Mason SCIENCE

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Thursday, November 19, 2020 **science.gmu.edu**

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Newsletter Schedule for Final Weeks of Fall 2020
The College of Science newsletter will not be published the week of the Thanksgiving Holiday. The last issue of 2020 will be published Thursday, December 17, and the first newsletter of 2021 will be published Thursday, January 21.

A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Making *real* Mason moments that matter

by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

This time of year, we enter the season of harvest and gratitude. When the work we've done is starting to show results. Whether it's papers being published, grant submissions receiving funding, nurturing new or ongoing program partnerships, or students grasping key concepts in the classroom due to your guidance in learning; thank you to our faculty and staff for the time and effort you are putting into your days – it's hard work doing hard work and it's making a difference.

I was in a virtual session earlier this week connecting with students in the college's virtual learning community (VLC). A freshman biology student mentioned how hard it's been for her to build meaningful connections. And the faculty in the meeting brought up many opportunities and avenues for her to

consider. “I’m trying to attend every session like this that I can, but how do I find a research mentor when I can’t talk to a lot of people?” she shared.

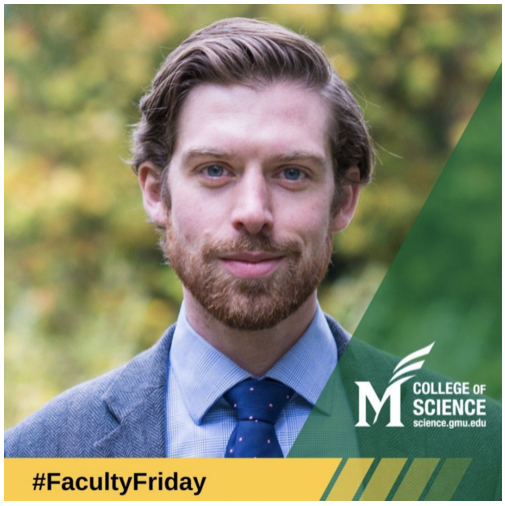
Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Data Science turns humanities student onto STEM

When she first arrived at Mason, a degree in STEM was furthest from Deja Watkins' mind. However, she soon discovered an interest in data science and quickly excelled as a CDS major--working as one of the department's Student Teachers and Research Assistants (STARS) and earning a spot as the lead TA in CDS 101 and 102. She currently works as a Data Scientist Consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton.

More on Deja's Mason experience



#FacultyFriday highlights the work of Edward Oughton

In honor of #GISDay, the college highlights the work of Geography and Geoinformation Science assistant professor Edward Oughton. Oughton models 4G strategies for all African countries testing technologies, business models and regulations. His new World Bank Policy Working Paper explicitly models 4G and 5G strategies in 8 countries (Malawi, Uganda, Senegal, Kenya, Pakistan, Albania, Peru, and Mexico) to develop global strategies for cellular connectivity.

More on Oughton's work

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Haw Chuan Lim's work on bird genomes gaining attention

Biology assistant professor Haw Chuan Lim recently published two papers on his work with bird genomes. The first appears in this month's issue of *Nature* on the influence of bird diversity on the power of comparative genomics. The second appears in the *Frontiers Microbiology Production Office* highlighting his research in sequencing the genome of all extant bird species.

More on his work

Luther helps shed light on the importance of mineral licks for Amazon birds and mammals

Biology assistant professor David Luther participated in authoring a paper published in the journal *Ecology and Evolution* assessing visitation patterns of birds and mammals to mineral licks in the Amazon Rainforest. His work provides insight into the ecological importance of mineral licks and seasonal changes in species occupancy and movements of Amazon birds and mammals to these key resources.

Read the article

IN THE NEWS

Narration highlights Latin American marine research

by Remarco

Environmental Science and Policy professor and department chair A. Alonso Aguirre recently provided the English narration for a sustainability video clip, "For the Ocean, For Our Future," released by a new Latin American Marine Research Network. His participation allows the information to reach English-speakers who may not have otherwise

been able to access this environmental information.

Watch the video

Happening at Mason

Virtually attend INTO Mason's Multidisciplinary Poster Colloquium

Recognize INTO Mason's Graduate Pathway scholars as they present research projects in their disciplines on **Friday, December 4 from 9 to 11 a.m.**

Parents who work at Mason: share your interest level in Mason's elementary school student Pod Learning Program

As Mason works to safely expand on-campus operations, they are looking for new ways to support our faculty and staff community and increase our ability to utilize the campus. Mason is currently exploring the establishment of the Patriot Learning Pod (PLP) for the spring semester, and would like to know your level of interest. Please complete Mason's survey by **November 20, 2020**.

Complete the survey

Events

Mason Science Series: PEREC Protecting the Potomac
Thursday, November 19, 2020 | 4 to 5 p.m.
Few know more about the current state of the Potomac than R. Chris Jones, Director of the Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC). PEREC has a longstanding research commitment to

restoration and local sustainability practices of the Potomac.

Health Disparities Multidisciplinary Research Roundtable
Friday, November 20, 2020 | 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Sign up to learn about the current funding landscape, share your research, and grow new collaborations with your colleagues.

Hands-On Workshop: Deep Learning in MATLAB
Friday, November 20, 2020 | 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Artificial intelligence techniques like deep learning introduce automation to the products we build and the way we do business. These techniques can be used to solve complex problems related to images, signals, text, and controls.

Celebration of Success
Tuesday, December 8, 2020 | 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Join Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm for this event that recognizes and shows appreciation of all College of Science faculty and staff. ***Nominate a colleague***. ***Participate in community activities*** *throughout the month.*

See Full Calendar

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