



## Graduate students pause unionization efforts

KELLY HOOPER  
STAFF WRITER

Graduate students are halting their push to unionize.

Leaders of Graduate Students United, a student group advocating for graduate students' rights to collectively bargain, said the organization is putting a pin in its unionization efforts after officials repeatedly refused to recognize them as student workers last spring. The group can't challenge the University's stance at a national labor board without risking overturning all graduate student unions' rights to organize, they said.

Instead, the group is shifting its focus to issue-based advocacy and will lobby officials to lower the cost of graduate students' health care plans, members said.

"Just because they don't formally recognize us and we're not instituted into the daily goings-on of the University, we're confident that we can make our needs known," Jackie Bolduan, a third-year graduate student and leader of the unionization efforts, said.

Graduate students initially launched a campaign to unionize last September, citing concerns about low wages and high health care costs. But Provost Forrest Maltzman released a statement in March saying that officials would only recognize graduate students' relationship with the University as educational, not professional.

Graduate students continued the push for unionization by sending letters to officials and staging sit-ins in Rice Hall throughout the spring semester. Maltzman eventually agreed to meet with graduate students in late April after the first sit-in, but he reiterated his initial stance against unionization during the meeting.

Bolduan said officials have repeated their opposition to unionization all

year, making it difficult to continue pressing the University. Graduate students could bring their case to the National Labor Relations Board, but the board has historically been resistant to student unions under Republican administrations.

She said the group still aims to convince officials to recognize graduate students as employees, but the effort is at a standstill while the organization recruits more members. In the meantime, the group is focusing on educating students about GW's health care and voicing concerns to administrators about the cost of plans.

Graduate students currently pay about \$4,000 a year for health care, but they said that Aetna, GW's provider, doesn't cover dental work or vision care and hikes costs for emergency hospital visits outside D.C. Several of GW's peer schools, including New York and Boston universities, either offer free health care or plans that hover around \$2,000.

Bolduan said members of the group will visit graduate students at different academic departments and talk with teaching and research assistants about their daily struggles, like paying for rent and transportation on a relatively low wage, over the course of the semester. Members will then ask officials for meetings to "let them hear our issues," she said.

She added that the group will work with the Progressive Student Union and host events focused on health care, but she declined to say what the collaboration and events would entail.

"We're just doing tried-and-true organizing at this point," she said.

"We're emailing folks, we're getting to know people, getting coffee with people and connecting with folks because there's no one on campus who has nothing to say or has no feelings about

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## Number of alumni volunteers falls nearly 70 percent over five years



CREIGHTON KING &  
EMILY MAISE  
REPORTERS

The number of alumni volunteering for the University has dropped nearly 70 percent since 2012.

Despite administrative efforts to improve relationships with alumni, the number of volunteers working for GW has decreased from 6,900 in fiscal year 2012 to 2,200 in fiscal year 2017, according to University tax documents. Officials said the decrease could be attributed to changing priorities or inaccurate records, but alumni relations experts said the drop may indicate that alumni don't feel a connection to GW or don't know how their time supports the University.

University spokeswoman Lindsay Hamilton said the University enlists alumni volunteers to assist in several offices, including alumni relations, admissions and housing. She said the decrease in the number of volunteers reflects "both changes in the needs of the University and more detailed tracking of annual alumni volunteer engagement."

She said the undergraduate admissions office no longer hosts admissions interviews, which were previously conducted by alumni volunteers. She said the University also previously reported an estimate of alumni volunteers based on the number of alumni "to which we had access."

"In recent years, we have worked to more accurately identify specific actions taken by individuals on an annual basis," Hamilton said in an email. "This has helped us better identify meaningful opportunities for engagement and improved communications with current and prospective volunteers."

She said the University is currently prioritizing alumni engagement — one of University President

Thomas LeBlanc's five strategic initiatives — and will create new positions for alumni volunteers in the coming months. She said about two dozen alumni volunteers assisted with move-in this year, and some alumni are being invited to partake in the President's Council, a voluntary advisory group for "accomplished" alumni that will take shape early next year.

She declined to say how the decrease has impacted GW or what officials are doing to mitigate the impact.

Officials have boosted efforts to assess relation-

ships with alumni as the University aims to increase its historically low alumni giving rate. University President Thomas LeBlanc traveled across the United States in the spring to detail his major priorities to donors, alumni and parents.

The Board of Trustees assembled a task force last year comprised of current students, alumni and trustees to focus on fundraising efforts and alumni engagement.

Martin Baum, the president of the GW Alumni Association, said alumni may not want to volunteer because they don't feel connected with the University. He said GW's location in a major city prevents many students from feeling like they are part of a community.

"It's a little easier for the University of Virginias and the Dartmouths of the world because they are a little more isolated and a little more tight-knit," he said.

Baum said alumni may not go out of their way to

volunteer but will typically agree if asked.

Alumni relations experts said the University could be recruiting fewer volunteers because officials and staff are not emphasizing the importance of donating time.

Adrianne Denenberg, the director for affinity engagement and signature programs at Northeastern University, said the number of volunteers may have tumbled because alumni do not understand the ben-

efits of working with the alumni office or have not found an area of volunteering they are interested in. Denenberg added that universities should recruit volunteers in the same way they pursue donations by having staff members dedicated to recruiting volunteers.

"You need to have someone stewarding someone giving their time because that's our most prized possession," Denenberg said.

Eric Johnson, the senior vice president for university advancement at Tufts University, said he has seen declines in volunteers in recent years at Tufts because staff members had inaccurately tracked the number. But he said the estimated decline, about 3 to 4 percent, was not as steep as that of GW.

He said a low volunteer turnout could mean alumni prefer the ease of donating instead of putting the time and energy into helping at a reunion or another activity. But GW's alumni giving rate is the lowest of all its

peer schools and has hovered between 8 and 9 percent in the past five years.

He added that recruiting alumni volunteers is a win-win for the University because the alumni who donate their time can also attract alumni who donate money.

"You help us do things that engage other alums and students and so, in doing that, you help us increase giving," Johnson said.

Tricia Riveire, the senior executive director of the Indiana University Alumni Association, said officials need to communicate clearly with volunteers to keep them on board and ensure they understand how their time positively impacts the University.

If the number of volunteers is trending downward, volunteers may not see their value to the University, Riveire said.

"They don't understand why it's important, why it matters to the University, why it helps the University, other alumni, students and the future generations," she said.

Andrew Shaindlin, an alumni strategy consultant with the higher education fundraising consulting firm Grenzenbac Greir and Associates, said that making sure volunteers know the University appreciates their work is essential to retaining their services.

Students are encouraged to write thank-you notes to alumni who support the University during annual spring fundraising events.

"Saying 'thank you' publicly makes a big difference there, as does showing volunteers the impact that their work had on the school's success," Shaindlin said.

—Nora Vedder contributed reporting.

EMILY RECKO | GRAPHICS EDITOR  
Source: 990 tax forms

## Student leaders release guide chronicling affordability concerns

LIZZIE MINTZ &  
SARAH ROACH  
STAFF WRITERS

Instead of calling the financial aid or housing offices, students can now seek answers to their affordability concerns from peers who have had the same questions.

Student leaders of The Store, GW's food pantry, launched The Hippo Handbook — an interactive Google document where students can offer advice about managing costs in 13 different areas of student life, like nightlife and dining — earlier this month. The guide aggregates many of the University's online information pages into one central location and allots a section for students to share their own personal affordability challenges.

Any student can contribute to the report, which is currently about 90 pages, by commenting on the document, but The Store's leaders approve the submissions before they are published in the guide.

While contributors to the report are anonymous, students who wish to be credited for their input can list their name at the bottom of the handbook.

"Middle- and lower-income student priorities at GW are often overshadowed by those of our wealthier



ISABELLA BRODT | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER

Saru Duckworth, the president of The Store, said the handbook is a way for the organization to shift its focus from solely operating the pantry to becoming a larger advocacy body for affordability issues.

peers, and it can sometimes be difficult to find others with relatable experiences or spaces to openly discuss our collective goals," the handbook reads. "We hope we can look to these resources to continue to support and advocate for each other."

Student leaders said the handbook is a spinoff of the "being not-rich guide," a document that students at the University of Michigan cre-

ated in the spring offering advice to low-income students. Since then, other institutions, like the University of Texas at Austin and Harvard University, have also picked up their own versions of the report.

Saru Duckworth, the president of The Store, said the handbook is a way for the organization to shift its focus from solely operating the pantry to becoming a larger advocacy body for affordabil-

ity issues.

She added that the handbook can help groups like the Student Association pinpoint affordability issues among students and enact policy changes. In one section of the handbook, called "systemic issues," students can express frustrations about experiences they've had with dining or transportation and suggest advocacy initiatives.

"Students have a direct

way of highlighting those and bringing it to the attention of student leaders who can then meet with them more directly and elevate those to the administration," Duckworth said.

Duckworth said student leaders will print a hard copy of the document at the end of every year to track changes in affordability issues over time.

"We want to see what are the affordability concerns in 2018 versus 2019, what do students care about? What's gotten better?" Duckworth said. "And how have we moved the needle as a University, as an organization, as a student body?"

Duckworth said the handbook is currently being advertised on social media accounts and in email blasts and newsletters from the Student Association and the Multicultural Student Services Center. Eventually, the handbook will be launched on The Store's website, she said.

Hannah Grosvenor, the vice president of The Store, said members of the organization initially released the handbook to students who use the pantry to review and add advice in July. She said leaders of The Store contacted University departments, like the housing and the study abroad offices, to fact-check the document, but "we have a lot of faith the people aren't

putting blatantly wrong information."

After about two months of revisions and fact-checking, Grosvenor said the document opened up to all students to interact with the handbook on an ongoing basis.

"At times, college can be very hard and very confusing," she said. "We've all had our own problems with that, so I think that's something that almost everyone can resonate with."

She said student leaders hope the handbook will function as a space for "economically challenged or marginalized" students to share their stories and provide "tips and tricks" for students to succeed at GW.

Senior Nicole McLernon, who wrote a section in the handbook about wanting free or reduced-cost Metro passes, said she contributed to the handbook so future students can have access to information that may otherwise be difficult to find in a myriad of University FAQ pages, like how to apply for a federal work study position or how to apply for an internship.

"I'm a senior and so it makes me feel good to be able to give my advice before I leave in a format that people will be able to read it after I leave," she said.

—Nora Vedder contributed reporting.

## CRIME LOG

### SEXUAL ASSAULT

Gelman Library  
9/14/2018 – 9 a.m.  
Closed Case  
A female student reported to the GW Police Department that a male subject touched her inappropriately on the fourth floor of Gelman Library. GWPD identified the subject, issued him a bar notice and escorted him from Kogan Plaza.  
**Subject barred**

### PEEPING TOM

Rome Hall  
9/14/2018 – 11 a.m.  
Open Case  
A female student and female staff member reported to GWPD that a male subject was peering underneath stalls in the women's restroom on Rome Hall's first floor. The male subject exited the area after they spotted him. GWPD sent out an alert to students identifying the suspect.  
**Case open**

### THREATS TO DO BODILY HARM

Lafayette Hall  
9/16/2018 – 6:03 a.m.  
Closed Case  
GWPD responded to a report of a male student receiving threatening texts from another male student. The Metropolitan Police Department arrived on scene and arrested the student who sent the messages. MPD transported him to the Second District police station for processing. The arrested student had threatened to "shoot up George Washington University" and said he could get a gun, according to an MPD report.  
**Subject barred**

### THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Francis Scott Key Hall  
9/17/2018 – 2 p.m.  
Closed Case  
A female student reported to GWPD that her gray American Eagle leggings and six shirts were stolen from the FSK basement laundry room.  
**No suspects or witnesses**

—Compiled by Valerie Yurk

# Officials launch largest faculty-led review of research enterprise



FILE PHOTO BY GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR  
Robert Miller, the vice president for research, said the University's largest faculty-led review of GW's research enterprise will be split into two phases.

**LAUREN PELLER**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The University began its largest faculty-led review of GW's research enterprise this month.

Officials said faculty will split into seven working groups over the course of the academic year to examine nearly all facets of the University's research practices, including research ethics, awards and non-sponsored research. The teams will produce a report of their findings in the spring – which officials said will help the University shape its research priorities and investments.

"I am pleased that our faculty are deeply engaged in the ecosystem review process," Provost Forrest Maltzman said in an email. "This initiative is one in which faculty involvement is critical and will provide the university with the guidance we need to best support our research goals."

The review officially commenced Sept. 14, when the first four working groups – comprised of roughly 50 staff and faculty in total – met for the first time, according to a University release. The four groups will explore the process leading up to applying for a research grant, the administrative work that follows

receiving a grant, GW's compliance with ethical research standards and how to support research with limited funding, the release states.

Officials first announced the review in April as a key goal of University President Thomas LeBlanc's push to bolster GW's research profile.

Robert Miller, the vice president for research, said the review is organized into two phases – one this fall and one next semester – because of the "large" amount of time faculty, staff and administrators must commit to the evaluation. Three additional working groups – focusing on topics like building computing infrastructure and postdoctoral hiring and recruiting – will form next semester, according to the strategic initiatives website.

"We hope the review will yield constructive input and feedback on pain points, areas that require improvement, things that are working well, benchmarking metrics, as well as any additional information that our faculty and research community wants to highlight," Miller said.

Miller said the working group members were nominated by the Faculty Senate and represent "a diversity of schools, years of research experience, areas of research and familiarity with GW's

administrative processes." He said the recommendations produced by each group will serve as "guideposts" for officials to improve research initiatives.

"All of the topics under review are critical to the success of GW's research enterprise," Miller said.

Kim Acquaviva, a professor of nursing who will head the research integrity and compliance group, said the group will evaluate topics like laboratory safety and the ethics of human and animal research.

"Without integrity, research isn't research," she said. "It's junk with the potential to do real harm."

She said the team will identify specific schools and subjects to examine after obtaining a one-page research compliance report from the associate dean of research at each college in mid-October. The findings will then be shared with the school's faculty for feedback, she said.

"Whenever GW faculty and staff work together to identify opportunities for improvement in the way we do things, the University ultimately benefits," Acquaviva said.

Jamie Cohen-Cole, an associate professor of American studies who will lead the non-

sponsored research and scholarship working group, said his group focuses mostly on faculty who conduct research in the humanities. Non-sponsored research concerns inexpensive research endeavors, like researching and publishing a book, Cohen-Cole said.

He said the group will identify ways to prioritize research that isn't often sponsored by hefty grants.

"A lot of GW's infrastructure is set up to support sponsored research, and as a consequence, some of the research GW has done, that has historically been the strongest at the University, is essentially forgotten," Cohen-Cole said. "It is easy to forget in research reviews about this stuff because it's easy to mistake spending money on buildings or laboratories for doing research."

Matthew Kay, a professor and associate chair for research and graduate affairs in the School of Engineering and Applied Science who will head the post-award process working group, said his group will examine the administrative tasks and spending that comes after a researcher has received a grant.

"It's not a trivial task to set up an award, so it takes some time and there are some procedures that are involved in doing that to set things up properly so then the money can be spent according to federal policies and guidelines that are laid out by the funding agency," he said.

He said the committee will work with faculty members who have research grants to discuss their experiences with the post-award research process and identify areas for improvement.

"I think that doing this is just an important part of an organization's policy or goal of continual improvement, and I think that this is a very healthy initiative that the president has asked the faculty to do and there are going to be some good outcomes from this," he added.

Melissa Perry, the chair of the pre-award process working group, did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

—Shannon Mallard and  
Ilena Peng contributed  
reporting.

# Graduate students to lobby officials for health care reform



FILE PHOTO BY KEEGAN MULLEN | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Leaders of Graduate Students United said they are pausing unionization efforts after officials repeatedly refused to recognize them as student workers last spring.

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their position."

Bolduan said that after Graduate Students United petitioned officials for free health care for graduate workers last academic year, the University began to allow some graduate workers to pay for the health insurance plan in installments – a move she said was a direct result of their demands. Students typically have to pay upfront for their health care.

At least 100 graduate students are currently involved with Graduate Students United, but there are several hundred more supporters on campus in both the graduate and undergraduate student populations, Bolduan said.

"We want to continue to ride the wave of that win, and that is proof that the union

works and that there is power in numbers," she said.

Members of Graduate Students United said that while unionization efforts have paused, they anticipate that the group can still garner more graduate student support this semester, but they aren't sure when the push to unionize can officially begin again.

Julie Chamberlain, a seventh-year doctoral student, said the group hopes to build off the recent success of graduate student unions at other D.C. schools, like Georgetown and American universities. Officials at both schools agreed in the spring to allow graduate students to vote on forming a union without going through the NLRB.

Both schools voted to unionize.

Chamberlain said that when Graduate Students

United presses officials for formal recognition again in the future, the group can hold the other unions up as a model for GW graduate students' collective bargaining group.

"It's encouraging to us that this is happening at other universities because we hope that the GW administration will look around and want to be on the right side of that," she said.

But Matt Payne, a second-year doctoral student, said he anticipates the University will formally recognize the union by the end of this academic year because the support from graduate students is "only increasing."

"If you want to basically prove to the University that this is a legitimate thing, which it is, a way in which to do that is just to show how many graduate students want this to happen," he said.

# Officials implement new security measures for physical, online donations

**MEREDITH ROATEN**  
NEWS EDITOR

Officials are making it safer to donate money to GW.

Donna Arbide, the vice president for development and alumni relations, said the development office recently upgraded security efforts, expanding the use of safes to secure physical donations and installing additional card software to protect online gifts. The updates come as people across the globe are becoming more concerned about how companies access and use their personal data after large-scale security compromises made headlines in the past year.

Arbide said the office upgraded security after Facebook and Cambridge Analytica were exposed for selling personal data to third parties, leading to the security measure

the EU General Data Protection Regulation in the spring. She didn't specify exactly when the University ramped up its security.

She said the alumni office will ensure gifts to GW go to the bank immediately.

Arbide said GW has always complied with existing regulations for credit and debit card data security but is updating to meet industry standards by adding specialized payment card terminals – machines that transmit card data to GW. The standards for payment cards include suggestions for maintaining secure networks and maintaining a vulnerability management program.

She declined to say what feedback she has heard from donors about the upgrades or how the changes will impact giving to the University.

"This is a critical area

of focus for the entire university, and we are proud that donors can feel confident about the way in which GW handles their information," she said.

Cybersecurity experts said the technology updates are important in ensuring donors feel comfortable sharing some of their most delicate information with the University.

Matt Hatton, an information technology specialist at the University of Wyoming's foundation, said foundations like GW's fundraising office are always targets of cyber attacks because they deal with droves of financial information.

He said the University's upgrades are effective in protecting against security threats to donors' information, but he said data protection using technology and software is only

part of the precautions. The fundraising team has to collectively understand how sensitive information is and be careful not to share information unless absolutely necessary, he said.

"As a company, you'd want to do your best to make sure the information that is provided to you is treated with respect," he said. "The general knowledge the people that work directly with it need to understand is what kind of data is coming in and going out and who has permission to view that."

Brendan Dolan-Gavitt, a professor of computer science and engineering at New York University, said universities across the country have been utilizing more up-to-date, private-sector security techniques – like standardizing software used across campus – as they

have become more invested in cybersecurity.

"One thing that has been happening as university educating departments get a little bit more mature, they are moving more towards some of the practices that large companies use for security and IT systems, so things like a lot more standardization of configurations for their systems and things like that," he said.

The University switched over to a dual-factor authentication last fall, requiring GW system users to confirm their identities with codes sent to their phones in addition to their passwords. Officials said at the time that dual-factor authentication would better protect sensitive information from potential cyber attacks by creating a backup barrier in case passwords are compromised.

Tom Sloper, a senior lecturer at the University of Southern California's Information Technology program, said that because of incidents like Cambridge Analytica showing how easily personal information, like political affiliation, can be exploited, businesses like GW are taking more preventative measures.

He said any security precautions taken now will only be able to protect the University for a short time. Hackers are always adapting and learning how to crack the latest measure and steal information, he said, meaning GW will have to continue to think of new measures.

"They're dealing with situations that they know about, but the bad guys are always going to be innovating and coming up with new ways to get stuff from you," he said.

# Percent of students submitting SAT drops by more than a third

LIZZIE MINTZ  
STAFF WRITER

In line with a nationwide trend, the percentage of students sending in their SAT scores has dropped by more than a third since the University went test-optional three years ago.

While the percentage of students submitting ACT scores has been largely stable over the past three years, the percentage of students submitting their SAT scores fell from 70 to 46 percent, according to institutional data. On top of the test-optional switch, officials attributed the drop to nationwide changes in standardized testing, like the rising popularity of ACT scores and an overhaul of the SAT's score calculations in 2016.

Laurie Koehler, the senior vice provost of enrollment and the student experience, said officials anticipated a decline in the number of students submitting standardized test scores when GW initially went test-optional in 2015. But while the percentage of students who have submitted SAT scores has plummeted, the percentage

of students submitting ACT scores has remained relatively the same, hovering at about 42 percent over the past three years, according to institutional data.

Koehler said the SAT's swap from a 2,400- to 1,600-point scale and changes in the "content and approach" of the test also contributed to a decline in the percentage of students submitting their scores. Koehler said in discussions, high school counselors, students and parents were "concerned" about the impact of the changes.

"These national trends, combined with GW's announcement in July 2015 to adopt a test-optional approach to admission beginning with the class that would enroll in fall 2016, have contributed to changes in test submission patterns at GW," she said in an email.

Forty-seven other institutions also went test-optional the same year as GW, including schools like Brandeis University and Ithaca College, according to the National Center for Fair and Open Testing. Over the same time period as GW, the percent-

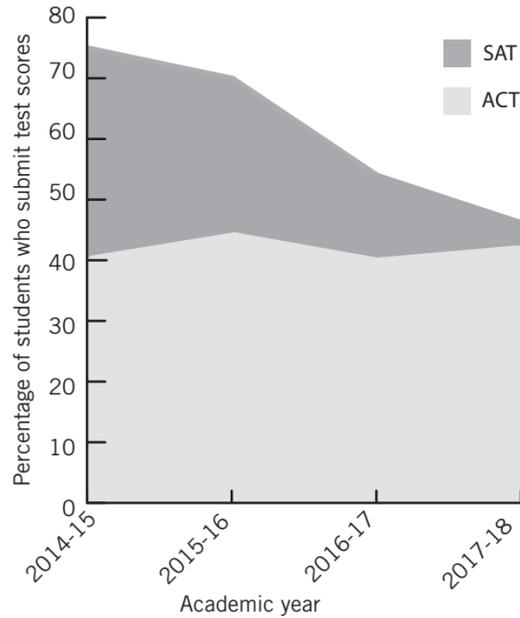
age of students submitting SAT scores at Brandeis and Ithaca also dropped from 62 to 44 percent and about 55 to 51 percent, respectively, according to institutional data at each school.

Wake Forest University is GW's only peer school that is also test-optional, while New York University and the University of Rochester both have iterations of the policy, where applicants can choose to instead send in scores for different exams, like SAT subject or Advanced Placement exams.

Admissions and higher education experts said the percentage of students choosing not to submit SAT scores will continue to fall as students realize that officials do not perceive students who choose not to submit scores in a negative light.

Michael Walsh, the dean of admissions at James Madison University, said that since the school went test-optional last fall, the percentage of students submitting their SAT scores also fell from 22 to roughly 18 percent.

Walsh said JMU became test-optional because officials noticed that almost half



Source: Institutional data

JACK LIU | HATCHET DESIGNER

of incomplete applications were the result of missing test scores, which he attributed to economic disparities among students. Once students adjust to college during their first year at JMU, there is no

difference in GPA averages for students who come from different economic backgrounds, he said.

Data presented to the Faculty Senate in March showed that students who choose not

to submit their test scores to GW have about the same first-year GPA as those who submit their scores.

"Now that people have seen that we are admitting students who didn't send in their test scores and didn't hold it against them, we were just straightforward, I expect to see that number grow a little bit," Walsh said.

Steven Stemler, an associate professor of psychology who specializes in education at Wesleyan University – a school that went test-optional in 2014 – said SAT scores have historically been considered to predict a student's GPA during their freshman year, but since schools have gone test-optional, admissions officers place less emphasis on the scores.

Since Wesleyan went test-optional in 2014, the percentage of students submitting SAT scores at Wesleyan also decreased from 77 to 49 percent in 2017.

"If we hang our hat on just GPA as a measure of success, we're missing the broad range of outcomes that schools themselves say they want to achieve," Stemler said.



KEEGAN MULLEN | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The GW Hospital is suing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for underpaying it between 2006 and 2011.

## GW Hospital among 19 centers suing U.S. health department

DANI GRACE  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The GW Hospital is one of 19 hospitals suing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for underpaying the centers for various periods between fiscal years 2006 and 2011.

In a 30-page complaint filed Sept. 20, the hospitals claim that the secretary of health and human services, a post that has been filled by Alex Azar since January, violated multiple administrative procedures and Medicare acts by underpaying "disproportionate share hospitals" – centers that serve a significantly disproportionate number of low-income patients.

Congress passed a law in 1985 mandating that the federal government give DSH centers additional funds on top of Medicare payments "in recognition of the relatively higher costs associ-

ated with providing services to low-income patients," the suit states.

The plaintiffs claim the health and human services department improperly calculated their eligibility for DSH payments for several years by including Medicare Part C recipients in the number of inpatients entitled to benefits under Medicare Part A. Part A recipients receive inpatient hospital coverage, while Part C recipients receive their Medicare benefits from a private health plan.

The plaintiffs claim that Part C recipients shouldn't be counted in Part A numbers because even if they are eligible for Part A benefits, they are not entitled to it if they have a Part C plan. Combining the numbers improperly represented what percentage of low-income patients the hospitals serviced, the complaint alleges.

"The hospitals' DSH pay-

ments at issue are unlawful and should be set aside because they are unsupported by substantial evidence in the record," the claim states.

The hospitals all claimed various different years of underpayment, but GW Hospital was underpaid for DSH compensation between 2006 and 2011, the suit alleges.

The plaintiffs ask the court to order Azar to recalculate the hospitals' payments, repay the currently undetermined amounts he owes the hospitals with interest and pay costs produced from the lawsuit.

Caitlin Oakley, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, declined to comment, citing a policy to not comment on pending litigation. A spokeswoman for The GW Hospital did not return a request for comment and the lawyers suing on behalf of the hospitals declined to comment.

## Officials add new site to global bachelor's degree program

LILLIAN BAUTISTA  
REPORTER

A two-year-old, multi-semester study abroad program will be expanded to accommodate increased student interest.

The Global Bachelor's Program – which enrolls students in three semesters abroad, with one in Shanghai, China – will add a second launchpad location in Belfast, Ireland next year, officials said. Study abroad experts said allowing more students to spend multiple semesters abroad in various locations can give them a leg-up in the workforce because they can reflect on differing cultural experiences.

Donna Scarboro, the associate provost for international programs, said the program has become "popular and competitive" since its launch in 2016. Roughly 60 students have applied for the program each year and about 30 students study at Fudan University in Shanghai each spring, she said.

Scarboro said officials will add a site in Belfast to "accommodate the growing student demand as well as attract students who are interested in studying in another part of the world." Students will begin the program attending Queen's University during the fall semester, where they will study peace and conflict resolution and visit historical sites of the Troubles, a conflict in Northern Ireland during the late 20th century, Scarboro said.

"We hope that by starting a second cohort, we can accommodate the growing student demand as well as attract students who are interested in studying in another part of the world,"

Scarboro said in an email.

Junior Mahalia Smith, who spent last semester in China and is spending her second semester in Tanzania, said she wanted to enroll in the program to travel to multiple places while maintaining her studies.

"My program in Tanzania is experiential so we don't stay in one specific place, rather travel around to various national parks and locations to complete field work and language courses," Smith said.

Sophomore Maddie Powder, who is leaving for Shanghai in the spring, said the program is an opportunity to learn about the world and build connections with people from other cultures. She said she wants to be in a different country for a long period of time to become fluent in Arabic and build more experiential learning as an international affairs major.

"I think college is about finding out who you really are and taking steps to achieve your goals," Powder said. "As an international affairs and economics major, I feel like this will really give me an unparalleled experience."

Sophomore Emily Sill, who is also beginning the program in the spring, said her three semesters away will be "a big resume builder" because she can note any internships she may take abroad as an international business student.

She added that she chose to enroll in the program because she'll be automatically accepted to the GW School of Business's fall Paris program, which Sill said is "one of the most competitive and best business study abroad opportunities you can do through GW."

"Any freshman who's interested in wanting to see the world and is a little bit scared in, 'how am I going to be able to do it?'" she said. "This program gives you the straightforward, here's how we're going to get you to see the world, to stay on track, to feel comfortable about your decision."

International student affairs experts said that long-term study abroad programs can make students appear more prepared for an increasingly global world by allowing students to delve into internships or work abroad.

Stacie Berdan, an international careers expert and global marketing consultant, said the Global Bachelor's Program allows students to learn from experiences, like volunteering or internships, that build students' resumes and make them appear more competitive among employers. Berdan said that in the long-term, the program yields specific benefits, like fluency in a certain language, that one semester might not provide.

"You begin to get comfortable with the diversity, the unexpected things that may or may not happen," she said. "You begin to make more friends and network."

Tyra Liebmann, the associate vice president for academics and enrollment in the Office of Global Programs at New York University, said study abroad can provide real-world experiences that mirror the reality of the work environment.

"Engaging in other parts of the world can develop students intellectually, academically and personally in ways that where remaining in one zone, one environment can't necessarily," Liebmann said.

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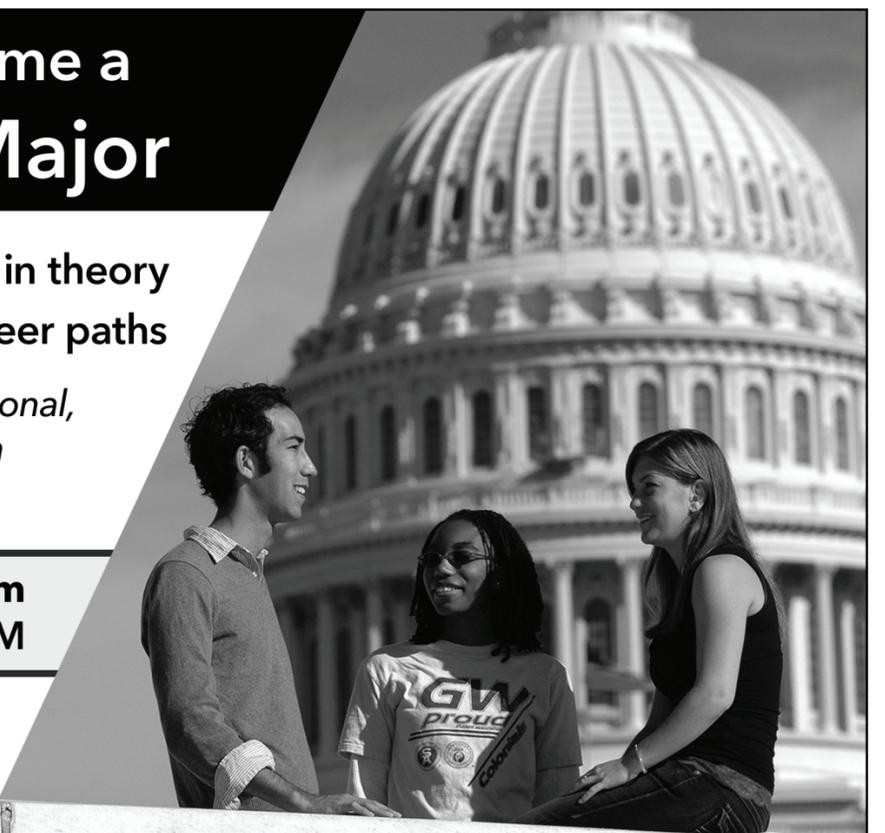
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### STAFF EDITORIAL

## Conservative students shouldn't be silenced on campus

It's no secret that colleges across the country tend to be liberal-leaning. But while conservative students may be outnumbered at many institutions, a poll of students at the University of Nebraska's four campuses conducted earlier this month found that most students – including students who identify as conservative – don't feel intimidated to express their beliefs.

While that may be true of students at those schools, the same can't be said at GW. In interviews, 15 students pointed out that Republican students don't often run for positions in the Student Association because they fear that their thoughts and opinions will not be valued. This feeling is not exclusive to the SA and on a largely liberal campus, students with differing political opinions likely feel ostracized beyond the student government in settings like the classroom as well.

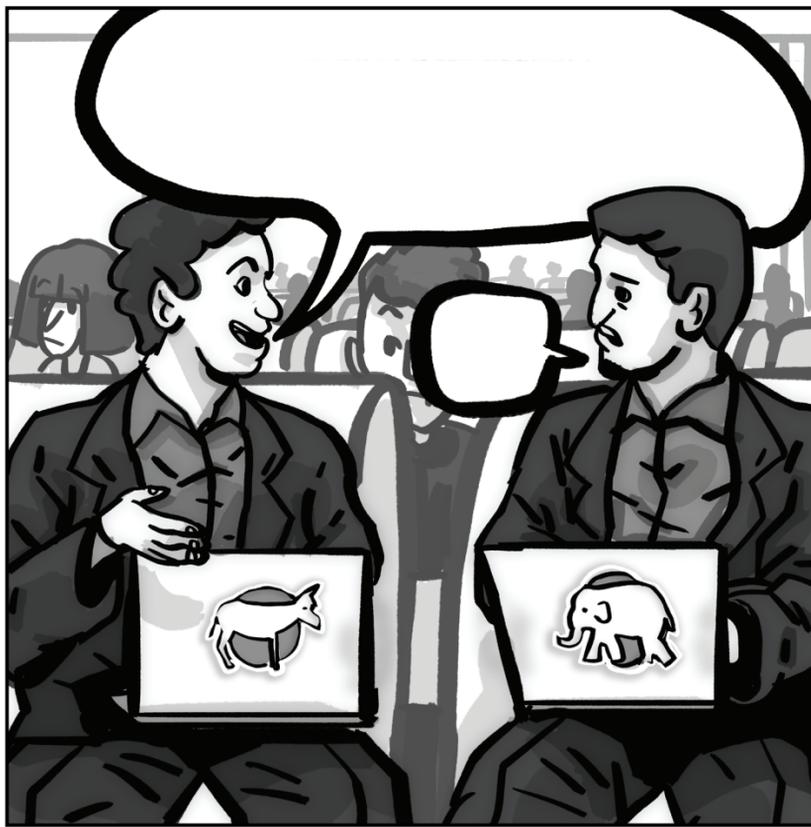
Students should feel comfortable expressing their opinion on campus in all settings, but especially in the classroom. Professors, especially in departments like political science, international affairs and journalism, must put in the extra effort to make sure that students feel welcome in the classroom regardless of their political ideology.

While many factors play

into a student's experience at a university, education is the main reason students are here. Quality of education can be diminished if students cannot fully participate in the classroom. Whether students are studying politics or engineering, it is the responsibility of professors to provide a learning environment in which students don't feel afraid to express their own relevant opinions.

Conservative students should not be afraid of repercussions from a professor who has liberal views, and vice versa. In fact, professors should do their best to keep their own personal opinions out of the classroom to not alienate students on either side of the aisle.

The role of professors should be to mediate conversations between students instead of offering only their own thoughts and opinions. In some cases when an opposing view isn't represented, often the conservative view, professors should argue on behalf of the other side of the argument to remind students there is more than one train of thought on each issue. Courses, especially those that have a focus on more controversial or contentious issues, should focus on the facts and figures and allow students to offer their own insights. A better



Cartoon by Jekko Syquia

learning environment is one in which every student can participate and learn from

one another, and this cannot occur if all students do not feel welcome in that space.

When conservative students speak up, it benefits all students. Hearing opposing

viewpoints is especially beneficial when many students come from liberal bubbles where they haven't had their beliefs challenged. By speaking up, conservative students ensure that arguments and opinions expressed on either side are both factual and well-structured. Through this, all students are challenged to ensure their opinions are backed up by data. Without conservative students weighing into debates, our classrooms would be echo-chambers rather than places for discussion.

If conservative students want to feel more included outside of the classroom, they must advocate for themselves. Being conservative or liberal is a chosen ideology – not an identity that one is born with – so it's not the responsibility of other students to make others feel included.

It is understandable that conservative students feel like they're a minority on campus. But they must acknowledge that their beliefs are something they choose to hold, and it's their responsibility to speak up. Within the confines of the classroom, it's essential that all students respect opposing viewpoints and all professors mediate between viewpoints without judging students for opposing their own.

## GW should provide nutritional information from its dining partners

Eating a balanced diet is difficult for any college student. Between juggling classes, extracurricular activities, jobs and a social life, finding the time to fuel your body can be difficult and to top it off, it's also often expensive. GW's untraditional dining doesn't make it any easier for students to make the right choices.

GW Dining should make a conscious effort to provide additional nutritional information for its dining partners and offer suggestions, like where to find the healthiest food and what proper serving sizes look like, to lead students in the right direction to staying healthy.

The University's dining system is anything but ordinary. Instead of relying on dining halls and meal swipes like students do at many of GW's peer schools – including Boston and New York universities – students depend on an open dining plan that has students spending meal plan money at restaurants and eateries across campus and the District. The switch to an open plan, initiated in 2016, came after students expressed dissatisfaction with the amount required to be spent at campus dining halls like J Street, the pay-per-pound dining hall on the Foggy Bottom Campus, and at Pelham Commons, which has the same setup on the Mount Vernon Campus.

Further changes to the dining plan were implemented this year. Instead of allocating dining dollar amounts based on a student's grade, the University announced that students without kitchens would receive \$4,600 per academic year and those with kitchens would receive \$2,800 per academic year for the meal plan.

Even with these efforts to improve the dining plan, students said the system contributes to

food insecurity and eating disorders, partly because the vendors offer a myriad of unhealthy options. To continue combating these criticisms and to encourage students to make healthy choices, GW needs to provide students with more resources, like information on nutrition, serving sizes and vendors with the healthiest food.

While GW Dining boasts 112 dining partners on campus and around the city, more than half of those options offer foods high in calories, fat and sodium. These dining partners mostly include fast food restaurants that offer students few nutritional options, but these vendors are also some of the most convenient, closest options for students. While there are some restaurants that are healthier – like those that sell salads, vegetarian options and natural foods – those options are limited and expensive.

**Christina DeBartolomeo**  
Columnist

Because college students are so busy balancing college life, the typical student's eating habits are relatively poor. While college students are aware of the importance of proper nutrition, a 2018 study from the Journal of Nutrition and Human Health found that they tend to consume food based on convenience. It's easier to grab a sandwich and fries from Chick-fil-A than to cook your own meals, for example, and processed foods, like chips and cookies, are easier and cheaper to get your hands on than fresh fruits and vegetables.

Overall, 14 of the restaurants available to students on the dining plan offer complete nutritional information. The Food and Drug Administration's Menu Labeling Fi-

nal Rule requires that restaurants with more than 20 locations display total calories on menu boards. The rule also requires that restaurants make certain information, including total fat, cholesterol, sodium, sugar and protein, available upon request.

Sweetgreen and Roti Mediterranean Grill, for example, provide calorie counts for their options, but GW should seek additional information from vendors on campus so students have all the information necessary to make healthy eating choices.

GW has made strides to help students make healthy choices, like implementing a dining representative program where students post recommendations for specific diets like vegetarian, kosher and gluten-free.

It's important for students to have this information because many college students lack key nutrients, like vitamin B12, iron, calcium and zinc. Because the average college student's diet is based on convenience, college students will continue to be deficient in these nutrients until they become more informed about nutrition and healthy eating.

GW Dining should make an effort to ensure students are knowledgeable not only about healthy options on GWorld, but also about the nutritional facts of all of the food offered on the dining plan. The University should also improve its resources for students to include more helpful tips, like where to eat and proper serving sizes. Staying healthy doesn't have to be hard, and universities can better support students by providing them with adequate resources for eating well and getting the proper nutrients.

—Christina DeBartolomeo, a junior majoring in journalism, is a Hatchet columnist.

## Look beyond the numbers, focus on what college rankings reveal

Let's face it, despite the incessant criticism of college rankings, annual lists of the top universities still draw the attention of both current and prospective students.

Although they may be popular, rankings are not the ultimate objective of a university. As this year's rankings rolled out, the University swiftly defended a jump and fall on two college ranking lists.

Colleges may feel the pressure to perform well on these rankings, but there are more important issues to worry about than a number on a list. In the past, GW has gone to great lengths to ensure a favorable ranking. In 2012, GW admitted to submitting inflated information to secure a higher spot on the list and was later booted from the U.S. News and World Report list because of its unethical actions.

Universities should not solely focus on raising their scores. Instead, universities should use rankings to glean insight into their strengths and weaknesses to improve their school, and a better national reputation is bound to follow.

This year's U.S. News and World Report rankings factored in graduation rates for students with financial need who receive federal Pell Grants and eliminated acceptance rates from its decisions. GW fell seven spots – its largest decrease and lowest ranking in at least a decade – which should reveal areas of focus for the University.

Based on this year's ranking, GW should target relieving the financial burden of students and improving alumni giving rates, as those are two factors in the group's ranking that GW has historically struggled with. GW has more students in the top 1 percent of the income

scale than in the bottom 60 percent, according to a New York Times report, and GW has been noted for a rich-kid stereotype. Improving the economic diversity at the University would result in a better campus atmosphere and likely a rise in rank.

GW can also use this insight to focus on its alumni giving rate, which is the lowest of its peer institutions and another area U.S. News and World Report analyzes. While the University has focused on improving alumni relations over the past year by hiring a new vice president for development and alumni relations and participating in alumni talks across the country, there is still more work to be done based on GW's U.S. News and World Report ranking.

**Marx Wang**  
Columnist

Besides the rankings from U.S. News & World Report, there are other annual lists that GW can take insight from. On two annual ranking lists by Forbes, GW's spots were uneven. While GW was ranked higher on the list of top colleges this year, it scored lower on the list of the best value colleges in the country. Alumni earnings, net price and net debt collectively account for 60 percent of the calculation, according to the methodology for assessing whether a school is worth the cost. This ranking means that GW's cost of attendance outweighs the return on investment after graduation, so improving education, alumni networking opportunities and cost of attendance could positively affect GW's score next year.

On the other hand, GW fares better on the

Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education list. Ranked No. 55 out of 968 schools, GW's presence on this list that combines national universities and liberal arts colleges is impressive. Among its peer schools, GW's rank surpassed five out of the 12 colleges, including Northeastern and Wake Forest universities.

Engagement and environment account for 30 percent of the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education overall ranking. This means that whether or not a school effectively engages with students and provides an inclusive and conducive learning environment is vital for success at any university. Considered individually, however, GW was ranked No. 118 and No. 127, respectively, in these areas, which marks ways in which the University could strive to improve.

Reviewing rankings with these additional analyses in mind, the University's effort in reaching the suggested goals could indirectly contribute to a better rank on the list. While it is good for the University to improve its place on these lists, it's more important to take care of student needs, as the ranking is merely a way to expose the problems that GW needs to resolve.

A ranking is just a number. By simply focusing on improving this number, schools ignore the satisfaction of current students, who are the ultimate determinants for a university's reputation. In the grand scheme of things, the number that organizations choose to assign to GW doesn't matter – but what the University does with this information does.

—Marx Wang, a sophomore double majoring in political science and philosophy, is a Hatchet columnist.

**ZHU**  
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Sept. 24 • \$30  
Listen to ZHU's synthesized beats and electro-house tunes.

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Capital One Arena  
Sept. 25 • \$19  
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**MEG MYERS**  
U Street Music Hall  
Sept. 29 • \$20  
Electro-pop artist Meg Myers takes on a punk vibe with songs about angst, anger and heartbreak.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

'IRIDESCENCE' AN ALBUM BY BROCKHAMPTON

## TRUTH MELTED:

# Ice sculpture dissolves on the National Mall to protest post-truth politics



TYARA ESTRADA | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER

A 2,000-pound ice sculpture that spelled the word "truth" was stationed on the National Mall Saturday.



ALEXANDER WELLING | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER

The "truth" sculpture melted in front of the Capitol Building at about 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

**ARIELLE OSTRY & DIEGO MENDOZA**  
REPORTERS

Truth dissolved in the District.

But not in the way you might think. A 2,000-pound ice sculpture that spelled out the word "truth" was stationed on the National Mall Saturday and left to melt over the course of 12 hours. The work, designed and built by the artist duo Nora Ligorano and Marshall Reese, said the piece is meant to spark a public conversation about the state of truth in the United States.

"Ice is the perfect medium to do these word projects because it has so many qualities about it," Ligorano said. "The

fact that it disappears really captures the urgency of the issue, or the construct that we are presenting."

Sparkling in the sunlight on Saturday, the 100-inch-long sculpture was made entirely of ice. The sculpture sat in contrast to the Capitol Building in the background, which Ligorano said was a move intended to make the project more meaningful.

"To make a statement, or to make people think about this, is a head-scratcher," Ligorano said. "But these two pieces together — the temporary monument and this monument of power and legal power — are really married."

The sculpture is one work of an ongoing series called

"Melted Away," with political buzzwords made of ice melting over time, that the artists have worked on for the past 12 years.

The artistic duo presented their first ice sculpture, which spelled out "Democracy," in Denver and Saint Paul, Minn. in 2008. The original piece was assembled in response to the War on Terror and the Democratic and Republican conventions, according to their website. Since then, "Economy," "Middle Class," "The Future" and "The American Dream" have melted away in cities around the United States.

"Now is the time to explore what truth is," Ligorano said. "Is it disappearing? And given the current climate, it's

an urgent conversation that we need to have."

After presenting "Truth Be Told" in New York City this year on the anniversary of President Donald Trump's Inauguration Day, the artists decided to bring the project to the District due to its centrality to politics, Reese said.

The artists kicked off the weekend-long event Friday night at Busboys and Poets, located at 450 K St. NW, where 12 poets used spoken word to cover a variety of topics centered around truth and the news.

Magus Magnus, a participating poet based in Alexandria, Va., read an original poem that compared the imagery of the ice letters melting to abolishing Immigration

and Customs Enforcement. He said his work was incited by the slew of immigration rights news over the past year, and this served as inspiration for his poem.

"Poetry is a way of engaging life, of engaging on a deeper level," Magnus said.

The two artists officially unveiled the ice sculpture on the National Mall at 11 a.m. Saturday, where it was reduced over the next 12 hours into a puddle.

With the help of Baltimore-based ice sculpture studio Ice Lab, the one-ton figure was assembled on a black platform fit with a drainage system to collect the melted artwork. Onlookers and passersby clapped and cheered when the cover

obstructing "truth" was peeled away and the sculpture was revealed.

Ligorano said planning for onlookers was one of the most interesting parts of the installation, because the artists could not anticipate how the public would react. For the duo, the sculpture acts as an "open question," according to the exhibit's press release.

As "truth" began to perispire Saturday, its message was magnified — which the artists hope will rouse D.C. politicians to better represent their constituents.

"I would hope that if politicians see the truth disappearing before them, that they would work harder to make it last longer," she said.



OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR

Matthew Mercado, a senior majoring in systems engineering, said there isn't a broad interest in Overwatch at GW, but a professional D.C. team could boost its popularity.

## D.C. esports team seeks to broaden computer game competition to new audiences

**JESSICA BASKVILLE & MARGOT DYNES**  
REPORTERS

For competitive gamers in the D.C. area, a new team dedicated to Overwatch League is a breakthrough in the spread of esports.

The Overwatch League added professional teams for seven cities, including a D.C. team, to its league of 20 teams for the 2019 season. The gaming league is the first esports competition to add hometown teams that mimic other sports to the genre of competitive video gaming.

The first-person shooter video game has teams of five in damage, protecting and supporting roles facing off against each other.

The official league produced by the game's developer, Activision Blizzard, hosted its inaugural esports season with 12 teams earlier this year.

Kate Mitchell, the general manager of D.C.'s Overwatch League team, has managed the game professionally since its beginning.

Since its launch in 2017, she has supervised each of the league's three competitive brackets — the free-entry Overwatch Open division, Overwatch Contenders and the Overwatch League — which increasingly have higher-skilled teams and players, with larger prize monies.

The upcoming second season, which begins in February, will be hosted in Southern California and broadcast on streaming website Twitch.tv and ESPN.

While there will be watch parties and team meetups with fans throughout the season and events at D.C. establishments, Mitchell said the team's matches and residence will be based in Southern California until the league officially localizes its home teams and matches, beginning in 2020.

Aside from hiring its primary tank player, Joon-hwa Song, whose online moniker is "Janus," the team does not have a full roster. Mitchell and the D.C. team's head coach, Hyeong-seok "Wiz-ardHyeong" Kim, are still in

scouting mode.

"We're currently engaged in a highly worldwide scouting process," she said. "We're running trials with players from all around the world right now, identifying the best talent."

A career in esports is hardly fun and games. Inside a shared team house in California from the six months between preseason to playoffs, the signed players live and play the game against each other in scrimmages for four to six hours each day, Mitchell said. Meanwhile, their coaching staff reviews their daily plays and devises new strategies depending on each level and team composition.

"The hardest thing is actually getting a professional gamer to take a day off," she said. "They're all so motivated, that it's really hard to get them to take that time to themselves."

**GWHATCHET.COM**

for more on D.C.'s new professional Overwatch team

## D.C.'s first BYOB booze cruise outfitted with bikes hits the water

**MALLORY STEWART ROBISON**  
REPORTER

For any legal drinkers seeking adventure, you will soon be able to enjoy happy hour while paddling down the Potomac River.

D.C.'s first paddle boat bar, Potomac Paddle Pub, opens Monday with a BYOB policy and 10 bike seats that customers use to propel the boat. Passengers on the boat will pedal from Georgetown's waterfront to Columbia Island Marina in Arlington, Va. while sipping on their favorite beverages and feeling a downstream breeze.

The boat holds six to 15 people and can be privately rented out for \$645 on weekends and \$500 during the week, or tickets can be purchased in pairs for \$45 each.

The long, red-roofed boat is hard to miss on any marina, and its bike seats sit parallel to an ice bar to keep your brews cool.

Jack Maher and Jack Walten, the founders of Potomac Paddle Pub, got the idea for the bar when they saw a roving cycling bar, The Pedal Saloon, in Clarendon, Va. Maher said they wondered if the tram-like, pedaled vehicle could be set on the water.

"It's almost as if you're biking around the city, on the water, with a beer in your hand," Maher said.

During the hour-and-a-half-long trip, the boat travels from the Georgetown Waterfront and passes by the Watergate Hotel and the Kennedy Center, followed by a riverside monument tour of the Jefferson Memorial and more, sailing about three miles from the pick-up spot to the Pentagon.

The boat tour allows tourists and locals alike to escape the crowds while seeing the city, Walten said. Peddling while you drink has the added benefit of working off calories as you consume them — "gluttony without the guilt," Maher said. Luckily, those who need a break can alternate between the bike seat and the boat's extra space that allows others to hang out.

"Along with the whole active aspect, I think it's a very unique and interesting way to take in the views of D.C.," Walten said. "At the end of the day, we're trying to give a monumental experience."

The bar doesn't sell drinks, instead allowing passengers to bring their choice of beer or wine. Be-

cause of the BYOB policy, the cost for each passenger are lower than a traditional booze cruise where companies will charge high prices because attendees are essentially a "captive audience," Maher said.

**"It's almost as if you're biking around the city, on the water, with a beer in your hand."**

**JACK MAHER**  
CO-FOUNDER, POTOMAC PADDLE CLUB

The boat prohibits bringing liquor on board to avoid added seasickness from heavy drinking, but Maher and Walten said their favorite drink to sip while peddling — White Claw, a light, fizzy hard seltzer — will definitely be allowed aboard.

"That's our bread and butter," Maher said. While the boat is marketed as a pub, passengers under 21 are welcome, but they aren't able to drink. IDs will be checked at the dock to ensure that all drinking aboard the boat

is legal, he said.

Arlington natives Maher and Walten have been friends since preschool and after attending rival colleges in South Carolina, Maher and Walten moved in together and brainstormed several business ideas. Potomac Paddle Pub is the first venture to come out of the pair's "whiteboard sessions," Walten said.

They discovered that while paddle boat bars are rare, there are others in Chicago, Detroit and Charleston, S.C. and the pair realized that D.C. would have one of the best routes for sightseeing.

"I personally hadn't been on the route we are taking in many years," Walten said. "I've only been on a boat or two twice on the Potomac really, and now that I'm a little older, a little more mature, I really appreciated the perspective that you get."

Maher and Walten's concern about the Potomac River's long history of pollution led them to invest in an eco-friendly boat. In addition to being peddled by passengers, the boat is equipped with a solar panel that powers its electrical systems. Given their lifelong connection to the river, Maher and Walten encourage customers to support the river with an option to round up to the nearest dollar at checkout and donate the difference to the Potomac Conservancy, a nonprofit group supporting efforts to clean the river.

"Being from Arlington and growing up in the area, we've been going down to the Potomac for most of our lives," Walten said. "Sustaining the Potomac and cleaning it up would be something that's pretty important to us."

## GAMES OF THE WEEK



**MEN'S WATER POLO**  
vs. La Salle and Bucknell  
10 a.m. and 2 p.m. • Saturday  
The Colonials will take on the Explorers and the Bison at the Smith Center for their first home games of the season.



**WOMEN'S SOCCER**  
vs. George Mason  
4:30 p.m. • Thursday  
GW will return to the Mount Vernon field to take on the Patriots after a one-game road trip to Fordham.

**NUMBER CRUNCH 32.6** Percentage of total goals scored that were unassisted by men's water polo in the team's first weekend of MAWPC play

## Thomas brings A-10 experience to first year as head coach

**MADDIE RUNDLETT**  
STAFF WRITER

Prior to taking the reins at GW, first-year head coach Brian Thomas led the women's program at fellow Atlantic 10 school St. Bonaventure for two years.

In his short tenure, Thomas helped the Bonnies set 11 program records in the 2017-18 season and coached sophomore Lina Kutsko, this year's Most Outstanding Performer in the A-10.

He is currently the only swimming and diving head coach to have previously led another A-10 program.

At St. Bonaventure, Thomas was responsible for 24 swimmers and divers in the women's program – 14 of whom were underclassmen. Now, Thomas will be overseeing a combined 60 swimmers and divers across the men's and women's teams at GW, including 18 freshmen.

Thomas admitted he tends to have the "blindness" on when leading a team, so during his time at St. Bonaventure he was focused on improving the swimmers in front of him and didn't analyze other programs in the conference like GW.

Despite a shared conference, Thomas said he was initially skeptical of how

much his time at St. Bonaventure would inform his leadership at GW.

"From a conference perspective everything's familiar, but other than that that's about it, probably," Thomas said. "Everything is brand new."

Thomas took the helm in July after three-year head coach James Winchester resigned to take the same position at Texas Christian University. The coaching change came on the tails of the second-straight A-10 Championship for the men's team and a third-place finish at the conference meet for the women's team.

Heading into his time in Foggy Bottom, Thomas said he knew the men's side had a couple of conference titles under their belt and the women were "on the rise," but he still tried to come into the program without expectations.

The Colonials opened their fall schedule at the College Swimming Coaches Association of America Open Water Nationals in Lawrence, Kan. Saturday. The women's team placed fourth, and the men's team finished in sixth place.

Junior Moritz Fath, whose 12th place finish paced the Colonials at the weekend competition, said the new coaching staff has a more reciprocal approach to strategy. Thomas said he wants the swimmers



First-year head coach Brian Thomas previously led the women's swimming and diving program at fellow A-10 school St. Bonaventure.

and coaches to "evaluate together and really form a partnership."

"We can bring our ideas more to the team, co-create everything with him," Fath said. "We have more to say, I guess, with where the program is going."

Thomas said building working relationships with his swimmers and divers is important to develop a deeper understanding of what works in the pool and what can be improved. Thomas has already held team meetings to discuss long-term goals for the up-

coming season since training began in August.

Senior Emily Zhang noted that the growing pains of a new leader have been more physical than psychological during the adjustment period thanks to Thomas' intense workout program.

"I think they're setting a good foundation right now," Zhang said. "It's been kind of exciting and really intense from the get-go, which really sets the tone for the season."

Thomas said compared to his St. Bonaven-

ture squad, the Colonials "struggle in the detail area" so he put the team through the ringer in the first few weeks of the season with a "back-to-the-basics" training regimen that includes drills to improve the swimmers' starts, turns and underwater kicking.

"From the perspective of our schedule and dual meets, it's set up to be very challenging," Thomas said. "I do know we've lost a couple of influential pieces over the last few years, especially on the guys' side, so it's not going to be easy

necessarily."

The Colonials graduated a number of talented seniors last year, including NCAA Championship qualifier Gustav Hokfelt. The former swim captain placed 18th at the NAAs in the 100-meter backstroke after winning seven gold medals and being named Most Outstanding Performer at the A-10s.

Zhang said the added depth from strong first-year swimmers may be the team's key to securing another top-three finish at the A-10s.

On the men's side, the ultimate goal is a third-straight A-10 title and a fourth-straight NCAA qualification, Fath said.

Though it's early in the season, Thomas said he is confident that this squad's adaptability in the face of change will be an asset moving forward. Eschewing the importance of racking up as many wins as possible, Thomas said he believes the devil is in the details.

"One thing I've learned throughout the years is that we're not terribly focused or overly focused on trying to win necessarily," Thomas said. "It's putting ourselves in the best position every day to get better."

The Colonials begin their dual meet schedule on Oct. 5 at the FIU Fall Classic in Miami.

## Haynes Brown is a 'threat' on field while powering men's soccer's offense

**BARBARA ALBERTS**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's soccer was locked in a 2-2 stalemate with Binghamton last week when the whistle blew to end regulation play.

The Colonials were looking at 20 minutes of extra time when sophomore forward Oscar Haynes Brown buried a shot in the back of the net to end the overtime period in less than two minutes. The clutch shot was his third game-winning goal of the season.

Haynes Brown is on pace to become the highest goalscorer men's soccer has seen in seven years, with 10 games left in the season. He has recorded eight of GW's 14 goals in seven games, and has already surpassed his goal total from last season. He is currently tied as the fifth-best in goals scored per game nationally.

At the rate he is going, Haynes Brown may become the first Colonial to tally double-digit goals since 2011, when then-senior forward Yoni Berhanu found the back of the net 11 times during his senior season.

"My main role is to score the goals, and sometimes it comes with quite a bit of pressure," Haynes Brown said.

In the team's season opener against Stony Brook,



Sophomore forward Oscar Haynes Brown takes a break between plays during Tuesday's home game against Binghamton.

the sophomore recorded a hat trick in the second half to drive GW's first win of the season. Three days later, Haynes Brown captured more than half of the goals in the team's 6-0 blowout over cross-town rival American.

Head coach Craig Jones said he has been focusing on increasing efficient goal scoring in the last couple of years and was looking for players who had a natural instinct

for scoring and strong finishing capabilities. He and his coaching staff found that in Haynes Brown.

"We brought him in to do that," Jones said. "He's really living up to his side of the bargain, so to speak, so anytime he's on the field – he's a threat."

Haynes Brown came to GW after trials with professional clubs and semi-professional teams in his home country of England did not

work out, he said.

As a freshman, Haynes Brown still led the Colonials with six goals to his name.

"You get better every year, so if you can put up good numbers as a first-year player and now as a sophomore, it's great and you always look to improve on those numbers," Jones said.

While leading the offense in goals, Haynes Brown dealt with injuries while adapting to the physicality of the game

in the United States.

To prepare for the fall season, Haynes Brown trained twice a day for six days each week over the summer, including practicing hitting shots into the corners of the goal. During the spring season, he put on more muscle and weight to be able to better handle the more physical style of the game, he said.

"It's not always just nice football, it's not always just passing around in the back, you have to sometimes win the hard way," Haynes Brown said.

Haynes Brown's scoring success hasn't gone unnoticed. When he takes the field, Jones, the head coach, said opponents are now guarding him more heavily.

"He's going to draw fouls, he's going to draw a lot of attention, which results a lot of knocks, a lot of kicks, a lot of bruises," Jones said. "I think he's physically matured a little bit and gotten a little bit stronger to help with some of that contact."

Even with the pressure to score, Haynes Brown keeps a fun demeanor on the pitch both during games and in practices, senior forward Dylan Lightbourn said.

"That joking around, that little banter, it's good because it can't be all serious all the time," Lightbourn said. "That helps with team camarade-

rie."

Haynes Brown usually plays at the top of the team's formation in front of the net, but when the middle gets crowded or the game gets more physical, he is moved out to the side of the field and Lightbourn is moved into the top spot to give Haynes Brown more space.

Haynes Brown's ability to finish in front of the net has changed the game for a team that has recently struggled to find the back of the net, Lightbourn said.

"I think we work well together," he said. "It's always a fun time playing on the pitch with him – it's not always serious but I think a lot of the time we're on the same page."

Despite his success in front of the net, Haynes Brown said he is "disappointed" in having scored eight goals. If he were able to capitalize on all of the opportunities he has had to find the back of the net, Haynes Brown said he would have tallied at least 13 goals this season – but he's shooting for 15.

"That's really the next step for him," Jones said. "Really to keep adding and be more clinical in front of the goal."

Men's soccer returns to action Tuesday on the road against Duke. Kick off is slated for 7 p.m.

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