



THE MASON MINUTE

Fall 2012 Issue

Welcome to the Mason Minute

Sarah Gallagher Dvorak, Director of Undergraduate Admissions

What a year it has been! The Class of 2016 has officially settled in on campus and begun what is sure to be a memorable freshman year. It's hard to believe, but we will soon begin reviewing applications for Mason's next class of outstanding Patriots!

The start of a new school year brings some additional news - Mason has been ranked as the top "Up-and-Coming University" in the country by U.S. News & World Report for the 2012-2013 year. We are thrilled to see that Mason's innovation and cutting-edge research has again placed us in the national spotlight. What a way to begin the new academic year!



I was thrilled to see so many of you at NACAC, and thanks to those of you who swung by our table to chat at the college fair. It's always great to meet the counselors we'll be working with this fall, and to learn more about your students who are applying to Mason!

I invite you to check out some important information and updates below, including a student highlight from Mason's Honors College, a profile of a sophomore Biology major, and information about our study abroad program, and our upcoming campus event, the [Mason Fall Premiere](#). Please share these updates with your students who are interested in Mason.

Once again, thank you for all you do to help your students achieve their dreams of going to college. I know it's hard

work, and I appreciate your willingness to work with us throughout the year.

I hope you have a fantastic fall and a successful school year!

Honors College: A Student Highlight

Grace Zamorano, Honors College Recruitment and Outreach Coordinator

George Mason University's Honors College student, Jacob Chavara, is majoring in Government and International Politics. A native of Wexford, PA, Jacob enrolled in the Honors College largely because of access to the [Robinson Professors](#), who are leading scholars in their fields. In fact, three of his five professors this fall are Robinson professors! However, Jacob is not satisfied with settling for merely top-notch classroom experiences, and has branched out to various real-world opportunities to enrich his Mason education. His student experience well conveys the unique advantages and opportunities provided by the Honors College and an education at Mason.



Jacob has interned in his home state for the Federal Judiciary, 3rd Circuit as a Legal and Judicial Aide, as well as in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a legislative assistant. This experience allowed him to work on the current campaign to elect Virginia Governor Tim Kaine to the U.S. Senate.

Perhaps Jacob's most interesting work is his current project covering the 2012 General Election in conjunction with Mason Robinson Professor, [Steven Pearlstein](#), a winner of the Pulitzer Prize and leading contributor to the Washington Post. In addition to these impressive activities related to his major, Jacob is an active brother of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, and has worked with Global Links, an NGO for global health and awareness. He is also working to start the first ever Foreign Service club at Mason.

Jacob has absolutely loved his time at Mason and would be more than happy to speak with prospective students who have considered applying to the Honors College. If you have any students whom you think would be a great fit for Mason and the Honors College, please have them contact me at gzamora2@gmu.edu. I would be happy to answer any questions and assist them in getting in touch with current students, like Jacob. Please keep in mind that the [Honors College](#) application deadline has been moved to **November 1**

Did You Know?

Did you know that Mason has the **largest telescope** on an East Coast college campus, second only to NASA?

Mason Sites to Explore:

[Mason Metro](#)

Your Mason media connection, where you may browse the [video essays](#) of applicants - a great way to stand out in the admissions process!

[Virtual Tour](#)

Explore the 10,000-seat Patriot Center, our new residence halls, and more.

[Mason Goes Global](#)

Mason has one of the largest [study abroad](#) programs in the country, and even allows freshmen to live and study abroad...for credit!

Check out this fun [video](#) of Jade's recent adventures abroad.

this year, so interested students should apply soon!

Profile of a Patriot

Jesi Hessong, Mason Class of 2015

Hometown: Three Rivers, Texas

Studies: Biology, with a concentration in Conservation and Environmental Policy



Hi there! My name is Jesi Hessong and I am currently a sophomore at George Mason University, majoring in Biology with a concentration in Conservation and Environmental Policy. When asked why I picked Mason, the answer is easy. My absolute favorite thing about Mason is the feeling of community. I view Mason as my home away from home - the friends I've made are my second family, and the way the professors communicate with students is truly amazing. Here, you're seen as an independent adult. Mason works with you to make your undergraduate career one that will benefit *your* dreams. And to me, that means everything.

Even though I am only a sophomore, I have already held multiple internships, including a paid internship on campus with the Washington Youth Summit on the Environment. I have also been a keeper aide at the National Zoo's Reptile Discovery Center. I am also really involved on campus. I am in the Honors College, and I'm a Mason Ambassador (the student tour guide group for the Office of Admissions!), secretary of the GMU Aviation Club, and secretary of Mason's chapter of the United States Green Building Council. I'm in the Mountaineering Club and other fun groups here! It's safe to say that I keep myself busy, but I truly love every minute of it. Not many schools offer this much to undergraduates.

The endless activities Mason provides its students are just some of the reasons I love Mason and couldn't imagine myself anywhere else. While the D.C. area is a considerably different place than my home state of Texas, coming to Mason was hands-down the BEST decision I have ever made in my life to date.

Fall Open House - A Premiere Event!

Mark your calendars! [The Fall Premiere](#), our open house for high school seniors, is fast approaching! We look forward to welcoming seniors to campus on Saturday, October 27, 2012. During this open house, students have the opportunity to chat with their admissions counselors, explore majors in our academic showcase, attend a financial aid information session, enjoy a student life showcase, tour campus, and much more.

Students may register online by visiting admissions.gmu.edu/rsvp/MasonPremiere, and as space does fill up quickly, we encourage students to register as soon as possible. If you or a colleague are interested in attending, we of course would love to have you as well! There will be additional open houses in the spring, but this is the last open house for prospective applicants.

If your students are unable to attend but wish to visit Mason this fall, they are welcome to attend a campus tour and information session, offered daily (see <http://admissions.gmu.edu/planYourVisit>). We hope to see your students on campus!

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George Mason University | 4400 University Drive | MSN 3A4 | Fairfax, VA 22030 | Email Us