Mason SCIENCE

Understand. Innovate. Succeed.

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

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Success is no accident

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

The Mason Science motto is *Understand. Innovate. Succeed.* Most often when I share this phrase, people naturally gravitate toward our collective focus -- the amazing work of our students. Whether it be in the classroom, at the bench, or in the field, our students undergo transformative learning experiences to better understand both themselves and the scientific disciplines they pursue at Mason. We prize their innovative spirits and cheer wildly each December and May as we celebrate their graduation as they successfully complete their notable educational milestone. Yet, each year at the college's Celebration of Success, I am also always blown away by the successes of our people.

With the World Cup frenzy in full force, I can't help but think perhaps a quote from my favorite player of all time, Brazilian superstar Pelé, best describes how I feel after discussing the descriptions of the award recipients' efforts:

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all a love of what you are doing."

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

AWS Girls' Tech Day Virginia inspires nearly 400 girls and young women to pursue STEAM



Kelly Knight, Associate Professor, Forensic Science served as a facilitator of the "The Real CSI" workshop at this year's AWS Girls' Tech Day. "As I looked out into the audience and saw the excitement in their eyes, I couldn't help but think about how meaningful an event like this would have been to me as a young girl," she said. *Photo by Tracy Mason*.

More on the event



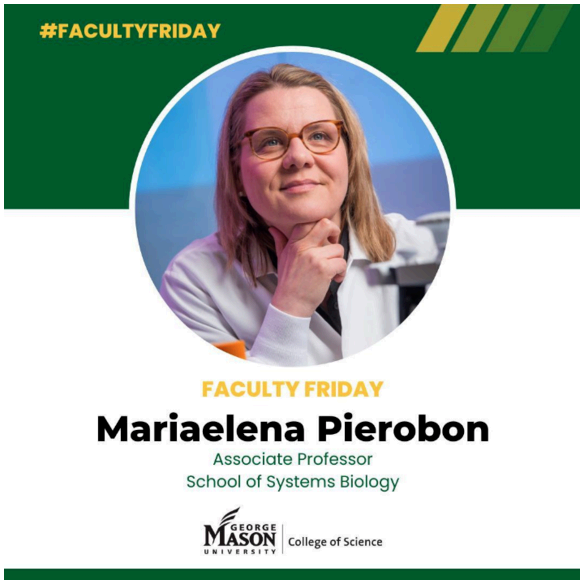
Student entrepreneurs do their 'homework' before starting company

by Colleen Kearney Rich

Fariha Askar, Computational and Data Sciences, worked with Mason communication student Arastalis Choudhury and computer science major Rodiet Tadesse to create a multi-platform service that improves communication flow between police officials and victims of crime. The students called their company NECX, which stands for Non-Emergency Communication Exchange. *Photo by Cristian Torres/Strategic Communications*.

More on their work

#FacultyFriday highlights school of systems biology associate professor



This past #FacultyFriday kicked off our School of Systems Biology (SSB) spotlight with Dr. Mariaelena Pierobon, Associate Professor, SSB. Pierobon's research team focuses on improving treatment options for cancer patients, especially those affected by advanced disease, using a personalized approach. View the original Instagram post.

View recent faculty highlights

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason team playing a role in the Cancer Moonshot Initiative

by John Hollis



A team of Mason scientists has a role in the White House Cancer Moonshot Initiative, and their work could help in the mission to reduce cancer rates in half over the next 25 years.

Researchers from the Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine (CAPMM) within Mason's College of Science, including Emanuel "Chip" Petricoin, a University Professor and the co-founder and co-director of CAPMM, are working on a molecular profiling technology that would better identify the most effective drugs in the fight against specific cancers.

More on this initiative

Research aimed at understanding microbial and environmental drivers of stony coral settlement

by Elizabeth Grisham

Jordan Sims, PhD student of Jennifer Salerno, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, is performing a field study on the environmental and microbial drivers of coral settlement on reefs in

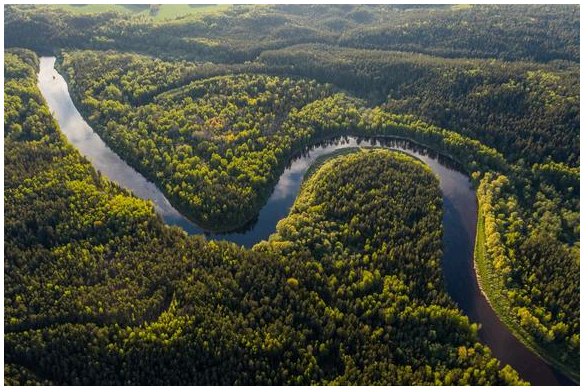


Roatán, Honduras. Salerno hypothesizes that biofilm community composition and functional potential will be highly correlated with environmental conditions, and coral settlement will show species-specific trends. *Photo by QUI NGUYEN on Unsplash*.

Explore the study's goals

IN THE NEWS

The Amazon Rainforest's seemingly grim future



A recent *Washington Post* article on the Amazon Rainforest quoted the late Environmental Science and Policy University Professor Thomas Lovejoy and his colleague Brazilian climatologist Carlos Nobre: “We stand exactly in a moment of destiny: The tipping point is here. It is now." *Photo by Ivars Utināns on Unsplash.*

Discovery what's happening

Happening at Mason

Alumni Association now accepting nominations for the 2023 Alumni Association Awards

By the Office of Alumni Relations

For more than 30 years, the Alumni Association has recognized outstanding alumni, student, and faculty accomplishments with these five unique annual awards:

- Alumnus/a of the Year

- Alumni Service Award
- Faculty Member of the Year
- Senior of the Year
- Graduate of the Last Decade (G.O.L.D.) Award

The deadline to nominate someone is Friday, March 10, 2023. Honorees will be chosen via a selection committee in late March, and recipients will be notified in April. Self-nominations are welcomed. Details, including the corresponding nomination criteria and requirements for each award, are available in the submission form.

Each honoree will be recognized at the annual Celebration of Distinction. For questions regarding the nominations process, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@gmu.edu or 703-993-8696.

Submit a nomination



Mason BOV adopts strategic direction

As George Mason University looks ahead to its next 50 years, the Board of Visitors has adopted a strategic direction that will serve as the blueprint for the onset of the university's second half-century. The five-year plan, titled "Mason Is All Together Different," received BOV approval at the governing body's December 1 meeting.

Find out what the plan includes

Events

Mason Faculty and Staff Holiday Party - Fairfax Campus
December 8, 2022 | 1 to 3:30 p.m. | Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center
Come celebrate with your fellow faculty and staff during the 2022 Holiday Party. Enjoy food, music, games, and prizes.

Course ReDesign Academy Registration Deadline
December 9, 2022 | 11:59 p.m.
Use the STEARNS Center academy as a just-in-time consultation about teaching in a new modality or with new

assignments in your Spring 2023 course—or get a jump on a course you want to build or redesign for Summer or Fall terms. Course ReDesign Academy provides a stipend to support faculty from all ranks, levels, disciplines, and modalities as they build or revise engaging, relevant, manageable courses.

Winter Faculty Writing Retreat Registration Deadline

December 11, 2022 | 11:59 p.m.

Register for the Winter Faculty Writing Retreat running January 11 to 13, 2023. This two-and-a-half-day event offers a supportive and collegial community of peers to boost your writing productivity. Send questions to retreat facilitators at wac@gmu.edu.

Faculty Meeting with Potluck Lunch

December 12, 2022 | noon to 2 p.m.

This meeting will not have a formal agenda, but rather will be time to get together, talk about ideas, and be a community of faculty. If you plan to attend in person and would like to contribute to the potluck lunch, please sign up by Friday, December 9.

Civility and Violence Prevention Training Deadline

December 12, 2022 | 11:59 p.m.

To access this online training, login to MasonLEAPS and select "Launch: Civility and Violence Prevention Training" from the "Your Action Items" box on the Welcome page.

Patriot Procession

December 13 to 15 | EagleBank Arena

Register to volunteer at this year's Patriot Procession. Descriptions of duties are outlined in the signup form.

Commencement Ceremony

December 15, 2022 | 10 a.m. | EagleBank Arena

Register to volunteer at this year's Commencement Ceremony. Descriptions of duties are outlined in the signup form.

College of Science Strategic Planning Survey Deadline

December 16, 2022 | 11:59 p.m.

Over the past few weeks, we have engaged many members across the College of Science community as part of the strategic planning initiative to gain insights and perspectives that will help us to plan our direction for the future. You are invited to provide your feedback and input via the Mason Science Strategic Plan survey.

See Full Calendar

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