



UNIVERSITY LIFE GOLF CLASSIC



WESTFIELDS GOLF CLUB

MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025

**SHOTGUN START AT
8:30 A.M.**



**Sandy Spring
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30TH ANNUAL
UNIVERSITY LIFE
GOLF CLASSIC TITLE SPONSOR



**BEST WISHES
FOR A SUCCESSFUL 30th ANNUAL
UNIVERSITY LIFE GOLF CLASSIC!**

*Your Friends At Sandy Spring Bank
Jay O'Brien, Marcus Perry & Annie Bolger*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for joining us at the University Life Golf Classic!

Your support of this event means so much for the continued success of our Early Identification Program, one of George Mason University's longest-standing pathways to a degree. EIP provides opportunities to first-generation scholars from across our region.



Your support for EIP and the Student Transition Empowerment Program (STEP) is an investment in local students, families, communities, and employers eager to hire our career-ready graduates.

Programs like these are why George Mason University is the top public university in the state for the upward mobility of our graduates as ranked by both the Wall Street Journal and U.S. News & World Report.

I'm fortunate to hear EIP success stories each spring when we honor EIP graduates at our May Board of Visitors meeting. It's important for the university community to know what these opportunities have meant to EIP students and to hear more about the graduates' plans for starting careers or furthering their education.

We aim to scale up EIP to serve even more students through the Mason Virginia Promise, a guaranteed pathway to a bachelor's degree, or help starting a business, for any Virginian who aspires to either goal.

Thanks to your support of these programs, and your involvement in the University Life Golf Classic, these triumphs are your triumphs, too!

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory Washington

Dr. Gregory Washington
President, George Mason University





Vice President for University Life

4400 University Drive, MS1C2, Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Phone: 703-993-8760; Fax: 703-993-8745

June 9, 2025

What a perfect day to celebrate a truly momentous occasion — the 30th Annual University Life Golf Classic! For three decades, this event has united friends, colleagues, and community members with one powerful goal: to support first-generation college students through George Mason University's Early Identification Program (EIP) and Student Transition and Empowerment Program (STEP).

This incredible milestone wouldn't be possible without you — our golfers, sponsors, contributors, volunteers, alumni, Patriots, and friends of George Mason. Your commitment has been the backbone of this event for 30 years, helping raise nearly \$1,000,000 to fund life-changing scholarships for students who are the first in their families to pursue higher education.

We are especially grateful to Jay O'Brien, Marcus Perry, and the always-enthusiastic Annie Bolger at Sandy Spring Bank, for 15 years of steadfast support as our Title Sponsor. Your dedication is a shining example of how long-standing partnerships fuel our mission.

A special thank you goes out to the University Life Advisory Board for helping drive this event's success year after year:

- Joe Diaz, Chair
- Rick Starr, Vice Chair
- Annie Bolger, Board Secretary
- And Board members Michael Bowers, Denyse Gordon-Watts, Jim Green, Quintin Haynes, Delegate Charniele Herring, Agatha Ibe, Tom Johnson, Jinnae Monroe, Anna Nissinen, Terry Wang, and Ted Williams.

I'd like to extend my deepest appreciation to all of our past Golf Classic Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs to include Jim Green, Ted Williams and Ty Johnson. Their unwavering commitment and leadership have been the driving force behind the University Life Golf Classic during the last 30 years. This milestone would not have been possible without them. They have played key leadership roles in shaping the Golf Classic into the long-standing tradition it is today. Together, their dedication over the past three decades has ensured the event's continued success and lasting impact.

As we mark this milestone, we also honor the memory of our dear friend Paul Patton — a tireless advocate for first-generation students. Paul envisioned this very Souvenir Journal and worked passionately to raise funds, mentor students, and champion their success. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched and the opportunities he created.

Reflecting on this 30-year legacy, one thing is clear: community support has always been at the heart of it all. On behalf of the students whose lives have been transformed by your generosity — thank you for being part of this journey.

With gratitude,

Rose Pascarell

Rose Pascarell, Vice President for University Life

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Welcome

A.J. Ryan, Assistant Director STEP/First-Gen+Center

STEP Speaker

Amanda Araujo, STEP

EIP Speaker Announcement

Mia Hines, Interim Executive Director EIP

EIP Speaker

Mario Garcia (EIP Alum at Capital One)

30th Year Acknowledgements

Jim Green

Acknowledgements

Joe Diaz, Chairman, UL Advisory Board

Live Auction

Golf and Contest Winners

Joe Diaz

Mega Putt
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Special Acknowledgements

2025 GOLF COMMITTEE:

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Kaitlin Cicchetti
Rich DeMasi
Joe Diaz
Jim Green

Denyse Gordon-Watts
Tom Johnson
Alissa Karton
Jinnae Monroe
Rick Starr
Ted Williams

VOLUNTEERS:

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Mike Bowers
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Denyse Gordon-Watts
Delegate Charniele Herring
Tom Johnson
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Anna Nissinen
Terry Wang
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THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT !



<http://eip.gmu.edu>



eip.gmu.edu



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4400 University Drive,
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MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS!

The Student Transition Empowerment Program (STEP) is a multi-year bridge program within the First-gen+ Center (new department launched in early June 2021). STEP was created to enhance the recruitment, engagement, and retention of first-generation college students accepted to Mason. The program components empower students through academic skills, access to resources, community building, self-discovery, and builds the confidence needed to thrive in college and beyond.



"STEP helped me gain the confidence that I needed when I was in front of an obstacle or seemed too far away from the goal."

-Min Ko, *STEP 2019*



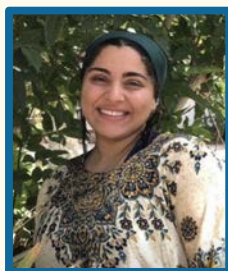
"STEP is a time to reflect, learn, and improve. You probably wouldn't even see this quote if it weren't for this program and the many future opportunities it offers."

-John Sejas-Cordova, *STEP 2020*



"STEP has been such an important resource for me as a first-generation student. It has shown me many opportunities that have allowed me to continue my educational journey."

-Joselyn Andrade, *STEP 2020*



"STEP helped me start college with a positive mindset on something I felt unprepared for. It helped me move forward with confidence and support towards my journey through higher education. Having that support system is what kept me in college when I felt like everything else was pushing me off the path of staying in school."

-Sohila Hassan, *STEP 2019*



"STEP helped me discover who I am as a student, a young adult, and as an advocate for my different identities."

-Ivan Gonzales, *STEP 2017*

The cost to support one STEP student is approximately \$5,600 per summer. Your financial contribution is essential to sustaining and growing STEP.

For **mail** donations, please make checks payable to **"GMU Foundation"** and indicate **"STEP"** in the memo section.

Checks should be mailed to:
George Mason University
GMU Foundation, Inc.
4400 University Drive, MSN 1A3
Fairfax, VA 22030

Contact Us!
STEP@gmu.edu or
Email: Nakia Waters,
Interim Director, First-Gen+ Center
nwaters3@gmu.edu

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**JAY O'BRIEN, MARCUS PERRY, &
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In Loving Memory of Paul and Gwendolyn Patton



CONGRATULATIONS

Obtaining a college degree is one of the most important steps you can take to set yourself up for future success. Doing so as the first in your family is often a transformational accomplishment and one that many George Mason University students achieve because of their hard work, determination and access to important programs like the Early Identification Program (EIP) and the Student Transition Empowerment Program (STEP).

Sandy Spring Bank is proud to support these programs and these students as they fulfill their lifelong dreams. I can't wait to see what they accomplish next.



Joseph J. O'Brien, Jr.

Executive Vice President and Chief Banking Officer,
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