

The GW Hatchet



FILE PHOTO BY ELIZABETH RICKERT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jeffrey Akman, who led the School of Medicine and Health Sciences as the dean and vice president for health affairs, will step down this year.

Medical school's outgoing leader enhanced research, prioritized diversity over 10 years at the helm

LEAH POTTER
NEWS EDITOR

After a nearly decade-long tenure, the outgoing leader of the medical school helped unite GW's medical entities, made strides toward increasing diversity and helped lead the school during some of its most challenging times, faculty said.

Jeffrey Akman, who led the School of Medicine and Health Sciences as the dean and vice president for health affairs for eight years and as interim dean for two, will step down this year. Medical faculty said Akman helped build stronger partnerships between the medical school and other clinical groups like the GW Hospital, which improved finances and clinical practices and helped the school rise in national research rankings.

Akman, who also graduated from the medical school in 1981, said he thought it was the "perfect time" for University President Thomas LeBlanc to launch a search for a new dean after the "recent" completion of the medical school's strategic plan and the restructuring of the Medical Faculty Associates' orga-

nizational design last month.

Akman is the fourth dean of a school to leave GW since LeBlanc began his tenure in August 2017. The leaders of the College of Professional Studies, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering and Applied Science all departed last year.

He said he is most proud of his "unbroken GW journey" from medical student to vice president for health affairs and dean while overcoming the personal and professional challenges of coming out as a gay man and becoming the first openly gay dean of a U.S. medical school. Akman was selected for his current position in 2013 after two years as the school's interim dean.

He said he also worked to develop an "ambitious" strategic plan that led to major curricular revisions in the medical school's programs and new academic opportunities for students. He said he is also proud of growing the school's research projects and improving the alignment between the MFA and GW Hospital and overseeing the creation of GW's Cancer Center in 2016.

"I gained the trust and full support of the SMHS faculty and was able to articulate a bold vision for SMHS," he said.

Akman also worked to increase the diversity of the school and oversaw the creation of an associate dean position in diversity and inclusion in 2013. During Akman's tenure, several new programs were created to attract high school students from various backgrounds.

While the number of students from underrepresented backgrounds in the medical school has increased over the past eight years, the percentage of racial minorities has plateaued.

Akman also led the medical school during times of controversy. The University's body donor program was shut down in 2016 after it misidentified human remains and three families sued GW.

Akman will return as a faculty member as soon as a successor is found but will remain in his current roles until that time.

Akman said he would like to see his successor help

See DEAN Page 2

Georgetown restaurants 'fall victim' to shifting quick-service trend

LINDSAY PAULEN & MALLORY STEWART ROBINSON
REPORTERS

With more than a dozen restaurant closings last year – including staples like J. Paul's, Old Glory BBQ and Pier 2934 – Georgetown started the new year as a neighborhood in transition.

Thirteen restaurants, some of which were in business for nearly 30 years, closed around Georgetown last year and more casual vendors like The Dough Jar and Wawa popped up in their places. Restaurant managers and experts said the neighborhood has seen a changed profile over years of closures, but a transition to fast-casual concepts has redefined the neighborhood.

Jamie Scott, the director of planning and economic development at the Georgetown Business Improvement District – an organization focused on improving Georgetown's commercial district – said while well-known restaurants have closed recently, the restaurant sector of the neighborhood is actually growing. He said 14 quick-service restaurants – like coffee shops and cafes – opened shop in Georgetown last year, compared to only four that opened their doors in 2015.

Scott said the drop in sit-down restaurants allows Georgetown to compete with other popular neighborhood hangouts, like 14th Street and The Wharf, because the "dynamic" of the District is more casual – driven by customer desires.

"Some restaurant concepts age out or don't necessarily keep up with modern trends," he said.

More quick-service restaurants have opened than closed in Georgetown for the past four years, according to data from the Georgetown BID.

Since 2015, 17 quick-service restaurants closed, while 35 – more



Thirteen restaurants, including J. Paul's, closed around Georgetown last year.

than double that number – opened in the neighborhood. Full-service restaurants were nearly all replaced, with 27 shutting their doors and 26 opening in the past four years.

Christopher Leinberger, the chair of GW's Center for Real Estate and Urban Analysis, said Georgetown has reinvented itself before – transitioning from a nightlife center similar to Adams Morgan to a retail destination.

"It moved from being a party part of town – drink until you puke part of town – to fine dining, and now fashion, and they're going to have to reinvent themselves again," Leinberger said.

Georgetown has been known for fine dining in the past, but Leinberger said bringing in more casual and quick-service restaurants can help Georgetown compete with other neighborhoods opening businesses that align with modern restaurant trends.

"There's no question that fast-casual is the fastest growing segment of the restaurant business, so it's got to be there," Leinberger said.

Five business managers said the

neighborhood's foot traffic from nearby colleges and tourists are part of Georgetown's appeal to restaurants.

Aung Myint – the owner of Bandoob Bowls, a Burmese fast-casual restaurant slated to open at 1069 Wisconsin Ave. NW in Georgetown next month – said everything is picking up the pace because of services like Amazon and a predominant high-speed lifestyle.

"In general, everywhere is probably going to go that route. We all get fast," Myint said.

Chai Tacos, which opened its first location in Georgetown in 2015, was one of the first restaurants to tap into the fast-casual market in the neighborhood.

Co-owner Bettina Stern said more than half of their business during the day comes from people taking their orders to go, indicating that fast-casual dining is a popular option for a quick lunch.

"That business model works well for a lot of people today who don't want to or don't have the time necessarily but want a quicker meal," Stern said. "That's why you



Chai Tacos was one of the first fast-casual restaurants in Georgetown.

see more of that popping up in Georgetown now."

Phil Petrilli, the chief executive officer of Taim – a New York falafel fast-casual chain opening its first D.C. location at 1065 Wisconsin Ave. NW this summer – said the large number of students from GW and Georgetown University that frequent the neighborhood are part of Georgetown's appeal.

"When I look at Georgetown, it's the perfect market from a business standpoint because you have so many types of customers there," Petrilli said.

While students regularly fill up the streets, Lindsay Goldin – the owner of The Dough Jar, a cookie dough dessert spot – said the tourist market in Georgetown was one of the reasons she opted to set up her first brick-and-mortar shop on Wisconsin Avenue this summer.

"If I have a friend come visit me in D.C., I'm definitely going to take them to Georgetown," Goldin said. "It's part of D.C.'s identity, so we wanted to capture the tourists and be in a place where tourists would be able to experience our product."

Mike O'Brien – the managing partner and chef at The Berliner, a German beer hall with homemade sausages and street food that opened in December at 3401 Water St. NW – said Georgetown is an excellent location because it has a wide demographic.

"There are many reasons that longer established restaurants close, but I think that changes in demographic and changes in the dining habits most likely were factors," O'Brien said in an email.

Scott, the director of planning and economic development at the Georgetown BID, added that customers want a mix of options from expensive nights out to quick grab-and-go options, so the blend of shops in Georgetown reflects an expanding set of options.

"As things change, business operations change, consumer expectation change and people want to go to where the new restaurants are," Scott said. "Some of the restaurants in Georgetown have fallen victim to those changes. But we've also had a lot of new restaurants that have replaced those that have closed."



SECOND-HAND SHOPPING PAGE 7

JARED GANS
STAFF WRITER

After GW and the Office for Civil Rights pushed back the University's first federal deadline to improve online accessibility, officials established a plan to make online content more user-friendly for those with disabilities.

At the close of a federal investigation into GW's online accessibility last March, the University agreed to implement a plan to improve online services by Oct. 1 but then pushed the deadline to Jan. 15. Over the next three months, officials said they laid out a plan with resources and staff training to make GW's websites more accessible for those with vision impairments.

University spokeswoman Lindsay Hamilton said the University submitted its plan to the Office for Civil Rights by the Jan. 15 deadline but declined to say when. She said the University's task force on digital accessibility – comprised of several staff members from multiple University departments – developed the plan to review web accessibility issues.

Hamilton said GW recently added an accessibility statement to its homepage and updated its accessibility feedback form. The University added the statement between July and September, according to an archived version of the website.

"The University is continuing to provide resources and expand training for digital content managers," Hamilton said in an email.

She declined to say why the first federal deadline was moved, although experts said in October that GW may have lacked the staff or financial resources to overhaul its online content in five months.

The investigation initially found that University websites did not adequately accommodate users with disabilities, especially those with vision impairments. The probe opened in April 2017 after a discrimination complaint was filed against

GW and ended with a resolution agreement in March mandating that the University take steps to increase accessibility.

The resolution agreement said GW should ensure all online videos and photos have captions compatible with screen readers and that background and foreground colors provide enough contrast for those with vision impairments.

The inquiry was one of 24 federal civil rights investigations GW faced from 2015 to 2018.

Hamilton also declined to say what staff training is included in the plan, who was involved in developing it and what resources were required. She declined to say if and how the University has begun to complete other parts of the resolution agreement, including developing a strategy to identify inaccessible content by April 2020.

She declined to say if the Office for Civil Rights is providing technical assistance to the University as outlined in the terms of the agreement.

Disability experts said that although the University has developed an official plan, it will take more time and money for officials to actually complete the requirements and fully resolve all gaps in accessibility.

Dan Comden, the access technology center manager at the University of Washington, said that while developing its plan, GW likely looked to other universities that were successful in updating online content after a federal probe.

Comden said that even though developing a plan can be challenging, actually implementing it is more difficult and costly. He said resolving problems like issues with screen readers and color contrast could be expensive for the University because officials may have to hire more employees to carry out staff training.

He added that most institutions take years to complete changes to make their websites fully accessible.

"It takes time for an

April 27, 2017
University falls under federal investigation

March 28, 2018
GW reaches resolution agreement with Office for Civil Rights

Oct. 1, 2018
University's first federal deadline pushed from Oct. 1 to Jan. 15

Jan. 15, 2019
GW meets updated deadline and creates accessibility plan

April 1, 2020
Officials must develop a strategy to identify inaccessible content

EMILY RECKO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

institution to turn over its mindset to consider accessibility as a significant component of what they do," Comden said.

Richard Okamoto, the director of disability services at Seattle University, said that ensuring all online content has detailed captions will enable screen readers to pick up everything on a web page so users with vision impairments do not miss any information.

Okamoto said that as universities across the country have added more content to their web pages, they

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News

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CRIME LOG

URINATING IN PUBLIC, THREATS TO DO BODILY HARM, DISORDERLY CONDUCT/INTOXICATION

University Mall

1/10/2019 – 12:15 a.m.

Closed Case

While on patrol, a GW Police Department officer observed a male individual sleeping on a park bench between Ross Hall and the GW Hospital and made contact. The individual threatened the officer and then urinated on the sidewalk. GWPD arrested the man and issued a bar notice. The Metropolitan Police Department responded to the scene and transferred the subject to the Second District police station for processing.

Subject arrested

DRUG LAW VIOLATION, LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

District House

1/13/2019 – 3:25 p.m.

Closed Case

GWPD responded to a report of a suspicious odor. GW Housing conducted an administrative search that yielded drugs, drug paraphernalia and alcohol.

Referred to the Office of Enrollment and the Student Experience

THREATS IN A MENACING MANNER, DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Arlington Campus

Multiple – Multiple

Closed Case

A GW staff member reported that during a program hosted at the Arlington campus, a male subject unaffiliated with GW became disorderly and made threats to a professor also unaffiliated with the University. The Arlington Police Department responded to the scene, but the subject had left before officers arrived.

Referred to Arlington Police Department

— Compiled by Valerie Yurk

SNAPSHOT

GRAEME SLOAN AND DEAN WHITELAW | PHOTOGRAPHERS



Medical school dean grew enterprise: faculty

From Page 1

the GW Cancer Center achieve a National Cancer Institute designation, which officials have been working toward for years. He said he would also like to see the next dean pursue recently completed recommendations from a task force on women faculty in the medical school.

He added that he would like his successor to work with MFA and GW Hospital leadership to expand the clinical enterprise in support of the medical school's "academic mission." LeBlanc, the University president, announced last year that his five top priorities included improving the relationship between GW's medical organizations.

Darrell Kirch, the president and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges, said he first met the outgoing dean when Akman was a chief resident at GW and a member of the volunteer faculty in the 1980s. He said that at the time, he remembers being "extremely impressed" with Akman's leadership skills even though he was still in the early stages of his career.

"It's been one of the great pleasures of my career to watch that leadership blossom as he took on greater and greater responsibilities," Kirch said.

Kirch said Akman helped ensure the school was accredited after the medical school was on probation for failing to meet several regulations in 2008. He added that Akman fo-

cused on addressing the problem early in his tenure, even before being appointed as dean.

Anthony-Samuel LaMantia, a professor of anatomy and regenerative biology and the director of the GW Institute for Neuroscience, said Akman helped to create better alignment between the medical school, other health-related schools, GW Hospital and the MFA on both clinical and academic fronts.

"That was the hallmark of his time as acting dean, and as dean, he moved forward and found solutions to the urgent problems that were facing the medical school," LaMantia said.

Joyce Maring, the chair of the department of health, human function and rehabilitation sciences, said her

department has "grown and developed" under Akman's leadership, and he helped her department move into a new space in Ross Hall that improved teaching and learning opportunities.

Maring said Akman took the time to meet with her while she was a "developing" leader and department chair. She said that when she asked him for examples of important leadership attributes, she was struck by his response: "Never let ego get in the way of your leadership."

"I think that was excellent advice, and I witnessed how he lived into that counsel," she said in an email. "He listened to and supported those he supervised and modeled service to others as a critically important leadership quality."

2000 Penn renovation plans feature more vendors, 21st Street entrance

ANDARA KATONG

REPORTER

A D.C. real estate company is taking the first steps to revamp The Shops at 2000 Penn into a modern market with a new entrance on 21st Street and handfuls of new vendors.

MRP Realty, which signed on to develop the retail complex in May, proposed plans to upgrade the interior and exterior of 2000 Penn to mirror Eastern Market, a public market space in Capitol Hill. Project leaders said the renovations — which include a name change to "Western Market" — will "elevate" the quality of the space and cut down on rent costs for vendors.

Lauren Kowall, MRP Realty's vice president of acquisitions and investments, presented the company's plans at a Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission meeting last week to garner feedback about the designs from com-



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

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missioners.

Kowall said the site was initially called Western Mar-

ket and was one of three public markets that were part of the L'Enfant Plan — a design

developed by former Mayor Pierre L'Enfant who intended for D.C. to have a Western,

Center and Eastern Market. Western Market was built around 1802 before moving to 21st and K streets until it closed in 1961.

"Our plan at 2000 Penn is to bring back Western Market to its original home, and that is part of our retail plan for building the market into our retail plan for the concourse," Kowall said.

MRP plans to install a "curtain wall" system made out of glass, which will be connected to the CVS Pharmacy and the other vendors of The Shops at 2000 Penn. Customers will be able to enter the building on 21st Street, she said.

Kowall said MRP plans to update the building to "preserve and enhance the nature of the property" and its history in the District by working with the D.C. Historic Preservation Office during the renovation process.

She added that the new site will cut down on space for individual vendors, allowing more retailers to pack into the

complex while paying lower rents. Kowall said vendors have historically struggled to pay or fallen behind on their rent, causing rapid turnover in the building.

"By creating a destination market with a bunch of small tenants where their rent payment is much lower, and they only have to support about 500 square feet, we think this will truly be a successful public space and it'll appeal to everyone in the neighborhood," Kowall said.

Kristian DeMeo, MRP Realty's director of marketing and communications, said the company plans to repaint parts of the building, add an office lobby for the non-retail office spaces, install an entrance on 21st Street, add new storefronts and create a market with retailers and food vendors.

She said MRP plans to deliver on the "initial phases" of the repositioning project in 2020 but declined to specify what the initial phases entail.

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Alumnus tapped as commander of MPD's Second District

LIZZIE MINTZ
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Metropolitan Police Department's new Second District commander is not a stranger to the Foggy Bottom Campus.

Duncan Bedlion, a double alumnus, was promoted to the commander of the Second District earlier this month after former Commander Melvin Gresham, who worked for MPD for more than 30 years, retired. Bedlion graduated from GW with a bachelor's degree in political science in 2003 and earned a master's degree of professional studies in security and safety leadership in 2014.

He lived in the Second District from 1999 to 2008 during and after his time as an undergraduate and currently lives with his family in another neighborhood, according to an email sent out to the community on Jan. 11 announcing Gresham's retirement.

Bedlion, who has worked for MPD since 2006, most recently served as the commander of the Youth and Family Services Division. Bedlion has also held other leadership roles in the department.

ment, including captain of MPD's Fifth District and manager of the Seventh District's detective unit.

Bedlion will manage patrol staff in the Second District, respond to "major incidents," oversee the implementation of new policies and procedures and communicate with community members about safety concerns, he said.

"My goal is to be as communicative as possible about ongoing safety precautions, alerts and updates to situations without compromising the effective policing strategies that we have in place," he said in an email.

As a member of MPD, Bedlion works under Police Chief Peter Newsham, who tapped him for the position. He said that in his new role, he wants to continue Gresham's "legacy" with constitutional and unbiased policing.

"The Chief feels like Commander Bedlion has the full experience to serve as the 2D commander," MPD spokeswoman Alaina Gertz said.

Having worked with different departments throughout D.C. and in different investigative



Duncan Bedlion was promoted to the commander of the Second District earlier this month.

and criminal capacities, Bedlion said he hopes to pull from his experiences when assisting community members in the Second District.

"I hope that my experience as a former resident of 2D provides insight to the concerns of the community," he said in an email. "I believe this experience will serve me well as the members of the Second District seek to exemplify our motto, 'We

Are Here To Help."

Bedlion said he and other MPD officials want to alleviate residents' "fear of crime" in D.C.

"I want citizens to feel safe," Bedlion said. "I don't want them to have any sense that a crime that's intrusive is becoming a problem. We want to make sure that we catch the perpetrators and that we restore property when we do recover it to the rightful owners."

Bedlion added that he is planning on attending a Foggy Bottom Association meeting to listen to concerns from people in the neighborhood. He added that the GW Police Department will be the "primary faces of security" on campus, but MPD plans to "actively" occupy neighborhoods around the University.

"I believe in a lot of face-to-face type of encounters, so while I love

email and tend to be super responsive to email, I want to also have a lot of face-to-face encounters with the community and stakeholders in Foggy Bottom," he said.

Gresham, the former Second District Commander, declined to say why he decided to retire, why he retired immediately and what he will do professionally after leaving the department.

He also declined to say whether he plans to stay involved in the Second District community and what initiatives he has established in the District that he wants Bedlion to continue.

In an email sent to community members on Jan. 8, Gresham wrote that he decided to retire to "explore the private sector," adding that he has "truly valued both the partnerships and friendships" he developed during his time at MPD.

"I have been both blessed and honored to have been the commander of such a great community, and I will always cherish my service at the Second District," Gresham wrote. "This experience has made me not only a better manager but an even better human being."



SHANE BAHN | PHOTOGRAPHER
First-year students will receive weekly emails with notices about free events, like a "moonlight walk" to the Martin Luther King Jr. and Lincoln memorials.

Officials hope freshmen bond over free events in the District

SARAH ROACH
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Officials are trying to connect freshmen by sending them to free group activities around the District.

Dean of the Student Experience Cissy Petty announced District Connections, a program that will host free weekly "cultural and intellectual" activities around D.C. for first-year students, in an email to freshmen last week. Petty said the program will give freshmen a "gateway" to the District through activities led by faculty, staff and student leaders.

"We know that many of our students chose to come to GW because of our location," she said in an email. "For some students, once they stepped foot on campus, perhaps they jumped right into their studies and didn't venture out to explore the city the way they originally intended."

First-year students will receive weekly notices listing free events, like a National Symphony Orchestra Pops concert at the Kennedy Center, a discussion with the CEO of Starbucks or a "moonlight walk" to the Martin Luther King Jr. and Lincoln memorials, according to the email. Students can register for events on the District Connections website.

Student Association President Ashley Le said the Center for Student Engagement partnered with the SA, Class Council, Program Board and the Residence Hall Association to plan activities for first-year students during the initiative's pilot semester. She said the SA will plan an activ-

ity for freshmen in March but the organization has not yet determined what the event will be.

Le said the program is a way for first-year students to look beyond campus and become more integrated with the D.C. community.

"It reaffirms and it prioritizes the first-year experience," she said. "It helps everyone in the community – faculty, student groups, student leaders – to come together and welcome our first-year students."

RHA President SJ Matthews said District Connections will allow first-year students to connect with their peers and attend events around D.C. without worrying about costs. She said members of RHA met with Stewart Robinette, the assistant dean of residential engagement, at a general body meeting, and he explained the program before it launched.

"Administrators saw a need for more community-building events to help the first-year students connect," she said in an email. "District Connections allows students to connect with different communities and events outside of GW and Foggy Bottom with little to no cost for the students, which is amazing."

University President Thomas LeBlanc has made the student experience a tenet of his first two years at GW and opened the Office of Enrollment and the Student Experience over the summer to make the University more student-centered.

In interviews, more than 10 first-year students said the program could help them acclimate

to life outside campus without spending money out of pocket.

Luke Michel, a freshman majoring in international affairs, said the program was likely offered to first-year students because they might not want to spend money on events that GW does not cover.

"There are a lot of free events and really cool things and freshmen don't realize it," he said. "By giving freshmen access to this program, it could open them up to what GW has to offer."

Eva White, a freshman with an undeclared major, said the program will give first-year students an opportunity to take advantage of the "nice city we get to live in." White said she will likely attend a "Star Wars" screening at the Kennedy Center, an event listed in the email sent to students about District Connections.

"It's probably to maintain some of their student body to make sure their student body is happy – it makes sense," she said. "One of the best things GW has to offer is its location."

Jaspal Singh, a freshman majoring in biology, said he would use the program to stay up to date on free concerts or sports games in the area. He said the program could benefit first-year students whose transition to GW was difficult by giving them a resource to explore activities off campus.

"It's kind of difficult for some people to find their group of people and really get out there and be social," Singh said. "It's a great resource for someone who is struggling to make friends."

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Human resources division still in flux three years after leader's departure

MEREDITH ROATEN
NEWS EDITOR

After three years, the University has yet to find a new vice president of human resources.

Sabrina Ellis, the last executive to hold the role, left GW in 2016 to take on a similar role at New York University, and Dale McLeod, the former associate vice president of HR operations, has filled her seat in the interim. Officials said last March that Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Mark Diaz, who oversees the human resources division, would evaluate the position when he stepped into his role in August – but he has yet to announce any updates.

"Executive Vice President and CFO Mark Diaz, who started at the University in August, is evaluating a large and complex organization and determining how to best support the needs of the division and the University going forward," University spokeswoman Lindsay Hamilton said in an email.

Hamilton added that the University will update the community when more information is available.

She declined to say when the University expects to fill the position or what the challenges the University has encountered in finding a replacement. She also declined to say what has delayed the selection of a new leader or if officials have launched a search for the position.

Hamilton declined to

describe the characteristics the administration is looking for in the next vice president of human resources.

Management experts

said leaving the position unfilled for an extended period of time could hurt the administration as it attempts to address employees' complaints about institutional culture. Addressing GW's "transactional" culture has been a top priority during University President Thomas LeBlanc's first two years in office.

A University-sponsored survey of faculty and staff in the fall found that employees are mostly dissatisfied with four areas of institutional culture, including inconsistent leadership and inefficient communication. A team of top administrators is now developing a plan to tackle the issues brought up in the evaluation.

Sam Larson, the assistant dean of operations and finance at the College of Education at Michigan State University, said the problems identified in the survey results are typically handled by staff in the human resources department. If the top position is not permanently filled, GW could face difficulty instituting policy and protocol changes because other leaders may be stretched too thin with other responsibilities, Larson said.

"It's harder, I think, to get the momentum going and the long-term commitments that it will take," she said.

She said the administration may have made a strategic decision to hold off hiring until after the assessment was finished so the search team can look for a leader who has experience dealing with the complaints employees highlighted in the assessment.

"GW has already done

the work," she said. "That brings clarity. That could be very beneficial."

Andy Brantley, the CEO of the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources, said the University's next HR leader should create an "inclusive" environment with strong communication between divisions to act on the information collected in the survey.

But he added that every supervisor on campus must help follow through on whatever policies and efforts administrators decide to initiate as part of a drive to shift the institution's culture.

"HR can create and implement outstanding programs and resources, but improving and/or changing the culture will only occur if supervisors are held accountable for making the improvement and/or changing a reality," he said.

He added that having an interim leader in the role will not affect the cultural change as long as employees view the interim leader as a change-maker and believe in his abilities.

Connie Wanberg, a professor of industrial relations at the University of Minnesota, said leaving the position vacant for three years is "too long" and adds extra work for the person who has to lead the culture shift. She added that although another administrator could lead the cultural change LeBlanc wants, bringing in a new vice president could add energy and a much-needed focus to the project.

"Even in the best circumstances with really good people, it's challenging to follow through on cultural assessment," she said.



FILE PHOTO BY OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR
Dale McLeod, the former associate vice president of HR operations, is now the interim vice president of human resources.

Banning right turns on reds may not reduce traffic violations, residents say

LIA DEGROOT

REPORTER

Community leaders and Foggy Bottom residents said they support a citywide endeavor to prohibit right turns at some red lights, but many are concerned that both authorities and drivers will not put in the effort to enforce the ban.

The District Department of Transportation released a list of more than 100 intersections last month where it will ban right turns on red, including 11 locations in Foggy Bottom. The Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission backed the proposal during a meeting last week and proposed additional intersections to tack onto the list.

But in interviews, more than 10 Foggy Bottom and West End residents and community leaders said that while they support the plan to prohibit some right turns at red lights, it is unclear whether the effort will reduce traffic violations and fatalities because drivers may ignore the signs, and



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

The District Department of Transportation released a list of more than 100 intersections last month where it plans to ban rights on red, including 11 in Foggy Bottom.

the city may slack on enforcing the ban.

James Harnett, a junior and ANC commissioner, said at the ANC meeting last week that while he supports DDOT's plans to make roads safer for pedestrians and bikers, he doesn't think banning right turns at red lights

is "going to do much" to alleviate traffic violations and fatalities "if it's not paired with strong enforcement."

"There are light-years of work that we still need to do in order to keep people safe, and we need to make sure that we're not putting ourselves on the

back for something that's not going to do that much to keep people safe," he said.

Harnett said ANC commissioners have reached out to DDOT and the Metropolitan Police Department in the past about traffic concerns, like a dangerous intersection

at Washington Circle and 23rd Street NW, but MPD – the body in charge of enforcing traffic rules – is at "stretch capacity" and does not have enough resources to dedicate to enforcing the proposed ban.

"I'm not really optimistic that we're going to see a huge uptick in our ability to enforce whatever rules we decide for the road if we don't have other means making sure that drivers are doing what they're supposed to do," he said in an interview.

Matt O'Brien, a resident of Foggy Bottom, said the ban could help reduce fatalities in the District but could increase traffic at certain intersections if cars are not allowed to turn at some red lights.

He said he would prefer to have left turns banned at intersections throughout the city because by turning left, cars try to "intersect traffic," which is more dangerous than turning at red lights.

"The right turns would help, and it's probably a fairly easy fix, so that's good, you can do it quickly," O'Brien said. "I'd say

it's a step in the right direction, but it might take a few more steps."

Sarah Shah, a Foggy Bottom resident, said city officials must make D.C. traffic rules "more clear" to drivers. She said drivers who come from out of state, including those who drive for ride-sharing companies like Uber, "don't know the streets that well" and are often not sure where rights on red are not allowed.

"I've been in an Uber where it's turned, and you're not supposed to turn at a red light, and other times they just turn and they don't even care," Shah said. "It's just not clear enough."

Neil Fotre, a resident who lives on New Hampshire Avenue, said he the ban likely will not reduce traffic-related fatalities across the District because pedestrians often violate traffic laws by avoiding crosswalks.

"It just sounds like this is something to do something," Fotre said. "The D.C. road system in and of itself is highly inconvenient and ineffective just the way the city is set up."

Longtime theater and dance professor to retire after more than four decades

MADELEINE DEISEN

REPORTER

When Leslie Jacobson took the helm of the theater and dance department more than two decades ago, she knew that she wanted to use her new role to inspire social change.

Twenty-four years later, Jacobson said she can look back on a career highlighted by establishing the Women's Leadership Program in International Arts and Culture and creating a course called Theatre for Social Change, where students use performance to analyze the effect of social movements, equality and justice. Jacobson, who worked her way from guest artist to chair of the theater and dance department, will close the curtain on a roughly 43-year-long career at the end of the spring semester when she retires.

"For me, I was very proud of when I was chair of having a department that had theory and practice woven together, and I gave students the opportunity also to explore other aspects of this big University," Jacobson said.

Jacobson began her career at GW in 1976 and chaired the theater and dance department from 1995 to 2008. In addition to teaching, she ran a professional theater company from 1977 to 2007 focused on producing work by women playwrights called Horizons: Theater from a Woman's Perspective. She also directs productions at GW almost every year and will premiere "Women's Works" in March at Betts Theatre.

"Using theater as an instrument of change is

the area of research and passion that I have, that I've been most interested in developing over the years, and have students, many students, who were interested in seeing that happen," she said.

Jacobson also established a cultural exchange program 16 years ago with the Bokamoso Youth Center, an organization in rural Winterfeld, South Africa, that works with and educates at-risk youth. She said the annual program brings young people to GW's campus and teaches them about social issues, like the HIV and AIDS crisis and domestic abuse, through performance art.

While she is leaving GW as a faculty member, Jacobson said she does not plan on "disappearing" from campus after she retires at the end of the semester.

"I will come and see things here, I may do projects that can involve students and professionals in the area, I'm certainly not going to stop making theater, going to theater and supporting theater and students," she said.

Julia Barrett, a graduate student who has worked with Jacobson since her freshman year, said she "buried" herself under Jacobson's "wing" and worked with her on plays like "King Lear" and "Migratory Tales."

"Professor Jacobson is kind of like a friend and a mom and a mentor all wrapped in one," she said. "She really cares about her students, and she has a wonderful way of blending informal, kind behavior with also really serious, it's time to work now."

Roy Barber, a teacher, composer and playwright

who works with Jacobson at the Bokamoso Youth Center, said Jacobson's work in South Africa empowers young people to pursue educational opportunities in the arts.

He added that he worked with Jacobson on projects like the Horizons Theater, and together, they created a play about fighting bullying.

"We have a very compatible working style and our values – she had a very humane vision and she liked humor – but we both liked to see people overcome obstacles in a positive way," he said.

Mary Buckley, an associate professor of dance and the director of the Women's Leadership Program, said that when she worked with Jacobson on musicals, Jacobson always put forward innovative ideas and welcomed collaboration.

"I loved being in faculty meetings with Leslie because she's very supportive," she said. "If one has an idea or proposal, she will join in and offer her support for it."

Robert Baker, the program head of music in the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, said Jacobson used her creative impulses and directing skills when working with students on projects or in class, which he said has encouraged students to become "demonstrably" better on stage.

"It is hard to imagine what we do without her as a colleague," he said. "She has been that integral and that important, and that much of a mentor for so many students and fellow faculty members. She has left us a huge responsibility to work in ways in which she has inspired us."

AMY LIU & SHANNON MALLARD
REPORTERS

At the conclusion of an institutional culture assessment earlier this month, officials pinpointed issues like inefficient communication and inconsistent leadership as employees' top concerns – but faculty said the conclusions were unsurprising.

Nearly 3,000 faculty and staff responded to the survey, according to an email University President Thomas LeBlanc sent to faculty and staff on Jan. 11. The email, which was obtained by The Hatchet, detailed the findings of the evaluation and used faculty and staff responses to calculate the University's biggest pain points.

More than 10 faculty members said in interviews that the survey should encourage the University to revisit its "top-down" approach to better lead and connect with its thousands of faculty and staff.

"I think it confirms what a lot of people suspect – that it's a broken institutional culture," David Rain, professor of geography and international affairs, said. "I really think that what [LeBlanc] needs to do is to bring more vision to the institution as a whole, and that's spread across all these schools and colleges with their own different institutional cultures."

The survey – the first of its kind – cost the University \$300,000 and was sent to all faculty and staff members last semester. The Disney Institute, which issued the assessment, conducted interviews and focus groups over the past several months to collect anecdotal data backing up the survey's findings.

Andrew Zimmerman, a professor of history and

international affairs, said he had "mixed reactions" to the survey results but was glad that the survey recognized that many individuals at the University feel the leadership is out of touch with faculty and staff.

"Morale is hurt by staff layoffs and by the disrespect the University shows to all faculty by its abysmal pay of our part-time colleagues," he said in an email. "The \$300,000 this survey costs could have been spent addressing those issues or on any number of other issues."

The Faculty Association also raised concerns in the fall that the amount of money spent on the survey could have been used to benefit other areas of GW, like faculty and staff salaries.

Katrin Schultheiss, the chair of the history department, said that because faculty and staff have limited channels of communication with administrators, professors often encounter issues with transparency and accountability.

The survey asked employees to agree or disagree with a set of questions on a scale of one to five – where one means strongly disagree and five means strongly agree. Faculty and staff averaged a 2.72 when asked how well University leaders, managers and faculty are held accountable for their behaviors, according to the results email.

"Often, when we hear explanations from higher administrators, we're not always sure if we're getting the whole story, if there's not more of the story we haven't already been told," she said. "There's a kind of lack of trust, I think, and again, it's not necessarily the product of any one individual practice, but that's one cultural sense."

Charles Garris, a pro-

essor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, said the University's poor service culture makes it difficult for students to make simple administrative requests, like getting a copy of their diploma or fixing student billing errors.

HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Charles Garris, a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, said the University's poor service culture makes it difficult for students to make simple administrative requests, like getting a copy of their diploma or fixing student billing errors.

Survey participants rated the University's ability to address stakeholder issues an average of 2.92, according to the results email.

"With the kind of tuition that we charge our students, I think our students are entitled to excellent service," Garris said.

Guillermo Ortí, a professor of biology, said the University's "top-down" leadership prevents officials from recognizing faculty and staff or promoting their "bottom-up" ideas and initiatives.

He added that administrators did not seek input from science and technology professors while designing the Science and Engineering Hall and instead told them what they wanted to put in the building.

"They won't listen to us and what we need, but they were telling us what we need and what we are going to get because this is what they think we need, and it was a total disaster," he said. "I think the process was a clear example of the absence of transparency."

Survey respondents rated how well the University provides meaningful recognition to faculty and staff an average of 2.71, according to the results email.

"This is one big issue that I think is inhibiting employees, faculty, staff from performing better and being more involved and creative in their endeavors," he said. "And it's sort of a waste of human talent that we have."



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Leslie Jacobson, who worked her way from guest artist to chair of the theater and dance department, will retire at the end of this semester.

Students offered leadership training on social media use

NIA LARTEY

STAFF WRITER

A new seminar for student leaders this semester is aiming to teach attendees how to be smart on social media.

Communications staff in the athletic department will host an Excellence in Leadership seminar for leaders of student organizations Monday focused on "the best and worst practices in the social media landscape," according to an email sent to student organizations earlier this month. Officials said the session will help students gauge the "far-reaching" impact students' posts could have on an individual or the student organization they represent.

"Participants will discuss the powers and perils of social media in a day and age when a single post can bring untold consequences and crises upon an individual and the entire institution," the email states.

Student organizations are required to attend at least five ELS sessions throughout the academic year to register as an official student organization again in March.

Anne Graham, the assistant director of student

involvement and Greek life, said ELS meetings cover a range of topics to "help students refine their leadership skills." She said officials added the social media session because the topic is "directly applicable" to student leaders who may have personal and organizational accounts.

During the session, which was originally designed for student-athletes, students will discuss "best practices and lessons learned" on social media. Between 12 to 15 students are expected to register for the session, she said.

"We are very excited to partner with the Department of Athletics and capitalize on the expertise of their staff to adapt this session for ELS," Graham said in an email.

She declined to say how the session has helped athletes in the past and why officials decided to offer the training to non-athletes.

The expanded session comes months after University President Thomas LeBlanc urged the Class of 2022 to better understand the repercussions of social media during freshman convocation. His address followed two major scandals last spring, when a racist Snapchat post riveted campus in February and a former Stu-



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
The Industry Career Network, formerly called the Career Connect network, has expanded to include graduate students and now offers opportunities for alumni to connect with one another.

dent Association senator was accused of anti-Semitism after two of his old Facebook posts resurfaced and were spread among students.

Students who signed up for the session said the event will teach members of their organization how to be more conscious about the tweets or photos they publish on social media to avoid conse-

quences for the individual or student group.

SJ Matthews, the president of the Residence Hall Association, said the organization will send a representative to the session because RHA relies "heavily" on social media to publicize events.

"We are hoping to learn some new techniques that we can utilize on our social

media channels this semester," she said in an email.

David Resnick, the president of Alpha Kappa Psi professional business fraternity, said he will send the group's vice president of marketing to the seminar to learn how the organization can boost its social media presence.

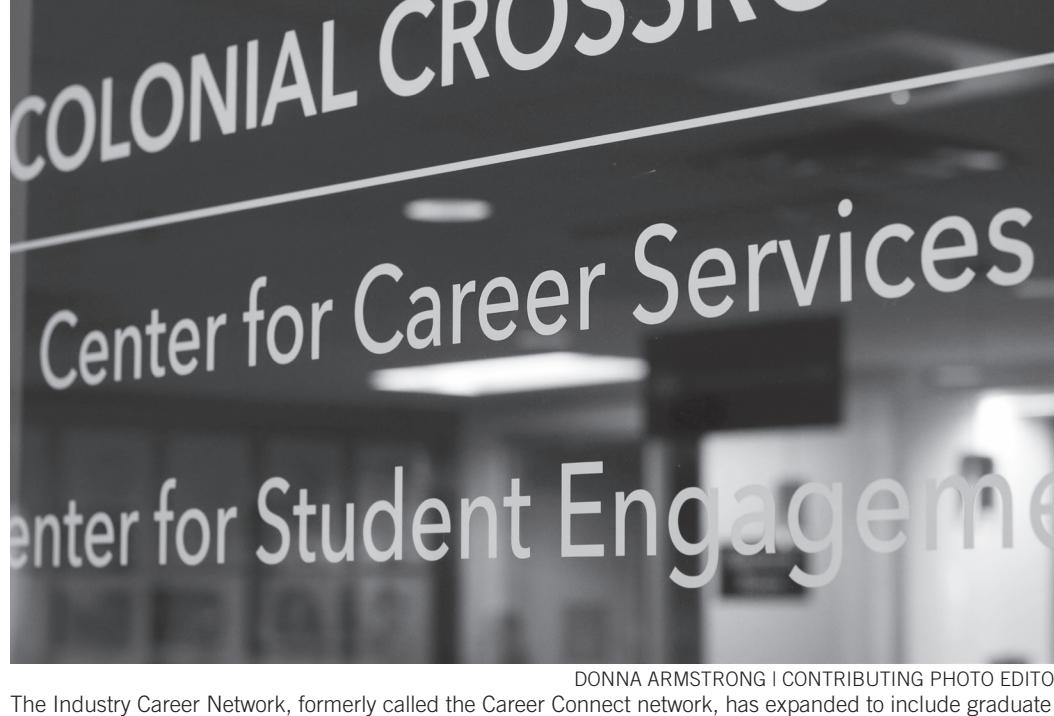
Resnick said that while most of the organization's

members understand the consequences of poor social media use, the seminar might offer lessons that they can pass down to freshmen who are just starting to learn how social media can impact their chances of securing a job or internship.

"I think most of our members already know that what they post on social media stays on the internet forever," Resnick said. "I think it's more reinforcing that idea to the freshmen, who are new members. They're still very much new to the, 'Wow, if I post this on Instagram, it will come up in 10 years to an employer.'"

If Akinmade, the president of the African Student Association, said the event was likely added this semester to teach students that if social media is not used properly, students could pay long-lasting consequences for their posts. Akinmade said he may send his social media chair to the session to learn how ASA can better promote itself online.

"Social media can be used as a force for good in order to promote and communicate with people," he said. "If not used the right way, it can also be very negative and very detrimental."



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
The Industry Career Network, formerly called the Career Connect network, has expanded to include graduate students and now offers opportunities for alumni to connect with one another.

More than 1,600 alumni, students use career center's online networking site

MEREDITH ROATEN

NEWS EDITOR

Nearly a year after its launch, GW's online networking service boasts more than 1,300 alumni participants for students to turn to for career advice.

Rachel Brown, the associate vice provost for career services, said the Industry Career Network, formerly called the Career Connect network, expanded to include graduate students and now offers opportunities for alumni to connect with one another. Growing the network's student base will help produce a core of alumni interested in offering their own advice once they graduate and make the platform more wide-reaching and effective, she said.

"As more students find value in the network, they will be the alumni that will provide guidance for future students," she said in an email.

She said staff have focused on building connections between alumni and students since the platform launched almost a year ago. Students can sign up to be part of an industry network in their field and register for virtual networking events to message alumni and graduate students.

Staff also collected feedback through a rating system on the platform and from the Career Services Council, a group that oversees funding for the Center for Career Services, she said.

Students rated virtual meetings with alumni an average of 4.89, and alumni rated them 4.5 out of 5, Brown said. Alumni relations staff also facilitated connections between alumni and students by checking in on alumni to ensure they are responding to message requests from students, she said.

A group of 300 active undergraduates have sent more than 900 messages since the platform began, she said.

"The system allows us to better understand the interactions between students and alumni and look for ways to improve this experience," she said in an email.

Brown said the network opened up to graduate students last year at the recommendation of the Career Services Council. More than 80 graduate students have given graduate school admissions advice to undergraduates so far, and they also have access to professional development opportunities with alumni in the network, she said.

She said the center will offer information sessions about the network to recruit more undergraduate students to the platform this semester.

"Our focus in the spring will be getting graduating seniors to engage on the network and take full advantage of alumni who want to help them in their post-graduation goals, whether that is a job or graduate school," Brown said.

Asha Aravindakshan, the committee chair of the career

services committee on the Independent Alumni Association of George Washington who helped develop the network, said she was surprised that the network was able to garner hundreds of users with only an email campaign.

She is no longer working on the platform, but Aravindakshan said leaders could invest in more marketing tactics to spread the word about different events and network opportunities. The approximately seven to eight minutes students spend with alumni in a chatroom can sometimes amount to more time than they would get at a crowded in-person networking event, she said.

"It's a great way to meet alumni you would never meet," she said. "You sharpen your mentorship skills."

Beckah Restivo, who graduated from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences with a bachelor's degree in political science in 2010, said she signed up for a virtual networking event at the end of January with an alumni speaker who discussed how to become more marketable during a job search.

She said that because she is currently looking for a new job, the networking event caught her eye even though she does not typically participate in alumni events in her area.

"I don't know if it's something that's going to benefit me, but it's not too late to try one to see," she said.

Independent alumni association to open first international chapter

MEREDITH ROATEN

NEWS EDITOR

Months after splitting from the University and rebranding, the independent alumni association is expanding across the Atlantic.

The Independent Alumni Association of George Washington will institute its first international chapter in London next month. The new arm will help the association expand its reach overseas and engage hundreds of alumni while setting the groundwork for dozens of future international branches, leaders said.

The group, formerly known as the GW Alumni Association, has sought to involve more international alumni in its efforts for about a year.

Ari Massefski, who graduated with a bachelor's degree from the School of Media and Public Affairs in 2015, volunteered to start the chapter because he wanted to stay connected with GW while he is enrolled in graduate school abroad. He said he wants to offer professional development and grant opportunities to alumni based in London.

"I want to help establish a long term footprint and keep the overseas alumni in London connected to GW and each other," he said in an email.

Massefski said he and other alumni are utilizing social media and local contacts to build a list of alumni in the area. Although he plans to move back to the United States this summer, he said he wants to establish the new chapter and extend the alumni association's reach before he departs.

Kathy Bikus, the operations director of the alumni association, said the new chapter will help ex-

pand the group's network after it was cut off from the University in the fall. GW established its own alumni group in October after months of failed negotiations with the independent association to merge with the University's alumni office.

Bikus said that because hundreds of alumni have shown interest in the London group, the organization will open additional chapters in other international cities where large groups of alumni live. The chapters will host events for alumni to meet and network, she said.

"Our goal is to get the GW folks out there and the graduate students out there as frequently as possible," she said.

Bikus said the London chapter will establish an executive board and delegate committee assignments after the association draws up bylaws and creates a budget over the next month.

Martin Baum, the president of the independent alumni association, said the group will choose the location of its next chapter based on which alumni volunteer to lead the new groups.

"It's a little bit of a mating game," he said. "We don't have the resources to parachute in and do the work for them."

He said the new group will help the association promote its grants and professional development events to a wider audience, adding that alumni in the area can choose whether to associate with the University's alumni group or the independent association.

"To me, there's no real competition," he said. "I don't think our alumni are overwhelmed with support."



HATCHET FILE PHOTO
Martin Baum, the president of the independent alumni association, said the group will choose the location of its next chapter based on which alumni volunteer to lead the new groups.

Legal complaints push universities to improve accessibility, experts say

From Page 1

have not necessarily prioritized making them accessible. He said Seattle University continuously looks to make changes to its websites so the school does not have to face any investigation for accessibility

bility issues.

"That's something that we work with our faculty members regularly on to make sure that classroom materials are also made accessible," Okamoto said.

He said lawsuits are often what will ultimately

force an institution to improve its disability support services. He said that while a legal course of action is a time-consuming process for both the complainant and the University, it can serve as the final push to mandate that all online content is

accessible.

"Institutions, when they're forced to look at it, tend to make the necessary strides," he said.

Sandra Harrison, the director of the Office of Student Accessibility at Pepperdine University, said that although GW

has set up a plan to improve its digital content, it might take the University several years to actually implement substantive changes.

Harrison said training should require staff to individually learn how to create an accessible

website, which can often be taught using tutorials from software companies.

"There is going to be a cost, but I think it's a wise cost because we all want people with vision impairment to have access to everything on a website," Harrison said.

Opinions

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WHAT THE UNIVERSITY WON'T TALK ABOUT THIS WEEK

What staff training is involved in a plan to improve online accessibility p. 1

FROM GWHATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

"Starting this summer, students will be more comfortable and prepared for their first year in college thanks to positive changes that GW made to its new student orientation."

—COLETTE BRUDER, HATCHET OPINIONS WRITER published Jan. 17

STAFF EDITORIAL

Review of top administrators is a step toward accountability

College is all about evaluation. Students are graded on a day-to-day basis and professors and teaching assistants are assessed at the end of each semester, so it only makes sense that the University's top two leaders — University President Thomas LeBlanc and Provost Forrest Maltzman — are held to the same standard and evaluated regularly.

Both leaders will be evaluated this spring by students, faculty and staff. Maltzman's community-wide review was approved last week and LeBlanc's evaluation was announced in October.

The review process is a good step toward holding officials accountable and ensuring they are doing all they can to benefit the entire GW community. But for the reviews to be effective and add value, the review must be in depth and the results should be released to the public.

The University's top leader must be held accountable for the state of GW. With lofty goals like shifting campus culture for both students and faculty, the community should weigh in on how LeBlanc is progressing toward his goals and serving his community.

It is especially important to evaluate LeBlanc in his second year helming the University, but Maltzman should be reviewed too even though he has been a fixture at GW for more than 25 years. Although Maltzman has only served as provost since 2016, he has held administrative positions and it is important that his work is evaluated as well.

However, most administrators are detached from the student population, which makes it difficult for students to appropriately review them. While many students can name and identify the president of the University, the same cannot be said for the provost. Not only would students have difficulty picking out Maltzman from a crowd, but they would have trouble naming his responsibilities and are therefore unprepared to evaluate the provost's work in the community review he will undergo this year.

In Maltzman's role, he is in charge of overseeing academics in all of GW's 10 schools, which means he has more responsibility than many students realize. The Corcoran School of the Arts and Design is struggling with limited funds

for expensive renovations, a drop in undergraduate enrollment and faculty contract disputes and that is just a few of the issues at a single school under Maltzman's purview.

LeBlanc has faced his fair share of challenges to address during his short time at the University. At the start of his term, his \$500,000 inauguration prompted criticism from the student body. After a racist incident shook campus last year, LeBlanc needed to respond and implemented a mandatory diversity training for all incoming students, but some students have argued that the University's efforts regarding diversity training and maintaining a diverse faculty are not enough.

Taking student feedback as part of the review is crucial because it is the job of leaders to serve students, but not all students are in tune with the exact job description of the president and provost so this should be taken into account. This review gives an opportunity for students to better understand how the University is run and who is in charge of problems they want to be addressed. The University should seek out a diverse group of students to weigh in on the University's leadership, because GW is not just made up of the leaders of student organizations who are often tapped to represent the entire student body.

When the review is complete, the University must act on the information it receives. Conducting a survey on how your leadership is operating is great,

but it is useless without a public announcement of the findings. Otherwise, it is easy for officials to push the results aside rather than make changes to solve the problems that are found.

The review should provide a long-term blueprint for how LeBlanc and Maltzman can address the biggest student concerns on campus. Students and faculty have long complained about the transactional culture at the University, so this community review is a good first step in addressing that sentiment and will make the University feel less bureaucratic, but there is more to be done.

Having in-depth reviews of the provost and the president at least every three years is a great step for the University, but it requires transparency for the process to spark meaningful change. LeBlanc and Maltzman shouldn't just be reviewed by students and faculty, but they should be held accountable by students and faculty. Collecting feedback and releasing the results publicly will secure the ultimate goal of the review: to ensure that current administrators are doing their job of serving students to the best of their ability.



Cartoon by Jeanne Franchesca Dela Cruz

Foggy Bottom deserves better than Councilmember Jack Evans

If asked about their thoughts on the recent scandals surrounding Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans, many students would likely respond they have no idea who Jack Evans is or even what Ward 2 — the D.C. electoral district containing the Foggy Bottom Campus — means.

While knowledge surrounding national politics may have increased following the election of President Donald Trump and the massive voter registration push ahead of the 2018 midterm elections, ignorance toward local politics remains high. This issue can especially be seen on college campuses, where students — who typically live far beyond the borders of their institution's town or city — have virtually no motivation to involve themselves in local politics due to the incorrect belief that local policies have less bearing on their lives than national ones.

But this notion is just as threatening to our democratic institutions as apathy toward national politics, especially as corrupt leaders continue to make policies and spew rhetoric that affects the individuals they represent.

Students and the Foggy Bottom community deserve a better representative than Councilmember Evans, but positive change will never be achieved if students remain uninterested and uninformed in local politics. At GW, students must take an acute interest in D.C. politics and involve themselves in legislative issues that will affect them as D.C. residents and students.

Evans was first elected into the councilmember position 28 years ago, and it is way past time to examine his actions. In the past few years, Evans has made several suspicious political and financial maneuverings. In 2011, Evans spent \$135,000 on tickets to sports games in the District. While this ordi-

narily would not be a concern, the money spent was provided by private donors who presumed the money was for constituent services, and Evans also worked to increase the number of constituent funds that could be raised by \$20,000. It was recently revealed that Evans purchased 200,000 shares of sign company Digi Outdoor Media in December. He then went on to promote a legislative measure that would have allowed Digi Outdoor Media to install its signs throughout the District.

If this blatant conflict of interest wasn't bad enough, Evans also regularly abuses the parking pass that allows him to ignore parking meters and time restrictions and was banned from Wikipedia for continuously editing his own page.

Jack Murphy
Columnist

The latter two complaints may seem like small qualms, but Evans has shown contempt for the people of D.C. and a disregard for the laws that govern them. He also remained employed by large D.C. law firms until this year, almost three decades into his tenure as a Council member, leading to concerns from residents regarding potential conflicts of interest.

Thankfully, much of this scandal has not gone unnoticed. Evans was reviewed by the D.C. Council in June regarding the Digi Media scandal. Despite this, the student body has been relatively silent regarding this issue. James Harnett, a junior and a commissioner for the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission, has called for Evans to step down, but beyond that, the silence on campus has been deafening.

In addition to his numerous ethical misdeeds, Evans has supported many policies

that students would likely find unappealing. Evans supported the Washington Redskins' return to the District in 2014 and has defended the racially-insensitive name on numerous occasions.

The Council member has worked diligently to undermine the will of the voters by dismantling term limits for D.C. Council members and attempting to delay the direct election of the D.C. attorney general — a measure that was voted into law by a majority of D.C. residents.

Evans' personal actions, as well as his policy positions, demonstrate a deep disregard for D.C. and its residents. Evans has shown time and time again that his own personal wealth and power take precedence over the best interests and needs of his constituents.

While shady business dealings that help install outdoor signs and billboards may not be of critical importance to students, other issues including rent and property tax rates can have a massive impact on the lives of students. This scandal reveals the sheer lack of ethical and moral judgment Evans possesses.

Evans is conducting questionable business with a billboard company today. But tomorrow he could be extending that misjudgment to affect students.

Hypothetical misdeeds may seem too distant for students to care, but when a Council member repeatedly ignores the democratic will of the people, we should be outraged.

We are not just students who live here for nine months out of the year, we are D.C. residents who live, work, eat and study under the jurisdiction of D.C. local laws. Students must remove themselves from the notion that we are mere visitors of the city, here to observe but never to participate.

—Jack Murphy, a freshman majoring in philosophy, is a Hatchet columnist.

My family was affected by a past government shutdown



The nation is waiting with bated breath for the government to start up again. We are in the midst of the longest government shutdown in history — and there is no telling when it will end.

While attention is focused on the national government and the District, thousands of federal workers across the country — and those who depend on them for their own jobs — are struggling and it is only getting worse as the shutdown rolls on.

The reason for the government shutdown is fairly cut and dry: Members of Congress and the president failed to agree on a spending bill that would have allocated \$5.7 billion for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Federal workers and communities that are dependent on federal workers are suffering in the meantime. While the government is in limbo, people should help those affected — whether it is through donations, food drives or supporting local businesses.

In my hometown of Bellevue, Neb., many families include the state's 16,961 federal workers or the 6,207 active-duty officers. My dad was in the Air Force for eight years and is now retired and works full time in communications as a civilian on Offutt Air Force Base for the Department of Defense. During the 2013

government shutdown, my dad was furloughed and my family of four had to carefully watch our expenses as we became dependent on my mom's part-time income while my dad waited for the shutdown to end.

This time, we are lucky because the Department of Defense isn't affected because of a contract that was signed before the shutdown, so my family's income isn't affected and we don't have to worry about missing payments or going for a standard grocery run.

My dad makes significantly more money than my mom so without his income, it was easy to slip behind payments for my younger sister's extracurricular activities, my dog's medications and credit card bills during the last shutdown.

Renee Pineda
Opinions Editor

But it's not just federal workers who are hurting. Businesses and companies including restaurants and ride-share drivers have noticed a significant drop in consumers and customers. While some restaurants are able to provide free or reduced-cost meals to furloughed federal workers — servers and other food service employees are getting stiffed as the city struggles.

It's important for students to look around and notice all of the ways that we are affected by the shutdown. Whether it means the internship that you dreamt of is on hold or you can't visit national museums or galleries — people are hurting and

it is our responsibility to help those in need.

As I see all of the people who are affected, like friends with internships or friends whose parents are federal workers, I'm torn between wanting the shutdown to end so that thousands of families across the country can be paid for their services and not wanting the wall to be built in the first place.

My dad could have easily been one of 800,000 federal workers who are either temporarily unemployed or are working long hours and shifts without pay. As the effects of the shutdown are becoming more and more apparent, it is clear that this isn't really about national security. If Trump was worried about security — instead of an attack on immigrants who are seeking better opportunities or protection from their own countries — he'd be worried about the growing number of Transportation Security Administration employees who are "calling in sick" during this time as a form of protest.

To see so many families struggling is heartbreaking and it is humbling to know that my family could have easily been affected by the shutdown. I have no idea when the shutdown will end. But I wish I did so that I would know when federal workers here in D.C. and my hometown could pick up where they were in December and continue their lives without stress. But in the meantime, we have to help each other where we can.

—Renee Pineda, a senior majoring in political science, is The Hatchet's opinions editor.

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Submit to opinions@gwhatchet.com

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Culture

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THE SCENE

GRAILS

The Anthem
Jan. 23 • \$15
Portland-based band Grails brings '90s rock to the modern age with its album "Chalice Hymnal."

LOW STEPPA

Glow at Soundcheck
Jan. 24 • \$15
Low Steppa is an up-and-comer in EDM, but his music features hard-hitting beats unique to the genre.

JON B

Howard Theatre
Jan. 25 • \$30
As a songwriter for stars like Michael Jackson and the Spice Girls, Jon B's thoughtful lyrics and smooth melodies epitomize R&B.

RELEASED THIS WEEK: 'HEARD IT IN A PAST LIFE,' AN ALBUM BY MAGGIE ROGERS

Student brings thrift stores to campus through Instagram



Sophomore Jay Xu is the founder of @gw_thrift, an Instagram account that sells clothing he purchases from thrift stores around the DMV area and delivers to students' residence hall doors.

LINDSAY PAULEN
CULTURE EDITOR

A sophomore is turning to Instagram to show that one person's trash can be another person's treasure.

Jay Xu, a sophomore in the business school, is the founder of @gw_thrift, an Instagram account with more than 800 followers that sells clothing he purchases from thrift stores around the DMV area and delivers to students' residence hall doors.

The Instagram account has about 90 posts with clothing ranging from worn oversized college sweatshirts to a vintage Tommy Hilfiger denim jacket. Prices for the clothing on

the account range from \$5 to about \$35, but some of the consignment posts are priced at up to \$80.

In addition to the pieces he offers, Xu also allows consignment on his account, where other students can sell their clothing for \$4 per post and followers of the account can shop unlisted pieces in Xu's closet in Francis Scott Key Hall by appointment.

Xu – who started thrifting during his junior year of high school – said when his friend first took him to a thrift shop, he was skeptical.

"The first time I went, I thought everything was dirty. I thought it was kind of gross," he said. "But

eventually I kept on going and I started finding this stuff and started wearing a lot of vintage clothing like Polo Ralph Lauren and Tommy Hilfiger."

"I was getting a lot of compliments on my clothes," Xu said. "People were asking me where I buy my stuff and people would offer me money."

But Xu said he didn't realize how vast the market for thrifited and vintage clothing was until he spent time traveling around the world. While studying abroad in Paris last year, Xu said a lot of thrift stores around Europe sold vintage American pieces like denim, college-branded clothing and windbreakers.



JACK FONSECA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

decided to pursue his idea.

Xu said when he previously thought about selling his clothes, his biggest hesitation was the shipping cost, but at GW he is able to cut the cost of shipping by living on campus and delivering directly to residence hall doors.

"I'm selling my clothes for pretty cheap," he said. "Shipping is probably going to be \$5 to \$7 and after that, I'm selling a jacket for \$20 – there's no point in doing that."

Xu said he has thought about selling vintage clothes in the past – particularly when he would see cool pieces that he would not wear himself when on a thrifting trip – but it wasn't until he came to GW that he

back and Xu started making sales.

Freshman Kayli Sweeney said she learned about Xu's account through her boyfriend, who is Xu's roommate. She has purchased two items from the Instagram account – a Rutgers University sweatshirt and a Reebok windbreaker for a friend – and said she likes the service because Xu, who is a seasoned thrifter, curates the clothing for the shop.

"He knows how to pick out really specific pieces – kind of vintage or good brands," Sweeney said. "He takes a lot of time to go through the thrift stores."

—Theo Spohngellert contributed reporting.

Alumnus connects students to study groups with new app

KAT KIRKMAN
REPORTER

An alumnus is creating an app to help students find study partners.

Alex Toltzis, who graduated in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in sociology, started an app for iPhones and Androids that connects students with their classmates for studying called GroupedU. The app will launch at GW next week and aids students in finding classmates to meet up with for study sessions ahead of exams or quizzes.

"Maybe someone wants to find a study partner, but they don't want to walk up to a random person they don't know," Toltzis said. "The idea behind the app is to connect everyone within the class and create an online way for people to see who is online looking for study partners in that class."

When users sign up for classes in the app and set their status to "online," a green light will appear on their profile. The symbol shows that an individual is looking for study partners and other students can message them to form a study group.

After coming up with the idea for GroupedU during his senior year, Toltzis said it took a "backseat" while he pursued his career in sports management.

When Toltzis was at GW, he said he often struggled to find study partners in large lectures full of strangers, which inspired him to create GroupedU.

"When I was in school, if I didn't have any friends in my classes, I was not really the kind of person who would walk up to random people and say, 'Hey, I want to study for this test tonight. Will you study with me?'" Toltzis said. "I think the way that our generation works, we tend to hide more behind screens."

The app, which Toltzis worked with a program-

ming team to create, will go live next Monday, but only for GW students. Toltzis said he hopes to eventually expand its reach to other schools in the DMV area. Toltzis said he chose GW for this initial launch because of his familiarity with the University.

"I picked GW simply because I went there. I feel like I know the school," Toltzis said. "In terms of promoting it to students, I think that I just have a better pulse on GW than most schools."

Although GroupedU is an app, Toltzis said bringing people together beyond the screen is its central premise. Rather than facilitating online study groups, the app connects students so they can meet in person to review course material.

"The main purpose of the app is to actually put people together and make people talk face-to-face about their coursework and about their studying," Toltzis said. "Put person A with person B in a room to study for an upcoming test or quiz."

Toltzis said he has not seen a similar app on the market because other programs don't emphasize student interaction and instead focus on allowing professors to distribute information to students or posting information and study guides online to use individually.

"There isn't really a social studying app designed to connect students, a direct student-to-student communication tool specifically intended for studying purposes," Toltzis said.

Toltzis said he is interested to see whether students use it for last-minute cramming or planned study sessions for future exams.

"I'm excited to see what actually transpires, if anything," Toltzis said. "And that's the other thing – it's a risk. You don't really know if it's ever going to actually be used."



DEREK LONG | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alumnus turns personal collection into hip-hop museum

GABRIELLE KOSSUTH
REPORTER

When alumnus Jeremy Beaver bought a \$12 doll of Biggie Smalls two years ago, he didn't expect it to sit alongside hip-hop artifacts in a museum he curated.

After discovering the doll was worth nearly \$1,000 online, Beaver was inspired to create a collection to preserve the music and cultural history of hip-hop.

Beaver, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in radio and TV in 1999, opened the Hip-Hop Museum D.C. – a free pop-up museum that will be on display at Culture House at 700 Delaware Ave. SW through Feb. 18.

"I quickly discovered that there is not that much hip hop memorabilia – period – compared to other genres of music," he said.

After being involved with the music industry for more than 20 years, Beaver said he decided to create the museum when his hip-hop memorabilia collection expanded from a single Biggie Smalls figurine to a wide array of pieces like signed records, hip-hop

cassettes and signed painted portraits of rappers in the Wu-Tang Clan.

Beaver joined the music industry as a DJ, but he quickly realized that he couldn't see himself "scratching records at age 70." With the mission to "aim higher," Beaver began to produce music and eventually achieved his dream of opening up his own recording studio, Listen Vision Studios, which

"I want them to realize the legitimacy and staying power of hip-hop."

JEREMY BEAVER
ALUMNUS, FOUNDER OF HIP-HOP MUSEUM D.C.

has produced records with Jay-Z, the Beastie Boys and Run-D.M.C.

While Beaver said his collection began for his personal satisfaction, he eventually realized it was much more than that.

"This is a cultural, historical legacy," he said. "I'm trying to create a preservation of music and the culture to make sure that my kids understand the roots and the origins of a unique, original American art

form, which is hip-hop."

Beaver said he is most proud to showcase the world's largest collections of signed hip-hop microphones and records and a rare promotional copy of rapper Nas' first-ever single "It Ain't Hard To Tell" on cassette – which was discovered by Beaver's 7-year-old son while the two of them were thrifting.

Beaver said he hopes the museum will help

uplifting your community, being an entrepreneur, learning a skill or trade," Beaver said.

Most of all, Beaver said he wants visitors to recognize the layers and origins of hip-hop culture.

"I think even hip-hop fans could be shocked about just how much history and how many stories and lessons as Americans that we've learned through hip-hop," he said. "I want them to realize the legitimacy and stay power of hip-hop."

At the museum's launch party on Friday, The Sugarhill Gang – whose 1979 single "Rapper's Delight" is credited as one of the earliest hip-hop songs – and other iconic hip-hop artists like Grandmaster Caz and Trouble Funk performed.

Through his years producing in the music industry, Beaver and his partner, Dave Mays, were able to secure "huge names" for the launch party.

"That was a real feeling because it's kind of just confirmation that we're crazy, but we're not totally crazy. This might be something," Beaver said.

Sports

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GAMES OF THE WEEK



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. VCU
7 p.m. • Wednesday
The Colonials host VCU in midweek action. The conference-leading Rams are undefeated in five A-10 games so far this season.



MEN'S SQUASH
vs. Yale
11 a.m. • Saturday
Men's squash puts its perfect 3-0 home record on the line against a hot Bulldogs team seeking its seventh win of the season.

NUMBER CRUNCH

3.3

Average number of seconds men's and women's indoor track improved by across all events between their first two meets of the season.

Luma breaks out of 'timid' playing style to embrace go-to scorer role

BELLE LONG
REPORTER

Women's basketball has doubled its season win total in its last four games of Atlantic 10 play – in part due to a jump in point production from sophomore forward Neila Luma.

Luma averaged 7.6 points and 8.4 field goal attempts in the first five games of the season, but in the last five games she has boosted those averages to 17.8 points nad 16.2 field goal attempts. Head coach Jennifer Rizzotti tabbed Luma as one of the team's go-to scorers earlier in the season, but the sophomore was inconsistent and went through spurts of single-digit scoring and spent a few games coming off the bench after being booted from her starting position.

"Our need for her to be a scorer was weighing pretty heavily on her in the first half of the year, and now she's embraced that role," Rizzotti said.

Now as one of the Colonials' most experienced returning underclassmen, Luma has turned into the backbone of a GW offense

that has lacked a consistent scoring option all season. Luma has registered double-digit points in the team's past five games, including back-to-back 22-point efforts against La Salle and George Mason, and is the Colonials' leading scorer with 11.4 points per contest.

The Colonials primarily relied on senior guard Mei-Lyn Bautista and senior forward Kelsi Mahoney for their offensive production at the beginning of the year with little help behind them. But Luma's point production provides an added layer of depth to GW's offense.

Luma's improvement prompted Rizzotti to run the Colonials' offense around Luma's shooting ability, she said.

"That wasn't always the case, where she was comfortable with us running plays for her," Rizzotti said. "It's nice to see her really be ready to take that role and that responsibility of being someone who can be consistent on the offensive floor for us."

Luma said assistant coach Kevin DeMille has been helping her develop her shots in



Sophomore forward Neila Luma started off the season averaging 7.6 points and 8.4 field goal attempts per game, but in the last five games she boosted those averages to 17.8 points and 16.2 field-goal attempts.

practice and strategize her shooting game in response to opponents' defensive structure. She said all aspects of her game have improved this season and she has embraced the scoring role put on her after being "timid" on the court

last season.

"I didn't really want to look for my shot, but now I have this mentality that I have to look for my shot," Luma said.

Luma said her teammates have been helping create

space for her on the floor in order to get off her signature jumper from the free-throw line range.

The sophomore's strengths aren't all offensive. Rizzotti identified Luma as one of the team's "best de-

fenders." Luma leads the team in rebounds, averaging 5.5 per game.

In addition to Luma's breakout, a handful of Colonials have also begun to step up for the team. Against Dayton, sophomore forward Chyna Latimer netted 12 points while sophomore guard Lexus Levy scored a career-high 16 points versus Rhode Island. Freshman center Kayla Mokwuh also set her career-high with 13 points against Fordham, while freshman guard Maddie Loder nearly matched her career-best in a 14-point effort against George Mason Saturday.

While Luma has grown into her role as a leader on the court, Rizzotti said the rest of the team needs to step up their shooting game to match Luma and play as a more cohesive unit.

"The better everyone continues to get with their consistency – whether it's Maddie and Kelsi or Anna and Sarah or Lexi and Chyna – it takes a little bit of pressure off of everybody else," Rizzotti said. "And that will allow us to be a team like we were last year at the end of the year."

Women's squash has worst start in years

EMILY MAISE
REPORTER

No. 13 women's squash is off to its worst start in more than a decade following shaky performances from the bottom of the team's ladder.

Head coach Wendy Lawrence said the Colonials (2-7) are underperforming at the bottom part of the team's ladder due to inexperience, lack of confidence and physical strength. While the team has fallen to tough competition in recent weeks, Lawrence said it is better for the team to struggle now to improve before College Squash Association play next month.

"We try to peak at nationals time," Lawrence said. "It's too early to write the obituary on this." Only two Colonials hold individual winning records so far

this season, with sophomore Zoe Foo Yuk Han and junior Eny El-mandouh leading the pack with 5-4 records at the No. 1 and No. 2 spots, respectively. The Colonials returned the majority of their ladder this season, but the bottom three spots have rotated between sophomores and freshmen who hold a combined 6-23 record.

Even with the slow start, Lawrence said there is still time for the team to reverse course. With only two wins on the season, the Colonials plan to improve their mentality and physicality moving into the second half of the season.

"I don't think they're quite as mentally tough as they need to be," Lawrence said. "I think they get a little more intimidated than they should."

The women's squad started the season with a 9-0 sweep of Georgetown on Nov. 9 when no

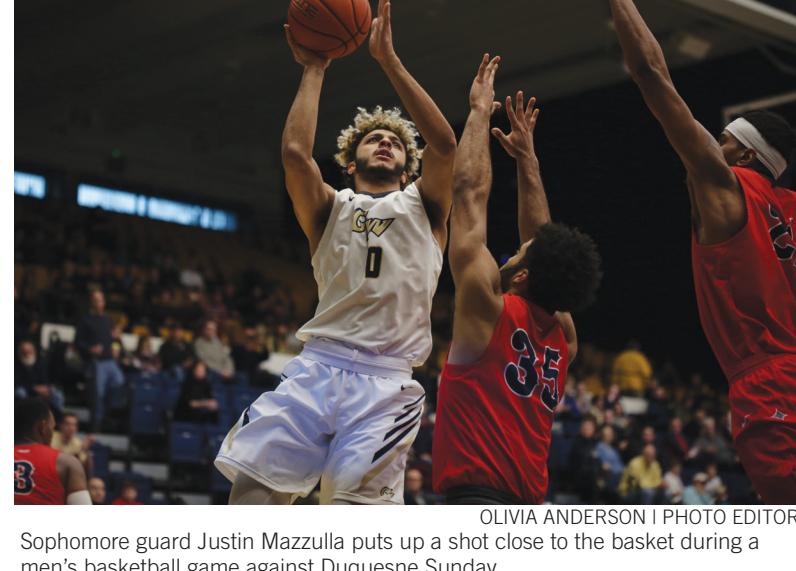
Colonial dropped a game. After dragging on a five-match losing streak, the team earned a close 5-4 win over No. 14 Middlebury College about one month later.

Six of the Colonials' seven losses have been to teams ranked in the top 10 of the CSA national rankings. The squad earned at least one individual win in four of its losses, but was cleanly swept by No. 1 Princeton on Nov. 18 and No. 6 Stanford on Jan. 9. The Colonials dropped 6-3 to No. 15 Williams Saturday.

Women's squash players extended their matches lost past three games only 25 percent of the time.

GWHATCHET.COM

H for more on the worst start for women's squash in a decade



Sophomore guard Justin Mazzulla puts up a shot close to the basket during a men's basketball game against Duquesne Sunday.

Inconsistent ball movement costs men's basketball games

BARBARA ALBERTS
SPORTS EDITOR

After 18 games of the 2018-19 season, men's basketball is still working to solve issues on the offensive end.

The Colonials (6-12, 2-3 A-10) have scored fewer points per game than any other team in the Atlantic 10, even while playing at an above average pace. The team's inability to secure baskets consistently has especially failed them in two of their last three losses against Dayton and Duquesne – where missed opportunities during final minutes turned second-half leads into single-digit losses.

Head coach Maurice Joseph said he continues to look for opportunities to increase offensive output and after the team's overtime loss to Duquesne Sunday, he highlighted the need for his squad to move around the ball if they want to remain competitive as conference play rolls on.

"We're better when we're passing up good for great," Joseph said after the team's game against Duquesne Sunday. "We're not very good when we try to do it on our own, we're just not that type of team."

GW is the lowest scoring team in the Atlantic 10 averaging 64.9 points per game and also trails in passing with 11.1 assists per game, the team's lowest tally through 18 games since 2015.

During the Co-

lonials' most recent game against the Dukes, they showed signs of improvement – scoring a season-high 85 points behind 17 assists, matching the team's season high mark.

Sophomore guard Justin Mazzulla said the improved passing and much higher scoring boosted the team's energy.

"When we're driving and kicking and just feeding off each other, that creates more chemistry and it gets us fueling our defense as well," Mazzulla said.

But the outlier performance wasn't enough for the Colonials to collect another win and GW fell in its seventh home game of the year.

The increased passing presence against Duquesne was seemingly aided by the re-emergence of redshirt junior guard Armel Potter, who was sidelined for nearly the entire month of December with an ankle sprain.

Mazzulla and freshman guard Shandon Brown – who were entrusted to handle the ball in Potter's absence – turn the ball over as many times as they pass and rank 36th and 37th in the A-10 in assist-to-turnover ratio, respectively.

Mazzulla averages 3.3 assists per game, a mark that ties him at 14th in the conference. But his 2.5 turnovers per game – the 12th most in the league – averages out to a 1.3 assist-to-turnover ratio that pits him in the bottom half of the A-10.

But Potter has averaged 23.7 minutes per game over the last three contests, scoring 26 points, dishing nine assists and committing just two turnovers and his 2.5 assist-to-turnover ratio slots him at No. 6 in the A-10.

"What you see now is what we would have seen if he didn't get injured," Mazzulla said. "So it's not a surprise what he's doing. He's extremely helpful to our team."

With Potter on the floor, Mazzulla – who has seen an uptick in scoring in conference play – has been able to move into an off-ball position on the court while Potter runs the offense.

Mazzulla has averaged 11.6 points per game in conference play, compared to his 9.8 points per game average across the season. Against Duquesne, Mazzulla picked up 16 points against the Dukes and played part of the game on the wing with Potter running the offense.

"We're going to keep acclimating him back, he's finally getting his wind under him," Joseph said. "He has a little more pop to him, athletically still not quite there yet, what we've seen him be but he's close, he's getting there, so having him back is certainly a bonus for us."

The Colonials return to action Wednesday on the road against Davidson. Tipoff is slated for 7 p.m.

The George Washington University Celebrates the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

KING WEEK

JANUARY 15TH - 31ST

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

Marvin Center Great Hall | 9am to 5pm

Join the GW community in celebrating Dr. King's birthday! Reflect on his legacy through quotes and trivia. Birthday cake will be served at 12:05pm with a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday to You."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

Third Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture: How to Be an Antiracist

Ross Hall 101 | 12pm

In this deeply personal and empowering lecture, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi shifts the discussion from how not to be racist, to how to be an antiracist. He shares his own racist ideas and how he overcame them. He provides direction to people and institutions who want more than just band-aid programs, but actual antiracist action that builds an antiracist America. RSVP by Thursday, January 10th at go.gwu.edu/smhsmlk.

Dr. King: A Voice and Force in International Affairs

1957 E St NW Room 602 | 5pm

Join Dr. Robert M. Franklin as he discusses Dr. King's views, participation, and influence in the international community; his engagement concerning apartheid in South Africa; his views on the Vietnam War; his views on capitalism and communism; his trip to Scandinavia and interest in democratic socialism. Register at go.gwu.edu/smhsmlk

Bayard Rustin: Gay, Black, and Civil Rights Icon

Multicultural Student Services Center 209 | 7pm to 8:30pm

How did Bayard Rustin navigate being gay and black, while changing the Civil Rights Movement forever? Come join us for a film screening and discussion of the award-winning documentary, *Brother Outsider*. Free food and fellowship await you! All are welcome to attend!

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

MLK Day of Service and Leadership Linsen Auditorium | 11am

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members are invited to participate in a day of service, leadership development, and interfaith dialogue in honor of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For more information and to register visit go.gwu.edu/mlkdos or contact us at mlkdos@gwu.edu. Pre-registration is required.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

Protecting His Legacy: A Movie and Discussion of How to Continue Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream

Argentine Amphitheater | 6pm to 9pm

Join GW's Counseling and Psychological Services in welcoming Kevin Willmott, screenwriter for *BlackKKKlansman* and *Chi-Raq*, to the campus as he facilitates a film screening and discussion regarding racism today, its portrayal in various media, and future change. The event will focus on Willmott's critically acclaimed feature, *C.S.A.: The Confederate States of America*, which will be shown during the program.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Bingo at the Kuehner Senior Home

1667 Good Hope Rd SE | 12:00pm

In celebration of Dr. King's service, join Word Up! Bible Study to volunteer at the Kuehner Senior House and So Others Might Eat. We will be facilitating a Bingo game and will be giving seniors some needed entertainment.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

Where Do Student Rights Come From? Telling the Story of Dixon v. Alabama

District House B110 | 2:00pm

This civil rights case built the foundations for all student rights on campuses today. Whether the right to view and respond to information against them, or any other right for students on campus today, it began with a lunch counter sit-in and subsequent expulsion at Alabama State College. This session will tell the story of that case and look at the far-reaching legacy for all students on college campuses.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

Teaching, Learning, and Decolonizing in DC

District House B205 | 4pm to 5:30pm

The "Teaching, Learning, and Decolonizing in DC" panel will provide an overview of teaching strategies, learning approaches, and research methods rooted in decolonization theory and indigenous cultural relevance. Topics for discussion include: microaggressions toward indigenous students/cultures, rethinking the colonial roots of research, community engagement, reciprocity and respect, cultural competency, and more. Students, researchers, and educators alike will benefit from this discussion on how to incorporate these tools and perspectives into their living-learning experience.

Sponsored by GW: AT&T Center for Indigenous Politics and Policy, Black Men's Initiative, Black Student Union, Colonial Health Center, Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service, Department of English, GW Argentine Tango, LEAP Initiative, Elliott School of International Affairs, LGBTQA+ Resource Center, Multicultural Student Services Center, Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Rights and Responsibilities, and Word Up! Bible Study.



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For more information, visit mssc.gwu.edu/king-week or contact the King Week Committee at kingweek@gwu.edu.