

**Subject:** Instant HR/Payroll: HR Liaison Meeting in April, It's America Saves Week, New Discount Opportunities, Stepping Stones to Success Session for Parents, and More!

**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 9:24:25 AM Eastern Standard Time

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**Hold the Date: Spring HR Liaisons Meeting**

Date: Friday, April 29

Time: 1:30 – 3:00

Location: Merten Hall, 1201

Videoconferenced to:

- SciTech: Bull Run 254
- Arlington: Founders Hall B119

To register visit <http://hr.gmu.edu/learning>. If you would like to be conferenced in from Loudoun or Front Royal, please e-mail Bridget Peabody at [bpeabody@gmu.edu](mailto:bpeabody@gmu.edu).

**Reminder: It's America Saves Week!**

Please invite your faculty and staff to try out some of the financial well-being resources available to them at Mason via the [financial well-being portal](#) or directly at the links below. You do not have to be a member of Fidelity or TIAA-CREF to participate in their webinars.

TIAA-CREF Webinar Information:

[http://hr.gmu.edu/benefits/retire/docs/TIAACREFQ1\\_2016VECalendar.pdf](http://hr.gmu.edu/benefits/retire/docs/TIAACREFQ1_2016VECalendar.pdf)

Fidelity Investments Webinars: <http://hr.gmu.edu/benefits/retire/docs/ASWorkshopSchedule2016.pdf>

America Saves: <http://www.americasaves.org/for-savers/pledge>

***There is also an on-site financial well-being seminar scheduled during America Saves Week.***

Join Jeff Jones from Fidelity Investments on Wednesday, February 24 at noon *at the SciTech campus* (videoconferenced to Arlington and Fairfax) for “Designing Your Financial Road Map”. Jeff will outline how to create a financial plan and save for short- and long-term goals including retirement. Register at <http://hr.gmu.edu/learning/hr.php>.

*Speaking of registration: A gentle reminder that if you sign up for a class, you are making a commitment to attend. Many of our speakers travel at great length to join us and it is very disheartening to them to have people register for the class and then not show up. From a logistical point of view, if you can't make it, please go out to the registration site and drop the class. We recently had a class with 10 people registered, 3 contacted us to cancel, so we were expecting 7. Only 2 people actually attended and the speaker had driven two hours to present. Thanks so much for your understanding.*

### Save Some Green: New Discounts

Please remind your faculty and staff about the Life/Work Connections discount page at <http://hr.gmu.edu/worklife/discounts>. We've just added three new ones –

- Bellini Salon & Spa, Vienna, VA- Faculty, staff and students receive a 10% discount on any salon or spa service.
- Ties.com – not surprisingly, Ties.com sells ties but they also have tie racks, tie bars, socks, and pocket squares. Mason faculty, staff, students, retirees, and alumni receive 20% off purchases (excluding sale items) by using the code on the discount page.
- Ticket Monster Perks - offers discounts to the entire Mason community (faculty, staff, students, retirees, and alumni) on all sports, concerts, and theme park tickets nationwide. Follow the three easy steps on the discount page to start saving.

Discounts can be a helpful way to price shop and save. As with any purchase, please find the deal that is right for you.



### Physical Well-Being Seminar: Organization and Self-Reliance - Stepping Stones on the Path to Success in Elementary & Middle School

*We hope you can join us for an exciting new seminar from the Westminster School.*

Looking for ways to keep your child organized? Join Charlotte Foster, English Department Chair at the [Westminster School](#), on Monday, March 7 at noon as she focuses on the best ways to enable your child to take ownership of his/her homework, assignments, and belongings. Learn test and quiz strategies as well as ways to manage long-term assessments such as exams and projects. Finish the school year with less stress and get your child on the path to better organization! This session will be videoconferenced to Arlington and SciTech. To register for the session, please visit <http://hr.gmu.edu/learning>.

Flyer for the session [available here](#).

### Additional News from Westminster and Mason: A Merit Scholarship Opportunity for Children/Grandchildren of Mason Employees

In a spirit of collaboration with George Mason University, Westminster School is offering a scholarship opportunity to the children/grandchildren of Mason faculty and staff. The renewable Merit Scholarship is in the amount of \$8,000 per year, and is open to students entering grades 3 – 7.

Westminster School is an independent school located in Annandale, VA just minutes from the beltway. To find out more about this opportunity, please visit Mason's HR & Payroll [Life/Work Connection website](#) or visit the [collaboration scholarship page](#) at Westminster School.

### Spring Telework Week at Mason: March 7-11

Have you ever contemplated teleworking? Now's the time to try it out! From March 7-11, Mason will be celebrating its own Telework Week over the university's Spring Break. An abbreviated, 1 page agreement is available on <http://hr.gmu.edu/> and on the flexible work website at <http://flexwork.gmu.edu>.

*Please note that those who participate in Telework Week are doing so under the Flexible Work Policy, #2202 (<http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/flexible-work/>). Signing the abbreviated agreement binds the employee/supervisor to the terms and conditions of the complete telework agreement.*

### Masonvale Availability

If you have faculty or staff relocating or downsizing, the folks at Masonvale have immediate availability for 1 bedroom/1 bath homes. For 2 and 3 bedroom homes, please have them contact the leasing office to discuss the timing of their move. The office can be reached at 703.865.4870 or by email at [masonvale@lincolnapts.com](mailto:masonvale@lincolnapts.com).

Additionally, Masonvale has an eligibility procedure. For the latest version (amended December 2015) please visit <http://www.masonvale.com/docs/priority-system.pdf>.

Some additional background on the priority system:

- Categories A through G shall have a maximum tenure of 6 years residency at Masonvale. All other categories have a maximum tenure of 3 years.
- The priority for full-time term faculty (previously F), has been incorporated in B and D, hence the phrase “intentionally deleted” under F in the [priority system](#).
- There have been some eligibility modifications implemented as well dealing with non-familial occupants.
  - Priorities A through G, in addition to family members (spouse and/or children), may have up to one non-familial, authorized occupant. Occupancy limits still apply.
  - Priorities H through K, in addition to family members (spouse and/or children), can only have occupants who “qualify as a program tenant under one or more of the priority categories”. Occupancy limits still apply.
  - No undergraduates may live at Masonvale unless they are “of familial status with the program tenant”.