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**Sent:** Friday, May 12, 2017 9:31 AM  
**To:** Jason King  
**Subject:** MAAN May Newsletter



*Mason Academic Advisor Network Newsletter*  
*May 12, 2017*

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***Letter from the Co-Chair***

Hello MAAN,

Breathe in... release... repeat. We have made it to the end of the spring 2017 semester and what a semester it has been! We ushered in the spring with heavy participation in the Student Experience Redesign summit in early February; in March we hosted the Mason/VCCS Advising Symposium, recognized Troy Lowery (SIS and MAAN Co-Chair) Academic Advisor of the Year, while also having several MAAN advisors attend and present at the NACADA Region 2 Conference in Pittsburgh (read below for more details!); April brought many of us to the NVCC Annandale campus to attend the NOVA/Mason Advising Symposium, and next week, on May 11th, we hit one of our biggest milestones to date – reaching our 5-year



anniversary, or MAANiversary as we're affectionately calling it.

We've come a long way, baby! Our productivity and achievements from this past semester reflect the culture and service to our students we have been able to cultivate over the past five years. Yet we keep growing – [the new ADVANCE partnership with the Northern Virginia Community College system](#) presents new challenges and opportunities to reach and advise degree-seeking undergrads. I have no doubt that the MAAN community will rise to the challenge and the many more that will surely evolve as Mason moves forward on educating 100,000 career-ready graduates by 2024.

As I wrap up my last month as Co-Chair I share with you my MAAN birthday wish – that MAAN continues to be a source of advising resources and professional development for the Mason community and that we continue to strengthen the cross-campus communication and collaboration necessary to better serve our students for MAANy, MAANy years to come (what's a birthday wish without a pun?).

Happy Birthday, MAAN!

Sara Montiel  
Advising and Retention Coordinator  
College of Education and Human Development

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***Letter from Jeannie Brown Leonard, Dean of Student  
Academic Affairs***

Dear MAAN,

As the academic year comes to a close, I write to thank MAAN members and the talented co-chairs, Sara Montiel and Troy Lowrey, for your amazing contributions to our student success efforts.

May is a pivot month for me: I look back at the year to reflect and celebrate while simultaneously looking ahead to the coming summer and new academic year. We are nearing the close of year two of our iPASS grant and need to both look back and look ahead to make sure we accomplish the goals of our funding. To help us in this effort, I have hired a Communication Coordinator to work part time to collect your stories around iPASS – particularly your engagement with the Student Success Collaborative –Campus product.



I am pleased to announce that Janet Ha Poirot will be working part-time to create content for our communication efforts. Some of you know Janet. She worked for many years with the Bachelor of Individualized Study (BIS) program at Mason as an academic advisor and records specialist. One of her first assignments in this new role is to engage with you about your experiences. We know academic advisors are doing great work – in advising, in leveraging technology, in making a difference in the lives of students. We want to learn from you, celebrate great work, and gather constructive feedback on how to make our work more meaningful. If you have a story to tell, please let Janet know. Her email address is [jha2@gmu.edu](mailto:jha2@gmu.edu). Thank you for all you do.

Best wishes for successful end to the semester. I hope you are ready and eager to welcome new Patriots to campus over the summer!

Jeanie Brown Leonard  
Dean of Student Academic Affairs - Advising, Retention & Transitions

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## **NACADA Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference**

The NACADA Region 2 conference, [Academic Advisors: Champions of Student Success!](#), was



held in Pittsburgh, PA this past March 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. We're proud to share that Mason advisors, Stephanie Barnett (CLS), Jon May (CAART), and Emma Cutrufello (INTO), were among the presenters. Not only was Emma a presenter at this conference of 516 attendees, but this was her first ever NACADA event! Jon and Stephanie, now veterans to presenting on the Advisor Mentorship Program, earned 4.2 out of 5 stars for their presentation! MAAN is so proud of these three advisors, they are our Mason champions! Presentation titles are included below:

Stephanie Barnett and Jon May: Better Together: Supporting New and Experienced Advisors through Peer Mentorship

Emma Cutrufello: Filling the Mentor Gap: Academic Advising for International Graduate Students

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## **Advisor Spotlight: Stephanie Barnett**

### **What is your background/education?**

I graduated from George Mason with my B.A. in Global Affairs (concentration in Africa) in May 2007.

### **What brought you to academic advising?**

Like most of my fellow advisors...I fell into it. As a student, I starting working part-time as a receptionist in the CAART office in 2004 (when it was still known as the Academic Advising Center), and about a year after graduating with my bachelor's I realized that I missed the feel of the University environment, so I started looking for positions back at Mason. My first full-time



position at Mason was for the BIS Program as a Student Services Manager, and it was that position that sparked my interest in academic advising. I really enjoyed being that person students knew they could come to for answers, and provide guidance in their experience at Mason. I left Mason for a position at Georgetown University, and returned a little over a year later for a full-time advising position that opened up in my current department (CLS)...and the rest is history...

**Whom do you advise on campus?**

I advise for Undergraduate students in the Criminology, Law and Society department with CHSS.

**What do you love most about your job?**

I love it when students realize that they have control over their college experience, and that with informed decision-making and a plan, they can accomplish a lot in a short period of time. I think it is important to try to keep them excited about moving forward in whatever way speaks to them.

**What does your dream vacation look like?**

I spent a good part of my life moving every 2 years or so (military family), so I'm always looking for a new place to visit – particularly those with a good view and an experience that is a bit different than the traditional. With that, my current dream vacation would be somewhere out West exploring the mountains and deserts – whether backpacking or living out of a van – if I come back with a few cool stories, I'll be happy.

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## **Congratulations to Our Recent Mason Advising Certificate (MAC) Recipients**

- Marie Champagne, Advanced Professional Teacher Development and Int'l Education, CEHD
- Matt Green, SCHAR
- Mike Hurley, Psychology, CHSS
- Myra Khan, INTO Mason

- Calvin Li, INTO Mason
- Jakob Pezar, International Programs and Services
- Dominique Vines, Housing and Residence Life
- Shelby Waugh, Interdisciplinary Studies, CHSS



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Learn more about the Mason Advising Certificate!

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## Upcoming Elective Options for MAC

Tuesday, May 16

12:00 -1:00 pm

[Learn Over Lunch: Financial Aid](#)

Wednesday, May 24, and Thursday, May 25

9:00am-1:00pm

[Mental Health First Aid Training](#)



Multiple dates in May

FERPA 101

Log in to Mason Workshops via: <http://registrar.gmu.edu/ferpa/>

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## Current Issues in Advising

[Students First: Aligning Student Success Initiatives](#)

[The evolution of academic advising--and what comes next](#)

[4 things Pokemon GO taught me about student success](#)



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