Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, February 9, 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

In this Issue

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



Diversity: No Limits

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

From our beginnings as a small University of Virginia branch campus to today, a fully independent R1 research powerhouse serving 39,000 students—in just 50 years, George Mason University has become the largest public university in Virginia, an economic driver, and a model of diversity and inclusivity.

Just as importantly, Mason's student population reflects our commitment to diversity in word and in action. Our college contributes heavily to Mason's ranking as one of the most diverse universities in the U.S. (according to *U.S. News and World Report*).

Diversity is at the core of Mason's values and essential to our College of Science mission. Our aim is to become a national model for inclusive excellence, committed to rooting out institutional racism and cultivating a haven for freedom of expression and diverging perspectives.

A year ago, our inclusive excellence committee worked in parallel with Mason's Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Task Force, and with input from College of Science faculty, staff, and students to draft the

college's Inclusive Excellence Plan.

We asked ourselves the question: what can our college do differently at this moment in time to move towards a brighter future?

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

#FacultyFriday highlights AOES research professor



This week's #FacultyFriday features Benjamin Cash, Research Professor, Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences, and the Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies (COLA). According to Cash, getting coffee and walking around campus talking research with colleagues is probably his favorite way to work - there's nothing quite like it for sparking interesting ideas. Just ask him about his current work developing NOAA's new Unified Forecast System. He also continues to research the predictability of seasonal rainfall and will present on the Cape Town "Day Zero" drought next week at the International Conference on Southern Hemisphere Meteorology and Oceanography.

Read Cash's bio

Provide your feedback on Mason Core Enhancements

by Bethany Usher

The Mason Core committee has been working on updating the Mason Core with the goal of graduating students as scholars and citizens who are prepared to act in a diverse, global world. Several Task Forces provided input to the Mason Core Committee, and the committee have created three potential models for an enhanced Mason Core. We have compiled information about these models, a recording of the January townhall, and now a new set of FAQs. Please take time to review these models and share your input. Responses will be collected through **Friday, February 18**.

Complete the survey

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

What shaped the evolution of minerals?

by Marsh Tyler



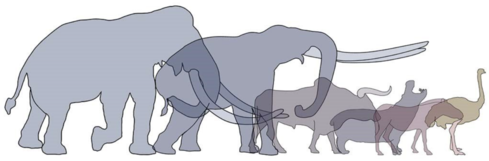
Robert Hazen, Professor Emeritus, Environmental Science and Policy, finds that microorganisms formed about four billion years ago are the largest contribution to the minerals found today. *Photo: Aleksandr Buynitskiy on Unsplash*.

View full article

IN THE NEWS

Escaping extinction through co-evolution

by Abigail Eisenstadt



Smithsonian Magazine released its ten most popular scientific discoveries from 2021, which included a study by Mark Uhen, Chair, Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences and Environmental Science and Policy alumnus Advait Jukar. Their study suggests that megafauna like elephants, rhinos, and tigers survived after the arrival of humans by co-evolution. *Photo: Advait Jukar*.

View full article

Happening at Mason

Take part in Harvard COACHE Faculty Satisfaction Survey

by Pam Shepherd

Mason science faculty have an opportunity to share their opinions of their professional environment and experiences in this new Harvard COACHE Faculty Satisfaction Survey launching today. All full-time tenure-line and term faculty will receive an email from COACHE directing them to the survey with their own unique link. Survey available until early April.



See details

4-VA@Mason Call for Proposals

Calls for proposals are now open for Mason faculty interested in launching pilot research projects in conjunction with colleagues at one or more of the universities within the 4-VA system in Virginia. The deadline to submit proposals for the 2022–23 academic year is **March 31, 2022**.

Explore this opportunity



Climate Dynamics: Lickley, Climate Science Impacts
February 10, 2022 | 9 to 10 a.m.
Join Megan Lickley, MIT, for her discussion on climate change and ways to improve new policy decisions.

Geology Seminar
February 10, 2022 | 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.
Join AOES for a seminar featuring Jenna Shelton, U.S. Geological Survey: National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program.

Climate Dynamics: Klinger, Current Climate Conversation
February 11, 2022 | Noon to 1 p.m.
Join AOES for a quasi-monthly discussion of recent climate and weather events.

Evening Under the Stars at George Mason Observatory
February 15, 2022 | 7 to 9 p.m.
The Mason Observatory invites you to a virtual evening under the stars with Courtney Crawford, Louisiana State University.

Galileo's Science Café
February 17, 2022 | 6 to 9 p.m. | Verizon Auditorium, SciTech Campus and Virtual
Join Shobita Satyapal for her lecture "In Search of Elusive Giants: Detecting supermassive black holes in the centers of galaxies."

See Full Calendar

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