

## Two residence halls lack security more than 95 percent of the time

**DANI GRACE, LIZZIE MINTZ & ZACH SCHONFELD**  
REPORTERS

While some of GW's residence halls require students to tap in with their GW IDs around the clock, two residence halls lack security more than 95 percent of the time, an analysis by The Hatchet found.

The University does not promise 24/7 security coverage for residence halls, but student access monitors – the students who check IDs – are scheduled for shifts across buildings 24 hours a day. The Hatchet checked security desks at District House and Amsterdam, South and Shenkman halls for 31 days at 10 a.m., 4 p.m. and 10 p.m.

A security monitor was present during 2 percent of total checks in Amsterdam Hall, 4 percent of checks in South Hall, 73 percent of checks in Shenkman Hall, 46 percent of checks at the H Street entrance of District House and 94 percent of checks at the I Street entrance of District House. Officials said the discrepancy is the result of prioritizing security in buildings with more public access.

Thirteen student access monitors declined to speak about their jobs, citing a University policy to not speak to the media. Two monitors did not return requests for comment.

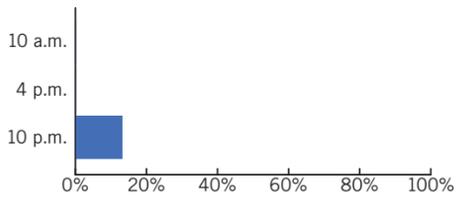
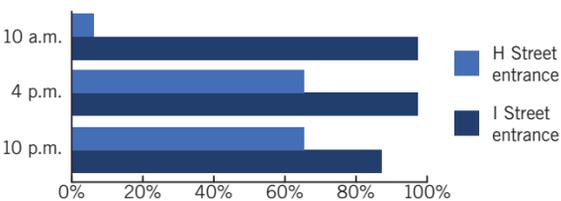
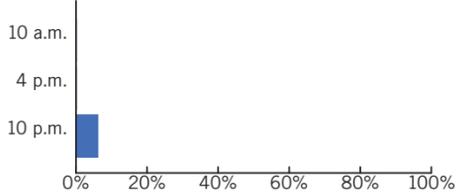
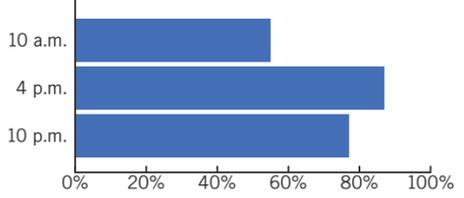
### Larger staff is not present

Darrell Darnell, the senior associate vice president for safety and security, said some residence halls, like Thurston Hall, require ID checks 100 percent of the time. Residence halls with more public access – like District House and Shenkman Hall – require a double-tap system, where a resident taps into the public lobby first and then into the residence-only section of the hall, he said.

“Even with the double-tap system, SAMs provide an additional layer of safety and security and can be a service to students by answering general informational ques-



Percentage of time student monitors were present



EMILY RECKO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

tions,” Darnell said in an email.

He said monitors were not present in South and Amsterdam halls at the beginning of the semester “as often” because other residence halls have historically experienced higher crime rates or have more public entrances.

GW Police Department has responded to unlawful entries to Shenkman, South and Amsterdam halls once each this semester, according to the University crime log.

Only two other reports of unlawful entry have occurred in other residence halls since the beginning of the semester.

Student access monitors are scheduled for shifts that are a minimum of two hours, and while the department asks students to commit to working at least eight hours each week, some students work up to 20 hours a week, Darnell said.

GWPD employs about 150 to 200 students a semester, according

to the department’s website. The department has hired more than 100 new monitors – who are in different stages of hiring and training – since Oct. 1, Darnell added.

“Once everyone is trained, our SAM program will be operating at normal levels comparable to previous years and our community should see more SAMs in more locations around campus,” Darnell said.

But from Oct. 14 to Nov. 13, no security monitors were present at

10 a.m. or 4 p.m. in Amsterdam or South halls, and at 10 p.m., monitors were not present 94 percent of the time in Amsterdam Hall and 87 percent of the time in South Hall.

Shenkman Hall did not have a security monitor present 45 percent of the time at 10 a.m. and 13 percent of the time at 4 p.m. Student access monitors were present 77 percent of the time at 10 p.m.

District House has two entrances on H Street – one to the residence hall and one to the basement food court – and one on I Street, which provides public access to the basement food court and Peef’s Coffee until 10 p.m.

When the H Street residence hall entrance was checked at 10 a.m., monitors were only present 6 percent of the time, while at 4 p.m. and 10 p.m., monitors were present 65 percent of the time. Monitors were present an average of 94 percent of the time at the I Street entrance over the month.

“The three entrances to District House provide different levels of public and private access and as such, we adjust and assign the SAM students to meet the needs of the entrance,” Darnell said.

Darnell said GW continuously analyzes factors like crime trends when determining how to staff security in its buildings. He declined to say what shifts or residence halls the department schedules for student access monitors or GWPD officers, saying the information could encourage criminal behavior.

The Office of Safety and Security also utilizes an “extensive” security camera system on both the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses, which allows GWPD to monitor and review activity in residence halls’ public areas and all lobbies of campus buildings, he said.

### Safety without monitors

Student Association President Ashley Le said it’s “important to understand” why certain residence

See **GWPD** Page 2

## Undergraduate population most diverse in at least a decade

**JACK LIU & SARAH ROACH**  
REPORTERS

The proportion of white students in the undergraduate student body has fallen annually for at least nine years, putting the population on track to fall below 50 percent white for the first time next fall.

The percentage of white undergraduates fell this fall from 52.5 to 50.7, while the percentage of students in nearly every minority demographic incremented by less than 1 percent each. Since 2013, the proportion of white students has dropped by about two percentage points each year, making the fall 2018 student body the most diverse group of undergraduates ever to enroll at GW, according to institutional data.

Officials and diversity experts said the trend is likely the result of the University going test-optional three years ago and making an effort to recruit students from underserved populations.

“Graduating an academically talented and diverse student body is critical to our success as a university and enhances the educational experience for all students,” Laurie Koehler, the senior vice provost of enrollment and the student experience, said in an email.

The University’s white undergraduate population has shifted between 50 and 60 percent for at least 10 years, with a high of 60.3 percent in 2013 and an overall average of 56.2 percent. But the percentage of students in every other demographic, like black, Hispanic, Asian and international students, has rarely surpassed 10 percent, according to institutional data.

This academic year, 10.8 percent of students identify as Asian, 7.1 percent identify as black, 10.3 percent identify as Hispanic and 10.7 percent of undergraduates are international students, an uptick in nearly every population com-

pared to last academic year.

The percentage of students who identify with two or more races and students with an unknown race stand at 2.9 and 6.8 percent, respectively.

Half of GW’s 12 peer schools, including Syracuse and Tulane universities, have an undergraduate population that is more than half white, and the six other schools, like the University of Miami and New York University, stand below 50 percent, according to each school’s respective institutional data pages.

### Changing admissions practices

Experts in diversity and higher education said GW may have become more diverse after switching admissions practices and recruitment strategies.

The University went test-optional in 2015 after former University President Steven Knapp made accessibility for minority students a priority of his administration. Since the switch, officials have seen record-high applicant numbers with an increase in applications from Latino, black and first-generation students.

Susan Albertine, a senior scholar in the Office of Quality, Curriculum and Assessment in the Association of American Colleges and Universities, said when students start to see that GW is welcoming of all racial and ethnic populations, individuals from minority backgrounds might be more inclined to apply knowing that they have a better chance of acceptance.

The University’s admit rate has also risen for the past two years, climbing to nearly 42 percent last spring.

“If the buzz is GW is a good place for diverse students, more diverse students start to apply, so there could be an effect over time,” Albertine said.

### GWHATCHET.COM

For more on the University’s changing demographics



HATCHET FILE PHOTO  
Former athletic director Patrick Nero has come under fire following various allegations of misconduct toward former players and athletic department staff.

## GW silent on claims that former athletic director had ‘strange’ social relationships with athletes

**BARBARA ALBERTS**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Four days after an article reporting a slew of allegations and an explicit video of GW’s former athletic director surfaced – the University and athletic department have remained tight-lipped.

With an article that sought to serve as an expose of the athletic department published on Deadspin Thursday, the department became embroiled in a controversy sparked by claims that former athletic director Patrick Nero acted inappropriately toward student-athletes, athletic department staff and recent graduates during his time working for GW.

As the 7,000-word article tracked more than 310,000 views and continues to be shared widely on social media, the University and all the major players in the controversy have re-

mained silent.

Athletic department spokesman Brian Sereno declined to answer more than 15 questions from The Hatchet posed to him and athletic director Tanya Vogel. Sereno also did not return a request to facilitate interviews with student-athletes and coaches who worked under Nero.

“We’re looking forward under excellent new leadership,” Sereno said in an email. “That is what our student-athletes deserve.”

University spokeswoman Lindsay Hamilton declined to comment on what the University’s role was in investigating Nero’s alleged misconduct and whether it would investigate the allegations further, deferring to Sereno.

In an attempt to confirm or deny the claims made primarily by anonymous sources in the Deadspin article, The Hatchet reached out to nearly 100 current and former student-

athletes, coaches and other individuals close to the athletic department. Nero did not return multiple requests for comment.

Most requests were met with silence that mirrored the University’s response, but those who were willing to speak had mixed reactions. Multiple current and former student-athletes, some of whom spoke under the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution, said Nero’s inappropriate behavior was often whispered about and caused problems for programs. But others celebrated the former athletic director and said the department’s silence was the product of a group that was “protective” of its student-athletes.

### A mixed legacy

Nero, who spent six years leading the department after he was first hired in 2011, watched 13 programs win championships,

expanded the department’s budget and was named an Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year less than a year before he stepped down.

When he resigned in December in the midst of basketball season – GW’s most celebrated sport – he said he was ready for the “next phase” of his career and officials touted his legacy.

A former student-athlete, who doubted allegations that some athletes received special treatment from Nero, said they found the article “disheartening.”

“My experiences with Mr. Nero were nothing but positive, so I really couldn’t relate to what was being said because of the positive influence he’s had on my life,” they said. “I know a lot of the people that were also student-athletes feel the same way.”

See **ALLEGATIONS** Page 6

## CRIME LOG

### TRAFFIC ACCIDENT: HIT AND RUN

2200 Block of F Street NW

11/8/2018 – 6:30 p.m.

Closed Case

A male student reported to the GW Police Department that a Nissan struck him while he was riding his bicycle down the street. The car drove away after hitting him.

**No identifiable subject**

### LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION, DISORDERLY CONDUCT

600 Block of 23rd Street NW

11/11/2018 – 12:06 a.m.

Closed Case

GWPD responded to a report of an intoxicated female in front of Shenkman Hall. Upon arrival, GWPD officers made contact with an intoxicated male and female student in a verbal altercation on the street. The Metropolitan Police Department responded, interviewed both students and cleared them to leave.

**Referred to ESE**

### THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Shenkman Hall (Gallery Market)

11/17/2018 – 10 p.m.

Closed Case

GWPD responded to a report that an individual stole merchandise from Gallery Market. While reviewing surveillance footage, the store manager saw an unknown male individual take a bottle of Orangina out of the refrigerator, drink it and then place it on top of the refrigerator. After a couple of minutes, the individual took the bottle, discarded it and left the store.

**No identifiable subject**

—Compiled by Valerie Yurk

# Proposed Title IX guidelines could force GW to abandon single-investigator model

LEAH POTTER  
NEWS EDITOR

A series of proposed changes to federal Title IX procedures could require GW to alter its Title IX policy and eliminate the single-investigator model for sexual violence cases.

The guidelines, released by the Department of Education Friday, also allow institutions to dismiss reports of off-campus assault, require cross-examination during investigations and use a more stringent standard for determining guilt. Officials declined to say how the changes would affect students, but Title IX experts said they would deter survivors from coming forward to report assaults.

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said GW takes issues of sexual misconduct, sexual violence and its obligations under Title IX “very seriously.” She said University officials are still reviewing the proposed regulations and are evaluating how they align or don’t align with GW’s current practices.

“The University is committed to fully supporting survivors, providing an equitable process for complainants and respondents and treating appropriately those who are found responsible for engaging in sexual misconduct or sexual violence,” Csellar said. Csellar said officials will continue to monitor the proposed guidelines and the education department’s feedback period, during which colleges and other institutions can comment on the proposal.

“It is premature to consider changes to our policies based on proposed regulations,” Csellar said. “In the meantime, the current policies and practices will remain in effect.”

She declined to say how the proposed changes would affect students and if the University will release a formal response to the proposed changes or engage with the Department of Education during the comment period on the proposal, which began Friday.

Csellar also declined to say how University officials reacted to the proposed prohibition of a single-investigator model, which officials implemented for the first time in July after years of using a six-person faculty and student hearing board to investigate cases.

### Eliminating the single-investigator model

Following a yearlong review of GW’s Title IX procedures, officials announced in May that they would employ a single investigator to consider complaints.

Eight of GW’s 12 peer schools use a single-investigator model or a hybrid model, where the facts and findings collected by the investigator are then used by a hearing board to determine the outcome of the case.

The proposed guide-



HATCHET FILE PHOTO  
Betsy DeVos, the education secretary, released guidelines Friday that would allow institutions to dismiss reports of off-campus assault, require cross-examination during investigations and use a more stringent standard for determining guilt.

lines would prohibit the use of a single-investigator model to eliminate “conflict of interest” or “bias.” But Title IX experts said the switch could create a more traumatic reporting experience for survivors because it would mean recounting their experiences in front of more people.

Russell Froman, the Title IX coordinator at the University of Florida, said moving away from a single-investigator model could be beneficial if the practice prevents an administrator from developing favoritism toward a student during their case. But he said that ultimately, a single-investigator model creates a more supportive process that encourages survivors to report because they are less intimidated by one-on-one case work than recounting their experience to a handful of people.

“I am opposed to the hearing process requirement for the reasons of creating yet another hurdle for reporting parties to have to overcome in order to get their story heard and dealt with,” Froman said.

Katherine McGerald, the executive director of SurvJustice, a nonprofit based in D.C. that advocates for survivors of sexual violence, said schools should push back against the proposed guidelines during the required 60-day comment period, which she said falls during a “horrible time” because the period includes Thanksgiving and final exam season.

“They made changes to address sexual violence, and now these proposed changes are really a step backward,” McGerald said.

Alan Sash, a partner in the litigation department at McLaughlin & Stern who has worked on Title IX cases, said any person or entity can comment on the proposed Title IX policies. He said the Department of Education will review the comments and could amend or modify the proposal based on received feedback – but changes are unlikely.

“The U.S. Department of Education has studied this issue for a long time

now and has heard from all sides,” Sash said in an email. “I don’t think that it is going to hear anything that it hasn’t heard before.”

### Off-campus assault reports dismissed

The proposed guidelines would nearly eliminate a student’s ability to report off-campus assault, which McGerald, the executive director of SurvJustice, said is a “big change” because a lot of student activity happens off campus.

She said the move means universities would turn a “blind eye” to assault if it happens in off-campus areas, like Greek townhouses.

“It would discourage students from reporting at all,” she said. “Depending on the area, I’m not sure law enforcement is seen as necessarily a friendly place for survivors to go. I am a former prosecutor, so I say that sadly.”

Jess Davidson, the interim executive director of End Rape On Campus, said not requiring schools to investigate incidents of sexual misconduct off campus prevents thousands of survivors who are assaulted at student organization events or off-campus parties from reporting at all. She said nearly nine out of every 10 college students live off campus in the United States, and the change would isolate most of a university’s student body.

GW students are mandated to live on campus through their junior year, though juniors can enter an annual housing lottery to dodge the requirement.

“We know that a sexual assault which takes place off campus can wreak just as much havoc on the student’s education and well-being as one that takes place on campus,” Davidson said.

Davidson said that just because a survivor is sexually assaulted off campus doesn’t mean the incident will not have an impact on their ability to focus in class because they might still see their perpetrator in courses, dining halls or campus buildings.

### More rights for the accused

Sage Carson – a manager for Know Your IX, a youth and survivor advocacy group – said the new guidelines could give more rights to the accused in a Title IX hearing. She said the proposed changes allow a university to choose between the preponderance of evidence standard – which bases decisions on if a situation is more likely to have occurred than not – and the clear and convincing evidence standard, which is a more rigorous standard to meet.

Betsy DeVos, the education secretary, rescinded Obama-era sexual assault protections in September 2017 that directed universities to use the preponderance of evidence standard. Interim guidelines at the time allowed colleges to decide between the two standards.

Carson said that because a school can choose which standard to use, a university could mandate a more likely than not standard for a simple assault but utilize the clear and convincing standard for a sexual violence investigation – a practice she said would be “wholly inappropriate.”

“They’re exceptionalizing campus sexual violence by using different standards for sexual violence, and not applying those same standards across the board,” she said.

But Joseph Lento – an attorney for Lento Law Firm, a firm focused on student defense based in New Jersey and Pennsylvania – said the changes to Title IX policies are long overdue because universities have frequently received complaints from both accusers and the accused about the process. He said that rather than place a greater emphasis on the accused, the proposed guidelines will make Title IX processes “more equitable.”

“I’d say it is a step in the right direction,” Lento said. “I fight the good fight every day and just knowing how things can be, these are tough, exhaustive cases from both perspectives, the perspective of a complainant and a respondent.”

## GWPD staffs halls based on public access to buildings

From Page 1

Halls have monitors while other buildings, like Guthridge and Francis Scott Key halls, do not. She said for residence halls that do not have monitors, officials must ensure that there are security systems in place for students.

### Security at GW’s peer schools

The University’s 12 peer schools offer various levels of security, five of which are similar to GW.

The University of Pittsburgh and New York, Tufts and Northeastern universities – all also located in cities – guarantee 24/7 security coverage for each residence hall, according to their websites and administrators.

Peter DiDomenica, a lieutenant at Boston University’s police department, said factors like residence hall population should be taken into con-

sideration when determining what kind of security they maintain.

“A decision has to be made about what’s practical and what can be achieved with the resources that are at hand as well, so it’s a complicated process to make a decision about these security procedures,” he said.

The University of Southern California utilizes fingerprint scanners to verify student access to residence halls on top of checking student IDs, and unarmed public safety officers monitor the security system 24/7.

GW’s five remaining peer schools do not specify what times their residence halls receive security coverage. Georgetown University and the University of Rochester hire student guards to supplement security guards at residence hall entrances.

—Thirty-three Hatchet staff members contributed reporting.

## Great lifestyle. Guaranteed.

We’re confident you’ll love us. Ask your friends about us, you’ll be surprised how many already live here!

We redefine apartment living by blending uniquely stylish apartments with high-caliber service delivered by our friendly and professional staff. We work relentlessly to ensure your total satisfaction. It won’t take long to realize that living with us is easier. More reliable. And notably better.

- Walk to Foggy Bottom Metro
- Oversized floor plans and ample closet space
- 24-hour concierge and 24-hour fitness center
- Located on the GW campus
- Online rent payments
- **Free utilities!**

**THE STATESMAN**  
2020 F Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
866.432.1395  
TheStatesmanApt.com

# Outdated system, late students impede 4-RIDE service, drivers say

NIA LARTEY  
REPORTER

Dozens of students have criticized the University's 4-RIDE transportation service for long wait times and no-show drivers, but those behind the wheel said students' concerns are out of their control.

Five 4-RIDE drivers – who spoke under the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from the University because they are not authorized to speak with the media – said a lack of drivers, an outdated communication system and late students hinder their ability to operate the service effectively. Drivers said they are often delayed in picking up and dropping off students as late and no-show students add up on their list of requests.

4-RIDE is a transportation service provided to students who do not want to walk alone between 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. The rides are free and can be requested by either calling a dispatcher or logging into an online portal. After requesting a ride, students receive a text when their driver is on the way to pick them up, drivers said.

But drivers said the communication system that students use to request a ride, Navman, is outdated com-



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR  
Five 4-RIDE drivers said a lack of drivers, an outdated communication system and late students hinder their ability to operate the service effectively.

pared to apps like Uber because the technology does not tell students how far drivers are from their location. The system was adopted in 2011.

One driver said he typically receives 15 to 20 no-show students on a rainy night and fewer late students on nights without inclement weather. Drivers are required to wait three minutes for students who don't show up before leaving, which causes

them to be at least three minutes late to the next student, they said.

"For the call times and all that, that's where everything is late," the driver said. "They need to update this. That's what this needs. A lot of people say they don't get picked up and their ride arrived late and everything."

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said the current system assigns dispatch-

ers to transport requests, and drivers are given GPS signs "that provide on-demand vehicle location information" to drivers and passengers.

"While our goal is to be as fast and efficient as possible, there is a short wait for 4-RIDE services with longer wait times during peak/busy periods," Csellar said.

Another driver said students not showing up for their ride is just as much of a

problem as drivers being late for pickups and can cause an entire shift to fall behind schedule.

The driver said 4-RIDE is a good service, and most students appreciate the rides. But for 4-RIDE to work efficiently, students who use the service need to be on time, the driver said.

"If I'm getting six pickups, it's going to take me at least 10 minutes to get to all of them in a reasonable time," the driver said. "And that doesn't even count when you have to stand and wait for someone who doesn't come out."

The driver said the staff does not have control over whether they can get to a student on time because the student does not know where the driver is located using Navman. The driver said roughly six drivers on the road each night also struggle to accommodate the average 150 requests they could receive from students.

Csellar, the University spokeswoman, said the number of drivers over the past three academic years has "remained steady" with an average of 12 total drivers. Officials are currently recruiting a new driver after a recent departure and anticipate filling the position by the spring, she said.

She said the number of

4-RIDE vehicles varies by day of the week and time of the day based on how many students historically used the service. During "pre-identified peak" times, more vans are on the road to keep up with the demand of students, she said.

"The University continues to monitor ride requests and makes adjustments to the number of vehicles on the road periodically throughout the semester," she said.

A third driver said that if the service started with more vehicles on the road a night, the additional manpower could help the system move more smoothly.

"We don't have enough drivers to do what we need to do, to provide the proper service for you all, the students," the driver said.

The driver said Uber has a better tracking system than that of 4-RIDE. On the app, a patron can see what the driver looks like and what corner they're about to turn onto – features the drivers said would help many notification-dependent students be on time.

"We're not like Uber, so you can't really track us," the driver said. "You can only go by what the machine says and so forth. But I do feel like if the people were downstairs and waiting, it would help."

## Business school dean to prioritize student, alumni engagement

ALEC RICH &  
FALYN O'BRIEN  
REPORTERS

Nearly five months into his tenure, the new dean of the business school said he is prioritizing the student experience and community engagement.

Anuj Mehrotra, who was hired in April, said he is still evaluating the current climate of the school, but plans to focus on enhancing the student experience, engaging alumni and boosting up faculty and research – in line with the priorities of the University's top brass. He said specific goals and action items will take shape as he continues to familiarize himself with the school's needs.

"Like any other school, one must constantly think in terms of what has been working best and how can we leverage that and expand on that," he said.

### Putting students first

Mehrotra said the business school will enhance the student experience – one of University President Thomas LeBlanc's strategic initiatives – by breaking the traditional model of a pre-set program and focusing on building degree programs around how students can gain useful skills in their courses.

"We are working on, instead of thinking about a large degree program, to first think in terms of what is that smallest piece of programming that might be of interest to the real world and build around those modules," he said.

Mehrotra said the business school will reassess the programs and degrees it offers to students over the next year, allowing students to build their own majors or certificates based on skills needed for in-demand jobs.

"We're trying to leverage technology, leverage the

online classes that we have, the different certificates that we have, to start thinking in terms of how to provide and be ready and agile," he said.

He said the school is also expanding the Communities of Practice program, a mentorship program to help students enter the workforce in fields like marketing and consulting, to cover more professions.

"Our goal is to expand it further this year, so there'll be more students and we are going to try and see if we can include both our graduate and undergraduate students in those Communities of Practice," he said.

James Bailey, a professor of leadership and management, said if the dean wants to improve student engagement, he can sponsor student events and research opportunities. Student engagement is a top priority, and Mehrotra has made that known, Bailey said.

"That seems to be pretty widely held in the business school, it's certainly at the top of his list," he said.

### Alumni engagement

Mehrotra said alumni can expect more opportunities to become involved with the school and its students over the next year through events like panels, speaker series, symposiums and online broadcasts geared toward the group.

"The community is large, and it's not just the business organizations and companies, but also alumni, parents, and in today's date, with how the education is evolving, our alumni consists of lifelong students of ours," he said. "We need to be thinking about that."

Mehrotra said the events and increased engagement between alumni and students will foster connections for networking, which can provide students with potential internships, jobs

and mentors.

"The engagement of the alumni is why I'm on the road, it's why I'm talking to a lot of our parents, it's why we had a very successful, well-planned Colonials Weekend event around content," he said.

Pradeep Rau, a professor of marketing, said Mehrotra's goal to improve alumni engagement will address the University's "historically low alumni involvement." GW's alumni giving rate has hovered around 8 percent in recent years, the lowest rate of all of its peer institutions – and LeBlanc, the University president, has also highlighted a need to improve alumni relations.

"If alumni are happy, they might have a better inclination to be involved with the school in every sense of the word," he said. "Those goals are exactly what I think will help the school to check the enrollment declines and help with alumni engagement."

### Faculty and research

Mehrotra said he hopes to continue to attract "top faculty" in the school and promote collaborative research.

He said the department is trying to "aggressively" recruit talented faculty and researchers and build on current faculty by offering competitive benefits and salaries. Mehrotra said he hopes to promote and build on the current research-driven culture within the departments by inviting more speakers to events from the academic side of the department, not just the professional side.

"We're thinking in terms of what are all of the concerts and symposiums that we are already hosting or participating in and how can we build on that to really make them impactful," he said.



JACK FONSECA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Sanjit Sethi, the inaugural director of the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, said he's focusing this year on outlining a strategic plan, collaborating with the D.C. community and hiring more faculty.

## Corcoran director focuses on community, strategic plan

ILENA PENG  
REPORTER

When Sanjit Sethi stepped in as the inaugural director of the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design in 2015, he faced a newly acquired school struggling to find its place at GW.

Over the past three years, with limited funds and resources from GW, Corcoran has experienced disruptive construction to its flagship building, faculty contract issues and declining enrollment. But now Sethi said he's focusing on outlining a strategic plan, collaborating with the D.C. community and hiring more faculty – plans he said will push the school in the right direction.

"Part of the agenda I have is to make sure that our students, faculty and staff feel like we are one integrated community despite the fact that we're spread out over a series of buildings with some very distinctly unique pedagogies," he said.

### Determining a plan

Sethi said the school will start a strategic planning process that includes outlining a series of goals for the school next semester, which will mainly focus on building up Corcoran's community.

"We are going to be embarking in the spring on a strategic planning process, again kind of with that same idea, seeing how do we see kind of what binds us together as a broader community, how are we able to do things that are greater than the sum of its parts," he said.

He said the strategic planning process for next semester will involve fostering engagement with both within Corcoran and outside the school. He said that fostering more interdisciplinary critiques – where faculty give feedback on student work from other areas of the school – could help create a

strong community.

Sethi said the school is looking to hire four new faculty next fall who specialize in music, graphic design, printmaking and photojournalism – areas the school hopes to build up.

He added that the school is currently analyzing a recent proposal for Corcoran to launch a fundraising campaign. The report was released in February by the consulting firm Development Resources, Inc., which determined that Corcoran was not ready to launch a fundraising initiative based on its current resources and donor base.

Sethi said officials are discussing what factors would help raise money, like building a closer relationship with the school's alumni, which could be included in the strategic planning process. He said the exhibition of political cartoonist Rob Rogers' work over the past four months has given the school a "greater degree of positive visibility," which he said could be a stepping stone toward a fundraising campaign.

"A capital campaign isn't simply like turning on or off a light switch, right, since I think it requires a degree of preparing yourself to feel like that you're able to go ahead and take on such an ambitious thing," Sethi said.

### Engaging the community

Sethi said one of the biggest tasks on the school's agenda this year is fostering relationships between faculty and students and community organizations in D.C.

Sethi said the school is piloting a program titled Corcoran Connect, which he said will include a series of four to six classes beginning in the fall semester where students will work with organizations in D.C. to focus on community engagement.

"We need to make sure

there's a problem set students can really dig their teeth into and they can really kind of go through a process of experimentation," he said. "At the same time, the balance for that is to make sure that we're not also fetishizing communities."

Sethi said the school is also working to strengthen connections with other schools, including the School of Media and Public Affairs. He said Corcoran's photojournalism major shares "natural affinities" with SMPA's offerings, which he hopes can lead to more collaboration.

Ari Golub, a sophomore majoring in photojournalism, said the dean has helped build up the community, but officials still have trouble engaging students in the school's events. Only about three or four students attended the school's most recent community lunch, he said.

"There hasn't been a lot of progress with the open tables and with meetings and the lunches just because people don't show up," he said. "I just think that the students have to want to do it, and I think it's going to take some time, like five to 10 years time, to make the Corcoran what it was."

Nicole Degliomini, a senior majoring in interior architecture, said the Corcoran has improved over the past few months after construction on the Flagg Building ended, but she hopes that the school will make more student lounges and facilities available.

"I think the Corcoran just needs to keep talking to the students, especially the students in the school and just hear out our needs and about how it's just, we are here for such long hours, it just needs to go through the right channels and get done because it's only going to improve student quality of life here," she said.



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR  
Anuj Mehrotra, the new dean of the business school, said he is still evaluating the current climate of the school, but plans to focus on enhancing the student experience, engaging alumni and boosting up faculty and research.

# Black Law Student Association launches undergraduate arm

**RAINA HACKETT**  
REPORTER

A student group in the law school is trying to give minority students an avenue to learn about the legal field as undergraduates.

Members of the Black Law Student Association are recruiting undergraduate students to form a pre-law chapter of the group and engage black students who have an interest in eventually pursuing a profession in the legal field. Members of the pre-law organization, which is in the process of registering with the Center for Student Engagement, said the group will help students navigate the legal field with educational opportunities – like visits to law schools and group discussions with law professors – that are often unavailable to minority students.

Students involved with the group operate under the national umbrella of BLSA, an organization that seeks to encourage black students to enter the legal field through events like academic leadership retreats and conferences.

Aaron Ruffin, a third-year law student and the president of BLSA, said he initially spearheaded an effort last month to get the un-

dergraduate chapter started because he wanted to expose black students to the legal field before potentially entering law school. Ruffin said he first checked in with black undergraduates last month to ensure there was enough interest in the undergraduate chapter.

About 10 students attended the group's first meeting in the law school Tuesday, but 16 students have indicated interest, Ruffin said. At the meeting, the group members discussed their mission – to increase the number of black and minority attorneys – and why they were interested in starting a pre-law chapter.

During the meeting, members selected officers for the group, including the president, vice president, treasurer and secretary, he said. Ruffin said members will also need to register the group with the national BLSA chapter.

"There's just no blueprint in how to navigate the legal profession, how to navigate the legal application, particularly for minorities," Ruffin said. "That's a structure that tends to be in place for other groups."

Ruffin said many of the



SARAH URTZ | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER

Nya Campbell, a freshman studying political science and a member of the organization, said she wants the group to help "raise awareness" and up the relatively low percentage of black lawyers.

events the group plans to host will be determined by members of the group once they are officially established as a student organization over the next two weeks. He said he ultimately wants the group to give undergraduates a way to become more competitive applicants for law school.

Currently, black students comprise about 8 percent of

the total law school population, according to institutional research.

Marcus Ware, an assistant director of advising and the pre-law adviser for the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, said he will advise the organization as it meets once every month in the law school. Ware, who currently advises Mock Trial and Moot

Court, said he often receives information from black student organizations outside the University on opportunities and events for "diverse pre-law students."

Ware said the group will "get exposed to law schools" with trips outside GW and will bring in a speaker series of law professors "so that they are continuously being

exposed to all aspects of the legal field."

"Nationally, black people are still severely underrepresented in the legal profession," Ware said. "I think we are really committed to making sure we do all that we can to make sure that folks feel supported and they are on the right path to go to law school. This is just one of the ways we can do that."

Nya Campbell, a freshman studying political science and a member of the organization, said she wants the group to help "raise awareness" and up the relatively low percentage of black lawyers currently in the legal field. About 3 percent of associates and fewer than 2 percent of partners are black in major law firms, The Washington Post reported.

Campbell said Ware first approached her at a Black Student Union event in late August, where he pitched the idea to her. From there, Campbell said she recruited students to join through word of mouth and through friends who were also interested in law school.

"I want that knowledge, that wisdom, so I can go out into the world and spread that the best to my ability," she said.

## Military office sees uptick in students affected by benefit delays

**CASSIE RUDOLPH**  
REPORTER

More veteran and military-affiliated students have been affected by delays in benefits from the Department of Veteran Affairs this year than in previous years.

The VA's information technology department has faced a series of technology glitches over the past several weeks preventing them from issuing tuition and housing benefits to veterans, NBC News reported last week. Officials said they have noticed an uptick in the number of GW veterans affected by delays this year, but the office has offered impacted students loans and fee waivers.

Andrew Sonn, the director of the Office of Military and Veteran Student Services, said in a typical year, students wait between one and three weeks on average to receive their benefits. But this year, Sonn said the office has noticed more students who are waiting between four and six weeks.

The office cannot estimate how students are affected by the delays because the VA sends some benefits directly to students, he said. He said the office reached out to students in the military community more than once during the fall semester through email listservs to warn them about the delays.

The office offers emergency loans, late fee waivers and suspensions of account holds for students who are affected financially by the delays, Sonn said. He said staff are also available to answer questions for students who are struggling with delays.

Sage Avichouser, a sophomore, said she receives monthly stipends for food and other costs

of living from the VA because she is the dependent of a disabled or deceased veteran. Normally, she gets her stipend on the first of each month, but she said she only received her first payment of the school year last week.

She said she used her savings and financial support from her parents to cover costs through the bulk of the semester.

"It would be nice if the VA updated their computers and their systems, but it's looking like that won't be done in time for spring semester," she said.

Despite the VA's attempts to communicate with affected students, Avichouser said information on payments has still been difficult to obtain because the website was down briefly, and calls to the VA often mean waiting on hold for hours at a time.

Avichouser said the delays caused her to wonder at some points whether she would have enough money to eat.

"It's really stressful to not have any money in your bank account because you have to pay for food and other miscellaneous things," Avichouser said.

Will Manthei, a freshman and dependent of a veteran, said although his payments were delayed by a month, the veteran affairs office ensured the holdup had minimal impact on his education by waiving his expenses.

"The VA as a government organization has always been notoriously slow," he said. "But that had no effect on me because the GW office can waive housing fees until they understand that I've received the benefits."

Ryan Welch, the president of the GW Veterans, said he budgets for his checks from the VA to come two months behind

schedule and often has to pay rent on his credit card to make payments on time. He said he did not get paid his benefits for August and September until Oct. 15.

"It basically just allowed me to pay down whatever credit card I had ran up at that time period," he said. "You just kind of have to budget and forecast for that to happen."

Christian Manning, the program manager at the Office of Military and Veteran Student Services, said the University has not received tuition payments for some of their benefit-dependent students at all this school year. While the delay in benefits has caused several issues, like late fees for tuition and housing costs and holds on registration, the University has been very involved in accommodating for the delays when possible, he said.

"We were able to process them and we didn't let it become a problem for registration purposes," he said. "I will say from a personal note, I'm hoping that the VA gets their stuff together by the time next semester rolls around."

Manning said that while students have mostly been able to overcome registration and tuition issues by communicating with the Office of the Registrar, off-campus students who rely on VA benefits to pay their rent and other costs of living remain financially vulnerable.

"Students haven't gotten their housing allowance – and some have, some haven't – which basically means that at a couple of months into the semester, some of them can't afford to pay their rent," he said. "And that's really problematic."



FILE PHOTO BY SABRINA GODIN | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER

Faculty in the nursing school are donating to the University at the highest rate of all schools at GW, officials said.

## Nursing school faculty give back to GW at highest rate of all schools

**ILENA PENG**  
REPORTER

Faculty in the nursing school are donating to the University at the highest rate of all schools at GW, officials said.

Officials said at a Faculty Senate meeting earlier this month that almost 100 percent of faculty members from the School of Nursing give back to GW – more than any other school. Nursing school faculty said they give back because they are dedicated to boosting the school's resources and funds, which have allowed officials to proceed with recent renovations to expand the school's lab spaces and provide students with more up-to-date equipment.

University spokesman Tim Pierce said "many" faculty members donate to the nursing school, including several who give on an ongoing basis through payroll deduction – but he declined to say exactly how many faculty members have donated. He said Pamela Jeffries, the dean of the School of Nursing, and the founding faculty of the nursing school are "strong advocates" for faculty giving and encourage "philanthropic support at all levels."

"Faculty donors at GW Nursing support the school's mission to train the next generation of nursing leaders and to improve patient care in local and global communities," Pierce said in an email. "Their giving reflects the strong affinity and commitment the faculty has for the school."

Pierce said the nursing school's recently unveiled simulation lab space and student success center in Innovation Hall – the nursing school's flagship building – are "powerful examples" of how philanthropic support can support student resources. He said faculty donations go toward academic programs, partner-

ships, teaching resources and research for the nursing school.

Pierce declined to say how faculty are encouraged to donate. He declined to say what the faculty giving rate at the nursing school was in fiscal years 2018, 2017 and 2016.

Pierce declined to say why the nursing school faculty give back more than other schools at GW.

Karen Dawn, an assistant professor of nursing, said nursing school officials have pushed for faculty members to donate to specific funds over the past year, like scholarship pools or global programs that allow students to travel to other countries. She said a high faculty donation rate shows faculty members' commitment to improving the school's programs and resources, which could encourage other faculty members and students to donate in the future.

"I think it shows that we're committed to the school and to the University as a whole," Dawn said. "I think that it's like being a part-owner of something, and I think you take on more of a responsibility when you're financially connected to it."

Dawn said she donates to the school every month through payroll deductions, where money is directly taken out of her paycheck. She said she prefers payroll deductions because they're "simple and painless" and ensure that she doesn't lose track of the last time she donated.

She declined to say how much she donates to the nursing school each year.

"I think most faculty are like that," Dawn said. "We're busy and it's just you think you did something yesterday and it's really been quite a while ago."

Lorraine Rilko, a clinical assistant professor of nursing, said most faculty in the

nursing school recognize the high costs of nursing education and see giving frequent donations as a way to benefit their students outside of the classroom with scholarships and academic program funding.

"We know what a hardship it is for students," Rilko said. "I think it's because we all in the nursing program really care about the students and we understand how expensive education is and how expensive resources are."

Nadine Marchi, a clinical assistant professor of nursing, said financial support from faculty can help support students who might not be able to afford nursing school tuition – which is more than \$60,000 each year – especially as the United States faces a shortage in health care workers.

"If they can't afford it, then we'll be losing a great resource," Marchi said. "We are the last line of defense, we're checking patients in all the time, we're the people who make sure things are getting done and getting done correctly for the patients. We're the advocates for the patients."

Mary Schumann, an associate professor of nursing and the program director of health policy and media engagement, said faculty's commitment to their students and the nursing school is reflected in their consistent donations, and their engagement is also important to host events and develop new courses.

"I believe I have a responsibility to help support the profession," Schumann said. "I do that through my membership and my professional organization memberships, I do that through service in my professional organizations, and I think I also do that through donations to the profession and this is one way in which to do that."



ZHOUYI SHEN | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER

Will Manthei, a freshman and dependent of a veteran, said that although his payments were delayed by a month, the veteran affairs office ensured the holdup had a minimal impact on his education by waiving his expenses.

### STAFF EDITORIAL

## Center for Student Engagement must take care of smaller organizations

Joining a student organization remains one of the best ways for students to become involved on campus. With hundreds of organizations to choose from, it is no wonder that many students find themselves heavily involved with multiple groups that focus on their political and cultural identities.

But these organizations – especially large ones whose memberships can include hundreds of students – can't always provide the personal experiences that smaller organizations can to students who are trying to find their place on campus.

Small student organizations provide a community for students from all types of backgrounds, but they aren't given the support that they need to function effectively. Several small organizations have launched this semester, but with changes to the way the Center for Student Engagement supports organizations implemented at the beginning of this semester – it will be difficult for these groups to bolster membership and serve current and future members.

The CSE must ensure that smaller organizations are as equally supported as larger organizations. Student organizations – especially smaller ones – help students find a community on campus and without the proper support, they are prone to disbanding. These organizations can act as a support system and without them, students lose the resources and guidance that helped them adjust to campus and feel at home at GW.

The new system in the CSE assigns advisers to organizations on an as-needed basis. These changes accommodate large organizations with larger budgets, including organizations like the GW College Democrats and College Republicans. But while groups vary in size, challenges that large organizations face like funding and event planning also affect small organizations, and less-established groups could use the support.

New organizations that are still seeking registration through the CSE, including the Student Neighborhood Advisory Corp and Kehila GW are examples of organizations that would not benefit from the current advising system and could use assistance from advisers.

Before the change, all student organizations were assigned an adviser that served as a direct contact if they needed help or had questions regarding financing, event planning or leadership building. This allowed for a more even distribution of resources, and the change to as-needed advising takes away a constant resource from smaller organizations that need help the most.

While the CSE has deemed that the role of

advisers has become less necessary for smaller organizations, the office has simultaneously increased the requirements that organizations, regardless of their size and active membership, must meet in order to be an official organization in the following years. Student organizations were required to attend three Excellence in Leadership Seminars in 2016, where a member attended an hour-long meeting by faculty or alumni on a number of topics including fundraising, recruiting and diversity. But starting last fall semester, student organizations are required to attend five meetings.

This increase in required seminar meetings puts more stress on student leaders to attend helpful but mostly arbitrary events that most students don't value. The increase in meetings is also more difficult for smaller organizations compared to larger organizations because while large groups have a number of delegates who are eligible to attend the sessions on behalf of the group, organizations that are just starting out must pile attending these sessions on top of other activities they need to do to establish membership.

Putting undue pressure on smaller organizations creates a cycle of new groups forming, disbanding and forming again in the future. It's important for the CSE and large organizations to support more niche groups. With support, organizations can help students explore their identity – regardless of what their identity is. College is the time when many students are exploring their identities and interests, and large organizations can't always create events that cater to students whose ideologies, cultures or identities aren't seen in more established student organizations.

Broad student organizations need to be more aware of the need that small organizations fulfill. For organizations with a broad focus and large membership, it is useful to self-evaluate about why smaller organizations have started and how they can work with one another as opposed to operating completely separately. A difference in values or focus is not necessarily a bad thing and by working together, niche and broad organizations can more effectively serve the student body.

These intersectional and niche organizations exist to provide a space for students who need a more inclusive and narrow organization. It's important for broad organizations to understand this purpose and check their own agendas for inclusiveness and diversity. But the most necessary change must come from the CSE with how it plans to further support smaller organizations.

## Students should make the most of study abroad, explore outside Europe

Studying abroad is about more than experiencing new learning environments, it's about experiencing entirely new cultures, traditions and people. While European countries are full of cultural and historical significance, it's often hard to differentiate aspects of the culture because the United States is similar to many Western European countries. But by getting outside of Europe and studying abroad outside of your comfort zone, students can learn more about another culture and learn how to live in an unfamiliar environment.

Nearly 70 percent of students at GW that studied abroad in the past five years went to Europe, and the most popular destinations were the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Italy. While Europe is a diverse continent with many different cultures, these countries aren't the best choices for students looking to expand their learning and face a challenge by experiencing new cultures because European culture is very familiar to Americans. Instead, students should consider studying abroad outside of Europe.

Every country in Europe has a unique culture and history, so it's hard to make a blanket declaration that you shouldn't go to any of them. But the majority of European study abroad options at GW in Western Europe are in major cities where people speak English as their first or second language.

Going where people have been exposed to American culture their entire lives due to media and strong relations between the countries isn't going to create the interactions that make study abroad informative. Rather, you'll be just another American college student in a

city where there are thousands of others.

But going outside of Europe is a less common choice that allows you to experience a culture that many other study abroad students haven't.

In addition to making an unusual choice, students who study abroad outside of Europe get to learn directly from what is often a less globally known culture. While the British Museum in London is filled with wonders like the

### Kiran Hoeffner-Shah

Contributing Opinions Editor

Rosetta Stone and the Koh-i-Noor diamond, students can't ignore that these relics are made available because of the country's imperialist past. But students don't have to experience just a small portion of stolen history from Egypt or India or numerous other nations by going to European countries. They can study abroad directly in Asia, Africa and Latin America and immerse themselves in the area's history and culture without a Westernized perspective. Going to these countries instead of the heart of where these artifacts came from can teach history from a new perspective.

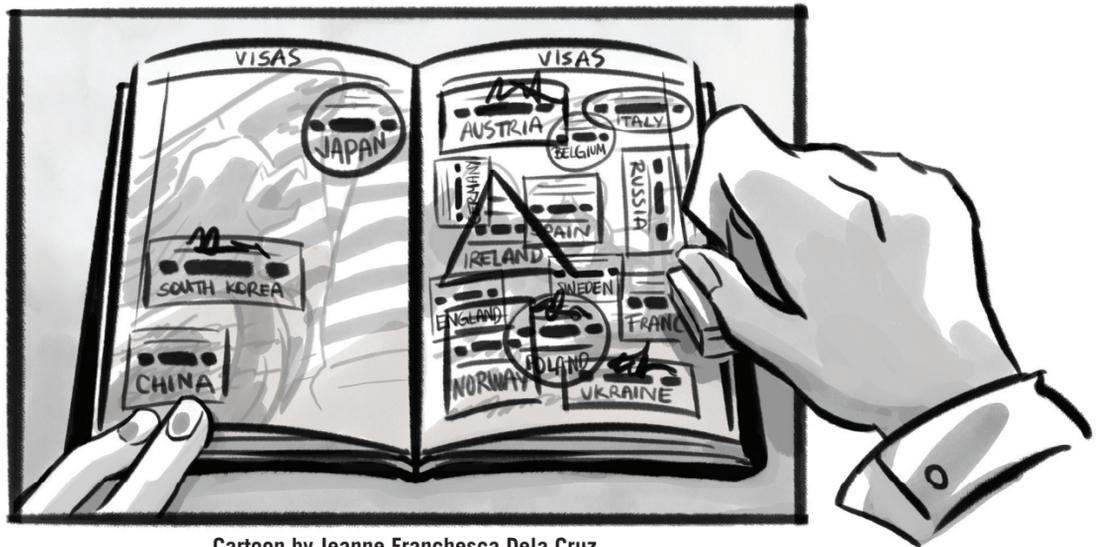
Additionally, visiting a country in which most inhabitants do not speak English provides an extra challenge for students. It is uncomfortable to know that not everyone can speak English or understand the same social cues as you, but it is worth taking that risk to experience non-Western cultures in their full form, not just in the snippets that are put on pedestals in museums.

Outside of Europe, students cannot expect everyone they meet to speak English, which adds a benefit to the learning experience. For countries in the European Union, almost 51 percent of the total population speaks English as their first or second language. GW's most popular study abroad option in Asia is China, where only more than 2 percent of people speak English and in another popular option, Chile, fewer than 5 percent speak English. Going to a country where you are not surrounded by people that can speak English challenges students by immersing them in the language.

The institution a student studies at is going to provide them with support in understanding and communicating in the country they've chosen. However, that help isn't nearly as necessary in a European country because students speak the same language as most people and have likely experienced their culture in some way. Students should seize the opportunity to use that help to understand a culture they are being introduced to for the first time.

Studying abroad in Europe isn't the best choice for students that want to better understand a foreign culture. It is harder to make meaningful and deeper connections in another country when you are one of thousands of American students visiting. Instead, students should explore options outside of Europe, so that they can have a better, first-hand cultural understanding of the countries featured in European museums.

—Kiran Hoeffner-Shah, a sophomore double-majoring in political science and psychology, is The Hatchet's contributing opinions editor.



Cartoon by Jeanne Franchesca Dela Cruz

## Studying abroad in Europe offers students a wealth of diverse cultural experiences

As a university with an international outlook, GW has a duty to guarantee students are able to have a distinct and valuable study abroad experience. Although a fellow opinions writer may disagree, studying in Europe is a perfect way to supplement knowledge gained in the classroom and expand a student's international outlook.

Last academic year, about 70 percent of students who studied abroad chose to study in Europe, with the United Kingdom taking the No. 1 spot as the top destination. Students have to determine if the cultural similarities between Europe and the United States are too vast and diminish the value of studying abroad in the first place. While it is understandable that some people question the merit of studying in Europe, the continent is diverse and has a fundamentally different cultural outlook from the United States and therefore students who study abroad in Europe are not "taking the easy way out."

While it is understandable that some may assert that students won't be exposed to the same level of diversity or face the same degree of challenge studying abroad in Western countries, this view fails to recognize the advantages of studying abroad in Europe.

The United Kingdom has undeniable cultural and Westernized kinship with the United States, but that isn't to say that American students won't be exposed to new cultural experiences. British universities are distinguished for attracting the best and the brightest students from all over the world, so American students will be sitting in a classroom alongside students from countries all around the

world – not just the nation they choose to study in like they may in more homogeneous countries like China or Chile.

Although students would be immersed in each nation's respective culture if they opted for a country in Asia or South America, they won't necessarily have the same diversity of experiences, conversations and intellectual undertakings, simply because most countries lack the hundreds of thousands of international students that the United Kingdom boasts. If anything, sharing a common language with other undergraduates from a variety of backgrounds actually expands students' ability to gain valuable experiences and have deep conversations with their peers. In other countries where the primary language is not

just one country a crime, and if they travel to as many different nations as they can during their time, they will further expand their cultural understanding.

Country hopping is as normal as driving from Maryland to Virginia, and it could be formative for the character of students. Travel is an excellent way for students to learn not just about the countries they go to, but also about themselves, because it allows them to reflect on how they handle problems as they pop up while traveling independently without the support they are accustomed to stateside.

More students prefer Europe, and this isn't inherently wrong because the opportunities Europe provides between its member countries are unsurpassable by any other study abroad experience. Students are fulfilling GW's goal of exposing them to cultural and intellectual diversity by traveling to Europe, and they shouldn't be discouraged from visiting based on an insinuation that their decision is a walk in the park compared to other study abroad programs.

Students already have a clear preference for Europe and they should continue traveling there when they study abroad because of the wealth of experiences they can have in the countries. The suggestion that a majority of students studying abroad in Europe do not have diverse challenges ignores the opportunity that Europe as a continent has to offer – a multifariousness of ethnicities and cultures in a small proximity which can expose students to the true meaning of diversity.

—Galen Ekimov, a freshman majoring in international affairs, is a Hatchet opinions writer.

### Galen Ekimov

Writer

English, students will find themselves sticking close by their American friends in their programs and this limits their opportunity to engage with cultures different from their own.

Aside from the United Kingdom, the crux of Europe's appeal is that its study abroad programs are like buying one and getting 46 free. The continent is remarkably interconnected, primarily because of proximity, but mostly because of the Schengen Zone – a European Union policy which guarantees the free movement of people across nations without the need for passport checks or border stops. The ease with which students can navigate the peninsula makes staying in

Liz Provencher, editor in chief

Matt Cullen, managing editor\*  
Elise Zaidi, managing director\*  
Cayla Harris, senior news editor  
Renée Pineda, opinions editor\*  
Margot Dynes, sports editor\*  
Barbara Alberts, culture editor\*  
Zach Slotnik, design editor\*  
Olivia Anderson, photo editor  
Arianna Dunham, video editor  
Annie Dobler, copy editor  
Lindsay Paulen, social media director  
Emily Recko, graphics editor

Dani Grace, news editor  
Leah Potter, news editor  
Meredithe Roaten, news editor  
Lauren Peller, assistant news editor  
Sarah Roach, assistant news editor  
Parth Kotak, blog editor  
Olivia Dupree, assistant design editor  
Kristy Pham, assistant video editor  
Kelly Hooper, assistant copy editor  
Samantha Kramer, contributing social media director  
Kiran Hoeffner-Shah, contributing opinions editor  
Katherine Abughazaleh, contributing culture editor

Kerri Corcoran, contributing sports editor  
Donna Armstrong, contributing photo editor  
Graeme Sloan, contributing photo editor  
Allison Kwon, research assistant  
Kate McCarthy, research assistant  
Lizzie Mintz, research assistant  
\* denotes member of editorial board

Business Manager  
Andrew Shlosch, business officer  
Tyler Loveless, accounting manager

Submissions — Deadlines for submissions are Friday 5 p.m. for Monday issues. They must include the author's name, title, year in school and phone number. The GW Hatchet does not guarantee publication and reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, grammar and clarity.  
Submit to opinions@gwhatchet.com

Policy Statement — The GW Hatchet is produced by Hatchet Publications Inc., an independent, non-profit corporation. All comments should be addressed to the Board of Directors, which has sole authority for the content of this publication. Opinions expressed in signed columns are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of The GW Hatchet. All content of The GW Hatchet is copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written authorization from the editor in chief.

The GW Hatchet

609 21st St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20052  
gwhatchet.com | @gwhatchet

news@gwhatchet.com  
opinions@gwhatchet.com  
sports@gwhatchet.com  
culture@gwhatchet.com  
photo@gwhatchet.com  
multimedia@gwhatchet.com

## GAMES OF THE WEEK



**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
vs. Georgia Tech/No. 17 NC State  
Thursday - Friday  
The Colonials will travel to Mexico over the Thanksgiving holiday to play two games in the Cancun Challenge.



**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
vs. Manhattan  
4 p.m. • Saturday  
After almost a week of rest, GW will take on the Jaspers at home after going winless in the Smith Center in its first two games.

## NUMBER CRUNCH

4

Number of men's squash players with perfect records through three matches

# Looking ahead at women's basketball in the Cancun Challenge

**KERRI CORCORAN**  
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Women's basketball will be spending its Thanksgiving on the hardwood this year for the second season in a row.

The Colonials (1-3) will take on Georgia Tech (3-1) and No. 17 NC State (4-0) in Mexico over the holiday break as a part of the Cancun Challenge. Coming off a loss against Iona Sunday, the Colonials will face two opponents who finished last season with 20 or more wins.

Georgia Tech brings a potent interior offense to the floor, while NC State has a band of sharp-shooters from beyond the arc.

Both the Colonials' interior play and perimeter defense will be tested during back-to-back matchups in the upcoming tournament, but GW has the pieces it needs to compete against its tougher opponents.

GW's strongest offense has shown up in the paint. The Colonials have scored 66 of their 174 points so far on the interior and are shooting 30.3 percent from the field

on the year compared to 25.4 percent from beyond the arc.

In its double-overtime loss against Houston Nov. 9, Georgia Tech let up 38 points in the paint. If GW's forwards – especially senior Kelsi Mahoney and sophomore Neila Luma, who currently stand at No. 2 and 3 on the team in scoring, respectively – can find the hoop, the squad will be in a solid position to keep up with the Yellow Jackets.

But the Yellow Jackets have also put up big numbers of their own in the paint, tallying 48 points down low in the game against Houston.

The Colonials will have a tougher go when they take on No. 17 NC State and will need an exceptionally strong performance from post players for a chance at an upset.

The Colonials hold a slight advantage in height over the Wolfpack. Four of GW's starting five stand at 6 feet or taller, while only three of NC State's starters reach that mark.

With size as a weapon, if the Colonials can bolster their performance on the glass – especially with defensive stops



FILE PHOTO BY ERIC LEE | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER  
Redshirt sophomore forward Sarah Overcash attempts a basket during a home game against Maryland last Wednesday.

that prevent the Wolfpack's high scorers from earning second-chance shots – they will have a better chance of getting and staying ahead.

The Colonials have yet to find the solution to defending

guard-oriented teams and NC State is tough to contain on the perimeter. A trio of guards – junior Aislinn Konig, sophomore Kai Crutchfield and graduate student Kiara Leslie – are the team's

top-scorers and have gone a combined 27-for-55 from beyond the arc through four games.

Konig, Leslie and redshirt junior Grace Hunter are averaging more than 13 points

per game, but GW's leading scorer senior guard Mei-Lyn Bautista has garnered an average of 8.3 points per game.

GW could not gain its footing in a Nov. 15 contest against a Maryland offense that showed the same kind of dominance, making it likely that NC State takes control on the offensive side of the ball.

GW and Georgia Tech have both suffered from an inability to consistently knock down shots in past games, but the Yellow Jackets still pose a dynamic threat on offense that the Colonial defense may not be able to withstand.

Based off GW's weak performance against No. 10 Maryland, NC State's powerhouse offense and veteran lineup have a clear path to victory. If the Colonials can bring dominant post play and a powerful bench to Cancun, they will have a shot at scoring the upset.

The Colonials will take on Georgia Tech for the first time in program history on Thanksgiving Day at 4 p.m. They will then take on No. 17 NC State Friday at 4 p.m.

# Men's basketball takes notes in string of losses to top teams in the nation

**BARBARA ALBERTS**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's basketball has battled and fallen to two of the top-ranked teams in the country in the last week.

While the Colonials (0-5) lost their games against No. 4 Virginia and No. 18 Michigan by at least 19 points, they came away seeing what they need to work on to compete against teams that employ a tough defense and three-point shooting offense.

The Colonials' second-half improvements and late-game runs show the team could have the capacity to keep up with some of the toughest opponents they will face this season, but have a long way to go to string together a consistent 40 minutes of basketball.

These matches have shown head coach Maurice Joseph glimpses of what his team is capable of on offense and defense.

"These last two games playing the quality opponents that we played, we will look back to this in conference play and I think we'll be more battle tested because of these two games and because of the level that we're playing," Joseph said after

the game against Michigan Saturday.

## No. 4 Virginia

GW kicked off its top-tier run facing off against No. 4 Virginia Sunday, and while the scoreboard favored the Cavaliers 76-57 – GW managed to outscore Virginia 40-34 in the final frame.

Virginia's signature pack-line defense wreaked havoc on the Colonials, forcing a team that averages 31.3 percent shooting from beyond the arc to take shots from the perimeter.

Joseph said his team handled in-game adjustments to take advantage of the space Virginia offered from playing a condensed defense. The Colonials ended the night shooting 40.0 percent on an 18-for-45 clip while picking up 22 points in the paint.

"I learned that we are capable of more around the paint and in the glass, and capable of being tougher," Joseph said after the game against Virginia.

GW is still allowing opponents to pick up 9.6 more rebounds per game, but the Colonials were able to keep up on the offensive glass – an area of play GW strugg-

led with in past games – against Virginia, matching the team with six offensive rebounds.

"We're improving especially our weaknesses from past games," redshirt junior guard DJ Williams said after the game against Virginia last Sunday. "I know giving up a lot of offensive rebounds was one of our struggles the last two games, and I think we did a better job today against a bigger team so we just have to build on that."

## No. 18 Michigan

The Colonials could not hold onto their early-game momentum against Virginia, but on Saturday they came out gunning against No. 18 Michigan, overcoming an 18-point deficit in the first half to get within six points of the Wolverines' lead.

Michigan sped ahead to secure an 84-61 win, but the Colonials managed to outscore their opponent 16-3 in the final five minutes of the game.

The Colonials first-half performance showed GW is capable of stifling a hot three-point shooting team, but there are still holes in their transition defense.



FILE PHOTO BY OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR  
Sophomore guard Justin Mazzulla jumps for a ball along with a Virginia forward during a men's basketball game last week.

GW limited the Wolverines to five-made three-point shots in the first half, but the Colonials were burned in the second half from beyond the arc, giving up 10 three-point shots while being limited to just three on their end.

Joseph said the team's ability to make multiple stops on the defensive end

in transition kept them competitive in the first half, but the Colonials were unable to keep up the offensive momentum in the second half to match their defensive play.

GW was also able to put up 30 points in the paint against the Wolverines, who held opponents to an aver-

age 18.7 points in the paint per game heading into the matchup. The Colonials' points-in-paint total is the most Michigan has allowed through its five games this season.

"I believe that our guys are going to continue to grow from these opportunities," Joseph said.

## IN BRIEF

### Men's water polo repeats as conference champion

Men's water polo clinched its second consecutive Mid Atlantic Water Polo Conference Championship in an overtime win against No. 15 Bucknell at Fordham's Colonel Francis B. Messmore Aquatic Center Sunday.

The Colonials (22-6) were slated as the second seed and battled the top-seeded Bison (22-7) for 38 minutes of play and ultimately came out on top 12-11 to earn the crown. The win punches GW's ticket to the NCAA Tournament for the second time under second-year head coach Barry King.

Junior center Andrew Mavis paced the Colonials with three goals and four steals and junior utility player Atakan Destici ended the game with two goals and three assists. Senior goalkeeper Austin Pynch racked up a career-high 20 saves in the match.

Both teams traded goals throughout the contest, with the Bison taking their first lead of the second half 9-8 with eight seconds left in regulation. A fast goal from Destici tied the score at 9-9 and sent the match into extra time.

Freshman utility player Nick Schroeder buried the ball into the back of the net to put GW ahead in overtime and two insurance goals by Mavis solidified GW's second-ever conference title.

The Colonials dropped one of their two meetings with the Bison earlier this season before the championship game while racking up 22 wins on the season – the program's best record since 1997.

The Colonials win caps off a solid weekend performance, starting with their 16-6 victory over No. 7 McKendree (15-13) Friday in the quarterfinals. GW was paced by Destici with four goals and six assists followed by senior utility player Jack Kerwin with three goals and two assists.

GW then battled No. 3 Wagner (18-14) in the semifinals Saturday, pulling out a 16-14 win against the Seahawks in a rematch of last season's final game.

The Seahawks trailed by no more than two goals throughout the entire second half of the game before the Colonials netted back-to-back goals in the final quarter to solidify their win.

GW will return to action in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

—Barbara Alberts

# Allegations could be Title IX, NCAA violations: experts

From Page 1

But Deadspin reported that Nero was under investigation for misconduct at the time of his sudden departure for allegations that ranged from excessive drinking on a departmental trip to providing certain players "illicit benefits." Anonymous sources quoted in the article allege that Nero provided athletes with dinners at his home and paid athletes, including 2016-graduate Kevin Larsen.

Larsen said the allegations he received payments from Nero were "straight bullshit."

"There's no truth to the allegations about me," Larsen said in a Facebook message.

Isaiah Armwood, a 2014 graduate and Larsen's former teammate, said Nero always treated him with the "utmost respect."

"I didn't really see it or I wasn't involved, but in my eyes he was nothing but a professional," he said.

The Deadspin article also included a video that depicts Nero straddling an individual the publication identified as a 2017 graduate while making a "V" shape with his fingers, holding them up to his mouth and sticking out his tongue. The article also included screenshots of Snapchat posts showing Nero at bars with at least one former student.

"We'd all heard that one, the getting drunk with student-athletes," former swimmer and 2017-graduate Liam Huffman said. "I'm not shocked by it because there were other rumors out there about him that were honestly a little worse."

Deadspin reported that Nero had been feuding with former men's basketball head coach Mike Lonergan before he left the department. Lonergan, who also declined to comment for this article, was fired in September 2016 about two months after The Washington Post reported allegations the coach was abusive.

Chris McManes, a friend of Lonergan, said he had heard many of the allegations about Nero reported by Deadspin, including that Nero paid student-athletes and was banned from interacting with the men's basketball team by former University President Steven Knapp. McManes said Lonergan reported the behavior to the University and NCAA, but was still unjustly fired.

"Mike took steps he thought were necessary to protect the program and protect his players," McManes said. "Instead of being fired, he should have been commended."

## What the allegations could mean

Title IX and NCAA compliance experts said the allegations against Nero raised in

the article potentially violate Title IX regulations, NCAA rules and demonstrate misconduct based on typical employee codes of conduct.

The article reported that Nero had invited athletes to his home for dinner, offered them "use of" his home and had "strange" social relationships with them.

Ben Dyson, the assistant athletic director for compliance at Oklahoma State, said socializing with student-athletes outside official athletic department activities is not "impermissible" according to NCAA rules – as long as students are not provided benefits during those interactions.

"You have to know exactly in these situations what the level of interaction was and what the benefits provided by the athletic director to the student-athletes were to know if it crossed a line or not," Dyson said.

Alan Sash, a partner at the law firm McLaughlin and Stern who has worked on Title IX cases, said the other allegations reported by Deadspin, like drunken behavior in front of staff members and alumni, would fall under the umbrella of code of conduct violations regularly enforced by universities.

But Sash said sexual gestures or comments – like Nero allegedly making inappropriate "personal comments" toward an internship applicant and making sexual

gestures as depicted in the video published by Deadspin – would likely be considered Title IX violations.

## Moving forward

Following a lack of public response from the athletic department and GW, current and former student-athletes and experts said officials should be transparent in sharing the steps they will take to move forward.

A former student-athlete, who spoke under the condition of anonymity, said in text messages GW's silence falls in line with how it handled other scandals in the past.

"Given some PR situations that I know of currently and in the past, they are very unprofessional and try to go the easy way out," they said in a text message. "They don't take responsibility for anything that comes about with the athletic department and want to brush a lot of stuff under the rug. If they continue to do this, things will catch up to them and bite them in the butt."

Joshua Gordon, the founding principal of the Sports Conflict Institute, said although allegations transpired in the past, there has to be "honesty and transparency" in how the University handled the situation.

"Right now, GW has to decide, is it going to just play the PR game or is it going to actually look to transform its experience?" Gordon said.

**PUSHA T**  
Fillmore Silver Spring  
Nov. 21 • \$30  
Pusha T's Kanye-produced album "Daytona" has an avant-garde vibe to usher in a new era of music for the rapper.

**MORGAN PAGE**  
Soundcheck  
Nov. 23 • \$20  
An American DJ and music producer who has received two Grammy Award nominations will take the stage.

**THE FRONT BOTTOMS**  
The Anthem  
Nov. 24 • \$35  
Formerly known for edgy pop-punk, the Front Bottoms switched its sound to deep '80s pop.

## THANKSGIVING IN THE DISTRICT

ANNA BOONE  
REPORTER

### Simple takes on classic holiday recipes for your Friendsgiving potluck

#### TURKEY SLIDERS

**1 pound** sliced deli turkey or cut from a roast turkey  
**1 dozen** store-bought cornbread muffins  
**1/2 cup** mayonnaise  
**1/4 cup** cranberry jelly  
**1 tbsp** whole grain mustard  
**1 package** sliced swiss cheese  
**a dash** of hot sauce  
**salt & pepper**

#### GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

**2 cans** French-style green beans  
**1 can** condensed cream of mushroom soup  
**1/2 cup** milk  
**1/2 cup** shredded cheddar cheese  
**1 bag** frozen tater tots  
**pepper**

#### GOLDEN PUMPKIN BARS

**18 1/2 oz** yellow cake mix  
**1/4 cup** vegetable oil  
**16 oz** pumpkin puree  
**14 oz** sweetened condensed milk  
**1 tbsp** almond or vanilla extract  
**1 tbsp** cinnamon or pumpkin spice  
**1/2 tsp** salt  
**4 eggs**

If your culinary skills haven't prepared you for a full turkey dinner, these sliders have the goodness of a Thanksgiving meal. To begin, preheat your oven to 375 degrees. Meanwhile, slice a dozen store-bought cornbread muffins into tops and bottoms and arrange them onto separate baking sheets. Fold one or two pieces of freshly sliced deli turkey – or freshly sliced roast turkey if you're up for it – onto each muffin bottom, and place a slice of Swiss cheese over the turkey. Place baking sheets into the oven, and let the muffin bottoms cook until cheese melts and tops until they are lightly browned around the edges. While you wait, mix together 1/2 cup of mayonnaise, 1/4 cup of cranberry jelly, 1 tablespoon of whole grain mustard and a dash of optional hot sauce, if you are looking for an extra kick. Once you remove the muffins from the oven, let them cool slightly for about five minutes and spread the cranberry aioli on the muffin tops generously. Sandwich together, and serve.

We've all tried a greasy and lackluster casserole, with dubious vegetables clumped into each helping. This dish rethinks the staple, with a crunch and starch that goes unmatched. Grab a large bowl and a medium baking dish, then preheat your oven to 375 degrees. In the bowl mix together two cans of french style or boiled fresh green beans, 1 can of condensed cream of mushroom soup, 1/2 cup of milk and 1/2 cup of shredded cheddar cheese. Season with pepper to taste. Transfer the green bean mixture into your baking dish and cover with a healthy layer of frozen tater tots. Pop your complete casserole into a preheated oven and cook for 25 to 30 minutes or until tater tots are golden brown and crisp.

**"This dish rethinks the staple, with a crunch and starch that goes unmatched."**

Instead of being the fourth person to bring a store bought pie to the potluck, try this easy dessert alternative that will guarantee there are no leftovers to bring home. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees, or 325 if you are using a glass baking dish. Start by reserving 1/2 cup of one 18 1/2 oz box of yellow cake mix, and set aside. In a medium bowl, combine the remaining cake mix, 1/4 cup vegetable oil and one egg. Combine with a fork until a crumb-like mixture has formed. Transfer the mixture into a greased 9 by 13 inch baking dish and press down evenly to form a crust. In the same bowl used for the crust, mix together one 16 oz can of pumpkin puree, one 14 oz can of sweetened condensed milk, three eggs, the reserved 1/2 cup of cake mix, 1 tsp of almond or vanilla extract, 1 tsp of cinnamon and a 1/2 tsp of salt. Stir until combined and pour over the crust in the baking dish. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean from the center. Cool and cut into bars for serving.

## D.C. restaurants serving Thanksgiving feasts

**FOUNDING FARMERS**  
1924 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**OLD EBBITT GRILL**  
675 15th St. NW  
Noon to 1 a.m.

**GEORGIA BROWN'S**  
950 15th St. NW  
Noon to 6:30 p.m.

**RARE STEAKHOUSE**  
1595 I St. NW  
11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

As a classic option adjacent to campus, Founding Farmers offers a special pre-set menu of shared plates alongside an appetizer, main dish and dessert course for each person (\$39), with iced tea and drip coffee included. The restaurant starts you off slow with two appetizer options: a creamy butternut squash soup or a fresh farmers salad. For the main course, diners have seven holiday options ranging from a classic roasted turkey with black pepper sage gravy, almond mustard-crust white fish, a rosemary-roasted pork chop or a savory mushroom loaf. If you make room for a dessert slice in one of five flavors like apple, pumpkin or chocolate cream – your five-minute trek back to campus will be more like a wobble than a walk.

If you have a few friends in town and are looking for a fairly priced meal – considering the spiked prices for the holiday – head to Old Ebbitt Grill and try their roast turkey dinner with "all the fixings" (\$28.99 per plate), which comes with a choice of apple, pecan or pumpkin pie. If turkey is not your thing, no problem. The restaurant also has holiday specials like butternut squash ravioli smothered in a sherryed onion sauce, toasted walnuts, cranberries and sweet potato strings (\$17.59), or apple-wood smoked ham with potato gratin, green beans and a rum-raisin sauce (\$18.99). On top of that, Old Ebbitt Grill will also have its normal dinner menu available, so you can be thankful each dinner guest will leave stuffed and satisfied.

The Thanksgiving feast at Georgia Brown's includes an appetizer, entree and dessert (\$60) for an all-encompassing meal that is worth the price tag. The upped cost gets you five or six options for each course, so the entire table will be happy. Start off with appetizers like crab soup with sherry and lump crab meat, cajun shrimp with grits and lemon butter sauce or a classic caesar salad. Entrees come with a sorted stack of additional treats, like the roasted or deep fried turkey and the glazed country ham – which both come with mashed potatoes and collard greens – or crab-stuffed flounder – which comes with beets, baby arugula and mushrooms.

This popular steakhouse offers a savory Thanksgiving special, making it a great spot for families to enjoy a hearty holiday. Try the thyme roasted turkey breast (\$32) with mushroom sage stuffing, cheesy broccoli, butter-milk mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce, or amp up your order with pan roasted turkey breast (\$40) served with a side of Swiss chard and rock shrimp-stuffed turkey leg, potatoes, stuffing and cranberry cara cara orange sauce. Those looking to feast lavishly can try a dry-aged ribeye with caramelized onion bread pudding (\$75). Holiday specials feature some sides like a sweet potato hash (\$8), roasted carrots and pistachios (\$8), and butternut mashed potatoes (\$8), but Rare's usual dinner menu will also be available.

## Artist uses outdated communication devices to highlight D.C. women

LINDSAY WIGO  
REPORTER

Nine inoperative call boxes will be getting a makeover within the next year. The defunct communication devices number in the hundreds around the District and were formerly used to call fire and police services from any location in the city. But now, local artist and former adjunct professor Charles Bergen is refurbishing the fixtures around downtown D.C. sidewalks to commemorate prominent women in D.C. history like former Washington Post publisher Katharine Graham and activist Mary Church Terrell. Each proposed street sculpture will frame a bronze cast portrait of a woman, with an aluminum symbol of each woman atop their respective call box. "It's important to show that history is not just the history of men or just the elites," Bergen said. "They're women and a cross section of the population." The D.C. local also has a connection to GW as he spent summers taking classes at the Corcoran School of the Arts



SHANE BAHN | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER

A former adjunct professor is refurbishing call boxes around downtown D.C. sidewalks to commemorate prominent women in D.C. history.

and Design in his youth before more recently taking evening classes at Corcoran until 2016. Bergen also taught a sustainability course at the school in the fall 2016 semester. The call box project attempts to provide visible public art that memorializes

contemporary women. "There are a number of women in the portraits who worked to change, to get voting rights for women, civil rights entitlements for African Americans and who also broke cultural and business barriers," he said. "We wanted to

celebrate the lives of women." Bergen said the inspiration behind shifting some of the nearly 875 call boxes around D.C. into art is not novel. He said the call boxes' ubiquity and close connection to D.C. history makes them a perfect canvas for lo-

cal beautification efforts.

"They're a really neat way to create public art because the base, or stand, for the public art is already there," he said. "You can make the call box itself part of the art." Bergen redesigned six call boxes on a stretch of Rhode Island Avenue NE last year. When the same opportunity emerged in June with a theme to honor women this time, he jumped at the opportunity. "I knew the ins and the outs of how to put art on them and make them into art," Bergen said. Each woman's call box is set relative to where her historical legacy took place, like near her house, workplace or site of a significant event in her life. Eight women are already chosen, like suffragists Alice Paul and Josephine Butler. Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, who reemerged in pop culture from the musical "Hamilton," was announced as the final call box honoree. The project, which will be completed next year, has gotten underway with the details of each portrait sketched out on Bergen's website. Bergen collaborated with Mara Cherkasky, a histo-

rian and one of the founding members of the urban historical firm Prologue DC, who led the effort in selecting the nine women to be portrayed. Cherkasky said she wanted to get involved because of her expertise in women's history. "I already had the knowledge I needed to come up with nine women, and before that I came up with the idea that we should put women in the call boxes, since I knew that almost no outdoor sculpture in the city depicts a real woman," she said. "The opportunity arose for me to possibly get the numbers up, and Charles jumped on it." This isn't the first project Bergen has taken on that puts his art at the center of public life. Over the past six years, he has tackled projects including the diagonal crosswalk of a dragon in Chinatown between Seventh and H streets, and has enjoyed watching passersby check out public art. "People going about their day-to-day routines, like lawyers and reporters and lobbyists, people who work in restaurants and nightclubs," he said. "Everyone will see the art."



# GW Teach

**MAKING MONUMENTAL CHANGE**



**Explore a new career path.  
Obtain *STEM Teaching Certification*.**

Starting salary for a D.C. teacher  
with a bachelor's degree is \$61,691.

Complete our Step 1 introductory  
course and earn \$100!

Learn more at [gwteach.gwu.edu](http://gwteach.gwu.edu).

**THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

WASHINGTON, DC