On May 22, a group of over 30 former students, colleagues, and family gathered with Dr. Don Kelso at the Potomac Science Center to celebrate and thank him for his positive impact on their lives. Dr. Kelso is renowned for his contributions to the field of environmental science, having served as the founder and director of the College of Science at George Mason University. His leadership and vision have been instrumental in shaping the institution into a leading center for scientific research and education.

The event was held as part of the Resilient Virginia Conference (virtual) from August 25-27, 4:00 pm EDT, followed by the Career Fair from 4:30 – 6:30 pm EDT. The events will be live streamed to provide access to a broader audience.

The event included a panel discussion with former students and colleagues, as well as a keynote address by Dr. Kelso himself. Attendees were inspired by his stories and encouraged to continue the legacy of excellence and innovation in environmental science.

In addition to the panel discussion, there were several highlighting the achievements of current and former students. These included the announcement of the Marty Talbot Foreign Student Endowed Scholarship, which will support international students pursuing their education in environmental science.

The noted environmental researcher and adventurer also endowed a scholarship to support students interested in environmental research and advising efforts in 134 countries. His contributions have been recognized as the author/co-author of the U.S. Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, CITES and the World Heritage Convention. A senior environmental advisor to World Bank and United Nations organizations, he supported policies and institutions, and environment and development, Talbot is widely recognized for his dedication and commitment to maintaining our natural resources.

The Mason Environmental Alumni Network is an active community that encourages support and mentorship for current students and life-long alumni. The network is open to any interested alumni, and they are excited to introduce you to them here. For more information, please contact them at ecoalumn@gmu.edu.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and friendship, and for your encouragement, support and mentorship of our students, faculty, and staff. I fully support this vaccination mandate. My family and I have already received the COVID-19 vaccine. Making scientifically informed decisions, for their own safety and the safety of others.

As an overwhelming majority of faculty in taking this extraordinary step for the sake of public health, we are committed to maintaining your own health.

Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the law.