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Zoom in and connect to professional communication mentors

Network with leading communication professionals and engage in the opportunity for personal mentorships

Fairfax, VA — Sept. 18, 2020 — George Mason University’s Department of Communication and the Insight Committee hosts the annual communication career forum, Find your Future, from Oct. 2 through Nov. 6, 2020. The event focuses on career mentoring sessions in Zoom conference rooms on Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m.

The Find Your Future forum is an opportunity for soon-to-be communication professionals to discuss industry trends with experts. Students must RSVP for one of the 16 available conference spaces in each Friday mentoring session.

“COVID-19 challenged us to hold the 2020 Fall forum virtually, but we will continue providing students with valuable professional insight,” said Chad Tragakis, chairman of the Insight Committee. “We are bringing a fresh group of communication insiders to help shape the futures of the next bright minds in the communication industry.”

Each session consists of small group meetings with two mentors specializing in public relations, journalism, marketing, organizational communication, digital and media production, corporate communications, sports, and fashion industry. Networking and mentorship opportunities develop student-professional connections, educate students about field experience, and foster employment options for current and future professionals.

Previous fall forums consisted of guest speakers, six 20-minute sessions, and networking with professionals in the field. This virtual change-up allows students to have more time to engage with these experts as they get ready to enter the job force.

Mason senior, Joshua Sowinski, acknowledges, “This year’s forum presents a unique opportunity to absorb the professional insights of the mentors unlike any forum before. I am very excited to learn how each mentor professionally managed their business’s image and corporate response to public concerning the pandemic and the protests.”

Career Mentoring Sessions

When: Fridays, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Where: Zoom video conference rooms

Mentors and their affiliations:

Oct. 2, 2020 - Organizational Communications

- Craig Fifer, *Director of Communications and Public Information, City of Alexandria*
- Diana Gulotta, *Director of Communication Services, Prince William County Public Schools*

Oct. 9, 2020 - Digital and Media Production

- Patrick Fernandez, *Digital Content Specialist, Deloitte; GMU alum*
- Rob Lyall *Cinematographer and Producer, National Geographic, PBS, Discovery*

Oct. 16, 2020 - Journalism

- Marcella Robertson, *Reporter, CBS/Channel 9*
- Ross Wilkers, *Senior Staff Writer, Washington Technology; GMU alum*

Oct. 23, 2020 - Political Communications and Journalism

- John Lippman, *Deputy Director of Programming, Voice of America*
- Dan Foster, *Vice President, Counter Point Strategies*

Oct. 30, 2020 - Public Relations and Corporate Communications

- David Gallagher, *President of Growth and Development International, Omnicom*
- Lana Petruzzo, *Global Corporate Communications, Hilton, GMU alum*

Nov. 6, 2020 - Sports and Fashion Communications

- Brandon Parker, *Communications Manager, NFL Players Association*
- Blake Simpson, *Senior Vice President Global Communications, Philanthropy and Events, Under Armour, Inc.*

For more information about the forum, contact Megan Edmondson at medmond3@gmu.edu or visit <https://communication.gmu.edu/co-curricular-activities/annual-career-forum>. The Insight Committee encourages early registration for this event at [Find Your Future- VIRTUAL Communication Career Forum](#).

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