

Jason King

From: Mason Academic Advisor Network <maan=gmu.edu@mail181.wdc02.mcdlv.net> on behalf of Mason Academic Advisor Network <maan@gmu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 5:22 PM
To: Jason King
Subject: MAAN August Newsletter



Mason Academic Advisor Network Newsletter
August 1, 2017

Letter from the Co-Chair

Dear MAAN,

As I have grown older, I have come to value the importance of time. Its definition is forever shifting. Time deputies one moment with the next one; some similar in character while others surprise us with something fresh, transfixing or daunting. In the sphere of academic advising, there are no two days that are exactly alike and that is one of the aspects that I enjoy most; we are constantly learning and in turn, constantly growing.



As one of your Co-Chairs, I wanted to take a brief moment to reflect on what the Mason Academic Advisor Network (MAAN) means to me as we embark into the final orientation push. For starters, MAAN has given me the platform to develop meaningful connections with other advisors/academic units that otherwise would have been more challenging to attain. I have been in my current position at Mason since

November 2015 and MAAN has accelerated the process of facilitating meaningful relationships for me across our decentralized campus. For this very reason, I am extremely fortunate to have claimed my role. Orientation sessions hold more value to me now because of the collaboration component. Whether it is presenting a College 101, interacting with a new student for the first time or simply having a breezy chat with an advising colleague who works on the opposite side of campus from me, MAAN has positively enhanced all of these experiences.

So, with all of this being said, *MAAN is for everyone!* There is something for each and every one of us. Whether it is participating in our Steering Committee meetings to discuss policy changes or new initiatives that affect advising, going through the Mason Advisor Certificate training modules or participating in Registration Awareness Week, everyone can be an active shareholder in our cooperative advising community. MAAN is what you make it to be. You can contribute to the network a little or a lot, but nonetheless, *still participate*. If you have not done so already, claim your role!

In parting, I wish you all an enjoyable August! As we prepare for the fall semester, please consider what you want your level of engagement within the advising community to look like. Opportunities for professional development and student outreach are plentiful. Lastly, whatever your role is here at Mason, make sure to have fun and enjoy the experience along the way.

Troy Lowery
Student Services Coordinator
School of Integrative Studies
College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Advisor Spotlight:

Kareema M. Smith

What is your background/education?

I am a proud 2x Mason alumna. I have a B.S. in Psychology and a M.S. in Educational Psychology. When I first began at Mason, I was undeclared but for most of my life I had hopes in wanting to become a teacher. During my first semester, I took the Introduction to Psychology course and fell in LOVE! I was truly fascinated by the field. A couple of years later, I stumbled upon Educational Psychology and immediately thought that it was the perfect merge of the subjects I've always felt most passionate about!



What brought you to academic advising?

As an undergraduate student, I worked for the Center for Academic Advising, Retention and Transitions (CAART) as a Peer Advisor. While in this position, I discovered that Melitta Igwe had created a new position titled, Peer Academic Advisor (PAA) where students worked in CAART and advised undeclared students. I was immediately intrigued. I remember how I had felt as an undeclared student and how much Melitta and others had done to help me. The most exciting aspect of the position was that as fellow students we could provide a different perspective to the students we advised. We might have taken the class that they were thinking about or at least we probably knew someone who had. For some of us, we personally knew what it felt like to be unsure about your major and/or academic path. I had worked at least 6 or 7 different jobs before I became a PAA and once I started, it was the only job that I was always excited to go to. That is how I knew that academic advising was something I wanted to pursue further.

Whom do you advise on campus?

Since the Honors College has students in all majors, we divide the majors amongst

the advisors in the college. I advise all students in the College of Health and Human Services (Community Health, Health Administration, Nursing, Rehabilitation Science, and Social Work) and all students in the College of Education and Human Development (Athletic Training, Health, Fitness, and Recreation Resources, Kinesiology, and Tourism and Events Management). I also advise all Psychology students because of my background in Psychology. I am always looking to connect with my fellow advisors in the major departments!

What do you love most about your job?

What makes me most excited about my job is that as a Student Success Coordinator, I get to support students in a number of different ways. I work with students who might need help with academic strategies, connect students to other resources on campus, and support retention efforts in the college by meeting with students and developing personalized academic plans. The one-on-one interactions I have with students to help them define and carry out their vision of success is the best part of my job!

What does your dream vacation look like?

I am an amateur traveler so I do not necessarily have a “dream vacation” but more of a hope that during my life, I can see as much of the world as possible! That includes random cities in the U.S. to countries across the globe. Currently, I am hopeful that in the next 6 months I can visit at least one U.S. city I haven’t traveled to before and to visit South America for the first time.

Congratulations to Our Recent Mason Advising Certificate (MAC) Recipients

- Mark Hatcher, Business
- Elizabeth Hesse, Business
- Sharon Kim, Mason Korea
- Yena Kim, Business

- Sarah Kincaid, SCAR
- Bradley Morris, Business
- Andreina Sanchez, Advanced Professional Teacher Development, CEHD
- Kelly Severo, Special Education, CEHD
- Laura Thomas, Psychology, CHSS

Congratulations!

[Learn more about the Mason Advising Certificate!](#)



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By: Janet Ha Poirot

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