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Wednesday, April 14, 2021 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Not throwin' away my shot

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

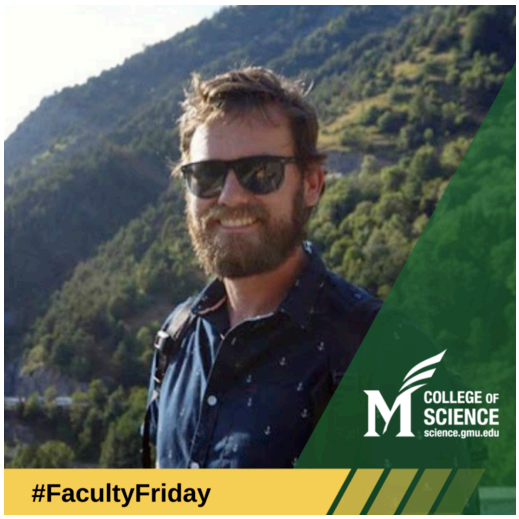
About a week ago, George Mason University President Gregory Washington sent an email to all Mason faculty and staff to let us know our university would be offering an opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccine starting last Saturday, April 10 at the Eagle Bank Arena. Students could have the same option later this month. Within a week, a myriad of volunteers and healthcare professionals offered hundreds of appointments for our Mason nation for all interested. We are fortunate to have this opportunity as an option as there are more than 120 million Americans still waiting for their first shot.

A few days ago, I personally received my second COVID-19 vaccination. Based on my classification within the CDC vaccination roll out, living in Maryland, I was provided the opportunity last month, just as the case and death counts were starting to drop, and, to quote the popular Broadway musical, Hamilton, "I'm not throwing away my shot" to fight this pandemic.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

#FacultyFriday highlights ESP's Travis Gallo



In honor of Earth Month, this past #FacultyFriday highlighted Travis Gallo, an assistant professor in urban wildlife ecology and conservation in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy. Gallo is the principal investigator for the UrbanxNature Lab at Mason, where research focuses on ecology and conservation in urban areas. Most recently, the lab partnered with Arlington National Cemetery to monitor wildlife on the property to better understand animal distributions to minimize any conflicts that may arise from future development plans.

See his bio

AOES PhD students awarded research fellowships

by Barry Klinger

Mason awarded 2021 summer research fellowships to two Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences Climate Dynamics doctoral students, David Benson and Rachel Gaal, in order to provide financial support for work on their dissertations. Their work centers on the effect of soil moisture on two very different weather phenomena, heat waves and rain storms.

Learn more

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason scientists receive $1.2M grant

Congratulations to Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences Professor Julia Nord, Director of Educational and Career Pathways Kerin Hilker-Balkissoon, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Mathematical Sciences Professor Padhu Seshaiyer, and Biology Assistant Professor Tina Bell on receiving a $1.2M Noyce Grant from the National Science Foundation. Read their study's abstract.

Full story

IN THE NEWS

Mason astronomer involved in measuring fastest-spinning brown dwarfs

Department of Physics and Astronomy Professor Peter Plavchan was a part of a recently published study called "Weather on Other Worlds. V. The Three Most Rapidly Rotating Ultra-Cool Dwarfs." Published by the *Astronomical Journal* and picked up by *SciTechDaily*, scientists were able to locate the most rapidly rotating brown dwarfs known.

Full story

Happening at Mason

The Center for Well-Being requests your feedback

The Center for Well-Being is developing a well-being model and hopes to get feedback on it from a variety of campus groups by **Monday, April 26**. Please watch the presentation and provide your feedback in the survey. Please share across your units. All details are included in the presentation.

Complete the survey

Nominate someone to serve on NSF's scientific and technical federal advisory committees

NSF Seeks Recommendations for Advisory Committees: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is soliciting recommendations for membership on its scientific and technical federal advisory committees. Per the notice, “Recommendations should consist of the name of the submitting individual, the organization or the affiliation providing the member nomination, the name of the recommended individual, the recommended individual's curriculum vita, an expression of the individual's interest in serving, and the following recommended individual's contact information: Employment address, telephone number, fax number, and email address. Self-recommendations are accepted.”

Learn more

Mason Science Faculty Meeting
April 14, 2021 | 3 to 4 p.m.
Refer to email for the meeting password.

Short-term Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Adolescents in Low- and Middle Income Countries
April 16, 2021 | 11 a.m. to noon
Join CDS for a talk by Alan Sánchez, Senior Researcher at GRADE (Lima, Peru), Principal Investigator at Young Lives Peru, and Academic Visitor at the Oxford Department of International Development and Catherine Porter, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, Lancaster University.

#EnviroSocSci Brown Bags
April 16, 2021 | noon to 1 p.m.
Join ESP Associate Professor Chris Kennedy for a discussion titled "When Does Natural Science Uncertainty Translate into Economic Uncertainty?"

2021 Undergraduate Research Colloquium
April 21, 2021 | 1 to 3 p.m.
You're invited to attend this year's showcase to view a variety of undergraduate research projects in the College to the Mason community.

See Full Calendar

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