# Mason SCIENCE

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**Thursday, November 12, 2020** **science.gmu.edu**

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**Newsletter Schedule for Final Weeks of Fall 2020**
The College of Science newsletter will not be published the week of the Thanksgiving Holiday. The last issue of 2020 will be published Thursday, December 17, and the first newsletter of 2021 will be published Thursday, January 21.

*A message from the Dean*

**FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM**

## Focus on your horizon

*by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm*

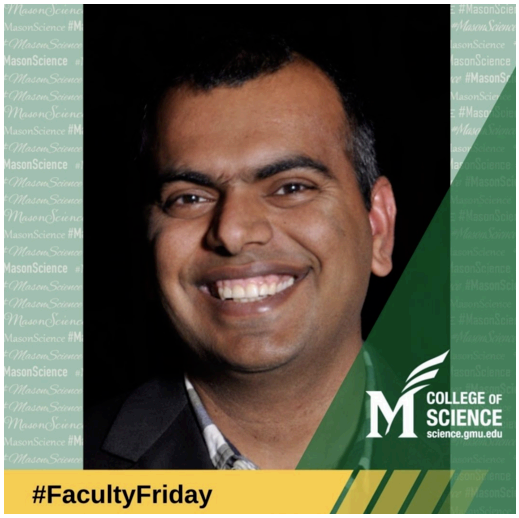
One of my greatest pleasures in life is hiking. I love being on the trail, with the ability to breathe and be completely absorbed in the wonders around me. I love being on track to get to that wonderous place. In doing so, my thoughts are always: pick a point on the horizon and keep your eyes on it. It does work, and I will often fanatically keep my eye on the horizon, avoiding any conversations or distractions that break the connection.

I've thought about this a lot over the past week while we are in a topsy-turvy, disorienting journey. As it becomes clear that the U.S. election will not be fully resolved any time soon and COVID-19 is spiking strongly again in many communities, I feel like I need to pick a point on the horizon to help me walk

Read full message

# MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

## #FacultyFriday highlights the accomplishments of Harbir Antil




2020 has been an exciting year for Mathematical Sciences associate professor, Harbir Antil. This summer he launched the popular global colloquium series for the Center for Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence (CMAI) which he directs, mentored students in the mathematics PhD Industrial Immersion Program, and received Mason's 2020 Career Connections Faculty Award.

Learn more

## Submit nominations for the 2020 Dean's Awards

Submit nominations for the College of Science Dean's Awards by **November 30 at noon**. Awardees will be recognized at the college's annual Celebration of Success on **Tuesday, December 8, 2020 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.** The annual event has expanded this year to include nine different recognition opportunities, a community service project, a family-based read along activity for our faculty's and staff's young children, and back by popular demand, the annual gift raffle and office decorating contest. Keep up with all event activities on the college's website.

Event information

## Get COVID-19 answers at November's Galileo Science Cafe

Is your mind filled with questions about COVID-19? Join Lance Liotta and Padhu Seshaiyer **Thursday, Novermber 19** to get accurate, up to date, scientific guidance to safely navigate our families through this

Sign up

# RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

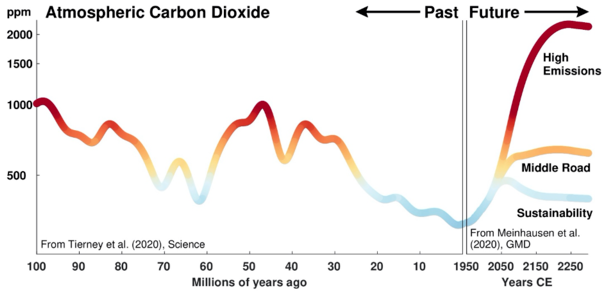
## Undergraduate researches anadromous fish migration

*by Katie Russell*

Read May 2020 graduate, Katie Russell's account of her experience conducting undergraduate research in Environmental Science and Policy assistant professor Kim de Mutsert's laboratory through Mason's OSCAR program. The research focuses on river herring, two species of anadromous fish present in the Potomac River. *Photo courtesy of Katie Russell and Jessica Twydell.*

Learn more

# IN THE NEWS




## Understanding past climate is key to predicting future climate

*by Natalie Burls and Tracy Mason*

In a review paper recently published in the journal Science, Mason AOES associate professor Natalie Burls joins a group of climate experts making the case for the relevance of the

assess the impacts of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, predict scenarios for future climate, and propose strategies for mitigation.

More on this research

# Happening at Mason

## Mason Chooses Kindness

The university-wide well-being initiative "Mason Chooses Kindness" kicks off this week, which encourages kind words and actions throughout the Mason community. World Kindness Day is **Friday, November 13**. Keep up to date on this iniative by following Mason Chooses Kindness on Facebook or Twitter.

Mason Kindness Campaign

## Encourage students to fill out IRB-approved survey on how COVID-19 has impacted their lives

Undergraduate students in professor Karen Akerlof's class "EVPP 336: Human Dimensions of the Environment" - the university's first designated Community Engagement and Civic Learning CECiL course - have received IRB approval for a student-centered survey on how COVID-19 has impacted their lives. Faculty are encouraged to share the survey link with their students and remind them that the deadline to complete the survey is **Monday, November 16**. Once data is collected, class members will analyze it and share with the Mason community. At the end of the term, ten randomly selected student participants will receive a $50 Visa gift card. For details, email Karen Akerlof.

Share the survey

# Events

**ESP Virtual Seminar Series: Sustainable Agriculture Research on Mason's Campus**
*featuring College of Science alumna Doni Nolan*
Friday, November 13, 2020 | 3 to 4 p.m.

Thursday, November 19, 2020 | 4 to 5 p.m.

**Health Disparities Multidisciplinary Research Roundtable**
Friday, November 20, 2020 | 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Hands-On Workshop: Deep Learning in MATLAB**
Friday, November 20, 2020 | 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

See Full Calendar

## Stay Connected

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