



## DEVELOPMENT OFFICE GOALS

hit **16,000** alumni donors in FY19

retain **64%** of all donors annually

staff visit **150** donors each during the year

SHANE BAHN | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER

Donna Arbide, the vice president for development and alumni relations, said the development office set a series of new donation goals this semester to build up GW's donor base and prepare for a large-scale fundraising campaign.

## Development office sets fundraising goals to build donor base

**MEREDITH ROATEN & LAUREN PELLER**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITORS

Top development officials are laying the groundwork for the University's next fundraising push nearly two years after GW completed its largest-ever fundraising campaign.

Donna Arbide, the vice president for development and alumni relations, said the development office set a series of new donation goals this semester to build up GW's donor base and prepare for a large-scale fundraising campaign. Officials and fundraising experts said the new goals, which focus on building relationships with prospective donors, will encourage more alumni, faculty and staff to donate to GW regularly.

The office's new goals include hitting 16,000 alumni donors this fiscal year, retaining 64 percent of all donors annually and requiring each staff member in the office to visit 150 donors

each year.

"I believe, frankly, that alumni should give back to their institutions, that we should worry about the base of giving, that we should worry about annual giving," Arbide said. "The \$10, \$20, really matter a lot, and we should be making sure the people understand that."

She said the goals will help create a base of do-

the same amount annually during the campaign as it did during other fundraising years – even though the campaign finished a year ahead of schedule.

She added that the goals are part of a three-part plan to revamp GW's philanthropic reach, which begins with solidifying a leadership team and evaluating positions in the development

GW's money, and we'll take a look back and then we'll go forward again," she said.

The final phase is dependent on the Board of Trustees' decision whether to launch another capital campaign – but if they do, Arbide said, the office will help trustees develop fundraising strategies.

### The future of fundraising

GW has historically struggled with alumni giving, which has hovered around 8 percent for years, and Arbide said that, for the first time, the office is aiming to reach 16,000 alumni donors this fiscal year and retain 64 percent of all donors annually, up from last year's 63 percent.

"We have lost donors as quickly as we are acquiring donors," she said. "If we want to raise the level of base, we actually need to create a loyal donor base."

She said the development

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**DONNA ARBIDE**

VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

nors to tap if the Board of Trustees decides to launch another extensive fundraising campaign. She said at a Faculty Senate meeting Friday that fundraising did not improve during the three years of the University's \$1 billion campaign, saying that GW raised almost

office. The second phase will entail identifying the development office's priorities and funneling money into these areas, which may include marketing and outreach.

"I want to make sure I do this carefully and very mindfully about how we spend

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## Officials to review discrimination, harassment policies

**LEAH POTTER**  
NEWS EDITOR

The University is working to add more specific language to its discrimination and harassment policies.

The policies – which were last revised in November 2011 and will undergo a series of reviews by administrators, faculty and students this year – were introduced to faculty last week and provide examples of sanctions and corrective actions for discriminatory or harassing behavior. Officials said at a Faculty Senate meeting Friday that the updates will help students, faculty and staff clearly understand what constitutes unacceptable behavior and what conduct they should report to administrators.

"While we feel strongly that the proposed changes reflect the way the University has treated and has thought about these cases all along, we recognize that the actual language in the policy matters and that we can do better," Caroline Laguerre-Brown, the vice provost for diversity, equity and community engagement, said at the meeting.

The draft of policies includes a definition of discrimination – an "adverse treatment of an individual based on a protected characteristic, rather than individual merit" – and includes four examples of discriminatory behavior, like singling out a person or refusing to hire them based on their race or gender, according to the document.

The draft also includes a definition of harassment – "any unwelcome conduct based on a protected characteristic where such conduct creates a hostile environment" – and includes 10 points detailing what harassment could include, like one-time or repetitive actions or a lack of intent, according to the document.

Laguerre-Brown said that while all of the listed anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies and support systems already exist, she hopes that updating the language will make students,

faculty and staff more likely to engage with administrators to use the policies and procedures when reporting an incident.

She said officials began to engage members of the Faculty Senate's executive and professional ethics and academic freedom committees in the review process over the summer. She said the latter currently has a version of the policy to review and will submit written feedback.

She added that she doesn't know when the feedback and revision process will be completed, and officials said that while there is no set deadline to finalize the policies, they hope to have a final draft ready for the Board of Trustees to approve in May.

### After the Snapchat incident

Laguerre-Brown said that after a Snapchat with a racist caption circulated around campus last semester, several student groups raised concerns with administrators about the University's policies on race-based discrimination, saying definitions and sanctions were not specific enough.

"It was concerning to us that they were drawing the conclusion that we put less priority on this other form of discrimination and harassment," she said in an interview.

Laguerre-Brown said she and other administrators talked with student groups, like GW's chapter of the NAACP and the Black Student Union, after the incident. She said she hopes to continue eliciting feedback from students by meeting with other student organizations as officials revise the policies on discrimination and harassment.

Provost Forrest Maltzman said that after the Snapchat incident, it became "clear" that GW's disciplinary policies not only outline what is unacceptable behavior from the community but also what values students, faculty and staff are expected to uphold.

"A critical type of statement that we make as a uni-

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## Student singing group helps transgender individuals develop voice

**MARGOT DYNES & SIDNEY LEE**  
REPORTERS

A new singing group in the Speech and Hearing Center is helping transgender individuals find their "true voice."

The group, which launched Friday, swaps regimented weekly therapy sessions for a weekly choir group to train participants' voices and expand their ranges. During the four choir sessions, three graduate students will research whether singing and performing other vocal exercises affect the speech patterns of transgender women or raise participants' confidence.

Rebecca Goldstein, a student working toward a master's degree in speech pathology, said she started the group because she wanted to use her background as an opera singer to work with the transgender community. During the group meetings, she leads the choir in warmups and guides them through performing songs like "Rise Up" by Andra Day.

"It was really exciting because we opened it to all types of people, any gender non-binary person could come," Goldstein said. "We had a really nice range of voices which was really exciting, we didn't know what to expect with that."

The singing group is comprised of about four vocalists – including transgender men and women – who have never had voice training in a clinical environment.

The center typically offers transitional vocal training, which consists of weekly, hour-long training sessions that can span over six months to two years, but the singing group will attempt to draw out progress in an abbreviated timeframe. The group will meet four times from November to December and use vocal exercises to spark changes to the voice in everyday speech.

While the singers hum, belt and trill up and down their vocal range, the three graduate students record data, and Goldstein hopes the research will show a gradual improvement in the range, control and intonation of participants' voices.

But more importantly, she said they are assessing how the singers themselves measure comfort and ability with their own voice.

"The biggest thing about the transgender voice, in my opinion, is that their voice matches them because I feel like there's such a disconnect," Goldstein said. "The self-ratings are really important, we want to improve the self-ratings as well."

Adrienne Hancock, a professor in the speech and hearing department, is advising the research that Goldstein and two graduate students, Ian Nool and Jessica Thompson, are conducting in the group. Because all three come from musical backgrounds, she said the singing group allows the students to use their expertise to enact change.

"I'm hoping that giving people this space to explore



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Three graduate students launched a singing group for transgender individuals to develop their vocal range.

their voice will make them feel a little bit more comfortable with their voice and themselves," Hancock said. "I like to look at how when someone really finds their true voice, or their comfortable voice, what that does to open up their possibilities for how they express their identity."

Clients often see slow – but life-changing – results from voice training, allowing women in transition to find the peace they have sought their whole lives, she said.

Dena Barrett, a transgender woman who completed her voice training this summer after two years, said she

was able to put a period of her life where she was "so afraid" of opposition behind her and find peace after her vocal training.

Because hormonal changes are slower in older transgender women, Barrett said she still has days where she feels uneasy, but she has developed her "true voice" and is now recognized as a woman.

"I started going out and I realized that people were responding to me, and recognizing me as the woman I am instantly, and the voice was a big part of that," she said.

Aside from the physical change of being able to sustain a more feminine speech

pattern, Barrett said she experienced difficulty with the more psychological, "reflexive" roadblocks to finding her voice from years of social conditioning.

"You really need to be patient and determined, and realize it's not one of those things you can set a schedule on," Barrett said. "There were times when I was really discouraged and felt like I wasn't making any progress at all."

Linda Siegfriedt, who oversees the clinical practice of student-run voice trainings for transgender women in the Speech and Hearing Center, said that a successfully "passing" voice requires pitch el-

evation and a fuller tone, balancing body and breath in the voice's upper range. Together these qualities eliminate the need to use a weak falsetto when clients are reaching for their upper register.

She said that since the speech pathology program's inception, the clientele has gone from predominantly middle age or older transgender women to hosting a number of teenage and college-age participants in the last three to four years. Siegfriedt attributed this to increased visibility that encourage young people to come out as transgender earlier in life.

"You can be who you are, who you were born to be in your 20s, instead of suffering through your whole lifetime until you get to middle age and you retire, and then being able to live as who you are," Siegfriedt said. "So I think a life is more satisfying and fuller."

Being on the younger side makes the transition into a more feminine voice slightly easier, as the body can "learn better," is more responsive to changes, she said.

Siegfriedt said the transformation within clients is "profound," and the training lends itself to a "development of one's soul" rather than strictly a change in voice.

"I have seen clients share with me that they've found that they have skills and interests that didn't come out until they transitioned fully," she said. "Some people tell me that it's not just about voice, but it's about having a voice."

## CRIME LOG

### HARASSMENT (VERBAL OR WRITTEN)

Ross Hall  
Multiple – Multiple  
Closed Case

A female student reported to the GW Police Department that a male staff member verbally harassed her. There is limited information about the student's relationship to the staff member and what the staff member said.

Referred to Title IX Office

### THEFT II/ FROM BUILDING, CREDIT CARD FRAUD

Marvin Center  
11/6/2018 – 11 a.m.  
Open Case

A female student reported to GWPD that her credit and debit cards were stolen from her bag that was hanging over the back of her chair in the Great Hall. She reported that there were unauthorized charges to both cards.

Case open

### VOYEURISM

Marvin Center  
11/7/2018 – 1:52 p.m.  
Open Case

A male student reported that someone photographed him over a bathroom stall while he was using the restroom. GWPD canvassed the area but was unable to locate the male subject.

Case open

—Compiled by Valerie Yurk

## New policy verbage would clarify standards: officials

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iversity are the policies that we put forward, that include the student code of conduct, about how students go ahead and treat each other," Maltzman said at the Faculty Senate meeting.

Student Association President Ashley Le said SA leadership will continue to work with administrators to implement and promote the updated policies. She said that following the Snapchat incident in the spring, student leaders heard "loud and clear" from students that existing University policies needed "major updates" that would better address discrimination against students of color.

"When it comes to discrimination and harassment, the line is too often blurred to some," Le said in an email. "Clear policies will mean that victims of discrimination and harassment will have a clear understanding of when their rights have been violated and will stop them from shifting the blame on themselves."

### Comparisons to Title IX

Laguerre-Brown, the vice provost for diversity, equity and community engagement, said several students noted a difference in clear language between the University's Title IX and equal opportunity policies. Students said several different types of misconduct were defined in the Title IX policy, but the same couldn't be said for discrimination and harassment policies, Laguerre-Brown said.

"You realize that the policy language is important," she said. "What we actually say in policy matters. I wanted to make sure that we clarified our commitment to these issues."

Jody Shipper, the co-founder of Project IX and the former executive director of the Office of Equity and Diversity and chief Title IX administrator at the University of Southern California, said that in 2011 – when the "Dear Colleague Letter" was released under President Barack Obama's

administration to provide schools with guidance on sexual assault policy – there was more of an emphasis on Title IX policies and procedures at universities nationwide.

She said that after the Obama administration issued a series of guidelines on how to deal with sexual misconduct, many universities gave more weight to reviewing and updating Title IX policies compared to those of other types of discrimination. "These other issues absolutely have to be addressed," Shipper said.

### Clear expectations

University President Thomas LeBlanc said that whether a new student or new faculty member comes to campus, policies on discrimination and harassment need to be explicit in describing what "kind of place" GW's community represents.

"It is a statement on our values as a community," LeBlanc said. "We ought to be serious about knowing these policies, understanding what they mean and applying them vigorously when we're looking at candidates for employment."

LeBlanc said GW is not a place where officials "actively recruit serial sexual harassers if they're good scholars," and the University's policies on discrimination and harassment should reflect a similar sentiment in that discriminatory behavior won't be tolerated.

"We don't want to interview them, we don't want to wine and dine them, we don't want to make them an offer, we don't want to hire them, we don't want to tenure them, we don't want to promote them," he said.

Morgan Levy, the Title IX coordinator and the director of University Student Services Coordination at the University of Rochester, said clear definitions are "critical" for establishing what types of behaviors are prohibited. She said discrimination and harassment – from both faculty and students – make the living and learning environment on a campus "untenable."

## SNAPSHOT

ERIC LEE | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER



A joint unit color guard stands before the remembrance program at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial for Veterans Day.

## Milken hits five-year high for donations

ILENA PENG & LAUREN PELLER  
REPORTERS

The public health school received more than \$6 million in gifts and pledges in 2018 – the highest amount in at least the past five years.

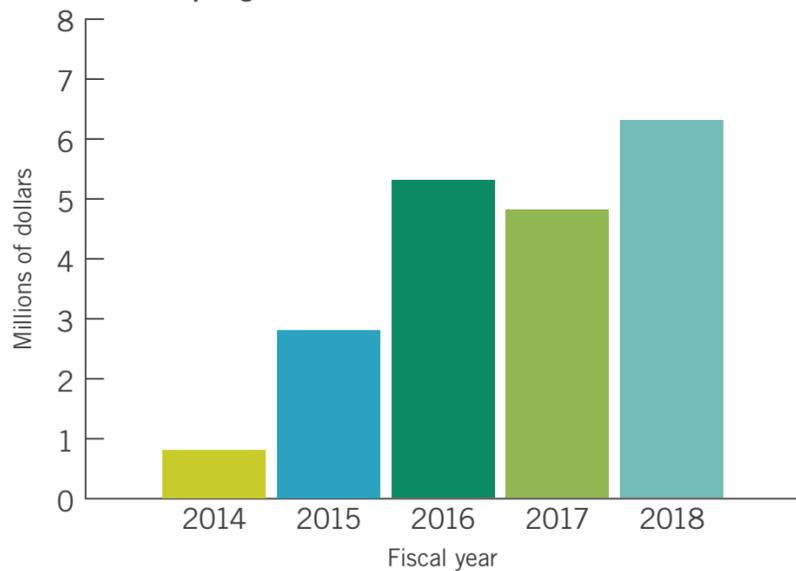
The Milken Institute School of Public Health received \$800,000 in gifts and pledges in 2014, but last fiscal year that number jumped to \$6.3 million – a nearly sevenfold increase, according to the school's annual financial progress report issued this fall, a copy of which was reviewed by The Hatchet. Fundraising experts said the school's ability to increase the amount of gifts and pledges, which include donations from alumni, faculty and families, will help boost the public health school's national reputation, bringing in more money for facilities, events, research, and student and faculty support.

Gifts, which are a one-time donation, and pledges, which are recurring donations, comprised 1 percent of the public health school's revenue in 2014 and 3.5 percent in 2018. The school hit a high point in 2016 when gifts and pledges comprised 5.3 percent of the school's revenue.

Milken's annual financial report splits its revenue into six categories: indirect research, direct research, tuition and fees, gifts and pledges, endowments and other revenue. In fiscal year 2018, tuition and fees comprised most of the school's revenue at 44.9 percent, while direct research came in at No. 2 with 44.1 percent.

Public health school spokeswoman Mina Radman declined to say why the amount of gifts and pledges given to Milken has increased over the past five years and what the money will go toward.

Gifts and pledges to the Milken Institute School of Public Health



EMILY RECKO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Source: Milken Institute School of Public Health annual financial report

She declined to say how many individual donors gave to the school and what the biggest gift was in 2018 and 2017. She also declined to say how Milken encourages donations each fiscal year.

Radman said she could not respond to The Hatchet because the school recently hired a new vice president of development who "is getting up to speed."

Fundraising experts said Milken's nearly 700 percent uptick in the amount of gifts and pledges helps the school boost its research efforts and enrollment, and improve the quality of its faculty. They said the increase also shows that public health officials are improving engagement with donors.

Abbie von Schlegell, a consultant who specializes in fundraising and runs the consulting firm A. von Schlegell & Co., said gifts come in the form of checks or stocks, which she said a university can sell, and pledges typically last for

five years.

"A pledge of cash to an institution, any institution, doesn't matter which kind, is a feel-good sentiment," she said.

Jessica Browning, the senior vice president of the Winkler Group, a fundraising firm that works with nonprofit organizations, said increasing the number of donors who promise to pay a specific amount over time means that the school is likely working successfully with alumni to encourage donations.

In recent years, the University has worked to boost its historically low alumni giving rate. Officials in the development office announced in September that individual schools' development offices will use monthly reports to update deans on fundraising progress.

"In fundraising, we like to say it's all about the fundamentals," Browning said. "It's connecting people with a philanthropic gift with their desire, with the mission, with the vi-

sion of an organization and really just talking with them, introducing them to the project, getting them excited about the possibilities."

Browning said the donations and pledges keep the school afloat – supporting research, facilities, faculty and student services – while also building the school's stature among alumni.

"I think universities are propelled by gifts and donations, especially as tuition can only cover so much," Browning said. "It's really the philanthropic dollars that propel an institution forward."

Richard Ammons, a senior consultant and principal at Marts & Lundy, a fundraising firm that raises money for universities, said the increase in gifts indicates that the school's development office is showing donors that "they can impact the quality of life, the quality of education that goes on by making increasing philanthropic gifts."

## Officials prepare for next capital campaign

From Page 1

office has a relatively small staff of 140 compared to its alumni base of 290,000, which makes it challenging to ensure that each individual donor stays engaged. To help build up the "loyal" base, Arbide said all fundraising staff who don't manage other employees are now required to talk to at least 150 potential donors, like alumni, each year.

The visits could include talking to alumni at events or meeting with them during business trips, she said.

"We are well below our peer schools in terms of getting out there to visit our parents, alumni and friends of GW," Arbide said.

Arbide said she expects to see immediate results from the new goals this year, but a substantial increase in fundraising could take about five years.

Upping philanthropic donations and improving relationships with alumni have been key parts of University President Thomas LeBlanc's priorities during his tenure. The Board of Trustees launched a new task force on volunteer engagement last year, and the University created its own alumni association in September.

### Showing the impact

Arbide said that during the University's \$1 billion campaign, faculty, staff, students and alumni were not aware of exactly how donated funds were used, which is "a major issue." She said the community often only points to major gifts, like an \$80 million donation to the public health school or the acquisition of the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design.

Arbide said she will meet with deans, the provost and members of the Faculty Sen-

ate by the end of the academic year to find out what kinds of initiatives they want to fund, like endowed professorships or scholarships. She said the information gathered from the meetings will be compiled into a report for officials to review.

"When we fundraise, we first need to understand what we are fundraising for, what is GW building," she said.

Anne Gore, a senior development officer for the community and technical college at the University of Alaska Anchorage, said donors want to know where their money goes because it shows that their gift has a tangible impact.

"I'm basically making an investment," she said. "I want my money to be used in a way that I would like it to be used."

### It 'takes a village'

Arbide said at the Faculty Senate meeting that faculty

should be more involved in the fundraising process. Faculty, staff and alumni can be "brand ambassadors" for the University to advertise what makes GW special because they know the University best, she said.

"Fundraising takes a village," she said. "It is not just the office of development, and if you feel that way, we will not be successful."

Wendy Kobler, the vice president of institutional advancement at the University of Kentucky, said faculty are more in tune with ongoing research and projects that GW is working on, and the University can use them to highlight the University's work.

"They want to hear about those big, bold ideas from the faculty and other stakeholders to be able to share the story of what it's going to mean for their department and how it is they're going to have that impact," she said.

# IT division isn't jarred by nationwide budget concerns, officials say

EMILY MAISE  
REPORTER

A recent survey showed that information technology departments across the country have struggled to retain employees and improve service in the face of long-standing budget cuts – but officials said GW has not been shaken by the nationwide trend.

The Campus Computing Project released the results of its annual IT survey last month and found that IT staff at two thirds of the more than 200 public and private universities surveyed have not recovered from the 2008 recession and still face difficulties hanging on to talented employees and ensuring secure servers. At GW, officials also faced ongoing budget cuts after missed enrollment projections three years ago – but Loretta Early, the chief information officer, said GW has managed to provide quality service and retain most of its employees through financial hardships.

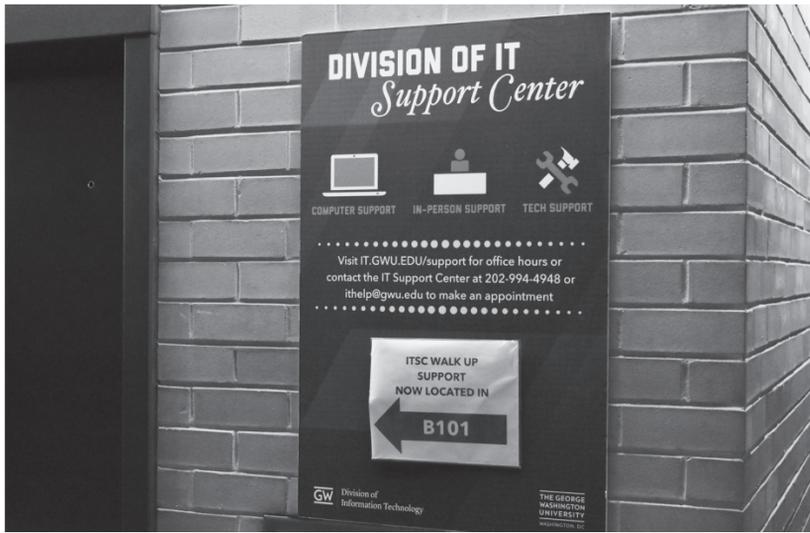
“GW is committed to investing in technology and scalable, sustainable services that directly support both the university mission and academic success,” Early said in an email. “Over the last two fiscal years, the Division of Information Tech-

nology (DIT) has continued to maintain funding levels to support these endeavors while also exploring the most cost-effective options moving forward.”

GW downsized its IT department in 2017 when officials closed Tech Commons, the former hub for all IT needs, and moved some services to an online portal and others to the Buff and Blue Technology Center in 2100 Pennsylvania Ave. Former University President Steven Knapp implemented budget cuts after decreased enrollment forced GW to tighten its belt in 2015 and cut staff hours in the IT Support Center.

But in recent months, the division has also developed an online platform for students to submit their technology requests and piloted an online chatbot for students to inquire about technology issues, which experts said could save money and time for the department. Early declined to say how much the budget was for the department in 2018 and 2017 and how budget cuts affected the department.

The Campus Computing Project survey found that retaining and hiring IT employees was staff's second-biggest concern, next to data security. Survey participants said on-



ALEXANDER WELLING | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER

IT officials faced ongoing budget cuts after missed enrollment projections three years ago – but Loretta Early, the chief information officer, said GW has managed to provide quality service and retain most of its employees.

campus opportunities often are not competitive with jobs in the private sector.

Early said that even though the technology sector faces a higher turnover rate than other industries, the University “has a good retention rate.”

“I believe we're able to achieve this type of success because professionals who come to work at GW desire

to join a diverse campus community which is here to help advance society and work together towards meaningful progress,” she said.

She added that GW offers “outstanding benefits” to employees. She declined to say how many employees in the department are new this academic year.

Information technology experts said IT budgets are

scrutinized because technology might seem like an excessive cost in an atmosphere of growing tuition and other expenses.

Kenneth Green, the founding director of the Campus Computing Project, said competitive employment in the private sector could pull potential IT employees away from universities, and budget cuts may

limit the University's ability to compete in the job market with salaries and benefits to retain them.

“It's a very dynamic job market for technology these days,” he said. “It's challenging to be competitive, competitive as an employer, as an IT employee.”

GW's operations department had a five-member team in 2013, but in 2018, the team shrank to three members. The director of analysis and advisory services and the director of IT architecture services, which were vacant positions in 2013, were removed in 2016 and 2018, respectively, according to the department's website.

Keith McIntosh, the vice president and chief information officer at the University of Richmond, said while the IT needs of each school differ, most schools typically cut travel and professional development expenses first to save expenses. But if financial times are particularly hard, he said universities can miss out on innovation opportunities and growth for the department by cutting from management staff.

“Hopefully, this isn't happening, as these are necessities to ensure the college or university can perform its academic and administrative missions,” he said.

## SA leader proposes new holidays for religious exemption calendar

BRIDIE O'CONNELL  
REPORTER

A Student Association leader is trying to ensure that more students can observe religious holidays without piling up unexcused absences in their courses.

Victoria Lewis, the SA's director of interfaith, submitted two proposals to SA leaders Monday to update the University's religious exemption calendar by next semester and extend the deadline for requesting an excused absence because of a holiday. The proposed updates, which include more than 20 new holidays, like Orthodox Christian Easter and All Saints' Day, would ensure that students can freely practice their faith without having the distraction of classes, Lewis said.

“One of the things that is written in the policy is that GW and the faculty encourage students to express their faith and take off class, but with the policies that are in place, that's a little bit harder than it should be,” Lewis said.

Once the proposals pass through SA leadership, Lewis can present them to the Faculty Senate for approval, she said.

The University's religious exemption calendar currently includes 33 holidays from Islamic, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Sikh and Buddhist faiths. Lewis' updates would add 21 holidays for students who identify as Orthodox Christian, Catholic, Zoroastrian, Ethiopian Orthodox Christian, Baha'i, Jain and Muslim.

GW's current holiday exemption policy also requires that students notify their professors within the first week of classes if they have to miss class for any holidays during the semester. But if Lewis' policy is approved, students will be able to request a holiday off up to two

weeks before the celebration. “The beginning of school is very hectic, especially if you are a student organization leader,” she said. “A lot of times you will forget to tell your professor your holidays, and then it's really up to them whether or not they let you be exempt from class throughout the year.”

Before drafting the proposal, Lewis said she met with 25 of 27 religious student organizations on campus over the course of two months, ranging from the Sikh Students Association to the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, to gauge how students are affected when they need to attend class because their holiday is not on the University calendar.

Mohmeet Choudhary, the president of the Sikh Student Association, said that adding one of the most important holidays in the Sikh religion – the Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth Sahib, which takes place Oct. 20 and celebrates Sikh scriptures – would enable students to attend worship services at gurdwara, a Sikh place of worship.

The closest gurdwara to GW's campus is 3.6 miles away – about a 13-minute drive – in the Cathedral Heights area of D.C. and is not easily accessible by Metro, he said.

“A lot of people lose that connection to their faith if they're not able to have time to go to the gurdwara and go celebrate these kinds of holidays or even have knowledge of when those holidays are,” Singh said. “With classes, we don't have time.”

Victoria Abril, the president of the GW Catholics, said that adding Good Friday, a remembrance of Jesus Christ's death on the Friday before Easter, and All Saints' Day, a Nov. 1 holiday honoring Catholic saints, to the calendar would allow students to more openly practice their faith and spend the days

fasting, going to Mass and taking time to rest without class.

“On Ash Wednesday I fast, but I still go to class and I'll attend Mass later on in the night,” Abril said. “I've been able to make accommodations for myself, but I know that there's students who at times struggle to attend Mass or have conflict at times.”

Georgia Zavos, the co-president of the GW Orthodox Christian Fellowship and the president of the Hellenic Student Association, said she and others in her organization believed professors would not grant days off that were not on GW's calendar because they thought the holidays would not be viewed as legitimate.

“We're used to it by now because our entire lives we haven't been represented on school calendars,” Zavos said.

Zavos added that she and other members of her organization have taken classes with professors who have not allowed them to take off for Orthodox Christian Easter because it falls on a different date than Catholic Easter. Since the Orthodox Christian faith is based off the Julian calendar, Easter can fall about a week later than Catholic Easter.

Daniel Novick, a rabbi and the assistant director of GW Hillel, said Jewish scripture does not allow Jewish people to use electricity or use computers on holidays like Shavuot, which typically falls between late May and early June. He said the restrictions make it difficult for students to attend summer classes or, in some cases, attend commencement ceremonies.

“During these holidays, the Jewish religion has certain rules about what you can and can't do,” he said. “For Jewish students, you can't actually do work on these holidays.”



ISABELLA BRODT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Avi Dor, a professor of health policy and management, said one of the most unexpected collaborations has been research on health care economics.

## Public health, medical schools boast more than 40 collaborative projects

EVE PINCHEVSKY &  
HANNAH LEWIS  
REPORTERS

GW's medical and public health schools collaborate more than any other schools within the University.

A report from the provost at a Faculty Assembly meeting last month showed that the medical and public health schools have the highest number of collaborations on research projects and academic programs. Faculty said cross-collaboration between the two schools can make research projects more competitive for grants and more completely address health problems, like infectious diseases, that involve both policy and medicine.

Officials said the two schools have collaborated on more than 40 sponsored projects with principal investigators since fiscal year 2012.

Robert Miller, the vice president for research and the associate dean for research for the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, said the number of collaborations between the two schools is “much higher” than 40 because faculty work together informally in ways that are not captured by metrics and reports on research collaboration.

Miller said officials will continue to “grow and support” interdisciplinary collaboration at GW.

“Collaboration is an integral part of research,” Miller said in an email. “Interdisciplinary research, in particular, cultivates discovery. The result of collaboration is innovative solutions to today's most complex problems and answers to long-asked questions.”

Fitzhugh Mullan, a professor of health policy and management and of pediatrics, said the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity program – a program based in GW's Health Workforce Institute

that sends 20 U.S. fellows to other countries each year – works to address issues of health equity.

Mullan said the program brings the work of the medical school and the public health school together to help future doctors develop a deep understanding of health policies and their impact internationally.

“The notion was that a lot of things we do in the school of public health, particularly in the health policy department, were relevant to young doctors and doctors in general because their world is governed in policies,” Mullan said.

Melissa McCarthy, a professor of health policy and of emergency medicine, said she currently oversees research that looks at the social factors of a patient – like diet and education – which could predict their future health care use and cost under Medicaid. She said her team is currently enrolling patients when they come to the emergency department or visit a primary care doctor through GW.

“There are a lot of times, I think, when public health collaborates with medicine either because research questions are clinical or they have clinical implications or they are acts of care issues, they are quality of care,” she said.

McCarthy said working with the medical school on research helps advance patient care and health care because what impacts a person's health isn't always directly medical. She said areas like education, the environment, nutrition and access to green spaces play a “big role” in someone's health, and public health research works to address these factors with medical research.

McCarthy said funding is already competitive for research projects, and combining different levels of expertise between both schools can make research projects

more appealing and more likely to be federally funded.

Sam Simmens, a research professor of epidemiology and biostatistics, said he currently runs the Milken Institute School of Public Health's biostatistics consulting service, where “virtually all of the work” is collaborative. He said working with the medical school – in addition to his colleagues within the public health school – can help researchers put together a more complete “picture” of an issue, where more than one approach is considered before starting a project.

“It can result in more creative, innovative results or projects because you are hearing ideas that come from other disciplines that you may not have thought of before,” Simmens said.

Avi Dor, a professor of health policy and management and the director of the health economics program, said one of the most unexpected collaborations between the two schools has been research on health care economics. Dor said the health economics program houses projects that examine the impact of regulatory environments and state policies on both medical practices and public health, which require skill sets from both schools.

Dor said one project currently looks at the impacts of medical malpractice insurance premiums on cardiologists and the type – factoring in the level of risk – of treatments prescribed.

“By joining efforts, together we were able to secure funding from both NIH and foundations to implement this research,” Dor said in an email. “This exemplifies the strong interest in both the biomedical research community and health policy communities nationally in understanding the role financial incentives play in influencing health care.”



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Victoria Lewis, the SA's director of interfaith, submitted two proposals to SA leaders Monday to update the University's religious exemption calendar.

# Officials revive SMPA council to garner student feedback

**PARTH KOTAK**

CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

The School of Media and Public Affairs is launching a new forum to gather student input on courses, events and technology.

The SMPA Director's Council, a group that aims to bring students and administrators together to discuss ways to improve the school, will have its first meeting at the end of the month. Frank Sesno, the director of SMPA, said the council will discuss a broad range of topics related to SMPA, including ideas for potential new courses and student leadership.

"The purpose of the SMPA Director's Council is to have ongoing dialogue between students and SMPA leadership," Sesno said in an email. "We want to create a platform to have dynamic conversations about the student experience at SMPA."

Sesno said the group is a

reincarnation of SMPA's Student Advisory Council, an initiative created by former SMPA Director Lee Huebner in 2007 that is no longer active. Sesno added that the school is looking to revive the council to create a consistent forum for administrators to hear from students.

"I felt the Student Advisory Council that we organized some years ago was a very helpful project, and strongly support Director Sesno's plan to revive the idea," Huebner said in an email.

Sesno said the council's first meeting on Nov. 30, which is open to all SMPA students, will involve a discussion of the council's size, including the number of students, faculty and administrators; the potential organizational structure of the council; and future agendas and meeting times.

"We value the input of our students and want to hear about their experiences and represent their



HATCHET FILE PHOTO  
Frank Sesno, the director of SMPA, said the council will discuss a broad range of topics related to SMPA, including ideas for potential new courses and student leadership.

interests in extracurricular activities and events," Sesno said. "Our students are also a crucial part of the

unique and intergenerational SMPA community. We are proud to help continue to foster that com-

munity which makes the experience so special."

Two SMPA students launched the SMPA Stu-

dent Advocacy Mentoring and Programming Council last year with a similar goal – to provide SMPA students with an outlet in which they could voice their concerns. But since the beginning of the academic year, only two posts have been written in the organization's Facebook page.

André Gonzalez and Jonathan Kandell, the two founders of STAMP, did not return multiple requests for comment.

David Karpf, SMPA's associate director and an associate professor of media and public affairs, said faculty "are aware of and in favor of establishing" the council, characterizing a successful council as a win-win for students and faculty.

"If it's successful, faculty will have a better window into student opinion, and students will have a better venue for setting priorities and raising concerns," he said in an email.

# D.C. increases cap, reduces speed limit on dockless scooters, bikes

**KELSEY BARLETT,  
LIA DEGROOT &  
LIZZIE STRICKLIN**

REPORTERS

D.C. residents will likely see more dockless bicycles and scooters on the streets next year – but they'll move more slowly.

The District Department of Transportation released new regulations last week that limit the speed of vehicles. The regulations also increase the number of dockless vehicles that companies can operate in the District from 400 to 600, but scooter companies said the new cap is not enough to meet the District's transportation needs.

The changes are the second adjustment to regulations for dockless vehicles since a pilot program launched in 2017 allowing dockless bike and scooter companies to operate vehicles in D.C. as long as companies share data with DDOT. Residents have voiced safety concerns about dockless vehicles, complaining that they are often left on sidewalks.

DDOT will evaluate updates to the program and will assess companies' fleet sizes quarterly to determine if the number of vehicles



KEEGAN MULLEN | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
The District Department of Transportation released new regulations last week that limit the speed of vehicles.

can increase by 25 percent, according to a release.

The new rules cut the top speed that electric scooters can travel at from 15 mph to 10 mph or less and limit electric bikes to 20 mph or less. The regulations also clarify that the 600-vehicle cap does not include vehicles with adaptations for people with disabilities.

can increase by 25 percent, according to a release.

Dan Emerine, the manager of DDOT's policy and legislative affairs division, said the new regulations will allow the dockless vehicle programs to grow in a deliberate and safe manner.

"Many individuals like the dockless program and would like to see it grow to provide more sustainable transportation options,"

Emerine said in an email. "Others have expressed concern about the safety and speed of electric scooters, particularly on sidewalks, and the impacts of scooters and bikes parked in inappropriate locations."

He said the new regulations address residents' safety concerns by mandating that companies equip dockless bikes with locking

mechanisms so they can be locked to stationary objects out of the way of pedestrian traffic. A 10 mph limit will reduce safety hazards and reckless riding, Emerine said.

He added that the regulations enable the District to hold dockless vehicle companies accountable for safety issues because they require the companies to report data about safety incidents and vehicle maintenance directly to DDOT. He said DDOT will be able to track the data "to ensure that companies are staying on top of their responsibility to offer safe transportation options."

But dockless scooter companies said DDOT must offer a larger cap on vehicle numbers to meet the demand of riders in D.C.

Maggie Gendron, the director of strategic development at Lime, said the company hopes to continue to pursue a relationship with DDOT that prioritizes user needs because Lime riders have requested more scooters in the city, but the company cannot issue the vehicles unless DDOT increases the cap.

Gendron said although

the company appreciates that DDOT is welcoming "greener and more affordable shared mobility options," the 200 extra vehicles are not enough.

"We look forward to working with DDOT, as we have since day one, towards a collaborative solution that provides more transportation options for everyone throughout the District," Gendron said in an email.

Two dockless bike-share companies, Mobike and Ofo, ceased business operations in D.C. at the end of DDOT's initial pilot period in July, claiming that DDOT's limits on vehicle numbers hindered user experience.

Sanjay Dastoor, the CEO for Skip, another dockless scooter company that operates in D.C., said the company is still reviewing DDOT's new regulations.

"We respect DDOT's process and are pleased to see that the new permit terms continue to place value on a collaborative relationship between DDOT and scooter providers like Skip," he said. "We're looking forward to continuing to work with the city to serve the D.C. area."

# Nursing school partners with outside groups for research projects

**PAIGE MORSE**

REPORTER

The nursing school is partnering with outside foundations and organizations to make nursing research projects more competitive.

Officials in the nursing school said they are working to engage more nursing faculty in research projects with additional hires focused on research projects and more events focused on research engagement. Officials said they want researchers to collaborate with other schools within the University and partner with outside organizations to make their projects more appealing to funders.

The move comes after the School of Nursing implemented its strategic plan in January, which also pushes for a greater emphasis on research within the school.

Pamela Jeffries, the dean of the School of Nursing, said that over the past two years, officials in the school have worked to build a "research base" and programs for faculty interested in research endeavors. She said when a researcher is hired, officials look at potential cross-collaborations and how the individual can work across other schools, disciplines and focus areas.

"A robust research project will have high-quality investigators bringing different expertise in methods, statistics and content expertise,

among other areas," Jeffries said in an email. "Researchers in GW Nursing are encouraged to collaborate and, for the most part, have already collaborated with others prior to being hired at GW Nursing."

Jeffries said that in "today's competitive grant funding world," grants are typically not funded unless there is collaboration across disciplines, schools and research sites.

"Nurses do not work in silos but are a part of a health care team," she said.

Jeffries said researchers in the nursing school are also able to partner with hospitals to conduct research that explores different health care models and strategies for better transition to practice. She said researchers can also partner with outside funders like the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a public health philanthropic organization.

At a Faculty Assembly meeting last month, officials presented a report visualizing individual schools' collaborations with other schools or outside groups. The report showed that the nursing school most often works with institutions or organizations that fall in the "other" category, which Jeffries said includes foundations, professional organizations and hospital partners.

Jeanne Geiger-Brown, the associate dean for research, said cross-disciplinary collaboration in

research is a "priority" for the nursing school, and researchers are encouraged to pursue partnerships with faculty from other schools, like the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the Milken Institute School of Public Health and the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

Geiger-Brown said officials in the nursing school meet "regularly" with faculty members who are interested in conducting research to examine all of the possibilities for collaboration within GW and with outside partners.

"We align our faculty with the best possible research partners to ensure that the collaboration is a true team effort," Geiger-Brown said in an email.

Melissa Batchelor-Murphy, an associate professor and geriatric nursing researcher, said she was brought in as a research professor this academic year to help the nursing school work toward expanding the school's research profile. She said faculty within the nursing school who are "research intensive" were hired to write grants and oversee projects that are "innovative and contribute to the field."

"Typically, the more people you have at the table, the better questions you're going to ask," she said. "You're going to get different perspectives on how to design your study, and when you get to looking at the results, the anal-



SABRINA GODIN | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER  
Pamela Jeffries, the dean of the School of Nursing, said that over the past two years, officials in the school have worked to build programs for faculty interested in research endeavors.

ysis is going to be richer because you have different perspectives from different disciplines."

Batchelor-Murphy said her current research focuses on Alzheimer's disease and specific feeding techniques that can help older adults.

Nursing experts said cross-collaborative projects can be more competitive and more likely to receive funding.

Janet Schneiderman, a research associate professor and the chair of nursing at the University of Southern California, said that while cross-collaboration for nursing research can improve future patient care, there are often budget and fund-

ing-related setbacks that can arise when schools work together on a project, which might require research teams to pursue outside funding.

"When a university has revenue-centered management, each school's budget is separate from other schools so sometimes issues arise in grant funding and collaboration around courses," Schneiderman said in an email.

The strategic plan for GW's nursing school pushes for a greater emphasis on research, which has led to additional faculty and scientist hires with research backgrounds. Officials also said a greater emphasis on research could bring in more ex-

ternal research dollars for the nursing school, allowing faculty and students to pursue more clinical research in their fields as nursing research grows on the national level.

Barbara Bates-Jensen, a nursing professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, said competitive research universities focus on collaborative projects across multiple schools or organizations.

"Nursing schools should always focus on research just as an engineering school or chemistry school should focus on research as this is the way to provide new science to the discipline," Bates-Jensen said in an email.

### STAFF EDITORIAL

## Administrators must follow through in providing complete syllabus bank

This week, students register for classes. Many have spent the past few weeks talking to friends, reviewing Rate My Professor and scanning through the schedule of classes in hopes of crafting the perfect schedule, but students are not armed with all the information the University promised.

At the end of the spring semester, administrators created a useful tool for students: the syllabus bank. The compilation of syllabi would allow students to make informed decisions on the classes they choose to register for, but the current product is far from helpful. More than 4,000 classes will be offered in the upcoming spring semester, and yet only 49 syllabi have been uploaded, as of Sunday.

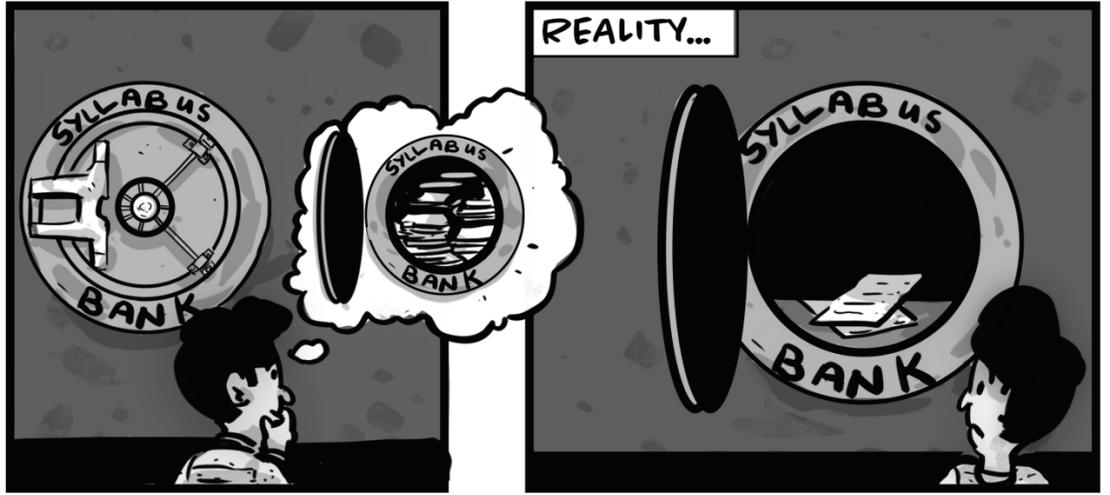
Even as the fall semester comes to an end, only 600 syllabi for the fall semester were uploaded, but thousands of classes are currently in session. Students have called for a syllabus bank and professors said they supported the system, but the current product isn't useful. Students should be able to review syllabi ahead of course registration and it is especially disappointing that the system isn't being used because it just requires the push of a button.

By not mandating that documents are uploaded to the syllabus bank, the University puts both students and professors at

a disadvantage. For students, a useful syllabus bank equipped with a roadmap to each course offered on campus would allow them to register for classes they actually want to take. Course names can be vague, but if students had the opportunity to review the content of a course before registering, they would make more informed decisions instead of having to rely on the add and drop period to change their schedule when they realize a course wasn't what they expected.

Beyond just ensuring students are informed when registering for courses, the lack of a robust syllabus bank can have real implications for some students.

Students with disabilities need access to many pieces of information that are included on syllabi. Information like attendance requirements, technology policies and large projects may impact whether a student with a disability is able to take a course, and they need that information before they register. While Disability Support Services works to ensure all students get the adjustments they need in the classroom, some students may opt to take a class that allows all students to use computers, for example, instead of getting special permission that would make them stand out throughout the semester — and they should be able to do that.



Cartoon by Jekko Syquia

For other students, it is important that they have access to a syllabus so they are aware of external costs associated with the class. Required textbooks, online materials and any other requirements that have an added cost can add up, and students should be able to make class decisions based on that as well. With access to syllabi before course registration, students would also be aware of whether the courses they take are in the Top Textbooks program, which began last year, and that information would be crucial for students who struggle with affording their education.

Increasing participation in the syllabus bank doesn't just benefit students — it can help profes-

sors as well. By providing a syllabus for their class ahead of time, professors will be greeted by a classroom full of eager and engaged students on the first day because students will have made educated decisions regarding their schedule. Instead of proceeding with caution during the first week or so of class — knowing that some students will add and drop courses after seeing the syllabus — professors will be able to dive into the course material and make better use of the limited time they have with students.

Mandating that professors upload their syllabi is not a hard task. Individual departments already approve syllabi, and the University already requires

professors to include information about topics like resources on campus and the average time spent on course work outside of the classroom — so adding one additional requirement would not be difficult. With other requirements already in place, there is no excuse for why professors should not be required to add their syllabi to the bank and support students.

It is not hard for professors to upload their syllabi to the bank, but it is incredibly important. The creation of a syllabus bank is a good first step, but it needs to be a requirement for professors so it can be a great resource instead of just a collection of a few dozen syllabi that aren't helpful to a majority of stu-

dents. Professors are failing students by not uploading course information that is vital to making registration decisions and the University has neglected to follow through on providing an accurate and full syllabus bank by not tracking which professors uploaded their syllabi. That needs to change.

Uploading a single document to a database for students is a simple task that has great benefits. The University must require professors to upload their syllabi prior to registration to ensure that all students have the ability to make class decisions that best fit their interests and ability to perform well in their classes.

## Students applying to RA program must be dedicated to supporting students

The transition from high school into college is one of the most difficult changes to face, especially when moving to an urban campus like GW. Freshmen can feel as if they have been thrust into the middle of a bustling city, but having a resident adviser who serves as a friend and mentor can offset many of the challenges that come with this transition.

The application to become an RA closes this week, and as students consider applying for the program — they must only apply if they plan to be dedicated to this important job.

Hannah Thacker  
Writer

Serving as an RA is a privilege that comes with many perks. RAs are compensated with a single dorm room and a yearly stipend of \$2,500. While free housing and some extra cash are enticing, RAs must be committed to supporting their residents.

An RA's job is not just decorating bulletin boards and hosting mandatory meetings at the beginning of the year to craft a roommate agreement. RAs are expected to work 20 hours each week and must serve as a mentor or mediator for all of their residents.

In many cases, a freshman's RA is the first upperclassman they meet on campus. Depending on the RA, they can either serve as a support system or someone that simply tells students to not be so loud during quiet hours, but it is up to them to put in the work needed to do their job effectively.

Our campus does not naturally make freshmen feel at home, so the importance of an RA is heightened at GW. While several of our peer schools, like Georgetown and Syracuse universities, have traditional enclosed campuses, GW is situated in the middle of the city which can make students feel like they don't have a community to call their own. Residence halls have a lack of common spaces and some buildings have more than 100 people on each floor, which also adds to a feeling of isolation that can plague

the freshman experience. Especially for students who are not used to living in an urban area, D.C. can feel big and overwhelming and contribute to making the transition to college more difficult.

Resident advisers are hired to serve as advisers, as the title aptly states. So all RAs — especially those who serve freshmen — need to fulfill their duties as a mentor and friend, rather than just a last resort conflict-solver and hall decorator. Having an older mentor that freshmen can look up to and ask for advice, rather than just an authority figure, will help freshmen feel like they have someone to go to for social and academic support. RAs should regularly chat with their residents, check in and see how they're handling their first year of college, send out weekly email updates and make it clear to their residents that someone cares about their well-being. While some RAs do all of the above and more, there are some who don't and that makes it seem like these individuals are in the position for the benefits and not because they want to support their peers.

The college transition can be socially difficult. Many students come to college leaving behind friends they have known all their lives, and find themselves without friends for the first time. If freshmen come to campus and feel as if they have a support system with their RA — which is what their role should be — students will feel more welcomed in their own dorm and in the long run, feel more welcomed on campus.

Students who are considering applying to be an RA for the next academic year must consider what their motivation is for applying. The benefits, like free housing and a stipend, cannot be the reason why students fill out their application, and students who are hired as RAs must put in the work necessary to support their students so a freshman's experience doesn't differ floor to floor or building to building.

—Hannah Thacker, a freshman majoring in political communication, is a Hatchet opinions writer.

## Political participation shouldn't end with midterm elections

The midterm elections have ended, the votes have been tabulated and the results are fairly clear: America is and will continue to be as divided as ever before. The end of single-party rule in D.C. will surely lead to more gridlock, and the partisan struggle between Democrats and Republicans shows no signs of abating. As a result, regardless of where you are on the political spectrum, there are things to be elated or enraged about in equal measure.

Andrew Sugrue  
Writer

Young people, especially students, can find one bright spot after the midterm elections in seeing that the nation's youth made their voices heard. Even though this year's midterm elections are over, students should not let their guard down or give up the fight. Change is made by those who raise their voices, and even though the midterms are over, students across the nation should keep fighting for what they believe in.

GW is a very politically active campus. In the lead-up to this year's midterms, students across the University participated in numerous get-out-the-vote efforts, tense protests at the Capitol Building and campaign trips across the country.

Both the GW College Democrats and College Republicans rolled up their sleeves to campaign for candidates and causes they believed in. They even wound up in the same district, Virginia's 10th District, campaigning for dueling candidates. The Democratic candidate, Jennifer Wexton, ended up beating the Republican incumbent, Barbara Comstock, in what was one of the most closely-watched races of the cycle.

America saw the power of impassioned youth this election cycle. Exit polls from Tuesday's election show that early voting among the 18 to 29 age bloc — one that usually sports absolutely abysmal turnout rates — was up 188 percent from 2014, totaling more than 3.3 million votes. Anticipating this youth involvement, many popular websites, apps and social media pitched in to try to get young voters to vote. Twitter, Google, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube all implored users to get registered and turn out on Election Day. Snapchat alone registered as many as 400,000 new voters in key swing states like Georgia, Florida and Texas.

Perhaps one of the main reasons that the younger bloc of voters played more of a role this time around was the fact that more of the issues they care about are front and center. Topics like gun control, lowering the cost of college and minority and LGBTQ rights were salient this election cycle, and are issues that young people tend to care more about. The fact that young voters tend to vote Democratic — compounded with the fact that turnout for registered Democrats increased by 4.6 percent in the midterm elections — should not be overlooked, but it's hardly the point.

Both sides of the political spectrum have both good things and bad to take away from these midterm elections. Nobody got everything that they wanted. And that's why students need to keep pushing for the causes they believe in, even after the midterms.

One of the single most salient causes this cycle, gun control, provides a perfect example. Those who want gun control can find elation in the fact that more than two dozen candidates who were proponents of gun control were defeated by challengers who

are gun control advocates. But those who don't support gun control can look to the probable victories of pro-gun candidates in the Florida and Georgia gubernatorial races and be happy there are advocates for limited restrictions on firearms. Both sides of the gun debate still have a lot left to fight for in the pursuit of what they believe to be right.

Other issues, like LGBTQ rights, were present in Massachusetts. Voters had the opportunity to repeal a law that protects transgender individuals from discrimination in public spaces including bathrooms and locker rooms. A majority of voters voted to keep the law, with a projected majority of 68 percent. With an increased amount of LGBTQ representation in candidates, these bills and laws protecting minority communities will likely become more common.

Change is a two-way street. It's easy to take a good election result as a win and become complacent. We can't let that happen because there's simply too much at stake. As seen in this election, the power of young people at the ballot box is formidable. But despite the importance of voting, we need to do more.

We need to keep speaking out and continue shaping the public debate around the policies that will change the nation we're growing up in. Whether it is in the form of campaigning, phone banking or protesting, our political expression matters. We all need to stay passionate about what we care about, because activism translates into votes. The road to meaningful change — regardless of if you're liberal, conservative or in between — is a long, arduous fight. And it's one worth waging and winning.

—Andrew Sugrue, a freshman majoring in political science, is a Hatchet opinions writer.

## GAMES OF THE WEEK



### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

vs. Maryland  
7 p.m. • Wednesday  
The Colonials will host the Terrapins, who are currently ranked No. 9 in the Associated Press poll, at the Smith Center.



### MEN'S WATER POLO

MAWPC Championships at Fordham Friday  
GW, the defending conference champion, will play in the quarterfinal round of MAWPC playoffs in the Bronx.

**NUMBER CRUNCH** 56.7

Average number of kills per match volleyball has totaled throughout its three-game win streak

# Rebounding, perimeter defense plague men's basketball

**BARBARA ALBERTS**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Three games into the 2018-19 season, men's basketball is struggling to play well underneath the glass and while defending the three-point line.

The glaring issue for the Colonials (0-3) has been rebounding. GW has been out-rebounded in all three of its matches this season and has been unable to prevent teams from getting hot beyond the arc.

"You play a few games, the numbers are going to start to identify some strengths and some weaknesses for everybody," head coach Maurice Joseph said after the game against Siena Thursday. "And right now the glass is hurting us."

While GW has been outplayed under the glass across the board, the Colonials have particularly struggled with offensive rebounding. The Colonials have been beaten by an average margin of 5.3 offensive rebounds per game in their last three outings.

In an exhibition game against Catholic last month, the Colonials let the Cardinals, a Division III team, grab two more rebounds than GW while also beating the Colonials in offensive rebounds.

Outplaying GW under the glass has allowed opponents to pick up a total of 49 second-chance points to the Colonials' 24.

"We're a little bit undersized, but we better have a gang mentality on the glass and go rebound as a unit," Joseph said. "We're not quite doing that, we're letting other guys get the ball from us."

Against Siena, the Colonials were at a significant height disadvantage as three of the Saints' starting



OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR

Freshman forward Mezie Offurum drives through Virginia's defense during a men's basketball game Sunday.

players came in at 6 feet 9 inches tall. GW's tallest starter was junior forward Arnaldo Toro at 6 feet 8 inches. The shortest starting Saint was 6 feet 4 inches and still taller than three of GW's starting five.

In order to match up against taller teams, Joseph said he would have to compromise experience for height.

"A lot of times, the game is happening really fast, it happens really fast for freshmen, for freshmen it's like playing in a beehive," Joseph said. "As you get older, the game slows down naturally for everybody, but to play bigger we're going to have to play some younger guys."

Three of the team's tallest players are underclassmen who are yet to be fully tested in collegiate play, and the Colonials continue to favor a shorter lineup in games.

Freshman forward Marcus Littles, tied for the tallest rostered Colonial at 6 feet 9 inches, only saw seven minutes of play in the team's game against Stony Brook and did not get time on the court against Siena. Against Virginia Littles saw nine minutes on the court and committed four turnovers.

Sophomore forward Javier Langarica has logged 11 minutes on the court, but has picked up just six points and zero rebounds

in his time.

But freshman forward Mezie Offurum also comes in on the taller end at 6 feet 6 inches, and played heavy minutes against Stony Brook, logging a team-leading 40 minutes in his first collegiate start. He grabbed six defensive rebounds, but none on the offensive glass.

GW showed signs of improvement on the offensive glass against Virginia, matching the Cavaliers with six offensive rebounds.

Joseph said Sunday's rebounding performance signals a shift in attention to detail under the glass for the Colonials.

Joseph said he will continue testing lineups in order to find the right combi-

nation of height and speed.

On the perimeter, the Colonials have fallen victim to sharpshooting offenses, allowing opponents to garner 9.0 threes per game, 2.3 more than the Colonials' average.

In the Colonials' outing against Siena alone, the Saints picked up 39 of their 69 points on 13 made threes in the night, and two Saints went a combined 9-for-16 from the perimeter.

In their exhibition game against Catholic, the Colonials allowed senior guard Jimmy Golaszewski, who tallied 28 points total, to go 4-for-9 from beyond the arc.

Sophomore guard Terry Nolan Jr. said after the game against Siena that all

five players on the court need to be able to defend the perimeter.

"It starts with us locking and trailing on ball screens, pulling out on down screens," Nolan said. "Starts with us being present on the catch, starts with us closing gaps to make up getting clipped on the screens."

Nolan has been the only Colonial to tally more than three three-point shots in a game after he dropped four against Siena.

The team has shown in spurts it has the ability to score well. The Colonials' 22-0 run to open the season against Stony Brook and their scoring runs to keep up with Siena down the stretch show glimmers of the fast-paced offense Joseph has been preaching. The Colonials outscored Virginia 40-34 in the second half of their game Sunday after picking up just 17 points against the Cavaliers' defense in the first frame.

But the Colonials have been unable to capitalize on wide-open shots and multiple trips to the free-throw line to continue their momentum on the court. Joseph said the team cannot rely on making shots to control the game, but instead needs to make the "tough plays" to beat opponents.

"True character is defined when things aren't going well for you and we're not handling tough moments well enough right now," Joseph said. "That's a sign of an inexperienced team."

The Colonials return to action Saturday when they face off against No. 19 Michigan in Uncasville, Conn., at noon as part of the Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament.

# Men's and women's squash build on foundation set last season

**EMILY MAISE**  
REPORTER

With four months until their final slated match, both squash programs are shooting to move up at least one spot in the national rankings and continue the trajectory they began last season.

Men's and women's squash kicked off the 2018-19 season with clean sweeps over the weekend. The Colonials went 9-0 against Georgetown's club squash team to open the season with a perfect record. The men's team picked up one more clean sweep against Hobart and before being edged by Western Ontario 5-4 to round out the weekend.

The men's team

achieved its highest ranking in program history last season when it won the College Squash Association Hoehn Cup (B-Division) and broke into the top 10 in the College Squash Association national rankings at No. 9, the program's highest national ranking. This season, head coach Wendy Lawrence said the men have their eyes on a spot in the coveted A-Division, which houses the top-eight teams.

"It sounds like it's not a big jump, but moving one or two spots when you're up in the rarefied air of the top eight, it's very hard to do," Lawrence said.

The women's side finished No. 14 in the nation last season, two spots down from GW's ranking the year

before. Lawrence said she aims for the women's team to jump back into the No. 12 spot this season.

On the men's side, the Colonials have focused on increasing the pace of matches and working to better control the game while honing their craft and improving discipline through repetitive drills.

"Our trainings are focused more so on discipline more than anything these days, so there's a lot of repetition," senior Julian Jervis said. "As a team, we're a bit more disciplined this year than we were last year."

The Colonials retained 10 members of last year's 13-man squad, including senior Moudy Abdel-Maksoud who earned CSA Second Team All-American honors last season. Four returners played in the quarterfinals of last year's CSA Individual National Championships in the Molloy North, South and East divisions.

The men add three freshmen to the mix to replace three graduates, including 2018-graduate and three-time team MVP Oisín Logan, who led the team last season with 20 victories and holds the program record in career singles victories.

Sophomore Salim Khan said the whole team is stepping up and improving their game to fill the void left by last year's senior class.

"A lot of people who were lower on the ladder last year are really moving up this year, and they're all trying to improve their games a lot," Khan said.

With only 10 rostered players, the women's squad has the smallest lineup at GW since the 2010-11 season in a conference that houses teams that range from 11 to 13 players, but Lawrence said she expects the women's team to slide up two spots into the conference's top 12.

Junior Emma Tryon said the women want to im-



DEAN WHITELAW | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER

The men's squash team has focused on increasing the pace of matches and working to better control the game while honing their craft and improving discipline through repetitive drills.

prove their shot selection on the court to help them climb up the rankings by not being afraid to try new skills in practice.

"Squash is live chess," Tryon said. "We're trying to figure out sequences and the right shots."

Junior Engy Elmandouh said the women's squad has increased the amount of

gained two freshmen and saw three seniors graduate including 2018-graduate Abby Shonrock, who was second on last season's team with 15 victories.

Elmandouh said losing seniors like Shonrock motivates the team to work harder and pushes them to be better.

"The bar has been raised

more victories last season.

Lawrence said staying healthy this season is critical if both teams want to weather the long season and peak during the right times. The season runs from November through March, and Lawrence said the ideal time for the teams to peak and make a run at nationals is February.

To maintain health and improve performance, Lawrence added an extra day of weight training for both programs this season.

Jervis said the men's team lost winnable games last season by a small margin of points. The women's team also endured a few close losses last season, including a loss to Brown that was decided by one match.

"It really, I think, comes down to us playing bigger in those big rallies to win, to close out those games, to win those matches," Jervis said.

Both teams return to action Saturday when they take on Pennsylvania on the road. The women's team is slated to begin play at 2:30 p.m. and the men's team will start at 4:30 p.m.

**"As a team, we're a bit more disciplined this year than we were last year."**

**JULIAN JERVIS**  
SENIOR

cardio and endurance training they do to be fitter than their competition. The team has implemented various speed drills and weight lifting to gain strength and battle fatigue during matches.

"We might not necessarily have technique, but we want to always be fitter than the other team," Elmandouh said. "We mainly work a lot on footwork and court sprints."

The women's squad

## IN BRIEF

### Women's cross country earns program record finish at NCAA regional competition

Women's cross country placed 14th out of 30 teams at the NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional competition Friday to end the 2018 season.

The finish is the best in program history for the Colonials, who placed 16th out of 28 teams last season. The squad clocked an average time of 22:46.0, less than two minutes behind the average time of first-place finisher Villanova.

Men's cross country did not compete as a team, but entered three individuals – sophomore Jackson Cronin, senior Andrew Weber and senior Connor James – in the race.

Junior Suzanne Dannheim was the top finisher for GW on the women's side, coming in 23rd place with a time of 21:44.9.

Two other Colonials – senior Halley Brown and sophomore Margaret Coogan – finished in the top 100 runners out of 205 that competed. Brown and Coogan clocked in at 22:46.1 and 22:52.9, respectively.

Cronin finished on top out of the three GW men that competed, placing 36th out of the 169 runners that competed on the men's side. He finished with a time of 32:11.9, a personal record.

Weber also placed in the top 50, taking 47th place with a time of 32:32.7. In his first time running the 10-kilometer race, James was the final Colonial to cross the finish line in 109th place at 33:41.1.

—Kerri Corcoran

**LOUIS THE CHILD**  
9:30 Club  
Nov. 14 • \$36  
DJ duo Louis the Child uses electronic future bass for a unique sound fit for EDM fans.

**YOUNG THE GIANT**  
The Anthem  
Nov. 16 • \$40  
Alternative rock and indie pop unite in Young the Giant's new album, "Mirror Master."

**GUCCI MANE**  
Echostage  
Nov. 18 • \$40  
After his release from prison, Gucci Mane raps about his experience in the clink and features A-list artists like Migos and Lil Yachty.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

'EDEN,' AN ALBUM BY CUPCAKKE

## Luxury van offers grooming services for men on campus

SHIVAANI GARDNER  
REPORTER

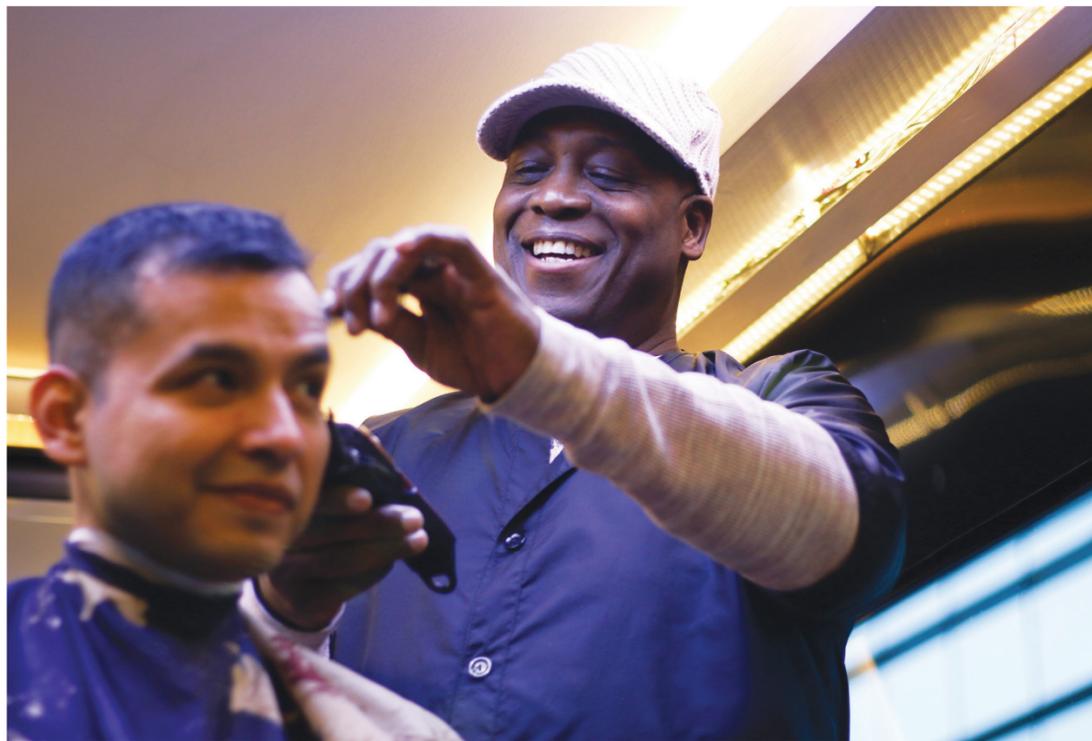
Roscoe Garnes has been cutting hair in the District for 30 years, serving clients like former presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush – and now, students.

Garnes owned Wall's Barbershop on 17th and G streets for 15 years before starting Exsequi – a one-man grooming business inside a luxury van – just five months ago. He rolls up to H Street by the Marvin Center about five days each week to provide services including straight razor shaves, blowouts and cuts.

"Every time you go to a barber shop, you don't have too much of an option of what it is that you want, and you know you're paying your money," Garnes said. "The personalization of a mobile service, that's what I'm reaching toward."

Beyond the black Mercedes Benz van's tinted windows, patrons can find a single barber's chair surrounded by a hardwood interior with string lights, heat systems and a flat-screen television. But the one van is just a prototype unit, and Garnes said he is hoping to release a second van within the next year or two.

When Garnes is not giving cuts on campus, the company's website allows clients to book appointments at any given location in the District and the van will travel to



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Roscoe Garnes started Exsequi, a one-man grooming business inside a luxury van, about five months ago.

them. Appointments can be booked and paid for online, but Garnes also has a Square account and accepts payments through Cash App or Venmo.

Garnes said his network of clients takes him to various D.C. neighborhoods and he likes the personal, conversational nature of the job.

"Barbering is better than

social media because of the confidentiality that people feel they can trust in their barber," he said.

The D.C. native has been barbering since 1988. After his first business, located just across the street from the White House, he began to call himself the "unofficial White House barber," as he was known for serving famous

government figures and experts.

Cuts run for \$65, which isn't exactly cost-friendly for a student's budget, but Garnes said he offers discounts for students, veterans and police and fire department personnel to give back to the community he grew up in. Instead of charging \$85 for a cleanup

shave with a straight razor, he may throw it in complimentary with a haircut as a college special – although tipping is still highly appreciated, he said.

"When I'm dealing with students, it doesn't matter how upscale the van is, or what I bring my price down to, I still want to give you your service that you're pay-

ing for," Garnes said. "I don't want to take anything away from you if I'm supposed to serve you."

Javier Sanchez, who manages the marketing for Exsequi, said he could not find a barber within miles of his D.C. neighborhood before he stumbled upon a local flier for Garnes' services. Now as Garnes' business partner, Sanchez said the duo is working on developing an app that makes grooming even more convenient for the "time-strapped" consumer.

As a New York City consulting firm owner with a background in men's style, Sanchez said the mobile grooming service seemed like the "perfect fit" for him because the venture creates a personalized experience for a busy urban male.

"Right now, we're all stressed out, always being busy, always meeting deadlines, never having the time to take care of yourself, so this is really unique and personable," Sanchez said.

Looking forward, Garnes said he aims to expand to five vehicles as his business grows throughout D.C. He's also eyeing New York City as a new market and wants to expand to offer women's haircuts and blowouts.

"As long as you serve people with dignity and respect, then they're not going to leave you, they're going to stay with you," Garnes said.

## Students create app to post outfits, get style advice

LINDSAY PAULEN  
STAFF WRITER

Two students developed an app to help with the dreaded task of deciding what to wear.

The app, called Thisfits, is a social network focused on style that allows users to post on channels, which highlight outfits for specific events or environments. The app's creators said the platform allows users to document their outfits, get feedback and inspiration, or simply "humble brag" about a great look.

Sarah Shavin, a senior majoring in business administration and the app's founder, said she created the app to help users curate their own personal style, but it can also help people navigate what to wear in new situations like internships or networking events.

"I think fashion is so expansive that you could do so much if you have the right size user base in a virtual environment," Shavin said.

The image-heavy app contains different sections, including a profile to share your own style and a discover section where users can explore channels, which are

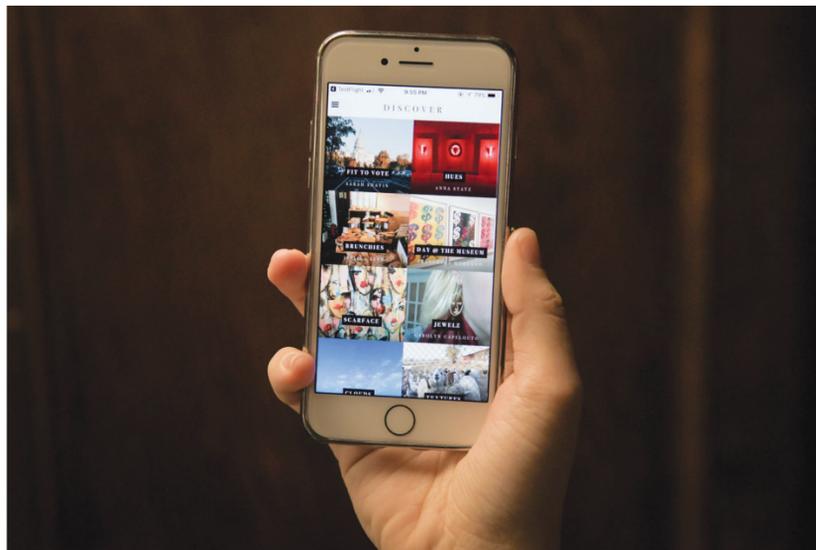


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Thisfits is an app created by two students that allows users to post outfits and get fashion advice.

similar to hashtags and let you look at a particular trend or topic. Inside each channel, you'll find a collage of looks on an online mood board for your style inspiration – from seasonal trends and patterns from other eras.

"It's for feedback, inspiration and humble bragging," Shavin said.

While pitching the idea for Thisfits at a demonstration last year at the GW Innovation Center, Shavin met another student, Ryan Steed, and the sophomore majoring in computer science and economics joined on to develop the app's framework.

Steed said Thisfits is the

first mobile application he has created, even though he had little expertise in the fashion world.

"How do you learn more about fashion when you're not really into it, how do you get to know what's out there and hear more of the conversation?" Steed said. "That's a great way to get connected

and to see what the environment is like."

Since meeting more than a year ago, Shavin and Steed, along with four other GW students, have worked through three iterations of Thisfits, which is now in its third round of beta testing.

About 100 users, comprised of fellow students and friends, are currently trial testing the app, and with each new version, the developers added new features, like a user profile page, and worked out pesky interface glitches.

"The idea is that we can put features out there, change things up really quickly and then have a close group of beta users that we can communicate with and get feedback from," Steed said. "If we do that enough times, we'll have the perfect product."

Shavin and Steed said "the dream" is to officially launch the app by the beginning of next year. Shavin said they want the app to be "high-functioning" before its release and that means removing all the little software issues.

Among the active users of Thisfits are several students, who said the app fills

a gap in online expression with personalized style profiles.

Katie Hopkins, a junior majoring in international affairs, said she received an email about beta testing Thisfits, which prompted her to download the app and test it out. Hopkins said watching other people's adventurous fashion choices through the app has made her want to take more of a risk when it comes to her own style.

"I've been hoarding this cheetah print jacket and honestly, until I got onto Thisfits and saw other people wearing animal print in public, I was almost ashamed to wear it," Hopkins said. "But now, I'm inspired."

Francesca Morgano, a sophomore majoring in international affairs, said she found out about Thisfits through the GW Fashion Business Association. Morgano said she started off posting mirror selfies on the app to document her daily outfits, but the app has grown useful for figuring out what to wear to her internship.

"I didn't even know I needed this kind of outlet," Morgano said.

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