

GEORGE MASON

PARENT NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2014

From the Desk of the Dean of Admissions

It's finally starting to feel like spring in the Washington, D.C. area, and we are ready to trade the snow for cherry blossoms and warmer weather! This is my favorite time of year on campus as we get to welcome so many new students and parents to our Mason family. With the **May 1** confirmation deadline quickly approaching, I know that there are plenty of decisions to be made and important conversations to have with your son or daughter. If we can help in any way, please let us know.

I truly believe the best way to experience Mason is in person, and this spring is the ideal time to do so. Whether it's attending one of our [tours](#) for admitted students, having an all-you-care-to-eat lunch at Southside, or going to class with one of our Mason Ambassadors, we want you to see all that Mason has to offer you as your home for the next four years.

In this issue of our parent newsletter, you'll learn more

about our LLCs (Living Learning Communities), the hundreds of study abroad opportunities we offer, and hear from one of our recent alums on his post-grad success. Plus, if you're a busy parent like me, you want to know "what comes next." We've got a helpful list of [next steps](#) for you and your student.

As an alum, I consider Mason my home, and I hope it will become yours as well. It's never been a more exciting time to be a part of such an amazing community dedicated to student success. I can promise you, when students make the choice to become a Patriot, they will be well taken care of! If you want to see the campus, make sure you sign up for a tour through our Admissions Office [here](#). I look forward to seeing you on campus!

With Patriot Pride,

Amy Takayama-Perez '96, '02
Dean of Admissions
George Mason University



Amy Takayama-Perez, '96, '02

Save the Date!

Freshman Move-In

Thursday, August 21

First Day of Classes

Monday, August 25

Family Weekend

October 17-19



Next Steps...

Congratulations to the
Class of 2018!

Don't forget the following...

1. **Confirm your student's spot in the Class of 2018.** Submit the \$250 enrollment deposit and the \$300 housing deposit by the **May 1** deadline to save a spot in the freshman class. For more information, [click here](#).
2. Housing applications, as well as specific housing options, such as Living Learning Communities (LLCs), must be submitted by the **May 1** deadline. [Apply here](#).
3. **Summer Orientation**
Registration for Summer Orientation, which is required of all new students, is live! Sessions fill up on a first-come, first-served basis, so be sure to sign up soon. [Register online here](#).
4. Have the guidance counselor at your student's high school send a final transcript to the Office of Admissions.
5. Join the [Mason Family Association!](#) This dues-free organization is a great way to stay in touch with other parents of Mason students. You can join by clicking [here!](#)

Mason's Living Learning Communities

by **Jana Fryman, Program Coordinator, Office of LLC Development**

Hello, parents, and welcome to the Mason Nation! This past year the Office of Living Learning Community Development welcomed 455 students to our 11 communities - a record number of Living Learning Community (LLC) students for Mason, and we're looking forward to growing even more this upcoming year. At Mason, an LLC is a group of students with shared interests who live in a residence hall and take classes together, both of which are reserved exclusively for students in the LLC. Most LLCs occupy one floor of a residence hall and house 25-40 students.

The LLCs at Mason integrate academics with students' academic and personal interests. We invite students to join one of our 12 opportunities for freshmen in the Mason LLC community; [9 are for freshmen](#) and [3 are for a mix of freshmen and upper-classmen](#). As you can see, students can join communities within a wide array of topic areas and can be connected with faculty, staff, and peers from day one! Outside of the classroom, students can join in many of the programs and activities that are planned by their faculty, Resident Advisor, or Peer Mentor/Peer Advisor. For example, this past fall semester, the Sustainability LLC ventured to Assateague Island, VA to participate in beach cleanup and restoration, the Arts LLC toured the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Honors LLC paired up with the Mindful Living LLC to share a yoga session, and the list goes on!

If you have questions about the LLCs or the LLC application process, please check out our website ([LLC.gmu.edu](#)) or contact the Office of Living Learning Community Development at **703-993-6674** or via email at LLC@gmu.edu.

Excitement, Engagement, and Experiences: Project Peak & Project Sneak Peak

by **Jennifer Johnson, Associate Director, Transition Resource Center**

"How will my student transition to college?" "Will she find friends?" "Will he learn to adapt to a new environment?" These are all common and normal concerns that parents of first-year students face. Many families worry about how their student will transition academically and socially to college.

The Transition Resource Center is here to help! Helping students transition to college is our primary goal. One key way we accomplish this goal is through our **Project Peak and Project Sneak Peak Outdoor Extended Orientation**. Our Peak programs, offered in July and August, have helped many new students make connections and ease some of the anxiety of coming to college.

Project Sneak Peak is an exciting opportunity for incoming first-year students to be a part of once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Our "Peakers" build long-lasting friendships, have fun, and get to know Mason faculty,

staff, and student leaders. Whether they want to splash in a kayak, experience the rush of climbing, or explore Washington, D.C. and make a difference through service, Sneak Peak has options for everyone. Consider joining us on this two day, one-night program offered in July.

If one night is not enough, don't worry! Consider joining us for **Project Peak**, our five-day, four-night outdoor excursion offered to first-year students the week before classes begin in August. "Peakers" sleep under the stars, roast marshmallows, and share stories after a day of fun rock climbing, kayaking, and exploring the outdoors.

"Peakers" return to campus with confidence, connections, and community ready to start their freshman year at Mason and succeed. No experience is required, just a willingness to have fun and try new things.

To learn more about our programs, including dates and registration fees, please visit our website at: <https://transitions.gmu.edu/projectpeak>.

#CHOOSEMASON

5 Reasons to Send Your Patriot Abroad!

by Nicole Grim, Assistant Program Officer, Center for Global Education

George Mason University's Center for Global Education (CGE) offers over 80 traditional and non-traditional study abroad programs, sending hundreds of students to over 45 countries each year. CGE offers a wide range of academic credits, from Government to Biology to Dance through programs over summer break, winter break, and semester or year-long programs.

Here are our top reasons why you should send your student abroad:

Studying abroad allows students to graduate early. Short-term study abroad programs are a great opportunity to allow students to possibly graduate early or pick up a second major or minor. Study abroad programs condense and intensify the learning experience so students can earn academic credit in a shorter amount of time.

Studying abroad can save you money. That's right! Take our semester internship program in Budapest, for example: For just under \$10,000, your student will be placed in an internship and take 15 credits worth of classes - housing included. Did we mention CGE accepts most financial aid and even has its own scholarship program?

Going abroad with a renowned university name grants unparalleled access to important people and places. In CGE's winter break program to Colombia, students explore volcanoes, glaciers, and ancient caves alongside a top-notch Mason professor. In Cambodia, students participate in an intensive peace-building project with a local partner, giving them unique - and safe - access to impoverished areas where human trafficking is a serious issue. In Switzerland, students visit the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the European Court of Human Rights.

Study abroad promotes career-readiness. Adaptable? Check. Willing to step out of his or her comfort zone? Check. Takes initiative? Check. Mason's study abroad programs help students develop professional skills that are crucial to succeeding in the job market and demonstrate that they are ready for a world that is becoming more global by the minute.

Mason Prepared Recent Graduate Shane Smith for a Career On Capitol Hill

"I attribute a majority of my post grad successes to the four years I spent at Mason. I came in with an idea of what my time after college would look like, but I wasn't sure how I was going to make it happen. I quickly learned that Mason had many resources to offer, the most important being my professors. As experts in their fields of study, they challenged me and my classmates everyday. What we do outside of the classroom is just as important as what we achieve academically. One of the reasons I chose to attend George Mason was because I saw it as a place that believed strongly in the value of experiential learning.

As a Conflict Analysis and Resolution major, I was required to gain field experience through an internship or study abroad program. I decided to do both, and it benefited me greatly. Whether it was interning at a non-profit organization in London, or interning at the U.S. Department of Education, these experiences have led me to where I am today. Only six months after graduating I achieved my goal of beginning my career on Capitol Hill. I look forward to what the future has prepared for me, but I know one thing will never change: if it weren't for my time at George Mason University, I wouldn't be where I am today!" Shane Smith, Class of 2013

Check Out University Career Services

by Christine Cruzvergara, Director University Career Services

Congratulations to your newly admitted Mason student! Mason has a unique department called University Career Services, which provides innovative services and programs to help your student secure meaningful internships throughout their time at Mason and full-time opportunities after graduation.

We have a strong Career Education & Counseling team that is dedicated to helping your student explore their interests, values, and strengths. Through our career courses, individual appointments, and tailored workshops, we are available to help your student select a major, choose an industry of interest, and increase their self-awareness of their strengths and talents.

Once your student has identified their industry of interest, our newly formed Industry Advising & Employer Development team takes an industry-focused approach which allows us to grow our employer base and better prepare students to be the most competitive candidates in the job market. Through our tailored career programs, networking events, and individual appointments, your student will have the opportunity to learn industry trends and connect with employers in their industries of interest.

To help your students succeed, we need you to encourage them to take ownership of their education and begin to focus on a career path early. It's a process and it takes time, so have them visit us in University Career Services their freshman year!

Visit careers.gmu.edu to learn more.



#MASON2018