

# GREETINGS FROM BELFAST!



I hope all is well for you as we enter the fall months and round out the year. I know some time has passed since my last newsletter, and I've decided to make some format changes as well. This started as a letter of gratitude and information for groups that once gave me scholarships for college, and has now grown into a great way to stay in touch. I'm deeply grateful to have so many amazing friends, family members, and colleagues that have helped light my path. Whether it has been lessons in K-12, resources and guidance for my undergraduate degree, professional development through internships and work experience, or laughter love and support whenever we get together, you have undeniably shaped me into the young man I am today. So, thank you!

Now, to the updates! For many of you reading this, last you heard I was starting a brand-new job at the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond, VA. I joined the bank as part of the Discover program, which attracts early-career and career-transitioning talent through two 12-month rotations within the Fed with permanent hiring afterwards. I had the privilege of joining Strategy & Planning - the team in charge of strategic planning for the largest division of IT infrastructure for the Federal Reserve.

As a chief of staff and communications specialist, I regularly connected with C-Suite leaders and vice presidents across the division as my team worked to ensure alignment in our goals, materials, hiring, planning, and outcomes. I can't think of a better way to get deeply integrated into the structure of the organization and cast a wide net of connections.





I'll spare you every detail, but I was pleasantly surprised to be supported by a manager and team that emphasized my leading and learning right away. In turn, I not only received my Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certification within my first 6 months, but I also took on the role of producing our bimonthly division-wide meetings, creating our first division-wide website through SharePoint Online, helping to overhaul our onboarding process for new hires, and leading a group of 6 brilliant interns as a Head of House last summer. And while I am no longer at the Fed (at least for now), I thoroughly enjoyed the development of my network and professional abilities during my time there. I carry the skills I gained with me daily.

You may be wondering what compelled me to leave such a good job straight of college! I guess that's what happens when a once in a lifetime opportunity to earn a Master's degree abroad comes around- it's hard to say no!

Last November, I had the honor of being one of 20 finalists in the nation for a prestigious Mitchell scholarship to fund a postgrad degree in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland. Across all my global scholarship applications, the MA in Conflict Transformation and Social Justice at Queen's University Belfast was my top choice. And while I didn't win the Mitchell scholarship, God had other plans.

To my surprise, Queen's received my Mitchell application materials and recruited me with scholarships of their own! Having never been out of the U.S., and knowing I wanted to pursue a Master's that allowed me to enhance my many years' experience of community action and positive change with research and theory, the choice was quite clear to enroll. The Conflict Transformation & Social Justice program takes a unique localized approach to resolving problems that span communities and regions, and I can't wait to apply this immersive experience and knowledge, even after this year in Belfast.





Whether you know it or not, you helped write the story that got me here today. Something you said, shared, or lived undoubtedly shaped my course, and things wouldn't be the same without you. I've finished my first week of the semester with joy and excitement, knowing that I have you in my community, thousands of miles away, wishing me the best. As I have said many times before, I will continue to fulfill my promise to keep in touch. It's the least I can do in return for all you've done for me.

***Before I sign off, and you close this pdf, I wanted to share some of my contact info should you want to reach me outside of email while I'm abroad.***

**MAIL:**

***NORMAN JONES III  
8F ELMS BT2  
1 MCCLINTOCK STREET  
BELFAST  
UNITED KINGDOM  
BT2 7GL***



**CALL OR TEXT:**

To avoid international data fees for call/text, please use WhatsApp with my UK phone number:

**+44 7575 531061**

**[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD WHATSAPP FOR FREE.](#)**

**EMAIL:**

You can always reach me by email at  
**[normanjones@me.com](mailto:normanjones@me.com)**



Thank you for all you've done and been for me.

Sincerely grateful,

Norman Jones III