Understand. Innovate. Succeed.

Thursday, September 23, 2021 **science.gmu.edu**

In this Issue

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

A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Mason graduate students take science to the next level

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Did you know there are more than 11,000 graduate students at Mason? Last week, I had the opportunity to interact with many of our science-focused graduate students on the Fairfax and SciTech campuses during our ScienceConnect events. I also attended a Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) organized luncheon to learn why some of these students chose to embark on a graduate education, and how they are connecting and performing research in our current COVID-19 state. The faculty and administrators who attended also shared suggestions to build their networks and to make the most of their time at Mason.

More than one in four students in our college currently pursue graduate studies or are actively engaged in research at the graduate level to further their professional development and improve their income potential. With 10 accelerated masters, 14 graduate masters, 13 graduate certificates, 11 graduate PhD fields of study, and numerous postdoc opportunities, there are plenty of robust and challenging options for the 1,053 graduate students within our science community.

Subscribe to our email list.

What are they studying?

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Mason Science #FacultyFriday highlights chemistry assistant professor

Mason Science continues to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month by highlighting Liana Chafran, Assistant Professor, Chemistry. Chafran started at Mason two years ago as a Research Associate specializing in biomaterials. Now an assistant professor on Mason's SciTech campus, she continues her research on the synthesis of smart biomaterials for biomedical applications. Both inside and outside of the lab, Chafran strives to create opportunites for her students.

Read more about Chafran

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Antil studying algorithms and numerical methods for optimization with partial differential equation constraints

by Elizabeth Grisham

Harbir Antil, Professor, Mathematical Sciences; Director, Center for Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence, is studying optimization problems with partial differential equation (PDE) constraints. Antil received $340,000 from the National Science Foundation for this project. Funding began in August 2021 and will end in late July 2024.

More on this study

Mason scientists make meaningful contributions to rescuing rhinos

by Anne Reynolds

Just a few days ahead of World Rhino Day, a diverse group of rhino expert scientists, including Environmental Science and Policy alumni, have come together to create the American Institute of Rhinoceros Science (AIRS). Made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the group includes a number of leading organizations in the fight to save the five species of rhinos.

Find out more about their efforts

IN THE NEWS

Mason forensic scientist discusses Gabby Petito case with *CBS News*

Forensic Science Program Director and former FBI profiler, Mary Ellen O'Toole, spoke to *CBS News* about the newly released 911 calls made prior to the disappearance of Gabby Petito.

Watch the segment

Happening at Mason

Meet Sharnnia Artis, Mason's new chief diversity officer

by Colleen Kearney Rich

Sharnnia Artis recently joined Mason as the new vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusion and chief diversity officer. Before coming to Mason, Artis served as assistant dean of access and inclusion at

diversity and inclusion in the engineering and computing fields for most of her career.

Learn more about Sharnnia Artis

Southern New Mexico and Western U.S. Dust Symposium now accepting abstracts and registration

Register to attend or speak at the Sourthern New Mexico and Western U.S. Dust Symposium from **October 25 to 27, 2021** via Zoom. The symposium is run in partnership with George Mason University, NASA, and the New Mexico Environment Department. Deadline to submit an abstract is **October 8, 2021.** The event is open to all and free to attend.

Register to attend or submit abstract

Virtual CDS Colloquium on CSS/CSI
September 24, 2021 | 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Join Anamaria Berea, Associate Professor, Computational and Data Sciences for her lecture that explores evolutionary game theory agent-based models within the context of astrobiology.

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."

School of Systems Biology Colloquium Speaker Series
September 28, 2021 | Noon to 1 p.m.
Join Bioengineering's Michael Buschmann for a lecture on "Designing ionizable lipids and lipid nanoparticles for mRNA vaccines."

Save the Date: State of the College Address by Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm
September 29, 2021 | 2 to 3 p.m.
Faculty, staff, and students can attend a live or virtual viewing of the address in Research Hall 163, Exploratory Hall 3301, or IABR 1004 at SciTech. In-person attendees must register in advance to attend and complete the

Mason COVID health check. Seating is limited. We will confirm in-person attendees for each location on a first come, first served basis following COVID room restrictions. Register.

See Full Calendar

Stay Connected

© 2021 George Mason University
College of Science
science.gmu.edu

Share this email:

Manage your preferences | **Opt out** using **TrueRemove®**
Got this as a forward? **Sign up** to receive our future emails.
View this email **online**.

4400 University Drive
Fairfax, VA | 22030 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

Subscribe to our email list.