



University Life Professional Development May 2024 Newsletter

As the 2023-2024 academic year draws to a close, we warmly welcome the summer season and the first edition of the University Life Professional Development newsletter.

It's been a robust year filled with enriching professional development opportunities, and we commend the unwavering dedication of our University Life staff in navigating the peak and busy season of wrapping up another successful academic journey.

Now, as the campus becomes quieter and the summer heat sets in, it's time to pause and reflect on the growth and accomplishments of the past year.

In this issue, we'll briefly look at the highlights of our professional development programming, celebrating the milestones and lessons learned along the way.

UL Student Success Symposium



The University Life Student Symposium is happening on May 23rd and 24th!

Don't miss the Pre-Symposium Day Workshops!

Pre-Symposium Day is jam-packed with exceptional professional development opportunities you won't want to miss. Take advantage of the amazing morning and afternoon workshops to gain valuable insights and skills while connecting with your colleagues.

Pre-Symposium Day features:

- A tour of Mason Square
- Headshot photography sessions to update your professional photos

Symposium Day Highlights

Get ready for a full schedule of learning and networking. You can choose from over:

- 25 educational sessions
- 4 expert panel discussions
- 12 Mason Mingle dialogue opportunities

Connect with colleagues, expand your knowledge, and take your career to new heights at this can't-miss annual event. Stay tuned for more details on registering and securing your spot!

View the schedule of programs, by visiting <https://ulsymposium.gmu.edu/>.

Follow [@ulprodev](#) on Instagram for the more info.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the UL Symposium Planning Team at ulprodev@gmu.edu.

UL Summer Events



GET IT DONE UL FOCUS SESSIONS

Are you tired of constantly battling distractions and struggling to get work done?

It's time to take back your focus and productivity!

Join us for a monthly focus session to provide you with the necessary environment and support to help you get your work done efficiently and effectively.

Bring your work, projects, reports, programs, etc. to our UL FOCUS ZOOM ROOM!

UL Professional Development will have some resources and lots of support to help you advance your priorities!

**THURS. JUNE 13 + 27 FROM 11AM-12PM
THURS. JULY 11 + 25 FROM 11AM-12PM
THURS. AUG. 8 + 15 FROM 11AM-12PM**

**REGISTER AT:
[BIT.LY/SUMMER2024ULFOCUSSESSIONS](https://bit.ly/summer2024ulfocussessions)**



SCAN HERE

Join us over Summer 2024 for one or all of the UL Virtual Focus Sessions! During this one hour you can take the time to focus on getting items done from your project list in a dedicated co-working space.

Sign up for the Summer UL Focus Sessions [here](#).

UL Summer Day of Service

**UNIVERSITY
LIFE GIVES
BACK:
SUMMER DAY
OF SERVICE**

**JULY 24,
2024**

Registration and project information
will be shared in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions, please
reach out to Lisa Snyder (lsnyder2),
Amy Snyder (asnyder), or Meeghan
Milette (mharrin8)

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU THERE!**



University Life

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Graduate Staff Academy: Celebrating Growth and Paving the Way Forward



On May 6th, the Graduate Staff Academy bid farewell to its third cohort, marking another successful year of empowering and equipping graduate students employed at University Life.

Since its inception in 2022, the year-long professional development cohort has intentionally worked towards enhancing the graduate school experience through a comprehensive array of professional development opportunities.

Throughout the year, participants gathered monthly on MS Teams, engaging in a diverse range of topics designed to foster personal and professional growth. From career readiness and supervision skills to allyship, advocacy, financial literacy, and well-being, the Graduate Staff Academy provides a holistic approach to preparing our graduate staff for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

We also celebrated the achievements of our graduating staff at the ceremony, inviting supervisors and guest speakers to join in the celebration.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, we are also pleased to announce the formation of the Graduate Staff Academy Advisory Board. This board will play a key role in shaping the future of this transformative initiative, ensuring that the program continues to thrive and meets the needs of our graduate community.

UL Professional Development: A Year in Review

Hello 54 New University Life Members!

This year, University Life welcomed 54 brand new staff members who participated in New to UL. This numbers also include our Graduate Professional Assistants.

Awards and Recognition 2023 - 2024

This year, the UL Awards and Recognition Committee received 29 nominations.

After careful deliberation, 11 awards were given out to recognize and honor the work of our colleagues.

Let's congratulate them once again.

Below is the list of UL award winners from Fall 2023 and Spring 2024.

Recipient	Role	Department	Award	Semester
Shyama Kuver	Associate Director	Contemporary Student Services	Outstanding Service	Fall 2023
Austin Deray	Assistant Director	Graduate Student Life	Outstanding Service	Fall 2023
Jessikah Pyett	Community Director	Residence Life	Positive Impact	Fall 2023
LuLu Geza Kelemen	Associate Director	LGBTQ+ Resources Center	Outstanding Service	Fall 2023
Shannon Osborne	Assistant Director for Financial Well-being	Student Support and Advocacy Center	Outstanding Service	Fall 2023
Aya Leonhardt	Assistant Director	Mason Recreation	Outstanding Service	Spring 2024
Lee Ann Houston	Assistant Director	Mason Recreation	Outstanding Service	Spring 2024
Mary O'Connor	Program Coordinator	UL Mason Square	Positive Impact	Spring 2024
Ebony Amis	SEVIS Coordinator	OIPS	Outstanding Service	Spring 2024
Sang Jin Lee	International Advisor	OIPS	Outstanding Service	Spring 2024
TJ Pegg	Assistant Director	Student Success Coaching	Outstanding Service	Spring 2024

University Life Professional Development at NASPA 2024



The University Life Professional Development Team was honored to present at the prestigious NASPA 2024 conference in Seattle.

Our team presented two educational sessions on the following topics.

Graduate Assistants Professional Development: Growth, Learning, and Community Through the Mason Graduate Staff Academy

Understanding the Multigenerational Workforce: Embracing the Management, Supervision, and Development of Your Dynamic Team

We are immensely proud to share our work at George Mason with the broader student affairs community at NASPA.

If you want to explore the resources and insights shared during these educational sessions, we invite you to visit our website <https://ulprofdev.gmu.edu/naspa-2024-conference-presentation/>

University Life Professional Development Team and Committees: Celebrating a Year of Robust Programming

The University Life Professional Development Team, in close collaboration with various committees, has orchestrated a remarkable year-long journey of professional growth and enrichment. Through their collective efforts and unwavering dedication, they have curated a comprehensive array of programs and initiatives that have empowered and inspired the University Life community.

Training and Development Committee

- Four Colleague Conversation series: using podcasts as a professional development opportunity through guided group discussion
- Monthly University Life Focus Sessions: occurring on the last Friday throughout 2023 - 2024
- A week-long special initiative to celebrate Careers in Student Affairs week in conjunction with NASPA Career in Student Affairs Month
- A panel on Navigating Professional Organizations in Student Affairs
- A panel on University Life ACPA and NASPA Conference Share Out
- 2023 ACPA/ASHE Presidential Symposium Live Chat

Supervision Collective Committee

- Four Manager Meetups series

Community Building and Service Committee (ULIFE)

- Monthly programs throughout the year from gratitude rock painting, pickleball to communal gardening at the green house.

Interested in joining a University Life committee?

Visit <https://ulprofdev.gmu.edu/committees/> for more information to learn about the different committees and how you can join.

Or you can also connect with Amy Snyder (asnyder@gmu.edu) or Meeghan Milette (mharrin8@gmu.edu) if you have more questions.

Let's Get Connected!

