



Officials increase dining dollars for third consecutive year

AVI BAIJPAI
REPORTER

For the third consecutive year since switching to an “open” dining plan, officials are boosting the amount students have to spend at local restaurants and shops.

Next year, students with an in-unit kitchen will have \$3,050 to spend, while those without will budget \$4,750 – up \$250 and \$150 from this academic year, respectively. Officials said the decision follows a monthslong review of a newly implemented dining plan allocating funds based on room setup, finding that students with kitchens are more likely to run out of dining cash before the end of the semester.

“Our goal is to have a dining plan that matches the needs of most of our students, provides students with a great deal of flexibility and enables students to plan for their food needs in a way that makes the most sense for the individual during their time at GW,” University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said in an email.

She added that officials will pilot a dining app this semester to help students “better forecast their dining spending.” More information about the app’s hard launch will be available this summer, she said.

The University will also evaluate how many students have used the recently debuted all-you-can-eat options in Pelham Commons on the Mount Vernon Campus, Csellar said.

Officials switched to an “open” dining plan in fall 2016, allowing students to spend their GWorld cash at local vendors instead of J Street, Foggy Bottom’s only dining hall, which closed that summer. The University added \$200 to students’ dining plans the next

year amid ongoing concerns about food insecurity, but students – who had between \$1,200 and \$4,100 to spend on meals each day depending on their academic year – still said running out of dining dollars was the norm.

The Board of Trustees then approved a new dining model again boosting dining dollars and creating dining plans based on whether students had an in-unit kitchen. The University will continue that model next year with another increase in funds.

“Our goal is to have a dining plan that matches the needs of most of our students.”

MARALEE CSELLAR
UNIVERSITY SPOKESWOMAN

In interviews, more than 25 students said this year’s dining plan has helped pay for more meals than in the past, but the amount is still not enough to keep up with the relatively high cost of dining on campus.

Senior Daniel Cardona said while the University upped the amount of cash on his card, the plan did not fit his eating habits because he seldom uses his kitchen in South Hall to cook. He said J Street, which closed at the end of his freshman year, boasted several low-cost meals.

Meals at vendors like Panera Bread, Chipotle and South Block can clock in at about \$10, \$7 and \$11, respectively. With 114 days in the spring semester, not including the week of spring break, students with a kitchen in their residence hall room can spend about \$12 each day, while students without a kitchen can spend about \$20 per day.

“When we had J Street, there were cheaper options that didn’t involve cooking,” he said. “The fact that we don’t

have a J Street, the options we have around campus are expensive to the point where we feel like we have a lot of GWorld money, but at the end of the day, we don’t have a lot.”

Sophomore Devon Link said that instead of offering more GWorld funds, officials should add more resources, like a kitchen in Thurston Hall or more communal pots and pans, so students do not feel compelled to frequently eat out. Residence Hall Association leaders offered cooking classes to first-year students last semester to help students prepare healthy meals.

“It could be more about what they put into it rather than the amount of money students have to pay,” she said.

Food insecurity has remained a top concern on campus over the past several years. Students opened a food pantry in 2016, and some student leaders formed a food insecurity task force last semester focused on identifying the reasons why students may struggle to pay for meals.

A report compiled last spring also found that nearly 40 percent of students have either run out of food or skipped meals because they did not have enough money or could not afford to eat.

Senior Sage Wylie, a member of the food insecurity task force and a former Food Institute fellow, said the group worked with the Office of Survey Research and Analysis to send out a survey to 2,000 randomly sampled students earlier this month asking how they pay for meals. The task force is aiming for a 30 percent response rate, she said.

Wylie said members of the task force will analyze the survey results after it closes later this month and compile a pub-

lic report later this semester including recommendations to improve campus dining.

Wylie said officials could still improve dining services by creating a central eating space for students to feel like they are in a dining hall. Officials revamped the Marvin Center into a “living room” last year, opening Panera Bread in the space where J Street once stood and installing dozens of new couches and tables for students to eat and socialize.

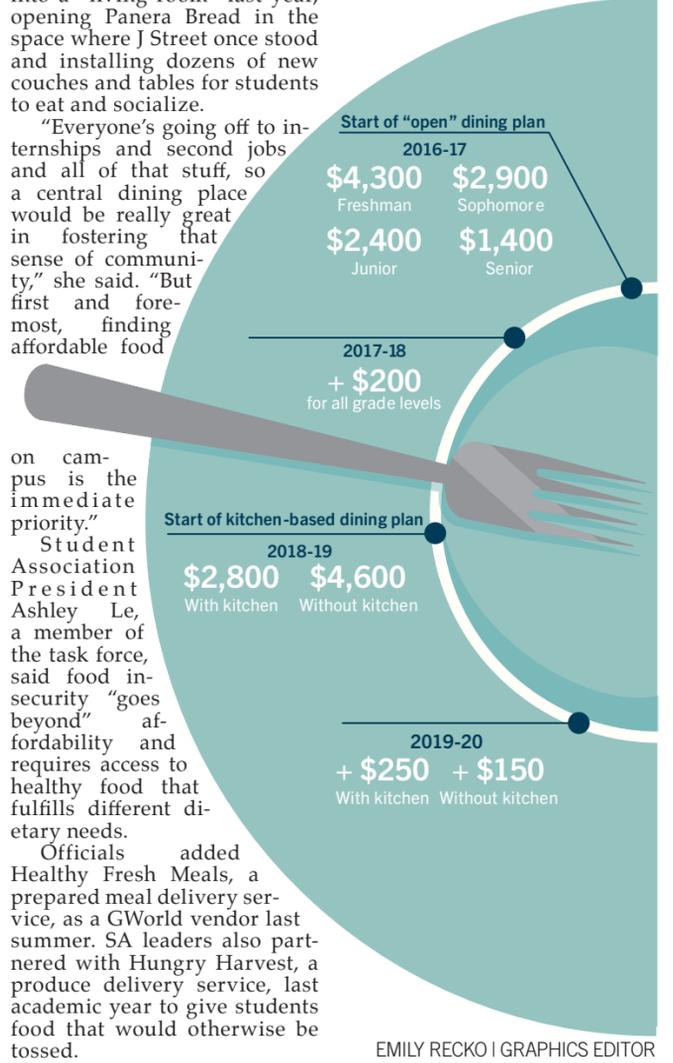
“Everyone’s going off to internships and second jobs and all of that stuff, so a central dining place would be really great in fostering that sense of community,” she said. “But first and foremost, finding affordable food

on campus is the immediate priority.”

Student Association President Ashley Le, a member of the task force, said food insecurity “goes beyond” affordability and requires access to healthy food that fulfills different dietary needs.

Officials added Healthy Fresh Meals, a prepared meal delivery service, as a GWorld vendor last summer. SA leaders also partnered with Hungry Harvest, a produce delivery service, last academic year to give students food that would otherwise be tossed.

“I commend the University for making this a priority and for listening to students when we are expressing concerns about the state of dining at GW,” she said. “But I think there’s a lot more that can be done and money will not always be the last solution.”



EMILY RECKO | GRAPHICS EDITOR



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Junior SJ Matthews announced her bid for SA president Tuesday, making her the first to enter the race for the organization's top spot.

RHA president announces bid for top SA post

SARAH ROACH
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Residence Hall Association president is looking to take her leadership skills to the Student Association.

Junior SJ Matthews announced her bid for SA president Tuesday, making her the first to enter the race for the organization’s top spot. Matthews said her platform will change from week to week as she continues to collect student feedback, but some of her top priorities include maximizing community spaces, improving diversity and dropping general education requirements.

“We don’t do enough as a university to make sure they feel comfortable to say their opinion, to feel like their voice matters,” Matthews said. “And I’m running for people like that.”

While most SA candidates’ platforms are finalized before their launch,

Matthews said she will continue updating her goals as she holds student listening sessions in the weeks leading up to the election. Starting this week, she will meet with students every Thursday, Sunday and Monday in Thurston Hall, Pelham Commons and the Marvin Center, respectively.

Matthews said that if she were elected as SA president, she would advocate for eliminating the general education requirements in all schools to ensure students can focus on classes specific to their majors. Matthews said she has spoken with members of the Board of Trustees, including chairman Nelson Carbonell, and Provost Forrest Maltzman about implementing the change, and they said they were open to hearing suggestions.

“We get too bogged down in these requirements and trying to knock them out of the way that we don’t actually get to enjoy our academic time,” she said.

Matthews said she will also advocate for more community-building opportunities by pushing officials to give students tap access to all residence halls – something she also advocated for last year while running for RHA president. Officials piloted a program this semester granting freshmen tap access to all first-year residence halls, and Matthews said she will talk with Seth Weinshel, the assistant dean of housing and financial services, about the program.

“Every student should have the ability to go see each other,” she said. “I think that helps build community, as long as it doesn’t compromise safety. I think there’s no reason students shouldn’t have tap access to every building.”

If elected, Matthews also aims to create more campus space for students in the Marvin Center and other campus hubs. She said she plans to speak with Dean of the Student

Experience Cissy Petty and officials who manage the Marvin Center about redesigning the front entrance of the building with couches instead of tables to give students a “more comfortable” setting to study and mingle.

“How can we create more student-only spaces where students can not only study but also can be themselves?” Matthews said. “Places where you can bond with your fellow classmates and create that community – I don’t think we do enough to create community here.”

Matthews said she also wants to increase the diversity of her cabinet by reaching out to a multitude of student organizations throughout the spring and summer and offering them an opportunity to apply.

GWHATCHET.COM

For more on Matthews’ platform for the SA’s top spot

Early fundraising success signals positive trend for capital campaign: experts

MEREDITH ROATEN
NEWS EDITOR

The University is fundraising ahead of schedule this fiscal year.

Halfway through fiscal year 2019, fundraising was “slightly ahead” of the amount raised by the same time last year, officials said. Development experts said the trend could indicate a strong start for GW as it revamps its development strategies in preparation for the launch of a large-scale capital campaign in 2021.

Donna Arbide, the vice president for development and alumni relations, said this year’s fundraising numbers indicate “good progress to our FY19 goal of \$115 million.” She declined to say how much money has been raised so far this fiscal year and declined to specify how far ahead of schedule that number is.

She said each fiscal year has different fundraising patterns that can be distorted by large donations, but donors typically give more at the end of the calendar and fiscal years.

“Philanthropy and constituent engagement is a key priority, and we have invested in building our fundraising operation and enhancing outreach and relationship building to attract new donors and steward existing ones,” she said.

She said LeBlanc has embarked on a tour of the United States over the past year to meet stakeholders including alumni, parents, students and donors and talk about his priorities, which could have favorably impacted fundraising efforts.

“Our goal is to build awareness of the exciting things happening at GW, seek input and feedback, engage more constituents as ambassadors for the University and strengthen our networks, which we believe will positively influence our philanthropic efforts,” she said.

She declined to say how many donors have given to

GW so far this year. She also declined to say how an increase in fundraising would affect officials’ development goals this year and next ahead of the rollout of the University’s next capital campaign during GW’s bicentennial, which officials announced earlier this month.

But fundraising experts said the positive update could serve as an early sign of the campaign’s success.

Peter Moes, the director of annual giving at the University of Utah, said raising more funds than anticipated shows that GW has a good base of donors and support from which to build a campaign.

Moes added that campaigns typically have a “quiet” phase where fundraisers have not officially launched a campaign, but the donations made during that time period are still counted toward the campaign’s fundraising goals. GW’s last major campaign also had a two-year quiet phase before it launched in 2014.

“It’s sort of projecting, assuming that things continue on a positive trend, that going into the campaign will be an exciting time,” he said.

Kim O’Neill, the associate vice president of development at the University of Idaho, said moving past a fundraising goal before expected does not necessarily mean that the University will raise more funds by the end of the year. Sometimes, donors give large gifts before fundraisers expect and move the needle in a positive direction – but if fundraising lags in the second half of the fiscal year, GW could end with the same or worse numbers than years prior.

She said having a fruitful year will lay the foundation for the next capital campaign.

“A campaign is supposed to accelerate fundraising for some projects and so if the fundraising success is ahead of schedule now, that’s an even better case scenario for the campaign planning process,” she said.

CRIME LOG

WEAPONS VIOLATION

Madison Hall
2/6/2019 – 8:05 p.m.
Closed Case
GW Police Department officers and GW Housing staff responded to a report that a female student possessed an illegal knife, which officers confiscated.
Referred to the Office of Enrollment and the Student Experience

SEXUAL ASSAULT, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

Off Campus
2/8/2019 – 11 p.m.
Closed Case
A non-GW affiliated female reported that she was a victim of sexual and aggravated assault while attending an off-campus party with GW students. Metropolitan Police Department officers responded, interviewed the victim and filed a report.
Referred to MPD

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING, LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

Thurston Hall
2/10/2019 – 2:15 a.m.
Closed Case
GWPD officers responded to a report of a roommate dispute. Upon arrival, officers observed alcohol in plain view and discovered that the students were underage. Officers disposed of the alcohol on scene. A student living in the room also reported to officers that his fraternity pledge pin was missing.
Referred to ESE

DISORDERLY CONDUCT INTOXICATION

South Hall
2/10/2019 – 5:50 a.m.
Closed Case
GWPD officers responded to a report that a female student defecated on the floor of another student's residence hall room. Upon arrival, officers saw that the student was intoxicated. EMeRG responded, evaluated and cleared her.
Referred to ESE

STALKING

Unknown
Multiple – Multiple
Closed Case
A person reported to GWPD that they were being stalked, and officers reported the case to a campus security authority. There is limited information about the identity of the victim and the stalking incidents.
No further action

CREDIT CARD FRAUD/FRAUD

District House
Multiple – Multiple
Open Case
A male student reported to GWPD that an unknown subject had opened an Amazon credit card in his name and maxed out the card. Officers found that the subject mailed Amazon packages to District House.
Case open

— Compiled by Valerie Yurk



Hundreds of cast members and extras from "The Handmaid's Tale" filmed an upcoming episode on the National Mall on Saturday afternoon.

Lawsuit alleges negligence at GW Hospitalled to newborn's death

ILENA PENG
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A lawsuit filed in the D.C. Superior Court last week alleges that GW Hospital nurses failed to monitor a fetus' heartbeat while her mother was in labor, resulting in the newborn's death.

The 10-page claim alleges that nurses and midwives working at the GW Hospital in November 2016 did not "properly" monitor the fetus' heartbeat and did not convert the patient's delivery to a cesarean section. The plaintiffs, Thomas and Lindle Markwell Hoskins, are suing the hospital on two counts of negligence and one count of negligent infliction of emotional distress.

The couple, who declined to comment, is asking for \$10 million in damages.

The suit alleges that Lindle Markwell Hoskins was admitted to the GW Hospital at about noon on Nov. 16, 2016 after going into labor that morning. She was about 3 centimeters dilated during her first exam at about 12:30 p.m., the suit states.

While Lindle Markwell Hoskins was in labor, a midwife allegedly told the plaintiffs that she had "concerns" about accelerations noted on a cardiotocography monitor, which notes the fetus' heart rate, the suit states. Fetal heart rate accelerations are typically signs of a healthy child, but changes in acceleration or decelerations can indicate fetal distress, according to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

Fetal distress often requires emergency C-sections, according to the American Pregnancy Association.

While Lindle Markwell Hoskins was in labor, nurses

allegedly noted that the fetal heart strip, which displays the baby's heart rate, accelerated to a Category II and then a Category III, the suit claims.

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development defines a Category III classification an "abnormal" fetal heartbeat that warrants an expedited delivery, according to the American Academy of Family Physicians.

But doctors continued to monitor the patient and delivered her daughter, Quinn, naturally just before 8 p.m., the suit states.

The suit alleges that nurses and midwives caring for Lindle Markwell Hoskins did not notify the on-call obstetrician about the fetus' worsening condition. The suit also claims that nurses never utilized a fetal scalp monitor, which would have

offered a more precise measurement of the baby's heart rate.

Quinn did not move or cry after birth, according to the suit. The neonatal intensive care unit allegedly treated the baby and attached her to a brain monitor overnight, which can detect potential brain damage, the suit states.

"Baby Quinn's reactions were almost non-existent (not to light, pain or other stimuli), she never moved, never cried and but for the life support she was given would not have been able to sustain life," the claim states.

The suit states that the couple was informed the next morning that there were "no prospects of life." The Markwell Hoskins decided to take Quinn off life support, and she died an hour and a half later on Nov. 19, 2016, according to the claim.

"Mr. Markwell Hoskins

and Mrs. Markwell Hoskins had to decide when, rather than if, to remove life support," the suit states.

The plaintiffs allege that the nurses failed to "properly monitor the delivery," observe and interpret the fetal monitoring strips, switch to a C-section and notify the obstetrician of the fetus' condition.

The suit claims that the couple lost financial support and gifts and also incurred medical and funeral expenses as a result of the hospital's alleged negligence. The plaintiffs have also "suffered immeasurable grief, sorrow and emotional distress" after their child's death, the suit states.

Susan Griffiths, a spokeswoman for GW Hospital, did not return requests for comment. Christopher Nace, the Markwell Hoskins' attorney, declined to comment.



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

The 10-page claim alleges that nurses and midwives working at the GW Hospital in November 2016 did not "properly" monitor a fetus' heartbeat.

Provost's office to launch new programs, seminars for academic leaders

LAUREN PELLER & MADELEINE DEISEN
REPORTERS

Officials are rolling out a series of new leadership initiatives for "academic leaders" on campus in the next year.

The University will soon introduce an annual leadership conference, "lunch-and-learn" seminars and an academic leadership academy geared toward building networking opportunities, officials said. Officials and experts said the new initiatives could help faculty develop their management skills and grow into leaders like deans and provosts.

"The strength of our academic leadership can really impact the operation of a school," Provost Forrest Maltzman said at a Faculty Senate meeting earlier this month.

Maltzman said the University decided to launch the initiatives to internally promote faculty to leadership positions and improve connections between administrators

and professors. He said the University has already begun comparing similar projects at peer institutions and reviewing relevant research on academic leadership.

He said officials are also gathering input from leaders at GW to understand their priorities.

"The simple fact of the matter is that schools and units with strong academic administration thrive and those that don't struggle," Maltzman said in an email.

He said officials plan to begin soliciting nominations for the inaugural cohort of the Academic Leadership Academy this academic year. The one-year program will be "designed to facilitate cross-institutional networking among emerging academic leaders while building leadership capacity for the participating schools and units," Maltzman said.

"Participants will benefit from a design that helps them develop the skills of effective academic leaders while applying what they learn to a real-

world project," he said.

He said administrators have also discussed the possibility of holding a forum bringing together academic leaders across the University after graduation but before the summer.

Maltzman added that officials plan to launch "lunch-and-learn" seminars for faculty and administrators as early as June, but he does not yet know how often the series will be held. He said administrators are "thinking critically" about topics they will touch on at the meetings.

"We know how busy our target audience is and will want to think carefully about which topics call for us to gather together academic leaders from across GW," he said.

Maltzman said he and Christopher Bracey, the vice provost for faculty affairs, will oversee programs for academic leaders since his office already hosts training for the group annually.

"These new initiatives build on that offering,"

Maltzman said. "The Office of the Provost will engage GW's deans, associate deans and vice provosts for input and many internal and external colleagues who have first-hand experience with leadership development programming."

Harald Griesshammer, an associate professor of physics and a member of the Faculty Senate, said the provost's new initiatives are an "excellent idea" and can help faculty better understand the challenges administrators face when making hard decisions on University academics or finances.

"Even if the person does not continue in administrative positions, the initiatives strengthen the bond between administration and faculty because people get a perspective of the others' thinking," Griesshammer said. "It makes sure that administration is grounded and familiar with faculty realities, and that faculty understand the difficulties to make unpopular but nec-

essary decisions."

Higher education experts said developing new academic leadership initiatives for faculty will help them gain access to resources to become better leaders and possibly become deans or heads of departments.

Donna Qualters, the director of the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching at Tufts University, said Tufts has an academic leadership development program that spans four semesters and takes place online and in-person.

She said the university also has a "chairs roundtable" for current faculty leaders to discuss "issues that are common to them in their leadership position."

"Academic faculty are not trained to be leaders, we're trained to be teachers and researchers," she said. "It's a totally different skillset that's involved in leadership."

Linda Bleicken, the president of the American Academic Leadership Institute, a nonprofit orga-

nization that trains higher education administrators to become leaders, said the new leadership initiatives will help faculty improve their management skills.

"If our institutions aren't finding ways to help build capability for leadership, then the next generation of leaders simply isn't there," she said.

Peter Lake, the director of the Center for Excellence in Higher Education Law and Policy at Stetson University, said faculty previously thought "the academic job was primarily in the classroom," but now, leaders like presidents and provosts are seeking faculty input on issues including curriculum and admissions reform.

"What you're seeing is that the new thinking is to not just include faculty directly in that dialogue but also develop leadership in the faculty and departments to assist the institution in being a little more fleet of foot in moving towards new opportunities," Lake said.

Computer science department expands introductory Python course

LAUREN PELLER & SHANNON MALLARD
STAFF WRITERS

GW will soon teach more students how to use the computer programming software Python.

The computer science department will more than double the number of available seats for its Introduction to Programming with Python class this fall, allowing up to 200 students to take the course, faculty said. Professors and officials said expanding Python courses across campus will meet high student demand and help students acquire skills in data analysis and computer programming that make students more marketable to potential employers.

"This came about, again, as a result of town halls and other opportunities that I interacted with students, and there were a number of students outside engineering that expressed an interest in gaining technical skills and, specifically, Python," University President Thomas LeBlanc said in an interview earlier this month.

The introductory Python course covers basic data analysis and online tools like debugging, which identifies and removes mistakes in

computer code, and profiling, which measures the function and efficiency of a computer program, the department's website states. The computer science department currently offers two sections of the course, one of which is restricted to majors in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, according to the schedule of classes.

Rumana Riffat, the interim dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, said expanding Python courses helps address a "huge" demand for literacy in programming and technology across all majors at GW.

"The overall goal is to prepare a greater number of students for success in an increasingly technology-driven world," Riffat said in an email.

Robert Pless, the chair of the computer science department and a professor of computer science, said expanding in-person Python courses will help all students understand computing processes. He said making computer science education accessible was one of his goals when he started as department chair in 2017.

"It is pervasive throughout scientific disciplines and society alike, as data and algorithms influence how organizations make decisions and the way that media selects



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Robert Pless, the chair of the computer science department and a professor of computer science, said expanding in-person Python courses will help all students understand computing processes.

who and what we see," Pless said.

He said the department will continue to grow the student cap on the course in future semesters if student demand increases.

"Python is increasingly common as the first programming language that someone learns because it is a sensible choice for anyone that wants to get started quickly and do interesting things," he said.

He said the department is currently hiring three professors of practice who will teach introductory courses in subjects like Python. He said administrators have supported the Python course expansion, and the initiative fits within the department's budget.

"I think being able to demonstrate that you have that skill to work with new and different kinds of data

and do new and different kinds of things is going to be important across all kinds of jobs, especially internships, because that's going to become part of the skill set that is expected," he said.

James Taylor, an instructor of computer science who teaches one section of Introduction to Programming with Python, said the program is one of the most "popular" and "fastest-growing" computer

programming languages since it only requires the input of simple computing commands to perform functions like generating data plots.

"It doesn't matter what field you're in, there's really a need in order to be able to take a large amount of data and be able to look at it in various ways," Taylor said.

He said introductory courses on programming with Python would ideally spread across a two-semester curriculum. The first semester would cover the fundamentals of the program, while the second would focus on using the language to complete more "complex" functions, like regression analyses and machine learning – a subset of artificial intelligence that uses algorithms and statistical models to perform a task.

He said providing students who study political science or international affairs with a basic background in Python programming will equip them with skills to analyze data from sources like the World Bank.

"One of the strengths of Python is that it's very capable of being able to – if you feed it a lot of data, and then use a lot of the tools that are available – get a very succinct and deep analysis without having to really know how a computer works," he said.

Student leaders push for opt-in Metro discounts

ILENA PENG & KATERYNA STEPANENKO
REPORTERS

Some students are reviving advocacy efforts to offer students discounted Metro rides.

Students are pushing both the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and GW to reach a deal allowing students to opt into the University Pass program, which gives students unlimited access to city buses and trains for \$1 a day if their university purchases passes for the entire student body. Students said they hope to regain momentum on student advocacy work that fizzled out three years ago after officials declined to sign the entire University onto the program, which would tack on about \$260 to each student's tuition bill.

James Harnett, a junior and a Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, said he has been researching student transportation options for the past three months and is now pushing WMATA to allow individual students to join the UPass program.

Harnett said he testified at a WMATA hearing last Tuesday to offer UPass to students with an opt-out option for those who do not want to pay the extra \$260 each school year. He said the proposal, which he advocated to include in WMATA's fiscal year 2020 budget, would lower student transportation costs for individuals who travel to internships, jobs and events around the District.

"I think it is going to help students feel more financially secure," Harnett said. "It is also going to make them feel that the city is accessible overall."

Offering discounted Metro fare to all students has long been an ongoing conversation at GW.

In 2016, officials considered but then rejected a proposal to offer UPass to students. About three-quarters of the student body indicated that they supported the pass in a Student Association referendum that year, but administrators said at the time that tacking an extra \$250 onto all students' tuition bills would not be "feasible or fair."

Detrick Campbell, a master's degree student and an ANC commissioner, said he is working with Harnett and is also looking for other resources that could help cut transportation costs, like expanding KACIF Travel grants, which reimburse public transportation costs for students with unpaid internships. He said offering UPass to all students would "improve GW culture" by increasing affordability.

"GW should make available as many resources to ensure that their students can succeed not only as students, but as leaders and active members of society as well," Campbell said in an email.

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said GW is "willing" to negotiate a "mutually beneficial" program with WMATA in which interested students could decide whether to use the UPass program.

"The current inflexibility of a mandatory program for all students makes it unrealistic for us to implement at this time," Csellar said.

WMATA spokesman Ron Holzer said an opt-out model is currently "not under consideration" because the program's "deep discount" is only profitable for Metro if the entire University participates.

"We understand GW's concern about the mandatory nature of the UPass

program because it doesn't necessarily benefit all students," Holzer said in an email. "However, without that feature, it is not a viable program for Metro."

SA Sen. Vaibhav Vijay, CCAS-U, has also been advocating to implement the UPass system, which is currently available at some other D.C. schools including American University. The SA and the GW Roosevelt Institute worked together to send out a survey to students to gauge interest in the program earlier this semester.

The survey asks how often students use the Metro, why they use it and how much they spend on it.

"We will likely explore more avenues through which to share the Google Form as well, but this form is basically just a way to dip our toes in the water," Vijay said in an email.

The GW Roosevelt Institute is also hosting a panel discussion Monday covering D.C.'s transportation system.

Sydney Nelson, the former executive vice president of the SA, said UPass advocacy efforts two years ago helped the SA recognize that a University-wide subscription to UPass would be an "anti-affordability" measure since most students have indicated that they spend less than \$200 on the Metro each semester. But as the desire for affordable student transportation persists, Nelson said there is "room for conversation" on the topic.

"From a student perspective, it's hard to advocate for the UPass because you're either trying to push the University to accept the deal that doesn't benefit students or you're trying to get WMATA to back off kind of what's the financial incentive for them," Nelson said.



FILE PHOTO BY DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Roslyn Brock, the chair of the volunteer engagement task force on the Board of Trustees, said at a board meeting earlier this month that the new association will be run in part by Gary Olsen, a consultant at eAdvancements.

New alumni association to debut by April 30

MEREDITH ROATEN
NEWS EDITOR

The University's new alumni association is just two months from its launch.

Months after the University cut ties with the GW Alumni Association and announced it would develop its own alumni group, officials said the new organization will debut by the end of April with the help of the outside fundraising consultant eAdvancement. Officials said they will collect alumni feedback and choose leaders for the association over the next few months before they launch a new group they hope will better connect graduates with their alma mater.

Donna Arbide, the vice president for development and alumni relations, said "some engaged alumni" have already volunteered to lead the new organization. She said the group's leaders will be "diverse, engaged, passionate about GW and excited about the future of the University."

Arbide said the Board of Trustees has approved guidelines dictating the association's "general structure," but the new leadership team will work with administrators to "build out additional details and to develop a more robust association strategic plan."

"Together, the newly established Alumni Association and the members of the Office of Alumni Relations staff will work to build an even stronger alumni network for GW," Arbide said in an email.

She said officials plan to offer alumni opportunities to provide feedback and ideas for the new association, which will contribute to the organization's strategic plan.

She declined to specify what the association's operating guidelines dictate. She declined to say how the new alumni association will engage alumni differently

than the previous alumni association, which rebranded in the fall as the Independent Alumni Association of George Washington.

Roslyn Brock, the chair of the volunteer engagement task force on the Board of Trustees, said at a board meeting earlier this month that the new association will be run in part by Gary Olsen, a principal at eAdvancement.

The consulting firm offers services in alumni relations, fundraising, leadership development and marketing. Olsen has expertise in engaging volunteers and creating strategies for integrated alumni relations and fundraising, according to the firm's website.

More than half of GW's peer schools have used or are currently using eAdvancement's services, including the University of Miami, University President Thomas LeBlanc's and Arbide's former employer.

Brock said the new association will continue to be free to join and will have "flexible" opportunities for alumni to be involved with GW, but she did not specify what those opportunities would include.

"As I reported before and it bears reporting again, our association will focus on engaging all alumni regardless of where they are in their life cycle or where they live," she said.

Nelson Carbonell, the chairman of the Board of Trustees, said the new alumni association is part of the University's attempt to improve alumni volunteer and fundraising numbers. GW's alumni giving rate has hovered between 8 and 9 percent in recent years, lower than any of its peer schools, and the number of alumni volunteers has dropped off by more than half in recent years.

Carbonell said officials decided to create their own alumni group to hit their goals

because the former association encountered issues while attempting to merge with the University last year. Internal discord over the merger led to at least seven resignations and the removal of the organization's president.

"As we looked at having a separate alumni association, it kind of started to become obvious we couldn't achieve improvement in those areas with them," Carbonell said in an interview earlier this month. "But we have to move forward because our duty is to our alumni."

He said the new association will be run by a third party because the Office for Alumni Relations does not currently have the resources to run the new association.

"I think Vice President Arbide decided in the short-run, the best strategy was, 'Let's bring a third party in to help us get launched while we're actually building the infrastructure to build the alumni association ourselves,'" Carbonell said.

Martin Baum, the president of the Independent Alumni Association of George Washington, said he hopes the new association is more than a fundraising tool because alumni are interested in engaging with GW in other ways than through donations. Because eAdvancement's description of its alumni relations services includes a description of "educational fundraising programs," Baum said he is concerned that the mission of the group will not be clear to alumni.

Baum said the two alumni groups could be "complementary" because the University supports alumni in a broad way, while the independent group offers alumni a chance to voice their opinions about programming and GW events on a smaller scale.

"You don't want to put a veneer of an alumni association when the true purpose is fundraising," he said.



ARIELLE BADER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

James Harnett, a junior and a Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, said he is now pushing WMATA to allow individual students to join the UPass program.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Students should band together to push for D.C. statehood

The District is a place like no other. Students who live on campus find themselves blocks away from the National Mall, the White House and a Metro station that can whisk them away to nearly any corner of D.C.

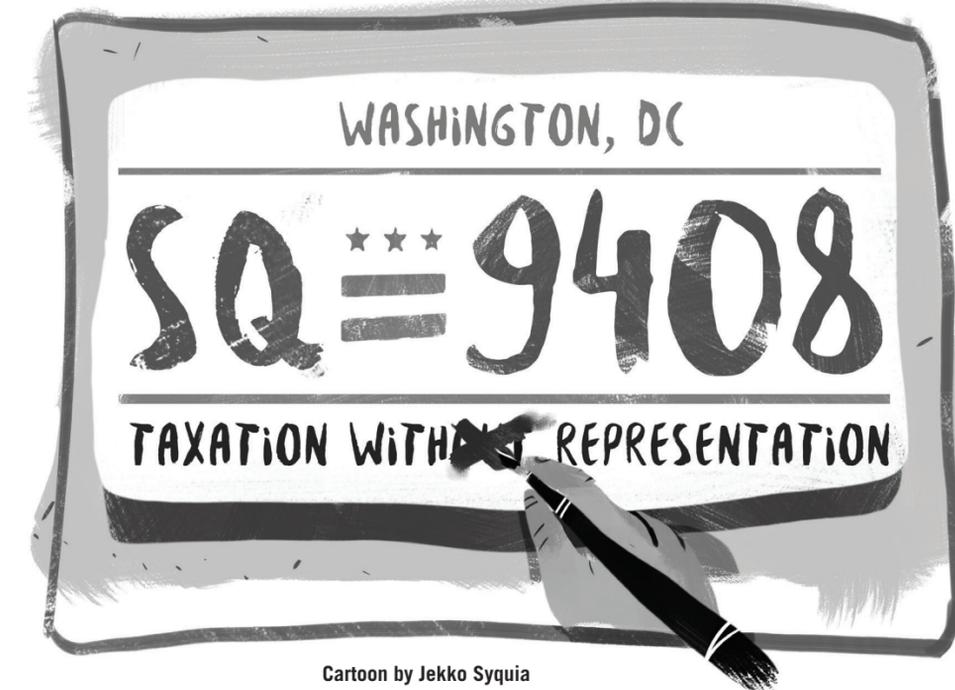
But living in D.C. also means that you are one of the more than 700,000 residents who are unrepresented.

Residents of D.C. currently lack senators who can advocate on their behalf and are left with a singular delegate who cannot vote on the House floor and shadows senators who can lobby but are not members of the Senate.

Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., reintroduced a bill last month that would make the District the 51st state and would give residents the same representation as any citizen in any other state. The bill revived conversation about statehood and now Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., who recently announced a presidential bid, is also advocating for the District to become a state, amplifying the conversation and shifting a national spotlight on the issue.

Students may spend a short amount of their lives in Foggy Bottom and may not plan to live in D.C. after they graduate, but students must prioritize advocating for statehood because they have the power to make an impact.

Without statehood status, residents are disenfranchised. Plain and simple. In addition to taking away their right to representation in legislative bodies, Congress must approve local laws and because of that power, the group has historically treated the District as



Cartoon by Jekko Syquia

its guinea pig for testing legislation on topics like marijuana and abortion laws.

While voter disenfranchisement, especially against communities of color, is not a new issue, 45.9 percent of D.C. residents in 2017 were black and those voices have been silenced at the voting polls simply for living in a region that is not recognized as a state.

Since its inception, D.C. has been seen as a place of national

governance and therefore should not belong to one state or another. But time has changed the District and it isn't just home to policymakers and lobbyists.

Students demonstrate this perfectly. While most students are not residents, many go on to lay their roots in the District, but the real possibility of losing your voice in our country's democracy may prevent some students from officially making the switch to living

in D.C.

Many students likely feel that statehood doesn't affect them because their time at GW is transitional. But regardless of whether students decide to stay in D.C. after college, it is important to advocate for the region they are a part of now, even if they are connected to D.C. for just four years.

For those that don't remain in the District after graduation, the lack of representation still affects

them. Local businesses that students interact with every day do not have proper representation in Congress and cannot weigh in on issues that affect them like raising and lowering taxes and legislation on topics directly tied to particular businesses.

Students have a powerful history of political action, especially at GW. They were at the center of protests against the Vietnam War and protested to end segregation in the District – and at the University. Students joined the March on Washington, just blocks from campus, to protest for equal rights.

In recent years, students have protested against police brutality and the inauguration of President Donald Trump. This past year, students flocked from campus to the Capitol, where hundreds of thousands of people protested to end gun violence.

It is clear that students have the power to make change and we must use our voices to advocate for those in the District. There are fewer than 400 undergraduate students from the District enrolled at GW, but if all students raise their voices to preach the importance of D.C. statehood, we can be a driving force to spark change.

It's time for D.C. to achieve statehood. We cannot continue to withhold representation from 700,000 individuals when states that have smaller populations have a voice in Congress. Just as students rallied for the rights of women and the black community and for the end of gun violence and police brutality, students must come together and use their collective voice to push statehood to the forefront of conversation.

Stop the toxic cycle of bragging about stress

As I walked back to my residence hall, I was dreading the paper I had to write. I didn't have the time and lacked motivation to do the work.

I was honestly just trying to fill the awkward silence when I complained about it to the classmate I was walking with, but before I could even finish my sentence he cut me off to tell me about the three essays he had to write, 70 pages he had to read and the exam he needed to study for.

Great. We both have a lot of work, but I wasn't trying to have a competition to see who had it worse.

As midterm exams approach, the chances of overhearing someone brag about how few hours of sleep they had or how many papers they have left to write are high – and that's an issue.

Students constantly compare how much work they have and how stressed they are, but this pattern creates a harmful dynamic that glorifies competition and an unhealthy amount of stress. Conversations that turn into subtle competitions over workloads and stress levels only adds to students' stress and is bad for overall health.

Instead of competing, we should all remind each other that relaxing is not self-indulgent, but a way to maintain a healthy life. Taking time to decompress is as necessary to the mind as water is to the body. Stress can have debilitating effects on the body including making individuals more prone to illness and destroying healthy sleep habits.

Regardless of health concerns, students still feel the need to showcase their busy lives – especially during midterms and finals. Oversharing your workload is an unproductive use of time and leads to a gross idolization of work and a never-ending feeling of emptiness. If students constantly complain about their workload, they will constantly feel like they don't do enough.

Perhaps the pressure to stand out from other potential job seekers has caused students to take on more responsibility. Americans are on course for the first time in history to be less economically successful than their parents due to increasing income inequality and high costs of

living, according to a Stanford University study. As a result, students are hoping to maximize their chances of success by taking on more than they can handle. Although it may not be explicitly spelled out, making other students aware of your lack of sleep due to studying provides a flawed message that students can only provide value in their grades, internships and other commitments.

When my classmate shared with me his obscene amount of work, I felt defeated. My single paper, regardless of how I felt about it, was minuscule in comparison to his mountain of work. I wondered whether I was doing enough with my time and ultimately felt like I wasn't. If this is the type of person I'd be competing for a job with, I couldn't help but feel like I was ill-equipped to enter the workforce. I knew I shouldn't, but I felt like I needed to do more.

Michael McMahon
Writer

Because of students like my classmate, we all feel the need to externalize a seemingly endless dedication toward bettering our academic and professional success. In doing so, students have created a toxic environment riddled with workaholics and burnouts. As we get closer to midterms, the chances of seeing a friend post on social media about their study regimen and commitment to staying up until they master a difficult concept is almost inevitable. After all, sleep deprivation is only temporary and GPA is forever.

Instead of taking to social media to brag about your stress or endlessly complaining to your classmates, students need to stop the cycle this midterm season. Sharing stories of sleep deprivation and high stress is not beneficial to anyone. Students should focus on maximizing the productivity of their studying while still finding balancing their physical and mental health so that everyone comes out of midterms both happy and successful.

—Michael McMahon, a freshman, is a Hatchet opinions writer.

GW has an ugly history of racism, but we must recognize it to move forward

Old college yearbook photos depicting individuals wearing blackface sparked a national conversation about racism on college campuses. Earlier this month, an old yearbook photo of Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam surfaced featuring one individual in blackface posing with a man in a Ku Klux Klan hood.

Shortly after the scandal broke, colleges across the country began to examine their own ties to racism. The Hatchet investigated GW's old yearbooks and uncovered dozens of photos of former students in blackface, KKK hoods and other racist outfits in Cherry Tree yearbooks.

Stories like this have popped up at many universities, and all show that racism has a long history on college campuses. While the fact that racism was present on campuses in the past is likely not surprising, these examples are particularly alarming at a time when universities are becoming more diverse and blatant discrimination against minority communities has decreased.

Universities like GW have come a long way from openly racist and discriminatory practices, but institutional racism can be seen in the history of many schools across the country. It is troubling that GW's history is laced with racism and discrimination, but we must recognize it to move forward.

There is no evidence that the University, formerly called Columbian College, owned slaves. But individuals connected to GW owned slaves and faculty and students benefited and profited from slave labor.

In the years following the abolition of slavery, GW still had blatant racism on campus in the form of blackface and segregation. When Lisner Auditorium opened in 1946, it was a segregated theater, which eventually sparked protests on campus and forced the Board of Trustees to desegre-

gate the auditorium. And prior to desegregation in 1954, the law school and medical school only allowed black students to take night classes.

Three years later, the University officially desegregated, but restricted housing to just white students until the early 1960s. The desegregation process was delayed by former University President Cloyd Heck Marvin, who pushed back against allowing minorities and African Americans on campus.

Hannah Thacker
Writer

Every day students work, hold events and spend their free time in a student center named after Marvin who openly opposed desegregation efforts, fired individuals who supported desegregation and created discriminatory policies against African American students by only allowing them to register for night courses. Despite pushes from students and faculty to rename the Marvin Center, the University continues to honor a racist.

During the time that GW was segregated, and even once the University became desegregated, students took part in discriminatory and offensive activities. Photos from the GW Cherry Tree Yearbook displayed at least 14 times students wore blackface and three instances of students donning KKK hoods spanning from 1914 to 1977. These images, some of which are from after the peak of the civil rights movement, prove that racist expressions were previously normalized.

GW is not the only university to have racism in its history books, but other institutions have taken action to change how their narrative ends. Peer institutions like Georgetown University renamed two of their buildings to honor and

respect the African Americans they sold and oppressed in the 1800s. While changing building names is a strong first step that the University should take, Georgetown University also began offering legacy status admission to students who are related to the Maryland Jesuit-owned slaves.

Given the enduring nature of racism on campus, it is no surprise that blatant racism continues at GW. Last year, a student in a sorority posted a Snapchat depicting two other students with a racist caption. While this single incident gained national attention and sparked changes including mandatory diversity training and a new director for diversity and inclusion education, it is clear racism still persists and this example is one of many students of color face on campus every day.

Students and faculty have been vocal about the need for a change in GW's culture surrounding race and diversity. The longing for change can be seen in how students came together in several town hall meetings to discuss race and diversity on campus after the racist Snapchat post circulated.

While active racist incidents on campus are shocking for some and unsurprising for others, what is particularly troubling is to see how students responded to incidents from about a century ago but fail to respond when students are discriminated against on campus today.

GW's history of racism that recently came to light in old yearbook photos shows how majority white institutions struggle to come to terms with their racist pasts. The past is ugly and hard to swallow, but students can reverse GW's racist legacy by recognizing the institution's past and insisting that we do better than the students who came before us.

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

The GW Hatchet

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

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

Matt Cullen, managing editor*
Elise Zaidi, managing director*
Cayla Harris, senior news editor
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Submit to opinions@gwhatchet.com

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MICHAEL BUBLE
Capital One Arena
Feb. 19 • \$65
Michael Buble will perform the romantic, classic jazz tracks he is known for at a show Tuesday.

ANDERSON .PAAK
The Theater at MGM National Harbor
Feb. 20 • \$35
On his "Andy's Beach Club" Tour, Anderson .Paak weaves funk and hip-hop for a laidback feel.

VINCE STAPLES
9:30 Club
Feb. 22 • \$35
Vince Staples' album 'FM!' is showcases his talent and personality with fast raps that string together clever lyrics for a fun show in an intimate setting.

Oat milk is flying off the shelves, but you can try it at these coffee shops around the District

LINDSAY PAULEN
CULTURE EDITOR

It is rare that a dairy-free milk alternative makes headlines.

But when oat milk's popularity surged this summer, coffee shops in major cities couldn't keep the product on their shelves and people were paying hundreds of dollars for

the substance.

While the oat milk craze continues, it is now easier to find the milk alternative in coffee shops around D.C. Coffee shops that stock oat milk — which is made by soaking raw oats in water, blending the mixture and straining it — uti-

lize the product to make lattes richer and coffee creamier, usually for an extra charge.

Many shops add a disclaimer to the menu that the oat milk option is subject to availability, but here are a few spots you can try the trend around the District:

For the weekend getaway



ERIC LEE | HATCHET PHOTOGRAPHER

For an all-day affair



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

For a close-to-campus classic



LINDSAY PAULEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Cup We All Race 4 1770 Euclid St. NW

Located in Adams Morgan at the LINE Hotel, The Cup We All Race 4 is nestled in a hotel lobby.

For beverage options, The Cup We All Race 4 offers a variety of espresso beverages like lattes (\$5), macchiatos (\$3.50) and cappuccinos (\$4), along with

more trendy drinks like golden-milk lattes (\$5) made with turmeric powder — all menu items you can add oat milk to for an extra 45 cents.

The coffee shop stocks oat milk from Minor Figures, a United Kingdom brand made specifically for baristas. Rapeseed oil added to Minor Figures' recipe helps the oat milk blend more easily into coffee drinks.

Elle 3221 Mount Pleasant St. NW

Take the trek up to Mount Pleasant to get a taste of Elle, an all-day cafe, bakery and restaurant. With bar-style seating and plenty of natural light, Elle is the ideal spot to stay all day and catch up on classwork.

For 75 cents, you can add oat milk to a crushed-ice latte (\$4.50) or a London Fog, a latte with Earl Grey tea, your choice of milk and vanilla syrup.

While the Pacific Foods brand that Elle serves is thinner in consistency than other brands, it still easily matches the texture and flavor of its dairy counterpart.

Bourbon Coffee 2101 L St. NW

Bourbon Coffee is a cozy coffee shop that roasts Rwandan coffee beans and gives off a homey feel with lounge seating and woven baskets hung on the walls.

The coffee shop makes drinks in unconventional flavors like macadamia nut mocha and honey cinnamon

along with special seasonal offerings like a cardamom latte (\$3.85). For an extra dollar, you can swap milk in any drink for oat milk made by the brand Oatly.

Oatly, which also makes a special version of oat milk for baristas, has the creamiest consistency of all oat milk brands with a texture and viscosity that mimics regular milk.

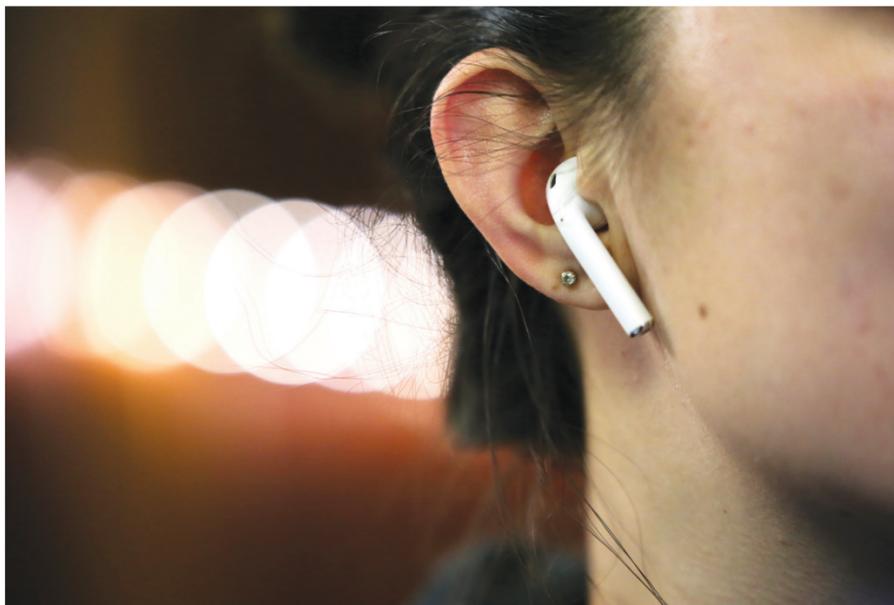


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR

More than 20 students said in interviews that they use AirPods while walking around campus, studying in Gelman Library and even while their professors are teaching.

'TUNED OUT': Students, professors say AirPods make students 'anti-social'

LAUREN OFFMAN & ZILANA LEE
REPORTERS

Before Daina Eglitis, an associate professor of sociology and international affairs, begins teaching class, she makes sure to greet each student as they walk in the door.

But lately, she has been surprised by the number of students who do not reply because they are occupied by small speakers tucked in their ears.

"They're not ignoring me, they just don't hear me with the AirPods," Eglitis said. "It creates a little bit of an awkward situation when I'm speaking to them and they don't even look at me."

More than 20 students said in interviews that they use AirPods while walking around, studying in Gelman Library and even while their professors are teaching — and the device has a ubiquitous presence on campus.

More than half of students interviewed also said AirPods — which are wireless, fit discreetly into ears and can easily be covered with hair or a hat — have limited their social interaction.

Eglitis said using devices like AirPods as an escape can be beneficial in some cases, but a world where everyone is tuned

out is dangerous.

"If they give someone enjoyment or the opportunity to tune out for a bit, those are benefits on an individual level," she said. "But on a social level, the benefits are much more tenuous because it is a hindrance on social interaction."

Laragh Cronin, a freshman majoring in political communication, said it is "really rude" when students use AirPods in class, but she often notices people listening to something in their headphones during class instead of paying attention.

Cronin said over time, she has given into the trend and started using the device more often. Her near-constant use of AirPods has made her miss out on everyday conversations she would typically have when walking to class or waiting in line for meals, she said.

"AirPods have made me more anti-social, like I only take them out if I'm talking to a good friend," Cronin said. "Sometimes I even have them in when I'm not listening to something so I don't have to talk to people."

Sam Brooks, a freshman majoring in criminal justice, said she was thrilled with the high-quality sound and practicality of the AirPods she received as a high school graduation gift sev-

eral months ago. But now she uses them for more than just a portable speaker — she employs them as a method to avoid uncomfortable situations.

"When you put in your pods, you're transported to your own world where you don't know what's going on outside of your personal bubble," Brooks said. "I think that you lose spontaneous interactions and therefore, I'm making fewer memories probably."

At nearly \$160 per pair, AirPods are one of Apple's least expensive items but still come with a hefty price tag for a pair of headphones. Some students said in addition to serving as a shield against unwanted social interaction, the product is often deemed a status symbol alongside items like designer bags and Canada Goose jackets.

Maya Konings, a freshman majoring in business administration, said because Apple regularly releases new products, buyers are convinced that they need the latest item "to be cool."

"There is always going to be something that exists to be a signifier of wealth," Konings said. "I definitely have seen my peers feel the pressure to buy AirPods because they look cool."

—Aldonza Chaves contributed reporting.

'If Beale Street Could Talk' features sculptures made by former student

LINDSAY PAULEN
CULTURE EDITOR

A former student spent hours transforming a block of pinewood into an intricate sculpture for a class in the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design nearly five years ago.

Now that same sculpture is being featured alongside some of the artist's other work in a major motion picture.

Jorge Vascano, who studied fine and studio arts for a year in 2012, made several sculptures that appear as the main character's work in the movie "If Beale Street Could Talk."

"It was kind of like, in a strange way, being a father — you're creating these pieces, they are kind of like kids," Vascano said. "They came from a specific place in you. To see them on the big screen like that — it's surreal."

The production company for the movie contacted the New York Academy of Art — where Vascano received his master's degree in fine art — looking for props because the movie's main character, Fonny, is a sculptor. After sifting through the work of students, the production company chose Vascano because his work "related more to the characteristics of their character," he said.

"The movie company really wanted to give the movie a feeling of a true artist working," Vascano said. "That's why they decided to reach out to actual artists instead of buying random stuff that look like sculptures."

One of the most prominent scul-

tures in the movie is called "Blossoming" — a circular, abstract pinewood sculpture — which he made during a class. Vascano said that while the production company never asked him about the meaning behind the piece, it was part of a scene where Tish, Fonny's love interest, realizes Fonny is in love with her and coincidentally the sculpture was also based on a romantic relationship he was in at the time, he said.

"They didn't know that the piece was inspired by my relationship," Vascano said. "It was about feeling in love and getting to know somebody and all that stuff."

When he saw the movie for the first time in New York, he said it was a "crazy" experience because he never anticipated that one of his pieces would appear in the movies.

"You don't know where these pieces are going to end up," Vascano said. "You're just making work because you're an artist. You're pulling from your past and your experiences and circumstances in life."

In addition to "Blossoming," the production company borrowed three pieces from Vascano's studio and he created five more especially for the movie, including two pieces of "Blossoming" in different stages that mimic the artist's process of creating a sculpture.

While Vascano said deadlines for producing new work were tighter than if he was making art for his own sake, he was not constrained creatively and enjoyed

the experience.

"It's an interesting experience on all sides — making a movie, sharing a bigger story," Vascano said. "If I can be a part of something like that — that I believe, that I feel like is a genuine story — I would love to do it again. You're a part of that big conversation, which is the human experience."

Vascano said that many of the pieces he made for the film paralleled work he created while in school. When drawing inspiration for the new sculptures, Vascano said he relied on old sketches from his year in D.C.

"It was really nice to go back," he said. "It's kind of like your work and your sketches are time capsules."

Vascano said there was something serendipitous about being asked to create sculptures for the movie. Several months before being contacted by the production company, Vascano saw the movie "Moonlight" — which shares the same director as "If Beale Street Could Talk" — on his flight to Italy, where he was about to start a sculpting residency.

He said he was "moved" by the experience of watching "Moonlight" on the plane because of its beauty and captivating storytelling and the work inspired him to create his own art.

"It inspires you to trust yourself more as an artist and not just do things to produce," he said. "It was more about going back to the core of what you are, and trusting that."

—Eva Treacy contributed reporting.

GAMES OF THE WEEK



MEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. Massachusetts
7 p.m. • Wednesday
The Colonials return to the Smith Center to face off against the Minutemen for the first time this season.



LACROSSE
vs. East Carolina
2 p.m. • Friday
Lacrosse hosts East Carolina Friday in GW's home opener. The Colonials are coming off a 14-12 loss to Longwood last week.

NUMBER CRUNCH

18.2

The three-point shooting percentage for women's basketball in the team's last three games

'Shy guy' guard grows into reliable shooter for men's basketball

BARBARA ALBERTS
SPORTS EDITOR

Unlike fellow sophomore guards Terry Nolan Jr. and Justin Mazzulla, sophomore guard Maceo Jack is a quiet presence on the court.

You won't see him slapping the floor in celebration after scoring because he favors a calmer demeanor on the court than his teammates.

But Jack carries a proverbial big stick in the form of sharp-shooting skills from beyond the arc. His 36.5 shooting percentage from the perimeter pins him eleventh among Atlantic 10 competition, and he currently leads the Colonials with 50 made three-point shots on the year.

Earlier this season, Jack was averaging 4.3 points per game coming off the bench but found himself consistently in the starting lineup after redshirt junior guard Armel Potter was sidelined for a month with an ankle injury in November.

"I was a little bit nervous at first, but I eased into the role," Jack said. "I knew that my teammates needed me to produce, they needed me to be a great defender,



FILE PHOTO BY OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR
Sophomore guard Maceo Jack takes a free throw during a game against VCU earlier this season.

and once I realized what I was doing it for, it wasn't that hard of a shift for me to make."

Now he's picking up 10.6 points per game as the team's third-highest scorer, and is averaging 13.3 points per contest in conference play, second only to redshirt

junior guard DJ Williams. Jack has picked up three 20-point-plus games and has tied his career-high 23-point mark twice in the schedule.

"Right now, all that we're seeing is the fruits of his labor," head coach Maurice Joseph said. "He's a guy that works his tail off every

single day."

Joseph said Jack's "no distractions" mentality has driven him throughout the season, even when he wasn't getting time on the court. Jack averaged 2.8 points per contest in 8.3 minutes of action per game as a rookie, while his team-

mates Nolan and Mazzulla were chipping in double-digit minutes on the court as first-years.

"He's a guy that, when he wasn't playing as a freshman, he would come in and do his routine and do his work," Joseph said. "It wasn't angry parents or angry AAU coaches, it was just, 'alright, I'm not playing, what can I do to make myself get a chance to play?'"

Toward the end of the 2017-18 season in the final six games of the year, Jack was averaging 11.7 minutes per match while picking up 6.2 points per contest.

"I've always had the ability to play this way, but I think it was the mental side I had to grow," Jack said. "I had to be more confident under the system I was in and once I did that, I was able to really flourish and grow as a player and as a man as well."

Behind the scenes, Jack said he has been getting in extra workouts in the gym, perfecting his shot in shoot-arounds and honing his ball-handling skills with Mazzulla alongside him. Jack said being able to lean on Mazzulla

throughout the season has helped him "blossom" into the player he is today.

"He's always been the confident one. I've been the shy guy," Jack said. "Me leaning on him has helped me become more confident."

But despite his comfort on the court, playing basketball with the same group for a year helped him get more comfortable and confident in the past year, he said.

The Colonials have six games left in the regular season before the A-10 Championship in March. Jack said he wants to personally help his teammates win their remaining games and if the Colonials are able to buckle down on defense and remain close on the court, they should be able to find success in their remaining games.

"I want to let my teammates know that I'm going to play hard every single possession," Jack said. "I don't care what's happening in the game, I'm going to give it my all."

The Colonials return to action Wednesday at 7 p.m. against Massachusetts at the Smith Center.

IN BRIEF

Men's squash captures Hoehn Cup

Men's squash registered three upset victories to win the College Squash Association Hoehn Cup (B Division) for the second year in a row over the weekend in Hartford, Conn.

The Colonials (13-12) kicked off their tournament weekend with a 5-4 win over No. 10 Western Ontario Friday, before following up with a 7-2 win over No. 11 St. Lawrence Saturday to advance to the Hoehn Cup finals. GW downed No. 13 Drexel 6-3 on Sunday to wrap up the championship and reclaim the cup.

"They felt they could win it, but I'm not sure how much confidence they had that they were going to win it," head coach Wendy Lawrence said. "After their first match against Western Ontario, then all of a sudden the whole dynamic changed, and they really began to feel that this really was possible."

The tournament win caps off an up-and-down season for the squad. The Colonials struggled to win matches early on and midseason roster shakeups forced the Colonials to re-evaluate their push for a top-eight finish in the season.

The men's program took home the Hoehn Cup for the first time last season and slid into the No. 9 spot nationally. The Colonials entered competition ranked No. 15 nationally but their victory returns them to No. 9 in the nation - tying the program record set last year.

The Colonials upset Western Ontario 5-4 Friday in a postseason rematch to advance to the semifinals.

The Colonials notched another upset win over No. 3 seed St. Lawrence 7-2 Saturday to punch their ticket to the Hoehn Cup finals.

The Colonials dominated Drexel Sunday 6-3 in the final day of competition to secure the Hoehn Cup.

"When we got ranked at one point, about three weeks ago, at 16, down from nine where we started the season, it was a bit of a disappointment," Lawrence said. "They hadn't been down to 16 in a couple years, and they hated it. So that was motivation enough for them to try to win."

—Emily Maise

Swimming and diving prepares for A-10s

BELLE LONG
REPORTER

First-year head coach Brian Thomas started the season with the goal of using a "back-to-the-basics" training plan to improve details like starts, turns and underwater kicking. During winter break, the team switched gears and focused on boosting fitness levels for the second half of its season.

Now Thomas is ready for that work to "pay off" at the Atlantic 10 Swimming and Diving Championship this week, despite two extended breaks from competition throughout the season.

"It's about taxing them throughout to have a big benefit and payoff toward the end," Thomas said. "Everything we do from a training standpoint, what we do to plan, is all with the end of the year in mind."

Swimming and diving will compete in the four-day championship meet this week after nearly a month off from competition that started Jan. 19.

The men's team will be tasked with defending its championship title for the third year in a row. The reigning champions were selected as favorites to win the 2019 title in a preseason poll of the league's head coaches, receiving seven

out of eight first-place votes.

Thomas said he has not let his team become complacent with their past success, and said heading into the competition with the assumption of being able to win easily would be a "killer" for the team.

"That's big-time motivation for your competition and it's a great way to get beat," Thomas said. "If you go in somewhere thinking that you're better than anybody else, or go through a season feeling that way, that's just a really good recipe to get beat, so hopefully we've avoided that to a certain degree and we can go in hungry."

The team has had nearly a month off since dropping to Virginia Tech 197-91 and Cincinnati 172-126 in GW's final tri-meet of the regular season Jan. 19. The Colonials swept Howard and American the week prior.

"This year was all about keeping everyone's expectations high but realizing we still have to start from scratch and keep on working hard," senior Tommi Wolst said.

Wolst and senior diver Jake Ortiz said they are both hoping to improve on their past performances at the conference championships but are putting the team first in their training.

"We've really been



FILE PHOTO BY ARIELLE BADER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior Emily Zhang was instrumental in GW's third-place finish last season, earning an individual gold medal in the 200 freestyle event and setting a program record.

trying to stress to the younger classmen that this is what we work for and this is a time when we want to get rowdy and get behind each other," Ortiz said. "The first-years have really gotten a sense that the team is the overall important thing and if you swim great individually, that's awesome, but one person performing well isn't going to get the goal accomplished."

On the women's side, the Colonials are seeking their first A-10 crown in program history. Last season, they finished third in the conference, up from a sixth-place finish in 2017 and a ninth-place finish in 2016. Preseason rankings slotted the

women's team to finish fourth in the conference.

Standout performers for the women's team include newcomers like freshman Isabela Patino, who has been honored as A-10 Rookie of the Week twice this season. Patino led the Colonials last month against Virginia Tech, Cincinnati and James Madison with a first-place finish in the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 2:04.36.

Freshman Andrea Moussier has earned A-10 Rookie of the Week three times this season and most recently finished sixth in the 1,000-yard freestyle to lead the Colonials last month.

Senior Emily Zhang was instrumental in

GW's third-place finish last season, earning an individual gold medal in the 200 freestyle event and her 1:47.34 time set a program record. Zhang said being able to lean on the men's squad and using her experience will help her lead younger teammates and keep team energy high.

"It's awesome that I have both men and women carrying me throughout all my practices and races," Zhang said. "I can fall back on 60 different people, and I think that's what makes our team really special."

The A-10 Swimming and Diving Championship kicks off in Geneva, Ohio on Wednesday.

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