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A message from the Dean

**FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM**

## Happy Fourth of July!

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

In lieu of a blog this week, I'd like to instead extend a happy holiday and hope you were able to enjoy the day yesterday and maybe even spot some fireworks.

## MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

### Staff advisory survey and nominations

The staff advisory committee thanks all those who attended the staff appreciation lunch in June. Those unable to attend can [still view the presentation](#). Those who haven't filled out the [College of Science staff survey](#), are encouraged to do so. Those interested in serving on the Staff Advisory Committee (SAC) must submit a nomination by August 15.



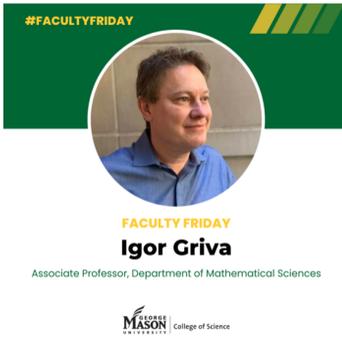
[Submit a nomination](#)

### Administrative assessment underway

As announced during a meeting with all college staff (AP faculty, classified, non-student wage) and leadership, our college is beginning an assessment of the administrative functions within the college, academic units, and centers. The overall goal of this assessment is to most effectively and efficiently provide high quality administrative support to COS academic units and our research enterprise. View more details in the email sent by Teri Fede on June 30.

### #FacultyFriday highlights Associate Professor of Mathematical Sciences

The last #FacultyFriday of the month features [Igor Griva](#), Associate Professor of [Mathematical Sciences](#) and Director of the [Mathematics Industrial Immersion Program](#) (IIP). As director of IIP, Griva facilitates connections between math students and industrial partners. Every year, he assists in organizing a student/alumni conference where former math students have the opportunity to share their experiences after graduation. [View original Instagram post](#).



[See recent faculty highlights](#)

## RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

### Berea serves on NASA's UAP panel

by Colleen Kearney Rich

Last fall NASA selected [Computational and Data Sciences](#) Associate Professor [Anamaria Beria](#) to participate in its independent study team on unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP). The 16-person panel was asked to "identify how data gathered by civilian government entities, commercial data, and data from other sources can potentially be analyzed to shed light on UAPs" and recommend a roadmap for future analysis. Photo by NASA.



[More on this work](#)



### Removing invasive plants protects the ecosystem at the Potomac Science Center and beyond

by Lauren Reuscher

George Mason University's Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC) recently hosted an invasive species removal event where students, faculty, staff, and community

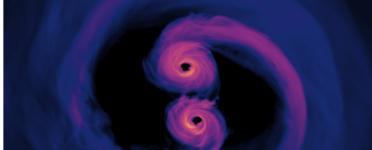
members came together to remove harmful, invasive plants around the Potomac Science Center in Woodbridge, Virginia. Mason Science faculty participants include [Environmental Science and Policy](#) Professor [Chris Jones](#), Assistant Professor [I. Reid Nelson](#), and Associate Professor [Cynthia Smith](#). Photo by Elizabeth Greenheck.

[More on this work](#)

## IN THE NEWS

### Scientific American podcast: The Universe Is Abuzz with Giant Gravitational Waves, and Scientists Just Heard Them (Maybe)

by Lee Billings, Jeffery DeViscio, Alexa Lim, Tulika Bose



Researchers, using the galaxy as a detector, believe they have detected gravitational waves from monster black holes for the first time. Megan members of the NANOGrav team, including [Physics and Astronomy's](#) podcast [Science Quickly](#). Photo: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center/Scott Noble; simulation data, d'Ascoli et al. 2018.

[Find out what they said](#)

## Happening at Mason

### 2023 NSF CAREERS proposal deadlines

Those interested in submitting an NSF CAREER proposal must do so by **today, July 5**. Any proposal for NSF CAREERs created in RAMP after July 5 will require ADR approval. Additionally, NSF Careers proposals will be due to OSP after July 5, seven days before the Sponsor deadline to set up a staggered submission schedule with the goal of submitting the majority of Careers proposals two to three days in advance of the deadline to ensure there are no issues (in the past, Research.gov has crashed on the proposal due date). Find out more from the email sent by Teri Fede on June 8.

[Read full response](#)

## Events

#### Discover the World of Quantum

July 9, 2023 to July 14, 2023 | Fairfax Campus  
The George Mason University Quantum Science and Engineering Center and the Potomac Quantum Innovation Center invited rising high school seniors to participate in the Pathways to Quantum Summer Immersion Program.

#### The Interstellar Lunar Gateway

July 10, 2023 to July 14, 2023 | Research Hall  
Interstellar Dreams is a one week, non-residential camp where 6th through rising 9th graders will design lunar research programs, lunar habitats, adapt a framework for international collaboration, and create Lunar life support plans for human survival. [Registration required](#).

#### Mason Math Odyssey Camp

July 17, 2023 to July 21, 2023 | Fairfax Campus  
Sixth through 9th graders who are curious about math will meet with Mason mathematical sciences faculty and students to learn about beautiful mathematics concepts typically not taught in K-12 curriculum.

#### VALHEN Hispanic STEM Academy

July 26, 2023 to July 28, 2023 | Fairfax campus  
George Mason University is partnering with the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network (VALHEN) to proudly offer the VALHEN Hispanic STEM Academy for rising Virginia high school sophomores and juniors. This exciting new, and already full, program will offer participants a series of interactive and hands-on sessions across a wide range of STEM disciplines, with tours of Mason's cutting-edge labs and facilities.

[See Full Calendar](#)

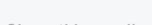
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