

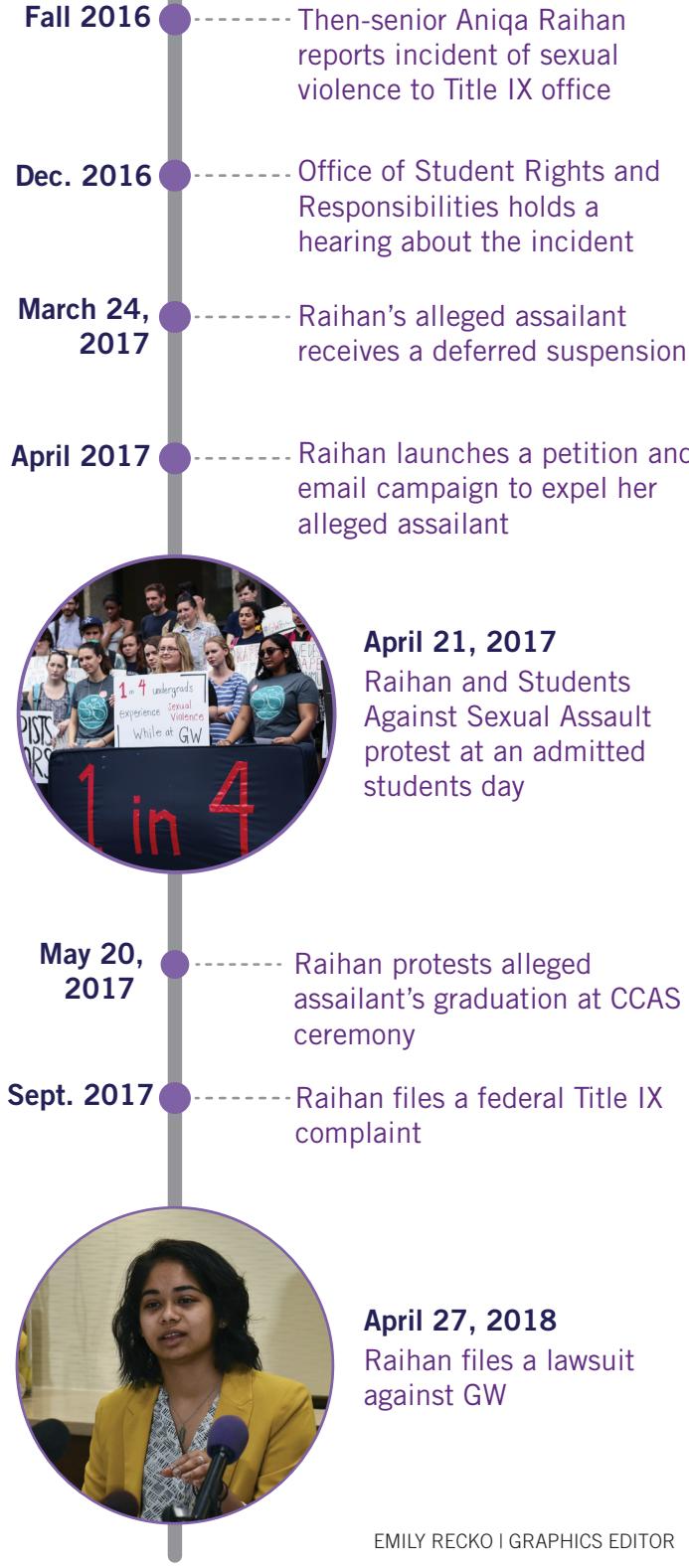
# The GW Hatchet



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## TITLE IX POLICIES UNDER SCRUTINY

*Alumna's lawsuit claims GW created 'hostile culture' for sexual assault survivors*



EMILY RECKO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

**DANI GRACE &  
LEAH POTTER**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITORS

An alumna's lawsuit against GW for allegedly mishandling her sexual violence case could lead to Title IX policy changes, experts said.

The 15-page lawsuit alleges the University didn't communicate with the alumna when she asked for updates about her sexual violence case and created a "hostile culture" for survivors by failing to comply with disciplinary standards. Title IX and law experts said the University may re-evaluate its Title IX policies as a result of the complaint – leading to an environment where more students feel comfortable reporting incidents of sexual misconduct to officials.

Aniqa Raihan, a sexual assault survivor who graduated last academic year, announced she filed a lawsuit against the University at a press conference Friday. Raihan said at the conference that because the University gave her alleged assailant a lesser penalty than recommended by the student code of conduct, she didn't feel like she had adequate support on campus.

"I assumed that GW's community and institutions and prestige would protect me," she said.

Raihan declined to comment, and the alleged assailant, who was identified in the lawsuit as alumnus Mark Favorito, did not return multiple requests for comment.

University spokeswoman Marilee Cstellar said the University had not been served with the complaint as of Friday, but the University is committed to supporting survivors and will defend itself in court. She declined to comment on the specifics of the case.

"As we have stated previously in response to prior concerns Ms. Raihan has raised in the media, the University respectfully disagrees with her characterization of the administrative process and outcome in this situation," Cstellar said in an email.

### Addressing a 'hostile culture'

In the lawsuit, Raihan claims the University created a "sexually hostile culture" through its policies, failure to provide an equitable resolution to her sexual violence case and that administrators neglected to uphold

Title IX procedures. She alleges that because GW did not expel her assailant and declined to issue a no-contact order to him, she was continually at risk of sexual harassment.

"Throughout the entirety of the investigation and adjudication process, GW did not implement any interim safety measures to protect Plaintiff from Favorito on campus," the complaint reads.

Raihan alleges in the complaint that the University created a "hostile culture" by failing to issue appropriate punishments for students who committed acts of sexual misconduct and interfering with female students' access to Title IX resources. She also alleges the University did not report incidents of sexual misconduct to the appropriate offices and failed to comply with disciplinary procedures outlined in the student code of conduct.

The lawsuit claims that the University also did not investigate three additional reports of alleged sexual misconduct involving her assailant.

Last spring, Raihan launched a petition calling on the University to expel her alleged assailant after officials gave him a lesser punishment than recommended in the student code of conduct. The petition spurred a series of protests, including an email campaign calling for the University to terminate her assailant's job at the Lerner Health and Wellness Center.

She also led a rally during an admitted students day last year, during which she delivered the petition to administrators in Rice Hall.

At the second commencement ceremony for the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences last spring, Raihan and two other students held a banner reading "GW Protects Rapists."

### Inadequate institutional support

Raihan claims that GW's "deliberate indifference" toward her sexual violence case prevented her access to educational opportunities and campus events because she did not feel comfortable going to class or the gym, she said at the press conference.

The complaint alleges that Gabriel Slifka, the former director of the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, treated her with "callous disregard" by failing to investigate and address sexual harassment she had experienced.

Slifka departed from his role in SRR last fall and received criticism from multiple students and alumni about the office's handling of cases related to sexual violence.

Raihan claims that GW negligently retained Slifka even after knowing that he did not investigate and properly address her sexual violence case.

"GW failed to take adequate measures to ensure that Mr. Slifka followed written University procedures and ensure Mr. Slifka did not aggravate the harm suffered by sexual harassment victims," the complaint states.

Slifka did not respond to a request for comment.

### A legal push

Raihan asks for financial compensation – an amount to be determined through trial – for emotional pain and suffering, "deprivation of equal access" to opportunities at GW and loss of "enjoyment of life" as a result of being sexually harassed.

Alex Zalkin, the attorney representing Raihan from Zalkin Law Firm, P.C., said he initially met with Raihan last fall to discuss filing the lawsuit, and his team is "hopeful and optimistic" about the case's outcome.

"It's a really amazing thing that Aniqa did today because it really drives the conversation and it also lets other universities know that they can't ignore survivors," Zalkin said in an interview Friday after the press conference. "When survivors do this and they sue their universities, it's a very strong message to them."

Title IX experts said the lawsuit is likely to settle because the complaint will draw adverse attention to the University.

Frank LoMonte, a senior legal fellow at Student Press Law Center, said the case will likely settle because it would be damaging to the University to experience a grueling public trial where its "shortcomings would be aired." He added that the case will likely end in a negotiated solution giving Raihan some money in damages and attorney fees – but the outcome would focus on pushing the University to change its policies.

"Nobody gets rich doing this and nobody brings this to get rich," LoMonte said. "You bring them to raise awareness and to make change."

## Acceptance rate climbs for third consecutive year

**SARAH ROACH**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The University's admission rate rose for the third consecutive year.

The acceptance rate for the Class of 2022 stands at 41.8 percent – nearly one full percentage point up from last year's 41 percent. Admissions experts said as prospective students send their applications to more schools each year, the University's acceptance rate will rise to compensate for the decreased likelihood that students will attend – a trend seen at universities across the nation.

About 11,100 students were accepted into the Class of 2022 – roughly the same as last year when GW admitted a record number of students, Laurie Koehler, the vice provost for enrollment management and retention, said.

The acceptance rate stood at 40.2 percent in 2016. The University admitted a record 45 percent of applicants in 2015 – a slight increase from the year before – after hovering around 33 percent for three years.

Koehler said officials prioritize the quality of the students who enroll at the University over how many students are accepted – favoring candidates who would likely graduate within six years to fill the Class of 2022.

"A lot of schools may want to toot their horns about application numbers or admit rates," she said. "It's not that those things aren't important, they're indicators of something – but they're not indicators of what at the end of the day, we actually care about, which is who enrolls."

For the first time this year, admissions officers

used a new feature that asks prospective students to self-report grades on the Common Application and provide officials with raw writing samples that haven't been through editing processes.

Koehler said the additional material allowed officials to "weed out" students who weren't likely to attend GW because it required extra time to fill out the application. The feature will be evaluated throughout the summer to determine if officials will continue to require more information from next year's applicants, she said.

The students who did apply are more serious about GW," she said. "If you really love a school, you're going to do what they ask you to do to complete the application."

Officials also hosted 21 programming events, called Inside GW Days, for admitted students to visit the University in smaller sessions than years past before deciding whether to enroll. More than 2,000 admitted students and their families visited the University as of April 27 – 14 percent more than last year's turnout, Costas Solomou, the dean of admissions, said.

"We have to really pay attention to what the needs of our students are – our own students but also families who are trying to make a decision between GW and a list of other great schools," he said. "I think we did it right this year."

Solomou said admissions officers used a more "holistic" approach this application cycle that evaluates students' raw writing samples, test grades and life experiences together instead of just high school performance.



KEEGAN MULLEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Jackie Bolduan, a second-year graduate student, and more than 20 graduate students held a sit-in Thursday in Rice Hall alongside undergraduate students supporting their unionization effort – a move that ultimately led to a meeting with Provost Forrest Maltzman.

## Graduate students amplify unionization efforts

**JOHNNY MORREAL &  
SARAH ROACH**  
STAFF WRITERS

When three graduate students entered a meeting with Provost Forrest Maltzman Thursday, they expected to negotiate with the provost and convince him to recognize them as employees with the right to unionize.

But they walked out of Rice Hall disheartened, with the same list of demands they have had since the beginning of the academic year.

Graduate students said Maltzman reiterated the University's viewpoint that their work experience is educational, not professional – meaning the students don't have the standing to form a union. The students said officials told them they could bring their case to the National Labor Relations Board

to settle the dispute – but the board has historically struck down student labor unions under Republican administrations.

Labor relations experts and members of graduate student unions at private institutions said if graduate students continue to garner support from faculty and undergraduates, they may be able to push the University to acknowledge them as student workers without going through the NLRB.

Graduate student leaders said officials want graduate students to file a petition with the NLRB because they know it will lead to a dead end – but the students said they will escalate protests and demonstration efforts if the University continues to dismiss them.

"Seeking election through the NLRB is suicidal," Jackie Bolduan, a second-

year graduate student, said. "That is the other big elephant in the room that they're not acknowledging."

### Escalating unionization efforts

Graduate students said while the meeting began a conversation with officials, unionization is a far-sighted goal because the University still will not recognize the group as a collective bargaining unit.

Maltzman said the Thursday conversation was "useful and productive," but officials and graduate students disagree about "the value of inserting a third party into the relationship that graduate students have with the University."

"I look forward to continuing to make strides together with students, faculty

See STUDENTS Page 2

## CRIME LOG

### DISORDERLY CONDUCT/THROWING OBJECTS FROM BUILDING

Mitchell Hall  
4/17/2018 – 1:55 a.m.

Case closed

GW Police Department officers responded to a report from a male student that an unknown suspect threw a glass bottle out of an unknown floor in Mitchell Hall as he was walking by. Officers were unable to locate the suspect.

**No suspects or witnesses**

### PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS

GW Hospital Loading Dock  
4/19/2018 – 7:50 p.m.

Case closed

A GWPD officer observed an intoxicated female in her mid-30s unaffiliated with the University lying on the ground near the GW Hospital loading dock. EMeRG assessed her and transported her to the GW Hospital emergency room for treatment.

**No further action**

—Compiled by Dani Grace

## Graduate students resist NLRB petition

From Page 1

and school administrators to enhance the graduate student experience," he said in an email.

University spokeswoman Lindsay Hamilton said graduate students requested that the University recognize them as a collective bargaining unit without obtaining an election through the NLRB.

She said if graduate students filed a petition with the NLRB to unionize, the University would participate in the process.

"The University will continue to work with our graduate students to obtain feedback on ways to improve their educational experience," Hamilton said.

The University made the same argument when resident advisers filed a petition with the NLRB last academic year to establish a union — but the board ruled in favor of the RAs, saying they were University employees and had the right to organize.

But graduate students reasserted their opposition to bringing the case to the NLRB, saying it's unlikely their bid would be approved under a Republican administration.

Experts said that if the case was brought before the NLRB and board members decided not to recognize the union, the decision would overturn a 2016 precedent allowing graduate student workers to collectively bargain.

Michael Horka, a fifth-year doctoral student, said officials are not giving in to graduate students' demands because the University would profit less

from their work as teaching and research assistants if they were to offer higher pay and health care.

"I know that is so simplistic, but that is what this whole thing is about," Horka said. "They don't want to pay more money even though we are telling them that graduate students are suffering."

#### A yearlong push

The effort to unionize began in September when graduate students sent a letter to Maltzman and University President Thomas LeBlanc asking to collectively bargain for a higher pay grade and better health care, which Maltzman rejected.

Graduate students delivered a box of about 160 letters from graduate and undergraduate students to LeBlanc earlier this month demanding better health care benefits and pay. The students said they also protested throughout the month at Inside GW days.

Graduate students held a sit-in Thursday in Rice Hall alongside undergraduate students supporting their effort — a move that ultimately led to the meeting with Maltzman.

Bolduan, a second-year graduate student, said the meeting's result was disappointing because officials still rejected their request.

"Even with all that longevity and momentum, they still did not want to do the right thing," she said.

**GWHATCHET.COM**

**H** for more on graduate students' unionization efforts

## GW follows peers in creating centralized academic resource hub



ETHAN STOLER | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Student Association President Peak Sen Chua and Executive Vice President Sydney Nelson worked with administrators to combine academic services in one location in Gelman Library.

**SARAH ROACH**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The University will follow in the steps of nearly all of its peer institutions by creating a centralized hub for academic resources.

Officials released a plan to create an academic resource center in Gelman Library that will combine academic services, like Disability Support Services and the Writing Center, into one location within the coming months. Student Association leaders said the center mirrors programs at peer institutions, like University of Miami and Tufts University, where similar centers streamline communication between academic departments.

"We want to be a prime research institution that focuses on academics in addition to the other great things that we do," SA President Peak Sen Chua said. "We need to emphasize that the academic experience is central to the things that we do."

Geneva Henry, the dean of libraries and academic innovation, said SA leaders proposed the academic resource

center in the fall. She said they reported many academic resources existed on campus but coordination was "lacking," making it difficult for students to find the services they need.

In line with the center, GW Libraries will launch a new website for undergraduate academic resources before the fall — the result of SA advocacy work — to highlight the combined services and list campus study spaces, Henry said. The website will also feature a feedback page for students to recommend services they want in the future, she added.

"We have to balance the desire to centralize with the need for study space, so many services will continue to be offered in other locations across campus," she said.

The University will not hire additional employees to work for the academic resource center, she said.

Chua said the center will operate out of the STEM lab and writing center on the second floor of Gelman. He said the space will also host new programs, like academic

skills workshops, and will expand on previously existing programs, like group and peer tutoring.

"Learning these time management skills and study skills not only helps for a semester of a college experience, but all four years and beyond," Chua said.

Academic resources are currently offered through several departments. The Writing Center reports to the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and career advising reports to the Center for Career Services — but the new center will offer the services in one location.

Sydney Nelson, the SA's executive vice president, said she expects the resource website to be available this fall, though the launch is contingent upon the creation of the study space database.

At least 10 of the University's 12 peer institutions, including Boston University and the University of Miami, offer academic resource centers that Chua and Nelson said they used as a framework for GW's model.

Academic resource center

directors at peer schools said the structure allows workers to point students to exactly what they need instead of directing them to an entirely different department for assistance.

Glenn Wrigley, the director of Boston University's 25-year-old Educational Resource Center, said students find academic resources more accessible when they're integrated into one system because all of the services offered are in an integrated location.

"You don't have students going all over the far reaches of campus to accomplish something, they have everything that's right there in one location," he said.

Marianne Huger Thomson, the executive director of American University's academic resource center, said the service pinpoints how administrators can accommodate students' academic needs because there is more communication between departments.

"We can say 'ah, this is an issue that's going on on campus,' rather than little pockets of information throughout where we're not getting a big picture of what students are coming in with," Thomson said.

Mykel Billups, the assistant dean of the University of Miami's academic resource center, said since the center was created about 10 years ago, it's become a social space for students to come together and study.

Billups said Miami offers academic counseling and sessions where students can learn about time management, note taking, organization and test-taking. The center also provides a first-year online course and learning initiative to help students acclimate to the academic demands of college, she added.

"Centralizing services helps students know where to go to get help," she said. "It helps make it very clear that there is a place that's there to provide support and guidance to students."

## Students work to establish first archaeology fraternity in the country

**LIZZIE MINTZ**  
STAFF WRITER

A group of 19 students wants to establish the first archaeology fraternity in the nation.

After registering as a student organization in November, Delta Iota Gamma recruited 12 members to its inaugural pledge class earlier this semester. The group plans to become a nationally recognized fraternity by the fall because members want to help students studying archaeology or classics build professional networks — a resource they said is needed on campus.

Members said this semester they've worked to trademark the group's letters and write governing documents. As they continue to gain recognition, they are also planning to host social events, like a Star Wars-themed prom in May and archaeology lectures

taught by professionals next semester.

Senior Mason Gerard, the president of Delta Iota Gamma, said the group formed a close friendship during a University-sponsored archaeological dig in Israel last year — which ultimately led to the creation of the organization.

"Getting up at four in the morning to go do manual labor for eight hours definitely does that to people," Gerard said.

Gerard said members were recruited earlier this semester through word of mouth. He said establishing a group that could help students network in the archaeology and classics fields would build a community for the roughly 20 students who study those majors.

"The kicker now is to transition from a more casual word-of-mouth-style recruitment process to hit the ground running to really get our name out there," he said.

Situated in D.C., members will have access to resources, like Smithsonian museums and historical sites, just blocks from campus so they can meet professionals and visit exhibits, Gerard said.

Members of Delta Iota Gamma said they hope to establish themselves as a professional fraternity to stand alongside seven organizations currently on campus. The fraternity status will also give them more national recognition and encourage students at other universities to start their own chapters.

Junior Cece Chislock, the group's treasurer, said being the first archeology fraternity in the nation would draw in support from professionals around the world to help them land jobs or internships.

She said their recognition would also draw attention to archaeology programs at GW that often get overshadowed.

"There are different aspects to this school other than international affairs and political science," Chislock said.

Junior Lucy Qin, Delta Iota Gamma's recruitment chair, said during the recruitment process this year, the group held events like informal information sessions and trivia nights for founding members to get to know potential members.

She said the group will organize a more formal rush process next year, but the group hasn't yet mapped out specifics.

She said the group also wants to recruit more "honorary members," like archaeology professors, next year to help their members build professional relationships.

"DIG is young and still exploring," Qin said. "Nothing's set in stone yet on the professional scene as we are just getting started, but we have big plans."

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# Endowed professorship remains vacant for fifth year

MEREDITH ROATEN

NEWS EDITOR

A donor-funded professorship in the business school remains unfilled for the fifth consecutive year.

The search to fill the Lindner-Gambel Professorship in Business Ethics failed for the third time in the last five years — letting the donation sit untouched, faculty said. The search was called off this spring and three faculty members on the committee said they weren't given a clear reason about why the search could not continue, despite encountering few problems during the process.

The search committee started reviewing applications in October for a proposed start date next academic year, according to a GW Jobs application. The job description asks for a "record of scholarly publications" and expertise in the business ethics field.

The endowed professorship, which sets aside funds for a professor to teach a course about business ethics, was established in 2004 by A. James Clark, a trustee who died in 2015, and named after

two alumni, Thaddeus Lindner and Sergius Gambal, who graduated from GW in the 1950s. Tim Fort was the last professor to fill the endowed professorship and held the position from 2005 to 2013.

The Clark Foundation, a foundation that invests in education on Clark's behalf, did not return a request for comment.

University spokesman Jason Shevrin declined to confirm that the search failed this year and did not say why it failed. Shevrin said the "recruitment process" would continue under the next dean of the business school, but did not say when the position is expected to be filled.

"We are looking forward to continuing the recruitment process for the Lindner-Gambel Professorship under the leadership of incoming Dean Anuj Mehrotra and are excited to fulfill the generous gift that made the position possible," he said.

Shevrin declined to say what the administration told faculty about the search's failure. He also declined to describe the impact the vacant position has on the business school or how much the endowed professorship is



MAX WANG | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
A donor-funded professorship in the business school remains unfilled for the fifth consecutive year.

worth.

Professors on the search committee said they could not talk about specific details of candidates or the search process, citing confidentiality agreements within the closed search.

Kirsten Martin, an associate professor of strategic

management and public policy, said administrators told the five-person search committee, which has stopped meeting, that the search had failed with no explanation.

"There were three searches and after each one, there was frustration that it wasn't being filled," she said.

Martin said the school hasn't hosted a search every year that the position was vacant, but the three failures were still frustrating.

Pradeep Rau, a professor of marketing and member of the search committee, said he was not aware of any irregularities within the search

process that might cause it to fail. He said searches often fail and there is not always a concrete reason why, except that the "right person" wasn't found.

"The truth is that searches do fail, and I wasn't part of previous searches for this process," he said. "I assume that the money is going to be used the next time they find somebody."

Ronald Hill, a visiting ethics professor who will not return to GW next year, said word gets around when there are several failed searches in a row because the committee brings candidates to campus for interviews. The business ethics field isn't small, Hill said, but the people in the field talk with one another.

Declining to fill the position for an extended period of time could give the University a bad reputation and deter candidates from applying during the next search, because past searches have been fruitless, he said.

"If you bring in good people with well-known reputations in the field and you keep denying all of them opportunities to serve, my guess is it does hurt your reputation," he said.

## SA leaders wrap up yearlong drive for cultural change

CAYLA HARRIS  
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

On a Sunday afternoon in the back corner of the Student Association office, SA President Peak Sen Chua and Executive Vice President Sydney Nelson waited for their next appointment.

On their shared Google Calendar, crowded with blue and yellow boxes, the two had allocated about an hour for a meeting about an upcoming academic advising report — just enough time before they had to travel from the SA conference room to a cabinet meeting. Then, the two would head to a student organization's cultural event, and Nelson would break off to attend a leadership team meeting, followed by a transition meeting to help her successor move into his role.

The rest of the week was similar — packed with senate meetings, classes and talks with administrators.

"And these were actually 'light' weeks in comparison to others," Nelson said.

Through weeks of packed schedules this academic year, the SA's top two leaders have either spearheaded or played a role in the launch of 20 new projects, with plans to roll out three more before the end of the academic year. The initiatives ranged from internal SA changes — like the creation of the University's first-ever arts week, led by members of the executive cabinet — to University-wide measures, like an overhaul of the Colonial Health Center and the establishment of a \$2 million sustainable investment fund.

Chua and Nelson attributed this year's number of institutional changes to a revamped SA culture focused on trusting cabinet members to pursue their own projects and a positive working relationship with University President Thomas LeBlanc during his first year in office.

"I think we're just both really grateful to have had this experience this year, the good, the bad and the ugly — all of it," Nelson said. "I think that we're both leaving the office feeling like we've done everything we could this year."

### Changing the culture

Just more than a year ago, Chua and Nelson were opponents.

The two had both launched campaigns for SA executive vice president.

But when the SA presidential race was rocked by accusations of stalking and harassment, eventually forcing administrators to postpone the election until the fall — the two stressed that they wanted to set an example of opponents who could remain friends. When Chua was elected executive vice president by just 102 votes and the senate later approved a measure to make him the SA's next president — he nominated his former rival to be his executive vice president.

Thomas Falcigno, who

served as SA executive vice president last academic year, said after the scandal last spring, several administrators had concerns about the direction of the student government.

But he said Chua and Nelson were able to devise a new agenda focused on improving SA culture after being thrown into their roles, allowing them to re-evaluate relationships with administrators and students and move forward on projects despite massive administrative turnover.

"Maybe they haven't come out and been able to accomplish everything they ran on, but they've still done a lot of good work for the students," Falcigno said.

### Evaluating the 'student experience'

As Chua and Nelson entered their new positions last spring, the University was also preparing to welcome a new president to campus.

From day one, LeBlanc said improving the student experience would be a major priority during his tenure. Chua and Nelson said they used the first semester to introduce student concerns to LeBlanc — and then were able to bring him researched proposals about the need for an 18th credit or more personalized advising services.

Chua said several administrators had previously shot down SA proposals because they were too big to tackle or would extend past SA leaders' tenures — but when LeBlanc arrived on campus, he and Nelson wanted to pursue larger, cultural problems at GW that the president may be interested in addressing.

"We're going to try anything and everything, but we're going to be intentional," Chua said. "We're going to be smart about it, and we're going to make sure anything we do is backed up by data, backed up by proposals that clearly articulate our asks of the University."

With input from the SA, the University announced major changes to the dining plan in February — followed by a switch in campus shuttle providers to eco-friendly and WiFi-enabled buses and improvements to the campus climate survey.

Logan Malik, the SA's vice president for undergraduate student policy, said Chua and Nelson placed an increased focus on developing relationships with administrators this year. He said the research behind the project proposal for the sustainable investment fund was pivotal in getting top administrators, like Executive Vice President and Treasurer Lou Katz, on board.

"They knew the strategy, and they knew the methodology, and they knew what they had to come into every meeting with — they knew what material they needed," Malik said.

### Building a foundation

Student leaders said the

foundation Chua and Nelson set for the SA during LeBlanc's first year in office will provide future leaders with the tools necessary to continue working on big projects that tangibly impact students' everyday lives.

Ashley Le, the SA's president-elect, said her time as vice president for public affairs in Chua's cabinet gave her a firsthand look at the "team effort" it takes to launch projects. She said Chua and Nelson incorporated student voices in every initiative they rolled out this year — something she hopes to build upon during her tenure.

"While Peak and Sydney entered office after a stormy season in the Student Association, their leadership has reset not only the advocacy framework, but also the culture of student government for both current and future SA leaders," Le said.

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# Opinions

April 30, 2018 • Page 4

## STAFF EDITORIAL SA Senate private procedures don't offer students proper representation

Last week, the Student Association Senate voted 18 to six, with six abstentions, to approve a resolution that calls for the University to divest from companies that allegedly contribute to Palestinian suffering. At the same meeting, SA senators also voted not to censure, or temporarily ban, Sen. Brady Forrest, G-at-Large, after comments surfaced during his campaign for executive vice president earlier this year that students called anti-Semitic.

Voting on the resolution was done by secret ballot and discussion was held in an executive session. In the middle of the meeting, the SA Senate broke for a private censure hearing. Both votes barred the public from hearing discussion or knowing how senators individually voted. For both of these measures, a two-thirds majority must vote in favor to approve.

When a contentious vote comes up in the SA Senate, students have a right to know how the senators that represent them voted – however, safety concerns leading up to the vote likely pushed senators to call for a secret ballot. Student safety is the most important factor, but the SA Senate has a duty to represent student interests

**"SA senators are elected to represent the needs of students in their school, and students who run for a position must acknowledge that being open with the student body is something that is expected of them."**

and will need to gain students' trust back after this divisive vote was done behind closed doors.

Neither deciding to vote by secret ballot nor discussion in an executive session are prohibited by the SA's bylaws, but this practice prevents students from knowing how their representatives voted.

Students who were against the resolution or wanted Forrest to be censured are now left in the dark about whether or not their specific senator represented their stance in last Monday's vote. Students who supported the resolution or did not want Forrest to be censured likely feel less affected because the votes swayed in their favor, but they also deserve to know if their senator represented them. Senators owe it to their constituents to be transparent about their votes – just as other representatives are expected to do so in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. SA senators are elected to represent the needs of students in their school, and students who run for a position must acknowledge that being open with the student body is something that is expected of them.

However, with the safety concerns that were raised leading up to the vote, it is understandable why senators wanted to vote and discuss in private. Signs calling Jewish

University President Thomas LeBlanc announced Tuesday that the calls in the resolution will not be implemented by administrators. Although the University said it will not take action, students still publicly responded.

The censure vote and resolution have prompted protests and other gatherings around campus. While the resolution could not satisfy the wants or needs of all students, it sparked an important conversation on campus and represented an issue students deeply care about, showing that the SA Senate is tuned in to students' concerns.

On a campus that is so focused on politics, this will not be the last time a controversial vote takes place in the SA Senate. Going forward, the SA Senate should continue hearing resolutions that involve issues that students care about – but they need to be wary that the way they vote affects students just as much as the outcome. As these issues come up, safety should remain the priority, but the SA Senate should consider how their voting procedures affect students on all sides of an issue before making decisions so that all students on campus feel represented by their elected officials.

## WHAT THE UNIVERSITY WON'T TALK ABOUT THIS WEEK

Why the search to fill an endowed professorship failed for the third time in five years p. 3

FROM GWHATCHET.COM/OPTIONS

"While independent papers inform students, they go beyond classrooms to affect the lives of employees, administrators, professors and parents."

—THE HATCHET'S EDITORIAL BOARD, published April 25



Cartoon by Jekko Syquia

## GW should commit to year-round service, require volunteer hours to graduate

This month, I did something I rarely take the time to do: volunteer. I'd love to say that I volunteer regularly, but the reality is that the last time I left campus to give back to the D.C. community was back in October at Freshman Day of Service. I enjoyed the day spent removing weeds at the Fort Dupont ice rink, but I was shocked to see my roommate, suitemates and other people who lived on my floor skip out on the event. Since then I've relied on a busy class schedule and philanthropy that I do with my sorority to explain my lack of service – but I know those are flimsy excuses.

Many students find themselves collecting the same excuses, and some avoid service through graduation. The University has promoted volunteering before, but they waver on their commitment to service too. When former First Lady Michelle Obama challenged the University to complete 100,000 hours of community service in 2009, students exceeded the goal so she stuck to her promise and spoke at commencement in return. Every year, programs like Freshman Day of Service and MLK Day of Service and Leadership encourage students to be active in the community, but these few days are not enough. The University should require 20 community service hours to put more pressure on students to volunteer in their community, so they gain real world experience outside of classes and see the District beyond Foggy Bottom before they graduate.

Students are fortunate enough to attend college in the nation's capital so we should take the time to leave D.C. better than when we first found it. Students have time throughout the year to help pick up litter, volunteer at soup kitchens

and be leaders for young students across the wards. D.C. has the highest income inequality in the country – higher than all 50 states – which means living in a wealthy ward like where Foggy Bottom is situated is much different than living in other parts of the city. Having the opportunity to live in one of D.C.'s wealthiest wards is a privilege, so students need to get out of Foggy Bottom to see that and give back where they can.

Volunteering isn't just beneficial to the community – it provides students with the hands-on learning that GW promises potential students. Through service projects, students can see new parts of the city, meet new people and get experience that will help them in future careers.

Rachel Walsh  
Writer

Programs that require students to give back to the community surrounding their school is fairly common. Syracuse University's business school, the Whitman School of Management, requires 75 hours of unpaid volunteer work outside of Greek philanthropy events or service-focused clubs. At Emerson College, students must engage in eight hours of community service each semester. Other schools around the country require community service to graduate or offer some sort of incentive for giving back, and GW should too.

While students logged over 700,000 hours of community service at the Honey W. Nashman Center last academic year, I personally know very few people who do any volunteering outside of their

student organizations. But, GW makes it easy for students to get involved on their own. GW has a blog that is updated weekly and lists volunteer opportunities that makes finding and applying for opportunities simple. The Columbian College of Arts and Sciences already encourages students to look at the community around them through the local or civic engagement course requirement, and adding a service requirement could give that learning more experiential value.

As graduation rolls around, many students who collect their diplomas likely haven't volunteered since the freshman requirement – but a commitment of 20 hours over four years was likely not out of reach. Students could reach the hours through a student organization, if an executive board member signs off on their participation, but could also utilize the Nashman Center to sign up for their own opportunities. This doesn't seem like much to ask, as volunteer opportunities around the District are plentiful, and service hours can be quickly logged at the Nashman Center and used to apply for awards or benefit students on job and internship applications.

Students care about making the world a better place – but a push from the University to get involved would help. I know that I am one of the many students who would have volunteered sooner in my college career with a requirement to motivate me to volunteer after the Freshman Day of Service. GW should follow in the footsteps of other peer schools and commit to the importance of service by requiring students to give back to the community of people just off campus before they graduate.

—Rachel Walsh is a freshman and a Hatchet opinions writer.

## University should focus on need-based aid over deceptive merit scholarships

Opening an acceptance letter feels great. The feeling is even better when admittance is accompanied by a merit scholarship. Merit scholarships are meant to celebrate accomplishments and reward stellar work in high school – but it appears like they are meant to do something else at GW.

That feeling of being celebrated and given a discount is how the University uses merit scholarships to deceive students. These seemingly prestigious scholarships are used to make an almost \$70,000 tuition appear a bit less hefty. While a student may think they're special for receiving a merit scholarship, the truth is that nearly half of undergraduates receive the Presidential Academic Scholarship – an award reserved for the "most competitive" applicants – according to a Wall Street Journal story that used GW as its primary example to discuss this problem.

This practice isn't unique to GW. It's part of a growing trend as higher education becomes more competitive and expensive. As schools look to ascend college rankings, they try to compete with other elite institutions to persuade students to attend their school. Colleges use merit scholarships to make students feel wanted and parents feel like they are getting a good deal on rising tuition costs. Overusing merit scholarships means the University has less money to potentially spend on granting need-based financial aid. If GW wants to fight their reputation and prevent prospective students from falling

for a discounted sticker price, the University must prioritize need-based aid over merit-based scholarships to lure students.

GW's financial aid policy made headlines in 2013 when the University admitted it had been using an applicant's financial need as a factor in their acceptance. At the time, officials said up to 10 percent of applicants met GW's admissions standards but were not among the top applicants, so they could be shifted from accepted to waitlisted if they needed more financial support.

Kiran Hoeffner-Shah

Contributing Opinions Editor

A rich reputation has been known for years. GW is consistently one of the least economically diverse universities in the country.

When more financial aid money is spent on merit scholarships, less is available for students who have demonstrated need. While GW does not report the percentage of demonstrated need they meet, the University says they do not fund 100 percent of need, which leaves students scrambling to find ways to cover the rest of their bill.

The University wants to compete for the best students, but the brightest students might be those that can't afford GW's high price tag. By outspending top schools in need-based aid, the University can find talented students and fight its

rich-kid reputation at the same time.

Schools like the University of North Carolina manage to spend less than 10 percent of their financial aid pot on merit scholarships compared to GW's 26 percent, and Northwestern University gives less than 5 percent of freshmen with no financial need a merit scholarship. These schools both offer lower rates of merit scholarships and meet 100 percent of students' demonstrated need.

Ultimately, merit-based aid won't decide whether or not a student can afford to attend college. Need-based aid can make or break a potential student's ability to afford to go to college. But GW and other universities around the country have added a practice of giving merit scholarships to entice students to enroll, rather than meeting the full financial need of students.

Games like this to attract students should be left in the past, and GW should instead focus on meeting students' financial need. By increasing need-based aid over merit scholarships, the University can close an embarrassing wealth gap and support students who actually need the money. It's time for the University to abandon the facade of merit scholarships and instead focus on helping lower-income students at GW by meeting 100 percent of their financial need, instead of playing games with scholarships for unwarranted merit.

—Kiran Hoeffner-Shah, a freshman majoring in political science, is the Hatchet's contributing opinions editor.

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Submit to [opinions@gwhatchet.com](mailto:opinions@gwhatchet.com)

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# Culture

April 30, 2018 • Page 5

## THE SCENE

**MODEST MOUSE**  
The Anthem  
April 30 • \$45  
Modest Mouse brings the style of '90s rock to 2018 with catchy riffs and deep lyrics.

**HAIM**  
The Anthem  
May 1 • \$45  
HAIM unites pop and rock to sing about love and loss in their Sister Sister Tour.

**MATT AND KIM**  
9:30 Club  
May 2 • \$32  
Get energized with Matt and Kim's upbeat electro-indie beats and fast paced remixes.

**RELEASED THIS WEEK:** 'DIRTY COMPUTER,' AN ALBUM BY JANELLE MONÁE

## Farmers markets around the District house offerings beyond produce



JACK FONSECA | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER

The Palisades Farmers Market, located between 48th Place and MacArthur Boulevard NW, is a producer-only market run completely by the community.

**LINDSAY PAULEN**  
STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of tented merchants sell produce and other goods at farmers markets around D.C.

From Foggy Bottom to the Vern, here are some of the best farmers markets and vendors to check out this season.

### For the Foggy Bottom dweller: Freshfarm Market

Freshfarm Foggy Bottom can satisfy all your artisanal food cravings, from paella to handmade pasta. Conveniently located next to the Foggy Bottom Metro station, this farmers market is a no-brainer for students. The market's 17 vendors opened for the season earlier this month.

Zayt & Za'atar sells a variety of Middle Eastern specialties, highlighting their specialty za'atar, a classic Middle Eastern mixture of spices. Zayt & Za'atar's booth cooks up mana'eesh, a type of flatbread, served with toppings like za'atar spices, cucumbers, tomatoes and labneh – a tangy and creamy Middle Eastern yogurt. Opt for a classic mana'eesh with olive oil and za'atar (\$6) or go for the "Lebanese bride" topped with labneh, za'atar, tomatoes and mint (\$8).

Co-founder Johnny Dubbaneh said the sense of community at the market has been by far the most rewarding part of his two years at the market.

"Over the years, we've really enjoyed the community aspect of getting to know people and being able to develop person-

al relationships," Dubbaneh said. "A lot of relationships have developed to more than just 'hi' and 'bye' at the market..

The Freshfarm Foggy Bottom market is open through Nov. 21 on Wednesdays 3 to 7 p.m.

### For the rustic, fresh decor: Palisades Farmers Market

Located in the heart of the Palisades neighborhood in between 48th Place and MacArthur Boulevard, within walking distance of the Mount Vernon Campus, the Palisades Farmers Market is a producer-only market run completely by the community.

Founded in 2008 through a group of neighborhood volunteers, the market hosts more than 20 vendors and encourages visitors to stick around with live music from local artists, volunteer opportunities and a tent that hosts a different business or organization each week.

If you're not hungry but looking for tasteful decorations, Lynnvalle Farms of Virginia sells custom flower bouquets made from flowers cut from their 10-acre farm. The arrangements go for \$30 to \$50, while flowers by-the-stem are offered for the thrifty aesthete. The spring season yields poppy and anemones, but the warmer weather will introduce peonies and sweet peas to the bouquets.

Andrea Gagnon, who runs the company with her husband Lou Gagnon, said participants like Embassy employees, market regulars in their 80s and young couples of the area give a wide breadth of the neighborhood's diversity.

"I think from a demographic standpoint it seems to touch the entire community," she said. "There's a real sense of the neighborhood."

The Palisades Farmers Market is open year round on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Professor celebrates Pulitzer Prize for his work on interactive video at US border

**KATE MCCARTHY**  
STAFF WRITER

After President Donald Trump's campaign promise to build a wall along the U.S. and Mexico border, newspaper staffers set out on foot, in cars and in helicopters to explore the 2,000 miles that the proposed wall would cover.

Nine months later, USA Today reporters who collaborated on the piece with The Arizona Republic staff huddled in the newsroom waiting for the Pulitzer Prize awards to be announced – erupting in joy when their interactive article, "The Wall: Unknown Stories, Unintended Consequences," won the prize for explanatory reporting.

Steve Elfers, an adjunct professor at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, was one of more than 30 reporters, photographers, editors and digital developers from USA Today, The Arizona Republic and Detroit Free Press of the USA Today Network who won the prestigious award earlier this month.

The project transports viewers to the border between the U.S. and Mexico through various products like an interactive aerial-video map and flyover footage of the entire border across four states. The project also has virtual reality documentaries, 16 videos and written stories about individuals the team talked to along the way, all featured on USA Today's website.

An upcoming hourlong documentary was presented at Detroit Film Festival earlier this month, but a wide release has not been announced.



Steve Elfers, an adjunct professor at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, was one of more than 30 reporters and photographers from the USA Today Network who won a Pulitzer Prize earlier this month.

"Our goal was simply to fly the length of it, drive the length of it and understand the scope, but more importantly to tell the real story of the people that would be affected along the way if such a wall was built," Elfers said.

The team aimed to produce a story showing what the proposed plan would tangibly look like, Elfers said, giving readers tools to form their own opinions on the contentious topic. The on-the-ground

investigative team of 19 reporters interviewed a wide range of individuals for the piece like border patrol workers, and ranchers who live along the border, to name a few.

**GWHATCHET.COM**

**H** for more on the pulitzer-winning project that transports viewers to the border

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## Alumni develop app to alleviate train troubles

**MATT DYNES**  
CULTURE EDITOR

like whether the station is too hot or cold.

Hill said these are issues that commuters vocalize every day but may go unreported by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Collaboration between users and developers is imperative to the app's function. On top of crowdsourcing from users, MetroHero also scours Twitter for WMATA notifications and messages on train delays, fires and other travel slowdowns, then displays the full tweets within the app under the station in mention.

"The commuters have the clearest picture of what's going on," Hill said.

The team compiled information and made it available online and on an Android app, but the iOS app took years to finalize, developers said. The app has around 13,000 monthly users, and Pizzurro said they anticipate more growth with the release of the iOS app, which already has shown up-ticks in daily users.

Pizzurro said other transit apps on the market try to target "everyone," like tourists and people who travel on the Metro irregularly. While other apps just aggregate train times from WMATA, MetroHero provides users with a forum to give and receive information from real people, as well as train times.

"We're interested in people who know where they're going, they know which route they usually take," Pizzurro said. "They're aware of their options and want to know how best to get there or, rather, how long it's gonna take."

Hill said the team has plans to continue adding new features or expanding to the bus system that will provide riders with the most information available as they travel using the Metro.

"Seeing people using all of the work that we've done and enjoying it, and being helpful for them is just the greatest feeling," Hill said. "I've seen people on my morning commute using MetroHero and there's just something so awesome about that."

# Sports

April 30, 2018 • Page 6

## THE GAMES

### OF THE WEEK



#### BASEBALL

vs. George Mason

Friday-Sunday

The Colonials will face the Patriots in an A-10 matchup next weekend to continue their seven-game homestand.



#### WOMEN'S ROWING

A-10 Championship

Saturday

The Colonials will finish their season at the A-10 Championship after winning a silver medal at the George Mason Invitational last weekend.

## NUMBER CRUNCH

46

Number of seconds women's track and field shaved off its 4x800 meter relay to set a new program record at the Penn Relays last weekend

## Lacrosse skids in A-10 play, earns program's fifth winning record

### MADDIE RUNDLETT

STAFF WRITER

Lacrosse faltered in conference play after a strong start to the season, dropping six straight decisions to close out the year.

In their final game of the season at home, the Colonials (9-8, 2-7 A-10) lost to Davidson 15-10 Saturday afternoon. The team picked up just two conference wins in their last nine games of the season – nixing them from qualifying for the Atlantic 10 tournament for the fifth year in a row.

The Colonials entered A-10 play with a 7-1 record, but the team came up short even holding the program's fifth winning season. The team's nine wins overall is triple last season's total and is the most victories in a single season since 2013, when they last qualified for the A-10 tournament.

"Every year, obviously our end goal is to make A-10s," senior attack Camaryn Kerns said. "So it's really hard having four years and not making it."

The top six teams out

of the 10 in the conference qualify for the tournament, but the Colonials tied with Duquesne for eighth place.

The team has historically had trouble finding ways to win in conference play, going three straight years with just two wins against A-10 teams.

"Once we got to A-10 play, I think we started facing teams that were high pressure," senior attack Jocelyn Donohue said. "They played at a faster pace, so on attack we weren't used to seeing them pressure us so much, so that's definitely something we struggled with."

Kerns and Donohue played strong in their final game as Colonials.

Kerns netted a personal-best four goals, recording her eighth hat trick of the season in the process.

Donohue also capped off her career with a hat trick in the 15-10 loss to Davidson, bringing her career-goal total to 108.

Donohue and Kerns were the top two leading scorers this season, notching 46 and 40 goals, respectively.



KEEGAN MULLEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lacrosse missed qualifying for the Atlantic 10 Championship for the fifth year in a row despite recording the program's fifth winning record.

"We did so much better than we did last year," Kerns said. "We played more as a team and as a unit."

Head coach Tracy Coyne said after this season's success, she is confident in the direction the program is

headed and the growth she has seen in her players – despite missing out on the A-10 tournament.

"I'm really proud to establish a winning tradition here," Coyne said. "Because when you're fighting a losing

mentality, it's a big hurdle to overcome, so we're proud of that accomplishment."

This season, the Colonials saw marked improvements after finishing 3-13 last season – the worst record in program history. The team saw

mentality, it's a big hurdle to overcome, so we're proud of that accomplishment."

This season, the Colonials saw marked improvements after finishing 3-13 last season – the worst record in program history. The team saw

their overall win percentage improve to .529 this season and an increase in offensive output by the team.

The squad's shooting percentage increased from .398 last year to .421 this season. They also tallied more than 100 more shot attempts than last year.

Coyne said the team's four seniors – the first class to play under her for all four years – helped push the program's growth this season.

"They had a tremendous amount of resolve and commitment and dedication. We had excellent communication," Coyne said. "Through those conversations, we were able to continue to push forward so that they're graduating as winners."

With just four players graduating out of the program this year, lacrosse will return 22 of its players next season.

"I think that the freshmen and the sophomores have gained a ton of experience this year," Coyne said. "They'll kind of know what to expect, they'll know how to lead, they'll know how to handle some adversity."

noon.  
The Colonials could not get the ball past Brown senior goalkeeper Marisol Dakan, who made 13 saves in the match.

"She got into a rhythm that we couldn't break," King said. "She made a couple really big saves early on that would have tied up the game or put us ahead early."

A goal by Ponce in the opening minutes of the first quarter tied the game at one, but the Bears scored three unanswered goals to head into the second frame leading 4-1.

The team's final pair of goals came from Shaffer and Atherton in the last two minutes of the game.

### Game one

The Colonials were unable to hold back a strong Hartwick offense Friday afternoon, dropping their first game of the tournament 13-9.

GW held Hartwick to seven less goals than what the Hawks previously scored against the Colonials earlier this month.

"We actually probably played the best water polo of the weekend in that first match against Hartwick," King said. "Earlier when we had played them, we had given up those early goals and then just kind of rolled over and gave up the game, this time they battled and battled."

The Colonials were paced by senior utility player Scarlett Hallahan, who picked up three goals in the match. Senior attack Jacqueline Bywater tallied two goals and two steals, while freshman attack Grace Heck made one goal, dished out two assists and collected a team-high five steals.

The squad fell back 4-0 against Hartwick in the first frame and played from behind for the remainder of the contest.

A goal from Hallahan edged the Colonials closer to the Hawks' 7-4 lead with less than two minutes left in the second quarter, but Hartwick answered back with a goal of its own to enter the break, leading 8-4.

"We had opportunities to be in that game for a much longer period of time than we certainly had the first time we played them," King said. "I was quite pleased with the way that we played on Friday."

The team held Hartwick to five goals in the second half while picking up five of their own, but the Colonials were unable to overcome the Hawks' early lead.

### Game two

Brown's defense smothered GW, holding the Colonials scoreless through two quarters in their 9-3 loss to the Bears Saturday after-

noon.  
The Colonials could not get the ball past Brown senior goalkeeper Marisol Dakan, who made 13 saves in the match.

"She got into a rhythm that we couldn't break," King said. "She made a couple really big saves early on that would have tied up the game or put us ahead early."

A goal by Ponce in the opening minutes of the first quarter tied the game at one, but the Bears scored three unanswered goals to head into the second frame leading 4-1.

The team's final pair of goals came from Shaffer and Atherton in the last two minutes of the game.

### Game three

The Red Flash went scoreless in the first quarter and trailed the Colonials for the rest of the game in GW's 12-6 win over Saint Francis Saturday evening.

The Colonials' offense

picked up three goals in each

frame in their first win of the tournament. In the regular season, GW had already beat the Red Flash three times.

The Colonials jumped to a 4-0 lead after senior center defender Maggie Ball found the back of the net less than two minutes into the second quarter. GW picked up two more goals while conceding two to enter halftime leading 6-2.

After three quarters of play, the Red Flash got within five of GW's 9-4 lead, but the Colonials offense continued to produce. Freshman utility player Jaleh Moaddeli picked up a goal with less than five minutes remaining in the game to give the Colonials a 12-5 advantage.

"There was not going to be any kind of new stuff," King said. "It was just a matter of us playing the way that we know that we're capable of playing against that particular squad."

### Game four

After defeating the Crimson 14-12 earlier this month, the Colonials fell to Harvard in their third meeting of the

year 10-2 in the tournament's seventh-place game Sunday morning.

Ponce and Bywater tallied the team's only two goals and Ball snagged a team-high four steals in the match.

The Colonials again had a hard time finding the back of the cage against Harvard senior goalkeeper Cleo Harrington, who collected 13 saves in the game.

The Colonials entered halftime down 7-0 and did not find the back of the net until the third quarter.

The Crimson racked up their final three goals in the third frame before going on a scoring drought in the fourth quarter.

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