Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, March 24, 2021 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Springtime at Mason

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

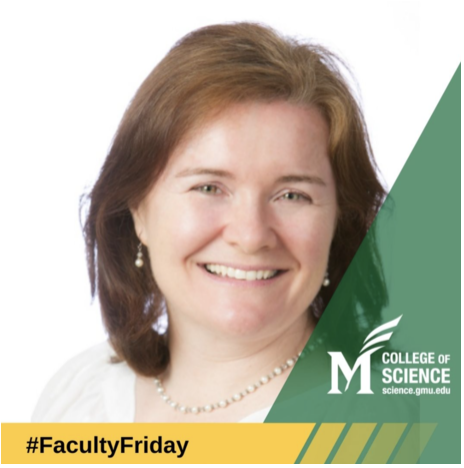
This is my first time experiencing the spring semester at Mason. And what a glorious time it is. The sun is usually shining and the cherry blossoms are sprouting across campus, and in our own backyards, signaling a new beginning off a very long COVID-induced isolation.

March Madness for us takes on a new meaning (an aside for basketball fans, we are excited to welcome Kim English, Mason's new Men's Basketball coach). Researchers are busy, with preparations for the Undergraduate Research Colloquium (URC), Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, and various semester research presentations, and thesis defenses are well underway. These activities give me, and all of us, the chance to experience how our students are interpreting their learnings and offer an opportunity to test their problem solving and critical thinking skills. Please consider volunteering to judge our URC or pop in to one or more of these virtual sessions to offer feedback, confirm methods and understanding, and expand your own knowledge of subjects of interest.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

#FacultyFriday highlights the work of Geraldine Grant



Department of Biology Chair, Geraldine Grant teaches courses in cellular biology, research and laboratory sciences. Currently, she is the principal investigator at Grant Labs in the biology department at George Mason University - Science and Technology Campus. Her research focuses on fibroblast biology and its various functions. She is also a strong advocate for undergraduate research, working with undergraduate students in Grant Labs, Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research and more. She has published numerous research journals on the topics of fibroblasts and pulmonary fibrosis.

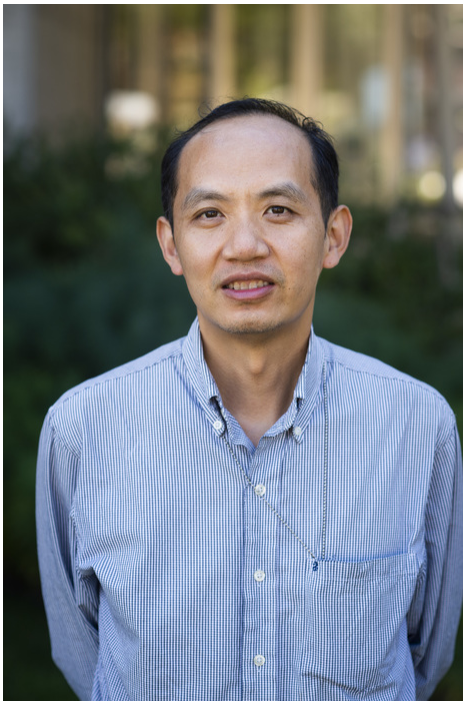
See her bio

Encourage Participation in the College's 2021 Undergraduate Research Colloquium

You and your undergraduate research students are invited to participate in the 10th Annual College of Science Undergraduate Research Colloquium (URC) taking place **April 21, 2021 from 1 to 3 p.m.** This event showcases the variety of undergraduate research projects in the College to the Mason community, featuring a judged student poster session and cash scholarship awards. **Student abstracts are due by March 31**. Student presenters can submit abstracts here.

Learn more

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY



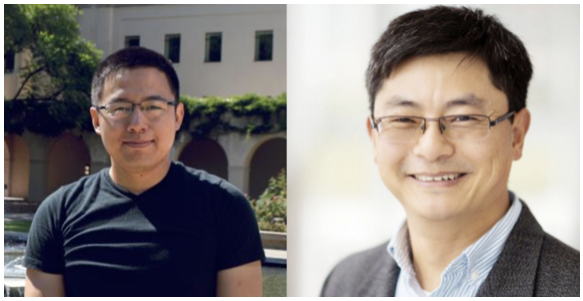
Tang Expanding Chemical Data Assimilation System To Support NOAA UFS

by Elizabeth Grisham

Youhua Tang, Senior Researcher, Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems (CSISS), received $387,363 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a project aimed at expanding a chemical data assimilation system to support NOAA's Unified Forecast System (UFS). UFS is a community-based, coupled, comprehensive Earth system modeling system. It is designed to support the Weather Enterprise and to be the source system for NOAA's operational numerical weather prediction applications.

Full story

IN THE NEWS



Science Magazine highlights the development of a GeoWeaver platform by Mason scientists

The work of Daniel Tong, Associate Professor, Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences and Ziheng Sun, Research Assistant Professor, Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems (CSISS) recently appeared in Science Magazine, highlighting their work to make artificial intelligence (AI)-based Earth scientific workflows more shareable, replicable, reusable, and scalable.

Read the article

Happening at Mason

Share your Earth Month programs, events, and initiatives

The Office of Sustainability (OoS) and the Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) are

pleased to announce the theme for this year's Earth Month: *Mason Patriots for our Planet*.

In April, Mason Nation hosts many programs, events, and initiatives to celebrate Earth Month and exemplify the university's commitment to a just and sustainable future for all. OoS and ISE are working together to create a calendar that will promote all of these events and opportunities to engage. **To ensure they promote and showcase your Earth Month programs, events, and initiatives**, they've shared this brief survey and will use this information to populate their Earth Month calendar while also exploring opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

Take the survey

Call for proposals: IDIA Seed Funding

The Institute for Digital innovAtion (IDIA) recently announced their first cycle of seed funding aimed at connecting members of the Mason community internally and with businesses, organizations, and agencies to collaborate on disruptive digital innovation. IDIA will select four compelling interdisiplinary proposals for funding at up to $40,000 for 18 months of performance.

Learn more

Microbes and the Stories They Tell: Microorganisms as Sentinels of Organism Health and Ecosystem Function
March 30, 2021 | 4 to 5 p.m.
Hear Jennifer Salerno discuss the roles that microorganisms play in maintaining and destabilizing the health of organisms and what they can tell us about the health state of ecosystems.

She Scientists: Health and Science Industry Week
Tuesday, March 30, 2021 | 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Help connect our female Mason Science students with professional women in the sciences to learn about their careers, how they've put their degree to work, and how students can too.

East Coast Optimization Meeting 2021
April 1, 2021 to 2, 2021

The annual East Coast Optimization Meeting (ECOM) introduces students and early-career researchers to the current trends in optimization and creates a strong networking environment among academia, industry, and the national laboratories. Registration is required.

Term Faculty Community Conversation
April 8, 2021 | 3 to 4 p.m.
Refer to email for the meeting password.

Resistance and Resilience: Student Activism and Well-being
April 8, 2021 | 4 to 5:30 p.m.
This event is hosted by the Human Rights and Global Justice Initiative. Hear from four Mason student activists on their powerful experiences and stories. Registration Required.

Save the Date: Giving Day 2021
Thursday, April 8, 2021

See Full Calendar

Stay Connected

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