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Mentors and love of science spur lifelong climate advocacy

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) starts today, and to kick off our 2021 narratives of scientific success within the Hispanic community, I thought I'd highlight the inspirational story of Mario José Molina-Pasquel Henríquez, (Mario Molina), the only Mexican scientist (thus far) to be honored with a Nobel prize. Mario and his mentor, Frank Sherwood Rowland (U.S.), and Paul Crutzen (the Netherlands) received the 1995 Nobel Prize in chemistry for their collaborative research confirming chlorofluorcarbons (CFC) could destroy the ozone layer in the Earth's stratosphere.

I was an undergraduate student in the 1980s and in those years the research by Mario and his colleagues had become well established and considered pioneering in the field of climate science; this

had a profound influence on me as I was thinking about my own career. Mario became sort of a mentor-at-a-distance, since I had never actually met him or talked to him.

But I did get to meet him and talk to him twice! In 1996, I was an assistant professor and was invited to talk at an event geared at attracting and inspiring Hispanics into STEM fields. The main attraction of the event was Mario Molina, who had just received the Nobel Prize. My talk at the event came right before Mario's keynote address, so I usually joked that I once was the opening act for Mario Molina! Later in 2002, I had the opportunity to host a visit by Mario at my institution. It was great seeing him again, I told him about by "opening act" joke, and he really laughed.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Biology student participates in outreach trip providing dental services in Cusco, Peru

by Madison Rudolf



While helping provide dental services in Cusco, Peru, a group of eight George Mason University students, including Biology's Julia Hakeem, found they not only had an impact on the local community but also on their own lives.

Full story

Mason Science #FacultyFriday to highlight College dean and researcher

To kick off Hispanic Heritage Month, this upcoming #FacultyFriday will feature Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm. While serving as Dean for the College of Science, he continues to teach for the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences and conduct research in hydrology and water engineering. He recently published a study titled "Water is the middle child in global climate policy."



Read the study

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Akerlof leads research team in Hawaii to study environmental impacts from sunscreen

by Zander Leon



Karen Akerlof, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, led a research team at Cape Lookout National Seashore in North Carolina and at the 'Ai'opio Fishtrap in Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park in Hawaii, surveying visitors about their sun protection behaviors, awareness of environmental impacts from sunscreen, and exposure to National Park Service (NPS) outreach and education programs.

Explore their study

IN THE NEWS

Aguirre weighs in on fears over Labor Day travelers' effect on COVID spread

Noticias Telemundo spoke to Alonso Aguirre, Chair, Environmental Science and Policy for his perspective on concerns over the Delta variant and relaxed mandates over the Labor Day weekend.

Watch the video





Did COVID lockdowns effect the environment as much as experts expected?

by Jansen Baier

The Wire recently spoke to Phil Yang, Professor, Geography and Geoinformation Science, about his research on the air quality in California both pre and post COVID-19 lockdowns.

Full article

Happening at Mason

Become a member of the Patriot Green Fund Committee

The Patriot Green Fund Committee is now accepting applications for new members to support Mason's sustainability efforts and help select ways to spend the Patriot Green Fund.

Submit your application



Events

ScienceConnect

September 16, 2021 | 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Mason's SciTech Campus

Meet students, discuss your programs, and share research and professional opportunities with free food and opportunities to win Mason Science SWAG.

Galileo's Science Cafe featuring Dean Miralles-Wilhelm
September 16, 2021 | 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Join College of Science Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm for a discussion on "Human Demand vs Climate Change: which dominates the water scarcity problem around the world?"

Evening Under the Stars
September 16, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.
Join Associate Professor Peter Plavchan for an evening under the stars.

Watch FARO equipment demonstration LIVE
September 24, 2021 | 10 a.m.
Watch a live stream demonstration of Forensic Science's new FARO equipment at the Mason Forensic Research and Training Laboratory.

Mason Vision Series featuring Jagadish Shukla
September 27, 2021 | 7 to 8 p.m.
Join Professor Shukla for his lecture on Climate Change: Science, Politics and Ethics as part of a series aimed at sharing the work of Mason researchers and scholars with both university colleagues and the community more generally.

Save the Date: State of the College Address by Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm
September 29, 2021 | 2 to 3 p.m.

See Full Calendar

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