



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

New Century College

CONNECT

February 2014 Edition

Dear Friends of New Century College (NCC):

The New Year kicked off with many exciting developments. Cutting-edge classes and projects are enjoying attention on and off-campus, new projects abound, and our students, alumni, and faculty and staff continue to amaze us with their achievements.

Of special note is the new audience for NCC Connect! This e-newsletter—which began in October 2013 as an effort to connect with alumni—has expanded into a commitment to keep our entire community, including alumni as well as faculty, staff, and students from around the University, connected and engaged.

Below we share a few highlights, but please visit our [website](#) to learn more.

Alumni Highlight

While at Mason, Haywood Watkins III, BAIS '10 was president of both the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and Student Government's Elections and Dispute Commissions. Upon graduating Magna Cum Laude, he entered Brandcenter, Virginia Commonwealth University's advertising graduate program. An internship opportunity through the Multicultural Advertising Intern Program (MAIP) led to an internship project, The Social Tattoo, which was covered by MTV, Mashable, and Ad Age. MAIP also named him the Clarence Leroy Holte Intern of the Year. Watkins helped create the ADCOLOR Futures program, which had brought over 50 young professionals to the annual ADCOLOR Awards Celebration to network with industry leaders. Upon graduating from Brandcenter in 2012, Watkins was chosen as a class valedictorian. He is currently in his second rotation as a Fellow for WPP—the world's largest communications services group—working at VICE Media in Melbourne, Australia.



"The NCC program required everyone to think for his or herself, [and] share that opinion with peers and professors," Watkins said. "Both are necessary qualities to survive in the world of creative communications and I thank NCC for developing those abilities in me."

NCC EVENTS

[Homecoming Weekend 2014](#)

[St. Bonaventure vs. Mason](#)

Saturday, Feb. 15

[Vision Series](#)

Monday, April 28

7:15 p.m.

Founder's Hall,
The Auditorium

CONNECT

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



For those of you who know Haywood, you'll be relieved to know that his trademark cane is safely stored in his parents' home.

Student Highlight



NCC student staff writer [Lela Ross](#) is an integrative studies senior, minoring in conflict analysis and resolution. Since her sophomore year, she has served as president of the Mason New Century College Envoys, NCC's student representative group. From May 2012 to the present, Ross has held a Student Program Analyst internship at the US

Department of State. In summer 2013, Ross volunteered as an English tutor at FACETS, a non-profit organization serving the homeless in Fairfax, Va. In fall 2013, Mason's Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research ([OSCAR](#)) awarded her an Undergraduate Research Scholars Program grant to design and implement her proposed conflict resolution workshop for elementary school-aged students. Ross was chosen to present her research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research this April. NCC faculty member Al Fuyentes is her mentor on this project.

Faculty Highlight



Professor Kristin Scott most recently taught NCLC 375: Digital Communities, which explored the phenomenon of "digital cities" and sustainability efforts in urban environments. The final experiential project on students' visions of sustainable digital cities led to the publication of her students' work in [Digital America](#) and was [highlighted in the Mason news](#). Scott hopes to conduct research in

Denmark next summer and teach NCLC 348: Digital Futures in the fall of 2014, focusing on international smart communities.

"Our use of technologies will only increase," Scott said. "The question is, can we find ways of integrating technologies into our social, cultural, and physical environment in a way that is both equitable and sustainable? This class gives students a place to dream about that future."

News Briefs

- Homecoming is almost upon us! NCC group [tickets](#) for the Mason Men's Basketball vs. St. Bonaventure game, Saturday, Feb. 15, 6 p.m., at the Patriot Center, are available for the half-price rate of \$10. If you have registered for the pre-game Block Party, please stop by the NCC table to reconnect with old friends. We look forward to seeing you there!
- Over 29% of the recipients of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' (CHSS) Dean's Freshman Academic Achievement Award, which recognizes talented CHSS freshmen, are NCC students! On Monday, March 31 at 4:30 p.m., CHSS will host a

reception in Dewberry Hall for award recipients

[Read full article for the list of award winners.](#)

- NCC's [Center for the Advancement of Well-Being](#) (CWB) is accepting early-bird registration for this year's [Leading to Well-being Conference](#), taking place on Monday, April 11 at the Mason Inn, Fairfax Campus. This year's conference theme is Thriving Together—building a life of vitality, purpose, and resilience. The program includes presentations by industry leaders and executive coaches. Author Mariel Hemingway is a keynote speaker.
- Faculty member Wendy Wagner's Leadership for Sustainability class ([NCLC 375](#)), was selected as a Mason Summer Term 2014 Seminars and Special Topics in Sustainability class. NCC was awarded an allocation of \$3,000 for the class.
- Alumni, please visit our [Alumni Page](#) and take a few moments to fill out the NCC 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.
- We are delighted to announce that Sweet Virginia Foundation executive director Dan Price delivered a \$25,000 combined gift to CHSS and NCC in honor of the Mason Honey Bee crowd funding campaign's success. The funds will go toward expanding Mason's honey bee population and creating additional educational and research opportunities for the Mason community.

Most cordially,



Lisa Gring-Pemble
Associate Dean
New Century College

Previous issues of NCC Connect are available [here](#).