Mason SCIENCE

Understand. Innovate. Succeed.

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

In this Issue

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



Making progress

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

A year ago, I delivered my first State of the College Address as Mason Science Dean. One of the first 'events' back after the pandemic, it was a hybrid presentation which detailed where we stood at Mason and within our college on many fronts; enrollment, research productivity, diversity. I outlined the current state of higher ed and shared our people-focused and innovative program goals, all the while knowing we were challenged to connect a community still dispersed by pandemic, and restart our innovation engine after some of our research efforts were put on hold when campus access was not possible.

Transparency and benchmarking with data were key elements of my presentation as I referenced Mason's and our College's then current state in relation to US News and World Report's Top 50 US R1 institutions and included the factors necessary to rise in the rankings. I suggested a number of goals on hiring, enrollment growth, research expenditure increases, and diversity efforts. And we set to achieving them. The priorities of our 'success business' implementing our Inclusive Excellence Plan, maximizing our hiring opportunities to improve our staff diversity, and reimagining how we operate our academic and research enterprise to address advising, retention while building a new research support infrastructure.

Fast forward to now. Today, we're acknowledging a very successful year. In a time when enrollment declines were the norm, both Mason and the College saw growth. Research expenditures also increased and the College continues to maintain the largest carry forward funding of any College to propel Mason to a rise in both research prominence and national rankings (we're now #64). And one of the top 10 most diverse universities in the nation (#7).

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

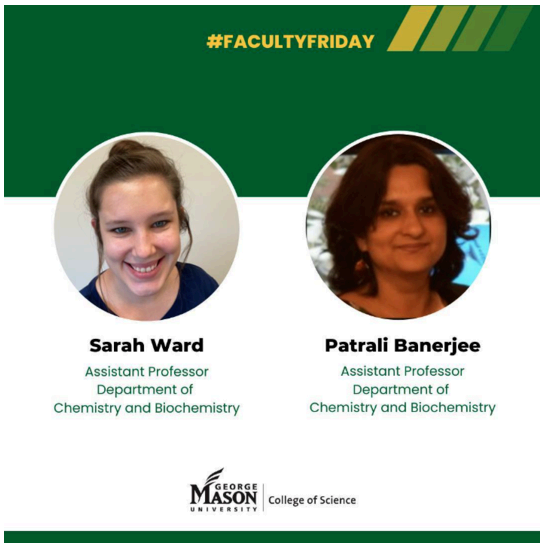
A biofilm epic in the making

by CEC Communications



Monique van Hoek, Professor, School of Systems Biology recently received the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) R21 Trailblazer award with colleagues from the College of Engineering and Computing. Through the award funds, the team will use their backgrounds and spend about three years developing a brand-new technology that dissolves harmful biofilms, without harsh removal methods. Biofilms – which settle on numerous surfaces, including skin – can contain harmful bacteria and get in the way of healing wounds. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services*.

More on their work



#FacultyFriday highlights Chemistry Club faculty advisors

#FacultyFriday highlighted Mason's Chemistry Club faculty advisors, Assistant Professors Sarah Ward and Patrali Banerjee, Chemistry and Biochemistry. You can read more about them from the original Instagram post.

Be sure to catch Chemistry Club members at their next club meeting on October 20 at 7 p.m. Follow

@gmuacs for more details.

Review recent faculty highlights

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Benchmarking simulated noise levels for NASA flagship telescopes

by Elizabeth Grisham



Natasha Latouf, Doctoral Student, Physics and Astronomy, received funding for the project: "Planetary Spectrum Generator: Benchmarking Simulated Noise Levels for NASA Flagship Telescopes." For this project, Latouf is developing benchmarking telescope noise models and coronagraph instrument models. She is also developing higher functionality tools for the Planetary Spectrum Generator user. *Photo by Sierra Guard/Creative Services*.

More on the study



Mason scientist receives funding to study the brain

by Elizabeth Grisham

Giorgio Ascoli, Professor, Neuroscience, Bioengineering, received funding for a novel data-driven methodology supported by a broad heterogeneous base of neuroscience experimental knowledge and inspired by advances in computer science and engineering. Ascoli is collaborating with Gina C. Adam, Assistant Professor, The George Washington University, on this research. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services*.

More on the study

IN THE NEWS

Hire the best faculty for your department



Padhu Seshaiyer, Professor, Mathematical Sciences, is one of four writers of a recent article with tips and best practices for hiring the best faculty for a department. The article appeared in the Mathematical Association of America's publication *Focus*. *Photo by Cytonn Photography on Unsplash.*

Read full article

Happening at Mason

Mason Nation Thriving Together 5K



The third annual Mason Nation Thriving Together 5K celebrates well-being and supports Mason students. Run or walk on Saturday, October 29, at 9 a.m. on the Fairfax Campus, or virtually from any location you choose. Registration is $15 for Mason students and $35 for everyone else. Proceeds will support Mason's Counseling and Psychological Services Fund, which helps Mason students access vital mental health care. *Graphic provided.*

Register today

Events

Galileo's Science Café

October 20, 2022 | 5 p.m. | Colgan Hall, Verizon Auditorium, Science and Technology Campus

Join Drs Lance Liotta and Marissa Howard for a lecture on "Eavesdropping on the whispers of cancer to find new strategies to treat metastasis." Register to attend.

Stranger than Fiction: The Science Behind the Story

October 22, 2022 | 6 to 9 p.m. | Exploratory Hall Atrium

Take part in an evening under the stars with Mason and discover how humanity's relationship with outer space has informed, influenced and even predicted the stories we tell. This event will feature four mini-lectures from our Mason faculty, our inflatable planetarium for kids to explore, and the opportunity to view the night sky through our Mason Astronomy Observatory Telescope. This is a family-friendly event open to Mason alumni, friends, and community members. Register to attend.

Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Conference

October 24, 2022 | 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. | Mason Square, Alington, VA

The ARIE Conference will provide an opportunity to critically discuss anti-racism and inclusive excellence in the academy; share effective practices and resources to advance anti-racism and inclusive excellence; and amplify the visibility and impact of research, scholarship, and creative activities conducted by Mason researchers and other national scholars on anti-racism and inclusive excellence. Registration required.

Support Group Meetings for Working Mothers at Mason

October 17, 2022 | noon to 1 p.m. | Virtual

Take part in the next fall meeting of the Support Group for Working Mothers at Mason. The group provides a way for Mason faculty, staff, and students to come together, discuss the issues confronting working mothers, and perhaps spur changes on campus.

Faculty Affairs and Research Development Faculty Matters Workshop

November 1, 2022 | 1 p.m.

How to Write Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work Statements, which focuses on effectively conveying the impact of your research, scholarship, and/or creative work for promotion, renewal, and tenure. This workshop is recommended for tenured and tenure-line faculty. Registration required.

Engaging ideas for AJEDI - College of Science Faculty Meeting

November 3, 2022 | 1 to 2:30 p.m. | Exploratory Hall 3301 and Virtual

Faculty are invited to participate in the shaping and finalization of Mason Science's 5-Year AJEDI Strategic Plan.

Engaging ideas for AJEDI - College of Science Staff Meeting

November 8, 2022 | 1 to 2:30 p.m. | Exploratory Hall 3301 and Virtual

Staff are invited to participate in the shaping and finalization of Mason Science's 5-Year AJEDI Strategic Plan. Please register by November 1.

Save the Date: Celebration of Success

December 5, 2022 | 2 to 3:30 p.m.

See Full Calendar

Stay Connected

Read the College of Science's latest annual report

© 2022 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.