



January 23, 2015

Hello MAAN!!!

Welcome to the awesomeness that is the spring 2015 semester. All together...let's take a deep breath. (this is where you take the deep breath) Felt good right? Do that whenever you feel something happening and you need the slightest bit of a pause.

Before I go any further and talk about what is in store for this semester, I want to reflect back on the last year and give a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing co-chair Jon May for doing a stellar job and raising the bar for what being a co-chair is all about.

Now, I want congratulate and introduce Ann Ludwick from the School of Policy, Government and International Affairs as the new co-chair of the Mason Academic Advisor Network. I am more than thrilled to have Ann on board as she and I have had a friendship of over 14 years, and I look forward to working with her on the many initiatives that MAAN is working on.

The MAC program is stronger than ever, and after a series of meetings and revisions, we are looking forward to offering our series this upcoming semester. The dates are being finalized and will become public shortly. The very popular Learn Over Lunch series got started off with a bang as Ryan Zimmerman (not that one) from the Registrar's Office gave an insightful session on accelerated master's degree.

I could go on and on, but I will stop here. If you have a question, comment, concern or suggestion, please do not hesitate to contact me with those. I am always around for the advising community.

Best wishes for an awesome spring 2015!  
-Assad

### Registration Awareness Week

Registration Awareness Week (RAW) is a MAAN initiative aimed at encouraging students to prepare for registration early! This Spring, we will be encouraging students between March 16-23. Our goal is to increase students' preparation for academic planning sessions and to encourage them to not wait until the last minute to seek out

their advisor.

We will be advertising in many locations on campus including Mason Ads, easels, Info Desk, Southside tri-folds, social media, Broadside, receipts, sidewalk chalk, and napkin holders.

In addition, advisors will be stationed at the JC kiosks (times TBA) to answer questions and spread the word all week.

We will also continue our partnership with CEHD, who will host the [Think You Want to be a Teacher?](#) event on Thursday, March 19! We will also end our Registration Awareness Week with the Advising Expo that will occur on Monday, March 23.

Questions? Contact Liz Kalinowski at [ekalinow@gmu.edu](mailto:ekalinow@gmu.edu).

### Spring 2015 Learn Over Lunch Dates

SAVE THE DATE - Get Ready to LOL!

The MAAN Learn Over Lunch (LOL) Planning Committee is excited to announce the upcoming LOL topics for Spring 2015. Please mark your calendars so you don't miss out on these timely discussions with your peers regarding various programs, services and best practices in advising.

Spring 2015:

- February 10 - Orientation Best Practices (SUB I, 3A)
- March 10 - Professional Development Open Session: Topic TBD (SUB I, 3A)
- April 14 - Off-Campus Student Programs and Services (SUB I, 3A)
- May 12 - INTO: Experiences of the First Year (SUB I, 3A)

All sessions run from 12:00-1:00pm. Also, look out for LOL Extras on other important topics!

Questions? Contact Assad Khan at [akhanf@gmu.edu](mailto:akhanf@gmu.edu)

### Mason Advisor Certificate



The Mason Advisor Certificate (MAC) committee is working diligently on the final improvements of the modules. Thank you for your patience as we finalize the dates. We will circulate the dates as soon as they are confirmed.

### Other Professional Development Opportunities

UndocuAlly Training  
Friday, February 20, 2015; 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
or

Sunday, April 12, 2015; 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Modeled after the UndocuAlly trainings at UC Berkeley, Mason DREAMers introduced its first UndocuAlly training in the Spring semester of 2014. This training is designed to educate faculty, students, and staff at Mason on the history, legislation, and the current realities of the undocumented community. Our goal is to cultivate a more supportive environment for undocumented students through education. Upon completing the training, "UndocuAllies" serve as knowledgeable campus resources for undocumented students seeking support. The trainings are typically six hours long, composed of several interactive and informative activities. Participants will leave training with an understanding of:

- The current immigration movement and legislation that affects undocumented students
- The connotations and misconceptions that are attached to undocumented students
- The personal experiences of some undocumented students in the Mason community
- Statistics on the undocumented student body population at Mason
- The resources available on campus and in the community for undocumented students
- Your roles and responsibilities as allies

After completing the training, participants can sign the UndocuAlly Agreement outlining their roles and responsibilities as allies and be added to the Ally Directory, as future resources for undocumented students seeking support.

Please register at <http://www.masondreamers.org/become-an-ally.html>

Webinar: Advising Student Organizations  
Wednesday, January 28, 2015  
2:00pm - 3:30pm  
Johnson Center, Room E  
[RSVP today!](#)

Sponsored by Student Involvement

Student Involvement is excited to provide an opportunity for Registered Student Organization (RSO) Advisors to attend a webinar on advising student organizations. The title of the webinar is, "Advising Student Groups on Campus: Essential Roles & Responsibilities" and will address many things that you might face as an advisor. Some of these might include balancing professional responsibilities with advisor expectations, providing guidance and direction on organizational and academic issues, or building professional advisor-student relationships. This webinar will also explore best practices for us to explore implementing on our campus.

We hope to see you at the webinar and look forward to learning with you.

Questions? Please contact Sara (Morrisroe) Heming, [smorrisr@gmu.edu](mailto:smorrisr@gmu.edu)

NACADA Region 2 Conference

Enriching the Advising Experience: Research, Innovation, and Collaboration in  
Helping Students Succeed

March 18-20, 2015

Richmond, VA

Register by February 26 for the discounted rate.

Additional details, including registration information, can be found on the [website](#).



Save the Date!

Advising Roundtable  
Thursday, March 26, 12-2pm



### Advisor Spotlight

We are thrilled to have Ann Ludwick, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Student Services for the School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs as our Advisor Spotlight for this month!

What is your background/education?

I'm a Virginia girl. I grew up in Fairfax about two miles from campus, and then went to Longwood University to study German. I've only been away from Virginia for two years. That's when I married my college sweetheart and we lived in Dayton, Ohio. We returned to Fairfax, I started the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at Mason, and planned for a career with the federal government. As it happened, I soon got a job on campus with the former School of Public Policy. A perfect set up - work here while I earn my degree. I loved working at Mason so much, I ditched the government for university administration!



How did you get involved in advising?

I've been here for 21 years, mostly working with graduate students. I managed the education leadership master's for a year, then found my home with the former Department of Public and International Affairs in 1998 coordinating the, surprise!, MPA program. This led to more opportunities for professional growth, including being able to pursue doctoral studies in the Higher Education Program. My doctorate fit very nicely with our undergraduate program and in June 2011, I accepted the role of undergraduate director. I jumped into the world of undergraduate advising with both feet.

What are your advising interests?

I found that my advising interests matched my research interests in experiential education. One of my favorite roles is guiding the internship program. Since fall 2012, I've worked with over 200 interns. I am amazed at the opportunities our students find.

Each semester, you can find Mason students with the State Department, Senators and members of Congress, embassies, law firms, and county offices; three times I've worked with White House interns!

What are your career goals/aspirations?

Since August 2014, I've served in a new role in our new school: assistant dean for undergraduate student services in the School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs. This opportunity fits right in line with my career goals. I'm still an academic advisor, which I love, and I do dean stuff, too, which works well for me because I'm a true administrator at heart. I dig bureaucracy!

I've kept up with my German interests, too. Last October I participated in a two-week Fulbright trip to Berlin, Mannheim, and Mainz to learn about higher education in Germany.

What is something surprising about you?

My favorite soundtrack is the love rock musical "HAIR" and I know all the words.

## Current Issues in Advising



Obama Proposes Free Community College for Millions of Students

[Read more](#)



College Students Think They're Ready for the Work Force. Employers Aren't So Sure.

[Read more](#)



Exploring the Relationship between Student Understanding of Degree Requirements and Academic Performance

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