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### *A message from the Dean* **FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM**

## Science research facility tours begin

*by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm*

I have recently had the chance to meet with faculty and students at many of our research facilities on the Fairfax, Science and Technology, and Potomac Science Center campuses and am impressed and amazed by our capabilities, discoveries and impact potential. I have a goal to connect with our 15 distinct research centers, the 40 research and instructional faculty brought onboard in 2020, and the college's 164 research and instructional labs for meaningful discussions within the year.

My sincere appreciation to all of our researchers who, despite the pandemic conditions, continued to maintain a high level of productivity and find creative ways to safely continue our important work. And thank you all for your patience as we successfully completed a number of lab renovations to handle the influx of equipment and students. It's clear, we take our scientific research very seriously.

[Learn More](#)

# MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY



## Do Your Part for a safe return to campus

Mason has launched its "Do Your Part" campaign to reinforce the messages that safety is a shared responsibility and that our safe return to campus depends on everyone modifying their behavior in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Take the necessary steps towards keeping our campus safe, including the daily [Mason COVID Health Check™](#).

[Learn More](#)

## College's Padhu Seshaiyer represents Mason and the U.S. on International Science Council

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, [Padmanabhan Seshaiyer](#), will represent the United States as one of the International Science Council (ISC) experts appointed to the COVID-Education Alliance (COVIDEA). The team of seven experts from all across the globe will join an international alliance looking at the world-wide educational challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



[Learn More](#)



## Celebrating Five Years Since NASA's New Horizons Reached Pluto

*by Michael Summers*

July marked the fifth anniversary of NASA's New Horizons flyby of Pluto, the most distant object ever visited by spacecraft. Check this three-part series, written by [Physics and Astronomy](#) Professor, [Michael Summers](#), who describes how New Horizons impacted scientific knowledge, its discoveries, and where New Horizons will go next.

# RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

## Fiscal Year 2022 Federal Administration R&D priorities

by Kerry Bolognese

On August 14, White House Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought and Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Kelvin Droegemeier released the administration's FY2022 research and development (R&D) Budget Priorities. The document outlines the administration's continued emphasis on biomedical and biotechnology R&D, diagnostic, therapeutic, and vaccine research. For the third straight year, Industries of the Future -- artificial intelligence (AI), quantum information science (QIS), and advanced communications networks -- are listed as top priorities.



[Review the priorities](#)



## Science students among OSCAR's summer research program award winners

by Preston Williams and Tracy

Mason

Last weekend, more than 30 Mason research projects were on virtual display at the [Virtual Celebration of Student Scholarship and Impact](#), hosted by George Mason University's [Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities and Research](#) (OSCAR). Of the many projects entered, "The Food, Water, Energy Nexus in Rapidan, Virginia," project from Jordan Boyle, Seth Mahowald and Meghan Widmaier, a team mentored by [Jennifer Sklarew](#), was singled out for recognition based on a four-day audience survey.

[Get the program recap](#)

# IN THE NEWS

## Mass Die-Offs of Marine Mammals Are on the Rise

by Bradley van Paridon (image from Arterra/Universal Images Group via Getty Images)



Smithsonian Magazine recently quoted [Alonso Aguirre](#), chair of the [Department of Environmental Science and Policy](#), on the increased fatalities in a number of marine mammals from viral and bacterial outbreaks. Aguirre explained that canine morbillivirus was seen in seals as early as 1988.

[Read the full article](#)



## Local TV station website features CAPMM saliva test that could be a COVID-19 tracking game-changer

By: Nick Boykin  
Featured on WUSA9.com

A team of Mason scientists, including lead researcher [Lance Liotta](#), co-director of the [Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine](#), continue to develop a saliva test that will help detect COVID-19 antibodies.

[Read the full story](#)

## Events

### **Gradstravaganza**

Friday, August 21, 2020 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m

### **2020 Welcome2Mason Virtual Part-Time Job Fair**

Wednesday, August 26, 2020 | noon to 3 p.m.

### **Save the Date: Fourth Annual ScienceConnect**

September 2, 2020 | 2 to 6 p.m. with District Trivia from 5-6 p.m.

Don't miss this virtual event for students, faculty and staff with games, prizes and more.

[RSVP NOW LIVE](#)

[See Full Calendar](#)

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