Mason SCIENCE

Understand. Innovate. Succeed.

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

In this Issue

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



A collective exhale

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Over the past few weeks, as I prepared to blog on significant college milestones, including graduation and a leadership retreat to identify and address current priorities, events of the past few weeks necessitated replacing these recaps with messages of support, understanding, and an opportunity for action.

It's difficult to find the "right words" to say. My deepest condolences, sympathies, thoughts, and prayers cannot mitigate this sense of hopelessness. They cannot bring back the precious lives that were taken in Uvalde, TX. They cannot stop the pain that's reverberating through our nation. Even still, it's a small comfort to know we're not alone in our grief, anger, and fear.

I also want to recognize that I am always working on how to better communicate with you all about social, political or environmental world events. I know some feel comforted when these things are addressed in the workplace, while others look to work as a refuge and safe place, and would prefer we not comment. I am grateful for your **feedback** as we evolve when and how we respond.

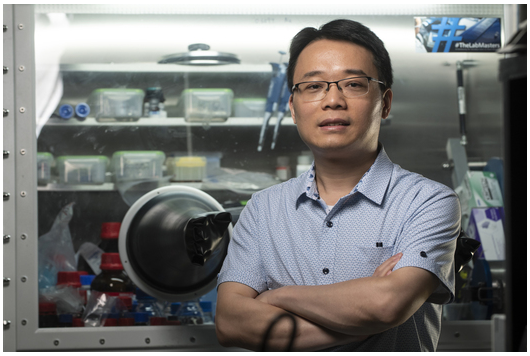
There is so much going on in our nation and world lately, and it can reach a point where it's all simply too much. If you find yourself needing to pause, that's okay. If you find yourself in need of counseling or other resources that's okay too.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Mason chemist receives NSF CAREER award for sustainable battery research

by Laura Powers



George Mason University's Chao Luo, Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry received a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award for his research into organic materials for fast-charging, high-temperature and sustainable energy storage. He will receive a total of more than $570,000 in grant money for his work. *Photo by Evan Cantwell, Creative Services.*

More on Luo's research



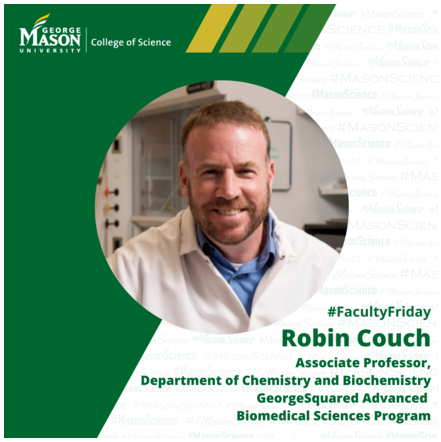
Mason Science students share their campus experiences

by Mariam Aburdeineh and Lauren Reuscher

George Mason University awarded more than 9,700 degrees at its Spring Commencement on Friday, May 20. Learn about two of those graduates from the College of Science: Daria "Dasha" Maslyukova BS, Environmental and Sustainability Studies (left) and Maanvi Vij, BS, Neuroscience, Honors College (right). *Photos provided.*

Read about their experiences

#FacultyFriday highlights associate professor, GeorgeSquared, chemistry and biochemistry



This week's #FacultyFriday features Robin Couch, Associate Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry, GeorgeSquared Advanced Biomedical Sciences Program. With more than 20 years experience, Couch's research centers upon the purification and characterization of biomolecules. He is interested in how the biochemistry of life works and believes if we can understand the life processes, we can correct them to treat or cure diseases. As a GeorgeSquared faculty member, his course in cell and molecular physiology provides students a solid foundation of biochemistry to prepare them for the rigorous coursework of medical school.

Read Couch's bio

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason biotech startup Virongy continues to expand in Northern Virginia

by Katie Maney



Virongy, founded by Mason researcher Yuntao Wu (second from right) in 2013, has moved into a larger lab space in the new Northern Virginia Bioscience Center, adjacent to the Science and Technology Campus. *Photo by Amy Adams/Institute for Biohealth Innovation.*

Learn more about the company



Mason botanists help rediscover extinct plant species

by Zander Leon

A research team of students, faculty, and alumni at Mason, led by Andrea Weeks, Associate Professor, Associate Chair of Research, Biology, helped rediscover a population of Ozark Milkvetch on Short Mountain in Shenandoah County. *Photo: Sabiha*

Basit, Biology alum ('21), presents her research at the Virginia Academy of Science. Photo by Andrea Weeks

More on their rediscovery

IN THE NEWS

Thought it would be a cicadas-free summer? Think again.

by StormWatch7 Meteorologist Alex Liggitt & 7News Staff



Cindy Smith, Associate Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, spoke to WJLA on the emergence of straggler periodic cicadas that didn't come out last summer. *Photo by Jason Weingardt on Unsplash.*

Find out what to expect

Happening at Mason

Take part in Mason's STEM Summer Saturdays



Volunteer to facilitate, coach, and interact with students from various backgrounds during Mason's STEM Summer Saturdays. These events will take place at the Fairfax campus on July 16, July 23, and July 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hosted by the Office of Diversity, Outreach, and Inclusive Learning (DOIL) in the College of Engineering and Computing, the event aims to introduce students to a STEM curriculum as early as possible.

Schedule details:

- 3 to 4 grade: July 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 6 to 8 grade: July 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 9 to 12 grade: July 30, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Email DOIL to participate



Celebrate Mason's 50th at the Fairfax City Fourth of July Parade

The Fairfax City July 4th Parade will feature Mason's "Patriots on Parade" this year. Parade volunteers are needed to decorate the float on July 1 and also to help at the parade on July 4. Mason hopes to get a large group of marchers this year as the community celebrates the university's 50th anniversary. Mason students, staff, faculty, alumni, and their families are invited to join the parade. Please register to march or sign up to help decorate the float. All volunteers and the first 100 marchers will receive a free commemorative t-shirt. *Photo by James Lee on Unsplash.*

Sign up to participate



Open Mic: Biomedical Research Ideas Exchange
June 16, 2022 | 3 to 4 p.m. | SciTech campus, IABR 1004
This new monthly series for tenure/tenure track faculty, research faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and senior level graduate students across academic disciplines will be an "open mic" type of meeting where attendees can speak about their projects/new ideas and specific needs. The goal is to engage in meaningful brainstorming discussions together and champion one another.

STEMNoire 2022
June 23, 2022 | 9 a.m. | Virtual
STEMNoire is a research conference and holistic wellness program intentionally curated to connect, uplift, and empower women of the African diaspora in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Registration required.

Math Boot Camp
July 11 to 15, 2022 | Fairfax campus with residential and commuter options
Math Bootcamp aims to improve math placement scores and prepare incoming students for college math courses. Sign up required.

STEM Bridge Camp
July 25 to 29, 2022 | Fairfax campus
Incoming students will experience science courses and the college lifestyle before the fall semester. In these two-day intensive camps, students review lab protocol, exam preparation, and experience sample classes from Mason faculty. Sign up required.

Save the Date: Climate Dynamics Seminar

August 24, 2022 | 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. | Fairfax Campus, Research Hall 163

Details to come.

See Full Calendar

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Read the College of Science's latest annual report

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