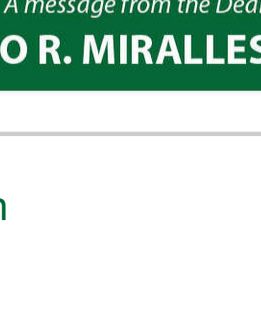


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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Know where we've been

by *Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm*

Some say, to know where you are going, you must appreciate where you've been. As we finalize our strategic plan to take Mason Science forward for the next five years, I think it is helpful to also understand and appreciate our college's history, as shared by someone who lived it.

This spring 2023, we were fortunate to have Mark Monson, the College's most recent Distinguished Alumni award winner, speak as keynote at our Degree Celebration. Mark leveraged the biology undergraduate degree he received from Mason fifty years ago as the foundation for an illustrious career in public health and administration and is the embodiment of Patriot Pride that we encourage our graduates to cultivate.

An extremely committed active Mason alumnus, he currently serves as President of our college's alumni chapter and generously shares his time, talent, and financial support. Over the years, Mark has attended college outreach events and established endowments including a scholarship for biology majors; a scholarship for visual arts majors in honor of his late wife Nancy; and an endowment supporting the athletic academic support center. He is the first of eight in his extended family who are Mason alumni, including his brother and his first wife, his two children and their spouses, and his stepdaughter. Now that's a family who knows to wear green and gold on Fridays!

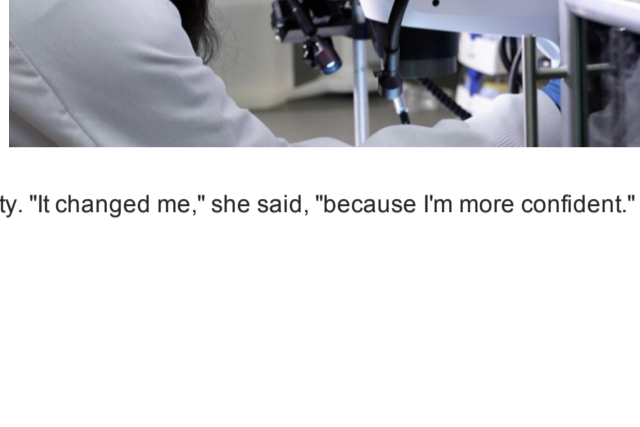
I've included some excerpts from his speech as I thought you might find it interesting to see Mason Science from his point of view.

[Read full message](#)

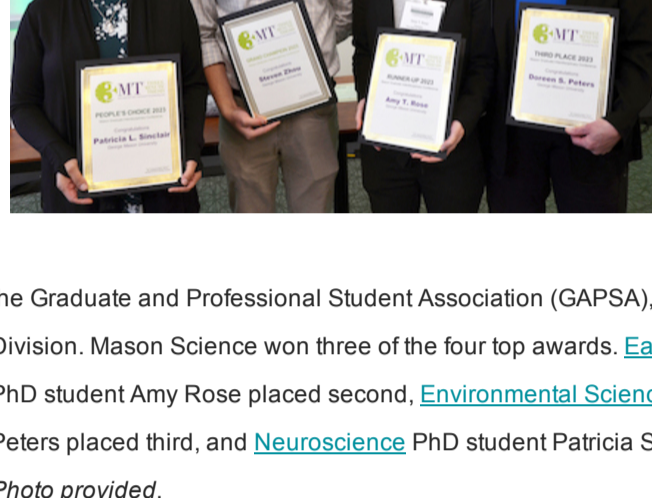
MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Graduate discovered her community and learned to lead

Sarah Hunter said she always felt valued at Mason. But after the COVID pandemic, the [neuroscience](#) major decided to get out of her comfort zone and re-engage with the campus community. "It changed me," she said, "because I'm more confident." Hunter graduated this May.



[Hear her experience](#)



Mason Science makes a near sweep at the 2023 Three-Minute Thesis competition

by *Austin Deray*

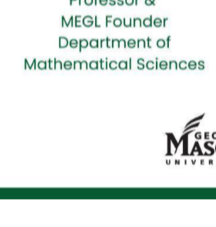
In March, Mason was home to the seventh annual Mason Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference and Three-Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition, hosted by the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA), Graduate Student Life, and the Graduate Division. Mason Science won three of the four top awards. [Earth Systems and Geoinformation Sciences](#) PhD student Amy Rose placed second, [Environmental Science and Public Policy](#) PhD student Doreen Peters placed third, and [Neuroscience](#) PhD student Patricia Sinclair earned the People's Choice award. *Photo provided.*

[More on the competition](#)

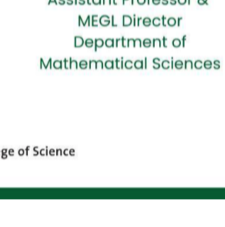
#FacultyFriday highlights two mathematical sciences faculty

The first #FacultyFriday of the month featured two key MEGL leaders, [Sean Lawton](#), Professor, and [Harrison Bray](#), Assistant Professor, both in the [Department of Mathematical Sciences](#).

The Mason Experimental Geometry Lab (MEGL), founded by Lawton in 2014, is a research and outreach program in mathematics, part of the international network Geometry Labs United. With MEGL, students access mathematics research early in their careers via computation and experimentation in semester-long projects mentored by faculty and graduate students. [View the original Instagram post.](#)



Sean Lawton
Professor & MEGL Founder
Department of Mathematical Sciences



Harrison Bray
Assistant Professor & MEGL Director
Department of Mathematical Sciences



[See recent faculty highlights](#)

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

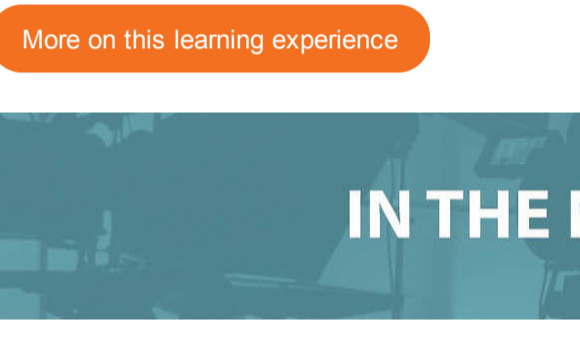
Cosmos grant to support biosciences student seeking treatment of drug-resistant bacteria

by *Laura Powers*

The increase in bacteria capable of resisting some of the strongest medications available poses a serious threat to the health of all people. It is critical that researchers identify new ways to treat these infections and [Biosciences PhD](#) student, Alena James, is up to the task. She recently received a \$5,000 Cosmos Scholar Grant to support research focused on different ways to treat one of these bacteria. James' research is an extension of a larger study funded by the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program and led by [Monique van Hoek](#), Professor of microbiology and infectious diseases in Mason's [School of Systems Biology](#). *Photo provided.*



[More on her work](#)



Green Leaf courses make sustainability a part of Mason's curriculum

by *Colleen Kearney Rich*

Sustainability is central to Mason's mission. The university now offers Green Leaf courses designed to help raise environmental awareness while providing students with a comprehensive knowledge of their local and global environment. Students in EVPP 480 Sustainability in Action have the opportunity to literally get their hands dirty and make a difference on and off campus. In this class, with sections taught by faculty members [Jennifer Sklarew](#) and [Cynthia Smith](#) of the [Department of Environmental Science and Policy](#), students commit to 40 hours of service learning. This semester one of their community-based service projects included picking up trash at Occoquan Regional Park. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services.*

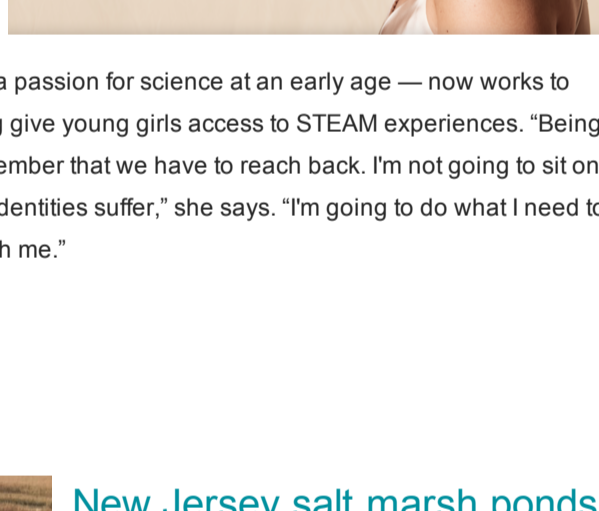
[More on this learning experience](#)

IN THE NEWS

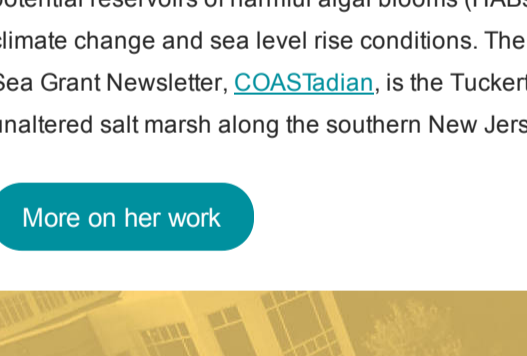
Forensic Scientist shares her story in People Magazine's Olay article

by *Olay Body*

[Kelly Knight](#) is known for breaking barriers. The [forensic scientist](#) and professor at George Mason University — who developed a passion for science at an early age — now works to increase representation in the field by helping give young girls access to STEAM experiences. "Being a woman in STEAM, I think it's important to remember that we have to reach back. I'm not going to sit on the sidelines and let folks from marginalized identities suffer," she says. "I'm going to do what I need to do to push forward and bring everyone up with me."



[Read the article](#)



New Jersey salt marsh ponds as harmful algae reservoirs

by *Samantha Kreisler*

[Ling Ren](#), Research Assistant Professor, [Environmental Science and Policy](#), is currently on a project that aims to provide baseline documentation for salt marsh systems (SMPs) as potential reservoirs of harmful algal blooms (HABs) in New Jersey coastal ecosystems under current climate change and sea level rise conditions. The project study area, written about in the New Jersey Sea Grant Newsletter, [COASTadrian](#), is the Tuckerton peninsula which offers a large expanse of unaltered salt marsh along the southern New Jersey coast. *Photo courtesy of Ling Ren and NJDEP.*

[More on her work](#)

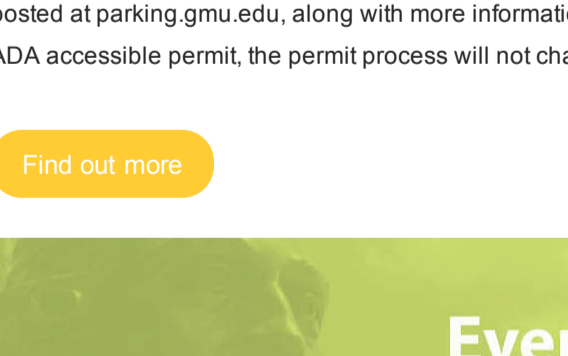
Happening at Mason

Fiscal new year staff appreciation

The Staff Senate will host a Staff Appreciation Event to kick off summer and the Fiscal New Year at three locations. Please register for the event during an available time slot. Staff may register for the location of their choosing.



- Fairfax: Thursday, June 22, from 1 to 3 p.m. on the Merten Lawn. [Register](#)
- Mason Square: Wednesday, June 28, from 1 to 2 p.m. on the Plaza. [Register](#)
- Science and Technology: Thursday, June 29, from 1 to 2 p.m. on the patio near Katherine Johnson Hall. [Register](#)



Virtual parking permits to replace hangtags starting in fall 2023

Starting the fall semester of 2023, Mason will transition to a program where your license plate serves as your parking credential. Hangtag permits will no longer be issued, with very few exceptions.

Virtual parking permits will be sold online only at parking.gmu.edu. The same permit options as previously offered will be available for purchase. Fall semester permits will go on sale in late July. Parking permit rates and sales dates are expected to be announced early this summer and will be posted at parking.gmu.edu, along with more information on virtual permits. For those with a DMV-issued ADA accessible permit, the permit process will not change.

[Find out more](#)

Events

Participate in selecting Mason's Salesforce implementation partner - Attain Partners

June 8, 2023 | 12:15 to 2:15 p.m. | Virtual

Mason has chosen Salesforce for a special event for the student journey across the institution. Salesforce is a digital Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform that allows us to store, combine, and analyze data to make impactful decisions around how we relate to students, how we recruit them, how we're retaining them, and their overall student experience. Watch this short video to learn more about Mason's Salesforce project. Take part in selecting an implementation partner to assist with customizing Salesforce tools for the Mason environment.

Stearns Center: Active Learning Classroom Bootcamp

June 15, 2023 | Noon to 1 p.m. | Virtual

Will you be teaching in Horizon Hall soon? Have you taught in Horizon Hall, but want to use the features of its classrooms more effectively? Join us for this intense, short-term faculty development opportunity that includes a face-to-face session, several online modules and a Zoom workshop session. By the end of the bootcamp, you will have an activity plan for a week of instruction ready to implement in your course and earn the CPD Level 2 Teaching Competencies Credential. Questions? Contact [Crystal Anderson](#).

Bio and Beer

June 14, 2023 | 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. | Mum Mum Restaurant

Welcome Sally Allain, the Head of Johnson & Johnson Innovation – JLABS @ Washington, DC. With experience supporting biotech startups and external partnering for Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Allain will share her insights on the different features and value available at a healthcare and life sciences incubator, including what an application process looks like, what support a startup can expect at different types of accelerators and incubators, and more. Enjoy an evening of networking, drinks, and fun.

Demystifying Commercialization Pathways of Academic Research

June 14, 2023 | Noon to 1 p.m. | Virtual

Learn about the various pathways available to commercialize academic research. You will explore how tech transfer can help bridge the gap between academia and industry, enabling researchers to translate their innovations into real-world applications that generate revenue and funding for further research. [Register to attend.](#)

27th Annual George Mason University Transport and Dispersion Modeling Conference

June 20, 2023 | 9 a.m. to June 22, 2023 | 5 p.m.

The goal of the event is to act as a forum for an exchange of ideas on ongoing research.

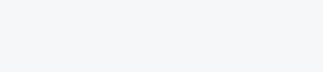
Mason Science Series

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.](#)

[See Full Calendar](#)

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