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STUDENT RAPPER TAKES THE STAGE



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Sage Wylie, Ben Yoxall and Izzy Moody, members of the food experience task force, released recommendations to combat food insecurity.

Students, faculty form committee to cut costs of required class materials

LAUREN PELLER & PAIGE MORSE
STAFF WRITERS

Students and faculty are evaluating ways to reduce auxiliary academic costs.

Members of the Faculty Senate partnered with student leaders earlier this semester to form the Academic Resource Subcommittee, which will convene for the first time on Thursday, members said. Those involved said the subgroup, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Faculty Senate's Educational Policy Committee, will research the price of required materials like textbooks and clickers and suggest ways to cut costs for students ahead of the fall semester.

Jason Zara, an associate professor of biomedical engineering and the chairman of the subcommittee, said the group will weigh how much students should expect to spend on class materials that are not publicized before registration.

"The deliverable would be a clear statement of University policy on these practices to the faculty, as well as a recommendation to the University on how faculty might be made aware of existing resources and/or ways to reduce financial impact on students," Zara said.

The subcommittee is currently composed of five faculty and staff, including Zara; Gaetano Lotrecchiano, an associate professor of clinical research in the medical school; Elizabeth Amundson, the associate provost and registrar; Candice Johnson, the director of operations and online learning in the Milken Institute School of Public Health; and Yordanos Baharu, the executive director of academic enterprise applications in the Instructional Technology Lab.

Four student leaders also serve on the committee: Ashley Le, the Student Association president; Nicole Cennamo, the SA's vice president for academic affairs; SA Sen. Rilind Abazi, ESIA-U; and Drisya Antose, a member of the SA's student engagement committee.

Cennamo said the subcommittee plans to meet monthly and will serve as a "formalized channel" to address and discuss concerns about the costs of academic materials. She said the group's first task will be recommending a standardized clicker brand after SA leaders compiled survey results

earlier this semester finding that students often incur unexpected and repeated expenses for clickers – handheld devices used to answer questions in class.

"Sometimes, students can walk in on the first day and not realize they have to spend close to \$50 on clickers," she said. "That was the inspiration for the committee."

Cennamo said representatives from the clicker company TopHat have reached out to members of the group about becoming the University's main clicker brand but added that the committee will also consider rival services.

She said the group hopes to suggest a single clicker brand by the fall and draft recommendations on reducing other academic costs, like textbooks and photo equipment, later in the year. The committee will push faculty to list required textbooks and equipment online before the "adoption deadline," the last date for professors to note their textbook requirements before class registration opens, she said.

"Right now, the starting point is clickers, but the goal is to use this committee as a platform to explore all kinds of academic fees students are forced to pay," Cennamo said.

Le, the SA president and a member of the Faculty Senate's Education Policy Committee, said she joined the subgroup to "advocate for the needs of students."

"The Educational Policy Committee decided that it would be very necessary to bring together students who work together in terms of academic resources and faculty to really look at the practice of faculty requiring students to spend money on course materials," she said.

Abazi, the SA senator representing the Elliott School of International Affairs, said he joined the Academic Resource Subcommittee last week after helping to produce the report on clicker brands earlier this semester. He said the subcommittee is one of the "tangible steps" students and officials have taken to institutionalize SA suggestions about cutting the costs of clickers and other academic materials.

"The overall goal is that we are trying to look at academic costs and ways that we can decrease the costs for students while also making it efficient and convenient for faculty," he said.

Student leaders recommend dining hall, biannual report to combat food insecurity

KELLY HOOPER
STAFF WRITER

Student leaders released a list of nine recommendations Monday urging officials to curb food insecurity on campus through measures like opening a dining hall on the Foggy Bottom Campus and offering more meal deals.

The recommendations are the culmination of nearly a year of research conducted by a student-led food experience task force that formed last semester. Those involved in creating the report said the suggestions – which also include creating a biannual report on the state of dining at GW – would make meals more affordable and accessible to students.

"From here, it is the job of University administrators to use these data results and suggestions to make informed, evidence-based improvements to our campus dining plan," Izzy Moody, the SA's vice president for sustainability and a member of the task force, said in an email.

The recommendations stemmed from the results of a dining survey sent to about 2,000 students earlier this semester. The survey asked students several questions, like whether they have experienced food insecurity, if they have access to culturally diverse food and whether they support opening a dining hall in Foggy Bottom.

The survey found that nearly 60 percent of students purchased less food than they normally would for a meal last semester because they did not have enough money. The task force also found that nearly 80 percent of students would utilize a dining hall in Foggy Bottom if it were available.

Foggy Bottom's last dining hall,

J Street, closed in 2016 after years of student complaints about the affordability and quality of the food.

Moody said the group's recommendations were also formed based on conversations with other members of the task force – including faculty, staff and officials – and students who struggle with food insecurity.

She said Cissy Petty, the dean of the student experience; Michael Tapscott, the director of the Multicultural Student Services Center; and Jordan West, the director for diversity and inclusion education,

regularly attended meetings with members of the task force to discuss the impact of food insecurity on student life.

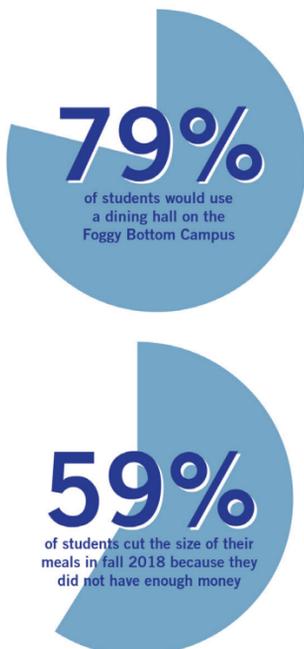
Moody said students serving on the task force also encouraged officials to institutionalize an advisory committee comprised of students from the task force, faculty and administrators, who will continue gathering data on dining at GW and release a report on the state of food insecurity every two years.

"The survey findings, as well as the effectiveness of the food experience task force, also underscore the importance of a body on campus committed to researching and improving the student food experience," Moody said.

Sage Wylie, a former Food Institute fellow and a member of the task force, said the results of the survey confirmed that students struggle with food insecurity and dining affordability and often cannot find culturally diverse foods.

"Although implementing these recommendations is the ultimate goal, I think another important piece of the task force's work was to challenge students to envision what their food experience could be like at GW and to start or continue working towards that vision," she said.

Food insecurity has been a growing concern over the past several years. The University opened a food pantry on campus in 2016, the same year that officials switched to an "open" dining plan. A year after the plan was implemented, students said running out of dining cash was still the norm – and officials have increased GWorld funds every year since.



ALYSSA ILARIA | STAFF DESIGNER

Source: The State of Dining report

See DINING HALL Page 2

Incoming SA leaders plan to increase transparency after election

SARAH ROACH
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

After more than 1,500 students backed a Student Association presidential candidate who vowed to eradicate the SA, elected SA leaders said their first task is regaining the trust of the student body.

Both the incoming SA president and executive vice president said they will take steps next academic year to increase the organization's transparency, including updating students on campaign promises throughout the year and posting the SA Senate's meeting minutes on social media. They hope the changes will show students who supported freshman Justin Diamond – the candidate who promised to abolish the SA – that the organization is more than just a source of annual election drama but a mechanism for institutional change.

"The thing about Justin's campaign, it did confirm that the student body is not impressed by what's going on on the Student Association and that we need to do better," SA President-elect SJ

Matthews said. "I'm excited to make it more transparent, more accessible."

Matthews beat out Diamond for the SA's top post last week in the first SA presidential runoff in seven years. She captured about two-thirds of the vote after Diamond's campaign exploded on social media late last month and forced another election after none of the four candidates for SA president garnered enough votes to win the position outright.

Matthews, who is currently the Residence Hall Association president, said she will create a tab on the SA website that benchmarks how much progress she has made on her platform points throughout her term. She said she will update the website as she meets with officials to discuss her campaign promises, like granting all students tap access to residence halls and dropping some general education requirements.

"I want to start publishing exactly what I'm working on so students know I'm not just sitting in a room in Marvin, that I am continuously advocating for them," she said.



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

SA Executive Vice President-elect Amy Martin and President-elect SJ Matthews plan to take steps to increase the SA's transparency after a presidential candidate promised to abolish the SA.

SA Sen. Amy Martin, ESIA-U and the SA executive vice president-elect, said the election cycle revealed that students may feel "disenfranchised" by the SA. She said that as someone who has served in the SA for two years, it's difficult to see that the organization is perceived as inaccessible because

SA leaders often attempt to reach out to students through office hours and town halls, which typically see little turnout.

Martin said she wants to better publicize SA Senate minutes once they are added to the organization's website by posting Instagram stories with a link to the document or

posting it on Facebook. SA leaders must upload minutes to the SA website at least 24 hours before the next senate meeting, according to the SA bylaws.

"While the information is all there, you do have to know where to look right now, and I think that that's a lot of where that disconnect

is," Martin said.

Diamond, the other candidate for SA president, received enough write-in votes to secure an SA Senate seat representing the Elliott School of International Affairs. He said that in his first weeks as a member of the SA, he will organize one-on-one meetings with senators to discuss a list of student complaints he compiled while campaigning for the organization's top post.

Diamond, who had also vowed to redistribute the SA president's \$15,000 scholarship to student organizations, said he launched a merchandise line Sunday with pins, stickers and t-shirts featuring phrases like "Abolish the SA." He said he will donate the profits toward underfunded student organizations but declined to say which groups.

"I think a lot of people will have their eyes on my senatorial term, and I aim to keep it that way and keep momentum among people who are trying to pay attention," Diamond said.

See LEADERS Page 3

News

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CRIME LOG

THEFT I/FROM BUILDING

Marvin Center
3/29/2019 – 5:30 a.m.

Open Case

A male Panera Bread employee reported to the GW Police Department that his cellphone was stolen after he left it in the first-floor men's bathroom.

Case open

THREAT TO DO BODILY HARM, DISORDERLY CONDUCT, URINATING OR DEFECATING IN PUBLIC

Off Campus
3/30/2019 – 1:20 a.m.

Closed Case

A male Foggy Bottom resident reported to GWPD that his neighbors, who he said may be GW students, were playing loud music and acting disorderly. When the resident asked the neighbors to lower their music, a male subject threatened the resident and his girlfriend and then urinated in public. Metropolitan Police Department officers responded to the scene and told the residents to turn the music down and go inside.

Referred to the Office of Enrollment and the Student Experience

SIMPLE ASSAULT

Thurston Hall
3/30/2019 – 4:49 a.m.

Closed Case

GWPD responded to a report that a female student had been physically assaulted by her roommate after an argument. GWPD arrested the roommate, and MPD transported her to the Second District police station for processing.

Subject arrested

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY VANDALISM

Fulbright Hall
Unknown – Unknown
Open Case

A female student reported that a poster taped on her residence hall room door was burned around the edges.

Case open

— Compiled by Valerie Yurk

Efforts to roll out first-year experience course stretch into next academic year



FILE PHOTO BY DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
Outgoing SA President Ashley Le said officials will continue efforts in the fall to implement a first-year experience course, which was once one of her top priorities.

SARAH ROACH
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As Student Association President Ashley Le's term comes to a close, she is taking the first steps to advocate for what was once her top priority: implementing a first-year experience course.

After the SA issued a survey last semester gauging interest for the course – which would include information about navigating the District and managing budgets – Le said she has used the results to prompt early discussions with administrators about rolling out a mandatory class. Le will graduate at the end of the semester, but officials said they will continue to conduct research about similar classes at other universities in the hopes of eventually implementing a similar program.

About 40 percent of freshmen who responded to the SA survey indicated that they would take the course if given the opportunity, and about 30 percent said they would consider taking the course, according to a report obtained by The Hatchet.

"A comprehensive, University-wide first-year experience class would be beneficial for first-year students," Le said in an email. "With the goal of community building in mind, a first-year experience course would provide first-year students with a cohort of their peers

who are experiencing many of the same challenges."

The survey found that about 40 percent of freshmen have considered transferring out of GW in their first year because of issues like a lack of community and affordability. Le said the percentage is "alarming" and could indicate that the University does not provide enough support for first-year students in navigating the dining plan or finding their niche at school.

"All of these challenges make it more difficult for students to feel like they have a home at GW," Le said.

The majority of respondents indicated that GW helped students transition from high school to college, and most freshmen said they found community once they arrived on campus through academic programs and student organizations.

Le said the results show that a first-year experience course would be "beneficial" for students, but the effort to implement the class will outlive her tenure because she has spent the year conducting research and is preparing to graduate.

SJ Matthews, the SA president-elect, said she will continue conversations about the "feasibility" of a first-year experience course with faculty and administrators, but she has not planned out first steps to implement the course.

"I've seen it work well at some peer institutions and can see it working well here at GW," Matthews said.

Le said that over the past year, SA leaders have shifted their focus to implementing other community-building initiatives for freshmen, like District Connections, a program that offers first-year students access to free events around D.C., and the International Friendship Portal, an initiative that connects international students with mentors.

"These initiatives began to ensure that students can find a holistic living and learning community, better quality of living, as well as personalized support in different aspects of their student life until a first-year course is created," Le said.

Le said she has discussed the first-year experience course with officials and faculty including University President Thomas LeBlanc, Provost Forrest Maltzman and Philip Wirtz, the chair of the Faculty Senate Educational Policy Committee.

Dean of the Student Experience Cissy Petty said officials have held "early discussions" about implementing a first-year experience course and will conduct research on similar programs to evaluate how a class could work at GW. Five of the University's 12 peer institutions,

including Boston and New York universities, offer first-year experience courses, but Le said she based her idea for the course off American University's seminar that advises freshmen on topics like mental health and time management.

"We'll continue to do research even after Ashley graduates to see if in the coming years we can integrate a course into a student's first-year experience," Petty said in an email. "Maybe, in a few years, Ashley can come back and be a guest speaker in one of the classes."

Petty said officials have focused more this academic year on bolstering programming for first-year students, like District Connections, and overseeing a switch from Colonial Inauguration to new student orientation, which will take place in the fall. She said Le and other SA leaders have provided input on each of the programs.

"We are grateful for the support of the SA and their willingness to be ambassadors for the student experience," she said in an email.

Petty declined to say what steps would be required to implement a first-year course.

Yannik Omictin, the SA's chief of cabinet, said he was not directly involved in planning the first-year experience course but spent time helping officials plan the District Connections program and map out renovations to GW's largest freshman residence hall "with the understanding that these will lead to a first-year experience course."

He said a uniform first-year experience course across all schools can offer freshmen a "common experience." The School of Business, the Elliott School of International Affairs and the School of Engineering and Applied Science are currently the only schools that offer mandatory first-year courses, which cover topics like leadership development and networking.

"It's not just an academic challenge – it's a community-building one, so it forces us to engage with as many members of our big GW family as possible," Omictin said. "It'll take time to get exactly right, and I'm glad we made significant progress this year."

Foggy Bottom dining hall would help combat food insecurity: students

From Page 1

Student Association President Ashley Le, a member of the task force, said the group was formed last semester to include students, staff and administrators in food insecurity discussions. Le said a recommendation encouraging officials to promote current affordability resources – like University emergency funds – will help address concerns that raising the amount of GWorld money each semester will not solve the underlying problem of food insecurity that many students face.

"At the end of the day, they would like to know, to have the mindset that even if they run out, even if they are not able to go anywhere else, that here when they're home, they still have

food," she said.

Le said the group presented its findings to Provost Forrest Maltzman, Senior Associate Vice President for Operations Alicia Knight and Senior Vice Provost for Enrollment and the Student Experience Laurie Koehler late last month. Members of the task force raised the possibility of adding a dining hall to Foggy Bottom, which Le said officials were open to considering.

"The conversation about a dining hall will continue to be there and it will not only be to talk about dining, but it's also in the aspect of building community, how a dining hall can contribute to building community and how dining halls can contribute to making sure that the food experience at GW is there and is

sufficient for every student," she said.

Le said the task force will use the survey results to design a dining system in which students can eat at a dining hall but do not have to spend a certain amount of GWorld at the hall throughout the semester. Pelham Commons, GW's only dining hall located on the Mount Vernon Campus, operates on an all-you-can-eat system for a set price.

Ben Yoxall, a member of the task force and the president of The Store, the University's food pantry, said the findings of the survey "further confirmed that food insecurity is a pervasive issue at GW." A survey of students conducted last year found that nearly 40 percent of students have experienced food insecurity.

"We were encouraged by positive responses from the administration in seriously considering

this issue and making collaborative changes to the dining system to alleviate food insecurity at GW," he said.

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JACK FONSECA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of GW's chapter of YAF are demanding that officials punish individuals who tore down the group's posters.

GWPD investigating after YAF posters were removed from campus buildings

AVI BAJPAI
REPORTER

The GW chapter of Young America's Foundation is calling on the University to punish individuals who tore down posters promoting one of the organization's upcoming events.

Several students have taken to Twitter over the past week to slam their peers for removing over 300 posters from on-campus buildings advertising an April 10 event featuring a former speechwriter during President George W. Bush. Officials said the GW Police Department is investigating the incident, but GW YAF leaders said administrators must publicly condemn the incident to show support for conservative voices on campus.

Kara Zupkus, the co-president of GW YAF, criticized the University in a tweet last week after a flood of students complained about the University's silence on the matter.

"When will @GWtweets act?" Zupkus tweeted. "Not a good look for prospective conservative students trying to find a school where they feel welcome."

Zupkus declined to comment because of the ongoing GWPD investigation.

Dean of the Student Experience Cissy Petty tweeted to GW YAF last week that she supports freedom of speech and that instead of tweeting about the issue, GW YAF leaders should request a meeting to discuss how officials can better support students affected.

In an email, Petty confirmed that GWPD is in-

vestigating the incident and said she reached out to GW YAF leadership and offered support "as I often do when a student or student organization is facing tough times."

She said students identified tearing down the posters will be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for violating a provision in the student code of conduct that prohibits the destruction of others' property. The consequence for tearing down the posters has not yet been determined because the office handles each case on an individual basis, she said.

"Our campuses should reflect and embrace a rich diversity of students, faculty and staff who are treated equitably," Petty said.

Petty declined to say

how the University can prevent similar instances from occurring again.

The removal of posters follows an incident in January in which posters were hung across campus appearing to threaten GW YAF for hosting an event with right-wing speaker Ben Shapiro.

Aimee Triana, the co-president of GW YAF, tweeted last week that the organization has lost at least 1,000 posters over the past few years because individuals have torn down advertisements for events like when Rick Santorum visited campus in 2017. Triana wrote that similar incidents will continue until the University "takes a public stance to enforce its rules."

Triana did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

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- | | | |
|--|--|--|
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 - Thursday, May 16th from 12-4pm
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D.C. Council bill would give ANCs more input in city planning

LIA DEGROOT
STAFF WRITER

A local governing group could soon have more influence on the District's long-term plans for the city.

A bill introduced to the D.C. Council last week would require Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to make recommendations about the District's Comprehensive Plan, a 20-year initiative introduced in 2006. Commissioners representing Foggy Bottom and the West End said the bill would ensure that neighborhood interests, like affordable housing and infrastructure, are represented in D.C.'s long-term strategic plans.

The measure, introduced by at-large Councilmember Robert White, mandates that the Council considers ANC recommendations on city planning matters, ensuring that individual neighborhoods have a voice when the plan is reviewed by the Council every four years. In the past, ANCs have not been required to provide recommendations to the Comprehensive Plan, but some wards have passed resolutions that include suggestions.

The bill is co-sponsored by councilmembers Brianna Nadeau and Anita Bonds and is set to have a committee hearing and a Council vote early next month. White did not return multiple requests for comment.

Patrick Kennedy, a commissioner representing Foggy Bottom and the West End, said the bill is a "necessary and corrective" effort to ensure that the Office of Planning considers recommendations from ANCs. He said the Office of Planning had originally intended to hold meetings in D.C. neighborhoods to discuss the Comprehensive Plan last year, but officials "walked back on that commitment" and instead skipped to a Council hearing where citizens voiced concerns about the availability of affordable housing units.

He said the lengthy hearing and public backlash could have been avoided if ANCs had been consulted before the plan was presented for approval.

"By Councilmember White introducing a bill prohibiting them from skipping over this step in the future, it will lead

to better engagement between the ANC and the Office of Planning and allow what comes forward to the Council to be not only more transparent but hopefully more fully fleshed out," he said.

Kennedy said affordable housing should be the top priority in the Comprehensive Plan moving forward because the costs of housing both in the District and in Ward 2, which includes Foggy Bottom, have skyrocketed. The creation of more affordable housing units was not initially included when the Comprehensive Plan was revised last year, but officials eventually decided to mention the issue after nearly a month of local complaints.

"Affordable housing affects virtually everyone in this city," Kennedy said. "We are approaching crisis levels when it comes to the ability of young people to afford their first home, young people to afford their rent, older people to be able to afford to stay in homes or apartments that they have lived in for many years."

Commissioner and junior James Harnett said he is "very excited" that the ANC will have more influence in amending the Comprehensive Plan but is worried that some ANCs might try "to act in their own self interest" instead of working to increase affordable housing across the city.

"There are going to be some communities that don't want to build more affordable housing and reform the zoning codes so that more affordable housing is built," he said.

ANC Chairman William Kennedy Smith said the Foggy Bottom and West End ANC will continue to pass resolutions featuring recommendations about city planning to the Council. But he said the new legislation would ensure that commissioners' voices are given proper consideration during the formal city planning process.

"Every time there's an opportunity for us to have input, we will produce a list of recommendations, and we will provide that list," he said. "Hopefully, through this legislation, we will be confident that that will be given great weight."

SA leaders to boost student outreach

From Page 1

SA President Ashley Le said students may be unsatisfied with the SA because the organization is often viewed as "elitist." But she added that students may not recognize that the SA's top two leaders are minority students – Le is a Vietnamese immigrant, and SA Executive Vice President Ojani Walthrust is Haitian American.

She added that if she had another year in office, she would hold "community hours" in which SA leaders would visit places like Thurston Hall and the Multicultural Student Services Center instead of holding traditional office hours in the SA's Marvin Center office. She said holding community hours would help SA leaders reach out to constituents instead of waiting for them to visit their office with concerns.

"Given the events of the election with Justin's campaign, I think future SA leaders and future administration should think about that conversation even more seriously, about how we can actively outreach to students in a more personal way," Le said.

Freshman Sparkle Mark, an SA senator-elect who will represent the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, said the SA may not seem transparent

because SA leaders do not frequently update the student body on the progress of their advocacy initiatives, like combating food insecurity or cutting laundry costs.

"This past election just shows how much the SA needs to work harder to express student voice," Mark said.

Harry Levine, an SA senator-elect who will represent the School of Business, said he will invite student organizations to his office hours next academic year to walk each group through the finance committee's budget allocations process. The finance committee releases an annual budget detailing funds for student organizations every spring.

He added that he wants the SA to hold more meet-and-greets with students outside the SA office by organizing informal outdoor events in Kogan Plaza. He said the meetings could help students put a face to their SA senator if they have not attended office hours.

"Hopefully, we'll get to a point where every student will know at least one member of the SA and know what that person is doing on campus," Levine said.

— Parth Kotak, Paige Morse, Ilena Peng and Zach Schonfeld contributed reporting.

Nursing school launches program to train faculty in simulations

LEAH POTTER &
SHANNON MALLARD
STAFF WRITERS

Leaders in the School of Nursing want to show faculty how they can incorporate real-life health care simulations into their lesson plans.

Officials plan to roll out a series of new simulation programs this year through the GW Nursing Simulation Initiatives, which launched late last month. Officials said the programs will help faculty from across the world better teach students how to work with mannequins and live patient actors, who can provide students with real-life experiences in the nursing field.

"When we create this safe, non-threatening environment and immerse students in a simulation, it replicates a real clinical environment – it's safe, they're not going to harm patients," nursing school Dean Pamela Jeffries said.

Jeffries said the initiative launched after the nursing school's second annual simulation conference in late March. She said most of the programs will be headquartered on the Virginia Science and Technology Campus, where the nursing school's flagship building recently added 12 private exam rooms and two acute care rooms.

The school will offer two types of simulation training – "immersions" and "in-

tensives," according to the nursing school's website. Immersion sessions will start in July and include "best practices" for directors of simulation centers, technicians and teachers, while intensive programs will launch in the fall and feature lessons on including simulations in curricula and incorporating simulations across professions.

The cost of participating in the immersion programs ranges from \$1,600 to \$6,500, and each of the sessions listed spans five days, according to the nursing school's website. The cost of the intensive programs, which each last two days, is not yet listed.

Jeffries said participants will learn how to properly oversee students working with mannequins, control rooms and cameras – items commonly found in simulation labs for nursing and medical students. She said individual sessions have not been capped, but certain sessions might be limited to about 25 people because of space concerns.

She said faculty leading the simulation sessions will rate participants' performance based on topics like how professionally they interact with the mannequins or live patient actors. Participants will receive the opportunity to observe how their peers interact with patients in the simulation, which will help them learn how to best care for patients in their fu-

ture careers, she said.

"People build these sim centers all over the place for safe experiential learning, and many times people don't know what they're doing – this is the problem," she said. "Our purpose is to help faculty and simulation specialists."

She said participants will take electronic surveys after completing simulation programs to evaluate which aspects of the initiative are successful. She said the surveys will also help determine whether new technologies and materials, like virtual reality simulations, should be added.

Jeffries said at least five faculty members were involved in creating the simulation training, including Sabrina Beroz, the associate director of programs and initiatives in the nursing school and an advanced Society for Simulation in Health Care certified health care simulation educator.

Beroz said nursing professors must be well-versed in simulation technology and teaching methods to ensure nursing students receive the best education in patient care.

"The learners are immersed in a safe environment which is experiential and collaborative," she said in an email. "The ultimate aim of simulation is safe competent care enhancing patient outcomes."



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Pamela Jeffries, the dean of the School of Nursing, said faculty will soon have access to two new simulations.

Of GW's 12 peer schools, 11 feature nursing programs, all of which offer simulation training for students in nursing or medicine, and at least three offer training specifically for faculty and simulation administrators.

Cynthia Foronda, an associate professor of clinical at the University of Miami's School of Nursing and Health Sciences, said faculty need hands-on training to ensure that students feel "psychologically safe" and do not feel threatened or anxious when they are working with actors or mannequins.

"Simulation can be an

awesome learning experience, or it can be a really negative experience," she said. "I've seen it go both ways, but we now have an established science in simulation – one that is evidence-based with best practices that faculty can use, so as the science continues to grow, just as any other science, faculty need to stay apprised with the latest evidence."

Alice Blazeck, an assistant professor and the vice chair for administration in acute and tertiary care for the University of Pittsburgh's School of Nursing, said the nursing school's intensive training on

debriefing – where students receive feedback from their professors about their performance in simulations – is the "most important" session offered because faculty help students recognize and learn from their errors.

"Students often make significant mistakes, and what you want to do in the debriefing is have the student realize where the flaw was in their decision-making so that one, they don't become defensive and just figure, 'Well, this was simulation,' and two, they can take that forward and not make the same mistakes again," she said.

Elliott School expands selective undergraduate research program

ALEC RICH
STAFF WRITER

Officials in the Elliott School of International Affairs are revamping a program that allows students

to conduct professional research.

Elliott School officials overhauled the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program – a one-year initiative allowing students to

conduct research with professors – this semester to last two years. Officials and students said the updated initiative, renamed the Dean's Scholars Program, will give international af-

fairs students more time, funds and support needed to produce in-depth research projects.

The program will allow students to conduct research on an international affairs topic of their choice and select a faculty mentor to assist in gathering information about the subject, according to the program's website. Applications for the program, which were open to sophomores with a GPA of 3.5 or above, closed Friday.

Once students involved in the program enter their senior year, they will have the opportunity to present their research at international affairs conferences and submit their findings to relevant peer-reviewed journals, according to the website.

University spokesman Jason Shevrin said faculty and staff worked together this year to redesign the program to better align with Dean Reuben Brigety's goals to progress the school's Leadership, Ethics and Practice Initiative, which was launched last year.

Shevrin said the pro-

gram is now "more flexible" and allows students to study abroad and have more time to develop their research projects. He added that students in the program are expected to attend Elliott School events throughout the year.

"Creating these opportunities directly serves to fulfill our mission of creating the next generation of global leaders," he said in an email.

Claudine Kuradusenge-McLeod, the director of the program, did not return multiple requests for comment.

Elliott School students involved in the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program said restructuring the initiative and increasing its length will allow students to learn how to conduct and complete more in-depth research.

Ambika Nair, a senior who conducted research on American and Chinese energy investments in Ghana this academic year, said the two-year program will offer students more time to develop comprehensive projects. She said her thesis, which is about 50 pages

long, would likely be closer to 100 pages if she had had two years to work on it.

"There's so much more I know I could do with my topic," Nair said. "It's just that I don't have the time or the funds with just one year to be able to do it."

Senior Grace Headinger conducted her yearlong research abroad at the University of Sydney, studying the end of a nuclear weapons alliance between the United States, Australia and New Zealand in the 1980s. The current setup of the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program does not permit students to study abroad in the short-term but allows students to travel for their research.

Headinger said the expansion of the program will give students more flexibility to change their research topics.

"With an additional year, new students are building their research design through the program, whereas during our year and previous years, you were expected to enter in with a fleshed-out research proposal," Headinger said.

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ALEXANDER WELLING | PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Grace Headinger said the expansion of the program will provide students more flexibility to flesh out their research proposals.



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Former interim CCAS dean, biology department chair to retire



DONNA ARMSTRONG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Diana Lipscomb, the former interim CCAS dean and a professor of biology, will retire at the end of the semester after teaching for nearly four decades.

HAYDEN SMITH STAFF WRITER

Ever since Diana Lipscomb got her hands on a microscope in second grade, she has been intrigued by insects and “little organisms” like bacteria.

Years later, in the mid-1970s, she studied biology at Agnes Scott College, a

women’s liberal arts school in Georgia, where she said a professor suggested that she become a biologist. In 1982, she became a doctor of zoology after graduating from the University of Maryland at College Park and landed a job as a biology professor at GW – and she’s been teaching ever since.

Now, after her nearly

four-decade tenure in the biology department, Lipscomb said she plans to retire at the end of the semester.

“Like with most academics, you go where there is a good job, and I was very lucky to get this job,” she said.

Lipscomb expanded the department’s evolutionary biology curriculum, added

an evolutionary medicine course, served as the chair of both the biology and statistics departments and even briefly stepped in as the interim dean of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences during her tenure.

“I’m proud of the way GW has grown and changed while I’ve been here,” she said.

Lipscomb said she worked with Robert Weintraub, a former professor of biology, to hire faculty for the Weintraub Program in Systematics and Evolution, which she created for graduate students in 1994. She said the Weintraub Program is an opportunity for some graduate students to receive funding to study interactions between organisms with the program’s faculty.

Lipscomb, who also worked for the National Science Foundation as a program officer from 2002 to 2003, said the Weintraub Program’s creation garnered recognition from the academic community, elevating GW as a major center for biological diversity research.

“GW, in the late 1990s and the early 2000s, was going through a huge transformation in becoming a more

research-active university,” Lipscomb said. “We went from one where people did some research to one where we were really pushing it hard.”

Lipscomb said she served as the associate dean of faculty and research for CCAS in 2004 after being asked by then-Dean William Frawley. Two years later, when Frawley stepped down, she filled the role of interim dean for 17 months.

Lipscomb chaired the biology department from 2008 to 2014. She said one of her biggest accomplishments while serving as chair was hiring seven new professors to replace retiring faculty.

In addition to teaching a course on evolutionary medicine, which she developed six years ago, Lipscomb also currently teaches a class on invertebrate zoology and a graduate class on evolution.

But Lipscomb said she also encountered challenges during her tenure, like finding up-to-date facilities for teaching and research. She said the department now operates in Bell and the Science and Engineering halls which gives faculty more space, but “planning and managing the split of the department into

two buildings without fracturing the department was challenging.”

Lipscomb said that after retiring, she plans to move to Colorado with her husband to live closer to their daughter and her family.

Paul Wahlbeck, the interim dean of CCAS, said she has helped shape the school’s vision, supported faculty and mentored students throughout her career.

“She’s advanced the college and the Department of Biology through her leadership and her dedication in the lab and the classroom,” Wahlbeck said in an email. “I know everyone at Columbian College is grateful for her contributions and her friendship.”

Gustavo Hormiga, a professor of biology, said Lipscomb sits down with each student individually during their lab periods – instead of just teaching from the front of the room – and shows them how to dissect specimens during her invertebrate zoology class.

“She does things that you would rarely see other professors do in terms of commitment,” Hormiga said. “She’s a tough example to follow.”

Updated resident adviser contract aligns GW with peer institutions

GABBY PINO REPORTER

When officials debuted a new agreement for resident advisers late last month, they aligned GW’s program with the majority of its 12 peer institutions.

The updates include hiring 27 additional resident advisers, offering students dining dollars instead of stipends as pay, requiring RAs to patrol their halls and giving some RAs roommates. While some RAs have vocalized concerns about the agreement, housing experts said the new plan brings GW up to

speed with practices and policies that peers adopted years ago.

“This is a game changer – to be able to add 25 percent additional RAs to our buildings, to facilitate that kind of relationship – that just really isn’t necessarily possible or feasible in the way that it’s set up now and aligns ourselves better with our market basket and preeminent institutions,” Laurie Koehler, the senior vice provost for enrollment and the student experience, said.

Compensation

Under the new agree-

ment, the University will give \$3,050 to RAs with an in-unit kitchen in their residence hall room and \$4,750 in GWorld funds to RAs without a kitchen. The advisers currently receive a \$2,500 or \$3,000 stipend, respectively, depending on whether they have a kitchen.

The University also offers RAs free housing during their tenure.

Of GW’s 12 peer schools, four provide stipends to their RAs, including Tufts, Wake Forest and Boston universities and the University of Miami, according to online RA contracts

at each school. Ten institutions provide compensation for housing, and eight cover entire meal plans, including Georgetown and Syracuse universities.

Eight peer institutions – New York, Georgetown, Northeastern, Syracuse and Tulane universities and the universities of Pittsburgh, Miami and Southern California – compensate RAs with both free housing and meal plans.

Boston, Wake Forest and Tufts universities and the University of Rochester do not completely cover dining for RAs. The University of Rochester funds the complete cost of the room but does not provide meal plans or stipends to RAs.

Tufts University covers room and board for first-year RAs, while upper-classman RAs are given a \$1,500 stipend and 80 meals but have to pay for housing. Boston University gives all RAs free housing and covers the cost of meals for those without kitchens, but some RAs who have more responsibilities than others are given an additional stipend.

Safety precautions

Officials will require RAs to be “on call” once about every two months, meaning that they cannot leave their building for 12 hours and must remain available to assist residents. The new contract mandates that RAs patrol groups of residence halls twice during on-call periods.

All 12 peer schools require RAs to stay on call in their residence hall at least once a semester, and nine schools mandate that RAs patrol buildings by walking around the entire hall. The University of Pittsburgh and Tulane University require RAs to be on call and walk around a group of residence halls at least once a week, according to their respective RA contracts.

Stephanie Carter, the director of residence life at Wake Forest University, said requiring RAs to complete rounds and on-call shifts improves on-campus safety by ensuring all residents are accounted for every night.

“It’s really a benefit to have someone consistently walking the building and taking care of issues or getting the info to the people who can take care of the issues in a timely manner,” Carter said. “It’s truly for the safety and security of the residents and for the upkeep of our residence halls.”

Roommates

GW will require some RAs in Shenkman and Amsterdam halls to share a bedroom with another student, while South Hall RAs will live in single rooms in suites with roommates. Five peers – the universities of Pittsburgh, Southern California, Rochester and Miami and New York University – assign roommates to some RAs, according to their respective contracts.

Tom Ellett, the senior associate vice president for student affairs and associate provost for uni-

versity programs at New York University, said his some RAs at the school share suites with other students because most residence halls are laid out like apartments. RAs in buildings without suite living have single rooms, he said.

“We have had RAs who have a challenge with a particular roommate or suitemate from time to time, but I would say it’s the minority concern,” he said.

Daniel Watts, the director of undergraduate residential life at the University of Rochester, who is also a former RA at GW, said some RAs at Rochester live in suite-style residence hall rooms with single bedrooms. He said there are few conflicts when RAs choose their roommates, and random roommates are told in advance if they are placed in an RA suite.

“We’ve had people say, ‘I don’t want that, so I’ll take the next offer,’ but we also have a lot of people who say, ‘Great, no problem,’” Watts said. “I haven’t seen too much trouble with it, but when they all go into it with a mutual agreement, it always works better.”

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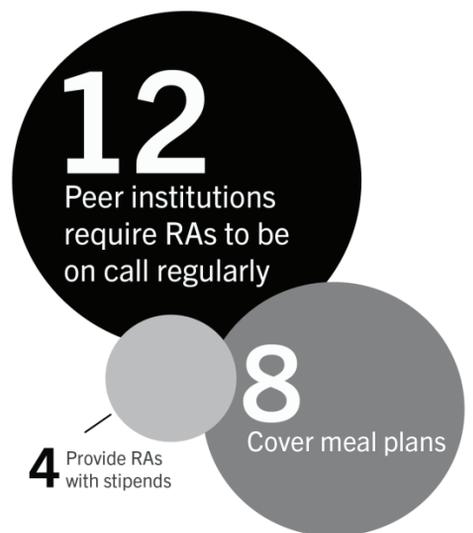
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FROM GWHATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

"Officials should make it easier for incoming and returning students to see what it is really like to live in the heart of D.C. by providing more information about their residence halls online."

—HANNAH THACKER, COLUMNIST published April 4

Students should denounce Chick-fil-A's ties to anti-LGBTQ groups

Chick-fil-A is a staple on campus. The line of students outside the restaurant's District House basement location extends dozens of feet beyond where cashiers stand and over to tables where remnants of chicken nuggets and waffle fries are often scattered.

But the line might be shorter if students knew the company has a long-running history of supporting anti-LGBTQ organizations.

Jack Murphy
Columnist

Chick-fil-A donated more than \$1.8 million to groups with a history of discriminating against LGBTQ individuals in 2017, according to ThinkProgress. But the company has not lost popularity and is on track to become the third largest food chain in America. Chick-fil-A's meals are affordable and may satisfy students' fast-food cravings, but students should spend their GWorld dollars elsewhere. The places we spend our money have meaning, and students who disapprove of Chick-fil-A's bigoted values should stand up and boycott the restaurant on campus.

Chick-fil-A donated more

than \$6,000 in 2017 to the Paul Anderson Youth Home, an organization that performs conversion therapy – the practice of trying to reorient LGBTQ people. The United Nations has defined the act as "unethical, unscientific and ineffective" because reorientation often involves the use of pain and violence. That same year, Chick-fil-A donated more than \$1.6 million to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, an international Christian sports ministry that bans same-sex relationships among employees.

Donations that support the brainwashing of young gay people through conversion therapy are abhorrent. Other donations from Chick-fil-A, like the \$150,000 donated in 2017 to The Salvation Army, may not seem problematic on the surface. But The Salvation Army has historically denied shelter to homeless transgender women, one of whom died from exposure to the elements.

Other institutions have condemned Chick-fil-A for its donations. Rider University banned Chick-fil-A from campus and the San Antonio City Council removed the restaurant from the city's airport last month to "become a champion of equality and inclusion." Chick-fil-A has



Cartoon by Jekko Syquia

maintained that it is welcoming and does not discriminate against any group, but the Chick-fil-A logo is a symbol of homophobia.

The restaurant is a reminder that many people in this country still don't recognize the humanity of LGBTQ people. Students need to understand that spending their GWorld at Chick-fil-A means they endorse the restaurant's

homophobic beliefs and actions.

As a queer student, the presence and popularity of Chick-fil-A on campus is a personal slight. That should be enough for students – especially for those who claim to be allies – to stop giving Chick-fil-A their money. When it comes to choosing between Chick-fil-A and another GWorld vendor, it is a choice between a compa-

ny that supports homophobic causes or a company that does not.

If you claim to be an ally to the LGBTQ community, you cannot simultaneously give your money to companies that would bankroll torturous conversion therapy of LGBTQ individuals. Being an ally to the LGBTQ community or any minority community means using your power and privilege to denounce acts that threaten these groups.

Understandably, it is difficult to be a fully ethical consumer. A lack of affordability and access can make it difficult to avoid spending money at low-cost vendors like Chick-fil-A. But there are plenty of options available on GWorld for students to satisfy their fast-food cravings.

It can be hard to give up our favorite foods and old habits. I am queer. I have also scarfed down chicken nuggets, fries and a shake from Chick-fil-A in the past. But I recognize the ethical dilemma that comes with enjoying the food. I have the option to not eat at Chick-fil-A, so I don't. It's time for students to give up something that does more harm than good.

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

STAFF EDITORIAL

Changes to RA position undervalue students

Being a resident adviser is not just designing bulletin boards and putting name tags on doors. RAs must be mediators, mentors and leaders for everyone on their floor, but soon they will no longer be paid real money to do their job and they will be forced to take on additional responsibilities.

The University announced changes to the RA job description recently that will add duties like serving occasional overnight "on-call" shifts and conducting community rounds. The new agreement also changes the logistics of the job by paying them in GWorld instead of a stipend and assigning some students roommates.

While some of the changes help alleviate problems – like boosting the number of RAs so each residence hall has adequate coverage – the new job description shows that the University does not value RAs by failing to give them appropriate pay and accommodations.

RAs will be asked to perform 12-hour on-call shifts next academic year where they will be the primary point of contact for their residence hall. This change might be better for some students like first-year students who typically utilize their RA more often. But it is questionable whether this will actually be beneficial for older students or RAs who are placed in upper-classmen residence halls. Asking RAs to disrupt their sleep schedules and take long shifts where they are required to be awake and patrolling the community is an excessive request – especially considering these students aren't even being paid real wages.

Paying RAs with just a meal plan is unacceptable. While the majority of the University's peer schools compensate RAs with meal plans and do not provide

stipends, that is not a standard the University should aspire to meet. GWorld isn't an appropriate payment because it restricts students to expensive restaurants in Foggy Bottom. Especially on an urban campus, students have other expenses like travel and bills, but furthermore, students should have the flexibility to use their wages however they wish, just like they would at any other job.

Paying RAs in GWorld money will likely deter some students from applying to or accepting the job. Some stu-

While some of the changes help alleviate problems – like boosting the number of RAs so each residence hall has adequate coverage – the new job description shows that the University does not value RAs by failing to give them appropriate pay and accommodations.

dents need real cash to pay for things like books, tuition and other bills, so this change also limits who is able to work as an RA.

Students will also lose one of the largest perks of the RA job. Most students apply to be an RA expecting to live by themselves, but under the new agreement, some will be assigned roommates. While this change will largely just make the job less attractive, it could also affect RAs' ability to do their job because they no longer have a private place to meet with their residents.

This is not the first time the University has undermined the concerns of RAs. RAs started a push to become the first unionized student group at a private university in 2016, but the University challenged their statement by appealing to the National Labor Relations Board. Despite the NLRB ruling that RAs should have collective bargaining rights, unionization efforts abruptly stalled when the local labor group

that was set to lobby on behalf of RAs pulled out at the last minute.

But despite students nearly having the chance to collectively bargain in their position, the University changed the RA agreement just last year to eliminate the term "employees," making some RAs feel that administrators made the change with the intent of preventing unionization efforts. It is concerning that the University continues to move further away from treating RAs as employees and instead is asking them to take on more responsibilities while providing them with fewer benefits.

If the University wants students to behave as employees, they must treat them as employees. Bumping the number of responsibilities RAs have would not be out of line if the students were paid real wages, but students cannot be forced to work like employees without being treated like them.

Not only are some of these changes detrimental to students, but springing them on individuals who applied to the job under different expectations is unfair.

The University is heavily dependent on RAs. These students are there almost all hours of the day in order to help students on a day-to-day basis. It is concerning that the University would put such a large responsibility on resident advisers' shoulders without even paying them with real money.

RAs play a vital role on campus, especially for first-year and transfer students, but the University continuously fails to acknowledge these students and value their work. Not only should administrators take RAs seriously, but RAs must do everything they can to remind administrators that the University needs them.

Shaming students for asking questions harms the classroom experience

I'm not shy about participating in class. I'm eager to raise my hand and ask any question that may come to mind during my lecture and discussion sections.

But too often other students in the classroom are quick to roll their eyes or let out a loud sigh when one of their classmates asks a question they think is common knowledge. When it has happened to me, I have sunk into my chair filled with a hot sense of embarrassment and no longer as willing to participate in the discussion.

Michael McMahon
Writer

But if students are not able to explore and ask genuine questions about the topics that they are learning in class without the fear of being judged, the quality of education students receive will suffer because academic curiosity and class discussion are stifled. Every classroom should be a place of uninhibited exploration, especially when students are making active attempts to understand such complex and sometimes awkward topics.

Don't get me wrong. The courses I have taken have been great. But when classmates blindly assume each student is already acutely informed on every single topic covered in class, benefits like open discussion, class participation and deep understanding of the material are lost. Students shouldn't feel ashamed for trying to learn more, because that is exactly what a classroom is for.

Beyond being completely inappropriate for a classroom setting, these scoffs, demeaning laughs and even under-the-breath comments invalidate the students that are targeted and hurt other students who may not ask future questions for fear of being judged. Students will stop asking questions regarding clarification or additional information if they think their classmates will perceive them

differently for it.

While students may ask well-intentioned questions aiming to gain better understanding or detail, the phrasing of questions can sometimes come out as unclear and awkward. But their poor delivery is often the result of not being exposed to the topic before, and that isn't a bad thing. In a community like GW that claims to value a student body comprised of diverse world experiences, it is counterproductive to shame students who haven't been exposed to the same information. After all, learning is the entire point of attending class.

We all come from different backgrounds, and it is unfair for students to assume that we all have been caught up on the same issues discussed in class. In fact, it goes against the very basis of higher education by invalidating another student's educational experience or their desire to learn.

The apprehension that follows these demoralizing comments hurts students' confidence and discourages them from participating in class in the future. Demeaning comments make students question themselves and wonder whether they should already know what their classmates believe to be common knowledge.

In addition to belittling students, these comments hurt discussion. Students should be willing to educate people who want to learn more about an issue, not tear them down. When someone is unfamiliar with an issue, students should treat that moment as a learning opportunity to educate their classmate.

It can be scary to raise your hand in a room full of more than 100 students. It is even worse if your questions are not well received and result in 100 sets of eyes darting toward you because they think you should have known the answer before you opened your mouth. But we are all at GW to learn, so we shouldn't turn our classrooms into places where students are ashamed to ask what is on their mind in order to leave the room a little wiser.

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

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Student set to close inaugural Pre-Fling with raps about his black and Jewish identities

SIDNEY LEE
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

A student will close out the inaugural Pre-Fling concert Friday rapping about his black and Jewish identities.

Noah Shufutinsky, a sophomore majoring in Judaic studies, writes, records and produces hip-hop and rap music under the stage name Young Gravy. He will round out a lineup of 10 student performers Friday taking the stage in University Yard at 6:50 p.m. at the event hosted by Program Board.

Program Board is putting on a festival-style event featuring student performers for the first time this year to build up to the organization's annual Spring Fling concert. The event will have food trucks, lawn games and an interactive art installation, and after Shufutinsky closes the last set of the night, Program Board will announce the artist who will perform at Spring Fling on April 27.

Shufutinsky said he has been rapping his entire life, drawing inspiration from old school hip-hop and West Coast rappers like Tupac. He also includes Spanish lyrics in his music as a nod to his San Diego roots.

When he was in middle school, he started creating beats for himself and his friends who also rapped. And by 2016, Shufutinsky took his raps into the limelight and upload-

ed albums and singles to music streaming platforms like Apple Music and Spotify.

Shufutinsky uses a storytelling technique in his latest EP, "Ethnic," released in October. The six songs on the EP draw on Shufutinsky's personal experiences being stereotyped and discriminated against because he is black and Jewish—but the songs also highlight the challenges that each community faces across the country.

"That's something that I think is really important to hip-hop culture in general, being able to tell stories for people to relate to," Shufutinsky said.

His album begins to comment on race and religion before listeners even pop in their earbuds. The album cover is designed as a fake newspaper page with headlines like "Hate crimes against Jews and African Americans soar after 2016 election" and "Aspiring politician who is leading in the polls makes claim that 'Jews are behind recent weather patterns.'"

But Shufutinsky said he has been conscious of the stereotypes surrounding his black and Jewish identities since he was young and witnessed black people being wrongly accused of crimes or painted as "a menace to society" by the general public.

"Ever since I started writing music, it's always been something that's been

a part of it because my music is a reflection of my personality," Shufutinsky said. "To actually make that conscious decision to craft a whole album about that was quite a long process for me."

The first song, "Never Again," discusses how society uses the phrase "never again" after tragedies like school shootings or incidents of police brutality, but the outcry never provokes change, he said.

The final song, "Stereotypes," provides a "satirical look" at the stereotypes about black and Jewish people and how they "can be damaging and really invalid," Shufutinsky said. "Stereotypes" plays out as if a hypothetical character fulfilled all of the stereotypes people have about black people and Jewish people.

Shufutinsky references stereotypes throughout the song in lyrics like "Would cops stop and frisk me, if they see me loiter? Or would they leave me alone because they assume that I'm a lawyer?" to show the contrast between his two identities. He ends the song with the lyrics, "It's funny, 'cause all these stereotypes conflict. If I was all my stereotypes, I couldn't even exist."

"It ends up sounding ridiculous at the end because of how many crazy things this hypothetical character would be responsible for doing," he said.



Shufutinsky wrote and produced "Ethnic" and all of his previous songs using his own microphones to record and the software Logic Pro X to create and mix his own beats from his residence hall room. Shufutinsky said he taught himself to produce the tracks because it gives him full control of how the song sounds after it is recorded.

"You figure out ways to integrate the recording into the entire creative process," he said.

Charlotte Lewis, the event planning director for Program Board, said Shufutinsky is "undeniably talented" and has "great energy" to bring to Pre-Fling before Program Board an-



ISABELLA BRODT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Sophomore Noah Shufutinsky raps under the stage name Young Gravy, will close out the inaugural Pre-Fling concert Friday.

ounces the Spring Fling artist at the end of the night. "I feel like he has a presence on campus, and I think that's really important be-

cause we really want to be reaching all of the audience of GW," Lewis said. "I think he has a pull that will bring people."



DAVIE LORIA | PHOTOGRAPHER
Freshman Andrea Kang, a business major, sells and revamps denim clothing right out of her residence hall and has had more than 50 customers.

Student embellishes denim clothing with college colors, logos

ANNIE KNIGHT
REPORTER

Before football games at the University of Wisconsin, freshman Ava Markham slips on her "one-of-a-kind" jeans, distressed with rips and embellished with a patch of the school's badger mascot.

Markham's jeans were designed by Andrea Kang, a freshman majoring in business administration, who takes denim clothing and transforms it with her own personal flair. Kang, who started her business in high school, said she wants to use the company as a stepping stone to break into the fashion industry.

"Since we were kids, Andrea always showed natural talent for anything art-related," Markham said.

Kang said she takes old denim clothing like jeans and skirts from customers and distresses the articles into a fresh piece. The company is playfully named Jeanne Bleu, which means jean blue—the opposite of blue jeans—in French.

From added-on patches and rips to embroidered florals and lace trimming, Kang's items are customized to the taste and style of her customers.

Once she receives an order, Kang will ask her customer what they want in their clothing and sketch out different designs the person can choose

from. Kang's products are each named after various women's names like "The Noelle," "The Camille" and "The Sarah," and they range from \$20 to \$50.

One of the clothing company's most popular sections on its website is "College Corner," where Kang sells college-themed denim skirts and jeans for Big Ten schools. Kang also sells GW-themed apparel embellished with buff and blue patches and other decals.

Since she launched her business during her sophomore year in high school, Kang said she has received more than 50 customers. She said peers began to ask her where she bought her own pair of jeans that she distressed herself when she wore them to school, inspiring her to start her own small business.

"I told them that I made them myself and all these girls started wanting to get a pair from me because it's one of a kind and no one else had something like that," she said.

Kang and her mom frequently took weekend trips from Kang's home in New Jersey to fabric stores in New York where Kang found all the accessories she needed, like patches, beads, trims and fabrics. Two months after she established Jeanne Bleu on Instagram in 2016, she created a website so she could make her clothing line more "official."

While Kang said she has always loved fashion, Jeanne Bleu was the first fashion project she pursued for people to purchase her designs.

"Before Jeanne Bleu, I wouldn't really call myself a fashion designer because I started this on a whim and just for fun," Kang said. "But then it turned into something that people were actually supportive and interested in, so that's why I've been pursuing it still."

Kang said she did not plan on continuing her clothing company at GW because she thought she wouldn't have the time. But Kang decided to continue designing clothing out of her residence hall room when peers began asking her to fix up their old denim clothing.

"I try to time-manage, getting this done on time for the person but also getting my school work done because that's always important," Kang said.

Kang said creating clothing can be time-consuming—each piece can take up to four hours—but she said it is "exciting" to see people wear her custom designs because the clothing is an expression of her style.

"I obviously personalized just for that specific person and no one else is going to have that specific pair of jeans—or that exact skirt," Kang said. "It's a unique way to express my style but also have them wear it too."

Baked and Wired team goes beyond desserts at new comfort food restaurant

LINDSAY PAULEN
CULTURE EDITOR

A good home-cooked meal is hard to come by in college, but a new restaurant in Mount Vernon Triangle will transport you to your family's kitchen with its European-inspired comfort food.

La Betty—which had a soft-opening in mid-March at 420 K St. NW—is the Baked and Wired team's latest venture and first full-service restaurant. The bakers known for cult-favorite cupcakes and savory biscuit sandwiches are now serving German- and Irish-inspired fare at their new spot.

The spacious restaurant has black walls and deep blue booth seating, but fresh flowers and candles on each table bring the space to life. A bright red-orange accent wall and Persian-style rugs add a bit of brightness to the restaurant, and orb-like white light fixtures cascade from the high wooden ceilings.

After reviewing the soft-opening menu—which includes items that are still being tested out—I chose to sample from all three of the sections: "to share... or not," "the main event" and "sides for the fam."

Each menu item is inspired by the comfort food owner Teresa Velazquez grew up eating with her German and Irish family in Ohio, so the order of veggie corn doggies (\$8) and a "big ass" pretzel (\$6) did not disappoint.

I hadn't eaten a corndog in years and even though the first bite was mostly just crunchy cornmeal batter, I enjoyed the order. The three bite-sized corn dogs were served on small skewers and a side of mustard.

While pretzels aren't typically something I would order at a sit-down restaurant, I had high expectations because La Betty is the sister restaurant of two of my favorite bakeries, Baked and Wired and A Baked Joint. The "big ass" pretzel wasn't as large as its menu name implied, but the dough was perfected with a doughy and chewy interior topped with large pieces of salt. A quick dip in the side of yellow mustard took the warm pretzel to the next level by adding some tanginess.

For my main dish, I opted for the "Not Yo' Mama's Chicken Schnitzel" (\$22) topped with an arugula and radicchio salad.

My schnitzel was tender and the panko coating added a noticeable crunch that didn't become soggy from the well-dressed salad that covered the entirety of the schnitzel.

The chef at La Betty clearly likes mustard, but I wasn't sick of the condiment after the appetizers because

the dressing added brightness and color to the dish. Although I was basically eating a fancier piece of fried chicken, I was thankful for the heaping pile of greens because they made me feel somewhat healthy.

My friend ordered "The Roast" (\$26) which piles slow-roasted beef on top of a bed of spaetzle—a rich German egg noodle. Because I don't eat beef, I only tasted a bite of the noodles, but each piece of pasta was handmade and dense.

As our entrees started to disappear from the plates, a manager brought us a sample of a new cauliflower dish, which he said was added to the menu over the weekend after one of the owners was inspired by a cauliflower taco they had in Texas.

The pieces of cauliflower were served with an almond mole sauce and cashew crema, making the entire dish vegan. Each piece was golden brown and the typically bland vegetable was transformed by the array of sauce.

When it came time for dessert, I had high expectations. I ultimately decided to go with the flourless chocolate cake (\$10) and the cheesecake (\$12) because I couldn't decide between the two dishes and both were impressive.

The two desserts were day-and-night not only in the way they looked but also in the way they tasted. The flourless chocolate cake was dense and rich, and each bite was packed with an intense, deep chocolate flavor. A few pieces of flaky Maldon sea salt were sprinkled on top of the cake, which broke the sweetness of the cake, but each bite was extremely rich and left me reaching for my water glass.

On the other hand, the cheesecake was unbelievably fluffy and airy with a tiny hint of lemon. The slice was served alongside a pile of blueberry compote and a piece of graham cracker positioned sideways to keep the compote in place. The graham cracker crust balanced the softer texture of the cheesecake filling itself.

The blueberry compote, although only served on the side, brought together the entire dish, complementing the hints of lemon found in the cheesecake. As a chocolate fanatic, I thought I'd mostly focus on the chocolate cake, but I was pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed the cheesecake—and it may have even been my favorite dish of the night.

The comfort food dishes at La Betty proved that the Baked and Wired team can successfully go far beyond baked goods to serve up an entire delectable dinner spread.

GAMES OF THE WEEK



LACROSSE
vs. Duquesne
2 p.m. • Friday
The Colonials battle for a second consecutive A-10 win in their final home game of the season on the Vern.



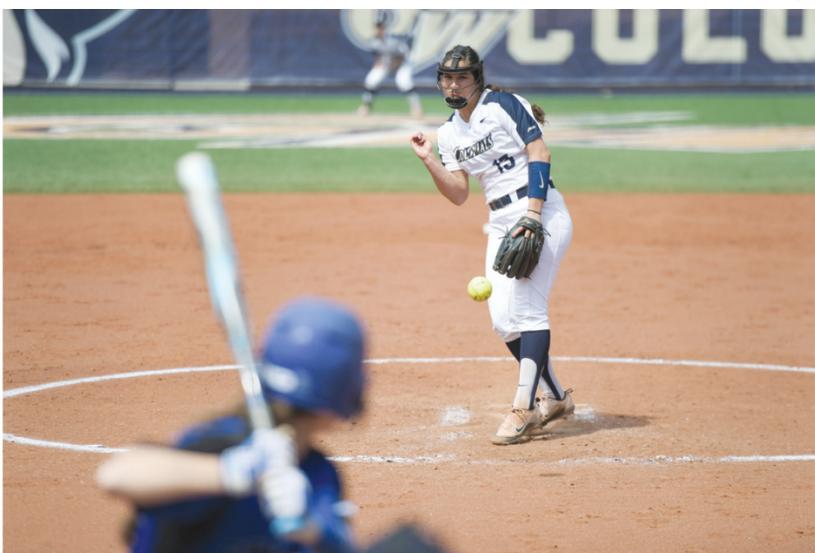
MEN'S TENNIS
vs. Richmond
2:30 p.m. • Sunday
The Colonials host Richmond for an A-10 matchup in their last home match of the regular season.

NUMBER CRUNCH

14.3

Average number of George Mason baserunners GW's pitching stranded on base per game throughout the Colonials' series against George Mason this weekend.

Softball on pace for winningest record in program history



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
Sophomore utility player Sierra Lange throws a pitch during Saturday's game against Saint Louis.

ALEC RICH
STAFF WRITER

Softball is just four wins away from owning the program's winningest record – and the team still has 14 games remaining to meet the mark.

Following a three-game sweep against Atlantic 10 rival Saint Louis this weekend, the Colonials (30–11, 6–3 A-10) jumped to third

place in conference standings after entering the weekend in the sixth slot. The series sweep marked the team's 30th win of the season and is just the second time in program history GW has hit the 30-win threshold.

"We have a goal of trying to be a champion in the A-10 this year so having the greatest record of all time would just be a byproduct

of doing that," head coach Shane Winkler said. "Really, it's about being the best we can every day."

Softball has tallied a winning record just four times since 2002 – staying in the green in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2018. With a current win percentage of .732, the team is also on pace to surpass the program-best 33 wins it earned last season.

The Colonials have not slowed down after a hot start to the season under their first-year head coach. The Colonials are leading the A-10 in every major offensive category including hits, runs, runs batted in and batting average.

But Winkler said the Colonials are more focused on winning conference games and competing for a championship than holding the wins record.

"We got the toughest first four weeks of anyone in the conference so we knew if we could get through the first four weekends close to the top, we were going to be in good shape," he said.

GW's first four weeks of conference play included two series against top A-10 rivals Saint Joseph's and Fordham, who hold conference records of 7–2 and 6–3, respectively. The Colonials dropped two of three games to Fordham but bested Saint Joseph's by winning two out of three games in that series.

After winning both games of the team's doubleheader against Delaware State Wednesday, sophomore infielder Alessandra Ponce said the team has carried a "championship mentality" into each game

since the start of the season, which has led to continued success.

"For us, every game matters, every pitch matters, every inning matters and treating everything like game day like coach says has put us in a really good mindset this season, and that's why we've had a lot of success," Ponce said.

She added that the Colonials' "scary" offense has also affected the way they structure their lineup and the way opponents prepare to face them.

"It doesn't matter what inning we're in, it doesn't matter where we're at in the lineup, anything is possible for us, and I think everybody else knows that," she said.

Freshman pitcher Megan Osterhaus – after pitching three shutout innings Wednesday – said GW's mental toughness will be the key to success the rest of the season.

"What's important for us is to control what we can control," she said. "Physical errors are going to happen, so it's going to be really important for us to just stay locked in and mentally be in the game."

Winkler said the team

has instilled a "tougher mentality" since he first arrived this season, which, along with the squad's combination of talent, preparation and "win-now" approach, will help the team compete for a championship.

"A lot of coaches, when they take over the program, come in and start thinking about the future and bringing in their recruits and what they're going to do," he said. "We're focused on our kids and trying to win now."

Winkler said the Colonials must be "tougher" in the infield and not give away at-bats.

"We're off balance, off timing a little bit at times so it's just about being locked in and having a little more focus," he said. "We've done a lot of things really well, that's why we've had the success we had, but now it's taking it up one notch and giving that one more percent of effort."

The Colonials return to action next weekend on the road with a three-game series against A-10 rival Massachusetts, which includes a Saturday doubleheader beginning at noon.

—Will Margerum
contributed reporting.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO
Juniors Sarah Noyes and Aitana Mendiguren raced on the Potomac River at GW Women's Invite last April.

Sailing drops chance to qualify for team race national championship

EMILY MAISE
STAFF WRITER

Sailing fell short of a national championship berth at a team racing conference championship this weekend.

The Colonials tied for sixth at the Prosser Trophy regatta, missing a top-four finish at the Mid-Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association Team Racing championship that would have qualified them for the Intercollegiate Sailing Association Team Race National Championship in May. The squad has eight competitions left this year, but this weekend was its last chance to secure a spot in the team racing national championship.

The team's finish this weekend marks its lowest finish since 2016. GW qualified for the national championship for the first time in program history last season with a second-place finish at the Prosser Trophy regatta. GW fell to eighth place in 2016 and rose up to a fifth-place finish in 2017.

The Colonials entered the regatta placing in the top half in four of its six regattas in its spring season.

In the first round Saturday, the Colonials took three wins but hit a three-race skid against Georgetown, Navy and Old Dominion. The squad finished the day tied for fifth, positioning themselves one spot short of qualifying for the national competition.

The Colonials stumbled through competition Sunday, losing five of their seven races. The team captured a win against No. 1 Georgetown and Cornell, but the Colonials could not square

up to their conference foe, tying for sixth place with No. 18 St. Mary's College of Maryland.

The team's 35.7 racing percentage in the qualifying regatta was the second lowest of the season behind the team's 15.8 racing percentage at the Bob Bavier Team Race last month. It was also down from the team's average racing percentage of 42.85.

The Colonials came into the regatta riding a high wave. The No. 9 women's team earned a program-high fourth-place finish at the Dellenbaugh Women's Trophy regatta. The team won over No. 5 Cornell and No. 7 MIT and lost to No. 8 Harvard with a three-point difference.

Sailors said the team relied on senior leadership and focused on scouting out the racing venue and correcting errors heading into competition.

Senior Connor West said the spring season revealed the team's struggles with inconsistency and allowed it to correct the errors heading into the weekend.

"It's really easy to lose one and go out and lose the next one right away," West said. "Digging yourself out of that hole and rebounding and winning the next race is important."

West said in an effort to clean up the team's errors, the squad spent time practicing on the water and analyzing practice and competition video.

Assistant coach Catherine Shanahan said the team had been discussing the conditions of the qualifying course at St. Mary's throughout the season to have a "home field advantage." The Colonials attended St.

Mary's for two regattas this season, and the team practices there frequently.

"St. Mary's is a really tricky venue," Shanahan said. "It usually has some funky local knowledge that is really helpful to gather, so the fact that we've been there a lot this semester has been really huge."

The Colonials sent five seniors, two juniors, one sophomore and one freshman to the qualifying regatta. Shanahan said the seniors, who make up nearly half of the 29-man roster, have carried the younger side of the team throughout the season.

"The dynamics have been a constant rotation, and it's been really helpful to see the fluidity of everything going forward," she said.

Senior Riley Legault said the team has a deep roster that pushes each other in practice and better prepares each other for tough competition.

"During practice, everyone's pushing each other really hard," Legault said. "We're all putting in a lot of effort to make the entire team do well."

Ahead of the qualifying competition, Shanahan said the team looked back to the basics of racing and staying focused on its sailing abilities.

"We've proven ourselves at every event thus far, so if we show up and sail our best, we'll definitely finish in the top four," Shanahan said.

The women's team heads to Alexandria, Va. to host the GW Women's Invite Saturday and Sunday, while the co-ed team will compete at the Navy Spring Coed Regatta in Annapolis, Md.

Cone inks name in softball program history for RBI record

WILL MARGERUM
STAFF WRITER

Junior utility player Jenna Cone cemented herself in softball program history for the second time as the new leader in runs batted in during a Saturday contest against Saint Louis.

Cone ascended to the No. 1 spot in program RBIs with a two-run bomb that pushed her to 174 career RBIs. Her contributions have helped lead the Colonials to a 30–11 overall record, the best in the Atlantic 10.

"It's her presence, her confidence, she's got a great approach, but again it's just a confident player who's able to do spectacular things," head coach Shane Winkler said after a win over Saint Louis Sunday. "When you have one player like that, offense is completely contagious and we've got a lot of great offensive players."

This season, Cone has collected 54 RBIs through 41 games, putting her on pace for nearly 72 RBIs on the season. Cone passed 2015-graduate shortstop Victoria Valos' 4-year-old record of 170 RBIs in less than three years.

"RBIs are kind of my favorite," Cone said. "I try not to look at stats but if I do, RBIs are what's most important."

Cone set a new program record in career home runs last month when she launched a grand slam over the right-field wall in the bottom of the sixth inning to help her team claw back to win 5–4 over Manhattan.

The shot was her 37th round-tripper as a Colonial and she has 16 home runs this season alone – six more than the runner-up in the A-10. She is now tied for sixth in home runs among all Division I softball players with 46 career home runs.

Cone's 18 homers set a new GW single-season record for out-of-the-park knocks her rookie campaign, and she is set to eclipse that figure this season. She also occupies second on the list with the 12 home runs during her sophomore season.

"She's so important to this team. I genuinely don't know what I would do without her as a teammate anyway, but she's just so powerful in every area of this game," junior utility Jessica Linquist – who is currently riding a program-best 28-game hit streak – said after the team's game against Saint Louis Sunday. "She's unbeatable against so many teams."

Her power-hitting abilities are reflected in her .872 slugging percentage – .173 higher than any of her teammates. Cone already holds first and second place in single-season slugging percentage in program history after she owned a .822 slugging percentage at the end of her rookie campaign.

Cone also set single-season records for RBIs in both her freshman and sophomore campaigns. She brought 59 teammates home in her first year in Foggy Bottom and reeled in 61 last year.

"It's just a great testa-

ment to all of the awesome coaches I've had before, like early on in my career and now," Cone said after facing Saint Louis. "I think it's just awesome to do stuff for the program and I don't know, I just hope to keep pushing myself and get better every day."

Cone's performances also raise her teammates to new levels. Winkler, the head coach, slated her second in the order and said her status as a premier hitter provides opportunities for the rest of the lineup.

"Jenny is a threat every time she steps to the plate," Winkler said. "What's helping us is we have so much production around her. If the team pitches around her, they're in trouble so it's kind of pick your poison."

The Colonials lead the A-10 in nearly every batting statistic this season. The team's collective .362 batting average is the best in the conference, partly because of the predicament that Cone's power puts opponents in. The Colonials have collected 413 hits on the year – 155 more than the conference runner-up Massachusetts.

"One through nine, we're all doing really well which is super cool to see," Cone said. "If you try to get through one girl and then you realize that the next girl is up and you're like, 'Oh no, I have to face her too.'"

The Colonials return to action against Massachusetts Saturday on the road. First pitch is at noon.



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
Junior utility player Jenna Cone runs to first during Saturday's game against Saint Louis.