Mason SCIENCE

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A sweet start to the semester

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

On Monday morning, my colleagues and I greeted faculty, staff, and students, offering each a cookie as they entered Exploratory Hall for the first classes of the fall 2021 semester.

Many of them seemed very happy to be back after a long hiatus. Others were coming on campus for the first time as new college students on their academic journeys. Some were there early, bringing student registration questions, waiting for class to start, or checking building maps. Others were running late, learning their way by asking directions to hard to find classrooms or having battled campus traffic after just putting their own kids on the bus to school.

Some say the eyes are the gateway to the soul, and, as I got close enough to offer the cookie, because we were all wearing masks, people's eyes showed a mixed sense of excitement and apprehension as I provided them the treat. Yet I observed their shoulders drop and relax as that small act of kindness became a trigger to show it would be ok; people in our MasonScience community care about them, are happy to see them, and are here to help.

The phrase ‘nice to see you’ takes on new meaning. I was fortunate to meet faculty, some for the first time, who are on campus helping our students choosing to learn face-to-face. **Thank you for being here**.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

When it comes to climate change, this professor provides food for thought

by Colleen Kearney Rich



Mason's Theodore (Ted) Dumas, Associate Professor, Director of PhD Program, Neuroscience, recently published a book to encourage people to appreciate the climate problem on a more personal level and make changes in their daily lives. In “If Food Could Talk: Stories from 13 Precious Foods Endangered by Climate Change” (Köehler Books, 2020), Dumas highlights a number of common favorites including avocados, bananas, chocolate and coffee.

More on his work

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

PhD student studying systematics and conservation of Mouse-Deer

by Elizabeth Grisham



Marcus Chua, a doctoral student co-advised by HC Lim, Assistant Professor, Biology, and Thomas Lovejoy, University Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, is investigating the systematics and taxonomy of the living chevrotains—animals also known as mouse-deer.

More on his research



Mason faculty receive funding to support student's dissertation research aimed at cultivating physics identity and belonging for women in physics

by Elizabeth Grisham

Jessica L. Rosenberg, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy, Ben Dreyfus, Term Associate Professor, STEM Accelerator, and Nancy M. Holincheck, Assistant Professor, College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), are set to receive funding from the National Science Foundation to support the dissertation research of PhD Physics student Kathryn Fernandez. They will examine the ways mentorship, leadership development, and understanding of the career opportunities beyond academia contribute to the development of physics identity and belonging for women in physics.

More on this research





Mason scientists contribute to understanding of ERK signaling pathways during synaptic plasticity induction

eLife recently published the work of Chemistry and Biochemistry's Nadiatou Miningou Zobon and Bioengineering's and Neuroscience's Kim Blackwell. Their research shows, for the first time, the role of SynGAP, a molecule involved in neurological disorders, in facilitating the synergy between calcium and cAMP, which work together to activate ERK.

Read the study

Happening at Mason

Parking and transportation for fall 2021



As students, faculty, and staff return to campus, be sure to review the campus parking and transportation guide to improve your morning commute. For information on parking, shuttles, biking, and other transportation options, go to the new transportation website. Email Parking and Transportation at transpo@gmu.edu, parking@gmu.edu for parking specific questions, and shuttle@gmu.edu for shuttle specific questions.

Take advantage of grab-and-go dining options on Fairfax and Arlington campuses

Mason offers fresh sandwiches, grain bowls, and salads via SmartFridges located on the Fairfax campus in the Nguyen Engineering building and Peterson building as well as the Arlington Campus next to Au Bon Pain. If you need a quick and healthy lunch option, be sure to stop by one of these SmartFridges.



Virtual Event to Highlight New IPCC Climate Report
August 25, 2021 | 1:30 p.m.
Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences Professor Jim Kinter will explain why and how the climate is changing, the impacts on our Commonwealth and the world, and possible responses.

Harvard Radcliffe Fellowship application: Humanities, Social Sciences, and Creative Arts
September 9, 2021
Radcliffe fellows develop new tools and methods, challenge artistic and scholarly conventions, and illuminate our past and our present.

ScienceConnect
September 14, 2021 at Mason's Fairfax campus and September 16, 2021 at Mason's SciTech campus
Meet students, discuss your programs, and share research and professional opportunities with free food and opportunities to win Mason Science SWAG.

Mason Vision Series
September 27, 2021 | 7 p.m.
Join University Professor in AOES and Managing Director of COLA, Jagadish Shukla, for his lecture on "Climate Change: Science, Politics and Ethics."

Harvard Radcliffe Fellowship application: Science, Engineering, and Mathematics
September 30, 2021
Radcliffe fellows are exceptional scientists, writers, scholars, public intellectuals, practitioners, and artists whose work is making a difference in their professional fields and in the larger world.

See Full Calendar

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