Mason SCIENCE

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Championing Women in STEM at Mason

by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

Yesterday, Mason's president Dr. Gregory Washington and I participated in a fireside chat at the VABio "Women Building Bio" virtual conference. We discussed the importance of effective and actionable diversity efforts across academia, business, and government.

I did some bragging on a number of fronts…for example:
Thanks to Kelly Knight who identified a FOCUS student alum to serve on a WBB panel earlier in the day, I highlighted the college's Females of Color Underrepresented in STEM program impact; over the years, FOCUS has introduced 500+ young middle and high school girls to STEM disciplines. That same WBB panel featured Marissa Howard, a Mason School of Systems Biology PhD candidate who leads the ASSIP Inventors Club, another successful outreach program of ours that encourages entrepreneurship and creativity.

I also described some of our influential and impactful female faculty who may not lead their centers, labs, or units yet are leading in their respective fields, receiving significant research

funding for groundbreaking and influential research and establishing successful collaborations.

I made sure to mention that 61% of our undergrad science students are female and 50% of our graduate students are women -- both stats that many universities only dream of achieving. And I also shared that the chair of our biology department is a woman and that six of our twelve departments and programs are led by women and others who may identify with underrepresented groups.

Yet, I'll echo Dr. Washington's words…we still have a lot of work to do.

Read the full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Welcome New Faculty

Since January, the College of Science brought on a number of new faculty and would like to officially welcome them as we begin another academic year.

Meet our newest faculty

Recent PhD graduate's research focused on antibiotics targeting drug resistent pathogrens

Haley Ball completed her PhD in Biochemistry. Her research focused on the development of novel antibiotics targeting drug resistant pathogens, such as Malaria and Tuberculosis. This fall, she began studying law at American University and hopes to specialize in intellectual property law.

Watch the video

Complete a survey to help identify examples of social impact on Mason's campus

Dean Miralles-Wilhelm encourages you to complete the social impact mapping survey. The goal of the survey is to systematically identify the many examples of social innovation on Mason's campus, and this will ensure the college is well represented. The university is hosting the 2021 Ashoka U Exchange – to be held virtually March 18 through 21.

Complete the survey

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

NOAA taps Mason COLA scientists to analyze, update drought prediction models

by Laura Powers

On a grant from the NOAA Climate Program Office's Modeling, Analysis, Prediction, and Projection (MAPP), Professor Paul Dirmeyer of the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences (AOES) will work alongside his colleague Professor Bohua Huang and Research Assistant Professor Chul-Su Shin to understand the ways ocean and land interact with the atmosphere and the role each plays in predicting droughts.

Full Story

IN THE NEWS

Space science and geography ranked among top programs worldwide

by Damian Cristodero

George Mason University improved its already strong ranking as one of the nation's most diverse universities in the U.S. News & World Report 2021 Best Colleges list. According to U.S. News and World Report, space science ranks 52 in the world, while the The Academic Ranking of World Universities, also known as the Shanghai Ranking, lists geography among the top 100 programs.

Review the rankings

The lag in the move towards renewable energy in Japan after the Fukushima disaster

by Kat Lonsdorf

Assistant Professor Jennifer Sklarew, Department of Environmental Science and Policy, emphasized in a recent NPR article the important role policy plays in empowering economic and technological innovation.

Read the full NPR article

Happening at Mason

Mason to host "Virginia's Climate Future" panel

by John Hollis

The global pandemic has changed the paradigm, but the dangers of climate change remain constant. That's the message our researchers hope to convey to state decision makers with the upcoming "Virginia's Climate Future" panel to be held from **5 to 7 p.m. on September 24**.

Panelists include A. Alonso Aguirre, professor and the chair of the Department of Environmental Science and Policy and Jim Kinter, professor of climate dynamics, chair of the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences, and the director of Mason's Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies (COLA).

Register

Quantum Basics for the Curious: A Fireside Chat with *Nobel Laureate Dr. Bill Phillips*

Curious about the buzz around quantum, but don't really understand what the big deal is? Want to understand how the quantum revolution applies to you but don't have a background in physics?

Join the Mid-Atlantic Quantum Alliance (MQA) on **Tuesday, September 22 from 2 to 3 p.m**. for a fireside chat between University of Maryland's Vice President for Research, Dr. Laurie Locascio, and Nobel Laureate Dr. Bill Phillips. Dr. Phillips is a renowned science communicator in addition to being a leading scientist, and currently serves as a NIST Fellow and a University of Maryland Distinguished University Professor.

Register

Mathematical Modeling and Numerics for Nematic Liquid Crystals
Friday, September 18, 2020 | 10 to 11 a.m.

To Trust or Not to Trust: A Systems Social Neuroscience Perspective on Social Trust
Tuesday, September 22, 2020 | 11 a.m.

STEARNS Center Innovations in Teaching & Learning (ITL) conference
September 21 - 25 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Alexander von Humboldt and the United States: Art, Nature, and Culture
Wednesday,October 21, 2020 | 1 p.m.
Environmenal Science Professor Thomas Lovejoy will speak on the influence of Alexander von Humboldt

See Full Calendar

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