



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

New Century College Connect

March 2014 Edition

This snowy winter season has brought with it chances for hot chocolate, snowball fights, and of course, many delayed openings and cancelled classes. "Think Spring!" is our new mantra as we continue to celebrate the students, alumni, faculty, and staff who inspire us with their innovation, passion, and creativity. For example, take a peek at [Puzzle Piece](#), a video created by Tevah El Emmet, BAIN '14 who uses original spoken word poetry to explore his personal journey to NCC.

Student Highlight

Senior **Emily Bonzek**, BAIN, International Studies, '14 co-founded the Invisible Children GMU Student Organization with NCC classmate, **Carolyn Schorr**, BAIN, International Studies, and Middle East Studies, '14.



Together with their team, Bonzek and Schorr raised over \$8,000 to build a rehabilitation center for people affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Central Africa and lobbied their congressional representatives in support of legislation to aid Central Africa.

"We truly saw our work making a difference," said Bonzek. "I loved everything—the small classes, the professors, the experiential aspect, the strong sense of community. My successes would not have been possible without the support, guidance and opportunities that New Century College provided me."

Alumni Highlight

While a student at Mason, **Jodi Dean**, BAIS '03 was a Peer Advisor for the Center for Social Action and Integrative Learning (then called the Center for Service and Leadership) and a Student Campus Minister for Catholic Campus Ministry. She won the President's Student Leadership Award, the Outstanding Contribution to Peace and Justice Award, and NCC's Integrative Studies Outstanding Graduate Award. Post-graduation, Dean volunteered in Tanzania and South Africa, worked as a teacher and director, and completed a dual master's degree program in social work and pastoral ministry at

NCC EVENTS

Vision Series: Featuring Professor Janine Wedel

Monday, March 24
7:15 p.m.

Founder's Hall, The Auditorium

The Two Hour Job Search

Tuesday, March 25
5-6 p.m.

Room 318, Innovation Hall

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



Boston College—during which time she worked as an advocate for female victims of domestic violence and homelessness. This past summer, Dean taught at a Guatemalan school. Now a medical social worker at Boston's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, she hopes to continue developing her skills around trauma informed care.



“NCC allowed me to develop the abilities to look at the needs around me and analyze, reflect, and take action,” Dean said. “Even now, I continue to work from an integrative approach where I examine issues from different perspectives and find the common ground between them.”

Faculty Highlight

Professor Julie Owen teaches courses on socially responsible leadership, civic engagement, and community-based learning and coordinates the Leadership Studies Minor. She is Executive Director of NCC's center for Social Action & Integrative Learning (SAIL) and affiliate faculty with Mason's Higher Education Program (HEP). She is a scholar for the National Clearinghouse for Leadership Programs and is co-editor of the *Handbook for Student Leadership Development* and the faculty guide for the second edition of *Exploring Leadership:*



For College Students Who Want to Make a Difference. She serves as PI of the Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership—Institutional Survey (MSL-IS) and is a research team member with the Leadership Identity Development (LID) project. Owen is a frequent presenter, consultant, and keynote speaker on topics related to leadership, social change, and organizational development. A leader in several professional associations, Owen is a 2005 recipient of the K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award, the 2008 recipient of the CAS research grant, a 2011 ACPA Annuit Coeptis initiate, the 2012 Mason Teaching Excellence Award winner, and a 2014 ACPA Diamond Honoree.

News Briefs

In April 2014, **Professor Michael Gilmore** will partner with NCC student Tyler Orton, BAIS, Conservation '14 and documentary filmmaker Jake Wagner to launch an Indiegogo crowd funding campaign. Contributions will enable the creation of a documentary about the Maijuna, a Peruvian indigenous group fighting to save the Amazonian ancestral lands necessary to sustain Maijuna livelihood and cultural survival. You can [read more](#) about Gilmore's work with the Maijuna on Mason News.

Professor Al Fuertes served as a facilitator and resource person at last month's Symposium on Trauma Healing in Nairobi, Kenya, which brought together 55 scholars and practitioners in trauma healing and peace-building from Africa's East, Horn, and Great Lakes regions. It was organized by the Coalition for Peace in Africa

(COPA) and funded by USAID for East Africa. Symposium objectives included: increasing the understanding of approaches to trauma healing at the community level, creating systems breaking cycles of violence, and exploring effective monitoring and evaluation of trauma healing activities.

Professor Wendy Wagner developed NCC's [Nonprofit Fellows](#) Program, in which students earn a minor in Nonprofit Studies through a single semester immersion experience. Judging by the program's inaugural group of thought-leaders, the program helps shape and inspire some of society's most successful future change-agents.

Stay Connected

We are delighted to celebrate alumni and student accomplishments with our NCC and Mason Communities through NCC Connect, website articles, and Keeping the Connection, our yearly newsletter. Alumni, please visit our [Alumni Page](#) and take a few moments to fill out the NCC alumni information update form; students, feel free to send updates to [Penny Gilchrist](#). Please visit our [website](#) for more news and program information.

Most cordially,



Lisa Gring-Pemble
Associate Dean
New Century College