**Re: Search Podcast**

**Episode 3: Meet the Library Staff**

Welcome back to the George Mason University libraries podcast re:search in today's episode will be meeting some of the teaching and learning teams staff as well as the PRC’S. We asked each person to introduce themselves, give a fun fact, and talk about their experience working at the libraries. So, I hope that you have fun getting to know more about the people who are part of the teaching and learning team.

Hi, my name is Maoria Kirker and I'm the team lead for the teaching learning team. I started at Mason over six years ago in an earlier version of this Department. A fun fact about me is that I love music, and I even named my dog Stevie Nicks. One of my favorite memories of working at Mason is watching thunderstorms from the giant windows that were in the gateway library in the JC. I wanted to work for the teaching and learning team because I'm passionate about teaching undergraduate students research skills. I love working with students in the teaching and learning team prides itself on that type of work

Hello, my name is Christopher Lowder, and I am the online learning assistant for the team. This means that I develop online activities and instructional videos for students. A fun story about me is that during my undergrad I studied abroad in England and my friend and I accidentally stumbled upon the European red-carpet premiere for the second live action Alice in Wonderland movie, we got to see all the actors everything it was one of the most hectic moments of my life. I have been working for the teaching and learning team at Mason for about a year and a half now, but I have been working in libraries for about seven years. I started working when I was 18 in undergrad as a student assistant. One of my favorite memories working here was that a few years ago we had this big Halloween party at the old gateway library, all my colleagues and I were dressed up for Halloween, we had giant buckets of candy to give out to the students and it's really great to see how something as small as candy can really make someone’s day super special and then in the afternoon we had the team workshop where students made their own Halloween zines and we had the movie Coraline playing, it was a lot of fun. So, I wanted to start working for the teaching and learning team because it combined my interest of teaching students and working kind of with the online digital world. My undergraduate degree is an advertising, so I really like to be able to apply my creative background into my work and now I get to be really creative make fun videos and it's a really cool part of my job and a great reason why I started working here

Hey y’all, how's it going my name is David lemons I am the instruction coordinator here on teaching and learning I've been with the team and with Mason for about a year, but I actually did my undergrad at Mason many years ago, so this was a return to Mason. I worked in person for about 6 weeks and then we went from home since then. One of my favorite memories from working at Mason so far is getting a bunch of LinkedIn notifications on my phone as I was walking back from like Panera to ground coffee which is a very typical thing I did in the before times when we could go places and do things and I get all these LinkedIn notifications I walked into gateway library and a lot of the students are sitting there and they all give me these incredibly guilty faces and start laughing and I realized that all of y'all had coordinated to send me LinkedIn notifications all the same time and I just thought it was really funny. Why did I want to start working for the teaching and learning Department so I was really interested in doing a job that let me focus on library instruction and when this job came up it let me to managing and library instruction at the same time I was really stoked about it and then when I came in for the interview everybody was so nice and so welcoming that I was like wow I can't not come to Mason and here. I am fun fact about me is that if I wasn't a librarian, I would want to be like video game designer for a living. I'm a huge video game person and I still harbor secret dreams of making a video game as my side hustle and becoming rich and famous as a video game designer. So, from the newest member of the teaching and learning team it is nice to meet all of you and I love being a part of this awesome team thanks.

Hi, I'm Katara Hoffman and I'm the Peer Referral Coach manager for the teaching and learning team. I've been working with the University libraries for 10 years and three of those have been with the teaching and learning team. I was so excited to join the teaching and learning team so that I could work closer with students in an instructor capacity. I have wonderful memories of the student’s faculty and colleagues I've worked with over the years my fondest memories actually involve various parties and celebrations from baby showers to going away parties. Planning all of these amazing get togethers inspired me to start my own event planning company

Hi, my name is Grace I'm a PRC at the George Mason University libraries and a fun fact about myself is that I have 8 little baby nephews. I first started working the libraries in my freshman year so about three years now and one of my favorite memories working here was last winter we held the distress event of the libraries so students could come into the library to destress chat with the staff while drinking hot chocolate and making paper snowflakes sticking up in the library and the best part was that none of us can be snowflakes to save our lives but the stuff being super supportive still insisted that we hang them up so for a while the library was decorated with the most bizarre snowflakes ever but the whole experience was overall just a lot of fun. I started working for the teaching learning team because as a freshman I was looking for a job where I could not only work on growing my own skillset but also be able to interact with other people on campus and hopefully help them too. this job was perfect then because it focuses primarily on peer-to-peer coaching where I could assist my peers whenever they needed help using the library resources or just for any research purposes in general.

Hello everyone, my name is Andre Morales and I work as a PRC at the library, and I have been working for the library for about a year and a half now. I wanted to work at the library because I thought it was a great opportunity to meet new people and working there it's an amazing environment everybody is so nice everybody is so welcoming. A fun fact about me is that I love photography. I love taking pictures of love editing pictures it's just so fascinating to me out how you can capture the world through lens and it just amazing. I don't have much time to do photography nowadays because I'm so piled up with psychology work from my classes because I am studying to be a psychologist but hopefully in the future, I will have the opportunity to be able to work on photography more. A favorite memory I have at the library is when all the PRC’s went to go out and eat and spend time with each other after we were done at work sometimes, we eat at Magnolia, J pedal, a Korean place across the street from campus, it was so much fun

Hi everyone, my name is Alice Farinhas and I'm one of the Peer Referral Coaches. I guess a fun fact about me is that this past year I've tried a lot of new and different hobbies to keep myself busy and so currently in very fixated on doing puzzles at home which is also driving me crazy but takes up a lot of time. I've been working as a Peer Referral Coach since 2019 and I started at Mason libraries in the spring of 2018. I started working for the teaching and learning Department because I wanted to really help other students more one on one navigate all the different library resources and learn more about research methods. My favorite memory of working at the library is when the teaching and learning department first started and moved over to gateway library so we were a very small new department, but we had a lot of fun getting to know each other better and think of fun and interesting activities to do with fellow students

Hi everybody my name is Chloe I am a Peer Referral Coach with the teaching and learning team and a fun fact about me is I like scary movies a lot those are my favorite kind of movies. I've been working for the teaching and learning team since about October 2019 and I would say my favorite memories since then have just been working with some of the closing shifts while we were still at gateway. I thought it was super peaceful and I just really liked working at that time and I was interested in working with the teaching learning team especially as the PRC because it meant I could help students like me and that really interested me because I would be working with people my age and helping people my age and I just thought that would be super fun and beneficial so thanks everybody bye.

Hello, my name is Kike Akinewale I am one of the Peer Referral Coaches and fun fact about means is that I can speak five languages. I've been working for the library a little bit over a year now and one of my favorite memories is when we would come together as a team and we work together to collaborate on different things to do for the library different products we could do and seeing everyone in engaging with fellow library staff was really an encouragement. The reason why I wanted to work for the library department was to be involved around Mason. I really wanted to be a part of the Mason community and I thought the best way it will be to be involved in the library services at mason.

Hey, my name is Amber, and I am a Peer Referral Coach for the library and a fun fact about me and I have a bearded dragon been George Michael. I've been at the library for about a year as a Peer Referral Coach. my favorite memory is when we all went out to a cafe in your campus it was the first time, I had really connected with everyone and I felt like a family. I started working for the teaching and learning Department because it honestly sounded interesting to me and I wanted to learn the behind the scenes on the teaching process and I thought this was the right start

Well, I hope you enjoyed getting to know more about us here at the teaching and learning team if you ever want to reach out you can find anyone's information on the George Mason University website or come find us in Fenwick so please don't hesitate to reach out thanks for listening this week and see you next time where we will learn more about the databases section of the George Mason University libraries catalog thank you.