



# SA ELECTION RESULTS PROMPT UNCERTAINTY

## Last-minute bid for SA president likely forced first runoff in seven years

**SARAH ROACH**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

In 72 hours, freshman Justin Diamond turned the race for Student Association president on its head.

Diamond launched an 11th-hour campaign for the SA's top spot Monday night, two days before students could begin voting, and quickly garnered the support of more than 1,300 students. His candidacy split the vote share nearly equally among four candidates, likely forcing the SA's first runoff election in seven years.

"With the excitement around the election, especially with the presidential election over the past few days, I had a feeling that it was a real possibility," James Ingram, the chairman of the Joint Elections Commission, the body that oversees SA elections, said.

Diamond, who is running on a campaign of eradicating the SA, will face off against junior SJ Mat-

thews, the president of the Residence Hall Association, over a 12-hour voting period Thursday. While candidates said the runoff was unexpected, they hope the extra week will give them an opportunity to galvanize students to vote again in an election that could define the future of GW's student government.

Diamond and Matthews captured 27 and 25 percent of the vote last week, respectively, but candidates need at least 40 percent of the vote to win the presidency, according to the SA constitution. Two other candidates for president were eliminated from the runoff election after the initial round of voting last week.

While a runoff election hasn't occurred since 2012, they were commonplace in the years before. The JEC held a runoff election for SA

See **ELECTION** Page 7



## STUDENTS BACK COLONIALS NAME CHANGE



TOP LEFT: HATCHET FILE PHOTO, OTHERS: DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

**PAIGE MORSE**  
STAFF WRITER

The term "Colonials" is emblazoned on campus fixtures from the health center to sports jerseys, but some students are ready for a re-brand.

Following nearly a year of student advocacy, about 54 percent of students approved a referendum last week urging the University to swap the Colonials nickname with something less "offensive." Officials declined to say whether they support changing the nickname, but Student Association leaders said the support of nearly 2,700 students who approved the referendum warrants a larger conversation among alumni, faculty, students and administrators to switch out "Colonials" with a new moniker.

"We were ecstatic that students took the time to express their voice," said SA Sen. Amy Martin, ESIA-U and the executive vice president-elect. "We always thought that it was a decent portion of the student body that didn't feel comfortable with this."

### No official stance

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said the University has "been following the conversation" about changing the Colonials nickname but declined to say whether officials support the switch. Csellar also declined to say the steps officials would need to take to change the nickname and how the University will work with students who introduced the referendum last month.

"The leadership of the University will continue to listen to our students, faculty, staff and alumni as we study various naming issues," she said in an email.

Athletic department spokesman Brian Sereno also declined to comment, saying the issue is "a University matter." All sports teams are called the Colonials.

SA Sen. André Gonzales, CCAS-U and a co-sponsor of the resolution that placed the referendum on the ballot, said administrators and members of the SA should ensure they are "honoring what students are saying in this matter" and work together to decide the next steps. He said SA leaders plan to create a task force involving officials, alumni, faculty and students to discuss phasing out the nickname.

"This administration needs to make a statement, they need to take a stand and they need to work with student leaders to figure out the path forward," he said.

### Students react to results

SA Sen. Hayley Margolis, CCAS-U, said she was "in shock" that the referendum was passed because SA leaders have mostly spearheaded the push for a change this year. She said student leaders will hold meetings with officials this week to kickstart the task force.

"We were prepared, if it didn't go our way, that this wouldn't end our fight or our advocacy, so we're just grateful that it did, but we were prepared for whatever happened," Margolis said.

Junior SJ Matthews, a candidate for SA president

who will enter a runoff election next week, said she is "very excited" that the student body voted to change the Colonials moniker and supports the switch. Matthews did not include plans to change the nickname in her platform, though it was featured in two other platforms for the SA's top two spots.

"I am excited to talk with not only current students and faculty but also alumni to see what we think the best change would be," she said.

But some conservative student groups still oppose the name change. GW College Republicans and the GW chapter of Young America's Foundation released statements before the election urging students to vote against the referendum.

Joey Rodriguez, the director of public relations for GW College Republicans, said that while the referendum was approved, his organization still stands against changing the nickname. He said rebranding the University would be an "extremely expensive" undertaking.

"At this time, we will not be advocating for or against the referendum in any way besides the statement that we made public," he said in an email.

Kara Zupkus, the co-president of GW YAF, said the SA should not tune out the roughly 2,100 students who voted against the referendum and should engage them in conversation about changing the nickname. She said members of the organization will urge officials to keep the moniker, but she does not currently have plans

to meet with administrators.

"We actually were never reached out to by anyone in the SA about changing the mascot, so if they would like to hear our opinion, and administrators would like to hear our opinion, we would be happy to give that," Zupkus said.

### Following precedent

Over the past two decades, dozens of colleges across the nation have dropped controversial nicknames, including the University of North Dakota's "Fighting Sioux" in 2012 and Arkansas State University's "Indians" in 2008.

Officials at schools that experienced similar pushes to change nicknames said that while many alumni feel attached to their alma mater through the school's moniker, changing a controversial name often fosters a more inclusive campus for current students.

Victor Matheson, a professor at the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts, said faculty and students began a push to change the school's Crusaders moniker in 2016. Proponents said the crusades were genocidal and noted the term's wide usage by white supremacist groups like the Ku Klux Klan.

While officials shot down efforts to change the name in February 2018, Matheson said faculty will likely reintroduce the issue when a new college president takes office.

### GWHATCHET.COM

**H** for more on the push to change the Colonials nickname

## How the SA could be abolished

**ZACH SCHONFELD**  
STAFF WRITER

If freshman Justin Diamond wins his bid for Student Association president next week, he will need to take a series of steps to accomplish his primary campaign promise: abolish the SA.

Diamond, who announced a write-in campaign for SA president last week, will face SJ Matthews in a runoff election Thursday. If elected, Diamond would need the approval of the SA Senate, the student body and the Board of Trustees to completely eradicate the organization.

While candidates and members of the SA have proposed cutting the organization in recent years, the SA was abolished once before in 1970 after students voiced concerns about an inactive and ineffective senate during the political tensions of the Vietnam War.

The SA, then called the Student Assembly,

voted nearly unanimously to dissolve itself on Feb. 27, 1970 after former SA President Neil Portnow ran for re-election with a platform promising to scrap the organization. Portnow intended to replace the body with an "All-University Assembly" including students, faculty, alumni and administrators that would make decisions across GW, according to Hatchet archives.

But the Board of Trustees shot down the proposal in 1974, and students called for a constitutional convention in December of that year to establish a new body for student representation.

The first meeting of the constitutional convention was held on Valentine's Day 1975 and led to hours of meetings about the structure of the organization and its relationship with administrators.

See **MAJORITY** Page 7

# Undergraduate admission rate drops for first time in three years

**PARTH KOTAK**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

After a two-year incline, the University's admission rate dropped back down to about 41 percent this spring.

GW admitted about 11,000 students out of an applicant pool of about 27,070, bringing the acceptance rate down to an estimated 40.6 percent. Admissions experts said the roughly 1-percentage-point decline is likely the aftermath of an unexpectedly large freshman class this year and a slight uptick in the number of applications.

The acceptance rate stood at 41.8 percent last year, nearly 1 percentage point up from the previous year. The rate stooped to 40.2 percent in 2016 after the University admitted a record-high 45 percent of applicants the year before.

Laurie Koehler, the senior vice provost for enrollment and the student experience, declined to say exactly how many students were accepted to the Class of 2023, adding that the number will be released in the fall.

"As has been the case for a number of years, our focus has not been on the admit rate but rather on enrolling an academically talented and diverse cohort

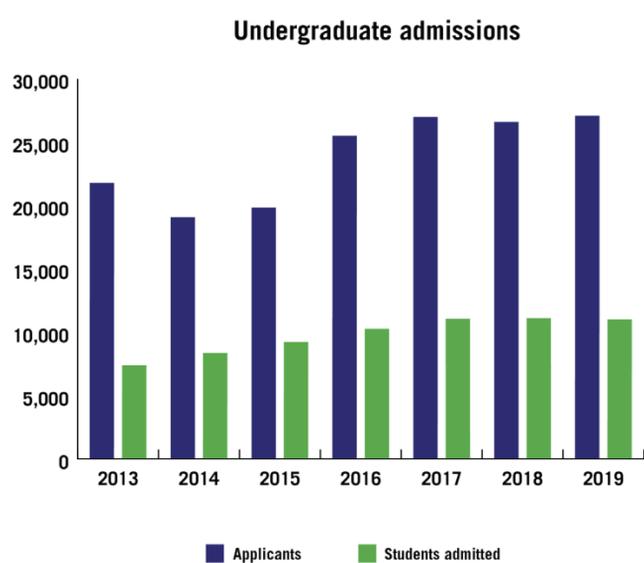
of students," she said. "This year, we received more applications than last and are aiming to enroll a smaller first-year class."

She added that officials hope to admit some students off the waitlist this year. Officials could not accept any students off the list last year after roughly 2,800 students matriculated, forming the largest first-year class in the University's history.

Admissions experts said the dip in the admit rate means officials are likely predicting a high yield rate – the percentage of accepted students who enroll – as applicants see GW as one of their top-choice schools. They said the downturn may boost GW's national ranking, which has fallen in recent years in part because the University previously admitted about 33 percent of its applicants each year.

Cristiana Quinn, a counselor at College Admission Advisors, a company that offers high school students college application guidance, said students and parents used to view GW as a "high-cost school," depressing the yield rate. She said the University has "done a good job" in the past few years awarding financial aid packages that incentivize admitted students to pick GW over other schools.

The financial aid pool hit \$315



GRAPHIC BY ALYSSA ILARIA | STAFF DESIGNER

Source: Institutional data

million last year, the fifth consecutive year that the budget has increased.

"Families understand that not only is there good need-based aid at GW, but there's also good merit money for students to be able to get in the admissions process," Quinn said.

She added that the reduced admission rate will help GW's ranking in lists like U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges by making the University appear to be a more selective institution that competitive students and parents seek out.

Steven Goodman, an educa-

tional consultant at Top Colleges, said "significant changes" to "student support services" over the past several years have inspired applicants to apply to GW. The University went test-optional in 2015, leading to a surge in applications, and University President Thomas LeBlanc has made the student experience a top priority since coming to the University two years ago.

As a result, University admissions staff can admit fewer students to reach their target class size, he said.

"Because it's a lower rate, the GW admissions office is confident that a larger percentage of those students will accept the offer that GW just made," he said.

Goodman added that admissions officials likely expect GW's yield rate to stay on par with last year's number, when an unexpectedly high number of students accepted their admission offers.

"GW is concerned about maintaining the numbers because you want to fill your class, but you don't want to go over and you don't want to go under," he said. "If you feel confident that the students are going to come based on what you're offering – and the best indication of that is the year before – then that is exactly why that has an impact today."

# BEST of NORTHWEST

## BEST FOOD & DRINK

### Best Happy Hour EL CENTRO

**ANNIE DOBLER**  
STAFF WRITER

When deciding where to de-stress with a happy hour drink after a long week, there are plenty of options. But El Centro is your best bet for a cheap drink with two locations to choose from that are close to campus.

Both locations run happy hour from 3 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday or all day on Monday. With more than 40 tequilas and mezcal on the menu, you'll have plenty of options to get the best bang for your buck.

El Centro offers traditional Mexican drinks during happy hour like the El Centro margarita (\$5) – which is made with tequila and lime and available on the rocks or frozen – along with more inventive margaritas crafted by mixologists like the house-infused margarita (\$5), which is infused with seasonal flavors – like watermelon or pineapple – to give a twist to the popular traditional drink. Margaritas

typically go for about \$10 per glass when it's not happy hour, making the happy hour deal more than worth it.

If margaritas aren't your thing, there's no need to fret. El Centro also offers a bevy of other drinks, like agua frescas, house red and white wines by the glass and six different beers like Corona Light and Modelo Especial, all for only \$5.

If you don't want to drink on an empty stomach, order a few of the restaurant's bites with some friends, like its jalapeno beef and chorizo sliders (\$7.50) with chihuahua cheese, avocado and seasoned with aji amarillo aioli. Or you can order a typical happy hour snack like nachos (\$5.50) with cheese sauce, bean puree, pickled jalapeno and pico de gallo.

While there are other notable happy hours in D.C., El Centro's combination of cheap drinks, food deals and two locations near campus makes the restaurant's happy hour excel in all areas.

Readers'  
CHOICE

**ZACH SLOTKIN**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

At first glance, Capo Italian Deli appears to be nothing more than a sandwich shop with dedicated customers and late-night hours.

But if you notice groups of people seemingly disappearing through a refrigerator door behind the deli's register, it's for good reason: The deli hosts a secret cocktail bar on the weekends that provides a more special night out than a typical bar.

While the bar is not visible from the outside, it is not completely hidden. Anyone can find details about The BackRoom, including photos and opening hours, on its website or Facebook page.

Bargoers can order from the deli's long list of sandwiches, like the Capo special (\$8.95), which includes Italian sausage, salami and provolone, and pair their choice with a specially-made cocktail. The high-end drink menu includes cocktails like "Strawberry Fields" (\$14) with strawberry-infused gin, yellow chartreuse, lemon, honey and egg whites.

I couldn't decide on a drink, so I simply told the bartender my preferences – rum-based, strong and tropical – and he whipped up a delicious concoction with strong flavors of cinnamon and pineapple.



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

The BackRoom also has a posh interior to match its pricey drinks menu. With a grand chandelier and velvet gray couches and black leather booths, the bar stands out from the neighboring nightclubs and dive bars that line the U Street corridor.

The bar's playlist includes top 40 hits from popular artists like Ariana Grande and The Chainsmokers, and the open floor plan makes it the perfect place to dance the night away while sipping an impressive cocktail that will certainly pack a punch.

If you're looking for a cheap place to grab a beer or rail drink, you should look elsewhere. But if you want a fancier place to celebrate a special occasion – look no further than The BackRoom.

READERS' PICK: CHICKEN + WHISKEY

### Best Dessert Menu SFOGLINA PASTA HOUSE

**LINDSAY PAULEN**  
CULTURE EDITOR

Sfoglina Pasta House – as its name suggests – will draw you in with its homemade pasta dishes. But the restaurant's dessert menu will have you ordering post-dinner sweets regardless of how full you are when the dessert menus appear on your table.

If you are struggling to make a decision about what to order, Sfoglina Pasta House has a tray of desserts

your waiter may present to your table. The dessert tray allows you to make your choice based on both a menu description and presentation.

Along with staple Italian desserts like tiramisu (\$10) and a seasonal gelato (\$8), the restaurant has nontraditional options like an apple hazelnut coffee cake (\$10).

While you can't go wrong with any of the restaurant's dessert options, the chocolate Piemontese cake (\$14) quite literally takes the

cake. With layers of moist chocolate cake, thick chocolate ganache and crumbles of hazelnut, the chocolate Piemontese cake is essentially an upgraded Ferrero Rocher. Each bite is more decadent than the next, but that won't stop you from finishing it off – despite the full meal you ate beforehand.

For an impressive meal from start to finish, Sfoglina Pasta House impresses through every course from small plates to dessert.

READERS' PICK: MOMOFUKU CCDC



ALEXANDER WELLING | PHOTOGRAPHER

Sfoglina Pasta House's chocolate Piemontese cake (\$14) features layers of moist chocolate cake, thick chocolate ganache and crumbles of hazelnut.

### Best Brunch THE FAINTING GOAT

**LAUREN PELLER**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

With an upscale yet cozy environment, unconventional brunch menu and well-crafted cocktails, Fainting Goat stands out from the abundance of brunch spots around the District.

At 11 a.m. sharp on the weekends, people flood through the doors of the restaurant at 14th and U streets, and people can be found inside eating until 3 p.m., which allows diners to opt for a late brunch to skip wait times or sleep in after a long night out.

The menu includes options like a bagel and lox platter (\$17), which has a perfect balance from the crunchy toasted everything bagel to the delicious plump red tomatoes and fresh smoked salmon with a dash of sea salt on top. For something sweeter, you can go for the French toast (\$14) made with thick and fluffy bread before being topped with sweet roasted bananas, pumpkin seeds and a chili maple syrup that adds an extra kick.

While The Fainting Goat's food is great, you may be more interested in the bottomless mimosa brunch,



DAVIE LORIA | PHOTOGRAPHER

The Fainting Goat serves brunch with options like a bagel and lox platter (\$17).

which is \$20 per person if you order an entree. It also has a two-hour limit.

If you don't want to pay the \$20 price tag, you can pick and choose cocktails like "Cider House Rules" (\$12), which includes rum, apple juice, cider and golden falernum, and "I'll Drink My Breakfast" (\$13),

which has bacon fat scotch, maple water, orange bitters and angostura.

The Fainting Goat is an escape from the more basic brunch spots in D.C., and the restaurant's twist on traditional brunch fare ensures a newfound appreciation of brunch food.

READERS' PICK: THE SMITH

### Best Speakeasy BACKROOM AT CAPO DELI



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

### Best Dive Bar THE CODMOTHER

**ZACH SLOTKIN**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

When it comes to dive bars, the "less is more" principle is key. With a barebones basement bar, cheap alcohol and fun music, The Codmother provides the necessities without any of the extras.

There are a few tables and stools around the bar, but if you visit on a Saturday night you won't want to sit down. The dive bar's mix of '90s throwbacks and modern pop hits will

inspire you to hit the dance floor and drunkenly sing along.

The vibe at The Codmother is exactly what a true dive bar should be: It's small and dark, the crowd is young and the floors are sticky from beer. The Codmother is basically the adult version of a fraternity party, but at the dive bar you don't have to know a brother to get through the door.

You might have to throw a few elbows to fight your way through a tight

crowd of people to get to the bar and once you get there you might have to wait in line and scream over loud music to order a drink during a busy night. Funky portraits, string lights and chalked drawings fill the exposed brick walls and give The Codmother character.

Located along a busy U Street block, The Codmother's location gives patrons easy access to a number of other popular bars, making the dive bar an ideal stop for a night out or bar crawl.

READERS' PICK: THE RAVEN

### Best Sandwich Shop STACHOWSKI'S MARKET

**LINDSAY PAULEN**  
CULTURE EDITOR

In the age of social media, it is hard for hidden gems to stay under wraps. But Stachowski's Market – a deli removed from the M Street craze of Georgetown – has somehow remained a well-kept secret.

The corner butcher shop blends in with the surrounding townhouses on the block with its red brick exterior, but once you step inside, you'll most likely be greeted by a line and an abundance of offerings ranging from traditional deli meats like salami (\$13.99 per pound) and pastrami (\$17.99 per pound) to more uncommon options like duck prosciutto (\$45 per pound).

If you are looking for a deli to perfect your complicated sandwich order, Stachowski's Market is not your spot. The shop does not stray from its sandwich menu – which is written in chalk on a pig-shaped chalkboard – and custom sandwiches are not per-

mitted.

But the mostly Italian-inspired sandwich options that Stachowski's Market does offer are sure to satisfy. Come with an empty stomach if you're hoping to try the hot pastrami sandwich (\$16.99), which is piled high on pumpernickel bread with thick slabs of pastrami and a hearty smear of mustard, or the butcher shop dip (\$13.99) with hot roast beef, provolone and peppers.

Even the sandwich shop's seemingly simple turkey club (\$12.99) is massive and tasty, and it features two layers – one with roast turkey, avocado and mayonnaise and the other with bean sprouts, tomato, Swiss cheese and bacon. While I expected this to be one of the shop's lighter options, I was left walking back to campus with half of a sandwich leftover.

The sandwich shop's traditional style and straightforward menu of delicious sandwiches are what make it the best around.

READERS' PICK: JETTIES

# BEST OFF-CAMPUS HANGOUTS

## Best Instagram-worthy Photo Shoot 'THE GREAT WAVE' MURAL

**MOLLY KAISER**  
STAFF WRITER

Only a short walk from M Street in Georgetown, the wave mural will differentiate your Instagram feed from basic photo shoot locales around the District.

Tucked in between a row of townhouses, the immense blue wave covers the entire side of a home in Georgetown. Painted by architect and artist John McConnell, the piece was originally commissioned in 1974 by McConnell's friends and past owners of the home, Michael and Merete Gerli.

One night at dinner, the friends discussed how to dress up the unadorned wall on the side of their home and McConnell eventually decided to replicate "The Great Wave" by Hokusai – an iconic piece of Japanese art from the mid-1800s – because of the work's popularity.

McConnell said the mural took him about three weeks to complete, and impressed onlookers often stopped him to ask questions about the eccentric addition to the residential neighborhood. The foamy wave spans the entire left side of the building, crawling up the wall and cascading onto



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

the ground in realistic detail.

Since then, the mural has become a destination for Instagram photos, wedding snapshots and even for professors of Japanese history who have brought their students to the mural for lectures and discussions.

"I never would have dreamed in 1974 that 45 years later people would still be interested in it and still writing about it," McConnell said.

Because of its location off of M Street, the mural is off-the-beaten-path, making the perfect backdrop for your next artsy Instagram post if you want to stand out despite the app's ruthless algorithm.

So the next time you're in Georgetown, admire this historic hidden gem. You can add a creative flair to your feed by pretending that you're surfing the waves or perhaps that the water is crashing on top of you.

READERS' PICK: THE ROOF TERRACE AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

## Best Queer Night BLACK CAT

**KAT KIRKMAN**  
STAFF WRITER

The Black Cat, a music venue on 14th Street, has gained notoriety for its eclectic lineup of concerts.

But what some concertgoers may not know is that the venue is also a frequent host of Queer Girl Movie Night – a screening of films that feature queer women on screen or behind the camera.

While the District is known for its queer nightlife, the Black Cat's Queer Girl Movie Night provides a laid-back option without the looming pressure of alcohol or partying. The movie night is also open to all age groups, which makes it a great pick for friend groups that include people who are not 21.

With no entrance fee, the monthly movie screening allows attendees to watch films without having to shell out for pricey tickets at a movie theater.

Past Queer Girl Movie Night screenings at the Black Cat have included a Halloween screening of "All Cheerleaders Die" – a dark comedy where cheerleaders boldly take on football players and the supernatural – and a December "Hologay" screening of "Disobedience," a drama that follows the reuniting of two childhood friends after a long separation.

While a screenshot of a scene from each month's film is featured on the Queer Girl Movie Night Facebook event page, the name of the film is not disclosed. Instead, the screenshot and a clever description are used to playfully tease the film's identity.

Queer Girl Movie Night makes for a great addition to the LGBTQ nightlife in the District with its free admission in a notoriously expensive city while focusing on supporting queer people in the film industry.

Readers' CHOICE

## Best Park for Exploring GLOVER-ARCHBOLD PARK

**CAYLA HARRIS**  
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

Just a few minutes from the Mount Vernon Campus sits one of the District's hidden gems – Glover-Archbold Park.

The heavily forested park occupies more than 183 acres of D.C., leaving you more than enough territory to explore. The main trail is lined with fallen trees, branches, rocks and a small trickling creek – all additions that are bound to bring out the adventurer in anyone who passes through.

You can start your journey through the park at the intersection of 42nd Street and Davis Place NW, where acres of trees will open up to a seemingly endless dirt trail. As you venture deeper into the park, the trail begins to blend in with the surrounding flora, and you'll be stepping on rocks to cross small streams and using fallen trees like balance beams.

While you may find a handful of locals walking their dogs in the park, the seclusion and vastness of the area mean you likely won't run into any famil-

iar faces. Glover-Archbold Park's designation as a National Park also means you won't have to dodge bikers or scooter riders weaving between individuals on the trail.

The peace and quiet can be used to your advantage if you take some time to explore and find a shady tree, a hill or a spot at the edge of the water to sit down and read a book or meditate.

To get lost in nature for the afternoon, take a trip to the park and bask in tranquility away from Foggy Bottom.



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

## Best Local Shop LITTLE LEAF

**LINDSAY PAULEN**  
CULTURE EDITOR

While 14th Street has become a busy street for shopping at retailers like Madewell, Trader Joe's and Lululemon, you can wander off the busy main drag to find Little Leaf, a locally-owned plant shop.

Plant shops may not seem like a go-to destination, but Little Leaf's whimsical vibes and impeccable aesthetic has attracted the attention of locals.

From the moment you step into the shop, you will be greeted with a friendly hello by a worker and your eyes will fall upon a mass

of green, which is a fresh change from the District's urban streets. If you're lucky, the plant shop's 10-year-old pug Bronson may even come and greet you with a lick or two at the door.

If you are a new plant owner, the employees will gladly answer any of your questions, and each plant purchase comes with a card that explains how to properly take care of your plant with appropriate water and sunlight recommendations.

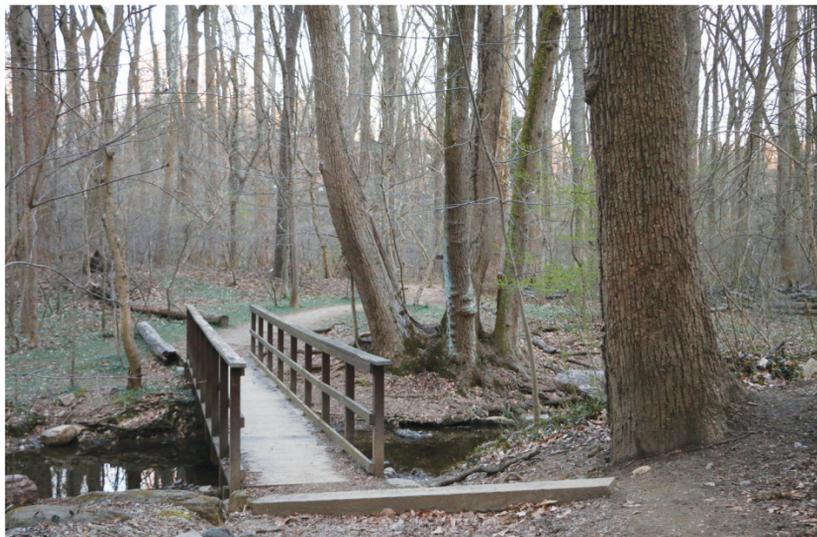
The prices for 2-inch succulents and cacti are \$6, 3-inch succulents are \$10 and air plants range

from \$6 to \$14. The shop also stocks intricate ceramic pots to house your purchase, like a pink-and-white speckled terracotta pot (\$16) or a white-and-gray marbled planter (\$28).

If you don't have a green thumb, Little Leaf also has non-plant items on its shelves like colorful locally-made greeting cards (\$5.50) and a Little Leaf-branded black tote bag (\$15) adorned with a large coral leaf.

With a helpful staff and a wide range of plants to choose from, Little Leaf is the perfect shop for beginner and well-seasoned plant owners alike.

READERS' PICK: SALT AND SUNDRY



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

READERS' PICK: THEODORE ROOSEVELT ISLAND

## Best Birthday Celebration WOK AND ROLL

**ANNIE DOBLER**  
STAFF WRITER

Celebrating your birthday at a fancy restaurant or in your residence hall may seem like a good idea at first, but dining out can break the bank and parties at home quickly become cramped.

Instead, book a karaoke room at Wok and Roll. With room sizes ranging from 10 guests (\$45 per hour) to 25 guests (\$65 per hour), the Chinatown karaoke bar makes for an affordable and memorable birthday with friends, especially if you divvy up the room cost among attendees.

Each room features a television that projects the song lyrics, some black leather booths and microphones to sing into all night long.

With about 150,000 songs to choose from, you may need to sift through some Japanese songs to find decade-old hits or the most

recent single. But you're sure to eventually find the perfect song to belt out lyrics to.

If you need some liquid courage to perform in front of your friends, order one of Wok and Roll's many Japanese beer offerings, like Sapporo (\$8.50) and KIRIN Ichiban (\$5.50), or go for a cocktail like a mai tai (\$7.50) or a pina colada (\$7.50).

Wok and Roll also does not impose an age minimum, meaning your under-21 friends can join in on the fun for your celebration.

After an hour or two of singing, you and your friends may get hungry. Luckily, Wok and Roll is mainly a restaurant so you can order snacks to your private room like curry fish balls (\$8.95), garlic chicken nuggets (\$13) or shrimp tempura (\$7.95).

Check out the song list ahead of time online, gather a group of friends and head over to Wok and Roll to celebrate turning another year older.

**ANNE BOONE**  
STAFF WRITER

While big-name chain movie theaters are great for catching the latest blockbusters, Suns Cinema – a hidden gem in Mount Pleasant – boasts an eccentric atmosphere and an offbeat movie selection.

The unconventional theater makes its home on the first floor of a cozy townhouse adorned with art and far-out decorations, like red wallpaper with dozens of zebras surrounding the back-of-the-room bar. Toward the back of the space, an array of stylish antique chairs – some of which are upholstered with vibrant colors – sit in front of the movie screen.

Tickets to any movie can be purchased on the Suns Cinema website, where a full movie schedule is also listed, for about \$10. Films range from 2000s hits like "Mean Girls" to episodes of TV shows like "I Love Lucy" and 1940s war films like "To Be or Not to Be."

Before the movie begins or during the 10-minute intermission, guests can head to the intimate bar in the back of the room

## Best Movie Theater SUNS CINEMA



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

that offers a selection of affordable drinks like \$3 cans of PRB, a \$6 local brew, a \$7 glass of wine or a \$10 featured cocktail that rotates nightly. If you're in the mood for a snack, you can enjoy a range of options like frozen Rolos (\$3), vegan pork rinds (\$4) and popcorn (\$3) prepared from an old-fashioned popcorn machine.

The owners of Suns Cinema, David Cabrera and Ryan Hunter

Mitchell, financed the theater after launching a Kickstarter campaign and raised more than \$16,000 to open the theater in May 2016.

Suns Cinema's quirky interior and uncommon movie screenings have drawn attention to genres of film that are often overshadowed by million-dollar blockbusters, making it stand out from other theaters in the District.

READERS' PICK: AMC GEORGETOWN 14

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

## Best Sexile Refuge

### THE VERN EXPRESS

HOPE ROSENBLATT  
REPORTER

Living with roommates is a constant balancing act of giving space while still claiming your own. So when your roommate brings home “the one” – or the one this week – you may struggle to find a spot to camp out while you are sexiled.

To put it mildly, living in sexile can be annoying. While hopefully your roommate doesn’t make a habit out of kicking you to the curb for some alone time, the Vern Express is always there for you.

The Vex runs between the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses – and the Virginia Science and Technology Campus if you know you’ll be kicked out for a long time. The Vex runs at mostly five-minute intervals during the week and on weekends, before switching over to 15 or 30-minute intervals during the evening.

When you take the Vex late at night without the usual traffic and overflow of students, the shuttle can be the perfect place of solace when you need to get away.

The newly renovated Vex shuttles are equipped with Wi-Fi and USB charging ports so you can get work done while you are avoiding your residence hall.

Plus, the bumpy route and sharp turns make it nearly impossible to doze off, so there’s no chance you’ll spend the night accidentally asleep in an unfamiliar location. Even if you are prone to motion sickness – a phenomenon usually exacerbated by the Vex – you still won’t be half as nauseous as you would be if you stayed in your room.

While getting kicked out of your room so your roommate can have some alone time is never ideal, the Vex makes living in sexile a little more convenient.

SIDNEY LEE  
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

The Sigma Chi bench has earned an iconic reputation from students as a monument you don’t have to walk a mile to see.

The oversized red wooden bench sits in front of the Sigma Chi fraternity townhouse on the corner of F and 21st streets. Nicknamed “the bench” by students, it has become an unofficial symbol of the fraternity house and a landmark on campus. The bench has also gained attention after dozens of mentions on the GW’s memes page on Facebook, making it a well-known campus destination for those in and out of Greek life.

Jeff Armstrong, Sigma Chi’s public relations chair, said the bench was built six years ago by brothers of the fraternity. While it has gained traction on campus, Armstrong said it is “just a great place to hang out when the weather is nice.”

The fraternity used the bench for philanthropy this year. Sigma Chi hosted a bench signing event for Derby Days – the organization’s annual fundraiser that raises awareness for cancer research and treatment – where people could sign the



ARIANNA DUNHAM | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

bench in silver Sharpie for just \$1. Through the event, the fraternity raised more than \$500.

“Countless individuals pass by the bench each day and associate the bench with strictly Greek life, yet we wanted to change that connotation and have our message and philanthropy reach more than just the Greek community because everybody is impacted by cancer in one way or another,” Armstrong

said. While none of the brothers really know what caused the bench’s rise to fame, the memes and jokes don’t go unnoticed.

“We’ve all seen the memes about it,” Armstrong said. “There seems to be a community here at GW that thinks the idea of a big red bench is hilarious, or maybe they’re laughing at us. I don’t know, but we appreciate the memes. Keep them coming.”

READERS’ PICK: THE NATIONAL MALL

READERS’ PICK: THE HIPPO STATUE IN FRONT OF LISNER AUDITORIUM

## Best Professor

### MELANI McALISTER

SAMANTHA ROSS  
REPORTER

Melani McAlister, a professor of American studies and international affairs, has spent more than 20 years teaching her students about the global context of the United States.

McAlister is loved by students across the American studies department for her courses like U.S. in a Global Context or U.S. Media and Cultural History. This semester, McAlister is also teaching a course called the Politics of “Saving Africa,” which examines U.S.-African relations.

Before joining the University staff in 1996, McAlister spent her post-graduate years living in Cairo, Egypt and working for a peace group called Mobilization for Survival in Boston – which taught various religious groups about issues in the Middle East.

She has also written two books, “Epic Encounters,” which discusses the effects of U.S. culture and media in the Middle East, and “The Kingdom of God Has No Borders: A Global History of American Evangelicals,” which focuses on evangelicalism outside of the United States.

While McAlister is passionate about teaching and learning, she



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

said she is also invested in ensuring her students form meaningful relationships with her and one another. She said she is often inspired by her students’ enthusiasm for social justice issues and that she is constantly learning lessons from them.

“My students are very invested in social justice of all sorts and they care about doing good in the world,” McAlister said. “I see women who are far less concerned about how to dress and how to have relationships and instead concerned that their

careers will be taken seriously and that they are safe on campus.”

Outside the classroom, McAlister can be found doing yoga, reading science fiction with her three cats at home or dining at Ethiopic, an Ethiopian restaurant in North-east D.C.

Even if you aren’t majoring or minoring in American studies, McAlister’s deep knowledge of and passion for the topics she teaches will make any of her courses enjoyable.

READERS’ PICK: TARA SCULLY

## Best Secluded Study Spot

### B2 LEVEL OF SEH

EVA TREACY  
REPORTER

If you easily get tired of Gelman Library or struggle to find seating in District House or the Marvin Center, change up your study spot and head to the B2 level of the Science and Engineering Hall.

While SEH has plenty of seats on other levels, the spots quickly fill up with dozens of students working on assignments or binge-watching Netflix between classes. But the B2 level – which many students often end up overlooking – will allow you to be the most productive because fewer students do work there.

On level B2 of SEH, you will have no distractions. The entire floor is home to sterile labs with very few students walking the halls, creating an extremely quiet environment that will allow you to study for hours on end.

With about 20 seats for students on the floor, large groups of people don’t usually choose the B2 level to

get work done. But if they do, they are quickly intimidated by glares from floor regulars when they start to chat.

There is also a small area of the B2 level that is fully equipped with a microwave, sink and various other cooking supplies – which anyone can use – in the event you want to heat up some leftovers to save some GWorld. Plus, there’s even a WEPA printing kiosk that you will rarely have to wait in line for.

If you need a bite to eat, you can refuel with a nutritious salad or warm and hearty vegetable bowl from Beefsteak, which is attached to the building. After hours of studying, you may also become tired, but luckily the Starbucks under Gelman Library is situated conveniently across the street for all your caffeine needs.

Once you discover the B2 level of SEH, you will realize you don’t need a dreary Gelman Library cubicle to actually be productive.

READERS’ PICK: DUQUES HALL STUDY ROOMS

## Best Female Athlete

### ALEX ZOIS



FILE PHOTO BY GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

BARBARA ALBERTS  
SPORTS EDITOR

Fifth-year gymnast Alex Zois has battled through two season-ending injuries during her time as a Colonial. But for her last year, she has come back better than ever to end her career on a high note.

Whether she is sticking a landing on vault or flawlessly executing a floor exercise routine, Zois shows up to every meet at the top of her game and leads

GW as a team captain. Her continued ability to perform at the highest level in all events made her the choice for this year’s Best Female Athlete.

Zois has topped the all-around category in nine of the team’s 14 meets this season and earned East Atlantic Gymnastics League First-Team honors in all-around, vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise. She captured her third EAGL Gymnast of the Week honors of the season after she

nabbed a first-place finish in GW’s final regular season meet of the year.

Zois helped the Colonials clinch a spot in the NCAA Regionals this season with a first-place showing in the all-around at the EAGL Championships.

Zois’ teammates have called her work ethic “relentless,” and head coach Margie Foster-Cunningham said Zois has handled the pressure of elite gymnastics “better than anybody.”

READERS’ PICK: MEI-LYN BAUTISTA

## Best Male Athlete

### ATAKAN DESTICI



FILE PHOTO BY OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR

BARBARA ALBERTS  
SPORTS EDITOR

Men’s water polo was down by one goal against Bucknell with just seconds left in the game when junior utility player Atakan Destici buried the ball in the back of the net, sending the match into extra minutes.

Destici’s cannon of an arm and his ability to consistently perform in crunch time has led the team to victory, which is why he scored this year’s

pick for Best Male Athlete.

Destici has been a reliable scorer for the Colonials since kicking off his collegiate career in 2016. Destici paced the pool with a three-goal performance in the MAWPC Championship in 2017, leading the Colonials to the program’s first-ever conference title.

Destici’s ability to execute clutch shots and create scoring opportunities for his teammates helped GW improve to a 15–11

record in his inaugural season.

Destici was a key factor in GW securing two conference crowns and two NCAA Championship appearances.

He has earned two Honorable Mention All-American nods as a Colonial and a spot on the All-MAWPC First Team each year of his career.

With one more season left in his GW career, Destici is on his way to putting together a stellar senior campaign.

READERS’ PICK: DJ WILLIAMS

FROM GWHATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

"From an international perspective, life in the United States had always seemed uncomfortable at best because from afar, it didn't seem like I would ever be welcomed or feel at home here."

—ASHWATH NARAYANAN, WRITER published March 28

## Presidential review should prioritize student input

When the University announced the comprehensive presidential review that began this semester, University President Thomas LeBlanc said his participation in this review shows unique transparency for a university president.

But while undergoing a review is a good first step, the University is not giving students – the constituency that should be most important to officials – enough opportunities to give feedback.

**Jack Murphy**  
Columnist

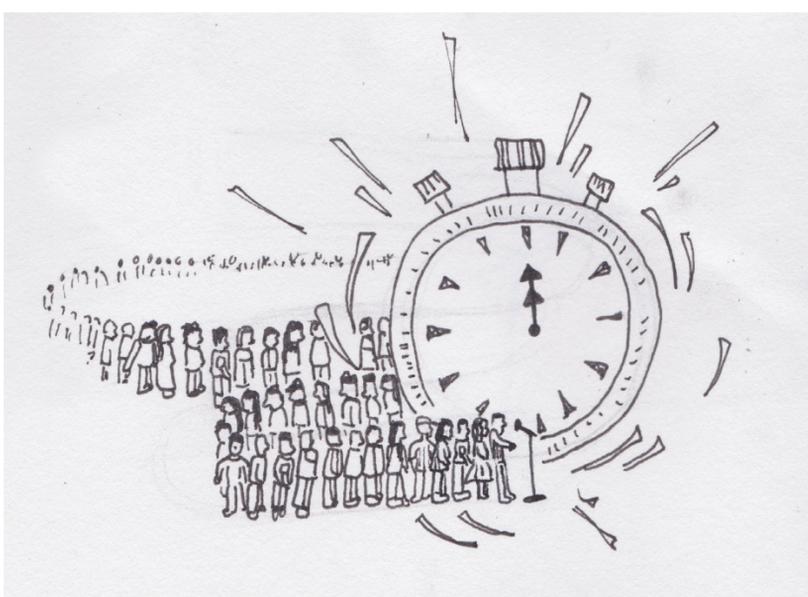
In an email sent to students announcing the start of the review, administrators expressed their desire to obtain feedback from students. The student body, which includes more than 26,000 undergraduate and graduate students, was given just two hours total in two open forum sessions last week in the Jack Morton Auditorium to provide feedback in person. Officials conducting the review also sent an online feedback form and will hold individual and group interviews as part of the assessment, but two open invitations to hear student concerns are not enough.

In addition to not providing enough times to gather feedback, the forums were also at inconvenient times, which hinders students' ability to give feedback. The first forum was held from noon to 1 p.m., which conflicts with many classes and work schedules.

All of the forums were held on the Foggy Bottom Campus, which also limits who can attend because it may not be feasible for all students – especially those that live on the Mount Vernon Campus, or graduate students who primarily use the Virginia Science and Technology Campus – to attend.

The University has attempted to mitigate this particular issue by providing a live stream of the first forum, but access to the footage is simply not enough because it does not allow watchers to give any feedback. While students have an opportunity to send feedback through the review page, they had no way to interact with the conversation in real time.

Just six total students attended two feedback sessions last week. While we cannot be sure whether the problem with turnout lies in the inconvenient times, location or another factor altogether, a myriad of issues contributed to the unsuccessful listening sessions



Cartoon by Tara Peckham

and officials must do more to make these events more worthwhile for both parties.

Administrators already seem out of reach to many students. While LeBlanc does make an effort to reach students through his monthly office hours, it is important that individuals conducting the review of him reach out to all types of students to make it clear they want to hear about their experiences. Regardless of the rea-

son for low turnout at this week's events, officials need to take note of their failure to get appropriate student feedback and open up additional sessions to be sure they hear from students. Students have different needs, and limiting the feedback sessions doesn't explore all possible experiences students may have had in the past year.

To truly be an accessible and transparent leader, and get the most out of this

review, officials need to remove the barriers that may prevent students from voicing their concerns about LeBlanc and the University as a whole.

Limited accessibility runs counter to the review's mission of transparency. Officials are trying to make it appear as though they are hearing student feedback, but being heard by officials is a privilege only afforded to students who could attend

the forum or are one of the few leaders tapped for an individual or group interview during the review.

The University seems more concerned about creating an appearance of listening to students rather than actually making sure their voices are heard. Taking the effort to actually listen to students can be as simple as hosting a forum on the Vern or offering more listening sessions in the evening. Students should not simply be able to see and observe the actions of the University – they should have an active role and stake in decisions made at the highest level of the University. By making it difficult for students to voice their concerns, administrators fail their most important constituents – the students.

Student feedback should be at the center of everything the University does, especially with reviews of top administrators. LeBlanc cannot properly guide and shape the University without input from students, and this review needs to incorporate vast input from the group that LeBlanc was hired to serve. The student body deserves to and must be heard in order for the University to fulfill its promise to prioritize our experience at GW.

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

## Ranked-choice voting would have prevented a runoff election for SA president

The Student Association Senate planned to overhaul its election process last academic year, including a switch to a ranked-choice voting system instead of electing a candidate by a simple majority.

But the Joint Elections Commission – the body that oversees SA elections – lacked the proper technology to use the voting system this year and held off on implementing the new structure until next spring. The JEC could not have predicted that a last-minute write-in candidate would send the election into a runoff, but ranked-choice voting would have saved students from the drama.

**Kiran Hoeffner-Shah**

Contributing Opinions Editor

Ranked-choice voting allows students to rank their candidates from their first to last choice, and any candidate who acquires 50 percent of the vote would win automatically. But if no candidate reached the 50 percent threshold, the individual with the lowest number of first-choice votes would be eliminated, and the second-choice votes from those ballots would be counted. The process would continue until one candidate secures at least 50 percent of the vote.

But the JEC did not follow through on its initial plans to use the system, and students will be asked to vote for a second time this week for the SA president. Had the JEC implemented ranked-choice voting this year, the presidential race would not have rolled into another week.

Under the SA constitution, candidates who do not receive at least 40 percent of the vote move on to a runoff election involving the two individuals who took the highest percentages. This year, three presidential candidates were on the ballot and a fourth staged an improbable write-in campaign, which divided the share of votes to less than 40 percent each. Freshman Justin Diamond and junior SJ Matthews, who took 27 and 25 percent of the vote, respectively, will now advance to a runoff election Thursday.

Diamond's campaign is predicated on the idea that the SA is unnecessary, and his platform highlights one action item: abolish the organization. Matthews, the Residence Hall Asso-

ciation president who plans to grant all students tap access and increase transparency in the SA, is the second presidential contender.

Matthews and Diamond align in recognizing the SA's flaws, but Diamond's solution of abolishing the SA breaks away from the rest of the field. Matthews wants to improve the SA by holding more listening sessions to ensure students feel represented by their student leaders. But this fundamental difference in their platforms would have prevented a runoff because students who want the SA to stay would have ranked him last on the ballot – eliminating him from the race.

Candidates ShanTorrian Underwood and Nicole Cennamo finished third and fourth in the presidential race, respectively, but together they accrued enough votes to make up the difference between either Diamond or Matthews reaching the 50 percent threshold.

Matthews, Underwood and Cennamo put together platforms that fought tough issues on campus, like food insecurity and affordability. Students who voted for Underwood or Cennamo under a ranked-choice system likely would have allocated their second- and third-choice votes toward candidates with platforms focused on improving the SA instead of axing it. Matthews' positions, while often taking on different solutions than Underwood or Cennamo, were similar enough that it is likely she would have won in a ranked-choice system.

Had ranked-choice voting been implemented, the SA would have a president-elect.

A runoff election isn't necessarily a bad thing. Students who were unlikely to vote were inspired by Diamond's campaign, which gave him stardom on the GW memes Facebook page. His campaign started a conversation about what the SA can do better and its necessity in the allocation of student-group funds. But having representation is more important than eliminating inefficiencies, and the majority of students who voted for Matthews, Underwood and Cennamo showed that most of the student body still wants representation.

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

## STAFF EDITORIAL

## Students need to open their eyes, speak out about GW's habit of quiet turnover

We get it. Most of you do not interact with administrators on a day-to-day basis. Frankly, most of us don't either.

Administrators can feel foreign to the average student, so news that appears plastered on our front page about vacant positions likely doesn't phase most of you or compel you to pick up the print edition to learn more.

But when the University fails to fill key positions that oversee aspects of student life that are most crucial – health and security – GW is failing students.

You may not think that vacant positions affect your time at GW, but as long as the University puts off filing positions and dodging questions about why leaders leave, officials are not serving students. It's easy to push this issue aside and continue worrying about personal issues – but it's time to pay attention, spot the trend and demand answers.

The most recent troubling departure occurred over the past few weeks. A University spokeswoman confirmed two weeks ago that Darrell Darnell, the senior associate vice president for safety and security and the superintendent of police, left his position – at least temporarily. The University installed an interim leader for the GW Police Department but never issued a release about the change.

After quietly shuffling the department while keeping students, faculty – and even the department's own officers – in the dark, officials continued to avoid questions about the change.

Even today, we still don't know why Darnell left or if he will return to the department. We don't even know the exact date that he left and when the interim leader became responsible for students' safety. The reason could be simple and benign, but it could also be troubling. But without transparency from the University, we are left to speculate – and speculation often leads to anxiety and conclusions to the worst possible scenario.

This one quiet change is concerning, but turnover and hushed changes are not new in GWPD. Just last year, the University restructured the Division

of Safety and Security after GWPD's top two leaders abruptly resigned. At the time experts said the resignations could signal discontent in the department – especially considering former leaders also quietly departed and officers quit with complaints of a hostile work environment – and we are still left wondering what happened a year ago and what is happening now.

Ensuring students are safe should be the University's top priority, and the only factor that may trump it is students' health. But the University has quietly avoided questions about that department, too.

The Colonial Health Center has seen three different leaders over the past year and a half. Dean of the Student Experience Cissy Petty was tapped to lead the department while officials searched for a permanent leader with medical experience, but six months later officials admitted they hadn't even begun searching.

Before Petty began leading the CHC, Glenn Egelman, the department's first leader, left after just six months and administrators were again tight-lipped about why he left and what their plans were to find a permanent replacement.

Egelman later said the office was plagued with lacking transparency when billing students and failing to ensure it met national quality standards.

Over the past 18 months, the University has left this vital position hanging in the balance – and it has gone largely unnoticed by students.

Changes in leadership aren't uncommon across the University, but they are cause for alarm when there are repeated leadership changes in departments that are vital for student safety and health.

These vacancies are examples of a growing pattern in which the University lacks transparency in making leadership changes. It has become apparent that the University doesn't care about being transparent with students, even when transparency can only help the situation. While it is easy for students to push these seemingly distant is-

ssues to the backburner, it is clear that these issues are not new and administrators don't seem to be concerned with hiring qualified staff or prioritizing the health and safety of students.

Students may not think they can have a large impact on how administrators work at the University, but the first step is to be informed. Vital branches of the administration, including GWPD and the CHC, have been functioning without qualified leadership or with a system that isn't supportive of University employees. Students' tuition dollars go toward paying administrators and if we continue to turn a blind eye to those issues and allow them to avoid their responsibility, there is no reason why the University will adjust the way it is currently functioning.

But these issues go beyond just asking for transparency. With absences and vacancies every few months, a pattern of failure is normalized. It is impossible to look at the consistent leadership vacancies in GWPD, the lack of a stable leader in the CHC and a former athletic director scandal that has been swept under the rug as parts of an open University. These patterns of incompetence should push students to ask administrators the big question: "What is going on?"

The University owes students an explanation for why these positions – which are so central to the health and safety of students – have been quietly changed or have still not been filled with a permanent replacement.

At the end of the day, the lack of transparency isn't just about students being aware of how their tuition dollars are being used. Lack of stability in these positions causes students to worry about their health and safety, and this anxiety cannot continue.

Administrators haven't been forthcoming with this information, and that won't likely change in the next month or even the next year. But students need to pay attention and call on the University to be better. We can't continue to let the University pull down the shades and ignore their responsibility to create the best possible environment for students.

The GW Hatchet

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

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

Liz Provencher, editor in chief

Matt Cullen, managing editor\*  
Elise Zaidi, managing director\*  
Cayla Harris, senior news editor  
Renée Pineda, opinions editor\*  
Lindsay Paulen, culture editor\*  
Barbara Alberts, sports editor\*  
Olivia Dupree, design editor  
Olivia Anderson, photo editor  
Arianna Dunham, video editor  
Annie Dobler, copy editor  
Kelly Hooper, copy editor  
Emily Recko, graphics editor

Leah Potter, news editor  
Meredith Roaten, news editor  
Lauren Peller, assistant news editor  
Ilena Peng, assistant news editor  
Sarah Roach, assistant news editor  
Parth Kotak, blog editor  
Danny Schapiro, assistant video editor  
Samantha Kramer, contributing social media director  
Zach Slotkin, contributing social media director\*  
Kiran Hoeffner-Shah, contributing opinions editor\*  
Dionna Lee, contributing culture editor  
Donna Armstrong, contributing photo editor

Graeme Sloan, contributing photo editor  
Dante Schulz, contributing video editor  
Jared Gans, research assistant  
Nia Lartey, research assistant  
Lizzie Mintz, research assistant  
\* denotes member of editorial board

Business Office  
Andrew Shlosh, business manager  
Tyler Loveless, accounting manager

Submissions — Deadlines for submissions are Friday 5 p.m. for Monday issues. They must include the author's name, title, year in school and phone number. The GW Hatchet does not guarantee publication and reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, grammar and clarity. Submit to opinions@gwhatchet.com

Policy Statement — The GW Hatchet is produced by Hatchet Publications Inc., an independent, non-profit corporation. All comments should be addressed to the Board of Directors, which has sole authority for the content of this publication. Opinions expressed in signed columns are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of The GW Hatchet. All content of The GW Hatchet is copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written authorization from the editor in chief.

# News

April 1, 2019 • Page 6

## CRIME LOG

**THEFT II/FROM BUILDING**  
Shenkman Hall (Dunkin' Donuts)  
3/20/2019 – Noon  
Closed Case  
The GW Police Department responded to a report that a male subject unaffiliated with the University had stolen a tub of ice cream from Dunkin' Donuts the day before. Officers found the subject, issued him a bar notice and escorted him off campus.  
**Subject barred**

**FRAUD 2D**  
Off Campus  
Multiple – Multiple  
Closed Case  
A female student reported to GWPD that an unknown person attempted to defraud her of \$1,000 while she was looking for employment online.  
**Off-campus incident**

**DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/  
VANDALISM**  
Academic Center  
Unknown – Unknown  
Open Case  
A member of a student organization reported to GWPD that some of their organization's posters were torn down from an interior first-floor stairwell.  
**Case open**

— Compiled by Valerie Yurk

# GW to launch search for chief people officer

**MEREDITH ROATEN**  
NEWS EDITOR

The University will be the first of its peers to hire a chief people officer, an increasingly popular position as companies and organizations rebrand their human resources offices.

Mark Diaz, the executive vice president and chief financial officer, said in an email to employees last week that he would "soon" launch a search for a chief people officer. Diaz said the new hire will strategize how the University can evaluate employee benefits, improve staff training and revamp recruitment practices.

The announcement is the first concrete update in the University's evaluation of the human resources department after Diaz began his term in August 2018. The University has been without a permanent human resources head for more than three years.

"While we are seeking to achieve a culture transformation at GW, we need to reorient our approach from one that is process-oriented and transactional to one that puts our people first," Diaz said in an email to The Hatchet. "Our focus must be on how we can best support and serve GW faculty and staff as they work to provide an outstanding experience for our students and our community."

rience for our students and our community."

Diaz said in the email to employees last week that the CPO will also be responsible for creating a "service centric, high performing" relationship with businesses and training workers. The new hire will also head Total Rewards, the benefits oversight division that manages payroll and compensation, he said.

"The CPO will oversee and promote a data-driven strategy that attracts, develops, engages and supports the talent to advance GW's mission," he said.

The person will develop ways to enhance current benefits packages and search for new incentives to make GW "a distinctive place to work," Diaz said.

Over the "coming months," Diaz said officials will implement a series of new management technologies, including a new time-off tracking system, an online human resources portal, an automated reference check system, an updated process for making employment offers and a new tool for prospective employees to learn about the hiring experience.

He added that the administration will add another leadership position under the CPO to create an organizational develop-



FILE PHOTO BY GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR  
Mark Diaz, the executive vice president and chief financial officer, said in an email to employees last week that he would "soon" launch a search for a chief people officer.

ment plan but did not provide specifics. The new hire will report to Diaz, unlike the vice president for human resources, who has reported to the deputy executive vice president and treasurer in the past.

Diaz, through a University spokeswoman, declined to answer six additional questions about the CPO, including whether the position will replace the vice president for human resources, when the post is expected to be filled and what qualities officials are looking for in the new hire.

"Since we are just beginning this effort, we have no more additional information at this time beyond the information announced in the initial in the memo," University spokeswoman

Maralee Csellar said.

Human resources experts said a chief people officer could improve relationships between top administrators and lower-level employees and help address some of the communication and bureaucracy issues that the University's top brass have been pushing for in recent months.

Heather Landy, the editor of the online business publication Quartz at Work, said many businesses, including Fortune 500 companies like Coca-Cola, have made the switch from a human resources head to a chief people officer because companies are increasingly focused on prioritizing employees.

"It sounds silly, in a way, but even just the name change is

important to signaling to everyone at the company or organization or school that this is how we look at people, as people and not as resources," Landy said. "It's culturally signaling something good."

John Anderson, the managing director at the San Francisco office of executive search firm Allegis Partners, said it would be more beneficial to have the chief people officer report to the president instead of the chief financial officer because the president should directly hear employees' needs.

"Not having the chief people officer in the room, I think you just create an opportunity to miss some big things," he said. "Instead of having the actual voice in the room, you have a translator."

## IT'S NOT FOR EVERYONE, JUST THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW.

Available at almost 1,000 colleges and universities nationwide, Army ROTC sets you apart by providing leadership skills and incredible personal development. It also provides great benefits like advanced career training and opportunities for scholarships. As an Army officer, you adapt to challenges and empower others to become highly trained, adaptable and ready for anything. Be a leader on the team that makes a difference. [goarmy.com/rotc](http://goarmy.com/rotc)

Army ROTC offers paid summer internships. Learn more today.  
Contact Mr. Ray at 202-687-7094  
Email [armyrotc@georgetown.edu](mailto:armyrotc@georgetown.edu)

click for details

## STORE & WIN YETI GIVEAWAY

Store with Us and You Could

# WIN A YETI GIFT PACK!

PLUS Get **FREE** First Month's Rent + USB Drive

AND 10% Off Rent thru August!

## We Believe in Second Chances

Cover our nation with prayer for those affected by crime and incarceration. Walk with us and hear real-life stories of people searching for their second chance.

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/GWPPrayerWalk](http://prisonfellowship.org/GWPPrayerWalk)

SECOND CHANCE MONTH

PRISON FELLOWSHIP

## Come Join The IAAGW Career Networking Event

**Saturday, April 13th**  
From 11am-3pm

**River Inn, Georgetown**

**IAAGW.net**

# Few student groups endorse candidates for SA's top two posts

KELLY HOOPER  
STAFF WRITER

Candidates vying for the Student Association's top spots this year received the fewest number of endorsements in recent history.

About 20 student organizations endorsed candidates for SA president and executive vice president ahead of the election last week, about 15 fewer student groups than in 2018, 2017 and 2016. Student leaders of organizations that have endorsed candidates in past SA elections but did not this year said they lacked the time to hear out candidates or their executive boards could not come to a consensus on who to back.

Over the past three years, the number of student organizations that chose to endorse candidates has fluctuated from about 30 to 40. In 2015, more than 70 student organizations endorsed one of the three candidates for president, and more than 30 supported one of the three candidates for executive vice president.

Naja Nelson, the president of GW's NAACP chapter, which endorsed SA President Ashley Le and SA Executive Vice President Ojani Walthrust in last year's race, said that unlike past years, her organization did not endorse a candidate this year because she wanted members to make their own decisions. She said the student group instead attended listening sessions where the candidates were present so members could hear out their platforms.

"We ultimately decided

to do something different and support students choosing for themselves," she said in an email.

Emily Bailey, the president of Alpha Phi Omega, a gender-inclusive service fraternity that endorsed SA presidential candidate Imani Ross last year, said members of her organization have been focusing on the organization's own internal matters and could not coordinate schedules to speak with SA candidates.

"We only endorse candidates if everyone from that particular race is able to come speak to us at once," she said in an email. "It was really just a timing issue."

Yasmine Sadoudi, a member of Jewish Voice for Peace, said the student organization reached out to every presidential and executive vice presidential candidate but only met with SA Sen. ShanForriam Underwood, CCAS-U and a candidate for SA president, and Quentin McHoes, a candidate for executive vice president.

She said none of the candidates openly favored divesting from companies that allegedly contribute to Palestinian suffering—a hotly contested topic in the SA in recent years—which dented the group from coming out in support of any one candidate.

"We take pride in our organization's diversity of opinion on GW politics and believe that our members should have the opportunity to critically analyze the policies and platforms of each candidate," she said.

Nicole Cennamo, the SA's vice president for aca-

demic affairs and a candidate for SA president, said student organizations might have been less motivated to endorse candidates this year because of scandals that have tainted the past few SA elections, leading student groups to revoke endorsements.

Last year, four student organizations rescinded their endorsements of SA executive vice presidential candidate Brady Forrest after he was accused of anti-Semitism late in the campaign. The year before, SA presidential candidate Lande Watson was disqualified from the election amid allegations that she and her campaign team harassed, stalked and intimidated another candidate.

"I think this year, people are probably a little scarred by that," Cennamo said.

SA Sen. Amy Martin, ESIA-U and the executive vice president-elect, also said student organizations may have been wary of endorsing a candidate in anticipation of SA election drama. She said that while fewer student organizations announced endorsements than in years past, candidates should have still reached out and held conversations with members of student groups to promote their ideas.

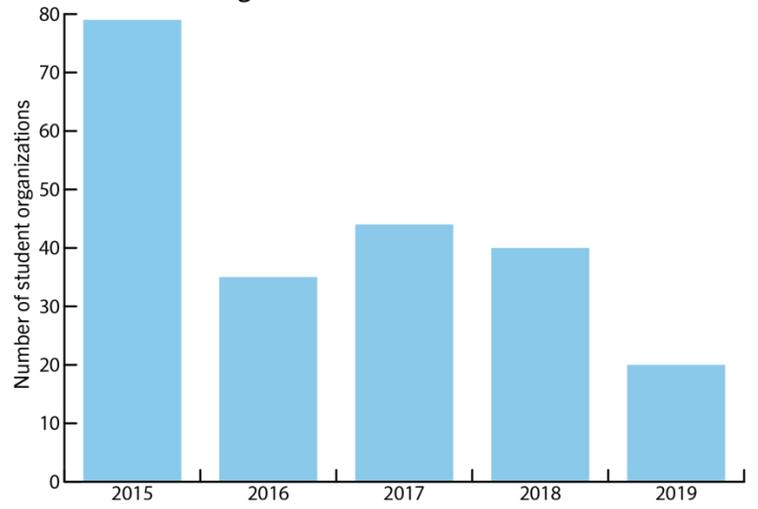
"What's more valuable is the time that you spend talking to student organizations," she said. "Even when organizations ultimately decide not to endorse, they are representative of a passion or a group of students that have a perspective on this campus."



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Naja Nelson, the president of GW's NAACP chapter, said the organization did not endorse an SA candidate this year because she wanted members to make their own decisions.

Student organizations that endorsed SA candidates



GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA COLUMBUS | STAFF DESIGNER



ALEXANDER WELLING | PHOTOGRAPHER

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences exceeded its fundraising goal in the first-ever Match4Match challenge last month.

## Medical school surpasses scholarship fundraising goal in new matching challenge

ED PRESTERA  
REPORTER

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences exceeded its fundraising goal in the first-ever Match4Match challenge last month.

The school aimed to raise \$15,000, which would be matched dollar-for-dollar by triple alumnus Kerry Kuhn, but donors have gifted more than \$16,500 so far. Officials said the more than \$31,500 in funds raised will help students pay for their education at the medical school, which can total more than \$90,000 annually.

Medical school spokeswoman Lisa Anderson said scholarship support for students in the medical school is a "top philanthropic priority." Anderson said the campaign opened with an email sent out on March 10 and continued through the end of the month. Anderson did not specify to whom the email was sent.

She said the school met and exceeded the campaign's goal through donations to the SMHS Power and Promise student aid fund, a scholarship pool for medical school students.

"Thanks in large part to alumni support, SMHS provides scholarship support to nearly one-third of our students, enabling many to select specialties based on their calling and passions—not their financial need," she said. "We are grateful for their

support."

Anderson declined to say how much money the medical school expected to raise in the Match4Match challenge.

Kuhn, the alumnus who provided the initial \$15,000 donation, said medical school officials pitched the matching campaign to him after he offered the gift to the school. He said the program was developed because of the need to financially support medical students, whose interests are oftentimes more costly than those of other academic programs.

"The students come out of medical school with hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt, and one, it's difficult for them to repay it, and two, that also influences their choice of specialty to go into," he said.

Kuhn said he agreed to participate in the matching campaign because he is "committed to GW," where he completed his own residency in 1977. He also attended GW for his undergraduate education and for medical school, and he has four family members who have received some kind of formal education from GW.

He said that if students are able to graduate from the medical school with little to no debt, they can more easily pay off student loans and go into fields "that they are really interested in and that there

is a need for" instead of those that may hand out larger paychecks.

Kuhn added that he will visit the District at the beginning of this month to visit some of the students in the medical school who matched with their residency locations last month.

Jamie Szymanski, who recently decided to complete her residency in general surgery at GW, said she wants to stay at the University because she feels connected to the community and wants to continue to learn from faculty she considers mentors. She said the scholarship money she received will allow her financial future to be "manageable and reasonable."

"Moving toward graduation and planning and thinking ahead, it was a big, scary thing, and then receiving these scholarships and having a sizable chunk of my debt erased is life-changing," she said.

Szymanski said that because she has less student debt to repay, it is more "realistic" to plan for other future developments, like buying a house with her husband.

"Now, I feel very fortunate that things sort of fell into place," she said. "Financially, it wasn't as big of a sacrifice to get those things that I wanted. This money makes up for a sacrifice that I had to make to go through school but now is lifted."

## Majority of students would need to vote to abolish SA

From Page 1

Members of the convention extended their work into the summer and then again into the fall, and a draft of the constitution was finalized in January 1976. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the charter of what is now called the Student Association in May 1976, according to Hatchet archives.

More than four decades later, Diamond wants to abolish the organization, saying SA senators should not determine which student organizations will receive funding each fiscal year.

Here's how he could constitutionally fulfill his campaign promise:

The SA's constitution, which creates the structure of the three branches of the

governing body, can be dissolved by posing a referendum to the student body that asks whether the SA should be eliminated. The constitution requires a two-thirds vote of the SA Senate or a petition signed by 10 percent of the undergraduate and graduate student body for a referendum to be placed on a ballot.

Diamond said in a Facebook post last week that he would call for a student body petition if the senate does not approve a referendum.w

The constitution mandates that a referendum vote is held within 20 class days of receiving the necessary number of student signatures on a petition or a senate vote.

If elected, Diamond would take the helm of the SA in May, but the tight turnaround between the change

in leadership and the end of the school year would likely force him to propose a referendum at the start of next academic year.

If the vote is held in the fall rather than the spring alongside SA elections, the SA president would appoint members to a special elections committee tasked with overseeing the vote.

While a majority vote on the referendum would dissolve the SA constitution—which would effectively cease operations of the body—the SA's charter cannot be abolished without the Board of Trustees' approval. The SA's charter, which gives the SA its authority to represent students and the responsibility to meet the needs of students, requires a majority vote from the Board of Trustees to be amended.

## SA presidential runoff election to take place Thursday

From Page 1

president in 2012 and a race for both president and executive vice president in 2011. Elections also led to a runoff twice in 2009 and 2008 for the presidency.

Ingram, the chairman of the JEC, said that in a runoff election, candidates are allowed to spend an additional \$100 on their campaigns and can seek endorsements from those already elected to the SA Senate. While Diamond did not register with the JEC to run for president, his name will appear on the ballot, and voters will have no option to cast a write-in vote, he said.

Matthews, who has highlighted community building in her platform, said she is "stressed but excited" because she thought she would finish campaigning last week. She will hold listening sessions in Kogan Plaza, District House, the Marvin Center and on the Mount Vernon Campus this week to talk with students ahead of the election, she said.

"I think for me, personally, it's great to see that the student body supports me and that they consider me a good candidate to have made it to

the runoff," Matthews said.

Matthews ran on a platform of giving all students tap access to residence halls and expanding the number of lounge areas in the Marvin Center.

She added that she has reached out to SA senators-elects to congratulate them on their races and has planned meetings with student theater organizations in the hopes of securing additional

**"It's great to see that the student body supports me and that they consider me a good candidate to have made it to the runoff."**

SJ MATTHEWS  
CANDIDATE, SA PRESIDENT

endorsements.

"I'm going to continue talking to them about the issues that matter on this campus, about what I can do to fix them and how we can actually build a good GW," she said.

Diamond said his campaign has built a sense of community on campus, and moving to a runoff election shows that a large share of students believe that the SA is unproductive. If elected, Diamond would be the first freshman and write-in candidate to be elected SA presi-

dent in recent memory.

"I have a lot of students behind me and I'm excited to keep rallying support for our cause," he said. "I was just very proud of my friends and all of the people who came out to help."

Heading into the week, Diamond said he will not spend any money on his campaign because "it doesn't require money to be the voice of students."

Diamond has also pledged to renounce the SA president's \$15,000 scholarship if elected.

He said he will spend the next few days meeting with students to ensure voters understand that his candidacy is not part of a "joke campaign" but includes a viable plan to cut or significantly reform the SA. Diamond released a formal platform Sunday called the "Diamond Standard," which details his top two priorities in-depth.

"We may joke and we may have fun, but this campaign is very serious," Diamond said. "There's a real platform behind it, and I think that it's very telling when the opposition writes off our entire platform as a joke and says that people voting against them are simply kidding around."

## GAMES OF THE WEEK

**SOFTBALL**  
vs. Delaware State  
1 & 3 p.m. • Wednesday  
The Colonials take a break from Atlantic 10 play to battle the Hornets in a nonconference doubleheader at the Vern.

**LACROSSE**  
vs. VCU  
1 p.m. • Sunday  
The Colonials return home for an A-10 match up against VCU after a quick trip to Saint Joseph's.

**NUMBER CRUNCH 11.33** Average number of steals women's water polo accumulated over its three-game homestand over the weekend, up from GW's 8.77 steals per game season average

## Gymnastics to battle for next round of national championship



FILE PHOTO BY GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore gymnast Hannah Cohen automatically qualified for the second round of competition as an individual after her performance at the conference championship.

**BELLE LONG**  
STAFF WRITER

The Colonials will go head-to-head against No. 36 Lindenwood in the first round of the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional in hopes of securing a spot in the second round of the na-

tional championship. The competition Thursday will mark the team's fifth consecutive appearance in the postseason meet in a year when GW's lineup lacks experience with 12 underclassmen.

But with a win at Towson and a second-place

finish at the East Atlantic Gymnastics League Championship last week, the Colonials are heating up at exactly the right time – a trend that head coach Margie Foster-Cunningham attributes to the development of the underclassmen on her roster.

"The underclassmen, what they're doing right now, that's going to put us in a really great position to advance," Foster-Cunningham said. "We're right on target as a team to enter this week and be very consistent and battle for a spot in the second round."

The Colonials' second-place 195.825-point finish at the conference championship last week punched their ticket to the national competition. Six of the 10 Colonials who earned EAGL All-Tournament Team Honors were either freshmen or sophomores.

"I think we're getting really strong at the end because our underclassmen are really getting some traction, some confidence and some refined focus for what it's like to be an NCAA athlete," Foster-Cunningham said.

GW enters competition ranked 15 spots lower than its No. 20 national ranking at the meet last season. Per a change in the NCAA tournament structure this season, GW will compete against Lindenwood for a spot in the second round of the tournament. If the Co-

lonials advance, they will compete against No. 3 LSU, No. 13 Auburn and No. 21 Arizona State in the next round.

Fifth-year gymnast Alex Zois and sophomore gymnast Hannah Cohen automatically qualified for the second round of competition as individuals after their performances at the conference championship. Cohen earned a score of 9.875 on the balance beam, tying her season-best score, while Zois' 39.400 mark in the all-around competition topped the field and earned her a second day of competition.

"I'm very excited that I qualified individually," Zois said. "I think that's a huge accomplishment, but right now I'm focusing solely on the team."

Foster-Cunningham said the work ethic her team has demonstrated over the course of the season gives her confidence heading into postseason competition, saying there is no team "outworking" the Colonials in the field. The next step for the Colonials, she said, will be for the 12

freshmen and sophomores to take their level of competition one notch higher.

The Colonials are set to bring five gymnasts – including three rookies – to their first national competition at the NCAA Regionals. Freshman gymnasts Simone Bannen, Olivia Raymond and Olivia Zona have been consistent contributors to GW's success all season. At the conference championship, the trio garnered all-conference honors on both the uneven bars and balance beam events.

Even though GW already has a pair of gymnasts set to advance to the next round of the national meet, the Colonials are not ready to end their season yet.

"Our focus is to get the team to the second round, and Hannah and Alex are the same way," Foster-Cunningham said. "They want to be with their team. Yes, it's an honor and it's amazing, but they want to be there with their team."

The Colonials return to action April 4 in Baton Rouge, La.

## Women's water polo sees conference competition in three-game series

**AGAM MITTAL**  
STAFF WRITER

Women's water polo got an early look at what to expect during conference play in its three-game homestand this weekend.

The Colonials (5-8, 0-1 CWPA) hosted three conference foes – No. 24 Bucknell, No. 14 Harvard and Saint Francis – in their only home games of the year, going 1-2 on the weekend. Second-year head coach Barry King said the weekend's results, which did not count toward the team's conference record, highlighted the team's need to reduce turnovers and brush up on execution one week before the Colonials enter the thick of College Water Polo Association play.

"Our best players need to play better and demand the ball so you're not making those mistakes," King said. "But we'll look at it and see what we can do better."

Bucknell and Harvard swept GW on Saturday, with the Colonials dropping the first contest 11-7 and the second contest 18-4 before picking up a 10-9 victory in their Sunday match against Saint Francis.

Sophomore utility player Alana Ponce said the ability to preview league foes helps them prepare for CWPA play, when the games start counting toward their con-

ference record.

"It helps us to get to know which players we need to look out for, and what we need to train for as far as speed or passing," Ponce said.

In Saturday morning's 11-7 loss to Bucknell, GW trailed by just one goal early in the fourth quarter. A balanced attack featured four different Colonials on the scoresheet, but they were blanked for the final 6:10 of the fourth quarter as the Bison tallied three unanswered goals to put the game out of GW's reach.

"We've just got to get better at having good opportunities and at least making the goalkeeper make saves on it," King said.

Harvard blew out the Colonials 18-4 in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader. The Crimson led 12-3 at halftime and jumped ahead 17-3 after three quarters in the contest, physically out-matching the Colonials.

The loss was GW's worst of the year by margin of defeat, as the Colonials had lost only one game by double-digits prior to Saturday night's slip-up. King said the team was not prepared for Harvard's physicality in the pool.

He also said the team needed to improve ball security, especially against teams like Harvard that utilize the press on defense. Sunday's contest

against Saint Francis featured a last-second, game-winning buzzer beater by Ponce on an isolation play King drew up out of a timeout with eight seconds remaining.

The Colonials showed their ability to execute winning plays in late-game situations around a player like Ponce, who scored four goals and had five steals in the weekend finale Sunday.

Junior utility player Allison DeCicco, who tallied two goals and two assists on the weekend, said the close contests against Bucknell and Saint Francis helped boost the team's confidence against conference competitors.

"We know what to expect and know that we can keep up with these teams," DeCicco said.

In the next two weekends, the Colonials will get a chance to avenge some of their losses in rematches against Harvard, Bucknell, Brown and Saint Francis. GW will play Michigan in its season finale, the only team in the conference it has yet to face.

King said there is "a lot of material to go over" after the weekend's games, but game results ultimately come down to the student-athletes finishing plays and trusting one another.

The Colonials return to action Saturday against Harvard on the road. Swimoff is slated for 1 p.m. — Alec Rich contributed reporting.



FILE PHOTO BY GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Junior utility Faith Weber throws a pitch during Wednesday's game against Morgan State.

## Softball looks for pitching staff to step up behind Lange

**WILL MARGERUM**  
STAFF WRITER

Softball is evening out an imbalanced pitching staff with 19 games left in GW's regular season.

Sophomore utility Sierra Lange has consistently led the Colonials (25-11, 3-3 A-10) from the pitcher's circle, occupying the position for 104 more innings than the next thrower. With Lange leading the pack, the Colonials have been looking for the rest of the team's pitching staff to step up and chip in time on the mound as GW moves through conference play.

"We want everybody to get in some innings," pitching coach Kiana Quolas said.

"I know we have Lange, but we also need a full staff behind her to get the job done."

While GW has used six different players on the mound this season, none come close to Lange's workload.

In 26 appearances, Lange has thrown 137.2 innings, holding opponents to a team-leading .230 batting average and a 2.64 earned-run average, the second-lowest mark on the team. Lange also allows an average of 1.20 walks and hits per inning pitched, a team best.

Of her 20 starts, Lange has totaled 16 complete games including three in the Colonials' last six outings. Lange also tops the team

with three saves on the year.

Quolas said each pitcher brings a unique skillset to the circle, with some players preferring to toss quick throws while others rely on off-speed, movement throws like drop balls or change-ups. But Lange has "the complete package" as a pitcher, she said.

Of the five other pitchers available, the Colonials' next-best option in the circle has been junior utility Faith Weber. Weber has emerged as a starting option for GW.

**GWHATCHET.COM**

For more on softball's pitching staff

Great lifestyle. Guaranteed.

We're confident you'll love us. Ask your friends about us, you'll be surprised how many already live here!

We redefine apartment living by blending uniquely stylish apartments with high-caliber service delivered by our friendly and professional staff. We work relentlessly to ensure your total satisfaction. It won't take long to realize that living with us is easier. More reliable. And notably better.

- Walk to Foggy Bottom Metro
- Oversized floor plans and ample closet space
- 24-hour concierge and 24-hour fitness center
- Located on the GW campus
- Online rent payments
- **Free utilities!**

**THE STATESMAN**  
2020 F Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
866.432.1395  
TheStatesmanApt.com