

SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS

Two Mason students share their stories with *Broadside*. See [NEWS | 3](#)

Merten Announces Assistance Fund



KEVIN LOKER
Interim News Editor

In an e-mail sent to the George Mason University community late Thursday night, University President Alan Merten announced the establishment of a \$150,000 Adverse Economy Assistance Fund for students whose family's economic situation have been "dramatically weakened" by the economic crisis.

The fund is to be used by the Office of Financial Aid in conjunction with other available assistance. Merten says he is hopeful the fund will help students who are debating between continuing their studies and withdrawing enrollment at the university.

"There is no easy answer to maintaining institutional momentum during difficult financial times," said Merten in his e-mail to the community, "but being resilient and

optimistic is the foundation of our plan. Our strength is our people."

The university, facing a seven percent General Fund reduction in FY 2009 and another recommended eight

"We will emerge a better university after these turbulent times."

- President Alan Merten

percent reduction for FY 2010, raised more donations in 2008 than any other year on record. Merten says other factors include university community members "volunteering to accept salary reductions, deferring compensation package increases, individually absorbing costs that otherwise would be eligible for state reimbursement and contributing larger amounts of unrestricted donations to the George Mason University Foundation."

"We will emerge a better university after these turbulent times," said Merten in the e-mail, "because each of you believes that you can make a difference at

Mason—and you can—and you do."

Student Government leaders reacted positively to the message.

"I thought that Dr. Merten was very straightforward with the Mason community, and I think that students appreciated his candor," said Student Body President Zack Golden. "I am very glad that the administration has made every effort to keep students in the loop about the budget situation."

"I think the message shows that he understands what students are up against next year in terms of finances," said Student Body Vice-President Claire Forman. "I think he does a good job addressing the most urgent topic facing the students."

"I felt that [the e-mail] was timely and important to remind the Mason community of what has made us great. Mason has thrived in good times and bad times. We need to keep being innovative, take advantage of our location, stay focused and tell our story," said Merten. "The best is yet to come."

[*inside*]



PHOTO BY TEDDY MEYER | ASST. PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Ryan Allen goes global as Reann Ballslee.

Check out the media reaction on [NEWS | 2](#).

Making Connections 24-hour arts marathon hosted by Center for the Arts. Check out [STYLE | 6](#).

Patriots beat the Drexel Dragons by one point at home.

Read more on [SPORTS | 8](#).

Warner Sees Benefit in Recovery Act

Northern Va. Conditioned Well for Law's Provisions

KEVIN LOKER
Interim News Editor

With H.R. 1 signed into law last week, Northern Virginia residents and George Mason University students joined citizens across the country in watching the much-debated "stimulus package" take form as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Senator Mark Warner (D-VA), while acknowledging the law is "not perfect," says he believes Northern Virginia is situated well with great potential to benefit from many of the Recovery Act's projects.

"I think in many ways Northern Virginia will perhaps benefit more than most regions," said Warner. "For one, we still have our unemployment numbers in Northern Virginia still way below national averages." As of December 2008, the region showed an unemployment rate of 3.9

percent. National unemployment averages are currently estimated at 7.6 percent.

"Second, with the administration component of this, in terms of a lot of these initiatives being run through the federal government, we'll have some sort of spillover effect in terms of benefit by being in the greater capital area," said Warner, "and third, my hope is that Virginia can position itself as a leader in this healthcare IT area, [as well as] in the energy space, which will be long-term economic opportunities for the region."

According to Recovery.org, the White House's new website designed to show the distribution of the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, these two areas that Warner hopes Northern Virginia can harbor will be receiving a substantial portion of federal funding. Out

of the approximately \$59 billion devoted to healthcare, \$19 billion alone has been dedicated to health information technology, including the further development of electronic health records. Over \$30 billion is reserved to transform the nation's energy transmission, distribution and production systems and allowing for a "smarter and better grid" and a general focus in renewable technology.

Warner says factors like these, in combination with Northern Virginia being the most robust part of the state's economy, allow him to make the claim that out of the 93,000 jobs expected to be created or saved in the Commonwealth of Virginia, more than 35,000 will be located in Northern Virginia.

"If you're talking directly to [Mason] students, [these regional opportunities] might brighten an otherwise gloomy job market," said Warner.

Beyond work healthcare IT and smart-grids, Warner said there was another option to consider for the college students who still may be trying to figure out a career—or major—in light of the current economy.

"I think there are going to be a lot of opportunities actually inside the federal government," said Warner. "A lot of these program areas are going to see 10 times more money going through them than they've ever had before, so just the personnel to help administer these programs will be necessary."

Warner also gave additional insight to his support of the act.

"If I had been drafting it, I would have made changes—more changes—but overall I'm pleased because the alternative, with something to say of doing nothing, is totally irresponsible," said Sen. Warner, "... While not perfect, I was very ready to support it."



PHOTO BY TEDDY MEYER | ASST. PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Mark Warner spoke at President Barack Obama's last rally this past November. Warner is optimistic about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in Northern Virginia.

Starbucks to Open on Campus this Fall

BRITTANY ROUSE
Broadside Correspondent

This fall, George Mason University students will have the opportunity to get Starbucks coffee without leaving campus. Despite the closing of approximately 200 stores nationwide, the long-awaited coffee shop is set to open in the Northern Neck residence hall in mid-August.

The project, delayed by construction details and costs, is scheduled for completion in time for the fall semester. Hours of operation will be from 7 a.m. to midnight, though the shop could be open 24 hours.

"As with any food location, we need to make sure it is financially viable, but [24 hour operation] is a possibility," said Denise Ammacapane, Sodexo resident district manager.

The Starbucks will resemble those seen on the

streets of Washington, D.C. with about eight tables and a few couches, totaling 53 seats. Ammacapane also said that there would be outdoor seating on the far corner of Northern Neck. There will be at least two baristas and two cashiers on duty.

Sophomore communication major Hannah Wert said she is excited about the idea of a new coffee shop on campus, as well as having another place to meet friends.

"I would definitely study and hang out at Starbucks a lot once it comes to campus because it will be so convenient," said Wert.

The opening of Starbucks will allow for more diverse coffee and snack options such as Frappuccinos and other specialty drinks. Because of the Starbucks' location in Northern Neck, students in Chesapeake housing or those that will use the new parking deck next fall will be able to enjoy the

convenience of the shop.

"I usually go to the convenience store every morning for my coffee, but when Starbucks opens I plan to go there instead," said junior biology major and Chesapeake resident Mark Baumgardner.

Sodexo's goal is to staff the coffee shop with students. According to Ammacapane, many inquiries from students about employment have already been received.

"Our plan is to recruit with Facebook, JC kiosks and Southside by mid April, before you all get into finals," Ammacapane said.

Starbucks requires two weeks of training for all employees, which would ideally take place at the beginning of August.

Students can email Ammacapane with questions or employment interest at Denise.Ammacapane@sodexo.com.

Embracing Individuality

Body Image Awareness Week at Mason

KRISTEN WHITE
Staff Writer

There is always someone checking the fat grams and calories on food before it is eaten, going to the gym several times a day or checking their weight every morning. The average college student typically has an interest in refining one's body or struggles to keep up with the acceptable body image of peers.

"Both boys and girls are exposed to negative body images and body expectations from the media and these images can create unhealthy and unrealistic expectations for their own body ideals," said Danielle Lapierre, the assistant director of the Office of Alcohol, Drug and Health Education.

Eating disorders, such as bulimia, anorexia nervosa, and

binge eating are serious problems in America and, more specifically, on college campuses. Skipping meals to reduce calorie intake, overeating, or not maintaining healthy images are dilemmas that many young women face to have the perfect body. Men also have problems with eating and exercising, where they tend to compulsively exercise or overeat.

The Eating Disorders and Body Image Concerns Task Force at George Mason University offers a lot of information on this subject, as well as an Eating & Body Image Quick Assessment where students can assess their own body image. The Counseling Center, Health Education Services and Student Health Services, all located on the second floor of Student Union

Building I, are the offices where Lapierre recommends students with body image problems and concerns should seek help.

Positive Body Image Awareness Week, which begins Thursday and runs through Monday, Feb. 2, will promote students to have healthier eating habits and to exercise.

"We want to encourage students to love their bodies, love themselves and recognize that all bodies are beautiful," said Lapierre.

Jessica Costeines, author of *BeYOUtiful*, will be guest speaking today at 4:30 p.m. in Science and Tech Building I, Room 212 to talk about gaining more confidence.

For more information about other activities being held for Body Image Awareness Week contact Lapierre at dlapierr@gmu.edu.

