

OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR

Provost Forrest Maltzman announced Thursday that he will step down from his post after three years.

Provost's three-year run marked by focus on data, student experience

CAYLA HARRIS & JARED GANS
STAFF WRITERS

The provost was reflecting on the time he spent developing the interior of the Science and Engineering Hall when he was cut off, apologetically, by a professor.

"We'll miss you," Annamaria Lusardi, the endowed chair of economics and accountancy, said. "We'll miss you very much."

For Forrest Maltzman, the past few days have been filled with similar offbeat interactions with faculty and staff reacting to the unexpected announcement last week that he would resign from his post leading the University's academic, research and student affairs initiatives. During a Faculty Senate meeting Friday, he wiped away tears as he received a standing ovation from his colleagues.

Throughout his three-year career as provost and an even longer stint as senior vice provost for academic affairs and planning, Maltzman has tucked more than a few accomplishments under his belt – including a restructuring of the student affairs divisions, the acquisition of the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design and the rollout of several

new diversity measures. He has also led the University during a series of hardships, like the fallout of a racist Snapchat post, a lack of library funding and growing faculty concerns that online programs did not measure up against GW's in-person courses.

Maltzman said he hopes his legacy will live on not only through

time" to step down, Maltzman said, citing the nearing end of the University's 10-year strategic plan and its recent reaccreditation. He will stay in his position until officials find a replacement and then head off on his first sabbatical in more than two decades before returning to the political science department as a professor.

Perhaps on the dock-

Laurie Koehler, the senior vice provost for enrollment and the student experience – who he first brought on to his team in 2013 – to lead the new Office of Enrollment and the Student Experience.

"He is a great change agent and doesn't see barriers, so if you want to do something and have a good rationale for supporting it, he's going to help facilitate getting it done," Koehler said. "That's been really critical to the work we've done with the ESE."

But Maltzman's work in student affairs has extended beyond an administrative shakeup.

The provost, who can often be found knee-deep in data about student outcomes, said some of his greatest achievements during his tenure include bolstering GW's graduation and retention rates. Last year, the four-year graduation rate stood at a record 78 percent, and about 93 percent of freshmen who came to GW in 2017 returned in 2018.

He has also worked with students in times of hardship, including ongoing concerns about the University's lack of diversity. After a racist Snapchat incident rocked campus in February 2018,

"He is a great change agent and doesn't see barriers, so if you want to do something and have a good rationale for supporting it, he's going to help facilitate getting it done."

LAURIE KOEHLER

SENIOR VICE PROVOST, ENROLLMENT AND THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

projects he completed but also through the University's ongoing prioritization of academics and the student experience.

"I hope collaborating in a transparent style is a little bit of legacy that is there," Maltzman said. "The commitment to student success is something that I hope is – and I expect will be – an enduring legacy to the institution and making sure we prioritize our mission. They are, really, what I hope endures."

Now is the "right

et: a book on legislation or a project on education policy, Maltzman said. It's still too early to tell.

Leading the student body

Last year, Maltzman oversaw the largest overhaul of the student affairs departments in recent memory.

As University President Thomas LeBlanc prioritized improving student sentiment about the University, Maltzman worked to merge the divisions handling student affairs and retention. He tapped

Proposals from faculty-led review would boost GW's research profile, experts say

SHANNON MALLARD
STAFF WRITER

A faculty report released last week encouraging the University to simplify its funding processes and clarify research standards could help officials in an ongoing effort to bolster GW's research reputation, faculty and experts said.

The six-page report published by the Faculty Senate Research Committee suggests several ways for the University to improve its research environment, like streamlining the pre- and post-award processes and expanding funding opportunities. Faculty and research experts said the report's recommendations will expedite the grant application process and ensure researchers comply with University and federal policies – making it easier for professors and students to conduct and publish research.

Robert Miller, the vice president for research, said suggestions in the report like increasing researchers' salaries and simplifying the award acceptance process will help officials facilitate research projects. He said officials have already instituted some of the recommendations outlined in the report, like implementing an online system to track compliance issues and increasing the number of staff and faculty training sessions about research ethics and federal funding guidelines.

"The report will be an important guiding document as we move forward and prioritize next steps," Miller said in an email.

The first phase of the faculty-led review, which began in September and concluded in January, evaluated how the University can improve its research ecosystem in four main areas – pre- and post-award processes, research integrity and compliance, and non-sponsored research and scholarship.

Miller said officials will present the findings from the second phase of the review – which will include an evaluation of shared research facilities, computing infrastructure, resource allocation and workforce development – in 2020. Officials selected faculty working groups to lead the next assessment after faculty and staff from the

Office of the Vice President for Research and the provost's office completed the initial phase of the review, he said.

"We are thankful for the faculty's involvement in the first phase of the ecosystem review and for the feedback," Miller said.

The review falls in line with University President Thomas LeBlanc's mission to boost GW's reputation as a prominent research institution.

Pre- and post-award processes

The working groups recommended implementing automated systems to track researchers' awards, expedite grant approval processes and allow researchers to begin working without unnecessary delays.

Jamie Cohen-Cole, an associate professor of American studies who led the non-sponsored research and scholarship working group during the first phase, said the proposal's suggestion to eliminate some post-award processes, like detailed expense reports, will free more time for researchers to investigate their projects.

"In some sense, it's a way of brushing away unneeded rules, regulations and bureaucracy and changing the culture of GW to be more flexible and nimble and responsive to the people who are engaged in education and in this portion of the review, the research part of the University's mission," he said.

Increasing communication

The working groups also recommended that the University maintain "clear, consistent and effective communications" with head researchers throughout the proposal and submission processes, including additional training for lead investigators and research staff.

Research experts said training investigators to comply with ethics policies and facilitating clear communication between researchers and project sponsors will construct a well-functioning research ecosystem.

GWHATCHET.COM

for more on faculty's research recommendations

SMPA students draft diversity measures after official task force quietly ends

PARTH KOTAK
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Students are heading a push to enact new diversity measures in the School of Media and Public Affairs after they say officials have not taken action to make the school more inclusive.

Officials have repeatedly declined to answer questions about the SMPA Diversity Task Force, which launched in fall 2016 and issued recommendations at the end of that academic year to improve representation in SMPA's student body. While officials have not said what the recommendations were or what steps were taken to implement them, students are planning to present a handful of their own suggestions to improve diversity efforts to administrators this week.

Freshman Garret Hoff – a co-chair of SMPA's recently launched Director's Advisory Council, a 20-member group that gives students an opportunity to voice concerns about the school – said the council created a subgroup earlier this semester focusing on improving representation in the student body. The racial breakdown of SMPA has historically been two-thirds to three-quarters white, accord-

ing to institutional data.

"We're in a time right now where we need schools, especially a journalism school, to step up and say, 'We're going to take the lead on these issues,' even if nobody else is going to that," Hoff said.

He said members of the council developed four recommendations to present to SMPA Director Frank Sesno at a meeting Thursday. The recommendations include a mandatory faculty diversity training and an increase in the number of minority speakers at SMPA events, according to a copy of the proposals obtained by The Hatchet.

In the long term, the group aims to establish a dedicated SMPA admissions representative who can "review" the diversity of SMPA's Class of 2023, according to the document. The group also wants to introduce more minority outreach to the SMPA Ambassador Program, an initiative that pairs undergraduate students with applicants to help them understand the school.

The recommendations come after few public initiatives were implemented as a result of the SMPA Diversity Task Force, which was active during the 2016-17 academic year but officials have re-



ALEXANDER WELLING | PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Garret Hoff, a co-chair of the council, said the group developed five initiatives to focus on, including diversity and inclusion.

peatedly declined to answer questions about the task force and its activities each semester for the past three semesters and, each time, received a similar response from University spokesman Jason Shevrin affirming SMPA's commitment to diversity and to implementing the task force's recommendations.

Each time, Shevrin has

said the ambassador program was created based on the task force's suggestions, but he has declined to elaborate on the task force's other recommendations and how SMPA has instituted them.

Shevrin said the SMPA task force originally consisted of faculty, students, alumni and "outside representatives." He said officials would continue "finding opportunities

for faculty to be involved with recruiting activities."

But more than 10 professors in SMPA declined to comment on the task force, citing a lack of knowledge or deferring to SMPA administrators. Seven SMPA professors did not return multiple requests for comment.

Cheryl Thompson, an associate professor of journalism and the former chair of

the task force, declined to comment, deferring questions to Sesno.

Hoff, the co-chair of the new advisory council, said he heard that the task force conducted some research, but he said Sesno and other SMPA officials did not follow the group's findings with action.

"To my understanding, it was more about saying they did something than actually doing something," Hoff said. "My goal with this – and I think the goal hopefully that Frank has with this – is that this is about doing things and not talking about doing things."

Hannah Thacker, the chair of the council's diversity subgroup and an opinions writer for The Hatchet, said those involved in drafting the proposals aimed to present feasible goals that would make SMPA a more diverse school.

"It's really hard for administrators to know what a student perspective is like, and for a bunch of students, mostly students of color, to get together and say, 'We don't feel welcome here, and we don't feel represented here' – I think it's really important for them to be able to hear us and for them to be willing to listen to us," Thacker said.

News

April 15, 2019 • Page 2

CRIME LOG

DRUG LAW VIOLATION, LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION, DC/THROWING OBJECTS FROM BUILDING

Philip Amsterdam Hall
4/6/2019 – 7:11 p.m.
Closed Case

The GW Police Department responded to a report that Chick-fil-A ranch sauce was thrown from a sixth-floor window of Amsterdam Hall. Housing officials conducted an administrative search yielding drugs, drug paraphernalia and alcohol, and officers disposed of the alcohol.

Referred to the Office of Enrollment and the Student Experience

HARASSMENT: EMAIL AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Off Campus
Multiple – Multiple
Closed Case

A female student reported that an unknown person sent her harassing text messages. There is limited information about the content of the messages.

Off-campus incident

SIMPLE ASSAULT (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE)

Guthridge Hall
4/10/2019 – 6:25 p.m.
Closed Case

GWPD responded to a report of an injured student in Guthridge Hall. Officers made contact with a female student who said her boyfriend, who is also her roommate, assaulted her after an argument.

Referred to ESE.

— Compiled by Valerie Yurk

Graduate business students increasingly opt for marketing internships



FILE PHOTO BY ARIELLE BADER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior Antonia Simas Magalhães, the president of the GW chapter of the American Marketing Association, said the increased interest “makes a lot of sense.”

ZACH SCHONFELD
STAFF WRITER

A growing proportion of students in the two-year Global Master of Business Administration program have pursued marketing internships this year, according to a newly released School of Business report.

Half of students pursuing a Global MBA who accepted an internship worked in marketing or sales this year, compared to 18 percent in 2018 and 25 percent in 2017. Faculty and experts said the increase follows rapid growth in the marketing industry worldwide, mostly as the field grows digitally.

The Global MBA program allows students to conduct research on an international business for seven weeks and travel abroad for two weeks to deliver findings to the company’s leadership, according to the business

school website.

Donna Hoffman, a professor of marketing, said generous pay incentivizes students to seek out marketing internships above other fields.

Marketing and sales interns earn about \$1,500 more per month than the average Global MBA intern, the business school reported. The mean monthly compensation for marketing and sales internships this year reached the highest amount in at least three years – \$6,000 per month, up from \$3,800 in 2018 and \$5,000 in 2017, according to survey data from students.

Hoffman said specialized graduate certificate programs in the business school, like the digital marketing and communications certificate, prepare students to succeed in marketing internships.

“Why wouldn’t you go to a job like that?” Hoffman said. “We offer the

training to our students, and then they’re ready to take these well-paying, really exciting internships.”

She added that the growth of artificial intelligence and social media has made it “critical” for firms to hire tech-savvy marketers who can navigate an increasingly technological world.

“Consumers are interacting, increasingly online, but also increasingly with smart things online, and also in their physical world,” she said. “This is what’s happening. This is where the jobs are.”

Nationwide, advertising and marketing companies made up almost 10 percent – the greatest share – of the 5,000 fastest-growing private companies based on percentage revenue growth, according to an August analysis released by Inc., a weekly business magazine.

Pradeep Rau, a professor of marketing, said the

increase is “remarkable.” He said the rise of social media in recent years has created new marketing intern opportunities in digital media beyond traditional print advertisements.

Rau said students may be drawn to the more “analytic” marketing on digital platforms, like social media, allow for customized, targeted marketing to an individual consumer.

“It may reflect the general increase in focus on data analytics brought about by the greater focus on digital marketing and social media in marketing programs of companies,” Rau said.

Senior Antonia Simas Magalhães, the president of the GW chapter of the American Marketing Association – a student organization revived last October that offers networking opportunities to students – said the increase “makes a lot of sense” because she has seen increasing undergraduate and graduate student interest in her organization since it restarted.

Simas Magalhães said her organization has hosted different programs, like Adobe Photoshop workshops and events with research professionals, over the past few months to cater to wide marketing interests and to teach marketing skills.

She said many people have a narrow perception of the marketing field, but marketing internships include a broad range of jobs, including graphic design and sales.

“It’s universal – anybody can join,” Simas Magalhães said. “There are so many new marketing careers now, especially with the new digital era.”

Outgoing provost helped hone GW’s academic mission: faculty

From Page 1

Maltzman helped devise a series of new diversity trainings and other initiatives to improve race relations on campus.

Under his leadership, GW also overhauled its financial aid processes, instituted a test-optional policy and partnered with the Posse Foundation, which recruits high-achieving students from Atlanta.

“All of those things were meant to enhance the institution and its ability to reach out to more students who may have not felt welcome or always included in higher education,” Maltzman said.

Former University President Steven Knapp said Maltzman’s role in dropping the University’s standardized testing requirement in 2015 allowed officials to accept a new group of students who may not test well but would succeed at GW – a switch that institutions across the United States followed in the years to come.

“It was nationally noticed when it happened, and it’s become a spreading movement now in efforts to make admissions processes more clearly reflect what contributes to student success,” he said.

Overseeing academic initiatives

When former Provost Steven Lerman announced that he would step down in 2015, Knapp said Maltzman was a “natural” choice to serve as the president’s right-hand man.

He said Maltzman was key in developing the University’s 10-year strategic plan, which will come to a close in 2021. The plan was highlighted

during the University’s recent reaccreditation process for its effectiveness, he said.

“He’s 100 percent committed to the University’s aspirations academically, which means both to do everything we can to ensure the success of students and also to continue to rise in the ranks of research universities,” Knapp said.

Maltzman said he has “no doubt” that he will aid in crafting GW’s next strategic plan to include some of the University’s current priorities, including a larger focus on science, technology, en-

“I admire his pragmatic approach and that he has a good sense to solve problems informally by bringing people together.”

HARALD GRIESSHAMMER
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, THEORETICAL AND NUCLEAR PHYSICS

gineering and math.

Harald Griesshammer, an associate professor of theoretical nuclear physics, said Maltzman has understood the problems faculty members face because of his close relationship with them. Maltzman is also a professor himself – he came to GW as a political science professor in 1993 and headed the department from 2008 to 2011.

Griesshammer said Maltzman is a “straight shooter” who is always open to changing his opinions when confronted with opposing facts.

“I admire his pragmatic approach and that he has a good sense to solve problems informally by bringing people together,” Griesshammer said.

Anthony Yezer, a professor of economics, said Maltzman helped grow the University’s scholastic mission by establishing a STEM lab in Gelman Library and increasingly using data to “guide the academic

planning process.”

“Given the culture of GWU, which tends to reject planning and quantitative modeling to support decision-making, these are major achievements,” Yezer said.

Prioritizing research

During Maltzman’s tenure, LeBlanc, the University president, named research as one of his five top priorities. Two months before, Maltzman began to co-chair a task force with former Vice President for Research Leo Chalupa to examine research processes that frustrated professors.

“Forrest truly loves GW and did his best to make it a better place for students, faculty and staff,” Chalupa said in an email. “I met with him regularly when I was VP of research and found him easy to

work with.” He noted that officials will face difficulties finding a “viable replacement” for him because of the University’s multiple ongoing dean searches.

After Chalupa announced that he would resign from his post as vice president for research in March 2018, the Office of the Vice President for Research began reporting to the provost’s office to more closely align education and research.

Griesshammer, the associate professor of physics, said Maltzman fully engaged with LeBlanc’s focus on research and has helped develop strategies to boost the University’s footprint on both national and international research endeavors.

“He has an eye on both what’s doable and on where GW wants to be,” Griesshammer said.

— Meredith Roaten and Hayden Smith contributed reporting.

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GW to continue welcoming international students at airports next year

ALISA KINGSBURY
REPORTER

When first-year graduate student Saumya Rajamohan arrived at Dulles International Airport from her home in India in January, she was unsure what was waiting for her on a campus she had never been to in a city she did not know.

But when Rajamohan saw three students and faculty she had been in contact with waiting in the airport to offer her snacks, a Metro pass and a welcome guide including a map of campus and tips for where to buy class textbooks, she felt instantly at home.

Students, staff and faculty greeted more than 50 incoming students and their families at Dulles International Airport in the fall and spring in the first year of the University's airport welcome initiative. Officials said the program will continue next year after hearing positive feedback from international students, who said the initiative helped them adjust quickly to a new country and find new friends and peers.

"You know someone known to you is going to be at the airport to receive you," Rajamohan said. "It kind of puts you at ease, it means that initial discomfort is gone. There's

no need for anxiety or fear making the travel."

The International Services Office introduced the program last fall as part of an initiative to ease students' transition to the United States.

Jennifer Donaghue, the ISO director, said students, faculty and staff greeted incoming students for two days last fall and three days last spring and fielded questions about GW, like where to pick up their GWorld cards and where to buy textbooks.

She said incoming students and their families were welcomed by the ISO, members of the International Students Association and International Student Community Ambassadors, a group of students who advise and assist their peers.

"There was an overwhelming, positive response from students and parents who were delighted to see groups of 'GW faces' at the airport when they arrived," Donaghue said in an email.

She said the ISO expanded the program in January to include shuttle pickups. Four buses brought international students and their families from the airport to campus for three days, she said.

"It was a long couple

of days, but they were meaningful days as both our International Student Community Ambassadors and incoming students let us know that they were excited to be able to bond with fellow students during the bus rides," Donaghue said.

Former Student Association President Peak Sen Chua, who is from Malaysia, helped spearhead the program connecting international students to other students and staff before orientation.

"I think my main goal was to make sure when students landed in the United States after hours and hours of flying thousands of miles, that they were able to find some guidance and they were able to feel like GW was thinking about them," he said.

Chua said the University has "often overlooked" international students' needs — like finding a community on a largely domestic campus — because international students are a minority population. International students constituted about 14 percent of the student body this fall.

He said programs focused on integrating international students into the student body help officials and student leaders become more aware of and address their concerns about living



PHOTO USED UNDER THE CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSE FROM FLICKER USER ADAM FAGEN
More than 50 incoming international students and their families were greeted at Dulles International Airport in the fall and spring in the first year of GW's airport welcome program.

in a new country.

"While they're here, we want to make sure they're welcome and they are able to be welcomed in a way that fits them, that is tailored to them because they have very unique needs," Chua said.

Rupa Kalahashti, an international student from India and the graduate fellow for the International Student Community Ambassadors, helped plan the airport welcome in the fall semester and greeted students at the airport in January. She said the pro-

gram allows international students to familiarize themselves with the ISO and its services from the start of their time at GW.

"Because they see us at the airport or hear from us right before they come, they tend to open up faster in coming to our events or even coming to our workshops and approaching us for any kind of advising," she said.

She said faculty, students and staff created signs to bring to the airport displaying phrases like "GW welcomes you

here," which reassured incoming students and "made them extremely happy." Kalahashti added that the ISO is searching for additional ways to increase awareness about the program on top of the brochures and emails the office currently sends out.

"Along with the students being able to be comfortable, to see someone they've spoken to before, it's also the families being able to be comfortable, to see someone is going to be receiving your son or daughter," she said.

New paid leave policies could improve employee satisfaction, experts say

MEREDITH ROATEN
NEWS EDITOR

New time-off policies that expand vacation time for employees and standardize an online paid leave platform could help address complaints about a lack of staff appreciation, experts said.

Officials announced a slate of changes to paid leave policies last week, allowing employees to carry over some paid time off from one fiscal year to the next, earn more paid leave days based on the number of years they have worked at GW and track their time off more easily. Officials said the new policies, which will be enacted this summer, will allow employees to rest and be more productive when they return to work.

Jennifer Lopez, the associate vice president of total rewards, said the information technology, benefits, human resources and payroll divisions changed the paid leave policy to help employees more easily manage and use time off.

"Serving and supporting GW faculty and staff is paramount to our culture transformation," she said in an email. "One pillar of this transformation includes doing business better with better tools in order to optimize the management of our human resources."

Lopez said taking time off helps employees "recharge" and focus on their health. Officials hope employees who take a day away from work will be more energetic and effective when they return to their job, she said.

Administrators will host three town halls to field questions about the new policies and release a guide on the changes later this spring to ensure employees understand the amended paid leave policies, Lopez said.

"We hope that when our employees invest in themselves, it will bring them renewed focus and creativity to their career here at GW," she said. "The new system and guide simply provide resources in support of employees using time available to them."

Lopez said officials received feedback from several "stakeholder groups" about simplifying

tracking time off. Employees are currently required to receive departmental approval to carry over vacation time and use different systems for managing time off depending on their division.

Officials also evaluated peer schools' policies as benchmarks for the changes, she said. At least five of GW's 12 peer institutions, including the University of Southern California and Tufts University, have similar policies that allow employees to carry over vacation time.

Lopez said that because some employees already use Kronos, a system for tracking leave, officials decided to expand the system's use for all workers. Officials will ask employees and managers for input as they roll out the new measures and will again solicit feedback a year after the policy's implementation to make improvements, she said.

"Any time we roll out a new system, we understand that there will be some adjustments that will need to be made as employees fully utilize the new system," Lopez said.

Human resources experts said the changes could improve employee satisfaction and illustrate the University's appreciation for staff. The results of a University-wide institutional culture survey last fall showed the staff and faculty felt like their contributions went unrecognized.

Craig Schilling, a professor of educational leadership at Concordia University Chicago, said the decision to allow staff to carry over paid vacation time is "generous" and allows faculty and staff to spend more time with family. Staff can use up to five unused vacation days by Aug. 31 of the new fiscal year, which begins on July 1.

He said limiting the carry-over period to two months prevents staff from misusing the system by stockpiling vacation days and skipping rest time.

Schilling added that the changes may help boost staff morale temporarily, but transforming the University's institutional culture will require more time and feedback.

"It's a long-term project, not a short-term project," he said.

"Things may not be perfect, but if they are really dedicated to doing this — it's about everybody from the top down owning it."

Connie Wanberg, a professor of management at the University of Michigan, said a benefits update reassures employees that administrators are listening to their concerns about a disconnect between top officials and lower-level faculty or staff.

"A lot of time, employees take surveys, and then they never see action or circle-back in terms of what they said," Wanberg said.

"Just having more attention to different issues that they face is a big positive."

Dan Tomal, a distinguished professor of educational leadership at Concordia University Chicago, said changes in national demographics in recent years have forced employers to focus on competitive paid leave policies. He said more families now have two working parents — rather than a sole breadwinner — than in years past, which necessitates more flexibility for vacation time and child care.

About 62 percent of families with children had two working parents in 2018, according to statistics from the Department of Labor.

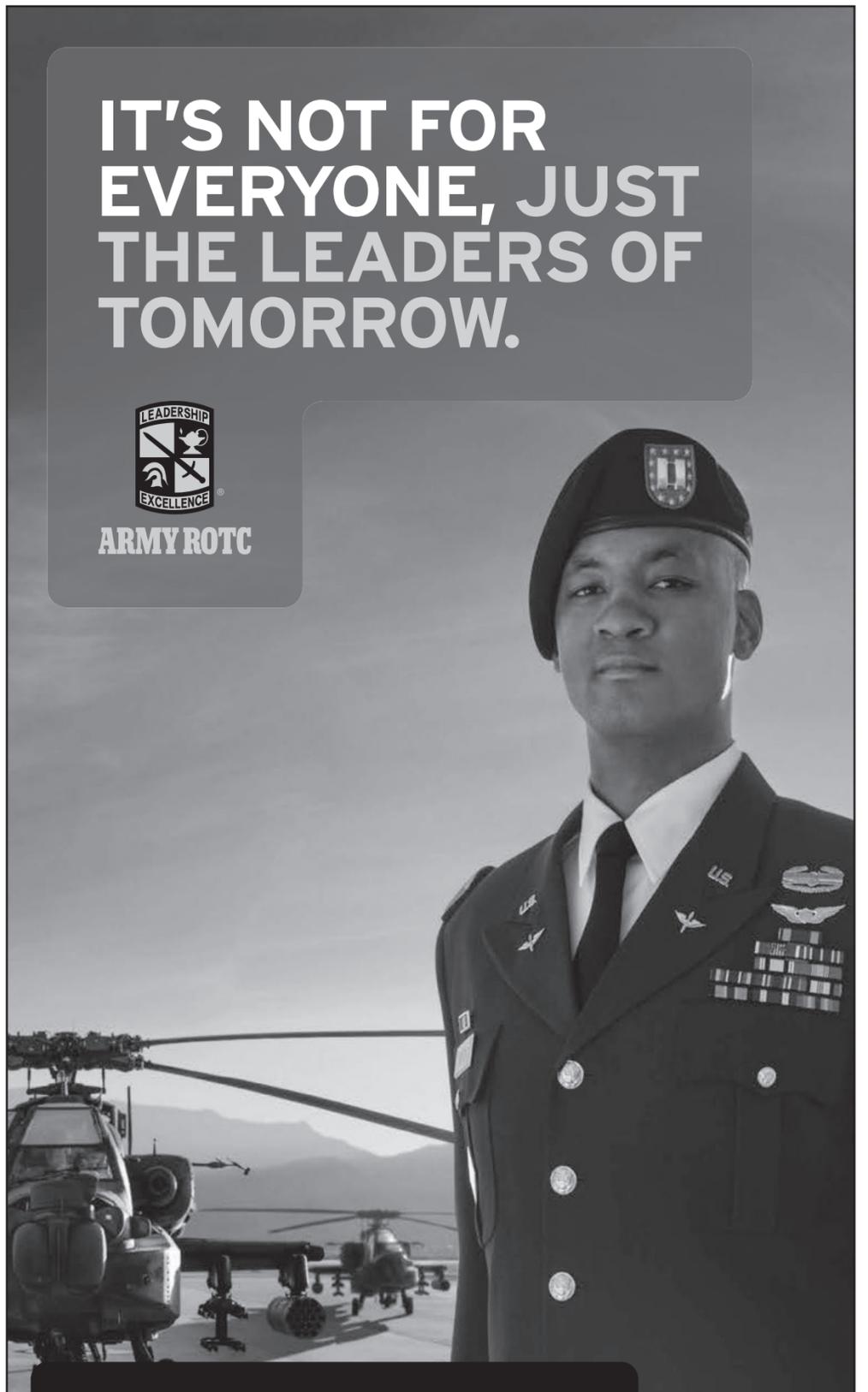
Tomal added that standardizing the time-off tracker ensures that scheduling decisions will be fair and impartial. Using inconsistent tracking systems could make employees concerned that differences in their schedules stemmed from bias, he said.

"It's best that an organization can be consistent and try to treat everyone the same," he said.

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What the University won't tell you about living on the Vern

A few days after I arrived on campus for my freshman year, I was standing outside the U.S. Capitol Building with a friend wondering aloud if living on the Mount Vernon Campus would leave me detached from the rest of GW. A woman behind me eavesdropping on the conversation, turned around to say that living on the Vern was the reason she transferred out of GW.

Andrew Sugrue
Writer

I spent some time that day deliberating whether I had made the right decision to live on the Vern. After spending nearly a full academic year on the campus, I understand why the former student may have decided to leave. The Vern can isolate students from the rest of campus life, and it is often difficult to find affordable dining options. Her thoughts have merit, but I have still enjoyed the campus' quiet location away from an otherwise busy city campus.

The University is not going to tell you every-

thing you need to know about the Vern. Its websites are not going to say you may spend an hour traveling from Foggy Bottom to the Vern during rush hour or that you will have fewer dining options than the main campus. These factors have not prevented me from enjoying my life on the Vern, but prospective students should at least keep the details in mind during their tour of campus. Incoming freshmen should hear out both the positives and negatives of the Vern that the University won't advertise before ranking their first-year housing preferences.

Unlike Foggy Bottom, students on the Vern will live on a suburban campus with wildlife like deer occasionally roaming around and trees displaying foliage during the fall. I come from a small town in New York, so I was nervous about rushing into living in the heart of a city, but living on the Vern was a way to balance the bustle of city life with some peace and quiet.

Another benefit of living on the Vern is the housing options. West Hall is the only freshman residence hall on



Cartoon by Jeanne Franchesca Dela Cruz

both Foggy Bottom and the Vern with single bedrooms, a common area and a bathroom. It is a far cry from Thurston Hall where up to six students could be crammed in a residence hall room. But for students that want to live closely with their peers, the Vern also houses freshmen in Clark, Hensley and Merriweather halls, which are collectively called the Hillsides.

But students should also weigh the down-

sides of the Vern. While students may get their own bedroom and enjoy the peace and quiet, the campus can also feel isolating at times. The Vern Express leaves from Foggy Bottom to the Vern during the day every five minutes, but the rides are often long and could take up to an hour out of your day. The Vex often makes it difficult to engage with student organizations that hold most of their meetings in Foggy Bottom. Late at night

or on the weekends, the Vex can also be harder to catch because it leaves on quarter- or half-hour intervals instead of every five minutes.

Dining options on the Vern are also relatively scarce. Pelham Commons, which serves all-you-can-eat meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner is the only dining hall at the University. Residents of the Vern are lucky that is located near their homes, but it's also one of the only dining

options on the Vern. In addition to Pelham Commons, the Vern offers Higher Grounds, a cafe that serves breakfast, lunch and Starbucks coffee. But the Vern's only nearby grocery store that accepts GWorld, Safeway, is closing in less than a month, which will force residents to purchase their groceries at Wholefoods on Foggy Bottom instead. Between the two main campuses, Foggy Bottom has dozens of dining vendors located just steps from students' residence halls while the Vern offers two. Students should understand these differences when deciding between Foggy Bottom and the Vern.

For all its flaws, I still enjoy the calmness of the Vern. But students should have all the facts in front of them before they rank their housing preferences, both the good and the bad. Maybe if the former student I ran into at the Capitol knew all its pros and cons before she arrived on campus, she would not have left GW altogether.

—Andrew Sugrue, a freshman majoring in political science, is an opinions writer.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Mandatory first-year course won't solve problems for freshmen

More than 70 percent of students said they would consider taking a class covering topics like Title IX and mental health in their first year. Student Association leaders want the class to teach students about these resources and build community, but extra time in the classroom won't solve some of the biggest issues freshmen face.

SA President Ashley Le ran on a platform to implement a first-year experience course covering topics like navigating the dining plan and managing time. She issued a survey last semester to gauge interest in the course, finding that 40 percent of first-year students considered transferring at some point during the year because of issues like lack of affordability and community.

Le and officials said the class would teach students how to find community on campus, manage their health and live affordably. But creating a class to address these problems is a feel-good fix with no merit.

Solving community problems cannot be accomplished through a single first-year course. Creating the class will not solve the problem that GW is located in a busy city and will never have the same community feeling as a state school.

If one of the primary intentions of the class is to address a lack of community, it would need to do more than just inform students of opportunities to get involved on campus. The University has already decided to switch from Colonial Inauguration to new student orientation in the fall, which will hold the

entire freshman class together at once instead of breaking them up into several sessions. The new orientation model will help build community that a first-year course cannot by giving freshmen a full week to bond before classes begin. Officials should focus on building up its new orientation before they turn their attention to a first-year course.

The University also granted freshmen tap access to all first-year residence halls this semester to foster community in first-year communal spaces. Officials should instead focus on the pilot program and expand it to give all students access to all residence halls. Paying closer attention to programs they already launched would be more productive than mapping out a course that won't fix the No. 1 reason freshmen want to transfer.

The class also cannot solve affordability issues, which students indicated was the second-biggest reason they considered transferring out of GW. Officials have already launched initiatives that mitigate affordability issues with District Connections, a program that connects freshmen through free events around the District. The program is a tangible initiative the University designed to make attending events around D.C. more affordable for freshmen who are new to a relatively expensive city, and officials could evaluate ways to expand the initiative to all students with more free events.

Former Residence Hall Association President SJ Matthews also began cooking classes in first-year residence halls

this fall, giving freshmen pointers on how to cook affordable meals and manage their money on GWorld. Most freshmen do not have kitchens in their residence hall rooms, and the classes show students how to cook in communal kitchens or find nonperishable food items to buy if they do not have a kitchen. Continuing and adding more of these cooking classes would better address affordability concerns and teach students tangible ways to combat food insecurity.

But not every student who considered transferring did so because of community and affordability issues. Concerns like lack of adequate health care could lead students to consider transferring. But the University's response should not be a first-year course. Officials could instead expand Colonial Health Center services to the Mount Vernon Campus, where about 16 percent of freshmen currently live. Students might also consider transferring for other reasons, like conflicts with roommates or friends, but officials can tackle those problems by better training orientation leaders or resident advisers to help students mitigate potential conflicts.

While officials and students seem to have good intentions for creating a first-year course, officials should focus instead on the initiatives they have already created to address the top reasons students want to leave GW after their first year. Time needed to plan a first-year course would be better spent on evaluating and expanding newly-created resources for freshmen.

Students must understand the SA before they criticize it

Student Association Selection season is over and many students are relieved.

Freshman Justin Diamond ran on a platform to eliminate the SA and donate the SA president's \$15,000 scholarship to student organizations, taking the largest share of votes in the initial election. His last-minute campaign pushed the race to a runoff in which he fell to SJ Matthews, but Diamond's candidacy sent a message to both the SA and students about how little people understand their governing body.

Jack Murphy
Columnist

One-third of students are ignorant enough to vote for a campaign that suggested the SA should no longer exist. Even if students believed Diamond's campaign was a joke, a vote for Diamond is a way of saying you do not really know how the SA functions or what it has accomplished. The SA has its flaws and could always find ways to be more transparent, but students should also know that as long as the SA exists, they will always have peers fighting to make their lives better. Before drama hits another SA election, students need to take the time to understand the SA so they can make a more informed decision on who they want as a student representative.

In his platform, Diamond accused the SA of failing to deliver on initiatives. He did not specify which promises the SA has fallen short on, but students should know that many of the benefits they reap in academics and campus life are the result of SA

advocacy. Student leaders pushed for the creation of an LGBTQ studies minor in 2010, more gender-neutral housing options in 2010 and a policy allowing students to retake a class in which they receive a D+ or lower. I am glad I can access gender-neutral housing, and I really enjoy my LGBTQ studies minor. I am sure the hundreds of students who utilized the first-year forgiveness policy are glad their grade point average will not be dragged down by one poor grade as they acclimate to college. Students have the SA to thank for these programs.

SA leaders also conduct behind-the-scenes work that students may not be aware of throughout the academic year. Students created a food experience task force last semester to pinpoint areas where officials could improve campus dining options. The task force released its biannual report last week calling for the creation of a dining hall on the Foggy Bottom Campus. SA leaders also created another task force evaluating the problematic history behind building names, like the Marvin Center and Lisner Auditorium. Students may not receive frequent updates on these large-scale projects, but they should know that SA leaders spend months advocating for their peers.

Diamond also said that if the SA were to be eliminated, administrators should take over their job of allocating more than \$1.7 million to student organizations every year. Students could easily agree with Diamond that their peers could be biased in deciding which students organizations get funds, but they should

take time to understand how the allocation process works before criticizing it. The finance committee sits down for hours every April to allocate funding to more than 500 student organizations. They follow guidelines written out in the SA bylaws to avoid bias in their decisions and hear out student organizations that are upset with the amount they receive after the annual budget is set.

But part of the reason students voted for a candidate who wants to abolish the SA is the organization's own fault. The SA has not passed as much legislation as years past, and the organization can always do more to proactively reach out to students rather than advertise their office hours. Newly-elected SA leaders have recognized the issue and have already vowed to make the SA more transparent, but it should not have taken a tumultuous election to force SA leaders to realize they could be more transparent. While students need to take steps to understand the organization, SA leaders also need to meet them halfway.

The SA has its flaws, but the onus is also on students to understand their only governing body. Students should take initiative to understand the SA's past successes and build an understanding of what the SA is currently doing to help students through their own SA representatives. If students knew how many programs took months of SA advocacy to accomplish, perhaps they would not be so adamant about abolishing it.

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

LEÓN
9:30 Club
April 19 • \$25
Swedish pop singer LEÓN takes the stage.

WOMXN FUCK SHIT UP
Union Stage
April 20 • \$20
Female and queer artists will perform at this social justice-themed festival.

BROODS
The Filmore
April 20 • \$25
Indie pop duo Broods will electrify fans with new album.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

'VENTURA,' AN ALBUM BY ANDERSON .PAAK



OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR
Colada Shop serves classic Cuban bites.



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
Zorba's Cafe dishes out Greek food with sidewalk seating.



ERIC LEE | PHOTOGRAPHER
Sit down and grab a slice of pizza at Sonny's Pizza.



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
American Ice Company offers classic barbecue dishes.

Snag a spot in the sun at restaurants with outdoor seating in D.C.

ANNA BOONE
STAFF WRITER

As the temperature rises, restaurants around the District are popping open umbrellas and dusting off patios.

But outdoor seating at restaurants and bars can quickly fill up, and most picturesque spots are clustered in the same few neighborhoods. If you want to spend time outside, steer clear of popular outdoor spots in Georgetown and at The Wharf, and opt for a lesser-known spot where you are more likely to snag a table.

Colada Shop

If the end of the semester has you daydreaming of summer vacation, head to 14th Street to enjoy classic Cuban bites with bright and beachy decor at Colada Shop.

The restaurant draws customers off the busy street with electric-red patio tables and an outdoor bar counter. The patio is

also dressed up with pots of flowers in cheery colors and dangling string lights.

Seats fill up quickly on the patio and the outdoor bar, so customers can also head upstairs to a rooftop adorned with two cushioned lounge chairs and pastel-colored bar stools.

Whether you're on the rooftop or downstairs at the bar or patio, the menu includes authentic Cuban cuisine.

Customers can choose a traditional Cuban sandwich stacked with salty ham, slow-roasted pork, Swiss cheese, mustard and pickles and cilantro aioli on Cuban-style bread (\$12.63) or pass around some plantain chips (\$2.24) with friends.

You can also enjoy drinks like the "Hotel Nacional" (\$8) with rum, apricot liqueur, pineapple juice and apricot lime puree or a classic pina colada (\$8) with white rum, coconut cream and pineapple that will make you feel like you are on vacation. 1405 T St. NW.

Zorba's Cafe

Just a short walk from campus in Dupont Circle, Zorba's Cafe dishes out Greek fare on expansive sidewalk seating.

The cafe is painted blue and white to stand out from the other buildings on 20th Street and enclosed with a brick sidewalk patio with more than a dozen black metal tables. For warmer days, the restaurant opens up navy- and white-colored umbrellas to shade customers from the sun and turns on string lights around the patio when the sun goes down.

During the day, dozens of people gather on the sidewalk area to feast on Greek dishes like terekafteri (\$5.95) – a whipped feta cheese served with red pepper and pita – and chicken shish kebabs (\$13.50) skewered with tomato, onion and bell pepper and served with rice and a house-made roll. The scents of Greek cuisine waft around the sidewalk, drawing in customers who may not have even realized

they were hungry.

You can also sip on the cafe's cheap beer and wine options like Zeos (\$4.75), a Greek beer, or Kourtaki white wine (\$4.25). If you snag an outdoor seat with a group of friends, order a pitcher of Stella Artois (\$18.95) or a carafe of Kourtaki red wine (\$21.95). 1612 20th St. NW.

Sonny's Pizza

The newly-opened pizza place in Park View may seem like a spot for a quick bite, but Sonny's Pizza has outdoor seating options that will make you stay awhile.

Throughout most of the year, the restaurant's red and white retro sign welcomes customers into an old-timey restaurant with blue diner-style booths and a bar. But when the weather warms up, Sonny's Pizza brings out long wooden bench tables that can fit a large group of friends.

The menu offers Italian classics like Sicilian cheese pizza (\$3.75). If you are looking for a heartier op-

tion, the restaurant also offers sandwiches like chicken and eggplant parmesan (\$12) topped with gooey cheese and marinara sauce and served on sesame focaccia bread.

You can also split dishes like the towering caesar salad (\$6) or garlic knots (\$5), which are served alongside a small bowl of marinara sauce.

If you head to the restaurant between 5 and 7 p.m., you can take advantage of happy hour deals, which include "Raised by Wolves" beer (\$4) and glasses of red, white or rose wine (\$7). You can also purchase beer pitchers for \$20 or a carafe of wine for \$27.

Even if you can't grab a seat at one of the outdoor tables, Sonny's Pizza's sister restaurant Colony Club is just one door down and offers even more outdoor seating options on its patio. 3120 Georgia Ave. NW.

American Ice Company

If you are feeling nostalgic about backyard barbecues at home, American

Ice Company has an ideal setup.

The bar's back porch, which features exposed brick walls and picnic tables, welcomes crowds of customers for tasty barbecue fare. You can bring along a group of friends and sit at one of the restaurant's seven long wooden tables underneath a glass skylight ceiling. The restaurant also turns on fans when the weather is hot and space heaters if the evening gets chilly.

American Ice Company serves traditional options like pork, chicken and brisket, which can be served on a sandwich (\$10) or a platter (\$13) with coleslaw and beans. You can also choose three sides from options like chips and queso, mac and cheese or corn bread for \$10.

On a warmer day, you can camp out at one of the picnic tables and share pitchers of Narragansett lager (\$23) or Bell's winter ale (\$26) all day long. 917 V St. NW.



ALEXANDER WELLING | PHOTOGRAPHER
Rumble, a new boxing studio frequented by celebrities, opened Friday just steps from campus on M Street.

Celebrity-backed boxing studio opens minutes from campus

ZILANA LEE
STAFF WRITER

If you want to work out like a celebrity, you're in luck. Rumble, a new boxing studio frequented by celebrities like Justin Bieber and Kendall Jenner, opened just steps from campus Friday.

The workout studio at 2001 M St. NW offers 45-minute classes that incorporate boxing with strength training and metabolic conditioning. Each class involves 10 rounds – like in a boxing match – that alternate between working on punching bags and exercising with weights.

An individual class costs \$34, and your second class is free. The studio also offers series of five classes (\$165), 10 classes (\$320), 20 classes (\$600) or 30 classes (\$850).

After you check in, you can rent a pair of Rumble's signature white boxing gloves (\$3) and purchase wraps (\$8) that are yours to keep. You can also purchase "Rumble Juice" (\$5), the workout studios' branded energy and recovery drink, to enjoy before, during or after your workout or a

bottle of water (\$3).

The single-room studio has gray industrial floors and glossy white walls covered with boxing-themed pop art paintings of Biggie Smalls and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wearing Rumble boxing gloves and a crown.

The room is lined with flashing neon red and blue lights, and a digital screen at the front wall tells you what moves to do and how many reps to complete. If you are a beginner boxer, there is even a GIF demonstrating each move to ensure there is no confusion.

Before the class starts, there is a five-minute "pre-class," where the instructor teaches any first-timers – or anyone who needs a refresher – how to do the six different types of punches. The instructor will also take you through a cardio-fueled warmup routine before you begin throwing punches.

Andy Stern, a founding trainer and instructor for Rumble, said the six basic punches provide the foundation for each session, but instructors are given the flexibility to

switch up the routine for each class to challenge everyone – even those who regularly attend.

"Above all else, we want the experience to stay simple by design and challenging by execution," he said.

To keep the class energizing, Rumble blares upbeat tunes for the class like a remix of "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor and "Beautiful Girls" by Sean Kingston.

Stern said Rumble is unique because it has its own in-house DJ that curates playlists to power you through workouts.

The class itself consists of three rounds of boxing on the bags, where you apply combinations of the six different punches, followed by three rounds on the floor for strength and conditioning using dumbbells to work your arms, abs and glutes. You finish back at the bags for two more rounds of cardio – including the high intensity "Rumble Round" – before finishing strong with two more rounds on the floor.

In larger classes, participants will split up with half the class on the punching bags and half

on the floor.

Stern has been teaching group fitness for nearly 10 years and was previously a head trainer at Orangetheory Fitness. Stern said he wanted to help launch Rumble because he wanted more people to experience boxing and have an outlet to de-stress.

"When you combine great music with a great sport of boxing in an atmosphere that's very inviting, it creates a huge win," he said.

Stern said he doesn't view other boxing studios like Urban Boxing or Belly and Body as competition, because they all create an opportunity for more people to get exposed to the sport. He said that boxing can be an intimidating activity because it is an unfamiliar style of workout for most people.

"I think there's anxiety that 'everyone's going to be better than me, I'm not going to know what to do, I can't follow along, this isn't for me,'" Stern said. "No one is here to judge you, make fun of you or yell at you. It's not a boot camp type of style – it's engaging."

Alumna wins award for photo project of Muslims praying in public

ANNIE DOBLER
STAFF WRITER

An alumna's photo series chronicling Muslims praying in public spaces recently won a photography award.

Sana Ullah, who graduated in 2017 with a master's degree in new media photojournalism, will be presented with the Goldziher Prize, an award that recognizes excellence in coverage of Muslim Americans by U.S. journalists, next month. Ullah won the award for her photo series "Places You'll Pray," which highlights Muslim individuals praying in public places like shopping malls and wedding ceremonies.

Ullah, who practices Islam, is one of six individuals across

not want to be "pigeonholed into telling stories about Muslims." But she said a professor encouraged her to continue the project to give non-Muslim individuals a view of the religion people might not see.

"He said, 'You have to share your story or your perspective because that's a truth,'" she said. "Someone else who's not Muslim or someone else that won't be able to identify won't be able to translate their images like you can."

Ullah shares her photos on an Instagram account dedicated to "Places You'll Pray," which has about 25,000 followers. Since its launch, she said she no longer needs to take photos on

"It gives an eye into a part of Islam that a lot of people don't see, or people that aren't Muslim often times see and maybe if they do see it, they don't know."

SANA ULLAH
FOUNDER, "PLACES YOU'LL PRAY"

the country to win the award, which comes with a \$5,000 prize. She said the award emphasizes the value of Muslim storytelling in the United States, especially at a time when her religion is debated and criticized by Americans.

"It gives an eye into a part of Islam that a lot of people don't see, or people that aren't Muslim often times see and maybe if they do see it, they don't know," Ullah said.

Ullah began her photo series in 2015 after she and her sister stopped to pray in a dressing room for salat, a ritual prayer performed by Muslims five times per day. Ullah said the moment inspired her to capture times when other Muslims stop their days to pray.

She initially published a Facebook post seeking people who were comfortable having their photo taken during prayer. Ullah said she met with people who responded to the post at places where they typically pray in public.

Ullah said she was hesitant to make "Places You'll Pray" the focus of her master's degree because she did

her own – people have submitted their own photos of Muslim individuals praying for the last two years since she began the project.

"I want to say the project is mine, but I also feel like it's everyone's," Ullah said. "It's nice to see that Muslim storytellers are getting awards for their narratives."

"Places You'll Pray" has also inspired discussions in the classroom about being Muslim in the United States. Ullah said she received a message from a photography teacher saying that one of her students found the photos and it was "the first time he could share a photojournalistic project that he identifies with."

Ullah said she hopes her project will continue to give insight into the life of Muslim individuals in the United States.

"This project was inspired by encouraging people to talk about why Muslims are doing this and what is the intention behind this all, and for young Muslims to feel comfortable practicing Islam without fear," Ullah said.

GAMES OF THE WEEK



WOMEN'S TENNIS
vs. George Mason
3:30 p.m. • Friday
The Colonials take on the Patriots in their last home match of the regular season.



BASEBALL
vs. Davidson
3 p.m. • Friday-Sunday
The Colonials battle the No. 2 Wildcats in a three-game series this weekend.

NUMBER CRUNCH 12

The number of runs softball scored in its series finale against Massachusetts Sunday, nearly twice as many as its average of 5.5.

Women's rowing focuses on speed after early-season wins

BARBARA ALBERTS
SPORTS EDITOR

Women's rowing has won back-to-back regattas as it gets into the swing of the spring schedule.

Head coach Marci Robles said the Colonials are using the team's upcoming regattas to train for the conference championship in May. Despite their two wins, Robles said the squad has "more speed to be found" on the water if they want to stack up well against competitors.

"We've got a little over a month to look for some more speed, but it's there and we know it," she said. "We know that there are things that we can be better at, but there's a lot of confidence in our ability to do that."

GW competed in just one regatta last fall before a winterlong break in the team's schedule. The Colonials kicked off the spring season at the Murphy Cup Regatta in New Jersey in March before hosting five competitors at the GW Invitational this weekend.

The Colonials' Varsity 8 boat placed a program-high third at the Murphy Cup Regatta with a 7:26.02 time on the Schuylkill River last season. But this year the team came in last at the same regatta, despite finishing with a 6:57.03 time in the Grand Final, nearly 30 seconds faster than its mark last season.

The team's fastest time at the GW Invitational this year was one second faster than its time last season at the regatta on the Potomac River. Despite the over-



The women's rowing team races during the GW Invitational Saturday.

DEAN WHITELAW | PHOTOGRAPHER

all increase in speed, some of the Colonials' finishing times were more than 10 seconds slower than their closest competitors.

The Colonials got a taste of Atlantic 10 competition in their last two regattas. The Colonials entered the spring season coming off a program-best showing at the A-10 Championship after GW notched a third-place finish last year.

The Colonials bested A-10 opponents Saint Joseph's and Duquesne at the GW Invitational

but were defeated by Rhode Island, the defending conference champion. GW garnered four wins over the weekend and outpaced La Salle at the Murphy Cup last month.

"This is where we expected to be in comparison to those crews and knowing that that's where we are," Robles said. "I think we've got a good sense of what we need to do better going forward."

The team now has one month and three regattas left before the

league finals. Robles said the team's monthlong offseason training has put the Colonials in position to start improving the small details of their races to put together more consistent showings on the water.

"The focus has been on what's in front of us and what we can do day-to-day," Robles said. "Every time we're out there, each stroke is another opportunity."

Senior Audrey Herberger said the Colonials focused on the technical ways they can im-

prove, like using a more aggressive swing, to narrow the gap between competitors.

"We just say all the other boats are really just information, it's just to see where we are," Herberger said.

As part of their preparation for the league championship, Herberger said the Colonials have been training through regatta weekends instead of tapering before competition, as they had done in past years.

"We're using these racing weekends and we're training right through them, we're not stopping volume, we're not stopping competitive speed beforehand," Herberger said.

Sophomore Laila Shehab, who rowed in the first Varsity 8 boat at the GW Invitational, said the Colonials focused on speeding up in the final 500 meters of the race, where most teams falter on the course.

Shehab said the Colonials used contests against teams like Rhode Island, which beat GW in all three head-to-head meetings, to focus on improving. With one month left before the A-10 Championship, she said the squad will continue building on their training to place themselves in the best position for success next month.

"We're not going to change what we've been doing, we're going to keep on making the good technical changes that we can and little by little, inch by inch, get to A-10s," Shehab said. "Because races are won by inches."

The Colonials return to action Saturday at the Cherry Hill Invite in New Jersey.

Rookie wields speed to lead lacrosse's offense

ROMAN BOBEK
REPORTER

Freshman midfielder Tori Hampton is leading lacrosse's offense in her first college season, ranking top four on the team in goals, assists and shots.

Hampton's 27 goals slot her at first for the Colonials (5-11, 3-5 A-10) and her eight assists are good for fourth on the squad. She is the only freshman this season to start all 16 games for GW, positioned third in shots with 65 and first in shots on goal with 54.

"She's extremely coachable, which I think will only open up more doors for her as she continues to improve," head coach Tracy Coyne said. "I think with her speed and her quickness, the sky is the limit."

Hampton started the season hot with back-to-back three-goal games against Longwood and East Carolina. She carried the momentum past the first two games, netting four goals over the squad's next three games.

Hampton's goalscoring has contributed to GW's best conference record in four years, averaging 4.06 shots per game and 3.37 shots on goal. She was held scoreless in just four of the Colonials' 16 games and is currently riding a six-

game goal streak with 13 goals.

Her shot-on-goal percentage is .831, the highest of all players with 40 or more shots and higher than the team's .757 shot-on-goal percentage.

Coyne said Hampton exhibits determination, respects her teammates and is committed to the success of the team. She added that Hampton strives to be a better player by constantly trying to improve her play in practice and on the field.

"I think with her speed and her quickness, the sky is the limit."

TRACY COYNE
HEAD COACH, LACROSSE

Hampton and junior midfielder Aidan Cage, sophomore midfielder Katie Quinn and sophomore attacker Ioanna Mantzouratos make up the core of GW's offense.

With a combined 93 goals, Hampton, Cage, Quinn and Mantzouratos account for 55 percent of the team's 168 scores this season. The four players' 243 total shots also make up 55 percent of the team's total.

Hampton said the team's scoring outlets, including Cage, Quinn and Mantzouratos, open the field and make the

game more difficult on the opposing team.

"There are a bunch of good drivers," Hampton said. "If we're not playing a driving game, we can pass to the middle and play that way."

Coyne said Hampton doubted her ability to support the team before the season started. But she said Hampton has developed into a strong player with a large responsibility to remember offensive and defensive sets heading into the final stretch of the season.

"She's a two-way midget as a freshman, that's a lot of responsibility," Coyne said. "There are a lot of things to remember with different defenses, different offenses, what are you doing on the draw. It's just a lot to remember, so I think she's doing really well."

The squad has one game left this season against No. 1 Massachusetts. The Colonials are in a three-way tie for sixth in the conference, nearly securing a spot in the Atlantic 10 Championship. The top six teams in the conference advance to the tournament.

"It's anyone's game. It's who shows up that day," Cage said.

The Colonials return to action Saturday at noon in their final A-10 matchup against Massachusetts.



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Junior midfielder Aidan Cage fights for the ball during Friday's game against Duquesne.

Lacrosse earns best conference showing in four years

ROMAN BOBEK
REPORTER

Lacrosse will enter its final game of conference play owning the team's most Atlantic 10 wins in four years – but the team still lies on the cusp of postseason play.

The Colonials' (5-11, 3-5 A-10) 18-8 win against VCU last week earned the team three wins on the season – the most conference wins in four years. GW is now in a three-way tie for sixth in the conference, just within reach of the A-10 Championship.

"We need to operate more from a point of, 'we can do it,'" head coach Tracy Coyne said. "I think we need to look for more reasons why we can and less reasons why we can't."

GW could have clinched a spot in the A-10 Championship with a win against Duquesne Friday, but the squad's loss delayed the team's hope of making the tournament.

"The most challenging part of A-10 play is how every team is competing for a spot in the tournament," junior defender Caroline Kiernan said in an email. "Our opponents in the A-10 challenge us to compete and each game is exciting, fast-paced and a challenge."

Last season, the Colonials jumped out to a 7-1 nonconference record. But once the squad

began taking on conference competition, the Colonials stumbled, losing seven of nine games to end the season with a 9-8 overall record.

Heading into conference play this year, GW held a 2-6 nonconference record. GW rallied after opening A-10 play with a 13-7 loss to La Salle, capturing a close 12-11 win over Davidson and a 16-5 victory over St. Bonaventure.

"We had a really tough season before A-10 play," freshman midfielder Tori Hampton said. "Our first game hit us hard. We weren't the team that we are now."

Players said the Colonials' efficient offense has been key to the team's success in conference play this year, and the team can spread its scoring wealth among players because players have multiple scoring options at their disposal.

The Colonials' 75.7 shots-on-goal percentage makes GW the fourth-most efficient shooting team in the conference. Junior midfielder Katie Quinn leads the team with 14 goals in conference play and Hampton and junior attacker Morgan McDonnell trail closely behind with 12 and 11 goals, respectively.

"I think we're just really dynamic, we have so many threats," junior midfielder Aidan Cage

said. "When we keep our spacing and just do the little things, we can rely on anyone."

Cage said the team is doubling down on execution, focus and strategy despite experiencing end-of-season fatigue as GW's conference schedule comes to a close Saturday.

"The mindset is just to take every game one by one when we go out there," she said.

The Colonials have also bolstered their defense and have 249 turnovers this season, the second-lowest mark in conference play.

The squad has one more game on deck against Massachusetts – the top-ranked team in the conference – before the season ends. Massachusetts has been perfect in conference play, winning all seven of its A-10 contests.

Coyne said the traditionally strong Massachusetts squad appears more "vulnerable" this season as its games have wrapped up with closer scores than in past seasons.

"They are like a perennial powerhouse. They have success on the national level," Coyne said. "They haven't been experiencing that success this season, so I think it's anyone's game."

The Colonials will return to action against Massachusetts Saturday at noon.



GRAEME SLOAN | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Freshman midfielder Tori Hampton runs after the ball during Friday's game against Duquesne.