Mason SCIENCE

Understand. Innovate. Succeed.

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 **science.gmu.edu**

In this Issue

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



Taking initiative — a key to STEM success

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

If you ask 'What is the secret to success?' some may say, 'hard work.' Others may suggest it's 'being at the right place at the right time,' or maybe even 'it's who you know.' Some others might attribute it to luck.

I would add one other element to a list of how to achieve the highest levels of success — **one's ability to take initiative.**

In Mason's College of Science, we offer many opportunities to take initiative, grow, and succeed. Applying and coming to Mason is an excellent demonstration of taking initiative for a large percentage of our undergraduate learners who are first-generation college students. Our researchers are also taking initiative, using creative and innovative approaches to solve difficult problems.

Life consists of a variety of opportunities for success along one's journey, and they're not all going to come directly to you. We encourage Mason scientists to take initiative, look for opportunities, research them thoroughly, and sometimes even do the extra work, or take a risk, to try something new or to grow.

Truly, to consider how to achieve your vision for success, it's helpful to proactively identify what steps one must take, what stands in your way, or perhaps even what might be holding you back. This past weekend, mathematics students at Mason were offered an opportunity to go through a day long Math Boot Camp to expand their mathematical skills and problem-solving abilities. This activity aimed to close any sequential gaps in mathematical concepts that build on each other as one advances in scientific learning.

Now that's what I call taking initiative.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton helps Mason land federal funding for projects to benefit the well-being of residents across the state

by John Hollis



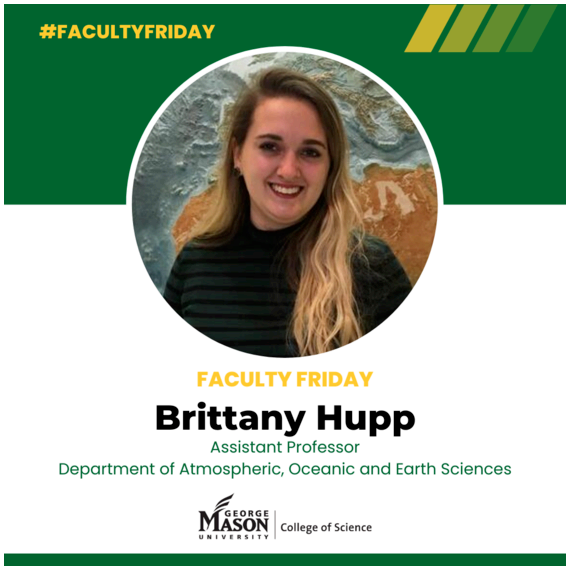
Mason will receive more than $1 million for a center that will help in the fight against the growing opioid epidemic, and another $820,000 to establish a clinic that will help combat Lyme Disease and other tick-borne illnesses. The center will utilize the unique diagnostic testing technology by professors Lance Liotta and Alessandra Luchini from the Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine. *Photo by Lathan Goumas/Strategic Communications.*

More on their research efforts

#FacultyFriday features AOES assistant professor

by Mariam Aburdeineh

Last week's #FacultyFriday highlighted new faculty member Brittany Hupp, Assistant Professor, Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences. Hupp's research lies at the intersection of geology, chemistry, and ecology, which allows her to pursue multidisciplinary questions and utilize a wide range of approaches to investigate both modern and ancient environments. View the original Instagram post.



See recent faculty highlights

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason Science research shows strength in NSF report

by Damian Cristodero



The latest figures for FY 2021, reported by the National Science Foundation, shows Mason's research funding in the top 25 nationally in social sciences and computer and information sciences.

The report includes the collaboration between Patrick Gillevet, Associate Dean of Research Operations, Professor/Director, MicroBiome Analysis Center, Biology; Mikell Paige, Associate Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry; and Aarthi Narayanan, Associate Professor, Biology with the College of Engineering and Computing to improve the manufacturing and understanding of mRNA vaccines, such as those to fight COVID-19. The report also includes AOES climate systems scientists Paul Dirmeyer, Bohua Huang and Chul-Su Shin and their work to update The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration drought forecasting system. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services.*

Read the report

Tagging monarch butterflies to help save them

by Mariam Aburdeineh



Students from the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation, including senior environmental and sustainability studies majors Nadia Gray and Spencer Harman, tagged the butterflies on their journey to their winter home in Central Mexico to help researchers better understand their grand migration. Be sure to watch the video highlighting this work.

More on their research efforts

IN THE NEWS

Valley fever may be spreading from Southwest

by Melissa Rudy, Fox News



The New York Post recently picked up the *Fox News* story citing research by Daniel Tong, Associate Professor, AOES addressing the possible link between dust storms and the rise in Valley Fever cases. *Photo by Michael Hudson on Unsplash.*

Read full story

Happening at Mason

State required emergency preparedness training due April 1

By **April 1, 2023**, all employees must complete Mason's Emergency Preparedness Training, designed to give employees a foundation of practical competencies and resources needed for emergency preparedness and crisis response. You can access the training in MasonLEAPS. Find out more about Mason's emergency management and emergency preparedness programs.

Access MasonLEAPS

Changes made to Fall 2023 academic calendar



The fall 2023 academic calendar was previously scheduled to begin **Monday, Aug. 28**, with the university's fall commencement occurring **Thursday, Dec. 21**. This calendar configuration would have shortened the traditional winter break for staff and faculty, compared to most years where a full two-week break was in place.

After discussion with many university stakeholders, including the Faculty Senate, the fall 2023 start date of classes will now be **Monday, Aug. 21**, one week earlier than originally planned. The university's fall commencement will now take place **Thursday, Dec. 14**, with the semester ending **Friday, Dec. 15**. This decision enables a two-week winter break and university campus closure from **Dec. 18 – Jan. 1, 2024**. Campuses will reopen **Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024**. Please check the HR holiday schedule website for an updated calendar. Consequently, other dates throughout the semester (finals, spring registration, etc.) will also be impacted by this change and will be updated.



Invitation to help plan Good Trouble Fest

February 9, 2023 | Noon to 2 p.m. | Johnson Center 239A

You are invited to join an initial planning discussion for a Spring 2023 "Good Trouble Fest" at Mason's Fairfax campus. Representatives of Mason's student organizations are invited to share their potential vision of such an event and how it can support the goals of their organization, whether in addressing racism, global human rights, worker rights, LGBTQIA2S, gender identity, climate change, or other topics related to social equity. Register to join the meeting.

Homecoming 2023

February 10, 2023 thru February 18, 2023

Mason will hold Homecoming week from February 10 to 18 with numerous activities, both virtual and in-person. For details and to register for events, visit the Homecoming 2023 event registration web page.

Adjunct Faculty Social Hour

February 13, 2023 | 5 to 6:30 p.m. | Merten Hall 1201

Meet Provost Ginsberg and mingle with fellow adjuncts in this community-building event. Email RSVPs to Shannyn Snyder, Co-Chair of the Adjunct Faculty Committee.

Syllabi That Support Learners and Instructors Follow-Up: A Hands-On Syllabus Workshop
February 15, 2023 | 10 to 11 a.m. | Virtual
Are you ready to align your courses with university commitments to inclusive teaching? In this hands-on and collaborative workshop, we will create one specific action for increasing inclusion in your syllabus that works for you, your course, and your context. Registration required.

Compassionate Conversations Workshop
February 15, 2023 | Noon to 1:30 p.m. | Virtual
Join Dr. Erikca Brown, Office of DEI Inclusive Education Manager and Dr. Paula Danquah-Brobby, Director of AJEDI in a faculty and staff workshop on compassionate conversation. Compassionate conversation refers to the skillful ways people can talk together to feel understood and better able to understand one another. Registration required for event access.

See Full Calendar

Stay Connected

Read the College of Science's latest annual report

© 2023 George Mason University
College of Science
science.gmu.edu

Share this email:

Manage your preferences | Opt out using TrueRemove®
Got this as a forward? Sign up to receive our future emails.
View this email online.

4400 University Drive
Fairfax, VA | 22030 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

Subscribe to our email list.