation. Holidays at Home will have ongoing opportunities to participate including a recipe exchange and donation challenge, culminating in **live trivia** and a **dance party** on Wednesday December 16.

Register for events

Fall 2020 Virtual Celebration of Student Scholarship and Impact
Wednesday, December 9, 2020 to Friday, December 11, 2020
View and comment on the dozens of science student research. WINNERS ANNOUNCED Friday morning, December 11, 2020.

Environmental Science and Policy Fall Seminar Series
Friday, December 11, 2020 | 3 to 4 p.m.

Meteors and Meteorites: Geminids Live
Monday, December 14, 2020 | 6:45 p.m.

Virtual Degree Celebration
Thursday, December 17, 2020 | 2 p.m. (virtual, live College of Science PhD celebration to follow at 3 p.m.)
This virtual celebration, viewable on GMU-TV, will include congratulatory messages from President Washington, the deans of each college, a short message from a member of the Class of 2020, a performance by the Green Machine, and special guests wishing students well, followed by advisor and department chair congratulations.

See Full Calendar

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