Mason SCIENCE

Understand. Innovate. Succeed.

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Promoting hope and taking action

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

One of my first blog posts discussed a topic I believe is a critical component of our college's success: a diverse, equitable, and inclusive STEM pipeline for all. Throughout Women's History Month, (within its theme of Providing Healing, Promoting Hope), our social media has highlighted successful women blazing trails in STEM both across the sciences and within our Mason Science community as exemplars of success and role models to inspire students, faculty, and staff.

Almost a year ago, we put forward a draft Inclusive Excellence Plan for the college and got to work, focusing our efforts on underrepresented groups, one of the most notable, Women in STEM. According to the recent census, "women are nearly half of the U.S workforce, but only 27% of stem workers."

Critical components are now in place to drive the strategic priority to address this gap.

We recently hired Paula Danquah Brobby as our A-JEDI* champion (*Access, Justice, Equity, Diversity,

and Inclusion). I've also appointed Tina Bell as a Dean's Faculty Fellow charged with establishing a Women in STEM Leadership Program for the college.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Launching effort to enhance research reputation and reach

by Peter Plavchan and Tracy Mason

We are initiating an effort to further our college's reach to external audiences interested in your fields to highlight your innovative scholarly work. **Please** complete this brief survey **(approx. 5 minutes) by Monday, April 4.** Your input will help provide a better sense of where you get the latest technical news (besides peer-reviewed journals), read about what your peers are doing, and where to prioritize highlighting your work.

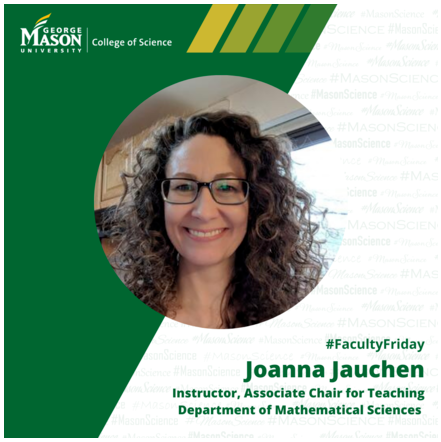
This "science influencer list" will assist us in enhancing our relationships with news outlets and reporters. The college seeks to advance our research reputation by amplifying your scholarly work beyond our Mason Science website, targeting audiences of your peers and prospective students.

Complete the survey

Faculty Marshals needed for 2022 Degree Celebration

Please help support the College of Science's 2022 Degree Celebration on May 21, 2022 from 9 a.m. to noon by signing up to participate as a Faculty Marshal. Marshal's will help guide graduates into EagleBank Arena and assist with seating. Your participation will help the college run a successful and memorable event for our graduates. Faculty volunteers will be required to wear regalia. Regalia is available at no charge if requested from the Mason Bookstore by April 22, and $25 if requested after. Email Melissa Hayes to volunteer. *Photo by Ron Aira, Creative Services.*

What is expected of faculty marshals



#FacultyFriday highlights mathematical sciences instructor and associate chair for teaching

Joanna Jauchen, Instructor, Associate Chair for Teaching, Mathematical Sciences, is this week's #FacultyFriday feature. Jauchen specializes in intersectional, critical feminist STEM education research on faculty engagement in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) service. While she has always enjoyed math, she fell in love with the beauty of the discipline in their undergraduate studies, “It sometimes feels magical the way things work together in mathematics and I like understanding how the magic works,” she said. As an educator, she finds joy in talking to students about their own understanding of mathematics.

View Jauchen's bio

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

DOD funds breakthrough breast cancer prevention and treatment research

by Laura Powers

Milton Brown, Yali Kong, Kan Wang, Farhang Alem and team were award a $1.57 million dollar grant from the Department of Defense to fund a transformative approach for breast cancer treatment. Developed by scientists in Mason’s Center for Drug Discovery for Rare Diseases (CDDRD), this approach will both help individuals at a higher risk for developing tumors, and can also more effectively treat those that have failed therapeutics to treat the disease. *Photo by Evan Cantwell, Creative Services*.

Explore their research

IN THE NEWS

Impact the planet and your wallet by buying electric

by Barry A. Klinger and Chris Wiegard

Barry Klinger, Associate Professor, Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences and Chris Wiegard, public librarian who volunteers as Virginia co-coordinator of Citizens Climate Lobby, released a column in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* on the benefits of buying electric cars. Not only does it save money long-term, but has a lasting, positive impact on the environment. *Photo by Andrew Roberts on Unsplash*.

Read full column

Happening at Mason

Call for Programs: University Life Student Success Symposium 2022

The University Life Symposium Planning Team invites all Mason faculty, staff, and graduate students to submit program proposals for the 2022 UL Student Success Symposium June 7, 2022. To submit a program proposal, please complete the online proposal form. Please note at least one of the presenters must be a current Mason staff, student, or faculty member. The deadline to submit proposals is **April 4, 2022 at 11:59 p.m**.

Guidelines and symposium outcomes

Register for the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Celebration on April 7, 2022

benchmarks for our time ahead.

We are proud of how far we've come and excited about the possibilities of what's ahead. In just 50 years, Mason has become a force for change in the region and beyond. As for the next 50? It's time to celebrate and embark on new horizons, together. It's Mason's time.

Join us for food, fun, and tons of cool Mason swag on April 7 as we celebrate faculty, staff, and student achievement, alumni success, and community impact and support.

- 11:30 a.m. Commemorative Program in the Johnson Center Atrium
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch and Music on Wilkins Plaza
- 2 p.m. Mason at 50: A Special Presentation by Russ Banham in the Johnson Center Atrium

Register for the April 7 event and explore all the other 50th events planned on the 50th Calendar.

Register now

Health and Fitness Expo 2022
March 24, 2022 | 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center
Join us for the 25th Annual Health and Fitness Expo. This popular event is free and open to the Mason community, and promotes health, well-being, fitness, and disease prevention.

Women in STEM: Careers and experiences panel
March 25, 2022 | Noon to 1 p.m. | Virtual
Join science faculty for a discussion about their experiences as they pursued their successful STEM careers. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and participate in the discussion. Access via Zoom. Meeting ID: 932 7033 1520. Passcode: STEMchat.

Mathematics Colloquium
March 25, 2022 | 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Join Jessica Striker, North Dakota State, for a lecture on "Alternating sign matrix polytopes, theme and variations".

Solve Climate by 2030
March 30, 2022 | 4 to 7 p.m. | Virtual
This event will address several important topics pertaining to climate change and environmental justice. Discussions will be interactive, feature Mason experts, and students will moderate each discussion. Registration required.

See Full Calendar

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