Mason SCIENCE

Understand. Innovate. Succeed.

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 **science.gmu.edu**

In this Issue

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

A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Our quest for a healthy planet

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

In 1872, a collection of physicians founded the American Public Health Association (APHA). And in 1995, the APHA created a National Public Health Week (NPHW) to discuss important issues impacting our nation's health.

This year's NPHW week is very special as it's the first for Mason since the creation of the university's new, and the Commonwealth of Virginia's only, College of Public Health which has planned a number of events and activities based on NPHW themes to engage the Mason Nation.

Were you aware biology is the largest major in our College of Science? And a significant number of those studying biology, chemistry/biochemistry, or neuroscience at Mason are pursuing a goal of a medical degree or researching ways to improve human and ecosystem health. In addition, a good number of both our atmospheric, oceanic and earth sciences and our environmental science and policy faculty, students, and researchers are also focused on major issues affecting the health of our world, including its climate.

In fact, the recently formed Virginia Climate Center at Mason is working diligently to build community partnerships and research the changing climate effects on public health and the economy.

One of the most significant recent collaborative contributions to local health was the ability for our college and partners to scale up services and research during the recent COVID-19 pandemic. This was possible due to the innovative scientific approach driven of our Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine (CAPMM) colleagues to test for COVID-19. Their development and application of the PCR saliva test allowed Mason's Laboratory for Advanced Testing to analyze 10,000 tests a week at the height of the COVID pandemic. This has positioned Mason to be at the forefront of the next diagnostic challenge. I encourage you to take a moment to view this video recap to hear details of the heroic effort from some of our Mason Scientists.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Join us tomorrow - Strategic Planning Town Hall

Tomorrow's Strategic Planning Town Hall, April 6, 2023 from 1 to 2:30 EST, will review key insights from stakeholder outreach activities, provide updates on our progress and a timeline for the remainder of the process, and engage in open dialogue to gain your perspectives and insights on the direction of the strategic plan. Join the town hall in person in Exploratory Hall 3301 or via the Zoom link shared via email by Teri Fede today (4/5). A recording will be shared after the meeting.

Mason Science seeking faculty nominations

By Natalie Burls

Nominations are sought for the following Mason Science faculty leadership and committee roles. Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague to serve our college in the coming year. Nominations must be emailed to Natalie Burls (nburls@gmu.edu) **no later than April 14**.

Mason Science Faculty Officers: 3 positions up for election

Chair | Chair pro tem. | Secretary | 1 yr. term, all are at-large

Nomination and Membership Committee: 2 open positions, at-large | 2 yr. term

Promotion and Tenure: 2 open positions, at-large

This at-large position cannot be from Math or Physics as one department cannot have more than two members | 3 yr. term, tenured full professors only; cannot succeed themselves

Grievance: 1 open position | Cannot be from Systems Biology, AOES, or Physics and Astronomy as they have existing members | 3 yr. term, tenured professor only

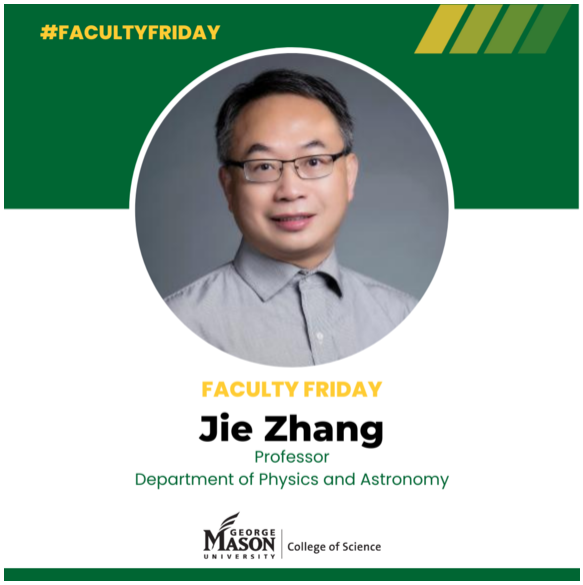
Executive Council: 2 open positions, all at-large | 3 yr. term

Faculty Senate: 2 open positions, all at-large | 3 yr. term

Graduate Council Representative: 1 seat open | (3 yr. term)

Undergraduate Council Representative: 1 seat open | 2 yr. term

#FacultyFriday highlights physics and astronomy professor



Last week's #FacultyFriday featured Dr. Jie Zhang, Professor, Physics and Astronomy. Zhang specializes in space weather and solar physics research, and his team is currently working on multiple research projects funded by NASA and NSF. Most recently, Zhang and Dr. Dusan Odstrcil were awarded a NASA grant to develop an operation-oriented numerical tool to predict interplanetary coronal mass ejection using a novel data assimilation technique. View the original Instagram post.

See recent faculty highlights

Mason's Successful Moonshot: the saliva test

During National Public Health Week, we revisit the development and application of the PCR saliva test that allowed Mason's Laboratory for Advanced Testing to analyze 10,000 tests a week at the height of the COVID pandemic and positioned Mason to be at the forefront of the next diagnostic challenge.

Watch the video

IN THE NEWS

Mason scientist says Artemis II mission to test NASA's new technologies

by ABC News

Mason astrophysicist Dr. Hakeem Oluseyi recently appeared on *ABC News* to discuss the unveiling of the Artemis II astronaut crew selected for a lunar flyby mission that will take place in 2024. Oluseyi said that explorations to the moon will utilize new technologies, but that this upcoming mission will first test these technologies' impact on aircraft maneuvering and ability to keep the astronauts safe. Oluseyi starts at the 2:42 mark.

Watch the news segment

Happening at Mason

Take part in Mason Vision Day tomorrow

Studies show one in four college students struggle to afford their next meal, and that students experiencing food insecurity are 43 percent less likely to graduate.

On Mason Vision Day, April 6, 2023, the Mason Nation is turning its focus to food insecurity, working to support already-established initiatives and exploring other ways to alleviate student food concerns. Learn more.

MASON VISION DAY
BELIEVE • CARE • GIVE

Watch the video

Welcome Research Development Associate Heather Arold

Heather Arold has (re)joined Mason and the Research Development Services office as the Research Development Associate for Sustainable Earth. In this role, Heather will identify external funding opportunities and support ISE-affiliated faculty as they develop complex and institutionally important proposals for transdisciplinary sustainability-focused research. In addition, she will be supporting the Virginia Climate Center to identify opportunities for funding to maintain the call of the VCC.

Check out the ISE research themes

Events

Mason Vision Day
April 6, 2023
Participate in Mason Vision Day, where the university will focus efforts on raising funds for vital resources that address a rising problematic trend facing our Patriots – food insecurity. Students' health and well-being contribute to their academic and career success, and without enough food, students face the physical effects of undernourishment, which may impair their ability to complete their degrees on time.

Take It to the Next Level – Multidisciplinary Research Seed Funding
Submission deadline April 7, 2023
The goal of this funding is to advance scalable multidisciplinary projects for research and scholarship in Sustainability, Biohealth or Digital Innovation. This seed funding opportunity will drive stakeholder engagement and support planning activities to secure transdisciplinary basic and translational research and scholarship organized around topics that align with one or more of Mason's university-level research institutes; Institute for Biohealth Innovation, Institute for a Sustainable Earth, and Institute for Digital InnovAtion. All faculty currently allowed to submit proposals under Mason's Principal Investigators Policy 4012 are eligible. Partnership with an outside collaborator is REQUIRED.

Working with International Students Workshop
April 7, 2023 | 10 a.m. to noon | Zoom
Registration required for this workshop hosted by the Office of International Programs and Services.

Women Leaders in STEM Mentorship Series: Presenting your best self
April 7, 2023 | 3:30 to 5 p.m. | Exploratory Hall 3301
Practice presenting yourself to others; learn how to approach a mentor with email and one on one questions; and take some time to socialize with other members of our community. Refreshments will be served. Register to attend.

Mason Science Hiring Search Process Updates Information Session
April 10, 2023 | 11 a.m. to noon | Virtual
As we continue to improve and evolve the hiring process throughout the Mason Science community, this is

notification that Dr. Paula Danquah-Brobby, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Myisha Washington, Director of Human Resources will be holding information sessions where they will share updates that have been implemented in the hiring search processes for Mason Science. Register to attend.

AMPLIFY Spring 2023

April 11, 2023 | 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Merten Hall Lawn

You don't want to miss this fun celebration and see how you can Amplify Your Campus Experience. Join the units of shopMason including Dining, Parking and Transportation, Student Centers, Wells Fargo and more, as well as several off-campus Mason Merchants and Patriot Perks members in this exciting outdoor event. Share with your team, your friends, your students and register today for the chance to win a BONUS prize.

See Full Calendar

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