Mason SCIENCE

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Safe Return to Campus

by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

Across our College, many teams prepare in earnest for your safe return to campus. We are hard at work establishing safety protocols and robust learning and research experiences for the upcoming academic year. Thank you to our scientists, committee members, faculty and staff for your scientific expertise and facility and curriculum planning efforts.

From the timeline noted in President Washington's message, students, faculty and staff will be cleared for return in the coming weeks once the required training is completed. I encourage each of you to come back to campus when the situation is right for you. Take care of yourself and those around you. Before you return, please complete the training, health assessments, and follow the university's procedures.

Learn More

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Department Showcase recap

On June 30, the College of Science hosted a virtual open house. Prospective students learned about our undergraduate programs from the deans, chairs, and administrators from the College of Science who answered questions in a virtual Q&A format. From course information to recommended competencies, representatives from each department were in attendance to provide their expertise. Watch the college's new video and the department videos on our Youtube channel.

Celebrate retired faculty

by Laura Powers

Each year, the College graduates a new class of future scientists, taught and mentored by some of the most distinguished individuals in their respective fields. These graduates move on to a number of careers that positively impact the world. This year, the College of Science would like to say thank you to five retiring faculty whose commitment to the education of their students and scientific innovation will leave a lasting impression.

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College will offer new VLC

The College of Science is launching its first Virtual Learning Community (VLC) this fall. Themed 'Scientific Inquiry and Global Problem Solving,' the VLC lets students take part in programs to impact academic and personal development while also making connections with like-minded peers. This VLC is open to all students, including first-year and transfer students.

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RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

NSF Rapid Funding helps scientists find consensus between COVID-19 predictions

by Laura Powers

To address the urgent need to compare between the wide-range of existing COVID-19 models and their predictions, the NSF has provided approximately $200,000 to a multi-disciplinary team of our scientists to find a consensus among various model predictions. The team will create an interactive web-based dashboard to present clustering analysis results, aiming to make the different model assumptions and uncertainty underlying these predictions more transparent. In addition to co-PIs Taylor Anderson and Andreas Züfle from the GGS department, and Hamdi Kavak from CDS, the Mason research team also includes Dr. Joonseok Kim, a GGS post-doctoral research fellow.

Learn More

COLA receives $4 million to host NASA's Global Energy and Water Exchanges Project

by John Hollis

The International Global Energy and Water Exchanges (GEWEX) Project Office (IGPO) has become a part of Mason's Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies (COLA), the largest single academic group of climate dynamics and climate modeling experts in the United States. COLA will host the project office for the NASA-sponsored program that aims to provide a better understanding of the global water cycle and interactions between the land surface and the atmosphere. Learn more about the partnership, which will build on Mason's reputation for climate science research. According to Jim Kinter, COLA Director and AOES Department chair, this partnership will build on Mason's national reputation for climate science research.

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IN THE NEWS

Saharan dust storm headed to the U.S.

AOES atmospheric dust expert Daniel Tong was interviewed on local TV station WUSA9 about the dust storm that was heading or the United States from the Sahara desert. Explore Tong's research, including the surprising risk of disease dust storms carry.

Watch the Interview

New Exoplanet Discovery

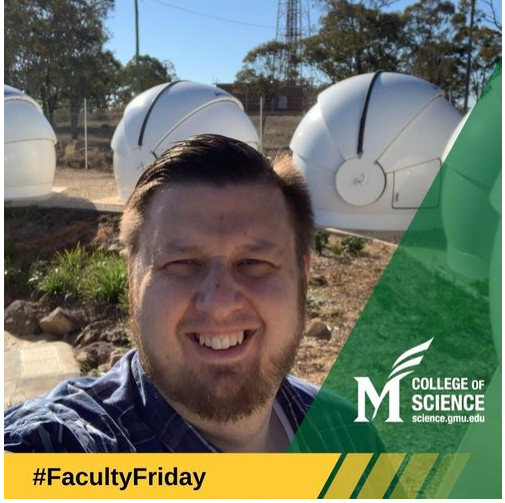
by Francis Reddy and Tracy Mason

NASA's TEES, Spitzer Missions Discover a World Orbiting a Unique Young Star

According to the report published on June 24, in the journal Nature. AU Microscopii, located less than 32 light-years from Earth, is among the youngest planetary systems ever observed by

astronomers, and its star throws vicious temper tantrums. The discovery was also highlighted across many media outlets including space.com, CNN and Business Insider.

According to the report's first author, Peter Plavchan, assistant professor of physics and astronomy. NASA celebrated the AU Mic b discovery by featuring it in a new NASA poster available in English and Spanish, part of a Galaxy of Horrors series.



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CMAI Virtual Collquium:
Generalized vector calculus and machine-learned nonlocal models
August 7, 2020 | 10:00 - 11:00 AM

CDS: Mason Online Pandemic Modeling Forum
Non-Pharmaceutical Herd Immunity using Homemade Masks
August 7, 2020 | 3:00 - 4:30 PM

Save the Date: Fourth Annual Science Connect
Don't miss this virtual event with games, prizes and more.
September 2, 2020

See Full Calendar

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