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Thursday, December 17, 2020

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### Newsletter Schedule for Final Weeks of Fall 2020

This is the last College of Science newsletter in 2020. In 2021, we will publish this newsletter on Wednesdays with a content deadline of the Monday prior. Our first issue of 2021 will be Wednesday, January 20, 2021.



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

## Catch your breath

*by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm*

In my younger days, I used to run long distance: two Boston Marathons, one New York Marathon, and one Los Angeles Marathon, to name a few. I know well that a runner needs to take in a big breath before they start their next lap of the race. And so do we.

Let's face it—2020 has been a loooooong year. Many of you haven't seen a vacation day since before spring break and have been juggling work/family/health in unprecedented ways for a while now. We are thankful for your efforts, believe me. Our students are still learning and inspired. Our researchers press on and make new discoveries. And we continue to ignite the spark of scientific discovery throughout our communities. Despite the enormous challenges, it's been a very productive year.

Now it's time to take a break. Really. You deserve it.

[Read full message](#)

## MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

### Physics and Astronomy researcher helps lead the search for new exoplanets

by John Hollis

[Department of Physics and Astronomy](#) assistant professor [Peter Plavchan](#) is part of team of scientists running a global network of telescopes dedicated to the confirmation and validation of exoplanets in our galaxy.



[Full story](#)



### Mason scales up testing efforts and needs lab support

As Mason ramps up its COVID-19 testing, there is a need to recruit energetic and qualified individuals to administer COVID-19 testing and/or conduct proteomic research. Please share this opportunity within your network with those who may be interested.

[Position information](#)

## RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Chemistry student among top  
Virtual Celebration of Student



## Scholarship presentations

Congratulations to chemistry major, Christopher Veatch, for receiving a top presentation honor at OSCAR's [Virtual Celebration of Student Scholarship](#). Be sure to check out Christopher's presentation as well as the [other 23](#) College of Science students who participated.

Full presentation

## IN THE NEWS

### *The Times of India* features Mason Science PhD alumnus

*The Times of India* recently featured [Department of Environmental Science and Policy](#) and [Atmospheric Oceanic and Earth Science](#) dual PhD alumnus [Advait Jukar](#) who studies the impacts of human hunting and climate change on the megafaunal extinction in India.



Full story

## Happening at Mason



### Wishes of Peace, Love, and Joy to Mason Nation

Watch this year's [holiday greeting](#) from George Mason University and President Gregory Washington.

## Events

### **ICAP Informational Webinar on Federal Grant Funding**

December 17, 2020 | 6 p.m.

*The Innovation Commercialization Assistance Program (ICAP) will be hosting an informational webinar on federal grant funding, specifically SBIR and STTRs. If you are interested in attending this webinar, please email ICAP Director, [Josh Green](#).*

### **Virtual Winter Solstice Celebration**

December 18, 2020 | 7:30 to 11 p.m.

*Celebrate one of the longest nights of the year with a virtual edition of the Smithsonian Winter Solstice Celebration, including a live tour of the winter night sky with staff from Mason's Observatory.*

### **NSF's Smart and Connected Communities Program Roundtable**

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 | 1:30 to 3 p.m.

*To support team formation and proposal development for NSF's [Smart and Connected Communities Program](#), ISE will host a roundtable discussion. RSVP prior to attending by emailing [mise@gmu.edu](mailto:mise@gmu.edu).*

[See Full Calendar](#)

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