

news

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CALENDAR

Monday, February 23

Black Heritage Month Movie
Lounge, Eisenhower Hall
8 – 10 p.m.
Black Student Alliance, bsa@gmu.edu

Theatreworks Performance: *Charlotte's Web*
Concert Hall
10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Center for the Arts Box Office, (703) 993-8888

Tuesday, February 24

Post-Socialist Film Series: *Blind Shaft*
A film “dealing with the brutal social realities of China's coal mining industry”
Mandarin with subtitles
Student Union Building II, Front Ballroom
7 p.m.

DC Muslim Film Festival Screening: *Half Moon*
Directed by Bahman Ghobadi. Featuring a special performance by artist and activist Chioma Oruh,
Johnson Center, Cinema
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 25

Ras al-Khaimah Campus Forum
The Provost outlines difficulties with the Ras al-Khaimah Campus project and the probable results.
Johnson Center, Cinema
1 p.m.

Mason Energy Roundtable Series:
Earth, Wind, and Fire: Powering the Future?
Research I, Room 163
7 - 9 p.m.

Thursday, February 26

Women's Basketball: Mason v. Hofstra
Free with Mason ID
Patriot Center
7 p.m.

Black Heritage Month Forum:
Speak Up Campaign: Multicultural & Diversity Forum
Johnson Center, Gold Room
7 - 9 p.m.

Friday, February 27

Black Heritage Month Karaoke:
Souleoke
Johnson Center, Bistro
9 pm

Cinema Series: *Cadillac Records*
Johnson Center, Cinema
6 p.m.

Saturday, February 28

Artsbus
An all-day bus trip to New York City. The bus returns to Mason at 12:30 am. Open to Mason students, faculty, staff, and the community. \$65.
Center for the Arts Box Office, (703) 993-8888
Leaves from front of Finley Building
6 a.m.

Sunday, March 1

Honors College Brunch
By Invitation only.
Johnson Center
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Local Media React to Drag Queen as Ms. Mason Pick

SHERELL WILLIAMS
Managing Editor

The election of 22-year-old senior Ryan Allen's drag persona Reann Ballsee as Ms. Mason at last week's Homecoming game against Northeastern University has made local headlines.

This past weekend, *The Washington Post* ran a feature story about Allen with the headline “Work That Tiara, Boy!” and suggested a “campus divide” over the selection of a male for Ms. Mason by the George Mason University student body. Local outlets such as WJLA ABC 7 and the Washington, D.C. bureau of MSNBC also ran stories about the election.

Soon after the story was picked up by the Associated Press wire, other news sources such as U.S. News & World Report, USATODAY.com, FoxNews.com, and HuffingtonPost.com published the story on their websites. Celebrity gossip blogger Perez Hilton offered Allen his congratulations on his website perezhilton.com and coverage of the election went as far as being featured on the Brazilian website g1.globo.com.

“I think people are making

this into something much bigger than necessary. I think it does not reflect badly on the school because it was just a matter of Ryan getting more of his friends to vote for him,” said Ricky Malebranche, who was chosen as Mr. Mason.

“[Allen's win] did show that Mason will hold true to being a diverse campus even when things become controversial and that to me is something to be proud of,” said Malebranche.

Vicki Kirsch, associate director of Women & Gender Studies, commented on the DC Pop Culture Examiner's article on their website, calling the election a “significant and positive benchmark in Mason's history,” while sophomore Grant Bollinger was quoted in *The Washington Post* as saying, “it's really annoying. All eyes were on us. And we do something like this? It's just stupid.”

Despite the differing opinions within the Mason community, University Press Secretary Dan Walsch told *The Washington Post* that the university was “very comfortable” with the choice since the rules of the pageant do not specify gender for the contestants, despite the connotation of the titles.



PHOTO BY TEDDY MEYER/ASST. PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Reann Ballslee performs “Womanizer” by Britney Spears during the “Swagger of a Champion” Pageant.

Campus News in Brief

RAP Forms for 2009-2010 Housing Now Available

Room Assignment Process forms are now available from the Office of Housing and Resident Life's website. In order to secure on-campus housing, students need to make a non-refundable deposit of \$300 for their room, due by March 6 at 4 p.m.

After completing the application students will receive a lottery number between March 11 and 13, as well as the specific time in which students may select their housing assignments.

Selection begins on March 16 at 10 a.m. for students that currently have a 12-month lease in the York River Community and wish to retain the same apartment for next year. Students also have the option to “pull in” a roommate, or to apply for housing in a Living Learning Community.

To access all forms, visit: housing.gmu.edu/studentweb.

For more information on the RAP, including frequently asked questions, visit: housing.gmu.edu/rap/.

Student Wins NSCS Integrity Scholarship

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars has recognized Mason student Elyor Tulyaganov, by awarding him with a \$1,000 integrity scholarship.

The honor society is the nation's only interdisciplinary honors organization, and annually awards 10 freshmen and sophomores nationwide who have made ethical decisions when a moral dilemma occurs.

“The integrity scholarship serves as recog-

nition of students like Elyor who've made wise choices when faced with an ethical challenge. Elyor serves as a role-model for other NSCS members and students everywhere,” said Stephen E. Loflin, NSCS' Executive Director.

NSCS awards its members more than \$250,000 in scholarships annually. Other scholarships include awards for merit, studying abroad and a semester at sea.

Another Mason Alumnae Captures Miss Virginia International Crown

Mason Alumnae Tina Montgomery crowned her Alpha Omega Pi sorority sister Ashley Dixon as Miss Fairfax International on Sunday, February 15 in Chester, VA at the Cultural Center of India multi-use facility.

Before the pageant, Dixon accompanied her contestants in visiting wounded soldiers at McGuire Veteran's hospital and participating in the cultural and arts festival at Cloverleaf Mall.

This July, she will represent the Commonwealth of Virginia at the Miss International Pageant at the Northshore Center for the Performing Arts in Chicago, Illinois.

Go-Bus Begins Stop at Fair Oaks Mall

Gunston's Go-Bus has settled the contract issues that previously prevented it from bringing students to Fair Oaks Mall.

On February 20, the shuttle began service to the northwest side of the mall, stopping between Sears and Lord & Taylor. The stop comes after Fairfax Corner and before Fair Lakes Shopping Center on the Go-Bus route.

The shuttle services Fairfax shopping and dining centers, and is free to students with a valid Mason ID.

For more information, including route schedules, visit: shuttles.gmu.edu.

“Genocides of the 20th Century” Educational Event Planned

Mason Community Outreach has partnered with Hillel, the History Department and the Sikh Student Association to host “Genocides of the 20th Century,” an educational event to raise awareness and provide insight as how to “make a change in the future” by looking at the past.

Activities for the week include films, faculty presentations, and talks by Rwanda survivor Eugenie Mukeshimana and Holocaust survivor David Gewirtzman,

The event is scheduled for the week of March 2.

Connect2Mason Unveils New Design

Last weekend, George Mason University's Student Media convergence website Connect2Mason.com launched a redesigned version of its website.

The design, which includes a new logo and reworked navigation, features expanded multimedia coverage of campus events and breaking news.

Broadside, WGMU Radio and Mason Cable Network content also is regularly featured on the website.

Compiled by Courtney Erland, Photography Manager, and Kevin Loker, Interim News Editor

In The Area...

County Hotels Offer Deals Based on Height

In a promotion designed to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the nation's tallest president, Abraham Lincoln, select hotels in Fairfax County are offering prices to guests determined by the height of the shortest person in their party, including children.

President and CEO of Visit Fairfax Barry Biggar says the promotion was designed as an opportunity for families to experience “fantastic historical attractions, great dining and some of the best high-end shopping in the nation,” without spending a large amount on accommodations.

The “Shortest Rate Celebration” requires a two night minimum stay, and rooms must be booked at least 72 hours in advance.

Promotional pricing applies to Saturday stays only. Courtyard by Marriott Tysons Corner and Hyatt Fair

Lakes are among the seventeen hotels participating in the “Shortest Rate Celebration,” which will continue through April 30.

Man Pleads in Attempted Murder Case

A businessman entered Alford pleas Tuesday in Fairfax County—not admitting guilt but acknowledging that prosecutors have enough evidence to convict him of going on a drunken shooting spree.

The spree took place after his involvement in a \$3 million embezzlement scheme was unraveled last February.

Jeffrey S. Koger allegedly shot at a cab driver before driving to a police station where he shot two bystanders. Koger, who says he has no memory of the events,

faces up to life in prison in addition to more than five years for the thefts.

Fairfax Hires Former Freddie Mac Manager

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has appointed Dean Klein, former Community Relations Manager of Freddie Mac Foundation, as director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness.

While advocates of affordable housing have praised the appointment of Klein for his work at Freddie Mac in preventing homelessness, many have criticized Fairfax County officials for failing to progress the program to end homelessness that passed 11 months ago.

“Unfortunately, in the interim, the number of homeless in the County has increased due to the recession,” said Gerry Williams, chair of Communities of Faith United for Housing. According to Williams, the plan lost momentum since its approval last spring with the lack of leadership.

Klein will receive an annual salary of \$125,000 and begins the position March 3.

Local Bus Services Consider Metro Routes

Officials from local government-run bus services D.C. Circulator and Fairfax Connector are considering taking over several Metro routes in an effort to provide the same service for less money.

Instead of providing such local service, Metro may be able to expand regional routes that cross between communities, according to a regional group assigned to find viable locations to trim Metro's budget.

City and county governments say the change would avoid the union labor costs of a larger transit system.

The Fairfax Connector has proposed to operate three Metro bus lines starting this summer. The D.C. Circulator has the possibility of operating two Metro bus routes this March.

Compiled by Kevin Loker, Interim News Editor

Stories of On-Campus Sexual Assault

The following are the accounts of two George Mason University students who were sexually assaulted in on-campus housing. Their names have been changed to protect their identities.

Written by Nicole Ocran, Editor-in-Chief

The Hidden Prevalence of Male Sexual Assault

Women are always seen as the face of sexual violence. We are all taught that women are raped and men cannot be dominated. This stereotype is being challenged every day.

Cameron, 21, is a survivor of male sexual assault. He was sodomized in on-campus housing by a male Mason student with whom he was in a relationship.

Rape is defined as unwanted, forced sexual intercourse (involving a penis and a vagina) with another individual. When two persons of the same sex encounter forced sex, it is termed ‘forced sodomy.’

“It was tough for me to report it because at the time I was dating the guy,” said Cameron.

He describes the incident as something out of “one of those bad teen movies” because his assailant got him very drunk and took advantage of him. “It was a very messed up relationship, everything happened way too fast, and [one of the things that lead up to] the end of our relationship was the assault . . . I just remember being so incapacitated and I didn’t know what to do. It was very sad . . . This is one of those experiences that unfortunately I don’t think I’ll ever forget.”

Cameron explains that there is always one part of an assault that you remember: a smell, a taste, a sound. For him, it was the light shining through the window from a nearby parking garage.

“I remember trying to escape. I remember just trying to crawl towards the light and just escape that room, and escape the situation, and you know, after that I passed out . . . I just remember this light just cascading over me, saying you know, you’re not dirty, you’re not—you didn’t want this, this isn’t your decision, it’s someone just taking over you.”

He remembers waking up the next morning to his assailant acting as if everything was normal. “And I was definitely not—everything was not normal . . . I walked back [to my room], I took a shower and cleaned myself, to get all of the griminess just off of me, because I really did feel just used and dirty . . . It was a lot to deal with.”

He admitted to struggling with whether or not anyone would believe him, were he to report the rape.

“Every assembly that you had on abuse or anything like that, it was a man hurting a woman. And that was just so ingrained in me, I didn’t see that what happened to me at first, was rape. I didn’t see that. I was a bit naïve, and it’s unfortunate, because I almost wish that there were more services that catered to men.”

Self-doubt is a common feeling among victims of rape. “Initially in my messed up head, I thought, ‘Maybe I deserved this?’ It’s horrible to think, but I just had all of these things running through my mind . . . I thought, ‘All relationships must be like this, all relationships have this element of, sometimes it’s wanted,’ or maybe I did want it, or maybe I didn’t communicate it well. I was having all of these dumb thoughts that I realize now are extremely stupid thoughts,” he said.

“Sexual Assault Services was one of those

things that I never, you know, thought that I would need. How many people go to a college looking for that specifically, or looking for those services specifically? But I have to say that the incident happened a long time before I reported it.”

Cameron took his case through the university judicial process instead of the police for different reasons. One of them being he has not come out to his parents as well as some friends. However, after going through the judicial process, his assailant was found “not responsible.” He firmly believes that the system failed him.

Broadside made several efforts to contact Judicial Affairs by phone and e-mail, but could not be reached for comment by deadline.

“I was treated differently because I’m not a woman. And they couldn’t figure out if what happened to me was consensual or not. And I argued that it wasn’t, and he argued that it was. And that’s what it came down to, and it’s sad it really is sad.”

“There’s no evidence,” he says. “The evidence that was there that was present is now long gone. It’s the mental evidence that’s left.”

Cameron says that he is blessed for having met other survivors. “SAS has been unbelievable,” he says. “I’ve walked into the group and my sex doesn’t even matter. I said to Connie [Kirkland], ‘Will women be worried if a guy walks in there?’ Because they’ve been hurt by a guy—I mean, this is my elementary school, middle school, high school training coming back to haunt me, and she’s like, ‘Absolutely not.’”

Like many other survivors, Cameron strives to keep moving forward in life, asking, “What other choice do I have?”

The Lasting Effects of Acquaintance Rape

It can happen during any time of day or night. It can happen when you’re drunk or sober. It can happen with a lover, a friend, or someone you barely even know. Sexual assault is a crime against women and men that is difficult to understand.

Katie, 20, was sexually assaulted in on-campus housing by a male Mason student she knew for only a few hours. “It’s scary to think that sexual assaults happen at this school on campus, but they do,” she says.

“I had gone back to his apartment for a little bit, under the assumption that I would just be in the living room and not anywhere else. He led me to his room instead. And that is where the assault occurred,” says Katie. “And after that, I basically went back to my room, and started putting my life back together. But it took a really long time.”

For Katie, every day is a struggle to come to terms with her assault.

“If I tried to tell myself that it didn’t change my life drastically, I would be lying, because it was as if a different person left that room, and came back here.”

She remembers going back to her room after the assault, and getting into the shower. She explains that you should never shower, bathe, or clean yourself if you are sexually assaulted, because it removes the evidence from your body.

“But I did, and I just sat there and cried and cried for hours, maybe three or four hours in the shower because I just felt so disgusted about my body and about myself, and I’ll never forget that . . . little things would trigger me and I would feel complete shock and loss and pain, feeling all by yourself, because you didn’t feel like anyone else could possibly understand what you felt like.”

She credits Connie Kirkland, Director of Sexual Assault Services, as well as the services provided by SAS for giving her the necessary resources to approach the university’s judicial process. She clarifies that SAS never pressures you into reporting an assault to the

university or the police, but they have helped her piece her life together one day at a time.

She explains that the process is not usually very long, but her case had been drawn out due to unknown circumstances until recently. There are many differences between a university judicial hearing and a court of law.

She chose the university’s judicial process over the police because “it’s an emotionally easier process. I feel like taking it to the police is very, very stressful, because in a court of law . . . the acquaintance rape cases will be a little bit more difficult to process than other rape cases. And I just didn’t want to have to go through the stress of it, and that would involve my parents, whom I have not had the emotional strength to tell.”

“People need to be aware of that because even if you were a victim yesterday or seven years ago, you still are going to have baggage and you’re going to need help,” she says. “It’s good because without [Sexual Assault Services and Connie], I probably wouldn’t stay in school, to be honest, because it’s the type of thing that destroys your life and it doesn’t go back.”

After attending a baseball game days after her assault, Katie remembers seeing triplet girls sitting in front of her.

“They were so cute and so innocent, and I thought to myself, you know, it wasn’t so long ago that I was that little and young and then I realized that these girls were going to grow up and how bad would it be if somebody hurt them . . . then I realized that I had the power to prevent something like this from happening again. That day was the day I made the decision to report it, it was because of those little girls there.”

Although Katie has yet to be able to tell her parents about her rape, she did tell her roommates. “I had to tell them because for me it is a safety issue,” she explains, “I don’t want him knocking on my door looking for me.” She and her assailant still live in the same building.

After losing all sense of security, she now takes the police escort service almost everywhere.

Being candid about her assault can be hard, she says, because “then people assume that it didn’t happen, you’re telling it for attention, or you’re crazy and you have issues. Sometimes you just have to let people know about the circumstance, and it helps to talk about it.”

Every day is still a struggle for her. “My room is a mess, I have an incomplete [in a course], and I have all of this schoolwork to catch up on...[everything] falls to the wayside when this happens,” she says. “I was supposed to be applying for law school, but I’m not now, I want to make sure I’m really emotionally ready . . . I don’t want to be a big disaster. I want to make sure that I pull it together.”

Katie speaks very highly of the other survivors in her group. “That kind of strength is going to help you get through anything for the rest of your life, because I know if I can get through this then I can get through anything now.”

Reporting Sexual Assaults

Assistant Chief of Police George Ginovsky Explains the Process

JACQUELINE SCHAFFER

Student Media Copy Editor

When a student files a sexual assault report at George Mason University, the Mason Police Department has a plan. According to Assistant Chief of Police George Ginovsky, once a report is filed they begin to process a report and a detective takes over investigation of the case.

The victim is interviewed and taken to the hospital where a Sexual Assault Nurse

Examiner test is given. The SANE employee is a forensic nurse who has been specially trained for this procedure. The Mason Police Crime Victim and Witness Assistance Program also assists the victims by connecting them with victim’s rights and support programs such as Sexual Assault Services and Counseling and Psychological Services, both located in Student Union Building I. The detective also begins a criminal investigation and if there is a crime scene available it is processed for evidence as well.

If the Mason Police find out that a report is false, the

student making it will be charged. Two sexual assaults reported on the Fairfax campus on Oct. 18, 2008 and Jan. 24 were false reports and were recanted. “The girls were both charged with filing a false police report,” Ginovsky said.

The Mason Police makes a thorough investigation into every report of sexual assault. From 2005 to 2007, there have been six reported sexual assaults on the Fairfax campus in 2005, nine in 2006 and 12 in 2007, according to the Mason Police Annual Security Report. There were five reported sexual assaults in 2008 on the Fairfax

campus according to Ginovsky. At the Prince William campus there was only one reported in 2006, and no other campus had any reported sexual assaults.

There are several methods to file a report of sexual assault on campus. You can call any of the following resources: Mason Police at 911 for an emergency, (703) 993-2810 for a nonemergency, University Life at (703) 993-8760 and Counseling and Psychological Services at (703) 993-2380. All of these organizations are equipped to help students affected by sexual assault.

For Your Safety

Grand Master Chun Jae Park, GMU Self Defense Instructor, Offers the Following Tips

The elbow is the strongest part on your body. If you are close enough to use it, do. And use your fingers to jab the eyes and throat of your offender.

If a robber asks for your wallet or purse, do not hand it to them. Toss it away from you, since they are more interested in your wallet and purse than you. Once they reach for your wallet or purse, run away.

If you are ever thrown into the trunk of a car without any use of a phone, kick out the back tail lights, squeeze your arm through the opening, and start waving your arms. The driver won’t see you, but everybody else will. This has saved lives.

As soon as you enter your car, lock the doors and leave. If someone is in the car with a gun to your head, do not drive away. Instead, gun the engine and speed into anything, wrecking the car. Your airbag will save you. If the person is in the back seat, they will be stunned. As soon as the car crashes, run away.

The following are important steps to take when approaching your car in a parking lot or parking garage. First, park in well-lit areas, especially for students with late night classes. Also, be aware and look around you, look into your car, at the passenger side floor and in the back seat. Also be aware of any suspicious vehicles parked near your car. Look at the car parked on the driver’s side of your vehicle, and the passenger side. If a male is

sitting alone in the seat nearest you, looking suspiciously, walk back to your previous destination, or in a public area. Ask a guard or policeman to escort you back to your car. It is always better to be safe than to be sorry.

Always try to avoid taking the stairwell. Stairwells are a horrible place to be alone and are a common crime spot. This is especially true at night.

If the predator has a gun and you are not under his control, run. The predator will only hit you (a running target) 4 in 100 times; and even then, it will not likely be a vital organ. Run preferably in a zigzag pattern.

Use your best judgement with those who ask for help. Evidence shows that women tend to be sympathetic, leading to rape, molesting, abduction, or death. Ted Bundy, an infamous serial killer, was a good-looking, well-educated man who always played on the sympathies of unsuspecting women. He walked with a cane, or a limp, and often asked “for help” into his vehicle or with his vehicle, which is when he abducted his next victim.

Do not open the door to strangers and always lock your door.

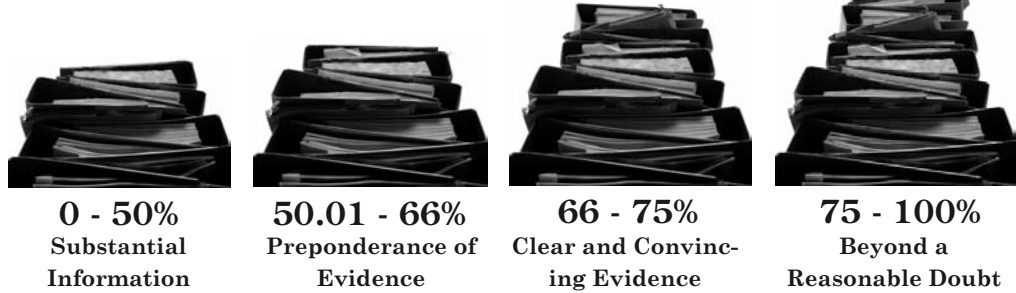
To learn more about risk awareness, risk reduction, risk recognition and risk avoidance, consider enrolling in Self Defense for Men and Women (PHED 134).

12 Number of Forcible Sex Offenses On Campus



**These numbers are taken from the crime statistics published in 2008 by each university under the Cleary Act.*

Standard of Evidence



The criteria of information/evidence necessary to determine a violation of a policy is called the Standard of Evidence.

Four traditional Standards of Evidence exist. For a student to be found in violation of the *Guide to P.R.I.D.E.*, a Preponderance of Evidence must be established.

POLICE FILES

February 16	<p>Medical Assist Student Union Building I Officers were dispatched to Student Union Building I in reference to a person with congestive heart failure. EMS arrived on scene and transported the victim to Fairfax Hospital for treatment. (20/Brudvig)</p> <p>Medical Assist Aquatic & Fitness Center Victim suffered a seizure while swimming in the pool. EMS responded and subject refused transport. (56/Lighthiser)</p> <p>Grand Larceny Skyline Fitness Center Complainant reported person(s) unknown stole an iPod left unattended on the gym floor. Loss estimated at \$350. (49/Kalenich)</p>
February 17	<p>Simple Assault Aquatic & Fitness Center Complainant reported an instructor of a class had assaulted her after the course was over. Case to be forwarded to the university administration for review and adjudication. (20/Brudvig)</p> <p>Medical Assist Student Union Building I Officers and EMS were dispatched to Student Union Building I in reference to a person suffering abdominal pain. Victim was transported to Fairfax Hospital by EMS for treatment. (25/Green)</p> <p>Grand Larceny Southside Dining Complainant reported person(s) unknown stole her coat which had been left unattended. In the coat was a cell phone and keys. Loss valued at \$369. (56/Lighthiser)</p>
February 18	<p>Theft From Building Skyline Fitness Center Complainant stated that person(s) unknown stole money and a credit card from his wallet. Complainant reported several fraudulent charges on his credit card. This case is under investigation. (45/Arnold)</p> <p>Theft from Building Aquatic & Fitness Center Complainant stated that person(s) unknown stole his Apple iPhone. This case is under investigation. (60/Will)</p> <p>Medical Assist Fenwick Library A GMU student felt light headed and needed medical attention. The student was treated by EMS and refused to be transported to hospital. (23/Brownell)</p> <p>Underage Possession of Alcohol & Drunk in Public Ike's Diner Officers were dispatched to Ike's Diner in reference to a subject passed out in the men's bathroom. Marco Quiroga, 20 (GMU student), of Woodbridge, VA was arrested for the above offenses and taken to Fairfax ADC where he was held until sober. (31/Stein)</p>
February 19	<p>Motor Vehicle Theft Lot K Complainant stated that his 1994 Honda Accord vehicle was stolen by person(s) unknown. Loss estimated at \$2,380. (40/Ross)</p> <p>Supplement Grand Larceny/Warrant Service Presidents Park Robert Edmonds, 18 (GMU student), of Woodbridge, VA was arrested for Grand Larceny and transported to Fairfax ADC where he was released on his personal recognizance. (60/Will)</p> <p>Possession of Stolen Goods/Underage Possession of Alcohol/Burglarious Tools George Mason Boulevard Mohsin Bhatti, 21 (GMU student), of Springfield, VA was in possession of stolen goods and burglarious tools. Syed Mirzada 20, (non-GMU student), of Springfield, VA was issued and released on a summons for Underage Possession of Alcohol. This case is pending further investigation. (31/Stein)</p> <p>Underage Possession of Alcohol Aquia River Way Tiffany Dotson, 20 (GMU student), of Midland, VA, Jessica Leone, 19 (GMU student), of Mahwah, NJ, Nathan Lilley, 19 (GMU student), of Crimora, VA were issued summonses for the above violation. Subjects were released on the summons. (32/Clingerman)</p>
<p><i>Police Files are taken verbatim from www.gmu.edu/police. Broadside does not make any changes to public records.</i></p>	

Honors College Develops

Honors and Scholars Programs to be Housed Together

KERRI
BUSCHBACHER
Broadside Contributor

George Mason University has decided to embark on an endeavor to bridge the gap between the communication and cooperation of its two-year Honors Program in General Education and four-year University Scholars Program experience. Effective July 1, Mason will house its own Honors College, aimed to combine the two programs into one umbrella of framework and concrete organization.

Personalized advising, as well as Mason's Postgraduate Fellowships and Scholarships services and the Undergraduate Apprenticeship Program, also are expected to be housed within the college.

According to Vice Provost of Academic Affairs Linda Schwartzstein, the idea of an Honors College has been discussed for the past four years as a way to further build on, strengthen, raise visibility and provide opportunities and challenges for students.

Schwartzstein says that in



the current setup of both the Honors and Scholars Programs, each reports to a different place, allowing for a loss of visibility and communication to manifest. Additionally, with the budget cuts facing the university, the creation of an Honors College may reduce the duplication of efforts and allow for one unified and focused institution.

Schwartzstein says the pursuit of an Honors College at Mason also aims to attract more high-achieving transfer students. As the current Honors Program in General Education lasts only two years, many transfer students may overlook

Mason for the opportunity to participate in a four-year Honors Program or College elsewhere; Mason hopes to address this with this new development.

Students enrolled in the new college will have the opportunity to participate in the Honors College Living Learning Community. The Honors LLC for the next academic year will be located in the Northern Neck Residence Hall.

Leadership of the new Honors College will involve current key faculty members involved with the Honors and Scholars Programs. Zofia Burr,

Director of Honors Program in General Education will serve as Dean, Kathleen Alligood, Associate Director of the Honors Program in General Education, as Associate Dean, and Erik Perry will remain the Director of the Scholars Program. Director of Fellowships and Undergraduate Apprenticeship Program will coordinate her programs under the new umbrella.

As many of the details of the Honors College are still being finalized and debated, administration has created many opportunities for students to meet in focus groups with Mason faculty to discuss their various concerns or add their input with regards to the formation of the college. More student-involved discussion will take place through continued open office hours with Burr, and steps are being taken to develop and Honors College Student Advisory Board.

The website for the Honors College, honorscollege.gmu.edu, goes online March 1. Details in development, implementation and student participation are expected to be finalized as weeks progress.

Facebook Hears Outcry

Changes in Terms of Use Spark User Backlash

GRACE KENDALL
Connect2Mason Director

Popular social networking site Facebook.com was the source of online drama recently when it subjected members to a new Terms of Use agreement. The updated agreement gave Facebook ownership of all user-submitted materials even after individuals had terminated membership with the site, a right which was protected by earlier versions of the Terms of Use.

Though Facebook had previously claimed "an irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, transferable, fully paid, worldwide license (with the right to sublicense)" to use content posted on the site and "distribute such User Content for any purpose," the modifications to the terms removed a clause which promised that "[i]f you choose to remove your User Content, the license granted above will automatically expire."

Though the terms were changed on Feb.

4, the situation did not receive widespread attention until sites like consumerist.com pointed out the revisions last weekend. News of the modifications spread quickly, and curiosity turned to outrage as displeased Facebook members formed groups including "People Against the New Terms of Service" and "Petition to Change the Facebook Terms of Use."

Facebook quickly addressed the situation. Site founder Mark Zuckerberg publicly responded to the issue twice through blogs hosted on the site. In the first, he responded to the backlash by explaining that the site needed such open licenses to allow content to be shared between users.

"When a person shares information on Facebook, they first need to grant Facebook a license to use that information so that we can show it to the other people they've asked us to share it with. Without this license, we couldn't help people share that information," he wrote last Monday. "In reality, we wouldn't share your information in a way you wouldn't want."

His response did not provide enough resolution for an increasingly agitated user base, and site members continued to demand a change in the official language of the Terms of Use. On Wednesday, the site reverted to an older version of the user agreement. This is a temporary response that will hold until a new agreement has been drafted and approved.

"... we think that a lot of the language in our terms is overly formal and protective so we don't plan to leave it there for long," wrote Zuckerberg on Wednesday. The site is currently working on developing a new Terms of Use agreement, building on their stated philosophy that "people own their information and control who they share it with." In an effort to receive user feedback to help guide the direction of the new Terms of Use, the group "Facebook Bill of Rights and Responsibilities" was created. Individuals concerned with the upcoming revisions to the Terms of Use are encouraged to voice their opinions through the group.

Students Step into New Sustainability Studies Minor

ANDREW
WINGFIELD
Broadside Contributor

Sheila had several pairs of Ugg boots, in a rainbow of colors. Uggs were her favorite footwear until she enrolled in Sustainable World, the first of two core courses for George Mason University's new minor in sustainability studies.

For a course project, Sheila studied the process that turned the skin of a sheep reared in an Australian pasture into the pair of cozy boots a FedEx driver dropped on her doorstep in Northern Virginia. She had always slipped on her Uggs with a feeling of pure pleasure.

Through this project, those same boots became skeletons in her closet, telling a grim story of heavy fossil fuel consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, acid-polluted waterways and exploited Chinese workers. What Sheila learned about her Uggs' outsize impact on other people and the planet changed her taste in shoes.

Sheila's classmate, Anthony, learned through an ecological footprint exercise that if all six and a half billion people on Earth shared the standard of living he enjoys as a middle class American, 6.35 Earths would be required to supply the necessary resources. If, on the other hand, all six and a half billion

of us lived at the standard common in Anthony's father's country of birth, Pakistan, three tenths of a single Earth would suffice.

The most common definition of a sustainable society is one that meets the basic needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. We are nowhere near sustainability in the United States, as Anthony's numbers show. That is a big problem because our exceedingly unsustainable lifestyle is the one to which many people in less developed parts of the world aspire. Experts project that the human population will top out

at nine billion around the middle of this century. How are we to honor poorer countries' desire for economic advancement, maintain a reasonable standard of living in the developed world and, at the same time, ensure that we do not exhaust the finite natural systems that sustain us all?

To complete this minor, students must take Sustainable World (NCLC 275).

For more information, contact either faculty co-director Andrew Wingfield at awingfield@gmu.edu or Dann Sklarew at dsklarew@gmu.edu.

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