Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, October 12, 2022 **science.gmu.edu**

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Time to plug in

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

You've recently come to hear the phrase, 'plug in' to refer to types of electric cars. Another meaning of this phrase is to be 'in the know' or to engage with some activity or organization. Ironically, the end result is the same; both meanings bring a charge and impetus for movement for something or someone.

Now it's your time…to plug in.

In the coming week, during the State of the College Address on October 19, 2022, I will be sharing our accomplishments and ambitious, exciting next steps as a college and as the science community at George Mason University. You can register and 'plug in' to better understand ways to engage and where we are aspiring to go. This week prior to the address, I delivered this information to the college's Advisory Board, seeking their ideas and input. And then to the Provost's team on the academic and financial front, to make sure all were aware and aligned on our efforts.

Over the past year, among the enrollment and research growth goals, the college has focused on three

main priorities – transparently building infrastructure for success through 1) improving faculty and staff compensation, while 2) retaining our students and employees, and 3) establishing a new path forward with our AJEDI* strategic plan to build a culture and community where inclusive excellence = academic excellence. *(AJEDI stands for Access, Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion).

At the State of the College Address, I will share our progress with you.

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

ASIC Conference unveils agenda, including new diversity effort and NIH collaborative pilot program

by Tracy Mason



The Second Annual American Society for Intercellular Communication (ASIC) Conference will occur Thursday, October 13 through October 15, 2022 virtually and in person at the Bolger Center in Potomac, Maryland. Led by Mason Science virology professor and recently elected ASIC president, Fatah Kashanchi, the meeting has been partially funded by an NIH/NCATS R13 proposal, with the emphasis on inclusion and diversity.

The conference brings together investigators from diverse basic science and clinical fields to discuss and advance understanding of the multifactorial impact of extracellular vesicles (EV), extracellular particles (EP) and RNA (ExRNA) in diagnostics, treatments, while also fostering a basic understanding of the biogenesis of normal vs diseases states. The program of relatively shorts talks (15 and 30 minutes) encourages discussions that can take place after each scientific talk, where the audience and attendees can debate the concepts presented to foster a dynamic scientific exchange. *Photo by Surface on Unsplash.*

More on the conference

Faculty invited to apply for Learning Assistants Spring 2023

Are you interested in bringing on a Learning Assistant (LA) for your courses next semester? You may apply to have a Learning Assistant for Spring 2023 until **Monday, October 24, 2022**.

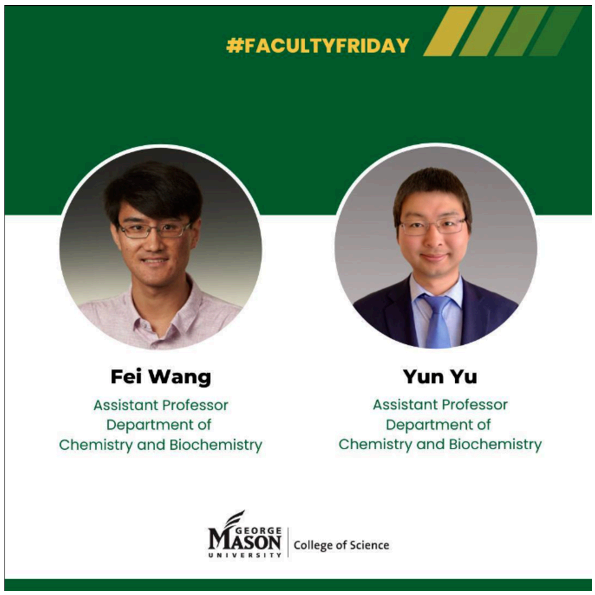
LAs are undergraduate students who work in College of Science courses to facilitate student learning in a variety of settings. All first-time LAs participate in a weekly pedagogy seminar, and all LAs meet regularly with course faculty to prepare for the upcoming content in the course and discuss how everything is going with the students.



If your proposal is approved, students will be able to apply directly to your course, and you can interview and select the LAs for your course. The student application will open on or around **November 1**, so if you know students who would be great LAs, please encourage them to apply.

Email Ben Dreyfus or reach out to the LA coordinator for your department if you have any questions. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services.*

More on the application process



#FacultyFriday highlights Chemistry and Biochemistry assistant professors

#FacultyFriday welcomes two of our newest Chemistry and Biochemistry faculty members, Fei Wang and Yun Yu.

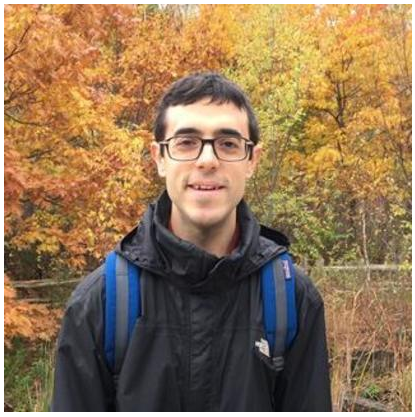
Wang, Assistant Professor, researches the theory and computer modeling of electron and energy transfer in solar cells and light harvesting complexes.

Yu, Assistant Professor, leads a research group with focus on the use of electrochemical methods to understand the energy conversion chemistry of low–dimensional materials. You can read more about them from the original Instagram post.

Review recent faculty highlights



Mathematics professor receives prestigious international award



Yiannis Loizides, Professor, Mathematical Sciences recently received the 2022 André Lichnerowicz Prize in Poisson Geometry. Awarded every two years by Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, the award is given to researchers who have made notable contributions to Poisson geometry. Recipients are selected by members of the scientific and advisory committees of the biennial Poisson Conference.

Read official announcement



Mason scientist receives funding for Fairfax County Public Schools watershed programs

by Elizabeth Grisham

Cynthia Smith, Associate Professor and K12 Education Director, Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC), Environmental Science and Policy, received $60,750 from Fairfax County Public Schools for: "FCPS Watershed Programs." This funding began in August 2022 and will end in late June 2023.

More on the project

IN THE NEWS



Learning a new language differs between children and adults

By Nadine Kabbani

Nadine Kabbani, Associate Professor, School of Systems Biology, and an affiliate in neuroscience and the Schar School of Policy and Government, writes about the differences between children and adults when it comes to language acquisition. "This idea has real-world practical implications not just for how adults can learn a new language but for considering how to train language impairments such as those in stroke victims," Kabbani wrote in *Psychology Today*.

Read full article

Happening at Mason

Updates to Patriot Web's employee services tab



Recently, Patriot Web's employee services tab changed, providing additional functionality. Using the new employee services tab, employees will:

- **Only be able to submit their timesheets via the Employee Dashboard** as the Timesheet (Classic) option will be removed
- View their **Benefits Summary** in the Employee Dashboard
- View their **Tax/W2 information** in the Employee Dashboard
- View their **pay information** in the Employee Dashboard
- View their **current and past jobs** in the Employee Dashboard
- View their **leave balances and history** in the Employee Dashboard

In case you haven't been using the employee dashboard, use the resources below to navigate:

- Patriot Web Dashboard Overview Guide
- Timesheet submission training videos (found under "How to Submit Timesheets")
- Timesheet approval training video

Events

American Society for Intercellular Communication
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.

Women in Chemistry and Biochemistry: Careers and Experiences
October 14, 2022 | 1 p.m. | Virtual
Join the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry for a special seminar highlighting female chemists who have pursued careers in industry and law. Access the event. Passcode - GMUchem.

Neuroscience Seminar Series (final of the semester)
October 17, 2022 | 4 p.m. | Virtual

Hear Ian Davison from Boston University speak on "Navigating the natural sensory world with olfaction."

SSB Colloquium Speaker Series

October 18, 2022 | noon to 2 p.m.

Join Ivan D'Orso from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center for a lecture on "Transcriptional regulatory mechanisms shaping HIV-1 proviral fate."

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. Register to attend.

Galileo's Science Café-presented by Mason College of Science

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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