



# THE MASON MINUTE

*Fall 2013 Issue*

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## Fall in Mason Admissions

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*Matthew Boyce, Ed.M., Senior Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions*

I hope the fall is treating you well and you aren't getting overwhelmed by transcript requests and college lists with 20 schools on them! I want to start this issue of *The Mason Minute* by introducing myself. I am our newly appointed Senior Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions; however, I have been with Mason for several years working with our K-12 outreach programs. As a former school counselor myself, I know the intense nature of your job as you attempt to balance all of your administrative duties with the desire to help your students navigate this rather stressful application process.

While I miss my days working in a high school, I could not be more excited to take on my new role "across the desk" here at Mason. The most incredible part of my role is managing our staff of amazing counselors that **travel the nation** (and the world) discussing Mason with students and families, as well as school administrators and staff members such as you. Hopefully many of you have had the opportunity to meet members of our staff at your schools and have had great conversations about all that Mason continues to offer our students.



But enough about me, you want to know more about what is happening here at George Mason University. Fall is in full swing here in Fairfax, Virginia. Our Class of 2017 has settled into their classes and the campus is back to its bustling self. We could not be more thrilled to see the largest freshman class in Mason history immerse themselves in their studies and all of the opportunities the D.C. area provides. This academic year brought the opening of a

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completely renovated science building, aptly named Exploratory Hall. We continue to introduce new and innovative programming, such as a new concentration in the College of Science called Biopsychology, and even the introduction of a **campus in South Korea!** We continue to look for ways to provide our students the opportunity to be both part of our amazing community on campus and the larger global community. Our introduction of Mason Korea is one great example of this effort.

Below you will find an article from the **Mark Ginsberg**, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), on Mason's new bachelor's/accelerated master's five-year teacher education program. Also featured in this issue is information on the Honors College from **Dean Zofia Burr**, and a profile of student **Nicole Clark**, who held an impressive internship with Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

I hope you find our fall issue of the Mason Minute interesting and information. Good luck with the rest of your fall, and if you ever need anything, don't hesitate to reach out. Our staff is here to make this process as smooth as possible for you and your students!

## Are Your Students Interested in a Career in Teaching? Mason's New, Five-Year, Teacher Education Program

*Mark R. Ginsberg, Dean, College of Education and Human Development*

"It's a beautiful thing when a career and a passion come together." The anonymous author of that quote got it exactly right when it comes to a career in teaching!

If you have high school students with a love of learning and a desire to make a difference, we hope you'll let them know about George Mason University's new accelerated teacher education program.

The "Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's" program provides Mason undergraduates with a pathway for earning their



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### Mason Sites to Explore:

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### Summer Programs

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bachelor's degree, teaching license, and master's degree in just five years. It's a smart option and a great reason for choosing Mason.

Students receive many advantages:

- Save up to a full year of tuition costs
- Eliminate the need to wait and apply separately to graduate school
- Maximize their time and effort by counting courses toward both their bachelor's and master's degrees
- Qualify for higher salaries and more opportunities as a teacher immediately upon graduation

In just five years, students can complete two degrees and meet the Virginia requirements to teach:

- Elementary Education
- Secondary Education (English, Math, Social Studies, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Earth Science)
- Special Education

Every step of the way, the advisors in Mason's **College of Education and Human Development** will help students chart the best and quickest path for achieving their academic and career goals. In addition to the accelerated program, Mason offers several other pathways to becoming a licensed teacher.

(Students who begin their college experience at a community college are also welcome to apply to the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's program upon acceptance into Mason.)

The College of Education and Human Development at Mason is one of the most renowned and respected in the region. The college has deep relationships with the world-class school systems in Northern Virginia, and it is estimated that one-third of teachers and one-half of administrators from area schools are Mason graduates, including Virginia's 2014 Teacher of the Year. In addition, the Virginia Center for Excellence in Teaching will open on the Fairfax campus in June.

Students benefit from Mason's prominence, great location, many opportunities for field placements and in-class experiences, and an impressive placement rate upon graduation.

More information about the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's program is available on our website at [cehd.gmu.edu/bam](http://cehd.gmu.edu/bam), or call our undergraduate advisor at 703-993-2080.

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# The Honors College at Mason

*Zofia Burr, Dean, Honors College*

As you guide your students in the college search process during this busy fall, I want to take this opportunity to share with you some exciting news and updates about the **Honors College** at George Mason University. I hope this information is valuable to your students as they consider applying to Mason!



The Honors College is designed to provide academically gifted students the opportunity to challenge themselves in small sized courses led by some of the best faculty Mason has to offer. Students also benefit from advantages including: priority registration, one-on-one advising, and a specially-designed Honors College Living Learning Community (LLC). With Washington, D.C. just next door, students gain unique access to internships, research experiences, and special events, as well as all of the resources of a diverse, residential campus.

Our Honors College students continually impress us with their accomplishments. To highlight their achievements, here are a few recent examples of what our students are up to:

- Awarded Fulbright Teaching Fellowship to Uruguay
- Interned at the U.S. Department of Justice's Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section
- Conducted molecular data research at the Smithsonian Institution's Natural Museum of Natural History's Vertebrate Zoology group
- Awarded State Department Critical Language Scholarships to study Turkish and Russian
- Researched East African technology, culture and development in Tanzania through a National Science Foundation grant

If you have students who may be a good fit for the Honors College at Mason, please encourage them to submit the **Honors College supplement** in the application to Mason by **November 1** (non-binding Early Action). Mason received a record number of applications last year, so please be advised that the admissions process for Honors College consideration is competitive, and space

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is limited. If your students would like to attend an Honors College information session with the Office of Admissions, they are welcome to sign up by visiting [admissions.gmu.edu/planYourVisit](http://admissions.gmu.edu/planYourVisit) and selecting the Honors visit opportunity.

Thank you for all of your hard work, and best wishes for the school year.

## Profile of a Patriot: Gaining New Perspective with Wounded Warriors

*Nicole Clark, Mason Class of 2014, Kinesiology major*

Walter Reed's Military Advanced Training Center (MATC) on my last day was probably one of the saddest times I've had in a while. I made incredible friends and experienced things that I never thought were even plausible. I even met some celebrities—including Prince Harry—who stopped in to visit the wounded warriors.



Nicole Clark, with actor Joe Mantegna, during her internship.

I spent three weeks and 120 hours in the Amputee Care Physical Therapy section of the MATC at Walter Reed. The extent of the injuries ranged from below the knee unilateral amputees to full-quad amputees to traumatic brain injury. Despite the injury, each warrior believed that their injuries were nothing and would always comment on how others had it worse. The resiliency and life in these patients were so evident upon entering the facility. It was humbling to see how hard these patients would work to get better. They may have a bad day, but the fight was always there.

Some patients were injured as long as 10 years ago or as short as a few weeks ago. During my three weeks, each warrior made noticeable progress. This made me smile every day. My four-hour roundtrip commute of driving and a metro ride seemed horrible on day one, but it was soon evident that I didn't care how inconvenienced I was because I just wanted to be in the MATC helping these warriors get back to a point where they could move on with their lives.

Each patient was not bashful in telling me the story of how they became injured

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Prince Harry came to visit the wounded warriors during Nicole's internship.

and the specifics of their injuries. All of the injuries were different and involved very innovative medical procedures. I was informed on many of these and the possible implications of each one. I learned more about prosthetics than I ever thought I would and can look at prostheses now and identify the brand and function.

The hardest thing for me was coming from an internship in a strength and conditioning facility where hands-on interaction was encouraged and expected. When working in a physical therapy facility, students are not allowed to instruct, coach, manipulate, or aid in the actual physical therapy experience. Our role is to observe, ask questions, and talk with patients. I found that I would want to get involved more than was allowed, but legally I couldn't.

Despite this, I participated as much as I could and asked more questions than my supervisor anticipated I would.

The most important thing that I learned during this internship is that clients will only give you as much as you believe that you are giving them. If they don't think you care, then the chances of them caring are minimal. It's important to engage with patients and ask questions about their personal life. It's even more important to remember these details and ask follow-up questions. Once patients found out that I cared about them on a personal level and that I would treat them like a person, and not a patient, they were more likely to open up to me, and I immediately would see an increase in their motivation level. Having a genuine care for patients is so important!

I wish my time could be extended on site, but I made some amazing relationships, and many of the warriors have asked me to come back to visit whenever I can. I plan to keep in touch with all of my patients as they move forward and continue with their lives.

...Nicole was the 2013 recipient of a Provost Scholar Athlete Award, which recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of Mason student athletes. She was a member of the George Mason University soccer team and held a 3.95 GPA...

Curious to hear more internship stories like Nicole's? The College of Education and Human Development's *Postcards from the Field* series features student

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internship stories within the **School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism**, a part of George Mason University's College of Education and Human Development. Mason's location and connections in the Greater Washington area means students are able to take advantage of internships at some of the country's most sought after organizations, where students gain an insider's view, professional contacts, and invaluable career experience.

Visit [cehd.gmu.edu/postcards](http://cehd.gmu.edu/postcards) to read more student stories such as Nicole's!



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