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Wednesday, September 29 2021

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*A message from the Dean*

**FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM**

## Powerful Partnerships: FARO

*by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm*

Ever since our early childhood days, we've been taught to share our toys and play well together. For many of us on a sports team, or in a musical band or orchestra, as Aristotle described, we learned the whole can be much greater than just the sum of its parts.

Fast forward your life to your time at Mason where innovative collaboration is strongly encouraged and seeking various perspectives is more than just a cultural value. Strong collaboration can be a critical component to your and our college's success.

Some of Mason's College of Science valued collaborators include NASA; NOAA; NSF; NIH; EPA; The United Nations; the U.S. Army; U.S. Departments of State, Transportation, Homeland Security, and Justice; Facebook; the Smithsonian; Side-out Foundation; Fairfax and Prince William counties; MITRE; Black Sky; Northern Virginia Community Colleges; Nobel Life Sciences; and Ceres Nanoscience.

Based on our forensic program events last week, we can add one more innovative, impactful

partnership to our list—FARO.

I joined our forensic science colleagues at the ribbon cutting of our FARO Forensics Lab, the first partnership of its kind in the world, and the public unveiling of Mason's outdoor Forensic Research and Training facility, one of only eight in the country. The connection of their forensic technology and our scientific training and research expertise at our cutting-edge facilities will influence the next generation of criminal investigators for decades and positions our program as a premiere entity. Now that is powerful collaboration.

But that's not all who make this partnership great.

[Read full message](#)

## MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

### Mason, FARO announce partnership to advance forensic science research

by *John Hollis*

Mason's [Forensic Science Program](#) has further established its place as one of the nation's premier programs in its field with a partnership with [FARO Technologies, Inc.](#) that will result in the world's first FARO-certified forensic science laboratory. The partnership gained media attention from [NBC4](#), [Fior Reports](#), and the [Herndon](#) and [Alexandria](#) Patch.



[More on the partnership](#)

**Eduardo Lopez Atencio**  
Director of Graduate Studies,  
Assistant Professor,  
Computational and Data Sciences

### Mason Science #FacultyFriday highlights CDS Director of Graduate Studies and Assistant Professor

[Eduardo Lopez Atencio](#), Director of Graduate Studies and Assistant Professor, [CDS](#), is this week's Faculty Friday feature and Hispanic Heritage Month highlight. His research focuses on flow processes in networks, along with quantitative laws in social, economic, and technological systems. When he's not teaching CDS 292 or an advanced graduate course on network

models and their algorithms, he advises students in computational sciences and informatics graduate programs.

[Read Lopez's profile](#)

## RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

### Mason PhD's effort to save endangered black rhinos

by Elizabeth Grisham

Camille Goblet, PhD candidate, [Environmental Science and Policy](#), is conducting genomic analysis of managed Eastern Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) populations in institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). This project will aid in management and conservation of the critically endangered black rhinoceros by performing genetic analyses of individuals within the North American population.



[Learn more about the project](#)



### Researchers developing stable cell line for new equine vaccines

by Elizabeth Grisham

[Ramin Hakami](#), Associate Professor, [School of Systems Biology](#), and researchers in his lab are purifying exosomes from the EIAV-gp90 cell line. They are doing so to demonstrate that exosomes have gp90 on the surface and can be used to develop a new type of vaccine for horses.

[More on the study](#)

## IN THE NEWS

### Plavchan speaks to bridging technology gaps between professors and their students

by Monica Chin

*The Verge* recently published an article highlighting generational differences in the way professors and students handle files and navigate data, sometimes causing challenges in the classroom. [Peter Plavchan](#), Associate Professor, [Physics and Astronomy](#), said he now dedicates classtime to leading students through the process of creating an organized database structure to ease data sharing and analysis.



[Read the article](#)

## Happening at Mason

### Register to attend the Interdisciplinary Computing Research Symposium

Faculty from across the university will come together this October for the Interdisciplinary Computing Research Symposium on **October 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 pm**. The symposium aims to facilitate connections and dialogue between faculty, who will be able to share their research with the Mason community.



[Register now](#)

## Events

### **Deadline to Order Regalia for President Washington's Investiture**

September 30, 2021

*The deadline for faculty to order regalia, at no charge, for the Investiture of Gregory Washington as George Mason University's eighth President is **tomorrow, Thursday, Sept. 30**. To rent regalia, email [sm366@bncollege.com](mailto:sm366@bncollege.com) or visit the bookstore on the Fairfax Campus.*

### **Hispanic Heritage and Disability Awareness Month: Case Studies Roundtable**

October 7, 2021 | 3 to 4 p.m.

*SPECTRUM will present a number of case studies with time for discussion on resolution with specific emphasis on Hispanic Heritage Month and Disability Awareness Month. [Register](#) to attend. Have a question you'd like answered at the event? [Submit your questions in advance](#).*

### Climate Dynamics Seminar: Current Climate Conversation

October 8, 2021 | 2 to 3 p.m.

Join the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences for a quasi-monthly discussion of recent climate and weather events. Come with an interesting news item, share your thoughts, or just come to listen.

### Coded Bias Screening and Discussion

Wednesday October 13, 2021, 7 to 9 p.m., JC Cinema

Join Mason faculty and students to watch and discuss the documentary *Coded Bias*, which investigates bias in Artificial Intelligence algorithms and facial recognition software. [Registration](#) required.

[See Full Calendar](#)

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