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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

It's Mason's time: Preparing the next great generation to save our future

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Over the last week, the Mason nation has been celebrating the investiture of our eighth president, Dr. Gregory Washington. Usually held at the conclusion of the president's first year, this academic ceremony presents opportunities to welcome a new era and celebrate as a community.

Our college was well represented during President Washington's Investiture activities and sessions, (thanks Tom Lovejoy, Ginny Espina, and Hakeem Oluseyi for sharing insights on the issues of our time and our greatest challenges, as well as all those across our college who attended the festivities at SciTech and Fairfax campuses). The discussions were lively and the atmosphere was festive as we all officially welcomed the next leader of our university.

If you couldn't get to the actual ceremony on Thursday, October 21 or heard any of the guest speakers and discussions, I strongly encourage you to watch them, and even read President Washington's Investiture remarks.

President Washington proclaimed “It is Mason’s time,” while discussing education and its role to transform the lives of students on our quest for a healthy economy, healthy people, healthy society, and a healthy planet.

Read full message

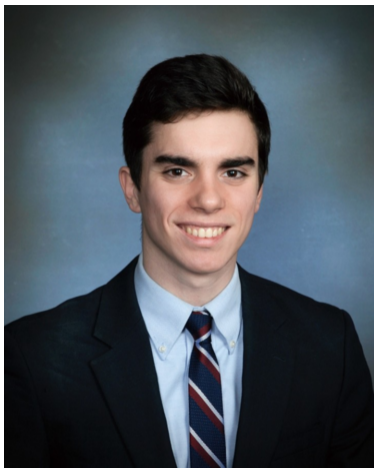
Mason science team wins prize in virtual Virginia datathon

by Dorothy Kondal

Out of twenty-six competitors, a team of Mason students earned second place for their presentation on Addressing Hunger with Bits and Bytes, the theme of this year’s Virtual Virginia Datathon held in early October. The group included team leader Faysal Shaikh, MS, Computational and Data Sciences, as well as Bikram Adhikari, PhD, Computer Science; Amira Al-Khulaidy, PhD, Computational Social Sciences; Kokou Wilfried Letsou, PhD, Computational Science and Informatics; and Luke Palmieri, BS, Computational and Data Sciences.

More on the competition

Mason Science development team hires new associate director



Stephen Giannella joins the College of Science Development team as an associate director of development from his position as development assistant in Mason's Central Advancement Office. In this role, he provided high-level operational and administrative support for the deputy vice president of advancement and alumni relations, as well as the university priorities, corporation and foundation relations, and law school development teams. Welcome to the College of Science, Stephen.

#FacultyFriday highlights CAPMM research professor

As Breast Cancer Awareness Month comes to a close, it’s fitting to highlight #MasonScience researcher, Virginia (Ginny) Espina, Research Professor, Center for Applied

Proteomics and Molecular Medicine (CAPMM). Espina dedicates her research to finding a cure for breast cancer by deciphering mechanisms of cell signaling, drug-protein interactions, and host-pathogen interactions. Currently, she directs the CAP-accredited clinical proteomics lab. Espina recently appeared in the Grand Challenges panel at President Washington's Investiture event.

Watch the Grand Challenges panel

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

GGS researcher envisions future NASA satellite capabilities

by Laura Powers and Konrad Wessels

Konrad Wessels, Associate Professor, Geography and Geoinformation Science, was awarded a NASA grant to participate in the study aimed at identifying gaps in required observations and satellite technology, as well as ways these gaps could be addressed over the next ten years. The study analyzed questions involving Surface Topography and Vegetation structure (STV), addressing the need for global, high resolution and frequent vertical measurements of bare-surface land topography, ice topography, vegetation structure, surface hydrology and shallow water bathymetry.

Read more about Wessels' research

IN THE NEWS

O'Toole comments on the latest developments in the Gabby Petito case

CBS New York reported on human remains authorities suspect to be those of Brian Laundrie. Mary Ellen O'Toole, Director, Forensic Science Program, discussed how environmental elements

may effect this new evidence and commented on
the suspicious behavior of Laundrie's parents throughout this investigation.

Watch the news segment

Happening at Mason

Attend President Washington's College of Science Visit November 4

Join us in **November 4 from 2 to 3 p.m. in Merten Hall 1201** for a one-hour town hall providing a brief 'state of the university' update and discuss how unit goals and strategies fit within the overall plan. President Washington also looks forward to hearing directly from you and encourages in person attendance for full participation. A Zoom webinar link will be provided via email before the event. Virtual attendees will not be able to ask questions during the event, but can submit questions in advance via the registration form.

Register to attend

Events

Evenings Under the Stars: Astronomy at the Crossroads
October 28, 2021 | 7 p.m.
Join us for a dicussion with Lee Billings, senior editor for Scientific American, followed by a virtual observatory tour.

GRADReCon - Graduate Research Connections
October 28, 2021, 11 a.m. to October 20, 2021, 4 p.m.
Register to take part in a variety of workshops to build productivity, research, and writing skills. Find registration, schedule, and more on the Libraries website.

Blue crab population model and seasonal disease spread
October 29, 2021 | 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Attend the upcoming Applied & Computational Mathematics Seminar for a lecture from Leah Shaw, Professor, William and Mary on the population dynamics of blue crabs, the most valuable commercial fishery in the Chesapeake Bay.

Picture a Scientist Screening and Discussion with Filmmakers

November 4, 2021 | 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Mason's College of Science and other colleges and schools presents a special screening of Picture a Scientist that features leading female scientists discussing the inequalities they have faced as they write a new chapter in STEM for women.

See Full Calendar

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