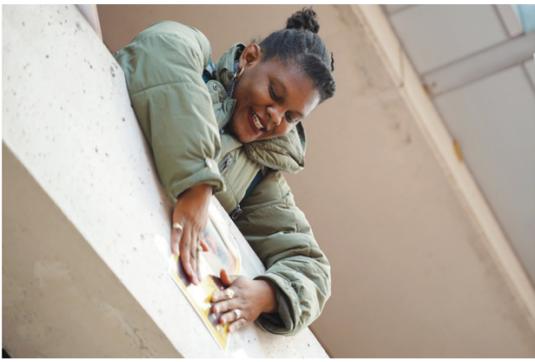


GUIDE TO THE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

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FILE PHOTO BY DEAN WHITELAW | PHOTOGRAPHER
Sophomore ShanTorrian Underwood, a candidate for SA president, hangs posters at the Marvin Center earlier this month.ALEXANDER WELLING | PHOTOGRAPHER
Junior SJ Matthews, a candidate for SA president, volunteers at the GroW Garden Sunday.FILE PHOTO BY OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR
Sophomore Nicole Cennamo, a candidate for SA president, speaks at a debate last week.SA CANDIDATES AGREE:
COMMUNITY IS LACKING ON CAMPUSKELLY HOOPER
STAFF WRITER

Students vying for the Student Association's top two posts this year all have the same goal: foster community.

Community-building initiatives – like adding non-academic spaces or boosting social programming – have emerged on the platforms of every candidate for SA president and executive vice president and a majority of those running for SA Senate seats. Candidates said community has always been lacking on an urban campus, but the issue has rocketed to the top of campaigns this year as more students voice concerns about few social spaces and a controversial University nickname.

"It's no secret that there really isn't a sense of school spirit or shared identity among GW students, and I think it's something that a lot of students wish they had at GW," Nicole Cennamo, the SA's vice president for academic affairs and a candidate for SA president, said.

Cennamo said she plans to address the issue by imple-

menting more programming for first-year students, like workshops on budgeting or diversity. Students could collect rewards for participating, which could then be used to attend other free University-sponsored events, like movie showings or a Nationals baseball game.

She also hopes to revamp the fourth floor of the Marvin Center into a student "living room" featuring a TV and board games, giving students a nonacademic setting to interact. The room would mirror student spaces offered at several of GW's peer schools, including Georgetown and Northeastern universities, she said.

Residence Hall Association President SJ Matthews, a candidate for SA president, said she plans to push officials to give students tap access to all residence halls. The extra access would allow students to use lounge spaces in every residence hall without needing a friend to tap them into the building, she said.

Officials piloted a program this semester granting freshmen tap access to all first-year residence halls.

"By giving students a place to go, whether it's to hang out with old friends or meet new ones, I think that helps build community," Matthews said.

SA Sen. ShanTorrian Underwood, CCAS-U and a candidate for SA president, said she wants to develop a pre-college leadership retreat for students of color. Participants would arrive on campus a few days before new student orientation to ask questions about the student experience and meet their peers from similar backgrounds.

"The whole premise of it is that students of color can come together before the school year begins and get to know each other, so when they arrive on campus for the academic year, they have a built-in network of students that they know, trust and can rely on for different resources," she said.

SA Sen. Amy Martin, ES-IA-U and a candidate for SA executive vice president, said she plans to foster community by advocating for more inclusive building names and a new University moniker. Martin said she would push

to change the name of the Marvin Center, named for former University President Cloyd Heck Marvin, who was known for segregationist policies.

SA leaders have twice formed task forces over the past two years to examine the "problematic" pasts of some building names, including the Marvin Center.

"It's great to have these overarching ideas of, 'We need to be a more inclusive university, blah blah blah,' but we need to also have the concrete initiatives that will take steps to get us there," Martin said. "Instituting peer educators, changing the names of buildings – it may seem like insignificant to some, but I think that it builds up to create a bigger change."

Martin said the Colonials nickname may also hinder community-building efforts because the moniker excludes some groups on campus, like international students and students of native heritage. She said she would push to change the name because "words carry weight."

Changing the nickname has been an ongoing debate

over the past year. More than 500 students signed a petition last spring urging officials to select a new nickname, and students will voice support for or against the effort in a referendum this week.

Quentin McHoes, a candidate for SA executive vice president, said changing the Colonials nickname would also ensure students of several backgrounds and communities "feel welcome" on campus. He said his campaign supports a shift away from the nickname but he would not advocate for the change if a majority of students do not support the effort this week.

"As an African and Native American, I'm intimately familiar with how difficult it can be to feel a genuine sense of inclusion and support from a university that embraces colonialism," he said.

Some candidates running for SA Senate positions have also included community-building tactics in their platforms. Of the 26 students vying for senate seats, 17 said they have included community initiatives in their platforms, five said they did not and four did not return

requests for comment.

Keith Nagy, a freshman running for an undergraduate seat representing the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, said he would advocate for the Vern Express to run more frequently so students living on the Mount Vernon Campus feel less isolated from Foggy Bottom. Between Monday and Thursday, the Vex departs from the Foggy Bottom Campus every 15 minutes between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m., but he wants the service to leave campus every five minutes during that window.

"You shouldn't have to choose between a life on the Vern and being an engaged and active student," he said.

Patrick Burland, a freshman running for a CCAS senate seat, said that if elected, he would advocate for a dining hall on the Foggy Bottom Campus.

"Food is scientifically and sociologically the No. 1 way that people bond and make friends, so to have a community, we really need places where people can meet up and share a meal together," he said.

Officials dodge questions on
GWPD leader's quiet departureILENA PENG
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The University has stayed hush on the circumstances surrounding the departure of the leader of the GW Police Department.

Darrell Darnell, the senior associate vice president for safety and security and the superintendent of police, has exited his position at least temporarily, University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar confirmed last week. But nearly a week after the news broke, officials have refused to answer more than a dozen questions seeking details about the leadership change and have yet to issue a formal University release informing the community.

Csellar confirmed Tuesday that Darnell has left his position but declined to say when. She said Assistant Chief of Police Mary Paradis is currently serving as the interim chief of the department, and a review of the Division of Safety and Security is being conducted.

Csellar declined to answer 14 follow-up questions about both Darnell's departure and the review of the division. She declined to say when Paradis took over as interim chief of police and why she took the position. Csellar declined to elaborate on the circumstances of Darnell's departure, including whether he had been let go, fired or suspended.

She declined to say whether the University expects Darnell to return to his post and if so, when. She declined to say whether any

other staffing changes have been made in the Division of Safety and Security over the past month.

Csellar declined to say who is conducting the review of the division, when the review commenced, what it entails and why it was launched. She declined to say when officials expect the review to conclude, how the University plans to use the findings and whether GW plans to implement structural or staffing changes in the division.

Paradis is the fourth person to lead GWPD since January 2018. Former GWPD Chief RaShall Brackney suddenly resigned at the start of the year, and interim chief Bessie Burrus was replaced by Darnell in April. Csellar declined to say how the review will assess the University's decision to hire Darnell instead of finding a new police chief.

A GWPD officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from the University, said the department was informed about three weeks ago that Darnell would be on administrative leave for two weeks. The officer said there has been little formal communication about the circumstances surrounding Darnell's departure, but rumors have been circulating around the department.

"Everyone here does not believe he'll come back," the officer said.

The officer said Darnell was not popular among GWPD officers and employees because he didn't let of-

ficers "perform all of our duties," like arrest members of the GW community.

The officer said the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators is conducting the review of the Division of Safety and Security to determine whether GWPD should keep its accreditation. Accreditation is formal recognition that a department follows the "highest professional standards," according to IACLEA's website.

The officer said the review will include interviews and ride-alongs with officers.

Another GWPD officer, who also spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from the University, said GW has not offered the department an explanation for Darnell's departure. But the officer said the department has generally reacted positively to the leadership change because Darnell allegedly could not effectively communicate with employees.

He said Darnell has been GWPD's "worst chief" and brought morale to its "lowest" point.

"If you're accused of anything in his eyesight, you're guilty, and he would try to fire you," the officer said. "I guess he's trying to act like he's doing his job, but he doesn't care about the officers, he only cares about himself."

The Hatchet reached out to Darnell via phone, email and two social media profiles. He did not return multiple requests for comment.

FILE PHOTO BY OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR
Former men's basketball coach Maurice Joseph and his team of assistant coaches were fired one day after the team concluded the 2018-19 season.Joseph led faltering men's basketball
with 'passion' after controversyBARBARA ALBERTS &
LIZ PROVENCHER
EDITORS

Three years ago, men's basketball needed a change.

The program had garnered a three-year streak of 20-win seasons starting in 2013 and took the first-ever NIT Championship trophy back to Foggy Bottom in 2016. But months after the confetti flew and the dust settled, men's basketball became entangled in controversy as former head coach Mike Lonergan fell under verbal and emotional abuse allegations, leading to his dismissal, a legal dispute and a rush of players transferring out of the program.

When the team needed a leader two months before the first tip-off of the 2016-17 season, officials looked to the bench and called up 31-year-old Maurice Joseph. But just three years into his five-year contract with men's basketball, Joseph was fired from the helm one day after turning in the program's worst record in a decade.

Joseph's head coaching tenure does not boast postseason accolades. The Colonials secured a single winning record under the head coach and averaged fewer points per contest each season with Joseph at the helm.

But former players said Joseph brought energy and passion to a pro-

gram in turmoil, despite being the youngest and most inexperienced head coach in the Atlantic 10.

Taking the helm as a
fresh face

Joseph – a third-year assistant coach at the time – was tapped to lead the program over his more-experienced colleagues. Then-sixth-year associate head coach Hajj Turner was knocked down to an assistant role for Joseph and former assistant coach Carmen Maciariello, who had nine years of experience in the position overall, was also snubbed for the job.

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PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



SHANTORRIAN UNDERWOOD SOPHOMORE

HOMETOWN: TAMPA, FLA.
MAJOR: AFRICANA STUDIES
CLUBS/ACTIVITIES: ACE MAGAZINE, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS, COLONIAL INAUGURATION, PUBLIC SERVICE GRANT COMMISSION
SA EXPERIENCE: CCAS SENATOR, VICE CHAIR OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
DREAM JOB: SOMETHING MAKING SURE ALL STORIES FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES ARE BEING REPRESENTED IN THE MEDIA
ROLE MODEL: MY MOM. OPRAH. ANY BLACK WOMAN WHO HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND OVERCOME ADVERSITY.

DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

GABBY PINO
REPORTER

ShanTorrian Underwood's bid for Student Association president is personal.

Nearly all of her policy proposals are based on her personal experiences and struggles at the University. As a first-generation student and a student of color, Underwood said her platform includes ideas to improve the student experience for peers just like her.

"The goal is to make sure I have a platform where I can bring other students to the table," Underwood said. "That is what I want to do and that is what I'm going to do. I'm not here to just have the title and position and not do anything. I'm here to do work. I'm here to make change happen."

Underwood, a sophomore and an undergraduate SA senator representing the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, said being the

first of her family to attend college was both "momentous" and stressful because she had no "point of reference" for navigating campus or her courses. If elected, she hopes to create a website dedicated to first-generation students, where incoming students can access tips and testimonials from their peers, she said.

"I want to ensure that there are more personal stories on there and, if the students are willing and they

want to have their story out there, I want to have a more student-centered perspective on the website," she said.

Underwood's platform also proposes a retreat for students of color that would take place over the days before new student orientation in August. The retreat would include workshops for students to navigate food insecurity and get to know one another before officially starting class.

As a former Colonial

Inauguration leader, Underwood said students often feel overwhelmed with orientation and do not have enough time to meet people from similar backgrounds.

"As a student of color, as a black woman on this campus, something that I am extremely passionate about is making sure that students who come from diverse communities can be better connected," Underwood said.

In her platform, Under-

wood also outlined plans to add more multicultural and affordable vendors to GWorld to help combat food insecurity – a problem she has also faced during her time at GW.

"That's a big issue on this campus, and that's something I am personally very passionate about because students shouldn't be hungry, students shouldn't not have access to a basic thing that you need in order to survive," she said.

NICOLE CENNAMO SOPHOMORE

HOMETOWN: NEW FAIRFIELD, CONN.
MAJOR: POLITICAL SCIENCE
CLUBS/ACTIVITIES: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP NETWORK, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SOCIETY, LEADING WOMEN OF TOMORROW
SA EXPERIENCE: ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
DREAM JOB: STARTING A GLOBAL NONPROFIT TO ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO GO INTO PUBLIC SERVICE
ROLE MODEL: MY AUNT LAURA

DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR



ALISA KINGSBURY
REPORTER

Nicole Cennamo is a listener.

It's the one trait that has defined her leadership style in multiple student organizations on campus. While she isn't the most talkative person in the room, Cennamo said she is often taking in students' concerns and trying to translate them into "concrete solutions" – a characteristic she wants to bring to the Student Association's top post.

"I think for me, personally, what I've learned through-

out my different organizations is that it's OK to not be the loudest person in the room and still be a leader," she said.

Since joining the SA as a freshman last year, Cennamo has moved into two different cabinet positions – but she has noticed that those outside of the organization often view the SA as removed from the student body. She said she wants to use her insight and experience in the student government to elevate student voices in an organization many view as "elitist."

"A lot of times, when we

picture student government, we picture fancy policy proposals or committees, or some kind of bureaucratic title in a way, but for me, student advocacy transcends that," she said. "It's about having compassion towards people around you and being willing to help no matter the cost."

Cennamo's platform highlights more than a dozen points, including examining the physical accessibility of academic buildings across campus and creating diversity training for faculty in every academic department. She said some of her goals

are continuations of her work as the SA's vice president for academic affairs.

In her role this year, Cennamo surveyed students and faculty on the need for a standardized clicker brand and helped pilot one-on-one academic advising for students in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. She said she also created freshman forums to give students a platform to discuss their first year on campus.

If elected, Cennamo said she also wants to dedicate the fourth floor of the Marvin Center for students to watch

TV or play board games. She said community is often lost on a campus with no dining hall, and most student spaces are used for studying instead of mingling.

Cennamo said she wants to frame students' artwork and tack photos of student organizations on the wall of the room to give individuals an area where they can see each other's work and potentially learn about students from different backgrounds.

Cennamo also included an initiative on her platform inspired by her experiences at her home in Connecticut.

She said that after a shooter killed more than 20 people at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, her nearby town was shaken.

She wants to place active shooter kits including medical supplies in classrooms on the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses to help members of the community prepare for an emergency situation.

"It was just a very hard time for us, and I really want to make sure that situation doesn't happen at GW or anywhere in our community again," she said.



SJ MATTHEWS JUNIOR

HOMETOWN: CHATHAM, N.J.
MAJOR: CLASSICAL STUDIES, HISTORY
CLUBS/ACTIVITIES: RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION, WOMEN'S RUGBY TEAM, GW STAR, KAPPA ALPHA THETA, GW CATHOLICS
SA EXPERIENCE: NONE
DREAM JOB: ANY JOB WHERE I CAN HELP PEOPLE. SERVICE, SOCIAL WORK.
ROLE MODEL: COMEDIAN KATE MCKINNON

DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

SHANNON MALLARD
STAFF WRITER

In the Residence Hall Association, SJ Matthews prioritizes teamwork.

As the president of the organization, Matthews works with teams of hall council members and administrators to push forward projects to improve residential living. She said her people skills have allowed her to roll out collaborative initiatives this year, like granting freshmen tap access to all first-year residence halls and offering cooking classes to the group.

Now, she wants to bring that skillset to the Student

Association's top post.

"I like building people up and bringing them together because I think when we're all working together, we can accomplish infinitely more than we can separately," she said.

She said her experience as RHA president has prepared her to assume the role of SA president because she fostered relationships with administrators like Seth Weinsel, the assistant dean of housing and financial services, and John Ralls, the director of communications and outreach for the Division of Operations. Her talks with those administrators allowed

the RHA to buy pots and pans for students in shared residence hall kitchens, she said.

"I've been really fortunate in my role as RHA president to build all these great relationships with administrators which I think would really easily translate to the SA," she said.

Matthews' platform focuses on expanding initiatives she advocated for as RHA president, like tap access in every residence hall and adding furniture in residence hall lounges. Dean of the Student Experience Cissy Petty proposed adding more furniture in residence hall

spaces after visiting different halls last semester.

"I want to make sure that students feel that they can find that community, and I want to be able to usher in a new era of GW where we actually support our students," she said.

But Matthews said she was driven to launch a campaign for the SA's top post after hearing students' struggles in their everyday lives on campus. She heard earlier this semester that more than 60 students allegedly did not receive their financial aid packages on time this semester, preventing them from registering for classes.

She said students should be able to focus on their academics without worrying about processing financial aid documents.

"The University should first and foremost always be working to support its students, and in the case of the incident with the financial aid office, it failed to do that," she said.

Matthews said she has hosted listening sessions in residence halls and on the Mount Vernon Campus throughout her campaign to hear out students ahead of the election. She planned to discuss and update her platform throughout the month

as she spoke with students.

"I feel like it's on us as student leaders to make sure we are as accessible and transparent as possible," she said. "I want to work to make sure students know exactly what's happening in the SA at all times."

Matthews said that if elected, she hopes to scrap some "redundant" general education requirements in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences.

"There are just too many core requirements," she said. "It makes it harder to graduate, it makes it harder to take classes you're actually interested in."

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

QUENTIN McHOES JUNIOR



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

HOMETOWN: CODY, WYO.
MAJOR: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, SPANISH
CLUBS/ACTIVITIES: RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION, GW CLASS COUNCIL
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE: STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE WITH NORTHWEST COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
DREAM JOB: IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY
ROLE MODEL: MY MOTHER AND TWIN SISTER

LILLIAN BAUTISTA
REPORTER

Three months before Quentin McHoes arrived on campus for the first time, he sent emails to the Student Association's top two leaders asking if there was an opening in the organization.

McHoes, who transferred to GW this academic year after spending two years at Northwest College in Wyoming, said student advocacy has always been one of his "greatest causes." He was a member of Northwest Col-

lege's student association for two years before heading across the country to GW.

When he arrived on campus last fall, McHoes said he took on leadership roles in the Residence Hall Association and Class Council – organizations where he met his closest friends – but still wanted a role where he could affect the most policy changes.

So he decided to launch a bid for executive vice president of the SA.

"I had a lot of opportunities to write legislation that

passed that was both effective and that was bold," McHoes said of his prior experience in student government.

McHoes said he plans to use his status as an SA outsider to his advantage by offering students and officials a fresh face to discuss initiatives and ideas.

"I do consider myself an outsider when it comes to our Student Association here, and I embrace that reality because I strongly believe that by being an outsider to our SA, I'll be able to work with

all students to be more effective and do more good for all of us," he said.

At Northwest College, McHoes served as a leader of the Organization for Latin American and Hispanic Languages, the Northwest College honor society Phi Epsilon, the Native Ways Organization and the student government. In student government, McHoes said he championed a bill that required the student association to dedicate a seat for international students.

When he first launched

his campaign, McHoes said he began a "listening tour," where he visited different academic buildings and places like the Marvin Center and District House to informally sit down and discuss different topics with students, like affordability concerns and a lack of community.

McHoes' platform focuses on affordability initiatives, namely goals to reduce or eliminate the cost of mental health assessments, psychiatric care appointments at the Colonial Health Center, printing and laundry. He

said that while many of his platform points came from listening to students and student organizations, he is also personally affected by the high cost of living on campus.

"I genuinely believe that there is nothing wrong with GW that cannot be fixed by what's right at GW," he said. "Contrary to what it seems like in the status quo, we don't have to look beyond our own student orgs, our own communities for the solutions to solve any of these problems."



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

AMY MARTIN SOPHOMORE

HOMETOWN: PORTLAND, ORE.
MAJOR: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
CLUBS/ACTIVITIES: PI BETA PHI, GW PITCHES, GW DANCE MARATHON
SA EXPERIENCE: STUDENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE, ESIA SENATOR, VICE CHAIR OF STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE
DREAM JOB: LAWYER IN INTERNATIONAL LAW OR HUMAN RIGHTS LAW
ROLE MODEL: FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS SAMANTHA POWER

DONNA ARMSTRONG
STAFF WRITER

Over the past year, Amy Martin spent her free time reading the Student Association constitution and bylaws.

Martin, who is currently an undergraduate senator for the Elliott School of International Affairs, said soaking up the SA's governing documents helped her understand the role of the organization and inspired her to lead next year. If elected as the SA's next executive vice president, Martin said she will use her

knowledge of the bylaws to help incoming senators write legislation and understand SA operations.

"I think legislation is such a powerful medium, when done properly, and the language that you can use can really carry a message and can carry a message with weight," Martin said.

Martin said she has been involved in some form of student government since she was in the sixth grade. When she arrived at GW, Martin joined the SA's student engagement committee and

worked on a paper-saving campaign with former SA leaders.

This academic year, she picked up projects like People for Periods, a student-run group that distributes feminine hygiene products to some buildings around campus, and led advocacy efforts to change the Colonials nickname.

As an SA senator, Martin also held and attended listening sessions for underrepresented groups, like the international and black student communities, to

better understand the concerns of minority students. She said having her hands in a multitude of SA projects and initiatives helped shape her platform, where she outlined goals to implement diversity training for student organizations and grow People for Periods into a GW-run initiative.

"I want to keep working," Martin said. "That's really the reason I decided to run for EVP is because I'm not done working yet."

If elected, Martin said she also wants to train members

of the diversity and inclusion assembly to conduct diversity training for student organizations. She said student leaders have expressed interest in participating in a diversity training but were concerned that there may not be enough trained staff to conduct the training for every student group.

"They would go through comprehensive training," Martin said. "Then, student organizations would be able to come to the Student Association and ask for peer educators to go out to their

organizations to lead conversations on different topics."

Martin said she has been "beyond frustrated" with the SA Senate over the past year because few pieces of legislation have been passed, and senators often do not fully grasp the organization's procedures, like finding a proxy for meetings or writing legislation.

If elected, Martin said she wants to better educate senators about SA procedures and create a report for the student body on the senate's progress once every semester.

FACT CHECK

SARAH ROACH
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Candidates running for the Student Association's top posts often pack their platforms with promises, but some goals are not backed with sound research. The Hatchet sifted through each candidate's initiatives and pulled out points where the SA hopefuls misstated the facts. Here are some of the findings:

SJ MATTHEWS PLATFORM POINT

Matthews said she would form a food insecurity committee with students, officials and dining partners to "identify the causes of food insecurity" and combat the issue.

FACT CHECK

SA leaders formed a food insecurity task force with officials, faculty and staff last semester aiming to evaluate the prevalence of food insecurity on campus and draft recommendations on how to curb the issue. Members of the task force hosted a town hall on the subject in the fall semester.

QUENTIN McHOES PLATFORM POINT

McHoes is advocating to grant all students tap access to all residence halls. He said granting tap access would not pose a safety threat because student access monitors are based in the lobby of every residence hall.

FACT CHECK

The University does not mandate that halls are staffed with security 24/7. At least two residence halls have lacked tap access monitors more than 95 percent of the time this past academic year, according to an analysis by The Hatchet.

NICOLE CENNAMO PLATFORM POINT

Cennamo said that if elected, she would mandate that professors include a protocol for an active shooter situation in their course syllabi.

FACT CHECK

The University currently requires faculty to reference GW's safety and security policy in their course syllabi, which states that the class should take shelter in the case of an emergency. If there is immediate danger in the building where students are located, the class is expected to follow the building's evacuation procedures, according to the statement.

AMY MARTIN PLATFORM POINT

Martin said in an interview that she wants to clarify Title IX policies, which she said have been "in a state of flux" recently. GW overhauled its Title IX investigation process last spring, but federal officials have proposed new Title IX guidelines that could nix the new model.

FACT CHECK

The most up-to-date Title IX policies and procedures are publicly available on GW's Haven website. Officials have said the current investigator model will remain in effect while administrators monitor the proposed federal guidelines.

SHANTORRIAN UNDERWOOD PLATFORM POINT

Underwood said she wants to lower the 6 percent cut GW takes from all GWorld swipes at food vendors. The figure used to be listed on a website for GWorld rentals.

FACT CHECK

The University does not publicly state what percent of sales is taken from each GWorld transaction, but vendors told The Hatchet in 2017 that the figure hangs between 8 and 10 percent. University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said the 6 percent number referenced the portion of total sales taken from a student organization that used a GWorld card reader at an event.

UNDERGRADUATE CCAS SENATE SEAT MOST CONTESTED OF SA ELECTIONS



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

FILE PHOTO BY DEAN WHITELAW | PHOTOGRAPHER
Freshman Charles Aborisade, a candidate for CCAS senator, hangs a poster advertising his campaign.

JARED GANS
STAFF WRITER

One year ago, six students ran campaigns to represent the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences in the Student Association Senate – the exact number needed to fill the slots.

The uncontested race ended unsurprisingly – but this year, 11 hopefuls are vying to claim the title of CCAS-U senator, making the race the most competitive of all SA positions. Candidates said the increase in the number of

contenders reflects high interest in student government among CCAS freshmen, who make up all but one of the candidates in the race.

SA Sen. André Gonzales, CCAS-U, the only current CCAS senator running for re-election and the only non-freshman running for the spot, said he chose to run for CCAS-U rather than undergraduate-at-large because he wants to aid a specific constituency. He said the post allows him to hear out issues specific to CCAS, like securing enough funding for the music department.

"I want to be the one that says I will run for a CCAS seat so I can bring that institutional knowledge and continue to be an advocate for the Columbian College," Gonzales said.

Gonzales, who was confirmed to the senate earlier this semester, said the undergraduate CCAS seat could be the most popular because the school houses majors like journalism and political science, and freshmen may be eager to have a hand in the student government.

"It's refreshing to see

that there's young blood coming in," Gonzales said. "It's refreshing to see that there are new voices coming to the table."

Freshman Keith Nagy, a CCAS-U candidate, said the seat could be more competitive than years past because students

"I want to be the one that says I will run for a CCAS seat so I can bring that institutional knowledge and continue to be an advocate for the Columbian College."

ANDRÉ GONZALES
CCAS-U SENATOR, CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION

want to push for initiatives that directly impact CCAS students, like a one-on-one advising system. CCAS students are currently separated into three "POD" groups featuring multiple academic advisers, but officials piloted a one-on-one advising model for POD 3 students this semester.

"A competitive election will produce better candidates and eventually better public leaders," Nagy said.

Freshman Patrick Burland said he is running for CCAS-U because he wants to advocate for a mix of CCAS-specific and University-wide initiatives, like offering personal academic advisers for every student and creating a lounge for

commuter students.

He said his platform includes both school-specific and University goals because he wants to work to improve the lives of all students at the University, not just those in CCAS. He said lowering fees for laundry and receiving transcripts are two of his University-wide goals.

"I'm getting into the nitty-gritty things that can change very quickly, as well as some long-term things," Burland said.

Freshman Morgan Berk, a CCAS-U candidate, said she decided to run for the senate seat after serving on the SA's student engagement committee this year.

Because the CCAS-U election is the most contested, Berk said she is trying to stand out among other candidates by meeting directly with constituents. She said most CCAS-U candidates have pushed their campaigns on social media instead of directly meeting with students.

"I like to think that a meaningful conversation with students about what they want to be done in the SA will be more effective than endless posts and stories," Berk said in an email.

BEHIND THE PLATFORM: MEET THE CAMPAIGN MANAGERS

LIZZIE MINTZ
STAFF WRITER

When Crystal Nieves Murphy wakes up every morning, she sends a text: "What do you need me to do?"

Nieves Murphy, a former Hatchet reporter and the campaign manager for Quentin McHoes, a candidate for Student Association executive vice president, said balancing different tasks, like managing his calendar and scheduling meetings with student organizations, is part of the day-to-day work that keeps McHoes and the rest of his team on track before the election.

She and four other students said they met the candidates for the SA's top two spots in other student groups and slowly took on managerial roles as their friends expressed interest in student government. They said their behind-the-scenes work, including scheduling meetings with students and administrators and teaching other members of the campaign team about SA election rules, allows those vying for top spots to focus on the substance of their campaigns instead of nitty-gritty details.

"It's mainly a lot of multitasking and knowing what everyone's doing at any point in time," Nieves

Murphy said. "I'm really just an organizer."

Nieves Murphy said she and McHoes worked together this academic year as vice president and president, respectively, of the District House Residence Hall Association council. She said that while she is studying abroad in the fall and likely would not serve on his staff if he were elected, she wanted to jump into behind-the-scenes campaign work because she supports McHoes' platform points.

"When he asked me, I said yes because I totally believe in what he stands for," she said. "I truly believe that if he is asking me, he knows that I'm capable of doing the job."

SA Sen. Hayley Margolis, CCAS-U and the campaign manager for SA executive vice presidential candidate Amy Martin, said she wanted to join Martin's campaign because the two have worked together on advocacy projects throughout the year as SA senators. The pair spearheaded an effort to change the Colonials nickname, which Martin included in her platform.

Margolis said that as a campaign manager, she can continue her work as an SA senator and help Martin create graphics for posters or organize the candidate's schedule. She

said she would be interested in serving on Martin's staff if she were elected but did not specify a particular role.

"When I heard she was running, I thought it would be a really good opportunity to support her and, in my own way, have a new experience in the SA of helping someone else's campaign and supporting a friend rather than just my own campaign," Margolis said.

Sophomore Jillian Wolons, the campaign manager for SA presidential candidate Nicole Cennamo and the SA's vice president for community affairs, said she and Cennamo have become "good friends" after working on the SA together for two years. She said she wanted to join the candidate's campaign team to experience a new element of the SA outside of the executive cabinet.

"I really wanted to have the opportunity to influence all aspects of the student experience and not just one particular piece of it," she said.

Wolons said she sends hundreds of texts and Facebook messages to Cennamo's team – which consists of about 10 students – each week, checks on peers who run Cennamo's social media and assists with tasks like helping Cennamo prepare her

DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
From left: Sophomores Jillian Wolons, Hayley Margolis and Aashka Varma and freshman Andrea Cardenas all serve as campaign managers for Student Association candidates this year.

ballot statement.

She said one of the "biggest" aspects of being a campaign manager is making herself available to take on any last-minute task as it arises. Even as she balances an internship on Capitol Hill and a full course load, Wolons said she often finds herself at work and in class dealing with campaign-related issues.

"It's really just about prioritizing her needs," Wolons said. "I know her slogan is 'Prioritizing You,' but in a way, I feel like I'm prioritizing her."

Aashka Varma, the campaign manager for presidential candidate SJ Matthews, said she joined Matthews' team after bonding with the current RHA president through their memberships in both

the RHA and the Panhellenic Association. Varma said she was eager to join Matthews' campaign because she wants to help the candidate foster a sense of community on campus.

Varma said she assigns daily tasks to team members and oversees projects like producing graphics, creating videos and prepping Matthews for the SA debate last week.

"A lot of people, I feel, personally run for SA president to pad their resume a bit, especially at GW," Varma said. "At a school like this, that's something that a lot of people end up doing, but SJ does not need to do that."

Freshman Andrea Cardenas, the campaign manager for SA Sen. ShanTorrian Underwood,

CCAS-U and a candidate for SA president, said she joined Underwood's campaign because she supports her platform point advocating for a retreat for students of color. She said she typically spends time helping Underwood caption social media posts and organizing question-and-answer events with students.

"I really love the fact that she wants to have the people of color retreat before coming in," Cardenas said. "That was something that I know a lot of my friends at predominantly white institutions have, and I never had that experience, so that was something big for me to even know that someone cared enough to think of an idea like that."

THREE REFERENDUMS ADDRESS COLONIALS NICKNAME, INTERNAL SA CHANGES

PAIGE MORSE
STAFF WRITER

Students will vote on three referendums during the Student Association elections this week.

The referendums tackle topics that, if approved by a majority vote, would make changes to the SA's internal structure and

press officials to consider a controversial push to change the Colonials nickname. Here's what you need to know:

Changing the longstanding Colonials nickname

The most highly anticipated referendum will ask students whether GW should consider a new nickname. More than 500 students signed a petition last spring calling on officials to switch the name to something less "offensive," but officials have not yet said whether they are open to a change.

Efforts to change the nickname slowed in the fall, but SA leaders revived the push this semester with a faculty panel discussion touching on the negative connotations of colonialism around the world.

Creating a vice president for government relations

Students will also weigh in on whether the SA should replace the vice president for community affairs position with a vice president for government relations. The updated post would expand the role of the vice president for community affairs to require that they attend local government meetings.

Adding a nondiscrimination policy to the SA's constitution

Students will also decide whether the SA should add a nondiscrimination policy to its constitution. The policy, if approved, would protect members of the SA from being discriminated against on the basis of race, sex, ethnicity, religion or disability.

The University mandated last March that all registered student organizations include nondiscrimination policies in their governing documents, but the mandate was issued too late to amend the SA constitution.

EDITORIAL BOARD ENDORSEMENTS

SJ Matthews for SA president



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

While the best candidate for Student Association president typically boasts years of experience in the organization, an SA outsider beats out the competition this year. SJ Matthews should get

your vote for SA president. After meeting with all three candidates, Matthews showcased the most realistic platform with creative solutions to long-standing problems and will bring a fresh per-

spective to the SA.

It is always concerning when a candidate rolls out a platform of 15 to 20 large goals because it is important for leaders to be realistic about what they can accomplish, but Matthews took the time and effort to address each problem she sees on campus with both a short-term solution she can implement right away and a longer-term solution she can shoot for over time.

Matthews' platform also stood out because of her creativity. Food insecurity has been a buzzword in the past couple SA elections, but students have presented the same solutions time and time again. Matthews' platform to tackle food insecurity by teaching students how to cook affordable meals and avoid buying expensive food on a day-to-day basis is by far the most hands-on approach, and the editorial board was impressed by her unconventional ideas.

Matthews also brought issues to the table that often go unnoticed. Other candidates focus on the student experience outside the classroom, but Matthews was the only one to include a platform point about academ-

ics, promising to ensure that all rooms are equipped with basic technology like whiteboards, document cameras and projectors.

As an outsider, Matthews was also the only candidate to include reforming the SA in her platform. Matthews said many students do not have a strong connection with the student government and while her plan to create transparency is not tangible and largely consists of efforts the SA already does – we appreciated that she recognized this hurdle that is often not talked about.

The two other candidates presented platforms that were filled with unrealistic or poorly-researched platform points.

Underwood had a platform that lacked preparation. While she had ideas the editorial board liked including adding Multicultural Student Services Center programs to the Mount Vernon Campus and creating a leadership program for students of color, in our conversation she admitted she did not reach out to the officials to get adequate feedback and assess the feasibility of her plans.

While some points seemed under-researched,

others did not make sense. Underwood discussed a program that would encourage students to take paper they want to recycle to their specific SA representative, but recycling bins can be found all around campus and there is no need for a middle man.

Underwood also said she wanted to reduce the buy-in for new restaurants that want to take GWorld as payment, but encouraging the University to further cut back its profits isn't realistic and this doesn't address the issue of food insecurity, it just increases the number of restaurants that students can spend their money on.

Cennamo has solid research to back up a few of her platform points but considering her experience, we were disappointed that her platform and hearing fell flat because she was unable to articulate the reasoning behind some of her central platform points.

The editorial board was puzzled about how many of her goals would actually help students. She said creating a financial aid compact would hold the office accountable, but her plan is simply to put words on paper. She also said she wanted to push for

transparency on why housing costs at GW are so high, but she also said administrators told her it wasn't feasible, but she left it on her platform anyway.

While Matthews' platform was stronger than the others, it is important to recognize that she did have weak points. The editorial board believes that diversity and inclusion is a major issue on campus, so it was disappointing that it was not a point on Matthews' platform. But in our conversation, she explained that she buckled down on having a diverse group of leaders as president of the Residence Hall Association and now she wants to carry that expectation on by appointing diverse members to her cabinet.

While none of the presidential candidates had all of the answers to our questions during their hearings, Matthews brought creative solutions to the table. As a student with experience leading a large organization, is well-versed in University operations but is also a stranger to the SA, Matthews is well-positioned for the role.

Vote Matthews for SA president on Wednesday or Thursday.

Amy Martin for SA executive vice president

Both candidates for Student Association executive vice president came into the race with different experiences and backgrounds. One is an SA outsider who embarked on a listening tour to learn about the student body, while the other is an SA senator with nearly two years of experience.

Both candidates are exceptionally qualified and can make a difference in students' lives with their unique strengths. But Amy Martin's experience and institutional knowledge made her stand out as poised to take the job.

Her relationships with administrators and in the SA will help her work with the SA president and see the realistic goals on her platform come to fruition. When we sat down with Martin, she pointed to her experience to answer questions about how she will approach her platform and cited data, testimony from students and discussions with administrators to prove the feasibility of her goals.

While Martin's platform encompassed a wide array of campus issues, what is most impressive was her ability to combine goals that are action-

able in the short-term with long-term goals. Her ability to discuss each aspect of her platform – including potential challenges – showed that she is well-versed in SA and University procedures, which is a necessity for the SA Senate's leader.

She has already started the fight for one of her key platform points of pushing toward an inclusive mascot by leading the effort to put a referendum on the ballot to assess student opinion on changing the Colonials nickname.

Martin's platform takes on some of the most pressing issues on campus, including combating food insecurity, enhancing the campus community with dedicated student spaces and expanding mental health care on the Mount Vernon Campus.

While Martin's experience ultimately put her over the top, we were also impressed with her opponent, junior Quentin McHoes. He transferred to GW from a two-year community college in Wyoming and impressed the editorial board with a passionate platform that focused on smaller priorities.

While he entered the race with a steep learning curve

ahead, McHoes kicked off his campaign with a listening tour where he spoke to nearly 300 students and has brought a refreshingly open-minded and outsider approach to the race.

McHoes' platform focused on eliminating costly and unnecessary fees, like laundry, mental health assessments and printing, and we applauded him for conjuring up a platform of initiatives that seem achievable.

But we had concerns about some of his more lofty platform points. McHoes' platform included a desire for more blue light security systems on campus but didn't focus on other security measures that might better serve students. He expressed concern that officials continue raising students' dining dollars, but he didn't provide a realistic solution to address food insecurity on campus.

While his platform did a good job of identifying pain points in student life at GW, it was underdeveloped and concerningly vague. He overcame this a bit during our conversation, but it was not enough to edge out the institutional knowledge and experience Martin brought to the table.

Many of McHoes' goals were rooted in personal experience and conversations with students. His dedication to listening to students is important, but also troubling. When answering questions, he continuously said he wanted to get student input and while it is good that he wants to be sure he represents students, the SA needs leaders that can make immediate change – not just listen. It was apparent from Martin's hearing that she is capable of listening while also charging ahead and making changes based on her own opinions and research.

There are pros and cons that come with being wrapped up in the world of the SA. While rattling off past SA initiatives and legislation, it appeared at times that Martin struggled to break the SA bubble and relate to students that aren't involved in government. But we were encouraged by McHoes' outsider vantage point. Ultimately, the executive vice president position must be the most well-versed in SA proceedings so they can effectively lead the senate, and it was clear from speaking with Martin and reading her platform that



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

she could do that.

It is clear that Martin will be able to seamlessly step in and lead the SA. With her experience, realistic goals and passion for students, she can continue fighting for

issues that she has been advocating for as an SA senator if she is elected executive vice president.

Vote for Martin for SA executive vice president on Wednesday and Thursday.

How to vote on this year's Student Association referendums

In addition to selecting who will hold the top two posts of the Student Association, students will cast their vote in three referendums this week. This year's referendums cover two SA administrative changes and a hotly contested topic: whether to change the University's nickname.

Vote yes on: SA non-discrimination clause

The only student organization on campus that does not currently have a non-discrimination clause in its bylaws or constitution is the SA, even though all student groups were mandated to include the clause on their constitutions since last March.

Voting yes on this referendum is a no-brainer. The non-discrimination clause mandates that organizations

cannot deny positions to students on the basis of race, religion or sexual orientation. Like all other organizations on campus, the SA should be held to the standard of treating all students – regardless of their background – fairly and equally.

The sole reason this update made its way to the ballot is that the SA cannot make changes to its bylaws without a referendum. So while this measure is largely symbolic, it is important that students support the SA in putting their commitment to all types of students in writing.

Vote yes on: Expanding community affairs position

With so much going on around the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campus-

es, it can be easy for students to have blinders on when it comes to what is happening off campus. But students play a vital role in the community and local political decisions can have an impact on students.

Students should vote yes on renaming and expanding the SA's community affairs position. Rebranding the position would put having a stronger awareness of local governing bodies like the Advisory Neighborhood Commission and Foggy Bottom Association into the job description.

Students, whether they live on campus or not, should be aware of the issues that are affecting nearby residents. Even though most students aren't on campus for more than four years, our presence at GW makes an impact on in-

dividuals and families that call Foggy Bottom home. The relationship that residents have with students isn't always cooperative because of the disruptive nature that transient college students can have on a residential neighborhood, so this strained relationship calls for a student leader to engage with residents and advocate on behalf of students.

In addition to creating a clear advocate for students, if this referendum is approved it will drive home the fact that the student body must be engaged in local politics.

Vote yes on: Changing the Colonials nickname

Of all the referendums on the ballot this year, it is clear that this issue is the most controversial. For many students, the University's nickname is a

sore and unwelcome reminder of colonization, while for others, changing the nickname is along the same lines of erasing history from a textbook.

Students should vote yes on changing the Colonials nickname because while some may not find it offensive, it is a problem that we cannot proudly represent GW in all contexts. Students who have traveled abroad with GW are familiar with the notion that wearing school attire that says Colonials is highly discouraged – and that is a problem.

When the conversation about changing the nickname began last spring, The Hatchet's editorial board applauded students who spoke out and encouraged administrators to pursue whether this criticism was widely held by students and alumni. While

not all members of our editorial board feel strongly that the name should be changed, we all think it is important to have a nickname that all students can be proud of and aren't particularly tied to the Colonials.

If students show that they support this measure, administrators will be forced to comment on the topic – which they have failed to do so far. Administrators need to either move forward with a nickname change or stand their ground and explain why we should all be proud to be Colonials. An administrator's most important job is to advocate for and represent students, but by flat out ignoring one of the topics students have been most passionate about this year, they are failing to do that job.

CRIME LOG

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/ VANDALISM

University Yard
Unknown – Unknown
Closed Case

The GW Police Department responded to a report of a white smiley face spray-painted on the base of the George Washington statue in University Yard. Officers notified facilities to remove the graffiti.

No suspects or witnesses

PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS

International House (Parking Lot)
3/11/2019 – 1:27 p.m.
Closed Case

GWPD responded to a report that a man unaffiliated with GW was asleep in the parking lot. D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services and the Metropolitan Police Department responded. D.C. FEMS evaluated the subject, found that he was intoxicated and transported him to the GW Hospital for further medical treatment. GWPD officers issued him a bar notice.

Subject barred

HARASSMENT: EMAIL AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Thurston Hall
3/14/2019 – 2 to 3 p.m.
Closed Case

A female student reported receiving harassing text messages from her ex-boyfriend, who is not affiliated with GW. There is limited information about the content of the messages.

Subject barred

— Compiled by Valerie Yurk

Lawsuit claims GW Hospital failed to diagnose abscess that paralyzed patient



FILE PHOTO BY GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

GW Hospital is a defendant in a medical malpractice lawsuit filed in the D.C. Superior Court last week.

ILENA PENG

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A medical malpractice lawsuit filed in the D.C. Superior Court Tuesday claims that GW Hospital doctors failed to properly diagnose and treat a patient, causing him to become permanently disabled.

The 23-page complaint alleges that GW Hospital failed to find and treat an abscess, a collection of pus, located in plaintiff Kareem Jenkins' neck last year. The abscess compressed 43-year-old Jenkins' spinal cord and rendered him paralyzed from the neck down three days after he visited the hospital with complaints of neck pain and stiffness, according to the complaint.

Jenkins, represented by attorneys H. Briggs Bedi-

gian, Jon Stefanuca and Jack Olender, is suing the hospital and two GW doctors for \$50 million on one count of negligence and one count of failure to obtain informed consent. Informed consent, as outlined in the D.C. Code, requires doctors to provide patients with all treatment options.

"Given the nature and severity of Mr. Jenkins' symptoms and his reported history of HIV infection and absence of any injury, the physicians and nurses in the emergency department at GWUH should have considered possible abscess in their differential diagnosis and should have undertaken a diagnostic work up to rule it out," the lawsuit states.

Jenkins did not return multiple requests for comment. Two of his lawyers did not return multiple requests

for comment, while Bedigian declined.

Susan Griffiths, a spokeswoman for GW Hospital, did not return a request for comment. Robert Shesser, the chair of GW Hospital's Department of Emergency Medicine, and emergency medicine resident Joshua Oppenheimer are named as defendants in the case. Shesser declined to comment, and Oppenheimer did not return multiple requests for comment.

Jenkins allegedly entered the emergency room at GW Hospital on June 13 with complaints of "severe worsening neck pain and stiffness" that he began to experience the day prior. Jenkins claimed that he could not move his head side to side and rated his pain as a 10 out of 10.

Jenkins allegedly spent

five hours in the emergency room, where doctors recorded high blood pressure and an elevated heart rate. Doctors did not complete a diagnostic workup and instead provided the patient with Toradol, Tylenol and Valium, the suit states.

Doctors then allegedly told Jenkins that their evaluation had been "reassuring," and it was "safe for him to go home." But three days later, Jenkins fell in his house and "was unable to get up or move" for several hours. The plaintiff used a voice-controlled Alexa device to contact a family member, who contacted 911, the suit states.

The plaintiff was transported to MedStar Washington Hospital Center, where doctors discovered an abscess on his spinal cord that had caused quadriplegia from the neck down. He underwent surgery and stayed in the intensive care unit for 10 days, the suit states.

Jenkins has since regained use of his upper body but cannot control his legs, bowels or bladder. He "is permanently disabled, unable to work and will require attendant care for the rest of his life," the suit states.

"The epidural abscess that was diagnosed at MedStar Washington Hospital Center should have been diagnosed three days earlier by the physicians and nurses in the emergency department at GWUH," the suit states. "If they had diagnosed and treated Mr. Jenkins on June 13, 2018, as they were required to do under the national standard of care, he would have avoided the permanent, devastating neurological deficits and other damages that he sustained."

Law school now home to online music copyright database

SHANNON MALLARD
STAFF WRITER

The law school now houses an online database stocked with information on music copyright infringement cases.

The Music Copyright Infringement Resource, which features information like judicial opinions from music copyright infringement cases, relocated from the University of Southern California to the law school this semester, the law school announced earlier this month. Law school faculty said hosting the resource will allow students and faculty to add and access information on music copyright infringement cases, better preparing law school stakeholders to conduct research on the topic.

The free online database, which was originally created in 1997, features information on more than 200 music copyright infringement cases litigated in the United States since 1844. The resource also includes access to sheet music and sound files of music involved in copyright disputes.

Charles Cronin, a visiting scholar at the law school who created the database, said he decided to relocate the resource to



JACK FONSECA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The law school now hosts the Music Copyright Infringement Resource, which features information like judicial opinions from music copyright infringement cases.

the University in January because the law school is located in D.C., where legislation on intellectual property law policy is often debated. He said the law school has a "strong" intellectual property law program that he hopes will permanently host the online resource.

"It became clear that it was a much better fit at GW, and it's one of the strongest intellectual property law programs in the country," Cronin said. "It's a good fit

in so many ways."

Cronin said the resource helps consolidate information on music copyright infringement cases into a single online platform, which can help students identify trends in past disputes, like changing definitions of copyright infringement and recent increases in the number of cases filed.

"It's a good starting point for students who want to delve into a particular case or get an overview of this area in gener-

al," he said.

Cronin said he will work with Robert Brauneis, a professor of law and the co-director of the intellectual property law program, to expand the resource at the law school. Cronin plans to add more information on international music copyright infringement cases and create a discussion forum for law students, faculty, scholars and the public to share viewpoints on music copyright infringement

litigation and legislation.

Brauneis said hosting the database at the University will allow law school students to "maintain" the website as research assistants. Students will update the database when new music copyright infringement cases are filed, he said.

He said allowing students to make the updates will broaden their knowledge of case law pertinent to music copyright infringement, which will help them conduct more informed research on the subject, which is becoming increasingly popular.

"It means that law students, in particular, can and are working on maintaining it, so they get valuable experience and ruminative experience in maintaining the site and thinking about music copyright litigation over a long period of time," he said.

Brauneis said adding information to the database on music copyright infringement cases litigated outside the United States will better prepare students to perform cross-cultural analyses of music copyright infringement law.

"It's really interesting from a comparative perspective to see how those cases come out and wheth-

er the analysis is different in a different country and how that maybe should inform U.S. law, or maybe conversely maybe how U.S. law should inform foreign law," he said.

He added that international students will have the opportunity to translate music copyright infringement cases written in their native languages, helping to bring more international music copyright dispute cases to the platform.

International law students made up 10 percent of the law school's student population in 2018, according to institutional data.

Roger Schechter, a professor of law, said hosting the database will further raise the profile of GW's intellectual property law program on a national scale because anyone who uses the resource will know it is affiliated with the University.

"Knowing that this is a resource that is hosted on our servers, it's likely to also cause visitors to explore other aspects of our program," he said. "They may learn about conferences that we're hosting, and they may learn about some of the publications that various people here have recently sent out into the world."



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Don't miss this powerful part of Second Chance Month, a nationwide celebration of second chances.

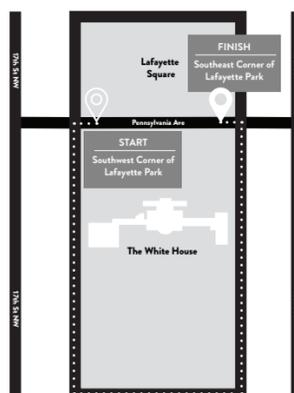
Walk Around the White House
Sat., April 6, 2019
2-3:30 p.m.

This event is free and open to the public.

Learn more at
prisonfellowship.org/GWPrayerWalk



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Free DC Circulator rides increase accessibility, local politicians say

ILENA PENG &
ZACH SCHONFELD
STAFF WRITERS

Local politicians said free rides on DC Circulator buses will boost the accessibility of local transportation and make it easier to travel through Ward 2.

Mayor Muriel Bowser announced in the annual State of the District address last week that the city would nix the costs of riding the Circulator because increased transportation options give more residents “a fair shot” at accessing job opportunities in D.C. Local politicians said the free bus service would benefit residents searching for easy transportation, but experts said the District should also invest in designated bus lanes and expanded bus routes to ensure the service is effective.

The DC Circulator system has six routes primarily in downtown, tourist-heavy areas of D.C. with no routes connecting to the majority of D.C.’s east side. The Circulator’s Georgetown to Union Station and Dupont Circle to Rosslyn routes connect the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods to other areas of the District and Virginia.

Bowser originally offered free DC Circulator bus rides throughout February and extended the program through the end of March. She said workers in hotels, restaurants and shops have stopped her during the past few months to show their support for the service.

“They shared how being able to get to and from work for free each day has made a real difference,” Bowser said in a press release last week. “They work hard and stretch each dollar for their families, and they’re never going to ask for a handout.”

District Department of Transportation spokesman Terry Owens said the Circulator’s operating budget is roughly \$25 million a year. He said riders took 4.6

million trips between October 2017 and September 2018, producing more than \$3 million in revenue.

Owens said Bowser is “committed” to increasing support of public transportation to alleviate traffic congestion. He said Bowser aims to increase the number of transit options and support “existing systems that include DC Streetcar, DC Circulator and Capital Bikeshare.”

Bowser’s fiscal year 2020 budget allocates more than \$16 million to support the free bus service and expand routes to Ward 7.

Members of the West End and Foggy Bottom Advisory Neighborhood Commission said students and local residents will benefit from free bus rides since the Circulator services many areas of Ward 2, but some

“I would hope that the District seriously entertains investing an equal amount of focus on fare reductions as a pathway to equity,” Kennedy said.

Hayley Richardson, a senior communications associate at TransitCenter – a foundation that seeks to improve public transit – said free bus transit systems already exist in cities like Baltimore. She said the programs sometimes create more problems than they solve, like overcrowding and vandalism.

“There’s an argument to be made that when something is free, people don’t value it,” she said.

Richardson said the District should also invest in other transportation improvements, like designated bus lanes, to help avoid traffic.

“I would hope that the District seriously entertains investing an equal amount of focus on fare reductions as a pathway to equity.”

PATRICK KENNEDY
MEMBER, FOGGY BOTTOM AND WEST END ANC

raised concerns over a lack of access to the transit system in lower-income wards.

Commissioner James Harnett, who is also a junior, said free rides will aid students who use the DC Circulator to travel to Georgetown because there is no Metrorail station in the neighborhood. He said the city should offer free access to public transportation in all wards, noting that Wards 4, 5 and 7 are not fully accessible via the Circulator.

“I’ll be looking to support the other ANC commissioners in Ward 7 and trying to use the privilege we have in Foggy Bottom – to already be a part of the Circulator service – to expand that to the other parts of the city,” Harnett said.

Commissioner Patrick Kennedy said Circulator routes should be expanded to lower-income areas that are heavily dependent on public transit.

“It’s important to think about opportunity cost,” she said. “Is it really equitable for riders to be sitting in a free bus that holds 40 people that is also sitting in the same traffic as a car that holds one person?”

DDOT will create temporary designated bus lanes on H and I streets this summer as parts of the Metro undergo renovations. Bowser, the mayor, also designated funding for two center-running bus lanes along K Street in her proposed budget for fiscal year 2020.

Alexis Perrotta, a doctoral lecturer at Baruch College who specializes in urban transportation policy, said she was “emotionally moved” by the mayor’s initiative because free rides will make transportation more accessible to people struggling financially, even though the previous \$1 cost of a Circulator ride “might not seem like much.”

“It’s hard to overstate how important it is that someone might make a decision based on trying to save a dollar here and there in terms of where they go and how they get there,” she said.



DEAN WHITELAW | PHOTOGRAPHER

D.C. will nix the costs of riding the Circulator because increased transportation options give more residents “a fair shot” at accessing job opportunities, local officials said.

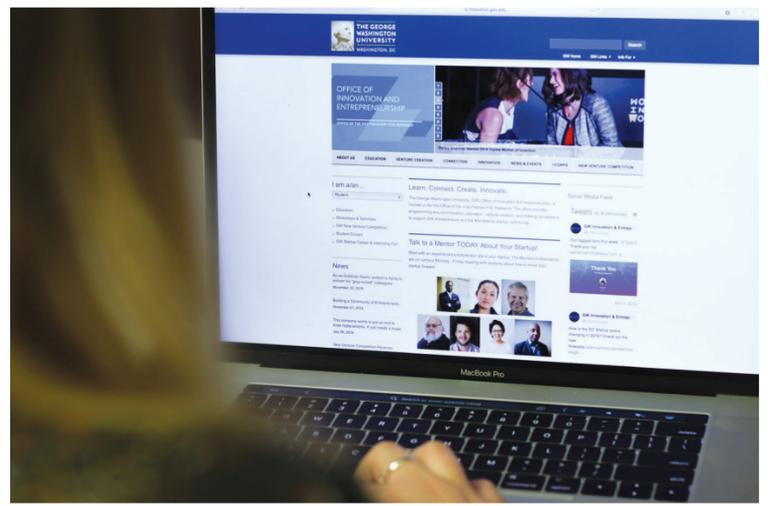


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
A new nine-week program, called GW Student Startup Accelerator, will accept eight teams of two to four students in its first cohort this summer to help them develop and launch original businesses.

Summer program offers intensive training on startups

MEREDITH ROATEN
NEWS EDITOR

Students hoping to launch their own businesses can now spend the summer at a University-sponsored startup accelerator program.

The new nine-week program, called GW Student Startup Accelerator, will accept eight teams of two to four students in its first cohort this summer to help them develop and launch original businesses. Officials said the program helps address student demand for a formal program to guide them through the startup process.

Lex McCusker, the director of the New Venture Competition at the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, said current undergraduate and graduate students and alumni who have graduated in the past two years can apply for the program. He said officials developed the program by looking at similar initiatives at universities across the nation.

Each of the nine weeks of the program will focus on a different part of building a business, McCusker said. Some of the planned topics include customer discovery, market sizing, competition, revenue models and branding, he said.

Officials will host a workshop at the start of every week, and teams will spend the rest of the week developing their ideas with mentors, a panel of advisers and the “teaching team,” he said. The program will wrap up on July 18 with a day of pitching business ideas to 30 angel investors and venture capitalists, McCusker said.

He said the program

will serve as a “logical next step” for students who participate in GW’s startup contests, like the New Venture Competition or the National Science Foundation’s I-Corps AccelerateGW program, where students learn how to develop new business endeavors.

“We want to apply the advanced resources available through GW’s entrepreneurial ecosystem to a few really excellent student startups and propel them forward,” McCusker said in an email. “The University and the larger society have a lot to gain from these students’ innovations and creativity.”

“We want to apply the advanced resources available through GW’s entrepreneurial ecosystem to a few really excellent student startups and propel them forward.”

LEX McCUSKER
DIRECTOR, NEW VENTURE COMPETITION

McCusker said the venture teams can pitch commercial or social ideas, and the ventures can either be for- or non-profit. The University will provide participants with campus housing, a “small living allowance” and funds to pay for expenses groups encounter as they meet with potential customers and investors.

“We especially want teams that can commit to the program full-time for the nine weeks and who are committed to launching their venture,” he said. “We favor teams that have well-defined customer segments and a crisp value proposition for those segments.”

Gerry Fine, the director of the startup accelerator at Boston University, said he and other leaders of startup accelerator programs have recognized that students are demanding opportunities to learn outside of the class-

room. BU’s summer intensive session, which was launched in 2014, lasts 10 weeks over the summer and allows 16 team of students to participate in workshops.

“What we realized is that regardless of quality of education they are receiving in the classroom, students crave meaningful experiential experience,” he said.

Stephanie Landers, the director of the summer startup accelerator at Princeton University, said the structure of the program is similar to GW’s in that students have a lot of “free time” in between their workshops and mentoring sessions.

Since Princeton’s program was launched in 2012, Landers said students have requested more off time to meet with potential users. Each of the projects is in a different stage, and some participants had more business knowledge than others, so it makes sense that the structure is more fluid, she said.

“Expect varying needs,” she said. “Everyone is on different levels. Always be available and be ready to jump in and offer more resources and more guidance.”

Jen Curtis, the operations manager at New York University’s accelerator program, which launched about eight years ago, said many university donors are entrepreneurs who can help build excitement and solicit funding for similar programs. Universities are often interested in hosting accelerator programs because they know most startups do not succeed on their first try, she said.

“There’s no better time to try when you’re a student,” she said. “You get a lot of great skills like how to work on a team, how to work with a boss.”

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Nearly 90 seats added to Gelman Library over spring break

MADELINE DEISEN
STAFF WRITER

While students left the District for vacation or trips home, officials added nearly 90 additional study spots to Gelman Library.

The University revamped the first and third floors of the library over spring break, installing 57 new individual study cubicles on the third floor and 32 new seats on the first. Officials and students said expanding seating in the library will provide more study space and address the ongoing issue of a lack of seating options on campus.

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said library staff also applied fresh paint and added furniture in the library, which requires regular upkeep from inevitable “wear and tear.” She said library upgrades occur “as funding becomes available.”

“When resources are available, Libraries and Academic Innovation staff determine what refreshes can be done to keep the environment one that enables students to succeed,” Csellar said in an email.

She said the library still relies on the student library donation to fund updates to the “study

environment,” which includes chairs, whiteboards and computers. Officials made the \$100 student library donation an “opt-in” feature on tuition bills this year after many students complained that they weren’t aware they were automatically charged each semester, but faculty estimated that the University would lose more than \$1 million as a result of the change.

“Libraries and Academic Innovation constantly assess how Gelman and Eckles libraries can continue to meet changing needs of students and faculty,” Csellar said.

She said staff removed shelving and reconfigured furniture to make room for the new seats and study spaces. A Faculty Senate report in December 2017 found that the library can only seat up to 6 or 7 percent of the student body at a time, prompting library officials to assess space concerns and develop a plan to renovate the library in small stages.

“As staff review feedback from students and faculty and understand the need for additional space, they continually look for ways to introduce additional seating,” she said.



FILE PHOTO BY OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR
The University installed 57 new individual study cubicles on the third floor of the library over spring break.

Students who use the library said the new study cubicles on the third floor will help them concentrate since the additional individual spaces alleviate crowding on Gelman’s most social floor.

Francesca Edralin, a freshman studying international affairs, said the new set of individual study cubicles will help prevent distractions while studying.

“I feel like when I go to Gelman, I’m not there to socialize, I’m just there to do my work and con-

centrate,” she said. “I like the study cubicles. You’re focused on your own thing, you can’t really see anyone else, you’re pretty much there to do your homework and have that solitude and that privacy.”

Edralin, who lives on the Mount Vernon Campus, said she finds individual study space easily in Eckles Library or Ames Hall but has had trouble finding individual study cubicles in Gelman this year.

“It’s a blessing to even

find one that’s actually open,” she said. “I would definitely like there to be more, or maybe have them more at other tables, too. I definitely think they help with focusing.”

Melissa Schwab, a freshman studying political science and human services, said the study cubicles will help lower the noise level on the third floor.

“I feel like a lot of times people forget it’s a quiet floor, because I know when I go up there I forget it’s a quiet floor,”

she said. “When I was up there a couple days ago, I was talking in a low whisper, but I was talking because I was sitting at a table, so I guess the cubicles really foster a sense of quietness.”

Library experts said adding individual seating helps students concentrate on their studies and adds space for more students to work.

David Banush, the dean of libraries at Tulane University, said individual study cubicles help students avoid unwanted social interactions while studying.

“If you’re sitting in one of these carrel-like spaces that has some separation around it, it’s not as easy to be interrupted,” he said.

Charles Eckman, the dean of libraries at the University of Miami, said libraries across the country have moved physical collections to make more room for a variety of study spaces, including collaborative, quiet and silent study areas.

“I know at our library, there’s never enough seating, it seems,” he said. “We have students who are really looking for a variety of spaces in which to study, as well as spaces in which they can collaborate with other students and engage with other students.”

GW facilitates small-group career sessions with alumni, students

MEREDITH ROATEN
NEWS EDITOR

The University’s newest alumni engagement initiative is also helping students network and find jobs.

Officials hosted the first-ever “Coffee with Colonials” events this month, kicking off a program sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations that matches groups of current students with alumni volunteers to discuss career advice. Officials and students said the events have helped students connect with interested alumni who can guide their careers and offer life experiences.

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said “dozens” of students have participated in the program so far, and the initiative will continue as long as students and alumni are benefiting from the sessions. She said alumni volunteered to participate in the program after officials sent the opportunity via email and publicized it at alumni and career events.

“We wanted to create more opportunities for students and alumni to interact with each other in more informal settings,” she said.

Csellar said students and alumni have told officials that they appreciated the connections made during the sessions. Alumni volunteered to participate in the program after learning about it from emails from the alumni office and marketing at alumni and career events, she said.

She added that there is no set topic of discussion for the coffee sessions, and each conversation varies.

“Some students may want advice about a general career field, while others may want to discuss the company that the alum works for,” she said in an email.

She declined to say how many students and alumni the University is aiming to reach.

A total of four networking sessions with six alumni were offered in March, according to emails from the alumni office. Students could attend sessions with professionals in different fields like political communication and special education.

Alumna Helen Ulan, a digital strategist at Digital Management, Inc., and her husband Tom Ulan, a consultant at a computer services company, hosted a session earlier this month at their home to talk about their careers. Ulan graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in 1987 and said she also taught visual communication as an adjunct professor at GW for a decade until 2005.

Four students attended the session, and Ulan said the event allowed them to both learn about a field they were interested in and network in a small group. She said she volunteered to host the event because, as a first-generation student, she remembered the multitude of questions she had about finding jobs and navigating college.

She said her experience in a broad range of digital strategy jobs – managing social media at Verizon for more than a decade and helping Fortune 500 companies implement interactive software – also helped students understand how to adapt in a changing field.

“I had a multidimensional career path,” she said. “Some of these jobs weren’t there when I started my work life.”

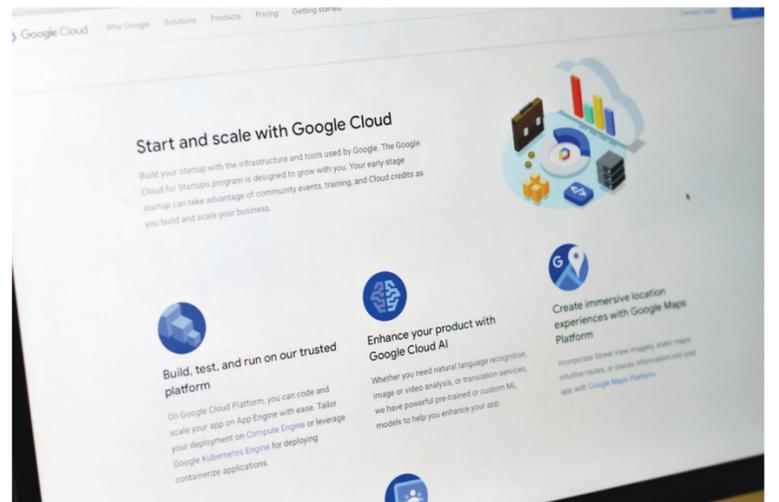
One of the attendees, sophomore Jesse Cardinal, said he initially applied to go to the event because he was interested in the Ulans’ expertise in digital communication. But he said the event focused more on connecting with the family, and the couple was “charismatic” and wanted to know about students’ lives and experiences.

Cardinal added that the pair was supportive of the students’ career goals and answered questions about what it was like to work in the field. He said he would feel comfortable reaching out to them in the future because they showed “authentic” interest in the students.

“It was a lot more geared toward what they could help us do,” he said. “It was less about them than I thought it would be.”

Senior Matt Golden, a psychology major who also attended the Ulans’ event, said the meeting was similar to an information session that students might attend while conducting a job or internship search with professionals without the added pressure of a formal setting. He said the small group, instead of a one-on-one information interview, allowed students to relax while still learning about a field they were interested in.

“It’s a good setting,” he said. “You can meet people with similar interests, and the meeting is already set up and it’s much less awkward.”



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
Google Cloud donated more than \$300,000 worth of software to the New Venture Competition this month.

Google Cloud donates more than \$300,000 to New Venture Competition

MEREDITH ROATEN
NEWS EDITOR

Students competing to showcase their original business ideas at GW’s annual startup competition now have their eyes on the contest’s largest-ever prize.

Google Cloud donated more than \$300,000 worth of software to the New Venture Competition this month, allowing the 36 teams of semifinalists remaining in the contest to use the business planning software as the tournament moves along. The donated Google Cloud for Startups software, including an app testing platform, translation services and Google Maps information, will help cut teams’ expenses and give them an edge as they develop new ideas, officials said.

The software is valued at about \$341,000, boosting the total prize pool for top entrepreneurs to nearly \$800,000 – the most in the competition’s history. Last year, winners competed for about \$300,000 in money and in-kind prizes.

Lex McCusker, the director of the New Venture Competition, said the first-place winner of the competition, who will be selected at the end of next month, will receive the Google Cloud “Surge Package,” including \$100,000 in “services and benefits.”

The eight finalists who weren’t crowned winners will each receive the “Spark Package,” worth \$20,000, while 27 semifinalists will each

receive the “Star Package,” worth \$3,000.

“These free services can help a fledgling startup get off the ground,” he said in an email. “Startups are often strapped for cash, so these prizes will be a big boost for GW’s best student startup teams.”

He said staff in the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship worked with Google to secure the gift, which was finalized in mid-March. The gift is not recurring, but McCusker said he hopes the donation will be the beginning of a “long-term” relationship with Google Cloud.

“We routinely seek new sponsors of cash and in-kind prizes for the competition,” McCusker said. “The prizes put our teams on more solid footing for the next phase of their development.”

Sophomore Sam Bunger, a computer science major and a semifinalist in the New Venture Competition, said his team currently pays \$30 a month for the servers that host the web application that the team is developing. The application allows businesses to create their own voice tools that can be downloaded on Google Home or Amazon Alexa.

As the business gains more users, the servers become more expensive to host more people – which is where Bunger’s group could use the credits from Google, he said. With the money saved, Bunger said the team could redirect its spending

money on sales or marketing for the application.

He said the competition will likely become more fierce because of the added prizes.

“We have to hustle because this has the potential to be a lot more than it was before,” he said. “It went up a level now.”

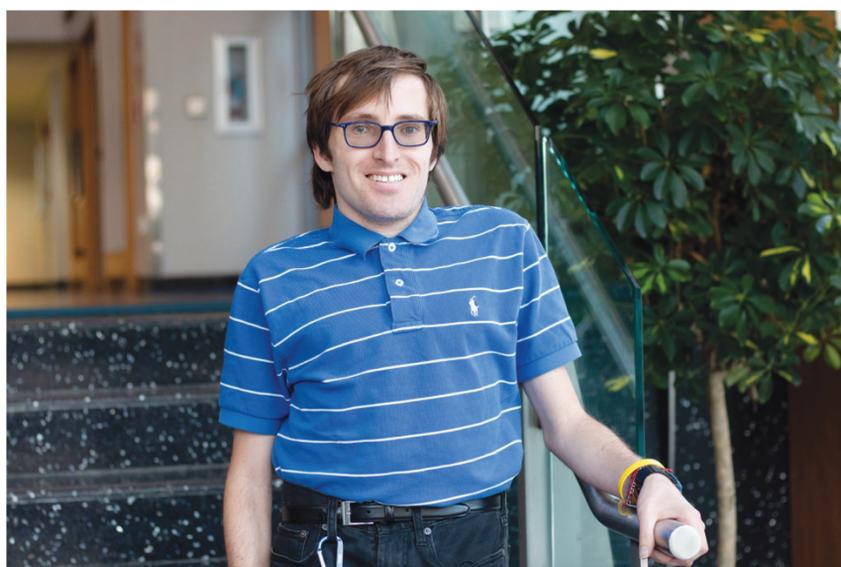
Freshman Jonathan Lau, a semifinalist studying biomedical engineering, said Google’s G Suite software – which includes access to email, documents, spreadsheets, calendars and more – would allow his team to communicate with members more easily. His team is developing a table accessory for wheelchairs to help users become more independent.

He said the additional prizes make the contest “a little bit” more competitive than it was previously, but his team is still driven by the desire to create the wheelchair tool.

“We’re in the social track,” he said. “It’s never really been about the prize money offered, but it’s a plus.”

Senior Lily Jiang, a semifinalist studying philosophy, said her team would use the Google Maps function offered for finalists. Her team hopes to create an app showcasing local public art, like pop-ups and street murals.

“That’s our main feature, is being able to offer that location-based service, so that is mainly what we would use that for,” she said.



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Senior Matt Golden, who attended a “Coffee with Colonials” event, said the events serve as a way to network with professionals without the added pressure of a formal setting.

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Alternative-pop artist
Max Frost brings his
latest hits to the DC9
Nightclub.

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National Harbor
March 31 • \$248
Iconic vocalist Mariah Carey
will perform her R&B album
'Caution.'

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DJ Mat Zo brings up-
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stage with bass drops
perfect for dancing.

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Jewish student organization to host drag event to celebrate Purim

LINDSAY PAULEN
CULTURE EDITOR

Purim is typically marked by masquerades, song and hamantaschen, a triangular jam- or chocolate-filled cookie. But for the first time this year, a student organization is observing the holiday by hosting drag performances.

Jewish Voice for Peace, a student organization that advocates for Palestinian human rights, will host Drag Purim on Monday from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Multicultural Student Services Center. The event will feature four drag queens, including one student drag queen, a costume contest and a reading of the story of Purim.

Gabriela Rossner, a junior majoring in environmental studies and a member of the coordinating committee for Jewish Voice for Peace, said the idea to combine Purim — a Jewish holiday that celebrates the failure of an attempted genocide of Jewish people — with drag came when Rossner realized that drag and Purim are more similar than she had previously thought.

"I just kind of connected the things — Purim is a holiday where you dress up and you're merry and celebrate the spirit of resistance," Rossner said. "And drag is about dressing up and the spirit of resistance."

Rossner said while this is the organization's first Drag Purim, she hopes it will become an annual event.

Purim stems from the Book of Esther, which tells the story

of Esther, who saved the Jewish people from being exterminated by Haman, a high-ranking political adviser in the Persian empire. Esther became the queen of Persia — without disclosing her Jewish identity — after King Ahasuerus' wife Vashti was banished after refusing to appear at a banquet.

After a Jewish man, Mordechai, refused to bow down to Haman, the political adviser decided to exterminate all Jewish people. To save her people, Esther held a banquet — where she revealed she was Jewish — and King Ahasuerus had Haman killed, saving the Jewish people.

While there is nothing in the Book of Esther that says people should dress up for Purim, some rabbinical teachers believe that the tradition of changing identities through costume began to mirror Esther hiding her Jewish identity.

At Drag Purim, attendees will watch a drag show performed by Crystal Edge, who is

"Purim is a holiday where you dress up and you're merry and you celebrate the spirit of resistance. And drag is about dressing up and the spirit of resistance."

GABRIELA ROSSNER
COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER, JVP

a student, along with three other drag queens who perform around the District: Katrina Colby, Anastasia Dior and Labella Mafia.

The drag queens will do a reading of the story of Purim before putting on a traditional drag show with music and elaborate costumes and makeup. Attendees of the event are encouraged to dress up in their own costumes, bring grogers — a noise-making device that is supposed to be used every time Haman's name is mentioned during the story retelling



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Anastasia Dior, who will perform at Drag Purim, collects tips during a performance at Shaw's Tavern Sunday night.

— and come with cash tips for the drag queens.

There will also be a costume contest, which has no prize other than "eternal pride," Rossner said.

Rossner said that community-driven events like Drag Purim are a part of Jewish Voice for Peace's mission on campus.

"Not a lot of people know about Purim and not a lot of people know about Jewish holidays, so we want to be able to involve the general GW community," she said. "The second part of it is that one part of JVP's mission is to create a space for Jewish people on campus that is separate from any Zionism. We really work on fostering a community that is independent of political allegiance to Israel."

Matt Enman, a junior majoring in journalism and mass

communication, will host Drag Purim as Crystal Edge. Enman said the event is his second on-campus performance — his first was at Delta Lambda Phi's charity drag show last year — and he was asked by Rossner, who is his friend, to perform. He said that he enjoyed performing at the Delta Lambda Phi show last year and is excited to perform again in front of his peers.

He also said that despite being a student, he tries to treat on-campus gigs the same as any other performance in the District.

"I treat it like it's any other gig," Enman said. "I don't think just because I go to GW or just because it's a college event I need to act any differently, so I just treat it as if it's a normal gig that I've been booked for."

On top of being a student,

Enman is a full-time drag queen and hosts weekly shows at The D.C. Eagle and drag brunch at City Tap House in Dupont Circle. Enman's home bar was Cobalt before it closed earlier this month.

Enman said he helped the student organization secure the other three drag queens, who are his friends, for the show. Enman also said that despite not knowing a lot about Purim, he plans to read the story, make it funny and put his drag hosting spin on it through his drag persona Crystal Edge, whom Enman describes as a "festishy Bratz doll."

"It's going to be a really fun and diverse show," he said. "It should be a good time."

— Molly Kaiser contributed reporting.

School Without Walls student vies for a spot in NASCAR competition

LINDSAY PAULEN
CULTURE EDITOR

A junior at the School Without Walls grew up watching the Disney Pixar animated film "Cars." He was infatuated with the racecars as a young boy, and his love of racing continued throughout his childhood.

This weekend, Rajah Caruth pursued his dream and competed for a spot in the NASCAR Drive for Diversity Youth Driver Development Program, which focuses on training 12- to 16-year-old women and people of color to race electric go-karts and later compete in the Bojangles' Summer Shootout at Charlotte Motor Speedway in June and July.

Caruth spent Saturday and Sunday in Mooresville, N.C. where he competed alongside seven other teenagers for a yearlong spot on the team. Four of the eight competitors will find out if they earn spots on the team at the end of April, Caruth said.

Caruth said he wasn't sure what to expect going into the competition in North Carolina, but the chance of earning a spot in the NASCAR Drive for Diversity Youth Driver Development Program will make him one step closer to become a professional racer.

"Overall it will probably

be serious but I don't think it's to the point where it will be over-the-top negative," he said. "I think it will be a good experience."

Caruth began racing in 2017 after doing a three-week summer program — where attendees learn about the mechanics of go-karts, topics like friction and acceleration, and the basics of actually driving an electric go-kart — at Autobahn Indoor Speedway in Jessup, Md.

"A lot of people who become race car drivers start when they're ages 5, 6, 7 — so it was kind of now or never," Caruth said.

Since his summer program, Caruth has been practicing at least 10 hours a week through a widely-used online racing simulator called iRacing. With iRacing, Caruth can compete online against up to 40 competitors with the wheel and pedal he has at home. He has earned more than 20 wins and 157 top-five finishes in nine months of training.

But Caruth was not able to explicitly practice for the weekend's competition with iRacing because the simulator does not offer go-karts. Instead, Caruth prepared by going back to Autobahn Indoor Speedway, breaking in his new helmet and gloves and watching videos of the

track he raced on during the competition.

While Caruth said iRacing is more convenient because he is able to practice from his own home, he said it will "never be exactly like the real thing."

"You certainly have the convenience of iRacing to do it every day for hours on end, but in terms of driving and real-life driving in general, nothing really compares to it in terms of what you deal with mentally and physically," Caruth said.

Despite being a fan of race car driving since the movie "Cars" came out, Caruth did not start racing until 2017. Caruth said with the help of his parents, he was able to start pursuing race car driving.

Over his past few years of racing, Caruth said he has realized that he wants to pursue race car driving as a career and will attend college only if racing does not pan out. Caruth said that the idea of racing with other people and "giving it all you got" while being able to show off his abilities always brings him back to the track.

"Overall, I think it's just fun," he said. "I hope I'm meant to do it — I just really enjoy doing it. I feel like I'm pretty decent."

— Sidney Lee and Zilana Lee contributed reporting.



COURTESY OF RAJAH CARUTH

A junior at School Without Walls spent the weekend competing in a NASCAR youth competition.

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GAMES OF THE WEEK



BASEBALL
vs. Saint Joseph's
Friday-Sunday
The Colonials continue Atlantic 10 play hosting the Hawks in a three-game series at Tucker Field.



WOMEN'S WATER POLO
Saturday-Sunday
The Colonials play their only home games of the season in a three-game homestand at the Smith Center pool over the weekend.

NUMBER CRUNCH .125

The point differential between gymnastics' second-place finish and New Hampshire's first-place finish at the EAGL Championships over the weekend.

Men's and women's basketball turn in historically futile seasons



FILE PHOTO BY DEAN WHITELAW | PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman guard Maddie Loder looks for an open teammate during a women's basketball game against Duquesne in February.



FILE PHOTO BY OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore guard Justin Mazzulla dribbles the ball around Massachusetts defenders during a men's basketball game earlier in March.

AGAM MITTAL & BARBARA ALBERTS STAFF WRITERS

Men's and women's basketball won a combined 19 games this season, the fewest combined wins for the Colonials in three decades.

The teams have traded off skidding over the years and each program has dipped below their records on the 2018-19 season, but rarely have both teams experienced rough patches in tandem.

Entering this season, expectations for both programs were high.

Men's basketball (9-24, 4-14 A-10) entered the year coming off the program's first losing record in five years, but the squad was driven by a goal of rebuilding a program around a group of inexperienced players who former head coach Maurice Joseph likened to the 2016

NIT Championship squad – overflowing with potential. On the women's side, despite a youthful roster and only two returning seniors, GW (10-20, 7-9 A-10) was projected to be in position to defend its A-10 Championship crown.

But as the season came to a close, it was clear that neither team's expectations came to fruition.

Men's basketball ended the season with the lowest win total for the Colonials in more than a decade in its lowest conference finish in 10 years. Just one day after the team fell in the second round of the A-10 Championship, the athletic department fired Joseph and his slate of assistant coaches and said the move was necessary to restore a winning culture in the program.

Women's basketball was thrown out of postseason play with a 61-49 loss to

Saint Joseph's in the first round of the conference tournament. The team's position as the No. 9 seed is the lowest ranking in A-10 play the Colonials have finished with in seven years.

Struggling to put together 40 minutes of basketball

The men's squad was slated to finish in the bottom of the conference.

The team had rebuilding on the mind heading into the year, and their experience was evident as the Colonials failed to piece together consistent stretches of play throughout the season.

After showing flashes of improvement at the beginning of the team's conference slate, the Colonials entered the postseason tournament riding a five-game losing streak which included a double-digit loss to a Fordham team GW had defeated by 18

points earlier in the year.

Joseph did not return multiple requests for comment. An athletic department spokesman declined to facilitate interviews with student-athletes.

The Colonials' struggles with consistency led them to tally fewer points per game and shoot fewer baskets at a lower percentage than the previous year.

On the post, the Colonials were short-staffed after junior forward Amaldo Toro tapped out for the season with an injury. While sophomore forward Javier Langarica posted double-digit rebounding games in five of the final six games of the season, his team-leading 5.3 rebounds per game was not enough to make up for Toro's production.

"We can grow from this and we can take it into next year, so that's a positive way to look at things," redshirt ju-

nior guard Armel Potter said.

Transitioning new personnel

Despite being pinned as a contender for the A-10 title by fellow conference coaches, women's basketball expected ups and downs as the group of four freshmen and six sophomores played together for the first time.

But GW finished as the fifth-lowest scoring offense in the nation, averaging 51.3 points per game, and the team's 10 total victories are the fewest for the program since the 2010-11 season.

"We talked a lot about how not playing right now is not OK, it's not the expectation for GW women's basketball," head coach Jennifer Rizzotti said.

Before the season kicked off, Rizzotti said she was going to be relying on the team's six sophomores to

make strong contributions off the bench and in the starting lineup. But she struggled throughout the season to find players who could perform to her standard.

Redshirt sophomore forwards Sarah Overcash and Olivia Gumbs were tabbed as some of the players Rizzotti would be looking to contribute high numbers off the glass this season.

Overcash ended the season averaging 2.0 points per game. Gumbs tallied just two starts and averaged 1.9 rebounds and 2.7 points per game.

With the team set to return 10 members of this season's squad, the next step for the Colonials will be to take ownership of the next-player-up culture Rizzotti has been establishing.

"Now it's like, 'OK who's ready to make this program theirs?'" Rizzotti said.

Joseph utilized youth to lead

From Page 1

The hire made Joseph one of the youngest Division I coaches in the nation and the youngest coach in the A-10, clocking in about 18 years younger than the average age of other coaches in the conference.

"I don't think anyone else could handle it any better than the way he did," Isaiah Armwood, who played under Joseph for three years, said.

His youth was considered a factor that made him relatable to his players.

"It was just a great shoulder to lean on whenever I needed something, anything, and I could relate to him because we're closer in age," Armwood, who was a junior when Joseph came to GW, said.

Balancing challenging circumstances

As interim head coach, Joseph helped the Colonials to a 20-15 record, a third-round appearance in the A-10 Championship and a College Basketball Invitation Tournament berth.

"I will forever be indebted to Mojo because of how he handled the situation that we were all put in for that 2016 to 2017 season," former men's basketball player forward Tyler Cavanaugh said.

Coming into this season, Joseph's roster was without a returning player who averaged double-digit points for the first time in at least 21 years.

During his tenure, GW sent two players – Cavanaugh and 2018-graduate Yuta Watanabe – to the NBA.

Displaying blind loyalty

At a postgame press conference in January after the team lost on the road to George Mason, Joseph had

yelled with such power throughout the entire matchup that a microphone could barely pick up his voice as he addressed a room full of reporters.

When the scores were tight and he needed each player on the hardwood to execute their game plan perfectly, more often than not Joseph could be seen crouched at half court with his hands folded in front of him – laser-focused on every move.

The final year under Joseph, affectionately called "Mojo" by his team, marked the lowest point for men's basketball in more than a decade as the Colonials strung together just nine wins in the year.

Joseph and his team of assistant coaches did not return multiple requests for comment. An athletic department spokesman declined to facilitate interviews with current student-athletes.

Looking ahead at the program

When athletic director Tanya Vogel announced Joseph would not return to lead the program, she said the decision was necessary because the team was "not reaching our full potential on the court."

Less than a week after the announcement, the department installed former Siena head coach Jamion Christian, who finished his season at Siena second in the league.

While athletic department officials were quick to attribute losing seasons to insufficient leadership, only time will tell if the Colonials' 12 returners can turn around the program's recent history of disappointing performances.

"The coaches have the keys to the car and they have to give the players the fuel to perform," former men's basketball player Bo Zeigler said.



OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore infielder Tyler Hix throws a pitch during a baseball game against Rhode Island Sunday.

Baseball opens A-10 play with loss against Rhode Island

ADAM MITTAL & BELLE LONG STAFF WRITERS

In its first series of conference play, baseball (14-9, 1-2 A-10) fell flat on offense and dropped two of its three home contests to Rhode Island (6-12, 2-1 A-10) over the weekend.

The Colonials managed to score just six runs all weekend as their lineup, with just three returning regulars, learned to adjust to the heightened intensity of Atlantic 10 play. GW also struggled against the Rams on the mound, giving up a combined 28 runs across three games.

"Any sort of experience against the A-10 is going to be good for us moving on," junior utility Steve Barmakian said. "We're going to take this, we're going to learn from it."

Game one

Baseball suffered its most lopsided loss of the year in a 19-1 defeat to open the series.

"We've played a few games like that where we didn't play well, made some errors – multiple ones – and it never got that way because the other team didn't capitalize on us,"

head coach Gregg Ritchie said. "They really capitalized on every, single item."

Junior right-handed pitcher Elliott Raimo started for GW and gave up three earned runs, two walks and two strikeouts in 2.1 innings of work.

Four more pitchers took the mound after Raimo, but the Colonials could find no one to stop the bleeding. The team's pitching woes, combined with a shaky defense – committing a season-high four errors in the game – and no offensive support proved lethal for the Colonials.

Game two

The Colonials reversed their fortune in game two Saturday, defeating the Rams 4-3.

GW cashed in four runs off eight hits and committed no errors, providing offensive and defensive support for redshirt senior right-handed pitcher Brady Renner. Renner threw five innings and allowed four hits, two runs and one walk.

The Rams took a 2-1 lead in the top of the fourth off a solo shot by redshirt sophomore outfielder Max Mircovich before a two-run knock by freshman utility player

Noah Levin put the Colonials back in front.

Fergus solidified GW's lead with a home run to left field in the bottom of the fifth inning to put the Colonials up 4-2 to round out the contest.

Game three

GW's bats went cold in a 6-1 loss Sunday against Rhode Island.

Redshirt freshman right-handed pitcher Justin Cherry worked with pinpoint efficiency for the Rams all afternoon, keeping GW hitters off balance with a heavy mix of off-speed pitches. Cherry had the Colonials swinging early in counts and threw just 50 pitches entering the seventh inning.

The Rams put up runs in each of the first three innings, and junior right-handed pitcher Jaret Edwards gave way to senior southpaw Pat Knight. After four outs and a clean fourth inning, junior right-handed pitcher Andrew Wheeler shut down the Rams' hitters in the fifth and sixth innings.

Despite Knight's and Wheeler's efforts to preserve the four-run deficit, GW's bats had no answers against Cherry.

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