

POWER THE POSSIBLE

The Campaign for George Mason University

WEBBELIEWE



Talent needs opportunity, not permission.

The future is something we create, not something that happens to us.

When all voices are invited to shape what's next, the future is closer than you think, and what's possible is transformed into what is.

That is George Mason University now. Our power is proven. And—with you our possibilities are endless.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

George Mason University is a university transformed. From a college housed in an elementary school with 17 students, you now see a university of 10 schools and colleges that serves 40,000 students. You see one of the youngest Research 1 institutions in the country. You see a highly regarded university that is redefining what higher education can be in the 21st century.

Throughout this transformation, George Mason remains an institution of, for, and about the community it serves. There will always be bridges, not barriers, between our campuses and our communities. We will always look like our increasingly diverse, inclusive society. We will always measure our success not in how we are ranked by others, but in how we stay true to the vision, support, and belief of those who have made the George Mason experiment possible, successful, and enduring.

That was George Mason then, and—thanks to your support—it is Mason Now.

All together,

President Gregory Washington

WE SUCCEED BY

Providing access to education that eliminates achievement gaps among students from different backgrounds.

Fostering innovation to keep pace with a rapidly changing world.

Partnering with business and industry to meet emerging workforce needs.

Respecting all honorable points of view to address social divisions.

Embracing difference and diversity in all its forms to create a welcoming community.

Unifying our collective will and talent to maximize and sustain our resources.

"The impact is profound, but the equation is simple: George Mason + You = Success."

Trishana E. Bowden

Vice President, Advancement and Alumni Relations; President, George Mason University Foundation Inc.



- Student Success
- Research
- Innovation
- Community
- Stewardship

HOW DO WE PREPARE A DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATION FOR A CHANGING WORLD—A WORLD WE CAN ONLY IMAGINE TODAY?

We focus on student success at George Mason now.

It is our responsibility to educate and support the *whole* student—academically, socially, emotionally, and professionally. That means eliminating financial and educational barriers. It means preparing graduates for a lifetime of achievement, not a first job. It means asking students "Where do you want to go?" and working passionately to ensure they get there.

"Most of us need three things to reach our full potential—we need hope, hustle, and help. George Mason attracts people with the hope and the hustle, that's for sure. They have grit, they have determination, and they are audacious enough to believe they can overcome whatever hand life has dealt them. Where George Mason comes in—where we specialize—is in providing the help."

Hakeem Oluseyi, PhD

Visiting Robinson Professor, Astrophysicist, and Author of A Quantum Life: My Unlikely Journey from the Street to the Stars

#1

in Virginia for innovation, upward mobility, and inclusivity.

I in 3

undergraduates identify as first generation.



in the nation for U.S. military veterans.

(College Factual)

ASON NOW | 10 | STUDENT SUCCES



SMOOTHS TRANSITIONS

for ADVANCE students at George Mason, 20 percentage points higher than the national average for four-year institutions.

ADVANCE, a dual-admission partnership between George Mason and Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), streamlines the transfer process for community college students interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree.

The program provides:

- clearly defined transfer pathways to 80+ different academic programs
- personalized coaching services
- access to resources, facilities, and financial aid opportunities at both George Mason and NOVA

ADVANCE students are 40 percent low-income and 67 percent people of color. The program has grown from 150 students in 2018 to 4,500 students in 2023. And here's the most impressive statistic of all: On average, ADVANCE students graduate in less than two years after transferring to George Mason.



PROPELS PROGRESS

Since 1987, the **Early Identification Program (EIP)** has provided year-long educational resources to middle and high school students in grades 8–12 who are the first in their families to attend college. The program offers career readiness, social and personal development, and academic success support, helping students overcome barriers to admission, progression, and graduation.

More than 170 students are accepted into the program every year from seven public school districts in Virginia. Every year, 100 percent of EIP students graduate high school and 95 percent go on to college.

"If it wasn't for the Early Identification Program, I honestly don't know where I'd be in life. I actually had no clue what the journey to college even was."

Noel Quezada

BS Criminology, Law and Society '23; Forensic Science and Psychology double minor; Honors College; Army Reservist; Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army

EXPANDS ACCESS

The Mason Virginia Promise (MVP) extends the ADVANCE partnership with Northern Virginia Community College to select Virginia community colleges including Germanna, Tidewater, and Piedmont Virginia. Students who earn their associate's degree at one of those community colleges are guaranteed admission to George Mason to pursue a bachelor's degree.

MVP also includes training and financial support for all Virginians interested in starting a business with support from one of George Mason's 27 Small Business Development Centers.

More than a promise, the program exemplifies what George Mason is about: empowering people, rewarding entrepreneurship, and uplifting communities.

MASON NOW

REMOVES BARRIERS

Disability Services (DS), an office of University Life, fosters a culture where programs, services, and environments are inclusive and welcoming by proactively removing barriers to ensure equitable access. To help students navigate their college experience and gain support beyond traditional accommodations, DS also offers two fee-based programs, the Mason Autism Support Initiative (MASI) and the Executive Functioning Program (EFP).

MASI uses a team-based approach for students in the program, supporting areas such as social engagement, executive functioning, communication, and self-advocacy. EFP provides individualized services for students diagnosed with disabilities related to executive functioning skills. Weekly support focuses on skill-building in time management, organization, self-advocacy, and independence.

The impact of Disability Services at George Mason is best described by the parent of a MASI student:

"Sending our son with autism off to college came with anxiety and worry. George Mason University and the MASI program provide exactly what our son needs and has been invaluable in his transition to college academics and college life. He had a great first semester and couldn't wait to go back. Thank you MASI!"

in follow-up funding received by companies supported by the Mason Virginia Promise.

8 percent of George Mason's student population are registered with Disability Services.

ACCELERATES ACHIEVEMENT

Every fall since 1989, George Mason and the **Honors College** have provided outstanding entering first-year students—known as **University Scholars**—with four-year, full-tuition scholarships. This significant investment prepares a diverse and multidisciplinary group of problem-solvers to take on the grand challenges and opportunities of the future. The program not only removes financial barriers for exceptional applicants coming to the Greater Washington region from around the country, it also helps retain highly motivated first-generation college students who attended local high schools, contributing to our regional workforce.

The Promise Scholars takes the University Scholars program one step further with scholarships that include room and board, fees, and research expenses for qualified students in the College of Science. Here's one example of what the program makes possible: Ekrem Kaya, a Promise Scholar studying Computational and Data Science, is an undergraduate research assistant at the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative, where he focuses on Al-based analysis of misinformation and disinformation. Ekram has already co-authored multiple articles in scholarly journals. The bright promise of his future academic career proves that the Promise Scholars program is aptly named.

With increased donor support, Promise Scholars scholarships can be made available to qualified University Scholars in all of George Mason's schools and colleges.





MASON NOW

EMPOWERS PATRIOTS

Mason LIFE is a nationally recognized four-year inclusive post-secondary education transition program for young adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The program, housed in the College of Education and Human Development's Division of Special Education and disAbility Research, engages students in all aspects of the university while assisting them in becoming independent and effective advocates for themselves. Mason LIFE focuses on four areas:

- Academics educates students through foundational courses taught by Mason LIFE staff and exploration courses taught by George Mason faculty.
- **Employment** supports students in learning job-specific skills, responsibilities, and workplace culture through on- and off-campus internships.
- Housing supports students by developing their independent living skills and helping them navigate the social aspects of being a campus resident.
- **Community Involvement** promotes social engagement by connecting students to campus clubs, events, sports, and university-wide events, which benefits all Patriots at George Mason.

The program's impact is best described by Mason LIFE students themselves:

"I have grown more independent and self-aware of my surroundings."

"Work hard. Stay focused. And make sure you always don't give up."

WHAT ARE THE GRAND CHALLENGES FACING FUTURE GENERATIONS THAT WE MUST SOLVE TODAY?

We focus on student success at George Mason now.

High-impact ideas begin with high-impact thinkers—faculty and student researchers who embrace risk and welcome the diverse perspectives that produce the most effective results. Our applied research impacts lives and changes the world.



CASTS LIGHT

They call **School of Nursing Professor Katherine Scafide** "the paintball lady" for her unique method of creating bruises (yes, with paintballs). But Scafide's work is anything but fun and games.

A forensic nurse and former death investigator, Scafide has made a career of helping victims of violence. Throughout, she was challenged by the difficulty of examining injuries on victims who have darker skin: "If we can't see the injury, then we can't document it. That documentation serves as really important evidence in court." That lack of evidence has resulted in decades of inequitable outcomes for victims of color.

So Scafide began experimenting with alternate light sources, such as UV light, which she discovered was five times better at detecting bruises on victims across a variety of skin tones than white light. Her research was cited by the filmmaker and humanitarian Angelina Jolie in her advocacy for the Violence Against Women Act.

As a leading forensic nurse described Scafide's work to NBC News: "It's changed everything."



Katherine Scafide, PhD, RN Associate Professor, Nursing

CHALLENGES EXPECTATIONS

One of the Navy's first female fighter pilots. An American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Fellow. A faculty appointment that spans three STEM departments in **the Mason's College of Engineering and Computing**.

For Professor Mary "Missy" Cummings, director of Mason's Autonomy and Robotics Center (MARC), challenging expectations is nothing new. Her newest challenge, born from her experience as a senior safety advisor to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on self-driving cars, is to help us better understand Artificial Intelligence—separating what's possible from what's hype. As a result, Cummings is developing a multidisciplinary AI degree program that will engage students in engineering, policy, law, and public health.

For Cummings, collaboration is key:

"There's not one societal problem we have today that belongs to a sole discipline."



Mary "Missy" Cummings, PhD
Professor, and Director of Mason
Autonomy and Robotics Center (MARC)

INSPIRES CREATIVITY

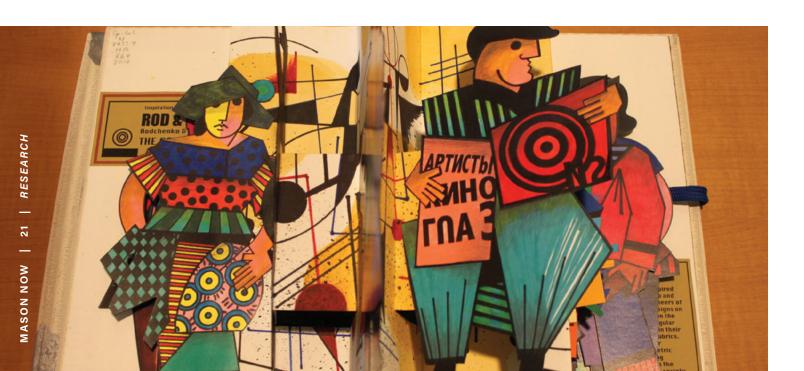
Poetry, science, history, math. Beauty, biography, maps, love. Artists express these ideas through all manner of mediums. The **Mason Artists' Book** collection within the Libraries' **Special Collections Research Center** houses and preserves artworks where the works depict new or dynamic approaches to the book form, incorporating a variety of printmaking, typography, and binding approaches.

These artists' books are a vital resource for students and researchers seeking inspiration and knowledge for their own creations or the study of artistic expression and book arts. Summer camps and classes regularly visit the collection to touch, examine, question, and explore these repositories of creativity and art. Through these and the many other unique resources held by the Libraries, George Mason has become a destination for researchers from Virginia and around the world.

"One major asset in the Libraries is the archival collections centering on the arts. These treasures are one of a kind and an important part of our arts heritage."

Franklin Robinson

Adjunct Professor, Theater





MASON NOW

UNEARTHS THREATS

Storms on the sun's surface, 93 million miles away from Earth, could disable the internet for months, disrupt global commerce and communication, and trigger a worldwide recession.

That is the scenario that a team of researchers from **the College of Science**, including students, are studying in partnership with the Naval Research Laboratory. Led by **Peter A. Becker**, **professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy**, the team received a \$13.6 million grant to better understand increased solar activity that could potentially cause an "internet apocalypse," which would disrupt all electronic communications on the planet.

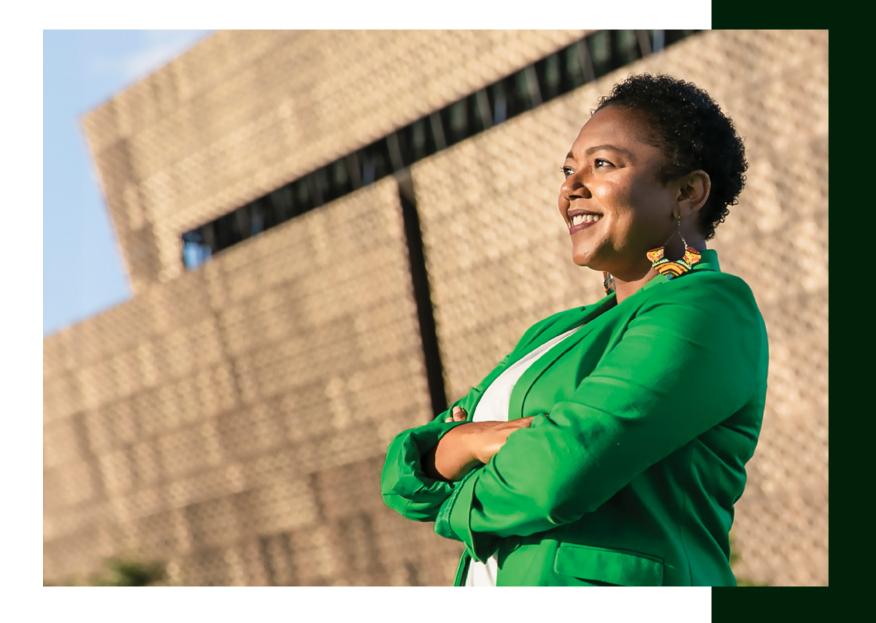
Violent solar storms are expected to become more frequent and severe over the next 10 years, with the potential to severely interfere with radio transmitters, navigation and GPS, satellite operations and communications, and the electric power grid. Being able to effectively warn of their occurrences will help better protect the public and prevent damage to our infrastructure.

The work of Professor Becker's team underscores the impact our research has in the real world—and in this case—in the out-of-this-world.

HOW DO WE TURN "WHAT IF?" INTO WHAT IS?

We focus on innovation at George Mason now.

We embrace risk with audacity, take on challenges with determination, and welcome diverse perspectives with open arms (and minds). Our culture is infused with a willingness to forge new paths: we're not afraid to go first.



#1 in Virginia for innovation. U.S. News & World Report

The nation's only standalone school for peace and conflict resolution.

#1 public institution nationally for critical infrastructure protection.

#1 among Virginia's public institutions for homeland security.

First university center to address government contracting.

CULTIVATES COLLABORATION

Fuse at Mason Square will be a destination for scholars, students, researchers, and policy and business developers, working together to accelerate the pace of change and solve our grand challenges.

Fuse is a space, an idea, and a driving force that will create:

- A future-ready, high-tech, sustainable, resilient building that can respond to the accelerated pace of change
- Large-scale meeting facilities, collaboration spaces, and activated outdoor terraces and public plazas
- Access to specialized labs including robotics, AR/VR, simulation, network, data visualization, and secure facilities
- Commercial spaces designed to meet a variety of needs, including labs, customer experience centers, and specialized operations suites

Consider Fuse a creative Main Street, a place where ideas and disciplines collide—on and with purpose. Fuse will be a place that breaks down traditional academic boundaries to create a transformational, innovative ecosystem.

Consider it the future.



TRIGGERS TRANSFORMATION

The Donald G. Costello College of Business's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship supports students, alumni, and community partners as they create new ventures. The center's experiential programs go beyond traditional academic offerings by forming future leaders.

Here's an example of what "experiential" and "going beyond" looks like:

The **SOAR Initiative** is an **inclusive entrepreneurship training** and support resource for community members. The program includes three components: entrepreneurship training, mentorship with an entrepreneur, and consulting with George Mason students. This holistic model empowers individuals who do not currently have adequate access to start-up training opportunities. Programs have been developed for aspiring entrepreneurs who are refugees and immigrants, currently in a low socio-economic status, or residents of rural and emerging communities.

Join us as we revitalize dreams, transform lives, and boost the economy.



REALIZES DREAMS

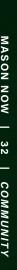
Innovation sparks when a dream meets reality. At the **Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution**, the challenge of human conflict—locally, nationally, and globally—is a daily focus and reality. Resolving conflict is a daunting challenge, but the school, like its namesake, believes that by bringing people together, we discover common ground. Peace is possible.

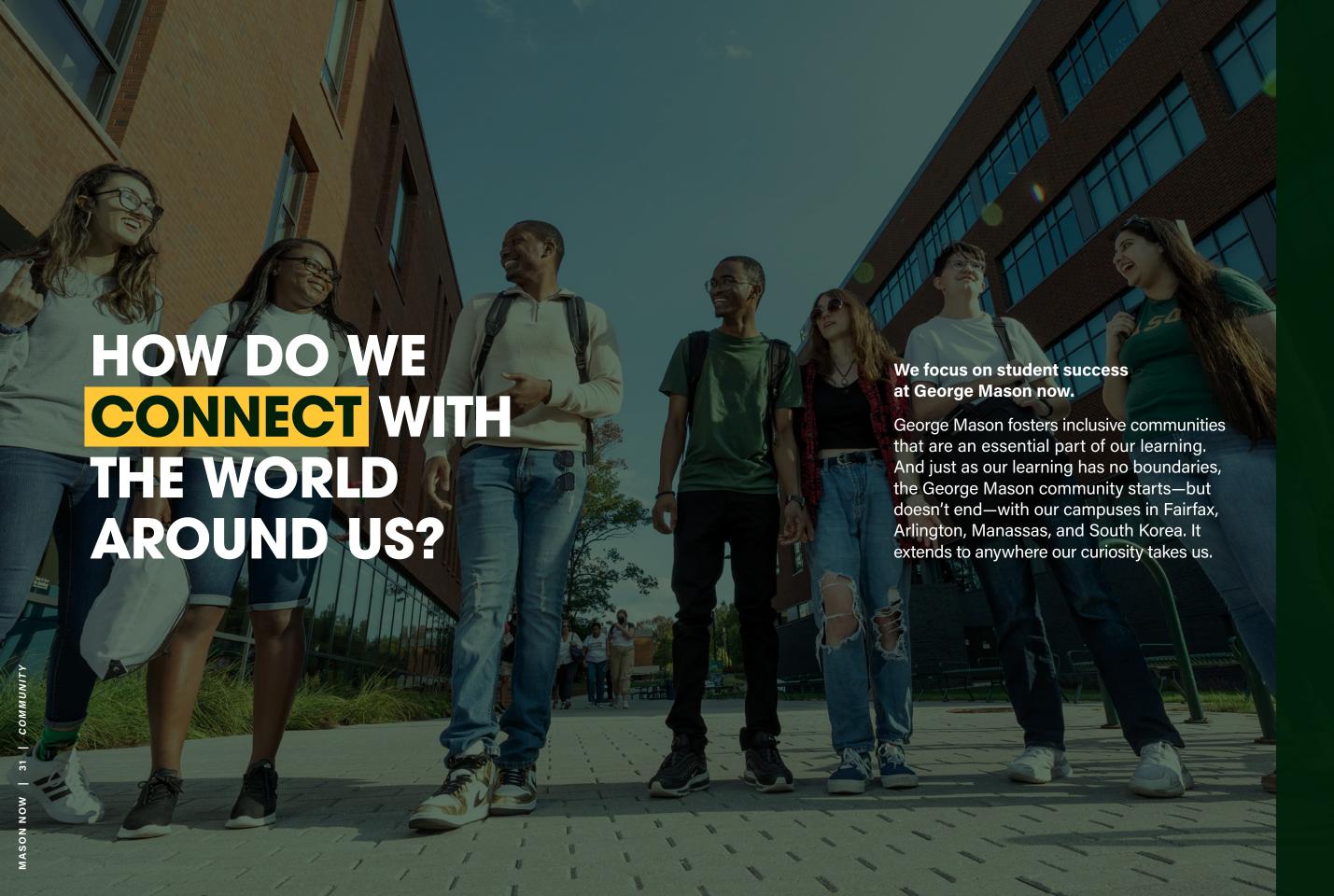
Here's the dream: **The Lodge at Point of View**—smartly designed, overnight accommodations where groups and participants work towards shared solutions in a serene setting with space for individual reflection. Here's the reality: Point of View, a 120-acre property overlooking Belmont Bay in Mason Neck, Virginia. The property, donated to the Carter School in 2000 by Edwin and Helen Lynch and their family, is a retreat and research center for domestic and international dialogues, conferences, and workshops.

Dream + Reality = The Lodge at Point of View

A Place for Peace







\$3.7B

impact from Mason Enterprises counseling and training of more than 40,000 regional entrepreneurs and small businesses in FY23.

83%

of the Class of 2023 are employed in Virginia, Maryland, or Washington, D.C.

1/3

of all teachers and 1/2 of all school leaders in Northern Virginia studied at George Mason's College of Education and Human Development.

GIVES VOICE

The **Center for the Arts** is more than a building—it's the heart of artistic inspiration at George Mason, Northern Virginia, and beyond. The center and its Concert Hall are a platform for Northern Virginia's diverse, engaged arts community, a catalyst for the development of new talent, and a meeting place for community discussion.

In all of these roles, the center has expanded by leaps and bounds since opening its doors in 1990. It has hosted GRAMMY, Tony, Emmy, and Academy Award-winning artists—and U.S. presidents. It has become a key player in the education and training of George Mason students—and a mainstay of campus life. A capital endeavor to reimagine the venue's ability to support the needs of artists, audiences, and communities will position the Center for the Arts—and Mason Arts—as the university's public front door, anchoring a newly defined Arts District.

"The Center for the Arts at George Mason University has been a cultural beacon for Fairfax and Northern Virginia. The center's commitment to excellence in the arts and to our arts community benefits everyone in our region."

Linda Sullivan

President and CEO, ARTSFAIRFAX





MASON NOW

ACHIEVES EXCELLENCE

George Mason Athletics contributes to a strong sense of community on and off campus, acts as a catalyst for the economic and cultural vibrancy of the region, and continues to be a source of unity and Patriot Pride for all of Mason Nation.

Each time our student-athletes compete, they exhibit the true grit and determination that exemplify George Mason's values. The Patriots are no strangers to elite-level success. George Mason won its first NCAA Division I National Title with women's soccer in 1985, an accolade the men's indoor track and field earned in 1996. George Mason later captured global attention when our men's basketball team reached the Final Four of the 2006 NCAA tournament.

We joined the esteemed Atlantic 10 Conference in 2013 and celebrated a trifecta of 2023 Conference Champions in baseball, softball, and women's outdoor track and field. Our resiliency, teamwork, work ethic, and leadership are on display now more than ever.

At George Mason, we strive for more than championships. Our dedicated coaches and staff maintain an education-first approach to fostering the development of student-athletes in the classroom, in the community, and in life.

SPANS CONTINENTS

George Mason's campus in Incheon, South Korea, provides a transformational international education. At **Mason Korea**, students from Korea, the United States, and around the world study together to prepare for the challenges and opportunities that cross nations and languages.

Students who apply directly to Mason's Korea campus spend three years there and one in the U.S. Students on George Mason's Virginia campuses can choose to spend a semester or year at Mason Korea. In both cases, Mason Korea provides an innovative international education at an affordable cost. And because these two campuses are one George Mason, students can move between them without barriers and focus on life-changing international experiences.

"I cannot stress how much Mason Korea has molded me to become a multi-faceted student ready for a career in the U.S. Now I hope to pay it forward and help other Mason Korea students seeking employment in the U.S."

Ambrose (Do Hyun) Lee

Accounting '22





MASON NOW

STIMULATES DIALOGUE

The Michael V. Hayden Center for Intelligence, Policy, and International Security explores the vital role that intelligence plays at a time of seemingly constant threats to our global security. Established by General (USAF-Retired) Michael V. Hayden, the only person to serve as both director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, the center presents 10-15 public events annually with panels of experts from the intelligence, security, and legal communities.

The events, each of which attracts over 500 people, cover issues ranging from the essential role that espionage plays in providing stability abroad to the challenges of intelligence oversight in an age of increasing calls for government transparency. Many of the audience members are themselves either national security experts, opinion leaders, or journalists whose reputations and credentials match those of the experts on stage. The center exemplifies the **Schar School of Policy and Government**'s recognized role as a national leader in training the next generation of policymakers and advancing the public dialogue around issues of critical national importance.



GIVES BACK

Graduates of the **Antonin Scalia Law School** serve the profession in various settings: private practice, business, government, and the judiciary. While in law school, they learn the importance of giving back by participating in clinics, fieldwork, externships, and judicial clerkships.

Over a dozen clinical and externship programs empower students to serve their communities. Under the supervision of teachers and practicing lawyers, students work on cases for veterans and members of the local population on a wide range of matters, including immigration, poverty law, business law, and constitutional law. Others work as externs on Capitol Hill, in judges' chambers, and for government agencies. The school often provides financial support to students working in public-service externships nationwide.

Many Scalia Law students go on to full-time careers in public service, including judicial clerkships. Dozens of graduates have served as federal and state judicial law clerks over the past five years, and three have been selected as law clerks of the Supreme Court of the United States since 2021.

HOW DO WE PROTECT AND MAXIMIZE THE RESOURCES WE'VE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH?

We focus on student success at George Mason now.

Our bold vision is balanced by our sense of responsibility—to our students, our funders, our communities, and our planet. We will measure our success by the outcomes we achieve.



EMPOWERS CONSERVATION

The Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation, a partnership between George Mason and the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, prepares the conservation leaders of today and tomorrow to address the grand challenges of biodiversity conservation. The school is a prime example of how George Mason's partnerships create opportunity, capitalizing on the proven strengths of each institution.

George Mason brings its recognized leadership in educational innovation and pedagogical excellence in the conservation field, as well as interdisciplinary research expertise in ecology, genomics, and physiology. Smithsonian partners are at the forefront in conducting scientific research and training wildlife and conservation leaders from all over the world. Program alumni are well-respected conservation practitioners across a diverse array of professions.

High school students can earn college credits working alongside Smithsonian researchers and George Mason faculty. George Mason undergraduates can spend a residential semester at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, Virginia. Graduate students can engage in immersive training in specialized areas, with generous donations from George Mason supporters helping make it all possible.





MASON NOW

ENHANCES UNDERSTANDING

Climate change is a hot topic today (in more ways than one), but it's a grand challenge that George Mason has been engaged with for a decade and a half.

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences' Center for Climate Change Communication, directed by Distinguished University Professor Ed Maibach, applies social science insights to help society make informed decisions on climate change. The center's core research program—Climate Change in the American Mind—tracks public opinion and understanding of climate change issues. The center's influential programs and thought leaders engage America's most trusted voices in local news, broadcast meteorology, medicine, and policy leadership. Donor support helped scale the Climate Matters program, which now provides local climate reporting resources for more than half of the country's weathercasters, and launch the Medical Society Consortium on Climate in Health, now the nation's largest climate and health organization.

Since its founding in 2007, the center has trained more than 100 undergraduates, graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows to conduct research, educate the public, and continue to understand what's in the hearts and minds of Americans on climate change.



MAXIMIZES ROI

The best way to assess responsible fiscal management is by the numbers. When it comes to public higher education in Virginia, the numbers make it clear: **George Mason is the best ROI for the Commonwealth**.

George Mason ranks #1 in the state for providing educational access to lower-income students when comparing economic mobility and funding per student.

George Mason focuses its financial resources where they matter most —on student outcomes. Case in point: The Class of 2024 provided an influx of talent to fill critical positions in the region and state's workforce, with nearly 11,000 degrees or certificates granted. Of those, 41 percent of undergraduate and 44 percent of graduate degree earners were in STEM fields and the health sciences.

We have always been known for transforming scarce resources into impactful results. Thanks to that growing reputation and the efforts of our supporters in the U.S. House and Senate, George Mason has received federal funding that will benefit the Commonwealth in five critical areas:

- Cybersecurity
- Mental health and wellness
- K-12 learning disparities
- Opioid and substance abuse
- Lyme disease diagnosis

However you look at it, George Mason's financial management is powering what's possible.



HOW WILL WE POWER THE POSSIBLE?

With your support.

George Mason University began with a shared vision of what a university shaped by and for its community could be. Entrepreneurs and artists. Community leaders and strivers. Long-term residents and newcomers are drawn to a growing, diverse, vibrant region. All of these and more have shaped the George Mason of today.

Now, it's our turn. Let's keep it going.

Together, anything is possible.



"We dream big and act on our dreams."

—President Gregory Washington

gmu.edu/masonnow

