Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, November 17 2021 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Shaping our climate future

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

One of Mason's four grand challenges is the quest for a healthy planet. And hundreds of Mason Science researchers, faculty, staff, and students strive for this worthy cause.

It's been a busy few months for those scientists (myself included) who perform climate-related research. Mason's Daniel Tong and our CSISS researchers teamed with NASA and the New Mexico Environment Department to host an internationally attended U.S. Dust Symposium and Zafer Boybeyi and colleagues from Rand Corporation just hosted the 25th Annual George Mason University Conference on Atmospheric Transport and Dispersion Modeling. In addition, NOAA is working with Paul Dirmeyer and his AOES colleagues on drought research which will establish future forecasting models. And, pardon the pun, that's just the tip of the iceberg.

For the past month, all eyes have been on the COP26 meetings in Glasgow, Scotland. Our envoy to the events, chair of Mason's Department of Environmental Science and Policy (ESP), Alonso Aguirre, has

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with countless panels, blog posts and multiple briefings for the Mason community on what he's learned and where our important research partnerships and Mason's overall sustainability efforts may want to focus.

How can you learn about what happened at COP26 and the decisions which will shape our planet's future?

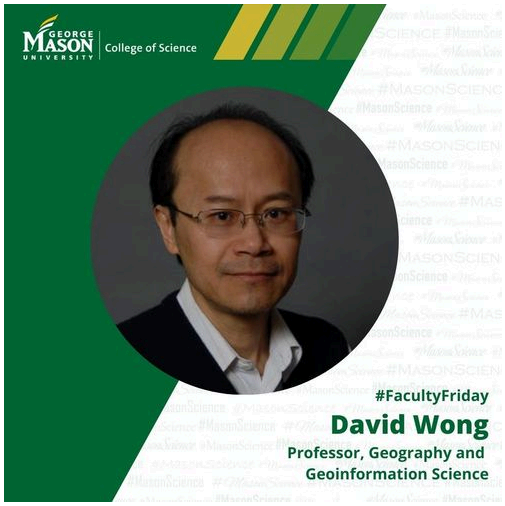
Climate-related efforts at Mason

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Nominate and recognize your colleagues

Join us Monday, December 6 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. for the annual Celebration of Success where Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm will present the Dean's Awards to nine faculty and staff for their service during the 2021 calendar year. Nominations are now open. Submit nominations no later than Monday, November 29 by 11:59 p.m.

Register to attend



#FacultyFriday highlights GGS professor

With #GISDay2021 behind us, we conclude our celebration by highlighting David Wong, Professor, Geography and Geoinformation Science. Wong's research focuses on population, special statistics, public health, and more. Recently, he received funding from the University of Wisconsin-Madison for the project: "An intersectional approach to improve family and social support measures of county health - Incorporating racial-ethnic and age dimensions."

More on Wong's research

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason researchers receive funding to enhance capabilities of biomedical research laboratory

by Elizabeth Grisham

Ali Andalibi, Senior Associate Dean, College of Science, and Farhang Alem, Research Scientist, Center for Infectious Disease Research (formerly NCBID), Assistant Director of Scientific Operations, received $3,330,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for: "Facility and Building System Upgrades Support for the Mason Biomedical Research Laboratory."

More on this funding

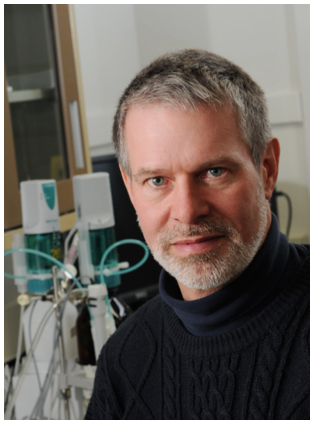
IN THE NEWS

Cracks in the Earth's permafrost signals threat to planetary balance

by Susan Alexandra Crate

Research conducted by Susan Crate, Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, sheds important light on climate shifts already effecting inhabitants in Siberia and how scientists can bring "others' ways of knowing the world into the scientific and policy realms."

Full article



We are in a golden age of astronomy

by Robert Hazen

Clarence Robinson Professor of Earth Science, Robert Hazen, wrote a piece for *The Great Discourse Daily* explaining the technological advancements that make this a significant time for earth observation and discovery.

Full article

Happening at Mason

Share your thoughts at the Climate Action Plan Townhall

GMU Facilities and the Mason Sustainability Council's Carbon Neutrality Task Force.

Mason is accelerating action in response to the climate crisis by developing a new Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP development is an initiative led by GMU Facilities and the Mason Sustainability Council's Carbon Neutrality Task Force. Mason community members are invited to join the initial Townhall to share your climate action thoughts, ask questions, and learn more about the CAP process.

Access the event

Ideas Needed for 50th Anniversary Giving Day Fund

Do you have an initiative or project that could be completed (start to finish) with $75,000 to $150,000 and would impact faculty, staff, students, or alumni? The Provost's Office wants to hear about it. University leadership will review all entries and the top ideas will be put to a vote by the Mason Nation. The winning idea will be supported during Giving Day. Complete the suggestion form by **Tuesday, November 30**.

Submit your suggestions

Events

Galileo's Science Cafe
November 18, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.
Attend a lecture on "The Selfish Microbiome and Human Cognition" from Patrick Gillevet, Professor, Biology, Director, MicroBiome Analysis Center.

Chemistry and Biochemistry Graduate Student Poster Session
November 19, 2021 | 1:30 p.m.
Come see the work of graduate research students and faculty mentors on the third floor of Planetary Hall, Fairfax campus. Posters will cover materials chemistry (experimental and computational), environmental chemistry and sustainability, and biomedical/biochemistry.

Mathematics Colloquium: Topology and Geometry of Random Cubical Complexes
November 19, 2021 | 3:30 to 4:20 p.m.
Join Erika Roldan, TU Munich and EPFL, for a lecture exploring the topology and local geometry of different random cubical complex models.

Learning Assistant Virtual Poster Session
December 6, 2021 | Noon to 2 p.m.
The STEM Accelerator invites you to celebrate the work of Mason Science's Learning Assistants who will present posters reflecting their teaching experiences, their students' learning, and new instructional initiatives they implemented. Registration required.

See Full Calendar

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