Mason SCIENCE

Understand. Innovate. Succeed.

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

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Ciencia para todos

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm and Valerie Olmo

Last week, I shared my views on “fitting in” and this blog will discuss this topic again from another’s perspective. To commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month for the College of Science, I am thrilled to share words from our own Dr. Valerie Olmo, biology professor and student advisor.

As a Hispanic woman in the sciences (Biology), I have experienced first-hand the challenges of trying to keep my own identity while simultaneously trying to “fit in” with my colleagues at each level of my career starting from my undergraduate years up to my faculty appointment here at George Mason University.

As an undergraduate student coming from a disadvantaged background, I often felt misunderstood by my peers and professors because of my urban New York slang and body language. It wasn’t until I began undergraduate research that I felt like I belonged in the sciences.

My lab mates took the time to get to know me and, in time, we learned a lot from each other.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY



Mason Science welcomes new faculty

The College of Science is pleased to introduce its newest faculty members. We officially welcomed our new faculty when they gathered last week to find out more about college resources and meet their colleagues. You can review the new faculty announcement on the website to learn more about their collective academic focus areas and research expertise. A reminder - all faculty and staff have the opportunity to include their preferred photo within their website listing. Please send any photo or title change updates to Laura Powers.

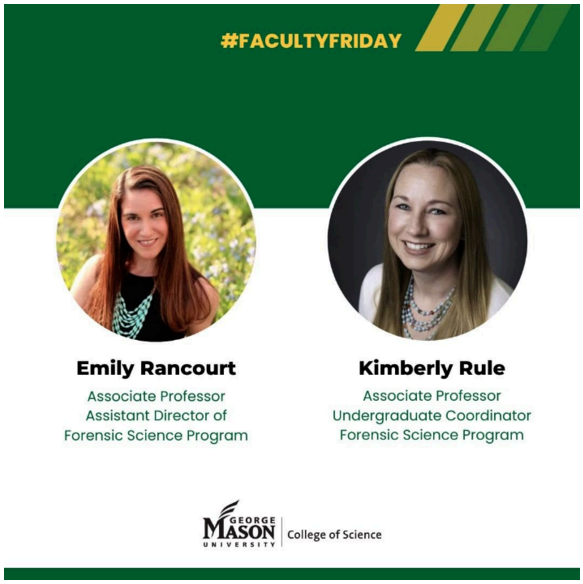
Meet our newest faculty

#FacultyFriday highlights forensic science faculty

Last week's #FacultyFriday featured two CSI experts: Emily Rancourt, Professor, Associate Director, and Kimberly Rule, Associate Professor, Undergraduate Coordinator.

Rancourt started at Mason as an adjunct professor while working as a civilian crime scene investigator for the Prince William County Police Department. After leaving the Prince William Police Department to onboard as a full-time faculty member and Associate Director for our Forensic Science Program in 2010, she was one of the biggest contributors to the development of the program. Rancourt helped launch both the Forensic Science M.S. and B.S. more than ten years ago, with the vision that all faculty would have casework experience in forensic science.

Rule walked a similar path to find herself at Mason. She began as an adjunct professor while working as a crime scene specialist for the Prince William Police Department. In 2011, Rule started teaching full-time and took on the role as undergraduate coordinator. As one of the first full-time faculty members in the program, she helped build and shape the curriculum and its ever-evolving development, as the program acquired top-of-the-line facilities such as the Crime Scene House and FARO Forensic Lab.



View full post

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason ornithologist outlines avian biodiversity in Amazon rainforests

by Tracy Mason and David Luther



In a research paper recently published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Mason biologist David Luther led a cross-functional team to use a historical baseline of avian communities to contrast the avian communities in today's primary forest with those in modern disturbed Amazon habitat. Recent long-term studies in protected Amazon rainforest areas reveal the loss of biodiversity, yet the ramifications for ecosystem resilience remain unknown. *Photo of a Royal Flycatcher courtesy of Cameron Rutt.*

Explore research findings

IN THE NEWS

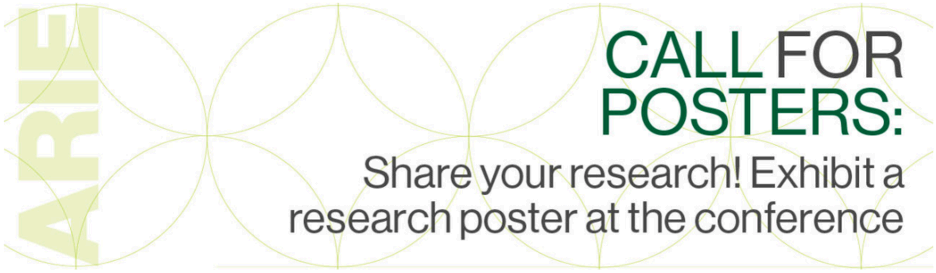
Mason science alum and current PhD's research impacts basking shark protected status



Talk Radio Europe, *The Irish Times*, *Oceanographic*, and *Raidió Teilifís Éireann* are all reporting on the recently passed legislation making it an offense to hunt, injure, or willfully interfere with breeding or resting places of basking sharks. This international effort includes the work of Environmental Science and Policy doctoral candidate Chelsea Gray, whose research on social attitudes helped demonstrate strong public support for basking shark conservation. *Photo by the Irish Basking Shark Group*.

More on Gray's research

Happening at Mason



The ARIE Conference will host a poster session on **Monday, October 24, 2022, from 11:15 a.m. to noon**. You're invited to submit a proposal to exhibit a poster highlighting a project or effort advancing anti-racism and inclusive excellence. Posters related to the following are welcome:

- Campus and community engagement
- Curriculum and pedagogy
- Policies and practices
- Research, scholarship, and creative activities
- Training and development
- Workforce development

Submission Requirements

Proposals should include the title of the poster and an abstract (up to 250 words) for the poster and project, including its purpose and how it relates to the conference theme.

The deadline for submission is October 7, 2022. Submitters will be notified on or before October 10, 2022. Registration is required (and complimentary) for all poster presenters. To apply, email poster session proposals to arie@gmu.edu by October 7, 2022.

More on the conference

What you need to know about 2021-2022 Performance Evaluations

- **Classified staff –** follow guidance found on the classified staff page; we will be using Mason LEAPS again and fully signed forms in system are due Nov. 18. All Classified Staff should have received a notification from Mason LEAPS inviting them to complete a self-review. If you did not, please contact leaps@gmu.edu.
- **A/P faculty** – Evaluations NOT required this year due to upcoming change in evaluation cycle timing; check-in meetings are highly encouraged. Additional guidance can be found on the A/P faculty page.
- **Instructional/Research (I/R) faculty** – Follow the same process as last year in terms of guidance from the provost; evaluations due Nov. 1 to Dean's Office.
- **Wage** – There is no formal process required but check-in and/or review meetings are highly encouraged.
- **Adjuncts** – Per guidance from the SACS accreditation, we are reviewing adjuncts every 3 years. Criteria and forms are based on the unit Chair/Director.

Check your email for more information on this year's performance evaluations process.

Information on performance evals



Applied and Computational Mathematics seminar
October 5, 2022 | 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. | Exploratory Hall 4106 or Virtual
Join Blake Barker from Brigham Young University for a lecture on Identification of tipping points due to bifurcation and noise.

American Society for Intercellular Communication Conference
October 13, 2022, noon to October 15, 2022, noon | Bolger Center, Potomac, Maryland
Participate in an informal exchange of ideas on emerging questions and cutting-edge developments in the field of Extracellular Vesicles (EVs), Extracellular Particles (EPs), and particulate carriers of extracellular RNA (exRNA) as biological mediators, regulators and diagnostic analytes.

Fall 2022 Speaker Event: Research in Science
October 14, 2022 | 5:30 p.m. | Horizon Hall 1012, Classroom ALC/BC
Members of STEMinists invite you to an event with professionals in the biomedical field, including guests from John Hopkins Medical School, NIH, DARPA, YWIB, and WIB.

The State of the College Address
October 19, 2022 | 1 to 2:30 p.m. | 3301 Exploratory Hall
Staff, faculty and students, please register to join Dean Fernando Miralles-Willhelm as he provides this important annual update

Galileo's Science Café
October 20, 2022 | 5 p.m. | Colgan Hall, Verizon Auditorium, Science and Technology Campus
Join Drs Lance Liotta and Marissa Howard for a lecture on "Eavesdropping on the whispers of cancer to find new strategies to treat metastasis." Register to attend.

Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Conference
October 24, 2022 | 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. | Mason Square, Alington, VA
The ARIE Conference will provide an opportunity to critically discuss anti-racism and inclusive excellence in the academy; share effective practices and resources to advance anti-racism and inclusive excellence; and amplify the visibility and impact of research, scholarship, and creative activities conducted by Mason researchers and other national scholars on anti-racism and inclusive excellence. Registration required.

See Full Calendar

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