

Preparation Pays Off

Alumnus Capitalizes on Value of Liberal Arts Degree

By Brooke Braun

Ted Arnn, BS Law Enforcement '93, arrived at George Mason University as a freshman in 1989 intending to pursue an accounting degree as a precursor to service in the FBI. Implicit in a college experience aimed at a future in law enforcement is an affinity for conformity and authority. Yet Arnn quickly discovered that while a future in public service requires some foresight, it doesn't limit a student's ability to test the boundaries of academics and extract the most out of university life.

At age 16, Arnn began volunteering as an Explorer, a career preparation program for 14 to 21 year olds within the Fairfax County Police Department. At Mason, three semesters into a major in accounting, Arnn saw that his Explorer experience was

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Ted Arnn

Real-Life Lessons on the Hill

Students Intern on Opposite Sides of the Aisle

By Evan Baum

As the presidential election year approaches, three College of Humanities and Social Sciences students find themselves in the middle of the democratic process and national politics on Capitol Hill. Maryellen Pascoe, a sophomore from Virginia, and Andrew Shelnett, a junior also from Virginia, are interns in the office of Senator John McCain (R-AZ), while Allison Bauman, a junior from Illinois, is an intern in the office of her own senator and presidential candidate Barack Obama (D-IL). All three are government and international politics majors at Mason.

Pascoe was chosen for an internship in McCain's Office of Constituent Relations after

giving tours of the Capitol last summer. Having admired McCain since middle school, she was thrilled with the position. With an energy and motivation driven by her interest in politics, Pascoe corresponds and interacts with constituents and routinely hears the many voices that are competing for the senator's attention. Her obligation to provide time and attention to all constituents is based on the political principles discussed in her Mason classes. One of the most challenging aspects of her job is dealing with constituents who hold a full range of political views and perspectives, which

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Allison Bauman

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 strengths 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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Academic Adventure

Students Study Abroad at Oxford

By Danielle Scott-Johnson

If you had the opportunity to study at one of the most prestigious and well-known institutions of higher learning in the world, would you do it? Each year, select Mason students are invited to apply to study abroad at Oxford University in England through the Oxford Honors Program. Although many navigate the long application process, only the most qualified students succeed in Mason's Center for Global Education's highly selective award process. In September 2006, 28 students packed their bags and headed to England; 22 of them have majors within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Mason's vast commitment to maintaining a global perspective reinforces the need for students to undergo a rigorous preparatory process. Participants attend an orientation specifically designed for this program, during which students learn about Oxford's tutorial system, which holds students accountable for what they read, write, and think.

One of the program requirements is to write a 3,000-word paper each week for each class. Oxford also requires that every student participate in weekly one-on-one tutorials with all of their professors. During these sessions, students and professors discuss the assigned topic and the research paper written during the previous week. The Mason students customarily take two classes per week and meet all of the professor's requirements to communicate what they learned, form their own opinions, and use supporting information to prove their individual points of view.

The students say that the experience improved their reading comprehension, analytical skills, and writing. Many indicate that they have become much better at articulating their own opinions and ideas in class. Students also took advantage of time in England by visiting historical sites and traveling throughout Europe.

Beau Cribbs, who left for Oxford on his 21st birthday, was a little hesitant about accepting the offer to travel abroad. But on his return to Mason, he noted that the Oxford experience dramatically changed his approach to academics.

"I am a far stronger writer and so much better at articulating my thoughts," Cribbs says. "At Oxford, the work ethic is so strong, you begin to truly know what you study and are able to form opinions about subjects and validate them."

When asked whether they would go back to Oxford or recommend the program to others, participants answered with a resounding yes.

College of Humanities and Social Sciences students in the Oxford Honors Program:

Jeannine Arduini (GVIP), Manuela Berndsen (ECON), Emily Burciaga (GVIP), Gina Choi (GVIP), Amy Combs (PSYC), Wendi Copello (ADJ), Beau Cribbs (IS), Alejandra Gonzalez-Arias (ANTH), Susie Green (PSYC), Tyler Grimm (GVIP), Tessa Jamison (IS), Jacob Jenkins (IS), Alec Knight (GLOA), Shannon Maurer (GVIP), Robert Moyer (IS), Kyle Munkittrick (ENGL), Cassidy Newell (ENGL), Kaitlin Racine (PHIL), Abbie Remon (ENGL), Alejandro Silva-Sarmiento (GA), Scott Wagner (IS), Margaret Wark (PSYC)



College Faculty Awarded University Distinction

Board of Visitors Honors Ten University Professors from the College

By Katie Clare

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY

You may have heard book critiques by writer and Mason faculty member Alan Cheuse on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. You may have read his book reviews in the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, or his short stories in *The New Yorker*. Now, Cheuse can claim the title of University Professor on his already impressive résumé.

To be nominated for this distinction among full-tenured faculty at Mason, faculty members must have an international scholarly reputation, a strong record of research, and a recognizable influence on their individual fields. This year, the university's Board of Visitors named 18 new University Professors; 10 of them serve on the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' faculty.



Mason is home to many faculty members, such as Cheuse, who contribute to the intellectual life of the community. Mason's collaborative academic culture enables faculty members to encourage and support colleagues in research and scholarship and, in turn, educate and inspire students by sharing their love of learning. In his NPR and media publication reviews, Cheuse illuminates contemporary literature and the writing process for the listening public. In the classroom, he engages with student writ-

ers in a thoughtful critique of their writing, helping them refine their craft and hone their skills as diligent, reflective readers.

When asked about his favorite experiences in the classroom, he says, "Every week I read work from our writers in the Master of Fine Arts Program, and I love to see how much they gain through the revision process."

History and Art History Professor Martin Sherwin also received distinction as a University Professor. As is Cheuse, Sherwin is driven by the rewards inherent in growing knowledge and shaping minds. Sherwin writes, "On occasions when I have been told by a former student that a class I taught was a great influence on his or her life, I have felt very good about what I have been doing for forty years and what I hope to be doing for many more."

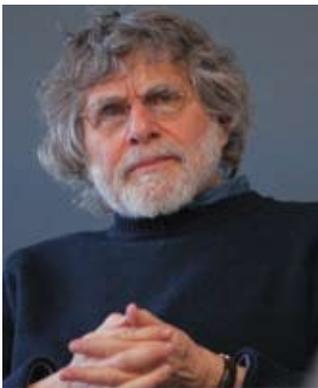
Sherwin's most recent book, *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, cowritten with Kai Bird, received the 2006 Pulitzer Prize in the biography category, a reward typically reserved for the work of journalists. Joining Mason after teaching at some of the nation's most prestigious institutions, including Tufts, Dartmouth, and Princeton, Sherwin brings a unique perspective to the study of the nuclear bomb, the history of the 20th century, and the Cold War, which is influenced by his scholarship and his interest in film and media. Reflecting on the scholarly community at Mason, Sherwin recently said, "I



(left to right) Wade, Tangney, Boettke, Parasuraman, Conlan, and Foster

The newly appointed University Professors from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences are

- Peter Boettke, Department of Economics
- Alan Cheuse, Department of English
- Timothy Conlan, Department of Public and International Affairs
- Susanne Denham, Department of Psychology
- John Foster, Department of English
- Martin Sherwin, Department of History and Art History
- Raja Parasuraman, Department of Psychology
- Vernon Smith, Department of Economics
- June Price Tangney, Department of Psychology
- Rex Wade, Department of History and Art History



Cheuse



Sherwin



Denham

have been impressed by the broadly shared sense of commitment to building a great university.”

Another of the newly named University Professors is Vernon Smith, a research scholar in the Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science and a fellow of the Mercatus Center, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2002. Before joining Mason, he held faculty appointments at Purdue, Brown, and the University of Massachusetts. Smith, a pioneer in the use of laboratory experiments in evaluating the performance and function of markets, has laid the foundation for the field of experimental economics. Donald Boudreaux, chair of the Department of Economics, says, “[Smith] started doing economic experiments 50 years ago when nearly everyone else thought that method was worthless. Vernon persevered and proved the power of economic experiments to expand

our knowledge of society.” Smith’s recent work has focused on natural resource economics, including the privatization of electric power and energy deregulation.

Other newly appointed University Professors examine topics such as federalism and inter-governmental relations; the role of emotions in young children; the study of European, Russian, and third-world literatures; and the influence of computer technology on attention, memory, and vigilance.

“The college is proud of its faculty, the scholarship they produce, and the time they spend in the classroom,” says Jack Censer, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. “We are grateful to our faculty for providing the college with such dedication in the classroom. The University Professorship honor, quite clearly, demonstrates our commitment to excellence.”

Ted Arnn, continued from page 1

moving him toward pursuing a different major aimed at police service. Arnn, who was not afraid to try something new, turned to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

“I looked into the law enforcement major and decided the switch would be more beneficial for a police career,” Arnn remembers. “I had a lot of catching up to do if I wanted to graduate in four years, so I took summer classes and a hefty course schedule to graduate on time.”

Today, Ted’s program is called Administration of Justice and is home to the Center for Justice, Leadership, and Management, and Arnn is a captain in the Fairfax County Police Department.

Arnn recently speculated that his Mason professors would remember him as an opinionated, thoughtful student.

“I was challenged by professors constantly to look at life with an open mind and question the status quo. I think some of my professors were

as challenged by me as much as I was by them!” Arnn says.

Outside the classroom, that same insatiable curiosity opened doors to a diverse university life experience.

“One day as a freshman, I was talking to a friend about music outside of the East Building, and she suggested I become a WGMU DJ,” Arnn recalls. “I laughed it off, but she persisted and I immediately walked to Thompson Hall and asked the program director if I could work there. Next thing you know, I was on the air.” Arnn remained a student disc jockey at WGMU Radio until graduation, spending three of those years as the station’s music director. He also wrote music articles regularly for the *Broadside* and was a member of the Media Board.

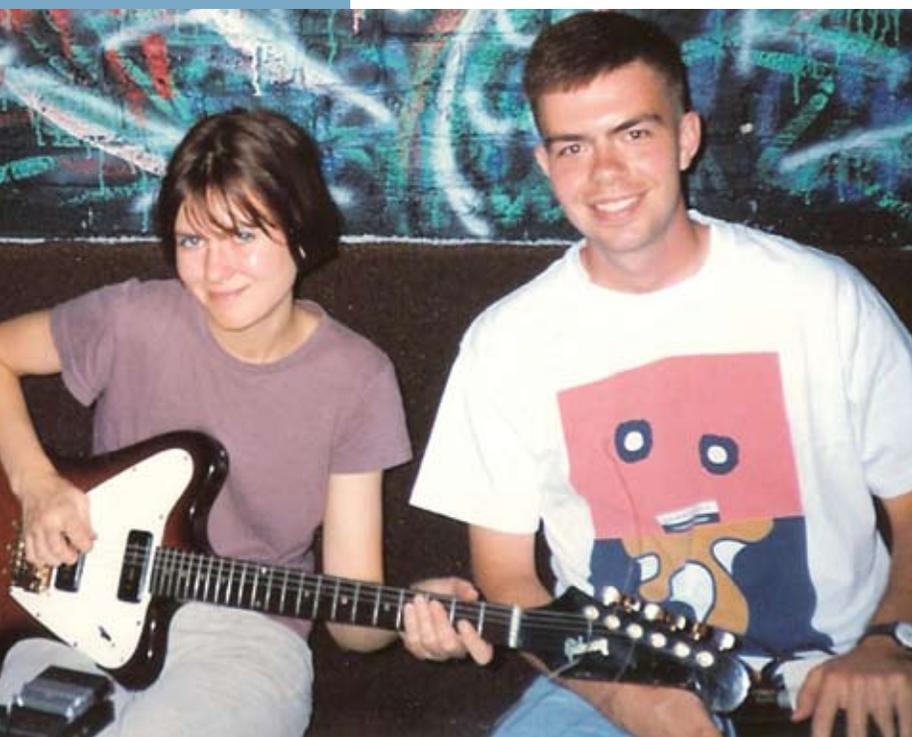
At the core of the Mason experience for this radio personality and police officer in training was a challenging and well-rounded academic mission. Arnn had more than one favorite course as an undergraduate, naming Robert Dudley, chair of the Public and International Affairs Department, as his hardest and most-rewarding professor, especially when it came to a class titled Constitutional Law.

“I never learned so much or worked harder in a class. I still can’t believe I got an A! I took a number of classes from him just for the intellectual experience,” Arnn says.

As do many other College of Humanities and Social Sciences students, Arnn took advantage of the interdisciplinary studies within the liberal arts environment.

“A well-rounded education leads to better understanding, acceptance, and creativity as a police officer in a free society,” says Arnn. “Even my very specialized degree program offered a strong foundation in sociology and psychology from which I learned a great deal about the reasons

**Musician Juliana
Hatfield and Ted Arnn
at the old 930 Club, 1992**



people commit crime. Today, I am better able to interact with both victims and criminals making for more effective law enforcement.” Arnn also commends the rigorous academic environment in the college for preparing him to communicate effectively verbally and in writing. “Knowing how to do these things are tremendous advantages in the workplace,” he explains.

In 1993, Arnn was hired as a police officer with the Fairfax County Police Department. Two years ago, he was named a captain and today serves as commander of the Information Management Division. He oversees a staff of sworn and civilian employees, tackling law enforcement information technology (IT) projects focused on replacing the Computer-Aided Dispatch System and Records Management System. These initiatives will provide patrol officers with modern tools, so they can access information wirelessly, which will improve crime analysis.

Arnn is keen on the importance of technological knowledge in the workplace, especially as a factor in advancement.

“I took an interest in the IT structure within the agency and proposed organizational changes that resulted in a reorganization effort in 2005. As it would happen, I was chosen to serve in the IT bureau at the time I was promoted to captain,” Arnn says. “I see the role for police officers in the IT realm more to give direction to projects and ensure they are focused on police needs.”

As a sworn, uniformed employee who spends most of his time in the office, Arnn still occasionally finds himself responding to police calls and stopping traffic violators while he is en route to meeting locations. In 2005, he was awarded the Bronze Medal of Valor for being a first responder to the scene of a car accident while he was off duty. He and a fellow officer were able to control a car fire using a makeshift



bucket until the passenger could be safely rescued.

▲
D.J. Ted, 1990

Despite his dedication to work, Arnn is firm about maintaining balance. “The hardest aspect of police work is dealing with constant exposure to negativity,” he says. “If you think about it, the police never get called to places where things are going great; we are called to places where things have taken a turn for the worse. The best way to deal with that is to lead a balanced life with devotion to family and friends and diverse interests in things that hold meaning for you.”

To graduates, Arnn offers some simple advice about planning for the future. “Preparation, as in my case, can pay huge dividends in terms of career success. Above all, understand that the life you lead now and the choices you make may impact your future, especially your ability to transition into the workforce.”

Arnn is president-elect of the George Mason University Alumni Association, a Patriot Club Member, and a season ticket holder to Mason’s men’s basketball. He continues to host a radio show, Ted’s Coffee House, each week on WGMU Radio. Listen to it at www.wgmuradio.com.

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may differ dramatically from hers or McCain's. "Even if it's just because I spoke kindly to constituents on the phone," she says, "I made them happy, so I'm happy."

While Pascoe assists the work of McCain in his current position, Shelnut's work is focused on the senator's aspirations for the presidency. Drawing on experience from an internship with former Senator George Allen (R-VA), Shelnut now finds himself within McCain's war room for his 2008 presidential campaign. Shelnut's job is to assess and evaluate any media coverage of McCain and the other Republican contenders for the presidential nomination. He researches and reviews political TV shows, radio stations, and web sites to collect media information about McCain and his opponents. He hopes to transfer his experience on Capitol Hill to political work at the local level that will allow him "more opportunity to reform and

shape the political system." No stranger to the political process, Shelnut is involved in politics at Mason and running for student body president.

On the other side of the aisle is Illinois native Allison Bauman, who was naturally drawn to Obama's campaign office. "Senator Obama is

a political rock star," she says, describing the atmosphere surrounding her office and the senator's recent emergence as a national political figure. Student reaction to Obama during his visit on Mason's Fairfax Campus last January confirmed her perceptions when a capacity crowd filled the Johnson Center to hear him speak.

In addition to basic intern responsibilities, Bauman is able to apply her interest in the policymaking process by conducting background research and analyzing education policy and legislation. She has drafted policy briefs for the senator on local schooling projects in Illinois, as well as national programs such as No Child Left Behind. Daily, Bauman sees the tension between the need to advance a policy agenda swiftly and the need to represent the often contradictory views of an extremely diverse constituency.

Pascoe, Shelnut, and Bauman are just three of the many undergraduate students in the Department of Public and International Affairs who have diligently pursued the department's internship connections that come from Mason's unique location near the nation's political epicenter. These three students are expanding their classroom knowledge through their internships and gaining a real-world education about politics—learning how challenging governmental philosophies, political ideologies, and policy implementation are put into practice.



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