From real-world context to building STEM competencies

To familiarize faculty and staff with real-world context and to build STEM competencies, the Center for Computational Fluid Dynamics Director Rainald Löhner conducted a fall 2019 online webinar for the community of computational fluid dynamics (CFD) scientists and engineers. This webinar focused on the practical applications of CFD in various industries, such as aerospace, automotive, and energy. Attendees were encouraged to participate in discussions and share their insights on how CFD can be integrated into their curricula.

The webinar provided a platform for faculty and staff to engage with industry experts and gain a deeper understanding of the latest advancements in CFD. It also offered an opportunity to discuss potential research collaborations and partnerships.

The webinar was well-received, with a high turnout of participants. It featured interactive sessions, small group discussions, and networking opportunities, allowing participants to connect with like-minded professionals.

The Center for Computational Fluid Dynamics looks forward to hosting more webinars and workshops to further enhance the integration of real-world context into STEM education.

**Upcoming Event:**

**AUTOMATED TESTING**

Join us for a virtual seminar on automated testing, which will be held on [date and time]. This event is aimed at faculty and staff interested in exploring how to integrate automated testing into their teaching. Register now to secure your spot.

**Mason Science Community**

Welcome, Professorial and Tenure-Track faculty of the Mason College of Science.

For new faculty members, this orientation will provide an overview of the resources and support available at Mason. You will have the opportunity to meet with key administrators and learn about the various programs and initiatives that Mason offers.

**In the News**


Padhu Seshaiyer, an expert on the science and application of well-being, has been invited to meet online with 100 neuroscientists to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on brain and mental health.

The Today Show profiled Seshaiyer’s research, which investigates the long-term effects of COVID-19 on mental health and the potential for interventions to mitigate these effects.

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**Research & Discovery**

Singing in a silent spring: birds respond to a half-century soundscape reversion during the COVID-19 shutdown

By Tracy Mason

Researchers at George Mason University and Elizabeth Derryberry, Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee, collaborated with a team of fellow ecologists from California Polytechnic State University, and the University of Tennessee to evaluate if and how songbirds might respond in the newly emptied acoustic space that results from fewer people on the road due to COVID-19.

The researchers found that bird song has changed significantly since the COVID-19 shutdown. In the absence of human activity, the birds have been singing in a “silent spring,” with fewer songs and longer gaps between songs. This change in behavior suggests that birds are adapting to the new environment.

**Events**

- **The Today Show features Mason scientist Padhu Seshaiyer with special edition COVID-19 update.**
- **AUTOMATED TESTING**
- **Research & Discovery**
- **Events**
- **Mason Science Community**
- **In the News**