Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, March 30, 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Milestones to celebrate and help us grow

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Basketball and a scientist's research trajectory both offer meaningful milestones worth celebrating.

During March Madness when the NCAA basketball tournaments provide us with exciting game after game, I can't help but think of both teams on the court. One team emerges victorious and the other experiences the agony of defeat. We interview the victors. Yet, I also wonder about the other team and how they handle the milestone moment. Do the players of the team leaving the illustrious brackets relish thoughts of the journey for this special milestone or do they spend their time stuck in the moment of not moving forward? It's critically important to 'stop and smell the roses' during these milestone moments. And then move onward.

Think back and consider how much time and energy all of these athletes have put in just to get to this point. Some played basketball since they first started elementary school. To reach and succeed at such an elite level, they had to put in the time to practice and prepare, so when the game is on the line and they are taking their shot, they have confidence the ball will drop through the net.

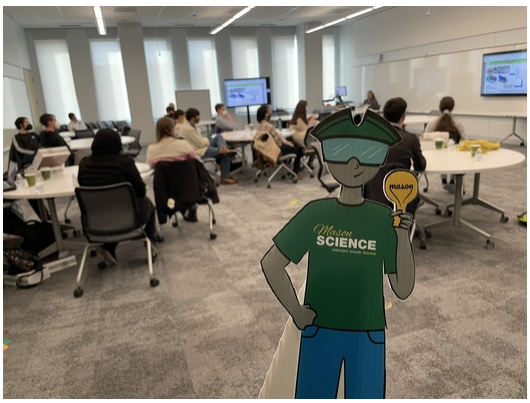
Many here at George Mason University can recount our Patriot's illustrious march to the Final Four in 2006. For schools fortunate enough to achieve such a milestone, the journey swells brand awareness and school pride. It also presents opportunities for those universities involved to grow.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Math alumni-student conference a success

by Zander Leon and Michael Merkle



Where can an advanced degree in Mathematical Sciences take you? Mason mathematics graduate students experienced the answer first-hand during the inaugural George Mason University Mathematical Sciences Alumni-Student Conference.

The first department-sponsored networking opportunity of its kind, this popular hybrid-format event attracted students, faculty, alumni, and administration in January just before the Spring 2022 semester. Participants attended a full day of keynote speakers, lightning research talks, panel discussions, and networking opportunities.

More on the event

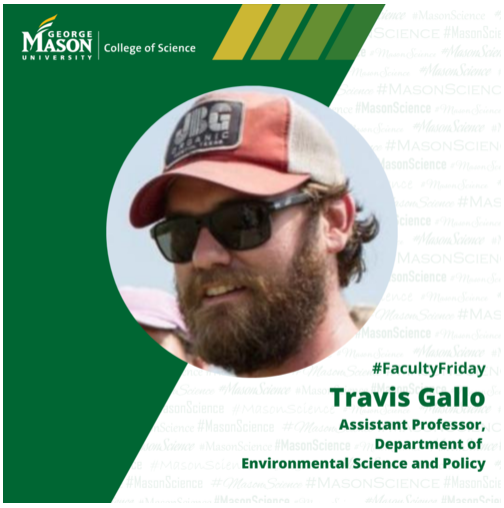
Climate PhDs Awarded Summer Research Fellowships

by Barry Klinger

Three climate dynamics doctoral students were awarded 2022 summer research fellowships by George Mason University. The fellowships include stipends to support dissertation research over the summer.

Read about their research

#FacultyFriday highlights ESP assistant professor



This month, #FacultyFriday pivots from featuring faculty in Mathematical Sciences to Environmental Science and Policy in honor of Earth Month and all of the great work happening in the department. This week's #FacultyFriday highlights Travis Gallo, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, who leads the URBANxNATURELAB here at #MasonScience, where they use theories and principles in ecology and conservation science to sustain and restore biodiversity in urban ecosystems.

View Gallo's bio

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason scientist aims to improve ground-level air quality prediction

by Elizabeth Grisham

Chaowei (Phil) Yang, Professor, Director, NSF Spatiotemporal Innovation Center, Geography and Geoinformation Science, and his collaborators received $100,000 from the NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center. Their study aims to improve ground-level air quality prediction by integrating new observation system data and numerical simulations to support decisions relevant to air quality in Los Angeles. *Photo by Alexis Balinoff on Unsplash.*

Explore the research

IN THE NEWS

Research using honey bees to solve cases gains national attention

Newsweek, US News and World Report, Chanel 6 News in Richmond, and many other regional news outlets throughout the country continue to highlight the transdisciplinary collaboration between George Mason University's Honey Bee Initiative, Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine, the new outdoor Forensic Science Research and Training Laboratory, and Mason's Greenhouse and Gardens sustainability program. Together, they aim to find whether analyzing the honey produced by bees after feeding on flowers can be a tool to solve criminal cases and locate missing persons.

See where their story is told

The more trees lost, the greater danger for the planet

by Thomas E. Lovejoy and John W. Reid

Read an adaptation of the late Thomas Lovejoy and John Reid's upcoming book *Ever Green: Saving Big Forests to Save the Planet* published last week in *The Atlantic*. According to their upcoming publication "Societies around the world need to adapt, transforming energy systems, transportation, manufacturing, and what we eat. The human population needs to stabilize and start to decrease in order to cut the amount of energy, food, transportation, and other things we ask our finite planet to provide." *Photo by Lukasz Szmigiel on Unsplash.*

Full article

Happening at Mason

Deadline approaching, submit confidential COACHE faculty survey

by Pamela Shepherd

Submissions for the anonymous Harvard COACHE Faculty Satisfaction survey are due **April 4**; make sure your opinions are included. The previous survey, which is completed every three years, uncovered opportunities for the college that has shaped our current priorities including addressing faculty compensation and evaluation, and increasing recognition and mentoring opportunities. The college currently has a 51 percent response rate however, to maximize our representative sample for leveraging feedback in the future, our goal is at least to match the Mason overall goal of 75 percent response rate. Contact our COACHE point of contact, Mason Science faculty member, Alexandra Masterson, with questions or contact Faculty Affairs and Development via email or at 703-993-5876. *Photo by Christin Hume on Unsplash*.

Make your voice heard

Encourage attendance at Mason's CCEE graduation ceremony for students of color

The Center for Culture, Equity, and Empowerment (CCEE) is proud to announce that it will host a graduation ceremony on **May 7 at 6:30 p.m. in Dewberry Hall** and live-streamed for remote guests to recognize the personal and academic growth and achievements of all Mason graduating students of color (this includes undergraduate and graduate students).

Graduates have the option to attend in person or virtually and are welcome to bring up to three guests. To participate, sign up to attend via Mason360 or the event's registration form by **April 8 2022 at 5 p.m. (EST).**

Review event details and FAQ

Geology Seminar featuring University of Oklahoma's Lynn Soreghan
March 31, 2022 | 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. | 1309 Exploratory Hall, Fairfax Campus and Virtual
Join us for a lecture from Lynn Soreghan, University of Oklahoma, on Paleo-landscapes of Late Paleozoic.

Center for Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence (CMAI) - East Coast Optimization Meeting
March 31, 2022 thru April 1, 2022 | 5:30 p.m. | Virtual

The annual East Coast Optimization Meeting (ECOM) is an initiative to introduce students and early-career researchers to the current trends in optimization as well as to create a strong networking environment among academia, industry, and the national laboratories.

Working with International Students Workshop Spring 2022
April 1, 2022 | 10 a.m. to noon | Virtual
This interactive workshop is designed to discuss issues and tools involved in working with international students at Mason.

Dedication of the Enslaved People of George Mason Memorial
April 4, 2022 | 1:30 to 6 p.m. | Wilkins Plaza, Fairfax Campus
Join the university community at the commemorative dedication of the Enslaved People of George Mason Memorial, a centerpiece of the redesigned Wilkins Plaza on Mason's Fairfax Campus This is the focal point of how the university is addressing its identity as it relates to a complicated patriot. Register.

50th Anniversary Commemorative Celebration & Mason Vision Day
April 7, 2022 | 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. | Johnson Center Atrium, Fairfax Campus
Please join us as we commemorate 50 years of faculty, staff, and student achievement; alumni success; and community impact and support. Register.

See Full Calendar

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Read the College of Science's latest annual report

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