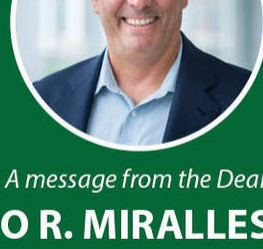


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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

You are welcome here

by *Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm*

Throughout the month of June, we acknowledge and celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month. This blog post is a conversation with the chair of Mason's [Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences](#), [Mark D. Uhen](#) who shares his journey and the importance of advocacy.

A passion for paleontology

Growing up in Wisconsin, Uhen's love for science began at an early age, after witnessing his mother use antibodies to crossmatch blood samples to solve complicated cases as a medical technologist. He, and his sister who later became a dental hygienist, grew to love all types of sciences. Mark devoured all the science books in the school library, dreaming of being whatever type of scientist each reading described.

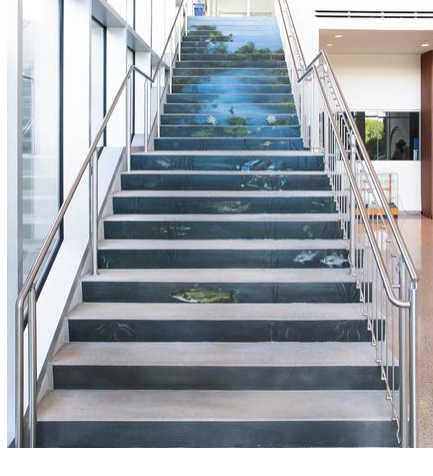
Uhen knew he wanted to pursue a degree in science, but had a hard time choosing between biology and geology. Ultimately, he decided to attend the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh thanks to their excellent geology program. It was at Oshkosh where he took his first paleontology class and knew that was the path for him.

[Read full message](#)

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Check out the latest two murals at Mason's Potomac Science Center

Murals at Mason, part of Mason Exhibitions, produces public art projects that engage social justice issues and enrich the university's learning environment. The latest two murals reflect the research focuses of faculty and students at Mason's [Potomac Science Center](#). The staircase mural [Sediment to Sky](#) focuses on each layer of the Potomac River watershed, highlighting native flora, fauna, and microorganisms. *Photo by Sooyhun (Sophie) Bae.*



[More on this art installment](#)

Rebecca Goldin
Professor & Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Mathematical Sciences

Matt Holzer
Associate Professor
Department of Mathematical Sciences

[See recent faculty highlights](#)

#FacultyFriday highlights mathematics faculty

Last week's #FacultyFriday featured two faculty members who significantly contribute to the [Department of Mathematical Sciences](#) — [Rebecca Goldin](#), Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, and [Matt Holzer](#), Associate Professor. Find out how. [View the original Instagram post.](#)

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason scientist seeks to advance quantum technologies

by *Elizabeth Grisham*

[Fereshte Ghahari Kermani](#), Assistant Professor, [Physics and Astronomy](#), received funding to study correlated and topological phases in graphene van der Waals (vdW) heterostructures. This project aims to address some fundamental questions in the field. The outcomes of this project can have important implications on advancement of quantum technologies such as superconducting circuits and topological quantum computation.



[Explore this research](#)



Funding received to support program of research and learning in applied mathematics and computational science

by *Elizabeth Grisham*

Each year, the SIAM-Simons Undergraduate Summer Research Program will establish five SITES across the United States for a six-week program of research and learning in applied mathematics and computational science. [Padmanabhan Seshaiyer](#), Professor, [Mathematical Sciences](#), is the faculty mentor and Mason is one of the five SITES chosen by SIAM-Simons funding for this inaugural opportunity. Students will learn how to conduct scientific research, effectively communicate mathematics and computational science principles, and will gain an improved understanding of how they can pursue a career in applied mathematics and computational science.

[More on this newly offered opportunity](#)

IN THE NEWS

Even 'lonely' galaxies can host snacking supermassive black holes

by *Alison Klesman*

A new study shows that even in vast cosmic voids, growing black holes at the centers of galaxies still find fuel to consume. The study pulled from the work of [Shobita Satyapal](#), Professor, [Physics and Astronomy](#) who told *Astronomy Magazine* "Failure to detect actively accreting supermassive black holes may really not be due to their rarity, but to the method by which astronomers are trying to hunt for them." *Photo by NASA/JPL-Caltech/Carnegie-Irvine Galaxy Survey.*



[Read the full article](#)



Are dust storms getting worse? Here's why they're so destructive

by *Pete McKenzie*

National Geographic recently published an article on dust storms in the wake of the Illinois dust storm that left seven dead and 37 injured. The magazine spoke to expert [Daniel Tong](#), Associate Professor, [Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences](#) to get his thoughts on whether these storms are, in fact, becoming more intense and why.

[Read the full article](#)

Happening at Mason

P-Card in Mason Finance Gateway training recording available

by *Fiscal Services*

For those who could not attend training last week (and for those who wish to view the training again), [the edited recording is now available](#). The Q&A submitted during training will be posted soon.



Fiscal Services will also provide Learning Labs for anyone to join and ask questions and get hands-on experience with P-Card in the Mason Finance Gateway. [Sign up for these sessions](#). Watching or having attended the P-Card transition training is a prerequisite to attending these Learning Labs. *Photo by rupixen.com on Unsplash.*

Events

Astronomy Festival on the National Mall

June 24, 2023 | 6 to 11 p.m. | National Mall, Washington D.C. in front of the Air and Space Museum *Celebrate the summer solstice with telescope views of the sun, moon, Mars, Venus, star clusters, and colorful double stars at the largest astronomy outreach event in the USA. Mason is a sponsor of the event.*

Mason Science Series

June 28, 2023 | 4 to 6 p.m. | Country Club of Fairfax *Please join us for a special event with Congressman Gerry Connolly and Dr. Jim Kinter, Professor of Climate Dynamics and Director of the Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies (COLA) as we discuss how the Virginia Climate Center, is helping communities increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. [Register to attend.](#)*

Writing Sprints Workshop

Fridays | 9 to 11 a.m. | Fenwick Library Room 1009 *All faculty are invited to participate. Email facaffs@gmu.edu for details.*

[See Full Calendar](#)

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