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Thursday, August 13, 2020 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Safe Return to Campus Update #2

by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

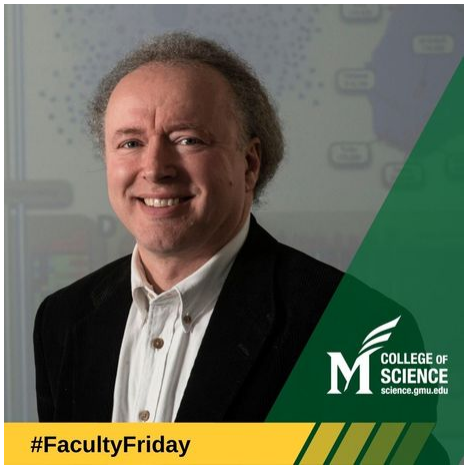
As you've just learned from President Washington, Mason has remained committed to its efforts for a safe return to campus this fall.

I wish to share our on- and off-campus science community footprint, the steps all must take to return to campus safely, and some of the resources available to help us do so.

Our return to campus is grounded on our Unit Safety Plans which have been reviewed and approved by the College. I ask that all College of Science faculty, staff and students who return to campus follow these plans and **complete the required training no later than 24 hours before you return to campus or by Friday, August 14**.

Learn More

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY



CDS Virtual Pandemic MODeling Forum closes summer series

by Laura Powers

Friday, August 7 marked the final summer session of the Mason Online Pandemic MODeling Forum. The spring and summer virtual speaker series, hosted by Robert Axtell, professor, Computational Data Sciences department, focused on the effects of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 disease. New fall speakers will be announced soon.

Softball's Amber Verstynen discovers career path through NASA internship

by Maureen Nasser

Mason softball student-athlete Amber Verstynen discovered a love of science while in high school. She entered George Mason as an atmospheric science major in the fall of 2018 with career aspirations in the meteorological field.

Eager to put that passion to use in the real world, the Patriots' outfielder has spent the past two summers as an intern at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia.

The Yorktown, Va., native, became interested in working with the nearby research center as early as her sophomore year at Tabb High School. Her mother Shannon was working with a NASA contractor on an ozone garden project with the Virginia Living Museum and Amber was eager to get involved.

Read Full Article

ASSIP's student researchers continue to contribute despite the pandemic

by Colleen Kearney Rich

While many internship programs were cancelled

this summer, the 137 student researchers in Mason's Aspiring Scientists Summer Internship Program (ASSIP) were busy preparing their virtual presentations for their required poster symposium held on Aug. 6. A huge thank you to Director of Student Research and Internships, Andrea Cobb, program founder, Lance Liotta, and Inventors' Club president Marissa Howard and the 50 plus mentors whose efforts provided invaluable research experience to high school and undergraduate students.

Learn More

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason's NCBID and University of Costa Rica develop equine antibody-based therapeutic to neutralize Coronavirus

by Tracy Mason, Jennifer Jiménez Córdoba and Sulaiman Yamin

Scientists at George Mason University's National Center for Biodefense and Infectious Diseases (NCBID) reached a testing milestone in a collaboration with the University of Costa Rica's Clodomiro Picado Institute to validate a new coronavirus equine antibody formulation to prevent COVID-19 disease from progressing in patients infected with the virus. Mason collaborators include NCBID Director Charles Bailey and Associate Professor of Systems Biology Aarthi Narayanan.

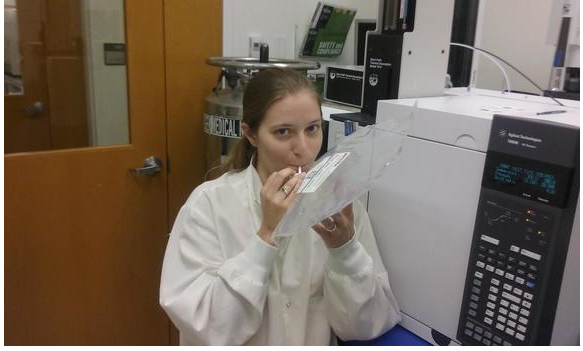
Learn More

Researchers sniff out sickness through volatile organic compounds

by Lauren Huey

College of Science researchers Robin Couch and Allyson Dailey are using volatile

organic compound (VOC) fingerprints to sniff out sickness. The team, part of Mason's College of Science and Institute for Biohealth Innovation, have successfully diagnosed mice infected with Category A/B biothreat agents *Francisella tularensis* and *Yersinia pestis* through analysis of VOC profiles, as published in Nature Scientific Reports.



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IN THE NEWS

What happens to viral particles on the subway

by Mika Gröndahl, Christina Goldbaum and Jeremy White, simulation graphics from Rainald Löhner

Featured in the New York Times

Rainald Löhner, Director of the Center for Computational Fluid Dynamics, (CFD) collaborated with the New York Times to create simulations featured in this recent article. The CFD work includes the systematic application of computing and computational solution techniques to mathematical models formulated to describe and simulate fluid dynamic phenomena. See other simulations of COVID-19/spread of diseases in the built environment or read the New York Times aticle.

Learn More

Returning student athletes undergo COVID-19 testing

by John Hollis

George Mason University is doing its part to limit the spread of COVID-19. On Monday, Aug. 10, it began testing returning athletes.

Roughly 30 Patriot student-athletes were screened at the Field House on the Fairfax Campus in a collaborative effort between the Athletics department and Mason's Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine (CAPMM) and College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). It was the first of several scheduled screenings for student-athletes preparing to return to campus.

Learn More

Events

OSCAR Summer Student Scholarship Virtual Celebration
August 14-16, 2020 | Vote for winners to be announced Monday August 17 by 5 p.m.

College of Science Transfer Tuesdays
August 18, 2020 | 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Inside Science (Our Universe): Roving for Signs of Life on Mars
August 18, 2020 | 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Gradstravaganza
August 21, 2020 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Save the Date: Fourth Annual ScienceConnect
Don't miss this virtual event with trivia, prizes and more.
September 2, 2020 | 2 to 6 p.m.

See Full Calendar

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