

# BR ADSIDE



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## Raising a Voice to Rising Crime

### Turn Off the Violence

**ADAM SYLVAIN**  
Broadside Correspondent

On-campus sex offenses have risen over the last three years according to George Mason University's Annual Security Report. Last year alone, there were 12 reported offenses, a number that more than doubles when considering that an estimated 60 percent of sexual assaults are not reported.

To help raise awareness for victims Sexual Assault Services is sponsoring Turn Off the Violence Week to encourage victims, friends and family members to seek support. Several hundred students participate in events during the week, which typically attracts some assault survivors seeking help.

Students can participate early by taking part in the Northern Virginia Coalition Donation Drive to help fund transitional housing for domestic abuse victims and their families. The drive runs from Oct. 1 to 10. Donations can be brought by anyone to any of the following on-campus locations: Johnson Center, Room 240K, Enterprise Hall, Room 442, or Student Union Building I, Room 220.

The week of events, starting Oct. 14, is highlighted by the 11th Annual Clothesline Project, where over 500 t-shirts will be decorated and hung in dedication to female assault victims.

From Oct. 14 to 16, students can pick up a t-shirt to decorate and hang from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the grove area between Harris Theatre and SUB I. The T-shirts will be on display and all students are invited to come by and view the creative dedications.

On Oct. 15, beginning at 7 p.m., students are encouraged to attend the Take Back the Night Rally and March. Attendees will first gather in North Plaza in support of an end to sexual and domestic

violence, and then will proceed with a peace march throughout campus. The rally is co-sponsored by the Feminist Ninja's, a student group on campus with the purpose of educating members of the Mason community on women's gender issues. Several speakers and a reception will also be featured during the event.

The following night, Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 7 p.m., a support group will meet in the grove between Harris Theatre and SUB I. The event is called Survivor Space. Sexual abuse survivors are deeply encouraged to take the opportunity to gather and receive mutual support. Mason students are also encouraged to attend and voice opinions about sexual abuse and violence.

Male students are not forgotten during the week's events. Friday, Oct. 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Paul Robeson Room 240A in the Johnson Center, there will be a Mason Strong Interest Meeting for men interested in being part of Mason's new male ally group. The Mentors Advisory Board will also be available to share information and answer questions.

The White Ribbon Campaign is also an opportunity for men to take a stand against sexual assault and domestic violence. White Ribbons will be distributed at kiosk locations in the JC throughout the week. Sexual Assault Services is committed to providing direct services for survivors of sexual assault, stalking, dating or partner violence. SAS also serves to educate the university community about such violence. Students can take advantage of these services at no cost and with the assurance that victim's feelings and privacy are fully respected.

The clothesline project is an activity during Turn Off the Violence Week.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES



PHOTO BY COURTNEY ERLAND | PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Southside opens today in the Northeast Sector. Southside replaced Ciao Hall in SUB II, and offers fresh made to order food options.

## Ciao to Old Buffet

### New Southside Dining Facility Opens on Campus

**SONYA HUDSON**  
Asst. News Editor

Southside is now open to all students, faculty and staff. Southside has replaced Ciao Hall as the all-you-can-eat style dining on campus. This dining facility, located behind Student Union Building II on the second floor of Southside Hall in the general Chesapeake Area, offers students six stations of variety and freshly made food.

Each station provides the George Mason University community with different tastes and experiences. One of the first stations, "Without Boundaries," provides international cuisine. "Changing Colors," also near the front, provides a large salad bar. "4400 Grill" provides grilled food, such as hot sandwiches and burgers. "Pasta Amore" is filled with freshly made pasta and thin-crust wheat pizza. "Wrapped Up" has deli sandwiches and wraps. "After All" offers baked pastries, desserts such as donuts, cookies and cupcakes.

In the pre-opening and dedication of Southside on Friday afternoon, Student Body President Zack Golden, President Alan Merten and Assistant Vice President for University Services Mark Kraner spoke highly of Southside.

Golden impressed upon those present that Southside is a representation of

Mason values and success. He said that the facility shows innovation, through its unique sustainability measures, diversity in regard to food choices, and location, as a place for all students, faculty and staff.

President Merten thanked faculty, staff and students for helping celebrate the opening of Southside. Merten said that Southside is a functional, elegant and sustainable representation of Mason.

Kraner ended the short celebration by welcoming Southside to Mason. Students who attended the pre-opening enjoyed all aspects of Southside.

Southside provides many different seating options throughout the facility. Booths, tables and high tables allow many different group sizes to sit comfortably. Students favored the seating options as well as the food choices.

"The food is a lot better than I expected, a lot better than Ciao," said Matt Palazzo, a sophomore government and international politics major. Though Palazzo found the plates to be awkwardly shaped, he found the food to be delicious.

Nicole Kukuruda, a senior majoring in government and international politics and a member of Student Government, found the layout and the size of the plates brilliant. The salad bar is near the front and small plates allot small portions. "This encourages conscience eating and people making healthy decisions," said Kukuruda.

"The smaller portions encourage people to try new things," said junior Ravi Udeshi, a member of Student Government.

Southside intentionally has smaller plates and no trays to reduce waste.

Junior Keegan Luczak, a Student Government member majoring in computer science, does not see the lack of trays as a problem. The lack of trays will "encourage people to get less food and not waste as much," said senior IT major Andrew Kantner.

Southside has magnificent windows on almost all sides. Regarding the view, several students commented, "The view would be better if it wasn't facing the back of buildings," said junior Jake Szewczyk, an administration of justice major.

Kantner thought the view would benefit with added shrubbery and flowers. "It's breathtaking," said Kukuruda.

Southside costs a little less than \$8 or one meal plan for an all-you-can-eat menu. Southside will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. from Monday to Friday. On Saturday and Sunday Southside will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

# Recognizing Achievement

## Delta Alpha Pi Shows that Having a Disability Does Not Mean One Is Disabled

**NOAH MARTIN**  
News Editor

Working to acknowledge the diversity of students on campus, the Office of Disability Services became a member of Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society Chapter Xi last January.

The honor society, the first of its kind, was officially recognized this semester by George Mason University. Mason is the only university member in the state of Virginia. The organization was started as an honor society to acknowledge the academic achievement and community contribution of students with disabilities.

"Delta Alpha Pi will bring awareness to the students and faculty on our campus. It empowers our students and dispels the stigma that disability carries," said Christopher Moy, director for the Office of Disability Services.

Not solely focused on honoring academic achievement, Delta Alpha Pi, as part of its mission, will work to cultivate leadership, involvement and advocacy skills. It will work to educate the Mason community and beyond about disability-related issues.

"People are more alike than different. People with disabilities are more a part of the community than they are outside of it," said Mary Kate Harris, secretary of Delta Alpha Pi. "You have to own this disability."

Members of Delta Alpha Pi shared their personal journeys that brought them to the organization.

"I used to be embarrassed, I used to feel stupid, it was a realization that an honor society and having a disability could go hand-in-hand. It took 20 years to realize that," said Katelyn Sexton, president of Delta Alpha Pi.

Sexton expressed the difficulty she had before attending Mason and the feeling of isolation that accompanied her difficulty in school.

"It was really hard in high school, I had a teacher who said, 'I don't believe in those ABC, ADHD things' and I was like, 'ouch.' That's why I never wanted to tell anyone," said Sexton.

Sexton says her struggle shaped who she has become and her determination to be a voice for disabled awareness. "A disability is very personal because you feel very vulnerable. I took this job so people do not have to go through what I've gone through," said Sexton.

Jerry Holy, an active member of Delta Alpha Pi, struggled to keep his high school autism program alive. He applied to schools all over Virginia and was accepted by Mason.

"It was a great sense of pride for me, that Mason accepted me as part of the community," said Holy who went to the Office of

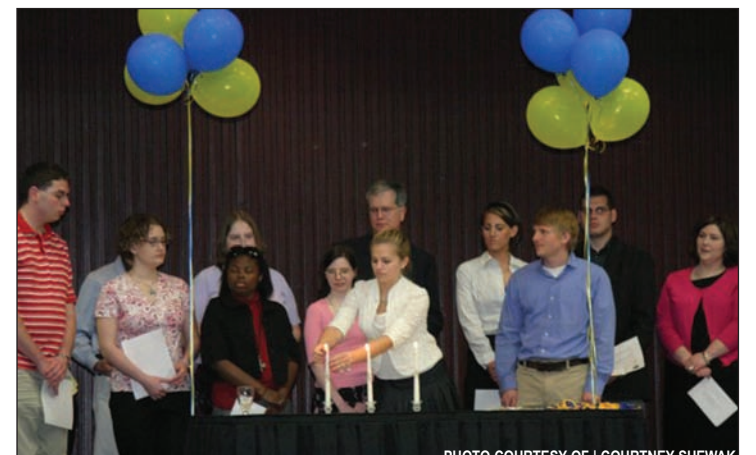


PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTNEY SHEWAK

Delta Alpha Pi is an honor society for students with disabilities.

Disability Services where he learned about Delta Alpha Pi and now works to raise awareness about the autism spectrum.

"It's all right to go there, it's all right to ask for help in the end," said Holy.

To those who would trivialize disability, said Sexton, "You don't understand and I wish you did. I wish you could be patient."

Mason's Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society team will be participating in "Out of Darkness," a walk to prevent suicide on Oct. 11 at Burke Lake Park. Students and faculty are encouraged to join the team without any fundraising obligation.

The Office of Disabilities Services is hosting a number of activities and events around campus and the community this October for Disability Awareness Month. For more information, visit their Web site at <http://ods.gmu.edu/>.