



The Mason Star

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Mason Tops U.S. News List of Schools to Watch



Mason was named the nation's number one university to watch on U.S. News and World Report's new list of "Up-and-Coming Schools" published on Friday, Aug. 22.

The list, comprising 70 colleges and universities across the country, identifies "schools that have recently made the most promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus or facilities."

In its annual peer assessment survey, U.S. News asked education experts to identify schools that met those criteria. This is the first time a list of up-and-coming schools has been created.

"Being recognized by U.S. News & World Report for this is both an honor and validation of our efforts," says Mason President Alan Merten. "This acknowledgment is something that every one of our faculty, staff, students and alumni should be proud of." (Mason Gazette, 8/22/08)



Mason Recognized for Exceptional Work Environment

In a survey conducted by the Chronicle of Higher Education, the premier publication for academic news and issues, Mason was named as one of the "Great Colleges to Work For" in 10 different categories. In the survey results, Mason joins the ranks of universities such as Emory and Stanford as having the best practices and polices in these categories:

- Healthy faculty-administration relations
- Work-Life Balance: Policies give employees the flexibility to manage their personal lives.
- Internal Communications: Ideas are fully considered and issues debated for better results.
- Connection to Institution and Pride: Employees have a strong sense of loyalty to the institution.



- Supervisor or Department Chair Relationship: Supervisor makes expectations clear and solicits ideas.
- Perception and Confidence in Fair Treatment: Confidence in fair treatment, particularly regarding compensation and performance.
- Respect and Appreciation: Employees are regularly recognized for contributions.
- Policies, Resources, and Efficiency: Institution is well run and prepares employees to be effective.
- Engagement Index: The emotional connection employees have to an organization.
- Disability Insurance

George Mason University is honored to be included in the Chronicle of Higher Education's 2008 Great Colleges to Work for Program, "says Linda Harber, associate vice president and chief human resources officer. "Mason's energy, passion and commitment to excellence are derived from its faculty and staff. On behalf of the administration at Mason, we sincerely thank all faculty and staff for everything they do everyday to make Mason a great place to learn and a great place to work."
(Mason Gazette, 6/16/08)



AARP Names Mason One of Best Places to Work for Those 50+

For the second year in a row, Mason has been named one of the 50 best places to work for persons 50 years of age and older by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

We are honored to receive this important recognition from the AARP," says Mason President Alan Merten.

"Maintaining a vibrant and productive workplace for men and women of all ages is something we take very seriously. The end result is an institution that is efficient and dynamic and that serves its region and students well."

The AARP recognized Mason for its support of flextime and telework options for employees. Other initiatives for employees at Mason include a number of recognition programs and awards; discount tickets at the Center for the Arts, athletic events, the bookstore and the fitness center; active Faculty and Staff Senates; vanpool and carpool programs; and financial training sessions.
(Mason Gazette, 9/24/08)



Dr. Merten Receives NVLA Regional Leadership Award

George Mason University President, Dr. Alan G. Merten, received the 2008 Northern Virginia Leadership Awards (NVLA) Regional Leadership Award. Leadership Fairfax established the NVLA to recognize individuals and organizations that make a difference in the the Northern Virginia community through their vision, innovation, courage, inspiration and commitment.



University Day Celebration

The University Service Award recognizes employees who have served George Mason University and/or the Commonwealth of Virginia for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 or more years of service. This year's University Day celebration was held on April 17th and over 412 employees were honored. Nine employees were honored with 35 or more years of service! Congratulations to all of our service award recipients!

35 Years

Mary Dzama, Graduate School of Education
Joel Foreman, English
Winifred Keaney, English
Randolph Lytton, History and Art History
Robert Pasnak, Psychology
Philip Weist, Economics

40 Years

Martin Cohen, Retired
Robert Cozzens, Chemistry and Biochemistry
George Mushrush, Chemistry and Biochemistry





University Employee of the Month

The Employee of the Month award is available to administrative faculty, classified and wage employees who have been with the University for one year and who are in good standing.

The winner is presented the award and various gifts at a presentation ceremony with the University's President. To nominate a coworker for the Employee of the Month award, please visit <http://hr.gmu.edu/awards/eom.html>.

February	LeAnn Pittman, DoIT - Classroom Technologies
March	Elaine Miller, Kellar Institute for Human Disabilities
April	Belinda Taylor, TSD - Database Application Services
May	Patricia Hendrix, Mathematical Sciences
June	Jessica Montfort, Arlington Campus Library
July	Karla Posselt, University Services
August	Patrick R. Miller, Office of Sponsored Programs
September	John Creuziger, Human Resources & Payroll/ College of Humanities and Social Sciences
October	Daniel Gieckel, EdMS - Videoconferencing



Facilities Employee of the Month

March	Sandy Beckett, Facilities Administration
May	Kevin Neale, UT Shop
June	Nick Hodges, HVAC/Building Automation Superintendent
July	Glenda Weston, Facilities Administration
August	Pat Buchanan, Energy Management
September	Kim Greene, Facilities Planning
October	Helen Tolson, Housekeeping



ITU's Employee of the Month

February	Rachel Mains, Technology Support Services
March	Karen LeAnn Pittman, DoIT - Classroom Technologies
April	Jessica Montfort, Arlington Library
May	Mark Van Pelt, Server Support (TSD)
June	Daniel Gieckel, EdMS - Videoconferencing
July	Teresa Kan, Prince William Library
August	Della Patrick, Administrative Services Department
September	Mary Esther Perry, Database Application Services (TSD)
October	Derek Kan, ITU Security & Project Management



Teaching Excellence Awards - 2008

- Joani Bedore** Assistant Professor, Communication
Pamela Cangelosi Associate professor, School of Nursing
Al Fuentes Instructor, New Century College
Margo A. Mastropieri Professor, College of Education and Human Development
Mara Schoeny Assistant Professor, Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR)
John Schreifels Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, was honored with a Teaching Excellence Award with special recognition for Excellence in General Education.
Donald Gallehr Associate Professor of English, was honored both with a Teaching Excellence Award and the David J. King Award for significant, long-term contributions to enhancing the overall excellence of teaching and learning at the university.



SOM Summer Research Award Recipients

- Jim Hsieh** Assistant Professor of Finance
Keith Jones Assistant Professor of Accounting
Chien-Yu Chen Assistant Professor of Operations Management
Ning Li Assistant Professor of Marketing
Partha Sengupta Associate Professor of Accounting
Michelle Marks Associate Professor of Management
Min Shen Assistant Professor of Accounting
Stephen Christophe Associate Professor of Finance
Stanislava Nikolova Assistant Professor of Finance
Yuan Gao Assistant Professor of Finance
Michael Naor Assistant Professor of Operations Management



2008 CHSS Star Award

- May** William Gibson, Case Management Specialist, CHSS Undergraduate Academic Affairs
September Brooke Braun, Director of Communications, College of Humanities and Social Sciences



New Century College 2008 Advisor of the Year

- Sarah Sweetman** Director, Student Services



University Life's Outstanding Service Award

- Michelle Guobadia** Greek Life
Danielle Lapierre Health Education Services
Adrienne Barna Counseling & Psychological Services
Susan Stahley Alcohol, Drug, & Health Education



Human Resources & Payroll Awards Ceremony – May 2007

Forty university employees were honored May 6th with Presidential Citations, Outstanding Achievement Awards, Exceptional Support Awards, David W. Rossell Quill Award, Margaret C. Howell Award, and the Team Excellence award. In addition, the Staff Senate presented the Outstanding Supervisor Award, and The Environmental Health and Safety Office presented the 1st ever Safety Recognition Award.



Outstanding Achievement Awards

The recipients of the award were Sharon Bloomquist and Laura McCloskey, History and Art History; Louis Buffardi, Psychology; Michael Briggs, Technology Systems Division; Linda Fauteux, Mason Topics; Amanda Howells, School of Management; Joshua Hughes, Web Communications; Alan Jones, Facilities Management; LeRoy LaFleur, Kristen Myers, Sarah Patton and Victoria Shelton, University Libraries; Quyen Le and James Russell, Purchasing and Accounts Payable; Nicole Sealey, the Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering; Jeffrey Smith, School of Law; and Diane Wang, Office of the Provost.





Exceptional Support Awards

Recipients of the award were Nina Joshi, Higher Education Program; Margaret Koback, Public and International Affairs; Gerson Majano, Student Centers; Brenda Mueller, College of Education and Human Development; Tracy Nayar, School of Public Policy; Debbie Penny, Technology Systems Division; Karla Posselt, University Operations; Elizabeth Quigley, Applied and Engineering Statistics; Kellie Scanlon, Counseling and Psychological Services; Cynthia Shupe, School of Management; Allan Weiss, College of Health and Human Services; and Cindy Zema, Office of University Counsel.



David W. Rossell Quill Award

Elizabeth Brock
Fiscal Services



Margaret C. Howell Award

Louise Murray
Registrar's Office





Laboratory Safety Award

Katie Hemphill, Resident Assistant
Potomac Heights



The Outstanding Supervisor Award

Dr. David Wiggins, Director
School of Recreation, Health & Tourism



Team Excellence Award

The recipients of this award were Carolina Figueroa, Kathy Zimmerman, Bruce Keen, Jan Macario and Zakir Alam, Office of Admissions; and Jennifer Flagel, Office of the Provost



Presidential Citation Award

The recipients of this award were Nancimarie Ranghelli and Timothy O'Neil, Freedom and Aquatic Fitness Center





Mason Launches New Rewards to Encourage Sustainability

The Office of Sustainability is undertaking several new initiatives to highlight individual contributions to the greening of George Mason University.

The Sustainability Hero Award

This award is presented to a faculty or staff member who has gone above and beyond their core duties to seek out creative solutions that have reduced Mason's impact on our local or global communities. This is a monetary award and will be presented at the Human Resources & Payroll's Outstanding Achievement Award Ceremony twice a year.

Green Me! Spirit Award

This is presented to individuals who have gone the extra mile to educate his or her peers on general climate and sustainability issues. This award is presented quarterly. (Mason Gazette, 7/10/08)



Reward the stars in your office with these new awards!

- You're a "Bloomin" Star Award - \$20.00 gift certificate to Outback Steak house
- You're "Greeeeeat" Award - \$20.00 gift certificate to Great American restaurants
- You Hit the "Bull's-eye" Award - \$20.00 gift certificate to Target
- You "Did It" Award - \$20.00 gift certificate to Home Depot
- You're "Simply the Best" Award - \$20.00 gift certificate to Best Buy
- Thanks for going the Extra Mile Award - \$20.00 Gas Card
- ***New*** "Get Cozy at Cosi" Award - \$20.00 gift certificate to Cosi restaurants
- You're a "Reel" Mason Star - Two movie tickets & \$10.00 gift certificate to concessions or to put toward an additional ticket
- You "Knocked our Socks Off" Award - a pair of Mason athletic socks
- We "Flip for You" Award - Mason portfolio
- It's Raining Recognition at Mason - A Mason umbrella
- We Can't Spell Success Without You - Chocolate bars
- ***New*** "You Spice up our Life" Award - A certificate for a large one-topping pizza and two-liter coke from Domino's Pizza

If you would like us to publish your department/school's awards in our next newsletter, please send your information to:



The Reward and Recognition Office

phone: 703.993.2739 or 703.993.2138

email: awards@gmu.edu

fax: 703.993.2601

website: hr.gmu.edu/awards

