Mason Values Recognition

As you may know, Mason has set a goal to become a model well-being university. To support this goal the Rewards and Recognition team (both in Human Resources and Payroll as well as their partners in each of the various schools and units throughout the University) work together to ensure that we have many ways to recognize, reward and thank all the faculty and staff who give so much of their time and efforts towards making Mason successful.

Our team has a strategic goal of creating a positive working environment where we can all thrive together by recognizing each other’s strengths and contributions and saying thank you for a job well done.

We have been hard at work redesigning some of our programs for the new year to more closely align with the updated Mason values and strategic plan. We look forward to sharing more of our updates throughout the year.

Here in Reward and Recognition, we have the opportunity to read about the great work that the stars across Mason do through the award nominations we receive. Scattered throughout this newsletter are excerpts from nominations to highlight how some of our award recipients live their Mason values every day.

Dr. Ángel Cabrera and Candace Parham

Celebrating Achievements throughout George Mason

Welcome to the 9th Edition of the Mason Star, where we celebrate the accomplishments and contributions made by so many in the Mason community this past year and thank those who nominated and supported them. This is also the 7th year in a row that Mason has been recognized as a Great College to work for by the Chronicle of Higher Education and the first year that Mason was named a TOP Place to work by the Washington Post. Mason’s faculty, staff, students, alumni and retirees thrive together to make Mason a great place to learn and work.
Thank You Snow Much

In May and June 2014, the Staff Senate in conjunction with the Office of the Senior Vice President organized several events to thank the essential employees who kept the campuses running during the many snow storms earlier in the year. The snow was long gone by the time the coffee and sweets were served at Arlington, Fairfax and Prince William campuses, but the hard work and long hours of so many of Mason’s employees wasn’t forgotten. It was the perfect opportunity to say, “Thank you snow much.”

OSCAR Mentoring Excellence Awards

The purpose of the OSCAR Mentoring Excellence Award is to recognize and reward outstanding Mason community members who mentor undergraduate students on research and creative activities and who foster a culture of student scholarship in support of Mason’s Students as Scholars initiative.

J. Robert Cressman, College of Science
Michael Gilmore, College of Health & Human Services
Al Fuertes, College of Health & Human Services
Vasiliki Ikonomidou, Volgenau School of Engineering
Margaret Jones, College of Education & Human Development
Eden King, College of Health and Human Services
Duhita Mahatmya, College of Health & Human Services

Our Students Come First

“Another thing that makes Nicole extraordinary is her accessibility to students. In fact, she actually thinks of ways to make herself more available to our students who are on campus only infrequently. Nicole switched her office hours so that she is on campus one night per week.”

- Nicole Roth’s Employee of the Month nomination

ITU Employees of the Month

JULY
Shannon Hogya, Mercer Library
AUGUST
Patrick Chauteh, TSD
SEPTEMBER
Judy Kratzer, TSD
OCTOBER
Stephanie Klare, TSD
NOVEMBER
Mike Bacaglini, TSD
DECEMBER
LeAnn Pitman, DoIT
JANUARY
Joe Balducci, DoIT
FEBRUARY
Juan Carlos Blandon, TSD
MARCH
John Donohue, DoIT
APRIL
Kenny Stewart, TSD
MAY
Eric Tateosian, DoIT
JUNE
Alex Galantis, ITU Finance & Procurement
Teaching Excellence Awards 2014

2014 David J. King Teaching Award
Larry Rockwood, College of Science

Distinguished Library Faculty Award
Robert Vay, University Libraries

Teaching Excellence Award Winners
Eric Anderson, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Special Recognition for Excellence in General Education
Rebecca Forkner, College of Science
Gregory Grimsby, College of Visual & Performing Arts, Special Recognition for Excellence in Teaching with Technology
Jill Nelson, Volgenau School of Engineering
Huzefa Rangwala, Volgenau School of Engineering
Pallab Sanyal, School of Business
David Schleicher, School of Law
Michael Summers, College of Science

Teachers of Distinction
Amy Best, College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Thomas Britt, College of Visual & Performing Arts
Robin Couch, College of Science
J. Robert Cressman, College of Science
Jeremy Hodgson, College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Panagiota Kitsantas, College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Seungwon “Shawn” Lee, College of Education & Human Development
Matthew Rice, College of Science
Kristien Zenkov, College of Education & Human Development

Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award Winners
Alan More, College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Ina Mirtcheva, College of Visual & Performing Arts
Ron Resmini, College of Science
Derek Sweetman, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Emerging Researcher, Scholar and Creator Awards

Each year, Mason selects several Faculty members who show exceptional promise in their disciplines to receive Emerging Researcher, Scholar, Creator Awards. To qualify for this award, the faculty member must be within 10 years of receiving his or her terminal degree and have growing national and international recognition for his or her work.

Awardees from left, Sam Malek, Department of Computer Science, Alessandra Luchini, Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine, Maria Emelianenko, Department of Mathematical Sciences and Kylene Kehn-Hall, National Center for Biodefence and Infectious Diseases and the School of Systems Biology.
Mason Recreation Employees of the Month

February
Theresa Boyd
Gerald Castilla
Bernardo Darquea
Nick Guzek
Alex Horn
Ciera Jones
Gylnn Loeb
Ashley Seager
Katharine Shirley
Gavi Siman-Tov
Canessa Swift
Alex Wanner
Kevin Walsh
Colleen Zimmerman

March
Ryan Cascio
Tyler Fabian
Morgan Flournoy
Travis Hawkins
Kyle Johnson
Drew Nichols
Sebastian Sandifer
Joanne Singer
Douglas Smith

April
Stevie Bolger
Brittany Cain
Rahat Chudhury
Lawrence Clark
Allison Hall
Peter Hamilton
Timothy Jordan
Noki Lee
Joey McDermott
Rachel Stepien
Brett Sutterly
Andrew Thagard
Donovan Tyson
Perez Willie

May
Lawan Brown
Ashley Cain
Allison Hall
Nathan Jordan
Steven Lim
Molly Owens
Anne Suarez
Markos Tefera
Erin Weisenberger

June
David Arena
Veronika Batyan
Megan Blatchford
David Cohen
Tyler Fabian
Trent Houston
Charles Krueger
Chelsea Lear
Estefania Luna
James Naylor
Gwen Stone

University Police

Distinguished Service Award
Lieutenant Bruce Jackson

Community Service Awards
Sergeant Michael Guston
MPO Brian Higgins
Security Officer Sherry Lamanna

Citizen Service Awards
Dennis Petterson II, Facilities
Aneen Skandar, University Life

Officer of the Year
MPO James Rapoli

Employee of the Year
Communications Officer Amy Smith

Commendations for going above and beyond the scope of their work duties, in their conduct, professionalism, and dedication
Rubi Chavez
Chelsey Ellard
Kristen Jennette, Information Technology Unit
Captain Anthony Lamanna
Sergeant Philip Surber

University Life

Positive Impact Awards
Kaitlin Cicchetti, Orientation, Family Programs & Services
Colby Grant, Mason Recreation
Jason Moore, Early Identification Program

Outstanding Service Awards
Julio Diaz, Early Identification Program
Peggy Marsili, Arlington University Life

Partnership Awards
Josh Cantor, Parking Services
Marylou Holly, Registrar

Office of Admissions

Patriot Pride Awards
Zakir Alam
Nathan Ammons
Wayne Bertino
Amanda Gary
Megan Glaub
Jocelyn Hanly
Judith Herbert
Bruce Keen
Purshara Kiraly
Selina Kirwan
Cathy Leach
Richard Malebranche
Patrick Money
Ryan Piluzza
Brandy Schraeder
Kathy Shubert
Stephanie Smith
Walter Sweeney
Amy Takayama-Perez
Jennifer Tkac
Susan Wiedemann
Shuang Wu
Kathy Zupan

Office of Alumni Affairs

Celebration of Distinction

Faculty Member of the Year
Padmanabhan Seshaiyer, College of Science

Distinguished Latino Alumni Award
Laydy Reyes, University Life

Lambda Distinguished Alumni Award
Karen Wolf, University Life

Innovation Is Our Tradition
“Since 2009 the recycling rate has risen from 14% to 24%! Much of this success is due to Ron finding innovative solutions to tough problems. Ron has been able to reduce Mason’s yearly trash weight by over one million pounds! These efforts not only help Mason with its sustainability goals but saves the University money.”
- Ron Lim’s Exceptional Support Award nomination
**Volgenau School of Engineering**

**Electrical & Computer Engineering Department Awards**

**Outstanding Faculty Award**
Gerald Cook  
Kris Gaj  
Peter Pachowicz  
Kathleen Wage

**Outstanding Leadership Award**
Pelin Kurtay  
Robert Osgood  
Bernd-Peter Paris

**Outstanding Research Faculty Award**
Bijan Jabbari

**Computer Science Department Awards**

**Young Faculty Research Award**
Damon McCoy

**Outstanding Teaching Award**
Sean Luke

**Adjunct Faculty Award**
Vinod Dubey  
Nared Kodali

**Service Award**
Duminda Wijesekera

**Staff Award**
Therese Michael

**College of Humanities & Social Sciences**

**Mary Roper Award**
Janice Cohen  
Fu (James) Zhao

**Outstanding HR & Finance Support**
Sara Duvall

**Outstanding IT Support**
Craig Zaccaro

**Outstanding Graduate Programs Support**
Mary Schifferli

**Volgenau School of Engineering**

**Outstanding Undergraduate Programs Support**
Jason King

**CHSS Star Award**
Melanie White  
David Soorenko  
Holly Gilcash  
Shirley Steppe  
Nicole Carkiewicz  
Jill Bowen

**School of Business**

**Summer Research Funding Award**
Catherine Cramton  
Matt Cronin  
Jessica Hoppner  
Jim Hsieh  
Ling Lisic  
Nirup Menon  
Anant Mishra  
Mandy O’Neill  
Alex Philipov  
Pallab Sanyal

**Outstanding Research and Publication Award**
Min Chen  
Cheryl Druehl  
Nirup Menon  
Sarah Nutter  
Min-Seok Pang  
Alexander Philipov  
Pallab Sanyal  
Matthew Theeke  
Sun Ye  
Alex Zablah

**Outstanding Faculty Service Award**
Edward Douthett  
Chris Joiner  
Mehehs Joshi  
Jeffrey Kulick  
Yan Ling  
Anne Magro  
Kevin McCrohan  
Laurie Meamer  
Steve Piloff

**Staff Service Award**
Jackie Buchy  
Meggan Ford  
Sisi Jou  
Melanie Pflugshaupt  
Andy Tice  
Paige Wolf

**Outstanding Contribution to Teaching - Undergraduate**
Steve Piloff

**Outstanding Contribution to Teaching - Graduate**
Ann Magro

**Outstanding Professor in Major - Accounting**
Massood Yahya-Zadeh

**Outstanding Professor in Major - ISOM**
Harvey Singer

**Outstanding Professor in Major - Finance**
Shelly Canterbury

**Outstanding Professor in Major - Management**
Matt Cronin

**Outstanding Professor in Major - Marketing**
Laurie Meamber

**MBA Professor of the Year**
Kevin Rockman

**MBA Distinguished Service Award**
Cheryl Druehl

**MSA Professor of the Year**
Kumar Visvanathan

**EMBA Outstanding Faculty**
Alex Zablah

**MS in Real Estate - Outstanding Teaching Award**
Mark Hassinger

**MSIS Outstanding Faculty**
Angelos Stavrou

**MSTM Outstanding Faculty**
Kumar Mehta

---

**Adila is responsible for resolving some of the most complicated invoices that the University faces. I am continually impressed with how she communicates with our stakeholders in such a highly professional and calm demeanor, while simultaneously ensuring that we meet or exceed the state guideline that 99% of invoices get processed on time.**

- Adila Osman’s Employee of the Month Award nomination

---

Our Students Come First * Diversity is Our Strength * Innovation is Our Tradition * We Are Careful Stewards
We Honor Freedom of Thought and Expression * We Act with Integrity * We Thrive Together
Molly Grove, Campus Relations at Prince William Campus, received the Kathy Ellington Leadership Award by Leadership Prince William.

Marit Majeske, Hylton Performing Arts Center, received the 2014 John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts LEAD Emerging Leader Award.

Don Jones, Freedom Aquatic and Fitness Center, was named the 2013-14 Rotarian of the Year by the Bull Run Rotary Club.

Meggan Ford, School of Business, received the Global Professional Staff Exchange Award sponsored by the Office of Global and International Strategies.

Linda Apple Monson, School of Music, was named one of Virginia’s Influential Women of 2014 by Virginia Lawyer’s Weekly.

Cheryl Howe, Volgenau School of Engineering, received the 2014 Advisor of the Year Award from the Center for Advising, Retention & Transitions.

Award Spotlights

Presidential Citations

The Presidential Citation is a non-competitive award presented by Mason’s President to recognize an individual or group who performed an exceptional deed or service that may or may not be related to their job responsibilities. There were three Presidential Citations awarded this year. Endurance Frempong, Housing and Residence Life received a Presidential Citation for her role in securing and returning a loaded weapon found in a residence hall bathroom. Lifeguards Jeff Phillips and Robert Farrow were cited for their lifesaving work in preventing the drowning of a young girl at the Freedom Aquatic and Fitness Center.
Outstanding Achievement Awards

The Outstanding Achievement Awards recognize and celebrate the hard work, dedication and accomplishments of Mason’s faculty and staff across several awards categories. The annual awards support the Mason values and are a celebration of the best of the best at the University. On October 16, 2013, over 25 University employees were honored at the “Up, Up and Award” ceremony with the various Human Resources and Payroll awards as well as the Outstanding Supervisor Awards sponsored by the Staff Senate and the Sustainability Hero Award sponsored by the Office of Sustainability.

Margaret C. Howell Award
Candace Parham, College of Education & Human Development

Outstanding Supervisor Awards
Jean-Pierre (JP) Auffret, School of Business
Margaret (Peggy) Aldrich, Prince William Registrar

Distance Education Awards
Luanne Norden, College of Education & Human Development
Stephen Nodine, Information Technology Unit

Sustainability Hero Awards
Leo Barrios, Housing & Residence Life
Elizabeth Torrens, Mason Enterprise Center

Martha J. Reiner Quality Customer Service Award
Rebecca Diemer, School of Business

David W. Rossell Quill Award
Sarah Nutter, School of Business

Team Excellence Award
S.M.A.R.T. (Sports Medicine Assessment Research & Testing) Lab, Division of Health & Human Performance, College of Education & Human Development

Adjunct Faculty Service Award
Darden Purcell, School of Music

SWELL (Supporting Well-Being & Embracing Living Life) Award
Barbara J. Gomperts, English

Outstanding Achievement Awards
Heather Aleknavage, Office of Sponsored Programs
Elena Cirmizi, Fiscal Services
Christine Cruzvergara, University Career Services
Svetlana Filiatreau, Office of the Provost
Anita Kalyana, Information Technology Unit
Adam Kuch, Facilities Management
Joan Mizrahi, Counseling & Psychological Service
Ian Reynolds, Human Resources & Payroll
Caitlin Shear, Regional Campuses
Karen Wolf, University Life

Exceptional Support Awards
Kim Howe, College of Education & Human Development
Ronald L. Lim, Recycling/Waste
Rebekah Truog, University Career Services
Cindy Woodfork, Volgenau School of Engineering

TIAA-CREF Faculty/Staff Book Scholarship
Ryan Piluzza, Admissions
Rebecca Stone, Information Technology Unit

Anita Kalyana
Christine Cruzvergara

Ryan Piluzza (center) receives the TIAA-CREF Faculty/Staff Book Scholarship

S.M.A.R.T. Lab receives the Team Excellence Award
University Day Service Awards

The University Day Service Awards recognize employees who have served George Mason University and/or the Commonwealth of Virginia for 5 through 45 years of service. The awards ceremonies were held on April 9 and 10, 2014 and both ceremonies were upbeat celebrations of the dedication, loyalty and passion of faculty and staff.

**Thirty-Year Recipients**
- Paul Bousel, Academic Advising, Retention & Transitions
- Susan A. Campbell, Information Technology Unit
- Bruce Cooper, Intercollegiate Athletics
- Joseph Hart, Operations
- James Harvey, School of Management
- Tracy Holt, Information Technology Unit
- Robert Jonas, Environmental Science and Policy
- James Lawrence, College of Science
- Jeng Lin, College of Science
- Robert Peraino, Information Technology Unit
- David Reininger, Information Technology Unit
- Marlys Shoup, Information Technology Unit
- Ariela Sofer, Volgenau School of Engineering
- Deena Treague, Facilities Management
- Pearl Wang, Volgenau School of Engineering

**Thirty-Five-Year Recipients**
- Michael Randy Gabel, College of Humanities & Social Sciences
- Linda Harber, Human Resources and Payroll
- Stephen Ruth, School of Public Policy

**Forty-Year Recipients**
- James Metcalf, College of Health & Human Services
- James Sanford, Psychology

**Forty-Five Year Recipient**
- Evans Mandes, College of Science
How do you say thank you?

Human Resources and Payroll provides many ways for faculty and staff to say thanks for a job well done and recognize Mason’s valuable employees. The available options are:

- Request a gift card or non-monetary award for faculty or staff. There are also awards for student workers.
- Nominate a superstar for an award like Employee of the Month or one of the many Outstanding Achievement Awards in the fall.
- Request an immediate impact award or recognition leave for someone who has completed a project or event that has had impact on their department or Mason.
- Thank you cards, congratulations cards and sympathy cards are available upon request.

To learn more, visit us on the web [http://hr.gmu.edu/awards/#](http://hr.gmu.edu/awards/#)

New to Reward & Recognition:

- Mason Jar Water Bottles
- Shoelace Pouches
- Starbucks Gift Cards for Students

Nominations Open

Submit your nominations for the Outstanding Achievement Awards before October 3, 2014. Winners will be officially recognized during the Outstanding Achievement Awards ceremony on Tuesday, November 4, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. at the Global Center Ballroom (formerly the Mason Inn). Award information and nomination forms can be found at [http://hr.gmu.edu/awards/award.php](http://hr.gmu.edu/awards/award.php)

Please direct questions to Beth Baroody at 3.2739 or bbaroody@gmu.edu.

---

**We Act With Integrity**

“Barb is perhaps the beacon of the humanitarian, compassionate and wise leader. We all share our concerns, our projects, our pains, joys and our challenges with one another. Her ability to foster that family support atmosphere, trust and desire to be there for one another is unique to any experiences I have had anywhere before. She has been an encouragement to our student workers who often come back to her a few years later to share their successes with her.”

- Barb Gompert’s Supporting Well-Being and Embracing Living Life (SWELL) Award nomination

---

**We Honor Freedom of Thought and Expression**

“Janet is open to new ideas and encourages us to offer our suggestions and to be creative. First, Janet provides her employees with a clear vision of the department goals and how they fit into the overall goals of the University. Then, Janet is open to our suggestions and ideas for innovative ways to meet the goals of our department. She encourages her employees to brainstorm new ideas and contribute their expertise, skills and knowledge to the work process. Janet validates and confirms us.”

- Janet Walker’s Employee of the Month Award nomination
Congratulations to everyone who was recognized this year!

CONNECT WITH US
Phone: 703-993-2739
Fax: 703-993-2601
Email: awards@gmu.edu
Web: hr.gmu.edu/awards/#

Twitter.com/workingatmason/
Facebook.com/workingatmason/