Mason SCIENCE

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Finding your fit

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

Over my life and my career, I have heard the word “fit” so many times in the context of being part of a community. Probably the times that resonate the most are those related to feedback after job interviews. I would be told things like “We didn’t feel you were a great fit for us,” or “We found someone who was a better fit." At first, I felt this feedback reflected that I had some sort of shortcoming(s), that there was something inherently wrong or perhaps that I was missing something. Then of course, were the times where I actually got the job and was told things like “You’re a great fit for what we are looking for,” or “We think you’ll fit very well into your new position.” In these cases, I felt vindicated, validated.

But somewhere inside me, I still feel that this whole “fitting” thing is misplaced. I keep hearing the “fit” in all of its varieties all the time. I have heard it here at Mason when we interview individuals for faculty or administrative positions. I hear it in conversations about whether a particular research or curriculum initiative fits within our portfolio. And the list goes on.

Does this happen to you, too?

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Mason researchers partner with Indigenous nations to promote environmental resilience

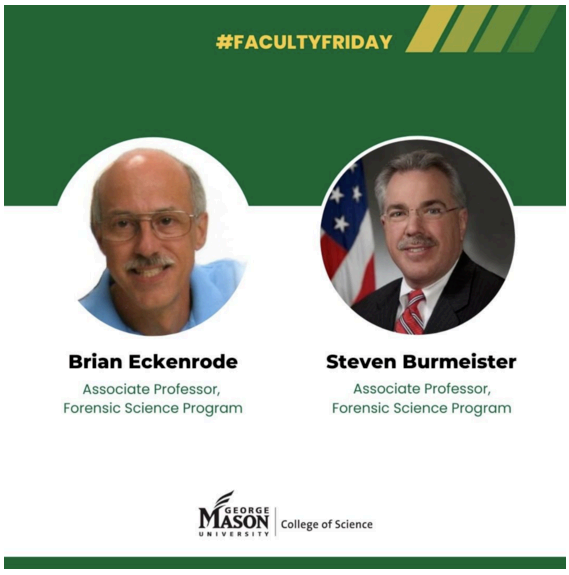
by Mariam Aburdeineh



In 2018, U.S. legislation granted federal recognition to six tribes in Virginia. A George Mason University team has been partnering with two of them, the Upper Mattaponi and Chickahominy nations, as they embark on being sovereign nations.

“What really has been an honor to be a part of is building the capacity and the sovereignty of native tribes,” said Jeremy Campbell, an Environmental Science and Policy professor co-leading the Mason team with School of Integrated Studies professor Tom Wood. “This is a wonderful opportunity for us, as a university, to build a sustainable and respectful relationship that has the potential to last for decades.”

More on the project



#FacultyFriday highlights forensic science professors

Last week's #FacultyFriday highlighted two of our elite Forensic Science professors: Brian Eckenrode, Associate Professor, and Steven Burmeister, Associate Professor.

Eckenrode is a former research analytical chemist with the FBI's Research Support Unit in Quantico, VA. He dedicated 23 years of his life to the FBI and went on to earn the FBI Director’s Award for Scientific Achievement. At Mason, Eckendrode researches canines, early disease detection, human living and deceased chemistry, and field instrumentation for drug interdiction. Recently, he contributed two chapters to the book, “Canines: The Original Biosensors.”

Burmeister spent the first few years of his career in different crime and toxicology laboratories. He later entered the FBI as a Special Agent, where he focused on explosive analysis in terrorist cases. Currently, Burmeister spends his time teaching forensic trace analysis and drone photography to aspiring scientists. He also is a part-time police officer for Mason Police.

View full post

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason researchers receive funding for Murtha Cancer Center Clinical Proteomics Platform

by Elizabeth Grisham



Emanuel Petricoin and Lance Liotta, Co-Directors of Mason's Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine (CAPMM), received funding for: "Murtha Cancer Center Clinical Proteomics Platform – RPPA Assessment in the APOLLO Program." The researchers received $281,319 from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences on a subaward from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for this project. Funding began in May 2022 and will end in late April 2023.

Find out the study's goals

IN THE NEWS

Biology research helps determine ten national parks with best fall foliage

by Erica Jackson Curran



National Geographic reports on this year's fall foliage, citing Mason Biology research from Rebecca Forkner on why we experience delays in the leaves changing color. The study of maples shows that the fall foliage may be falling behind in schedule due to a number of factors including extreme weather, drought, and insect infestations. *Photo by Melissa Askew on Unsplash.*

More on the best locations



Mason professor helps explain the science behind light pollution at local town hall

by Brian Trompeter

Peter Plavchan, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy recently attended the Great Falls town hall this September to help explain the science behind light pollution and the negative effects a single light bulb can create. Those in attendance discussed the dark-skies-preserve ordinance now being drafted by Fairfax County government officials. *Photo by Ryan Hutton on Unsplash.*

More on the discussions

Happening at Mason

Mason Core: Share your thoughts on courses with Just Society attributes



George Mason University is enhancing the Mason Core curriculum and one proposed enhancement is the inclusion of two required courses which have a Just Society attribute. The goal of courses with this attribute will be to enable students to directly address questions about diverse perspectives and inequity as they engage with one another and to identify how they can participate in processes for making change.

Faculty and student input will be a critical component to incorporating these requirements into the curriculum. Forensic Science Associate Professor Kelly Knight, who serves on the ARIE Curriculum and Pedagogy Implementation Team, is assembling Mason Science faculty who may already have courses that possibly fulfill the requirement and also faculty who may be interested in contributing their thoughts to the development/modification of a course to fulfill the requirement. To have your voices heard in this process, contact Kelly by **Friday, September 30, 2022**.

Learn more



Biology Seminar Series
September 30, 2022 | 2 to 3 p.m. | Exploratory Hall 3301
Join Brian Griffiths from Georgetown University for a lecture on "Soil-eating in the Amazon: Assessing the Drivers of Mammal Geophagy."

Mathematics Colloquium: The Secret Algebraic Lives of Graphs
September 30, 2022 | 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Join Keri Sather-Wagstaff from Clemson University and the National Science Foundation for a lecture on "The Secret Algebraic Lives of Graphs."

SSB Colloquium Series: New Roles of HIV-1 Nef and Tat in neuroHIV
October 4, 2022 | Noon | Virtual
Join Johnny He, the Director of the Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology and Infection located at Rosalind Franklin University.

Resetting Our Future
October 12, 2022 | 4 to 6 p.m. | Merten Hall 1204
Hear a panel of climate science experts discuss how strengthening our capacity to look ahead is key to effective preparation and maintaining stability in the global economy and society. Register today.

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

Second Annual American Society for Intercellular Communication Meeting (ASIC)
October 21-23, 2022 | Bolger Center, Potomac, MD
Join this national 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. Abstracts/registration due ***by September 30****.*

Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Conference: Vision and Action for a New Era
October 24, 2022 | 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. | Mason Square, Arlington, VA or virtual

See Full Calendar

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