Mason SCIENCE

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Thursday, November 3, 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Why partner with Mason Science?

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

In my recent State of the College Address, I shared how Mason Science is coming off a strong year of research performance, submitting 454 proposals, Mason's largest share, and receiving 319 awards for $37 million in funding from various partners and organizations. We account for approximately 20 percent of Mason's research funding and generate the most indirect revenues for the university.

The college is eager to engage in large scale interdisciplinary and international academic and research collaborations with other colleges, other institutions and organizations. A collection of creative, entrepreneurial, and successful scientists pursuing exciting and consequential research, many of us at Mason have already needed to overcome obstacles to realize success, so we embrace the challenges and demands of the future to drive change. With three campuses in the Washington D.C., area and a fourth in South Korea, along with a thriving online presence, Mason is a fast-growing research university that is connected to the country's source of government, industry, and global opportunities.

Consider where Mason stands…we are **All Together Different**.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

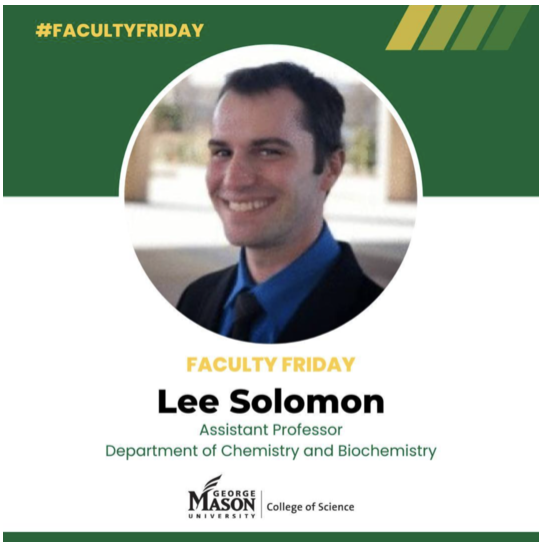
Biosciences PhD student helps artist's afforestation project across Mason's Fairfax Campus

Artist Katie Kehoe wants to make a difference—100 trees at a time. Kehoe met with Mason's Greenhouse and Gardens sustainability program manager and Biosciences PhD student Doni Nolan, BA Biology '14, via Zoom to discuss the final part of her exhibit—an afforestation project across Mason's Fairfax Campus.

"She needed spaces to plant the trees where they could thrive and be protected for the duration of their lives," said Nolan. "I often help students with these types of projects, so University Curator Don Russell connected her with me." *Photo of Katie Kehoe by Sierra Guard/Creative Services.*

More on the project

#FacultyFriday highlights chemistry and biochemistry assistant professor



Last #FacultyFriday highlighted Lee Solomon, Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry. Solomon's research focuses on protein design in two distinct but related areas: individual proteins and protein materials. View the original Instagram post.

View recent faculty highlights

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason Science Dean will serve as Joint Global Change Research Institute Director

by Tracy Mason and Beth Mundy (PNNL)

George Mason University College of Science dean, Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm was appointed director of the Joint Global Change Research Institute (JGCRI). JGCRI is jointly supported by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and the University of Maryland (UMD).

"This strategic opportunity with PNNL/JGCRI will connect Mason researchers and students to opportunities in the very important area of global change, leveraging expertise in areas such as decarbonization and carbon management, Earth systems, human well-being, climate modeling and data analysis." Miralles-Wilhelm explained. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services.*

More on the dean's appointment

IN THE NEWS

Climate change continues to effect fall foliage

by Kaitlyn McGrath

Rebecca Forkner, Associate Professor, Biology, spoke to *WUSA9* on the ways drought, lack of sunlight, and other weather elements influence the color brightness and speed at which leaves change in the fall.

Watch the full segment

Astrophysicist discusses historic SpaceX mission

Hakeem Oluseyi, Robinson Professor, spoke to *ABC News* about the SpaceX

mission manned by a diverse crew including the first Native American woman to fly into space and command the mission. He also discussed the mission's goal and the technologies NASA plans to test and develop in the coming years. "Our human resources are our greatest resource. We talk about sustainability--what's more sustainable and renewable other than human energy, human innovation, human creativity and our undeniable will," Oluseyi said.

Watch the full segment

Happening at Mason

Take part in a training opportunity on engaging faculty and staff

The Faculty and Staff Engagement Team invites you to a new engagement training on Wednesday, November 16 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. (in person) and Friday, December 2 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. (online). This session - *Engagement in Action: Strategies for Supervisors* - is highly interactive and will include discussion and collaboration throughout.

Supervisors are encouraged to join. Participants will actively participate in discussions surrounding Gallup survey engagement data and current best practices as well as learn new strategies to enhance the faculty and staff experience.

Session Objectives:

- Enhance knowledge of Gallup survey findings and discuss ways to enhance employee engagement based on Gallup results
- Actively participate in conversation surrounding faculty and staff engagement
- Add engagement strategies to personal engagement toolkits to enhance faculty and staff experience and contribute to improved retention
- Learn how the HR & Payroll Faculty and Staff Engagement Team can support supervisors through the various programs, resources and trainings

Register through MasonLeaps

Events

Engaging ideas for AJEDI - College of Science Faculty Meeting
November 3, 2022 | 1 to 2:30 p.m. | Exploratory Hall 3301 and Virtual
Faculty are invited to participate in the shaping and finalization of Mason Science's 5-Year AJEDI Strategic Plan.

Engaging ideas for AJEDI - College of Science Staff Meeting
November 8, 2022 | 1 to 2:30 p.m. | Exploratory Hall 3301 and Virtual
Staff are invited to participate in the shaping and finalization of Mason Science's 5-Year AJEDI Strategic Plan.

Compassionate Communication in times of Societal Crisis: Practices and Tools for Inclusive Excellence
November 9, 2022 | 3 to 4 p.m. | Virtual
Experts will discuss what being trauma-informed means, share guidance on practical interventions, and outline how compassionate communication is the best tool for advancing the feelings of psychological safety and assisting in reducing anxiety and stress for a supportive learning experience for all students. Registration required.

Veterans Day Luncheon
November 11, 2022 | 11:45 a.m. | Center for the Arts Lobby
Mason community members who have proudly served the country are invited and encouraged to join the Office of the President, ROTC, and the Office of Military Services as Mason celebrates and honors Veterans Day. Registration is required.

Celebration of Success 2022
December 5, 2022 | 2 to 3:30 p.m. | Exploratory Hall Atrium
Join Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm to recognize faculty and staff for their service during the 2022 calendar year. Nominations are now open and will be accepted until November 21, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. Register to attend.

See Full Calendar

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