

A BOLD NEW
CHAPTER BEGINS

FUSE AT MASON SQUARE

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA



GEORGE
MASON
UNIVERSITY®

FUSE

The doors are fully open at George Mason University's Fuse at Mason Square, in a defining moment that unites the community. More than just a building, Fuse is a public-private partnership between the university and industry that will bring both community and economic vitality to the region. This visionary space is built for innovation and impact. Fuse will be a pivotal central hub where researchers, entrepreneurial partners, students, and faculty will combine their talents and answer the call of the university's Grand Challenge Initiative, creating bold solutions for a changing world.

At Mason Square, Fuse is situated among George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government, the Antonin Scalia Law School, the Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, and the Costello College of Business. The building is also home to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the College of Science, the College of Engineering and Computing, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the College of Public Health, and the College of Education and Human Development. It's a unique vantage point that centralizes access to a rich pool of resources, research, intellect, and entrepreneurial know-how, allowing for partnerships and an acceleration of innovation and new technologies in a lab-to-market pipeline.

As a nexus of collaboration, Fuse is primed to be a driver of the regional economy. The building is a key piece of George Mason's innovation corridor that includes universities, tech companies, federal agencies, and investors. This network of high-ROI programs spans Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Maryland.

"There's no better place for people to come, for students to come, for industry to come in order to tackle the problems of the future."

— George Mason University President Gregory Washington





FUSE

at Mason Square

From bold idea to towering reality—and many milestones in between



2019

NOVEMBER 2019

State Grants Mason Square Expansion Funding

The \$235 million is part of Virginia's Tech Talent Investment Program and supports expanding Mason Square.

2021

JANUARY 2021

Fuse Pilot Launches

The Fuse pilot opens in Vernon Smith Hall, allowing the university to build research partnerships, launch programs, fill an incubator space, and test community engagement concepts.

FEBRUARY 2021

President's Innovation Advisory Council Is Formed

President Washington forms this roundtable of regional business executives and community leaders to provide strategic guidance and advocacy for expanding Mason Square—including the building that will become Fuse.



2022

MARCH 2022

Campus and Building Naming

The university renames the Arlington Campus to Mason Square and announces the name for the new building: Fuse at Mason Square.

APRIL 2022

Groundbreaking

As George Mason University officially breaks ground on Fuse at Mason Square, President Washington declares that "We are truly breaking ground on Virginia's future."



2023

APRIL 2023

Mason Now Kicks Off

President Washington announces the launch of Mason Now: Power the Possible, a \$1 billion comprehensive fundraising campaign for the university.

OCTOBER 2023

Entrepreneur-in-Residence Program

This partnership with Arlington Economic Development, an initiative of Mason Enterprise™, convenes government and corporate partners, George Mason faculty and students, and leading-edge researchers to develop solutions to the world's complex challenges.

NOVEMBER 2023

Structural Topping Out

The structural topping out signifies the completion of the building's main concrete structure and facade. More than 250 workers, including George Mason students like Leslie Hernandez, contributed to the building's development.

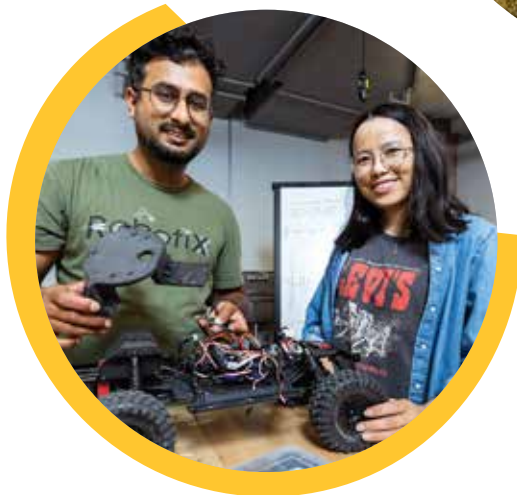


2024

DECEMBER 2024

Commercial Launch

University leaders, government officials, and industry partners gather to celebrate Fuse's official launch and its commercial occupancy.



2025

MAY 2025

First Tenants Move In

Cybastion, JSI, Corvex, and Oasis Hill are among the first industry tenants to move into Fuse.

JUNE 2025

NuScale Energy Exploration Center Opens

Funded by a grant from the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank, the center is the largest of its kind in the United States. It features a state-of-the-art simulated reactor control room, which advances nuclear science and engineering education.

AUGUST 2025

Fuse Opens to Students

Fuse begins serving students in fall 2025, acting as a major educational and innovation hub.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Completion and Vision Realized

In a defining moment for our region, Fuse is the university's bold new home for innovation, technology, and collaboration.



A PARTNERSHIP FROM THE GROUND UP

Mason Innovation Partners (MIP), a development consortium led by Edgemoor Infrastructure & Real Estate, is George Mason's private development partner for Fuse at Mason Square. Edgemoor is a leader in the development, financing, and operations of public buildings, infrastructure, and commercial real estate. With an emphasis on the end user and making an impact on the local community, Edgemoor has delivered or has under development more than \$4.6 billion in projects.

MASON NOW

POWER THE POSSIBLE

Meeting the Challenge

From individual donors to a pivotal \$250 million investment from the county and the commonwealth, Fuse represents the culmination of a community's belief in George Mason and marks a significant milestone in our \$1 billion Mason Now campaign. Having already raised more than half of our goal in record time, we now look ahead with the same bold vision that has guided us since our earliest days. We are committed to delivering on our promises to our students, to the region, and to the world—and Fuse is one of those promises made real.



Opportunity and Generosity Meet Purpose

A gift from the Kimmy Duong Foundation, one of the largest in George Mason University history, will have a \$36 million impact that will power a bold new chapter for computing education in the commonwealth. In recognition of this gift, the university has renamed the School of Computing within the College of Engineering and Computing as the Long Nguyen and Kimmy Duong School of Computing. Located in the heart of Northern Virginia's tech corridor, the renamed school is now even better positioned to accelerate workforce development, innovation, and access. This historic investment strengthens an already thriving tech ecosystem across the region.

With this gift, the Long Nguyen and Kimmy Duong School of Computing becomes a symbol of what's possible when access meets opportunity, and generosity meets purpose.



Partnership Strengthens Virginia's Position as a Leader in Clean Energy

George Mason has partnered with NuScale Power Corporation to open the NuScale Energy Exploration (E2) Center at Fuse at Mason Square. This state-of-the-art simulator is the largest of its kind in the United States and replicates a nuclear reactor control room, giving students hands-on experience with small modular reactor technology in real-world scenarios. Backed by the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank, this partnership strengthens Virginia's position as a leader in clean energy innovation and workforce development. For George Mason students, it's an opportunity to move from theory to practice—preparing them to lead in a critical, fast-evolving industry.



Rosemary Hayes Jones and her late husband Stanley continued their legacy of philanthropy at George Mason with a transformative \$1 million gift to establish the Stanley and Rosemary Hayes Jones Networking Testbed Lab within Fuse at Mason Square.



A \$50,000 gift from Victor and Diane Hoskins will fuel the future of George Mason students and spur the innovative expansion of opportunity in Northern Virginia.



Support Mason Now
gmu.edu/masonnow

FUSE

As a nexus of collaboration, Fuse is primed to be a driver of the regional economy. The building is a key piece of George Mason's ecosystem of campuses, small business development centers, and community college partnerships. This network is strategically located in the burgeoning technology and innovation corridor that runs from Washington, D.C., to Richmond and beyond.

Mason Enterprise™

Mason Enterprise™ fuels entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic growth across the region through a comprehensive network of programs. Utilizing incubators, accelerators, and education and advisory services, Mason Enterprise™ programs span start-up support, business incubation, technology commercialization, funding connections, and targeted programs for Virginia businesses.

By fostering innovation and investment, Mason Enterprise™ positions the region as a premier destination for entrepreneurs and high-growth ventures.

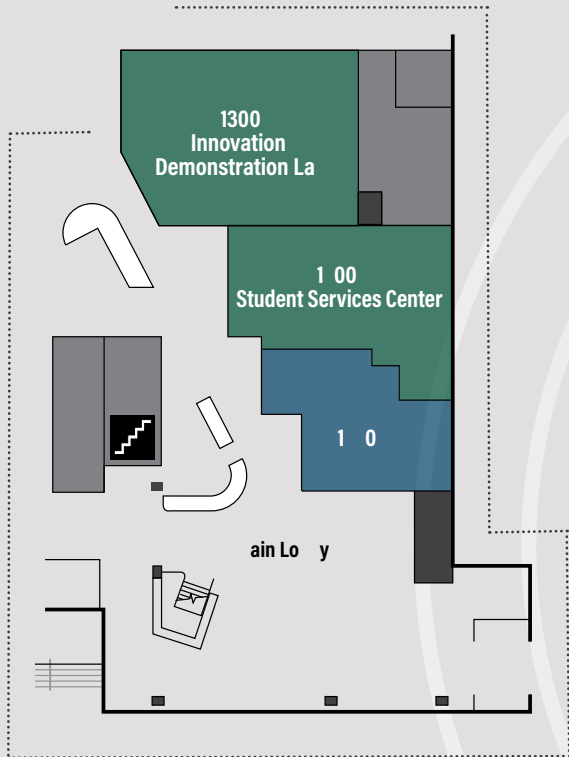
The annual Accelerate Investor Conference is George Mason University's signature initiative to propel innovation, commercialization, and entrepreneurship across Virginia and beyond. Through a dynamic suite of programs, events, and partnerships, Accelerate supports researchers, entrepreneurs, and start-ups from idea to impact. Thus far, participating companies have raised \$87.4 million.



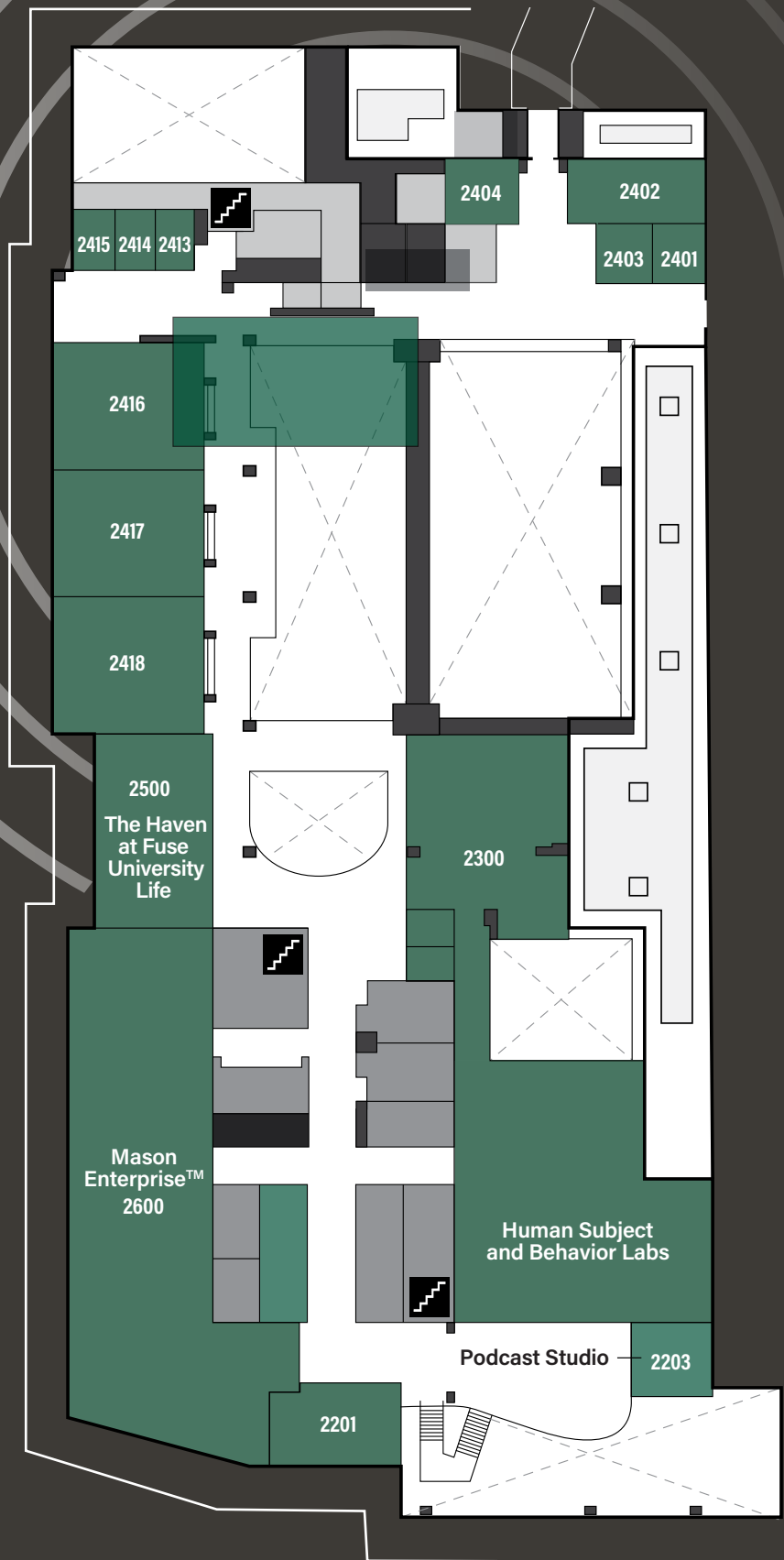
acceleratedeals.org



FIRST FLOOR



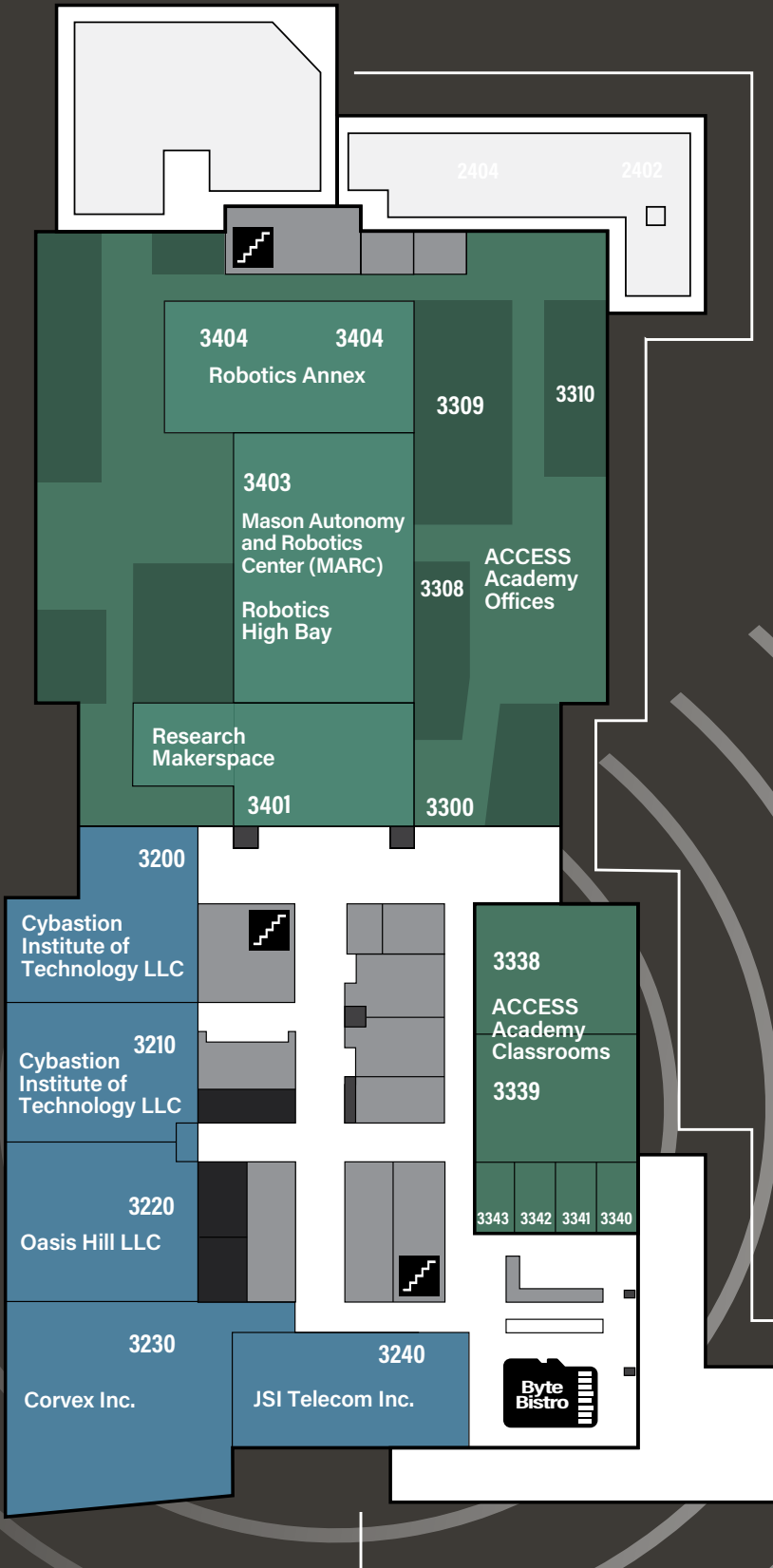
SECOND FLOOR



IN 2024, MASON ENTERPRISE™

- supported a portfolio of **33,000 Virginia small businesses** and **start-ups**, which received more than **\$2.8 billion** in **follow-on** funding
- hosted **58,000 attendees** at its **training programs** and **workshops**
- provided **34,134 hours** of **advising support** entrepreneurs and small business owners
- won an international award for its **innovation ecosystem development**

THIRD FLOOR



Fuse at Mason Square is a hub of robotics, autonomy, and artificial intelligence. Researchers here explore how machines interact with human environments—from off-road navigation to humanoid movement.

FUSE

Research SPOTLIGHTS

Creating Highly Capable and Intelligent Robots

George Mason University is redefining what robots can do—and how they can help. The RobotiXX Lab develops intelligent, autonomous robots for disaster response, with real-world impact in places like Fukushima, Japan, and Mexico City. Backed by \$9.4 million in funding and partners like the National Science Foundation and Google DeepMind, the lab is a training ground for future innovators—from high school to doctoral students.

By combining cutting-edge research with hands-on learning, Professor Xuesu Xiao and his team are advancing both robotics and opportunity.



George Mason PhD in psychology candidate Andres Rosero, MA Psychology '22, pictured here with "Pepper," is exploring deception and human-robot interactions.

The Next Step in Human-Robot Technology

At George Mason University's Applied Psychology and Autonomous Systems Lab, researchers are exploring one of the biggest questions of our time: How do we build ethical, trustworthy AI? Blending psychology, human factors, and robotics, the team is shaping how humans and machines collaborate—studying everything from therapeutic robot pets to moral reasoning in AI systems. Their work guides the development of autonomous technologies that are not just smart, but socially and ethically aware. It's research with real-world urgency and a reminder that innovation begins with understanding people.

PARTNERSHIPS DRIVE REGIONAL INNOVATION

Fuse is a center for collaboration between industry leaders, government, university researchers, and students.

Cybastion and George Mason have been collaborating on cybersecurity and 5G/6G research in the United States and African nations since 2022. Originally funded by the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative's Northern Virginia Node and now sustained with funding from federal agencies and the private sector, the Cyber Living Innovation Lab has significant expertise and capability in cybersecurity, NextG communications, transportation, manufacturing, and other infrastructure systems.

JSI is a trusted provider of AI-enabled digital intelligence solutions deployed in more than 40 countries. Based in Chantilly, Virginia, JSI's software is used to expand awareness, identify patterns, and simplify data complexity in support of mission-critical operations. Built for the evidential requirements of law enforcement, JSI has been helping protect what matters, both domestically and abroad, for more than 45 years.

Corvex provides accessible computing infrastructure for the entire AI lifecycle. The Corvex AI Cloud enables innovators to train, fine-tune, and inference AI models using the latest generation of supercomputers paired with white-glove support to ensure client success. Corvex operates at the absolute cutting edge of hardware and software that powers third-party developers' AI applications.

Oasis Hill is an innovation hub that will host pitch competitions and networking events, and accelerate start-ups in the tech marketplace and health care AI field. Cofounder Shy Pahlevani has been recognized as one of Washington, D.C.'s Top Young Entrepreneurs and *Washington Business Journal's* 40 Under 40. He is also the founder of two Arlington start-ups: LiveSafe, which crowdsources safety intelligence, and HUNGRY, an office catering service.

FUSE

Fuse at Mason Square provides research and discovery space for the intersection of AI, immersive technologies, and public trust. Researchers here lead a variety of projects, including focused government contracting studies and the development of interactive AI games that can improve public safety.

Researchers at George Mason are partnering with Ericsson, AT&T, Michigan State University, and Morgan State University on Windtexter. Windtexter's covertness trick is making important texts look like mundane messages, allowing critical, relevant messages to hide in plain sight.

Research SPOTLIGHTS

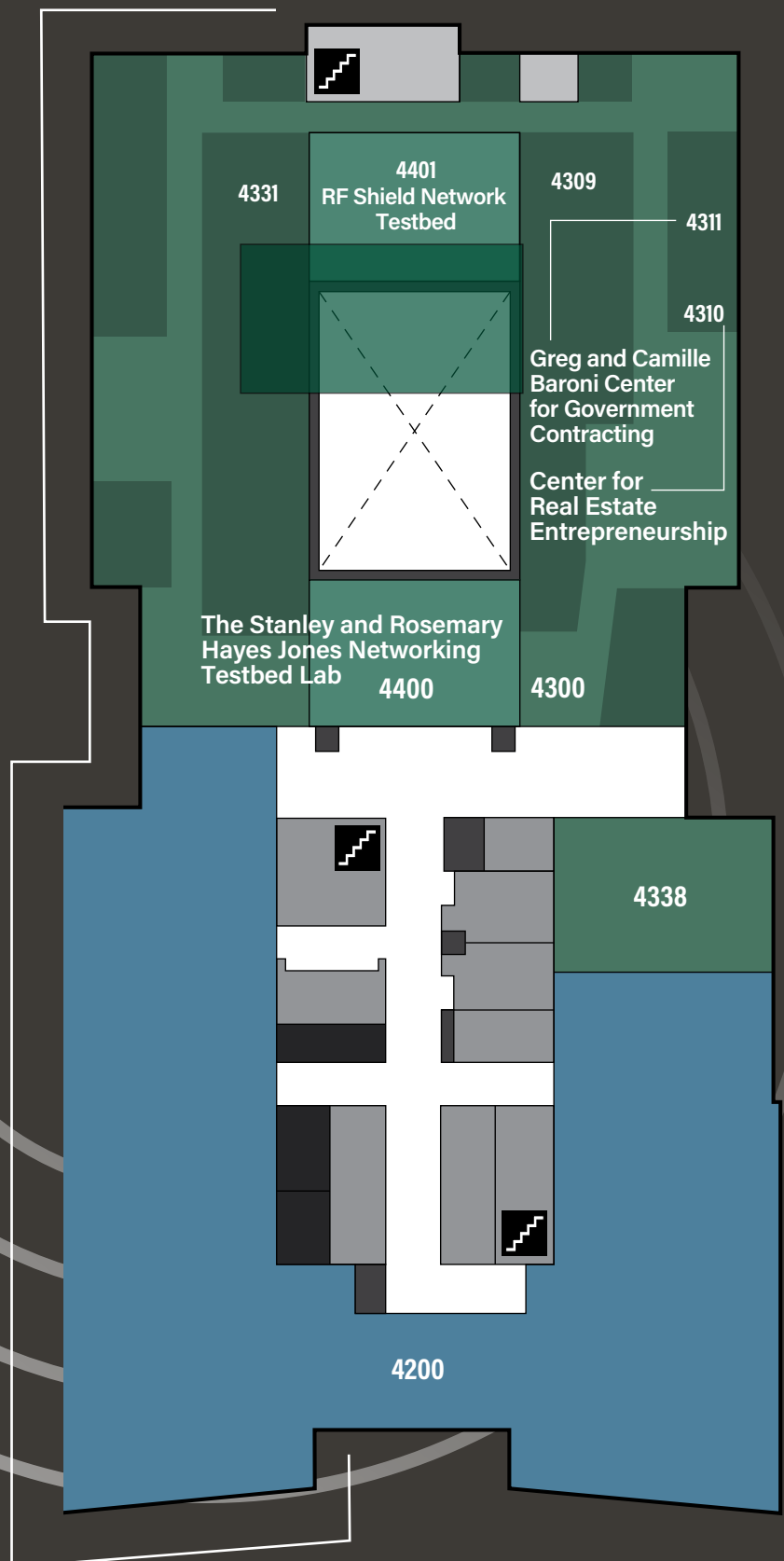
Transforming Emergency Response Training

Using AI-augmented games, George Mason researchers are transforming complex challenges into interactive learning experiences that build skills and resilience. Shima Mohebbi of Connected, Automated, Resilient, and Intelligent Networks Group (CARING) led a team that created two interactive AI-powered games—Go-Repair and Go-Rescue—to train utility managers and volunteers to make critical decisions in scenarios like infrastructure repairs and hurricane disaster evacuations. Built as part of a National Science Foundation initiative to develop simulation-based games for resilient infrastructure, the games simulate emergency scenarios and provide participants with tailored insights into their decision-making process.

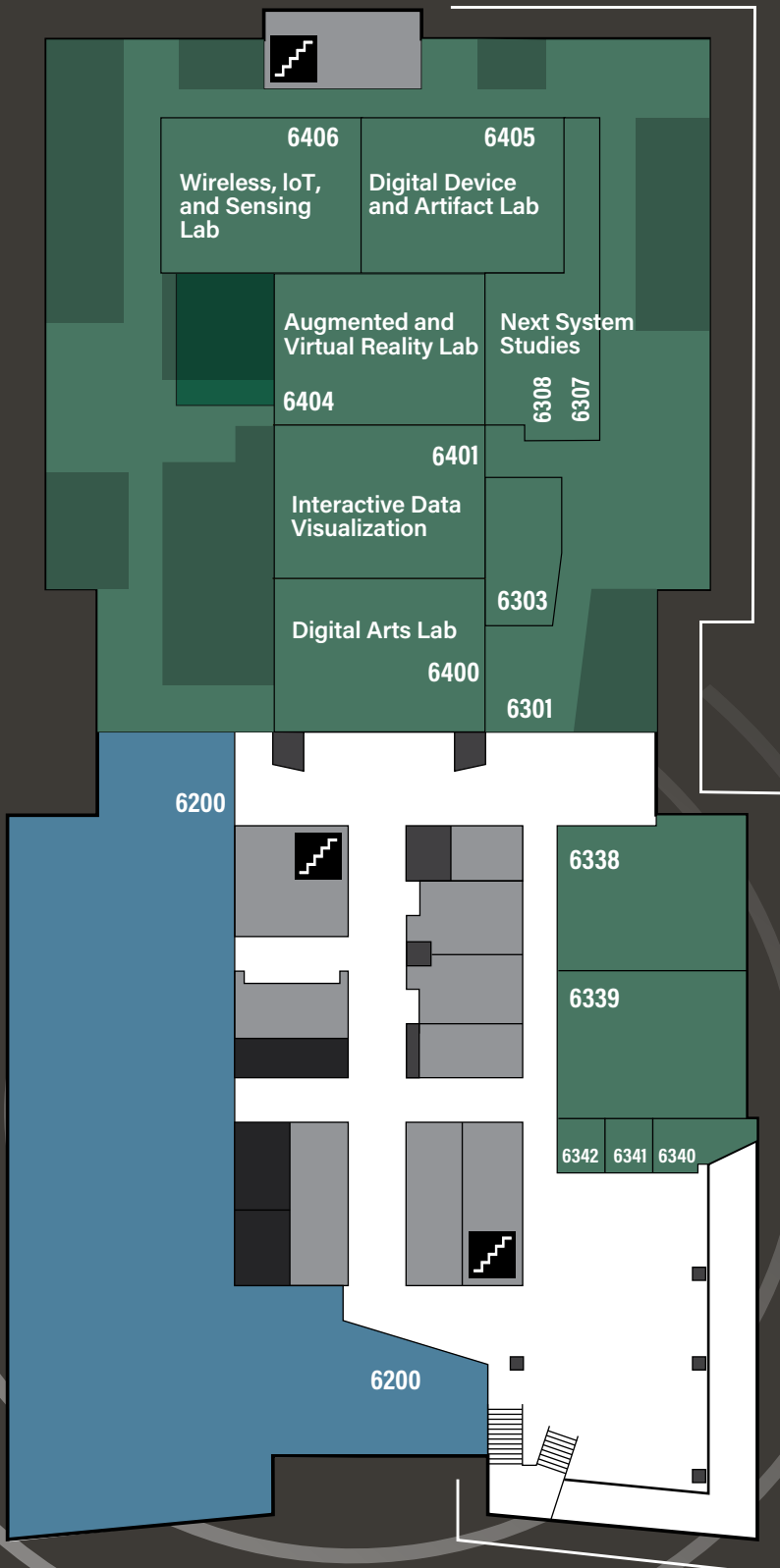
Improving Government Contracting Processes and Execution

The Greg and Camille Baroni Center for Government Contracting is a first-in-the-nation university center to address business, policy, and regulatory issues in government contracting. In July, the center released the inaugural Government Contracting Trends and Performance Index, a first-of-its-kind analysis of the 200,000 firms providing nearly \$800 billion in products, materials, and services to the whole of the federal government. The research team leveraged open-source data, comprehensive surveys of government contracting firms, and exhaustive analysis to examine three specific areas: the current structure of the federal contracting industrial base, the current trends in government contracting, and the financial performance of government contracting firms.

FOURTH FLOOR

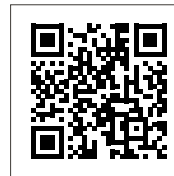


SIXTH FLOOR



ES

Fuse at Mason Square hosts cutting-edge immersive technology—VR, AR, and 3D visualization—that is transforming education, training, and well-being. George Mason's labs are addressing climate resilience and real-time training scenarios.



Visit masonsquare.gmu.edu/fuse for the latest updates from Fuse.



Eighth graders at Robinson Secondary School participate in a virtual field trip to George Mason's apiary. Funded by the Sweet Virginia Foundation, this learning tool is designed to enhance existing curricula taught in Virginia fourth-grade classrooms, and foster interest in science, technology, engineering, and math and related careers in today's youth.



Partnering with NASA to Investigate Melting Mountains

Ice melting in high elevations in Asia, where temperatures are rising faster than the average, can have profound effects on communities' drinking water and food production for nearly three billion people. Viviana Maggioni, associate professor of civil, environmental and infrastructure engineering, is leading a NASA-funded research project, along with Chile's Universidad de la Frontera, to measure those effects and figure out how to respond to them. Using advanced data assimilation algorithms; multiple satellite-based sensors; and NASA's Glacial Melt Toolbox, a cutting-edge collection of remote sensing, digital elevation, and mapping technologies to measure and forecast changes in ice, water, snow, and other natural phenomena; researchers aim to identify regional hotspots in the high mountain areas of Asia and South America where the permafrost is melting rapidly.

Utilizing AI to Create Realistic Training Scenarios

Artificial intelligence and emerging technologies are opening new possibilities for human development, sports science, and emergency response. At George Mason, Craig Yu and Joel Martin are developing augmented reality tools that simulate realistic training scenarios for firefighters to help reduce injuries while preparing them for complex challenges. By combining AI with immersive environments, these tools can adapt to skill levels, analyze performance, and create safer, more effective training. The same technologies are advancing research in kinesiology and sports science, showing how human-AI collaboration can enhance learning, resilience, and safety across high-risk and high-performance fields.

George Mason's networks and collaboration expand opportunities, our research accelerates lab-to-market pipelines, and career-ready graduates strengthen Virginia's economy. Together, we're building a stronger future at Fuse.

Research SPOTLIGHTS



IDIA Is a Nexus Point for Collaboration in Virginia

The Institute for Digital Innovation (IDIA) is revolutionizing technology with applications that have real-world impact. As one of George Mason's institutes and research centers, IDIA drives cross-disciplinary collaboration, harnessing the talents of our deep research pool and transforming ideas from experiment to enterprise. An R1 research university, George Mason is also Virginia's largest public research university and a top 10 U.S. institution for innovation. Our research strengthens communities, focusing on bold solutions to the challenges of our time. Through this infrastructure, George Mason is able to swiftly move discoveries from lab to market—using innovation to directly serve the region and the world.



FUSE POWERS THE POSSIBLE

Fuse stimulates innovation and discovery to drive bold solutions for a healthy, prosperous world.

Fuse redefines what a public-private partnership means and what true collaboration can make happen.

Fuse reimagines what our future can be and creates the space where that future happens.

With the support of our donors, community, and industry partners, Fuse at Mason Square is turning “what if?” into what is.



Meet the Challenge

George Mason University began with a vision for a new kind of university. That future-forward thinking has propelled us to where we are today—as an educational leader, a research powerhouse, and an economic engine for our region.

As much as Fuse marks a new chapter in George Mason's history, it is also a natural extension of what this university has always been. Fearless. Inquisitive. Resilient. Driven by an audacious spirit that recognizes new challenges demand new ways of thinking—the spirit that fuels the Mason Now campaign.

Help us imagine what Fuse can be. Help us bring together students, faculty, industry, researchers, and innovators under one roof to meet grand challenges, drive game-changing innovation, and build a better tomorrow.



MASON NOW
POWER THE POSSIBLE

Help Fuse power
the possible.

gmu.edu/masonnow





Marking an important new chapter in the history of research and scholarship at George Mason University, the Grand Challenge Initiative aims to address the greatest threats to humanity's ability to live a peaceful, healthy, prosperous, and just existence. Through multidisciplinary research strengths in education, public health, space exploration, sustainability, cybersecurity and data management, and peace and democracy, the initiative aligns talent, infrastructure, resources, and partnerships with new ideas to deliver real-world solutions and prepare the next generation of changemakers. Learn how the students, faculty, staff, and the community are already hard at work at gmu.edu/grandchallenge.



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