

*The Advisory Committee*

*of*

*GEORGE MASON COLLEGE*

*Requests the honor of your presence*

*at an*

*HISTORIC CEREMONY*

*Conveying land acquired by the*

*BOARD OF CONTROL FOR GEORGE MASON COLLEGE*

*to the*

*Rector and Visitors of the*

*University of Virginia*

*Friday, July 18, 1969*

*at*

*Three o'clock*

*in the*

*Lecture Hall at the College*

*Fairfax, Virginia*



The official participants in the July 18, 1969 ceremony are as follows:

Mills E. Godwin, Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia

Frank W. Rogers, Jr., Rector, Board of Visitors, University of Virginia

John T. Ticer, Chairman, Board of Control

Charles E. Beatley, Jr., Mayor City of Alexandria

Kenneth M. Haggerty, Chairman, County Board, Arlington County

Frederick A. Babson, Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County

Charles M. Hailey, Mayor, City of Falls Church

In an historic deed signing ceremony on July 18, 1969, at George Mason College, the Board of Control, by virtue of the authority contained in Title 15.1-264, 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, will convey to the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia, all property acquired through a Land Acquisition Program, pursuant to approval by the governing bodies of the Counties of Arlington and Fairfax, the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Clarence J. Robinson -- Chairman  
Arthur W. Arundel  
A. Smith Bowman, Jr.  
Mrs. Edmund D. Campbell  
Thomas N. Frost  
B. Powell Harrison, Jr.  
John O. Henderson  
Omer L. Hirst  
C. Harrison Mann, Jr.  
Stanley A. Owens  
Mrs. Thomas Taylor  
James M. Thomson  
John T. Ticer  
John C. Wood

Alexandria  
Fairfax  
Fairfax  
Arlington  
Fauquier  
Loudoun  
Fairfax  
Fairfax  
Arlington  
Prince William  
Loudoun  
Alexandria  
Alexandria  
City of Fairfax

## BOARD OF CONTROL

John T. Ticer -- Chairman  
Joseph Alexander  
Mrs. Edmund D. Campbell  
Samuel J. Dennis  
Dr. Haskins Ferrell, Jr.  
Roye L. Lowry  
C. Meade Stull  
Carroll Wright, Jr.

Alexandria  
Fairfax  
Arlington  
Falls Church  
Alexandria  
Arlington  
Fairfax  
Falls Church



PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies                      John T. Ticer

*Invocation* . . . . . Rev. John H. Blakemore  
*Welcoming Remarks* . . . . . Lorin A. Thompson  
*Land Acquisition Program* . . . . . Mr. Ticer

**SIGNING OF THE DEED**

*Conveyance of Land* . . . . . Mr. Ticer  
*Acceptance of Land* . . . . . Frank W. Rogers  
*Closing Remarks* . . . . . Governor Mills E. Godwin  
*Benediction* . . . . . Reverend Blakemore

Reception immediately following

In the Lobby



## THE GEORGE MASON STORY

- In April, 1955, the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia authorized the establishment of a branch college to serve Northern Virginia. The College opened in 1957 with 17 students in an old elementary school at Bailey's Crossroads as a part of the School of General Studies of the University of Virginia. In 1960, the new school was named for the famous Virginia statesman, George Mason, and given the status of a Community College of the University of Virginia.
- In 1957, four political subdivisions in Northern Virginia, Arlington County, Fairfax County, the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, by concurrent resolutions established the Board of Control, under State law, which had for its purpose the acquisition of land for a college in Northern Virginia. Each of the four subdivisions appointed two representatives to the Board of Control.
- In 1959, the General Assembly authorized the University to establish a branch college in Northern Virginia. The Town of Fairfax purchased the present site of 150 acres for \$300,000 and donated the site to the University of Virginia. The Town of Fairfax spent about \$220,000 in addition to provide utilities to the site, making a total contribution of \$520,000.
- Appropriations were made by the General Assembly in 1960 and 1962 to prepare the Master Site Plan and to build the first group of four buildings. These were completed and ready for occupancy in September, 1964. At this time George Mason College moved onto its new campus with a faculty of 36 and 359 students.
- On March 1, 1966, the General Assembly authorized George Mason College, as a division of the University of Virginia, to become a four-year college with the right to grant degrees and to offer graduate study in those fields approved by the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia and by the State Council of Higher Education.
- The land recommended for acquisition by the Northern Virginia Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission approximated 450 acres and was submitted to the Fairfax County Planning Commission at its regular meeting on July 11, 1966. After two minor amendments were made, the plan was approved.



- The Board of Control, during the early part of 1966, arranged for a professional appraisal firm to advise it as to the amount of money that would be required to purchase about 450 acres of land adjacent to the present site for the future university. The sum suggested was \$3 million. The Board of Control then proposed that Arlington and Fairfax Counties and the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church apportion their respective shares of the \$3 million according to the latest population estimates of the Bureau of Population and Economic Research of the University of Virginia. The amounts were:

Fairfax	\$1,601,750
Arlington	851,100
Alexandria	495,550
Falls Church	51,600

Each of the four subdivisions agreed to consider the proposal.

- The Planning Department of the University of Virginia worked out a Land Requirement Plan for the development of George Mason into an institution which would accommodate between 12,500 and 15,000 students. The Chancellor of George Mason then undertook the preparation of a general schematic plan for the development of George Mason College into a regional university. This plan included:

1. a projection of future enrollment from 1966 to 1985;
2. an exploration of the diverse and varied needs of higher education in Northern Virginia and the ways in which George Mason might meet them. Special attention was given to advanced undergraduate, graduate and professional programs;
3. the allocation of land for
  - (a) academic and administrative uses
  - (b) physical education and intramural sports
  - (c) student activities centers
  - (d) a continuing education center
  - (e) research centers and complexes
  - (f) parking
  - (g) student housing

A brochure and visual aid materials were prepared summarizing how George Mason could grow. Presentations were made to the County Boards, City Councils and interested groups throughout Northern Virginia.



● Fairfax and Arlington Counties submitted the George Mason land acquisition proposal to the electorate at the November 8, general election. The bond issues passed by a 3-to-1 majority in Fairfax County and by a 2-to-1 in Arlington. The Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church appropriated their shares of the \$3 million from current revenue.

● The Board of Control, following the favorable actions of the four political subdivisions, appointed a general and special counsel and a coordinator to handle administrative matters for the Board in connection with acquiring land for the College.

These initial steps were begun in January, 1967, and completed on 24 March 1969. The total acreage acquired, to date, is approximately 421 acres, which when added to the original 150 acres, makes a total of 571 acres.





