



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

New Century College

CONNECT

October 2013 Edition

Dear Alumni:

Welcome to the November 2013 edition of NCC Connect. We have lots of exciting news to share with you this month! As you scroll through this letter, be sure to check out the alumni opportunities for you to connect in person!

Alumni Highlight



As an NCC Cornerstones (then called the "First Year Experience") student, Erin Girardi, BAIN '08 served as vice president of the Park Area Council. She co-founded the [George Mason University Habitat for Humanity club](#), after which she co-led Alternative Break trips for both Habitat for Humanity and Hurricane Katrina Relief. Girardi was a key member of George Mason's Invisible Children club, dedicated to ending the conscription of child soldiers by Uganda's LRA rebel army,

and interned as an outreach "roadie" with the San Diego-based organization upon graduation. In 2010, she moved back to the Washington, D.C area in order to help with outreach for the nonprofit Global Zero, which seeks to eliminate nuclear weapons. She currently serves as Global Zero's digital engagement manager.

"Because of the emphasis NCC places on community-based learning, I value perspectives as much as content itself," Girardi said. "This has had enormous positive ramifications in my work. It is second nature to pull teams together in order to hash out messaging and strategy."

HiveStarter Update

As part of the [Mason's Honey Bee Initiative](#), NCC and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences launched [HiveStarter](#), the first crowdfunding campaign of its kind in the State of Virginia. Funds will go toward building additional Mason apiaries and helping repopulate Northern Virginia's dwindling bee population. So far, we have raised \$7,787 toward our \$10,000 goal and would love your help! Even the smallest donation or promotion of the campaign to your network would be greatly appreciated: Did we mention really cool [thank you gifts](#)?



NCC EVENTS

[Hunger Banquet](#)

Tuesday, Nov. 21
1-3 p.m.
Dewberry Hall,
Johnson Center

[NCC Alumni: Mason vs Rhode Island](#)

Saturday, Nov. 30
4 p.m.
Patriot Center

[Mary Roper Award](#)

Tuesday, Dec. 3
10 a.m.
Third Tier Lobby,
Center for the Arts

[Mason 16th Annual Alumni Tailgate](#)

Saturday, Feb. 15
3-5 p.m.
Parking Lot K

[SAVE THE DATE:](#)

[Homecoming](#)
Saturday, Feb. 15

CONNECT

For more news checkout our in-depth [newsletter](#)!



[Be sure to check out our press coverage on the site!](#)

Faculty Highlight

Mason's Honey Bee Initiative would not be possible without the important work of NCC instructor and master beekeeper, [German Perilla](#). NCC's Research Fellow for Bee Conservation, Perilla earned a B.S. in Biology from the University of Maryland in 1987 and a Masters in Sustainable Development from Mason in 2012. He



teaches Sustainable Beekeeping (NCLC 395) and maintains Mason's on-campus apiary field stations, which attracted over 800 students and visitors this year. Perilla has also initiated a social entrepreneurship program in order to help indigenous South American groups alleviate poverty and conserve nature. He will present his work with stingless bees at the Maryland State Beekeeper's Association on

Saturday, Nov. 9.

NCC Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE) Nonprofit Fellows Program

This fall semester, CLCE introduced the [Nonprofit Fellows](#) program on Mason's Arlington campus. Select student Fellows earn a minor in Nonprofit Studies within a single semester immersion experience. Classes include The Nonprofit Sector, Principles of Fundraising, Leadership and Change, and an internship at a local nonprofit organization of the student's choice. [Read more](#)



Staff Highlight

Congratulations to NCC Budget Analyst and Administrative Coordinator [James Zhao](#), winner of the 2013 College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) [Mary Roper Award](#), which honored two outstanding CHSS staff members for their contributions to the workplace. NCC faculty and staff joined forces to nominate Zhao, an extraordinary member of our NCC family.



Student Highlight



Congratulations to sophomore Linnea Monson (IS, Elementary Education) for being invited to become the student member of NCC's new advisory board. An outstanding student, Monson won a 2013 CHSS Freshman Academic Achievement Award, and is a member of both Lambda Sigma, an honor and service society, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Monson was also a Cornerstones student last year.

“My favorite aspects of Cornerstones included the emphasis on writing and the small, discussion-based classes with fantastic professors,” Monson said. “I had an awesome experience living in the Cornerstones LLC (Living Learning Community).”

Monson is a music minor, and sings with [Soundcheque](#), Mason’s jazz choir. She has completed two internship experiences with a local elementary school, and hopes to become an elementary school teacher, a reading specialist, or a school counselor.

News Briefs

- Dr. Paul Gorski’s book, "Reaching and Teaching Students in Poverty," was featured in the Washington Post article, [Five Stereotypes About Poor Families and Education](#). Dr. Wendy Wagner’s book, "Leadership for a Better World," was featured in the Huffington Post article, [Ten Books Every University Student Should Read](#).

- Join NCC alumni at the Patriots-Rhode Island Men’s Basketball Game and NCC game-day party on Saturday, Nov. 30. Contact msouder@gmu.edu to order half-price tickets and RSVP for our game-day party. Family and friends welcome!

Visit our [NCC Alumni Page](#) for back issues of NCC Connect. Please take a few moments to fill out the webpage’s alumni information update form; we would like to feature as many alums as possible in upcoming versions of NCC Connect, Keeping the Connection—our yearly newsletter—and on our [website](#).

Most cordially,



Lisa Gring-Pemble
Associate Dean
New Century College