

# The GW Hatchet



BASEBALL SEASON PREVIEW  
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## Dozens of racist images emerge in old GW yearbooks amid national controversy



GW yearbooks featured at least 14 instances of blackface and three photos of people wearing KKK hoods – the most recent of which was published in 1977. CHERRY TREE ARCHIVE

**ARIANNA DUNHAM & ILENA PENG**  
STAFF WRITERS

More than a dozen photos featuring people in blackface or Ku Klux Klan hoods appear in dated GW yearbooks.

After a series of three racist images from 1960s yearbooks surfaced last week amid a national conversation about universities' discriminatory pasts, The Hatchet sifted through more than 100 years of online archives of The Cherry Tree yearbooks. The analysis revealed at least 14 instances of blackface and three photos of people wearing KKK hoods – the most recent of which was published in 1977 – and more than a dozen racist sketches and other instances of offensive outfits or hateful symbolism.

The Hatchet's analysis excludes the 1919 yearbook, which is missing from online archives. A physical copy was not immediately accessible at Gelman Library.

The original three photos, which students and officials condemned last week, depicted two men in blackface at a talent show in 1964, while two additional pictures showed students appearing to wear KKK hoods at parties and theater shows in 1965 and 1968.

University President Thomas LeBlanc denounced the images Friday and said in an in-

terview that the photos are part of a "national story" that has pushed other universities to also analyze their old publications. He was made aware of the photos Thursday evening and said they are "terribly unfortunate" – but not surprising.

"I am not surprised there is racism in our past, and I am not surprised there is racism in our yearbook as a result," LeBlanc said.

The most recent racist photo in a Cherry Tree yearbook was featured in a 1977 edition, where a student is pictured in a KKK hood on a Halloween page.

Richard Stalford, an alumnus who served as the editor of the yearbook in 1977, said he does not remember under what context the photo was published, but the picture would not have been acceptable at the time and "might have slipped through."

"That's really nice to look at these things with the wisdom of age and the sensitivity that it caused not only then but now," Stalford said. "I'm sure it was a mistake at the time."

Older photos depicting blackface or KKK hoods are featured on pages of students at parties, theater productions and talent shows. A photo of a person in blackface appears in a 1944 yearbook on a page that, in part, reads: "Recalling events which will bring you pleasant memories of this year."

The Hatchet also found several racist sketches primarily published between 1910 and 1930. A sketch in a 1914 yearbook depicted two individuals wearing KKK hoods sitting outside a building labeled "Greeks."

The Hatchet also found at least 20 instances in which students were pictured dressing up in traditionally Native American and Asian dress and make-up during celebrations and performances.

The Cherry Tree released a statement Friday condemning the racist photos from the 1960s, saying they "run directly counter to our values." Cherry Tree Editor in Chief Evelyn White declined to comment further.

The findings follow resurfaced images allegedly featuring Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam in a 1984 medical school yearbook depicting a man in blackface and another in a KKK hood. Other Virginia politicians have since admitted to wearing blackface or editing yearbooks that published racist images, multiple news outlets have reported.

Photos depicting blackface, staged lynchings and illustrations of slaves have also resurfaced in old yearbooks at other colleges, including the universities of Virginia and Maryland.

Provost Forrest Maltzman said in an interview Friday that the photos found in GW yearbooks are "disgusting," and he

hopes the community can learn from past mistakes.

"One of the things people should never do is bury their history," he said.

At least nine racist images in past Cherry Tree yearbooks appeared on pages featuring sororities and fraternities.

The earliest photo from a Greek life page is a 1946 photo of members of Chi Omega acting out a sketch at an annual "goat show," where one woman is pictured in blackface.

"Though this photo is from 70 years ago, it is still inexcusable," Kerri Corcoran, the president of Chi Omega and a Hatchet staff writer, said in an email. "Chi Omega is proud to represent women of diverse racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds."

A 1949 picture of Kappa Alpha Theta women performing a skit at the "goat show" includes two students with their faces painted black. Liz Rinck, the director of communications for Kappa Alpha Theta, said inclusion and diversity are "important topics of conversation in the world of higher education, including in Kappa Alpha Theta."

Jesse Lyons, the assistant executive director for advancement for Kappa Alpha, said a 1949 photo of a man in blackface

## GW 'confident' it did not mistreat student alleging age discrimination

**ILENA PENG & LEAH POTTER**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITORS

As the Department of Education investigates the University's role in a case of alleged age discrimination, officials say they are "confident" that they did not act inappropriately.

The Office for Civil Rights launched an investigation into GW for possible age discrimination on Jan. 17 and the inquiry was made public for the first time earlier this month. University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said the complaint that launched the probe was filed by a former student alleging that the University retaliated against them for protesting age discrimination.

Csellar said the University was notified of the investigation on the day it opened. OCR is investigating the complaint under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age at all institutions that receive federal assistance.

"OCR is obligated to investigate individual complaints within OCR's jurisdiction, and of course, a complaint represents only the complainant's perspective," Csellar said in an email. "The University is confident that it acted appropriately and intends to cooperate with OCR's review."

Csellar declined to specify what the complaint alleged. She declined to say whether the University intends to institute any policy change in response to the complaint.

The complaint that launched the investigation was not immediately available online. The Hatchet filed a request for the document through the Freedom of Information Act, which has not yet been returned.

GW is one of 107 institutions currently under investigation by the OCR for possible age discrimination. The University is one of 20 schools with an open inquiry into a complaint alleging retaliation, according to the office's website.

The University of Michigan is currently facing the highest number of OCR investigations for age discrimination with four separate complaints. GW is the only one of its 12 peer institutions currently under federal investigation for alleged age discrimination.

GW has faced two other federal investigations over the past two years. The Department of Education opened an investigation in April 2017 for alleged discrimination against people with disabilities. The department also launched an investigation in 2017 into the University for allegedly mishandling a student's sexual violence case. Those investigations ended in March and July, respectively, with resolution agreements dictating steps the University must take to avoid similar incidents in the future.

Complaints to the OCR need to be filed within 180 days of the incident, according to the office's website. Investigations typically begin with OCR officials requesting documents and reports from the University, experts said.

The current federal investigation is not the first time GW has come under fire for

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## Sustainability office issues first progress report in a decade

**MEREDITH ROATEN**  
NEWS EDITOR

The sustainability office achieved 14 of the 56 eco-friendly goals officials set for themselves 10 years ago, while about 67 percent of the remaining objectives are ongoing.

The Office of Sustainability's first progress report in a decade found that GW has kept waste out of landfills and generated energy from low-carbon technology. Officials said they will now focus on cutting carbon emissions, reducing water consumption and expanding recycling on campus by educating students about sustainable practices and creating more eco-friendly academic and advocacy programs.

The report, released on Monday, details the progress of 22 short-term goals and 34 long-term targets, like conducting a light pollution study and reducing water consumption by 25 percent, respectively. The University has completed 11 short-term goals but missed five, while officials have checked off three long-term objectives. Nine goals are currently in progress, according to the

report.

Meghan Chapple, the director of the office, said the report reflects efforts to be transparent with the community and highlight the University's accomplishments and challenges. Officials have not always provided updates on their goals for sustainability and for years stayed quiet on their water conservation goals.

"We are doing this so that GW students, staff and faculty know how GW is doing because we are committed to sustainability," she said.

### Hitting the mark

The office is on track to cut 40 percent of carbon emissions by 2025, with a 22 percent reduction in emissions since 2008, but Chapple said the office must continue to combat sources of greenhouse gas emissions if the campus will achieve carbon neutrality by 2040.

The University's biggest emissions contributor is air travel from faculty flying to conferences and students studying abroad, she said. Chapple said the office is exploring other universities' programs to

plant trees and other greenery to offset the amount of carbon produced from those emissions – something officials first announced last semester.

"The nice thing is that they have already started to experiment with things that we can jump on board faster than they were able to do it," she said.

GW also surged past its goal of reducing landfill waste by 40 percent by increasing composting projects and reusing paper, according to the report. The University launched its composting program last fall on the main campus and expanded to the Mount Vernon Campus last month.

Tara Scully, the director of the sustainability minor, said progress is not only coming from the sustainability office and its staff. The number of students participating in the office's student sustainability advocacy program Eco-Reps has increased by 135 percent in three years, according to the report.

Sydney Kleingartner, a freshman in the Eco-Reps program, said the students are on the front lines in pushing their peers to change their behavior. Students are more likely to listen to suggestions from their friends about how to be more sustainable, she said.

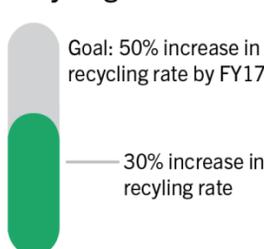
"When you come into college and you don't

know, you think it's too late not to know," she said. "Because I'm more aware of it, I make my friends more aware of it."

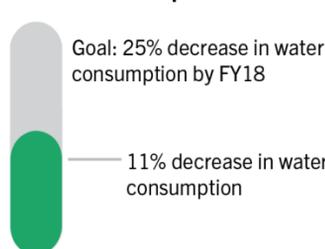
Izzy Moody, the Student Association's vice president for sustainability, said students are often the "driving" force behind environmental change on campus.

Student leaders have advocated for more sustainable practices in recent years, including an ongoing effort from Fossil Free GW to push the University to relinquish its holdings in fossil fuel companies. With the help of SA leaders, administrators created a \$2 million sustainable investment fund last spring.

### Recycling rate



### Water consumption



EMILY RECKO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

"Whether we are vocalizing our desire for more sustainably, ethically sourced affordable food on campus or demanding a future without dirty energy, our actions absolutely shape GW's vision for its own sustainable goals," she said in an email.

### Missing the grade

But GW didn't achieve all of the progress officials had hoped for. The University fell short of its goal to increase recycling rates to 50 percent by fiscal year 2017. Since 2008, GW has improved recycling numbers to hit about 30 percent.

Chapple, the director of the sustainability office, said the office is exploring ways to educate more students and employees about properly recycling their trash. She said officials are working on launching "living labs" by 2021 where students can build sustainability projects to improve campus life.

Chapple added that the office has struggled to meet its goal of reducing water consumption by 25 percent by fiscal year 2018 but is re-evaluating the goal altogether.

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## CRIME LOG

### THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Somers Hall  
Unknown – Unknown  
Closed Case

A staff member reported to the GW Police Department that an unknown subject stole the lock from the rooftop hatch door of Somers Hall. Officers are unsure of how long the lock has been missing.

**No suspects or witnesses**

### UNLAWFUL ENTRY

Mitchell Hall (7-Eleven Store)  
2/3/2019 – 2:58 a.m.  
Closed Case

GWPD responded to a report that a male subject unaffiliated with GW was shoplifting. Upon arrival, an employee told officers that they discovered the subject was not stealing. Officers discovered the male subject had been previously barred, issued him an updated bar notice and escorted him off University property.

**Subject barred**

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

Academic Center  
2/4/2019 – 4:45 p.m.  
Open Case

A staff member reported to GWPD that her wallet was stolen from 801 22nd St. NW. She told officers that she noticed multiple unauthorized charges on one of her credit cards.

**Case open**

### PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS

Public Property On Campus (700 Block of 21st Street NW)  
2/4/2019 – 6:17 p.m.  
Closed Case

GWPD responded to a report of a “sick person” outside of Corcoran Hall near the Textile Museum. Officers arrived and encountered an intoxicated individual unaffiliated with GW. EMeRG responded, evaluated the male subject and cleared him. After the assessment, GWPD instructed him to leave the area.

**No further action**

### TRAFFIC ACCIDENT: HIT AND RUN

District House  
Public Property on Campus (800 Block of 21st Street NW)  
2/5/2019 – 2:30 a.m.  
Closed Case

GWPD received a report of damage to the driver’s side mirror of a GW-owned white van parked on the 21st Street side of the Marvin Center.

**No suspects or witnesses**

### SEXUAL ASSAULT

West Hall  
Multiple – Multiple  
Open Case

GWPD received a report from a female student that she was sexually assaulted in her residence hall room by a male subject who was not affiliated with GW. The student declined to file a report with the Metropolitan Police Department.

**Case open**

— Compiled by Valerie Yurk

# Resident advisers form new group for black students to find community on the Vern

NIA LARTEY  
STAFF WRITER

About 60 students packed into the Eckles Library Auditorium last month to discuss “How to Survive Being Black on the Vern” at an event by the same name.

For some, it was the first time they shared the same space as other black students on the campus they called home. For about two hours, the group discussed topics like having racially insensitive roommates and finding a group of black peers on a campus that houses cohorts like the Honors Program and the Women’s Leadership Program.

The gathering was part of a larger effort by four resident advisers on the Mount Vernon Campus to improve the black student experience through open forums and the newly formed Black Resident Assembly, which reserves a space every other week for black students to eat meals together or study. Resident advisers said new programming and the group will help an underrepresented population find community on an isolated campus.

“When you live on the Vern, you just miss a lot of stuff,” Shelby Singleton, a

resident adviser in Merriweather Hall who lived in Somers Hall her freshman year, said. “It’s hard to keep up with what’s happening. It’s hard to meet people.”

Singleton said the assembly, which launched earlier this semester, will convene every other Sunday from 8 to 10 p.m. in West Hall. The group, which received funding from the Center for Student Engagement to purchase food, may register as a student organization later this semester depending on the turnout for each gathering, she said.

“They can just talk, do whatever they want to do,” Singleton said. “Homework, make friends, talk about being black – they can do whatever they want.”

The group convened to watch the Super Bowl last week, and members plan to attend a step show on March 3 hosted by the recently restarted National Pan-Hellenic Council, which oversees six historically black Greek-letter organizations. Students will also eat dinner together on the Sunday after spring break and celebrate the end of the academic year on April 28.

Junior Oscar Barrios, a resident adviser in Cole Hall,

said when he was a freshman living in Thurston Hall, he did not see any representation of the black community aside from his visits to the Multicultural Student Services Center. The assembly serves as a substitute for the MSSC on the Vern, he said.

“As soon as I started seeing more brown faces, colored faces, I felt happier,” Barrios said. “Because I knew if I was having a problem, there’s somebody I can talk to.”

Dulani Northover, a resident adviser in Hensley Hall, said moving to the Vern as a black student can be “very jarring” because many black student organizations have their meetings and social gatherings on the Foggy Bottom Campus.

“You’re used to being surrounded by black faces, and all of the sudden, you’re not only just put in a spot where you don’t see black faces, but the few black faces that you do meet, they’re usually on this other campus,” Northover said. “It’s very hard to integrate and get involved.”

Lex Constantinides, a resident adviser in Somers Hall, said there should have always been a space for black students on the Vern to feel less “disconnected” from the

Foggy Bottom Campus. Constantinides will be a resident adviser on the Foggy Bottom Campus next year but said she will meet with resident advisers next year to discuss continuing the group formed this semester.

“I care about my residents, and I care about other residents on the Vern,” she said. “I know that living on the Vern can already be isolating for many, many people.”

The new event series and group come as other black student organizations also work to extend their reach to the Vern. The National Council for Negro Women held a “pancake and pajamas” Jan. 30 in the Eckles Library Auditorium, and the Black Student Union will partner with the Black Graduate Student Association to host a cookout on the Vern, BSU President Michael Ferrier said.

Ferrier said the organization will also book the Vern’s music studio this semester to host a 10-hourlong music jam and will invite black student artists, singers and producers.

“We just want to do more community events, more fun stuff on the Vern,” Ferrier said. “We just want to make our presence more known.”



Lex Constantinides and Shelby Singleton are two of the resident advisers on the Mount Vernon Campus who helped organize the Black Resident Assembly.

## Federal probe could prompt policy change: experts

From Page 1

age-based discrimination. An electrician employed by the University sued GW in 2016 for job discrimination and alleged that the University discriminated against him because of his disability and age by cutting his hours.

A former GW Police Department officer sued the University in 2014 for age and racial discrimination, requesting \$1 million for lost pay and emotional distress. An employee alleged race and age

discrimination and sued the University in 2013, asking for a job promotion and compensation.

But complaints filed through the OCR on the basis of age discrimination are filed under the purview of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, which does not cover employment discrimination.

Experts said the federal investigation could conclude with GW altering policies and instituting staff training to avoid similar conflicts going forward.

Joseph Kaplan, a found-

ing principal at Passman & Kaplan, P.C., a law firm based in D.C., said laws like the Age Discrimination Act were created to account for other forms of discrimination aside from those based on national origin, race and sex.

“It took a separate law to do that because it wasn’t covered in the original Civil Rights Act in 1964, but it operates in basically the same way and says you can’t treat people differently,” Kaplan said.

Dallas Hammer, a principal at the D.C.-based firm Zuckerman Law, said that if

the OCR finds that the University retaliated against the former student, officials may face “significant repercussions,” like mandated policy changes or faculty and staff training.

“I always think that it’s smart for an employer to be proactive and have meaningful policies in place that aren’t just there on the books but actually create a culture of tolerance and acceptance,” Hammer said. “My hope is if there is validity to these claims that we would see the University step up and voluntarily make big changes.”

## Old yearbook photos featuring blackface appear on Greek life pages

From Page 1

at the “Tacky Ball” is “not appropriate at any time, does not reflect who we are and would not be tolerated.”

A photo on Sigma Nu’s 1950 yearbook page shows two students re-enacting a slave trade with the caption, “One dime ... the twentieth of a dollar.” A Delta Tau Delta page from 1958 shows fraternity members entering an event in blackface. Representatives from Sigma Nu and Delta Tau Delta did not return requests for comment.

A photo on Pi Beta Phi’s 1957 yearbook page depicts members acting out “real Mis’ippi gamblin’” in which two women appear in blackface.

“I cannot speak to the thoughts of members of the chapter in 1957, but I can tell you that today’s chapter members are dis-

gusted by what this image portrays,” Erica Viscovich, the president of Pi Beta Phi, said in an email.

A Phi Sigma Sigma page in 1963 includes a group photo in which one individual is wearing blackface with the caption “You’all.” Alison Janega, the president of Phi Sigma Sigma, said members are aware of the photo and “do not believe it is appropriate regardless of the year.”

“As an organization, we are encouraged by the measurable progress we have made since 1963,” Janega said in an email. “Part of ensuring that we don’t make the same mistakes in the future is the opportunity to have an open and honest dialogue to better understand how past actions could be hurtful and disrespectful to fellow community members, then and now.”

A 1965 photo showing a student dancing in KKK dress – one of the three

photos that surfaced last week – was featured on a page for Tau Kappa Epsilon. Gregory Roskopf, the chief risk officer of the national chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon, said the fraternity does not condone the racist actions of any TKE

**“It’s not enough to just say, ‘This isn’t who we are, this is in our past.’ It’s recognizing it and then doing something to correct it, and that is the responsibility primarily of the institutional leadership.”**

**MITCHELL CHANG**

PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

member.

“Tau Kappa Epsilon proudly represents a wide range of individuals by every measure of race, creed, beliefs or orientation,” Roskopf said in an email.

Race and social policy experts said universities should acknowledge the photos and promote dis-

ussions about the impact of the schools’ racist histories.

Lawrence Ross, the author of “Blackballed: The Black and White Politics of Race on America’s Campuses,” said universities often “rationalize” old rac-

ist photos by saying they were taken in a different time period. He said that sentiment “dismisses” the concerns of minority students and added that actions like hiring diversity chairs are a “small step” to help dissect an organization’s culture.

The University hired its

first diversity and inclusion education director last fall after members of the sorority Alpha Phi were pictured in a racist Snapchat post last year.

“You have to deconstruct it,” Ross said. “You can’t paper it over or do superficial things in order to say that you’re solving the problem – then what you’re just doing is just saying that it’s just a PR problem and nothing else.”

Mitchell Chang, a professor of education at the University of California, Los Angeles, said “deep segregation” was more common in Greek life because the organizations were the “most exclusive clubs” and were “highly” segregated both racially and economically.

“It’s not enough to just say this isn’t who we are, this is our past,” Chang said. “It’s recognizing it and then doing something to correct it, and that is the

responsibility primarily of the institutional leadership.”

Elizabeth Rule, the assistant director of GW’s AT&T Center for Indigenous Politics and Policy, said the emergence of images at GW demonstrates how universities sometimes “uphold racist, sexist forms of violence.” She said the University needs to acknowledge the images and the “moments of violence and racism” that occurred in the past.

“It’s important to recognize how racism has taken on a different language and manifests itself in different ways but with still equally destructive, harmful and hurtful consequences to the students,” she said.

—Matt Cullen, Vita Fellig, Jared Gans, Cayla Harris, Kelly Hooper, Parth Kotak, Nia Larthey, Lizzie Mintz, Leah Potter, Liz Provencher, Sarah Roach and Zach Schonfeld contributed reporting.

# GW exceeds peer schools in number of student organizations

**NIA LARTEY & SARAH ROACH**  
STAFF WRITERS

GW has more than 500 student organizations and students said there is a need for every one of them.

The University boasts about 540 active student organizations, the third-highest number of its peer institutions. More than 10 student leaders said the relatively high number of organizations reflects the types of students who attend GW – those who want to be deeply involved in campus life and hold multiple leadership positions.

The University has an average of 100 more student organizations than 10 of its peer institutions. Schools like Syracuse University and the University of Miami both have roughly 300 total student organizations, with total student populations of roughly 22,000 and 17,000, respectively. GW boasts about 28,000 total students, according to institutional data.

The universities of Southern California and Pittsburgh have the two highest numbers of student organizations, with more than 1,000 and 600 groups, respectively.

Anne Graham, the assistant director of student involvement and Greek life, said student organizations are an “integral” part of campus because they host frequently attended events. The high volume of organizations

also gives students more options to choose a group that fits their interests, she said.

“Membership in student organizations fosters positive relationships, as well as positive feelings about the institution and educational experience,” she said in an email.

Graham said the number of student organizations has fluctuated between 480 and 520 over the past few years “as new student organizations gain recognition and other student organizations go inactive.”

Last semester, the University added at least five new student organizations, including the Black Law Student Association and TableTalk, a group that aims to bring students together and discuss uncomfortable political and social topics.

George Glass – who holds leadership positions in the Student Association, Circle K, Colonial Army and Young Americans for Liberty – said GW may have more student organizations because students make up for a perceived lack of school spirit with increased involvement.

“When you first get on campus, you’re going to look to something else for community because school spirit is something that drives community,” Glass said. “If that’s not there, then they’ll look to other ways of trying to substitute that.”

Cole Perry, the chairman



MARGARET WROBLEWSKI | PHOTOGRAPHER  
George Glass – who holds leadership positions in the Student Association, Circle K, Colonial Army and Young Americans for Liberty – said GW may have more student organizations because students make up for a perceived lack of school spirit with increased involvement.

of the GW College Republicans and the former president of the Knights of Columbus, said the relatively high number of student organizations is a reflection of students’ “desire for leadership experience.” Holding a leadership position in a student organization is a stepping stone to a professional career outside of college, he said.

“Being able to grow closer with a small group who shares your passions and interests is healthy in what otherwise may seem like a

cutthroat city,” Perry said.

But Ife Akinmade, the president of the African Student Association, said that while the number of student organizations can help create community, many replicate one another and are only sustained so students can claim more roles on their resumes.

“It definitely helps on your resume because you’re like, ‘founder and president of this org,’” Akinmade said. “Depending on who the job inquirer is, that might be a

benefit.”

Student affairs experts said students can benefit from having many options because they can find a group to meet their interests on a large campus with many different types of students.

Heather Seaman, the director of Tulane University’s student affairs office, said there is no “magic number” of student organizations that would be good or bad for campus life, but officials should ensure new organizations do not overlap with

existing groups. She said students could feel isolated if they bounce around to different organizations without consistent events or meetings.

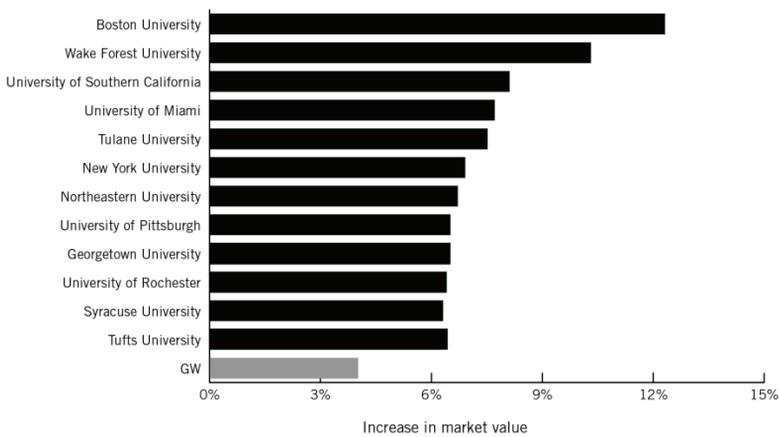
The Center for Student Engagement mandated in 2016 that prospective student organizations meet with staff from the office to draft their constitution and present the group’s goals and plans to ensure they do not mirror existing organizations.

“If a group has gone dormant, but they’re still listed, and a student approaches them and they never hear back, that leaves a sour taste in their mouth,” Seaman said.

Kathy Arnett, the director of student organizations and programs at Wake Forest University, said if several student organizations are active and frequently host events, the University needs to provide students with enough funding and affordable rooms to ensure the group can sustain itself. She said officials could push similar student organizations to collaborate on events and build more community outside of one particular group.

“We highly encourage them to collaborate with others and think out of the box and work with a group you normally wouldn’t associate yourself with having a group,” she said. “It helps build community with other student organizations as well.”

## Endowment growth during fiscal year 2018



EMILY RECKO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Source: National Association of College and University Business Officers

# Endowment growth lags behind peer institutions

**MEREDITH ROATEN**  
NEWS EDITOR

For the second consecutive year, GW’s endowment growth has fallen behind the average rate of its peer institutions and schools across the nation.

The University’s financial foundation increased in market value by 4 percent in fiscal year 2018, hitting nearly \$1.8 billion, according to a report from the National Association of College and University Business Officers released late last month. Officials said the growth rate can be impacted by several factors, including a drop in the stock market or donations, but experts said even a slow increase allows the University to fund its top priorities.

In an analysis of 802 colleges, NACUBO’s report found that university endowments grew, on average, by 8.2 percent – more than double GW’s growth rate.

All of GW’s 12 peer institutions grew at a faster rate than GW. Boston University’s endowment grew at the highest rate at more than 12 percent, while Tufts University grew at a rate of slightly more than 6 percent, the lowest of the peer group.

Last year, GW’s endowment grew by about 10 percent, a slower rate than two-thirds of its peers. The endowment maintained a higher growth than some of its roughest financial years in 2015 and 2016 when growth hovered between 1 and 3 percent.

University spokeswoman Lindsay Hamilton said the endowment is growing at a “healthy” rate supported by new donations.

“The change in value from year to year can be

impacted by a number of things, including the overall performance of the markets or endowment-specific factors, such as one-time transactions that contribute to one fiscal year appearing higher than another,” she said in an email.

Hamilton said the University takes a “consistent” amount from the endowment to fund the operating budget each year. GW is continuously trying to stick to the best financial management practices, she said.

Hamilton declined to say what factors contributed to a slower growth rate than the previous fiscal year or how the lower rate of growth will affect GW’s operations. Last year, former deputy vice president of finance Ann McCorvey predicted that growth would hold steady, but Hamilton declined to say why that has not held true.

Ellen Zane, the chair of the finance and audit committee of the Board of Trustees, said at a board meeting Friday that the part of the endowment that is invested in the stock market was down in the last quarter of 2018 because of poor financial conditions. But she said growth was ultimately positive because of GW’s large investment in the real estate market.

“It was offset by higher returns in real estate for a 1 percent overall return,” she said.

Financial experts said GW may be growing more slowly than its peer institutions because the University may have received a smaller return on investments or collected fewer donations than a typical year.

Ken Redd, the senior director of research and policy analysis at NACUBO, said endowments shift based on increases in fundraising and returns on investment

that outweigh how much the University takes out of the endowment every year. He said that because return on investment is a large portion of endowment growth, increasing stock prices have had a positive effect on endowments.

“In general, when the financial markets do well, then the endowments tend to rise, all things being equal,” he said.

All of GW’s peers have endowments of more than \$1 billion, and universities with endowments of that size spent 4.6 percent of their endowments on average last fiscal year, according to the report.

Joseph Cordes, a professor of economics, said that because GW did not receive a multimillion-dollar gift in 2018, the endowment did not grow as much as it will in the future when it receives hefty donations. GW’s endowed funds have dropped off since hitting a high point in fiscal year 2015.

He said officials have proven that they are trying to boost GW’s fundraising numbers, which will eventually grow the endowment. Officials set new fundraising goals last year to increase the size of GW’s donor base.

Cordes said the single-digit growth of the endowment, while less than last year, allows the “purchasing power” of the University to grow. With more funds, the payout to the operational budget can be used to fund University President Thomas LeBlanc’s priorities, like improving the student experience or reworking the medical enterprise, he said.

“We have a healthy endowment and it allows us to do different things,” Cordes said. “I’m glad that we have this size of endowment for initiatives.”

# Hate crimes continue to surge in Second District

**ILENA PENG**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Hate crimes in the Metropolitan Police Department’s Second District, which includes Foggy Bottom, have increased by nearly 900 percent over the past five years, according to newly released MPD data.

Fifty-nine hate crimes were reported in the Second District last year compared to six in 2013, according to the MPD data. Criminal justice experts said the increase in hate crimes is likely linked to an increase in anti-immigrant rhetoric nationwide, coupled with higher reporting rates and recent police training about classifying the crimes.

Hate crimes, also known as bias-related crimes, are defined as acts that demonstrate the perpetrator’s prejudice based on factors like race and religion.

Threats and simple assaults accounted for about half of the Second District’s hate crimes in 2018. The highest number of assaults in the Second District prior to 2018 was eight – but last year, that number jumped to 14.

There were 16 reported threats in 2018, a slight increase from the 12 reported in 2017 and the highest number in the past five years. The 16 reported incidents of damaging, defacing or destruction of property are six more than the number reported in 2017 and the highest in the past five years.

Brett Parson, a lieutenant and commander of MPD’s special liaison branch, said a four-hour MPD training in 2015 reviewing policies and procedures for investigating, reporting and documenting hate crimes could contribute to the increase in documented hate crimes because police are better trained on the topic.

He added that increased

media coverage of hate crimes and growing police department efforts to educate communities about the topic have contributed to higher rates of victims reporting bias-related incidents to police.

He added that MPD has an “extensive set of operations and protocols” to build relationships with “vulnerable” communities in D.C., including LGBTQ and black communities.

“Bias-related crimes become more and more of an issue in the media, social media – and in our society, it sees itself,” Parson said. “More and more people report.”

Twenty-two reported hate crimes were based on ethnicity – the leading type of hate bias. There were 14 hate crimes based on race in 2018.

Sexual orientation, religion and gender identity and expression each had five reported hate crimes. One hate crime listed homelessness as the type of bias. There are seven types of hate bias included in data for the Second District.

No crimes listed political affiliation as a type of bias until 2015. There were two, five and seven hate crimes attributed to political affiliation in 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively.

Crimes are also categorized by types of offense, including threats and assaults, but Parson said displaying symbols wasn’t categorized as an offense until 2017. That year, MPD discovered a “little known” statute in the D.C. code specifically referring to hateful symbols like swastikas. He said MPD previously categorized those hate crimes as defacing property.

“As time goes on and we become more and more efficient and proficient in reviewing these crimes and educating our members, we have become even more technical in how we classify

crimes,” he said.

He added that MPD is responding to hate crimes by building relationships with members of the D.C. community to encourage them to report crimes.

“We are working with community groups to try and help make people aware of the trends that are occurring, help them protect themselves from crimes that they may be able to prevent and more importantly, teach their children that this type of behavior is not a D.C. value and will not be accepted,” he said.

Maria Tcherni-Buzzeo, an associate professor at the University of New Haven’s College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, said the increase in hate crimes might be caused by increased debates about immigration policy. She said both the United States and other developed countries have “fears” that immigrants take away jobs and lower wages.

“This could be fueled by the increasing awareness of immigration or immigration issues that clearly fueled the divide in the country that brought President Trump into power,” Tcherni-Buzzeo said.

Brendan Lantz, an assistant professor at Florida State University’s College of Criminology and Criminal Justice, said hate crimes are rising in part because of the “general increase in comfortability” with white nationalism exhibited at events like the Unite the Right rally in 2017.

“A lot of them were white nationalist groups that felt comfortable organizing in this space because they felt comfortable in what they were standing for,” Lantz said. “And that’s indicative of a wider issue where white people feel threatened by immigration, by conspiracy theories and all sorts of things like that.”



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Fifty-nine hate crimes were reported in the Second District last year compared to six in 2013, according to the MPD data.

# Law school dean prioritized faculty engagement, boosted rankings

**LAUREN PELLER**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

When Blake Morant arrived at GW more than four years ago, he set his sights on building up the law school's national stature.

Now, just about three months away from his last day, the outgoing dean has improved the school's national rankings, academic curricula and relationships with faculty, professors said.

Morant announced Monday that he will step down as dean at the end of the semester and go on sabbatical before returning to GW as a faculty member. As he finishes up his tenure, Morant said he hopes law school students, faculty and staff will continue to promote respect and maintain a sense of community.

"After 12 years serving as dean of two prominent law schools during some of the most challenging times in American legal education, I feel the time is right to step down and pursue other interests," Morant said in an email. "I very much look forward to teaching and exploring new opportunities to foster legal and higher education on a national and global basis."

After leading Wake Forest University's law school for seven years, Morant jumped into a position in 2014 that had been without a permanent leader for about 18 months. He became GW's first black law school dean and brought expertise in media and administrative law from his experience as the president of the Association of American Law Schools.

Morant is now the fifth dean of a school to leave GW since University President



FILE PHOTO BY DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR  
Blake Morant, the law school's dean, announced Monday that he will step down at the end of the semester and go on sabbatical before returning to GW as a faculty member.

Thomas LeBlanc began his tenure in August 2017. The leaders of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, College of Professional Studies and Columbian College of Arts and Sciences all departed over the past 13 months.

During his tenure, Morant focused on enhancing diversity and inclusion efforts. He also helped the school raise more than \$11.5 million during the \$1 billion fundraising campaign – the second-largest amount the school has fundraised in one year in the law school's history.

"I am confident that the law school will continue on its upward trajectory and wish my successor every success in elevating GW Law to new levels of excellence," Morant said.

But Morant said he was also challenged during his tenure as "the legal academy and higher education in general grappled with a watershed of changes exacted by a global and rapidly changing economy." He said the school also struggled as the number of "highly qualified applicants" fell and officials fought to maintain a positive reputation in the face of "unprecedented" budget cuts.

Officials enacted a series of budget cuts in 2014 after graduate enrollment slumped unexpectedly.

"A successful dean does not meet these challenges alone," Morant said. "I have fortunately had the support of a dedicated staff, focused faculty and supportive alumni who have worked cooperatively to ensure the law school's success."

Miriam Galston, an associate professor of law, said the dean managed to trim more than \$7 million from the school's annual budget during his tenure. She said he directed a series of faculty focus groups during the budget cuts to receive input on finance management, which helped alleviate "pain" the school experienced.

"The dean was always quick to praise the faculty's accomplishments, and he set the tone for a prolonged period of collegiality among faculty members, productivity and a communal sense of responsibility for the many administrative tasks that result from shared governance," Galston said.

Robert Tuttle, a professor of law and religion, said Morant has been supportive of and listens to faculty sug-

gestions, especially during the law school's recent effort to revamp its first-year curriculum. Tuttle served on a faculty working group that Morant created two years ago to advise on the changes, which are the first updates to the curriculum in more than 30 years and are slated to go into effect this fall.

"The dean has been quite supportive, and we put through a substantial change to the curriculum and he has been very supportive throughout, and in that respect provided significant emphasis for change in the law school that was needed," he said. "At least from my perception, that will be his biggest legacy."

Morant said there is "not really" anything he would have liked to accomplish during his tenure that he did not, but he added that he hopes faculty and administrators will continue to review and revise the school's upper-level curriculum after implementing changes to the first-year program.

Jonathan Turley, a professor of public interest law, said Morant assumed the role at one of the "most difficult" times for the school in the midst of a changing environment for legal education, which included a steep decline in applications to law schools nationally.

Under Morant's tenure, the school decided in 2017 to enroll fewer students to prevent a downfall in U.S. News and World Report rankings.

"Blake helped shape the law school in a more competitive posture," Turley said. "I was particularly grateful for his approach to our drop in the rankings. Rather than taking a passive stance, Blake

made tough decisions in cutting the budget to allow us to shrink the class."

John Banzhaf, a professor of law, said Morant has been a leader who shaped the law school's curriculum and established initiatives like the George Washington in New York Program, where second- and third-year law students serve as interns in New York and take courses on law and business.

But he said Morant did not properly handle a student conflict last semester in which the president of the Student Bar Association allegedly made an insensitive comment about the Jewish Law Student Association.

The dean offered mediation sessions for SBA and JLSA, but some students said the effort swept the conflict under the rug.

"He should not have interfered with the handling of this matter by our law students who are mature adults who study negotiation, mediation and other methods of resolving disputes," Banzhaf said.

Ali Kingston, the president of the SBA, said she is grateful for Morant's dedication to the law school community, especially during student orientations for incoming law students.

"Watching Dean Morant welcome those students into our community is by far my favorite memory," she said in an email. "This year, he spoke about civility at each orientation session and engaged in meaningful conversations with students. I am glad that Dean Morant is going to remain an active member of our community by joining the faculty to teach after his sabbatical."

## IN BRIEF

### Officials plan to launch major fundraising campaign in 2021

The University's next major fundraising campaign will kick off in 2021 as GW celebrates its 200th birthday, officials said.

University President Thomas LeBlanc announced during a Board of Trustees meeting Friday morning that the University will unveil its next capital campaign during Colonials Weekend in 2021. That weekend will wrap up months of events celebrating GW's bicentennial, which will begin Feb. 9, 2021.

"We are laying the groundwork for a University-wide celebration of George Washington's birthday in February 2021 – a year's worth of events around our bicentennial culminating in a Colonials Weekend blowout bash," LeBlanc said at a Board of Trustees meeting Friday. "Also would be a precursor to the announcement of what we hope will be a new campaign."

He said in an interview Friday that the campaign is still contingent upon the approval of the Board of Trustees.

The University's last fundraising campaign wrapped up in 2017 after officials hit their \$1 billion target a year ahead of schedule. The campaign's donations included major gifts from billionaire philanthropist Michael Milken and Summer Redstone, whose contributions to a public health scholarship totaled \$80 million during the campaign.

Fundraising officials have been preparing for the University's next campaign since the \$1 billion effort concluded. Administrators, led by new Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Donna Arbide, created new goals last fall to increase the size of GW's donor base ahead of the next major campaign. The targets include hitting 16,000 alumni donors this fiscal year and keeping 64 percent of all donors annually.

The efforts in part aim to combat GW's historically low alumni giving rate of roughly 9 percent.

The Board of Trustees also created a task force two years ago that has also discussed the steps necessary to launch another campaign.

—Meredith Roaten

## Officials to push new sustainability initiatives

From Page 1

GW had reduced consumption by 11 percent in fiscal year 2017, according to the report, but Chapple said the cooling towers that provide air conditioning on campus in the summer are slowing down improvement.

The cooling towers use water resources, but it is difficult to cut back because of D.C.'s humid climate, she said.

Despite having audited the litter on campus, officials have not yet discovered any solutions to reduce litter. GW's ReUse program website, a program that finds other uses for unwanted University furniture and property, and an environmentally friendly chemistry lab, which were set to begin operations by 2013 and 2015, respectively, have not begun, according to the report.

### Moving forward

Robert Orttung, the director of research at the office and an as-

sociate research professor of international affairs, said he hopes to find more faculty research projects on campus that can be used to improve sustainable practices.

"Much of the research done on campus might not have implications for operational sustainability, but we hope to encourage more discussions about how we might be able to do this kind of thing among faculty, staff and students going forward," he said.

Chapple, the director of the office, said officials plan to work with GW's social media dining representatives to reach out to GWorld dining vendors this semester to develop a network of sustainable food vendors on campus. She said staff will talk to vendors about what standards – like food sourcing – the office can set that vendors can practically meet and be considered sustainable.

"The goal that I have is that we can make it more transparent, just like this

### Sustainability goals

- Permeable land
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Water consumption
- Real food expenditure
- Waste diversion
- Eco-Reps
- Sustainable investment

EMILY RECKO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

report is transparent, how these vendors are performing on sustainability and what are they willing to share and publicize," she said.

Officials pushed for more food vendors to use products from local and sustainable sources in 2016.

Scully, the director of the sustainability minor, said officials have also discussed

launching a sustainability major, but the idea is in early conversations. The minor currently has about 220 students, but officials would have to restructure the minor's curriculum to accommodate a major, she said.

Officials have been evaluating the minor over the past semester and collecting feedback from students and faculty

who teach courses in the minor.

"Taking that next step requires us to reformat the minor to then be able to scale it to a major," she said. "We're working on those ideas and trying to bat around how this would work out."

Scully added that some forward-looking sustainability projects – like building ecobricks, or plastic bottles filled with plastic waste that can be used as support for buildings – are already underway.

Sophomore Sophia Duchin said she went on an Alternative Breaks service trip to Costa Rica with Scully last year where she learned how to make ecobricks. Duchin said the bricks keep plastic out of landfills without creating carbon emissions in the way that recycling does.

"It's a fulfilling way to do something tangible that you can make this thing – you can hold it in your hands and know that it is helping stop climate change," she said.

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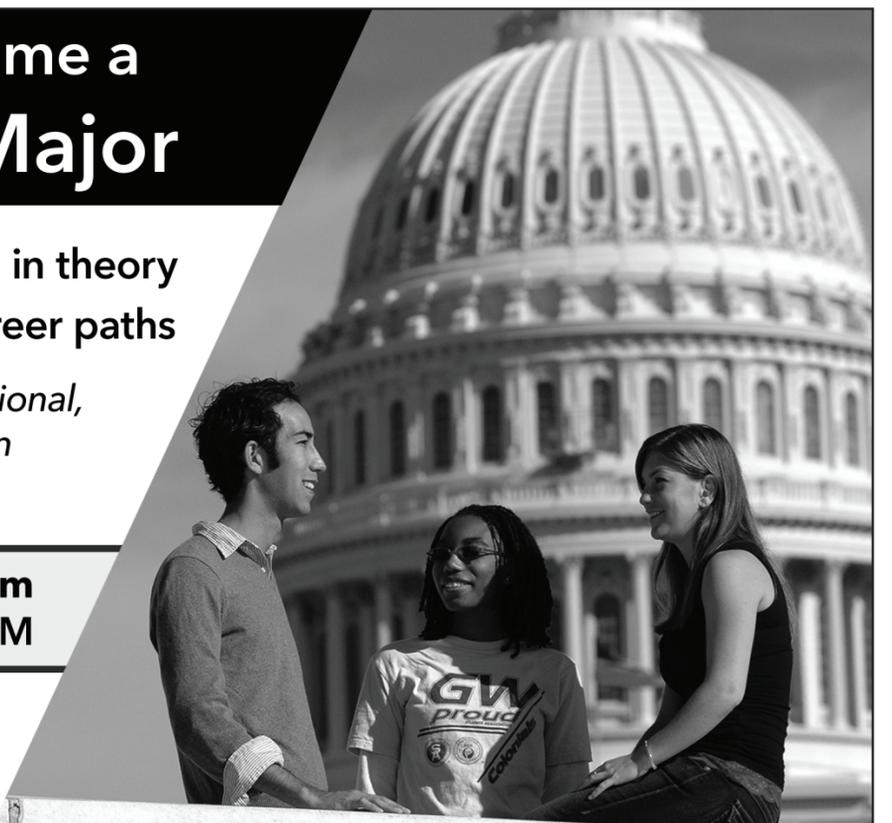
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# Recent transfer first to enter race for SA executive vice president

**KELLY HOOPER**  
STAFF WRITER

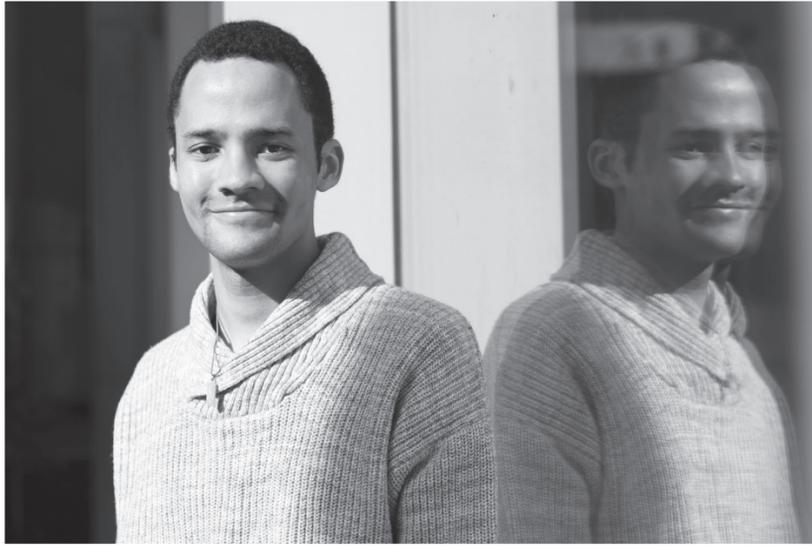
A recent transfer and Student Association outsider is the first to launch a campaign for one of the SA's top posts.

Junior Quentin McHoes, an international affairs major who transferred to GW last semester after graduating from a two-year community college in Wyoming, announced a bid for SA executive vice president Monday. McHoes said his previous student government experience at Northwest College has prepared him to tackle three main platform goals: expanding diversity efforts, increasing affordability by adding more food vendors and improving communication among branches of the SA.

"I genuinely see what's happening and I care," he said. "I feel called upon as someone who's experienced both good and bad experiences to do something good for others, whom I call friends, whom I call acquaintances, whom I call those a part of my community."

McHoes must collect at least 500 signatures and be approved by the Joint Elections Commission by Feb. 26 to officially enter the race.

At Northwest College, McHoes served as a representative on the student senate and led the school's Spanish club, the Model United Na-



Junior Quentin McHoes, an international affairs major who transferred to GW last semester after graduating from a two-year community college in Wyoming, announced a bid for SA executive vice president Monday.

tions team, a political science organization and Phi Theta Kappa, an honors society for two-year colleges, he said. He also held a leadership role in the organization Native Ways, a group for students with Native American heritage.

If elected, McHoes said he will increase dialogue about diversity and inclusion by hosting discussions with the SA, student organizations and administrators about topics like the call to change the Colonials nickname. He

said the workshops will enable student leaders and officials to have more conversations about inclusivity.

"If those voices are not being directly incorporated into the decision-making process, then you're losing a core component of what it's like to truly have community where everyone's voices are involved no matter who they are," he said.

He said he has spoken "unofficially" with administrators about his platform points, but is "just getting

started." McHoes will meet with University President Thomas LeBlanc, every member on the Board of Trustees, every dean and every vice provost over the next few weeks to discuss his ideas, he said.

McHoes' campaign also focuses on combating food insecurity on campus. He said he would "go above and beyond" to add more affordable vendors to the GWorld program, like convenience stores, restaurants, health food stores or hair and

nail salons. McHoes plans to negotiate with companies around D.C. to find businesses interested in joining GWorld, he said.

Food insecurity has been a long-running concern since the University switched to an "open" dining plan in spring 2016. Student leaders opened a food pantry that year and later launched a food insecurity task force.

McHoes said he would also advocate for combining dining dollars and Colonial Cash – which students can use to pay for items like laundry and printing – into one entity called "Buff and Blue Bills" so students can use their GWorld to pay for items at the GW Bookstore in the Marvin Center, which also sells apparel.

Students manually add Colonial Cash to their GWorld cards, while dining dollars are automatically loaded onto the cards at the beginning of each semester.

"I think it's important that students are allowed to use the money that they pay for to service themselves in whatever ways they deem necessary, in whatever ways that they would like to use it," he said.

McHoes said he also plans to push GW Libraries to include more textbook options in the Top Textbooks program, which reserves about five copies of textbooks for high-demand courses.

He said another pillar of

his platform focuses on reducing fees for mental health assessments and psychiatric counseling – appointments that are not covered in the 12 hours of free sessions that students are currently offered. Students pay \$30 per medical visit and \$80 per one-hour psychiatric visit.

"I think that's one of the biggest challenges for such a large and fast-paced university, is students can get overwhelmed so quickly and their mental health can really take a hit," he said. "It's important that students are not paying a financial burden to be well."

McHoes also wants to use his position as an SA outsider to his advantage. He said he could offer a fresh eye to the SA, identifying gaps in communication within the organization that may prevent the body from passing more legislation.

In the fall semester, the SA Senate passed four pieces of legislation, the fewest in at least four years and one fewer than the year before, which senators attributed to a shifted focus to behind-the-scenes advocacy work. Since the start of the spring semester, the senate has passed three pieces of legislation.

"I'm standing in the margins looking in, which enables me to see the culture and the structure of the Student Association as it currently exists, and therefore I am enabled to better recommend ways to improve it," McHoes said.

## Most faculty are open to standardizing clicker brand, report finds

**SARAH ROACH**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Student Association leaders found that students incur unexpected costs of clickers and often pay for the devices multiple times during their four years.

SA leaders conducted a survey last semester asking students and faculty what brands of clickers – handheld devices used to answer questions in class – they use and how much they cost. The survey found that most faculty are open to subscribing to one service so students do not have to pay for multiple devices during their college career.

The report, which includes responses from 674 students who have used clickers and 42 faculty who require clickers, will help SA leaders advocate for a single clicker service that all students and faculty would be mandated to use, they said.

SA Sen. Amy Martin, ESIA-U, who crafted questions for the surveys, said the results "confirmed" what she already knew – students pay for clickers multiple times because the University does not require a standardized brand. Adopting a single provider is an "easy win" for the University to lower the added cost of attending GW, Martin said.

"When you have all of these auxiliary costs, they add up so quickly," she said. "Every time you can eliminate one, you're lowering that barrier between students and their education."

### Student results

Nicole Cennamo, the SA's vice president for academic affairs, said about 60

percent of students who answered the survey mainly use the brand iClicker, and about 35 percent of students prefer the service.

Other students have used services like Top Hat and Turning Point, which charge \$26 for a semester-long subscription and about \$30 for a subscription, respectively. Students pay about \$15 for an iClicker.

The survey also assessed the number of times students have purchased clicker services for more than one class. Cennamo said 30 percent of students across all grade levels needed to buy a clicker for one class, 25 percent were required to use a clicker for two classes.

She said she will use the report to advocate for a University policy requiring a single clicker service with members of the Faculty Senate's Education Policy Committee. Cennamo said she wants the University to adopt a single provider – which could be iClicker, Turning Point or Top Hat, the three brands students and faculty use most – by the end of the spring.

About 40 percent of students spent between \$26 and \$50 on clickers last semester, and about 30 percent spent more than \$50 on the device, according to the report. But over students' entire time at GW, more than 50 percent of students have spent more than \$50 and about 30 percent have spent more than \$75 on clickers.

### Faculty results

On the faculty side, Cennamo said nearly 90 percent of professors who use clickers in their classroom used

the service Turning Point, which she said was "surprising" because the majority of students reported using iClicker.

Cennamo said students may have indicated that they mostly use iClicker because more than half of the surveyed students were undergrads and may enroll in large classes. But she said other professors may still prefer to use Turning Point because the University lists the service on Blackboard.

"GW technically endorses Turning Point, but they don't enforce this endorsement, so that's why we see so many other professors are still using iClicker in classes," she said.

She added that more than 60 percent of faculty said they would support adopting a University-mandated clicker service.

SA Sen. Rilind Abazi, ESIA-U, said faculty should also allow students to use the mobile application or online version of a clicker service because they would not need to buy the physical clicker. But he said that if faculty prefer that all students use physical clickers, the University could provide a rental system through Gelman Library similar to the Top Textbooks program that allows students to rent out high-demand textbooks in popular courses.

"Allowing students to use the app and by subscribing to one uniformed provider, the University would be in a better place to leverage better deals for students," he said. "If a professor really has a strong need to use physical clickers, they can rent them out so students don't have to."



The organizational sciences and communication department is hiring new faculty to keep up with growing student interest.

## Organizational sciences department struggles to keep up with student demand

**CIARA REGAN**  
REPORTER

The organizational sciences and communication department is hiring new faculty to keep up with growing student interest.

Enrollment in the organizational sciences major has declined over the past two years, hitting 60 last year after peaking at 113 in 2016 – but officials said the drop was intentional because they did not have enough professors to teach all of the enrolled students. Now, the department has employed one additional faculty member to start teaching this fall and is also asking the University for another hire, professors said.

Lynn Offermann, the chair of the organizational sciences and communication department, said since the major was introduced in 2010, student interest has grown faster than expected and exceeded the capacity of department staff. She said after the peak enrollment in 2016, department leaders decided to restrict the number of students who could major in organizational sciences.

"As a department committed to providing students with a first-rate educational experience, we made a conscious decision to limit the number of majors until we could increase faculty," she said.

There are 16 courses taught by nine faculty members in the undergraduate organizational sciences program this semester, according to the schedule of classes.

Offermann said administrators allowed the department to recruit a full-time faculty member this year and

filled the position last month. She said the new faculty member will begin teaching courses in the fall and the department submitted another request to recruit an additional faculty member for the following year.

"With increased faculty, we may be able to accommodate additional students into the major while continuing to provide the high quality that has attracted so many students to us," she said.

David Costanza, the director of the industrial and organizational psychology doctoral program and a professor of organizational sciences, said that when the department launched its major nine years ago, faculty did not expect it would exceed 40 majors by 2014. Seventy-four students majored in organizational sciences in 2014, according to institutional data.

He said the department decreased major enrollment by capping courses at smaller sizes and refusing to expand sections.

"We decided to strategically shrink the major back down to a size where we felt we could do what we wanted to do – provide the kind of education we wanted to provide, interact with the students the way we wanted to interact with them," he said. "The significance of the reduction is we did it intentionally to maintain the objectives of the major as we originally proposed it."

Costanza said the department prioritizes one-on-one faculty-student interactions, a capstone senior research project and small courses with about 20 to 60 students. But he said the major has been

"unsustainable" with existing staffing levels.

"Should we get additional faculty resources from the University, we would consider growing the major again," he said. "Absent that, our plan is for about 40 graduating seniors every year."

Kimberly Gross, the interim associate dean for programs and operations for the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, said the department is teaching more students this academic year than it was in the 2015-16 academic year. She said the number of students served this year is down "slightly" from its peak in the 2016-17 academic year.

"With this addition, the department will be able to accommodate additional students in the organizational sciences major," she said.

Gross declined to say how the number of faculty members in the department impacts enrollment, how CCAS promotes the major and how many majors the program has currently. She declined to say how faculty and class sizes impact enrollment.

Nils Olsen, an assistant professor of organizational sciences, said the department has shrunk over the past two years and operated with the number of faculty that CCAS officials have allotted to the department.

"We would be able to allow the major to grow as it probably naturally would if we were able to open more sections, which would require more faculty teaching those sections," he said. "The major is popular, even though the numbers are a little bit more contained than they were before."



Nicole Cennamo, the SA's vice president for academic affairs, said about 60 percent of

students who answered the survey mainly use the brand iClicker, and about 35 percent of students prefer the service.

## DATING IN THE DISTRICT

### Meeting your boyfriend at orientation

On admitted students day nearly four years ago, I sat slouching next to my dad in the Smith Center.

I was in a bad mood that day and because of that, when my dad leaned over to point out that the group behind us was speaking Tagalog, the official language of the Philippines, I didn't pay much attention.

While it was welcoming to hear the familiar language in a new place, my dad unknowingly put the wheels in motion by introducing me to my future boyfriend and his family.

**Renee Pineda**  
Opinions Editor

He was the first person I met at GW. Talking to each other was effortless and by the end of the day, after riding the Vern Express and visiting our future residence hall, Thurston Hall, we exchanged numbers and social media handles.

Twitter inched us closer together a month later when he tweeted about loco moco – a Hawaiian dish. I hoped that meant he was on vacation in Hawaii and as fate would have it, our Hawaiian hotels were positioned side by side. We met up and walked down the beach clumsily flirting along the way, but we mostly kept conversation to the upcoming Colonial Inauguration we would also attend together.

While the fateful events that led to us dating – including a dinner at Carvings – feels like a rejected Lifetime movie, it takes work to be in a relationship. Dating in college, where we get to see each other almost every

day, is great. But now that



Cartoon by Jekko Syquia

we're seniors, we have new challenges to face.

As the days fly by and we get closer to graduation, we've had to start difficult conversations about what's next. Neither of us are from D.C. so it's hard to say where we'll be – both geographically and emotionally – in just a few short months.

A nosy father and pure luck brought me to the right person. But years of challenges confirmed that I would return to the Smith Center – where it all began – for commencement with him by my side.

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

### Valentine's Day sulking needs to stop



Cartoon by Franchesca Dela Cruz

Women are taught throughout their entire lives to dream about being in love. From romantic comedies to advertisements, the onslaught of messages telling us to desire love are hard to avoid.

If the convincing has worked and you find yourself yearning for intimate date nights and big romantic gestures, Valentine's Day can be rough.

But this year, say goodbye to crying over tubs of ice cream, anti-Valentine's Day gifts and cynically unromantic playlists.

When I was a freshman I gave in to the temptation of spending the day pitying myself. I spent the day and night writing a paper, getting bitter and more frustrated as the night wore on. It got even worse when I tried to procrastinate and opened up my phone to

dozens of Valentine's Day date photos posted on Instagram.

That year I wasn't lonely because I didn't have a boyfriend. I wasn't even upset because I was struck in the library working through the night. I was lonely and upset because I chose to sulk instead of spending the day loving myself and celebrating with friends.

Concepts like Galentine's Day, which was popularized by fictional character Leslie Knope from "Parks and Recreation," celebrate women before Valentine's Day. Even though it has been nine years since "Parks and Recreation" introduced the holiday, it remains relevant and women need to take this day to celebrate each other.

It is easy to feel down when society tells you to be in a relationship on Valentine's Day, but we must take the time to celebrate women.

I may not have someone to spend Valentine's Day with this year, but unlike my terrible holiday two years ago, I am not going to spend the day feeling sorry for myself.

**Natalie Prieb**  
Columnist

I'm going to make an effort to reach out to as many of my female friends as I can. I'm also going to eat whatever I want for dinner and buy daisies from Whole Foods because I don't need a boyfriend to enjoy my favorite flowers or feel loved. I can love myself and you should, too.

—Natalie Prieb, a junior majoring in English and creative writing, is a Hatchet columnist.

### The problems with dating while queer

Dating on campus is hard. There are a lot of boxes to check: they can't wear a Canada Goose jacket or live in Guthridge Hall, but they get bonus points if they sport a suit for an internship on Capitol Hill or reside in Shenkman Hall.

But nothing compares to the trials and tribulations of dating while queer at GW. Finding a nice man is more like a series of herculean challenges than a process of delicate courtship. First, there are the apps: Tinder and Grindr. While the noxious hook-up oriented culture of both apps has been thoroughly critiqued, outright discrimination can also be found on seemingly innocent swipes and dating profiles.

**Jack Murphy**  
Columnist

For people like me who identify as "femme," many mobile dating platforms are outright exclusionary. Panning through, I'm faced with messages like "no fats, no femmes" or "Masc4Masc" on Grindr.

Even positive features, like the option to list your preferred pronouns or gender identity, are abused by men who feel the need to list their gender as "daddy" and their pronoun as "papi."

But meeting men in the wild isn't easier. Gay bars have the same toxic atmosphere of the dating apps mentioned above. Instead of discriminatory messages, you have cliques of boys that openly sneer and snarl at anyone they perceive to be feminine.

For queer folks, finding that right person or people can be affirming because it means finding someone who inherently understands at least a portion of the struggles that you face as a queer person.

Cartoon by Franchesca Dela Cruz



This level of understanding and empathy is transformative and as hard as it may be to find – it is out there somewhere.

Dating while queer, especially while feminine, is laborious and demoralizing. Finding love can feel impossible in the queer community, but it's not.

In fact, it is of great importance for queer folks. We live a lonely existence, one where our community is not immediately accessible to us. We are forced to seek out our lovers and friends in a way straight people do not. While it may not be easy to find "the one," it is worth it.

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

### Swiping through the district



Cartoon by Jekko Syquia

I took the hour trek out to the University of Maryland once before. But I won't do it again.

It's an easy fix – I just have to cut College Park, Md. out of my Bumble range. I'm at about 10 miles right now and that should do the trick. The District can't be that big, it isn't even a state.

I'll try five. Shoot. That cuts out American University. I can't just talk to people from GW because I could run into them on the street. I'll have to expand.

Eight miles. It seems like the perfect compromise, let's see if it pays off. Now I caught the edge of College Park. That's not too bad. Maybe someone there will want to come here. Why wouldn't someone going to school in Maryland want to make the short

trip to the nation's capital? Oh, really? OK, never mind then. Apparently, the hour commute might just be too far for all of us.

Back to the drawing board. Seven miles ought to do it. GW, American, Catholic and Howard universities are included. I'll just swipe away.

It's only been a few hours. There is no way I swiped through every profile in this city. There are about 7 million people in the District's metropolitan area, so there must be more profiles.

I guess I'll resort to meeting someone the old fashioned way. Tinder it is.

OK, this is getting outrageous. I will spend \$120 on a textbook I will never crack open, but I'm not spending money on more swipes.

I'm done with Tinder. Bumble wasn't too bad anyway – I just have to be patient waiting for women to message me. Not the worst thing in the world. I'll go to class and check back later.

**Kiran Hoeffner-Shah**  
Contributing Opinions Editor

This professor has been droning on forever. It must be almost time to go. I'll sneakily check the time on my phone under the desk and check Bumble while I'm at it.

Nothing. Back to 10 miles, I suppose. Ah perfect, thousands of more profiles.

I guess an hour on the Metro isn't that bad. I'll just take an Uber.

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

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Heritage celebrations ease continuing diversity conversations

Diversity has dominated conversation on campus for the past year.

The ongoing conversation was sparked by a racist Snapchat post with the caption "Lizzy: 'I'm 1/16 black'" that featured two members of Alpha Phi, one of whom held a banana peel. Students spoke out in the following weeks to express that while the image illustrated an issue with racism on campus, it was not an isolated incident – and change is needed to be made.

With a national spotlight on GW, the University responded by creating manda-

tory diversity training for all incoming students and hiring a director for diversity and inclusion. GW instituted a slew of other initiatives to combat racism and the conversation continued, but it can't stop.

The next few months are dedicated to celebrating minority cultures. This month is for celebrating Black Heritage Month and next month we will turn our attention to South Asian Heritage Month before honoring Pacific Islander Heritage Month in April.

Throughout the academic year, there are five cultural heritage celebrations that fo-

cus on racial background and a specific minority community. In addition to those taking place this semester, Latinx and Native American heritage months occurred in September and November, respectively. Each month, there are several events that are held to discuss issues and topics that affect the specific community as well as keynote speakers.

These themed months are an opportunity for students, faculty and administrators to improve their understanding of different cultures, and especially in light of recent events on campus, it is more impor-

tant than ever to get involved.

While the scandal brought tangible changes to campus, it is hard to measure how much the student body itself has changed. Diversity training is a great first step to educating students, but all students can expand their education over the next few months at events taking place on campus and around the District.

Exposure and understanding are key to creating a more inclusive community, and the answer can be as simple as attending an event outside your comfort zone. Heritage celebrations offer multiple ways

for students who may not be part of these communities to learn about a culture that is different from their own.

Heritage celebrations have the dual purpose of serving both the specific minority group while simultaneously offering a window for those not in that particular community.

It is easy to remain in your bubble. But unconscious bias is a main way that hurtful statements and offensive remarks permeate society, and some of this can be aided by simply being aware of other cultures and broadening your

understanding.

The University has done its part in continuing the conversation on race and creating some solutions to the problem, but there is always more to be done. GW should continue the conversation on race even as the racist scandal moves further into our past, but students need to do the leg work, too.

In the next few months, it will be easier than ever to break out of your comfort zone and learn about a culture other than your own, and students should use this as an opportunity to become more educated.

# VALENTINE'S DAY IN THE DISTRICT

## LOVE DRUG OR PLACEBO:

### Where to put aphrodisiacs to the test around D.C.

ANNA BOONE &  
GABRIELLE KOSSUTH  
REPORTERS

While a box of chocolates is one of the most popular Valentine's Day gifts, it might actually have an unsung benefit.

Chocolates are one of the most well-known aphrodisiacs. While the Aztecs may have been the first to claim a connection between chocolate and sexual desire, modern scientists have found that tryptophan, a chemical in chocolate, is possibly linked to sex drive.

Lucky for you and your date, The Chocolate House sells 300 different forms and flavors of artisanal chocolate in bars, truffles and drinks.

This Dupont Circle storefront carries sustainably-sourced chocolate from cities like Boston all the way to countries like Spain and Switzerland. Customers can build their own truffle boxes for as little as \$5.50 or all the way up to \$49, so you can get an artisanal gift on any budget.

The amount of tryptophan in few truffles is not likely to influence your sexual desire. But chocolate is always a welcome treat, especially if it comes from someone special.  
1904 18th St. NW.



CHOCOLATE: The Chocolate House

ALEXANDER WELLING | PHOTOGRAPHER

Avocados are branded as an aphrodisiac because of their aesthetic, unlike other foods in the category. The fruit often grows in pairs on trees, which some say resemble male reproductive organs. But the benefit of avocado comes from its high level of vitamin B9, which energizes the body, and vitamin B6, which boosts testosterone.

Cork Wine Bar & Market in Logan Circle is known for its wine, but the reason you'll want to go this Valentine's Day is for the restaurant's avocado toast.



AVOCADOS: Cork Wine Bar & Market

TIM BIONDO | PHOTOGRAPHER

The bar serves a version of avocado toast (\$14) atop grilled rustic white bread that adds a smoky depth to the dish before it's garnished with pistachios, pistachio oil and salt.

Avocado toast is usually topped with acid to cut its fattiness, but the pistachio oil provided a bit of bitterness and salt rounds out the dish.

While avocados may only have a symbolic association with sexual desire, avocados and pistachios have health benefits like lowering blood pressure and benefiting sexual health and performance.  
1805 14th St. NW.

It is no surprise that coffee, the world's most popular stimulant, falls into the category of aphrodisiac foods. Although the popular drink does not have a direct tie to libido, caffeine's energizing properties often have a positive effect on one's romantic and sexual capabilities by boosting mood and increasing stamina.

To kick off Valentine's Day with a caffeine boost while testing out a classic aphrodisiac, head to Corridor Coffee in Georgetown. Opt for one of Corridor Coffee's signature lattes (\$4) or a variety of specialty drinks like its lavender mocha (\$5). The signature latte's rich notes make a fine pick-me-up for a February morning, while the heart-shaped latte art adds a romantic touch to the aphrodisiac.

Alongside the shop's own coffee blends, customers can pick up specialty skincare and gourmet chocolate inside the store to bring back home for a romantic night in.  
1665 Wisconsin Ave. NW.



COFFEE: Corridor Coffee

TYARA ESTRADA | PHOTOGRAPHER



OYSTERS: Johnny's Half Shell

JACK FONSECA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The original Casanova, an 18th century Italian author and love expert, claimed to have religiously eaten oysters for breakfast, resulting in abundant energy and sexual desire. While his theory may have been a bit far-fetched, modern scientists found a link between the consumption of amino acids found in oysters and increased testosterone.

Johnny's Half Shell, an oyster bar and seafood restaurant in Adams Morgan, offers a polished atmosphere perfect for Valentine's Day dinner. The oysters are fresh and buttery with hints of saltiness, and each slurp provides the perfect amount of brine without being overwhelming.

With any four-person booking, you can reserve private seating at its oyster bar and enjoy complimentary champagne alongside a dozen (\$29) or half-dozen (\$15) oysters.  
1819 Columbia Road NW.



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Olivia, which opened about a month ago, is a Mediterranean restaurant with cozy seating.

## Restaurants with romantic seating for Valentine's Day celebrations

SIDNEY LEE  
STAFF WRITER

### Bad Saint

3226 11th St. NW.

With a changing a la carte menu and a welcoming interior with dim lighting, Bad Saint offers upscale Filipino dishes and cocktails in an intimate environment that seats about 20 people.

Barstool-style seating throughout the restaurant allows couples to sit side-by-side and each seat is padded with bright pink or turquoise fabric so the seats are still comfortable.

As you snugly sit next to your significant other, you can try a new cuisine together. The menu is split into gully, or vegetables and salads, isda at iba pa, fish dishes, and carne, meat options. You can order dishes like laing (\$26) with lobster, bitter greens and coconut milk, or pancit miki (\$18), a Filipino noodle dish topped with chicken.

Diners previously had to wait outside in the cold for a seat at Bad Saint, which is a sure-fire way to make a date go south. But now individuals can attempt to get a reservation before resorting to waiting for a walk-in spot.

### Olivia

800 F St. NW.

Olivia is a chic Mediterranean restaurant with some of the coziest seating in the District.

The restaurant's modern interior features eclectic art, hanging lamps and plants scattered across the restaurant and it is airy and bright during the day.

But when the sun goes down, Olivia's dim lighting creates a warm atmosphere. L-shaped booths in the space have cushioned backs and allow couples to sit knee-to-knee for maximum intimacy.

Olivia typically serves an a la carte menu, but the restaurant is offering a Valentine's Day four-course prix fixe menu for \$75 per person where guests can select one item for each course – an amuse bouche, a bite-sized hors d'oeuvre and a glass of sparkling rose, plus an appetizer, entree and dessert.

Appetizers range from poached scallops in smoked olive oil to lamb tartare, while entrees include dishes like strip steak and chorizo-crusted cod. Finish your meal on a sweet note with pistachio soufflé with rose sorbet or hazelnut truffles

### Igloos at the Watergate

2650 Virginia Ave. NW.

If you are looking to take your Valentine's Day dinner experience to a new level of luxury, winter igloos are available for rent at the Watergate Hotel.

Located on the patio of the Watergate's The Next Whisky Bar, each igloo is heated for guaranteed coziness. The domes are furnished with armchairs, fur rugs and twinkly lights, making a picturesque atmosphere.

Rental fees range from \$100 to \$250 and food and beverage minimums range from \$50 to \$75 per person. Cocktails range from "The Soft Parade" (\$16) with whiskey, lemon, spice syrup and ginger beer to the "Chief Makers" (\$16) with bourbon, lemon, raspberry and honey.

For food, igloo guests can order bites like spicy pork and veal meatballs (\$16) with polenta and onion jus or fried chicken wings (\$16) in Korean barbecue sauce.

Although the experience is on the pricier side, the igloos create privacy for an intimate evening of kissing and hand holding.

## New dating app allows users to swipe for their friends

KATHERINE ABUGHAZALEH & OLIVIA COLUMBUS  
REPORTERS

If you constantly find yourself entangled in your friends' dating life, a new dating app lets you take control.

Ship, which launched on the App Store last month, allows friends to be more involved in each other's dating choices by signing up as either single or taken. The service is just like the plethora of other app options for singles, but taken users can swipe through the prospects on behalf of their friends.

The app – made by the Match Group, which owns Match.com and Tinder, and Betches, a digital media company – allows singles to set up a crew of two or more people to swipe alongside them. After setting up your profile and detailing the type of relationship you want along with your height, astrological sign and how much you exercise, drink and smoke marijuana, singles toss some of the power over to their friends to swipe to their heart's content.

Two writers – one single and one taken – used Ship for the past two weeks to test it out and are dishing about the pros and cons of using the app during the season of love.

### The good:

*It's fun – plain and simple*

**Katherine:** As someone who loves to know every detail about my friends' lives, using Ship was a blast. Under the crew activity tab on the app, I can see every person that my friend deems good enough for a right swipe as well as whenever she begins a conversation with a match.

The people I choose are prioritized in my friend's feed and even if she swipes left, they become a match because I liked him. This led to some joke matches followed by lectures, but I deem most men unworthy of my friend so it certainly puts me in more control.

**Olivia:** I loved handing the responsibility of swiping on dating apps over to my friends. It takes all the pressure off of me and my friends can take the heat when a match goes bad.

But I was surprised when matches popped up that I hadn't even seen on the app before. It was frustrating because it could give people the wrong impression if I would not have swiped right on my own.

### The bad:

*There aren't enough people on Ship*

**Katherine:** Olivia and I signed up for Ship four days after it was first offered on the App Store last month. After giggling and setting up our profiles, we quickly got to swiping but realized there were only two guys on Ship in all of D.C. and even after increasing our radius to 200 miles, there weren't any additional prospects.

Every day we have used the app for the past two weeks, I find more men on my feed to send her way. But right now, Ship is limited in its ability to serve as a primary dating app because of the low number of users.

**Olivia:** I found that many guys on Ship were out of my target age range, which was 18 to 24. But as the app grows, users may find more college-age people.

The other downside is that it has not released an Android version yet, so while two of my roommates could join my "crew," the third had to look on with me because her phone was not compatible.

### The verdict:

**Katherine:** I looked at Ship as more of a game than a viable long-term dating solution, but I do see the possibility for success on the app. While we monitor the same people, we didn't have to clutter our camera rolls with screenshots to get opinions on matches and it was fun to have a say in my friend's dating life.

**Olivia:** I really enjoyed giving my friends free rein to swipe as they liked on Ship. While I didn't agree with all of their selections and thought my lack of control could send mixed signals to my matches, swiping with my friends was a lot more fun than swiping by myself.

# THE HATCHET'S GUIDE TO THE UPCOMING BASEBALL SEASON



OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore infielder Tyler Hix attempts to tag freshman outfielder Cade Fergus during a drill.

## BASEBALL LOOKS TO 'RECHARGE' FIELDING LINEUP WITH UNTESTED TALENT

**BARBARA ALBERTS**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Two-thirds of baseball's starting field will likely be new faces once the 2019 season begins next week.

The Colonials return 18 players from last season's roster, but with a significant chunk of the team's mainstays gone, GW will rely on some of the team's freshmen to fill multiple gaps on the field.

"We're really young in the field with a lot of new pieces," head coach Gregg Ritchie said. "There's going to be probably six new guys on the field out of the nine."

The infield was held down last season by then-seniors Matt Cosentino at first base, Robbie Metz at second base and Isaiah Pasteur splitting time between third base and the mound. But now Ritchie said that "developing power" will guide the infield with a primarily young lineup around the diamond and in the outfield.

Ritchie said junior infielder Nate Fassnacht at shortstop will be the lone anchor for the team with an infield that is otherwise unsettled.

"That is probably the only real position out there that does not have some kind of newness," Ritchie said.

Fassnacht, who has been a starter for the Colonials since his rookie campaign, said second

base is now "pretty much open" to the team's freshmen and although players are competing for spots, the team's chemistry has been strong.

"I know what they're experiencing right now so it's easy for me to help them out, give them tips like what I've experienced, learning from the mistakes I've gone through, what I've found out that worked really well," Fassnacht said.

Farther from the diamond, Ritchie tapped freshman outfielders Cade Fergus and Trey Torain as potential starters for the Colonials alongside returners like junior utility player Steve Barmakian, redshirt sophomore outfielder Colin Brophy and senior utility player Dom D'Alessandro — who all played significant roles on the team last year.

"It's a lot of big freshmen who're going to have to step up and fill big roles," D'Alessandro said.

But as the team has yet to see official competition, the first few contests will be spent testing out different combinations on the field to find the best starting lineup, Ritchie said.

"We need to rotate some guys around and get a little experience with each one of them and get them to learn how to play together in different ways in different kinds of combinations," Ritchie said.

With plenty of movement

and uncertainty happening in the field, Ritchie pointed to his squad's defense as its early focus. Two seasons ago, the Colonials were one of the top defensive teams in the nation, finishing sixth out of all Division I programs with a .982 fielding percentage, but the Colonials dropped to 179th in the NCAA last season with a .967 fielding percentage.

Ritchie said the team's defense this year needs to "come up a notch" after last season's performance.

"We definitely need to put a premium on our mentality of playing defense and handling the ball, controlling the ball," Ritchie said.

Expectations are high for the team's starters across the board, but Ritchie acknowledged there will be a learning curve for the freshmen, transfers and the team's new members of the coaching staff.

Assistant coach and recruitment coordinator Chad Marshall stepped into the role last month to replace Dave Lorber, who left the program in December to take a head coaching position at Stockton.

The Colonials also added Steve Frank as director of baseball operations alongside volunteer assistant coach Jake Sidwell, who also joined the program this season.

"It's not a rebuild, it's more of a recharge," Ritchie said.

## HEALTHY STARTERS ANCHOR PITCHING STAFF

**ALEC RICH**  
REPORTER

Baseball will look to capitalize on the health of its pitching staff to build consistency from the mound this season.

The Colonials struggled to maintain their starting rotation last season as key pitchers like redshirt senior Brady Renner and junior Elliott Raimo were kept from the mound with injuries and the team had to rely on its bullpen. With the duo set to return to the rubber this season and a handful of new faces on the roster, the Colonials are heading into the 2019 season with the luxury of a deeper pitching staff.

Pitching coach Rick Oliveri said the coaching staff established workout routines for each player, which has resulted in healthier arms and bodies heading into the season.

While Raimo continues to battle back from a shoulder injury, the Colonials hope the return of Renner to a rotation already featuring junior Jaret Edwards, senior Nate Woods and a core of transfer players will provide much-needed stability from the hill.

At the end of last season, the Colonials saw two of their top bullpen pitchers, Isaiah Pasteur and Will Kobos, selected in the Major League Baseball draft.

Oliveri said the bullpen remains one of the team's "question marks" heading into the season, but he hopes contributions from returners including senior Pat Knight, junior Andrew Wheeler, redshirt senior Kevin Hodgson and sophomore Trevor Kuncl — now a two-way player for the team — will help the Colonials later in games.

"Getting the last out of the game is hard, especially when you're on the winning end in a close game, so we're going to be asking guys to step into that role," Oliveri said.

The Colonials will have 19 op-

tions on their pitching staff heading into the season, the same number as last season. But with a mix of 11 upperclassmen and eight underclassmen on the pitching staff, the team will turn to its veterans for leadership.

Head coach Gregg Ritchie said the team's transfers, like junior right-handed pitchers Keagan McGinnis and Cal Stalzer, will "fill the gaps" by pitching in extended middle innings, but the backend of the bullpen will be in rotation until somebody stands out.

Oliveri said Stalzer and McGinnis can "command a presence and pound the strike zone," while a growing list of freshmen, including right-handed pitchers Alex Kobersteen, Chris Knight, Blake Ripp and Gavin Ferrandino and southpaw Rich Pfluger, will have opportunities to contribute to the team right away.

Raimo, who posted a 2.76 ERA across 71.2 innings last season, said without an individual positioned to fill the void left by last year's primary pitchers, a leader from the mound can come from anywhere.

"Game by game, it seems like someone steps up in certain situations and then the next game it's another guy, so there's a lot of new faces I'm excited to see," Raimo said.

Oliveri sees the bulk of the pitching staff's leadership coming from its seniors, including Renner, Knight, Woods and Hodgson, who will look to "run the pitching staff" and take the younger players "under their wings."

With more depth on the mound to start the season due to fewer injuries and more experienced pitchers, Oliveri is hoping health will lead to more consistent play from the mound, along with making the most of both practice and in-game play time.

"One of the challenges to the pitchers that we've talked about is having an urgency in every moment because every moment matters," Oliveri said.



OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR

Redshirt senior Kevin Hodgson throws the ball to first base during a drill.

## BASEBALL PLANS TO RELY ON SPEED TO BOLSTER OFFENSE

**BELLE LONG**  
REPORTER

Last season baseball garnered the third-most home runs in the conference and relied on its slugging ability to bolster scoring. But this season, head coach Gregg Ritchie said he expects speed and intelligent baserunning to generate runs.

The Colonials lack power and consistent hitting from graduated seniors third baseman Isaiah Pasteur, outfielder Mark Osis and second baseman Robbie Metz, creating major holes near the top of the batting order. The trio averaged a combined .319 on the season with a slugging percentage of .506.

But with 15 fresh faces on the roster, Ritchie said the Colonials' speed will help boost what has been lost at the plate from last season as he continues the long task of developing his team into a more powerful offense.

"We have enough speed to create things out there and add to whatever offense we have just naturally with the barrels," Ritchie said.

The Colonials boasted one of the top offenses in the Atlantic 10 last season, tying with Saint Louis for the No. 1 spot with a .285 batting aver-

age. They led the conference in hits and carried a .356 on-base percentage. At the end of a 32-win season, they became the first No. 7 seed ever to reach the third day of play in the A-10 Championship.

But speed is not a new asset for GW. The Colonials stole 104 bases last year, good for second in the conference. Pasteur tallied a team-leading 31 swipes, the program's second-most stolen bases in a year, while setting a new program record with his 32-game hit streak. But Ritchie said his new roster possesses even more "length and speed" this season and expects more success on the base paths.

"We've got a lot of speed on this team so we should be swiping bags and getting extra-base hits," freshman outfielder Cade Fergus said.

Ritchie drew a comparison between Fergus and Pasteur because of their speed and quickness around the bases.

"You got Cade Fergus who's very dynamic out there in the outfield, and he's got some thunder in the back," Ritchie said. "He's just got to develop his bat."

The team's top-three returning hitters — senior utility player Dom D'Alessandro,

junior utility player Steve Barmakian and junior infielder Nate Fassnacht — hold a collective batting average of .302, while Fergus and freshman infielder Logan Doran are expected to step up in the lineup.

"We lost a lot of talent last year with graduation and some of the people going to the draft, but I think this year we brought in guys who are just going to step right up," D'Alessandro said.

Ritchie likened Doran to a "young Bobby Campbell," the 2017 graduate who hit .355 his senior year. The former infielder — who became a mainstay at first base — held a .307 career batting average.

"He's got the same makeup, he's got the same style," Ritchie said. "He's got his teeth into the ball at the plate."

D'Alessandro is expected to repeat his role from last season as a core piece of GW's offense. The utility player posted a .318 batting average and nine home runs in his junior season, second to only Pasteur.

Ritchie cited Barmakian as another key returning veteran for GW. With only 34 strikeouts in 229 at-bats last season, Barmakian was



FILE PHOTO BY OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR

Senior utility player Dom D'Alessandro swings at a pitch during a baseball game last spring.

a solid presence on the plate for the Colonials.

"Barmakian is a big piece of our offense — he's like a fast engine," Ritchie said. "He's the toughest out at the plate."

Ritchie said that while all the pieces are there, the exact structure of the lineup will be determined through trial and error as the season progresses.

"There's going to be some

pieces we're not going to figure out until a little further into the season, like who's going to hit in what part of the lineup," Ritchie said.

Although the Colonials have been a strong offensive presence in the A-10 for several seasons, they have fallen short of bringing home a championship. Players and coaches alike said this season they have the right combination of talent and dedication

to potentially break that final barrier.

"Going into the playoffs and going a little deeper, going a little deeper, going a little deeper, gives you that confidence, that experience, to where we've done this, we've been here — now let's finish it," Ritchie said.

The Colonials open their season in New Orleans against Tulane Friday at 7:30 p.m.