



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

New Century College

CONNECT

April 2014 Edition

"April showers bring May flowers" AND a host of special programs and events that entice the George Mason University community outside, onto our beautiful campus, and surrounding region. Good Deeds Day, [Earth Week](#), and the Cherry Blossom Festival, to name just a few events, remind us that Spring is in the air. This month's NCC Connect spotlights members of our community who dedicate time to nurturing their environment and promoting sustainable living.

Student Highlight

As a Mason Cornerstones student, Roger LeBlanc demonstrated his passion for sustainability by participating in a spring break program helping to restore wetlands in Florida, serving as a peer mentor for the Sustainability Living Learning Community (LLC), and becoming a Mason Green Patriot. He also won the College of Humanities and Social Science's First-



Sweitzer Scholarship for first-year students. Now an Environmental and Sustainability Studies junior, LeBlanc is the Sustainability LLC's resident adviser, coordinating green living programs for the students. Through service learning, he interns at the Office of Sustainability, where he helps university employees institute green actions and policies into their offices through the Green Office Certification Program. Currently, he is applying to create a community garden space for students and staff through the Patriot Green Fund.

"At Mason, I have been struck by the power of community building for creating long lasting change, and I really want to thank all of my faculty mentors and friends for teaching me so much about service and inspiring me to act in my local community," said LeBlanc.

Alumni Highlight

Congratulations to Leo Pareja, (BAIN, '02), who will be awarded the NCC Distinguished Alumni Award at Mason's annual [Celebration of Distinction](#) dinner on April 9, 2014. Pareja, who immigrated to the United States from Columbia in 1994, credits NCC for much of his success as one of the country's top real estate agents.

NCC EVENTS

[Engage with Mason](#)

Wednesday, April 30

9-11 a.m.

Student Union I, Fairfax Campus

[Spring Into Well-Being 2014](#)

April 7-24

Fairfax Campus

CONNECT

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



I'M IN.
ARE YOU?

"If it weren't for NCC's experiential learning program and inquiry-based learning which kept me engaged and interested, I might have dropped out of school," Pareja said.



He earned his real estate license during his freshman year, and a real estate broker license during an NCC internship. Pareja truly epitomizes the Mason Spirit of giving back: He is an active member of Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and works with the nonprofit Home Stretch, which provides housing and programs to homeless families. He serves on the national board of directors for National Association of Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP), which advances sustainable Hispanic home ownership by educating the professionals who serve their Latino communities.

Faculty Highlight



Professor Andrew Wingfield, MFA '99 joined NCC in 2000 and teaches classes in sustainability, conservation, and writing. He was the founding director of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies BA program, which NCC/College of Humanities and Social Sciences offers together with the Department of Environmental Science and Policy/College of Science. Wingfield is currently serving as the [Sustainability Studies Fellow](#) in the Office of the Provost, where he promotes Mason sustainability initiatives in teaching,

research and student life. As Faculty Liaison for NCC's Sustainability Living Learning Community, Wingfield advises students on development of campus greening projects.

"Universities are excellent laboratories for learning how to live more lightly, gracefully, and justly on the planet," Wingfield said. "I am convinced that George Mason, with its rich intellectual resources, its proximity to the nation's capital, and its global scope, is wonderfully positioned to produce the next generation of sustainability leaders. Many NCC graduates will no doubt be among them."

News Briefs

On March 21-23, NCC senior **Lela Ross, BAIN '14** was one of nineteen students to present at the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) meeting in Tempe, Ariz., during which she met with former President Bill Clinton and his daughter, Chelsea.

Congratulations to the following NCC seniors who were recently invited to join [Mason's Phi Beta Kappa](#) Omicron chapter: **Roger LeBlanc, Environmental and Sustainability Studies, BAIN '14**, **Rose Kenyon, Environmental and Sustainability Studies, BAIN '15**, and **Paige Calvert, Legal Studies, BAIN '15**.

Professor Gregory Unruh has published the first in a series of articles about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Leaders in the MIT Sloan Management Review. Read [Leading the Sustainability Insurgency](#), which discusses the current movement of corporations toward embedding CSR in company culture and organizational processes.

Most cordially,



Lisa Gring-Pemble
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