Mason SCIENCE

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Thursday, August 27, 2020 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

We've Got Your Back

by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

Welcome to the Fall 2020 semester, Mason Science faculty and staff. My sincere thanks to all of you for your ingenuity and tireless efforts to modify our safe, engaging learning environment based on the safety requirements we all must follow. I am greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm and commitment of our students, their families, our faculty, staff and administrators to deliver on our mission. I hope you take advantage of the opportunities to stay connected with our community throughout this semester.

And I want to thank you for doing your part. Believe me, I know showing up this time around ain't easy. It takes courage and fortitude to continue your educational instruction and research in these uncertain times. Yet, move forward we will.

Read the full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Get and stay connected at the virtual #ScienceConnect2020

We hope to 'see' all faculty and staff at the college's fourth annual **ScienceConnect** on **Wednesday, September 2 from 2 to 6 p.m.** This is a great opportunity to not only engage with Mason Science students, but also to reconnect with other science faculty and staff. Take some time to celebrate the start of the fall semester--carve an hour or more to drop in on your department sessions and participate in a District Trivia challenge. Even your RSVP enters you to win a number of great prizes. We'll see which trivia and program teams come out on top.

Register

Student Success: Mathematics PhD alumna earns numerous postdoc offers

Congratulations to Ratna Khatri who earned her PhD in Mathematics this past spring. Her cutting-edge research and academic excellence while at Mason earned her six postdoc offers from different groups at Sandia National Laboratories and one from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. She also was the runner-up for two of the more prestigious fellowships in the country—the Wilkinson Fellowship at Argonne National Laboratory and the John von Neumann Fellowship at Sandia National Laboratories.

Explore her research

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason scientists develop test that can detect tuberculosis in children

by John Hollis

CAPMM scientists and systems biology professors Alessandra Luchini and Lance Liotta head an international team that has developed a urine test that detects tuberculosis (TB) in many types of patients, and is especially effective for children. According to the World Health Organization, TB remains the world's top infectious killer, with 10 million people annually falling ill from the disease and 1.5 million dying.

Full Story

Contact Tracing Effective in Controlling Spread of Coronavirus

by Buzz McClain

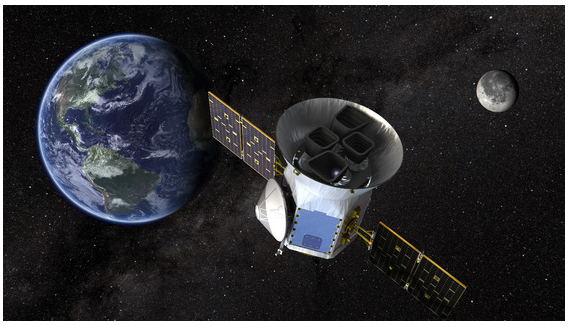
A recent study by College of Science professors including Dr. Ali Andalibi, and the Schar School of Policy and Government indicates coronavirus is transmitted in densely populated venues—such as music concerts—and travels great distances, infecting new populations as it spreads from its location of origin. The study was published this month in the journal of the *International Society of Travel Medicine*.

Read the Study

IN THE NEWS

Exoplanet-hunter TESS completes its primary mission

by Paul Scott Anderson; Featured in EarthSky



NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) will enter the next phase of its mission after surveying the sky for two years and

contributions include the discovery of AU Mix B, a planet about the size of Neptune circling nearby star AU Microscopii. Using data from Tess and retired Spitzer Space Telescope, Mason doctoral student, Bryson Cale, and Physics and Astronomy Associate Professor, Peter Plavchan, reported the planet's existence in June of this year.

Read the full article

Happening at Mason

Mason President and Science Dean present at upcoming Women Building Bio conference

By: Amy Adams and Tracy Mason

Women Building Bio will be held on **September 16** as a half-day, virtual conference. The event will include a panel with Janice Underwood, Commonwealth of VA Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, our own Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm, and Mason's President, Gregory Washington. Other sessions will feature Bioscience PhD student and ASSIP alumna, Marissa Howard and a high school student from the College's FOCUS program.

Mason's Institute for BioHealth Innovation and the College of Science are sponsoring the upcoming VA Bio Women Building Bio conference. As part of the sponsorship, the College's attendance fees are waived for faculty, staff and students so all can freely participate in the annual event which brings bio-focused academia, industry, and government entities together. Just use the promo code **WBB2020.**

Register

IDIA - Kammy Sanghera selected as Interim Executive Director

Dr. Kamaljeet Sanghera, Associate Professor of Information Sciences and Technology (IST), has been named Interim Executive Director of the Institute for Digital InnovAtion (IDIA). Mason officially kicked off IDIA in June, hailing the newest of its collaborative-based, university-wide institutes as the kind of modern solution the world needs to address its many complex problems.

Learn More

Measuring and Reducing the Gender Gap in the Mathematical, Computing, and Natural Science
Tuesday, September 1, 2020 | 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fourth Annual ScienceConnect
Wednesday, September 2, 2020 | 2 to 6 p.m. with District Trivia from 5 to 6 p.m.
Must **RSVP** in advance to participate in the trivia event

Forming Successful Learning Pods: Insights from Public Health Education Technology Experts
Thursday, September 3, 2020 | Noon to 1 p.m.

See Full Calendar

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