



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

New Century College

CONNECT

December 2013 Edition

Dear Alumni:

In the spirit of the holiday season, the December 2013 edition of NCC Connect is dedicated to highlighting examples of how New Century College serves our community. Our College's emphasis on experiential learning means that faculty, staff, students, and alumni are involved in a variety of service learning and community-based action research projects throughout the entire year. Below you will find recent examples of the ways our community members embody NCC's commitment to giving back. Wishing you all a Happy Holiday and Joyous New Year!

Alumni Highlight



Congratulations to **Danah Telfaire**, BAIN '04 who recently joined NCC's new advisory board and has dedicated her career to serving children and their families. Telfaire is currently the Regional Administrator of Assessment, Accountability and Student Services for Imagine Schools, an organization that operates 39 charter schools and independent schools intent on "involving parents and guardians in the education of "their children by creating learning communities of achievement and hope." Passionate about positively affecting the trajectory of student achievement

number of task force committees in support of D.C. Education at the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) as well as local school boards. She credits her many experiential learning activities for providing a solid career base.

"NCC is the only college that provides such a rich educational experience, including hands-on experience and cultural growth" Telfaire said.

Student Highlight

Jordan Bivings, a senior in George Mason's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, credits her first year experience as a Mason Cornerstones student with defining her Mason career. Through Cornerstones' Inquiry to Action (NCLC 203) class, she became involved with FACETS, a nonprofit dedicated to helping homeless Fairfax County residents.

NCC EVENTS

Leading to Well-Being Conference

ON SALE Wednesday, Dec. 4

Engage with Mason

Thursday, Dec. 12
2-4 p.m.
Meeting Room 1, The Hub (SUB II)

Winter Graduation

Thursday, Dec. 19
1-3 p.m.
Patriot Center

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!](#)



Seeing homeless Mason students coming to the center to request meals led her to take a leadership role in establishing [Mason Meals](#), a program that enlists many campus groups in providing meals for Mason students in need. She also recently cofounded the [Student Meal Assistance Fund](#), for which students donate unused meal vouchers, and helps run [Campus Kitchen](#), whose members collect unused food from Southside dining hall for local homeless shelters.



"I hope all past, present, and future Cornerstones and NCC students take advantage of the lessons learned through the program," Bivings said. "Make a difference not just at Mason, but in your careers."

Bivings is currently applying to law school to study public service and litigation/advocacy law.

Faculty Highlight



Al Fuentes, PhD, helped plan and implement November's Mason [UN Global Compact](#) (UNGC) Symposium. Fuentes' recent NCC classes include Refugee/Internal Displacement and Human Trafficking and the International Community. His annual study abroad trips to the Philippines offer students the opportunity to work with local

and international peace activists on grassroots peace-building initiatives. This fall, the Philippines' Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process invited Fuentes to conduct a Healing and Reconciliation workshop with representatives from various government and non-government sectors.

Fuentes plans to spend his winter break in the Philippines, facilitating a series of trauma healing sessions for survivors of the recent super typhoon and earthquake.

"This is just the beginning of the long process of healing and rebuilding," Fuentes said. "Many of those who have expressed interest in co-facilitating with me are also survivors of the tragedy; facilitating trauma healing workshops would be healing for them as well."

NCC's centers give back

The Center for Consciousness and Transformation (CCT) recently changed its name to the [Center for the Advancement of Well-being \(CWB\)](#), in order to reflect its mission to serve as a catalyst for human well-being. The CWB logo signifies the center's commitment to creating a "ripple effect" by enhancing the well-being of others and helping create a world in which people help each other thrive together. Most recently, CWB is leading Mason's Well-Being University Initiative: plans include providing a free well-being app to all Mason students and employees, creating NCC undergraduate and

graduate well-being courses, offering free online assessments, and hosting Mason's inaugural Well-Being Day on Monday, April 17.



The **Center for Leadership and Community Engagement (CLCE)**

promotes sustained partnerships between Mason and community organizations. CLCE recently helped coordinate Mason's participation in **AIDSWalk DC** on Saturday, Oct. 26 and hosted a Hunger Banquet on Thursday, Nov. 21, students ate meals reflecting availability of food in first, second, and third world countries, after which they met with local nonprofit leaders to reflect on solutions for international hunger issues.

News Briefs

- **HiveStarter**, the crowdfunding campaign launched by NCC and CHSS as part of Mason's Honey Bee Initiative, far exceeded its \$10,000 goal by raising a total of \$12,252 to help build new Mason hives, educate students at all levels, and create a model for sustainable beekeeping that can be replicated across the region and around the globe. Thanks to all who helped us achieve our goal.
- NCC joins Mason for its 16th **Annual Alumni Tailgate** on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 3-5 p.m., Parking Lot K. Stop by NCC's table under the heated tent for food and beverages. Entertainment for Little Patriots provided by KidZone.
- American-Israeli businesswoman **Shari Arison**, whose generous donation helped create the NCC Endowed Professor of Doing Good Values, will be awarded Mason's Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters during December's **commencement ceremony** for her contribution to promoting values in the global businesses and philanthropic arenas, distinguishing her impactful values-driven work worldwide.
- Visit CWB's new **website** Dec. 4-16 to enter the Celebrating Gratitude Contest! Prizes include an iPad, Jawbone Up wristband, a \$100 Amazon gift card, and a Massage Envy gift certificate.
- 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 in website stories.

Most cordially,

Lisa Gring-Pemble
Associate Dean
New Century College