

December 2024

Advisor Accolades and Announcements Newsletter

Advisor Explores New Pathways to Support Students with Trauma



Jill Manuel, an Exploratory Academic Advisor at George Mason University, recently presented at the 2024 NACADA National Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. Her session addressed the critical topic of supporting students with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Drawing from personal experience and research, Jill focused on how early trauma impacts students' academic journeys and mental health, emphasizing the role academic advisors play in fostering safe spaces for these students.

The presentation explored the science behind childhood trauma and discussed practical strategies for trauma-informed practices in higher education. Jill's goal is to raise awareness about how advisors can meet these students where they are, helping to break cycles of trauma. Reflecting on her motivation, Jill shared that navigating higher education as a first-generation student from an unstable background profoundly shaped her career. She also expressed her excitement about the engagement she receives during these sessions, saying, "It takes a lot for me to get up in front of people, but seeing the interest and conversations that follow makes it worth it." Jill encourages others to pursue opportunities to present, saying, "If you're passionate about a topic, presenting can be a great chance for growth."

Jill's passion for supporting students with Adverse Childhood Experiences extends beyond conference presentations. She developed The Empowerment, Agency & Resiliency Workshop series at Mason, which helps undergraduate students with early life trauma build skills in empowerment, self-advocacy, and resilience. Additionally, Jill has presented on this critical topic at various events, including the Mason Advising Symposium and the College of Education and Human Development Graduate Research Symposium. Her presentations highlight the importance of trauma-informed practices in higher education and continue to spark meaningful conversations among advisors and practitioners.

Shout Outs!

Shout out to our **Patriot Connect Change Champions!** Your time and effort mean so much to this project, and we're so grateful for everything you're doing to help make it a success. Thank you for being such a big part of this journey!

Antonio Stewart would like to give kudos to **Lubna Zia-Uddin** for doing an amazing job conducting a Developing Advising Practices (DAP) Session: "Advising Students Through Grief: Tools for Compassionate Conversations" to the George Mason Academic Advising Community and to **Maria Wilkins** for developing a well-attended and informed Health Professions Week!

Advisor Spotlight: Julio Diaz-Carroll



Julio Diaz-Carroll is an academic advisor in the College of Public Health, currently in his third year in the role. A proud Mason alumnus, Julio earned a BA in Music and an MA in Higher Education and Student Development. Before joining academic advising, he spent 10 years with University Life. In addition to his advising duties, Julio is the advisor for the Águilas Mentoring Program, earning the RSO Advisor of the Year Quill Award for 2023-2024. Outside of work, Julio cherishes quality time with his husband, enjoying movies and soccer games at home. Thank you, Julio, for your dedication!

Congratulations!

2024 Jade Barricelli Spirit of Academic Advising Excellence Award Winner

Congratulations to Marie Champagne in CEHD for being selected as this year's winner!

CHSS Service Excellence Award

Marty Abruzzo, academic advisor and student services coordinator within the School of Integrative Studies, received this 2024 College of Humanities and Social Sciences honor. Congratulations, Marty!

University Day Service Awards 2024

Congratulations to everyone who was recognized at the University Day Service Awards! Extra special shout out to Michael Hurley (CHSS) and Ann Ludwick (Schar) for reaching their 30-year milestone at George Mason!

For a full list of honorees, see the programs below.

[Green Day Program \(5-15 years\)](#) [Gold Day Program \(20-50 years\)](#)

Announcement: Assad Khan will be the guest coach at the Mason Women's Basketball game vs George Washington on Saturday, January 25th at 3 PM! Wishing you a winning day, Assad!



Welcome!

Say hello to folks who are new to the academic advising community at George Mason!

Alexandra Masterson, new Faculty Advisor for Biology, COS

Sophia Sarver, new Academic Advisor for Mechanical Engineering, CEC

Elliott Warner, new Academic Advisor for Costello College of Business

Jamie Hite, new Associate Director of Student and Academic Affairs, CEHD

Congratulations to an advisor in a new role!

Jo Jones, Academic Advisor new to the Costello College of Business

