

**Inside this issue:**

Docent anyone?	
<i>The Chronicle of Higher Education</i> recognizes Mason	1
Life Planning Summer Seminar Series	2
Mason Retiree ID	3
George Mason Boulevard	
Your Voice	

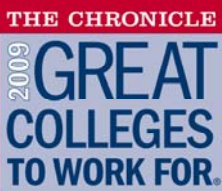
# Retirement Connection Newsletter

## Share Your Mason Experience...

Have you thought it might be fun to come back to Mason on an incredibly flexible schedule and share the Mason experience with a small, intimate group of interested folks? Then we hope you will consider becoming a volunteer Mason docent. Mason docents will lead scheduled tours of the Fairfax campus as well as special events tours on an as needed basis. There is no minimum commitment and you can start and stop anytime.

This is a brand new endeavor and you'd be among the very first to participate. The planned hour-long tours will initially focus on the Fairfax campus and will include some history on both George Mason and the university. The tours will run from March through November and will feature several key locations on campus. Because of the size of the campus and the ambitious nature of what we'd like to cover, a walking tour isn't going to be practical. So, the plan is to have the tours conducted from a golf cart with scheduled stops along the way.

A script is in development and a half day of training will be provided in September on a date to be determined. Sound interesting? We sure hope you think so! Please email [worklife@gmu.edu](mailto:worklife@gmu.edu) to let us know if you'd be interested in learning more. Although the plans are still on the drawing board, we hope to launch the Mason Docent Program in time for Alumni Weekend in October. There's a lot to do before the fall, but with your help we'll make it!



## Mason Recognized As a Great Place to Work!

For the second year in a row, Mason has been recognized by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in its Great Colleges to Work For Program. Mason received recognition in 13 categories including the program's Honor Roll, a new feature this year. The Honor Roll "highlights the top 10 colleges in each size category ... based on the number of times they were recognized in the individual recognition categories." The other twelve categories include:

- Collaborative Governance
- Healthy Faculty-Administration Relations
- Internal Communications
- Job Satisfaction
- Perception of and Confidence in Fair Treatment
- Policies, Resources, and Efficiency
- Professional/Career-Development Programs
- Respect and Appreciation
- Supervisor - Department Chair Relationship
- Work/Life Balance
- Vacation or Paid Time Off
- Life Insurance

## Mason Recognized (continued)

Provost Stearns was also featured in *The Chronicle's* Academic Workplace supplement and a stand alone article was written on work/life at Mason. You can read more about it in the [Mason Gazette](#) or directly at [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#).

It's Mason's faculty, staff, students and retirees that make Mason such a great place to work and learn. We're delighted that their many fine efforts have led to such wonderful recognition.

## Life Planning Seminar Series

You are cordially invited to join us for the Summer Life Planning Seminar Series. This series is designed to highlight a range of issues associated with aging well no matter your age. Topics can vary from caring for aging parents, planning for your own aging process, staying healthy, and more! And the best part about the series is that you have input. If there's a session you'd like to see, email Patrice Winter, our Life Planning/Eldercare Coordinator at [ecare@gmu.edu](mailto:ecare@gmu.edu). Below please find the Summer schedule. For more information and to register please go to <http://hr.gmu.edu/training/> and click on course calendars.

July 29, 2009 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Moving on to Healthy Joints</b>	Patrice Winter, MS.PT George Mason University	Fairfax Campus SUB II, rm1 & 2
August 19, 2009 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Strategies for Healthy Eating</b>	Lois Durant Registered Dietician George Mason University	Fairfax Campus SUB II, rm7

## The Big Apple Calls Again!



On Saturday, December 5, 2009, George Mason University's Recreational Department will be taking their biannual trip to New York City. Attendees will take a bus from Mason to New York City and spend the entire day there, exploring and visiting the city. For details about the trip and the itinerary please go to <http://recsports.gmu.edu/outdoor-recreation/New-york-city-bus-trip>.

Looking for things to do in New York? Before you go, you may want to check out the discounts available at [ticketsatwork.com](http://ticketsatwork.com). Just use the discount code GMUNIV and you can enter this helpful website to look for discount opportunities in New York as well as other hot spots around the country. For discounted Broadway tickets, you may want to visit the Theater Development Fund website at <http://www.tdf.org>.

## How to Get Your Mason Retiree ID

A Mason Retiree ID can be helpful as it affords you the same privileges you had while working at Mason. To get one, simply contact the [Photo ID Office](#).

## George Mason Boulevard

Last month, George Mason Boulevard opened in Fairfax City. The Boulevard runs from the Fairfax campus down to the corner of Armstrong Street (by Fairfax City Hall). University Drive is closed to through traffic between Armstrong and the Fairfax City line (near Mason).



Mason continues to grow and change. Many construction projects are underway. For information on Mason's building projects, please visit <http://building.gmu.edu>.

## Mason Farmer's Market

Meet at the market! The Mason Farmer's Market that is. Mason has a Farmer's Market each Wednesday between 11:30 and 3:30. It is located in Lot K until August 19th when the market returns to the Johnson Center North Plaza for the fall. Terrific baked goods, produce and more.



## We Want Your Voice to be Heard

For more information about the Retirement Connection at Mason, please go to [hr.gmu.edu/worklife/connection](http://hr.gmu.edu/worklife/connection). We invite you to volunteer here at Mason or return as an employee. Please use our *Retirement Connection Newsletter* to stay in touch; we look forward to receiving your input. If you have a personal article, or would like to be interviewed, or just have a statement of encouragement please submit these comments to us at:

Retirement Connection  
George Mason University  
4087 University Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
(703) 993-2604  
[worklife@gmu.edu](mailto:worklife@gmu.edu)

Remember that as a Mason retiree you have an opportunity for:

- Ongoing access to your Mason e-mail address.
- A retiree ID card which allows you the same privileges as your ID card while working at Mason.
- A standing invitation to lunch & learn sessions, life planning seminars, and eldercare services including resource & referral and the caregivers support group.