

Dear Alumni:

Another exciting year is under way for the Alumni Association. The Alumni Affairs staff and the Alumni Association continue to cultivate the recent surge of interest among members of the alumni community. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered or assumed leadership roles in the past year. There are many opportunities for involvement ahead as our organization grows. If you'd like to participate, you might consider joining a chapter or attending an alumni event.

Speaking of events, we've got an exciting array of activities planned for the year ahead. Our alumni will enjoy horseback riding, professional sporting events, cultural events, networking opportunities, and, of course, Homecoming on February 16, 2002. If you haven't been back to campus for a few years, you'll likely be surprised by the tremendous popularity of this new tradition at Mason. For event details and updates, as well as other opportunities to get involved, please visit www.gmu.edu/alumni or www.zPatriots.com.

We are pleased to welcome the class of 2001 into the Alumni Association. Our newest members already have shown appreciation for their George Mason experience with a record level of participation in the Senior Class Gift program, as well as a great turnout at the association's "extravaGRADza!" hospitality tent following Commencement. We hope you'll remain active and involved as alumni.

In an effort to spread the word about our events and other items of interest to the alumni community, we are launching an e-mail newsletter this fall. The *MasonWire* will contain news and information about the university, the Alumni Association, and George Mason athletics. If you'd like to receive the *Wire*, please send a request with your name and e-mail address to alumni@gmu.edu.

As always, we welcome your ideas in addition to your participation. Feel free to share with us any comments, suggestions, or questions. We hope to see you this year!

Sincerely,

Christine Clark-Talley
Director, Alumni Affairs
alumni@gmu.edu

Team of Leading Economists Joins George Mason

Thanks to a \$3 million grant from the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, a team of seven distinguished economics professors from the University of Arizona joined the faculty at George Mason University this fall.



Vernon Smith

The scholars, leaders in the growing field of experimental economics, are Vernon Smith, the group's lead economist; Daniel Houser; Kevin McCabe; Mark Olson; David Porter; Stephen Rassenti; and Bart Wilson.

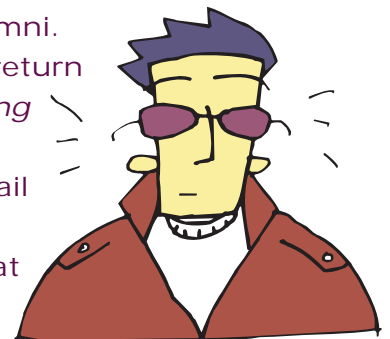
"George Mason University is extremely pleased to have a group of academicians of this caliber join our faculty," says Provost Peter Stearns. "Not only does their arrival enhance the reputation of our overall faculty, but it places George Mason in the forefront of what is emerging as a very exciting field."

Although primarily associated with the College of Arts and Sciences, the seven scholars also will work closely with the university's School of Law and School of Management. At the University of Arizona, they composed the institution's Economic Science Laboratory.

Baby, Remember My Name

Are you famous? If so, let us know. People (incoming students at Orientation, in particular) are always asking faculty and staff to list our famous alumni.

You can either return the *What's Going On?* form on page 14 or e-mail the Office of Alumni Affairs at alumni@gmu.edu.





Coach “L” Agrees to Six More Years

George Mason University men’s basketball head coach Jim Larranaga has agreed to a new six-year contract that will keep him with the Patriots through the 2006–07 season. Larranaga has led George Mason to two Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) championships and a pair of National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament berths in his four years in Fairfax.

“Jim has had a great amount of success in a short time and brought our program back to the forefront in the CAA,” says Tom O’Connor, assistant vice president and director of athletics.

Larranaga has had a 65–52 record in four seasons at George Mason and a 17-year career record of 263–221.

CNHS Addresses Global Nursing Shortage

Students from Saudi Arabia recently began a program at George Mason University’s College of Nursing and Health Science (CNHS) that prepares them to become registered nurses. Upon completion of their studies, the students return to Saudi Arabia to seek employment in hospitals or government agencies.

The five-year, \$1.8 million program is funded by the Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Foundation as part of a comprehensive nursing and scientific education initiative to address the shortage of qualified health care workers in Saudi Arabia.

“The nursing work force shortage has escalated to a global level, and the Saudis realize they must prepare their own citizens to meet the health care needs of their nation,” says Rita Carty, CNHS dean and program director. This is the second time George Mason has been invited by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to offer this baccalaureate training, she says. A similar program was implemented in 1995.

Ten students are currently in the program, and six more begin this fall. In addition, a complementary program in nursing education delivered through distance learning to Saudi students is set to begin soon. Eighteen students are enrolled in the pilot program, which will deliver nine courses online over a 12-month period. Future plans call for a multiyear contract between the university and Saudi Arabia to expand the online program.

“Globalization and international education are a major focus of George Mason, and it is extremely significant that Saudi Arabia chose us to assist in its nursing education programs,” Carty explains. “Not

only are we producing leadership for Saudi Arabia’s future, the university is establishing a reputation and visibility in the Middle East and emerging internationally as a leader in nursing education.”

Mason Students Embark on U.N. Assignments

The first group of George Mason students has traveled abroad as part of the university’s new connection with United Nations Volunteers and its U.N. Information Technology Services (UNITeS) initiative. UNITeS is designed to help developing nations by strengthening their capacities to apply information and communications technologies to human development projects.

Sonja Taylor, U.N. projects coordinator in the Provost’s Office, says, “the response has been tremendous” to the U.N. opportunities. Five students selected from 100 applicants have embarked on two-month assignments for which they will receive internship credit. Four students in the “IT Corps” went to Ecuador, where they are training citizens to use computers in various community organizations. The fifth student went to Bosnia to design web pages for a U.N.-sponsored organization committed to lessening tension between ethnic groups.

George Mason is the first institution of higher learning in the world to form a partnership with UNITeS. Future plans call for placing students in 10 other Latin American, African, European, and Asian countries where there are UNITeS volunteer projects.

