



Office of Research, Innovation,  
and Economic Impact  
**INSTITUTE FOR A  
SUSTAINABLE EARTH**  
George Mason University®

[Announcements](#) | [In the News](#) | [Events](#) | [Funding Opportunities](#) | [Student Opportunities](#)

## ISE Newsletter

### Now Taking Graphic Design Support Requests

Research Development Services continues to offer Graphic Design support to our Research Community! We have advanced student graphic designers and science illustrators on our team available to help faculty create strategic, eye-catching print and digital materials on a per project basis. Graphic designers and science illustrators will be able to assist with the development of publication graphics, booklets, brochures, proposal graphics, and other research-related informational materials.

To submit a request, please complete the [online form](#) to initiate the process and help us understand your needs. While filling out the form, please keep in mind the following:

- Graphic Design is an artistic process. Please factor in 1-week for simple graphics to your deadline; more complex graphics could take between 2-3 weeks.
- Some projects are more straightforward than others. Once you've completed this request form, it is likely that additional information will be needed. We will follow up with you by email within 48-hours to outline the production schedule, request any outstanding information, and if needed, set up a meeting with you to discuss further.
- Our graphic design team is small and made up of student workers. Given limited resources, we may not have the capacity to take on every request, but we will do our best to meet our Research Community's needs!

**Complete the [graphic design support request form](#) to get started.**

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### Applications Open for Mason's I-Corps Program's October 2025 Cohort

The George Mason University's NSF I-Corps Regional Program supports faculty, researchers, students, and innovators from the Commonwealth of Virginia to explore the commercial viability of their deas/innovations, accelerate business creation, and drive real-world impact. The program offers a six-session course introducing participants to the lean startup method pioneered by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

**Learn more about the program: <https://icorps.gmu.edu/>.**



The graphic features a dark green background with white and yellow accents. At the top left is the George Mason University logo with the tagline "ALL TOGETHER DIFFERENT". To its right are the NSF and I-Corps logos. Further right is a circular logo for the Mid-South I-Corps Hub. Below the logos is a photograph of a person in a lab coat using a microscope. To the right of the photo is a text box describing the program's goals. Below that is a list of benefits. To the right of the list is a QR code and a call to action. At the bottom right is a list of event dates and times. At the bottom center is contact information.

**ALL TOGETHER DIFFERENT**  
**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

NSF I-CORPS  
Mid-SOUTH I-CORPS HUB

Mason's NSF I-Corps Program helps faculty, graduate students, post-docs, and innovators test the commercial potential of their ideas, accelerate business creation, and drive real-world impact.

**Benefits of the Program**

- Investigate the ways you can take your research from lab to market.
- Access to follow-on funding (NSF, VIPC, SBIR/STTR, PFI & other Federal Agencies).
- Translate your research into societal impact.
- Build strong networks in and beyond your field.

**Apply for the October Cohort Now**



Intro Call: October 7, 2025: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Session 1: October 14, 2025 - 9 AM - 12:00 PM  
Session 2: October 21, 2025 - 9 AM - 12:00 PM  
Session 3: October 28, 2025 - 9 AM - 12:00 PM  
Session 4: November 4, 2025 - 9 AM - 12:00 PM  
Session 5: November 10, 2025 - 9 AM - 12:00 PM

For general information about the I-Corps programs, see <https://icorps.gmu.edu/>  
For questions, email Sampson Addo, Program Manager, at [saddo2@gmu.edu](mailto:saddo2@gmu.edu)

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## Events

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### **Launching the SDG16 HUB: Advancing Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**

Join us for the official launch of the [SDG16 Hub](#), a global initiative led by the Carter School in partnership with Narxoz University, the University of Oxford, and the University for Peace. As the new Hub Chair under the United Nations Academic Impact framework, the Carter School will unveil its vision for accelerating progress on SDG16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

This inaugural session will highlight the Hub's mission to bridge academia, policy, and practice through innovative programming—including global knowledge sharing, student-led initiatives, and cross-regional collaboration. Participants will also gain insight into upcoming flagship activities.

ISE's own Executive Director, Dr. Leah Nichols, and Associate Director, Dr. Julianna Gwiszcz, are honored to be contributing remarks at this launch event.

**Thursday, September 25, 2025 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Virtual: [Zoom](#)**

*This event is part of the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution's Fall 2025 Peace Week. See the [full schedule of Peace Week events here](#).*

[Click Here to Register](#)

16 PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



  
JIMMY AND ROSALYNN  
CARTER SCHOOL FOR PEACE  
AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION  
George Mason University

# Fall 2025 Peace Week

Bridging Peacebuilding, Development, and Security

September 22-26, 2025

**Don't miss *The Beck Environmental Lecture* on October 8th Featuring  
New York Times Best Selling Journalist and Author Jeff Goodell**

The featured speaker for the *Fall for the Book Festival's* signature event, **The Beck Environmental Lecture**, is none other than New York Times bestselling journalist and author **Jeff Goodell**, author of ***The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet***.

In this book, Goodell examines how extreme heat from global warming will drastically change life on Earth as we know it, urging us to prepare accordingly. Author and climate scientist Michael Mann says, "Jeff Goodell brings a mix of fantastic storytelling, lucid science communication, and eternal optimism in detailing the profound threat we face with the climate crisis and what we can still do about it." Goodell is also the author of *The Water Will Come*, *Big Coal*, *How to Cool the Planet* and more.

The Beck Lecture is generously sponsored by Robert & Lucy Beck.

**Time:** October 8, 6:00pm

**Location:** Grand Tier III, Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax, VA.

***Tickets are recommended for this event. Reserve your free Eventbrite Ticket [here](#).***

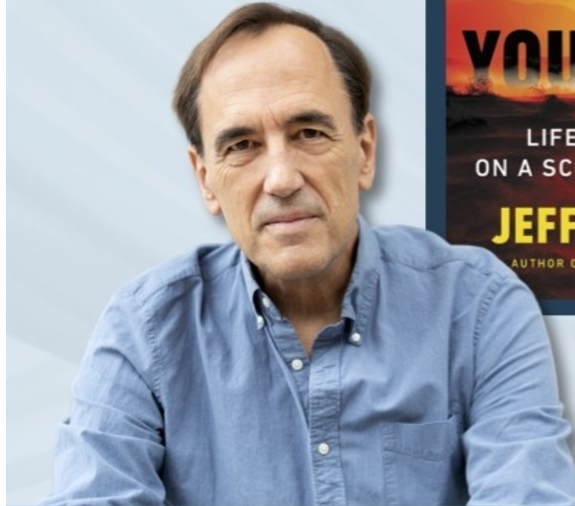
*This event is part of the annual Fall for the Book Festival taking place October 7-11, 2025. To view the full schedule, visit: <https://fallforthebook.org/schedule/>.*

Fall for the Book and Robert & Lucy Beck Present  
**THE BECK ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURE**

**OCTOBER 8**

**6 PM**

**GRAND TIER III  
 CENTER FOR THE ARTS**



**JEFF GOODELL**

**Department of Environmental Science and Policy Seminar Series**

- September 24, 2025: Rhema Bjorkland, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Environmental Science and Policy, COS
- October 8, 2025: Alexandra Buck, Manager, Environmental Epidemiology Program, Fairfax County Health Department
- October 29, 2025: Hung-Ling (Stella) Liu, Associate Professor, School of Sport, Recreation, and Tourism Management, CEHD

[Click Here to Register](#)

**First ESP Seminar Series of Fall 2025!**  
**Protecting transboundary living resources. A conservation ecologist takes a governance perspective.**

Successful biodiversity-focused conservation research efforts require an interdisciplinary approach. However, in many cases research targets, methods, and tools remain siloed between the social and natural science fields, leading to missed opportunities to fully realize innovative, sustainable, and just conservation outcomes and practices. Sharing the experience and insight of two decades of work in marine conservation in the western Atlantic and the north Pacific, my talk will apply governance concepts to a retrospective view on conservation of migratory marine megafauna and demonstrate how cross-disciplinary research collaboration can uncover novel insights and increase the relevance of the research to policy makers and other stakeholders.

**Dr. Rhema Bjorkland**  
 Adjunct Faculty  
 Department of Environmental Science and Policy

Wednesday, September 24, 2025  
 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
 JC room 334 Meeting Room E

Register for the Zoom link

**Third ESP Seminar Series of Fall 2025**  
**From Evidence to Action: Integrating People, Parks, and Planning for Sustainable Outcome**

This presentation explores how research can guide sustainable management practices in parks and outdoor recreation. Drawing from a series of projects—including feasibility studies, national-level data analysis, comparative assessments, and survey findings—the talk highlights the multiple ways evidence can inform planning and decision making. Emphasis is placed on the connections among people, parks, and planning, with attention to how these links shape community well-being, resource stewardship, and long-term sustainability. By integrating diverse methods and perspectives, the presentation provides a roadmap for translating research into practice, fostering more resilient and inclusive approaches to park management.

**Dr. Stella Liu**  
 Associate Professor, School of Sport, Recreation and Tourism Management

Wednesday, October 29, 2025  
 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
 JC room 334 Meeting Room E

Register for the Zoom link

**Second Seminar Series of Fall 2025!**  
**Extreme Heat & Health: Monitoring Heat-Related Illness in the Fairfax Health District for Prevention and Action**

Many places, including the Fairfax Health District, are experiencing hotter weather and more extreme heat events than in previous years. When the body can't cool itself properly, heat-related illness (HRI) can occur. The Fairfax County Health Department (FHCD) emergency department and urgent care visits for HRI to measure the impact of high temperatures on health, over the last four years (2021-2024), the average number of HRI visits was 209 visits and 820X marked the highest number of visits (248) in one year since HRI began being tracked in 2015. To address these health burdens, FHCD participated in the National Fairfax plan, which aims to help Fairfax County adapt and become more resilient to changing climate-related conditions.

**Alexandra Buck, MPH**  
 Manager  
 Environmental Epidemiology Program  
 Fairfax County Health Department

Wednesday, October 8, 2025  
 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
 JC room 334 Meeting Room E

Register for the Zoom link

## 2026 NobleReach Scholars Program: Virtual Information Session

Applications Open & Virtual Info Session: October 1 at 12:00 PM ET

Application Deadline: December 10

We're excited to announce that applications for the 2026 NobleReach Scholars Program cohort open on October 1. This is your opportunity to join a transformative community of mission-driven recent graduates who are ready to use their skills to make an impact for public good.

[Click Here to Register](#)

## Student Opportunities



**Research Opportunity for STEM Students**

stipend + funded travel

**Are you a STEM student in the DC area?**

**spend summer 2026 investigating the green energy transition in northern Sweden!**

- work with an interdisciplinary team
- gain international research experience
- develop your research and writing skills

**Apply by October 5!**



The poster features a blue background with a white grid pattern. At the top right, there is a graphic of a globe with a dashed arrow pointing upwards and to the right, labeled 'stipend + funded travel'. Below the main title, there is a brown button with white text. The background of the poster shows a cityscape with a large white wind turbine in the foreground. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with the main title at the top, followed by a question, a description of the opportunity, benefits, and a call to action with a QR code.

# BUILD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



## MINOR IN CLIMATE RESILIENCE & ADAPTATION

### Why Choose the CRA Minor?

This transdisciplinary program bridges climate science, policy development and adaptation strategies, equipping you with practical skills to translate cutting-edge research into real-world community resilience solutions.

### Designed for All Academic Paths

Open to any major with just ten additional credits beyond your primary degree—two core courses plus a hands-on practical experience.

### Make a Meaningful Impact

Develop expertise to contribute to local and global climate resilience efforts and position yourself in a growing field.

Scan here to learn more!



<https://bit.ly/4jG9XyJ>

Interested in learning more about public workshops and courses supported by the Institute for a Sustainable Earth and the Virginia Climate Center? [Click here](#) to receive registration information and updates about our offerings related to climate resilience.

[Click Here to for More Information](#)

### **Intern - Transmission Owner Policy Analyst, Dominion Energy.**

This internship role supports the efforts of the Transmission Owner Strategy group with its representation of Electric Transmission's (ET) business interests in the stakeholder and regulatory processes of Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). It provides an opportunity to learn about the PJM Interconnection and its wholesale electricity markets and will help Electric Transmission analyze and understand the RTO and FERC policy landscape pertaining to transmission expansion, operations, planning, and project execution.

[Click Here to for More Information](#)

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## In the News

- [Powering Progress](#)
- [George Mason public health researchers enter new phase of NIH funded research](#)
- [Fall 2025 Peace Week focuses on bridging peacebuilding, development, and security](#)
- [NSF grant supports nanofabrication workforce training](#)

**The Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE)** aims to connect members of the Mason community with others across the Mason community—and with other communities, policy-makers, businesses and organizations—so that, together, we can more effectively address the world’s pressing sustainability and resilience challenges.

**The ISE Newsletter** provides up-to-date information on conferences, funding opportunities, and research pertaining to environmental science and sustainability. The biweekly newsletter aims to facilitate information sharing among researchers, practitioners, and relevant local, national, and international organization.



[ise.gmu.edu](http://ise.gmu.edu)

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