In the News

Scientist sells for a greater good

Juan Carlos Izquierdo, a Mason alumnus, has signed on to sell his patent rights to a microRNA diagnostic test to Screen Diagnostics, Inc. The technology is designed to detect brain tumors when it is still in its infancy. Izquierdo sold his lab's patent rights after learning that the technology had already been successfully used for the detection of other cancers.

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Outgoing Chairs

The Department of Environmental Science and Policy (ESPA) and Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry are bidding farewell to two key department heads, outgoing chair, Jim Kinter, and his assistant, David Walnut. They have been key figures in the development and growth of these departments. The college welcomes two new department chairs to take their place. Mark D. Uhen is the new chair of the Department of Environmental Science and Policy. He has been a faculty member at Mason for over 10 years. Maria A. Bruck is the new chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. She has been a faculty member at Mason for over 15 years.

East and Mathematical Sciences welcome new Chair

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics has recently appointed Mikell Paige as their new chair. Paige has been a faculty member at Mason for over 20 years. He has served as the department's assistant chair and is well respected by his colleagues. Paige is excited to lead the department into the future.

IN THE NEWS

Major initiatives raise Mason’s standing in faculty satisfaction survey

Mason is one of the top performers in the annual George Washington University Index of Faculty Satisfaction. The index measures the level of satisfaction among full-time faculty members at public universities. Mason scored highly in several areas, including compensation, work-life balance, and the overall quality of life.

Researchers propose multimodal learning for students

A team of researchers at Mason has proposed a new methodology for improving student learning outcomes. Their approach involves combining different modes of learning, such as lecture, laboratory, and online modules. This could potentially improve student understanding and retention of course material.

Events

Welcome Back To Mason Celebration

August 19, 2021, 3 to 4 p.m.

The Welcome Back To Mason Celebration is an event that welcomes Mason’s students back to campus and celebrates the start of the new academic year. The celebration includes food, games, and music. It is an opportunity for students to meet new friends and reconnect with old ones.

High school students will participate in STEM workshops as well as enhancement sessions including college orientation and fully prepares you for life as a Mason Science student.

Welcome Back To Mason Celebration

August 9, 2021 to August 13, 2021

Females of Color and those Underrepresented in STEM (FOCUS) Academy (virtual)

The FOCUS Academy is a program designed specifically for high school students who are underrepresented in STEM. The program provides them with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in college.

Transfer Science Bridge 1 (virtual)

August 6, 2021, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Transfer students are invited to join us for an interactive, virtual bridge session that builds on New Student Convocation.

More on this research

Mikell Paige, have devised improved lipid formulations for the delivery of mRNA vaccines, which could make mRNA vaccines such as the COVID-19 vaccines less costly, with fewer side-effects and more efficient.

Team at start-up AexeRNA pursue Mason Science's patents for improved COVID-19 mRNA vaccine delivery

A team at start-up AexeRNA is pursuing Mason Science's patents for improved COVID-19 mRNA vaccine delivery. The team is working to develop a delivery system that is more efficient and less costly than current methods.

Research & Discovery

Scientists posting photos of only their work.

According to a 2019 research study, scientists posting selfies to Instagram from the science lab/field were perceived as significantly warmer and more trustworthy, and no less competent, than scientists posting traditional portraits. The study suggests that scientists posting selfies may be more appeal to the public and gain more trust.

When you think about your goals for the fall semester, what thoughts come to mind?

Some goals may be reaffirmations, like to continue research grant writing productivity which ratcheted up during COVID-19, or to remain community focused as many of us took on additional student mentoring roles to help navigate a non face-to-face learning landscape.

Here's something you may not have considered for your goals list, yet research shows it can be a benefit. How many of you said, "I'm going to step up my social media presence to better establish my academic brand and thought leadership role in my field"?

According to a recent research study, using selfies to challenge public stereotypes of scientists can be a benefit to researchers as they gain more trust and appeal to the public.

The study further suggests "that scientists posting self-portraits ("selfies") to Instagram from the science lab/field were perceived as significantly warmer and more trustworthy, and no less competent, than scientists posting traditional portraits. The study suggests that scientists posting selfies may be more appeal to the public and gain more trust.

Events

The department invites incoming and continuing students to join us for the ScienceBridge Session on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. Find out the more on the new chairs.

What you need to know

Mason Science's outgoing chairs, Jim Kinter and David Walnut for your service to the College and to Mason while in office. We are also extending a warm welcome to our new department chairs:

Mark D. Uhen
Distinguished Professor and Associate Chair, Environment Science and Policy

Maria A. Bruck
Distinguished Professor and Chair, Chemistry and Biochemistry

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently stated that they support both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals wearing masks for a safer return to in-person learning. It is recommended that everyone wear masks in public indoor settings and on public transportation, even if they are vaccinated.

Beginning January 9, 2022, the Mason Vice President for Human Resources and Equal Opportunity will begin accruing sick leave roll for 12-month faculty members right after the beginning of the fall semester. If you have questions, please contact Arnold for more details (sent via email beginning Friday, July 30).

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