Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, June 29, 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

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Recent Supreme Court decisions and the need to engage

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

It has been several weeks since the draft opinion indicating the overturning of Roe V. Wade, and last week it became a reality. By a ruling of 6 to 3, the Supreme Court overturned the 1973 landmark case.

Perhaps some of you may wonder why a Dean of a College of Science should care so deeply about the Supreme Court's decision. As a college that boasts an enrollment of 62% female undergraduate students and 51% female graduate students and offers highly regarded programs to study and research our planetary health, at a campus where free speech is encouraged and diversity, equity, and justice are core values, I recognize the immense impact these decisions will have across our Mason Science community and our society at large.

I am also a parent to two young women, so this hits me personally at the very core of my stance on this important societal issue. As with me, the ruling has left many within our community feeling a myriad of overwhelming emotions, concerns, and fears. Revoking women and individuals' (e.g., transgender, two-spirit, and gender non-binary /non-conforming) constitutional right to have total and complete body

autonomy and agency is a monumental change to our current reality and brings up many questions about the future and where we are headed as a society.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

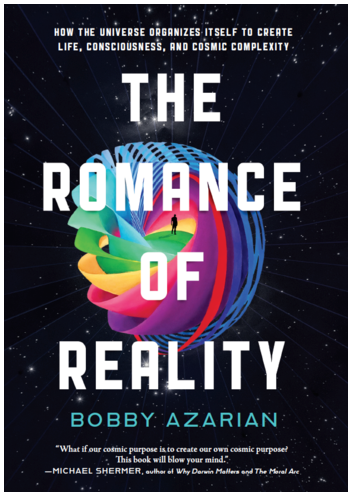
Mathematics professor honored with Council on Undergraduate Research Inclusivity Award

by John Hollis



Mason Science's Padmanabhan (Padhu) Seshaiyer, Professor, Mathematical Sciences, was recently named the winner of the 2022 Inclusivity Award presented by the Mathematics and Computer Sciences Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR).

More on this recognition



Mason science alumnus helps answer the question of why we exist

by Laura Powers

Why do we exist? And can science help find the answer? That's what journalist, cognitive neuroscientist and neuroscience alumnus, Bobby Azarian addresses in his new book *The Romance of Reality: How the universe organizes itself to create life consciousness, and cosmic complexity*, released June 28, 2022.

More on Azarian and his publication

#FacultyFriday highlights physics and astronomy faculty impact

In his 2022 #MasonScience Degree Celebration speech, Michael Reefe, Department of Physics and Astronomy alumnus and former SPECTRUM President, highlighted three faculty members that greatly impacted his journey towards a BS in Physics. Joe Weingartner, Associate Professor, was the academic

advisor who first supported Reefe's decision to change majors. Peter Plavchan, Associate Professor, gave Reefe the reassuring advice, "I don't expect you to know everything, you're here to learn," when Reefe first joined his research group. And Shobita Satyapal, Professor, leader of Reefe's most recent research group, provided the enthusiasm and encouragement Reefe needed to publish his research and complete his undergraduate degree.

Watch the full speech



RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason scientists to study battery electrochemistry

by Elizabeth Grisham



Chao Luo, Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Andre Clayborne, Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry, are set to begin a project where they will investigate the electrochemistry of carboxylate compounds in rechargeable sodium batteries (RSBs) and rechargeable potassium batteries (RPBs). *Photo by Roberto Sorin on Unsplash.*

More on their study

IN THE NEWS

Forensic Science director says new gun safety measures not enough

by TCR staff

Mary Ellen O'Toole, Director, Forensic Science Program, says that the Uvalde shooting may have still occurred even if the newly announced federal gun safety proposals were in place.

Find out why





ESP URBANxNATURE Lab studies urban vs rural animal behavior

Travis Gallo, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science and Policy (ESP) and ESP alumna Kate Ritzel, studied whether raccoons living in cities behave differently than those living in rural areas, particularly when it comes to their readiness to investigate unknown objects. Their research recently appeared in *National Geographic. Photo by Jp Valery on Unsplash.*

Read about their findings

Happening at Mason

Apply to the IDIA predoctoral fellowship

IDIA invites full-time Mason PhD and MS students to apply for competitive IDIA predoctoral fellowships, which includes a GRA stipend, tuition, and healthcare.

Student applicants are encouraged to reach out to and form an interdisciplinary team of faculty mentors across the Mason ecosystem and propose an ambitious, interdisciplinary, convergent research agenda that aligns with IDIA's mission of catalyzing cutting-edge computing research that shapes the future of our digital society and promotes equality, well-being, security, and prosperity.

Attend one of the two upcoming office hours planned to answer questions by interested student applicants and potential faculty mentors. These will be held remotely, via Zoom.

- Thursday, June 30, 2022, from 10 to 11 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 6, 2022, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Applications should be submitted by **July 29, 2022, 11:59 p.m. EST.**

More on this fellowship

Participate in a free science communication workshop this summer

Faculty in communication and psychology at Mason are offering free science communication training this summer. Participants learn to communicate with audiences about the value and importance of their work as well as science more generally. Any faculty member, post-doctoral researcher, or graduate student at Mason is welcome to participate.

The last round of workshops at Mason will take place **August 1, 2, 3, and 26, 2022**. Pick a session that works with your schedule. In addition to free training, participants who complete all study tasks receive $50. Please contact Principal Investigator Chris Clarke or Kathy Rowan for more information about this funded study. **Register no later than July 15, 2022.**

Learn more and register



LGBTQ+ Experiences After Mason: Workplace Strategies for Success Panel

June 29, 2022 | 7 p.m. | Virtual

Join Women and Gender Studies, the Global Affairs Program, the LGBTQ+ Resources Center, the Lambda Alumni Chapter, and the Mason Alumni Association for an upcoming Pride month event featuring alumni Mary Ann Vega, Jayna Tavarez, and Nikita Fernandes. Registration required.

Support and Advocacy Processing Space - Faculty/Staff Only

June 30, 2022 | 3 to 4 p.m.

In collaboration with CCEE, the Women and Gender Studies Program and Center will host five processing spaces to better understand and process the recent Supreme Court ruling impacts and effects. Some will be in person and some virtual. There will be student only; faculty and staff only; and students, faculty, and staff spaces. Please register through Mason360.

W.A.T.E.R. at Mason Summer 2022 Seminar Series - Session 5

July 1, 2022 | 3 to 4:30 p.m. | Potomac Science Center & Virtual

Register for the upcoming seminar series event featuring Phillip Musegass, Vice President of Programs and Litigation, Potomac Riverkeeper Network.

Math Boot Camp

July 11 to 15, 2022 | Fairfax campus with residential and commuter options

Math Bootcamp aims to improve math placement scores and prepare incoming students for college math courses. Sign up required.

See Full Calendar

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