

CELEBRATING MASON'S 50TH

Debate Powerhouse | Inclusive Excellence | Serving Our Community



I O R I N O N

Fall 2022

COLLEGE OF
HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES

GEORGE
MASON
UNIVERSITY

50
1972-2022

FROM THE DEAN



Greetings, College of Humanities and Social Sciences community!

Mason's 50th Anniversary is an occasion for reflecting on the past and thinking forward both personally and as a community.

I came to Mason four years ago *because of* its growing reputation nationally as a comprehensive public research university serving a diverse student body composed of first-generation students, Pell-eligible

students, transfer students, and working adults. Access to higher education has been central to my life's work as a scholar, teacher, and administrator. Mason and CHSS are committed to being a place where all students are free to discover the talents, interests, and career pathways they might not imagine for themselves without the benefit of robust advising and faculty mentoring. Another reason I chose to come to Mason is because the university's leadership recognizes this college as a force for innovation in research and teaching, a leader in the humanities and social sciences nationally, and the educational heart of this great institution. CHSS's sponsored research activities were instrumental in Mason's achievement of Tier 1 research university classification in 2016 and continue to drive our profile as a social-science research powerhouse and a top-ten recipient of funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The real-world relevance that fuels our faculty's research, creativity, and scholarship also energizes our commitment to excellence and innovation in teaching.

Now that I have been here for four years I can say it has been an immense pleasure getting to know our world-class alumni, who continue to inspire me every day. Each encounter with a Mason alum reinforces everything I know about a humanities and social sciences education at Mason: the skills in oral, written, and cross-cultural communication, critical analysis, and ethical thinking that students develop in this college are *essential* for success across all sectors of today's global, digital, and knowledge-based economy. These are not "soft skills;" they are "power skills." These skills undergird a lifetime of career and re-careering opportunities and enable meaningful human work and civic engagement in an age of smart machines.

Mason prides itself on being a place of innovation, committed to creating a more just, free, and prosperous world. You will find ample evidence of how CHSS faculty, staff, students, and alumni realize and embody these values as you read this issue of *Horizon*.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our faculty, staff, alumni, partners, donors, and advisory board members for everything you do to support our mission and, most importantly, our students.

With all good wishes,

Ann Ardis

Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

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College of Humanities
and Social Sciences

HORIZON FALL 2022

ON THE COVER: The Lab for Writing and Communication opened to students in fall 2021, combining two separate centers into one state-of-the-art facility. This dynamic lab fosters the development of both oral and written communication skills and facilitates research on best practices in teaching them.

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Allison Redlich and David Wilson Named University Professors



Allison D. Redlich



David B. Wilson

A May 2022 resolution of George Mason University's Board of Visitors approved naming **Allison D. Redlich** and **David B. Wilson**, professors in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society (CLS), to the position of George Mason University Professor. Along with endowed chairs, the title of University Professor is the highest academic rank bestowed on members of Mason's faculty.

"The college is extremely proud that Professors Redlich and Wilson have been named University Professors. Both of them are highly regarded scholars, and we are honored that the Board of Visitors has selected them for this recognition," says **Ann Ardis**, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Redlich is the director of graduate programs in CLS. Initially trained as an experimental psychologist, her research centers on whether decision-making is knowing, intelligent, and voluntary. She examines such decision-making as it relates to defendants who are vulnerable (juveniles and persons with mental health issues) and non-vulnerable, and across several different contexts—in the interrogation room, during the guilty plea process, and in mental health courts.

Redlich also studies wrongful convictions, with a particular focus on false confessions and false guilty pleas. To pursue her research, she has received funding from the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Justice, the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and others.

Wilson formerly served as the director of undergraduate programs in CLS and is a former chair of the department. His research interests focus broadly on issues related to changing the criminal behavior of juvenile and adult offenders. Specifically, he examines the effectiveness of offender rehabilitation and crime prevention efforts. He is also interested in advancing meta-analyses and program evaluation methods.

Wilson's research has focused on a range of topics, including the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency interventions, juvenile curfews, school-based prevention programs, correctional boot camps, court-mandated batterer intervention programs, and drug courts; the effects of sugar on children's behavior; and the effects of alcohol on violent behavior. He was appointed a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology in 2021.

"I am thrilled that Allison Redlich and Dave Wilson have been honored with the distinction of University Professor. Both are leaders in their fields. As chair, it is a privilege to be surrounded by the kind of excellence that elevates us all, and that seeks to advance justice processes and outcomes in policing, the courts, and corrections," says **James Willis**, CLS department chair. "Allison is a highly visible and respected scholar in criminology, law, and psychology, and she has achieved international recognition for producing high quality research in three areas: police interrogations and confessions, guilty pleas, and mental health courts. Dave, trained as a social psychologist, is a leading methodologist, and one of the foremost experts on meta-analysis and program evaluation in criminology, law, and society. His talents are always much in demand."

We've Always Been Green and Gold—and This Year We're Golden



From its origins as a branch campus of the University of Virginia to its status as Virginia's largest, most inclusive, and most innovative university, George Mason University has experienced 50 remarkable years of growth and achievement.

Mason's development grew out of the work of a group devoted to bringing

higher education to the rapidly growing Northern Virginia region. This education powerhouse now proudly boasts nearly a quarter of a million alumni.

The precursor to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), the College of Arts and Sciences, was there from the start as well. Though our name changed, our commitment to serving all

of Mason's students and our community remains at the center of our mission. The college is a hub of intellectual dynamism and diversity, as well as a launching point for successful careers.

CHSS is one of the largest colleges at Mason, with more than 700 faculty and staff members. It offers an expansive range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary degree programs—19 undergraduate majors, 69 minors, 13 graduate certificates, 18 master's degrees, 9 doctoral degrees, and 22 accelerated master's degree pathways.

At CHSS, the liberal arts tradition of studying human minds, beliefs, languages, cultures, histories, societal structures, and forms of creative expression drives our community forward in advancing cutting-edge research, impactful service, and critical competencies for today's global and knowledge-based economy.

"I am profoundly grateful that over time, this college's dedicated faculty and staff always held our students paramount," notes CHSS dean **Ann Ardis**. "With our faculty's innovative research and teaching, the engagement of our staff and many alumni and supporters, and the drive and energy of our students, we are ready to partner together for the next 50 years to solve today's grand challenges of ensuring a healthy planet, healthy people, healthy economies, and healthy societies."

The opening of the college's new home, Horizon Hall, in tandem with the renovation of Wilkins Plaza and completion of the Enslaved People of George Mason Memorial, grounds us in our past and fuels us with hope and excitement as we look forward to the next 50 years.

Leonard Bennett's Leadership Gift Helps to Honor Debate Director Warren Decker's Nearly 50 Years of Service

With 50 years in the making, the Mason Debate Team has a legacy as a national powerhouse—and at the core of their leadership is **Warren Decker**. Decker has directed the team for the past 48 years, during which they have qualified for the national debate tournament 36 times. Over the last decade, they have ranked among the top two teams in the country.

As CHSS dean **Ann Ardis** noted on Decker's retirement, "Warren has directed and coached more debate students than any other college debate coach in the country—and changed the lives of countless students."

Leonard Bennett, BS Finance '89, JD '94, was part of the Debate Team in the 1980s and returned to Fairfax to help honor Decker's years of service during a retirement reception.

Bennett is the founding partner of Consumer Litigation Associates (CLA), a Virginia-based law firm empowering consumers nationwide to fight against predatory lending, credit discrimination, inaccurate credit reporting, identity theft, background check errors, and other consumer abuse. He has been a trial attorney and consumer advocate since 1994.

He noted Decker's achievement in building the program since the 1970s and how he has helped all students, from every background and demographic, and from beginners to seasoned debaters. Decker's development of the Mason

debate program took place over the same decades that Mason, too, came to prominence.

"The special skill Warren Decker has is to coach the span of debaters in this program—from the novice to the superstar—and make us all successful," said Bennett. "He taught us to be able to speak in front of and to all types of people, no matter who was in the room."

Mason students' experiences with the Debate Team help set them up for a lifetime of success, cultivating crucial skills and competencies that prepare them to be career-ready graduates.

For Bennett, Decker was a coach and mentor, and he is now honored to call him a friend. Bennett wishes to ensure future generations of students will be able to benefit from this pivotal experience, while also bolstering Decker's legacy and the team he built, to continue its placement as top in the nation.

In addition to providing programmatic and scholarship support for the Debate Team, Bennett's generous gift of \$1 million has created the Warren D. Decker Professorship Endowment to support the Warren Decker Director of Debate.

This fund will enable the department to recruit and retain top talent to help ensure Mason Debate's excellence in coaching. In May, **Jacquelyn Poapst**, MA Communication '15, PhD '19, was named the inaugural Warren Decker Director of Debate. Poapst had served as assistant director of the program for many years, and has been nationally recognized for her excellence in coaching and for her contributions to the discipline.

Bennett reminds his fellow debaters that they are all part of Decker's legacy: "If you've been part of Mason Debate, every person you help, you're extending Warren's legacy. Everything you do is an extension of Warren and honors his service."



Leonard Bennett, BA Finance '89, JD '94, congratulates Mason Debate Team director Warren Decker.



1957

George Mason College of the University of Virginia is established, with 17 students taking classes in Bailey's Crossroads.

1964

Fairfax Campus is built, and classes begin with 356 students.



1966

Virginia General Assembly authorizes George Mason College to become a four-year, degree-granting institution, with a long-range mandate to expand into a regional university of major proportions. By fall 1967, the student population increases to 1,128 and the faculty population increases to 83.

1968

First graduation ceremony is held June 9. Fifty-two students receive BA degrees.



1971

New Arts and Sciences Building, later named Thompson Hall, is dedicated.

1972

Virginia General Assembly enacts bill H-210, which separates George Mason College from the University of Virginia, effective April 7, 1972. George Mason College becomes George Mason University, and comprises the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Professional Studies, and the Graduate School.

1995

New Century College is established. It is later integrated into the College of Arts and Sciences in 2004 and becomes the School of Integrative Studies in 2016.

The University Learning Center is completed and then renamed the George W. Johnson Center in 1996.

1995–96

The College of Arts and Sciences program on social and organizational learning offers Mason's first online course, which is taught by Brad Cox.

1996

The George Mason statue is unveiled.

1997

Mason celebrates 25 years as an independent institution.

2002

Vernon L. Smith receives the Nobel Prize in Economic Science.

1988

Academic Building III is renamed David King Hall.

1994

Roy Rosenzweig founds the Center for History and New Media. It is renamed the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media in honor of its founder in 2011.



1987

Mason graduates 2,771 students: 2,004 BAs, 585 MAs, 168 Law degrees, and 14 PhDs. The first honorary doctor of law degree is awarded to James Buchanan and the first George Mason Medal is awarded to attorney John T. Hazel.

Center for the Arts, Phase I, is completed.

2006

Mason's men's basketball team wins the Northeast Regional Championship of the NCAA Tournament to advance to the Final Four.

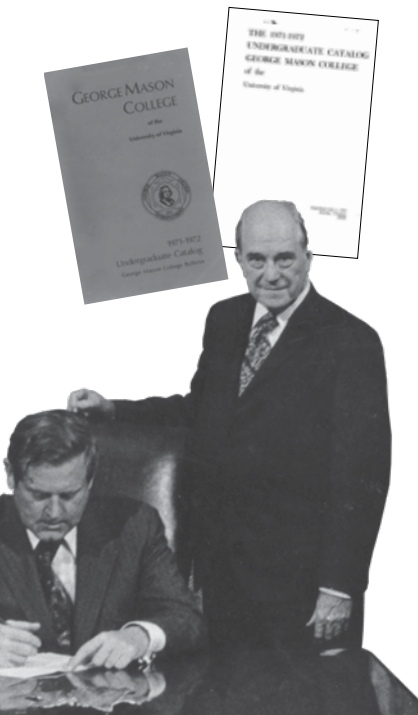
2006

The Center for History and New Media patents Zotero, an open-source tool for collecting, organizing, annotating, citing, and sharing research.

2007

Mason's Board of Visitors votes to officially change the name of the College of Arts and Sciences to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.



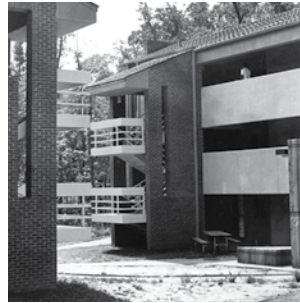


1974

Student Union Building I opens.

First tower of Fenwick Library opens.

Dedication of Robinson Hall, named for Clarence Johnston Robinson, a successful Northern Virginia businessman who served on the advisory board for George Mason College from 1964–70, is held.



1977

First student housing complex is completed, and it houses 498 students in apartment-style units.

1980

Robinson Hall II is completed.

Construction begins on Student Union Building II, which will include a bookstore and four dining and conference rooms.



1985

Commencement is held in the Patriot Center for the first time.

1986

James Buchanan, director of the Center for Study of Public Choice, receives the Nobel Prize in Economic Science on December 10, 1986.

1983

The Center for Study of Public Choice moves to Mason from Blacksburg, Virginia. Center director James Buchanan is appointed to the Holbert L. Harris Chair in Economics.

Plan for Alternative General Education (PAGE) Program, an effort to make general education courses more relevant to contemporary society, begins at Mason. (It would later become the basis of Mason's Honors College.)



1982

Ground is broken for a \$16 million, 10,000-seat sports and entertainment arena, which is called the Patriot Center (renamed EagleBank Arena on July 1, 2015).

2014

The Mason Korea Campus in Songdo, Korea, is launched.



2021

Fairfax Core Campus Project, featuring the Enslaved People of George Mason Memorial, is completed.

2022

The Criminology, Law and Society Program is ranked #10 in the United States and #1 in Virginia. Graduate programs in economics, English, history, psychology, and sociology are ranked in top 100 by *U.S. News and World Report*. The psychology department is ranked #1 for military veterans. The communication department is ranked #35 on the PRNews 2021 Education A-List.

Two Faculty Fulbrights Research Home and Heritage a World Apart

Two faculty members received 2022–23 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program awards to conduct research that will speak to universal understanding.

Tiffany Thames Copeland, an adjunct faculty member with the African and African American Studies Program, visits the Republic of Ghana, teaching communication classes at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and studying Ghana's "Year of Return, Ghana 2019" campaign.

"Year of Return" welcomed visitors during the year that marked the 400th anniversary of the first recorded enslaved Africans in the United States. Copeland's research will investigate African Americans' response to Ghana's call to return through digital media postings and direct interviews with Americans who chose to relocate to the West African nation.

Copeland relates migration to a search for freedom, and to an understanding of home. "Where is home for you? Where do you feel most comfortable? Where do you feel like you belong?"



Tiffany Thames Copeland in Kumasi, Ghana

Home and heritage also center the research of **Debra Lattanzi Shutika**, director of Mason's Watershed Lit Center for Literary Engagement and Practice and associate professor in the Department of English. Shutika is in County Mayo, Ireland, teaching folklore, field documentation, digital storytelling, and sense of place at the Mayo and Galway campuses of Atlantic Technical University.

\$1 Million Grant Launches Innovative Funding Model

George Mason University's Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media (RRCHNM) brings history to life by supporting new methods of research, welcoming new voices to narrate our shared experience, and presenting these narratives to new audiences. Now, the center is innovating the ways that humanities research can be supported.

In September, RRCHNM received a \$1 million grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support new business model development through change-capital funding. RRCHNM director **Mills Kelly** says that with the foundation's generous support the center can explore new sources of funding by reaching and growing an audience. "We can try something new and different

without worrying that we won't be able to continue to fund our staff," he says.

The Mellon Foundation's grant has allowed the center to establish R2 Studios, which develops and produces "deeply researched, historical audio stories" for a wide audience. R2 is named after RRCHNM's founder, Roy Rosenzweig, and reflects his drive to use new media

Partnering with Emma Fallon of Mayo North East, she will complete a folklore collection in three Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) communities, with a goal of launching a center for folklife study in Mayo.

Shutika looks forward to the dual objectives of the project: “to document the folklore of this particular moment and also to really encourage language preservation.... it’s part of your cultural heritage, that becomes part of who you are.”



Debra Lattanzi Shutika in County Mayo, Republic of Ireland

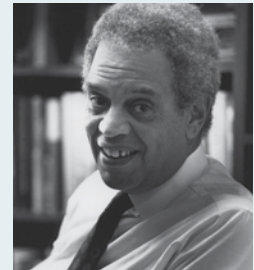
to democratize access to history. As part of the initiative, the center also plans to expand its social media and fundraising efforts surrounding the studio and its productions, as well as welcome other content producers as collaborators.

Funding for the project is designed to continue for four years, with the goal of the center being able to attain financial self-sufficiency in the fifth year to continue supporting the open-source content that RRCHNM has made available since its founding.

Wilkins Plaza Offers an ‘Axis of Dialogue’

The reimagined Wilkins Plaza opened in fall 2021 after more than two years of construction.

The plaza, named for the late Roger Wilkins, the famed civil rights leader, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, and former Robinson Professor of History and American Culture at Mason, is part of the Core Campus Project that has remade the Fairfax Campus.



It is anchored by the Enslaved People of George Mason Memorial, which includes the intertwined narratives of two of the people enslaved by George Mason IV, the iconic George Mason statue, and the new Wilkins Fountain.

At the base of the Mason statue are four of Mason’s sayings that help explain his important and complex role in American history as the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights and a slaveholder.

“Considered together, the entire plaza creates an axis of dialogue, with the Mason statue representing the traditional voice, the memorial panels representing the hidden voices, and the painted walls representing the voices of student organizations,” says **Cathy Pinskey**, program director at Mason Facilities. “To me that’s the most exciting part of it. It was always going to be a great plaza, but the addition of the memorial and the fountain make it uniquely Mason.”

The plaza was designed by landscape architects Perkins&Will in association with a diverse team of Mason faculty, staff, and students. Perkins&Will also designed Horizon Hall. Whiting-Turner is handling the Core Campus Project construction.



Building the Tools to Shape Education Policy

Mason's 2022 Senior of the Year **Dominique Dowling** quickly made a name for herself on the Fairfax Campus. Majoring in integrative studies and enrolled in the accelerated master's program for early childhood education, she served as the president and vice president of Mason's

NAACP college chapter, the president of the CHSS student ambassadors, and the secretary for Mason's chapter of Educators Rising Collegiate. In 2020, Dowling was a part of Mason's Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence (ARIE) Task Force, serving on the Student Voice and University Policies and Practices committees.

During the summer of 2021, Dowling was one of 25 students from Virginia colleges and universities—one of only two undergraduates—who were selected to participate in the prestigious Governor's Fellows Program, sponsored by former governor Ralph Northam.

During the eight-week program, fellows worked in divisions of the Office of the Governor, each assigned to a cabinet secretary and, in some cases, working with agencies in the executive branch. Dowling's assignment, to the office of former secretary of education **Atif Qarni**, MA History '09, aligns with her goals for teaching and shaping education policy. She found the experience to be a compelling taste of the workings of government as well as the interconnected interests served by education policy.

"The secretary of education was a teacher," Dowling says. "He taught eighth grade history...[so] to see him be a teacher and then do exactly what he wants to do and make the change on this level has been so inspiring."

It was Dowling's involvement at Mason, particularly with the ARIE Task Force, that led her to the fellowship. **Dietra Trent**, who was serving as interim vice president of Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics (now the Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), had herself served as Virginia's secretary of education from 2006–10, and again from 2014–16. She learned of Dowling's interest in education and recommended the program to her.

"I'm just so grateful for her reaching out to me," Dowling says.

Doctoral Students Selected as Tillman Scholars

Doctoral students **LeNaya Crandall Hezel** and Lt. Col. **Michelle Ruehl** are part of the 2021 class of Tillman Scholars, named in honor of Pat Tillman, the former NFL star who was killed in Afghanistan in 2004 while serving with the U.S. Army Rangers. They are two of the 60 scholars chosen from thousands of applicants by the Pat Tillman Foundation.

Hezel is a military spouse working on a PhD in sociology. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, her husband, who serves in the U.S. Navy, had just returned from a deployment. At home with three daughters, she made the decision to step away from her full-time job as the veterans' office director at Georgetown University and become a full-time student at Mason.

With her dissertation, Hezel is considering the impact of campus veteran resource centers on student academic success. "My hypothesis is the schools that have the resource center or the dedicated office, they're going to have higher graduation rates," says Hezel. "But there's no research on that so I hope to fill that gap."

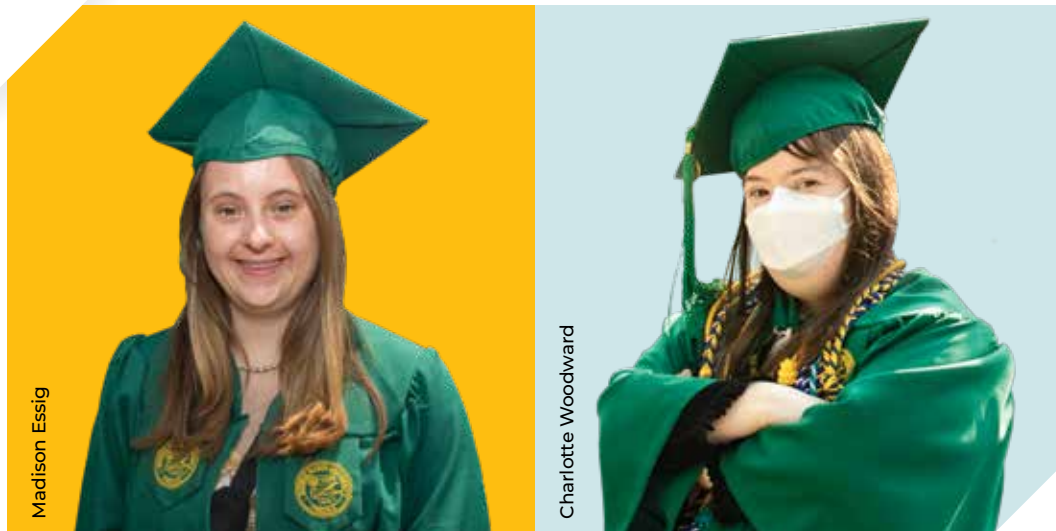


Ruehl is a U.S. Air Force pilot and English teacher working on a PhD in writing and rhetoric.

She started her doctoral studies at Mason in 2021 after working as a White House Fellow. When she learned that her next assignment would be at the Pentagon, the mother of two quickly scrambled to apply to a PhD program. She had been teaching English and aviation at the United States Air Force Academy with two master's degrees, one in English and another in psychology.

"[The academy] doesn't require pilots to have a PhD," she says, "and I realized, when I get out of the Air Force, I will actually have to compete for jobs with the real professors."

Even before the Air Force Academy, Ruehl was drawn to teaching, sometimes flying planes over Afghanistan at night and volunteering to teach English during the day.



Madison Essig

Charlotte Woodward

An Impactful Legacy: Two Students Leave Their Mark on Mason

On Friday, May 20, Mason celebrated more than 10,000 graduates, who embody the university's diversity. Two of them, **Madison Essig**, BA Integrative Studies '22, and **Charlotte Woodward**, BA Sociology '22, are leaving their mark on Mason by making it a more accessible place for people with disabilities.

“I gained a lot of leadership skills in showing what I can do.”

Madison Essig, BA Integrative Studies '22

Essig and Woodward represent a select group of college graduates: Both women have Down syndrome, and when they received their bachelor's degrees, they became only the fifth and sixth individuals with Down syndrome in the United States to do so. “I feel like I have done a lot to get to this point,” says Essig. Originally at Mason through the Mason LIFE program, she earned her BA within four years. She was active as a member of Student Government and the Gamma Phi Beta sorority, worked with the George Mason Democrats, and attended Friday night Shabbat with Mason Hillel. Through her work in Student Government, Essig helped to pass “Madison's Bill,” which expanded Student Government participation to Mason LIFE students. She recalls this as being one of her proudest

memories of her time at Mason. “It's still making a great impact even today,” she says. “I gained a lot of leadership skills in showing what I can do to make this campus more inclusive.”

Advocacy also drives Woodward. The straight-A student earned her degree while helping to pass legislation in her home state, Virginia, that prevents disability-based discrimination against people who need organ transplants. The recipient of a heart transplant in 2012, she has since worked to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to similar life-saving opportunities. Through work as a community outreach associate for the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS), she has met with legislators, taken part in advocacy events, contributed to an upcoming NDSS publication, and has become a popular presence on the society's TikTok account. “I am happy and proud to be graduating,” she says, “but I will be happier and prouder when I see people with disabilities on the George Mason University staff and faculty, as well as graduating from George Mason University.”

Lavender Graduation Provides a Spirited Celebration of Community

A few weeks prior to Mason's Commencement, the atrium of Horizon Hall hosted Mason's 2022 Lavender and Women and Gender Studies Graduation, which celebrates LGBTQ+ students, allies, graduates of the Women and Gender Studies Program, and people who identified with these programs during their time at Mason. More than 200 colleges and universities hold Lavender Graduations. Mason's LGBTQ+ Resources Center has done so since 2009 and has welcomed collaboration with Women and Gender Studies since 2015.

"It's fundamentally important to have a ceremony that recognizes LGBTQ+ students specifically," says **Josh Kinchen**, director of Mason's LGBTQ+ Resources Center. "Historically, institutions have not always been supportive of LGBTQ+ folk.... if you don't feel like you have a connection to your department or your college or the university, you have somewhere to celebrate this very important milestone with us."

"Students, and even faculty and staff, can draw a lot of strength from having those concrete ways of identifying with something that they all belong to together," says **Anu Aneja**, Women and Gender Studies director.

During the event, **Holly Mason Badra**, MFA '17, received the Rose Pascarell and Ric Chollar Professional Service Award,

which honors staff and administrative faculty who work to advance the well-being of Mason's LGBTQ+ community. Badra is the associate director of the Women and Gender Studies Program and completed a graduate certificate in higher education administration this spring. **Melody Kujat**, who is earning a master of arts degree in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in women and gender studies, received the Outstanding Project Award for the Women and Gender Studies Program.

A new award was created to recognize the contributions of faculty whose teaching or scholarship centers the experiences of LGBTQ+ people and communities, focuses on gender and sexuality, or grounds their pedagogy in queerness, justice, and liberation. The **David Powers Corwin Teaching and Scholarship Award** is named in honor of Mason's first LGBTQ+ minor program coordinator; its namesake was the inaugural winner. It was well deserved, says Aneja. "They've done such wonderful work with the Women and Gender Studies Center and the student development and leadership initiatives."

"Mason is a unique place in how LGBTQ+ inclusive it is," says Kinchen. "From an executive level all the way through the student level...there's a level of empowerment that is incredibly important."



Equity Advisors and Advisory Council Promote Inclusive Excellence

The college's Inclusive Excellence (IE) Advisory Council was established in 2021 to provide comprehensive feedback and engagement on the CHSS IE plan goals and implementation. The council represents faculty at all levels, staff, alumni, and students. It meets approximately once a month and brings a variety of perspectives to CHSS IE planning. It actively contributes to this planning by

reviewing written documents related to IE and reaching out to colleagues for information and feedback on IE planning. Members typically serve for a two-year term.

To support our work in fostering anti-racism, diversity, equity, inclusion, and civility, CHSS established equity advisor roles. These faculty fellows support the college's inclusive faculty search process

for active searches, as well as faculty mentorship and professional development activities, and connect CHSS community members to resources. **Xiaomei Cai**, associate professor in the Department of Communication, and **Cesar Rebellon**, professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society, served as the college's first faculty fellows. This year, Cai is serving as the college's interim director of faculty diversity and **Chrystal George Mwangi**, associate professor in the Higher Education Program, is serving as a faculty equity advisor.

Learn more about the CHSS IE work at dei.chss.gmu.edu/about/about-us.

Outstanding Service to Our CHSS Community

Since 2001, the college has recognized outstanding staff at the Mary Roper Award Ceremony, named for Mary Roper, a long-time Mason employee renowned for her professionalism and dedication to the university. Through her more than 30 years of contributions at Mason, Roper set high standards for service to her colleagues and Mason's students.

Roper, now retired, customarily attends the event, and she continued this tradition in December as the college recognized the awardees for 2020 and 2021. In a virtual celebration—followed by an in-person reception for those able to attend—CHSS dean **Ann Ardis** saluted 2020 awardee **Brittany Sanders**, graduate programs coordinator in the Department of Communication, and 2021 awardee **Katharine Rupp**, office manager in the Center for Social

Science Research (CSSR) and Institute for Immigration Research (IIR).

Ardis shared portions of the nomination letters sent on behalf of each awardee: "From her first day, Brittany has impressed everyone in the department with her critical thinking, her efficiency, and her dedication to our graduate students," and "Katharine is the heart of the CSSR and IIR...she helped to maintain contact

and connection between faculty, staff, and students and then also provided leadership as we moved back to campus in a safe fashion."

Thanking Mary Roper Award winners, past and present, Ardis concluded, "One of the bright moments of this job is the opportunity to recognize people who provide outstanding support, and today has afforded that opportunity twice over."



Mary Roper (center) with awardees Katharine Rupp and Brittany Sanders.

American Society of Criminology Honors Mason Faculty with Multiple Awards

The American Society of Criminology's (ASC) November meeting was a rewarding evening for Mason criminologists.

Clarence J. Robinson Professor Emerita of Criminology, Law and Society **Laurie Robinson** received the 2021 Herbert Bloch Award for her outstanding service to ASC and to the field.

"Laurie Robinson's contributions to criminal justice cannot be overstated," says **James Willis**, chair of the Department of Criminology, Law and Society. "Her career has been devoted to a vision for criminal justice reform founded on rigorous scientific evidence, and one that advances fundamental democratic values such as justice, fairness, and equality."

The award was the latest honor for Robinson, who co-chaired former president Obama's White House Task Force on 21st Century Policing and twice served as an assistant attorney general for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

Cynthia Lum and **David Wilson** were honored as ASC Fellows in recognition of their scholarly contributions to criminology and distinction in the discipline. A fellow must also have made a significant contribution to the field through the career development of other criminologists and/or through organizational activities within ASC.

Lum, a University Professor and the director of CEBCP, is a leading authority on evidence-based policing. She has written extensively about patrol operations and police crime prevention activities, as well as police use of technology such as body cameras.

Wilson's work applies scientific knowledge to changing offender behavior or preventing crime. He has examined programs such as juvenile curfews, restorative-justice and trauma-informed programs for delinquent youth, drug courts, and police-worn body cameras. Wilson is a University Professor and a recognized expert on using meta-analysis to synthesize evidence from rigorous social science research.

Lum and Wilson join colleagues **David Weisburd** and **Stephen D. Mastrofski** as fellows in the organization.

Allison Redlich received the 2021 Mentor Award for her strong support of criminology students. Redlich is a University Professor, the associate chair in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society, and director of graduate programs. Her work centers on police interrogation, guilty pleas, wrongful convictions, and mental health courts. She has published extensively across these areas, often alongside her students. She is the immediate past president of the American Psychology-Law Society, a fellow of the Academy of Experimental Criminology, and winner of the American Psychological Association Mid-Career Award for Outstanding



Laurie Robinson, Cynthia Lum, David Wilson, and Allison Redlich receive awards from ASC president Daniel Nagin.

Contributions to Benefit Children, Youth, and Families. Shortly after learning of her ASC Mentor Award, she was elected a fellow of the American Psychological Association.

"In the same month, to receive national recognition for her scientific contributions to psychology and law, and for mentoring future scholars, is quite remarkable," says Willis. "She is an invaluable asset to George Mason University and her accomplishments elevate us all."

A Quantitative Understanding of the 17th Century Plague

Jessica Otis, assistant professor of history and the director of public projects at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, was awarded \$443,425 from the National Science Foundation to support her project, “Assessing the Arithmetic of Early Modern London’s Bills of Mortality.”

Plague was one of the most dreaded diseases in early modern England (c. 1500 to c. 1800). At the turn of the 17th century, London officials started publicly distributing Bills of Mortality, a weekly series of mortality statistics to try to track plague deaths. Otis's team created

a dataset by digitizing and transcribing the Bills of Mortality and assessed the arithmetical accuracy of their internal calculations and summary statistics. By combining this assessment with close reading of historical sources, the team hopes to be able to draw conclusions about early modern use of and trust in numbers.

The project involves student researchers, offering interdisciplinary paths for students interested in both history and science, technology, engineering, and

[illegible]

mathematics (STEM) research, as well as demonstrating the myriad career and research options available at the intersection of history and STEM.

Making History: David Weisburd First Criminologist to Receive Israel's Rothschild Prize



David Weisburd has been awarded the prestigious Israeli Rothschild Prize for 2022 in social sciences, the first time since the prize was established in 1959 that it has been received by a criminologist.

Weisburd, Distinguished Professor of Criminology, Law and Society and executive director of the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy, also holds an appointment as the Walter E. Meyer Professor of Law and Criminal Justice in the Institute of Criminology of the Hebrew University Faculty of Law.

“The fact that I received this prize in social science and am the first criminologist to receive this honor is meaningful to me,” Weisburd says. “Criminology is a relatively new discipline and has sometimes not been recognized sufficiently in the broader context of social science.”

Weisburd has spent his career expanding the way criminologists understand deviance and crime. He coined the term the “law of crime concentration” to describe how crime is narrowly distributed in cities. This became the basis for a series of randomized field experiments showing that if the police focus on crime hot spots, they can be effective in reducing crime, which refuted previous beliefs that police could not prevent it. When Weisburd received the prestigious Stockholm Prize in Criminology—sometimes termed criminology’s Nobel Prize—in 2010, he was noted as a key figure in overturning the “nothing works” view.

War on Whistleblowers: Lebovic Explores Espionage Act and Civil Liberties



THE HISTORY OF
THE ESPIONAGE ACT

“...rising
respect for
free speech
rights was
accompanied
by the growth of
other forms of
censorship...”

Sam Lebovic, an associate professor in the Department of History and Art History, has been awarded a prestigious and highly competitive Public Scholars Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. These grants support popular nonfiction books in the humanities, allowing scholars like Lebovic to conduct consequential research of interest to a broad audience. Lebovic’s award enables him to complete work on a new book on the history of the Espionage Act.

Passed in 1917, the Espionage Act was deployed to prosecute political dissidents during World War I. This overt form of censorship produced a civil libertarian backlash that helped create the modern First Amendment. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes’s famous free speech metaphors—“shouting fire in a crowded theater” and “the free trade in

ideas”—were both issued in Espionage Act cases in 1919. Until now, most histories of the Espionage Act have focused on this triumphalist story.

By contrast, Lebovic’s book will demonstrate that the rising respect for free speech rights was accompanied by the growth of other forms of censorship, as the U.S. security state increasingly relied on more obscure sections of the Espionage Act to police information. Under President Truman, these provisions provided a key mechanism for a system of national security classification enforced by the prosecution of leakers.

While subsequent administrations have tinkered with the classification system—and while complaints about over-classification have been ubiquitous since the 1950s—the basic system remains unchanged since 1951. This bureaucratic, obscure, and technical form of censorship has significantly undermined the flow of information to the public.

More than a century after it was enacted in 1917, the Espionage Act plays an increasingly significant role in modern American politics. Espionage Act leak prosecutions, once rare, have become so regular that some speak of a “War on Whistleblowers.” The high-profile cases of Edward Snowden, Thomas Drake, Chelsea Manning, John Kiriakou, Reality Winner, and Terry Albury have captured the headlines, and test the relationship between national security and civil liberties in modern American democracy.

Lebovic’s book is expected to be published in 2023.

Empowering Girls for Future Success

Danielle Craddock, MAIS '11, is the owner of Danielle B. Craddock LLC, a consulting company where she uses her experience as founder and director of Girls Inspired and Ready to Lead Inc. (GIRL) to help others start their nonprofits or develop STEM programming. GIRL mentors and empowers teen girls through career exploration, leadership development, and confidence building.



Danielle Craddock (left) with six of GIRL's 2021 Pathways to Careers Program participants who interned with CGI Federal in Fairfax to learn business IT consulting. The GIRL program placed 17 girls in summer internships and provided professional development workshops in fall 2021.

Craddock founded the organization in 2010 after meeting with a group of middle and high school girls who shared concerns about school, relationships, family, and career goals. Realizing these young women needed mentorship, Craddock established GIRL to provide access to professional development workshops, STEM camps, and community service projects, led by women who reflect diverse demographics, so the girls could envision achieving their dreams. Her organization, in partnership with

Mason's College of Science, also founded the award-winning Females of Color and those Underrepresented in STEM (FOCUS) summer camp, which introduces middle school girls to STEM careers. The program's success led to a residential program for high school girls.

Craddock based GIRL's programs on the student services model she studied in her higher education interdisciplinary studies graduate program at Mason, which develops the whole student while preparing students to complete

their degrees and achieve professional success. She encourages students to "take advantage of opportunities that feed your passion and find mentors who are doing what you would like to do." Craddock's work has been highlighted on *Good Morning Washington* (WJLA-TV), WUSA9, and in the *Washington Post*. She received the 2020 Nonprofit Leader Award from Leadership Fairfax and a 2021 Alumni Service Award from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Exploring Technology's Potential in the Music Industry

When **Scott Cohen**, BA Psychology '89, moved to New York City after graduating from Mason, a chance meeting in 1995 changed his fortunes and launched him on a wild rollercoaster ride fueled by the hype of the internet's early days. During this time, he met Richard Gottehrer, the legendary co-founder of Sire Records—home to such stars as The Ramones, The Pretenders, and Madonna—who wanted to start a new record label with him. Cohen went all in.

Sadly, the label failed, leaving Cohen broke and the label without any prospects to promote its artists. Out of desperation, Cohen chose a new strategy. He would use the nascent web (no photos, music, or video) to reach fans. He connected a dozen computers manned by college interns to AOL via dial-up modems. Six phone lines, 12 computers, and the possibility of the future.

The interns targeted music message boards, sending personalized emails about bands on the label. The strategy proved to be magic. With a 100 percent response rate, messages started coming back, usually prefaced with, "Thanks for sending me an email," as the emails Cohen's team were sending were likely the

first email ever received by the responder. Ten-dollar checks started coming in as people ordered CDs from bands they had never heard of before.

In 1997, Cohen and Gottehrer launched a new company called the Orchard, which was the first distributor of music on the web. While the idea was great, the timing was less than ideal, given that not many people paid to download music in the '90s. Broke again, Cohen found himself \$3 million in debt, homeless, and sleeping in the office. But when iTunes launched in 2003, his fortunes finally changed for the better. By this time, the Orchard was sitting on the largest catalog of digital music in the world.

A decade later Sony Music acquired the company. Cohen remained with the Orchard until 2019 and then moved to Warner Music as chief innovation officer, where he looks for the next big opportunities.





Honoring Essential Health Workers through Art

Maria Bennett Hock, BIS '07, began her degree path as a 22-year-old military spouse.

She moved often and took courses at universities across the United States and in Germany and Korea. When her youngest son graduated from Mason, Hock decided to complete her degree and found the Bachelor of Individualized Study program at the university, which provides a tailored degree experience for adult learners with a mixture of college credits and professional experience. Hock expected her courses to further her graphic design career, but the supplemental drawing and painting

classes she took completely changed her trajectory.

From those classes, Hock discovered her passion for painting and credits her time at Mason for “leading her in the right direction” and allowing her to “hone her skills.” She is now an accomplished artist who has shown work in galleries across the United States and in Toyota, Japan.

In 2021, she completed what she considers her most important body of work, which was featured by People.com. The subjects were Duke University Hospital essential staff members—45 portraits in 45 days.

The individuals were chosen by nomination from all essential hospital staff, especially those in food service, maintenance, and janitorial service, along with doctors and nurses. Hock requested selfies taken at the end of the workers’ shifts, and she painted one portrait a day for 45 days. The portraits were displayed at the Duke University Medical Center before being gifted to the participating staff members.

To learn more and to view the portraits, visit mariahock.com/works.



Actor Brings Broad Range of Skills to Every Role —Onscreen and Off

Ryan Duncan, BA Foreign Languages '95, is an actor with film, theater, and television credits. His roles have included parts in *Shrek the Musical* and *Gettin' the Band Back Together* on Broadway and *Blue Bloods* on CBS. He also works as a simulation specialist with Mursion, a company using virtual reality to help individuals improve communication around topics such as diversity, equity, and inclusion. Duncan also works as an actor and English-to-Spanish translator for Only Make Believe, a New York City-based nonprofit providing theatrical experiences to children in hospitals and care facilities. He enjoys these collaborative experiences and using his gifts to help others.

Duncan credits Mason with giving him a solid academic platform, which grounded his career and enabled him to add creativity to his work. Mason's proximity to Washington, D.C., was significant, as it allowed him to work professionally while exploring other industries that piqued his interest.

He has learned through experience that nothing is fair, but anything is possible, and he encourages students to think broadly when seeking their paths. "Use every part of you, your academic background, your quirks, your hobbies, your interests—put that into your work, and you'll discover what you love, and you'll inspire more people."

In November 2021, the Department of Modern and Classical Languages awarded Duncan with a Distinguished Alumni Award.



Nearly 50 Years of Alumni Success

For more than 45 years, George Mason University's Alumni Association has celebrated the achievements of Mason alumni at the annual **Celebration of Distinction** ceremony. First held in 1975, this program has evolved from a reception honoring four alumni, to a premier event honoring Mason alumni from each college and several affinity groups.

Also recognized during this event are recipients for five university-level awards: the Alum of the Year Award, Alumni Service Award, the Graduate of the Last Decade (G.O.L.D.) Award, the Senior of the Year Award, and the Faculty Member of the Year Award. Recipients are chosen by the Alumni Association for their professional achievements and outstanding service to Mason and our communities.

This year, CHSS alumni received four of the five university-level awards, which showcases our alumni's commitment to sharing their time and talents and helping to create a community that is strong, proud, and energized. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is proud to recognize our outstanding alumni and faculty who received awards this year.



ALUM OF THE YEAR AWARD

David Freedman

BA Philosophy, BA Foreign Languages '98



GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE (G.O.L.D.) AWARD

Raquel Gonzalez

*BA Integrative Studies '07,
MS Conflict Analysis and Resolution '12*



SENIOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Dominique Dowling

*BA Integrative Studies '22
President, CHSS Student Ambassadors
Secretary, Educators Rising Collegiate*



FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Wendi N. Manuel-Scott

*Professor, School of Integrative Studies
Department of History and Art History
Associate Director, Center for Mason Legacies*



CHSS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Kathy E. Hollinger

MAIS '96



BLACK ALUMNI CHAPTER DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Monica H. Davy

BA English '91



GREEN MACHINE ENSEMBLES

David Roth

BS Economics '11 and BA Music '11



Event hosts Natalia Kanos, BA Conflict Analysis and Resolution '22 (left), and Veronica Mata, BA Integrative Studies and Government and International Politics '22

Celebrating CHSS Community and Catalysts

Beginning in 2010, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences has honored a group of distinguished alumni during an annual event. Over the years, this opportunity to celebrate alumni has grown and inspired our college's new signature event—Community and Catalysts: Achievements, Awards, and Innovations.

Community and Catalysts is a celebration of the achievements of our college's faculty, staff, students, and alumni. This event showcases the innovative nature of our faculty research and teaching, while also illustrating how CHSS stands ready

to help all Mason students create the changes that will make our communities a better place. In November 2021, the college presented our virtual event, hosted by former student body president **Natalia Kanos**, BA Conflict Analysis and Resolution '22, and former student body vice president **Veronica Mata**, BA Integrative Studies and Government and International Politics '22.

In addition to celebrating our 2021 distinguished alumni, staff, and students, the event featured updates from Dean **Ann Ardis**; a glimpse into Horizon Hall; a look at the transformation of Wilkins

Plaza and the Enslaved People of George Mason Memorial; a student performance from Mason's Forensics Team; and highlights from the Lab for Writing and Communication, the George Mason University Center for Psychological Services, the CHSS Alumni Chapter, and CHSS students.

Watch our program and learn more about the college and the CHSS distinguished awardees who help drive our communities forward at go.gmu.edu/chssawards.

Peter Stearns Recognized for Scholarly Distinction

University Professor and provost emeritus **Peter Stearns** has been awarded the American Historical Association (AHA) Award for Scholarly Distinction, adding to his long list of career accolades.

Established in 1984, the award recognizes “senior historians of the highest distinction who have spent the bulk of their professional careers in the United States,” according to the AHA website.

“The impact that Peter has made through his teaching, his leadership, and of course his scholarship, is extraordinary,” says CHSS dean **Ann Ardis**. “Peter’s students and faculty colleagues at Mason are fortunate to have benefited from all three elements of his career accomplishments.”

Stearns is the second Mason faculty member to earn this honor, says **Matthew Karush**, chair of the Department of History and Art History. Lawrence

Levine, who taught at Mason from 1994 to 2005, also received the award.

“The list of previous winners includes some of the absolute giants in the field,” Karush adds. “These really are the most prominent and influential historians of their time.”

Stearns particularly appreciates the award considering the variety of work that his career represents.



“I’ve had a good bit of time in administration as well as teaching,” he notes. “But I’ve always been committed to historical scholarship and particularly the exploration of new subjects for historical analysis—like happiness. I’m certainly grateful for the honor given the diversity of my career.”

Doctoral Candidate Launches Teaching Career at Mason Korea

Xinyi “Amy” Zhang, PhD candidate in Mason’s Cultural Studies Program, was the inaugural participant in an educational exchange program between CHSS and Mason Korea for advanced PhD candidates. Zhang served as a term instructor at Mason Korea during the 2021–22 academic year, leading an introductory course in art history and an integrative studies course.

Zhang brought her interdisciplinary research and expertise into both courses; her research concerns power dynamics among institutions in the fine art world, particularly how art institutions in non-Western countries construct and maintain legitimacy. In the integrative studies course, she explains, “I approached this course with a perspective informed by my research on museums in the non-West, [focusing on] the structure of power and mechanisms of accountability for these [human rights] institutions who (much like museums!) operate with widespread assumption of their constant beneficence.”

“The diverse backgrounds of our student body encourage instructors to be creative and flexible...it has inspired a great deal of reflexive thinking about things like course content, classroom norms, and institutional hierarchy in sometimes challenging ways.”

Zhang also credits the other instructors at Mason Korea with helping her learn and grow. “The instructors here work so hard to engineer effective instruction for our unique student body, and I have found much inspiration in their experiences.”





Courtney Hughes Rinker



Haagen Klaus



Susan Lawrence



Jane Flinn



Afra Saeed Ahma

CHSS Faculty Honored for Teaching Excellence



Graziella Pagliarulo McCarron



Sheri Ann Huerta



George Oberle



Leah Adams

The Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning hosts the Celebration of Teaching Excellence each spring.

Four CHSS faculty members were honored with Teaching Excellence Awards: **Courtney Hughes Rinker**, associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and director of the Global Affairs Program; **Haagen Klaus**, associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and director of the undergraduate program in anthropology; **Susan Lawrence**, associate professor in the Department of English and director of Mason's Writing Center; and **Kate Sweeney**, journalism program coordinator in the Department of Communication.

Jane Flinn, associate professor in the Department of Psychology and director of the Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience Program, was recognized as a Teacher of Distinction.

Afra Saeed Ahmad, BA Psychology '08, MA '12, PhD '16; assistant professor, Department of Psychology; and director of Mason's online Master of Professional Studies in Applied Industrial and Organizational Psychology Program; and **Graziella Pagliarulo McCarron**, assistant professor of leadership studies in the School of Integrative Studies, received Online Teaching Excellence Awards.

Sheri Ann Huerta from the Department of History and Art History received the Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award.

George Oberle, BA History '96, MA '99, PhD '16; assistant term faculty with the Department of History and Art History; director of the Center for Mason Legacies; and history librarian with University Libraries, received the Distinguished Library Faculty Award.

"The Teaching Excellence Awards give our entire community an opportunity to recognize the work of these faculty as well as the high standard of teaching excellence throughout the college," says **Jaime Lester**, CHSS associate dean of faculty affairs and strategic initiatives. "Congratulations to all of the awardees!"

As part of the Celebration of Teaching Excellence, **Leah Adams**, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and the Women and Gender Studies Program, was also recognized for being one of two Mason faculty members to receive 2022 State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) Outstanding Faculty Awards.

Excellence at Our Core



The Mason Core is the university's general education program, the foundation for every undergraduate student's course of study. In May 2022, the Mason Core Committee announced that 240 Mason Core courses within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences were led by faculty members who had received outstanding recognition from their students (a rating of 4.75 or more out of five on the student ratings of instruction).

"Mason Core classes are critical for engaging students and helping to create Mason Graduates: Well-Rounded Citizens and Engaged Scholars who are Prepared to Act," the committee remarked. "We are very grateful for [these CHSS faculty members'] commitment to excellent teaching in the Mason Core." These courses were taught by 180 CHSS faculty members, many of whom were recognized for

teaching excellence in multiple courses or multiple sections of courses.

Dean **Ann Ardis** notes the importance of these faculty members' work for the university. "CHSS is highly—and rightly—proud of our faculty's contributions to the delivery of Mason Core classes that engage students. We take seriously our responsibility to build a launchpad for every Mason undergraduate's success."

Creating Communication All-Stars

One of the newest spaces on Mason's Fairfax Campus is a fresh, open, brightly lit corner of the Johnson Center that houses Mason's Lab for Writing and Communication. The lab brings Mason's Writing Center, which has been part of the university since 1974, together with the Communication Center, which was established in 2018. Now sharing space and working together, they offer students across Mason support in writing and public speaking.

The lab grew from a 2017 curriculum impact grant that allowed the team behind the project, English Department faculty members **Heidi Lawrence**, **Susan Lawrence**, and **Debra Lattanzi Shutika** and Communication Department faculty member **Melissa Broeckelman-Post**, to start exploring the possibilities of combining both centers.

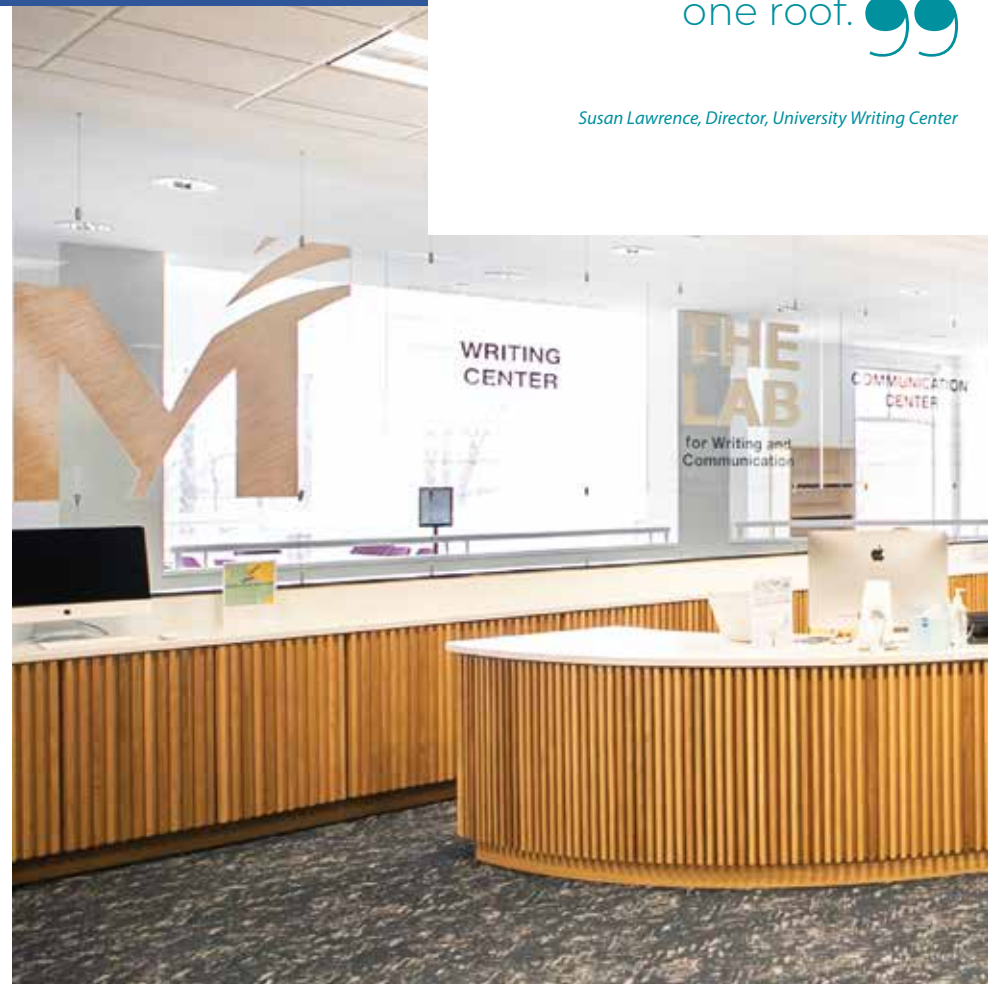
"More and more undergraduate majors call for communication projects that combine writing, speaking, and visuals," says Susan Lawrence, an associate professor who directs the Writing Center. "We asked ourselves what would happen if we located our two centers under one roof."

The lab welcomed its first students in fall 2021. Its name, the Lab for Writing and Communication, alludes to its research function, an aspect that Broeckelman-Post attributes to associate English professor Heidi Lawrence. "She's the one who really got us thinking about...generating ways to help our students and help faculty do research," she says. "We're not just building communication skills

THE LAB

“We asked ourselves what would happen if we located our two centers under one roof.”

Susan Lawrence, Director, University Writing Center



for students—both written and oral communication skills. We're also studying how we're doing that, to find out whether we're doing it as well as possible and continually improving our practices."

"Each year both centers take undergraduate and graduate students to our disciplinary conferences so they're actually producing scholarship," adds Susan Lawrence. "That's part of our vision of the lab as a scholarly engine. The student consultants are involved in that research as student researchers, not only as participants."

But it is the physical space that helps to create the community of writing and communication. In addition to writing and communication consultations—Susan Lawrence and Broeckelman-Post estimate that the centers hosted about 4,700 sessions (virtual and in-person) during fall 2021—the lab offers a haven for creativity and focus. "We designed the space before COVID-19," notes Lawrence, "but the space turns out to be really versatile and it's working well for us in a time when students don't want to be crowded together when they're in the same space."

The lab offers a tangible benefit to Mason's students, says Broeckelman-Post. "One of the things that sets Mason graduates apart from their counterparts graduating from other universities is that they communicate well, and their employers tell us that they communicate well. And [that's what] helps them do so well in the early stages of their careers."



Three CHSS Faculty Members Receive 2022 Presidential Awards

George Mason University's Presidential Awards for Faculty Excellence honor achievement in the areas of teaching, social impact, diversity and inclusion, and research and scholarship. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is proud that three of its faculty members were recognized with these awards this spring.



Lauren Cattaneo, associate professor in the Department of Psychology, received the United Bank Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion for extraordinary contributions in research, teaching, and service that directly advances diversity and inclusion within and beyond Mason.

In the nomination for the award, CHSS dean **Ann Ardis** and psychology department chair **Keith Renshaw** emphasized Cattaneo's work in creating internships for undergraduate students to work in local organizations dedicated to addressing poverty; the Inside Out course that she created, which combines students from a university with students who are incarcerated; her selection as a faculty fellow for diversity, inclusion, and well-being, where she created a course to help undergraduates navigate complex issues of diversity, identity, and inclusion; and her leading role as co-chair of the Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee within Mason's Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Task Force.



David Weisburd, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society, received the Beck Family Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Research. The medal is presented to a faculty member whose contributions represent groundbreaking advances in their field.

In their letter nominating Weisburd for the award, Dean Ardis, Associate Dean **Jaime Lester**, and leadership in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society noted his many contributions to the field. These include Weisburd's pioneering research in crime and place, his extensive publications (more than 200 scientific articles and more than 30 books), and his host of honors, such as the 2010 Stockholm Prize in Criminology, lifetime achievement awards from the American Society of Criminology, the 2015 Israel Prize, and the 2022 Rothschild Prize in the Social Sciences.



Shannon Fyfe, assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy and a fellow of the Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy, was selected as a recipient of the Presidential Award for Faculty Excellence in Research.

Philosophy department leadership and Dean Ardis's nomination stressed Fyfe's outstanding work as an emerging scholar and public philosopher, touching on her research on morally complex and challenging issues, including genocide, hate speech, sexual violence, immigration, and mass incarceration. The nomination also noted her contributions to the public debate on pressing issues such as the pandemic's impact on the Washington, D.C., detention system and the availability of COVID-19 vaccines for children, and her extensive publications and work with the Antonin Scalia Law School and the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution.

October 26, heavy cloud, low ceiling

[For Gertrude “Tommy” Tompkins Silver]

This morning I slipped my gold wedding band
off my ring finger and stowed it in the drawer
next to the bed. Henry slept as I left the house
for the airfield.

Six machine guns loaded.
Mustang's canopy is stuck.
Take-off delayed.

3:30 pm
Repaired canopy, fuel tank full
Destination: Palm Springs, CA; Newark, NJ

Dorothy took off first, climbing up
into the fog
and banking west over the mountains.

*Halibut weren't biting. I was dreaming about flying.
To rise above the pier, goodbye to the ground,
I become a bird spreading my wings.*

Control tower gives the go-ahead. I ride her
high, into the clouds. Imagine the earth falling
away below, then the Santa Ana peaks loom
on my left. Pull back the stick and feel
her weight shift.

*Eyes to the sky, I watched the Mustang rise up,
flashing silver like a twisting lure.*

*Then it spun into the fog. Lost sight of her.
But the sound wasn't right. Coughing, sputtering.*

Imagine my parents and Henry, proudly
grinning while a General presents the medal,
the WASP buzzing with pride.

*I drop the pole, leap on the railing, lunge out over
the sea to get a better look. Nothing.*

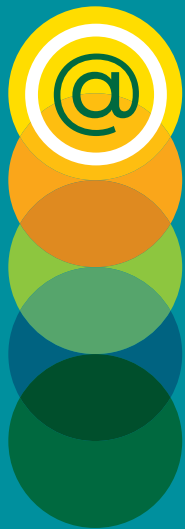
*I scream. I shout. Wave my cap in the air and point
into the ocean. Nothing.*

Assemble your teams and
ready your boats –
my body awaits
along with the wreckage
here in the playground of jellyfish.

It cured her stutter, they say: when she sat in the cockpit her
fears fell away and soaring with confidence she flew. She lived in
the wind and the sand, with her eyes on the stars.



Jennifer L. Gauthier, PhD Cultural Studies '02, is the chair of the media and culture department at Randolph College in Lynchburg, Virginia. Her chapbook, *naked: poems inspired by remarkable women*, was published in November 2021 by Finishing Line Press, as part of the New Women's Voices Series. The collection was inspired by women throughout history, historical or fictional, who acted boldly and bravely to make positive change in the world. Her poems have also appeared in *Tiny Seed Literary Journal*, *South 85*, *Gyroscope Review*, *Nightingale & Sparrow*, *The Bookends Review*, and *HerWords Magazine*. Her short story "Cooper's Run" will be appearing in *Draw Down the Moon*, an anthology forthcoming from Propertius Press.



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Every year, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences strives to help as many students as possible with their financial obligations. In celebration of Mason's 50th Anniversary, please consider a **gift of \$50**, which will help provide

- Metrorail fare stipends for interns working in Washington, D.C.
- program funding for student clubs
- conference registration fees and software support
- assistance toward the cost of books and other fees



Your gift helps provide immediate support and is directed where the need is greatest for our college, including emergency funding for our students. See the envelope insert for more information or visit chss.gmu.edu/give to make a gift today.