



College of
Humanities and Social
Sciences

ALL TOGETHER DIFFERENT

THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

[CHSS.GMU.EDU](https://chss.gmu.edu)



College of Humanities and Social Sciences

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

For more information, contact
Kristen Koehler, assistant dean,
strategic communications and marketing
chss@gmu.edu, 703-993-8720

Contributors: Mariam Aburdeineh,
Alecia Bryan, Shayla Brown, Luke Gibson,
Sarah Holland, Kristen Koehler, Katie Maney,
Nikki Jerome Ouellette, Anne Reynolds,
Madison Rudolph

Copy Editors: Alecia Bryan, Sarah Holland,
Kristen Koehler, Shannon McCarthy,
Jenna McGwin, Diane Schute

Graphic Designer: Karen Smith

Photographers: John Boal Photography,
Sarah Holland, Ron Aria, and Evan Cantwell

STAY CONNECTED!

-  Twitter [@GeorgeMasonCHSS](https://twitter.com/GeorgeMasonCHSS)
-  Instagram [@GeorgeMasonCHSS](https://www.instagram.com/GeorgeMasonCHSS)
-  Facebook [/MasonCHSS](https://www.facebook.com/MasonCHSS)
-  LinkedIn [bit.ly/CHSSLI](https://www.linkedin.com/bit.ly/CHSSLI)
-  YouTube [bit.ly/CHSSYT](https://www.youtube.com/bit.ly/CHSSYT)

On the front and inside cover: Horizon Hall,
home of the College of Humanities and Social
Sciences, is a popular locus of student activity.

Photo by Creative Services,
George Mason University

PHOTO BY EVAN CANTWELL

- 2 DEAN'S MESSAGE**
A year of recalibration - in preparation for our next chapter
- 3 THE ROI ON HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TRAINING**
- 4 CHSS BY THE NUMBERS**
- 6 UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE RANKINGS, AWARDS, AND POINTS OF DISTINCTION**
- 8 LEADERSHIP**
LaNitra Berger recognized for creating inclusive education abroad opportunities for underrepresented students
Groundbreaking research on climate change earns Edward Maibach National Academy of Medicine nomination
- 9 RESEARCH**
Harvard University Charles Warren Center Fellowship
CHSS chartered research centers
How the humanities are aiding in national security
Sylvia Schreiner receives CHSS's first CAREER award to help preserve the Yupik language
Improving human-machine collaborations
Mason researchers partner with Indigenous nations to promote environmental resilience
Identifying more objective evaluations to diagnose autism
Developing culturally appropriate supports for community behavioral health
- 16 TEACHING**
Developing the role of ethics in artificial intelligence
Historical perspectives on Russia's war on Ukraine
Preparing ethical leaders through experiential learning abroad

- 19 COMMUNITY**
Remembering a community's resilience in the face of horror
Stranger than fiction: The science behind the story
Helping the Mason Center for Psychological Services help the community
Inter-institutional collaboration: Exploring the environmental impact of society's shift from parkways to highways
Research in the interest of the community
The Youth Research Council
- 24 IN MEMORIAM**
- 26 COLLEGE TO CAREER**
Salomon "Sol" Salinas, BA Psychology, BS Marketing '85
Raquel Gonzalez, BA Integrative Studies '07 and MS Conflict Analysis and Resolution '12
Gary Shiffman, PhD Economics '02
Dvon Williams, BA Communication '06
- 30 OUR SUPPORTERS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE**
Transformative gift renames Global Islamic Studies Center in honor of international scholar and expands Mason's impact
Major gift establishes new fellowship at the Institute for Immigration Research
Opening doors for Mason students
Season of Giving
- 34 MAKING AN IMPACT**
- 36 COMMUNITY and CATALYSTS**
- 37 THE POWER OF COMMUNITY**

Dean's message

A year of recalibration - in preparation for our next chapter



PHOTO BY HILARY SCHWAB

Greetings from the Fairfax Campus!

2021-2022 was a year of recalibration. As our college, the university community, our country, and the world transitions from a pandemic to an endemic, my colleagues and I are in the process of establishing “new normals” in face-to-face, hybrid, and fully online modalities of teaching, learning, and working.

The pandemic certainly presented unprecedented challenges and disruptions over the last three years. Yet, it didn't keep Mason from celebrating its 50th anniversary in grand style in 2022. This issue of our Annual Report allows us to reflect upon our accomplishments and highlight areas of growth as we plan for this college's next 50 years. Here are a few areas that we celebrate and explore in this issue.

Inclusive student success

This past year we welcomed our most diverse and academically competitive incoming class of first-year students and transfer students from other universities and community college systems.

Many of our undergraduate and graduate programs continue to rank nationally (see rankings on pages 6-7). We continue in our efforts to address issues in diversity, equity, and inclusion and mental health well-being across our campus community—and beyond.

Bold, field-defining research of consequence

Our faculty continue to be recognized nationally and internationally for their field-defining research and its applications. Stories in this issue range from a faculty member in the Department of Communication's election to the National Academy of Medicine (Mason's sixth and CHSS's second) to a faculty member in the Psychology Department's human factors and applied cognition program partnering with the military to develop robots that can be used—and trusted—in space travel.

The college's chartering of a behavioral health research center and the renaming of our Center for Global Islamic Studies through a transformational gift are key milestones in our efforts to foster multidisciplinary research and teaching collaborations addressing the profound challenges our society faces, ranging from climate change, race relations, and immigration, to cross-cultural communication and appreciation of the global diversity of the human experience.

Excellence in teaching and curriculum innovation

The faculty in CHSS have a long-standing reputation for teaching excellence, and the stories featured here showcase some exciting new inter-institutional collaborations—in curriculum development as well as in teaching—that underscore the contemporary vitality and impact of education in our disciplines.

In all of the stories assembled here, you will find ample evidence of this college's contributions to Mason's vision, mission, and values as a comprehensive public research university that proudly serves a majority-minority and high first-generation-college-student population, and that brings research into practice through our partnerships and networks regionally, nationally, and globally.

I take this opportunity to thank our faculty, staff, students, alumni, partners, donors, and advisory board members for everything you do to support this college's mission.

Ann Ardis
Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
@GeorgeMasonCHSS



Our multidisciplinary research and teaching address the profound challenges our society faces.

—Ann Ardis, Dean,
College of Humanities
and Social Sciences

The ROI on humanities and social sciences education and research training

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) is the educational heart of George Mason University, serving as a hub of intellectual dynamism and disciplinary diversity, a locus of local and global civic engagement, and an access point to excellence for individuals of all backgrounds. CHSS delivers critical courses for the entire university community, including Mason Core and 100-level classes, re-skilling/up-skilling certificates and advanced seminars for PhD students. The liberal arts tradition of studying human minds, beliefs, languages, culture, histories, societal structures and forms of creative expression drives our community forward in advancing research of consequence, impactful service, and critical competencies for today's global and knowledge-based economy.

Now more than ever—in this age of increasingly smart machines—education and research training in the humanities and social sciences matters. The immediate and “long game” return on investment (ROI) of education in these disciplines has immense value for society as a whole as well as individuals.

Today's hiring managers, including those at big tech companies, are looking to hire people with human power skills: communication and inter-cultural competencies; teamwork and conflict management skills; research, critical analysis, and information assessment skills. *Forbes'* list of most-wanted skills in 2022 included empathetic listening, agility, flexibility, adaptability, modern communication, emotional intelligence, and creative thinking.

Two top executives at Microsoft have observed, “As computers behave more like humans, the social sciences and humanities will become even more important. Languages, art, history, economics, ethics, philosophy, psychology and human development courses can teach critical, philosophical and ethics-based skills that will be instrumental in the development and management of AI solutions.”

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is already transforming every walk of life and raising important questions for society, the economy, and governance. A CHSS degree provides the critical skills and real-world problem-solving needed to navigate this new world.

Our faculty and staff believe in the ROI of a humanities and social sciences education and research training. Our alumni model for our students what success can look like pursuing meaningful human work across many different sectors of the economy, and throughout a lifetime of careering and re-careering, as they also contribute generously to their communities in the region, the nation, and globally as engaged citizens and civic leaders.

SOURCES: [HTTPS://WWW.FORBES.COM/SITES/FORBESCOACHESCOU
NCIL/2022/08/11/15-SKILLS-EMPLOYERS-SEEK-IN-2022-AND-WAYS-TO-
GAIN-THEM-MIDCAREER/?SH=4C12E26481A](https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbescoachescouncil/2022/08/11/15-skills-employers-look-for-in-2022-and-ways-to-gain-them-midcareer/?sh=4c12e26481a)

[HTTPS://WWW.BUSINESSINSIDER.COM/MICROSOFT-PRESIDENT-SAYS-
TECH-NEEDS-LIBERAL-ARTS-MAJORS-2018-1](https://www.businessinsider.com/microsoft-president-says-tech-needs-liberal-arts-majors-2018-1)

[HTTPS://WWW.AMACAD.ORG/HUMANITIES-INDICATORS/WORKFORCE/
OCCUPATIONS-HUMANITIES-MAJORS-TERMINAL-BACHELORS-
DEGREE#EN_1.7](https://www.amacad.org/humanities-indicators/workforce/occupations-humanities-majors-terminal-bachelors-degree#EN_1.7)

[HTTPS://RESEARCH.COM/CAREERS/
HUMANITIES-AND-SOCIAL-SCIENCES-CAREERS](https://research.com/careers/humanities-and-social-sciences-careers)

More than
60% of
U.S. CEOs are
**humanities
graduates**

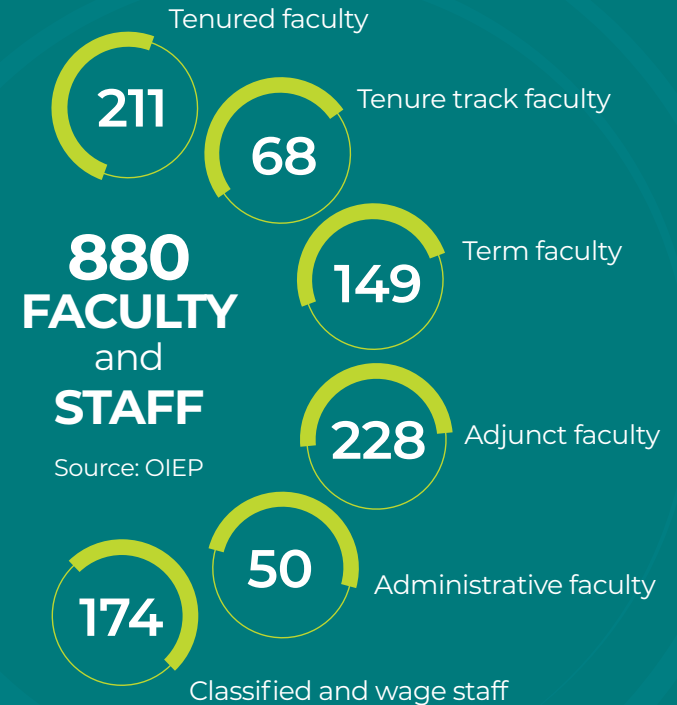
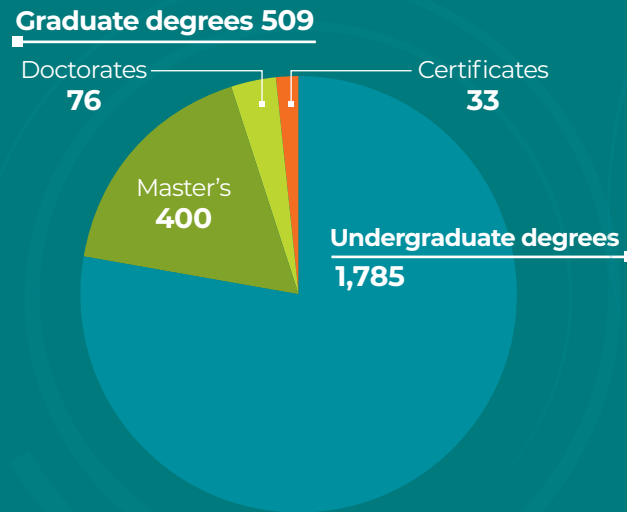
DEPARTMENTS and PROGRAMS

African and African American Studies
Communication
Criminology, Law and Society
Cultural Studies
Economics
English
Global Affairs
Higher Education
History and Art History
Interdisciplinary Studies
Latin American Studies
Middle East and Islamic Studies
Modern and Classical Languages
Philosophy
Psychology
Religious Studies
Russian and Eurasian Studies
School of Integrative Studies
Sociology and Anthropology
Women and Gender Studies

CHSS by the NUMBERS

Degrees conferred
in 2022 all terms:
2,294

Source: OIEP



CHSS offers



7,619 total number of enrolled students

6,018 undergraduate students

1,601 graduate students (977 master's, 547 doctoral, 77 certificates and non-degree)

Source: OIEP dashboard Fall 2021 Official Census Student Enrollment Report

5 of 11

4VA Collaborative
Research Awards
in 2022

Communication
Psychology
English
Global Affairs
School of Integrative Studies

Source: OIEP

State Council of
Higher Education
for Virginia
**Outstanding
Faculty
CHSS Winners**

Psychology (2022)

Philosophy (2021)

**Criminology, Law
and Society (2021)**

Source: OIEP

49%

of 21-22 undergrad
degrees awarded
to minoritized
students

27% of 21-22
undergrad degrees
awarded to
first-gen students

Source:
OIEP

\$15.6
Million

in sponsored research awards,
158 proposals submitted in FY22

College of Humanities and Social Sciences Sponsored Programs Summary Data

Source: Office of Sponsored Programs
(July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)

Fiscal Year	Total Direct Expend.	Total F&A Expend.	Total Expend.	# of Proposals	Value of Proposals	# of Awards	Value of Awards
FY22	\$12,934,028	\$1,701,520	\$14,635,548	158	\$40,035,573	119	\$15,648,274

67%

CHSS students don't wait long to make their mark, 67% of undergraduates have **employment related to their career goals** within one year.

Source: 2020-21 Career Plans Survey

63%

The **BA in Foreign Languages is the fastest growing** undergraduate program with a 63% increase in enrollment in five years. CHSS offers the only Korean foreign language concentration in the Commonwealth.

Source: OIEP

CHSS highest enrollment undergraduate majors

Source: OIEP Fall 2022 Census

Communication
418

Criminology, Law and Society
1,216

Economics
269

English
287

Environmental and Sustainability Studies
121

Global Affairs
365

History
262

Individualized Study
225

Integrative Studies
495

Psychology
1,405

Undergraduate programs rankings, awards, and points of distinction

BA in Communication program earned a spot on the 2021-2022 PR News Education A-List.

BFA in Creative Writing is one of only two in the Commonwealth and one of only three in the mid-Atlantic region. The program is ranked #14 nationwide by College Factual.

BA in English was ranked fifth among R1 universities in the mid-Atlantic and Northeast (Spring 2022).

Source: <https://blog.steppingblocks.com/public-r1-universities-producing-english-majors>

Graduate programs rankings, awards, and points of distinction

Rankings:

U.S. News National rankings in Graduate education:

Criminology, Law and Society #10

History #73

Economics #74

Psychology #80

#5 in Industrial-Organizational PSYCH

Sociology #84

English #99

Fastest growing
Graduate program

**68% increase in enrollment
in the MPS in Industrial-
Organizational Psychology
program in two years**

Highest enrollment
Graduate programs

Psychology: 399

Economics: 250

Source:
OIEP Fall 2022 Census

7 of 11

**Graduate Inclusion and
Access doctoral scholars**

This university-level competitive scholarship is available to first-generation, underrepresented population doctoral students, who have demonstrated financial need.

#4

MA in Economics (online program)
ranked #4 in the nation by University HQ

80%

of CHSS full-time doctoral students received partial graduate assistance funding in FY22.

LEADERSHIP

LaNitra Berger recognized for creating inclusive education abroad opportunities for underrepresented students

In her time at Mason, **LaNitra Berger** has worked to help underrepresented students participate in education abroad opportunities and obtain external funding for national scholarships and fellowships.



LaNitra Berger

Now the director of the African and African American Studies program has been recognized with the Fund for Education Abroad (FEA)'s Fritz Kaufmann Champion Award.

The award honors the legacy of Fritz Kaufmann, who as an economics professor in the 1940s brought groups of students to Europe to witness first-hand the continent's recovery from World War II. Berger's own experience reflects the possibilities in student travel abroad. "My parents grew up in the American South during segregation and were denied access to education and the right to vote because of their race," she said. "They never imagined studying outside of the United States. Yet, they worked hard to ensure that I could pursue higher education, including education abroad. It's a privilege for me to give back by helping underrepresented students access the transformative power of international education."

FEA provides scholarships and support to students who are underrepresented in U.S. study abroad, regarding these experiences as essential elements of higher education. At the FEA Annual Scholar Gala in December 2022, the organization recognized "the many ways Dr. Berger has advocated for and increased access to international education for students throughout her career."

Berger appreciates the enduring legacy represented by the award. "Fritz Kaufmann understood the necessity of cultural exchange and mutual understanding in the aftermath of World War II," she said, "and I believe that current global challenges require similar skills at home and abroad. As we look to the future of international education and how to continue Fritz Kaufmann's work, it is crucial that we all work to create a more just and peaceful world by reaching across languages, cultures, communities, and borders in the spirit of mutual understanding."

Groundbreaking research on climate change earns Edward Maibach National Academy of Medicine nomination

University Professor **Edward Maibach**, director of CHSS's Center for Climate Change Communication (4C), was elected in September to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM).



Edward Maibach

Considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health, medicine, and behavioral sciences, election to NAM recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.

"I am humbled—and thrilled—to have been elected by the nation's leading experts in medicine and public health to join their ranks at the National Academy of Medicine. The honor belongs as much to Mason as to me, because Mason supported me in focusing on the public health importance of climate change long before the looming crisis was recognized by most universities as having relevance to human health," said Maibach.

NAM recognized Maibach's "groundbreaking research on public understanding of climate change," his leadership engaging a diverse cross section of professionals and policymakers, and his work to educate the public about the health risks and need for immediate climate solutions.

"Professor Maibach's work, and career, have been highly consequential in addressing some of the most critical grand challenges of our lifetime," said Provost and Executive Vice President **Mark Ginsberg**. "This is a well-deserved honor for a colleague who not only has made a direct impact with the students he teaches and mentors, but also who has made an impact for us all."

With colleague Anthony Leiserowitz at Yale, Maibach created and co-directs the Climate Change in the American Mind polling project, and with colleagues at Climate Central, he created and co-directs the Climate Matters program, which supports several thousand TV weathercasters and other local journalists in their efforts to report on the local relevance of global climate change in communities across the U.S. With 4C researcher **Mona Sarfaty**, he co-founded the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health, which supports the public and professional education efforts of 42 U.S. medical societies.

Maibach joins an elite cohort of six current NAM members from Mason, and is the second CHSS faculty member to be inducted. **Vernon Smith**, Professor Emeritus of Economics and Law and recipient of the 2002 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, was inducted in 1995.

RESEARCH

Harvard University Charles Warren Center Fellowship

Benedict (Ben) Carton, a Mason historian and faculty member in the School of Integrative Studies and African and African American Studies, recently returned from a Harvard fellowship awarded by the Charles Warren Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

After collaborating with **Wendi Manuel-Scott** and **George Oberle** to create the Enslaved People of George Mason Memorial (a project started with an OSCAR grant for undergraduate research), Carton's academic interests now include public history. His Harvard research explored "Forced Removals and Public Universities: Apartheid South Africa and Segregated United States." This work elaborates on his study of "transnational historical processes linking Black South Africans and Black Americans in educational endeavors promoting racial justice," Carton said. The partnerships fostered at the Warren Center are shaping public history initiatives involving the Center for Mason Legacies, several Mason Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence (ARIE)-sponsored projects, and a new Harvard Legacy of Slavery and Remembrance program.

"The Warren Center research is being disseminated in a monograph and 2024 special issue of the journal *American Nineteenth Century History*. These outcomes would not have been possible without the crucial contributions of my colleagues in the Center for Mason Legacies, particularly George Oberle, Wendi Manuel-Scott, and **LaNitra Berger**, as well as 2021-22 Harvard Fellows Natalie Zacek, Richard Cellini, Afua Cooper, Simon Newman, Sven Beckert, Evelyn Hammonds, Elsa Mendoza, Chana Kai Lee, and Marc Parry," said Carton.

\$5.4
million

43 awards, totaling \$5.4 million, have been made to CHSS faculty from the National Endowment for Humanities over the past 10 years

98

DIFFERENT
sponsors awarded grants, contracts, and fellowships for CHSS research projects in FY22

#1
in the DMV

#8
among public universities

#11
among all universities

In Mason research funding for the social sciences according to the 2021 National Science Foundation HERD survey.

Source: Office of Sponsored Programs

11

CHSS chartered research centers

AbuSulayman Center for
Global Islamic Studies

Center for Climate Change
Communication

Center for Evidence-Based
Behavioral Health

Center for Evidence-Based
Crime Policy

Center for Mason Legacies*

Center for Social Science Research

Interdisciplinary Center for
Economic Science (ICES)

Institute for Immigration
Research (IIR)

Institute for Philosophy and
Public Policy

Roy Rosenzweig Center for History
and New Media

Watershed Lit: Center for Literary
Engagement and Publishing Practice

*In collaboration with University Libraries

Source:
[https://chss.gmu.edu/research/
chss-research-centers](https://chss.gmu.edu/research/chss-research-centers)

RESEARCH

How the humanities are aiding in national security

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages (MCL) has been awarded a significant grant from the Defense Language and National Security Education Office, U.S. Department of Defense, and the Institute of International Education (IIE) to administer Project Global Officer (Project GO), a major federal initiative to train select ROTC students from across the country in critical languages and intercultural communication skills.

Mason's Project GO team is led by three MCL faculty members: principal investigator **Nathaniel Greenberg**, associate professor of Arabic; co-principal investigator **Jihye Moon**, assistant professor and Korean program coordinator; and co-principal investigator **Karl Zhang**, associate professor and Chinese program coordinator. The project has been developed in close coordination with Mason's ROTC program, Global Education Office, and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Greenberg noted that Mason is particularly well suited for the program. "The idea was to use the diversity on campus and the linguistic richness of the northern Virginia area, to bring these cadets to campus and create a full immersion experience. They're

participating in community events, and cultural immersion activities in the D.C. area and northern Virginia, to parallel the overseas experience as much as possible."

"There are many factors that are attractive," agreed Moon, pointing out the proximity of the Fairfax Campus to "Koreatowns" in Centreville and Annandale, Virginia, as well as Washington D.C.'s Chinatown. She also highlighted Mason's robust Korean studies program, which offers a minor in Korean as well as a bachelor of arts in foreign languages with a concentration in Korean.

In their first summer of programming, Team Project GO/Mason welcomed 18 cadets and midshipmen from across the country to participate in a seven-week, full-immersion language program on the Fairfax Campus. The program included 150 credit hours in Chinese and Korean along with extensive intercultural communication training.

The grant was awarded at \$424,000 (for the 2021-22 academic year) and \$409,000 (for 2022-23). The team hopes its unique domestic programming will become a national model for researching and

teaching in the field of critical languages, and they are now actively preparing for the 2023 summer term.

"What's been interesting is to be part of a national security priority, coming at it from our humanities background as language teachers, as culture teachers and literature teachers," said Greenberg.



Project GO/Mason visits Chinatown in Washington, D.C.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Project GO/Mason students participate in a traditional Pansori workshop at the Korean Cultural Center in Washington, D.C.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Sylvia Schreiner receives CHSS's first CAREER award to help preserve the Yupik language

Assistant linguistics professor **Sylvia Schreiner** is on a mission to record and help maintain the Yupik language on St. Lawrence Island, and she has the support of a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER grant to do it.

St. Lawrence Island is in the Bering Sea, between Alaska and Russia. Its villages Gambell and Savoonga (Sivuquq and Sivungaqa, respectively, in Yupik) are the main locations where Yupik is spoken. Schreiner's colleague and co-principal investigator, Lane Schwartz, is a computational linguist and computer scientist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, who "spent years in this village as a child and knew the language was under threat," explained Schreiner. "He asked if I wanted to try and get something going on this."

Schreiner's work is in language documentation, making a record of the various grammatical structures of a language. She said the grant has two sides to it: research and education.

"The research portion is working on parts of language that tell us about when something happens. The tenses in different languages show up in very different ways," she said. "The educational part is to be able to train others in the community to do this kind of documentation and revitalization work to make it more organic from the community."

There are roughly 1,400 people on the Alaskan island, about 700 in each village, and speaking Yupik is somewhat generational, which is in part why it's in danger. "The language has been declining in use over time, especially among the younger people," said Schwartz.

Schreiner and her team are also working to digitize legacy and archived materials that are available to them. One of her research assistants, Mason PhD student **Ben Hunt**, taught himself code and is in the process of building an online dictionary for Yupik. These tools will allow the people of the community to eventually maintain their language from within. "If you're going to have a language survive, it can't be dependent on people from the outside. It has to come organically from the communities and grow from inside," said Schreiner.

The Faculty Early Career Development Award supports early-career faculty who can serve as academic role models. "These awards are extremely competitive and very prestigious," said **Michele Schwietz**, CHSS associate dean for research. "This is the first CAREER award made to a CHSS faculty member, and we hope that it creates a pathway for other scholars to follow."



Sylvia Schreiner, assistant linguistics professor visits St. Lawrence Island for NSF funded research.

PHOTO PROVIDED



“

If you're going to have a language survive, it can't be dependent on people from the outside. It has to come organically from the communities and grow from inside.

RESEARCH

Improving human-machine collaborations

In 2004, the science-fiction film *I, Robot* explored the quandary of human/robotic relationships on the big screen. While we're not quite at the level of fully self-driving cars and humanoid robotic servants, our connection and reliance on computer agents and artificial intelligence accelerates each year: Roombas, facial recognition, smart home devices, deepfakes, and ChatGPT, to name only a few. And with each new development, we wonder about the morality of these inventions, the ethics of their use, and how our own biases and worldviews impact the development of smart tools.

Elizabeth “Beth” Phillips, assistant professor of psychology in human factors and applied cognition, is working with collaborators from labs around the country to answer these pressing questions about artificial intelligence and robotics in her role as the principal investigator for the Applied Psychology & Autonomous System Lab (ALPHAS). One of the lab's projects, “Improving Human-Machine Collaborations with Heterogeneous Multiagent Systems,” was a recipient of the 2022 Seed Funding Initiative from Mason's Office of Research Innovation and Economic Impact (ORIE) and in support of the Institute for Digital Innovation (IDIA). This project will be done in collaboration with co-investigators Dr. Ewart de Visser, Lt. Col. Chad Tossell, and Air Force Academy cadets slated to commission as officers into the U.S. Space Force.

ALPHAS studies how to make robots, computer agents, and artificial intelligence (AI) into better teammates, part-

ners, and companions. While computer science seems like the obvious field for this work, social sciences and humanities are critical to the development of effective, ethical, and efficient machines that humans can work with and alongside long term. ALPHAS engages in a variety of research around other facets of human/robotic interaction and relationship-building. Student and faculty researchers are exploring the benefits of using social robotic animals as therapeutic tools, how robots might conceptualize socialization norms to better fit into our lives, and how robots might justify and define morality in their actions, for example.

“You have to know a lot about humans in order to create successful robotics,” Phillips explained. “How humans interact, how they work together, how they build trust in each other: these are the same building blocks in understanding how humans might interact with machines, and can help us better establish how people might build trust in a variety of autonomous machines.”

In space travel, for example, humans will need to rely on a team of machines and AI. Data shows that human trust in machines is dependent on every machine in the group working perfectly; a single error by one machine rapidly decreases trust in all the machines. By understanding human psychology, Phillips explains that roboticists incorporate methods and strategies for building and maintaining trust among their machine counterparts. And in experimentation, the social sciences are critical to creating ethical



Lydia Melles, MA Human Factors and Applied Cognition, works with Baxter, an industrial robot by Rethink Robotics.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

methodology. “Often roboticists don’t have a lot of training about how to test their robots with human participants. So the social sciences are often asked to come onto projects in order to work with the human participants of trials, as well as help the roboticists understand and interpret the resulting data. Robotics is an excellent domain for engaging in truly interdisciplinary work.” Phillips explained. The lab’s work with the Air Force Academy hopes to find solutions to this challenge of trust in machines.

Humanities also provides perspective on ethics and morality in relation to robotics: what could it mean for a robot to be a moral agent? “The rules of moral philosophy vary based on culture and structure,” Phillips said. “When we think about robots as moral agents, what we’re really talking about is being able to translate a system of morality and ethics into an algorithm. It’s up to the humanities and social sciences to define these systems, as well as consider the implications of favoring one moral and ethical system over another.”

In paving the way for the future of space travel and human/robotic partnerships, Phillips also feels strongly about making space for underrepresented scholars in the field. As a first-generation student and a woman in the predominantly male field of computer science, Phillips prioritizes accessibility and support for underrepresented groups. Per her request, the psychology department has ensured that the lab is equipped with the tools and systems necessary for all students, regardless of income, to be able to do their research. The lab supports its female and female-identifying students in their participation in exclusive events such as the Women and Robotics Workshop at the Robotics Science and System Conference. Whether on Earth, the moon, or Mars, “it’s important that they have opportunities to network and meet others in the field who look like them, and to increase the visibility of marginalized and minority groups in this field,” Phillips said.



1. Elizabeth “Beth” Phillips, assistant professor of psychology in human factors and applied cognition.
2. Aibo, a robotic dog manufactured by Sony. ALPHAS uses Aibo to research robotic companions as therapeutic tools.
3. Lydia Melles is one of the graduate research assistants working in the ALPHAS Lab on projects that study trust between human and machines.
4. Rydia Weiland (right), major in human factors and applied cognition, is a URSP research funded student developing a VR simulation in order to be able to study human/robot interactions in a virtual environment.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

RESEARCH

Mason researchers partner with Indigenous nations to promote environmental resilience

In 2018, U.S. legislation granted federal recognition to six tribes of indigenous people in Virginia. A George Mason University team has been partnering with two of them, the Upper Mattaponi and Chickahominy nations, as they embark on being sovereign nations.

“What really has been an honor to be a part of is building the capacity and the sovereignty of native tribes,” said **Jeremy Campbell**, a College of Science professor co-leading the Mason team with School of Integrative Studies professor **Tom Wood**. “This is a wonderful opportunity for us, as a university, to build a sustainable and respectful relationship that has the potential to last for decades.”

Campbell and Wood led a multidisciplinary team of 10 undergraduates and two graduate researchers to collect environmental data in partnership with tribal governments as part of a Summer Impact Project. Their research will support tribes in making informed decisions for their communities when it comes to conservation, restoration, and environmental matters.

For junior psychology major **Sara Jefferson**, the project hits home. “My favorite part about working on this project is being able to teach others about my culture and my people, while also learning about the natural world around me,” said Jefferson, a member of the Chickahominy Tribe and of Mason’s Native American and Indigenous Alliance.

Collaborating with the tribes is of utmost importance for upholding tribal sovereignty, and for expanding students’ understanding.

“Leading with humility is really important, especially when you’re working with a group that’s been historically marginalized,” said senior sociology major **James Condo**. “Understanding that you’re going to be a student of everyone else around you is really important to keep in mind for research and in life.”

The Mason team is also training tribal members in how to create geospatial information systems (GIS) databases and constructing protocols to ensure that they have control of their data in accordance with the principles of Indigenous Data Sovereignty—the right of a tribal nation to govern the collection, ownership, and application of its own data.



Professor Tom Wood, along with Student Brian Jiménez, collect environmental data in partnership with tribal governments as part of a Summer Impact Project.

PHOTO PROVIDED

“

Understanding that you’re going to be a student of everyone else around you is really important to keep in mind for research and in life.

Identifying more objective evaluations to diagnose autism

For most of her life, **Allison Jack**, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and an affiliate of Mason's Institute for Biohealth Innovation, has aspired to improve the lives of autistic people.

"For years now, the autistic community has strongly been speaking up about how research and public policy have not always accurately reflected the needs and desires of neurodiverse people," she said.

Many autistic people, including those designated female at birth and those who are gender nonconforming, often receive delayed diagnoses, misdiagnoses, or no diagnoses at all. Past autism research has frequently overlooked both subsets of individuals. Jack believes that these discrepancies may be partially responsible for a poorer quality of life for those affected.

She is a member of the Gender Exploration of Neurogenetics and Development to Advanced Autism Research Consortium, a National Institutes of Health-funded Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE) network focused on learning more about how sex and gender relate to biology, behavior, and the well-being of autistic children, teenagers, and young adults. She also partners with local groups such as the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at Children's National Hospital, the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network, and the Autistic Women and Nonbinary Network, which offer support to those diagnosed and promote autistic representation in research and public policy.

At Mason, Jack works to effectively engage autistic individuals and champion their equal representation. "I wanted to set up an autism-friendly lab with heavy involvement from neurodiverse students, and Mason actively encouraged the idea," she said. "Mason is very special in that way. I don't know that I've been in any place previously that would have been this affirmatively excited and accommodating."

Jack's hope is that her lab's work will result in more objective evaluations and accurate tests for autism that incorporate information about biology. Current diagnostic measures are based on observation, which she believes may be a factor in late or missed diagnoses. She and her team are also utilizing Mason's 3T MRI scanner to examine which regions in the brain may play a role in the development of autism.

"I love the brain and think it's endlessly fascinating, but mostly I love my team," Jack said. "It's such good fortune to get to work with people who are primarily concerned with ensuring that we're doing the best job possible of including people who might otherwise be ignored and representing the true breadth of experience out there."



Allison Jack

Developing culturally appropriate supports for community behavioral health

In spring 2022, the Center for Evidence-Based Behavioral Health was newly chartered, bringing the number of the college's interdisciplinary research centers to 11.

The center is housed within the Department of Psychology, and will bring together faculty from multiple disciplines and community partners to meet the following aims: (1) to serve the training needs of our local behavioral health workforce and beyond to prevent the debilitating costs of inadequately treated mental illness and the potential associated loss of life; and (2) to serve as a national leader for culturally responsive translational mental health treatment research that spans from the lab to the community.

The college's centers serve to organize much of their research and scholarship around specific focal areas and help to foster collaborative research among faculty. The Center for Evidence-Based Behavioral Health is directed by **Christianne Esposito-Smythers**, a professor in the Department of Psychology whose research expertise in the dissemination and implementation of culturally responsive evidence-based behavioral health interventions in community-based settings, and the development and testing of cognitive-behavioral, family-focused interventions for adolescent suicidal behavior, depression, substance abuse, and other high-risk behaviors has been instrumental in improving the lives of youth and families in our local community.

Esposito-Smythers and **Keith Renshaw**, professor and department chair, Department of Psychology, are the project leads of Saving Lives and Decreasing Health Disparities. The project will be run out of the new center and will train clinicians to serve diverse, low-income youth and families and provide access to low- to no-cost, culturally sensitive evidence-based assessments that can be easily implemented in community mental health settings. This project was supported by U.S. Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA), the former chairman of the House Subcommittee on Government Operations whose 11th District includes Fairfax, and received nearly \$1 million in funding as part of the federal omnibus appropriations bill signed into law by President Joseph Biden in December 2022.



Christianne Esposito-Smythers

TEACHING

Developing the role of ethics in artificial intelligence

Nupoor Ranade, assistant professor in the Department of English, is a participant in the National Humanities Center's Responsible Artificial Intelligence Undergraduate Curriculum Design Project. The project's aim is to emphasize the role of humanities research in developing undergraduate courses that consider ethical questions raised by the role of artificial intelligence (AI) technology in society. After an inaugural institute meeting in June 2022, Ranade and her fellow participants will develop an undergraduate course that addresses key themes and subjects in responsible AI. The 15 universities participating in the project will add these courses to their 2023-24 catalogs, and participants will reconvene in the summer of 2024 to discuss their experiences of teaching the course.

"The constant push of technological advancement to increase efficiency and accuracy of human potential has resulted in a divided society, whether it is politics, infrastructure or opportunity," said Ranade. "Although the AI technology is developing gradually, we haven't been able to stay at par with it when considering societal implications. The lack of human control over algorithmic design that takes place during the training process of AI technology is rightfully a growing concern among humanists. Humanities skills will help in shifting the burden of ethical design from the consumer of AI systems to the developer. Our goal is to move beyond asking critical questions and teach students ways to participate in developing the future of AI technology."



Nupoor Ranade



Humanities skills will help in shifting the burden of ethical design from the consumer of AI systems to the developer.

—Nupoor Ranade

Historical perspectives on Russia's war on Ukraine

In fall 2022, the Russian and Eurasian Studies (REST) program presented a 12-part weekly webinar series, *Russia's war on Ukraine in historical perspective*.

The series, introduced by Mason President **Gregory Washington**, was developed by **Steve Barnes**, associate professor of history and director of REST, and featured a dozen historians from around the globe, who shared their knowledge and insight to reflect on how history helps them confront Russia's war in Ukraine. Historians, said Barnes, were trained to examine events of the past, and could offer understanding and context to events unfolding in the present.

Each Monday, a different expert discussed issues related to Russia, Ukraine, their historical relationship, and their respective places in the world. Speakers representing Harvard University, Yale University, the University of Texas, and the Ukrainian Institute London shared their perspectives and answered questions from the participants. An October 31 special session, co-sponsored by the University of Mary Washington, brought scholars from the Center for Urban History in Lviv, Ukraine to talk about their efforts to document a war as it is underway. The series culminated with a conversation on how history writes the present, featuring Pulitzer Prize winning historian and staff writer for *The Atlantic*, Anne Applebaum.

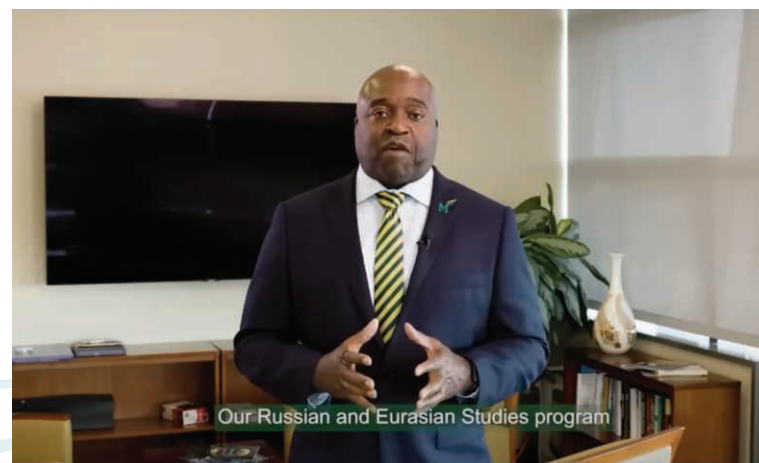
Barnes moderated each of the guest sessions. His hope was that the series would “get out the message of why this war matters, not just to Ukraine, but to Europe, to the United States, and to the world. Scholars of history play a critical role in helping us understand that.”

The webinar series was open to the public and advertised through Mason's chapter of the Osher Institute for Lifelong

Learning and its partnership with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Barnes and his students discussed the substance of the lectures later in the week.

There was remarkable interest in the series. Barnes estimated that, over the 12 episodes, the total live attendance on Zoom was nearly 4,000 viewers, 427 livestreaming YouTube viewers, and nearly 13,000 views of YouTube recordings.

“It's having public research universities that allow us to do things like this,” he said. “How do we understand what's happening? How do we understand the fact that Ukraine—a much, much smaller country with a much, much smaller military—is standing up to one of the largest militaries in the world?”



George Mason University President Gregory Washington introduces the video series.



Organizer and moderator, Steve Barnes, associate professor of history and director of REST.

TEACHING

Preparing ethical leaders through experiential learning abroad

As part of a field study summer course called “Leadership Across Difference: Lessons from Medieval Spain,” **Nick Lennon**, director of Mason’s Leadership Education and Development Office, and **Stephanie Zeher**, office manager and executive assistant for Mason’s School of Integrative Studies, led students to Toledo, Cordoba, Seville, Granada, and Madrid.

The goal was to prepare the students to be more effective, ethical leaders by examining how different religious groups were or weren’t integrated into society in medieval Spain.

Throughout the medieval era, part of what is now Spain was ruled by an Islamic civilization called Al-Andalus. During this time, Muslims, Christians, and Jews reportedly collaborated and lived together in relative peace for hundreds of years.

“Medieval Spain holds many relevant lessons for how we can get along and exhibit ethical leadership across our differences today, whether those differences are religious, racial, political, or otherwise,” Lennon said.

During the 10-day trip, the group participated in site visits, workbook readings, and group discussions to explore what divides us — and also unites us.

For **Hannah Castillo-Villanueva**, a rising sophomore psychology major, the program was more than an opportunity to visit a new country and encounter new cultures; it

was also a way to enrich her Mason experience. As a student who takes online courses, the trip allowed her to connect with and hear the perspectives of other students from a variety of majors, she said.

“Learning about history through a textbook doesn’t feel like enough anymore,” she said. “When going to places to learn about world history, it strikes a different chord and gives a sense of realism to how a lot of decisions that were made in the past have impacted us now.”



Toledo, known as “the city of three cultures,” was the first stop on the visit.

PHOTO PROVIDED



The group visits the famous Cordoba Mezquita-Catedral.

PHOTO PROVIDED

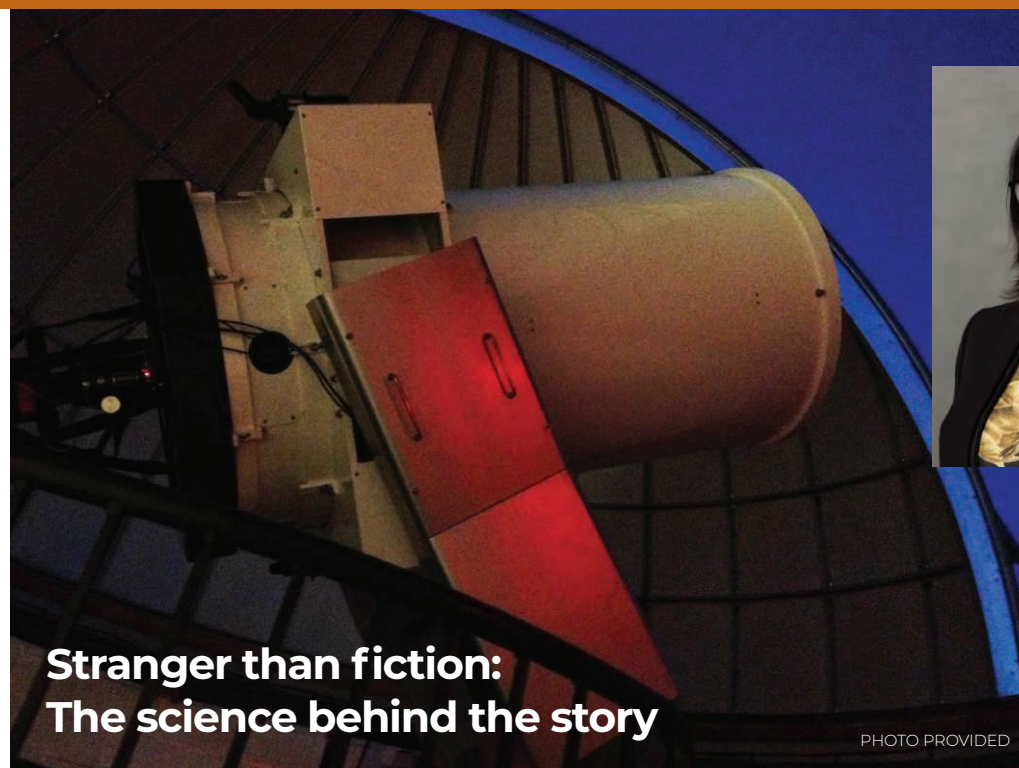
COMMUNITY

Remembering a community's resilience in the face of horror

On October 27, 2018, the nation was shocked by news of the murder of 11 congregants of the Tree of Life Synagogue in the Squirrel Hill community of Pittsburgh, PA. In the year following the deadliest antisemitic attack in American history, journalist Mark Oppenheimer researched the impact on the close-knit, historically Jewish community, and explored its vibrancy and caring in his book, *Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting & the Soul of a Neighborhood*.



On October 27, 2022, the college, along with the Judaic Studies Program, the Department of Religious Studies, Mason Hillel, the Pozez Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, and the Haberman Institute for Judaic Studies, invited the university community to spend an evening with Oppenheimer as he described the resilience of the residents of Squirrel Hill and how they countered the antisemitism and hatred behind the attack.



Stranger than fiction: The science behind the story

PHOTO PROVIDED



Jessica Hurley

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) partnered with the College of Science to host an interactive family-friendly event, “Stranger than fiction: The science behind the story” on October 22, 2022. The event explored how humanity’s relationship with outer space has informed, influenced, and at times predicted, the stories we tell.

The event featured four mini-lectures from Mason faculty, including CHSS assistant professor of English and recent fellow at the National Humanities Center, **Jessica Hurley**, whose lecture explored “Humanity and the Stars.”

Hurley’s teaching and research focuses on the overlap between science and technology, and explains the science behind the stories. She is the author of *Infrastructures of Apocalypse: American Literature and the Nuclear Complex* (University of Minnesota Press, 2020), which explores the apocalypse narratives produced by the communities most at risk from nuclear infrastructures in the United States.

COMMUNITY

Helping the Mason Center for Psychological Services help the community

On October 3, 2022, guests gathered at the Leidos headquarters in Reston Town Center to support Mason's Center for Psychological Services, one of the only sites in the mid-Atlantic to offer therapies on a sliding scale, opening access to care for as low as \$5 per session to children, adolescents, adults, and veterans.

More than 190 guests joined the in-person Food for Thought event to network, listen to stories, support a fund-a-need, and participate in a live and silent auction at the beautiful venue of the host sponsor, Leidos. After a year of celebrating this annual event virtually, it was heartwarming to be with so many individuals, nonprofits, government agencies, and corporate partners who care about this important cause. The event raised more than \$170,000 for the Center of Psychological Services, including the Jennifer DiMauro Honor Fund for Veterans and the Ray Eck Youth Services Fund.

This incredible show of support allows the center to continue its mission of offering affordable, accessible, and state-of-the-art mental health services to the community while training the next generation of ethical, competent, and culturally sensitive psychologists.



PHOTOS: JOHN BOAL PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Food for Thought event committee
2. Supporters attend 6th Annual Food for Thought event
3. Event emcee, NBC4 Washington anchor Jim Handly
4. Supporters bid on items to support mental health services
5. Live auction items to support the center



COMMUNITY

Inter-institutional collaboration: Exploring the environmental impact of society's shift from parkways to highways

In an inter-institutional collaboration, Mason's Center for Humanities Research (CHR) partnered with the German Program in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and the University of Maryland, College Park, to host a webinar to discuss Thomas Zeller's new book *Consuming Landscapes: What We See When We Drive and Why It Matters*. Thomas Zeller is an associate professor of history at the University of Maryland, College Park, and is the Arthur Molella Distinguished Fellow at the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. The webinar was moderated by **Samuel Clowes Huneke**, assistant professor of history at George Mason University's College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS). CHR director and CHSS U.S. history professor, **Alison Landsberg**, and CHR associate director and CHSS art history instructor, **Catherine Olien**, organized the webinar. This was one of many collaborative webinars that the Center for Humanities Research offered.

What we see through our windshields is the result of deliberate historical forces, national identity, consumerism, and infrastructure. Humans shaped the road infrastructure as they simultaneously were transformed by them.

At the dawn of the automobile era, an early twentieth-century group of designers—landscape architects, civil engineers, and planners—sought to build scenic roadways and parkways that would immerse drivers in the landscapes that they were traversing. As more Americans and Europeans drove cars, they became less interested in scenic views and more focused on safety and efficiency therefore spawning the creation of interstate highways. Thomas Zeller's book looks at how society shifted away from scenic parkways that sought to meld and preserve the environment, to interstate highways that have pitted human technology against nature.



“

What we see
through our
windshields is the
result of deliberate
historical forces,
national identity,
consumerism, and
infrastructure.

PHOTO BY JOSHUA WORONIECKI ON UNSPASH

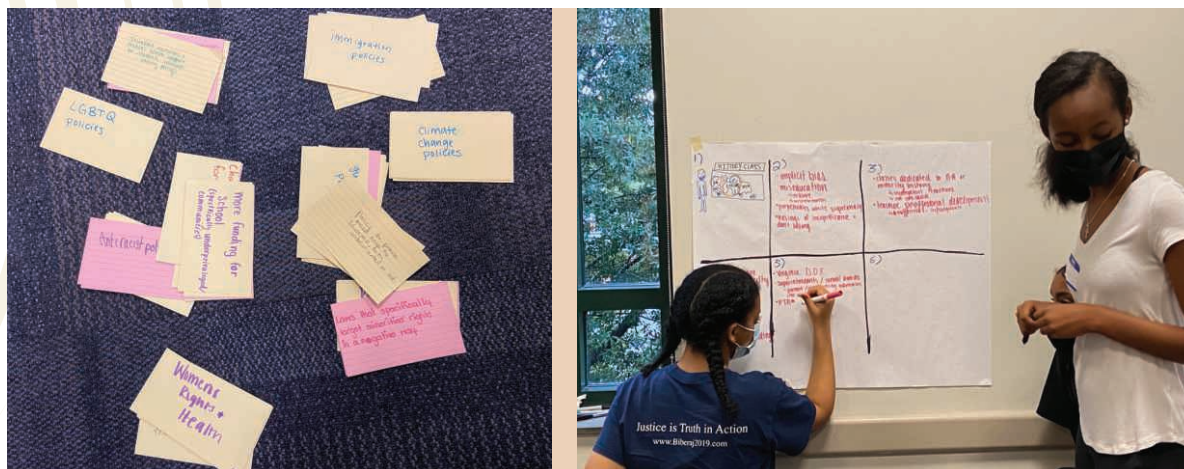
COMMUNITY

Research in the interest of the community

Within the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Mason's Center for Social Science Research (CSSR) conducts publicly engaged social research aimed at promoting social justice and informing equitable social policy. Its thematic research hubs—education and health research, Global South collective research, movement-engaged research, and urban research—focus on quantitative, qualitative, and community-engaged research, as well as program evaluation.

The CSSR's priorities are to creatively marshal social science research for problem-solving ends; strengthen civil society by supporting research initiatives that serve the public, build sustainable communities, and promote dignified lives; promote interdisciplinary engagements among scholars and practitioners to respond to deep challenges confronting local and global communities; draw stakeholders beyond the university and equitably engage a diversity of perspectives and expertise to build community capacity through social science knowledge; and support students seeking careers in the social sciences through professional development programming.

The center offers a full range of services to its community partners, university affiliates, and private sector clients: surveys for research, technical assistance, and training to organizations in working with communities, as well as community-based participatory research that combines research, action, collaboration, and capacity building.



CSSR team members participate in problem-solving activities. PHOTOS PROVIDED



The Youth Research Council

The Youth Research Council (YRC) is a research collaborative and community-based partnership between the CSSR and Mason's Early Identification Program (EIP), which invites ninth through twelfth graders into the field of social science research. Over the course of the program, students design, conduct, analyze, and present their research.

Since 1987, EIP has been offering an innovative, multi-year college preparatory program that helps middle and high school students from traditionally marginalized communities and first-generation college-bound students navigate high school academics and the college application process.

Khaseem Davis is the executive director of the EIP program and is one of the co-directors of the YRC, along with **Meagan Call-Cummings**, associate professor of qualitative methodology, College of Education and Human Development, and **Amy Best**, sociology professor, and CSSR director. He said that the YRC was a great opportunity for EIP participants.

"Meagan and I had been having conversations around figuring out ways to engage EIP students in research, but it really hit me during our scholarship process," he said. "Without a doubt, the overwhelming majority were speaking about how they were impacted by microaggressions, racism, all of these different things... and it became apparent that they were having these conversations among themselves as youth, but did not necessarily feel equipped or comfortable having those conversations with adults."

The YRC gives these students an opportunity to take part in a community-based research project of their own. It launched in the summer of 2021 with 34 founding Youth Research Council fellows from 20 Virginia high schools across Arlington, Loudoun, Prince William, and Fairfax Counties, as well as the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church.

"We really try to approach it from an appreciative perspective," said Call-Cummings. "We'll convene you all, we'll find space, we'll provide you with some ideas of activities you can do, but really, just as Khaseem said, we know that these students are experts on their own lives, on their own experiences. We just need to provide space and opportunities for amplification, and they will fill that space."

"Social science research is critical to democracy, so this is really a way to cultivate the set of competencies that can be used for civic goals," added Best. "It's really about community capacity building and making sure that youth are stakeholders in community development and community capacity from the beginning."



Khaseem Davis



Meagan Call-Cummings



Amy Best



Youth Research Council fellows visiting a local high school.

PHOTO PROVIDED

“

“Without a doubt, the overwhelming majority were speaking about how they were impacted by microaggressions, racism, all of these different things...”

IN MEMORIAM

Martin Sherwin

The college mourns the loss of **Martin Sherwin**, University Professor of History and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, who passed away in October 2022.

Sherwin, who taught at George Mason University since 2007, was renowned for his scholarship on the nuclear age: the development of atomic energy and nuclear proliferation, and its impact on American and world history.

Sherwin's 2005 book, *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, was the result of more than 20 years of research, written in collaboration with author Kai Bird. It was a commercial and critical success, receiving the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Biography or Autobiography, the National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography, and the English-Speaking Union Book Award.

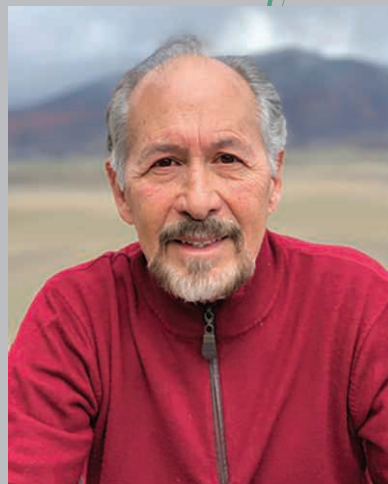
Sherwin's first book, *A World Destroyed: The Atomic Bomb and the Grand Alliance* (Random House, 1975), was a finalist for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize.

Sherwin graduated from Dartmouth College in 1959 and earned his PhD in history in 1971 from the University of California at Los Angeles. He served on the faculty at Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of California, Berkeley, and as the Walter S. Dickson Professor of English and American History at Tufts University, where he founded the Nuclear Age History and Humanities Center.

Along with his multiple prestigious fellowships and visiting scholar posts, Sherwin also served as an advisor for many documentary films on the history of the nuclear age, and was the co-executive producer and National Endowment for the Humanities project director of the PBS documentary film, "Citizen Kurchatov: Stalin's Bomb Maker" (1998).

"The impact and reach of Marty's scholarship is extraordinary," said **Brian Platt**, associate history professor and former chair of Mason's Department of History and Art History. "Only a few other faculty members at Mason can claim his combination of influence and respect within the academy and impact outside of it."

Filmmaker Christopher Nolan is currently writing a script for and will be directing a film based on "American Prometheus," to be released in July 2023.



Martin Sherwin

Lisa Newmark

In November 2022, Professor **Lisa Newmark**, Department of Criminology, Law and Society (CLS), passed away following an illness. During her 14 years of distinguished service to the department, she taught courses on victimization and research methods, and led both the CLS honors seminar and the capstone course in criminology, law and society.

As undergraduate program director, Newmark was instrumental to the department's growth and success. Under her leadership, the number of CLS undergraduate majors, bachelor's degrees awarded, courses taught, and undergraduate course enrollments all more than doubled. She played a central role in CLS program development, including the creation of the BA degree, revisions to the requirements for the BS degree, and supporting the implementation of the minor in intelligence studies, which is now one of the largest in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

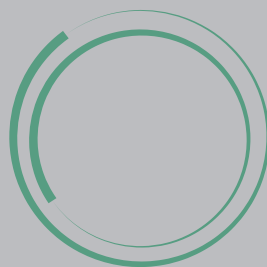
Before joining the faculty at Mason, Newmark was a senior research associate in the Justice Policy Center of the Urban Institute. Over her career she developed extensive experience in applied research, program and policy development and evaluation, and direct services for a broad range of crime victims, including victims of sexual assault, human trafficking, prison rape, and homicide.

James Willis, professor and chair, Department of Criminology, Law and Society, spoke of Newmark's "assuredness and wisdom as a leader, and her remarkable capacity for dispensing practical advice, and for problem solving. She found optimism in even the darkest moments, and she was unwaveringly thankful for her family and friends. She is very much missed."



Lisa Newmark

IN MEMORIAM



Lorna Irvine

Lorna Irvine, professor emeritus in the Department of English and the Women and Gender Studies and Cultural Studies programs, died in October 2022. A member of Mason's faculty from 1978 through 2006, Irvine was fondly remembered by her colleagues. "For me, Lorna was both a personal friend and an inspiration: a senior female faculty member who gracefully maintained a work-life balance, published important scholarship, was an excellent classroom teacher, and commanded both respect and affection from her colleagues," recalled Rosemary Jann, emeritus faculty in Cultural Studies and English. Emeritus faculty Eileen Sypher remembers "her laugh, her acute intelligence, her energy and her devotion to teaching and to her students."



Lorna Irvine

Dina Copelman, emeritus faculty in the Department of History and Art History and the Women and Gender Studies and Cultural Studies programs, recalled Irvine's professionalism and compassion during the process when Copelman was being considered for tenure. "Lorna handled my case for the Review, Promotion and Tenure Committee," she said. "She put me at ease in a situation that was by definition uncomfortable and was also fully professional and prepared, collecting the information the committee needed to decide my future."

Faculty emeriti **Devon Hodges** and **Deborah Kaplan** spoke of the ways that Irvine enriched her students' experiences. "She taught, always with great success, whatever the English department needed. She was a brilliant organizer and administrator, instrumental in developing the university-wide program Text and Community, which, for several years, engaged many of the university's students in reading the same book and gathering for discussions of it," they wrote. "As a scholar, a teacher, and an administrator, Lorna Irvine was a star."

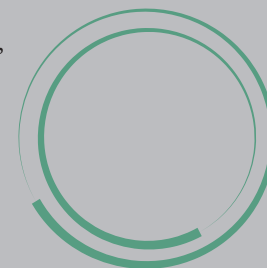
Robin Anne Strickler Littleton

Robin Anne Strickler Littleton, of Herndon, Virginia, passed away on May 18, 2022, at her home surrounded by family. Littleton had worked in a variety of roles at Mason since 2010, most recently serving as the graduate program coordinator for the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Littleton played a critical role in the development of CHSS graduate programs through her support for faculty and staff. She chose CHSS as her professional home and worked tirelessly for students. Her dedication touched a wide range of faculty, staff, and student lives, and her colleagues recall the ways that her warmth and humor brightened the day-to-day tasks around the dean's office. She graduated from Grove City College in 1987 with degrees in mathematics and computer science and remained a supporter of higher education and innovation over the course of her career. In addition to her parents, Littleton is survived by her husband, Robert; two sons, Ryan of Alexandria, VA, and Evan of Blacksburg, VA; and her brother Rick of Wheeling, VA.



Robin Anne Strickler Littleton



COLLEGE TO CAREER

“Sol”-utions to climate change and the road to net-zero

Salomon “Sol” Salinas, BA Psychology, BS Marketing ‘85

Salomon “Sol” Salinas was honored at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences 2022 Community and Catalysts awards ceremony in December, and appropriately so, as he not only is a catalyst for climate change, but a global leader and driving force behind a sustainability revolution.

Salinas was born in Managua, Nicaragua and immigrated to the U.S. at the age of nine. He spent most of his time playing soccer and had dreams of becoming a professional soccer player. He continued his love for the sport as a member of Mason’s men’s soccer team. He took an introductory-level psychology class, loved it, and decided to pair his passion for psychology with marketing, taking an extra semester to obtain his dual degrees in psychology and marketing.

He started his career working for an advertising agency. In 1989, a group of scientists hired the agency to develop the first ever educational campaign on the greenhouse effect. Salinas and his team were tasked with creating a public service announcement, which ended up going viral (Greenhouse Project, World Resources Institute).

This experience changed his life. Salinas became passionate about finding innovative ways to address climate change. He was hired at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) where he became one of the founders of the



ENERGY STAR program. His challenge was to educate the public on the reduction of carbon emissions: “How do you motivate individuals around a concerning topic they don’t know about or understand the impact of?” He was able to draw upon the knowledge he learned in his psychology classes (he still has his books!) to understand how people think and what motivates them.

His campaign resulted in the reduction of four billion metric tons of carbon emissions. But at the same time the Amazon Rainforest, the “lungs of the earth,” are emitting four billion tons of carbon dioxide due to deforestation, erasing all of the progress made. “In fighting the climate crisis, you take one step forward and two steps back,” he said. “That is why it is my mission to make a systemic shift.”

After leaving ENERGY STAR, he was appointed assistant office director at EPA’s Office of International Affairs, where he headed various U.S.-led multilateral partnerships related to global climate change, clean air, water, sanitation, and solid and nuclear waste.

In his current role as the Global Executive Vice President for the Capgemini Group, he educates company leaders



about sustainability innovation. “Everyone is a stakeholder and needs to take a stake in improving the world,” he said. “In order to become net-zero, companies and individuals alike need to give more than they take. I work with companies that have the mobility to make an impact across their manufacturing which directly impacts consumers, so that consumers only have sustainable choices.”

“Humans consume twice as many resources as the earth can replenish,” said Salinas. “Time is running out, our overshoot day is coming. Help make a radical and tangible difference in the preservation of this planet. Be a part of the solution, not part of the problem.”

Salinas feels fortunate to have a successful career that ties directly to his studies at Mason. “I tell my kids and would tell any Mason student: it is very hard to succeed at anything unless you truly love it.” That same passion he first experienced in his introductory psychology class has carried through to his passion for saving the planet.

“Help make a radical and tangible difference in the preservation of this planet. Be a part of the solution, not part of the problem.”

COLLEGE TO CAREER

The impact of an *All Together Different* community

Raquel Gonzalez

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

As a first-generation college student **Raquel Gonzalez** didn't have the benefit of a lot of guidance or even a clear idea of what they wanted to do once they accomplished the actual goal of getting into a college. Part of their journey to figure out where they belonged and what they wanted to do, included changing colleges to find the right community. Gonzalez was drawn to Mason since some friends were students, and they learned about the availability of experiential learning, something that intrigued them. "I learn better by doing," Gonzalez said. They enrolled in Mason and decided to major in Integrative Studies for an intersectional and holistic approach to areas of interest.

"The values at Mason really spoke to me," Gonzalez said. "I liked that it had a diverse community and that teachers were learners as well. I had finally found an academic community where I felt included and heard. Up until this point, I was wondering, 'what makes a good community in which all people thrive and feel a sense of belonging?' At Mason I learned how to address social inequities to strengthen communities."

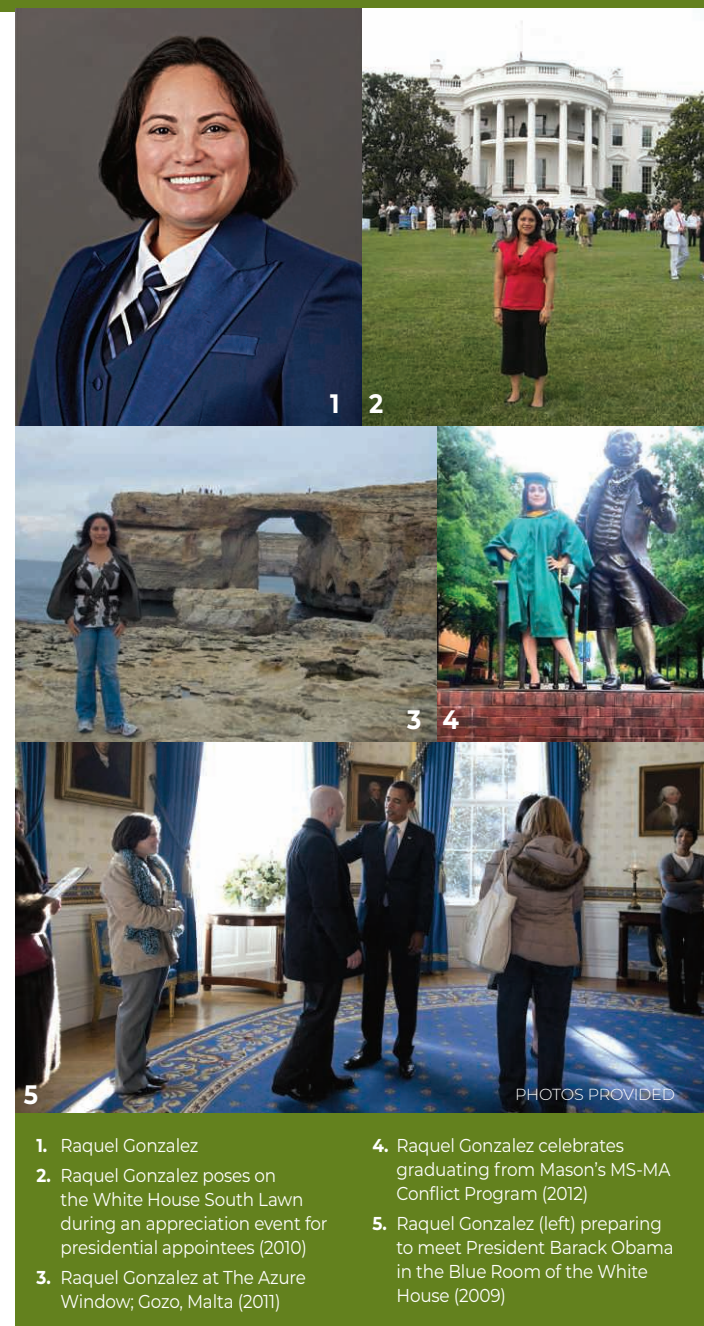
Gonzalez got to broaden their community experience as they took advantage of several study abroad programs. They even spent one year studying in Malta as part of their master's program in Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

As a student Gonzalez gained important life skills that they apply every day in their career. "I was taught interpersonal skills. Active listening. Teamwork. Conflict management. Problem solving. In my capstone project for my master's degree, I was taught to think outside the box and do something that had never been done before."

Those skills have made Gonzalez successful in the public sector. "This is what I wanted to do when I came to Washington, D.C. after high school: I wanted to pay it forward and help people like me who come from low-income backgrounds, so that they did not make the same mistakes I did."

After earning their bachelor's degree, Gonzalez planned to support uplifting marginalized communities through non-profit work. But political developments prompted their sense of duty and they shifted focus. "It changed the direction of my career," Gonzalez said. "I worked on former president Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign and soon after he was elected, I got offered a job in his administration."

Gonzalez continued to work in government up until the COVID-19 pandemic, when they switched careers and returned to their non-profit roots, to more directly impact and help communities. In their personal capacity, Gonzalez served on the board of directors for multiple nonprofits, helping to design and deliver leadership development curriculum. Professionally, Gonzalez consults with social justice organizations to improve their strategy, operations, and culture. "I want to leave the world better than how I found it. I am so thankful for my community at Mason. I am still in touch with many of my professors and strive to be the mentors they were for me to other students. It is why I became a mentor through the College of Humanities and Social Sciences LinkUp series and encourage others to do the same."



1. Raquel Gonzalez
2. Raquel Gonzalez poses on the White House South Lawn during an appreciation event for presidential appointees (2010)
3. Raquel Gonzalez at The Azure Window; Gozo, Malta (2011)
4. Raquel Gonzalez celebrates graduating from Mason's MS-MA Conflict Program (2012)
5. Raquel Gonzalez (left) preparing to meet President Barack Obama in the Blue Room of the White House (2009)

COLLEGE TO CAREER

Supercharging behavioral science and machine learning to detect criminal activity

Gary Shiffman, PhD Economics '02

The career of **Gary Shiffman**, PhD Economics '02, has spanned military, government, academia, and business, and it has been fueled by a desire to understand human behavior.

Shiffman earned his undergraduate degree in psychology and embarked on a career with the U.S. Navy. The experience offered him a front row seat to some pivotal world events. "I was on the first U.S. Navy ships to visit the People's Republic of China – it was May of 1989. I felt welcomed; it was a wonderful visit," he recalled. "And three weeks later, tanks rolled through Tiananmen Square," where hundreds to thousands of protesters were killed in a violent government shutdown of pro-Democracy demonstrations.

"A year later, I went to the Gulf War," he continued. "This kid who's interested in human behavior, I travel around the world, and I see bad and violent human behavior, and that all came together for me that this is what I want to work on."

Shiffman continued his military career at the Pentagon, and enrolled at Georgetown University, where he earned his master's degree in security studies. Reconciling his coursework in international relations theory with his understanding of political theory and human behavior, a friend advised him to consider economics, and introduced him to Mason economics professor **Tyler Cowen**.

"This was one of those pivotal moments in your career, when you get advice that resonates," Shiffman said. "I think Tyler's comment to me was, 'You'd be welcome in economics.' Someone with my interests, and my background, and the academic literature that resonated with me versus the stuff that didn't. That's how I found George Mason and economics. I was a part-time PhD student while working in the national security community in Washington, D.C."

Following his doctoral program, Shiffman returned to Georgetown to teach in the School of Foreign Service. While there, he served as the Chief of Staff, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and he founded two businesses that wed machine learning with behavioral science: he is the founder, CEO, and chair of the board of Giant Oak, Inc., and is the co-founder, CEO, and a board member of Consilient.

"In a big data world, machine learning helps us detect patterns of human behavior," he explained. "So if I want to help government agencies and banks and financial institutions identify money launderers and human traffickers and drug traffickers, I take the economics and the machine learning and I bring them together, and I can do orders of magnitude better in terms of accuracy and efficiency. It's a way to supercharge behavioral science so that it can empower those engaged in national security."

Shiffman is the author of two books, *Economic Instruments of Security Policy: Influencing the Choices of Leaders* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), and *The Economics of Violence: How Behavioral Science Can Transform Our View of Crime, Insurgency, and Terrorism* (Cambridge University Press, 2020). He publishes regularly in *The Hill*, and has been published in *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, and other outlets.



COLLEGE TO CAREER

Making connections through strong communications

Dvon Williams, BA Communication '06

Public relations professional **Dvon Williams**, BA Communication '06, knew from her first days at Mason the kind of work she wanted to do. "I had a great experience, even just as a freshman, getting immersed in the [Communication] 101 classes and I knew that's the direction I wanted to go."

That direction has led her through an impactful communication career, representing organizations that center on service. Upon graduating from Mason, Williams took a position with global communications firm Edelman in their Atlanta office. "I worked with a variety of clients there," she said, "including large, national nonprofits. That's where I honed in on my passion for nonprofits."

From Edelman, Williams went to work with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, where she served as their director of public relations and national director of marketing. She credits her time at Mason for shaping her interest in working with nonprofit organizations. "I've always been someone really intentional, I'm drawn to more purpose... wanting to have some fulfillment and impact in the work that I do," she said.

From Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Williams moved to the National 4-H Council, where she worked as its director of integrated marketing and later as its senior director, PR and celebrity relations. As an organization with its roots in rural communities and the Cooperative Extension system of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Williams appreci-

ated the opportunity to "showcase and communicate the brand more holistically and connect that relevance to a broader general public."

Since January 2022, she has served as the chief communications officer at Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA), building a team of diverse communication professionals to effectively communicate the organization's work. She leads internal and external communications, including thought leadership and influencer relations, in support of BBBSA's mission "to make a lasting impact on the lives of young people through mentorship."

Williams feels that mentorship has been fundamental to her education and her success. "Get involved on campus, because that's the door opener," she advised. "Those are the types of opportunities where you don't know who'll you'll meet, you don't know what else you could find out about, and that's how I got involved in things, just learning and meeting people who opened my eyes to the possibilities."

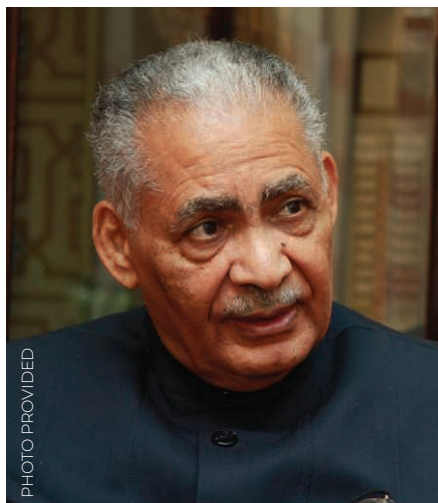
That spirit of connection drives her work today, she said. "That's what it really is about, being able to bridge those connections and share the impact of the work that's being done by these organizations."



Big Brothers Big Sisters of America CEO Artis Stevens and CCO Dvon Williams

PHOTO BY NYSE

OUR SUPPORTERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



Dr. AbdulHamid AbuSulayman, 1936 - 2021



M. Yaqub Mirza, parent BA '00, BA '09, a longtime supporter and friend of the university, speaking in honor of the late AbdulHamid AbuSulayman, at the center naming event, September 2022.

Transformative gift renames Global Islamic Studies Center in honor of international scholar and expands Mason's impact

In many ways, the late **AbdulHamid AbuSulayman** was a living example of his global view on the world and Islamic studies. Now, with a multi-million dollar commitment secured through the Mirza Family Foundation, the newly renamed AbuSulayman Center for Global Islamic Studies at George Mason University is a powerful, and serendipitous, tribute that will create a lasting and impactful legacy.

AbuSulayman sought the recognition of Islam as a global religion. More than a quarter of the world's population is Muslim, and they live in locations far from the Middle East where the religion originated. Today, most Muslims live in Asia (Indonesia has the largest Muslim population with more than 230 million practitioners). Mason's Center for Global Islamic Studies had already worked in that vein for 13 years, from helping K-12 teachers integrate Islam into world history and social studies curricula to supporting the creation of the world's first study Qur'an.

When AbuSulayman passed in August of 2021, and the family looked for ways to honor his legacy, Mason seemed a perfect fit, if not also perfect timing, as the previous term of funding for the center was coming to an end.

Mason's Center for Global Islamic Studies is the place to "fulfill the legacy of your father," **Yaqub Mirza** told AbuSulayman's family. Mirza, a longtime supporter and friend of the university, formerly serving on the George Mason University Foundation's Board of Trustees and current member of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) Dean's Advisory Board, helped facilitate the center's naming recognition in honor and memory of AbdulHamid AbuSulayman.

The gift will allow the center to renew old programs and build new initiatives, including creating new international partnerships that realize AbuSulayman's global vision. Mason students and faculty will now carry out this vision and benefit from more robust scholarship and research support.

"This transformative gift represents the ideals of what a philanthropic partnership can accomplish for a research center—supporting students and programs as well as faculty research—all of which help to undergird our college's commitment to excellence in teaching and research. This partnership with the Mirza and AbuSulayman families will propel and expand the impact of the center's work, and we are immensely grateful for this new philanthropic collaboration," noted College of Humanities and Social Sciences dean **Ann Ardis**.

"What this new gift will do is give the center the financial security to think big and get creative," added **Peter Mandaville**, outgoing center director and professor of international affairs. Mandaville recently accepted a two-year appointment at the United States Institute of Peace and will be taking a leave of absence from Mason.

"We are going to be able to build on the center's success and address global issues facing Islamic communities," said **Maria Dakake**, associate professor of religious studies, who will become the center's director as it takes on its new name. Dakake has been closely involved with the development of Islamic Studies at Mason for two decades, having served previously as one of the center's directors.

The gift will allow the center to renew old programs and build new initiatives, including creating new international partnerships that realize AbuSulayman's global vision.

Major gift establishes new fellowship at the Institute for Immigration Research

The Institute for Immigration Research (IIR) will now have more resources to produce scholarly research about the impact of immigrants on the United States, thanks to a generous donation from **Sumeet Shrivastava**, MBA '94. The gift provides post-doctoral support for three years through the creation of the Shrivastava Family Graduate Fellowship in Immigrant Research.

As the fellow and other graduate students working with the IIR complete their programs and move into their careers (the last two fellows of the institute are now tenure-track professors), they continue to add to the collective body of research and expand Mason's reach.

"The training of the graduate students is so important," says **James Witte**, IIR director. "They help us grow our network once they leave here. This is where the gift is really going to have an impact."

The work of the IIR hits close to home for Shrivastava, whose father came to the U.S. in 1970 from India to study at the University of North Carolina. Shrivastava joined his father a year later, in 1971, when he was five years old. He faced a sometimes unwelcoming community.

"I remember sometimes having to run home from the bus stop," said Shrivastava. "I was brown-skinned and could hardly speak English, and you would get beat up and made fun of for that."

Shrivastava's father arrived with the beginning wave of non-European immigrants

following the passage of the Immigration Act of 1965, which removed national origin quotas that favored immigrants from Europe. The small immigrant population of Indian descent lived in communities without the infrastructure needed to support them.

After Shrivastava's father graduated, they moved to Fairfax, VA amongst a larger immigrant community, and his father started a successful IT business. He was named an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for the region and a Small Business Association (SBA) National Small Business Person of the Year. He was appointed as a senior advisor to the SBA administrator during the Clinton administration.

Shrivastava's father worked to support the immigrant community, leading a commission that reported to the Clinton White House on how to make minority and small business contracting more effective. He also spearheaded the effort to raise the money to build a temple for the local Indian community, a multi-million dollar effort that today is still one of the largest temples in the area.

This legacy helped inspire Shrivastava's gift.

"Dad passed away in June of 2017," said Shrivastava. "That began us thinking about legacy, family, and all the impact that he and Mom had, and realizing that we were not doing as much in this generation as the first-generation immigrants. That drove us to see if we could go focus on the things that made Dad's career what it was and could hopefully help others."



Sumeet Shrivastava, MBA '94

Shrivastava knew Mason would be a perfect fit. His father had been an adjunct professor at Mason and his company had hired many of his students. He was an early member of Mason's Diversity Advisory Board (now the University Life Advisory Board). Shrivastava earned his MBA from Mason, is the immediate past president of the Alumni Association, and serves as



The late S. P. "Shri" Shrivastava and his wife, Sudha Shrivastava, pictured with former President Bill Clinton. In 1994 Shri Shrivastava received the Small Business Administration Person of the Year award and was recognized during an event at the White House.

vice chair on the George Mason University Foundation Board of Trustees. The opportunity presented in supporting Mason's IIR provided the perfect intersection of STEM, entrepreneurship, higher education, and immigration to honor Shrivastava's father.

"We are deeply grateful to Sumeet for enabling the IIR to teach the next generation of immigration scholars," noted College of Humanities and Social Sciences dean **Ann Ardis**, "As he honors his past and his parents' legacies, he is moving this work forward into the future. The impact will be felt for years to come."

Shrivastava's gift comes as the IIR celebrates its 10th anniversary and the support of its lead donor, Diane Portnoy. In its first decade, research produced by the IIR has been cited in scholarly journals and major media outlets and used by academics, politicians, and government agencies to influence immigration policy. Shrivastava's gift ensures the same level of research and impact in the future.

Opening doors for Mason students

Deborah Boehm-Davis's work exemplifies research of consequence. This University Professor Emeritus of George Mason University's Department of Psychology and former dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) has served industry, academia, and government in the course of her career, and along the way has made major contributions to understanding human interactions with technology.

Boehm-Davis describes her career philosophy in terms of that interaction: "I have always wanted to identify how the design of the tools we use, or the environments in which we work, can be modified to help us accomplish everyday tasks." She has done this work in applications that include how people interact with their computers, in-vehicle navigation devices, medical devices, and how pilots interact in the cockpit. She has also been concerned with how interruptions while we are doing tasks reduce the quality of what we produce.



This fund has helped the department to provide fellowships and research support to graduate students, making them more able to progress in their training and conduct high-impact research.

—Keith Renshaw, professor and chair, Department of Psychology

Boehm-Davis has recently retired from Reality Labs Research at Meta (formerly Oculus Research and Facebook Reality Labs Research), where she managed research on human interactions with virtual and augmented reality systems. But colleagues in CHSS recall her many contributions to Mason.

Boehm-Davis joined the university in 1984, coming to the Department of Psychology with experience from AT&T Bell Laboratories, the NASA Ames Research Center, and General Electric. At Mason, her administrative contributions were extensive: she served as the assistant dean of Mason's graduate school, in the provost's office as the vice provost for research and graduate studies, and in CHSS as the psychology department chair, the associate dean, and as dean of the college. Throughout, she continued her research, teaching, and student mentoring.

Boehm-Davis's student support, however, extends beyond the academic and administrative. Since 2010, she and her husband, Stuart Davis, have been championing Mason's students through a lasting contribution that augments her considerable educational leadership: they have established and grown the Boehm-Davis Endowment for Student Success, a fund to support the psychology department's diversity goals.

"Whenever you work for a company or an institution that's close to your heart, you want to find ways to support it, and George Mason was my life for a very long time," she said. "It was a good home for me. It helped me grow, professionally, in lots of different ways, both as a faculty member and as an administrator. [Psychology] was a good department. People supported one another, and I always felt supported by the university."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Deborah Boehm-Davis

She recognizes the great promise of education, and was motivated to support students striving to attain their degrees. "My parents were both first-generation students," she explained. "My father went to college on the G.I. Bill, and my mother worked all day and went to school at night. When I grew up, it wasn't a question of if I went to college; they would talk about 'when you get your graduate fellowship.'"

Boehm-Davis was motivated to help Mason's students find the same opportunities. "I'm not sure that I understood at the time I was a student how much of a sacrifice that was for my parents. But I certainly came to appreciate it over the years.

"It's daunting for so many people," she continued. "So if I can help, that was close to my heart, to do something to help people get an education."

The fund supports the diversity goals of the psychology program, through direct scholarship or fellowship awards to students pursuing a degree in psychology or through student programs within the department. Boehm-Davis recalls her own undergraduate education as fuel for fostering diversity. “I went to Douglass College – the women’s college associated with Rutgers University – because Rutgers College was still all male.” Rutgers College became coeducational in 1972, after Boehm-Davis enrolled.

“This fund has helped the department to provide fellowships and research support to graduate students, making them more able to progress in their training and conduct high-impact research,” said **Keith Renshaw**, professor and chair, Department of Psychology. “It has also sparked additional giving from others, growing our ability to support our students.”

Boehm-Davis is pleased that the endowment will be able to help Mason students into the future. “What appeals to us is that the money is going to be there forever, in perpetuity,” she said. “It just makes you feel really good about the fact that you’re doing something important.”

Season of Giving

The university launched a Season of Giving campaign from October to December 2022 aimed at building support for scholarships, programs, and professional development opportunities across campus.

At Mason, and especially within our college, we are committed to being a place where all students have opportunities to discover talents, intellectual aptitudes, civic engagement interests, and career pathways they might not have imagined for themselves.

All kinds of experiential learning, especially internships, can open doors and lead to job opportunities for our students. To help build these pathways, the CHSS Season of Giving focused on funds providing experiential learning and internship support.



SEASON OF GIVING

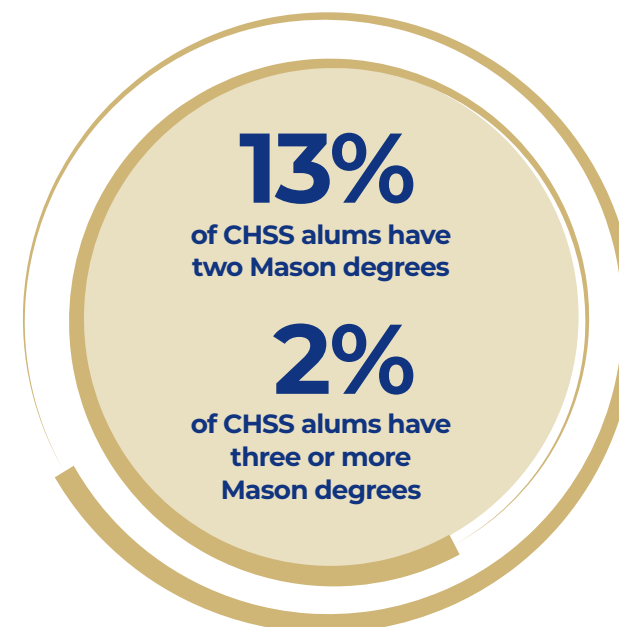
Our 24-hour giving challenge raised
\$27,240
 in support of these funds and other college initiatives.

- Our **Accessible Internships for Mason Students (AIMS)** fund provides support for undergraduate and graduate CHSS students pursuing a nonprofit internship in the D.C. metropolitan area. Nonprofit internships are often unpaid, and these need- and merit-based scholarships help provide access for students who would otherwise be unable to participate.
- Our **Workforce Development Fund** supports CHSS undergraduate and graduate students in unpaid internships in **any industry**, and other professional and career development opportunities that may enhance their academic discipline.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Prepared with skills for any industry

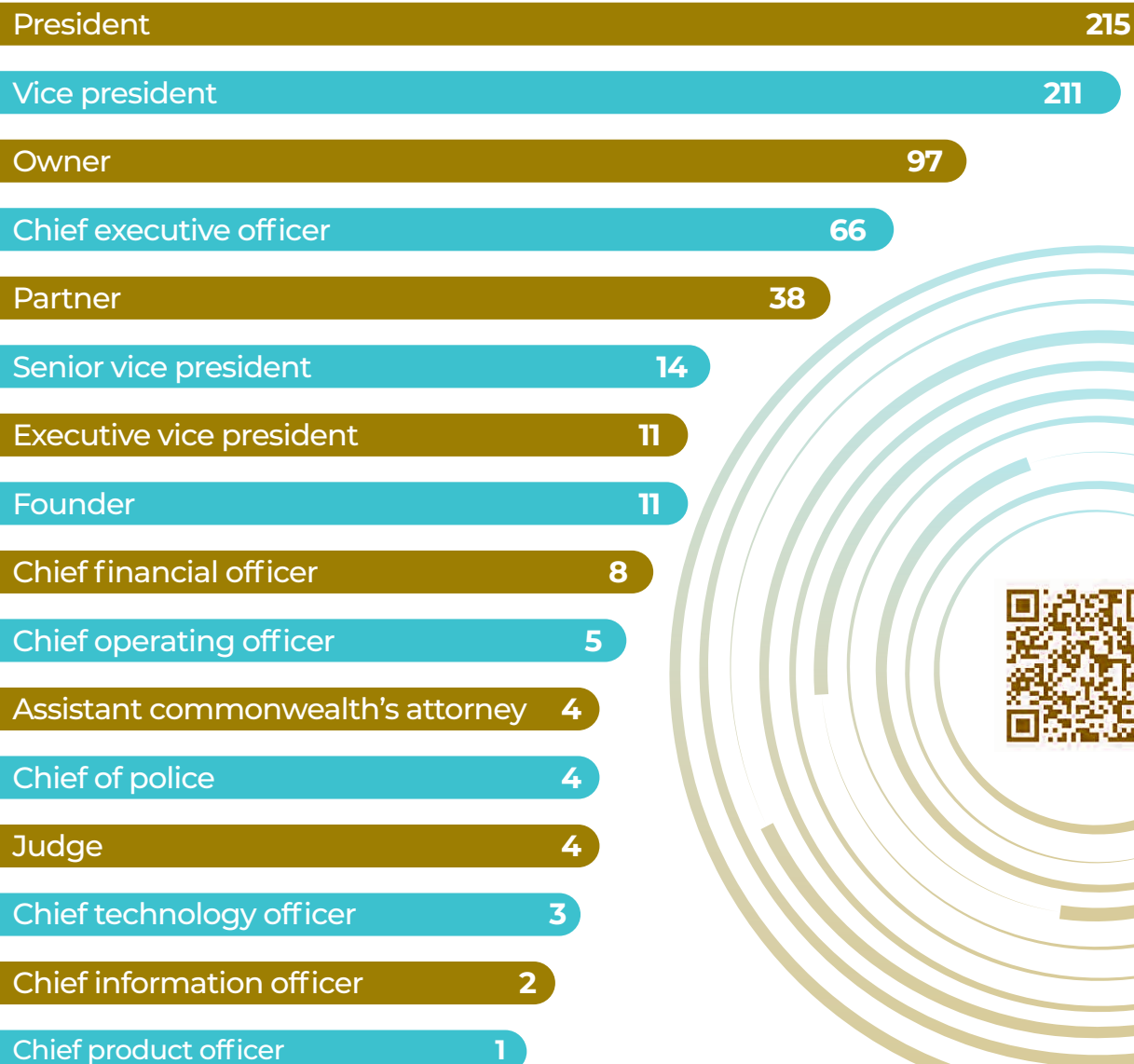
A humanities and social sciences education prepares our graduates for success in a broad array of industries. This snapshot from CHSS alums reflects the career diversity of our network of more than 70,000 alumni.



Source: This data was self-reported from College of Humanities and Social Sciences alumni.

CHSS alumni leaders in industry

CHSS alumni make an impact in every sector of our economy and this data reflects only a small portion of where our alums are making a difference. Your story can help model success for our students. Start by sharing your career updates with us by scanning the QR code below.



This data was self-reported from College of Humanities and Social Sciences alumni.

COMMUNITY *and* CATALYSTS

Achievements, Awards and Innovations

This college has a history of producing changemakers—alumni driven to improve the world around them. On December 3 we celebrated our 2022 distinguished alumni, faculty, staff, and students, and welcomed them to an extraordinary group of alumni with decades of excellence and service to our communities.

These leaders put their education and research training in the humanities and social sciences to work every day. They look for opportunities to mentor and open doors for others, and they have a distinct passion and purpose in their careers.

Our awardees represent the college’s diverse academic departments and programs and strengthen our network of alumni, building support for the generations of students who follow in their footsteps.

The event was co-hosted by **Steven Zhou**, doctoral candidate in industrial and organizational psychology, and **Dominique Dowling**, BA Integrative Studies ’22 and MED Early Childhood Education for Diverse Learners ’23 and included a look back at 50 remarkable years of growth for the college, as well as video testimonials from our awardees.

Community and Catalyst serves to honor the current generation of leaders while building the next generation of change-makers who will drive our communities forward.

Learn about our 2022 award recipients and view our program online.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Our mission of **serving the university's students and our community** is strengthened by **commitments** from our **alumni, friends, faculty, staff, students, parents, corporations, and foundations**.

Our community of support remains active by speaking in classrooms, mentoring students, planning outreach events, serving on advisory boards, and by providing resources for research, programs, and scholarships.

In fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022), support to the college totaled **\$8,073,191** from **907** generous donors.

Your continued engagement enhances our ability to prepare our students with the skills they need to excel—in any industry—and as engaged citizens.

\$8,073,191

Money Donated
Fiscal Year 2022

907

Generous
Donors

OUR COMMUNITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Alumni



Faculty
and Staff



Friends



Parents



Students



Corporations
and
Foundations

Ways to Donate



DONATE ONLINE: Make a gift or establish a recurring pledge online via credit card at advancement.gmu.edu/23SS6.



WRITE A CHECK: Mail a check made payable to the George Mason University Foundation, Inc. to 4400 University Drive, MS1A3, Fairfax, Virginia 22030.



MATCHING GIFTS: Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match a charitable contribution. To find out if your company has a matching gift policy, visit matchinggifts.com/gmu.



CREATE A PLANNED GIFT: Legacy gifts provide benefits to future generations of Mason students—and to you and your heirs. To have a confidential conversation about planned giving options, contact Eleanor Weis, senior director of development, at eweis2@gmu.edu.



Connect with us at chssalum@gmu.edu to learn how to make your desired impact in supporting our college.

Share your
latest news



College of Humanities and Social Sciences
4400 University Drive, MS 3A3
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1532
FAIRFAX, VA



CHSS.GMU.EDU



@GeorgeMasonCHSS



@GeorgeMasonCHSS



/MasonCHSS