

What's going on at Mason this week?

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

| MONDAY 29 | TUESDAY 30 | WEDNESDAY 1 | THURSDAY 2 | FRIDAY 3 | SATURDAY 4 |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p>HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH What is Latino Pride? Free. Office of Diversity Programs & Services, (703) 993-2700. 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. Johnson Center, room C</p> <p>LEADERSHIP WEEK 9/21-10/1. Leadership Education and Development, (703) 993-2959.</p> <p>TOPS WORKSHOP Excel 2007 Fundamentals - Part I. For Mason faculty, staff, and students. Register online at the IT Training website. Free. TOPS, (703) 993-3426. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Johnson Center, room B</p> <p>TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP Electronic Telecom Request. For Mason faculty and staff. Register online at the IT Training website. Free. Telecom Administration, (703) 993-3546. 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Johnson Center, room 311B</p> <p>TOPS WORKSHOP Excel 2007 Intermediate II - Part 2. For Mason faculty, staff, and students. Register online at the IT Training website. Free. TOPS, (703) 993-3426. 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Johnson Center, room 311B</p> <p>CMASC COLLOQUIA John Anderson, Fluorescence Spectroscopy Laboratory, US Army ERDC. Free. Computational Materials Science Center, (703) 993-9325. 4:30 p.m. Research I, room 301</p> <p>CONFERENCE Presidential Leadership Dialogues. Leadership Education and Development, (703) 993-2959. 4:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m. Mason Hall, Meese Conference Room</p> <p>STAR*T WORKSHOP Photoshop CS3 - I. For Mason faculty, staff, and students. Register online at the IT Training website. Free. STAR*T, (703) 993-3426. 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Johnson Center, room 311C</p> <p>JAPANESE SEMINAR Can Japanese Resolve Conflicts? A Perspective from Conflict Analysis and Resolution, presented by Tetsushi Ogata. Sponsored by the Japanese section of Modern and Classical Languages and the Circle for Japanese Interests. Free. Sufumi So, (703) 993-4822, sso2@gmu.edu. 5 p.m.-6 p.m. Robinson Hall, Room B202</p> <p>INFORMATION SESSION Accelerated 2nd Degree Nursing. College of Health and Human Services, (703) 993-1901. 7 p.m.-9 p.m. SUB I, rooms A-B</p> | <p>LEADERSHIP WEEK 9/21-10/1. Leadership Education and Development, (703) 993-2959.</p> <p>IRC WORKSHOP Viewing Student Enrollment Reports. For Mason faculty and staff. Register online at the IT Training website. Free. Instructional Resource Center, (703) 993-3141. 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Innovation Hall, room 334</p> <p>TOPS WORKSHOP Word 2007 Advanced - Part 1 Register online at the IT Training website. Free. TOPS, (703) 993-3426. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Johnson Center, room 311B</p> <p>BLOOD DRIVE Red Cross, (800) 448-3543. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Johnson Center, North Plaza</p> <p>STAR*T WORKSHOP Premiere I. For Mason faculty, staff, and students. Register online at the IT Training website. Free. STAR*T, (703) 993-3426. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Johnson Center, room 311C</p> <p>TUESDAYS AT NOON WORKSHOP SERIES Body Image. Free. Counseling & Psychological Services, (703) 993-2380. 12 p.m. SUB I, room 355</p> <p>TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP Electronic Telecom Request. For Mason faculty and staff. Register online at the IT Training website. Free. Telecom Administration, (703) 993-3546. 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Innovation Hall, room 334</p> <p>CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE WORKSHOP Life, Liberty, & the Pursuit of Happiness: Teaching General Education Classes at Mason. Center for Teaching Excellence, (703) 993-8652, cte@gmu.edu. 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Johnson Center, room 240A</p> <p>PANEL DISCUSSION The Human Rights Movement in Peru: Voices from Civil Society. Latin American Studies, (703) 993-1010. 1:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m. Johnson Center, Cinema</p> <p>CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE WORKSHOP Engaging Students for Cultural Involvement in Global Communities. Center for Teaching 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Fairfax Campus Excellence, (703) 993-8652, cte@gmu.edu.</p> <p>CAREER SERVICES WORKSHOP Preparation for the Job & Internship Fair. Free. Career Services, (703) 993-2370. 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. SUB I, room 348</p> <p>LEADERSHIP WEEK PANEL DISCUSSION Do Ethics Matter? Leadership Education and Development, (703) 993-2959. 6 p.m. Johnson Center, Cinema</p> | <p>STD & HIV AWARENESS MONTH 10/1-31. University Life, (703) 993-8760. Leadership Week 9/21-10/1. Leadership Education and Development, (703) 993-2959.</p> <p>TOPS WORKSHOP Word 2007 Advanced - Part 2. Free. TOPS, (703) 993-3426. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Johnson Center, room 311C</p> <p>STAR*T WORKSHOP Flash CS3 - II. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Johnson Center, room 311C.</p> <p>Dreamweaver CS3 - V. 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Johnson Center, room 311C</p> <p>For Mason faculty, staff, and students. Register online at the IT Training website. Free. STAR*T, (703) 993-3426.</p> <p>ABFAS MEETING Association of Black Faculty, Administrators and Staff. African American Studies Resource Center, (703) 993-4085. 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Johnson Center, room 240A</p> <p>PREJUDICE REDUCTION WORKSHOP Multicultural Research and Resource Center, (703) 993-4003, mrrc1@gmu.edu. 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Johnson Center, room 239A</p> <p>MASON VOTES FILM SERIES Lake of Fire. Free. Tommy Britt, (703) 993-1992, tbritt@gmu.edu. 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Johnson Center Cinema</p> <p>IRC WORKSHOP Beyond PowerPoint Bullets: Using Effective Visual Design & Story Telling Techniques. Register online at the IT Training website. Free. Instructional Resource Center, (703) 993-3141. 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Innovation Hall, room 334</p> <p>PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION Office of the President, (703) 993-8700. 3 p.m. Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall. Library Workshop. GIS@Fenwick. Free. Fenwick Library, (703) 993-2238. 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Fenwick Library, GIS Room</p> <p>CANDIDATES FORUM ON FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE REFORM Free. Center for Health Policy Research & Ethics, (703) 993-9490, chpre@gmu.edu. 6 p.m. Harris Theatre</p> <p>SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT DONOR RECEPTION Hilda Maness, (703) 993-1718, hmaness@gmu.edu. 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Enterprise Hall, Lower Level Patio</p> | <p>STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS FAIR Free. Student Activities, (703) 993-2909. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Johnson Center, North Plaza</p> <p>CAREER SERVICES WORKSHOP Resume Clinic with Employers. Free. Career Services, (703) 993-2370. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Johnson Center, room 116</p> <p>STAR*T WORKSHOP Director II. For Mason faculty, staff, and students. Register online at the IT Training website. Free. STAR*T, (703) 993-3426. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Johnson Center, room 311C</p> <p>GRAND SEMINAR Self Cleansing Intrusion Tolerance-Next Generation Server Security, presented by Arun Sood. Computer Science, (703) 993-1530. 12 p.m. Science & Tech II, room 430A</p> <p>TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP Electronic Telecom Request. For Mason faculty and staff. Free. Telecom Administration, (703) 993-3546. 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Johnson Center, room 311B</p> <p>ACADEMIC SKILLS WORKSHOP Scheduling & Time Management. Free. Learning Services, (703) 993-2999. 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m. SUB I, room 354</p> <p>FISCAL MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP For student organizations. Two members of each student organization are required to attend a fiscal management workshop each year to access funding. Lori Cohen, (703) 993-4495, lcohen@gmu.edu. 2:30 p.m.-4 p.m. SUB I, room 101</p> <p>CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE WORKSHOP Writing Workshop II: Managing the Paper Load & Responding to Writing. Center for Teaching Excellence, (703) 993-8652, cte@gmu.edu. 3 pm - 4:30 pm Research I, room 161</p> <p>CINEMA SERIES Mi Familia. Showings at 6:00 pm & 9:00 pm. Mason students w/ID, free; Mason faculty/staff w/ID, \$1; general public, \$3. Part of Hispanic Heritage Month. Student Activities Programming, (703) 993-1702. 6 p.m. Johnson Center, Cinema</p> <p>VISUAL VOICES SERIES Invisible Forces, presented by R.G. Brown. Free. Art & Visual Technology, (703) 993-8898. 7:30 p.m., Harris Theatre</p> | <p>CITIES READINESS INITIATIVE TRAINING A training exercise for the Medical Reserve Corps. Keith Cunningham, (703)993-3375, rcunnin5@gmu.edu. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall</p> <p>ACADEMIC SKILLS WORKSHOP Motivation and Goal-Setting. Free. Learning Services, (703) 993-2999. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. SUB I, room 354</p> <p>FISCAL MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP Fiscal management training for student organizations. Lori Cohen, (703) 993-4495, lcohen@gmu.edu. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. SUB I, room 101</p> <p>STATISTICS, IT, AND LIFE SCIENCES SEMINAR George Washington University. Free. Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering, (703) 993-1499. 1 p.m.-2 p.m. Johnson Center, room B</p> <p>FLU SHOTS Wear short sleeves. \$20 for faculty and staff; \$15 for students. Student Health Services, (703) 993-2831. 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m. SUB I, Patriot's Lounge</p> <p>WOMEN'S TENNIS Mason vs. Shepherd. Athletic Ticket Office, (703) 993-3270. 3 p.m. Tennis courts by PE Building</p> <p>STAR*T WORKSHOP Photoshop CS3 - II. For Mason faculty, staff, and students. Register online at the IT Training website. Free. STAR*T, (703) 993-3426. 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Johnson Center, room 311B</p> <p>CINEMA SERIES Get Smart. Showings at 6:00 pm, 9:00 pm, & 12:00 am. Mason students w/ID, free; Mason faculty/staff w/ID, \$1; general public, \$3. Student Activities Programming, (703) 993-1702. 6 p.m. Johnson Center, Cinema</p> <p>WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL Mason v. Hofstra. \$5; \$2; Mason students free w/ID. Athletic Ticket Office, (703) 993-3270. 7 p.m. Field House</p> <p>CONCERT Enrique Iglesias. \$88; \$58. Patriot Center, (703) 993-3000. 8 p.m. Patriot Center</p> <p>EVERY FREAKIN' FRIDAY Salsations: Latin Night IX. Part of Hispanic Heritage Month. Free. Program Board, (703) 993-2925. 9 p.m. Johnson Center, Atrium</p> | <p>FORENSICS TOURNAMENT Virginia is for Lovers Fall Swing, presented by The George Mason University and James Madison University Forensics Teams. 10/4-5. Peter Pober, (703) 993-4119, ppober@gmu.edu. Fairfax Campus</p> <p>MEN'S & WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY Mason Invitational. Athletic Ticket Office, (703) 993-3270. 10 a.m. Bull Run Park, Centerville</p> <p>WRITING IN THE REAL WORLD WORKSHOP Learn more about the ins and outs of publishing and freelance writing. Free. English Alumni Chapter, engnews@gmu.edu. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Johnson Center, Cinema</p> <p>CINEMA SERIES Get Smart. Showings at 6:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. Mason students w/ID, free; Mason faculty/staff w/ID, \$1; general public, \$3. Program Board, (703) 993-2925. 6 p.m. Johnson Center, Cinema</p> <p>MEN'S SOCCER Mason v. William & Mary. \$5; \$2; Mason students free w/ID. Athletic Ticket Office, (703) 993-3270. 7 p.m., George Mason Stadium</p> <p>WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL Mason v. Northeastern. \$5; \$2; Mason students free w/ID. Athletic Ticket Office, (703) 993-3270. 7 p.m. Field House</p> <p>PERFORMANCE Shakespeare & Company - Hamlet. Tickets available at tickets.com, (888) 945-2468. \$36; \$28; \$18. Center for the Arts Box Office, (703) 993-8888. 8 p.m. Concert Hall</p> <p>LIVE AT DAMON'S First Saturdays: Jon Kaplan. Damon's Restaurant, (703) 993-3304. 8 p.m.-11 p.m. SUB I, Damon's</p> |
| SUNDAY 5 | | | | | |
| <p>TURN OFF THE VIOLENCE WEEK 10/5 - 18. Sexual Assault Services, (703) 993-4364.</p> <p>FRIENDS OF THE ORPHANS 5K RUN/WALK \$25, runners age 19 and up; \$15, runners age 18 and under. Friends of the Orphans, (703) 848-2072. 8 am Patriot Circle</p> <p>CINEMA SERIES Get Smart. Showings at 3:00 pm & 6:00 pm. Mason students w/ID, free; Mason faculty/staff w/ID, \$1; general public, \$3. Student Activities Programming, (703) 993-1702. pm Johnson Center, Cinema.</p> | | | | | |



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news

INSIDE

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- Fall for the Book journalists share their professional insights. **News 16**
- More on the first presidential debate and the watch party in the JC. **News 17**

POLICE FILES

| | |
|--------------|---|
| September 20 | <p>Stolen Property Freedom Center Parking Lot Complainant reported a saddle bag stolen from his motorcycle. Loss estimated at \$600. (46/Tilley)</p> |
| September 22 | <p>Larceny Lot K Complainant reported his parking decal was stolen from his unsecured vehicle. Loss estimated at \$200. (24/Ewald)</p> <p>Larceny Fenwick Library Complainant reported the theft of a laptop and wallet that were left unattended in the library.</p> <p>Harassment Johnson Center Complainant reported that she had a verbal argument with a subject in the Johnson Center. Both subjects were contacted and advised.</p> |
| September 23 | <p>Information Only Presidents Park Officers responded to an overdose of prescription medication. Subject was transported to Fairfax Hospital for treatment and evaluation. (40/Ross)</p> <p>Larceny Enterprise Hall Complainant reported that his cell phone was taken from an unsecured room in Enterprise Hall. Loss estimated at \$500. (52/Bickerton)</p> |
| September 24 | <p>Larceny Patriot Village Complainant reported the theft of a calculator and memory cards from an unsecured locker. (56/Lighthiser)</p> |
| September 25 | <p>Johnson Center Complainant stated that she left her laptop unattended and when she returned it was gone. Loss estimated at \$900. (27/Feliciano).</p> <p>Grand Larceny/Possession of Marijuana Johnson Center Bookstore Tico Cole, 28, and Venuse Keene, 27, were arrested for Grand Larceny. Bryan Treagle, 21, was arrested for both the above charges. All are of Arlington, VA and are non-GMU students. All were arrested and taken to Fairfax ADC. Cole was held on \$2,500 secured bond, Keene was held on \$1,000 secured bond and Treagle was held on \$1,500 secured bond. (48/Millan)</p> <p>Burglary/Larceny/Trespassing Piedmont Kevin Wright, 19, of Chesapeake, VA (GMU student) was arrested for the above offenses and transported to the Fairfax ADC and held on a \$9000 secured bond. (54/Galle)</p> <p>Grand Larceny Patriot Village Complainant stated that persons unknown removed his credit card from an unsecure locker and used it to make purchases at a department store (56/Issa).</p> <p><i>Police Files are taken verbatim from www.gmu.edu/police. Broadside does not make any changes to public records such as these files.</i></p> |

The First Debate

Students Have Strong Reactions to Candidates

DAVID PIERCE
Broadside Reporter

Senators John McCain and Barack Obama met Friday night at the University of Mississippi in Oxford for the first presidential debate in the 2008 general election. More than 100 George Mason University students attended a Debate Watch Party, sponsored by Mason Votes, Cox Communications, C-SPAN and the New Century College, in the Johnson Center.

The debate began with discussion of the current financial crisis. Obama was concerned about the current state of the economy and its governmental leadership.

"This is a final verdict of eight years of failed economic policies promoted by George Bush [and] supported by John McCain," Obama said. He also proposed that the relief process, which is currently being decided on in congress, should have oversight so that it won't reward CEOs, but will help homeowners with foreclosures. McCain had high hopes for the relief process.

"We have finally seen Republicans and Democrats sitting down and coming up with a package," McCain said.

McCain said the first thing he'd do as president would be to curb spending in Washington, and eliminate pork barrel earmarks. He said that Obama had accrued \$1 million in pork barrel spending for every day he's been in the senate, about \$932 million total. Obama responded by noting that McCain proposed a \$300 billion tax cut to the wealthiest Americans.

"Eliminating earmarks alone is not a recipe for how we're going to get the middle class back on track," Obama said. McCain recalled an energy bill in the senate.

"[The bill] was festooned with Christmas tree ornaments," McCain said, "I voted against it, Senator Obama voted for it." Junior James Greenan thought both candidates would cut taxes, but trusts McCain more.

"I don't see Obama making tax cuts," Greenan said. Freshman Samantha Markey disagreed with Greenan.

"95 percent of the population [under Obama's plan] sounds better than McCain's plan, which would benefit more wealthy people," Markey said.

Both candidates were asked what they would have to limit in terms of spending, due to the financial crisis. Obama said we had to eliminate programs that didn't work, and that the working programs had to be efficient and cost less. McCain suggested that we enact a spending freeze on everything except for defense, veteran affairs and entitlement programs.

"The problem with a



Friday, Sept. 26, students gathered in the Johnson Center to watch the presidential debate.

spending freeze is you're using a hatchet where you need a scalpel," Obama said, adding that spending on important programs such as early childhood education shouldn't be frozen.

The war in Iraq was the next major issue in the debate. McCain admitted that the war was badly mishandled after its initial success, but he believed we would succeed. Obama said that we shouldn't have gone to war in the first place and that he opposed the war when it was unpopular.

"John, you pretend like the war started in 2007," Obama told McCain. "The war started in 2003, [and] you said that it was going to be quick and easy," Obama said. "You were wrong."

Obama believed that we needed to send more troops to Afghanistan, but also had concern about Pakistan.

"Under George Bush, with the support of Senator McCain, we've been giving [Pakistan] \$10 billion over the last seven years, they have not [destroyed their terrorist] safe havens," Obama said. McCain criticized Obama's view of targeting Pakistan because he believes we have their support.

"You don't do that; you don't say that out loud," McCain said. Obama corrected McCain, saying he'd not attack Pakistan, but that we should kill Al Qaeda operatives when in Pakistan if the country is unable or unwilling to do it itself.

Obama said that McCain wasn't concerned about Afghanistan, referring to when McCain said that the military could "muddle through" it.

"You don't muddle through going after bin Laden," Obama said.

"You might think with that kind of concern," McCain said in

response, "that Senator Obama would have gone to Afghanistan, particularly given his responsibilities as a subcommittee chairman."

Both candidates turned their concern to Iran. McCain expressed concern that Iran could acquire nuclear weapons, and also recommended strong sanctions on the country.

"I'll sit down with [foreign leaders], but there's got to be pre-conditions," McCain said. He mentioned that Obama would speak to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad without pre-conditions. Obama told McCain that former Secretary Of State Henry Kissinger, who endorsed McCain, recently said that we should meet with Iran without pre-conditions.

"It doesn't mean you invite them over for tea one day," Obama said about the pre-conditions, "the idea is that we do not expect to solve every problem before we initiate talks."

Kaitlyn Burroughs, a junior, agreed with Obama, believing that we should do whatever it takes to get the leaders to sit down and talk.

"Just having them there is important," Burroughs said. Markey, though, felt that preconditions were needed. "If you ignore the problem, it will not go away," Markey said.

Russia was also a hot topic at the debate. Obama said that Russia is a threat to its region, and that the country's attack on Georgia was unacceptable. McCain said that his opponent believed, at first, that both sides should show restraint in the attack.

"He doesn't understand Russia committed serious aggression against Georgia," McCain said. Obama said that

he believed the Russian attack on Georgia was illegal and objectionable, contrary to what McCain claimed. Greenan thought that McCain would do a better job with handling the situation with Russia, but was worried about Obama.

"Obama could be manipulated by the international community," Greenan said.

The candidates were asked if they felt another terrorist attack could happen in the United States. McCain said he thought the chance now is less than after Sept. 11, and that Obama didn't understand that Al Qaeda would regroup in Iraq if we failed there. Obama reiterated that Osama bin Laden is still alive, and that McCain and the Bush administration have been misguided, focusing everything on Iraq.

Freshman Kyle Crumbley thought that although we haven't been attacked since 9/11, he believed the candidates were vague in their responses.

Greenan felt that McCain could have criticized Obama more.

"[McCain] could've pointed out more instances where Obama's judgment was wrong," Crumbley, however, noticed that Obama used a lot of vocal fillers such as "um" and "uh," and also criticized his behavior.

"Obama acted like a five-year-old interrupting McCain," Crumbley said.

Burroughs believed Obama did better, but that both candidates have issues they need to work on.

"Obama's speech captivated me," Burroughs said.

Co-Op Education Combines Work and Study

RACHEL PALTING
Broadside Correspondent

Non-immigrant international students who attend George Mason University full-time have an opportunity to advance their education through Cooperative Education offered by University Career Services. Cooperative Education allows these students, also known as F-1 Visa holders, to obtain familiarity in their chosen major through paid, professional work. Both require F-1 status and at least one full year of study in the U.S. However, Cooperative Education has different conditions for undergraduate and graduate students.

For example, undergraduates must be taking a minimum of 12 credits, have nine credits remaining in the next semester and a 2.0 GPA. Graduate students must be taking a minimum of nine credits, have six credits remaining in the next semester and a 3.0 GPA. To assist international students in meeting the requirements, University Career Services also offers a form to determine eligibility for the Co-Op program.

The actual enrollment process for Co-Op is lengthy because it demands a series of meetings with various offices and a lot of paperwork with specific deadlines. After determining eligibility, students must ask employers to provide letters and work agreements. Students will need to obtain approval from their academic advisors and

meet with their Career Counselor/Consultant. Lastly, F-1 Visa holders must obtain work authorization before beginning their Co-Op positions through the Office of International Programs and Services.

The staff members of the Cooperative Education Program realize how difficult and complicated applying for the program can be. Concerning the hardest part of the process Jennifer Antonini, the Co-op Coordinator, said, "Probably just getting the paperwork in by the deadline. The federal government puts a lot of restrictions on getting paperwork through. It's also difficult getting the employers to send documents by deadlines. We're an academic institution, not an employer." Yet Antonini says she enjoys her position because, "I can work with students so they can do something related to their major. They can get real world experience."

Despite the extensive enrollment process, many benefits exist through co-op. Co-Op gives students an opportunity to learn outside of the classroom while earning money. Souma, a first year graduate student in electronic computer engineering said, "[Cooperative Education] definitely gives you experience you'll be able to use when you graduate. [It's a] test of how the real world is."

Positions are available through PatriotJobWeb, a career counselor specific to a major, and the upcoming Job Fair on Oct. 7-8. For further information, stop by the University Career

Services office in SUB 1, Room 348 or visit their Web site, <http://careers.gmu.edu/students/getexperience/coop.html>.



Career Services educated international students about forms they need to fill out in order to work in the U.S.

STOPandVOTE Campaign

Website Encourages Students to Participate in Election

SONYA HUDSON
Asst. News Editor

College students encourage fellow students to vote by creating a Web site. Concept Farms, an advertising and communications firm, gave its interns a marketing opportunity this summer. This challenge led to the creation of www.STOPandVOTE.org, a Web site that encourages young people to vote and have their voices be heard in the election.

Yasin Abbak, a senior at Drew University in New Jersey with a double major in political science and economics, is the co-founder of www.STOPandVOTE.org.

Abbak explained the importance of voting and its influence on policy decisions.

"Our goal is to make our age demographic aware of the tremendous value our votes have," Abbak said. "We hope that our generation understands how important it is for all of us to act as a unit, regardless of who we individually vote for."

"Even if I were to vote for Obama, it is in my best interest to get every McCain supporter out there and voting," Abbak said. "This way, even if my candidate doesn't win, the president will have no choice but to see our generation's issues and give them some serious weight when making decisions."

The Web site is a campaign to get young people, regardless of their party affiliation, to vote.

"The importance of this election is monumental," Abbak said. "Look at the world around you. Look at Wall Street. Look at the people running for office. People who are going into college, graduating from

college or are a few years removed from it are not entering the same world that the generations before us did. None are guaranteed jobs."

"In the long run, this election is arguably going to affect our pockets and our lives more than anyone else," Abbak said. "We should be the ones the president and other officials keep in mind when making those decisions. The only way for that is for us all to vote."

Abbak explained the influence voters have.

"We are stronger than any traditional lobbyist. We are not offering money. We are offering what that money is intended to buy. Votes," Abbak said.

Abbak discussed the origin of the Web site. Abbak and the group of interns brainstormed different ideas that would attract young people and get people's attention. The group finally decided on a stop sign.

The concept was to put the word "vote" instead of the word "stop" on a stop sign, which is a recognized symbol that attracts attention. The purpose of using a stop sign was to make young people stop and think about the reasons for voting.

"At some point it all clicked together and we all went form 'this can be mad fun' to 'holy crap this is important.' This is when our message was birthed, and we started building the Web site around that idea," Abbak said.

The Web site offers the ability to register to vote and prepares new voters for what to expect.

"At www.STOPandVOTE.org, you can register to vote by printing out an

application and mailing it in. You can find your state's absentee ballot, which is important for college-age students who go to school out of state. You can even find your nearest polling place," Abbak said.

Abbak explained that his favorite part of the Web site is the interactive part, in which people can make their own image using the voting stop sign symbol. The purpose of this interaction portion is to get people to think about politics and the issues relevant to their vote.

"One of the coolest features of the Web site is that you can make an e-card. You upload any photo you want—most people like choosing images of something they care about, whether that's oil, religion, sex, politicians, equality or something else, and you can put a VOTE stop sign on it, or a stop sign with your own message on it," Abbak said.

"You can send this out to whoever you want—but it also gets uploaded to our flickr gallery, where you can see the messages that other people have created," Abbak said.

Abbak encourages students to visit the Web site and register to vote before the deadline, which is quickly approaching.

"The tools are there for you to register at www.STOPandVOTE.org—click on the link up top. You have to act quickly though, most state deadlines to register are up by early October. One of the cool tools that we built for users on the site is that when you click on the state that you live in, a state specific registration deadline counter appears at the top right of the page," Abbak said.



STOPandVOTE.org is a Web site that encourages and educates college aged people to vote.

Campus News in Brief

Student Senate fall elections

Freshmen and transfer students interested in getting involved in George Mason University's Student Government through participation in the Student Senate for the fall semester should pick up an application beginning Tuesday, Sept. 30 in the Student Activities Office in Student Union Building 1.

The deadline to turn in these applications is 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9., to the Student Activities Office. Elections will be on Oct. 21 and 22. Any questions should be directed to Haywood Watkins, the chairman of the Elections and Disputes Commission, at hwatkins@gmu.edu.

Free Lake of Fire Screening

Lake of Fire, a film about abortion, will be shown Oct. 1 in the JC cinema at 1:30 p.m. Student Media, University Life and the Film and Video Studies program present this free screening as part of election-season films at Mason.

CountMore.org, Where to Vote: Home or School?

George Mason University's out-of-state students can register to vote in Virginia, a swing state in this election to make the most of their votes.

CountMore.org is a non-partisan website that shows out-of-state college students whether their vote will count more in their home or school state.

In 1979, the Supreme Court decision of *Symms v. U.S.* gave students the right to choose whether to vote in their home state or school state. CountMore.org allows students to find whether their school or home state has more competition in the election and then provides a link to register to vote in that particular state.

The two most important states in the upcoming presidential election are Ohio and Colorado, according to CountMore.org. The next most important states are: Virginia, Pennsylvania, Florida, Nevada and Michigan.

The deadline to register to vote is fast approaching. Visit CountMore.org to find which state makes the most of your vote.

Student Health Services Starts Free HIV Testing and Free Contraceptive Programs

According to Student Health Services, one third of all HIV-infected individuals in the United States may not know they are infected (ie: about 275,000 persons).

Approximately 35 percent of the people living with HIV infection were between the ages of 20 and 29 years at the time of diagnosis. Over half of all HIV infections occur between the ages of 15 and 24.

Starting this semester, George Mason University's Student Health Services, in collaboration with the Office of Alcohol, Drug and Health Education is offering free confidential HIV testing. There are no needles involved; the test uses an oral swab. Preliminary results are given within 20 minutes. Testing is available at the Fairfax, Prince William and Arlington campuses.

"If a person is sexually active or may be at risk of contracting a sexually transmitted infection, including HIV, it's important to get tested on a regular basis. It's important to know your status, for both you and your partners. Knowing gives you peace of mind and if treatment is needed, Student Health Services can provide you with the necessary resources to treat and/or manage your particular situation," said Danielle Lapierre, Assistant Director of the Office of Alcohol, Drug and Health Education.

In an effort to reduce the transmission of sexually transmitted infections on campus and the rate of unwanted and unintended pregnancy, the Office of Alcohol, Drug and Health Education offers free, safer sex supplies to students, faculty and staff year-round. Dental dams, lubricant and male and female condoms are available inside of Student Health Services, SUB 1 Room 214 and outside of SUB 1 Room 219K.

Students can call Student Health

Services to make an appointment at (703) 993-2831.

Contact Danielle Lapierre, Assistant Director of the Office of Alcohol, Drug and Health Education at dlapierr@gmu.edu or (703) 993-3690 for more information.

University Life Hosts Multiple Events for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

University Life is hosting Breastival® on Wednesday Oct. 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at George Mason University on North Plaza (by the clock).

This program will offer breast health and breast cancer education to the Mason community and will promote early detection, prevention and breast health. Students, faculty and staff will learn how to perform breast self-exams and get information about local resources related to breast cancer and breast health.

There will be health education activities, free food, fun interactive games, great giveaways and much more. Some of the exhibitors who will be present include The Mautner Project, I'm Still Me, Young Survival Coalition and Breast Cancer Network of Strength (formerly Y-ME): Mid-Atlantic Affiliate.

Breast Health Awareness Workshops Facilitated by the Breast Cancer Network of Strength

This program will provide the Mason community with information about breast health, breast cancer awareness, early detection and ways in which they can help to further the mission of BCNS to ensure, through information, empowerment and peer support that no one faces breast cancer alone. This presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. Lunch will be provided.

The event will take place in the Northwest Lounge Alcove, near the Admissions office, on the second floor of the Johnson Center on Wednesday, Oct. 15 or Tuesday, Oct. 21 from 12 to 1 p.m.

These Breast Health Awareness

Workshops are co-sponsored by the Office of Alcohol, Drug and Health Education, University Life and Human Resources and Payroll.

Free Mammography Program

George Washington University Mobile Mammography Program will be offering free mammograms on Wednesday, Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the North Plaza by the George Mason statue. You are eligible if you:

- Are age 35 and over (between 35 and 40 must be first time only, after 40, an annual mammogram is recommended)
- Have not had a mammogram in the past 12 months
- Have not experienced breast symptoms such as a lump or breast pain
- Do not have breast implants
- Have not been previously treated for breast cancer

• Have a Primary Care Physician (doctor's information is required) To make an appointment, please call (202) 741-3252. If you have any questions, please contact Danielle Lapierre with the Office of Alcohol, Drug and Health Education at (703) 993-3690 or dlapierr@gmu.edu.

Breast Cast Art Display

Breast Castings from members of the George Mason community will be on display in the Mason Hall Gallery from Oct. 27 to Oct. 31.

This event will raise breast health awareness and empower women to be more comfortable with their bodies.

This display is co-sponsored by the Office of Alcohol, Drug and Health Education, University Life and the Feminist Ninjas.

Contact Danielle Lapierre at (703) 993-3690 or dlapierr@gmu.edu for more information.

Michelle Obama Urges Youth to Vote

Student Journalists Speak with Michelle Obama



Seniors **Jose Ruiz** and **Hugo Quisbert** hand out Mason Votes buttons at Hispanics/Latinos Rock the Vote!

PHOTO BY RUBY LYON

Know Your Voting Rights

SONYA HUDSON
Asst. News Editor

As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Hispanic Student Association and Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad/Lambda Pi Chi Sorority, Inc., sponsored African American Rev. Williams Johnson, an advocate for social justice, to speak about the importance of voting, Tuesday night, Sept. 23 in Patriot's Lounge in Student Union Building I.

Rev. Johnson is co-pastor at the New Prospect Family Praise and Worship Center in Washington D.C. Johnson is interested in the election and is encouraging people to vote. Normally Johnson canvasses in different areas, such as neighborhoods and assisted living facilities to register citizens to vote.

Johnson has a history of campaigning for social justice. He has campaigned for the rights of truck drivers, grocery store workers and employees of Wal-Mart.

Johnson explained the importance of voting to the small crowd.

"Regardless of who you're supporting, they are going to make decisions that will affect and impact your lives for years to come," Johnson said. "They will impact where you want to work."

Johnson discussed the multiple debate topics of the candidates, such as universal health care, Medicare, the economy and global warming. Johnson tailored his speech to the college student audience. He mentioned the high gas prices and high entertainment prices, such as the movies.

"The person elected will also determine what type of car you will drive," Johnson said, appealing to issues related to young voters.

Along with reasons for voting, Rev. Johnson discussed the registration process and the importance of encouraging other people to register and vote.

Every vote counts, especially in Virginia, which is a swing state in this election.

"Virginia's 13 electoral votes could just determine who sits in the White House. That's just how close it is," Johnson said.

Johnson encouraged students to register, promising that it takes less than two minutes.

Johnson also informed students of the various ways of voting. Students who are out-of-state, but would like to register in Virginia can, if they fill out the correct information. Absentee ballots are also available for students who need to vote early by a mail-in ballot.

When voting on Tuesday, Nov. 4, Johnson warned students of the long lines and encouraged them not to get frustrated, but to make friends with the people in line.

"Don't let anyone discourage you from voting," Johnson said.

To encourage people to vote and not let them get discouraged, Johnson quoted an old song.

"I ain't gonna let nobody turn me around, I ain't gonna let nobody turn me around, I see freedom, I see freedom, I'm not going to let anyone turn me around," Johnson quoted.

After his speech, several students responded with interest.

Alexa Rey-Urbe, a senior communication major, commented on the importance of voting because voters are not just voting for the president but also local elections that really affect the everyday lives of citizens.

"I thought [Johnson] was knowledgeable and open to all issues," said Melissa Douglas, a senior marketing major.

"I thought [Johnson] was inspiring, and he had a lot of information that answered my questions," said Rojer Solorzano, a junior in management information systems.

The Hispanic Student Association has taken the initiative to support student-voting efforts. Luis Gonzalez, a junior communications major, is the president of the Hispanic Student Association. As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, Gonzalez said that the Hispanic Student Association will have a kiosk setup in the Johnson Center every Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m. to provide students with voting information as well as registration forms.

CHRISTIAN YINGLING
Mason Votes Content Editor

In a conference call with student journalists last Monday, Michelle Obama touted the importance of the youth vote to this fall's presidential election. "Young people can make a huge difference," Obama said. "No matter who they are voting for, we need young people to register to vote."

In 2000, only 36 percent of registered voters age 18 to 24 voted in the presidential election. That number only increased to 47 percent in 2004.

"This year we have got to turn this trend around and I think we are doing that," Obama said. "Young folks, as well as anyone, know why this matters. We need all the young people we have met to stay involved and to really stay focused. Young people . . . will be dealing with the effects of this election for the rest of their lives."

Obama said her husband's most important agendas are the economy, healthcare, ending the war in Iraq "responsibly" and investing in schools and renewable energy. She cautioned however, against rash optimism regarding the capabilities the next president will have to make sweeping changes.

"The next president,

whoever it will be, will be inheriting a crisis at home and abroad," she said. "The next president can lead us in a different direction . . . or the next president could not."

Overall, Obama stressed the impact her husband's educational platforms will have on current and future students. Drawing on her experience as a mother, she reminded the gathered journalists that she and her husband, presidential nominee Barack Obama, will have to prepare for the personal debt of their own children's higher education.

"Barack and I just paid down our student loans," she added.

In an effort to distinguish her husband's platform from that of his Republican opponent Sen. John McCain, Obama stressed Barack's proposed legislation to increase Pell Grants to \$5,100 and his continued commitment to keeping it at "pace with rising costs."

Obama also promoted the new Web site www.vote4change.com which is a product of the Obama campaign. It assists potential voters by allowing them to register to vote, find out if you are already registered, register for an absentee ballot, find the nearest polling location and provides practical voting



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA

Michelle Obama promoted www.vote4change.com, which is the Web site for the Obama campaign.

information.

Although www.vote4change.com is paid for by Obama's presidential campaign, the editors of Mason Votes feel that its non-partisan information is important enough to be featured by their Web site. Mason Votes editors have contacted the campaigns of

McCain, Cynthia McKinney, Bob Barr and Ralph Nader in search of similar sites. Only Nader's campaign provided a similar site, www.votersunite.com, which will also be linked from the Mason Votes site.

Article courtesy of Mason Votes.

Students Weigh In on Vice Presidential Candidates

Level of Experience Most Important to Students

DAVID PIERCE
Broadside Reporter

George Mason University students shared their opinions about the 2008 vice presidential candidates on Tuesday, Sept. 23, in the Johnson Center. Each student was shown a picture of both vice presidential candidates, Senator Joe Biden (D-Del.) and Gov. Sarah Palin (R-Alaska). After their initial reactions, they were shown a paper outlining the candidate's professional experience, age and family information.

Most students interviewed recognized the vice presidential candidates right away. Bobbie Lind, a Republican but undecided voter, admitted that she didn't know too much about Palin's history, but she did know of Biden's.

"Biden has been around forever and he hasn't shown anything I care about," Lind said, regarding the Delaware senator's experience.

She felt that although both vice presidential candidates were confident, Palin exuded confidence. When asked about democratic claims that Palin doesn't know much about Washington politics, Lind defended the Alaskan governor.

"It would be a good idea to get somebody new and fresh in the White House," Lind said.

She also felt both Biden and Palin are equal in terms of ability and experience to lead the nation should the next president be unable to serve.

"Experience is always an issue," Lind said, "but I don't necessarily care." She added that she would like the media to delve into Biden's history and personal life like she feels they do to Palin. "I want something good said about [Palin]," Lind said.

Ann Reynolds, a Republican-leaning independent, felt that Palin and Biden's experience were equal, but in different ways. She felt that Biden had more experience at the federal level, while Palin had more state-level experience.

"What [Palin] has done in the amount of time in office is key," Reynolds said in regards to Palin's shorter experience when compared to Biden's. She also felt that both party's candidates were energetic, and could lead the country successfully if something should happen to the president. "The vice president is more of a figurehead," said Reynolds of their importance. She felt that she would be fine regardless of which vice presidential candidate won.

Scott Laspe, a Democrat, expressed concern with the Republican ticket.

"Palin doesn't have enough

experience," Laspe said, adding that it didn't make a good combination with McCain's age.

Laspe felt that he would vote based on gender for the presidential candidate, preferring a male. He said he wouldn't vote based on gender for the vice president, noting that a female would be okay. He also expressed general frustration with the choice of vice presidential candidates in this year's election. "I'm honestly not a huge fan of either," Laspe said.

Even with prominent media coverage after the recent national conventions, a few students were unfamiliar with Biden and Palin. Abdul Kamer, a Democrat, thought Palin was the democratic vice presidential nominee when first shown her picture. Kamer felt that Biden could be a successful vice president, but expressed concern about Palin. "She doesn't have much experience, which makes me a little hesitant," Kamer said.

Democrat Diana Chavez immediately went to Palin when handed the candidate's pictures. "I want the woman [to win]," Chavez said. She felt that Biden's age was a detriment in the election, and that Palin, being a mother of five, added to her appeal.

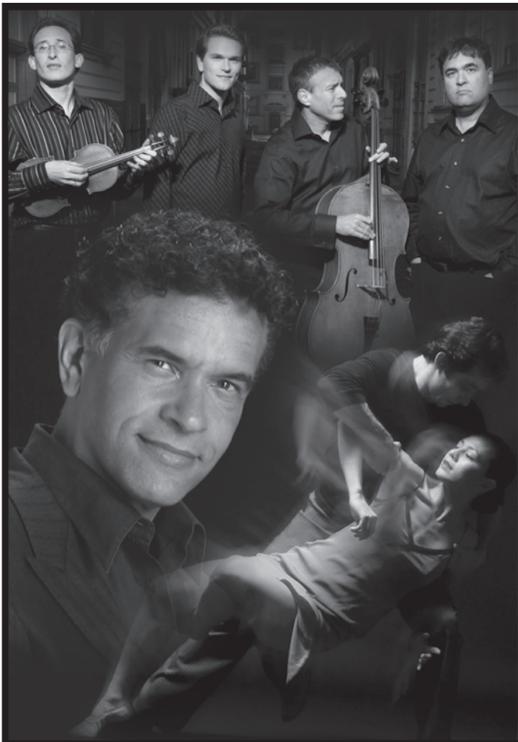
When informed that Palin

was the Republican candidate, and Biden was the Democrat, Chavez was surprised. She explained that she assumed Palin was the democratic nominee due to her gender. "He's very experienced," said Chavez about Biden, changing her views on the two nominees.

She went on to criticize Palin based on the state she governs. "Alaska is not even connected to [the contiguous United States]," said Chavez, adding that Palin, in her view, was not in touch with issues that are important to the majority of the U.S.

She also noted that Biden, born in Pennsylvania and a senator from Delaware, knows more about issues affecting Americans. When asked about both the Obama and the McCain campaigns' claims to bring change to Washington, Chavez immediately said, "Obama is going to change Washington; Palin is going to change the weather," alluding to the cold winter climate of Alaska.

Chavez had more to say about the candidates as she examined their photographs. "Joe [Biden] looks very vice presidential," Chavez said. "Palin looks like she's promoting a dentist's office."



Free Tickets for Mason Students!



AVT VISUAL VOICES SPEAKER SERIES
Invisible Forces; R.G. Brown
Thursday, Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m.
Free HT

SHAKESPEARE & COMPANY: HAMLET
Saturday, Oct. 4 at 8 p.m.
\$36, \$28, \$18 CH
Free Student Tickets Available Now

VISION SERIES: JEREMY D. MAYER
The Last Month in Presidential Elections, This Year and Every Time
Monday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.
Free CH

STUDIO SERIES #1
Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead
Thursday, Fri., Sat., Oct. 9, 10 & 11 at 8 p.m.
Sat. & Sun., Oct. 11 & 12 at 2 p.m.
\$6 Adults, \$3 Students/Seniors BB
Limited Free Student Tickets Available Now

SONG AND DANCE ENSEMBLE of WEST AFRICA
Friday & Sat., Oct. 10 & 11 at 8 p.m.
\$46, \$38, \$23 CH
Free Student Tickets Available Sep. 30

GMU OPERA
Trouble in Love: an Operatic Double Take
Friday & Sat., Oct. 17 & 18 at 8 p.m.
\$20, \$15 HT
Limited Free Student Tickets Available Oct. 7

VIRGINIA OPERA
Il Trovatore
Friday, Oct. 17 at 8 p.m. \$86, \$72, \$44
Sunday, Oct. 19 at 2 p.m. \$98, \$80, \$48 CH
Limited Free Student Tickets Available Oct. 7

TURTLE ISLAND STRING QUARTET
with **SERGIO and ODAIR ASSAD**
String Theory
Saturday, Oct. 18 at 8 p.m.
\$42, \$34, \$21 CH
Free Student Tickets Available Oct. 7

GMU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA and CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Wednesday, Oct. 22 at 8 p.m.
\$15 Adults, \$10 Students/Seniors CH
Limited Free Student Tickets Available Oct. 14

AVT VISUAL VOICES SPEAKER SERIES
A Printmaker's Voice: the Art of Karen Kunc
Thursday, Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m.
Free HT

GMU PLAYERS #1
Shakespeare in Hollywood
Oct. 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, Nov. 1 at 8 p.m.
Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 2 at 2 p.m.
\$12 Adults, \$8 Students/Seniors TS
Limited Free Student Tickets Available Oct. 14

FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Angela Cheng, piano
Saturday, Oct. 25 at 8 p.m.
\$55, \$45, \$35, \$25 CH
Limited Free Student Tickets Available Oct. 14

Call 703-993-8888 or visit gmu.edu/cfa/students

Center for the Arts



Learning Bush's Language

Journalist Draws Parallels from the Past

NOAH MARTIN
News Editor



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC LICHTBLAU

As part of the Fall for the Book, George Mason University hosted Eric Lichtblau, journalist with the Washington bureau for *The New York Times* and 2006 Pulitzer Prize winner for national reporting. Lichtblau spoke about his new book *Bush's Law: The Remaking of American Justice* to students and attendees outside of the Johnson Center on Sept. 24.

Lichtblau began his address by drawing a parallel between the White House's current proposal for a \$700 billion bail out package to resuscitate major Wall St. firms and the White House's passage of the Patriot Act and push for military funding prior to invading Afghanistan.

In both cases, Lichtblau claimed the Bush Administration emphasized the urgency and necessity of the proposals. In the current financial situation, Lichtblau said, the Bush Administration is pressuring congress to pass the \$700 billion bail out package without delay in order to avoid a total financial meltdown and formerly pressured congress to pass the Patriot Act and allocate military spending according to Bush Administration proposals in order to avoid another terrorist attack.

If Congress passes the currently proposed bailout package, Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. will have complete control over the allocation of the \$700 billion, the largest government bailout of private industry in the history of the United States. Congress will have no oversight of the fund's distribution. The plan will greatly increase the Treasury secretary's powers.

The executive branch gained additions to its powers following Sept. 11 through the Patriot Act legislation that it demanded be passed for the sake of national security. The granting of those powers were requested to enable the White House greater speed and efficacy when making decisions in the nation's best interest but has since been under criticism for infringement of civil liberties.

"The White House has used a 'trust us' mentality that has been dangerous over the past seven years," Lichtblau said. "The go it alone mentality has been its Achilles' heel . . . Where the white house really went too far, to its own detriment, was refusing to play ball with the other branches of government."

Lichtblau's book traces how the executive branch was able to extend its powers over the past seven years and how that led to the wire tapping program eventually uncovered by his and James Risen's investigative reporting.

The wire tapping program, initiated by the White House, was a massive data mining operation used to compile profiles of potential terrorists based on a suspect's country of origin, ethnic and racial profiling and financial transactions.

The New York Times began investigating the piece when rumors were spread that there was dissent in the Bush Administration about issues of surveillance on American citizens. Reporting revealed that there was a revolt in the Justice Department over the wiretapping program. Many of the lawyers refused to sign off the program feeling it may be a criminal act to approve the program. The lawyers in the Justice Department weren't liberals either, claimed Lichtblau.

"It was a battle between conservatives and even more conservatives," Lichtblau said.

When *The New York Times* went to publish the story about the wire tapping program, President Bush's top aides went to the editors and told them to stop the presses. They said U.S. citizens would die if *The Times* ran the story and that the program was vital to national security and the pursuit of terrorists.

"I, as a lowly reporter, thought that the story should run," Lichtblau said. "The administration was doing it without going through the courts, that mechanism had been completely circumvented."

The story finally ran, 13 months after the presidential election in 2004. As Lichtblau said, "Journalism regained its footing after a period of complacency following 9/11."

Article courtesy of Mason Votes.



PHOTO BY GRACE KENDALL

Author of children and young adult books, Moira Donohue reads *Penny and the Punctuation Bee* to children during Fall for the Book.

The Difference Between Illegal and Undocumented

Journalist David Bacon Addresses the Issue of Immigration and Coming Election

NOAH MARTIN
News Editor



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID BACON

David Bacon, photojournalist, author and immigration rights activist, spoke at George Mason University last week as a part of the Fall for the Book program. He came to speak specifically about his new book *Illegal People*, but addressed the larger issues of

immigration rights today, the current credit crunch, the War On Terror, the immigration policy of both major party presidential candidates and the housing market collapse.

Bacon explained that there are currently more than 200 million people living outside their country of origin, approximately five percent of the world's population. He emphasized the effect that North American Free Trade Agreement had on people all over the world, not just the population movement between the U.S. and Mexico.

NAFTA was intended to create free movement of labor and goods across North American borders. When it came into effect, U.S. corporations able to cover overhead costs either moved their manufacturing out of the country or out-sourced to foreign contractors in order to take advantage of lower labor costs.

Zero-sum logic and popular sentiment suggest that if people lost jobs in the U.S. then people in other countries gained an equivalent number of jobs. However, Bacon claimed, unemployment increased in both countries. When NAFTA came into effect, American workers lost jobs, primarily in the manufacturing sector, while Mexico also lost over one million jobs.

The Clinton Administration delivered a \$20 billion bailout to Mexico. According to Bacon, the money was cycled through subsidiaries of large U.S. financial institutions in Mexico City and back

into the U.S. market. Mexico's oil revenues, which account for the largest percentage of Mexico's gross national product, went to pay off the debt instead of towards Mexico's social infrastructure—schools, hospitals, public housing, etc.

In addition to collecting oil revenues, said Bacon, Mexico was forced to cut subsidies on corn production. Because of subsidized agribusiness in the U.S., it became cheaper for people to buy imported corn from U.S. Farmers. Mexicans who could no longer make a living wage off of corn farming became dislocated workers. "That tells you something about the inequality of trade agreements," Bacon said.

Bacon claimed that NAFTA has caused the displacement of peoples and the migration of over six million people to the U.S. to present. "If you go to Mexico today, the saying goes, that not one family doesn't have someone working in the United States," Bacon said.

Undocumented, rather than illegal, is the term that Bacon prefers to describe migrant workers who come to the U.S. This preference, he claimed, is not a simple matter of semantics. Twelve million people work in the United States without documentation. The relatively small group of people that would use the term "illegal" do it to demonize immigration into the U.S.

While undocumented simply connotes being unaccounted for, illegal connotes a difference in status and value as a human being. "Is that difference in status a benefit to people in this country," Bacon asked.

He cited the civil rights movement to explain the point he was trying to make. Bacon's explanation was that English speakers do not use colored and negro anymore. This isn't simply because the language changed, but because the civil rights movement challenged the social reality of citizens and caused a change in language as a result. "Colored" and "negro" could be used only as long as an oppressed voice was excluded from the social reality. But during and after the civil rights movement, terms used by members of the movement to describe themselves became part of the language spoken by citizens of the changed

social reality.

"The important thing is to change the reality of the social situation in order to change the terms used to describe a difference in status," Bacon said.

He continued his address by tracing the history of how certain races and nationalities were excluded from the social reality by not being recognized by the law. The trend he claimed, was that immigrants were recognized as workers but only as workers, not as human beings.

"Today, this same idea is being replicated," Bacon said. "People are increasingly being charged with criminal violations for working or crossing the border in the United States."

Formerly working without the proper documentation in the U.S. was a civil offense. Violators were required to leave and if they did not do so voluntarily, they were deported. Today working without proper documentation is a criminal offense. When arrested, violators are taken to court and then ushered off to privatized federal prison were they serve as a free labor force.

The crime of misusing social security numbers associated with migrant workers is different than popularly presented, Bacon said. People come here to work and need social security numbers. When they cannot obtain them through the proper channels, they make up, buy or steal numbers. Social security puts money into a suspense fund if the number doesn't match up with worker using the number. The money from that suspense fund is used for the retirement plans and medical benefits of U.S. citizens.

Guest worker programs are a solution to the immigration swell proposed by many legislators claiming to be pro-immigration. Under these plans, employers would be allowed to recruit people and bring them to the United States. Under these programs however, workers cannot bring their families and are forced to leave if their job is terminated.

Wal-Mart, Marriot Corporation and other industries relying on immigrant labor have supported guest worker plans. The goal of these

programs, Bacon said, is to convert the workforce into a controllable workforce in industries dependent on undocumented labor. Guest worker programs create a workforce tied to their employer without recourse to legal rights or political voice.

Our focus, Bacon said, should be on the social status we want for people working in the United States. It determines the status of people when they are here, it does not dissuade or prevent people from coming here.

When asked how best to deal with a predatory system of immigration policy Bacon said, "Face the reality, don't debate immigration policy on the one hand and then pass free trade agreements. I like a diversity of people but immigration should be a voluntary process. First we need to deal with the status of migrant workers. They need to have a status. We have to make it possible for people to come here legally and not cross the desert. We have to figure out an immigration policy that will allow people to come back and forth [across the U.S.- Mexico border] without fear of reprisal. We have to protect the rights of people."

To find out more about David Bacon, his work or to obtain a copy of his book *Illegal People*, visit <http://dbacon.igc.org>.

Article courtesy of Mason Votes.

The Countdown has begun

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Journalism No Longer a Watch Dog

Professor Claims that Journalism has Routinely Failed in its Mission of Objectivity

MIGUEL PEREZ

Staff Writer

Robert Jensen, professor of Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin and author of *Getting Off: Pornography and the End of Masculinity* discussed the failure and shortcomings of journalism and the Middle East at George Mason University in the Johnson Center room G on Thursday, Sept. 25.

Jensen is a member of the Third Coast Activist. The event was held by Mason's Middle East Studies Institute and the Middle East Etcetera Film Studies. Free pizza was served, including halal variety, to a packed room of students.

Jensen began his lecture by thanking the audience for having him at Mason. He poked fun at his North Dakotan upbringings, "we are not known for setting the world on fire," and mentioned an interesting side note. One of his relatives was the best friend of George W. Johnson and revealed that his nickname was "jughead."

Following the introduction, he started to talk about the Middle East and journalism using an example. "There's this country song by Alan Jackson titled, 'Where were you when the world stopped turning?' and it goes 'I'm just a singer of simple songs I'm not a real political man,'" Jensen quoted. "I watch CNN but I'm not sure I can tell you the difference in Iraq and Iran."

Jensen said that it was disturbing that this type of ignorance was common enough to be sung about in a song and that it was the equivalent of almost celebrating one's idiocy and ignorance.

He then discussed the events that led to the War in Iraq and introduced three things he believed we need from the media: an independent source of factual information, context in which it's useful and exposure to the widest sources opinion possible.

"But journalism has routinely failed us when we needed it the most," said Jensen as he talked about three cases in which he believed they failed: Israel, Iran and Iraq.

According to Jensen, journalists failed in the Iraq War since they did not look at independent sources and instead relied too much on the government for information. He cited Wolf Blitzer's appearance on *The Daily Show with John Stewart* as an example. Blitzer said he had received all the briefings from the CIA, Pentagon and Congress but failed to contact anyone outside these structures, such as former government officials, dissenters, anti-war activists or

anyone outside the U.S. The result, according to Jensen, was groupthink that facilitated the War in Iraq.

Journalists also continue to fail today in providing a relevant context when it comes to Iran. When we routinely hear of Iran, we hear that they are developing nuclear weapons and that they are the axis of evil, but the media neglects to provide the public with a historical context, according to Jensen.

Thus when we hear about Iran in the media, there are little references to why Iran acts the way it does, that being: the 1953 coup of its democratically elected government by the U.S. and Britain, Israel's nuclear power, and its blacklist in the "axis of evil."

"People might form slightly different views if this context was provided," Jensen argued. "If you do not provide this context then it's hard to understand [the Iranians.]"

Finally, as an example of where U.S. media fails in providing a wider range of relevant opinion, he looked at Israel.

He asked the audience what they believed was the range of acceptable opinion about Israel. A member of the audience shouted back "absolutely zero."

One wonders if there's any opinion at all, Jensen said. The debate accepts a framework and it ignores the history, the motivations and is not based on independent sources.

As for the causes of the current state of the media, he said, "this isn't the product of a conspiracy. Structural systems made it



Robert Jensen is a professor journalism professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

possible." Those structural systems were: the reliance on the government for information, corporate news media and "American Exceptionalism"—the idea that the only country without interests is the U.S.

"Well, I already knew much about what was discussed here," said freshman Tyler Toole. "But it was very eye-opening."

Fimian and Connolly Go Head-to-Head

SONYA HUDSON

Asst. News Editor

Democrat Gerry Connolly and Republican Keith Fimian, running for Virginia's 11th Congressional District, conducted a debate last Friday afternoon in Harris Theatre.

Connolly serves on a number of boards in Fairfax. He is chairman of the County's Legislative Committee and vice-chair of the Economic Advisory Committee. Connolly is also a member, and past chairman, of the Board of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, to name a few of the boards and committees.

Fimian is chairman and founder of U.S. Inspect, the nation's largest provider of residential and commercial property inspection services.

The American Association of Retired Persons in Virginia and Virginia21, a younger version of the AARP, sponsored the debate. AARP is a non-partisan organization for people age 50 or older and interested in enhancing the quality of life for all people.

Affordable, quality health care and financial securities were the focus topics of the debate.

The rules of the debate allowed each candidate two minutes to answer each question asked by the panel and audience members and did not allow for rebuttal.

Jeremy Mayer, director and professor in the Master's Program in Public Policy, introduced the candidates and acted as moderator.

In his opening remarks, Fimian addressed the downward spin of the economy.

"The whole Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac debacle should never have happened," Fimian said.

"When you and I speed, we get speeding tickets," Fimian said. "When Congress speeds, it raises the speed limit."

In Connolly's opening remarks, he addressed his interaction with George Mason University. Connolly addressed the reasons he is ready for this position in Congress. He discussed his 14 years of experience in local government in Fairfax County, selected as the best managed county in the United States out of three thousand.

"We want to do everything we can to make sure George Mason University is the best university in the Commonwealth of Virginia," said Connolly, appealing to Mason students and faculty.

The panel of four included Ron D'Agostino, president of Mason's Virginia21 chapter, Zack Golden, student body president, and two AARP Virginia volunteers, Carolyn Ritter and Robert Sargeant. Each panelist asked at least one question to the candidates.

After the formal panel round was over, audience members had the opportunity to turn in their own questions as closely related to the topics of health care and financial security.

The questions addressed the economy and the current financial bailout plan, social

security, health care and health insurance, cost of education, financial security, availability of birth control and the War in Iraq. Each topic was covered briefly, as the candidates only had two minutes to give an answer.

Throughout the debate, each politician used some of his time given to answer a question, to instead respond to or challenge his opponent.

After the debate, Forrest Montagne, a junior majoring in government and international politics, handed out paraphernalia for the Democratic Party of Virginia.

"I learned that Keith Fimian knew how to take shots at Connolly when he couldn't respond," Montagne said. "The debate was good overall. Good questions were asked but the lack of rebuttal made the debate not as complete."

"The philosophical differences between the candidates were apparent in the debate," said student body president and panel member, Zack Golden. "The debate and each candidate's answers help voters determine how each candidate would vote and represent Virginia's 11th district."

"I would have liked to see rebuttals, how the candidates respond to their opponent," said Golden. "Overall the debate did a great job of educating voters on how candidates stand on issues."

Misleading VA Board of Elections Questionnaire Center for Justice Raises Concerns

NOAH MARTIN

News Editor

The Virginia State Board of Elections has been accused of possibly trying to confuse student voters. In an effort to make registering to vote easier for students, the Board has posted a self-guided questionnaire on their Web site.

Representatives from the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University Law School have raised concerns about the questionnaire and have sent a letter to Secretary of Virginia State Board of Elections Nancy Rodriguez requesting that the questionnaire be changed or removed from the Web site.

Jennifer Rosenberg, of the Brennan Center for Justice, and Wendy Weiser, Deputy Director of the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice claim, "the questionnaire may actually confuse, mislead and intimidate student voters." According to them, the questionnaire asks students personal questions and questions that are irrelevant to determining voter residency.

When asked about whether she thought their were ulterior motives for posting the questionnaire, Rosenberg replied, "It's impossible to get inside

another person's head. Possibly it was trying to discourage student voters, but I don't know."

The questionnaire consists of 11 questions, most with multiple steps, and helps the student determine whether to vote in the state of Virginia or their home state if they lived in another state prior to attending college or university.

While a completed questionnaire is not required in order to register to vote, the Virginia State Board of Elections decided to post it as a tool to be used by students if desired.

"The questionnaire has been around for some time internally and has been used by registrars to help students determine whether they want to vote in Virginia or in another state," said Valarie Jones, Deputy Secretary for the State Board of Elections. "Its for the voter to make their own decision."

Questions pertaining to enrollment status, tax dependent status and type of tuition paid by the student, in or out-of-state, are some of the questions that Rosenberg and Weiser cite in their letter as irrelevant which might intimidate student voters.

In their letter, they express the secondary concern that students may be misled into believing that registering

to vote will effect their tuition or tax status. "In virtually all cases, registering to vote has no impact on such matters," write Rosenberg and Weiser.

In response to accusations that the questionnaire was hindering students from registering to vote, Deputy Secretary Jones stated, "I can tell you, students are signing up in droves to vote in the state of Virginia."

Rosenberg's alternative for students is the Brennan Center For Justice's Legal Guide for Student Voting, a web tool designed to inform students of their rights as voters and to dispel myths about the registration process and its possible consequences.

To view the Virginia State Board of Election's student questionnaire and decide for yourself go to: http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/documents/VoterRegistration_Voter_Residency_Questionnaire.pdf

To view Rosenberg and Weiser's letter in response to the questionnaire go to: http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/letter_to_virginia_regarding_student_voting

Article courtesy of Mason Votes.

Debate Watch Party Brings Students to the Johnson Center Atrium

Mason Professors and Local Committee Representatives Analyze Debate

MIGUEL PEREZ

Staff Writer

Students gathered for the presidential debate watch party last Friday, Sept. 26 in the Johnson Center atrium. The debate between Republican candidate John McCain and Democratic candidate Barack Obama was the first presidential debate of this year.

The event started at 8 p.m. with a pre-debate discussion, which featured Mason professors and the actual debate began at 9 p.m. "We try to hold this event every four years," said New Century College Associate Professor Janette Muir. "We also try to engage in conversation following the debate instead of listening to the media spin."

After the debate those remaining participated in a dialogue instead of watching the "spin" provided afterwards.

Despite the theme of foreign policy, many students hoped to hear the candidates address other issues that they believed were just as important. Among those mentioned, students spoke of the economy, tax breaks for students/reduced tuition and health insurance reform.

"I just hope both give intelligent answers—answers that make sense," said John Vorndran, who worked with Events Production during the preparation for the debate. "We need some answers for the economy, so people feel secure financially."

Among those present at the scene were the students of the New

Century College's Presidential Campaign course, who were at the site handing out informational pink flyers with each candidates' position on key issues and surveys.

"I really hope that they try to focus on the economy today—instead of foreign policy. Obama said that's all he'd talk about," said senior Jessica Wolfkill of the Presidential Campaign course.

"I hope to see a better clarification of the candidates' foreign policy," said junior Kevin Sanchez, also of the Presidential Campaign course. "I want to see who presents the best idea and who we can trust as being the future president of the United States. I also hope that Obama wins the debate tonight."

Also present at the scene were the College Democrats and College Republicans. Prior to watching the debate, College Democrats President Grant Herring was busily filling out voter registration applications as other volunteers walked around and handed out free Obama posters and \$1 bumper stickers.

Before the debate started, Professor Muir asked who the audience hoped would win the debate. After she called a candidate's name, people in favor of that candidate were to rise. A handful stood up for McCain, while the overwhelming majority stood up for Obama.

"We're definitely the minority tonight," said Joshua St. Louis, second vice chair of College Republicans.

The debate began as scheduled. Candidates discussed the economy in the beginning. Predictably, students clapped when they

heard Obama call for more accessible college tuition and some cheered when they heard McCain call for the use of nuclear power. The audience remained relatively civil, except for a random heckler who shouted something unintelligible as he or she left the Johnson Center.

"The debate was good. I liked it. I definitely thought Obama won," said Sanchez after the debate. "They brought up a lot of valuable points. It was interesting to watch."

"I was glad that they addressed the economy in the beginning," Wolfkill said. "And it was everything I expected to see tonight."

Though most students started to leave at 10:30 p.m., some stayed around for a discussion after the debate in the atrium.

The event was sponsored by Mason Votes, CSPAN, Cox Communications and New Century College. Free catered food was available to attendees.

The debate and the panel discussion that prefaced it, encouraged students to be involved in this election. Students have been encouraged through a variety of programs and events on campus to register to vote and have their voices heard.

This first presidential debate helped students, no matter their party affiliation, learn what issues are important to them and which candidate would be more effective as president.

Obama and McCain will have at least three more debates in October. Tune in to keep informed and be ready to vote on Nov. 4.