Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, December, 14 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

In this Issue

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

This is the last College of Science newsletter in 2022. In 2023 we will continue to publish this newsletter on Wednesdays with our first issue on January 18.



The Difference Makers: Resolution - Zero Hunger

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Our Fall 2022 semester comes to a close. Exams are finished and grades are submitted, and we can feel our shoulders relax a bit as we wrap up the last few meetings and graduation festivities this week. At our recent Celebration of Success, we acknowledged our good work, calling out award winning efforts to make a true difference in our scientific disciplines, within our Mason Science community, and for those we serve. We have much to celebrate.

As we look to the coming year, there is a topic I'd like to bring forward as you build your 2023 resolutions. The recipient of this year's Dean's Impact Award, brought the issue of hunger advocacy to the forefront.

Environmental Science and Policy professor, Dann Sklarew likes to think big and backed up those thoughts with energy and action. Dann definitely exemplifies his department's name; fostering and

leveraging environmental science knowledge to work with Mason and elected officials to establish policies and programs to help resolve one of the world's biggest problems, unsustainable development.

Mason's Institute for a Sustainable Earth approached Dann a year ago to co-moderate its "17 Rooms Summit" team addressing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, "No Hunger."

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Mason team is one of 10 Phase 1 winners of the LymeX Diagnostics Prize

by John Hollis



A George Mason University team led by Alessandra Luchini and Lance Liotta has been named one of 10 Phase 1 winners of the LymeX Diagnostics Prize by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation. Each of the Phase 1 winners have received $100,000 and an invitation to participate in the second phase of the contest whose aim—depending on future funding— is to accelerate the development of Lyme disease diagnostics.

Explore their research



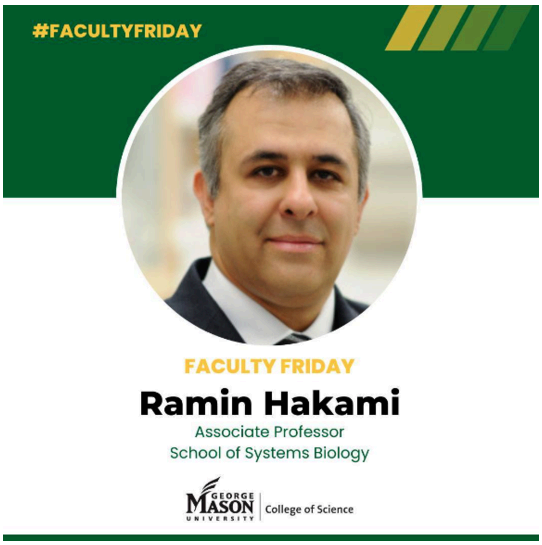
Reflecting on our Mason Science Impact: Annual Report 2021-22

As we close out this semester, let us take a look back at the achievements of our Mason Science community during the 2021-2022 academic year. From our sustainability efforts locally and beyond to awards and research that reflect the expertise and perseverance of our faculty, staff, and students, we are grateful for our science community that exemplifies what it truly means to understand, innovate, and succeed. Take a look through the College of Science's 2021-2022 Annual Report that reflects the strengths and accomplishments of our organization. If you would like to add a collaborator or influencer in your field to our Annual Report mailing list, please send your contact's information to

cosnews@gmu.edu.

Annual Report 2021-2022

#FacultyFriday features School of Systems Biology Associate Professor



This past week's #FacultyFriday featured Dr. Ramin Hakami, Associate Professor, School of Systems Biology (SSB). His research lab focuses on addressing the significant gap in knowledge of the molecular mechanisms by which vesicular trafficking both within and between cells regulates innate immune response to highly pathogenic infections. View the original Instagram post.

View recent faculty highlights

Changes and additions to the Mason Science hiring process

By Paula Danquah-Brobby and Myisha Washington

As we continue to improve and evolve the hiring process throughout the Mason Science community, this is notification of a few changes and new additions as it relates to that process.

Certification of Applicant Pool

Dr. Paula Danquah-Brobby serves as the "Talent Equity Advisor" for Mason Science hiring searches. As the "Talent Equity Advisor" ALL Mason Science hiring searches are required to have the applicant pool be certified by Paula. This means that Paula will need to certify the pool prior to applications being released to the search committee for review. Once the application closing date has been reached, please remind your search committee chairs to contact Paula. Once Paula has certified the pool, then applications will be released to the search committee for review and selection. Should the pool not be certified, we would recommend that additional advertising on diverse sites occur before proceeding with the recruitment. While this may be a slight change to the process, it will ensure that we are hiring from diverse pools to include diversity in race/ethnicity, gender, and additional categories (veteran and disability status).

Additionally, for those of you who are in the process of forming a search committee (and for future formation of search committees), please be sure to have the composition of the committee approved by either Paula or Myisha prior to getting approval from Central DEI. This is a directive that has come from Mason's Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Sharnnia Artis.

Review of Job Announcement

In addition to the applicant pools needing to be certified, Paula and Myisha will also review the job

announcements before they are posted/advertised. This is also a new process and we are developing a more formal system to include turnaround time for review. In the meantime, please be sure to email your job announcements to both Paula (pdanquah@gmu.edu) and Myisha (mwashi4@gmu.edu) so that they may review the required items for the job opportunity to include diversity statement and minimum and preferred requirements, etc.

Please let Paula or Myisha know if you have any questions.

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Quantifying component mortality rates of juvenile salmonids

by Elizabeth Grisham



Dr. T. Reid Nelson, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science and Policy; Faculty Fellow, Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC); is quantifying component mortality rates of juvenile salmonids.

Outmigrant survival of endangered California salmonids is low and is likely a result of poor water quality and predation, but the component mortality rates from these sources remain unknown. In this study, Nelson will quantify outmigrant mortality of endangered Steelhead and partition this mortality into predation (e.g. piscine, mammal, and bird) and other mortality (e.g. poor water quality) to elucidate the main sources of outmigrant loss.

More on this study



Predictive personalized public health - a novel paradigm to treat infectious disease

by Elizabeth Grisham

Dr. Timothy Sauer, Professor, Mathematical Sciences, and their Mason collaborators will lead the mathematical development of prediction strategies for disease propagation in developing countries, using the combined genomic, meteorological, and geospatial data collected in this project. They will develop deterministic models using advanced

dynamical systems techniques, and will guide the numerical analysis framework that is required to produce an optimized predictive model of infectious disease in the patients under study.

Find out more on his work

IN THE NEWS

MS in Biology ranked first in Virginia



The 2023 College Factual rankings placed Mason Science's MS Biology program as the top program in Virginia, followed by Virginia Tech (#2) and William & Mary (#3). The program is ranked #39 nationally, ahead of such peer institutions as Georgia Institute of Technology (#42), Case Western Reserve University (#43), and the University of Maryland - College Park (#45).

View rankings

Happening at Mason

Check out new 'Mason in the Community' newsletter

by Roddena Kirksey



The Office of Government and Community Relations will release a newsletter twice per semester, *Mason in the Community*, to highlight all the ways Mason is impacting the community. The newsletter will focus students volunteerism and service, research for the community, the ways students apply classroom knowledge to benefit the community, and alumni. Featured events are open to the public. Mason in the Community is sent to approximately 1,600 recipients (all of our group contacts plus targeted campus interest list, Mason Speaker hosts, and anyone who indicated an interest in Mason's Master Plan/Future). If someone would like to make a submission for consideration, please email cosnews@gmu.edu.

Check out the newsletter



Commencement Ceremony
December 15, 2022 | 10 a.m. | EagleBank Arena
Register to volunteer at this year's Commencement Ceremony. Descriptions of duties are outlined in the signup form.

College of Science Strategic Planning Survey Deadline
December 16, 2022 | 11:59 p.m.
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. You are invited to provide your feedback and input via this Mason Science Strategic Plan survey.

Workshop: Anti-Racism and Inclusive Teaching: An introduction to Developing More Inclusive Educational Spaces
January 17, 2023 | 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. | via Zoom
The facilitator for this activity is Rachel Yoho. Participants must register in advance.

George Mason University Winter Break
December 19, 2022 to January 2, 2023

See Full Calendar

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Read the College of Science's latest annual report

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