

Wishing Carrie a Happy Retirement!

We want to wish Carrie Grabo a fond farewell and congratulations on her retirement! Carrie will be retiring on February 1, 2026. She has been the undergraduate coordinator in the Department of History and Art History since November 2008. Though she values her time with the department and the students, she is looking forward to retirement. Her background is in writing and literature (she earned her MFA in Creative Writing with a concentration in Poetry back in 2004 from George Mason), and she will have more time for that as well as her other interests including being in nature, activism, making handcrafts, cooking, health and wellness, and spending time with family.



“Carrie Grabo is the heart of our undergraduate program. Always helpful and cheerful, she offers endless support to faculty as well as undergraduates. She is unfailingly patient and up-beat, in [addition] to being very knowledgeable. We are grateful for her contributions at George Mason; she will be greatly missed!” – Jane Hooper, Professor, Department of History and Art History

“I’ve had the privilege of knowing Carrie Grabo since the days of Robinson Hall. Her thoughtful and engaged approach to advising has been a model for me in my own work. There is no better advocate for students or friend to advisors than Carrie Grabo, and our entire community wishes her well in her retirement!” – Erin McSherry, Assistant Dean for Student Success (CHSS)

The winner of this year’s Jade Barricelli Spirit of Academic Advising Excellence Award is Kayla Turner, Senior Academic Advisor for Early Childhood Education in the College of Education and Human Development. Congratulations, Kayla!

University Day Service Awards 2025

Congratulations to everyone (including me!) who was recognized at the Gold and Green Day Service Awards! The celebrations took place in November. Green Day Service Awards honor those who have been employed at George Mason or the state of Virginia for 5-15 years. Gold Day Service Awards honor those who have been employed for 20-50. You can see a complete list of honorees in the programs.

[Green Day Program](#) | [Gold Day Program](#)

Maria Perez congratulates Kristin Tyburczy on earning the Developing Advising Practice (DAP) certificate!

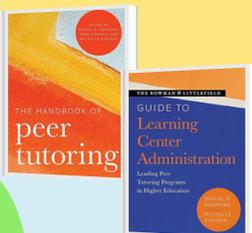


Advisor Spotlight: Carson Tatton

Carson Tatton is a senior academic advisor in the Costello College of Business. He has been at George Mason for four years after previously working in Utah for six. His advising career has been varied, including programs like foreign language and education, and most of it has been distance or online programs. Carson is currently earning his PhD in higher education with research in online learner readiness, learner analytics, and AI policy. In the little time he has outside of work and school, he enjoys sports, knitting, blacksmithing, and playing video games.

Congratulations to these winners of CEHD Staff Awards!

- Community and Engagement Award - Cathy Gabbay
- Exemplary Service Award - Kayla Turner
- Junior Staff Award - Jackie Beck
- Senior Staff Award - Mandy Jenkins



New Director & Published Author

In October of this year, the new Director of Undergraduate Academic Success, Michelle Steiner, published her latest book *The Handbook of Peer Tutoring*. She also previously co-authored *The Rowman & Littlefield Guide to Learning Center Administration: Leading Peer Tutoring Programs in Higher Education (Theory & Practice for Peer Tutors & Learning Center Professionals)*, published in 2021. When asked if she has any advice for those who are thinking about writing, she says, “If anyone is thinking about trying their hand at publishing, I would suggest finding a colleague that has experience under their belt and is willing to help, either through being a co-author or a ‘guide-on-the-side.’ It’s quite an undertaking, so the more support in place, the better!”



Pictured L-R: Antonio Stewart (UE), Jessica Ostrowski-Wright (CEC), Carol McHugh (CEC), Claudia Borke (CEC), Assad Khan (COS)



Welcome!

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

Nicole Gray, new academic advisor for Cyber Security Engineering, CEC

Josef Simpson and **Emily DiCecco**, new academic advisors for Computer Science, CEC

Sarah Alharshan and **Mary Rose McAndrews**, new academic advisors for Information Sciences & Technology, CEC

Morgan Cahill, new academic advisor for Environmental Science and Policy, COS

Hayley Shifflett, new graduate assistant for Forensic Science, COS

John Hwang, **Nargiza Kanybek Kyzy**, and **Tatiana Satorre-Tate**, new academic advisors for Costello College of Business

Patrick Brame, new academic advisor for Exploratory Academic Advising

Shannon Layman, new faculty advisor for Psychology, CHSS

Patricia Sinclair, new faculty advisor for Neuroscience, COS

Congratulations to an advisor in a new role!

Amy Vaillancourt Mandt, academic advisor new to Communication, CHSS

Joshua Fletcher was featured on the University of Florida’s College of Education website to recognize his NACADA Region 2 Excellence in Advising award: [EduGator alum awarded for excellence in academic advising](#). Joshua graduated from UF back in 2016.

FALL 2025

Antonio Stewart wants to give kudos to Jill Manuel for her fifth presentation this year! Her most recent one was at Immaculata University, and she has another presentation in February.

NACADA Annual Conference

Members of our advising community traveled to Las Vegas last October for the NACADA Annual Conference. The theme was “Viva Advising: Excellence in Student Support”. Jessica Ostrowski-Wright shared that she had a wonderful experience and that it was “such a great opportunity to connect with advisors around the country, share best practices, and learn from their expertise.” Claudia Borke said, “Beyond the formal sessions, the NACADA conference provided valuable opportunities for networking. Attendees could connect with specific communities, whether based on cultural background, gender, or advising focus.” Assad Khan enjoyed* an overpriced \$13 slice of pizza. *not the word he used

Scan the QR code to visit the [Advisor Accolades and Announcements Newsletter website](#). There you can also find a link to the submission form if you would like to submit an announcement, shout out, or nomination for the advisor spotlight for an upcoming issue.

advising.gmu.edu/for-advisors

