



Institute for a
Sustainable Earth

Weekly Newsletter
April 2, 2024

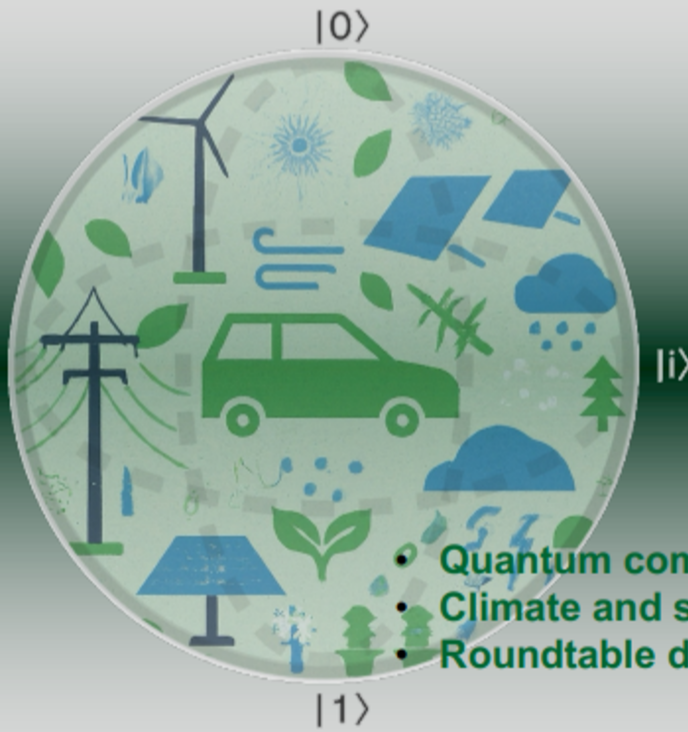
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Announcements



Quantum for Climate & Sustainability mini-workshop

Bring your research challenges!



1:00 – 2:30 pm

April 8, 2024

Johnson Center 327

- Quantum computing: cans and cannots
- Climate and sustainability case study
- Roundtable discussion: applications

**Quantum Science and Engineering Center
Center for Resilient and Sustainable Communities
Institute for a Sustainable Earth
Institute for Digital InnovAtion**

New Minor in Sustainable Systems Engineering

Judit Ungvári of the Institute for a Sustainable Earth is collaborating with Shima Mohebbi, assistant professor in Systems Engineering and Operations Research (SEOR) in the College of Engineering and Computing, and with Jennifer Sklarew of the Department of Environmental Science and Policy in the College of Science, to incorporate sustainability, social justice, and community engagement into the undergraduate curriculum in systems and industrial engineering.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

Graduate Advising and Mentoring

Welcome to the 2024 Mason Graduate Advising and Mentoring Questionnaire! Administered as a partnership by the Graduate Division and in alignment with the 2024 Graduate Student Experience Survey, this questionnaire provides faculty and staff with a unique formal opportunity to share their experiences and suggestions on graduate advising and mentoring. Your personal experiences will allow campus leaders to collect a comprehensive inventory on current practices and identify campus-wide concerns to elevate support and recognition of all faculty and staff contributing to the success of graduate students.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

News

- [Mason Science Series: The Intersection of Science and Justice](#)
- [Mason scientists sound “wake-up call” on Virginia’s wildfire](#)
- [Mason researcher works on tiny structures with a big impact](#)
- [Students present research on therapeutic alliances, neurodivergent voices, and immigrant parental support groups](#)

Events

The **Annual STAR-TIDES Capabilities Demonstration** showcases products and activities of the STAR-TIDES (Sharing To Accelerate Research – Transformative Innovation for Development and Emergency Support) global knowledge-sharing network. The network includes several thousand members engaged in building sustainable resilience, promoting human security, and creating life-changing social and economic activities. STAR-TIDES is coordinated through George Mason University’s Center for Resilient and Sustainable Communities (C-RASC).

April 15-16, 2024 | Mason Square Van Metre Hall | Click [here](#) to register

17th Annual Capabilities Demo: Adapting to Climate Change

April 15-16, 2024

Mason Square Van Metre Hall
Arlington, VA



This event brings together world-class discussions of Adaptation to Climate Change along with exhibitors from a global knowledge-sharing network with a focus on building sustainable resilience, promoting human security, and improving emergency response.

Benefits of Attendance

- Engaging speakers and panels on topics related to adapting to climate change.
- Engagement with companies that hire students interested in resilience and sustainability, and
- Opportunity to participate in a raffle for gift cards.



REGISTRATION

Resiliency – Adaptation – Sustainability

 @STAR_TIDES
@GMU_CRASC

SPIN Grant Database Webinar

To learn how to use the SPIN database search tools most effectively, please join us for a virtual SPIN Grant Database Webinar: Tuesday April 16, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. This webinar will be presented by William DeCocco from InfoEd Global, the company that hosts SPIN.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

MASON I-CORPS: TAKING RESEARCH TO MARKET APRIL 18, 2024, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM VIRTUAL

ABOUT INFO SESSION

Join us to learn about Mason's NSF I-Corps Program! This program teaches an evidence-based approach to research solution evaluation.

- Is the solution desirable?
- Who is the ideal audience?
- Where do you even start?

The I-Corps program is here to help answer these questions.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS



Todd Morrill, the Mason I-Corps Lead Instructor, is a Faculty Director at the Bay Area I-Corps Node at the University of California, Berkeley. With extensive experience as a National Instructor for the NSF I-Corps, he has taught and coached over 500 teams. In his presentation, he will provide an overview of the I-Corps program.



Fatah Kashanchi (PhD), is an esteemed professor in Virology and Director of the Laboratory of Molecular Virology at the George Mason University. He will share how participating in the I-Corps Regional Program enhanced his partnerships and improved his research solutions.



Radhika Barua (PhD) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering at the Virginia Commonwealth University. In her presentation, she will highlight how participating in the I-Corps Regional program helped her to secure funding and establish partnership with a corporate partner.

WHAT WE WILL COVER?

- What is NSF I-Corps program
- Benefits of the I-Corps program to you as a Faculty, Researcher, Student or Staff
- Funding opportunities that will open up after participating in the I-Corps program
- Success stories of how participating in I-Corps has resulted in significant impact in research commercialization

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Faculty, Researchers, Postdocs, Students and Staff from any institutions of higher learning in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

REGISTRATION

Register for the Info session by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code below:

<https://gmu.zoom.us/join/9tj6p4d-5h9tDgJE90KhGOj9qTpFliwi2SHkntN>



[Register Now](#)

For any additional information contact:

- Sampson Addo, Mason I-Corps Hub Program Manager at saddo2@gmu.edu
- Gisele Stolz, Mason's I-Corps Director, Senior Director, Entrepreneurship Programs, Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Impact at gstolz2@gmu.edu

Funding Opportunities

Heather's Highlights: Each week we will highlight current funding opportunities, alternating between the six ISE Research Themes

Research Theme 1: Human Health, Well-Being, and Capabilities

The National Science Foundation (NSF) along with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are soliciting proposals for the Smart Health and Biomedical Research in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

and Advanced Data Science interagency program.

The purpose of this interagency program solicitation is to support the development of transformative high-risk, high-reward advances in computer and information science, engineering, mathematics, statistics, behavioral and/or cognitive research to address pressing questions in the biomedical and public health communities. Transformations hinge on scientific and engineering innovations by interdisciplinary teams that develop novel methods to intuitively and intelligently collect sense, connect, analyze and interpret data from individuals, devices and systems to enable discover and optimize health.

Application Due Dates: October 3, 2024

Funding Amount: \$300,000 per year for up to four years

Research Theme 2: Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Ecosystems

The Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service office has announced their [FY24 Coastal Program](#).

The Coastal Program takes an adaptive approach to designing and implementing coastal ecosystem habitat protection and restoration strategies that anticipate and ameliorate the impacts of climate change and other environmental stressors. Coastal Program habitat improvement projects strive to increase coastal resiliency by improving the ability of coastal ecosystems to adapt to environmental changes and supporting natural and nature-based infrastructure projects to protect and enhance coastal habitats.

Application Due Date: May 30, 2024

Funding Amount: \$500,000

Research Theme 3: Harnessing the Digital Revolution for Sustainability and Education for All

The National Science Foundation has a call out for [Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Directorate for STEM Education](#).

IUSE: EDU supports projects that seek to bring recent advances in STEM knowledge into undergraduate education, that adapt, improve, and incorporate evidence-based practices into STEM teaching and learning, and that lay the groundwork for institutional improvement in STEM education. In addition to innovative work at the frontier of STEM education, this program also encourages replication of research studies at different types of institutions and with different student bodies to produce deeper knowledge about the effectiveness and transferability of findings.

Application Due Date: July 17, 2024

Funding Amount: Not Specified

Student Opportunities



Sign up for the
Student Poster Contest
at the
STAR-TIDES CAPABILITIES DEMO
April 15, 2024

Are you a student conducting research or working on a project in an area related to climate science, climate policy, climate engineering, community resilience, disaster response and recovery, emergency management, and/or fostering human health and security? You are encouraged to submit a poster to our poster contest! The top two posters will win cash prizes!

Posters will be displayed at the STAR-TIDES Capability Demo on April 15 at George Mason University's Mason Square Campus in Arlington, VA. Contestants will give a short presentation to judges at the event. Winners will be announced at the Reception the evening of April 15, 2024.

Contestants must be enrolled as students at George Mason University in the Spring 2024 semester.

Sign up here:

<https://tinyurl.com/59xrervt>



The signup deadline is Friday, April 5, 2024 at 11:59PM Eastern Time.



[Click Here to Learn More](#)

RaMP-UP Fellows Program

Get a stipend of \$32,000 for a full year of participation. RT ticket to Panamá and lodging while at Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute facilities. Come away with a robust research experience, scientific products, an international professional network, a peer network, and strong mentors to advocate for their careers. Check back soon for 2024/2025 application openings.

RaMP-UP Fellows spend a year engaged in BioDiversity studies with Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) Scientists. Embedded in the tropical landscapes of Panamá, practicing cutting-edge and rigorous methodologies to make a lasting impact on Tropical BioDiversity.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

The Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) aims to connect members of the Mason community with others across the Mason community—and with other communities, policy-makers, businesses and organizations—so that, together, we can more effectively address the world’s pressing sustainability and resilience challenges.

The ISE Newsletter provides up-to-date information on conferences, funding opportunities, and research pertaining to environmental science and sustainability. The biweekly newsletter aims to facilitate information sharing among researchers, practitioners, and relevant local, national, and international organization.



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