



Celebration
of Distinction
HONORING MASON
EXCELLENCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023
6 P.M.
HILTON MCLEAN TYSONS CORNER





Dear Mason Nation,

Good evening, it is my honor to serve as your George Mason University Alumni Association president and to welcome you to the Celebration of Distinction—the university's longest running celebration of alumni achievements.

Our network of more than 230,000 alumni spans the globe. Our alumni make a difference in their communities, their workplaces, and in the lives of others. Whether combatting climate change, developing and shaping policy, teaching the next generation of leaders, or anything in between, Mason alumni are changing the world—one person at a time.

As you hear from this year's distinguished alumni and Alumni Association award winners, I encourage you to think about your Mason story and the impact you can have on current and future Patriots. What do you want your Mason legacy to be? How will you continue to engage? In addition to your philanthropic gifts, which are critical to Mason's success, there are so many ways for you to make a difference here at Mason. You can mentor a student, speak in the classroom, or hire a Patriot. You can attend an event and bring your fellow alumni with you! Review all the great events and programs we offer by scanning the QR code below.

Thank you for being with us tonight to celebrate our alumni and honor Mason excellence. I look forward to working with you to achieve your impact, and remember, once a Patriot, always a Patriot.

With Patriot Pride,

Christine A. Landoll

Christine Landoll, BS '89, MS '92

President, George Mason University Alumni Association

**Scan here to learn more about our
upcoming events and programs!**



DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



Dr. Gregory Washington
President, George Mason University



Trishana E. Bowden
President, George Mason University Foundation, and
Vice President, Advancement and Alumni Relations



Jennifer W. Robinson, JM '02
Associate Vice President, Alumni Relations



Jason J. Howell, BS '97
2021 Alumni Service Award

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

THE ANTONIN SCALIA LAW SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

William S. Consovoy, JD '01

THE DISTINGUISHED BLACK ALUMNI AWARD

Isaac W. K. Thweatt, BM '05

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Gabe Segal, MEd Education Leadership '22

THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Maruf Ahmed, BS Electrical Engineering '90, MS '95

THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Sarah Godlewski, BA Integrative Studies '04

THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Elma Levy, BSN '91

THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Christine Fox, BS Mathematics '76, MS '80

THE COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS THOMAS W. ISZARD IV DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Kyle Bishop, BFA Computer Game Design '13

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

THE GREEN MACHINE ENSEMBLES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Paul Bernfeld, BA History '14

THE HONORS COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Jerod Parker, BS Electrical Engineering '97

THE JIMMY AND ROSALYNN CARTER SCHOOL FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Joseph J. Yarsiah, MS Conflict Analysis and Resolution '14

THE DISTINGUISHED LAMBDA ALUMNI AWARD

LuLu Géza Kelemen, BA Integrative Studies '11, MA Sociology '15

THE DISTINGUISHED LATINO ALUMNI AWARD

Andres G. Maldonado, BS Management '07, MAIS '12

THE SCHAR SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Ryan Touhill, BA Government and International Politics '06

THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Elaine Marion, BS Accounting '95

THE DISTINGUISHED VETERANS ALUMNI AWARD

Troy Lowery, BA Environmental and Sustainability Studies '15, MAIS '18

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

THE ALUMNA OF THE YEAR AWARD

Shaza L. Andersen, BA Area Studies '89

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Brandon O. Thompson, BS Administration of Justice '08

THE GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE (G.O.L.D.) AWARD

Cordelia Cranshaw Skeete, BSW '14

THE FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Keith Renshaw, PhD

THE SENIOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hannah Adamson, BA Conflict Analysis and Resolution '23

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS



THE ANTONIN SCALIA LAW SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Will Consovoy, JD '01, was founding partner of Consovoy McCarthy. He passed away on January 9, 2023, surrounded by his family.

“Most of the legal community knows of Will because of his brilliant analytical mind. With good reason. He was an exceptionally skilled writer and among the top advocates of his generation. And he was widely respected throughout the legal world for his unique skill as a litigation strategist,” said Tom McCarthy, cofounder of the firm. “But to those lucky enough to count him as a friend, Will was so much more than that. He had a huge heart and was the most loyal of friends. Always putting others’ interests before his own, Will went out of his way to help a friend or family member in need. He loved to make other people smile—and loved even more to make them laugh. It is his love, loyalty, and laughter that we will miss most of all.”

Consovoy’s impact on the law was enormous. A graduate of Monmouth University and Mason’s Antonin Scalia Law School, Consovoy clerked in Arlington County Circuit Court and for Judge Edith H. Jones of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit before clerking for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Following his clerkships, Consovoy worked at Wiley Rein, where he was instrumental in litigating Supreme Court cases challenging the University of Texas’s use of race in admissions and Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

In 2014, Consovoy and McCarthy left Wiley Rein to start their firm. There, Consovoy personally argued two Supreme Court cases and spearheaded successful landmark lawsuits against Harvard College and the University of North Carolina, both of which were recently decided by the Supreme Court.



THE DISTINGUISHED BLACK ALUMNI AWARD

Isaac W. K. Thweatt, BM '05, is a nonprofit executive, fundraiser, clinician, and performing artist who serves as chief advancement officer for the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx, New York. Before this position, he held higher education and advancement leadership roles at Emerson College in Boston, Columbia University in New York City, and American University in Washington, D.C.

Originally from southern central Virginia, Thweatt earned a bachelor of music in performance from George Mason University and a master of science in management from The Catholic University of America, continuing his postgraduate studies in higher education management at the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate School of Education and in diversity and equity at the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

A longtime alumni volunteer, Thweatt proudly served as the fourth president of the George Mason University Black Alumni Chapter (2006–07). He is a member of the Mason Arts Board, an alumni brother and past president of the Iota Alpha Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and a fervent supporter of various Mason initiatives. Thweatt is also a former College of Visual and Performing Arts Alumni Chapter board member and a past perennial speaker for the Mason LeaderShape Institute. In his early career, he served as a steward of the School of Management Alumni Chapter board (2006–12).



THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Gabe Segal, MEd Education Leadership '22, is a science and special education teacher at Herndon Middle School. He was adopted from an orphanage in Moscow, Russia, at 9 months old. He's been a teacher for 5 years and hopes to be an assistant principal in the near future.

During the school day, you can find Segal volunteering in the cafeteria, or walking the halls checking in with teachers. He has a passion for building relationships with all students, staff members, families, and community members.

In the past year, Segal has been an advocate for having free, universal school meals for all students in Fairfax County Public Schools. In 2019, he paid off the school meal debt at his former school, Sleepy Hollow Elementary. He learned the impact of school meal debt on families and decided to advocate for lower income families. This past school year, he created a fundraiser to pay off the debt at Herndon Middle School. Segal raised more than \$50,000 and an article about his work was published in the *Washington Post*. Segal has been meeting with local and state leaders to share his perspective in the hopes of change.

Segal holds a bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Bridgewater College, a master's degree in special education from Mary Baldwin University and a master's in education leadership from George Mason University.



THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Maruf Ahmed, BS Electrical Engineering '90, MS '95, serves as the CEO of Dexian. As a cofounder of Dexian and an industry veteran, Ahmed focuses on continuous strategic planning, financial management, and overseeing the growing portfolio of all Dexian's services. Ahmed was part of growing the organization from a small start-up into one of the industry's largest and most reliable talent gap solutions provider.

Dexian, which resulted from the merger of DISYS and Signature Consultants, has grown 38 percent annually over the past 10 years—a testament to Ahmed's knowledge, persistence, and strategic focus on industry demands and technology solutions. His

focus has been to continually look for ways to innovate and grow in order to deliver an even better experience for Dexian's clients, consultants, and team members. Ahmed has been recognized for his leadership in the industry, including as one of Staffing Industry Analysts' 100 Most Influential People in the Staffing Industry in 2023.

Ahmed lives in McLean, Virginia, with his wife of 31 years, Sonal, whom he met at Mason. They share a son and twin daughters. When time permits, Ahmed likes to travel, read books, and attempt the challenging task of improving his golf game.



THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Sarah Godlewski, BA Integrative Studies '04, is an innovative and inclusive leader who has held key roles in business and government. Most recently, Godlewski was appointed to be Wisconsin's 31st secretary of state—a position that was held by only two women prior to her appointment. She also garnered national attention as a U.S. Senate candidate.

From 2019 to 2023, Godlewski served as Wisconsin's state treasurer, having been elected after successfully leading a bipartisan coalition to save the office. As treasurer, she chaired a \$1.3 billion trust fund that yielded record-breaking annual distributions to help finance schools and grew the fund by 19 percent. She also created a homeownership program and a child savings account program.

Prior to serving as treasurer, Godlewski cofounded the impact investment firm MaSa Partners, which invests in early stage, mission-driven businesses, and was a founding member of WE Capital Fund, which empowers female entrepreneurs through financing opportunities. Previously, Godlewski worked for almost a decade at the Pentagon after beginning her financial career supporting a microlending initiative in rural India.

Godlewski earned a bachelor of arts in integrative studies from George Mason University. She was a national security fellow with the U.S. Air Force's Air War College and has a certificate in public treasury management from the National Institute of Public Finance and Pepperdine School of Management. Godlewski has also attended the University of Pennsylvania's Executive Program for Public Administration. During her free time, Godlewski is cheering on Wisconsin sports teams with her husband and son and their rescue dog.



THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Elma Levy, BSN '91, is the cofounder of the Dovel Technologies government IT company. Dovel evolved from a two-person business in the attic of the Levys' home into a mature organization. In 2021, with Dovel at more than \$220 million in revenues and with approximately 1,200 full-time employees, she and her husband sold most of their equity to allow the company to continue its growth.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Levy is the founder of Coach to Strength, a company with a mission to guide and support leaders of start-ups through the scaling and maturing stages. She received her leadership coaching credentials at Mason's Center for the Advancement of Well-Being, with additional training at the Harvard School of Continuing Education and the Life Coach Institute of Orange County. She also cofounded the Eldov Group, a company with the mission to invest in early start-ups whose medical and IT solutions are designed to bring value to the public. She currently serves as chair of the governance committee and immediate past board chair for Montgomery Hospice, a nonprofit hospice organization in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Levy is a graduate of Harvard Business School's executive education program, Women on Boards: Succeeding as a Corporate Director, and currently serves on the corporate board of Highlight Technologies. Previously, she served for several years as a mentor for SCORE, where she supported and advised new and aspiring entrepreneurs. She also served as a mentor in residence for the George Washington University School of Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Levy started her career as a nurse at a diploma program in her native country, the Netherlands, and practiced nursing there, in Israel, and in the United States. She completed her BSN at George Mason University and her MSN/FNP degree at Marymount University. She practiced as a family nurse practitioner prior to her career change into business.

Levy is married and has two adult children, two grandchildren, and a dog named Rosie. She and her husband, Dov, are avid hikers and adventure travelers, and have summited Kilimanjaro, visited the gorillas in Africa, and made the polar jump together in Antarctica. They wrote a book together describing their experiences, *Partners in Life and Work*.



THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The Honorable **Christine Fox**, BS Mathematics '76, MS '80, served in President Barack Obama's administration as acting deputy secretary of defense and as director of cost assessment and program evaluation (CAPE) in the Department of Defense (DoD). As CAPE director, Fox served as the chief analyst to the secretary of defense. Most recently, she served as assistant director of policy and analysis at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics

Laboratory and is currently serving there as a senior fellow.

Prior to her DoD positions, she served as president of the Center for Naval Analyses, working there as a research analyst and manager. She is a member of the President's National Infrastructure Advisory Council, the Division of Engineering and Physical Sciences at the National Academies of Science, the board of directors of the U.S. Naval Institute, and is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She also serves on several advisory and governance boards of commercial and financial companies including Brown Advisory and Palantir Technologies.

She is a three-time recipient of the Department of Defense Distinguished Service Medal. She has also been awarded the Naval Heritage (Lone Sailor) Award and the Department of the Army's Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service. Fox holds bachelor and master of science degrees from George Mason University.



THE COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS THOMAS W. ISZARD IV DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Kyle Bishop, BFA Computer Game Design '13, started his career as an associate interactive producer at Discovery Creative before he co-founded Little Arms Studios. Bishop now has more than 10 years of experience developing and deploying mission critical, B2B, enterprise, and commercial-grade platforms including the Zephyr Drone Simulator, the interactive

virtual incident simulator (IVIS), and two published mobile applications in support of government and commercial clients.

Bishop has a foundational background in programming and strong technical skills in game development, serious games, gamification, simulation, and user interface (UI) development, which are complemented by project management and team leadership experience. He also volunteers time and resources toward helping various communities through STEM education, fundraising, and support.



THE GREEN MACHINE ENSEMBLES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Paul Bernfeld, BA History '14, helped found the Spirit Drumline and the Fife and Drum Corps, which are both part of accredited classes offered at George Mason University, and received the 2014 Green Machine Ensembles Director's Award for musicianship and leadership. After graduating, Bernfeld worked as the administrative and ensemble assistant for the Green Machine Ensembles until 2018, at which point he moved

to New York City to work on Broadway in theater production as a business manager. Once the pandemic shut down theaters, Bernfeld switched industries to advertising and became a project manager for Oliver Agency.

In 2021, Bernfeld moved back to Virginia and later left advertising to become a full-time freelance musician. He now performs regularly with ensembles including the Washington Commanders Marching Band and the Washington Wizards District Drummers. He also teaches percussion in Fairfax County and Loudoun County, and as an adjunct faculty member at Mason. Starting in the fall of 2023, Bernfeld will be returning to Mason as a student to work toward a master's degree in jazz studies.



THE HONORS COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Jerod M. Parker, BS Electrical Engineering '97, began his George Mason University journey in the fall semester of 1993 as one of 11 University Scholar award recipients that year. Once Parker completed his BS in electrical engineering in 1997, the MITRE Corporation selected him to receive the GEM Fellowship, which allowed him to continue his studies at Syracuse University. After the one-year graduate program, Parker

returned to Northern Virginia and to MITRE as a full-time employee.

Over the years, Parker's work at MITRE has centered around lab design and management, using skills he first developed as the computer lab manager for the original University Scholars Center in the Fairfax Campus's East Building. Parker has worked on innovative projects while at MITRE, including one effort that received two U. S. patents and another involving the design of an entire lab floor in MITRE's newest building on its McLean, Virginia, campus.

Although he is now in his 24th year with MITRE, Parker has started shifting his focus to the next phase of his life: retirement. In doing so, Parker is sharing his experiences and knowledge with his coworkers and with friends outside of MITRE to help them better prepare for their own lives beyond their working years. Parker lives in Fairfax with his wife, Tennille (BS Government and Politics '97), and two daughters.



THE JIMMY AND ROSALYNN CARTER SCHOOL FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Joseph Yarsiah, MS Conflict Analysis and Resolution '14, is the country director for GiveDirectly Liberia, his latest affiliation in a career devoted to community service and conflict resolution. GiveDirectly is the world's largest NGO dedicated exclusively to providing unconditional cash assistance to the impoverished.

Yarsiah joined GiveDirectly after four years as Save the Children's Liberia country manager and as rapid response humanitarian lead in Nigeria. In Liberia, Yarsiah led the organization's funding strategy and operations as well as strategic government and bilateral engagements. In Nigeria, Yarsiah led humanitarian responses in an area plagued with military insurgencies, famine, displacement, and interchanging drought and famine disasters.

Before joining Save the Children, Yarsiah led International Alert community dialogue programs in Liberia, mediating community natural resource, security, and inequity crises between local populations and encroaching extraction industries.

As a survivor and two-time refugee from the Liberian civil conflicts, Yarsiah's career reaches back to the streets and communities where he struggled to stay alive. He has

also worked extensively with Youth for Human Rights International and Applied Scholastics International on West African programs to empower youth. Yarsiah earned a BSc in economics from African Methodist University and his master's degree from the Carter School.



THE DISTINGUISHED LAMBDA ALUMNI AWARD

LuLu Géza Kelemen, BA Integrative Studies '11, MA Sociology '15, is the associate director for Mason's LGBTQ+ Resources Center. Their portfolio includes coordinating the Safe Zone+ Program, the LGBTQ+ Learning Community, the LGBTQ+ UNIV 100 section, the LGBTQ+ Mentoring Program, and supervising the center's student staff.

Originally from Vermont, Kelemen is a double graduate of George Mason University, earning their bachelor of arts in integrative studies with minors in women and gender studies with an LGBTQ focus and African and African American studies in 2011 and their master of arts in sociology in 2015. Kelemen's thesis focused on the intersections of athletic and gender identity and expression at the university level. During their time as an undergraduate student, they worked for the Mason LIFE Program, Women and Gender Studies Program, Housing and Residence Life, and what is now known as the School of Integrative Studies. During their graduate work, they served for three years as a graduate professional assistant before becoming a full-time employee in the LGBTQ+ Resources Center in 2017.

Kelemen also found a love for rugby in their student years as part of the founding group of the Mason women's rugby club in 2009. After a six-year hiatus from rugby, Kelemen is proud to say their return to rugby (and the Northern Virginia Women's Rugby Football Club) in the 2021–22 season included winning the Division 1 Women's USA Rugby Club national championship.



THE DISTINGUISHED LATINO ALUMNI AWARD

Andres Maldonado, BS Management '07, MAIS '12, is a first-generation college graduate who is dedicated to providing students with access to quality, affordable postsecondary education opportunities in an effort to address the achievement and opportunity gap. After receiving his bachelor's degree in business management from George Mason University, he developed and led several initiatives that continue to serve and impact the Mason community today. This includes creating

volunteer opportunities in Guatemala, organizing the Aguilas Latino male mentoring program, and leading the efforts to establish Mason's Latino Alumni Chapter.

In 2011, Maldonado completed his master's degree in higher education at Mason and went on to serve in roles at Northern Virginia Community College and the Posse Foundation, a nationally recognized student development program and leadership merit scholarship opportunity for students in the Washington, D.C., area.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

He currently serves as the associate director for the Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) program. ACES is a collaborative pathway partnership program between Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery College, and the Universities at Shady Grove that provides individualized support to increase college enrollment and completion and specifically serves student groups that are underrepresented in higher education. As the first campus student success coordinator, he was instrumental in launching the program at Montgomery College where he designed curriculum and critical interventions to support students to degree completion.

He recently began the dissertation process to complete his PhD in higher education leadership for changing populations at Notre Dame of Maryland University as part of continuing his work as a champion for student success.



THE SCHAR SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Ryan Touhill, BA Government and International Politics '06, is a recognized community and local government leader with 15 years of public sector experience. He serves as the director of economic development for Arlington County, Virginia, where he is responsible for the management and execution of Arlington's economic development strategy.

Prior to joining Arlington, Touhill served as both the senior vice president and chief of staff for the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP). In these leadership roles, he was instrumental in managing the daily activities of AEDP's business development, small business, and economic recovery departments and was responsible for managing AEDP's internal business operations. While at AEDP, he led initiatives that improved Alexandria's business climate for entrepreneurs and created programs to support small businesses. He also served on the project management team responsible for securing Amazon's second headquarters in Northern Virginia and Virginia Tech's Innovation Campus in Alexandria. In addition, Touhill has held positions with the City of Alexandria government in the budget and human resources departments.

Touhill has been recognized for his service by the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, and *Virginia Business* magazine. He has previously served on the board of directors of Rebuilding Together DC-Alexandria and as a youth mentor with Space of His Own. He holds a bachelor of arts from George Mason University and a master of public administration from George Washington University. He is an avid runner and hiker and is often out enjoying Virginia's trails in his spare time.



THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Elaine Marion, BS Accounting '95, has served as ePlus's chief financial officer since 2008 and is responsible for finance, treasury, and accounting functions, and the departments of human resources, information technology, and distribution and logistics. Since joining the company in 1998, Marion has held the positions of vice president of accounting and controller before starting her tenure as CFO.

Marion is a member of the executive advisory board of the College of Business at the University of Mary Washington and chair of the George Mason University School of Business Dean's Advisory Council. Marion is active in the Girls Re-Imagining Tomorrow (GRIT) program, which mentors young girls and exposes them to careers in technology. She also enjoys speaking to students at Mason about finance, accounting, business valuation, and career development.

Marion was named a 2022 honoree of the *Washington Business Journal's* Women Who Mean Business Award, 2020 Public Company CFO of the Year by the Northern Virginia Technology Council, and a member of the 2017 Class of 20 Prominent Patriots by Mason's School of Business, as well as being recognized among the 2012 Influential Women of Virginia by *Virginia Lawyers Weekly*. She holds a bachelor of science degree with a concentration in accounting from Mason.



THE DISTINGUISHED VETERANS ALUMNI AWARD

Troy Lowery, BA Environmental and Sustainability Studies '15, MAIS '18, shares his zest for life, learning, and collaboration with every student he meets in his current role as academic advisor in the College of Public Health's Office of Student Affairs at George Mason University. His path to Mason was anything but traditional. Lowery has an array of lived experiences, including working on a sod farm in Georgia, serving

in the U.S. Marine Corps, and even starting up his own landscaping business, Ridge Works Lawn Care.

He holds a bachelor of arts in environmental and sustainability studies and a master of arts in interdisciplinary studies, both from Mason's College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD RECIPIENTS



THE ALUMNA OF THE YEAR AWARD

Shaza Andersen, BA Area Studies '89, serves as the founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of TruStar Bank. Andersen also served as the vice chair of the board of Sandy Spring Bank. Prior to joining the board, Andersen founded and served as CEO of WashingtonFirst Bank (WFBI), growing the bank from a single de novo branch to more than \$2 billion in assets. Andersen completed the sale of WFBI to Sandy Spring Bancorp for \$489 million in stock, the largest banking deal in the Mid-Atlantic region

and among the 10 largest deals in the country by dollar value.

Andersen is a member of the board of directors of Forge Insurance and the board of commissioners of the Virginia Port Authority. She has also served on the treasury board of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the FDIC advisory committee on community banking, and is a past member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta.

She has been recognized by *American Banker* as one of the Top 25 Women to Watch, named a Top Banker by *SmartCEO* magazine (twice), named one of the Top 100 Powerful Women by *Washingtonian* magazine (twice), designated by the *Washington Business Journal* as one of their Power 100, and honored as a March of Dimes Corporate Heroine. Andersen was also awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from George Mason University.

A sought-after authority on banking and capital market issues, Andersen has appeared on CNBC and Fox News, and been featured in *Forbes* magazine, the *Washington Business Journal*, and *Washingtonian*.



ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Brandon Thompson, BS Administration of Justice '08, is a career public servant with 15 years of experience committed to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of operations. Currently, he serves as executive officer in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General. In this role, he serves as a principal advisor to executive leaders overseeing various projects, action items, and operational matters affecting more than 1,100 employees across more than 60

geographically dispersed field and headquarters divisions.

For Thompson, however, the opportunity to serve others to achieve their development goals is where the true reward lies. He finds time to serve in activities for children, his alma mater, and his community. He volunteers his time as a youth instructor in his church community and he regularly volunteers at George Mason University.

Since 2016, he volunteers biannually at University Career Services' events to review student resumes and provide professional advice to undergraduate and graduate students to help their job search efforts. He has had the privilege to give advice and suggestions to more than 100 students. Thompson also volunteers to mentor undergraduate students in Mason's College of Humanities and Social Sciences through LinkUp, an alumni mentoring event, where he discusses career choices and shares his personal experiences.

Thompson also serves as a member in his homeowners' association to oversee home improvement activities and conduct architectural hearings. He enjoys reading, listening to music, and mentoring and coaching. He lives with his wife and two children in Prince William County, Virginia.



THE GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE (G.O.L.D.) AWARD

Cordelia Cranshaw Skeete, BSW '14, is a motivational speaker, former Miss District of Columbia USA 2019, and a licensed clinical social worker. Cranshaw Skeete uses her lived expertise to help inform, guide, and advocate for social work best practices. She has worked in case management, education, and independent living within the Washington, D.C., Child and Family Services

Agency, and she currently practices cognitive behavioral therapy, treating those who suffer from trauma, anxiety, and/or depression.

For the past 10 years, Cranshaw Skeete has operated a successful nonprofit, Acts of Random Kindness (ARK), that provides programs and resources to children and families facing life challenges that include incarcerated parents, homelessness, and living in foster care. Cranshaw Skeete had the honor to represent the District of Columbia at the 2019 Miss USA Pageant, placing in the top 10 out of the country's 51 contestants. Cranshaw Skeete continues to demonstrate that no matter where your past has been, your future can be anything you can dream.

Cranshaw Skeete is a wife and a mother who prioritizes spending time with her family. She continues to inspire others to reach their true potential, and through her guide, Survivor to Thriver, she helps others combat their trauma through healing and relationship building.



FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Keith D. Renshaw is a professor and the chair of the Psychology Department, and director of the Military, Veterans, and Families Initiative at George Mason University. He was a faculty member at the University of Utah from 2005 to 2009 before moving to Mason. At Mason, he was promoted to associate professor in 2013 and to professor in 2019.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Renshaw has conducted research on the interpersonal context of anxiety, stress, and trauma; the experiences of veterans and families; and, more recently, the dissemination of culturally responsive, evidence-based practices and scalable mental health solutions. He has received more than \$3 million in extramural funding, published more than 90 peer-reviewed articles, and given more than 150 conference presentations. He was named a fellow of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies in 2021. He has also won multiple teaching and mentorship awards, including Mason's Teaching Excellence Award (2015) and the Distinguished Mentor Award from the American Psychological Association's Society for Military Psychology (2021).

Renshaw has also been highly active in service and leadership at Mason, receiving the David W. Rossell Quill Award in 2019. He served as Faculty Senate chair and faculty representative to the university's Board of Visitors from 2016 to 2019. He has also served in a leadership role on a number of university task forces and work groups. In 2020, Renshaw led the creation of Mason's Military, Veterans, and Families Initiative. As director of the initiative, he is overseeing the formation of community partnerships, development of new programs, and fundraising efforts.



SENIOR OF THE YEAR

Hannah Adamson graduated from Mason in spring 2023 with a bachelor in arts in conflict analysis and resolution with a concentration in building peace in divided societies and a minor in conservation studies. She completed the conservation, biodiversity, and society semester program at the Smithsonian-Mason School for Conservation in Front Royal, Virginia, and studied abroad in Madrid, Spain, at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. She volunteered as treasurer

of the Student Environmental Justice Alliance at Mason where she helped create the first annual Virginia Environmental Justice Summit in 2020. She also served as an ambassador for the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution and a peer mentor in the Honors College.

Adamson works at the Mary Hoch Center for Reconciliation at the Carter School, where she supports reconciliation processes around the world, researches insider reconcilers, and champions the well-being of peacebuilding practitioners. She also serves at the Think Peace Learning and Support Hub as a program manager for a project in the Horn of Africa focused on empowering local actors' work in mental health, psychosocial support, and peacebuilding. Through these roles Adamson has completed peacebuilding fieldwork in Finland and Kenya, which expanded her learning and impact.

Adamson is excited to continue her education in the Bachelor's to Accelerated Master's Program to earn her MS at the Carter School in spring 2024. Her thesis focuses on partnering peacebuilding and reconciliation with environmental justice and sustainability across cultural contexts, especially the importance of local initiatives. Moving forward, Adamson will use these experiences for a career focused on community-led environmental and social healing programs.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

THE ALUMNUS/ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

2022 David J. Freedman
2021 Christopher M. Preston
2020 Steven Monfort
2019 Terri Cofer Beirne
2017 Bethany A. Hall-Long
2016 Martin A. Dunphy
2015 Dayton I. Moore
2014 Dale “Dusty” Wince
2013 Patricia H. Roberts
2012 Sean T. Connaughton
2011 Anne K. Altman
2010 Deborah A. P. Hersman
2009 John Paul Phaup
2008 Jeffery K. Taubenberger
2007 Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda
2006 D. Jean Wu
2005 Edward J. Newberry
2004 Zainab T. Salbi
2003 J. Gregory Bedner
2002 Michael G. Anzilotti
2001 Julie A. Holdren
2000 Teresa M. Klaassen
1999 Jonathan C. Thacher
1998 Thomas J. Webb
1997 Lovey L. Hammel
1996 Katherine K. Clark
1995 Susan E. Rook
1994 Barbara A. Esstman
1993 Rob S. Muzzio
1992 Camille T. Barry
1991 James S. Corrigan
1990 S. Anna Kondratos
1989 Jay W. Marsh
1988 Ray F. Smith
1987 James W. Hazel
Bruce E. Johnson
Mariann H. Johnson

1986 Richard C. Bausch
Dennis C. Daley
Judith M. Garcia
Kathleen S. Katz
1985 M. Constance Bedell
Nancy L. Zimmerman
1984 Frances F. Batchelder
1983 Gilbert L. Sager
1982 Carl F. Henrickson
1981 Joann P. DiGennaro
1980 Elizabeth G. Clements
1979 James W. McCarthy
1978 Elbert J. Jarvis II
1977 Anita L. Capps
1976 Michael A. Alexander

THE ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

2022 Victoria N. Salmon
2021 Jason J. Howell
2020 Robert D. Harris
Ilana L. Shapiro
2019 Caroline Sutter
Rebecca Sutter
2017 Gail A. Bohan
2016 Scott E. Hine
2015 Michael P. Gallagher
2014 Sirena G. Johnson
2013 Helen J. Ackerman
2012 David C. Atkins
2011 Kaylene H. Green
Robert E. Green III
2010 John T. Niehoff
2009 Jeffrey R. Johnson
2008 Penny C. Welke
2007 Bruce E. and Mariann
H. Johnson
2006 James J. Laychak
2005 Alan H. Harbitter

PAST RECIPIENTS OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

2004 Barbara Parker Granieri
2003 Jennifer A. Hess
2002 Carolyn A. Taylor
2001 Craig B. Young
2000 Joseph A. Heastie
1999 Juliana Kuo
1998 Lisa A. Mayne
1997 Lucy Canary Church
1996 (See Golden Medallion Award)
1995 Doris H. Kidwell
1994 Brian C. Drummond
1993 Scott McGeary
1992 Donna S. Mills
1991 Eileen J. Feuerbach
1990 Jonathan C. Thacher
1989 Mark W. Bisbee

THE FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

2022 Wendi N. Manuel-Scott
2021 Peggy J. Maddox
2020 Jeff Offutt
2019 Lisa Gring-Pemble
2017 Richard E. Rubenstein
2016 Michael W. Nickens
2015 William B. Miller
2014 Padmanabhan Seshaiyer
2013 Marion F. Deshmukh
2012 Linda Apple Monson
2011 Don M. Boileau
2010 Todd B. Kashdan
2009 Peter J. Boettke
2008 Harold A. Geller
2007 Roger W. Wilkins
2006 Rick S. Davis
2005 Cynthia M. Lont
2004 James B. Young
2003 Doris A. Bitler
2002 Lloyd E. Duck
2001 Don E. Kash
2000 Stuart S. Malaver

1999 Karen K. Oates
1998 Toni-Michelle Travis
1997 Anthony J. Maiello
1996 Robert T. Hawkes
1995 Kenneth A. Kovach
1994 Roberta M. Conti
1993 Bruce B. Manchester
1992 Kevin A. Avruch
1991 Henry J. Bindel Jr.
1990 Mary C. Silva
1989 Sheryl A. Friedley
1988 Peter Klappert
1987 Brack Brown
Lloyd de Boer
1986 Hale N. Tongren
1985 Walter E. Williams
1984 Warren D. Decker
1983 Michael R. Kelley
1982 Carol J. Sears
1981 Kenneth A. Kovach
1980 Kitty P. Smith
1979 Michael G. Emsley
Bruce B. Manchester
1978 John A. Oppelt
1977 Hyman I. Feinstein
1976 John R. Linn
1975 Stephen T. Early Jr.
1974 Margaret C. Duffner

THE SENIOR OF THE YEAR

2022 Dominique R. Dowling
2021 Isabella Bah
2020 Jessie McCandlish
2019 Alexander Walters
2017 Beverly D. Harp
2016 Caroline E. Thomas
2015 Raquel Friedmann
2014 David Lucas
2013 Quoc "Ricky" Tran
2012 Kevin R. Loker
2011 Mariana X. Cruz
2010 Devraj Dasgupta

PAST RECIPIENTS OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

| | |
|------|--|
| 2009 | David W. Lieu |
| 2008 | Mona K. Singh |
| 2007 | Andres G. Maldonado |
| 2006 | Ryan M. Lowry |
| 2005 | Rysheda M. McClendon |
| 2004 | Edwinna T. Smith |
| 2003 | Amit Sinha |
| 2002 | Cassandra P. Foster |
| 2001 | Sabrina Dagostino |
| 2000 | Maria Sonia Montero |
| 1999 | Jason William Eakes |
| 1998 | Nancy A. Riffe |
| 1997 | Heather D. Dawson |
| 1996 | Jenna Van Hook |
| 1995 | Angela Y. Peabody |
| 1994 | Vickie O. Tyler |
| 1993 | Denise E. Marriott |
| 1992 | James W. Yoo |
| 1991 | Julie Ann Austin |
| 1990 | Mary D. Ryabik |
| 1989 | Donald G. Cooper |
| 1988 | Catherine J. Rogers |
| 1987 | Felicia H. Johnson Richard Vergot |
| 1986 | Judy Bray Cook David A. Ehrlich Kimberly Jones |
| 1985 | Karen A. DeMartino Frank J. Doherty |
| 1984 | Debora A. Drury |
| 1983 | Michael C. Cooper Barry L. Mark |
| 1982 | Kathryn L. Kafka |
| 1981 | Lisa McGrady |
| 1980 | Anthony J. Young |
| 1979 | Margaret C. Langford |
| 1978 | Jeffrey W. Hetrick John R. Willett |
| 1977 | Diane S. Erickson |
| 1976 | Bernard W. Hite |
| 1975 | Michael D. Pritz |
| 1974 | John L. Wiley |

THE GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE (G.O.L.D.) AWARD

| | |
|------|-----------------|
| 2022 | Raquel Gonzalez |
| 2021 | Callie Brownson |

THE GOLDEN MEDALLION AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| 2014 | Peter N. Stearns |
| 2012 | Alan G. Merten |
| 1996 | George W. Johnson |
| 1984 | John C. Wood |
| 1983 | John T. Hazel Jr. |

ALUMNI EXEMPLARS

The complete list of 50 honorees, who were honored during the Alumni Association's 50th anniversary in 2018, is available at alumni.gmu.edu.

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BA '88

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Antonin Scalia Law School

Vacant

Black Alumni Chapter

Deion Maith, BA '20

**College of Education and
Human Development**

Thomas Ammazalorso, MA '04, CERG
'05, MED '10

College of Engineering and Computing

David P. Brown, PhD '04

College of Public Health

Kathi Huddleston, PhD '08

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Social Sciences**

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for Peace and Conflict Resolution**

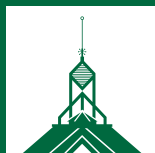
Charles Davidson, PhD '16

School of Business

Pamela Maines, MBA '09

Veterans Alumni Chapter

Chris Jones, MA '99



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Our goal is ambitious. It's audacious. And, it will require determination and grit. That's what makes it Mason.



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