

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT SEMINAR
Fall 2014**

**Michael Henley, George Mason University, New Century College, Smithsonian National
Zoo**

***“Diary of a Coral Midwife: Developing Ex Situ Conservation Techniques for
Corals”***

Zoos and aquariums serve as live genetic repositories for threatened and endangered species around the world, and the organisms maintained in these populations are educational ambassadors to their wild counterparts. With the well-documented decline in Caribbean coral populations and the subsequent addition of Elkhorn coral (*Acropora palmata*) and Staghorn coral (*Acropora cervicornis*) to the Endangered Species List, it is imperative that zoos and aquariums help these struggling coral communities in much the same way that they aid declining mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, plant, etc. populations. The goal of this project is to continue to increase the diversity of Elkhorn and Staghorn corals in captivity, while also exploring and developing techniques to understand their development and early-life stages.

TUESDAY September 16, 2014

3:00-4:15 PM

Johnson Center Room 334 Meeting Room E

Sponsored by the Biology Department