

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
FACTBOOK 2008-2009**

**OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND REPORTING**

## GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY FACTBOOK 2008-2009

35th Edition

Office of Institutional Research and Reporting  
George Mason University  
4400 University Drive, MSN 2F2  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
Voice: (703) 993-8824  
Fax: (703) 993-8835

### ***Contributions by:***

John Dooris, Institutional Research Analyst, Factbook Coordinator  
Kris Smith, Associate Provost of IRR  
Angela Detlev, Associate Director  
Jang Wan Ko, Senior Research Associate  
Samantha McCullough, Administrative Assistant  
Robert McDonnell, Course Rating Specialist  
Huiping Wu, Webmaster and IR Analyst  
Jenny Yoo, Graduate Research Assistant  
Kathryn Zora, Institutional Research Analyst

### ***Cover design by:***

Debra Ranson, Graphic Designer, Creative Services

### ***Production management by:***

Creative Services, University Relations

All information contained in this book is also available on the Office of Institutional Research and Reporting website: <http://irr.gmu.edu>. Every effort has been made to provide an accurate picture of George Mason University. If you find an error or have comments and/or suggestions, please contact IRR.

This book is intended as a reference and may be quoted using accepted scholarly citation without permission. Reproduction of complete tables, figures, or text must include a George Mason University Factbook 2008-09 notation and page number.

George Mason University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of George Mason University.

The university is also a member of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States. Some programs are accredited by specialty accrediting bodies.

# INTRODUCTION

*November 2008*

## **To our Readers:**

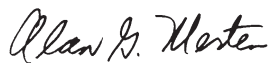
George Mason University's path has never been steeped in tradition. Since becoming a free-standing, independent institution of higher learning in 1972, the journey of our institution has largely been our own. Over 30 years ago, our institution became a national leader in pushing forward the concept of a "distributed university" by establishing strong academic programs that addressed specific needs of our region. Doing so moved us away from the traditional "ivory tower" role that many at the time felt universities and colleges should play. Instead, we took the step of redefining the relationship of town and gown. The arts, public policy and high technology became the pillars around which we began building our future. The result has brought great economic and social benefits to Greater Washington, D.C. and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As our institution has continued to grow and establish wider connections beyond the borders of our region and state, we have never lost sight of the importance of our being need-driven on behalf of those who, like us, can benefit the most.

Recently, Mason was recognized by a major news magazine as being the nation's #1 up and coming university. This unprecedented honor validates the efforts we have made and adds credence to our many choices over the years not to be different but, rather, be excellent in a manner that brings the most benefit to all who work with our faculty, connect with our students, and enjoy our many programs and facilities.

This outstanding publication highlights Mason's steady evolution. The Office of Institutional Research and Reporting deserves much credit for continuing to produce an important document that provides context to the unique history that is ours alone. The many facts within these pages reveal an institution that strives to remain as dynamic as the people and population it serves and educates.

Sincerely,



**Alan G. Merten**  
**President, George Mason University**

January 2009

**Dear Friends and Colleagues:**

The George Mason University *Factbook 2008-2009* is a valuable publication filled with facts and figures documenting George Mason University's growth and continuing excellence. The data and information presented in the *Factbook* includes the most current available for 2008-09, as well as trends and historical information.

Most of the information contained in the *Factbook* is extracted from the Banner Enterprise system and from various University offices. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our colleagues in the Information Technology Unit and Library, Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, Sponsored Programs, Human Resources office, Office of Budget and Planning, Institutional Assessment, University Relations, Admissions and the Provost's offices for their contributions to the *Factbook 2008-2009*. We also appreciate the cooperation from academic units in data accuracy checking. Most importantly, we would like to thank all the staff in the Office of Institutional Research and Reporting for their outstanding work in the compilation of this *Factbook*.

Your feedback and comments are welcome so that we can incorporate them to improve the quality of the publication even further next year.

Thank you.



**Dr. Peter Stearns,  
Provost and Executive Vice President for  
Academic Affairs**



**Dr. Maurice Scherrens,  
Senior Vice President**