Mason SCIENCE

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In this Issue

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



Welcome back for the fall semester

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Welcome to the Fall 2022 semester. As our classes begin, I want to reiterate a core Mason value that has never been more important.

We thrive together.

Hopefully this summer you've had quality time to relax and reflect on your journey to this moment. We are collectively moving forward, beyond the worst of the global pandemic, yet it's important to acknowledge we all have been affected by hopefully good and probably also very challenging experiences.

At Mason's recent new student convocation, Provost Ginsberg declared that it's not just Mason's time. It's our time. We are each at a point to begin our shift from surviving to thriving.

The more than 3,900 science students we serve, and the thousands of others who rely on our core classes to build their STEM foundation, are counting on you, our dedicated, hard-working staff and faculty

to deliver on our promise of being in the science success business.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Mason Science supports $3.75M grant to create Nano-IMAGINE program

by Katie Maney



George Mason University received a $3.75M per capita grant from GO Virginia, that will allow Mason to establish Nano-IMAGINE. A response to the exploding nanofabrication industry, the new program will offer high-tech workforce readiness training and accelerate the launch and advancement of nanotech startups. It is being established in partnership by Mason's College of Science, College of Engineering and Computing, and Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Impact.

More on this initiative



Submit Ideas for Mason Vision Day 2023 by Sept. 9

Mason Vision Day 2023 will take place Thursday, April 6, 2023. If you have an idea, project, or initiative that you believe Mason Nation and beyond would support, submit an idea by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 9. The finalist will be announced in January 2023. If you need assistance with your request, please contact Audrey Kelaher and the development team at akelahe@gmu.edu.

Review submission guidelines

#FacultyFriday highlights CDS professor

#FacultyFriday highlights Estela Blaisten-Barojas, Professor, CDS, Director, Center for Simulation and Modeling. After 30 years at Mason, Blaisten-Barojas has been an integral part of the growth and success of the CDS department and the College of Science. She has mentored dozens of graduate students while continuing her internationally recognized research. Currently, her research analyzes a group of linear polymers from the perspective of atomistic simulations, helped with machine learning techniques. One of these polymers, PEG2000, is an inert constituent of the COVID-19 vaccine. While she may have her hands full with her research and mentees, she will always dedicate time to chat with her students and colleagues.



Read her bio

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Scientists receive $1 million grant for COVID isolation impact study

By Padmanabhan Seshaiyer and Brian Levy



Mason researchers Drs. Padmanabhan Seshaiyer, Professor, Mathematical Sciences and Brian Levy, Assistant Professor, Sociology and Anthropology recently received a large National Science Foundation (NSF) grant as Co-Principal Investigators with researchers from University of Kansas, University of North Carolina-Greensboro, and Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Their awarded $1 million grant will analyze how isolation curbed spread while, over the longer term, potentially leads to an increase in mental health conditions, substance use, and domestic violence. The grant will also train a collaborative cohort of multidisciplinary scholars to support the STEM pipeline.

More on their research

IN THE NEWS

CDS student fosters community amongst Black peers

by Sam P.K. Collins



A recent article published by *The Washington Informer* highlights Computational and Data Sciences student Curtis Brooks who serves as a DC-CAP student peer mentor and participates activities like club football and an affinity group for Black male students. He says that "being in the Black community helped me a whole lot...it's a connection we don't have to talk about too much but we're all in pursuit of higher education and making sure we're having the best time in doing that." *Photo from The Washington Informer article published August 17, 2022.*

More on Brooks' experience

Happening at Mason

Join the Fall 2022 Provost Office Opening Session tomorrow



Our Fall Opening Session will provide an opportunity for us all to gather as we reflect on our work together over the past year and continue planning for the fall semester and the 2022-2023 academic year. Dr. Ginsberg, and the Provost Executive Team, will provide a preview of key and critical issues that will frame our work during the upcoming academic year, and review some of the most critical opportunities and challenges we will face as together we continue to adjust and adapt to the "new normal." In person attendance is encouraged when possible.

Register to attend



Science Communication Training for Faculty, Post-Docs, and Graduate Students

August 26, 2022 | 9 a.m.

Faculty in communication and psychology at Mason are offering free science communication training this summer. Participants learn to communicate with audiences about the value and importance of their work as well as science more generally. Registration required.

ScienceConnect 2022

September 13, 2022 | 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. | Fairfax Campus and September 15, 2022 |11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. | SciTech Campus

Meet students, discuss your programs, and share research and professional opportunities with free food and chances to win Mason Science SWAG. Register to attend.

Sayas Numerics Day 2022 (formerly DelMar Numerics Day)

September 17, 2022 | 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. | University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Join Mason and other organizing institutions for this annual event to connect researchers of computational mathematics in VA, MD, DC, DE and adjacent areas and to provide opportunities to students, postdocs and other early career researchers. Register to attend.

Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference

September 30, 2022 | 9 a.m.

Participate in a day of workshops, panels, teaching-focused presentations, and networking with colleagues. This conference will include a variety of in-person activities, a diverse menu of live-streaming options, and on-demand content. Register to attend.

SAVE THE DATE: Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Conference: Vision and Action for a New Era

October 24, 2022 | 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. | Mason Square, Arlington, VA

See Full Calendar

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