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Message from the Dean

Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As a part of fall preparations I recently got the chance to sit down with representatives from the College of Science Alumni Chapter, to discuss what it truly means to be a part of the Mason Science Community. Being a part of this community is a continuum which begins the second you set foot on one of our campuses. Whether you are a student, faculty, staff, or local community member, you are a part of the Mason family the first time you see

that green and gold. You continue to be a part of our community as you take classes, attend basketball games, absorb lectures, watch world-class performances, and even as you walk across that stage like so many students did just two short months ago.

As alumni and friends of Mason Science, you continue to be a part of everything we do. This is why I am so excited to see the re-launch of the Mason Science Mentorship Program, which serves as an opportunity for alumni to continue to make an impact in the Mason Science Community. I am also thrilled to welcome back a Mason Science Alumnus, Dr. Bobby Azarian, for our Mason Science Series Research Discussion in September. I am delighted to share that our newsletter will start including a note from our Alumni Chapter President, Mark Monson! It warms my heart (even in the summer heat) to see our alumni getting involved, returning to campus, and giving back to their Mason Science Community. I hope you know as alumni and friends of the college, you are always welcome back to any of our events and I hope to be able to see more and more of you at our upcoming programs!

With gratitude,
FMW

Support Science

Message from Mark Monson

Dear Fellow COS Alumni…..

As we approach the beginning of another academic year at George Mason University, I am excited to be a part of the ever-growing College of Science alumni chapter. We span the Mason Experience. I started at Mason in 1969, when the total student body was less than 1,500 students and the school was then known as George Mason College of the University of Virginia.

In those days, there were only 6 buildings, North, South, East, West, the Lecture Hall, and the original section of Fenwick Library. We were then part of the College of Arts and Sciences. The Biology and Chemistry Departments were located in the South Building (now Krug Hall); Biology on the ground floor and Chemistry on the top floor – including all the labs. Math, Physics and related disciplines were in the West Building.

Today, some 50+ years later, George Mason University is global with sites around Northern Virginia, well beyond the Fairfax Campus, and Mason Korea. We are an R1 research institution with almost 40,000 students and state-of-the-art laboratory and research facilities, including the brand-new forensics outdoor laboratory on the Sci-Tech campus in Prince William County.

I am truly proud to be part of the Mason community. I am the first of 8 of my extended family to be a Mason alumni, including my brother, my children, their spouses, and my step-daughter. As President of the College of Science Alumni Chapter, I am eager for you to be as proud of your Mason history as I am. We, the chapter board, are anxious to find ways to help you to connect, perhaps reconnect, with George Mason University. One program that we are really excited about is the Mason Science Mentorship Program.

Aimed at both graduate and undergraduate students, there is much more information about the Mentorship Program elsewhere in this newsletter. This is a wonderful opportunity for our alumni to share your experience with Mason's current science students. It doesn't matter what degree you have (or how many), what field you are in, or how long ago you graduated, you have something valuable to share with a student – experience.

It's important to note that this is not a staid, structured program. The intent is to be as flexible as possible to meet the needs and expectations of both the mentors and mentees. In some cases, the meetings will be regular, frequent, and long-term. Others will be infrequent and more short term. It's really up to you and your student. Please click the link below to learn more.

Mark engaging with students at the Alumni Relations Block Party 2021

On a final note, I want to emphasize our desire to connect with you. You are the reason Mason exists and, as Dean Miralles-Wilhelm indicated, you continue to be an integral part of the Mason Science Community. There are many ways you can stay connected – volunteering, participating in a Science Series lecture, attending an alumni function. Whether it's in-person or virtually, we want to help you stay connected.

We also want to hear from you. What you're doing, where you're working, what accomplishment you want to share. We also want your ideas for ways to help you and other Science alumni stay connected. Please drop us an email at cosalum@gmu.edu or connect with us on LinkedIn. We want to hear from you.

Mark Monson
President
College of Science Alumni Chapter
George Mason University

Alumni News

Alumni Spotlight: Bobby Azarian

Why do we exist? And can science help find the answer? That's what journalist, cognitive neuroscientist and Mason Science alumnus, Bobby Azarian addresses in his new book "The Romance of Reality: How the universe organizes itself to create life consciousness, and cosmic complexity."

Azarian, who graduated from Mason with a PhD in Neuroscience in 2015, challenges the prevailing paradigm that suggests the universe functions at random and that life came as an accidental byproduct. Instead, he pulls from varying disciplines to look at the phenomenon of life and consciousness from a perspective of information and energy flows. The Romance of Reality explores the possibility that the universe may actually be self-organizing and becoming more complex with life as a fundamental unit to make larger, more complex systems.

Read More

Mason Science Mentorship Program - Applications Now Open!

Fall submission forms for mentors and mentees for the Mason Science Mentorship Program are now open! We are excited to announce that we are now accepting graudate and undergraduate mentees into the program. This means there are more opportunities for alumni and community partners to make an impact. For more information, visit the Mason Science Mentorship Program webpage, or email Marie Calle, Assistant Director of Development at mconnole@gmu.edu.

Read More

Mason News

Retro Mason: Clarence J. Robinson Professors 1984

When people think of Clarence J. Robinson and his legacy at George Mason University, they often think of his $5 million bequest to the university on his death in 1983, the largest gift the young university had ever received, and the things the university was able to do with that money. But Robinson's true legacy goes far beyond a monetary contribution and hinges on a conversation and a single piece of advice: "If you get the people first, the bricks and mortar will follow."

Read More

Events & Announcements

Join us for COS Alumni Chapter Meeting on August 8th

Join us on Monday, August 8th at 8pm EST on ZOOM for our COS Alumni Chapter Summer Meeting. We will be discussing the year ahead, mentorship, and ways to get involved. All are welcome!

ZOOM Information

Time: Aug 8, 2022 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: **https://gmu.zoom.us/j/99564977591?pwd=RTVxZVZjWTZ2NUh3ZFdZVjdvUnZKUT09**

Meeting ID: 995 6497 7591
Passcode: 340452

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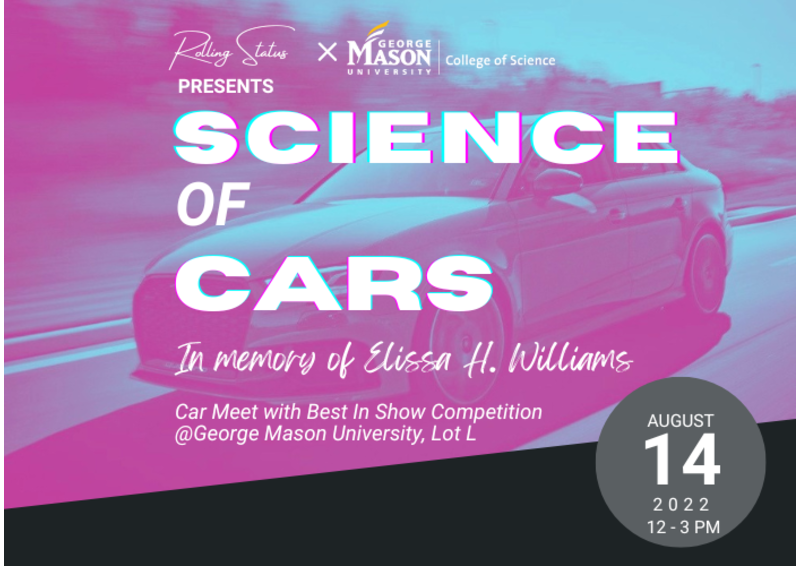
College of Science establishes the Elissa Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund

In September of 2021 the Mason Science community lost Dr. Elissa Heather Williams, a brilliant scientist, revered friend and loved one in her community. In honor of Elissa and her dedication to chemistry students, the Chemistry Department tutoring center, and the Univesity, the Elissa Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established.

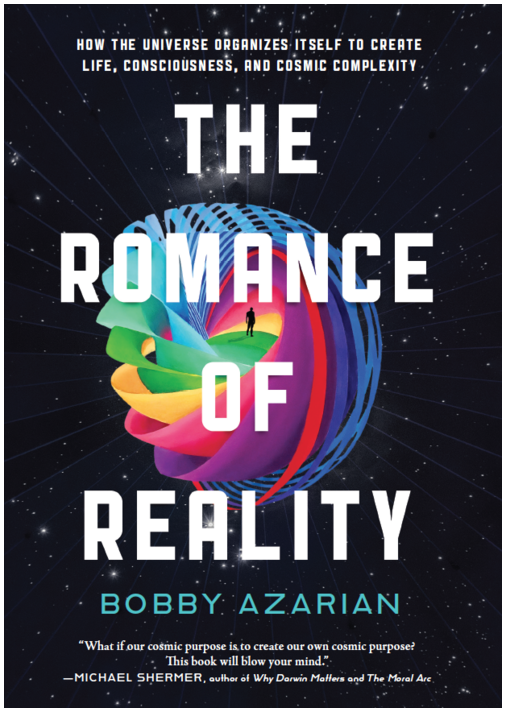
This fund will provide scholarship assistance to graduate level chemistry students. Students will be awarded this scholarship on the basis of academic merit and can be in-state or out-of-state, as well as part-time or full-time.



The College of Science is also working with Elissa's friends and fellow alumni on a car show event in her honor on the Fairfax Campus on August 14th. If you'd like more information about this summer event, check out the link below or email Marie at mconnole@gmu.edu.

Register

Mason Science Research Discussions: The Romance of Reality



You read about him earlier in this newsletter, now you can come see him speak in person! Join us on Wednesday, September 28th from 4 - 6pm at the Country Club of Fairfax as we welcome Dr. Bobby Azarian to the Mason Science Series!

Join this very special event featuring Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm, Dean of the College of Science, as he discusses life as we know it with Dr. Azarian.

Register

To stay up-to-date on our events, you can follow our **calendar here**.

E-mail us for more information.

If you have a question you'd like us to answer in a future newsletter, please write to us!

Follow us on social media:

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