Mason SCIENCE

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

National Hispanic Heritage Month is a period from September 15 to October 15 in the United States for recognizing the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

President Lyndon Johnson started observing Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 and President Ronald Reagan expanded it to cover a 30-day period beginning in 1988. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

But why those dates? The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and

September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period.

I am proud of my Hispanic roots and have realized how they have given me a particular perspective in the different leadership positions I have held during my career, and how they may shape my role as Dean of Mason's College of Science. In my introductory Q&A interview when coming to Mason, I was asked "Why is diversity particularly important in learning and research within Mason's College of Science?"

I replied that diversity is something that is incredibly important to me. Every study that we've seen in terms of the impacts of participation of a diverse group of people in science points to the fact that you get better results, you get results that are more impactful as you involve a wider diversity of people.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY



ESP PhD alumnus Advait Jukar receives prestigious Donnelley postdoc fellowship at Yale

The Donnelley Postdoctoral Fellowship supports research in biodiversity or a combination of biodiversity with conservation and public policy. Dr. Jukar will study the impacts of human hunting and climate change on the megafaunal extinction in India.

Read more

The Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) seeks applications from Mason faculty for ISE's Faculty Fellows program.



ISE's Faculty Fellows will serve as community-building catalysts who support the development of transdisciplinary communities of research and practice around six research themes. With the support of the ISE team, each Fellow will lead efforts to develop one

of the research themes. Fellows will also participate in and contribute to the strategic development of ISE. Applications are due by October 16, 2020.

Complete your application



Andrea Weeks named 2020-21 Fenwick Fellow

By Jessica Clark

Dean of Libraries and University Librarian John G. Zenelis recently announced that Department of Biology Associate Professor, Andrea Weeks, is one of two recipients of the annual Fenwick Fellow award for 2020-21. The Fenwick Fellowship supports faculty pursuing a research project that uses and enhances the University Libraries' resources while advancing knowledge in their fields.

Read more

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason scientists receive funding for ecological study of Gunston Cove

by Elizabeth Grisham



R. Christian Jones, Director, Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC), and Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, Amy Fowler, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, and Kim de Mutsert, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, received $88,866 from the County of Fairfax for a two-part ecological study of Gunston Cove.

Full story

IN THE NEWS

Brazil's 63,000 Fires

by Robert Hunziker

Environmental Science and Policy Professor, Thomas Lovejoy, recently appeared in a City Watch article on Brazil's wildfires and said the Amazon rainforest is at its tipping point.

Full story



Happening at Mason

Gov. Northam highlights Mason as a model for safe reopening during Fairfax Campus visit



Virginia Governor Ralph Northam praised George Mason University for keeping its coronavirus numbers low during a visit to the Fairfax campus on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 where he announced a refinancing plan for colleges and universities.

Full story

Events

Virginia's Climate Future: The Path Forward in the Face of COVID-19, Economic Crisis, and Inequality
Thursday, September 24, 2020 | 5 to 7 p.m.
Join Alonso Aguirre, Chair of the the Department of Environmental Science and Policy and Jim Kinter, Chair of the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences, for a discussion with environmental activists, a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and Mason students.

Research Colloquium on Computational Social Science/Data Sciences
September 25, 2020 | 10 to 11:30 a.m.

USA Science & Engineering Festival
September 26 to October 3, 2020
Register to attend and watch Padhu Seshaiyer instill a new found love for mathematics.

Mason Science Series - Breast Cancer at the Bedside: The Clinical Impacts of Proteomics on Early Detection and Precision Medicine
October 6, 2020 | 4 to 5 p.m.

Save the Date: President Washington College of Science Virtual Town Hall
October 13, 2020 | 1:30 p.m.

See Full Calendar

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