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Wednesday, June 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

Living in historical times

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

I offered a shorter version of this blog last week to commemorate the first Juneteenth federal holiday yet am sharing it here again to encourage further awareness and reflection.

Very rarely one gets the privilege to experience historical events as they occur. Last week, we experienced one of those days, and I was eager to briefly share my excitement and sense of hope with all of you.

June 19, 1865 (Juneteenth) is the date that Major General Gordon Granger announced to roughly 250,000 slaves in Galveston, Texas that they were free. Roughly two and a half years (January 1863) prior to Major General Granger's announcement, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Governor Northam declared Friday, Juneteenth (June 18) a state holiday. While many states

week, Congress passed a bill proposing to make Juneteenth a federal holiday and President Biden signed this bill into law.

Read full message

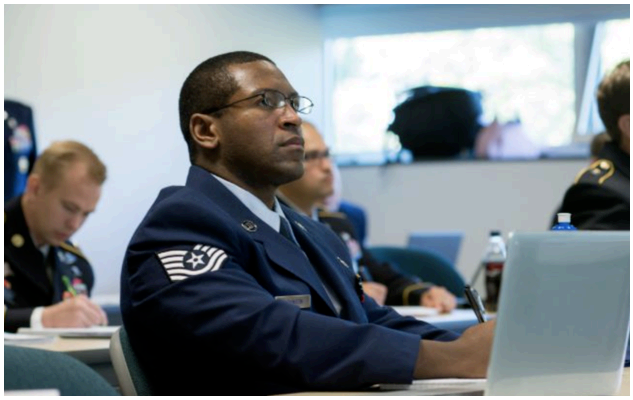
MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Mason Arboretum earns internationally recognized accreditation by ArbNet

by Ben Auger

Showcasing a collection of more than 100 native and non-native trees and shrubs, Mason's Arboretum earned Level II accreditation from ArbNet, the only international accreditation program specific to arboreta and is now featured as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta. The team includes Department of Biology Associate Professor and Director of the Ted R. Bradley Herbarium Andrea Weeks, Department of Environmental Science and Policy (ESP) Associate Professor Cynthia Smith, and ESP student Katherina Wilkins.

Full article



EMDP2 program receives $20 million for five-year extension

by John Hollis

Mason further solidified its strong relationship with the military community with a five-year, $20 million extension of the Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program (EMDP2) under the leadership of Donna Fox, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Special Programs.
Through a partnership with the Uniformed Services University of Health Services (USU) that began in 2014, highly qualified active-duty military members complete an intense, two-year academic program that prepares them for medical school.

Full article

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Illegal Wildlife Trade Study Highlights Infectious Disease Impact

According to Environmental Science and Policy (ESP) Chair Alonso Aguirre and students in a recently published study in MDPI's journal *Animals*, wildlife is trafficked illegally across the globe every day and creates opportunity for emerging infectious disease (EID) events to occur. EIDs are a major threat to wildlife, ecosystems, and public health. This study addresses the lack of comprehensive review of pathogens identified in IWT and highlights the expansion of literature on this subject over the past 30 years.

Read the study

IN THE NEWS

Mason contributes to discovery of new antiviral properties in Tetra Bio-Pharma's innovative drug ARDS-003

In a partnership with Targeted Pharmaceuticals and Tetra Bio-Pharma, scientists from Mason's National Center for Biodefence and Infectious Diseases found that Tetra Bio-Pharma's drug ARDS-003 can boost antiviral drugs' ability to decrease viral replication.

Read full story

Happening at Mason

What is JobScan and why should your students use it?

Mason students can now request free, premium access to JobScan from University Career Services, a service that provides access to an unlimited number of resumes and cover letters to help students find ways to improve their applications.

A workshop on **June 28, 2021 from 2 to 3 p.m.** by Associate Director of Career Development Elena Chiru will demonstrate how JobScan compares resumes to job postings and gives crucial feedback on keywords, pertinent skills, and missing info in real time.

Event registration

First year student summer STEM camps are back

Before classes begin in August, the College will host in-person and hybrid STEM camps this July 2021. Math Boot Camp helps students obtain a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts in algebra, trigonometry or calculus. The STEM Bridge Camps, one for Biology/Chemistry and the other for Math/Physics/Engineering, allows students to experience science courses and the college lifestyle before the fall semester. If you know an incoming freshman who would benefit from one of the summer STEM camps, please encourage them to register **no later than July 11**.

Find out how to participate

STEMNoire 2021

June 24, 2021 to June 26, 2021

There's still time to get your free ticket for the 2021 STEMNoire research conference and holistic wellness program intentionally curated to connect, uplift, and empower women of the African diaspora in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Contact Tracy Mason for details.

Smithsonian Associates Lecture: "Our Deceptive Universe"

July 12, 2021 | 6:30 to 8 p.m.

In trying to understand our deceptive universe, Astrophysicist Hakeem Oluseyi examines spacetime, the illusion

of mass, the large-scale structure of the universe, dark matter, and dark energy. Tickets required.

Females of Color and those Underrepresented in STEM (FOCUS) Camp (virtual)
August 2, 2021 to August 6, 2021
Participants (6 through 8 graders) engage in four different interactive and hands-on STEM workshops and on the last day, the participants present what they learned in these workshops in a conference-style setting.

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 Orientation and fully prepares you for life as a Mason Science student.

See Full Calendar

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