

The GW Hatchet

FROM THE SIDELINES TO THE STARTING LINEUP

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DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Freshman Tyler Nichols, sophomore Kahleel Hester and freshman Gabi Bello are three of more than 25 black students who said in interviews that while the University touts its diversity efforts, they still feel unwelcome in a predominantly white institution where just 7 percent of the undergraduate population is black.

New residence hall will feature loft-style common spaces, new dining vendor

ANASTASIA CONLEY & KATERYNA STEPANENKO
REPORTERS

Four years from now, underclassmen could live in a 10-story building across from University Yard featuring loft-style lounges, community kitchens and retail spaces.

The new building – which will be located on 20th and H streets – will likely be completed by fall 2022 and provide beds for 320 underclassmen, Alicia Knight, the senior associate vice president for operations, said. Officials involved in the project said “dynamic” community spaces to give students new hangout spots amid an administrative push to revamp the student experience.

Knight said the new residence hall will mirror rooms in Potomac House with two bedrooms connected by one bathroom. The University is working with Ayers Saint Gross, the architectural firm that worked on District House, to design the new building, she said.

She said the residence hall will feature loft-style common rooms spanning across every two floors, where the lower level will feature a community kitchen, lounge area and TV, while stairs would lead up to a “Starbucks-style study space.”

“What has been driving a lot of the conversation around this project has been the student community spaces and how we can work to design something that has some dynamic community spaces that students will be drawn to,” Knight said.

The University will use about \$100 million to construct the new residence hall and renovate Thurston Hall over the next few years.

Knight said the new hall will also feature a food retail space on the ground floor. She said the University has yet to begin the process of selecting vendors because the search process will be dependent on

what feedback officials hear from students closer to the start of construction.

Knight said the building might include a basement level with a “multipurpose” space, and officials are considering including a second ground level.

“We’ve really been focusing on what is the typical residential layout of a floor, what are the community spaces and starting to get student feedback on those so that we can progress the design concurrently to thinking about these things,” Knight said.

The final design and budget for the residence hall will be presented to the Board of Trustees in the spring, she said.

Pending the approval from the board, Knight said the University will begin the process of acquiring zoning and other necessary building permits. She said she doesn’t know when construction will begin because dates are dependent on a series of University- and citywide approvals.

She said several officials and students have been involved in early conversations about the residence hall, including representatives from the provost’s office, the housing department, the operations division and the residential engagement team.

Knight added that the architects spent last week on campus speaking with students about the community spaces. Ayers Saint Gross also partnered with the University earlier this year to renovate the first floor of the Marvin Center into a living room space.

Jason Wilcoxon, the principal of Ayers Saint Gross, said the company has spent two decades working on a “multitude” of projects with GW, like transforming what was formerly Schenley, Crawford and West End halls into District House. He said the company has already be-

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Finding a place: Black students search for community on predominantly white campus

NIA LARTEY
REPORTER

Freshman Gabi Bello immediately notices one thing when she walks into her classes: the eyes.

When other students turn toward her, it is the first reminder that she is one of the few black students at a university comprised of mostly white peers. The moment makes her wonder if she made the right decision to attend GW over Harvard and Stanford universities, which also offered her admission.

Bello is one of more than 25 black students who said in interviews that while the University touts its diversity efforts, they still feel unwelcome in a predominantly white institution where just 7 percent of the undergraduate population is black. In the Class of 2021, there are 140 black students, according to institutional data.

Some freshmen said the lack of community has

hampered their ability to find a place on campus and connect with other black students and faculty during their first year. Upperclassmen said while they eventually found a community on campus, the University should admit more black students and create more opportunities for black students to connect.

“GW is not diverse. I don’t know why they use that word,” Bello said. “I don’t know if they know the definition of diverse, and I don’t know if it’s because they’re a politically active school and they want to seem ‘woke,’ but literally look at yourself, look at your staff. Diverse in what? Nothing.”

Struggling to find a place

Freshman Desi Warren, a Posse Foundation scholar, said he came from a majority-black community in Atlanta and often feels uncomfortable on GW’s most-

ly white campus. When he first arrived on campus, he said he noticed that students often looked him up and down “as if you don’t belong here.”

He said that sentiment drives him to “make my presence felt” by pursuing leadership opportunities in organizations like the Black Student Union and the Black Men’s Initiative.

“We have to be not even twice as good, but 20 times better than the white guy who sits next to me to get half the recognition,” Warren said. “People are automatically going to assume that you’re not capable or you’re not worthy of having the same spot that they have.”

Freshman Peyton Wilson, another Posse scholar, said she would have transferred out of GW if she was not in the program because the group gives her a support network she would not have otherwise. She said the black student community

exists at GW, “but it doesn’t feel like a community” because she often sees black students she doesn’t know on campus even though the population is relatively small.

“I know there are not that many of us,” she said. “So why aren’t there more opportunities for us to mingle with each other and really get to know each other?”

But she added that even within the community of black students she has met, there is often an “us versus them” mentality that black students should date or spend time with one another more so than with white students. She said some black students may also look down on those who participate in “unblack” behaviors, like wearing the brand Vineyard Vines or straightening their hair.

But she said that mentality creates “some polarization” because a person’s

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Nearly 40 percent of students face food insecurity: report

CAYLA HARRIS & SARAH ROACH

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITORS

Nearly 40 percent of students are food insecure, according to a report recently obtained by The Hatchet.

The report, released by the Wisconsin HOPE Lab in March and obtained by The Hatchet Thursday, is the first publicly documented data of food insecurity at GW. Thirty-nine percent of students reported that they faced low or very low levels of food security – meaning they have worried that they would run out of food, have cut or skipped meals because they did not have money or could not afford to eat balanced meals, among other factors.

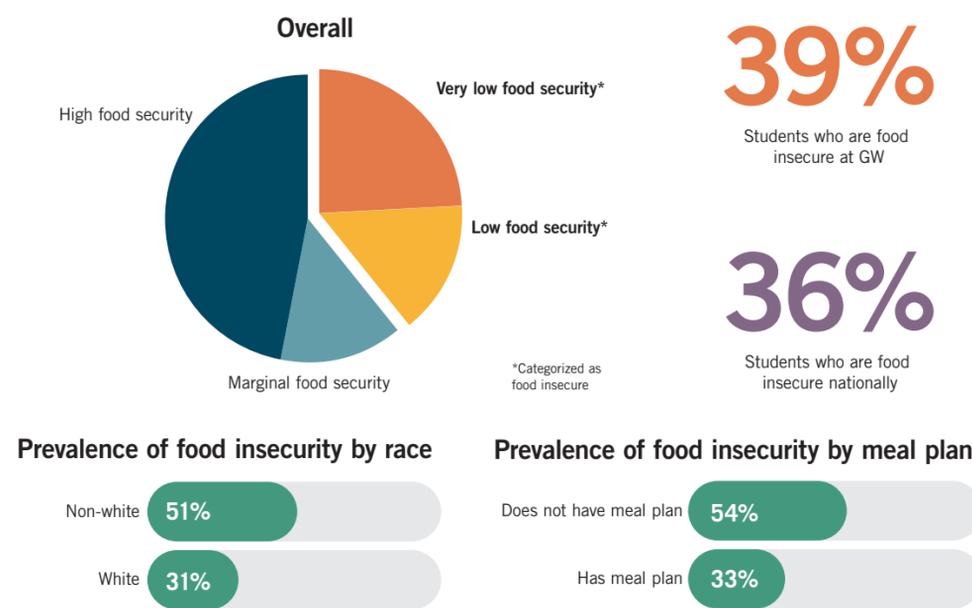
“We’ve always operated on the assumption that food insecurity is a serious issue here at GW – this is just confirmation,” Martin Yerovi, an outgoing co-director of internal affairs for The Store, the University’s student-led food pantry, said.

The level of food insecurity at GW was largely on trend with national data from 41 other surveyed universities, which reported that about 36 percent of students are food insecure on average, according to the survey. Nearly 250 students responded to the HOPE Lab survey.

The data also showed that food insecurity hits underrepresented groups the hardest. More than half of non-white students participating in the survey were classified as food insecure, compared to 31 percent of white students. About 54 percent of Pell Grant recipients also fell into the category.

Students who lived off campus or did not have a meal plan also experienced food insecurity at higher rates than their peers. About 53 percent of students who did not have on-campus housing or a meal plan were classified as food insecure.

Food insecurity has been an in-



creasingly prevalent topic at GW for years after the 2016 opening of The Store. In spring 2018, more than 850 students had signed up to utilize the pantry, student leaders said.

Students have also long criticized the University’s dining plan for exacerbating the issue after officials shut down Foggy Bottom’s only dining hall in 2016 in favor of an “open” dining plan allowing students to use their GWorld funds at any participating vendor. A year into the program, students said that running out of dining cash was the norm – and officials overhauled the system in the spring to allocate dining dollars based on whether a student has an in-unit kitchen.

Student leaders from The Store, who originally obtained the report last week, said the findings highlighted the need to institutionally and adequately address food inse-

curity on campus. Since The Store launched two years ago, student leaders said they have heard anecdotal evidence of students struggling to pay for meals, but they never had concrete data to support the claims until now.

Ben Yoxall, The Store’s outgoing treasurer, said members of the group are calling on officials to conduct a comprehensive survey to gauge what factors contribute to food insecurity and how different student groups are affected by the phenomena.

“We know a rough estimate of people at GW are food insecure, but we really don’t know why, we really don’t have confirmation of these numbers,” he said. “We really want to know more information.”

Saru Duckworth, the outgoing president of The Store, said the data enables members of the organiza-

tion to “build a case” for officials to construct a long-term plan to address food insecurity as a systemic issue. Student leaders formed a task force last month comprised of officials, student leaders, staff and faculty to research the prevalence of food insecurity and identify ways to combat it.

“Even if the number was much lower, it matters that even one person is experiencing very low levels of food security,” she said. “It matters to all of us.”

Duckworth said the report also helps to inform the ways The Store could accommodate groups who are most affected by food insecurity, like minority and off-campus students. Duckworth said she wants the task force to discuss the feasibility of providing “culturally appropriate” foods in The Store.

Colette Coleman, the interim associate dean of students, said of-

officials have heard concerns from students about food insecurity and are working with students “on multiple fronts” to aid students affected by the issue.

She said officials made “significant changes” to the dining plan in recent months by increasing the amount of money loaded onto students’ GWorld cards and adding an all-you-can-eat option in Pelham Commons on the Mount Vernon Campus.

She said officials have also created programs to alleviate food insecurity that are geared toward first-generation students, including the Center for Student Engagement’s monthly dinner, workshops about eating on a budget and pop-up events offering food. Officials also train academic advisers to inform students about The Store, she said.

“It is our hope that none of our students will have to live with food insecurity, but we recognize that some do,” Coleman said in an email. “Regardless of whether they are graduate or undergraduate students, we are working to address issues like food insecurity and financial need that can come between a student and their ability to succeed academically.”

She declined to say how officials reacted to the HOPE Lab’s findings and how they used the findings from the survey. Affordability experts said the percentage of students who are food insecure mirrors a nationwide issue indicating that administrators must explore long-term solutions to ensure that students don’t go hungry.

Bianca vanHeydoorn, the director of community engagement and research application at the Hope Center for College, Community and Justice at Temple University, said the percentage of food insecure students at GW falls in line

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CRIME LOG

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT: HIT AND RUN

2200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Garage)
11/14/2018 – Unknown
Closed Case
A male faculty member reported to the GW Police Department that he noticed damage on the front bumper of his silver Mercedes-Benz in a parking garage at 2200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.
No suspects or witnesses

THREAT TO DO BODILY HARM

Alley behind Potomac House
11/17/2018 – 2:15 p.m.
Closed Case
A female student reported to GWPD that a male individual physically threatened her and her boyfriend after engaging in a verbal altercation.
No identifiable subject

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Corcoran School of the Arts and Design
11/17/2018 – 11:50 p.m.
Closed Case
GWPD observed an intoxicated individual not affiliated with GW in the Corcoran basement. GWPD issued the subject a bar notice, and there is limited information about the subject's conduct.
Subject barred

BREAKING AND ENTERING VENDING/THEFT COIN OPERATING MACHINE

Media and Public Affairs Building
11/28/2018 – 7:36 p.m.
Open Case
While on patrol, a GWPD officer observed that a fifth-floor vending machine door was partially open and, upon further investigation, found that a bag of chips had been stolen.
Case open

—Compiled by Valerie Yurk



Ben Drexler spins a poi – a tethered weight that can be spun through the air – that displays custom light designs at the Georgetown Glow outdoor exhibit Saturday.

Officials create new position to oversee academic programs on the Vern

ALEC RICH & LAUREN PELLER
REPORTERS

The University is seeking a new leader to oversee academic programs on the Mount Vernon Campus.

The provost's office launched an internal search earlier this semester for the inaugural associate provost for special programs and the Mount Vernon academic experience. Officials and faculty said the new hire will work to enhance programming on the Vern and oversee faculty and student partnerships.

The person who holds the new position will oversee the university honors and women's leadership programs and will also manage the Mount Vernon Society of Fellows, which includes the postdoctoral fellows on the campus, officials said. The person will also develop programming and coordinate with the dean of residential engagement on the campus, officials said.

Terry Murphy, the deputy provost for academic affairs, said the University started advertising the position online a few weeks ago. About 10 current faculty members have applied for the job so far, she said.

Murphy said she hopes to begin interviewing candidates for the position with a committee of faculty, staff and students at the start of the spring semester.

"I think the ideal candidate will have an academic vision for a creative intellectual community on the Mount Vernon Campus," Murphy said. "I think that person will be committed to thinking about how first-year students, in particular, are integrated into the GW academic community."

Murphy said the associate provost will need to have an understanding of and interest in scholarship, and the person will also focus on expanding the living and learning communities on the Vern. She added that the first-year Politics and Values program, which is housed on the Vern,



FILE PHOTO BY DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Terry Murphy, the deputy provost for academic affairs, said the University started advertising the position online a few weeks ago.

will not report to the new associate provost because the initiative is housed in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences.

"I would hope that we see strategic partnerships and the way in which women's leadership and honors can really be brought together in conversation with other living and learning communities that we might get going," Murphy said.

The new associate provost will also be involved in the search for the next director of the honors program after Maria Frawley announced last month that she would step down from her role at the end of the semester.

Colette Coleman, the interim associate dean of students, said she will serve on the interview committee for the candidates. She said she hopes the new associate provost will have a passion for the Vern and ideas about how to bring together and host events for the two programs.

"All of the communities were tight within themselves, but it's breaking those walls down to say if all those communities are tight and they were all tight together, it would create a more robust

feel on the campus as well," she said.

Ingrid Creppell, the interim honors program director, said she hopes the new associate provost will invest money into hiring more postdoctoral students and ensuring that the Mount Vernon programs have "first-rate" faculty.

"I think overall, I am hopeful that the person that they hire would be an academic leader and be able to really re-energize the potential of the Mount Vernon space because I think GW has not proficiently used it," she said.

Mary Buckley, the director of the Women's Leadership Program, said it is important to have a central administrative presence on the Mount Vernon Campus since there has been a "void" in leadership since 2016 when Rachelle Heller, the former Mount Vernon Campus associate provost and director of WLP, stepped down to work as a professor in the computer science department. Heller did not return a request for comment.

Buckley said she is looking forward to new programming, perspectives and ideas that the associate provost will

bring to the campus and its academic programs.

"I think that once there's a director of the campus that's looking out for the academic integrity and life of the campus, that will absolutely create more networking that happens across the programs," she said.

Mark Ralkowski, an associate professor of honors and philosophy, said a central administrative figure will help identify ways to improve academics on the Vern, like increasing diversity among students and faculty.

"There are some really specific areas where we have identified room for growth and hopefully with new leadership, the director position will just continue that process," Ralkowski said.

He said the new provost must be a "positive, consistent presence" who attends annual events on the campus like Vern Harvest and Fountain Day.

"My hope is that it's a person who is around and who is naturally inclined to be a part of everything that is going on on that campus," he said.

—Meredith Roaten contributed reporting.

Students weigh in on residence hall design

From Page 1

gun "engaging" students on the new project.

"Our goal is to be careful facilitators and listeners to help students identify the kinds of spaces that will enhance their lives on campus," he said in an email. "We are hoping that this project delivers a residential experience that is characterized by meaningful community spaces throughout the building."

Residence Hall Association President SJ Matthews said housing officials first presented the building plans to the RHA, resident advisers and faculty at the group's meeting last Tuesday, where students provided feedback about what the community spaces should look like and what they should include.

"Students have this really cool opportunity right now to give input, presuming they probably won't be here to see it, but they can leave a really tangible impact on this cam-

pus by writing their input and feedback now," Matthews said.

James Harnett, a junior and a member of the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission, said the new residence hall will encourage students to use nearby University Yard, which he said is often underutilized.

He said expanding community spaces on campus will ensure that students who do not live in large residence halls are not "missing out" on meeting people and fostering a community. As a commissioner, he said he plans on meeting with student leaders to hear their feedback on the plans for the new residence hall and will meet with officials to advocate for students' requests.

"I think students need to continue to be a part of the conversation about what that space looks like, about the types of food that it offers and how it fits into the bigger pictures of what's available across campus," Harnett said.

Black community supports each other in times of conflict, students say

From Page 1

interests or actions do not determine their blackness.

"I feel like we have a checklist of, 'This is what makes you black enough here,' and if you don't check off all the boxes, then, oh, you must be white," she said.

Freshman Tyler Nichols, who went to high school with predominantly black and Hispanic students, said he experienced a "culture shock" when he moved to a campus where he is surrounded by white students. In October, Nichols said one of his peers said he "looked like a thug" for wearing a black beanie.

"When kids say that, in their minds, they're like, 'Oh it was a joke,'" Nichols said. "But they don't understand

that, because you said that, I looked at myself and I was like, 'Wow, you're really calling me a thug?' To you, that may be funny. To me, that's not."

Freshman Kayla Mokwuah said she was "disappointed" by the relatively small number of black students on campus and found it even more difficult to connect with black peers as a biracial individual. She said her community on the women's basketball team is "more integrated" because teammates are supportive of each other regardless of race.

"I grew up in a white town," Mokwuah said. "I'm not black enough and I'm not white enough, so I'm just floating in the middle."

Creating community

Sophomore Kahleel Hes-

ter, the president of GW Posse, said that while the proportion of black students is relatively small, the community does come together, especially in times of conflict, like when a racist Snapchat sparked outrage on campus last semester.

"Sometimes, we can be a little fragmented because that is college and we all have our own goals and agendas," he said. "But at the end of the day, the GW black community is a community and we do come together when we need to address something."

Students hosted public forums following the Snapchat post, prompting action from both the Student Association and administrators. The Black Student Union also held a town hall last month where students raised a series of issues fac-

ing the black community.

Hester added that black student organizations are open to everyone, including students who are not black. He said he wishes non-black students attended events like study halls and general body meetings hosted by black student groups so students could better understand their community.

Senior Imani Ross – a former SA senator who spearheaded a diversity and inclusion assembly during her tenure and drafted legislation condemning the Snapchat post – said officials also need to admit more black students. She said black students lack institutional support that would help them better foster a community.

"Why, as a student, should I be responsible for creating and curating a com-

munity?" Ross said.

'The perfect balance'

Caroline Laguerre-Brown, the vice provost for diversity, equity and community engagement, said officials are "acutely aware" that the black student community is not a "monolith." Black students come to GW from across the United States and countries in the Caribbean, Africa and Latin America.

She said officials support efforts to create a community in student groups "that meet the diverse social and cultural needs of black students," as seen in the 20 black student organizations on campus.

"All of this rich diversity of experience makes the creation of community that meets every student's needs

extremely challenging," she said in an email. "We fully embrace that challenge, of course, but recognize that we will always be chasing after the perfect balance."

Michael Tapscoff, the director of the Multicultural Student Services Center, said students can find support in organizations on campus, but faculty and staff can "do a better job" of promoting multicultural events and programming.

"We have amazing resources for the black community here, and when we hear there is a need, we work with the community to try to fill it," he said in an email. "Community building is a two-way street. We need to hear and to know when a student is struggling here. It is the only way we can help."

Tau Kappa Epsilon to expand membership, recharter this spring

JARED GANS
STAFF WRITER

Almost a year after returning to campus, GW's chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon is trying to establish itself as one of the University's largest fraternities next semester.

TKE has recruited more than 40 members since it reopened in January, three years after the former chapter was shut down after an investigation into drug use. Chapter leaders said they haven't struggled with recruitment given the fraternity's prior reputation from being kicked off campus – and they are now working to reach membership standards to officially charter in the spring semester.

TKE was the first chapter to return to campus earlier this year following the removal of several Greek chapters from campus for conduct violations. At least four other Greek chapters will reopen in the next three years, including Pi Kappa Phi in fall 2019, Phi Kappa Psi in spring 2020 and Sigma Phi Epsilon in spring 2022.

TKE leadership said the chapter has struggled to make enough money to hold more social events because of low membership, but they anticipate boosting the num-

ber of members in the spring which will bring in more money through membership fees.

Mark Detlor, the president of TKE, said the chapter is working to meet national requirements – like maintaining a 2.5 GPA for the chapter and complying with TKE's national risk management guidelines – to charter as an official chapter.

"We feel we have been a positive addition to the University and hope to become an asset in strengthening the GW community," Detlor said in an email.

He said the chapter added seven sophomores this fall, and he wants to recruit at least 20 members during the spring – putting TKE's membership size on par with the largest fraternities at GW, like Kappa Alpha and Kappa Sigma.

"If our fall 2018 pledge class is an indicator of what is to come for future recruitments for TKE, I'm excited for what that future holds," he said.

Taylor Nathanson, a recruitment chair and former vice president of TKE, said the chapter had the second-largest recruitment class of any on-campus fraternity last semester.

Nathanson said the cur-



SARAH URTZ | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER
Taylor Nathanson, a recruitment chair and former vice president of TKE, said the chapter had the second-largest recruitment class of any on-campus fraternity last semester.

rent members are too young to remember why the chapter was initially removed from campus, adding that no potential new members mentioned concerns to him about the chapter's previous reputation involving drug use.

"When chapters get kicked off, they do it in such a way that none of those people are still affiliated with the organization, so it's totally new

essentially," Nathanson said.

Nathanson said the two main goals for the chapter for the rest of the academic year are recruitment and philanthropy. He said the chapter plans to actively recruit students from the Mount Vernon Campus through tabling and residence hall storming – something other Greek chapters do not do on the campus – next semester as part of the

group's plan to become an 80- to 100-person chapter.

"We've only been going for a semester and a half at this point," he said. "We're looking to really flush out the numbers, so recruitment is definitely the area that we're concentrating on."

Nick Kimble, the national expansion coordinator for TKE, said he lived on campus last semester to help the

chapter reach out to potential new members.

"It's building a brand and getting people to buy into it," Kimble said. "It's what people are capable of being when TKE is at its best."

Kimble said when any Greek chapter is reopened on campus, it can be difficult to maintain a sense of the chapter's culture after the group's initial founders graduate. He said that when a chapter's "founding fathers" leave, the chapter's culture can "die off."

"Keeping that culture, keeping that drive, keeping that hope for the future alive is going to be one of the biggest challenges," he said. "It's not insurmountable, and I believe that the men can do it with resources invested, continual visitation and the caliber of the young men that they're recruiting."

He said the previous TKE chapter closed because its values did not align with those of the University or the national chapter, but recruiting people who align with those values has been a priority this year.

"There was a lot of time and effort put into making sure that the group of men that we recruit and the values they live by are up to our standards," he said.

Officials to stock Vern vending machines with toiletries, health products

SHANNON MALLARD
REPORTER

The Mount Vernon Campus will soon be equipped with machines for students to pick up everyday items like toiletries and medicine.

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said officials are planning to add vending machines to the Vern over winter break to give students a nearby resource to purchase snacks, phone chargers or medicine. Student leaders said the machines, which will be provided by Vengo – a company that creates personalized kiosks for colleges, gyms and hotels – will make necessities more accessible to students who would otherwise have to trek to CVS or Safeway.

Csellar said Vengo machines are installed in Fungler Hall and the Milken Institute School of Public Health, and officials are looking to expand on the Vern. Vengo machines offer products like Apple and Android charger cables, earbuds and Advil, she said.

"Whether it's a quick snack between classes or taking a quick study break, we know students often



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
Student Association Executive Vice President Ojani Walthrust, who advocated for the vending machines during the semester, said students living on the Vern do not have easy access to basic necessities that students on the Foggy Bottom Campus do at local stores.

need the convenience and accessibility of vending machines to help address immediate needs," she said.

Csellar said the product list for the Vengo machines and the number of machines being installed have not yet been finalized, and officials are working with SA leaders and the Center

for Student Engagement to determine what items are offered.

She did not specify the location of each machine but said they will "complement" the snack and beverage machines already located in Vern residence halls and Eckles Library. There is "little to no" cost

to add the machines, aside from the cost of installing a new electrical outlet to operate the kiosk, Csellar said.

Student Association Executive Vice President Ojani Walthrust, who advocated for the vending machines during the semester, said students living on the

Vern do not have easy access to basic necessities that students on the Foggy Bottom Campus do. Walthrust said the machines will allow Vern residents to access snacks and feminine hygiene products without walking off campus.

The initiative was part of Walthrust's platform to improve residential life when he ran for executive vice president last semester.

"As a person who, in freshman year, was on the Vern, it's something that I hold near and dear to me because I understand that there needs to be more resources offered for first-year students on campus, such as the health and wellness vending machine," he said.

Walthrust said he solicited feedback on what to include in the machines from SA senators, student organization leaders and students who offered opinions when he tabled in the Marvin Center earlier this semester. While products included in the machines have not been finalized, Walthrust said he brainstormed items, like condoms, Advil, feminine hygiene products and pregnancy tests, to include in the machines. The vendors

will take GWorld, debit and credit cards, he said.

Vengo machines can include between 40 and 80 products, which typically carry the company's most popular items like snacks, electronics or hygiene products, according to the company's website.

"Students on the Vern, because they're on the other campus, there are certain things that they don't have access to, so I hope now this can be one of the things that they have access to," Walthrust said.

Tyler Kusma, the SA's director of Mount Vernon affairs and a resident adviser on the Vern, said the vending machines will benefit Vern residents by giving them more options for buying snacks and toiletries without taking the Vern Express or an Uber to stores on Foggy Bottom.

Students also purchase similar products from nearby stores like CVS and Safeway, which are a roughly 10-minute walk from the Vern but are not open 24/7.

"If you have a snack vending machine, then that just benefits them so that they don't have to travel as far to get a quick little thing," he said.

Food insecurity report highlights nationwide problem, experts say

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with national trends. At Temple, about 35 percent of students have low or very low levels of food insecurity, she said.

She said the data helped shed light on a nationwide problem that affects stu-

dents' ability to learn and thrive in the classroom. vanHeydoorn said colleges miss out on "the full richness" of what students have to offer when they are suffering from stress resulting from food or housing insecurity.

"It shows us the reality of what the new – or as

we call it, the real – college student looks like," she said. "The rising cost of education, the rising cost of housing, the rising cost of food all contribute to a student body that can't access or doesn't have their basic needs met."

Celeste Davis, a lecturer of health studies at Ameri-

can University, said that in addition to food insecurity rising on campus as housing costs and tuition increase, the University could also be admitting more low-income students without helping those students adjust to the relatively high costs of dining.

She said that while

schools could start food pantries to alleviate food insecurity, officials also need to think about "systematic ways" to help students, like increasing the financial aid pool or promoting food stamp programs.

"As we increase access and diversify who is com-

ing to what school, we also have to think about who has the ability to afford to live while they're in school," she said. "I don't think we take in that economic factor – yes, we're increasing access to schools, but what does access really mean if kids are still hungry?"

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Elliott School solicits student feedback for new podcast

CIARA REGAN
REPORTER

The Elliott School of International Affairs is gathering student feedback for a podcast it will launch next semester.

Students in the Elliott School received an online survey last week to gauge interest for a podcast the school hopes to release before the end of the academic year. Students and officials said the new podcast will inform students about topics like the implications of climate change and students' experiences working in other countries.

Robin Khan, the director of public affairs at the Elliott School, said officials initially reached out to the International Affairs Society, a student organization, in October to assess whether students interested in international affairs would listen to the podcast.

Khan declined to say how many responses the survey has received, how many students have indicated interest and on which sites the podcast will be available. But she said there has been "enough" student interest

to go ahead with launching the podcast.

"We are always looking for channels to promote our faculty and the content from events that take place at the Elliott School," she said.

Khan said the podcast will include interviews with faculty on "topical" events and segments from Elliott School events with speakers and panels.

She said the school is in the process of recording an interview with Dean Reuben Brigety for the podcast, which will recap the school's progress this year and identify future goals for the school.

She added the podcast will feature an interview with Sean Roberts — an associate professor of the practice of international affairs and the director of the international development studies program — focusing on the Uighurs, a Turkish ethnic group that primarily practices Islam, and an interview with Paul Williams, an associate professor of international affairs, discussing peace in Somalia.

Brigety did not return multiple requests for comment through a University spokesman



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Students in the Elliott School of International Affairs received an online survey last week to gauge interest for a podcast the school hopes to release before the end of the academic year.

about what the podcast will cover, why the school is launching a podcast, when it will launch, how many responses the survey has received, what feedback students have given and why Elliott School students are the target audience.

The survey sent to students includes nine questions about the podcast, in-

cluding how long students would like the podcast to be, what it should be titled, how the podcast should be formatted and what issues students would like the podcast to cover.

Rajan Vasisht, a senior and the president of the International Affairs Society, said officials reached out to the student group in October to set up a fo-

cus group for students to provide feedback on the podcast since the group has about 850 student members.

He said the podcast, which officials hope to put out before the end of next semester, will primarily target Elliott students, but the school hopes that anyone who is interested will listen.

"They are hoping it becomes big enough where if you search 'international affairs podcast,' it will come up, even if you don't go to GW," he said.

He said officials also mentioned potentially allowing students to have roles in production or develop a blog to complement the podcast.

Vasisht added that the podcast will cover topics that are not part of classroom curriculum and that stay away from mainstream international affairs topics, like North Korea or the Syrian civil war.

Michelle Chau, a junior and the vice president of the International Affairs Society, said the podcast will make issues in international affairs more accessible to students who don't have time to take a course in the Elliott School or for those who are interested in international affairs.

"We are trying to target really anyone who's interested in any kind of international affairs issues," she said. "We're not looking just at Elliott students, even though it's run through the Elliott School."



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

The School of Engineering and Applied Science launched a search last month for its next dean.

University kicks off dean search for engineering school

JARED GANS
STAFF WRITER

The School of Engineering and Applied Science launched a search last month for its next dean.

A team of 14 faculty, administrators, trustees, students and alumni are working to find the next leader of the school, which has not had a permanent leader for the past three months, officials said. A job description for the position was released last week and places an emphasis on prioritizing research, fundraising efforts and inclusivity.

David Dolling, the former dean of SEAS, stepped down at the end of August, and Rumana Riffat, a former professor of civil engineering, has served as the school's interim dean since the start of the semester.

The job description outlines priorities for the new dean, including improving the school's undergraduate gender balance, retaining top faculty, working with federal agencies for research and growing academic departments.

Since SEAS is surrounded by federal funding agencies, international engineering firms, a medical school and a hospital, a dean will "build transformational relationships around," the description states.

Forrest Maltzman said new deans typically begin their tenure during the summer, but he said the search will conclude "when the candidate we want is identified and accepted."

Maltzman declined to say if the University is recruiting potential candidates from outside institutions and, if so, how many. Officials also launched a search for the new dean of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences last month.

The University hired the outside firm Isaacson, Miller to help conduct a search

for potential candidates, Maltzman said. A representative from the firm, which is also overseeing the CCAS search, declined to comment on the process.

Maltzman said SEAS' location in the District offers "unique education" opportunities in leadership and training in engineering and applied science. He added that the dean must engage with the D.C. community to further the schools' educational and research missions.

"The school is in a very strong position with robust enrollments, a research profile that is rapidly expanding, a solid financial base and a commitment to providing its students individualized attention," he said.

He said the school has a highly ranked online program and first-class facilities, including the Science and Engineering Hall, a \$275 million project that opened in 2015.

"There is no question that the school is on a very good trajectory, and we need a leader who recognizes this and can strategically guide the school forward," Maltzman said.

Emilia Entcheva, the chair of the search committee, declined to comment, deferring to Maltzman. Seven of the eight faculty members on the committee did not return multiple requests for comment.

Charles Garris, a member of the search committee and a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, said the University is looking for a dean who will prioritize research and the student experience — two of University President Thomas LeBlanc's priorities for the University.

"We need somebody who has a good understanding of how a science and engineering school operates and as a top-notch research institution," he said. "I'd say that would be a No. 1 priority."

He said the new dean

should seek to expand the graduate student pool, which will help the school's faculty "amplify" research efforts. He added that the school needs a dean who will support faculty research endeavors because otherwise, faculty will not be "as incentivized" to generate grants.

"Right now, we have a lot of superstar faculty, but they spend an awful amount of time on mundane paperwork, and in a first-rate research university, faculty should not have to," he said. "Part of the problem is that we've recruited a lot of our faculty from premier universities, and they know how a good research university operates."

Gina Adam, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, said a new dean should "fight" for the engineering school since resources for research and projects at SEAS can be limited.

"I think it needs to be a very well-respected individual," she said. "Respect is very important for a leader and when somebody new comes to the institution. It's also equally important to be well-known in the field, a well-respected researcher and have a track record of basically doing good things for the discipline."

Adam said a new dean should prioritize working with the federal institutions in D.C., like the National Institutes of Health, NASA and the highly anticipated Amazon headquarters that is set to open in Arlington County, Va.

"I think the dean has to be very proactive about it, meet with other stakeholders and have like career days, or like maybe even specific programs that are like targeted either online or part-time or just like even certificates," she said.

—Ilana Peng contributed reporting.

Amsterdam Hall could be GW's next LEED-certified building

PAIGE MORSE
REPORTER

A group of engineering students is working to make one of GW's residence halls more sustainable.

GW's chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers said they will collaborate with administrators to explore making Amsterdam Hall a LEED-certified building. If an audit conducted this spring shows the building can be renovated to meet qualifications that show it is cost effective and energy efficient, students said they will work with officials to pursue the certification.

The chapter held its first open meeting for students interested in the project Friday, where five students attended an hour-long meeting. Students said the timeline for the project will be determined after the group completes the inspection next semester.

There are currently 11 LEED-certified buildings on campus, including the Science and Engineering Hall and the Textile Museum.

Andy Ludwig, the staff adviser for the engineering group and the manager of energy and environmental projects, said he is working with the student engineering group to determine whether a LEED certification is feasible for Amsterdam Hall. If the audit conducted by students shows that the benefits outweigh the price of the project, he said the chapter will work with officials to pursue the certification.

He said officials have constructed new buildings with sustainability in mind, but it is more difficult to update older buildings to comply with LEED standards.

SEH and District House, which opened in 2015 and 2016, respectively, are both LEED certified.

"The challenging thing for existing buildings is, often to get where they need to be on the energy side, you need to make some big investments and you need to understand what the roadmap is going to be to get there," Ludwig said at the meeting on Friday.

Ludwig said each member of the group will research different LEED standards to determine where Amsterdam must improve. He said that to achieve LEED certification, a building must meet an Energy Star score of at least 75 — meaning a building is in the 75th percentile of similar-sized buildings for sustainable practices. He said the Energy Star score is determined by factors like water efficiency and indoor environmental quality.

Ludwig said the Environmental Protection Agency updated its scoring system this year to account for new technological advancements which set Amsterdam Hall back about 20 points.

"Amsterdam last year was at 73, just a hair off of hitting the 75 threshold," Ludwig said. "I think it is in the 50s now, so a lot more needs to be done."

University spokesman Tim Pierce said Amsterdam Hall was built in 1997, three years before LEED certification was created in 2000 and about a decade before the University committed to reaching LEED-silver certification or better for new construction and major renovation projects in 2007. He said officials will continue to look at how on-

campus buildings can be updated to be more energy efficient.

"We look forward to receiving the results of their audit," Pierce said in an email. "We will use the results of the audit as we consider future renovation projects. We undertake renovation projects with a goal in mind of making campus buildings more efficient and sustainability-friendly."

Pierce added that because the project is in its early stages, the University has "no other updates at this time."

Senior Jacqueline Hart, the president of the Association of Energy Engineers, said members of the group will research categories like energy and atmosphere, indoor environmental quality, location and transportation, water efficiency and materials and resources.

She said the group chose to focus on Amsterdam because the building's metering system makes it easier to monitor than other sites. But Hart added that it may be more challenging to achieve LEED certification for Amsterdam because the building will likely require a series of renovations to make it more sustainable.

Hart said that once the audit identifies what areas need to be upgraded, the organization will present its findings to the University in the spring.

"If the audit does say that it is feasible for LEED certification, that would be more on the GW end rather than our end to see what they do with that information," she said. "It would be up to them to take it and invest in that and, from there, invest in a LEED certification."



OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR

Chris Perry, a graduate student, Andy Ludwig, the staff adviser for the group, and Kushal Malvania, a graduate student, are working to make Amsterdam Hall more sustainable.

SA Senate passes fewest bills, resolutions in at least four years

IZZY HARDY & SARAH ROACH
REPORTERS

The Student Association Senate has passed four pieces of legislation this semester – the lowest number in at least four years.

The senate approved one resolution and three bills over the past three months, one fewer than last year's senate and eight fewer than the previous year. For the second year, SA senators said they have strayed from writing legislation in favor of behind-the-scenes advocacy work they said will come to fruition next semester.

The full senate convened six times this semester, two less than last year because the senate held its first meeting two weeks into the fall semester. The senate presented and passed legislation in four of the six meetings.

The senate's most recent piece of legislation was a resolution passed last month commending the University for updating its discrimination and harassment policies. Before that meeting, the senate passed three bills that changed the bylaws to allow first-year senators voting rights after their first semester and updated bylaws that govern the diversity and inclusion assembly and the SA's operational rules.

Ojani Walthrust, the SA's executive vice president, said the senate has proposed fewer pieces of legislation because senators are prioritizing the quality of each bill over the quantity.



Sen. AJ Link, Law-G and the chairman of the diversity and inclusion assembly and student life committee, said senators in his committees have spearheaded individual projects that do not require the approval of the full senate.

"You can't really judge how effective a body is by the amount of legislation that's been passed because some of that legislation, if not given the time it needs, may not be the best legislation," Walthrust said.

In years past, senators have attributed a low number of bills and resolutions in the full senate to senators being unprepared for meetings, not attending meetings or initiating long-term individual projects outside the full senate. Members of last year's senate said they focused on filling vacancies in the body and poured energy into committee-based advocacy work, which took time away from drafting legislation.

Walthrust said the "en-

vironment" of the senate could have changed from last year because there is a different group of senators, but he declined to say what the environment looked like last academic year compared to this year. Walthrust was a senator in the finance committee last academic year.

"There's obviously a difference because it's a different year," he said. "Each year is not the same."

Walthrust added that aside from the four senators who have sponsored legislation this semester, no senators have considered drafting a bill or resolution.

He said the senate will likely pass more legislation next semester because first-year senators will be adjusted to the

senate. The four senators who have sponsored legislation this fall had all served on the senate last year – but seven additional returning senators also have not proposed legislation.

Sydney Nelson, the SA's former executive vice president, said the number of returning senators, vacancies on the senate, expectations of senate leadership and amount of time needed to draft legislation affect what resolutions and bills are drafted and considered by the senate.

Last year, the senate had just four returning senators and 17 empty seats, meaning that some senators who joined mid-semester missed training on how to write and utilize legislation. She said

that in addition to the five bills the senate passed last fall, filling vacancies and debating 60 pages of bills that overhauled SA elections "took up a lot of our energy."

She said senators were also planning projects behind the scenes in the fall, leading to several projects and proposals in the spring. She said the group debated 25 pieces of legislation in the spring.

"Legislation should never be proposed just for the sake of proposing it," Nelson said. "Something we stressed last year was that writing legislation for the sake of grandstanding was not helpful or looked friendly upon."

Sen. AJ Link, Law-G and the chairman of the diversity and inclusion assembly and student life committee, said senators in his committees have spearheaded individual projects that don't require the approval of the full senate.

Since the semester began, senators in the student life committee have picked up projects originally started last academic year, like People for Periods and Hippo Day, and members of the diversity and inclusion assembly are rolling out a series of 10 town halls for minority groups throughout the year.

"I encourage everyone in student life to do whatever they think is best for whatever project they're working on," Link said. "So if that means writing legislation, I'm more than happy to help them write legislation. It doesn't seem like that is something that is necessary right now."

Link said he is focusing on revising each section of the bylaws as part of an ongoing effort to clean up SA rules throughout the academic year. The senate approved its first set of bylaw changes in late October, and Link said he has at least two more bills written that have not been brought to the full senate because they are still being revised.

"We don't want empty legislation, we don't want to have legislation just to have legislation," he said. "That's specifically why I want to work on the bylaws – it's tangible and it needs to be done."

Sen. Matt Ludovico, U-at-Large and the chairman of the finance committee, said that rather than drafting legislation this semester, he has encouraged his committee to bring larger co-sponsorships for debate in the full senate because the committee has historically had a reputation for being "fiscally conservative."

The senate approved an \$11,000 co-sponsorship for GW's chapter of Delta Sigma Theta and an \$11,000 allocation for the GW chapter of Young America's Foundation last month.

He said committee chairpersons have mainly spearheaded legislation this semester because a majority of senators are not tenured and do not yet have experience writing legislation.

"Right now, a lot of legislation is being passed by senate leadership so it sets an example for the rest of the senate," Ludovico said.

Leo Ribuffo, longtime history professor, dies at 73

ILENA PENG & LAUREN PELLER
REPORTERS

Leo Ribuffo, a longtime history professor, died unexpectedly Tuesday of an unknown cause. He was 73.

Ribuffo began teaching at GW in 1973 and spent much of his professional career working in the history department. He taught courses on conservatism and American presidencies during his tenure and, while he did not teach any courses this semester, he was scheduled to teach two classes in the spring.

Ribuffo's colleagues and former students said he was one of the history department's "pillars" and will be remembered for his sense of humor, bright intellect and genuine passion for students and history.

In his most recent Facebook post, dated Oct. 29, Ribuffo recounted appearing "as a walking/talking bit of material culture" for a guest lecture he recently hosted. He can be seen wearing an outfit that would have been considered "college cool" in the early 1960s: tan chinos, a lemon yellow shirt and an original pin from the 1967 March on the Pentagon.

Ribuffo grew up in Bergen County, N.J. and received a bachelor's degree in history from Rutgers University in 1966 and a doctorate in American studies from Yale University in 1972. He taught history at Bucknell University and Yale University before coming to GW, faculty said.

Paul Wahlbeck, the interim dean of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, said Ribuffo's tenure at GW spanned more than four decades, during which he wrote award-winning books and served as an "engaged" mentor to students. He said Ribuffo will be "greatly" missed by

those whose lives he touched.

"We are deeply saddened by the news of Leo's passing," Wahlbeck said. "He was an exceptional scholar of 20th century American history, a respected colleague and, for many of us at the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, a dear friend."

Jennifer Bertolet, a professorial lecturer in history and one of Ribuffo's former students, said she first met Ribuffo while pursuing her master's degree, and he later became her dissertation adviser when she was getting her doctorate.

"Behind his thinly veiled gruff exterior, I found a man of brilliant intellect, unwavering loyalty and tremendous compassion," Bertolet said. "Students who scratched through that curmudgeonly exterior as I did, in conversation or a visit to his office, found a kind and caring professor with a deep commitment to teaching, learning and his students."

She said Ribuffo's "light lives on in the many historians like myself that he nurtured and mentored."

Andrew Hartman, a professor of history at Illinois State University and one of Ribuffo's former students, said he emailed Ribuffo about once a week since graduating in 2006, discussing topics ranging from mutual friends to politics.

"Every time I'd come back, I make sure to meet up with Leo, and we would go out for drinks and we'd stay out late and he'd give us some whiskey and just talk about the world," Hartman said.

He said Ribuffo advised about 31 doctoral dissertations at GW, adding that Ribuffo gave him five single-spaced pages of typed feedback on the first draft of his own dissertation.

"I remember being crushed for about 24 hours but then recog-

nized that he did this because he cared and wanted me to be better," Hartman said.

Edward Berkowitz, a professor of history and of public policy and public administration, said Ribuffo frequently lectured in his classes, but was able to captivate his students in a way that's "kind of a lost art these days." He said Ribuffo's graduate students were "absolutely devoted to him."

"He had a charismatic personality, and people would come to see him during office hours and he would talk to them," Berkowitz said. "He really helped to spur people with intellectual curiosity about things – a real academic, in that sense."

Ribuffo was an award-winning author of three books on topics about American politics, the Protestant far-right and Jimmy Carter's presidency.

Berkowitz said that both Ribuffo's office and house on Irving Street in Northwest D.C. were filled with thousands of books and papers. He was an "evening person" who would often stay up until 3 or 4 a.m. and enjoyed Cuban cigars, records and comfort food, Berkowitz said.

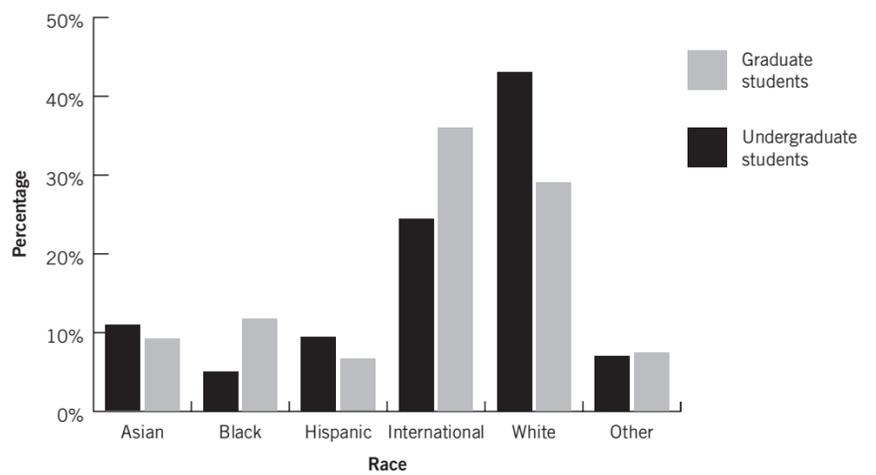
Denver Brunsmann, an associate professor of history, said Ribuffo was "synonymous" with the history department and would often keep in touch with students for years after they left GW.

Brunsmann said outside Ribuffo's office, there is a photo of the professor with Alec Baldwin, an actor, alumnus and one of Ribuffo's former students. The photo is captioned, "Study with Leo Ribuffo and become a star!"

"The great thing is that, in Leo's eyes, so many of his students were stars," he said.

Ribuffo is survived by his half-sister, Mary Ann Ribuffo.

Business school students by race in fall 2018



EMILY RECKO | GRAPHICS EDITOR
Source: Institutional data

Diversity in business school graduate programs outpaces undergraduates

MEREDITH ROATEN
NEWS EDITOR

The graduate student body at the business school is more diverse than the undergraduate body, according to recently released enrollment data.

Underrepresented minorities make up about 65 percent of the graduate student population, while the group makes up about 53 percent of the undergraduate population. The percentage of white students in graduate programs has been steadily decreasing since 2011, falling from 42 percent in 2011 to 29 percent in 2018, according to enrollment data.

The percentage of white undergraduate students has also been falling but at a slower pace, from 50.2 percent in 2011 to 43 percent this year.

International student enrollment soared by more than 15 percentage points in the graduate programs from 19.7 percent in 2011 to 35.9 percent in 2018. International students in the undergraduate program have also risen by about one to two percentage points a year.

Underrepresented minorities make up about 16 percent of students in graduate education, according to 2018 research by the American Institute of CPAs.

Anuj Mehrotra, the dean of the business school, did not return multiple requests for comment through University spokesman Jason Shevrin asking why the graduate program is more racially diverse than the undergraduate program,

how the leadership at the business school tries to recruit students from underrepresented minorities and how the recruitment strategies differ for graduates and undergraduates. He also did not return a request asking how the business school has changed its programs to reflect its changing demographics.

Andy Cohen, the director of MBA programs at the School of Business, declined to comment, deferring to officials.

Sen. Mora Farhad, SOB-G and a first-year graduate student in the MBA program, said she thinks students of all backgrounds are attracted to the business school's graduate programs because it offers six different types of Master of Business Administration programs.

She said having students from a variety of backgrounds in the program enhances learning by giving students the opportunity to work among peers who have different life experiences.

"We live in a day and age where you can get materials and learn things from the internet if you wanted, but what really makes the grad program stand out is your colleagues," she said.

Experts on diversity and business education said graduate programs nationally are focusing on enrolling diverse student bodies because employers are interested in recruiting candidates from a multitude of backgrounds.

Juliane Iannarelli, the chief

knowledge and diversity and inclusion officer at the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, said research has linked greater diversity in gender and ethnicity to greater profits, drawing the interest of the private sector, she said.

She said business schools are trying to recruit students from different backgrounds by diversifying representation in marketing materials and engaging with younger students to inform them about what the business school offers.

"We are seeing schools spending as much if not more attention on the degree to which they have inclusive environments to their student body," she said. "Efforts to recruit diversity are not the end of the program."

Elida Batista, the chief diversity officer at the Haas Business School at the University of California, Berkeley, said graduate programs can become more diverse by connecting with students at the undergraduate level and financially supporting first-generation students and students from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

"One thing that comes up a lot with students who reach out to me who are first-generation college students is a family's financial situation," she said. "It is not just the cost of tuition or the cost of leaving the workplace for a couple of years but also that they have been the ones that their whole family depends on financially."

GW should stop keeping Gelman Library open 24/7 to support students' mental health

Pulling an all-nighter to finish a paper or cram for a final exam is all too common on college campuses. In fact, many students boast about their ability to go days fueled by Red Bull, coffee and even Adderall to avoid sleeping during final exam season.

By running 24-hour facilities, like Gelman Library, for students, GW is inadvertently endorsing unhealthy study behavior. Even if buildings have a set closing time, like the study space in the District House basement, students are able to stay in the building studying all night, which further contributes to the problem on campus. Study spaces that are open all night support unhealthy lifestyle choices and the administration should close academic buildings earlier to prioritize students' mental health.

Gelman Library and other study spaces need to have set hours that they are closed to encourage a healthier lifestyle for students. Many universities across the country, including some of GW's peer schools and other top institutions, have adopted this practice.

Most academic buildings

and libraries at the University of Pennsylvania close by 2 a.m. or earlier. Princeton University takes it even a step further, closing most academic buildings by midnight.

Some of GW's peer institutions like New York, Georgetown and Northeastern universities also have libraries that are open 24/7 for students, but other peer schools haven't taken an important step to support students by not offering constant access to study spaces. Most of the libraries and academic buildings at the University of Southern California close by midnight and the main library at Syracuse University closes at midnight.

Swapping 24/7 study spaces to close at midnight or 2 a.m. will support students' mental health and encourage healthy study habits. Many students take classes starting as early as 8 a.m. and need adequate time to sleep to perform well in class. While an all-nighter may seem like a great idea in the short term, it often facilitates lower concentration and awareness which can negatively affect students' grades and ability to learn. On average, college students who

sleep eight or more hours per night have a higher GPA than those who only get six hours of sleep per night, according to a study conducted by researchers at the University of Georgia. Changing hours of buildings won't force students to get the rest they need, but it prevents students from feeling pressure to study later.

Critics of closing libraries early may argue that by limiting public study spaces, students will simply continue to study in residence halls, disturbing other students who want to sleep. However, this is far from the truth. Countless studies have illustrated that college students' strongest influence is their peers so therefore, if libraries are closed, students in residence halls will be more likely to copy peers who are receiving adequate sleep and engage in healthy lifestyle and sleeping habits themselves.

In addition to supporting students, closing study spaces early benefits the University by saving it money. By closing buildings early the University would save on electricity and other services that are needed to keep buildings running, but they will also save money



Cartoon by Maggie Grobowski

on paying security and other employees that must stay in buildings while they are open. If employees—who can also be students—no longer have to work overnight shifts because buildings are closed, they will also see the health benefits of a normalized sleep schedule.

Even if students choose not to study in the library, having it open 24/7 creates the notion that students should be constantly studying whether in a residence hall or else-

where. By closing Gelman Library and other buildings that house study spaces for students at an earlier hour, it alleviates pressure on students to cram and binge-study the night before exams, which are methods that have failed to be proven effective anyway.

By closing libraries and academic buildings at 2 a.m. like many of the other universities across the country, GW would communicate to students that their health is more important

than studying, and the altered hours support students creating healthy study habits. Not only is closing all academic buildings and libraries earlier the most cost-efficient method for GW, it is also the most beneficial to students. GW needs to shift the way it perceives 24/7 study spaces to prioritize students' well-being and mental health.

—Colette Bruder, a sophomore majoring in international affairs, is a Hatchet opinions writer.

STAFF EDITORIAL

GW's deafening silence on athletic department misconduct allegations hurts students

It is not unusual for the University to remain silent in the face of controversy.

The Hatchet's editorial board has called for transparency time and time again on issues like high-level departures across the University and particularly in departments that affect students like the Colonial Health Center and the University Police Department.

But even after countless requests, GW continues to avoid revealing how they deal with internal problems—and it is a problem.

The athletic department was rocked by allegations that former athletic director Patrick Nero had “strange” social relationships with students and a video of the department's former public-facing leader making “obscene gestures” was released earlier this month. These findings have called Nero's sudden resignation last year into question, but this isn't the first time the athletic department has failed to address a controversy and we have pushed them to do better.

Unfortunately—as is typically the case—GW and the athletic department have remained mostly silent on the topic. An athletic department spokesman declined to respond to more than 15 questions from The Hatchet posed to both him and Athletic Director Tanya Vogel, and the two also declined to meet with The Hatchet. A spokeswoman for the University also declined to answer questions about the allegations and deferred to the athletic department's response.

The only response from the department, however, was that the department wants to move forward under their new leadership and that “the University takes seriously the safety and well-being of its students, including student-athletes, and it carefully and thoughtfully reviewed concerns raised in the past regarding its athletics program.”

But that is not enough. The department cannot move forward in the face of disturbing allegations of misconduct. Nero is no longer employed at GW

and one could make the argument that this situation is in the past, but without an explanation from the University that confirms they handled the situation at the time and took steps to ensure this will not happen in the future—students, alumni, faculty and anyone with a connection to athletics at GW should feel uneasy.

While being transparent with the community—who also has vested interest in the University's athletic department—is important, it is infinitely more important that student-athletes who dedicate their college careers to athletics are informed about what is going on in their department. It is unsettling that administrators are content with preventing athletes from knowing the truth about what has inevitably affected them all.

Student-athletes are in a uniquely vulnerable position, with many receiving scholarship money to play on their respective teams. While one would hope that coaches and administrators are supporting athletes and encouraging them to come forward if inappropriate behavior occurs, silence on the situation that is currently looming over the department tells students that if they do come forward with issues, they will be swept under the rug.

The Hatchet does not know whether this issue has been discussed internally by individual teams, but that needs to happen at the very least so the department and individuals who interact with it know that GW puts the welfare of student-athletes as the top priority.

The main takeaway from the administration's response to this scandal is that because Nero and former men's basketball head coach Mike Lonergan, who allegedly feuded with Nero and was tied into the allegations against him, are both no longer employed by GW—the issue is no longer prevalent. But that outlook is ignoring the fact that if this behavior did occur, there's likely a larger issue in the culture of the department that allowed it to continue for years. In fact, current and former student-athletes told reporters that the

department often sweeps issues under the rug and that these rumors were not a one-time-thing.

This strategy is not just ignoring the fact that this could signal a larger issue, but it also limits the possible positive outcome that could result from the situation. Especially considering Nero no longer works at GW, the University could easily announce that there was an issue that was resolved when the individual left the University and explain the steps it is taking to improve the department.

In the few weeks following the release of this story, University President Thomas LeBlanc sent a mass email to students stating that “ethics matter” on campus and students have the ability to report “unethical or illegal behavior” confidentially. This email—which didn't address what it was related to—fails to provide any real purpose. If this was an attempt by the University at saving face, it failed and only further demonstrated that GW is unwilling to be accept fault, be transparent and, most importantly, improve the lives of students by making changes.

As long as GW continues sweeping problems under the rug, issues will continue in the athletic department and across the University. While GW's desire to remain silent is understandable and they may be unable to reveal additional information due to confidentiality, it is more important that it works to be transparent and tell students who it intends to prevent incidents from happening in the future.

It is in the best interest of current, former and prospective student-athletes for the University to take a stance against what happened and to ensure that it won't happen again. The University must be transparent about what happened, when the events took place and what regulations will be put in place to prevent this from happening in the future.

While we are tired of asking for what seems like a simple request—we must continue to advocate for transparency because it is what is best for students.

Professors must take responsibility for students' understanding of material

While professors are incredibly well-versed in the material they teach, not all of them are traditionally trained in teaching. A single professor could have several degrees in their field, but learning to connect with students and present material in an easily digestible way has a learning curve for even the most knowledgeable individual. But even if professors are experts in their field, they must consistently strive to connect with students to better communicate course material and ensure students are getting the most out of their course.

Matthew Zachary
Writer

Supporting students in an effective way means that professors need to be available to answer questions. If a student has a genuine concern or question, it is the duty of the professor and the teaching assistants to respond properly. If students do not feel like their classrooms are a place where they can ask questions, then the environment the professor has created is not conducive to learning.

When a professor is not able to communicate with students and is not well-versed in how to manage a classroom, it can be detrimental to students for many reasons. I experienced this in courses I took this semester.

In a lecture class of 150 people, my professor has repeatedly said over the course of the semester that concepts discussed in class are “easy” and that it is confounding that students do not understand the material. It is unacceptable for professors to embarrass students in front of any number of their peers, let alone 100 or more of them. The fact that the professor would dismiss questions because the material is simple is equally inappropriate—clearly the professor is not doing their job if students cannot grasp the topics they discuss.

This particular course is an introductory course. Therefore it would make sense that some students—myself included—are taking it to knock out basic requirements. But because there are no prerequisites, the professor cannot reasonably expect every student to enter the course with knowledge of the subject and they must expect that students are at various levels of understanding. Profes-

sors can better cater to all students by structuring their lesson plans to support students who may be further behind. This is especially true in science, technology, engineering and math classes—where if a student doesn't understand a key formula or equation, the semester will become increasingly stressful and difficult with each passing day. By having more support in their lesson plans, professors can address the needs of more students, increase overall student understanding and decrease the time needed to review or relearn material.

In another class I am taking this semester, a professor explained that whether students learn in this course is not up to them. The professor went on to explain that students have access to the course textbook and additional online materials, and therefore whether students decide to review—and in this professor's eyes, learn—the material is ultimately their choice.

But my professor is wrong. And they need to keep in mind that their words can have a significant impact on a student because of their role as an educator.

While students must take steps to ensure they understand the course material by doing the assigned homework, it is the professor's job to expand on that material and communicate course information effectively to teach students. Any student with an internet connection can read a PowerPoint presentation on Blackboard or conduct a Google search to read articles about a particular topic, but it is the professor's job to enrich a student's learning experience beyond what they can find on the internet and cement the information the students learn.

Professors must take more responsibility for their students' learning. Even if a professor chose to work for GW because of the University's research acumen, they must fulfill their responsibility as a teacher and take time to create meaningful lessons for their students.

Professors may, as many already do, suggest that students hold their questions and email them, attend office hours or simply remain after class—but shirking responsibility or embarrassing students for asking questions must never be tolerated in the classroom.

—Matthew Zachary, a sophomore majoring in international affairs, is a Hatchet columnist.

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RELEASED THIS WEEK: “THANK U, NEXT,” A MUSIC VIDEO BY ARIANA GRANDE

Alumna poet wins national book award for debut teen novel

RHEA MALVIYA
REPORTER

An alumna is employing her national success to explore difficult topics through books written for teens.

Alumna Elizabeth Acevedo – a slam poet, author and educator – had her debut novel-in-verse, “The Poet X,” sit on The New York Times Best Sellers list for four weeks after it was released in March and was awarded the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature this month. After drawing accolades over the past few months, the author announced a new young adult novel titled “With the Fire on High,” a story of teen parenthood, set to be released in May.

Acevedo, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in performing arts in 2010, focuses her writing on topics that may be considered difficult for young people to handle or discuss with others.

The characters in “The Poet X” grapple with marginalization and liberation as members of the Latino community and as a Dominican-American, Acevedo also discusses that topic in an autobiographical way through Acevedo’s spoken-word performances.



COURTESY OF ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

Alumna Elizabeth Acevedo – a slam poet, author and educator – was awarded the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature this month.

“The Poet X” narrates the life of a young girl who learns to speak her mind through poetry. Acevedo said in addition to drawing on her own culture, she became inspired to write by the eighth-grade Latino students she taught while working for Teach for America in 2012.

“I think so often stories about young people of color aren’t done with tender-

ness, so I just wanted an honest story that was still thoughtful about how these communities walk through the world,” she said.

Her debut novel also simultaneously critiques and gives humanity to conservative parents and their “protective” ways, as the main character struggles to relate to her devout Catholic mother. Acevedo said the topic is especially relevant today as immigrants

struggle to feel secure in the country’s political climate.

“I think they struggle with letting their children go into a world that they don’t fully feel like they understand or have control of,” she said.

“The Poet X” also discusses the realities of adolescent sexuality, which is often littered with confusion and questioning. Acevedo said she does not feel pressured to shy away from

hard-hitting subject matter for young people and will continue to discuss sexuality in her next novel, which tells the story of a single teen mother. Many stories on teen parenthood skim the surface of the subject, but Acevedo said she wished to give a deeper perspective.

“I think teens can handle all kinds of subject matter,” she said.

Acevedo signed a multi-book deal for young adult fiction with the publishing house HarperTeen that began with her first novel, she said, so her name will continue to grace the shelves.

The author credits some of her success to performing arts teachers like Leslie Jacobson and professors in the English department because they understood her written work and gave her chances to experiment and perform, even as a freshman in 2006. As a student, she was able to practice her craft without the added self-consciousness of perfection, she said.

“I think GW was more of a silo where I was able to be creative and just concentrate on my work without really having to impress anyone,” she said.

Jacobson, a professor in the theater and dance department for nearly 42

years, said she vividly remembers Acevedo as a Luther Rice fellow who accompanied her on her annual trip to South Africa. The professor likened Acevedo’s standout talent in writing and performing to that of another student of hers, actress Kerry Washington.

“I think that her voice is really even more important now than it was eight years ago because of who she is and what she sees and what she says,” she said. “She’s not a current event, but she is from the Caribbean and she is a woman and it’s important to hear that voice – it always was and it always will be.”

Receiving a national award and charging ahead to publish her second novel in barely more than a year, Acevedo said she hasn’t taken a breath to process her success, she just wants to continue telling coming-of-age stories about how individuals find their voices.

“I think I’m still kind of in a whirlwind about what that could potentially mean for my career,” she said. “I’m still visiting teens in different spaces and talking about literature. I’m not sure that I know how to calibrate what that looks like. For me, I’m still gunning for the next book, the next project, the next big thing.”

Visitors color outside lines at student art exhibit exploring gender

SIDNEY LEE
REPORTER

Corcoran School of the Arts and Design graduate student Nicole “Ozzy” Osborne didn’t always feel safe at home and would slip out of their house to take solitary walks down their driveway in Tennessee. They said on these nights, they felt free to escape the restraints of society and be fluid in their gender.

Night walks and other childhood memories of gender dysphoria inspired Osborne’s thesis exhibition for their master’s of fine arts degree. The exhibit, stylized “[] Other” and pronounced “Box Other,” includes interactive drawing stations where visitors can experiment with their own coloring projects, and will be on display at Gallery 102 through Friday.

The exhibit features a walkable gravel pathway inspired by Osborne’s driveway, and two rows of desks where viewers can sit and use markers and crayons to color on sheets. Osborne said coloring was how they coped with the rigid social structures in school when they could not openly express their gender identity.

“I didn’t have a choice in my gender when I was back home,” they said. “It

was either one way, or I was endangering myself by not doing that.”

For their first piece, Osborne went to the University of Maryland and invited exhibition viewers to color and later donate their drawings to a larger piece that would be projected on the exhibit’s walls. The work, titled “So We Color,” flips through coloring-book style pages that are filled in how visitors wished to represent the blank figure of a student, they said.

“I kept thinking about gender, my own gender, when I felt that my gender was very fluid,” Osborne said. “One of the things that I really remember was that I could still be considered a boy when I was in that prepubescent stage, and that became this ideal figure that kept showing up in a lot of my dreams and a lot of things that were going on, which is the blank figures you see in the animations.”

Osborne later collaborated with high school students for another animation projected onto the walls. The students of Osborne High School, Gatlinburg Pittman High School and Stonewall Jackson High School were told to color in the figure as they think of someone who



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Mary Imgrund (left) and Alice Gardner-Bates (right) draw in the interactive coloring station, part of the “[] Other” exhibit at Gallery 102 that opened last week.

designates as “other,” the check box offered alongside male and female. A variety of colors, shapes, symbols and words became the combined 360 degree animation of all the coloring sheets.

“It’s completely anonymous, so I don’t even know which one is which student’s work,” Osborne said. “Once they’re all compiled together, you can’t really tell whose is whose, it’s only the student, when

they come into the studio space or the gallery space where it’s being shown or online, that will know, ‘oh that’s my piece, that’s my voice.’”

Osborne started going to high schools in the D.C. area and even their alma mater in Tennessee to present to art classes and collect donations for the animation. Osborne said “[] Other” gives a voice to individuals who feel trapped in an academic system and

are not able to express their identity.

“When I look at them, I see either individuals who, when presented with a vulnerable form, either they’re showing me their trauma or they’re showing me how they cope with their trauma,” they said.

Osborne said they hope to continue to expand “[] Other” and work with more art teachers and schools, especially in rural areas where they don’t reg-

ularly discuss gender.

In an effort to continue the discussion about gender with their family, and people all over, Osborne created a card game titled “Gender Reveal.” They made more than 100 sets of the game that are free to play and take from the gallery. Six months in the making, the game is a mixture of Apples to Apples and Pictionary, and explores how society perceives gender based on articles of clothing.

“When I come home, and I try to talk about gender or sexuality with some of my family members, it devolves into a yelling match,” Osborne said. “I was sitting on the couch with my partner trying to think how could I talk to my family about this in a way that’s not aggressive.”

With interactive games and art exhibits, they hope to further dialogue and recognition of non-normative gender perspectives, which was essential for Osborne to find their place in art and in society, they said.

“When I started going to college, I was looking at gender and I saw male, female and then other as a designation,” they said. “I was like, ‘oh my god, now it all makes so much sense – that’s where I go.’”

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MEN'S BASKETBALL
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The Colonials are still on the hunt for their second win of the season as they host the Tigers at the Smith Center.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. Villanova
7 p.m. • Thursday
The Colonials will play their third straight contest at home when they take on the Wildcats Thursday night.

NUMBER CRUNCH **15.4**

Average goals men's water polo scored per game during its historic season this year, up from 12.6 per game last year

Former manager lands starting position for women's basketball

AGAM MITTAL
STAFF WRITER

From washing laundry to handing out water during games, the women's basketball manager is always close to the team. But after three seasons as the team's right hand, senior guard Anna Savino is supporting the team in another way now.

When head coach Jennifer Rizzotti called Savino to sub in during the team's season opener against James Madison last month, the first-year walk-on senior said she could hardly believe what she was hearing.

"I was so nervous," Savino said. "She called my name and my whole face was white."

The former team manager has started five contests so far this season and appeared in seven games, but at the start of the season she said she did not expect to be a major contributor. But with a lack of depth at the guard position, Rizzotti was searching for a spark plug to complement senior guard Mei-Lyn Bautista in the backcourt, and Savino has provided just that.

"I put her in at James Madison because I was frustrated at some of our older guys and their effort and focus," Rizzotti said. "She played great at James Madison. It allowed me to realize that she can perform under that pressure."

Bautista and Savino have seen significant minutes on the court together in the team's last three contests against Georgia Tech, NC State and Towson. Savino played 14 minutes against James Madison and, since riding the bench against Princeton, has seen a steady uptick in playing time.

"The whole reason I wanted to walk on wasn't because I wanted to get playing time," Savino said. "I wanted to be part of this team even more than I was as a manager."

The walk-on was surprised when she got her first career start in New Rochelle, N.Y., close to where she grew up in the Bronx, when the Colonials took on Iona for their fourth game of the season. Savino has started all three games since and most recently saw a season-high 36 minutes on the court against NC State.

Rizzotti credited Savino's hard work and effort in practice and in games for earning her role in the starting lineup over other scholarship players on the bench.

"The message to the team before we went up to Iona was that I'm going to play the guys that are competitive, that work hard and are listening to me," Rizzotti said. "Anna was one of the top five in the category, so she's going to start because of that."

Savino, who described



FILE PHOTO BY ERIC LEE | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior guard Anna Savino was a manager for women's basketball for the past three years. Now, she is in the starting lineup.

herself as a defensive specialist, is averaging 21.7 minutes, 2.1 points and 2.0 rebounds per game across seven contests. She recorded two steals against NC State and Towson while executing her disruptive style on defense, especially getting deflections and hustling to loose balls.

Her contributions off the ball have helped space the floor and open up shots for the team's more potent scorers, too.

"All the three-pointers that I get, that Kelsi gets,

it's because she's getting us open," Bautista said. "And that's one stat that is never on the sheet. If there was how many screens, you getting someone a shot, she'd be the leading screener on our team."

Savino has also shown the ability to take care of the ball on offense. In 152 minutes of game action this season, Savino has only committed five turnovers. Her steady presence next to Bautista stems from her familiarity with Rizzotti's playbook –

which Savino said she knows "like the back of my hand" – after watching it in action on the court the past three seasons and her ability to learn from errors, Rizzotti said.

"She makes a mistake, I correct it one time, she doesn't do it again," Rizzotti said. "That's rare for a kid who hasn't played competitive basketball other than club intramurals at GW for three years, but she's watched the game."

Bautista said Savino's team-first mentality, hustle on

the court and confidence to guard some of the top players in the country has earned her teammates' trust.

"If she's open, or even if someone is denying her, I'm still willing to throw her the ball because we all trust her," Bautista said. "That's how much trust she has gained by working hard in practice, and when she makes that open three, it just feels good."

Savino and her teammates have developed close ties through her three years as manager that have helped to ease her transition from club basketball to the Division I level, she said.

Sitting on the sidelines for three years has allowed Savino to study the game from the vantage point of a coach – a profession she aspires to pursue someday – and understand the program and Rizzotti's vision for the team on the court, Rizzotti said.

Even though Savino does not have nearly the same Division I playing experience as Bautista and fellow-senior forward Kelsi Mahoney, the Colonials can learn from her dedication to the game and desire to support her teammates in any way possible, Bautista said.

"You don't have to be the best scorer to play minutes," Bautista said. "But you can do all the little things like Anna does and have the heart like Anna does in order to play."

'Work in progress': Men's basketball head coach uses youth to excuse losses

KERRI CORCORAN
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Men's basketball was three points away from snatching the lead from Princeton Saturday after the Colonials – who had been trailing since the eighth minute of the first half – sparked a nine-point swing to put GW in position to pull ahead in the second half.

But sophomore forward Javier Langarica, who contributed six points in the offensive turn, spiked the ball into the ground after being called for a foul, elevating his infraction to a technical foul and giving the Tigers crucial extra points and a possession. The turnover squashed GW's momentum and ultimately led to a 73-52 loss for the Colonials (1-7).

Langarica's misstep is one example of the struggles GW has faced this season that head coach Maurice Joseph has chalked up to the team's "youth" and "inexperience."

"We showed our youth, we showed our inexperience," Joseph said after the game against Princeton. "And we have to be better than that."

The Colonials barely pulled out a win against a Division III team in an exhibition to prepare for the season, and blew a 22-point lead in their official opener, red flags that indicated there would be trouble ahead for the Colonials when it came to maintaining leads.

Tally marks in the loss column continued to pile up as the Colonials faced a slew of powerhouse opponents in Virginia, Michigan and South Carolina. The team was belittled to blowout losses, but showed flashes of improvement, including a 40-point second half against Virginia, a strong first half against Michigan and a scoring lead over the Gamecocks in the second frame.

"We have to put a full 40 minutes together playing harder and playing more united," Joseph said after the team's loss to South Carolina. "We're going to learn from this experience – we played three really, really talented teams in a row."

But even in recent games against teams that closely match GW's talent like Vermont and Princeton, the same youth and inconsistent play has prevented the team from pulling together a victory.

The Colonials either tied or came within one point of Vermont three times in the second half of the match. But they allowed the Catskills to get loose on the perimeter and sink four consecutive three-point shots to spur an 18-0 run, and Joseph said the team was not clicking on the defensive end.

"Mostly those three were tough shots, they were contested," junior forward Arnaldo Toro said after the game against Vermont. "Lucky for them, they went in and they came on a run

and they hit us. We couldn't come back."

Joseph cited the same defensive lapses in GW's struggle against Princeton and, barring the Colonials' win against Manhattan – a team that has only won one match this year – GW has been unable to charge ahead to win close contests.

In the past few matchups, the Colonials have been without Toro and redshirt junior guard Arnel Potter. Toro, the team's leading rebounder and the most experienced player on the roster this year, and Potter were consistent starters for the team this season, but Toro missed the game against Princeton due to injury and Potter has been out for the last two contests with a left ankle injury.

Joseph said to pull together wins, he will need to see a stronger all-around effort from his squad when it comes to rebounding production. But that feat has been difficult in recent contests without the services of Toro – whose 9.3 average rebounds per game places him far above the next highest producer, redshirt junior guard DJ Williams at 5.0 rebounds per game.

"You just got to continue defending and stick to the game plan and continue to play hard and we'll get there," Joseph said. "We'll get there. We're a work in progress."

The Colonials return to action Wednesday when they host Towson at 7 p.m.



FILE PHOTO BY DEAN WHITELAW | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER
Sophomore Salim Khan swings at a ball during a men's squash game against Georgetown last month.

Men's squash struggles on court, focuses on improving fitness

EMILY MAISE
REPORTER

With four consecutive losses to top-15 teams, men's squash (2-3) is riding its longest losing streak since 2014.

The drought pushed GW's ranking down five spots to No. 14, its lowest since the 2014-15 season. Last season, the men's team secured a program-best No. 9 finish in the nation and won the College Squash Association Hoehn Cup (B-Division).

Head coach Wendy Lawrence said she has confidence in her squad's knowledge of the game and skills, but the Colonials have been spending the last week focusing on improving their endurance and focus on the court.

"Fitness is something that I think has hurt us so far all season and that's, I think, the main difference between us and the teams we've lost to this year," Lawrence said.

Lawrence also said the team has struggled to fill the shoes of former top-rung players like 2018-graduate Oisin Logan, who earned a team-high 20 victories last year and holds the program record in career singles victories.

"We need to make that up," Lawrence said. "We were just a little young and a little less experienced than we were the year before."

Three of the team's four losses have come at the hands of higher-ranked opponents – No. 6 Pennsylvania, No. 8 Princeton and

No. 7 Dartmouth. Still, Lawrence said her team "got off to a slow start" against tougher competition.

Then-No. 12 Western Ontario upset the Colonials 5-4 Nov. 11, handing them their first loss of the year. Lawrence said the team was overconfident – "plain and simple" – coming into the match after sweeping the Mustangs 9-0 on the road to the Hoehn Cup last season.

"We were on a high from last year," sophomore Salim Khan said. "We won our division last year, so we were feeling good. I think we underestimated their abilities."

Three Colonials led 2-0 or 2-1 in their games against Western Ontario, but let their competitors come back and beat them in five games.

No. 6 Pennsylvania shut out the team 9-0 Nov. 17, blanking men's squash for the first time this season. Sophomore Mohammad Alterki was the only Colonial to win a game against the Quakers.

No. 13 Princeton beat GW 3-6 Nov. 18. Senior Moudy Abdel-Maksoud recorded his second win of the losing streak, beating Princeton senior Clark Doyle 3-1. Alterki and junior Jamie Oakley also recorded wins at No. 3 and No. 4 on the ladder, respectively.

"We knew it would be a tough, really tough match, and I think guys played well, but they, we were just outmatched," Lawrence said.

The Colonials dropped 4-0 Nov. 17, blanking men's squash for the first time this season. Sophomore Mohammad Alterki was the only Colonial to win a game against the Quakers.

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The Colonials dropped 7-2 to No. 7 Dartmouth, with Abdel-Maksoud and

sophomore Inaki De Larrauri recording the only wins of the match.

The last time the men's team dropped four-straight matches was during the 2014-15 season. During that streak, the Colonials won just seven games through the stretch. But this season, the men's squad has dropped each game by an average of 4.6 points, and won two more games than it did in the 2014-15 season despite being shut out by Pennsylvania.

To get back in the win column, Lawrence said the Colonials have focused on improving their endurance and simulating game situations they tend to be weak on in practice like cutting the ball off earlier, being aggressive and controlling the middle of the court.

In addition to greater fitness training, Khan said coaches and players are focusing on mending individual problems during practice.

With months left until the end of the season, Lawrence said working on the team's fitness and physical capabilities is an easier adjustment to make than if the team needed to work on its understanding of different game scenarios.

"Right now, we are spending more time on the stuff that is easier to fix," Lawrence said. "That, I think, will make the biggest difference."

The Colonials are back in action Friday as they take on No. 15 Brown in Hartford. Play begins at 6 p.m.



FILE PHOTO BY SARAH URTZ | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER
Sophomore forward Javier Langarica looks to the basket during a game against Vermont Wednesday.