Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, November 30, 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

A culture of gratitude, civility, and kindness

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

We've just come off the Thanksgiving break. And is it just me or do we all feel like we really, really needed some time to just rest, relax, and regroup before heading into the last few weeks of the semester?

This is one of my favorite times of the year. We can still recall the nature around us recently flush with color and even a Miami resident can appreciate the occasional crisp autumn breeze stirring the senses. (Although the getting dark earlier transition time each year does make me grateful for the sunrise each morning). And as we come together for end of the year and Mason anniversary celebrations, I take a pause and recognize how very thankful I am that we are able to do so again.

Between the hustle and bustle of holiday preparation, traveling, final exams, and shorter days of sun, it seems like we are on a fast track to completing our monstrous to do lists. Stress is high and time seems shorter. Yet, I feel there's definitely value in taking a moment to reflect on what we are thankful for and, like our recent Women Leaders in STEM event suggested, consider what we ourselves are worth.

Read full message

Share your thoughts in the College of Science's strategic planning survey

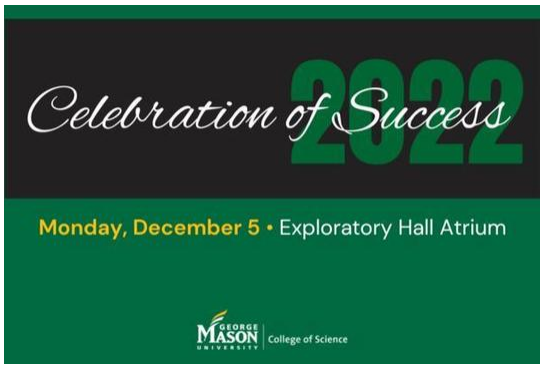
By Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Over the past few weeks, we have engaged many members across the College of Science community as part of the strategic planning initiative to gain insights and perspectives that will help us to plan our direction for the future. We invite you to take a moment to provide your feedback and input via this Mason Science Strategic Plan survey.

The survey, which should take no more than 10-15 minutes to complete, will be open for participation through Friday, December 16. Information gathered from this survey will be collated along with insights gathered from interviews and focus groups to inform the components of the College's five-year strategic plan.

As members of the Mason Science community, your feedback is valuable for this important initiative. We thank you for taking the time to share your perspectives.

Complete the survey



Don't forget to register for the 2022 Celebration of Success

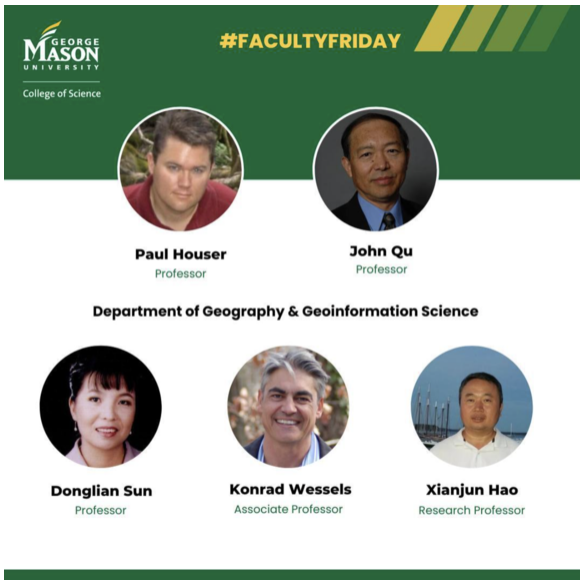
Join us **Monday, December 5 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in Exploratory Hall Atrium** for the annual College of Science Celebration of Success, recognizing faculty and staff for their service during the 2022 calendar year

With a theme of "Season's Eatings" we will celebrate while enjoying food, beverages, a chance to win a number of fabulous prizes, and some sweet treats. You must register to attend. *Please note that this is a College of Science faculty and staff only event.*

Ready to show off your baking skills? Enter to participate in this year's bake off. Check out the Celebration of Success web page for information on how to enter and a complete list of entry categories (includes gluten free options).

No time to bake, but want to share a beloved family recipe? Share your favorite recipe (doesn't have to be dessert) with your colleagues. By participating, you will also receive all other recipe submissions from across the College of Science.

Register to attend



#FacultyFriday highlights GGS remote sensing experts

Last #FridayFriday highlighted the Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science's remote sensing experts including Professors Xianjun Hao, Paul Houser, John Qu, Donglian Sun, and Konrad Wessels. View the original Instagram post.

View recent faculty highlights

Mason mathematics professor receives U.S. patent

by Jennifer Lawler

George Mason University Professors Padmanabhan (Padhu) Seshaiyer, Mathematical Sciences and Holly Matto, Social Work recently received a patent for systems and methods for biobehavioral-regulation treatments. Their invention provides recovery support for users by monitoring their biobehavioral state and strategically delivers, in real-time, personalized recovery cues to treat and prevent relapse. *Photo by Padhu Seshaiyer.*

Explore the invention

Mason physicist explores never before layered quantum materials for breakthroughs in computing

by Brooks Payette and Tracy Mason

The National Science Foundation recently announced a $349,997 award to fund a collaborative partnership to research "Twist Control of Correlated Physics in Two-Dimensions." Patrick Vora, Associate Professor Physics and Astronomy and Director of the Quantum Science and Engineering Center at George Mason University and a multidisciplinary team aim to discover the role of interlayer interactions in layered quantum materials through the exploration of twisted heterostructures of tantalum disulfide (TaS2). *Photo provided*.

More on the collaboration

IN THE NEWS

Mason forensics expert weighs in on the murders in Idaho

Mary Ellen O'Toole, Director, Forensic Science and retired FBI director tells *NewsNation* that the murder of four university students in Idaho is an unusual case and that people should still be on alert even though it's believed the victims were targeted.

Watch the interview

Happening at Mason

Volunteer to participate in Mason's Winter Commencement

Register to volunteer at this year's Patriot Procession or Commencement. Descriptions of duties are outlined in the signup form. Please wear regalia if possible. To support faculty participation, the university will pay for regalia rental through the George Mason University Bookstore for any faculty member who will make the commitment to attend and participate. *Photo by Ron Aira/Creative Services*.

Winter Graduation 2022 Faculty Information:
Patriot Procession | December 13–15 | EagleBank Arena
Commencement Ceremony | December 15, 10 a.m. | EagleBank Arena

Sign up

Good Trouble Conversation Circle Planning
December 1, 2022 | Noon | Johnson Center, room 227D
Mason students and campus organization representatives are invited to participate in a discussion on building the "Good Trouble" community at the university in 2023: growing the campus community, networking, creating support and communications, exchanging ideas, and thinking about common strategies. This meeting will focus on what the goals should be for the series of conversations this spring. Registration required.

Engagement in Action: Strategies for Supervisors
December 2, 2022 | 9 to 10 a.m. | Virtual
Supervisors are encouraged to join an interactive session focused on faculty and staff engagement. Participants will actively participate in discussions surrounding Gallup survey engagement data and current best practices as well as learn new strategies to enhance the faculty and staff experience. Registration required.

College of Science Celebration of Success
December 5, 2022 | 2 to 3:30 p.m. | Exploratory Hall Atrium
Join us for the annual College of Science Celebration of Success, recognizing faculty and staff for their service during the 2022 calendar year. Registration required.

Real Talk: Disclosing Your Disability to an Employer
December 5, 2022 | 4 to 5 p.m. | Virtual
Choosing how and when to disclose a disability is a personal decision. Learn what to consider when trying to make that decision, what legal protections you have, resources available to you, and how to have the conversation with a potential employer. Registration required.

Learning Assistant Poster Session
December 6, 2022 | noon to 2 p.m. | Exploratory Hall Atrium
Celebrate the work of the Learning Assistants (LAs) who work in more than 40 courses across the College of

Science to facilitate student learning. LAs will present posters reflecting on their teaching experiences, their students' learning, and new instructional initiatives that they have implemented. Register to attend.
Contact Ben Dreyfus with questions.

See Full Calendar

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Read the College of Science's latest annual report

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