



Orientation and Family Programs and Services

FAMILY WEEKEND 2009 (Updated as of 9/25/09)*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

11:00am-6:30pm Check-In for Family Weekend

12 – 2pm

Taste of Fairfax

Enjoy a sampling of Fairfax area restaurants and businesses. Take this opportunity to mix and mingle with Mason's finest faculty and staff while sampling the Fairfax offerings. Vendors confirmed include: Springhill Suites, Metro Silver Diner, Chipotle, Jammin' Java, Verizon Wireless, Army ROTC, Madame Tussauds, Visit Fairfax, LifeChoices Resource Center, and Noodles & Company – with more to come!

11am-5pm

Balfour Class Rings

Visit the George Mason University Bookstore to meet with the Balfour representative to order a class ring.

6pm and 9pm

Movie: *Up*

Running Time: 1 hour and 36 minutes

A young Carl Fredrickson meets a young adventure spirited girl named Ellie. They both dream of going to a Lost Land in South America. 70 years later, Ellie has died. Carl remembers the promise he made to her. Then, when he inadvertently hits a construction worker, he is forced to go to a retirement home. But before they can take him, he and his house fly away. However he has a stowaway aboard. An 8 year old boy named Russell, whose trying to get an assisting the elderly badge. Together, they embark in an adventure, where they encounter talking dogs, an evil villain and a rare bird named Kevin.

TBD

Pre and Post Welcome Dinner Receptions

Check back soon for information about appetizer and dessert receptions hosted by some of our academic colleges.

6:30pm

Mason Family Welcome and Dinner

Join us for the official kick-off to Family Weekend 2009 including opening remarks and a delicious dinner. Check back for the menu!

****This event is currently at capacity; however, a waiting list is available.**

7pm

Shabbat Dinner *sponsored by Hillel*

Join George Mason Hillel as they host a Family Weekend Shabbat Dinner and Services. An additional cost of \$8/person and \$12/couple is required for this program and can be paid onsite.

7pm

Women's Soccer vs. Drexel



Orientation and Family Programs and Services

- 7:30pm Pre-Mason Madness Celebration
Get ready to experience Mason Madness! Join the entire Mason community as we gear up for the first official practice of our Men's and Women's basketball teams. Come catch the Mason spirit with music, contests, facepainting, giveaways, and more!
- 7:30pm-9pm New Century College Awards Reception
This event is open to students and families in New Century College. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sarah Sweetman at ssweetm1@gmu.edu to RSVP.
- 8:00pm Virginia Opera: La Bohème
This bittersweet romantic tragedy is among the most popular works in the operatic literature. Set in the Latin Quarter in Paris at Christmastime, this melodic masterpiece tells the tale of starving young artists living lives of quiet desperation tempered by love, a lust for life—and of course—friendship and good humor. Poet Rodolfo and beautiful seamstress Mimi briefly find love together, but Mimi's languishing health and their abject poverty threatens their happiness. This is a story of poignant love, heartbreaking tragedy, and the uplifting creative spirit, illuminated by Puccini's dramatic score. Sung in Italian with English supertitles.

** Tickets cost \$86, \$72, \$44. A 10% discount will be given to Mason family members who purchase their tickets in-person at the Center for the Arts box office. For more information, please visit <http://www.gmu.edu/cfa/>.
- 8:00pm Coming Out Week Amateur Drag Show
Pride Alliance's 2nd Annual Coming Out Week Amateur Drag Show is an evening when all students, faculty, staff and community members can come together expressing gender any way they chose! There will be student performers, many doing drag for the first time so come out and support them! Interested performers should contact Alejandro Asin via e-mail at aasin@gmu.edu. This show is open to everyone, yet please be aware that the content may be more PG-13 rather than G rated.
- 9:30pm Mason Madness
Join us for the annual kick-off to the Mason men's and women's basketball seasons. The players and coaches from both teams will be introduced along with student performances. You don't want to miss this!
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
- 8:30am-6pm Family Weekend Check-In and Information Desk
- 8:30am-noon Saturday Grab and Go Breakfast
- All Day Women's Lacrosse – Mason Fall Tournament



Orientation and Family Programs and Services

9am

Community Service

Mason families can partner with New Century College to serve the community. Registration is required to determine numbers for the service sites. Opportunities include:

**CLOSED:
REACHED
CAPACITY**

Habitat for Humanity ReStore Chantilly --new store opening up for Habitat. Activities to expect are painting, putting together shelving/racks, cleaning, small construction projects. ReStore takes donations of used and surplus building and construction materials, appliances, and other home improvement items for resale at 50-90% below retail prices. The proceeds go toward the construction of Habitat homes. 25 Volunteers

Earth Sangha Habitat Restoration --At Royal Lake Park help restore natural habitat by creating a Magnolia Bog. Earth Sangha is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental restoration. (50 volunteers)

**New
Option!**

Wolf Trap Tree Planting with ReLeaf -- Help plant trees at Wolf Trap with Fairfax ReLeaf, a nonprofit organization that restores habitat and improves the community. (50 volunteers)

For guests who are unable to go to a site to serve, we are also offering the following opportunity to contribute to the local area:

Food for Others Food Donations --With the current economy food for the unemployed and low-income families is vital for our neighbors in Northern Virginia. Help a family in need by bringing unopened canned and dry goods.

10am

Mason on Location: Gunston Hall

**CLOSED:
REACHED
CAPACITY**

Join us Saturday morning, for a trip to George Mason's home, Gunston Hall. Mason students and family members are charged only \$5 per person. Participants will be provided transportation and a boxed lunch while learning about George Mason and visiting his home and its grounds.

11am-3pm

Complimentary Makeovers

The Prestige make-up artists will be in the George Mason University Bookstore. Those interested can make reservations beginning the week of October 12th by calling 703-993-3882.

11am-5pm

Balfour Class Rings

Visit the George Mason University Bookstore to meet with the Balfour representative to order a class ring.

12pm

Women's Tennis vs. Saint Francis

12pm

Men's Tennis vs. Saint Francis



Orientation and Family Programs and Services

- 1pm Swimming and Diving
Come out to support the swimming and diving teams on Saturday at the Aquatic Center.
- 1pm Provost's Highlights
Provost Peter Stearns will provide Mason highlights including current initiatives and new programs. A question and answer session will follow the presentation. Also, the winners of the annual essay contest will be presented at this time.
- 2pm Book Presentation
Author Jason F. Wright will present a discussion based on his *New York Times* bestselling book, *The Wednesday Letters*. The book presentation has become an essential component of Family Weekend. The goal of the presentation is to provide an opportunity to highlight the diverse stories and voices that make up the Mason community. In the past, the authors have been Tanya Maria Barrientos, *Family Resemblance*, Hill Harper, *Letters to a Young Brother*, Myla Goldberg, *Bee Season*, and John Dau, *God Grew Tired of Us*.
- 2pm-5pm FunZone
Mason students and families can bring their siblings to enjoy carnival games, PlayStation games, giveaways and more with members of Mason student organizations. Younger siblings can enjoy the first children's storytelling and book presentation.
- 2pm-Midnight Family Weekend Shoot Around
Have you ever wanted the chance to beat your family members at anything? Do you want a chance to show off your skills in the University game room? Take your chance from 2pm-12am. To any family member that is registered for family weekend there will be free play on most games in the game room (except the video arcades). Show coupon or Family Weekend nametag for free games. For questions please contact Mecca Marsh (mmarsh3@gmu.edu or 703.993.2921)
- 3:30pm Wine Tasting
Learn more about featured wines and enjoy good conversation with fellow Mason families and other guests. This event is co-sponsored by the Office of Orientation and Family Programs and Services and the Office of Annual Giving and the Parent Fund. Pre-registration is recommended as this event annually fills to capacity.
- 5pm Mason Family BBQ and Gameshow
Come enjoy a BBQ dinner and a chance to win \$200 with the interactive game show, Think Fast presented by TjohnE Entertainment. Compete against other Mason families and answer trivia correctly to win \$200!
- 6pm and 9pm Movie: *Up*
See description above.



Orientation and Family Programs and Services

- 7pm Men's Soccer vs. Northeastern
- 8pm Wayne Brady
Wayne Brady is a multifaceted entertainer with his talents excelling on television, film, and the stage. Currently the host of Fox's Don't Forget the Lyrics, Brady has also demonstrated his improvisational creativity as a performer on ABC's Whose Line is it Anyway? Mason student tickets are available for \$5 (limit 2 with Mason ID); family, faculty, and staff tickets are available for \$15 (limit 2); general public tickets are available for \$25.
- 8-10pm Visit the Mason Observatory
Dr. Harold A. Geller, Observatory Director, author, and professors, will provide a tour of the Mason observatory and the night time sky. Assuming clear skies, the featured constellations will be Cygnus, Aquila, Lyra, Cassiopeia, and Pegasus. The featured planet in the evening will be Jupiter (later in the evening). In the event of rain, Dr. Geller will provide a tour of the night sky as made available with the Mason observatory inflatable planetarium.
- 8pm-Midnight Swing Dance
Join professional dancers from *Gotta Swing* from 8-9pm for beginner lessons with an open dance from 9pm-midnight. The event will feature a live band and demonstrations by professional dancers.
- 10pm Late Night in the Rathskellar
More information coming soon!
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
- 9am Family Weekend Golf Scramble
Ready for you and your student to hit the links? This additional \$50 per person (\$200 per team) registration fee covers greens fees, cart rental, breakfast, lunch, outstanding prizes for the winning teams, longest drive and closest to the pin contests, and a hole in one challenge where you can win \$10,000. Don't have enough for a team of four? No worries, we will find a team for you!
- 10am Sunday Brunch in Southside Dining
More information about the menu and entertainment coming soon!
- 10:30am Mason Ambassadors Induction Brunch
By invitation only.
- 11am Mass
St. Bellarmine Chapel
- 12:30pm Hillel Bagel Brunch
Join Hillel to kibbitz and nosh while learning about Jewish life on campus!



Orientation and Family Programs and Services

2pm Women's Soccer vs. Delaware

2pm Virginia Opera: La Bohème

This bittersweet romantic tragedy is among the most popular works in the operatic literature. Set in the Latin Quarter in Paris at Christmastime, this melodic masterpiece tells the tale of starving young artists living lives of quiet desperation tempered by love, a lust for life—and of course—friendship and good humor. Poet Rodolfo and beautiful seamstress Mimi briefly find love together, but Mimi's languishing health and their abject poverty threatens their happiness. This is a story of poignant love, heartbreaking tragedy, and the uplifting creative spirit, illuminated by Puccini's dramatic score. Sung in Italian with English supertitles.

** Tickets cost \$98, \$80, \$48. A 10% discount will be given to Mason family members who purchase their tickets in-person at the Center for the Arts box office. For more information, please visit <http://www.gmu.edu/cfa/>.

3pm and 6pm Movie: *Up*
See description above.

4pm Student Leader Team Recognition Dinner
By invitation only.

Discounted off-campus opportunities:

Gunston Hall

If you missed Mason on Location on Saturday morning, George Mason's estate is open from 9:30am-5:30pm. Mason family members, with a Family Weekend nametag, can enter at a discounted rate of \$5 all weekend long; Mason students are free with their Mason ID.

Bike and Roll

Bike the Sites with Bike and Roll Washington DC! With three locations - Old Post Office Pavilion, Union Station and Old Town Alexandria – we make it easy to hop on two wheels and explore the city on bike. Our tours are a fun and interactive way to cruise the National Mall and mix activity with history. We offer guided tours of the memorials and monuments from our Old Post Office Pavilion location as well as comfort bike rentals in all three locations. For more information or to make tour reservations, please visit bikethesites.com or call 202.842.2453.

Mason families who mention they are part of the George Mason University Family Weekend will receive \$10 off Bike Tours or Day Rental and \$5 of half Day Rental from Bike and Roll Washington DC!

City Segway Tours

City Segway Tours is happy to welcome you to Washington DC and to everything the nation's capital has to offer. Imagine cruising effortlessly through the beautiful parks and around historic buildings



Orientation and Family Programs and Services

while receiving a great orientation, informative historical and current-day information, heaps of unique and fascinating stories, fantastic photo ops and superb personal service from your guide. The Segway is the first of its kind-a self-balancing, personal transportation device that's designed to operate in any pedestrian environment. It's new, it's cool and a ton of fun! Our 3 hour tours are limited in size so you can count on a great, intimate experience with a licensed DC tour guide. Discover what it's like to be a Washington DC celebrity as everyone, and we mean everyone, turns to watch us glide by!

Mason families who mention they are part of the George Mason University Family Weekend will receive a 10% discount on any tour.

Additional off-campus opportunities will be listed as they become available. Make sure to check back regularly!

*** Events and times subject to change. A final schedule of events will be distributed at Family Weekend Check-In.**