The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is a cornerstone of learning and research at George Mason University. Programs of study at the graduate level provide a strong foundation of knowledge rooted in theory and research. Undergraduate students build strength in writing, leadership, and knowledge of global issues. All programs promote the exploration of contemporary issues through integrated interdisciplinary learning that encourages students to forge real-world connections to science, technology, and the community.

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Dear Readers:

I am pleased to present the inaugural issue of Cornerstone, a new magazine published by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. At the cornerstone of any college education are the subjects of this college, which present students with a foundation of knowledge rooted in critical thinking, rich with insight into history and culture, and adaptable to the changing conditions of modern society. Our college offers the majority of the general education requirements required to graduate from Mason. We are the only unit on campus that will teach every Mason undergraduate at least once—a charge we do not take lightly.

In the following pages, we offer you the chance to glimpse the diverse achievements of our alumni, from the adventure of starting a business to the deepening of academic interests and creative contributions. In addition to educating our students, our faculty conduct groundbreaking research and make viable contributions to the community. For example, our Department of Psychology is home to some of the most interactive and innovative programs at Mason. With several nationally ranked programs, cutting-edge research equipment and labs, and some of the best faculty in their fields, I have watched the department steadily gain momentum over the years. I am honored to join the department in celebrating 35 years of undergraduate education and 25 years of the doctoral program.

Just as our programs have grown, so, too, will Cornerstone and our other offerings for alumni and friends. We are particularly proud of this edition’s Class Notes, and I look forward to getting more updates from you. In future editions, we will feature a Transitions section detailing the comings and goings of faculty and staff. This February, we will kick off Alumni College, a continuing education series for alumni and friends. Each seminar series is designed to offer a unique learning experience facilitated by a nationally recognized expert. We are thrilled to welcome Scholar-in-Residence Lt. General Bernard E. Trainor, author of the bestselling COBRA II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq.

We have a lot to celebrate after this first year as the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Most of all, I want to thank you for your continued support. We look forward to your notes and comments, and we welcome any story ideas for future editions. It is my hope that you will enjoy this issue of Cornerstone.

Go Patriots!

Jack R. Censer, Dean

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Back cover photo: Winter at Mason
History major Richard Fulton arrived at Mason in fall 1976. At that time, the country was celebrating the Bicentennial, Jimmy Carter would be elected president, gas was only $.59 a gallon, the average household income was $10,157, and George Mason University was in its infancy. In fact, the campus consisted of only four or five buildings, and the first on-campus housing was not available for another year.

Fulton, who wanted to attend a state school, heard about Mason and its proximity to Washington, D.C., from a friend. Mason seemed like an exotic choice because it was four hours away from his home, and he had to stay in the Breezeway Motel before being able to move into the newly constructed on-campus housing. Looking back, he now appreciates the experience because it provided early training for the countless business trips he has taken over the years.

Although Fulton first intended to join the Foreign Service or attend law school, he found himself working in the commercial printing industry. Today, he is vice president of corporate operations at a multisite national commercial printing company. The coauthor of two books, Fulton has won several awards, including one for managing a plant turnaround that prevented 300 employees from losing their jobs. He also helped build a CD-DVD manufacturing company within five years that was sold in 2005.

He credits Mason with preparing him for life in the business world. “Although I did not go into history or teaching and research, the work done to obtain the BA [History ’78] has given me the lifelong abilities to evaluate, study, and even write with better clarity, which I think has transferred its usefulness to the business world and management.”

Fulton remembers several outstanding faculty from his time at Mason, such as Bob Hawkes with his Fu-Manchu mustache, Martin Cohen and his insights into Canada, and James Bennett and his entertaining economics class. Fulton’s intent to thank Mason and further the Mason tradition of innovative and insightful educators has led to the establishment of the Richard L. and Victoria C. Fulton Jr. Faculty Study Leave Award in History and Art History. College of Humanities and Social Sciences Dean Jack Censer, then chair of the Department of History and Art History, expressed a departmental need to Fulton, and the award was born to help attract and retain new faculty.

This annual award is specifically intended for a junior tenure-track faculty member in the Department of History and Art History, allowing the recipient to take some time away from the classroom to complete research or writing in his or her area of study.

Fulton is proud of being a Mason alumnus, and this award is his and his family’s way of saying thank you to the university that he says provided an education and a life experience that served as a foundation for the rest of his adult life. Fulton adds that any Mason alumni who have the desire and ability to support Mason should know that they can help keep Mason vital and alive, as well as strengthen the university for future generations of Mason students.

The first Richard L. and Victoria C. Fulton Jr. Faculty Study Leave Award is expected to be presented in May 2008.

Victoria and Richard Fulton, BA History ’78
…the work done to obtain the BA has given me the lifelong abilities to evaluate, study, and even write with better clarity….

Above, Fenwick Library. In 1976, Fulton attended a much smaller campus and parking stickers were a fraction of today’s cost.
Three Decades of Excellence

By Amy Noecker, with Tara Laskowski

The Psychology Department has long been a fixture at George Mason University, and this year it celebrates 35 years of scholarship, research, and education. The draw of top faculty members with national and international reputations has made this department one of the largest on campus, but one with great diversity of scholarship and students. The Industrial/Organizational MA and PhD programs are nationally ranked fourth and sixth, respectively, and the National Science Foundation lists the department in the top 100 according to research expenditures. It is obvious that the department has come into its own.

This department of devoted scholars excels in many areas. For instance, it recently received the Departmental Award for Culture of Service in the Psychological Sciences, a high honor from the American Psychological Association. One can look to the long list of publications, journal editorial service, national psychology advisory boards, research projects, and community outreach initiatives and see why Mason’s Psychology Department earned this award.

HISTORY
In 1969, then-George Mason College approved the BA and BS degrees in psychology. In 1972, the Department of Psychology was approved, formed, and located on the second floor of Thompson Hall. Around that time, the university began to push for master’s level programs, and in the 1980s, a movement to start a doctoral program took shape. The department’s growth includes a faculty of 45 full-time members.

Martin Kurke, Jeanne Mellinger, Edwin Fleishman, and Richard Klimoski were all integral to the development and expansion of the psychology programs at Mason. Department chair Deborah Boehm-Davis cites past department chairs as responsible for accelerating the program. “Department chairs have provided leadership and worked well with the administration to grow our programs,” she says.

STUDENTS
Currently, the department enrolls 1,000 undergraduate and 200 graduate students as majors. Undergraduate students can earn a BA or a BS. With its broad and balanced overview of the various specialties in psychology, the curriculum is similar for both degree programs.

At the graduate level, students may choose from six specialty areas: school psychology, biopsychology, applied developmental psychology, clinical psychology, human factors and applied cognition, and industrial/organizational psychology. The department also coordinates the interdisciplinary undergraduate program in neuroscience and contributes to the graduate interdisciplinary program in neuroscience. Recruiting nationally and internationally for its graduate programs, the department recently received 723 applications for some 70 seats.

Graduates of Mason’s psychology program have pursued a sweeping range of careers, from school psychologists to government ethics professionals to lawyers and mortgage financiers.
Mason’s Psychology Department is unique in its focus on applying basic research to solving practical problems in families, schools, industry, government, and health care settings. The following are just a few of the reasons Mason stays at the top.

- How much information can a person safely process on the road, and how much does the design of something influence how quickly you can use it? Mason’s Psychology Department recently obtained a vehicle simulator that will help answer these questions and more as part of its broad range of driver cognition and human factors research. The simulator, which will be used by the department’s Arch Lab, literally puts researchers in the driver’s seat, giving them the ability to program different driving scenarios and collect and measure data precisely for later analysis.

- Assistant professor Todd Kashdan’s teaching and research into well-being received attention from the media, including an article last January in the New York Times Magazine titled “Happiness 101.” Kashdan has been a guest on NPR’s On Point with Tom Ashbrook and the Tavis Smiley Show, Talking with America, and Green America Radio.

- The Arch Lab’s new noninvasive high-density EEG system is being used in studies of perception and cognition in healthy young and older adults. Raja Parasuraman, University Professor of Psychology, is using the system to study the effects of genes and aging on attention and memory in collaboration with associate professor Pamela Greenwood and research assistant professor Shim Fu. James Thompson, assistant professor of psychology, also uses the new EEG system. With funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense, the team is trying to detect the effects of aging on brain function and cognition. Early indications of this interaction will allow new and current prevention therapies to be provided to those individuals at the greatest risk for Alzheimer’s disease at the earliest possible time. Even a modest decrease in the age of diagnosis could have a profound medical impact and improve the quality of life of these patients.

Above, EEG system
Right, driving simulator
Cracking the Code: Risk + Adventure = Life Rewards

By Evan Baum

W hen asked what advice he would give other Mason students and alumni, Joshua Czarda, BS Public Administration ’97, said with conviction, “Don’t follow the money, follow your heart. In the end, it pays off in every possible way.” From personal experience, he also warned, “Don’t try to ride a windmill blade in Amsterdam—all the way around.”

After earning his degree from Mason, he obtained a JD from the University of Richmond School of Law and worked for the United Network of Organ Sharing. In 2002, Czarda left that behind to found Ravenchase Adventures, a company that creates customized fund raisers and adventure-gaming events in the form of treasure hunts and scavenger hunts that span the globe.

The inspiration for Ravenchase originated under rather tragic circumstances. When his mother was sick with cancer during Christmas one year, Czarda put together a treasure hunt to raise the spirits of his three younger brothers. The adventure contained various codes, ciphers, and gadgets, and eventually took the boys up an area mountain where they found a treasure chest that Czarda had buried.

The spark of this emotionally charged piece of personal history ignited Czarda’s entrepreneurial spirit and passion for travel and adventure. Today, the Richmond, Virginia-based Ravenchase has satellite offices in Honolulu, San Francisco, Chicago, and New York, and more than 10,000 clients, including some Fortune 500 companies. The company is employee-owned to stimulate a sense of entrepreneurialism at all levels of the business.

Ravenchase hosts public events in many cities for those seeking a personal adventure, but the company’s hallmark is treasure hunts akin to a combination of the Amazing Race, The Da Vinci Code, and Raiders of the Lost Ark that are tailored specifically to the client’s needs and interests. The work has taken Czarda from Amsterdam to India and nearly everywhere in between.

“Traditional team-building programs are tired, tedious, and exceptionally cheesy,” says Czarda. By contrast, Ravenchase events have a reputation as being more difficult and creative than participants expect. The elaborateness of each adventure varies. Although logistical problems can occur, Ravenchase staff diligently research important details and communicate with local stakeholders during planning to make the adventure experience as well-coordinated as possible.

An average adventure runs for about three hours in one city, but some can last as long as a week and span multiple states or countries. Typically, Ravenchase staff personally greet each group at the start of a race to explain the rules and present each team with a handmade map, gadgets to help them along the way, and an initial clue. From there, teams travel as they see fit trying to decipher riddles and puzzles along the way to their ultimate goal and secret final destination. In the process, adventurers are exposed to the cultural histories, artifacts, and mysteries of their race location, and team members learn more about themselves and each other.

An adventure participant encounters an intriguing artifact.
Every Ravenchase adventure is unique. In one adventure called “The Heist,” the company renovated an old bank, complete with large vaults, laser motion sensors, heat sensors, guards, and high-tech security equipment. Players received an elaborate background story and a brief-case of materials to help them find bank schematics, the safe combination, and other facts they would need along the way. Ultimately, the players staged a break-in to elude security and crack the safe, knowing that if they tripped an alarm, they faced a contingent of guards armed with paintball guns.

Another recent success was an elaborate 007 adventure that was coordinated for a client on the Greek island of Mykonos. Armed with real-life spy gadgets, teams had to locate and employ special field agents planted throughout the island while avoiding adversaries who were trying to thwart their efforts.

An event Ravenchase executed on the small Maltese island Gozo is a personal favorite of Czarda’s in which 300 players engaged in an islandwide Jeep race that exposed participants to the island’s rich history. That same trip marked an important milestone for Czarda—it was the backdrop of his engagement to his wife, Hilary.

With a number of corporate clients returning to Ravenchase for their 20th or 30th adventure and some individual veterans now on their 100th game, it is not surprising that the company has been profiled in many media outlets. Czarda himself was named one of Richmond’s Top 40 Under 40 by Style Weekly magazine in 2006.

The greatest lesson Czarda has learned through all the changes in his life is to act on his dreams and ambitions because the best way to make his ideas come alive is through his own initiative. This attitude transcends Czarda’s work and influences the way he lives his personal life as well. When he’s not masterminding Ravenchase events, he and his wife love to travel, surf, scuba dive, and rock climb.

Czarda and Ravenchase have no intentions of slowing down. He hopes to further expand his company and develop even more elaborate and engaging scenarios. Is there a mysterious adventure to be had on campus at Mason or in the City of Fairfax? According to Czarda, “It’s always a possibility. Just have [President] Merten give me a buzz.”
As a recent graduate of Mason’s graduate creative writing program, people often ask me, “What are you going to do with that?” or “Your parents must be thrilled with that career path, right?” After all, in today’s culture we equate happiness and success with fancy cars and big houses. How could someone choose a less certain and more creative path?

Frankly, what it comes down to is the uncertain earning potential and the need for an employer. After all, who will hire someone with an MFA? It might be a cliché to consider Robert Frost’s poem “The Road Not Taken,” yet it’s worth mentioning. The poem is a commentary on the choices one must make and where those choices lead. Frost’s point is that one road is not better than the other, it’s simply different.

While there are some PhD programs in the arts, the MFA provides the norm for the field. As a terminal degree, an MFA is a serious undertaking that requires significant time and attention. Mason’s nationally recognized creative writing program is no exception. In addition to craft classes, the program has a substantive literature component designed to provide students with a set of strong examples to work from in their own writing. Whatever the degree requirements of an MFA in creative writing, the degree prepares students for a variety of careers by building skills in reading, listening, communicating, and creative thinking. These skills are useful in almost any field, and one cannot deny the utility and importance of the written word as a communication tool. Furthermore, as David Fenza, executive director of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs, housed at Mason, writes, “We turn to literature to make our lives bigger.” Indeed, through literature of all sorts, readers expand their world by learning of different travelers, roads, and possibilities, and this, inevitably—or shall I say hopefully—leads to new ideas and fresh perspectives. Again, an ability to locate, respect, and respond to innovative ideas and fresh perspectives is a skill valued by many employers.

The Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing, housed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, promotes the importance of the creative path. The institute offers six fellowships each year to young, emerging writers, and the competition for these prized fellowships is fierce. As in previous years, hundreds of applications were submitted, and as in previous years, a Mason alumna has earned one of these coveted spots.

Danielle Deulen completed her MFA in poetry in 2005. She taught as a graduate student and as an adjunct, and served as the graduate programs manager in the English Department before heading off to Wisconsin in August to serve as the Jay C. and Ruth Halls Poetry Fellow for the year. She returned to Mason to participate in the Fall for the Book Festival in September, and I took the opportunity to chat with her about her experience at Mason and her new life in Wisconsin.

“Mason’s [graduate teaching assistantship] program prepared me for work in the classroom in a way I don’t think a lot of other programs do.”
Q: What attracted you to Mason’s MFA Program?
A: Ah, the question everyone loves to ask. At the time I applied to Mason, I was miserable in my job as a receptionist in Manhattan and knew only that I felt called to write and teach. The best way to do both seemed to be to enter a graduate program. I just happened to enroll in a program that was a good match for me. Once I arrived, I discovered many great reasons to apply to Mason, though obviously this is hindsight.

Q: Overall, what was your experience as a Mason student?
A: Mason’s MFA program has a reputation as one of the more academically rigorous programs in the country, especially in poetry. As you might guess from my previous answer, I wasn’t quite prepared for this, so there was some initial scrambling. Even while scrambling, I realized that this kind of rigor was important to understanding my craft. By my final year in the program, I felt I was on solid ground. I suppose this is always the way learning happens for me: a headlong dive followed by great confusion or frustration, and then, finally, illumination. During this process, I found brilliant and engaging faculty who were wonderfully generous with their time and support.

Q: What did you think of Mason’s graduate teaching assistantship (GTA) program? Has teaching played a role in your development as a poet?
A: Mason’s GTA program prepared me for work in the classroom in a way I don’t think a lot of other programs do. I’ve had friends in programs at other schools who complained about being thrown directly into the classroom their first semester. Between classes, such mentors as Terry Zawacki and Zofia Burr, and discussions with MFA faculty about pedagogy, Mason provides the training necessary to becoming a successful teacher. I took my training very seriously—and it took over my life. Learning to temper my impulse to spend all my time and energy on teaching—and none on my poems—has been difficult. Teaching made me a better reader of poems. It has also affected my subject matter, as students show up in my poems quite a bit.

Q: When you were in New York, you realized you wanted to write and teach. What drew you into the world of writing and why poetry?
A: I’ve always loved reading and the different worlds it allows you to inhabit, so it seemed obvious that I would try to write myself. To be quite honest, I don’t know if I’m more attracted to poetry than any other genre; it’s just the genre I found some small amount of success in…. If I believed I could write a beautiful novel, I’d give it a shot. But it seems disingenuous to think I could write a novel out of nowhere.

Q: Everyone is familiar with the idea of writer’s block. What do you think about this? Where do you find inspiration for your work?
A: I don’t really believe in writer’s block; I believe in incubation. Writers have periods in which they are less productive in the quantitative sense; that is, they’re not producing anything they could show someone. But the mind is always at work. When you’re not writing, you’re gathering or just listening. Eventually, you fit these pieces together, and they become something. Personally, I’m inspired by what I read.

Q: So, you’re the recipient of one of the prestigious writing fellowships from the University of Wisconsin, and you’re the fourth Mason alumnus to garner this honor. How does Wisconsin’s atmosphere differ from Mason’s? Do you feel any sort of pressure?
A: There are many similarities between the English departments of Mason and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. They are both large departments in large universities—many kind and brilliant people all in one place. The biggest difference, I would say, is in the atmosphere of Madison itself, a small college town of about 300,000 people. Outside Madison, there is mostly farmland. You don’t have to drive very far to feel as if you are in the middle of nowhere, so Madison feels very contained. It has almost anything you could want in a small radius. It’s a pedestrian- and bike-friendly town. People here don’t seem to drive much. Where I live, I’m within walking distance of the university, a lake, museums, restaurants, coffee shops, bars, you name it. In this way, it feels like a city, but it has the friendliness of a small town. It doesn’t have the international flair of Washington, D.C.,

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www.gmu.edu/development/recognt.html.

10 WINTER 2008
NCC ALUMNI ESTABLISH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

By Heidi A. Bruce

New Century College (NCC) is an innovative, unique, and exciting educational opportunity within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. NCC provides an integrated curriculum through interdisciplinary course work that stresses hands-on learning and the application of knowledge to practical situations. The program allows students and their advisors to design individualized programs based around several concentrations that range from advertising to conservation science. The unique relationship between NCC students and their faculty carries over after students graduate.

When asked what makes NCC so special, Mariam Hutchinson, NCC Alumni Chapter president, says it best: “The faculty, the students, the competencies, the experimental learning, the entire first-year experience, and the relationships that you form with peers, faculty, and the Mason community are what make NCC a special program.”

NCC alumni have gone on to work in various settings, including Fortune 500 companies, nonprofit organizations, law, and education. Some have even started their own businesses; yet none have lost that special place in their hearts for NCC.

This bond has encouraged the NCC Alumni Chapter to establish the Student Excellence in Learning Fund, an endowed scholarship fund to benefit NCC students in good academic standing who have financial need. The scholarship is not limited to tuition costs and may be applied to study abroad or alternative spring break opportunities.

The alumni chapter felt a duty to support future generations of NCC students, especially those in financial need so they could take advantage of all the learning opportunities available. This, in turn, makes for alumni who are more involved with and devoted to NCC and the university.

“Supporting NCC means supporting everything the program stands for—our future workforce and our future leaders. It means supporting the highest quality of education,” Hutchinson says. By making this scholarship endowed, the NCC Alumni Chapter has ensured that this gift will be available to future NCC students because as the principal grows, so does the capability of the scholarship. Several alumni have decided to give to NCC since the scholarship’s establishment and encourage all alumni to support Mason in some way.

“This support is a powerful way of showing how much their Mason education means to them. Financial support for a young university like Mason is a necessity for promoting growth,” says Erin Levi, a 2002 graduate of NCC.

NCC has more than 1,200 alumni, and they like to think of themselves as an extended family. Older alumni mentor younger alumni and students because they understand the challenges students and younger alumni face.

“I wish there had been a group of alumni I could have turned to for career advice. It is nice to know that there is a group of people that have shared the same experiences. Our unique education is a powerful connection,” says Hutchinson.

If you are interested in learning more about the NCC Alumni Chapter and upcoming events, visit the chapter web site at ncc.gmu.edu/alumni.
ELYSE LEHMANN, PROFESSOR EMERITA

Elyse Lehman officially retired on June 1, 2007, after a 31-year career at Mason that began in the Department of Psychology, where she taught graduate courses in her specialty, cognitive and perceptual development.

Although she will no longer be gracing King Hall on the Fairfax Campus full time, her influence will carry on. Lehman and her husband, Donald, have established the Lehman Graduate Student Research Award Endowment for the Department of Psychology, which they hope will provide an ever-increasing source of funding for graduate research.

Lehman says the endowment will allow her to remain involved with Mason and, at the same time, fulfill her new role as professor emerita of psychology. This gift from the Lehmans demonstrates their dedication and commitment to research in psychology.

Her plans include advising several doctoral students, taking piano lessons, learning French, and growing orchids.

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For a complete list of giving clubs at Mason, please visit www.gmu.edu/development/recognition.html.

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Bold—Mason Faculty or Staff Members

Johnson Center North Plaza
but it doesn’t have the stress either. As for pressures, my only anxiety is to make sure I take full advantage of the opportunity I have been given.

Q: Is there a specific component of the Wisconsin fellowship that you are looking forward to putting to use?
A: I like that there is a teaching component. All fellows teach one creative writing class a semester, which keeps us in touch with a community of learners. The program’s directors are concerned with this—inviting us into the community. Mostly, though, I’m looking forward to reading. Before I received the fellowship, I was working full time and teaching one composition course at night.

Between my weekly schedule, commenting on students’ work, and planning for class, I had little time or energy left for reading. I have a long list of books to read and reread, and I’m happily going through them. Reading is an important part of the creative process for me, so this is important to me.

Q: The fellowship is designed to give young writers the opportunity to work on a manuscript for publication. What’s your manuscript like? Did it grow out of your graduate-level thesis, or did the thesis simply play a developmental role?
A: I feel as if I’m starting over. I’m focusing more on producing new work than I am salvaging old poems. Who knows what I’ll have by the end of the year. The manuscript I’m trying to pull together is currently titled “Dangerous Fruit.” I’m interested in the biblical story of Genesis, mostly in the role woman plays and how it affects our understanding of the story. For better or worse, at least for the time being, there’s a feminist slant to the manuscript.

Q: Where would you like to be in five years?
A: My main aim is to have a book published; everything else is secondary. Before that, there’s not much of a possibility for any career in the literary world.

Q: I know this is an impossible question, but what role do you think the arts should play in contemporary society? How do you think the general public feels about creative writing?
A: This is an impossible question, and any answer might come off sounding idealistic or pretentious. In my classroom experience, though, it seems students often have some misconceptions about poetry that I’m constantly working against as soon as I enter the room. They seem to believe that poetry is and should be confusing, esoteric, and autobiographical. While it’s true that poetry condenses and plays with language in a way that colloquial speech does not, this is what makes it a pleasure to study. Some poems require more study than others, but that doesn’t mean they are intentionally confusing. Whether a poem is difficult or accessible, it’s important to understand the aesthetic and the time in which the poet is working. This is why we have literature classes. It does no good to read out of context. For example, without a background in physics, you can’t walk into the middle of a physics lecture and expect to understand it. Poetry is the same way, but it seems people don’t apply this logic to the study of poetry.
1972
Sim Shattuck released his third novel, Krewe of Hecate, with good reviews (DreamCatcher).

1974
Barbara L. Jean retired to become a full-time artist and poet. She is a member of her local Unnamed Writers Group and sends a special thank you to Lorraine Brown in the English Department.

Dahl E. Moore is the serials acquisitions librarian at Florida Atlantic University, where she has been a librarian since 1979.

1975
Jim McCarthy recently accepted a vice president position with QORE Property Sciences Inc., a geotechnical, environmental, and facilities firm. With an office in Orlando, he will handle national accounts, working mostly with architects, engineers, and contractors.

Tom Philion was named the executive director of the Seattle Symphony.

1977
Cdr. Kevin Brown is deputy division chief for the Domestic Port Security Evaluation Division of the U.S. Coast Guard in Washington, D.C.

Martha S. Feldkamp was appointed to the Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission by Virginia Governor Tim Kaine.

Victoria Wildermuth is teaching British literature before 1800 at the University of Texas, Permian Basin campus.

1979
Nancy Vernon retired from her career as a licensed professional counselor. She has three grandchildren: the oldest just graduated from high school, the second has been accepted to the Oakland School for the Arts for dance, and the third is one year old.

Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda was appointed poet laureate of Virginia by Governor Tim Kaine.

Melanie Ann (Woytash) Pustay was named director of the Office of Information and Privacy by then-Attorney General Albert Gonzales in April.

1980
Dan Duvall and his wife, Elizabeth, announce the marriage of their daughter Katherine Morrette to Joshua Russell Hall (USN) on July 21, 2007, in Arlington, Virginia.

1981
R. Lyle Laverty was appointed assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and commissioner of the U.S. Section of the Great Lakes Fishing Commission in the Department of the Interior by President Bush.


1983
Bonnie Baldwin has been the library assistant at the Virginia Room at Arlington Central Library since 2001.

Melanie Keck Doon is the communications manager for the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors in Washington, D.C.

Kenneth Nichols teaches public administration at the University of Maine. He recently collaborated with retired Mason professor Harold Gortner on the textbook, Organization Theory: A Public and Nonprofit Perspective, which is a third edition of Gortner’s Organization Theory: A Public Perspective. Nichols’s wife Barbara is also a Patriot, Class of 1988.

1984
Scott Houting has been employed at Valley Forge National Historic Park since 1994 and was recently promoted to museum curator.

Minh C. Bui wrote A Distant Cause: A History and the Vindication of the Viet Nam War, which was published by Xlibris Corp.

Jeffrey Riner retired from federal law enforcement as a supervisory special agent with the Diplomatic Security Service of the U.S. State Department. He is now a program manager for the Homeland Security Corp. His daughter Lauren is also a Mason alumna, graduating magna cum laude in 2005 with a degree in psychology.

1985
Nicolette Stearns founded ARTSTREAM, a nonprofit organization that brings art to underserved populations. She is also writing and directing plays.

Rev. Robert E. Streeter is the faith-based community outreach coordinator for the Florida PIRC of Family Network on Disabilities.

1986
Catherine Lemmon completed 10 years of service on the Mason Alumni Association board and is the current past president. She is the web content manager for the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.

Allen R. Plumley III enjoyed a career in investment banking for several years after receiving graduate degrees from Harvard and the University of Virginia. He recently retired and is now the first athletic director at Trinity Christian School in Fairfax, Virginia. While at Trinity, he has taught middle school history, developed a 12th-grade economics course, and established and coaches the boy’s lacrosse team.

Tell us what you’ve been up to.*

Alums, we want to know... where are you now?
➤ Have you moved?
➤ Gotten married?
➤ Had a baby?
➤ Landed a hot new job?
➤ Seen old classmates recently?

*Submit your class notes to chssalumni@gmu.edu.
In your note, be sure to include your graduation year, department, and degree.
Lou Bell Pollard is one of the founders of Suffolk 60 Care, a community service league in Suffolk, Virginia, which donates time and money to agencies in need in the area. The league will receive the Ray of Hope Award for Volunteerism from the Hampton Roads Youth Center.

1987
Desiree M. Miller has been employed by Walt Disney World since 1994. In 2006, she received the Partners in Excellence Award, the highest honor an employee can receive. She and her husband, Paul, have two children, Veronica, age 4, and Dean, age 2.

1988
Kathryn Parker’s book Winchester, about the 262-year history of Winchester, Virginia, was published in December 2006. Parker works for the Handley Regional Library.

Lt. Col. Chris Possel (USAF) is director of the Joint Multi-Tactical Data Link School at Fort McPherson. He and his wife are expecting their fourth child in November.

1989
Stephanie Dhue has been reporting for the Nightly Business Report on PBS since 1993. She reported on the collapse of Enron, the Microsoft antitrust trial, and the current turmoil in the mortgage market. She received an Emmy in 2005 in the Outstanding Extended Coverage—Business category for her story on China’s emergence as an international economic power.

1990
Christine (Massimo) Black lives in Overland Park, Kansas, with her husband, Steve, and their three children: Drew, age 14; Matthew, age 12; and Kara, age 9.

Steve Hafner is CEO of HEP Development. HEP Development and CASE recently merged their matching gift programs, which will give users access to an expanded database of matching gift companies.

Janet Rodriguez is a producer for CNN’s Washington, D.C., Bureau.

David Shaheen and his wife, Min Xie, adopted Jade Elise, age 1, their first child, from an orphanage in China.

Daniel Webb: his wife, Danielle; and son, Jeffrey, age 3, are expecting a daughter in November. He is employed with Goldman Sachs in North Carolina.

1991
Massud Alemi’s novel Interruptions, his first book in English, will be released on January 14, 2008. He is currently working on another novel.

Maria Bryant was awarded the 2007 Faculty Excellence Award at the College of Southern Maryland for teaching.

Tracy Evans produces shows for NBC, Court TV, and Animal Planet. She and her husband, Rob, are celebrating the recent addition to their family, Natalia, age 9 months.

Paola Hornbuckle lives in San Diego with her husband, Scott, and their two daughters, Erica, age 12, a soccer player, and Madeline, age 10, an actor with the San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre.

Edward G. Lengel has written two books that are due out in early 2008: To Conquer Hell: The Meuse-Ardenne 1918 (Henry Holt) and The Glorious Struggle: George Washington’s Revolutionary War Letters (Harper Collins).

Mark Lewis has been a licensed chiropractor in Florida since 2006. He opened a solo practice in Sarasota that focuses on nutrition and natural medicine this fall.

Brian Ott wrote The Small Screen: How Television Equips Us to Live in the Information Age, which was published by Blackwell Press.

1992
Sandra L. Berger’s book College Planning for Gifted Students was originally published in 1989. In 2006, the completely rewritten third edition was published by Prufrock Press. In addition, her book The Ultimate Guide to Summer Opportunities for Teens was recently released. She is currently working on a book about online learning for teens that will be published in 2009.

Carrie (Jones) Bright is the executive director of the American Midwifery Certification Board in Laurel, Maryland.

She and husband, John, have two daughters: Alyssa, age 11, and Paige, age 3.

David Brown was appointed the first archivist of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Fred Foldvary wrote The Depression of 2008, which was published by Gutenberg Press in 2007 and applies real estate economics to forecast a recession in 2008. He teaches economics at Santa Clara University in California.

Harold Geller was acting chair of the Physics and Astronomy Department at Mason from August 2006 to August 2007. He was recently elected first vice president of the Potomac Geophysical Society and to the Board of Trustees of the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club.


Claire Heller Hargreaves and her husband, Barry, expanded their family with their third child, Luke William, on February 13, 2007. He has two older brothers, Jack, age 3, and Nathan, age 2.

Dallas Hudgens released his second novel, The Season of Gene, this fall (Scribner).

Courtney (Runion) Hunt wrote History of Iraq, as part of Greenwood Press’ Histories of Modern Nations series.

Dawn (Quinnell) Piercy is a nurse practitioner at Duke University Medical Center, undertaking research in hepatology.

Dana Taylor is the director of risk management for Stanford University Medical Center in Palo Alto, California.

Miriam Van Scott is the author of The Encyclopedia of Heaven and The Encyclopedia of Hell. She recently appeared on ABC’s 20/20 on a show dedicated to exploring the dark side of humanity.

THE GRADUATING CLASSES OF 2005 AND 2006

- Fifty-six percent find that Mason has contributed very much to their growth in critical thinking and analysis.
- Ninety-three percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the education they received in their major.
- Fifty-one percent say that they would come back to campus to participate in a career networking event.
- Forty-three percent plan to enroll in graduate or professional school within one year of their date of graduation.
Kevin Chambers and Gina Rohleder Chambers welcomed baby Avery Elizabeth on August 6, 2006.

Musa Eubanks was named chair of the Labor and Employment Practice Group of the law firm Hall Booth Smith & Slover in Atlanta, Georgia.

LeeAnne Haworth is the manager of international programs and partnerships at the California Space Authority.

Kristine L. Kaske-Martin and her husband, Scott, welcomed baby Charles Kaske on March 1, 2007.

Tracy Sullivan Mollo is president of Stellar-Ideas and creator of the Can-ID! beverage identification tags.

George Sales is a manager with Kadix Systems, a management consulting organization. One of his clients is the Federal Emergency Management Agency.


Susan (Stephaz) Dennison recently moved back to Northern Virginia after living in Evanston, Illinois, for several years. She is taking her 13 years of teaching experience to fourth graders at Seldens Landing Elementary School in Loudoun County, Virginia.

Christopher Hessenflow is president of the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce (located in a Chicago suburb). He founded Hessenflow Financial Planning, which specializes in retirement investment strategies.

Michelle Katz, author of 101 Health Insurance Tips and Healthcare for Less, is a health care consultant and international medical reporter. She has appeared on the CBS Evening News with Katie Couric, Oprah & Friends on XM Radio, CN8, and the Today Show on NBC. She also hosts and produces her own television show, which airs in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Hollis Kosco started a new position with Moving Products, which required him to relocate to Beijing, China, specifically to work on the 2008 Summer Olympics.

Melinda Lewis is a school counselor with the Fairfax County Public Schools and works at Carl Sandberg Middle School.

Andrew McElwaine is president of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. He and his family reside in Naples, Florida.

Aaron Micallef is the supervisor for Adult and Youth Education Programs at Spring Preserves in Nevada.

Gaurav Sarin is employed by Winmark, a management consulting firm that focuses on best practices and executive networks. He has relocated to London, England.

Woody Soemanarto is the Southern California marketing director for Evergreen Realty Group. He focuses on the region from Bakersfield to San Diego as well as Arizona, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Elisa D. (Stinchum) Staton graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1997 and is an attorney in Woodbridge, Virginia. She cowrote Adoption Procedures and Forms: A Guide for Virginia Lawyers in 2006.

Marguerite (Goerke) Downey is the director of communications and client services at Adduci, Mastriani and Schaumberg, an international trade boutique in Washington, D.C. She has been with the firm for 10 years.

Fred Jorgensen is the director of interactive strategy at Crosby Marketing Communications in Annapolis, Maryland. He and his wife recently welcomed their second child.

Katherine Reid Sherwood and husband, Yogesh Sharma, welcomed baby Deven Reid on April 5, 2007.

Rob Simms is deputy secretary of state for the State of Georgia. He previously was a partner with the public affairs firm Massey & Bowers. Simms lives with his wife, Danielle, and two dogs, Reagan and Gibbs, in Atlanta.

Margarita Staadt opened Greater Richmond Homes, a real-estate brokerage.

Antoinette Awuakye received her JD from Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon, and sat for the bar in July.

Kelli (Wies) Castle is a human capital management software consultant for SuccessFactors.

Mickie Kennedy is president of the Internet publicity firm eReleases.com and the curator of the poetry web site www.poetrypreviews.com.

Tina McPherson’s documentary Belly Up premiered at the Cannes Film Festival on May 24, 2007. It won the Community Documentary Honorable Mention.

Ryan Snead and wife, Kathryn, welcomed Alyce Elizabeth on February 1, 2007.

Betsy Andrews’s book of poems New Jersey won the Brittingham Prize from the University of Wisconsin.

Jeffrey Dallos is the national disability program manager for the U.S. Geological Survey. He and his wife, Linda, have three children: Annalese, age 7, and twins Jared and Adrienne, age 2.

Kevin Mullinix received his certificate in paralegal studies from Georgetown University in 2005. He is currently applying to law school.

THE INCOMING FRESHMAN CLASS OF 2011

- **Fifty-eight percent** expect activities in the District of Columbia to be a big part of their experience at Mason.
- **Fifty-five percent** expect to spend one hour or more daily using social networking sites, such as Facebook or MySpace.
- **Forty percent** expect to spend at least one hour each day communicating with family members.
- **Thirty-five percent** find it important to join a club or organization that relates to a cultural, religious, gender identity, or sexual orientation with which they identify.
Dennis J. Roch is assistant superintendent of schools in Tucumcari, New Mexico. He also chairs the New Mexico Public Education Commission.

1998
Sandra Brandenburg married Clark Miller on April 21, 2007, in Vienna, Virginia.

Adam Bratron is the assistant director of public affairs at Allegheny College. He and his wife, Carissa, welcomed their second child, Daniel Thayne, on June 8, 2007.

J. Thomas Hetrick’s 32nd book, *Salt Lick*, was recently published by Pocol Press.

Abra Hogarth and her husband, Matt, and daughters, Bailey, age 7, and Anya, age 3, recently moved back to Northern Virginia from South Africa where she worked for the U.S. Treasury Department in the Office of Technical Assistance in the Financial Enforcement Division.

Joe Little received his MA in broadcast journalism from Syracuse in 1999, and his wife, Stacey Belise Little, earned her MS in physician assistant sciences in 2002. Joe is a television news reporter at KGET (an ABC affiliate) in San Diego, and Stacey is a practicing physician assistant in a pain management center. The couple welcomed Mason Alexander in December 2006.

Matthew Weeks is senior manager of integrity at ESPN. He supervises the staff that researches all the scores and statistics used throughout the ESPN Network.

1999
Tamara N. Carbaugh’s original music compositions *Joseph’s Song, Beginning Again, Fabel’s Friend, Possibilities and Seventh Element* are all included in the online music library mymusicsource.com.

Suzanne Logan is a senior organizational development consultant with HumanR Inc.

Jennifer Monaster completed her MBA in marketing management with distinction from DePaul University in June. She is working in the IBM software group as part of the Summit Sales Leadership Program.

Capt. Mike Slawski (USMC Reserves) is an IT network operations analyst with Northrop Grumman in Quantico, Virginia. He is returning to Mason to begin work on his MS in telecommunications.

Tamara Stoner completed her MA in forensic psychology at Marymount University in 2003. She returned to Mason this fall for the Justice, Law, and Crime Policy MA, PhD Program.

Meredith Vickery is a board-certified behavior analyst working at the Kilmer Center in Fairfax County, Virginia. The program is geared specifically toward students with developmental disabilities who also have severely challenging behavior.

Diane Williams did production photography for the DVD extras for the upcoming film *National Treasure 2: The Book of Secrets*. On the DVD, watch for her still shots of the derringer that John Wilkes Booth used to assassinate President Lincoln, Booth’s diary, and the Presidential Box inside and exterior shots of Ford Theater.

2000
René Cadogan Sr. received his MA in counseling and is teaching at Trinity University in Washington, D.C.

David B. Davis is vice president of administration and sales at BMS Consulting Inc. He and his wife, Ola, are expecting their first child in November 2007.

Duygu “Dee” Erdemgil is a government affairs associate at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C.


Regan S. Mahoney is a corporate analyst for system development for Didlake Inc., a nonprofit in Northern Virginia that provides employment and day-to-day services to individuals with disabilities.

Daniel McMahon has been married for two years and is doing telecommunications work in Virginia.

Don Mercy was voted the Most Inspirational Teacher by the Class of 2007 at Osbourn Park High School. He gave the keynote address at its graduation.


Georgia (Arnanitis) Paxos is the executive director of the Canton Palace Theatre in North Canton, Ohio. She and her husband, Mike, have two sons: Kostas, age 2, and Minas, age 1. Paxos traveled to Indianapolis to cheer on the Patriots in the Final Four.

Emily Symonds received her MLS in May 2007 from Indiana University in Bloomington and is currently the metadata and digital initiatives librarian at Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

2001
Liam Callanan’s second novel, *All Saints*, has been published.

Jeremy Domozick married Anne Maurer on October 7, 2006.

Emily Kayser received her MBA from the Kogod School of Business at American University and is a product manager on the Search Team at AOL.

Kalli McDonough is a reporter for the *New York Post*.

Howard “Jack” Nevitt started Virginia Digital Photo Safaris in 2006.

Christian Piatt was hired by Booz Allen Hamilton, Global Defense after serving 12 months in Operation Iraqi Freedom and 2 months in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Fidel G. Taparra is an archivist in the Executive Office of the President on the National Security Council’s staff at the White House. He also is the webmaster for Mason’s History and Art History Alumni Chapter (historyalumni.com).

2002

David Bjerke is the election specialist with the Office of Elections in Fairfax County, Virginia, but on Wednesday nights he hosts an open-mic night at a club in Alexandria. He recently married Anna Krusch.

Dennis Butler is chief of the Ottawa, Kansas, Police Department. He received the 2007 Kansas attorney general’s Crime Victim’s Service Award for outstanding service in law enforcement. He also is a member of the Governor’s Subcommittee on Domestic Violence, which is assigned to develop statewide domestic violence training for law enforcement.

Paul Henriques is a research librarian in the Corporate Library of the
U.S. Postal Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He received his MLS in 2006 from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College in Boston. His article “Six Strategies for Success” was published in the Library Journal and presented at Lexis Nexus’ Library Week at the National Press Club in March 2007.

Elaina Loveland is managing editor of International Educator magazine. Her second book, Creative Careers: Paths for Aspiring Actors, Artists, Dancers, Musicians, and Writers, was published. Written specifically for students, young professionals, and career changers, the book is a follow-up to her first book, Creative Colleges: A Guide for Student Actors, Artists, Dancers, Musicians, and Writers.

Jamie Padula is chapter and division relations manager for the American Translators Association, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. He was named the 2007 International Volunteer of the Year by the Montgomery Country Office of the Red Cross.

Jennifer Pray Turpin welcomed Rylan in March 2007.

2003

Julie (Moore) Barden is the communications and affiliate manager for the National Apartment Association Education Institute in Arlington, Virginia. She is the chief writer for all its educational, editorial, and marketing materials.

Erica Bettwy received her MSW from Fordham University’s Graduate School of Social Services in May 2007. She has spent the past four years working with emotionally disabled students in New York City and is currently moving back to the Washington, D.C., area.

Deanna Breslin is a research associate with Circle Solutions Inc. in McLean, Virginia. She has presented research and been published several times.

Delaram Mokhtar Cavey has been a Foreign Service officer in the U.S. Department of State since 2003. Her first tour of service was in Amman, Jordan, as vice counsel. She and her family are moving to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, where she will serve two years as the political officer in the U.S. Embassy. She, her husband, and their first child Catherine welcomed a second child in July 2007.

Myra Ceaser is cofounder and president of TeaCo, a specialty tea retailer.

Doug Currin is a senior reporter and weekend anchor at KNWA (an NBC affiliate) and KFTA (a FOX affiliate) in northwest Arkansas. He recently won three Associated Press awards for his work at his previous station in Arizona. He and his wife are expecting their second child in December.


Mike Ickowitz is the founder of GMUGear.com, an online store offering officially licensed Patriot gear.

Neena Luthra is a mental health counselor at a private nonprofit organization and studying for her MA in professional counseling at the American School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University in Washington, D.C.

Daniel Mann is in his third year at Seton Hall University School of Law and is a fellow at the Seton Hall Law Center for Policy and Research. He is the coauthor of six papers on Guantanamo Bay and helped prepare the center’s chair for his testimony in front of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He would like to especially thank Mason professors Toni-Michelle Travis, James Pfiffner, and Charles Hauss.


Andrea Ogden completed her MEd at Mason through the PDS program.

Ron Rodriguez is a radio consultant for 97.1 WASH-FM.

Susan S. Turnbaugh graduated in May 2007 from Syracuse University School of Law.

2004

Amina Wells Assaad recently moved back to Northern Virginia from the U.S. Virgin Islands. She began her new job as education coordinator for the girls elementary school at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Virginia, this fall.

Matt Ellsworth is a senior writer and editor at the Flinn Foundation in Arizona.

Nausheen Khan Chaudhary received her MPA in 2006 from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her husband, Hasan Chaudhary, is in his second year of medical school. They welcomed their first child in September 2007.

Lisa Shapiro is expecting her second child in March 2008.

Jonathan Grove is the Men Against Violence program coordinator at the Women’s Center at Pacific Lutheran University in Washington. He and Caitlin Back were married in 2005.

Sara Hallmark married Robert Lee Barker on May 19, 2007, in Richmond, Virginia.

Rebecca King graduated from Mason in May 2007 with her MEd in curriculum and instruction.

Daisy Johnson Mills was accepted to a master’s program in rehabilitation and special education—rehabilitation counseling at Auburn University. She married Don Mills in July 2006.

Ed Passio is a regional manager, Eastern Region for USA Football, a nonprofit organization that develops football programs and resources to inspire participation and improve the quality of the sport.

Lisa Shapiro is senior technical associate for the National Institute for Work Learning in the Academy of Educational Development.

David Shaw is director of infrastructure at SI International in Virginia.

1st Lt. Aaron Smith (USAF) was recently promoted to plans and programs commander at Travis Air Force Base.

James “Artel” Smith recently completed his MEd and began teaching at Mason this fall.

1st Lt. Jabari White served as an infantry recon platoon leader in the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division in Operation Iraqi Freedom. His platoon was the most decorated in the division, and he personally was awarded the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Mason continues to expand each year. Over the 2007–08 academic year, new residence halls will open on the Fairfax Campus to support more than 1,000 additional student beds. A new Child Development Center opened in August.

In addition, construction of new academic buildings to support enhanced research and teaching opportunities, renovations of the Physical Education Building, and the development of a hotel and conference center are all slated to take place on the Fairfax Campus over the next several years.
2005
Brian Brodeur’s manuscript received the 2006 White Eagle Coffee Store Press Poetry Chapbook Award and was published this fall.
Joe Conroy started a new position as a sports reporter at the Potomac News in Woodbridge, Virginia. He received several Virginia Press Association awards for his contributions to his previous paper, the Loudoun Times-Mirror.
Josh Fudge is finance manager for the Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, Parks Department.
Martha Jusino teaches English as a second language at Northern Virginia Community College.
Mark C. Livoti is branch technology liaison at UBS Financial Services.
Denise A. Napoliello and Evan M. Quito married on October 6, 2007.
Julie Steemple is teaching an adjunct creative writing course at Germanna Community College in Fredericksburg, Virginia.
Brigitta E. Turno received her MS in dance/movement therapy in May 2007.

Jennifer Wilson is attending graduate school at the London School of Economics and Political Science, majoring in international relations.
2006
M. Erika Alston is a personal injury attorney with the firm Mergerstern & Associates in Rockville, Maryland.
Melissa (Altman) Stein and Jason Stein married in November 2006.
Joseph Carls is fiscal training manager in the Office of Fiscal Services at Mason and has started the MPA program.
Charlotte Crowley is a consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton and is completing her graduate certification in intelligence analysis at the University of Maryland, College Park.
Lindsay Jeffries was admitted to the University of Richmond School of Law, Class of 2010.
Dianna (Dunn) Martinez works for the Securities and Exchange Commission and will complete her MBA in December 2007.
Hannah Moulton is a writer and editor for Trout magazine, the publication published by the conservation group Trout Unlimited. She is planning a 2008 wedding.

Stephen Santelli is an adjunct faculty member, teaching European history at Marymount University.
Vanessa J. Soliz married James Soliz in September 2006. She will begin her MA in justice, law, and crime policy, and her husband, James, will complete his nursing degree; both will be attending Mason.
Melissa Altman Stein is treating veterans with post traumatic stress disorder at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx, New York.
Farhan Thura is entering her second year at Fordham University School of Law, Class of 2009.

2007
Cory McConnell is a functional analyst at BearingPoint in Virginia. His contract is through TEKsystems.
Caitlin Owens is attending Elon University School of Law.
George Perry is the lead copywriter with Big Oak Studios Inc., which is a search engine optimization company.
Jill Pritchard is employed with Golin Harris Public Relations in Arlington, Virginia.
Matthew Smith works for Barokas Public Relations, a technology public relations firm in Seattle, Washington.

Stay Connected
The MASONLine Alumni Directory allows you to search for classmates and update your contact information with the click of a mouse. Receive all the latest news, events, and happenings at your alma mater, including the Mason Spirit alumni magazine and the monthly e-newsletter, MasonWire.

www.gmu.edu/alumni
www.gmu.edu/alumni/alumnidir.html
For You

I once read a poem that compared a pomegranate to a heart. And there were sparrows darting in and out of the lines, violets throwing off moonlight like old coats, and a student raising her hand to say I don’t get it. Someone loved someone else, though someone else didn’t love someone back, or someone else did but there was an obstacle, maybe the sparrows darted dangerously near the pomegranate and pierced it or the violets stole someone’s letters, kept them folded in their small blossoms because they believed they deserved them more than someone else. This poem is based on that one. And also on the time we took a scenic route through aspens and you told me how they always spread after a fire season because when the pines burn down they leave enough space for new trees to grow. The poem was entitled, “For You.” And we kept driving and driving until winter came, smoothing the roads white with tiny combs of ice—your fingers ready to sculpt my shape out of snow so that you could ease into the hollow chest and leave a pomegranate safe from sparrows—the violets suddenly confessing everything to the student whose face opens like sunrise when she says I understand now—I understand—

Creative submission by Danielle Deulen

Submit your creative work to
Cornerstone Editor
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Fairfax, VA 22030
or chssmag@gmu.edu.