Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, October 13 2021 **science.gmu.edu**

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Mason's Climate Change Expertise – Let's do what we can

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

On Thursday, October 7, 2021, the White House released federal climate adaptation and resilience plans detailing the steps 23 U.S. agencies will take to prepare and monitor operations, facilities, and their people and programs for climate change impacts. Those who already collaborate with these agencies should familiarize themselves with the plans from their federal partners in this group which include the Departments of Energy, Education, Defense, Agriculture, Justice, Transportation, and Homeland Security, as well as NASA, EPA, and the Smithsonian Institution.

In addition, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) seek public input on these agency climate plans from now until November 6, 2021.

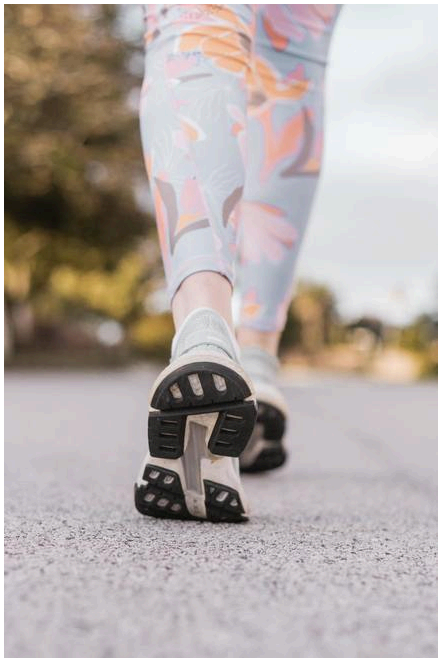
During October, Mason celebrates Campus Sustainability Month, encouraging involvement in the Project Green Challenge and Global Climate Change Week (October 18 to 24) both of which provide inspiration to engage in climate change awareness, ideation, and partnership cultivation. I'm suggesting we each embrace our climate change homework; familiarize yourself with sustainability.gov to learn how the U.S.

government and your federal partners plan to address and monitor this challenge, consider how Mason scientists can participate, and enter the conversation to share your ideas and concerns.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Join the College of Science team for the Mason Nation Thriving Together 5K



Join our College of Science team this October 15 to 17, 2021 for a virtual 5K to celebrate Mason's Family Weekend, Alumni Weekend, and Exercise is Medicine Month. Whether you decide to walk with a small group or on your own, we hope you will sport your College of Science gear and show off your Mason Pride. Be sure to register in advance for this free event and enter team name "College of Science."

Those who would like to walk in-person with Dean Miralles-Wilhelm should meet at the Fairfax campus at noon, Friday, October 15 at the main entrance of Exploratory Hall.

Register to participate



#FacultyFriday highlights director of educational and career pathways

We conclude our #HispanicHeritageMonth celebration with Kerin Hilker-Balkissoon, Director of Educational and Career Pathways. Her research focuses on identifying systemic inequities in STEM education and career readiness for undergraduate transfer students. She serves as co-PI on the Rural and Diverse Student Scholars and Noyce Scholarship Programs, along with leading multiple initiatives at Mason. Hilker-Balkissoon is committed to paying it forward by supporting Latinx students at Mason and beyond, from serving as

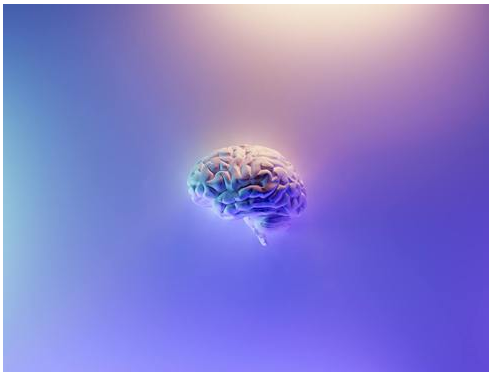
faculty advisor to Mason's SACNAS Chapter, to her ongoing service as a board member with the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network (VALHEN).

Hilker-Balkissoon's bio



Conducting rigorous classification of brain-wide axonal reconstructions

by Elizabeth Grisham



Giorgio Ascoli, Faculty/Professor, Bioengineering, received funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the project: "Long-range neuronal projections: circuit blueprint or stochastic targeting? Rigorous classification of brain-wide axonal reconstructions." Ascoli is collaborating with Mason researchers Rebecca Goldin, Director, Graduate Studies, Mathematical Sciences; Diek Wheeler, Research Assistant Professor, Bioengineering; and Bengt Ljungquist, Research Assistant Professor, Neuroinformatics, on this project.

More on this research



Mason partners with local high schools to decrease plastic use



Environmental Science and Policy's Associate Professor Cindy Smith, Assistant Professor Scott Glaberman, and Assistant Professor Reid Nelson are working with community organizations and teachers to reduce plastic watter bottle usage among students at two high schools in Prince William County.

Watch the highlight

Happening at Mason

On a mission to inspire youth to choose STEM



Calvin Mackie founded STEM NOLA in 2013 with the aim of exposing more kids to science, technology, engineering and math. The Mason community will get to hear from him October 20 as part of the Investiture Week events. Read more about the program's mission.

Watch him speak



Thomas Lovejoy and Virginia Espina to speak at presidential investiture special event

Join Dr. Washington and George Mason esteemed faculty members on **October 18 from 5 to 7 p.m.** for a panel discussion on some of the Grand Challenges facing the world today. The topics include Biodiversity, Immigration and Human Trafficking and Health and Pandemics. Speakers include Thomas Lovejoy, University Professor, ESP and Virginia Espina, Research Professor. Registration required.

Register now

Events

Coded Bias Screening and Discussion
Wednesday October 13, 2021, 7 to 9 p.m., JC Cinema
Join Mason faculty and students to watch and discuss the documentary Coded Bias, which investigates bias in Artificial Intelligence algorithms and facial recognition software. Registration required.

Galileo's Science Café
October 14, 2021 | 6 to 9 p.m.
Join School of System Biology Associate Professor Mariaelena Pierobon for her lecture titled "When one size does not fit all: personalized medicine for breast cancer treatment." Registration required.

Breakfast with the Washingtons (SciTech)

October 15, 2021 | 9 to 9:45 a.m. | SciTech Campus

Students, staff, faculty, and SciTech community members are invited to gather on the front patio of Katherine G. Johnson Hall to greet Dr. and Mrs. Washington as they arrive on campus. Wear your Mason green and gold, grab your pom-poms, and help celebrate this new era in Mason's history.

SSB Colloquium Speaker Series

October 19, 2021 | Noon to 1 p.m.

Come for a discussion by Robert Molestina on "Tick-borne Diseases in the United States: Emphasis on Babesiosis."

See Full Calendar

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