The 2003–04 academic year was another successful one for George Mason University—a year of growth, notable events, and student achievement. Here are some highlights.

The Mason Student...
Mason students are as unique as the institution itself—entrepreneurial, creative, active, forward-thinking, and highly diverse. With students coming from all 50 states and 144 countries, it’s no surprise that the university was named the second most diverse university in the country by the Princeton Review. Many students hold down full- or part-time jobs, are involved in one of the 200-plus student-run organizations, or compete on one of Mason’s 22 varsity athletic teams. They also study abroad, work closely with faculty on a range of research projects, and fill internships with the U.S. Congress, federal agencies, high-tech companies, and nonprofit organizations.

No matter what their focus, George Mason students are just as busy as the bustling area in which they attend school. Here’s a snapshot of what makes us distinctly Mason:

- Senior music education major Mark Metrinko had a “blast” last year as a cast member of the touring musicals *Blast!* and *CyberJam*. Metrinko took his talents and his trumpet on the road—spending May through December 2003 in Japan, England, and parts of the United States.

- Senior Ajay Miglani, a student in the BS in Information Technology Program, interned at the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Miglani worked in the new High Technology Investigative Unit of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, which provides computer forensics expertise to 15 trial attorneys who prosecute cases involving the sexual exploitation of children and violation of federal obscenity laws.

- Nine Mason students were named Presidential Management Fellowship finalists. The prestigious internship program is run by the federal Office of Personnel Management and can be a fast track into senior executive service for many interns. The finalists are law students Christopher Demers, Jessica Douma, Hillary Jaffee, Mona Jain, and Kristen Moran; Master in Public Administration students T’Ronda Flagg, Kil-Jae Hong, and Darla Tomes; and Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution student Michelle Parker. The nine students were among 700 finalists chosen from more than 2,700 master’s, PhD, and law applicants nationwide.

- A group of nursing students coordinated a class project that turned into a published book titled *Do You Know a Nurse?* Written for children, the book seeks to dispel nursing stereotypes. Written, edited, designed, produced, and marketed by advanced clinical nursing students, the book can be found at Borders Books in Fairfax and was sold at area hospitals during National Nurses Week in May. Proceeds go toward special educational projects for graduate nursing students.

- Master in Social Work (MSW) student Andrea Innello works nearly full time at the Virginia Liaison Office of the Governor, and part time as a research assistant and as a doggy daycare employee. She also volunteers at numerous organizations. In March, Innello was named MSW Student of the Year by the Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.
Senior Courtney Anderson was named the national champion.

FORENSICS TEAM FINISHES FOURTH IN NATION

STUDENT NAMED NATIONAL FORENSICS CHAMPION;

PMI has conducted extensive research on the intensification of the atmospheric boundary layer and the potential for human impacts. Kelley and Stout are scientists at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center.

constituents’ e-mails and phone calls, and did research, major attended various Senate meetings, responded to the top of the lowest layer of the atmosphere and are constituents’ e-mails and phone calls, and did research.

of the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament in April. A communication and theater major, Anderson was the top individual speaker in the country, besting her second-place finish in last year’s competition.

The George Mason team, directed by Peter Pober, finished 4th in the competition, jumping eight spots in their national ranking of 12th last year. The forensics team is the university’s most successful academic team, having won more than 14,000 trophies since it was founded in 1971.

MEN’S, WOMEN’S BASKETBALL COMPETED IN NIT

George Mason’s men’s and women’s basketball teams just missed an opportunity to play in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament when they lost in the championship game of their respective Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) tournaments. Both teams, however, were invited to play in the National Invitation Tournament (NIT).

The men’s team, which won a record 23 games this year, hosted the opening round of the NIT and came away with a 58-55 victory over the University of Tennessee to move into the first round. Austin Peay State University suffered a similar fate as Tennessee, losing to George Mason at the Patriot Center, 66-60. The men’s season came to an end with a 68-54 loss to the University of Oregon. The women’s team was ousted by Seton Hall in a 61-65 overtime thriller in the first round.

MASON WOMEN WIN THIRD CAA SWIMMING AND DIVING TITLE; MEN PLACE SECOND

George Mason’s women’s swimming and diving team claimed its third-straight CAA Swimming and Diving Championship in February at the Fairfax Campus’ Aquatic and Fitness Center. The men’s team finished second for the first time in school history.

Notable Events…

TV SHOW BRINGS SECRETARY TOM RIDGE TO FAIRFAX CAMPUS

The first show in a new public affairs series, Sesno Reports, was filmed in Harris Theatre February 24 and was aired later that day on WETA. The show discussed terrorism and featured U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and Washington, D.C., Mayor Anthony Williams.

BROADSIDE HOSTS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

In back-to-back events in February, Mason voters had a chance to closely examine two Democratic presidential candidates. Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina and Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts appeared at Mason as part of the student newspaper’s nonpartisan “One Candidate, One Vote: College Students Truly Decide” presidential candidate forums.

The campaign is strengthening existing programs and funding emerging opportunities.

SCHOOLS CLIMB IN THE RANKINGS

The university continued to climb the U.S. News & World Report rankings. The School of Law remains the youngest in the top tier of the nation’s law schools, moving up two places from last year. It is now ranked 38th in the country.

GEORGE MASON DONATES SEPTEMBER 11 DIGITAL ARCHIVE TO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress added George Mason’s September 11 Digital Archive to its archives, making it the first entirely digital collection the library has acquired. The project, created by George Mason’s Center for History and New Media, was the repository of choice among 75 million September 11 archival web sites.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY moved beyond its minimum goal to raise $110 million in private support, reaching this benchmark 17 months ahead of schedule. Begun in July 1998, George Mason’s first comprehensive fund-raising campaign continues through June 2005. As of May 1, nearly $115 million has been received in gifts and commitments, including $15.3 million for endowment and $76.9 million for current use. Alumni have given or pledged $4.9 million. The campaign is strengthening existing programs and funding emerging opportunities.

The School of Management moved into the top 20 percent of accredited undergraduate business programs, placing 83rd in the country.

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Mason Keeps on Growing…

2003-04 Quick Stats
Enrollment: 28,246
Degree programs: 144
  Bachelor’s: 60
  Master’s: 65
  Doctoral: 18
  Professional (Law): 1

2004 Graduating Class: 6,298
(Mason’s largest yet)
  Bachelor’s: 3,676
  Master’s: 2,186
  Engineer: 1
  Doctoral: 192
  Law graduates: 243

Oldest Graduate:
  Buu T. Lee, age 82

Youngest Graduate:
  Daniel Lurker, age 18

TWO NEW HOT SPOTS OPEN: JAZZMAN’S AND IKE’S
Just before the fall semester began, the seldom-used TV lounge on the ground floor of the Johnson Center was transformed into Jazzman’s—a coffee shop that pulls in patrons with live music. Ike’s, a late night eatery, opened in the Eisenhower Commons in March. The diner-style hangout, complete with a jukebox and 1950s style decor, is open from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m.

INNOVATION HALL AND LIBERTY SQUARE OPEN
Innovation Hall, Mason’s newest high-tech academic building, opened last fall. The building has classrooms, a 120-seat auditorium, a 24-hour computer lab the size of a basketball court, and a state-of-the-art TV production studio.

Liberty Square, a 500-bed housing facility, opened last August, bringing the total of on-campus residents to 3,500.

MASON ADDS NEW DEGREES
In March, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approved five new academic degree programs: a BA and BS in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, an MA in Philosophy, an MA in Arts Management, a PhD in Neuroscience, and a PhD in Physical Science.

NEW BUILDING CONSTRUCTION IS UNDER WAY
The Fairfax Campus saw construction begin on several projects:

- Potomac Heights, a 504-bed apartment complex for upper-level undergraduate and graduate students. The building is slated to open in fall 2004.

- A five-story concrete parking deck built over Parking Lot B. Called Sandy Creek, the new deck will have about 1,200 parking spaces and a retail area.

- A $20.7 million research facility slated to be completed in December 2005. It will include a high-tech astronomy lab, a roof-top observatory, faculty offices, and research laboratories.

  On the Prince William Campus, construction of Bull Run Hall continued throughout the year. The building will house high-tech classrooms, academic support resources, research space, laboratories, a television studio, and a telecommuting center, and will have an adjoining 250-car parking lot.