Mason SCIENCE

Understand. Innovate. Succeed.

Wednesday, December 15, 2021 **science.gmu.edu**

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Newsletter Schedule for Final Weeks of Fall 2021
The last College of Science newsletter in 2021 will be on Wednesday, December 15. In 2022 we will continue to publish this newsletter on Wednesdays with a content deadline of the Monday prior. Our first issue of 2022 will be Wednesday, January 19.



The gift – what did you do with your 365?

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

What a difference a year makes. I mean really…just think, this time last year, we were in quarantine, in many cases staying away from our families (to keep them safe). Our classes were all virtual after the great pivot and our research efforts, usually plentiful over winter break, were, in some cases, cut way back or even put on hold while we figured out how to work off campus. And we were asking for contributions to help those in need as many students and friends were without food, shelter, or even a job as the holidays approached.

The world anxiously pinned its hopes on many of our scientists to find a vaccine to protect us from COVID-19. And make our world more 'normal' again. In my last blog post in December 2020, I

encouraged us all to take a real rest over the break, for the weight of that moment weighed heavily on us all.

Fast forward to now. Not one but many vaccines were created and offered to the world. And a booster is even available to strengthen the body's immunity to many of the virus' variants. We have a better understanding of the virus spread, thanks in part to our COVID research efforts and evolved saliva testing. People shifted from worrying if Mason could sustain our jobs and enrollment to lifting a hiring freeze and welcoming 30+ faculty and staff into our ranks. We celebrated our successes, including graduation, from hybrid to hooding PhD and processionals back in person this week.

This year has really taught us a lot. We have much to be grateful for and we have learned so much… about ourselves, our world and what really matters.

So how do we use that knowledge?

Read full message



Mason Science welcomes new Chief Business Officer



For those who attended this year's Celebration of Success, you had the opportunity to meet the college's new Chief Business Officer, Meghan St. George. We are excited to have her here as part of the college. *Photo by Evan Cantwell.*

Read Meghan's bio



Mason scientist helps tackle climate change in Virginia counties

by Mariam Aburdeineh

As more individuals and leaders are recognizing the need to switch to environmentally friendly practices, Mason's Local Climate Change Planning Initiative, including the help of Paul Bubbosh, Adjunct Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, is helping Virginia counties, especially those with limited resources, make a plan.

More on the initiative

#FacultyFriday highlights term instructor, computational and data aciences, Mason Korea



This week's #FacultyFriday, highlights Brian Colchao, Term Instructor, Computational and Data Sciences. Colchao, a Mason graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology and an MS in Data Engineering, initiated the computational and data sciences BS degree program at Mason Korea.

Read more about Colchao and his initiatives

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Petricoin conducting protein pathway activation mapping of tissue cells treated with molecular inhibitors

by Elizabeth Grisham

Emanuel Petricoin, Professor, School of Systems Biology and Co-Director, Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine (CAPMM), received $31,780 in funding from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the project: "Protein pathway activation mapping of tissue cells treated with molecular inhibitors."

More on the project

Mason chemistry students enhance science communication skills with infographics

by Tracy Mason



Through an immersive learning experience, chemistry students demonstrated their ability to break down scientific principles and research into simpler ideas and share and critique these concepts in a concise manner using a modern form of scientific storytelling – the infographic. Rebecca Jones, Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry, led the courses.

Read about their experience

IN THE NEWS

How did Mars lose its water?

Erdal Yiğit, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy, released a study that posits dust storms may have played a larger role in robbing the planet of its water supply. His findings garnered attention from media outlets including Phys Org, Republic World, and Inverse.

Read the study

Warning signs to prevent violence in schools

Mary Ellen O'Toole, Director, Forensic Science Program, spoke to CNN on school shootings and what behaviors to keep an eye out for in students.

Read the full article

Happening at Mason

Kimberly Davidson named University Ombudsperson



In her new role, Davidson will be responsible for assisting individuals and groups in determining options to help resolve conflicts or concerns and bring systemic matters to the attention to the university for resolution. She officially joins Mason in February 2022. *Photo by Tanya Rosen-Jones*.

More on her role

Events

College of Science Digital Communicators meeting
January 13 2022 | 10:30 to 22:30 a.m. | Zoom
All individuals handling department web and social media activities are invited to attend January's digital communicators meeting to review the year's editorial calendar, Google Analytics, and updates regarding the

website and social media campaigns. An email will be sent with meeting access information.

Applications for Summer 2022 Virginia Statewide Life Science Internship Program

Deadline January 31, 2022

Virginia Bio is accepting applications for STEM2VA: Virginia Statewide Life Science Internship Program from undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students. Email questions to the Virginia Bio team.

Mason Vision Series: featuring Hakeem Oluseyi

February 7, 2022 | 7 p.m.

The Office of the Provost will once again host the Mason Vision Series which sheds light on the real-world research and creativity that takes place every day on Mason campuses. The series will be live streamed through GMU-TV.

See Full Calendar

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