Mason SCIENCE

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In this Issue

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



A message from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

Padmanabhan Seshaiyer

From real-world context to building STEM competencies

by Padhu Seshaiyer

Imagine if we as science/technology/engineering/math (STEM) educators could enhance our educational philosophy from “here is the STEM, go solve the real-world problem” to “here is the real-world problem, let us find the STEM to do it.” While the educational philosophy all across the globe is geared towards the former approach, as most educators are trained that way, there has been a big paradigm shift in education in the last few years to move towards the latter. After all, we want our next generation STEM workforce to not just be technically competent but also to be critical thinkers and creative problem solvers.

This philosophy aligns with Mason's College of Science efforts to go beyond a content-focused approach in training students to a competency-focused approach. This means providing opportunities to students through a variety of frameworks including learning by doing, inquiry-based learning, active learning,

experiential learning, project-based learning and challenge-based learning. Our college has championed delivering such frameworks through both curricular innovations and community engagement programs.

Learn about the programs

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY



Safe return to the labs

From physical distancing, to changing equipment out after every session, our faculty and staff are keeping students safe while learning face to face. This video in Mason's Safe Return to Campus campaign features our biology and neuroscience faculty and students.

Watch the video

Renewal, Promotion and Tenure virtual information session



Provost Mark R. Ginsberg and Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and Development Kim Eby will lead this fall's virtual information session on the faculty Renewal, Promotion and Tenure (RPT) process from **3 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 22 via Zoom.**

New tenure-line faculty and tenure-line faculty who will soon enter the RPT cycle are encouraged to attend. No registration or RSVP is needed. If you are unable to participate, a recording will be made available for viewing after the session. Send questions to Kim Eby at facaffs@gmu.edu.

More information

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY



Singing in a silent spring: birds respond to a half-century soundscape reversion during the COVID-19 shutdown

by Tracy Mason

David Luther, an ecologist and Assistant Professor of Biology at George Mason University and Elizabeth Derryberry, Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee, collaborated with a team of fellow ecologists from California Polytechnic State University, and the University of Tennessee to evaluate if and how songbirds might respond in the newly emptied acoustic space that results from fewer people on the road due to COVID-19.

Full story

IN THE NEWS

The Today Show features Mason scientist with tips to reduce COVID-19 indoor spread.



Center for Computational Fluid Dynamics Director Rainald Löhner appeared on The Today Show recently to demonstrate how droplets from a sneeze can linger in a classroom with poor ventilation.

View segment

Happening at Mason

Tools and tips to integrate well-being in your classroom



The Center for the Advancement of Well-Being and the Office of Faculty Affairs and Development collaborated to create a list of short well-being activities instructional faculty can use in the classroom. You don't need to be an expert on the science and application of well-being to support your students. There's a growing body of

research that provides evidence for many of these activities.

Learn more



Encourage students to participate in Mason's Career Fair

This year, the Fall Career Fair at Mason is going virtual. Students are invited to meet online with 100 employers seeking candidates for internships, part-time and full-time positions. The event will take place **October 8 and 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Students must register by **October 6** to attend.

Learn more

Events

Mason Science Series - Breast Cancer at the Bedside: The Clinical Impacts of Proteomics on Early Detection and Precision Medicine
Tuesday, October 6, 2020 | 4 to 5 p.m.

College of Science All Faculty Meeting
October 7 | 3 to 4 p.m.

Save the Date: President Washington College of Science Virtual Town Hall
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 | 1:30 p.m.

See Full Calendar

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