Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, June 15, 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

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Header

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

The acronym KPI stands for Key Performance Indicator. And as a student-focused organization in higher education, some might say graduation is one of our most important KPIs.

Last month, the College of Science held its degree celebration, my first traditional graduation as our college's dean in Mason's Eagle Bank Arena. The year before, we gathered in large outdoor areas near the arena due to COVID concerns, inviting graduates from the classes of 2020 and 2021. All were just thankful to convene in person at all, for the year prior was a virtual commemorative event. Progress.

This Class of 2022 celebration was bigger in my mind than usual – commemorating Mason's 50thanniversary, it was definitely something special considering perhaps half of graduates' undergraduate journey and maybe the majority of their master's level work at Mason occurred when the world was in COVID-mode. Consider the grit and determination deployed to reach this milestone—by students, faculty and staff. What a great day!

There were many students and proud supporters in the stands who were inspired by our speakers.

We acknowledged Donna Fox, our Associate Dean of Student Affairs, biology professor, and lead of the college's Enlisted to Medical Degree Program, on her pending retirement later this year. Thank you, Donna for orchestrating our graduation festivities for many years, and especially for your tremendous service and dedication to our students' day to day and overall success.

Speaking of honoring lasting impact…

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

College of Science faculty receive Presidential Awards for Faculty Excellence



Mason President Gregory Washington announced the recipients of the 2022 Presidential Awards for Faculty Excellence, including Steven Burmeister, Assistant Professor, Forensic Science and Joanna Jauchen, Instructional Faculty, Mathematics.

Read about the honorees



Mason saddened by the loss of mathematics professor Jeng-Eng Lin

George Mason University mourns the recent passing of Jeng-Eng "Jerry" Lin, Professor, Mathematics. Lin, 74, of Los Osos, California passed away on Friday, May 20, 2022, due to complications of lymphoma. "We hope to continue his legacy by sustaining and growing our outreach and enrichment efforts that were such an important focus of Jerry's life and time at Mason," said Maria Emelianenko, Chair, Mathematics.

More on Lin and his legacy

#FacultyFriday highlights biology and GeorgeSquared instructor



Last week's #FacultyFriday featured Allison Tomson, Instructor, Biology, GeorgeSquared. Tomson has written and published multiple anatomy and physiology lab manuals for the Department of Biology. When she's not in the classroom teaching, she performs cadaver dissections and presentations to various groups at NOVA Community College. Tomson is also helping design the future cadaver lab at the Mason SciTech campus. With GeorgeSquared being such a unique program, she's happy to help ease students' transition from undergrad to their graduate and medical journeys.

Read Tomson's bio

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Bee Vision: Shedding light on a conservation challenge

by Mariam Aburdeineh



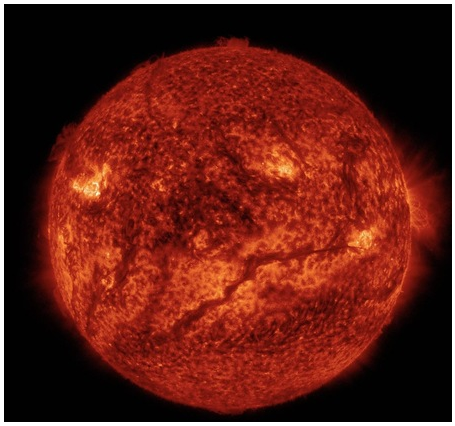
When a bee sees a flower, it knows where to land thanks to its ability to see ultraviolet (UV) color patterns on the petals. Many factors have caused those colors to dull, and now a team at the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation (SMSC) that includes Daniel Hanley, Assistant Professor, Biology and Anna Siegleat, Undergraduate, Environmental and Sustainability Studies, is helping reveal what pollinators see and why it matters for the future of conservation. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services.*

More on this study

Studying solar plasma flows for enhancing Deep Learning models

by Elizabeth Grisham

Raphael Attie, Research Assistant Professor, Physics and Astronomy, received funding from the University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) on a subaward from NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center for the project: "Deep Learning for Ensembles of High-Resolution and High-Cadence Transverse Velocity



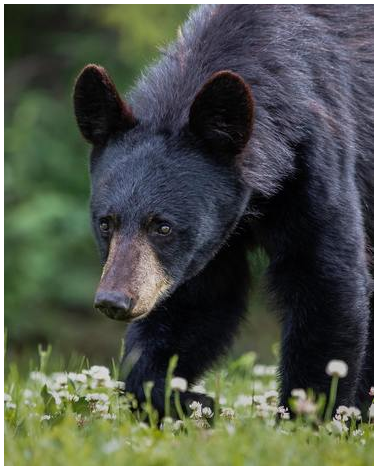
Maps." *Image Credit: NASA/SDO*.

More on this research

IN THE NEWS

A black bear in Arlington?

by Aja Drain and Amanda Michelle Gomez



Travis Gallo, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, recently spoke to NPR's WAMU about the recent black bear sighting in Arlington, Virginia. Gallo said that these wildlife encounters are likely to become increasingly common as Washington, D.C. continues to improve its green spaces to foster biodiversity. *Photo by Pete Nuij on Unsplash*.

Read the full article



Tune in for *With Good Reason* podcast episode on Mason's forensic science program

Hear Mary Ellen O'Toole, Director, Forensic Science and Anthony Falsetti, Associate Professor, Forensic Science speak about Mason's new Forensic Science Research and Training Laboratory and their respective careers on an upcoming episode of *With Good Reason* airing June 18 through June 24, 2022.

Check out broadcast times

Happening at Mason

New Life Sciences and Engineering Building on Mason's SciTech campus breaks ground



Architecture and engineering firm, EYP, officially broke ground Tuesday on the Life Sciences and Engineering Building they designed for Mason's Science and Technology campus. According to an article from *The Bakersfield Californian,* the design reflects biophilic and wellness design principles and address the university's need for specialized instructional labs, classrooms, and support services for graduate-level curriculum in STEM. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services/George Mason University.*

More on the new building

Events

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.

W.A.T.E.R at Mason Summer 2022 Seminar Series
June 17, 2022 | 3 to 4 p.m. | Potomac Science Center, room 3102
Oysters on the half-shell, anyone? Learn about oyster and shellfish farming, and the important role played by oysters and filter-feeders in the aquatic ecosystem. Seminar is free. Registration required.

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.

LGBTQ+ Experiences After Mason: Workplace Strategies for Success Panel
June 29, 2022 | 7 p.m. | Virtual
Join Women and Gender Studies, the Global Affairs Program, the LGBTQ+ Resources Center, the Lambda Alumni Chapter, and the Mason Alumni Association for an upcoming Pride month event featuring alumni Mary Ann Vega, Jayna Tavarez, and Nikita Fernandes. 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.

See Full Calendar

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