

# The GW Hatchet



OLIVIA ANDERSON | PHOTO EDITOR

University President Thomas LeBlanc will take his first trip abroad next month to boost philanthropy efforts.

## LeBlanc heads to London for first trip abroad as president

ZACH SCHONFELD  
STAFF WRITER

University President Thomas LeBlanc will take his first trip abroad as president next month to improve philanthropy and constituent engagement, one of his five top initiatives for GW.

Officials said LeBlanc will travel to London in "late May" to meet with alumni and prospective students living in the United Kingdom. Experts and alumni said LeBlanc should prioritize philanthropy on the trip but could also use the time to discuss the University's goals and contentious issues on campus, like changing the Colonials nickname.

LeBlanc traveled to six cities last year across the United States, including Philadelphia and New York City, to meet with graduates and discuss his strategic initiatives, which include institutional culture and the student experience. Officials launched a website last year for community members to track administrators' progress on the initiatives.

"Whenever the president travels, he seeks to meet with alumni, current and/or potential donors and other GW

community members, including current students and families, and prospective students and their families," University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said in an email.

More than 400 alumni currently live in the

said that by showing up, LeBlanc could reconnect those alumni to GW.

The independent alumni association – formerly known as the GW Alumni Association – opened its first branch abroad in London in January to hold net-

tional locations to meet with alumni and secure donations. In his last few months in office, former University President Steven Knapp visited Mexico and parts of the Middle East to garner gifts from international donors.

Bikus said LeBlanc should use the trip as an opportunity to discuss controversial issues on campus, like a recent referendum a majority of voting students approved to change the Colonials moniker. She said he and other officials on the trip can gather feedback on the issue through town halls and meetings and take it into consideration when deliberating the topic.

"If they're just there quick to get a photo op and then they leave, that would be a disservice to the students and alumni," she said.

Alumni relations experts said international trips help promote the University's brand worldwide by connecting administrators with prospective foreign students and engaging international alumni who represent GW in their respective countries.

working and meet-and-greet events for alumni living in the city.

"What would be important if I were the president, or what I feel is important for him to do when he travels internationally, is to just connect with the alumni and students to see what some of their issues are, address them, extend that outreach and make sure that they know that they're supported," Bikus said.

University presidents in the past have traveled to domestic and interna-

**"What would be important if I were the president, or what I feel is important for him to do when he travels internationally, is to just connect with the alumni and students to see what some of their issues are, address them, extend that outreach and make sure that they know that they're supported."**

KATHY BIKUS

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, INDEPENDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF GW

United Kingdom and approximately 175 live in the London metropolitan region, she said.

Csellar declined to say how much the trip will cost, adding that officials are still finalizing the trip's details.

Kathy Bikus, the operations director of the Independent Alumni Association of George Washington, said alumni living abroad can feel a "disconnect" between themselves and the University because of a lack of face-to-face engagement with officials. She

## GW Libraries removes daily fines on most books up to 40 days past due

JARED GANS & PAIGE MORSE  
STAFF WRITERS

GW Libraries will no longer charge patrons a daily fine for most overdue books.

Officials announced last week that starting April 15, University libraries will no longer charge students a late fee each day for general collection books – books that are not on reserve – that are fewer than 40 days overdue. Library services experts said the policy change will encourage students to use more library materials by eliminating a potential cost they could incur.

Students were previously charged 25 cents per late book per day, with a maximum fine of \$10 per book. The new policy will eliminate the fine for patrons of Gelman, Eckles, Himmelfarb Health Sciences, the Jacob Burns Law and the Virginia Science and Technology Campus libraries.

Geneva Henry, the dean of libraries and academic innovation, said the change is a "significant win" for students because it reduces the "financial burden" students face when returning library books late. She said all universities in the Washington Research Library Consortium – a group of nine university libraries in the area that share materials – will eliminate their late fees.

"After discussion among Washington Research Library Consortium members, we found a way to eliminate these fines to support student affordability while also maintaining a consistent fee structure," Henry said in an email.

Henry said eliminating the fines will not significantly impact the library's budget. The library will continue to rely on donations to fund library services, she said.

"We continue to rely on our generous donors, including those students who make the library donation, to increase funding for library buildings and services," Henry said.

She said GW Libraries will continue to charge patrons late fines for high-demand items like course reserves – textbooks intended for students to borrow in two-hour increments – but the library will continue to "monitor" those fines to evaluate whether they could be eliminated in the future.

Officials will also remove

"current unpaid book fines" from all patrons' accounts during the summer, according to the GW Libraries website.

Seven of GW's 12 peer institutions, including Tufts and Boston universities, do not charge daily late fees for general collection books overdue for fewer than 30 days.

Judy Viken, a library assistant at the University of Rochester, said her school's library does not charge students a late fee until the book is considered lost after 30 days. She said she does not believe a significantly higher number of students have returned books late since her library changed the fee system in the early 2000s.

Viken said GW's new policy will reduce the financial burden students face from late fees and may also foster a friendlier relationship between students and library staff since the latter will not constantly hound students to return materials.

"It certainly creates a better will with the patrons, and, also, we try to have a service philosophy that we are here to serve our patrons, not to punish them," Viken said.

William Bloom, the head of access services at Tufts University's library, said Tufts officials removed daily fines for most library materials in late 2017 because there is "no real consequence" of returning a book late if the book is not needed by another student. He said library fines do not account for a significant portion of library budgets.

"Returning books late is not consequential if no one else needs the item," Bloom said in an email. "That's why we still charge fines for overdue reserves, equipment and recalls. We have found that this helps to reduce the stresses our students have to deal with."

Cheryl Gowing, the associate dean of library information systems and access at the University of Miami, said students are charged 25 cents for each day a general collection item is late, with a three-day grace period. She said GW Libraries should continue to notify students if a book is past due to ensure students return late materials.

"Libraries just want to make sure the stuff comes back or if it's lost, we know about it and we can replace it if it needs to be replaced," Gowing said.

## Proposed changes to Smith Center alcohol policy align with most A-10 peers

EMILY MAISE  
STAFF WRITER

The University's plan to transfer its liquor license to the Smith Center would mirror more than half of GW's Atlantic 10 peers.

Kevin Days, the director of community relations, proposed transferring GW's liquor license from the Marvin Center to the Smith Center at a Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission meeting Wednesday. Athletic department representatives from other A-10 schools said selling alcohol at sports arenas can increase concessions sales for the athletic department and liven up the atmosphere for the school's fans.

GW is currently one of four A-10 schools – alongside St. Bonaventure, La Salle and Fordham – that does not currently sell alcohol to the general public at events. GW only sells beer and wine in its Colonials Club, a facility in the Smith Center that is used to host events for members of a donation club.

Of the 14 A-10 schools, 10 have arenas with liquor licenses, including Saint Louis, George Mason, Rhode Island, Dayton, Duquesne and Massachusetts. A-10 alcohol

sales expanded in the last year when nearly a quarter of the conference – Davidson, VCU, Richmond and Saint Joseph's – all began serving alcohol to the general public during the 2018-19 men's basketball season.

Athletic department spokesman Brian Sereno declined to comment, deferring to a University spokeswoman. Kevin Days did not immediately return a request for comment through a spokeswoman.

Representatives of other A-10 schools said selling alcohol to the general public will increase revenue that can be used to expand funding in the athletic department's budget.

Steve Mest, the associate athletic director for external relations at St. Bonaventure, which does not have a liquor license in its arena, said alcohol sales are another source of revenue that can be used to boost budgets in the athletic department. The Bonnies sell alcohol at a restricted donor club in the arena.

"They're going to draw in some more revenue for basketball events or for other special events, wherever they decide to serve it," Mest said. "That's obviously a factor for many schools, but A-10 and



ARIELLE BADER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The University plans to transfer its liquor license from the Marvin Center to the Smith Center after officials proposed the policy at a community meeting last week.

otherwise, increasing revenue to support athletics is always key no matter of how you do that."

Mest said St. Bonaventure began exploring selling alcohol to the general public prior to the 2017-18 season, but its evaluation was inconclusive when it ended in the middle of the 2017-18 basketball season. He said the school is

continuing to look into bartender training and licensing requirements.

Mest added that a liquor license in the Smith Center may excite fans who want to enjoy an alcoholic beverage at a professional sporting event. But he said some sports attendees may dislike the policy because the fans could become more rowdy.

"It's not a one-size-fits-all thing in terms of the fanbase or your location," Mest said. "It's never going to be."

Chris Kowalczyk, the assistant athletic director for athletics communications at VCU, which has a liquor license for its arena, said VCU limits the amount of alcohol individuals can buy to two drinks per transaction and

restricts alcohol sales during the second half of a game to ensure fans do not over-drink.

"Our concessionaire, as well as our staff, works to ensure that fans are not over-served, or that fans are not being served underage," he said in an email.

Jamie Hendricks, the assistant athletic director for external relations and game operations at Davidson, said Davidson officials involved in alcohol sales are trained in alcohol law enforcement, and local bars and restaurants manage the arena's concession stands to ensure IDs are properly checked.

Hendricks said selling alcohol at games has increased revenue from non-students and attracted young alumni to games. The Wildcats have also seen more fans attending games since they began selling alcohol last year, with an average of about 4,000 attendees in 2018 – which ranks them seventh in the A-10 in fan attendance.

GW averaged about 2,500 fans per game at the Smith Center in 2018, putting it 11th among 14 other A-10 schools.

"We sold out seven out of nine conference games this season, which is one of our big goals," Hendricks said.

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# News

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## CRIME LOG

### THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

2301 F St. NW (Building JJ)  
4/11/2019 – Unknown  
Closed Case  
A student reported to GW Police Department officers that an unknown subject stole his watches from his residence.  
**No suspects or witnesses**

### THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Corcoran Hall  
4/11/2019 – 2:45 p.m.  
Open Case  
A student reported to GWPD that someone stole her textbook from Corcoran Hall.  
**Case open**

### PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS

Public Property On Campus (600 Block of 23rd Street NW)  
4/14/2019 – 2:56 p.m.  
Closed Case  
GWPD officers watched an intoxicated female student exit a car and display a loss of balance. EMeRG arrived on scene and transported the student to GW Hospital for further medical treatment.  
**Referred to the Office of Enrollment and the Student Experience**

### DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/VANDALISM

Academic Center  
4/14/2019 – Unknown  
Closed Case  
A student reported that a window was shattered on the first floor of the Academic Center. There was no indication of what caused the damage.  
**No suspects or witnesses**

### DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/VANDALISM

Fulbright Hall  
4/14/2019 – Unknown  
Closed Case  
GWPD officers observed that a handle on the door to the basement lounge room was damaged.  
**No suspects or witnesses**

### THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

2114 G St. NW (Building BB)  
4/15/2019 – 3 p.m.  
Closed Case  
A faculty member reported to GWPD that his laptop was stolen from his office.  
**No suspects or witnesses**

### STALKING

Various Locations  
Multiple – Multiple  
Open Case  
A female student reported to GWPD that an unknown male subject stalked her at various locations on and off campus.  
**Case open**

### DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/VANDALISM

Marvin Center  
4/16/19 – Unknown  
Open Case  
A student reported to GWPD that a student organization's poster was torn on the bulletin board at the Marvin Center.  
**Case open**

— Compiled by Kateryna Stepanenko

# Faculty Association tackles labor and culture issues in its first five years



Tyler Anbinder, a professor of history and a member of the association, said the association has worked to improve employee benefits at the University. HATCHET FILE PHOTO

**ILENA PENG & JARED GANS**  
STAFF WRITERS

Five years after faculty created a group to represent their interests, members said they have facilitated conversations on issues including employee benefits and GW's institutional culture.

More than 100 faculty members banded together in 2014 to create the Faculty Association, a forum for full-time professors to issue policy recommendations to administrators. Members of the association said that since the organization launched, it has served as an informal labor union as it pushed for increased employee benefits and a reallocation of the University's resources.

Ivy Ken, the association's president and an associate professor of sociology, said that in the last half-decade, the group has become the "go-to" for faculty to share their concerns about issues – like a lack of transparency by administrators – through open forum meetings.

The association has published several letters and petitions to address issues on campus, including a petition opposing President Donald Trump's first Muslim ban, a letter to officials supporting graduate student efforts to unionize and a letter to Reuben Brigety, the dean of the Elliott School of International Affairs, to endorse a decision requiring Elliott School speaker panels of three or more people to have at least one speaker of a different gender.

Ken said the group's members are "increasingly alarmed" about administrative efforts to improve GW's institutional culture. The steering committee of the association published a Facebook post last October criticizing University President Thomas LeBlanc's decision to commission a culture survey from the

Disney Institute to summarize GW's culture and look for ways to improve it.

The Disney Institute survey was part of LeBlanc's institutional cultural initiative, one of five strategic initiatives announced last year. Members of the Faculty Association expressed concerns about the survey's "generic" questions and \$300,000 price tag.

"We have repeatedly told the president that

and instead refocus on supporting the creative knowledge projects that the scholars at this University are so well-positioned to carry out," Ken said.

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said feedback from faculty, staff and students helps shape LeBlanc's five strategic initiatives.

"While there may be differences of opinion about priorities and approach, constructive dia-

**"Both bodies are very concerned, apart from the specifics of things like benefits, with the general move toward corporatizing the University, which seems to be the order of the day of the administration."**

**BENJAMIN HOPKINS**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

what the faculty at GW want is a well-run, mission-driven university where the president, administration and Board of Trustees demonstrate unambiguous respect for what we do as faculty, employees and students, across the board," she said in an email. "This is not the current state of affairs at GW."

Faculty launched the association five years ago to create a counterweight to the Faculty Senate, which members of the association said had grown too "deferential" to administrators.

Ken said officials wasted money by sponsoring a technology conference in Miami this semester when they could have used the money to support faculty and student research. She said the University could also take steps in the "right direction" by doubling pay for part-time faculty.

"GWUFA is begging the president to stop wasting hundreds of thousands of students' tuition dollars at fancy Miami tech conferences and insulating culture surveys,

logue about how to move the university forward is not only welcome but also essential to achieving our shared aspirations," Csellar said in an email.

Andrew Zimmerman, a member of the association's steering committee and a professor of history and international affairs, said he and Ken met with LeBlanc in January to share their concerns surrounding the culture initiative. He declined to say what the conversations entailed, how LeBlanc responded and whether there will be future meetings with administrators.

Zimmerman said the mission of the group is to grant faculty the opportunity to share what they believe are the main problems facing the University and offer potential solutions through open discussions at meetings.

He said the group's members meet once a semester and elect a steering committee of 14 professors to govern the organization. The steering committee, which meets each month, elects the association's president, vice president, secretary and

treasurer.

"We feel a responsibility to our students and our successors, the young faculty who are coming in now, to not just leave the University as we found it but to leave the University better than we found it," Zimmerman said.

Benjamin Hopkins, an associate professor of history and international affairs and a member of the association, said the association is the "closest thing" full-time faculty members have to a union because of a Supreme Court case from 1980 denying full-time faculty the right to collective bargaining.

Hopkins said he was part of both the Faculty Senate and the association in the 2014-15 academic year and said the two groups worked on similar issues, but the association maintains more independence from the University.

"Both bodies are very concerned, apart from the specifics of things like benefits, with the general move towards corporatizing the university, which seems to be the order of the day of the administration," Hopkins said in an email. "I am quite sure both bodies, and the faculty more generally, find the current Disneyfication under the president both obnoxious and ominous."

Tyler Anbinder, a professor of history and a member of the association, said he has presented multiple reports on employee benefits to the Faculty Senate since May 2018. He pointed to recent administrative decisions, including the announcement that officials will hire a chief people officer to help evaluate employee benefits, as evidence of the association's success in changing the conversation on benefits.

"We started that conversation and, if we had not raised that, we might not be getting the University to address that," Anbinder said.

# President's travel abroad could attract donors: experts

From Page 1

Patrick Auerbach, the associate senior vice president for alumni relations at the University of Southern California, said officials can build more personal relationships between alumni and their alma mater when presidents travel abroad and meet with graduates in person.

"In our experience, it actually makes a statement that the University is really committed and invested in engaging with its constituents all over the world, whether they're alumni, parents or donors," Auerbach said. "So doing international travel, within reason, is something that I think

is paramount, especially when an institution really has global aspirations."

Auerbach said presidential travel can also boost international student applications, advancing institutional efforts to attract and maintain a high international student population. Officials said LeBlanc will try to meet with potential students abroad during his trip.

Administrators are aiming to expand international recruitment in underrepresented countries and increase the international student population as part of its 10-year strategic plan, which ends in 2021.

At his inauguration, LeBlanc said he wanted to increase GW's global

presence, and officials have since started a new scholarship for international students as part of a

include events with donors and influencers to raise money and boost GW's image in other coun-

**"In our experience, it actually makes a statement that the University is really committed and invested in engaging with its constituents all over the world, whether they're alumni, parents or donors, so doing international travel, within reason, is something that I think is paramount, especially when an institution really has global aspirations."**

**PATRICK AUERBACH**  
ASSOCIATE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS, USC

national campaign to promote diversity in higher education.

Auerbach said presidents' trips abroad should

tries. Officials should analyze the trip's success through qualitative data and quantitative metrics, like event turnout, he said.

"You always have the metrics," he said. "But it's also that gut feeling of the president – 'Was that worth my time?' – and I would say that odds are, absolutely, it's going to be worth their time."

LeBlanc's trip comes as the University preps for its next capital campaign, which will begin in 2021 in commemoration of the University's bicentennial year.

Auerbach said USC's presidents have made efforts to promote the school by traveling overseas at least once a year to meet with the USC community abroad. He said USC officials have already started drafting plans for the school's incoming president to travel domestically and internationally

– and she has not even arrived on campus yet.

Adrienne Denenberg, the senior director of engagement initiatives at Northeastern University's Office of Alumni Relations, said that while philanthropy is a key goal of university presidents' international trips, officials should seek to learn more about their alumni's interests and careers to continue engaging with them beyond their time as a student.

"Once someone has earned a degree or had a Northeastern experience, that hasn't stopped," she said. "There's so much more that happens, obviously, in life. So we want to make sure we stay in touch and then keep up to date on those things, too."

# Research Days participation jumps more than 30 percent in past five years



HATCHET FILE PHOTO BY CONOR WITSCHONKE | PHOTOGRAPHER  
Keith Crandall is a faculty mentor to students who presented at Research Days.

**SHANNON MALLARD**  
STAFF WRITER

Participation in an annual University-wide research showcase has increased by about 35 percent in the past five years, officials said.

This spring, more than 625 undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students presented research projects at Research Days, compared to more than 450 participants in 2015, officials said.

Presenters and faculty said increased participation indicates that GW is encouraging students to conduct cross-disciplinary research amid an overall push to prioritize research endeavors.

"It is exciting to hear from students what they have been discovering and to feel the energy in the room," Vice President for Research Robert Miller said in an email. "We could not be more excited about the continued

growth in Research Days."

Miller said the number of presenters at the event has increased in every research category over the past five years. This year, about 350 students presented research on health and medicine, and nearly 150 presenters shared projects on natural sciences and mathematics, social sciences and engineering, he said.

Miller added that in 2019, a record-high number of par-

ticipants presented research on engineering, biomedical engineering, business and the humanities.

"We are happy to see the wide variety of research areas from our students," Miller said.

At a Faculty Senate meeting earlier this month, Provost Forrest Maltzman said Research Days may relocate from the Marvin Center to the Smith Center to accommodate more participants.

"We also had a very successful Research Days, so we expanded beyond the ballrooms, into the hallway, down to the ground floor of the Marvin Center – the president and I have spent a fair amount of time there," Maltzman said at the meeting. "It is exactly what this University is about. We're working on a plan to really turbocharge those even more."

Faculty who mentored students' research projects said the increased participation allows students to view more projects, which could strengthen students' research skills, encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration and inform future methodology.

Keith Crandall, a professor of biology and faculty mentor to students presenting at Research Days, said

other presenters' projects will inspire students to consider new methods in their own study areas.

"You pick up insights from folks because people are always using things in slightly different ways that you haven't necessarily thought about," Crandall said. "You come back to the lab with some new ideas about how you might be doing some of your analyses."

Arzhang Angoshtari, an assistant professor of engineering and applied science and a faculty mentor for Research Days, said increased participation expands the number of disciplines represented at the conference.

"I think it will help a lot if people know what is going on in different labs or different departments for collaboration purposes," Angoshtari said.

Research Days presenters said University President Thomas LeBlanc's strategic mission to boost undergraduate research at GW might have led to an increase in participation.

Alumna Lisa Blitstein, a former Hatchet photo editor and a communications major who presented research on human interaction in Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice," said LeBlanc's

emphasis on expanding research efforts prompts professors to rally more students to present at Research Days.

Part of LeBlanc's strategic mission to enhance research at GW focuses on providing students with more opportunities to conduct research with faculty members. Leo Chalupa, the former vice president for research, created Research Days to encourage more undergraduates to participate in research efforts at the University.

"His mission to promote research might make more professors and faculty think about how I can get my students to present and explore their research opportunity," Blitstein said.

Senior Stephanie Reda, a psychology major who presented research on marijuana legalization, said she decided to present at Research Days after one of her professors encouraged her to participate. Reda said students will gain a "comprehensive" understanding of how research is conducted if they participate in Research Days, which prepares students for future careers in research-related fields.

"I think that it's a great thing that more students are going to be involved in this because it's a great opportunity that GW has," she said.

## Student Court to update bylaws, documents after seven years

**PAIGE MORSE**  
STAFF WRITER

Newly appointed Student Court judges are pushing to refresh court governing documents that have been collecting dust since 2012.

The Student Court follows governing documents that mandate yearly reviews to court bylaws and procedures, but the documents have not been updated since September 2012. Incoming judges appointed last Monday said they are pushing to update the documents to reduce ambiguity about the court's power and improve how the court selects and hears cases.

"Even minor things can mean such a significant difference, and I think it's important that we thoroughly go through every bylaw," junior Ian Haimowitz, an incoming Student Court judge and the current SA Senate chief of staff, said.

A majority of the five court judges must approve edits to the procedures, according to current Student Court bylaws. Haimowitz said he plans to edit the documents over the summer and present the updated bylaws to other judges in the fall for approval.

Haimowitz said revising the Student Court's documents may have "slipped through" the court's agenda for nearly seven years because the court is often "forgotten" by the student body. The last three cases the Student Court heard occurred in 2016, 2013 and 2009.

Haimowitz said the student body can keep an eye on the court's actions during cases and ensure that lengthy periods of time do not elapse between bylaw updates if they are aware of the court's existence.

He said he is unsure what specific edits he will make to the bylaws, but the "whole document" must be updated, especially to clear up any misleading language. Haimowitz said he is studying student court bylaws at other schools – like Purdue and American universities – to gauge how other functioning student courts are governed before changing GW's documents.

"They have a very comprehensive set of student court bylaws, and just seeing what have they done and looking around other universities similar to GW might be able to give aid in what our bylaws should look like," he said.

Darryl Jennings, the chief judge of the Student Court, and Kevin Zhang, a Student Court judge, declined to comment. Student Court judges Natalie Iole, Wayne Arminavage and Sarayu Iyer did not return multiple requests for comment.

Members of the SA said the Student Court bylaws should be updated to specify the amount of time the court should spend on a case and refine language about how much time defendants are given to reply to a judge's questions before the court decides to hear the case.

Student Court bylaws currently state that after a majority of judges approve new bylaws, the chief judge must submit the documents to the acting SA president.

SA President Ashley Le said the Student Court has not presented any changes to the bylaws for her approval this academic year. Le said since the requirement to review the bylaws and procedures every year is already mandated in the documents themselves, justices must "hold themselves accountable" for following their own

rules.

"I don't think that not having updated bylaws or procedures would drastically impact the function of a student court, rather I think it sends a message that we have been careless in making sure that a branch of the student government and a tool that the students can have is well taken care of," Le said.

Le said she has "no jurisdiction" over the Student Court, making it difficult to supervise the court's functions and uphold its bylaws.

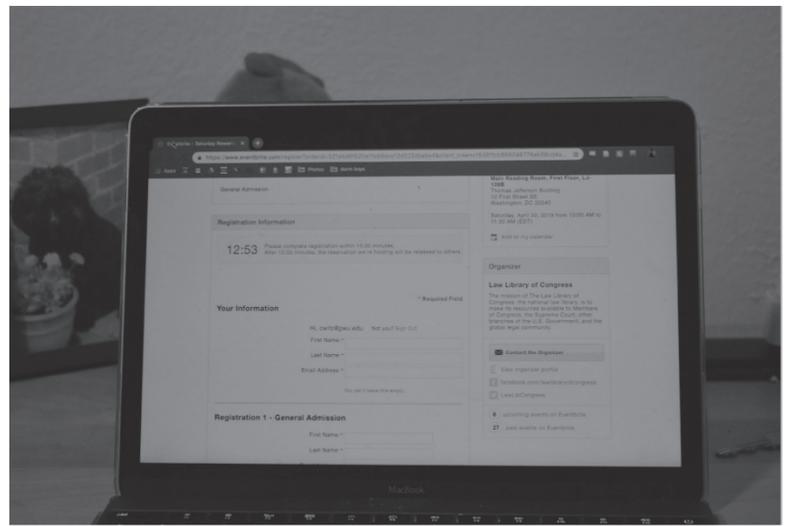
"There is no avenue where other branches of the Student Association can hold them accountable," Le said.

Le said she hopes her approved Student Court nominees, Haimowitz and second-year law student Britt Lewis, will mobilize other justices to approve bylaw edits and campaign to increase the Student Court's visibility among the student body.

"They will be able to commit themselves next year into making the court better by updating the bylaws, procedures and the way that it appears to students," she said.

Samantha Paralikas, the SA vice president for judicial and legislative affairs, said bylaws governing the amount of time the court has to reply to expedited lawsuits or how long a plaintiff can wait before responding to questions from the court are "vague" and grant the Student Court "a lot of power."

"I don't think they ever really got to see how the procedures play out," she said. "On paper, they look pretty fine but now in practice this past year, I had to file a lawsuit – there is currently a lawsuit against the SA – and I got to experience some of the procedures in practice and that is where I have some concerns."



CONOR WITSCHONKE | PHOTOGRAPHER  
Students will no longer have to bring a physical ticket to this year's Commencement ceremony.

## Officials drop paper tickets for Commencement next month

**AMY LIU & ZACH SCHONFELD**  
REPORTERS

When students and their families arrive at the National Mall for Commencement next month, they won't need to bring a physical ticket.

Officials said they will replace printed tickets at Commencement May 19 with an online form that students can use to register up to six guests

ages 2 or older. The new system will eliminate the cost of printing tickets and the possibility that guests lose their physical tickets, officials said.

"Based on attendees' feedback from past ceremonies, officials hope to eliminate the frustrations that some attendees have experienced," University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said.

Csellar said officials will make the roughly 20,000 seats at Commencement available to guests on a first come, first served basis, except for the reserved seating area. She added that additional standing room will be available.

"Commencement staff will do their best to accommodate seating for all graduating students' guests," she said. "However, seating cannot be guaranteed."

Csellar said five commencement events will also use digital tickets instead of printed ones this year: the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering and Applied Science doctoral hooding ceremonies, the School of Nursing celebration, the Phi Beta Kappa Induction ceremony and the School of Medicine and Health

Sciences' Health Sciences graduation celebrations.

She added that students will receive a one-time access code to retrieve their tickets on the digital ticketing system, reducing the possibility of identity theft or trespassing at the ceremony and prohibiting codes from being shared after use.

In interviews, 10 students said switching to digital tickets will cut

**"For all the different subset graduations, I have to leave my job to pick up the tickets, and I know other seniors in similar positions where they have to work around work schedules or class schedules and different events we have, so having a digital ticket definitely makes things easier on us."**

**SARAH HAMPTON**  
SENIOR, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

down on the number of items graduates need to pick up before the ceremony.

Sarah Hampton, a senior studying international affairs, said digital tickets reduce the number of graduation-related items, like gowns and cords, that students have to remember to pick up before the ceremony.

"For all the different subset graduations, I have to leave my job to pick up the tickets, and I know other seniors in similar positions where they have to work around work schedules or class schedules and different events we have," Hampton said. "So having a digital ticket definitely makes things easier on us."

Officials said students will be able to print a "souvenir" or "commemorative ticket" following

the ceremony. Sarah Pohl, a senior studying public health, said she appreciates that she will still be able to have a physical ticket as a keepsake for graduation.

"There are other things that I could replace, like my cap and gown," she said. "But it's nice to have a small ticket that you can put in a scrap box or memory box that you can have as memorabilia for graduation."

Peak Sen Chua, a senior studying public health and political science, said the new process will require students to be diligent about bringing their digital ticket with them on a charged electronic device.

"The good thing about going online, it's just getting the confirmation and saving it on your phone," Chua said.

"And the only thing you need to plan for it is charging your phone the night before and bringing a power bank, making sure the battery is holding a charge by the time you get to the ceremony."

Julianne Giarrantano, a senior majoring in accounting, said that although getting an e-ticket "will be easier," officials should better communicate changes to commencement ceremonies, like through the use of online registration and digital ticketing.

"I just found out about it, so I would say one thing – GW just needs to be more coordinated with Commencement in general," she said. "We have had such a lack of information, and I think a lot of graduating seniors are confused and don't know what's going on."



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# Thousands visit website tracking strategic initiatives in first year

MEREDITH ROATEN  
NEWS EDITOR

Thousands of visitors have viewed the website that tracks University President Thomas LeBlanc's progress on his top initiatives since the site launched last year, officials said.

Officials said the website, which debuted last April, provides students, faculty and staff with a centralized location to monitor improvements in LeBlanc's five priorities, which include research, fundraising and alumni engagement, student experience and institutional culture. Higher education experts said officials can use feedback left by visitors to the website to guide their efforts in furthering the initiatives.

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said the top administrators who serve as "sponsors" of LeBlanc's five strategic initiatives make updates to and post on the website "on a frequent basis."

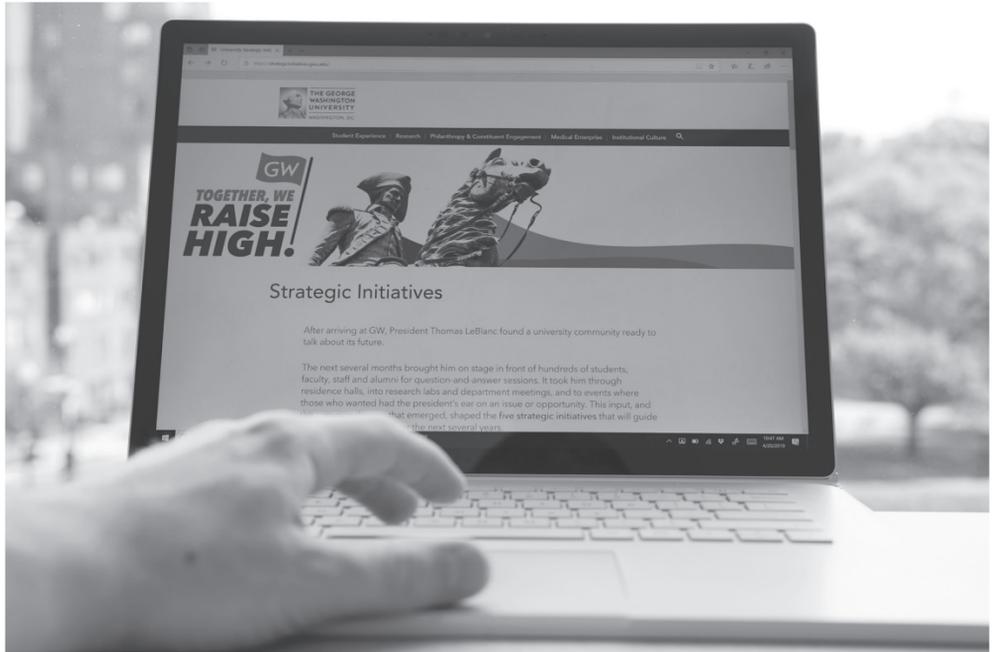
She added that officials post more frequently about "bigger" accomplishments, like the results of a faculty-led review of GW's research ecosystem, she

quent basis so that our community members can check back whenever it is convenient for them to see the progress that we, as a community, are making together," she said in an email.

Csellar said officials are collecting feedback on each initiative from faculty, students and staff through a form and participation in working groups. Each initiative's page on the website includes a response form for visitors to provide feedback on the progress, and many of the initiatives include working groups that help sponsors conduct outreach.

She said officials plan to continue using the website in the "coming years," but she declined to provide an exact timeframe.

Since the website's launch, officials have added the names of faculty and staff working on each initiative and the University's accomplishments furthering each of the five priorities. Officials have provided at least three updates on each initiative and more than 50 updates to the student experience initiative, like the introduction of a free 18th credit and the instal-



Thousands have visited University President Thomas LeBlanc's strategic initiative website since its launch last April. DEAN WHITELAW | PHOTOGRAPHER

on the initiatives and gauge which issues they believe are the most important for administrators to address.

Rebekah Basinger, the principal consultant at the higher education advising company Basinger Consultants, said the ability for website viewers to provide feedback through response forms on the site will hold officials accountable.

She said officials should also include updates when they fail to address an initiative or encounter an obstacle in the process to remain transparent with the community. The community will not be able to progress if officials do not acknowledge which approaches have not worked, Basinger said.

"If there is real transparency, they will say if some of the

things don't work out as well, because that's life," she said.

Teboho Moja, a clinical professor of higher education at New York University, said the website will encourage members of the community to get involved by listing the officials that head each initiative and providing feedback forms, fostering an honest conversation.

But she said a website permitting feedback alone is not enough to deliver the institutional change administrators are aiming for. Officials should use the feedback they receive to determine which topics should be taken more seriously, she said.

"I see good intentions," Moja said. "What needs to be seen is continuous communication and continuous engagement of the

community."

Charles Garris, the former chair of the Faculty Senate's executive committee, said that at times, GW's size has prevented community members from understanding administrators' goals, and the website is a way to address the issue.

"One of the problems you have in big universities is things are going on, but people have no idea that these things are happening," he said.

Garris added that the opportunity for students, faculty and staff to weigh in on initiatives will be a valuable tool for collecting feedback without having to wait for the results of a survey.

"You can't fix things if you don't know that they're broken," he said.

**"One of the problems you have in big universities is things are going on, but people have no idea that these things are happening. You can't fix things if you don't know that they're broken."**

CHARLES GARRIS  
PROFESSOR OF MECHANICAL AND AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

said. Csellar said the website includes an overview and goals for each initiative and shows the tangible changes administrators have made.

"The site is updated on a fre-

lation of a new crosswalk on H Street.

Higher education experts said officials can use the website to inform students, faculty and staff about their progress

## Fulbright Hall to house exclusively freshmen next academic year

LIA DEGROOT  
STAFF WRITER

Fulbright Hall will house exclusively freshmen starting next academic year, officials said.

The University began housing freshmen in Fulbright Hall this academic year, with freshmen comprising 150 of the hall's 285 total residents. The move comes amid plans to renovate the University's largest freshman residence hall and build a new first-year residence hall.

"GW Housing works with the Residence Life Team, Residence Hall Association and Division of Operations on strategy pertaining to usage of the halls and ways that we can look at building community within the halls," Seth Weinschel, the assistant dean of housing and financial services, said in an email.

Weinschel said Fulbright Hall will house first-years for the "foreseeable future," and the University will adjust the hall's housing costs to mirror other freshman residence options.

Living in Fulbright Hall will cost students \$14,480 – including dining – next academic year while four-person units in Thurston and Madison halls will cost students \$14,280 and \$16,180, respectively.

The University planned to build a new freshman residence hall on 20th and H streets in anticipation of renovating Thurston Hall but announced that it would expedite the renovations and postpone con-

struction of the new hall in February. Thurston Hall will undergo renovations next academic year and is set to open by 2022.

The University upgraded Fulbright Hall's bathrooms, air conditioning and community lounges over the past few years and will add new furniture to rooms this summer to accommodate the incoming freshman class, Weinschel said.

Freshmen living in Fulbright Hall this academic year lived in four-person studio apartments while upperclassmen lived in triples. Weinschel declined to say why the University decided to convert Fulbright to an all-freshman residence hall.

RHA President Trinity Diaz said housing freshmen in Fulbright Hall means RHA leadership will need to find ways to support Fulbright freshmen living in apartment-style housing.

Diaz added that the building lacks communal lounges and kitchens that other freshman residence halls have, which could prevent students from finding community.

Keith Nagy, the RHA president of Fulbright Hall, said the residence hall is not as full as Thurston Hall – which houses about 40 percent of freshmen – and will provide first-year students with a less stressful living environment.

"It's kind of an escape from the rest of campus, but it's still in the middle of the action because you're not too far from District and Marvin," Nagy said.

He said the Fulbright Hall council will not need to make "drastic adaptations" to programming for freshmen because this year both freshmen and upperclassmen were invited to all RHA social events the organization held for its residents.

"All of our social events are geared towards the entire hall," Nagy said. "So for Halloween, we passed out candy to all the dorms, regardless of whether they were first-years or second-years. More first-years answered their doors because second-years are busier on average."

Shlok Babu, a freshman living in Fulbright Hall, said he had trouble finding community in his first semester because the basement lounge in Fulbright is too small to accommodate a lot of people. Babu said the University should add more communal spaces to Fulbright Hall next year to ensure freshmen can get to know one another at home.

"I don't think there are a lot of spaces to socialize around here, it's just room-to-room," Babu said.

Annie Roberts, a freshman in Fulbright Hall, said living as a group of four in a space intended for only three people made the room feel cramped and uncomfortable. She said officials should house no more than three freshmen in a residence hall room this fall.

"One of my roommates moved out halfway through the year and that definitely made it better because four people was really cramped," she said.



Fulbright Hall will exclusively house first-year students starting this fall. ALEXANDER WELLING | PHOTOGRAPHER

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### STAFF EDITORIAL

# The University must back the IFC's hard alcohol ban

Fraternities will soon trade in hard liquor bottles for beer cans when the North American Interfraternity Conference implements a hard liquor ban.

The ban, which will prohibit fraternities from obtaining drinks with more than 15 percent alcohol in chapters' homes, will be written into the Interfraternity Council's bylaws and go into effect next month. In addition to the ban, the IFC will require fraternities to designate a sober monitor during parties. Fraternities are enacting these measures with good intentions, but it is going to require more than the IFC to ensure all chapters follow the ban.

The IFC should not be the only organization enforcing the policy. Fraternities nationwide have struggled to prevent binge drinking and harassment, and the ban will only be effective if there is another party enforcing the new policy. The University must back the IFC's hard alcohol ban and outline consequences for not upholding the rules to help curb binge drinking among fraternities.

The IFC's new mandate looks good on paper, but writing a rule into the bylaws does not mean all fraternities will abide by the policy. While the organization might trust its fraternities to self-police, it should also be the responsibility of officials to take care of their students. Fraternities took a step in the right direction with these new rules, but mitigating issues of binge



Cartoon by Jekko Syquia

drinking and harassment is a Universitywide problem that cannot only be addressed by writing the ban into an IFC rulebook.

The University's alcohol policy currently outlines rules that ban overconsumption of alcohol, but it does not include a ban on hard liquor or requirements for a sober monitor. Incorporating the policy into its current alcohol regulations would ensure the IFC and the University are on the same page with rules regarding alcohol consumption and can impose violations for fraternities found breaking the rules.

The IFC and the Panhel-

lenic Association have already worked to crack down on sexual assault and binge

**"The IFC is taking steps in the right direction but needs to be held responsible for upholding this ban by the University."**

drinking in Greek life. The organizations produced recommendations to create a sexual assault resource book and will soon mandate sexual assault prevention trainings. The IFC has also held roundtable discussions for all chapters to discuss implementing the hard liquor ban and other

issues like mental health. The IFC is clearly working to address problems that affect its chapters, but there may be no meaningful change unless the University is behind these efforts.

Last year, at least three fraternities did not undergo mandatory sexual assault prevention trainings and were fined by the IFC – a lesser punishment than the IFC previously outlined when the trainings were first required 2017. If the IFC is unwilling to crack down on fraternities for not following its rules, it is unlikely that there will be severe consequences from the IFC for breaking the hard alcohol ban.

The policy would carry more weight if the University could also crack down on fraternities that do not follow the rules. Instead of sanctioning chapters with fines, GW could place holds on students' accounts who do not comply with the ban, similar to the way officials penalize students who do not complete mandatory diversity trainings for incoming freshmen. Creating clear consequences for neglecting a hard alcohol ban will ensure fraternities understand the legitimacy of the policy.

Ensuring the safety of students is the responsibility of the University. Rather than offload the implementation of this rule to the IFC, the University must stand alongside the organization and implement rules and regulations that show GW not only backs the policy but will also enforce it. Fraternities are under the jurisdiction of the IFC and each chapter's national council, but they make up campus life and their actions should be held accountable by the University.

The IFC is taking steps in the right direction but needs to be held responsible for upholding this ban by the University. There is much more that could be done by the University and the IFC to curb issues of binge drinking, sexual assault and harassment brought about by excessive drinking, but officials need to stand alongside the IFC in this new policy to make impactful change.

## Essay: Keeping kosher away from home

I went home for the beginning of Passover, an eight-day-long Jewish holiday that does not allow me to eat leavened bread or anything that rises. The beginning of the celebration was easy because I was surrounded by family members who have the same food restrictions, but I have grown nervous about finding meals once I head to class this week.

Zachary Nosanchuk  
Columnist

When I lived with my parents before coming to GW, I did not need to worry about keeping my Passover diet because all of the meals they cooked did not include bread. But eating without bread on GWorld will be a struggle because a majority of my go-to dining vendors sell bread with nearly every meal. GW Hillel will provide free lunches for those keeping kosher during Passover, but GW still has few kosher options for students celebrating Passover, and I am anticipating a difficult week ahead.

Friday night was the easiest to refrain from eating bread because Passover began in the evening. But I have a hectic class schedule and may not find time to prepare meals that do not include bread during the short breaks in my day.

When I wake up to my alarm, all I normally think about is an egg and cheese bagel from the GW Delicatessen, but that will not be an option for me. Panera Bread Company, Uptowner Cafe and Cafe Aria will also be out of the question because most of their food uses bread. I also do not have enough GWorld funds to purchase meals at vendors that sell meals without bread, like Beefsteak and Sweetgreen. The yogurt cup in my refrigerator may suffice but it might not be filling.

At home, I typically snack on matzo, legumes and vegetables, but all of the snacks I typically bring to fill up during class also need to be scrapped during Passover. The protein bars and bag of Wheat Thins lying in my back-

pack could curb my hunger, but they are all off the table because each snack contains wheat. I worry that I will not have food to munch on during the times in my day when I cannot head home for a meal.

Later, I may look to grab lunch before I head to the Mount Vernon Campus for a University Writing class. All of the dining vendors on the way to the Vern Express, like &pizza and Potbelly Sandwich Shop, are ruled out and Pelham Commons, GW's only dining hall, does not offer Passover-friendly meals. GW Hillel's free lunches may become my daily meal, but the student organization's townhouse may be out of the way from my other daily activities.

When I finally head back home for the end of my day, I can munch on a piece of matzo with jam. But as a freshman, I cannot cook a more filling snack in my residence hall room because I do not have a kitchen and need to rely on the food I purchase myself. Whole Foods may be my savior for this week because I can buy a meal without bread from its hot bar, but all of the buffet meals may put a dent in my GWorld funds.

The key to keeping a Passover diet on GWorld is staying with friends who also celebrate the holiday. Eating with peers who are also experiencing the same difficulties makes the holiday more bearable on campus because I am constantly reminded that I am not the only one trying to keep a strict diet for eight days. Still, observing Passover for even a week is hindered by constant inconveniences in the dining program.

After a late night of studying for finals at Gelman Library, I might wrap up my night with a Starbucks iced coffee. The pastries could be a good late-night snack but I cannot eat them. I can't help but wonder how I will get through the week on a tight budget without the comfort of my family's Passover meals, but I will have other Jewish peers to help me along.

— Zachary Nosanchuk, a freshman majoring in political communication, is a columnist.

## Essay: Understanding the differences between Easter

When my family celebrates Easter, we trade in multicolored plastic eggs for hand-painted hard boiled ones. We also go to church to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ – it just happens on a different day.

Galen Ekimov  
Writer

Every spring, I need to explain to my peers that my Easter is typically later than it is for Catholics or Protestants because I am Orthodox Christian, a religion concentrated in Eastern Europe. As a Bulgarian-American, I do not mind explaining that the holiday is celebrated differently, but I do become frustrated when my peers routinely misunderstand that my Easter is different from the rest.

I often feel isolated seeing my Christian peers attend church and participate in other Easter activities when I know that I will be late to the party. The holiday is not widely celebrated on campus, and many families that do celebrate Orthodox Christian Easter cannot travel to D.C. because they often do not receive time off from work due to it not being a public holiday. Many Orthodox Christian students may also be international students, making it difficult to see family on the holiday. I did not understand the extent to which my peers do not grasp traditions I have followed throughout my whole life, making Orthodox Easter a difficult holiday to celebrate on campus.

When I talk to other

students about Easter eggs, my peers may have an image in their head of plastic candy-filled ones sold at CVS. But my Orthodox community in New Jersey hard-boils eggs and paints them with bright colors before bringing them to the annual Easter party. Kids and adults have an "egg fight" in which they use their egg to smash someone else's egg, and the last unbroken egg standing wins the contest.

While some Christians cook ham and potatoes, my family also bakes foods unique to Orthodox Easter, like Kozunak, a type of sweet bread that is similar to cake. Bulgarian sugar cookies called Kurabiki are also made specifically for Easter and shaped with cookie cutters. Practicing these traditions is compli-

Protestants. I will largely be on my own this Easter without parents and with few peers to celebrate with.

Unlike Catholicism and Judaism, Orthodox Christian churches also vary by country, meaning the language Orthodox sermons are delivered in differ by the country an individual is from. In America, most Orthodox services are delivered in the language of their immigrant communities, like Russian and Greek, and few Orthodox churches give sermons in English. It is unlikely that my Orthodox peers and I speak the language of the same church, which divides our community on campus and poses another barrier to celebrate Orthodox holidays like Easter.

As an Orthodox Christian, I would be grateful if my friends supported me as best they can on my Easter holiday. Orthodox students face a number of difficulties observing the holiday away from family and on a campus with few other Orthodox peers. I am unsure how to celebrate this Easter away from home because I have always relied on my family to make plans and carry on annual traditions. Catholic and Protestant peers who celebrate Easter this year should feel lucky to be on a campus where they can still embrace the holiday. I am optimistic I will figure out plans before Orthodox Easter comes around, but following tradition may be more difficult away from home.

—Galen Ekimov, a freshman majoring in international affairs, is an opinions writer.

## GAMES OF THE WEEK



**SOFTBALL**  
vs. Dayton  
1 p.m. • Saturday and Sunday  
The Colonials will continue their record-breaking season against A-10 conference foe Dayton.



**SAILING**  
vs. Georgetown  
Saturday and Sunday  
Sailing competes at the Arrigan Memorial hosted by Georgetown in Alexandria, Va.

**NUMBER CRUNCH** **6.3**

The average number of walks per game softball induced in its three-game series against St. Bonaventure, up from its season average of 2.69 walks per game

## Women's sailing takes fourth consecutive national championship berth

**EMILY MAISE**  
STAFF WRITER

Women's sailing clinched a national berth at the Mid-Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association Championship in New York this weekend.

The No. 8 Colonials placed third in the regatta, qualifying them for their fourth consecutive spring Intercollegiate Sailing Association Women's Nationals. Prior to the regatta, sailors said the squad's senior leadership and sailing prowess helped propel the 7-year-old program into a top-10 sailing team.

Half of the team's 12-member roster is comprised of seniors, and the squad returned nine sailors from last season.

"The thing that kind of sets apart this women's team and our whole team in general has been how much pride the senior class is taking in leaving the team in a better position than they got it, and I hope that continues," head coach Billy Martin said.

Four seniors and two juniors competed in the regatta this weekend. Seniors Riley Legault and Alexandra Fayer sailed together in the A Division while juniors Aitana Mendiguren and Sarah Noyes sailed in the B Division. Seniors Emma Mendenhall and Marie Line were extras in the competition.

Legault and Fayer set the tone for the Colonials Saturday with a second-place finish in race one. The senior duo continued their success, earning a first, second, fourth and sixth-place finish in the day's races.

The Colonials sailed into second place on Saturday with seven top-five finishes. The team recorded top-10 finishes in all 10 races, putting it 10 points behind first-



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Juniors Sarah Noyes and Aitana Mendiguren race on the Potomac River at the GW Women's Invite last April.

place Pennsylvania.

The Colonials faltered in the first race Sunday, finishing 15th out of 16 teams. But the squad bounced back and placed in the top 10 in the next 18 races, 12 of which were top-five finishes.

Cornell gained on GW throughout the second day of competition, capturing second place in the regatta, 24 points below the Colonials. The team ended the day with a third-place finish and a qualifying bid for the ICSA Women's Nationals.

Legault, Fayer and Mendenhall all have past MAISA Championship experience. Mendenhall sailed in the A Division of the

2016 MAISA Championship and helped the team capture its second program championship.

Legault and Fayer sailed to a fourth-place finish in the B Division of the MAISA Championship in 2017 and helped the team break into third. The duo teamed up again in 2018 to help the Colonials reach a fifth-place team finish.

Mendenhall said the team's roster is full of strong sailors who can step in and compete at a high caliber.

"We are really deep, so we have a lot of layers of people," Mendenhall said. "We can always switch people in, switch people out, without worrying about

whether we're still going to do well because everyone has their own assets and skills."

The team's national results have increased for the past two seasons. The Colonials placed 13th in 2017 and 12th in last season's national competition. Martin said the women's team carried the momentum created during last season's nationals to dominate throughout this season.

"The women's team has been really strong all year, and we have slowly been building on our success from last year because we had a lot of returning players," Martin said.

The women's team placed in

the top half in five of its seven regattas in the spring. Martin said the Colonials' recent success can be attributed to their attention to detail and motivation.

"It is tough to get in the top 20, let alone in the top eight, and they've earned it," he said. "Every event, they've just risen levels."

On March 30 and 31, the women's team had its best finish at the Dellenbaugh Trophy regatta. The squad finished fourth in a field of 18 teams and beat out two top-10 competitors – then-No. 5 Cornell and then-No. 7 MIT.

But the co-ed team, which included Legault, senior Mercedes McPhee and sophomore Clare Cassidy-Gardner, missed a chance to qualify at the Prosser Trophy regatta for the Intercollegiate Sailing Association Team Race National Championship earlier this month. Martin said the regatta taught the team to remain at peak performance throughout the entirety of every competition.

"The women's team realizes that to be the best, you have to be the best at all times, dominant at all times," he said. "Just attention to detail until that race and take nothing for granted."

Approaching the ICSA Women's Nationals May 21 and 24, freshman Sarah Hardee said the team needs to remain confident in its abilities and competitive to succeed in future regattas.

"We need to compete at the level we've been competing at this entire season," Hardee said. "We've been doing really well and we've been on a good streak and we just need to continue our confidence and our competitiveness."

The Colonials are back in action at the America's Trophy regatta in New York and the Arrigan Trophy regatta in Virginia Saturday and Sunday.

## Women's tennis gears up for A-10 Championship

**BELLE LONG**  
STAFF WRITER

Women's tennis will enter the Atlantic 10 Championship in Florida Wednesday seeking its first championship title in 26 years.

The Colonials (11-9, 5-2 A-10) have fallen short of conference glory in recent years, advancing to the semifinal round of the championship four times and the final once in the last decade, but returning empty-handed. Head coach Torrie Browning said the team needs to carry the momentum from its recent season wins to be successful heading into the conference.

"We need to keep reminding ourselves that we are a team full of experienced players – even our freshmen have come in with a lot of tournaments under their belt," Browning said.

The Colonials finished their regular season with a sweep of George Mason Friday. The squad boasts a conference record of 5-2, just shy of last season's program-best record of 6-1.

GW went on a five-game win streak to finish off its regular season last year, earning a No. 2 seeding in the A-10 Championship – its highest in program history.

Three seniors comprise nearly half of GW's roster. Browning said she can rely on her seniors to provide direction to the team's two freshman players.

"Half of our teams are seniors, so I think we are going to be good to go," Browning said. They have been doing a really good job of leading the team, leading themselves, in the right way."

GW has been chasing an A-10 Championship title for more than two decades after winning back-to-back championships in 1992 and 1993. The Colonials placed second five times over the past 25 years – since they last won – but have yet to secure the title.

The squad has qualified for the championship final

nine times in its program history. GW last made it to the A-10 finals in 2010, but a sweep from Richmond ended its best bid for a title.

Senior Maria Siopacha said the team is strong in singles but needs to improve on its doubles play, which she said was the team's season-long weakness.

"If we can fight really hard and win that one doubles point, I think it will really help," Siopacha said.

The Colonials have an overall doubles record of 31-42 this season, down from the 2017-18 regular season record of 43-46. Siopacha said the team's relatively small size prevents it from experimenting with different doubles combinations during practice.

"In order to be good in doubles, you need to have chemistry with your doubles partner," Siopacha said.

The Colonials' most successful doubles players are Siopacha and junior Melis Bayraktaroglu, who each have 14 doubles wins under their belt. Siopacha and Bayraktaroglu hold a 2-2 postseason doubles record over three years at GW.

Senior Sara Grubac said the team's international makeup could also cause it to struggle with doubles play because doubles are not commonly practiced abroad. Each member of the squad hails from a different country, with senior Victoria Kogan being the sole American on the Colonials' roster.

"Doubles are not as big in Europe and we're mostly international, so we don't really have that much experience," Grubac said.

Browning said her team's roster depth means that "anyone, on any given day, can beat anyone."

"We just have to keep reminding them to be confident, be aggressive, be assertive, and if we do those things, then it's going to be a good week," Browning said.

A-10 Championship play kicks off Wednesday at the USTA National Campus in Florida.

### COLUMBIAN COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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Saturday, May 18, 2019 • Charles E. Smith Center

#### 12:00 PM CELEBRATION

##### PARTICIPATING MAJORS

- Economics
- Human Services/Human Services and Social Justice
- Journalism & Mass Communication
- Political Communication
- Political Science/Public Policy Focus
- Psychology/Cognitive Neuroscience
- Sociology/Criminal Justice



#### 3:30 PM CELEBRATION

##### PARTICIPATING MAJORS

- Africana Studies
- American Studies
- Anthropology/Biological Anthropology
- Arabic Studies
- Archaeology
- Art History/Art History and Fine Arts
- Astronomy and Astrophysics
- Biological Sciences/Neuroscience
- Chemistry
- Chinese
- Classical Studies
- Communication
- Corcoran School of the Arts and Design
- Dance
- English/Creative Writing and English
- Environmental Studies
- Fine Arts
- French
- Geography
- Geological Sciences
- German
- History
- Interior Architecture/Interior Architecture and Design
- Japanese
- Judaic Studies
- Mathematics
- Music
- Organizational Sciences
- Philosophy/Public Affairs Focus
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ALEXANDER WELLING | PHOTOGRAPHER

Left to right: Junior Victoria Giacian, freshman Fautoumata Sow and senior Sarah Hawk walk down the runway at the inaugural Fashion and Business Association's fashion show Sunday.

## Student organization hosts inaugural fashion show, releases magazine

**MOLLY KAISER**  
STAFF WRITER

Student stylists and fashionistas gathered in the Elliott School City View Room Saturday for the Fashion and Business Association's inaugural fashion show.

Seven members of the FBA curated about 60 looks made entirely from materials out of their closets, like pleather hats and bright red skirts. At the event, FBA student leaders also debuted their first biannual fashion magazine, dubbed "George," which features student stylists' work.

"The purpose of the fashion show is to exhibit to the GW community what students have to offer in terms of talent and skill and to curate their pieces creatively rather than just showing the clothes them-

selves," junior and FBA co-founder Suraya Salfiti said.

The publication, which was produced online and in print, includes articles on topics like the impact of social media on fashion and profiles of designers Iris Van Herpen and Kim Jones. The magazine also includes photos of students' fashion pieces.

During the fashion show, freshmen Connor Gable, Gustavo Martinez, Alex Frieder and Andrea Kang, who customizes and designs denim products through her company Jeanne Bleu, showcased their work. Sophomores Nicole Pollack and Kelsey McEvoy and junior Carolina Garcia also styled outfits for the show.

Attendees gathered around a white runway with curtains that separated the backstage area

from the audience.

About 28 models walked the runway, sporting pieces like neon yellow shirts, belts, silver puffer jackets, cowboy boots and chain belts paired with blazers. The show also featured a mix of streetwear and high fashion looks, from t-shirts to designs from Prada.

Salfiti, the co-founder of the FBA, said the organization hosted the fashion show to showcase its members' work to peers. She said members of the organization plan to host fashion shows every semester so student stylists can continue advertising their pieces and build a network of students interested in the fashion industry.

The FBA became a student organization last fall and has grown to about 30 members

over the past academic year. Garcia and Salfiti launched the organization to give students opportunities to grow connections in the fashion industry because the University does not currently offer a fashion studies degree.

Since the organization launched, it has hosted events like a Denim Drive in December, which allowed students to bring their old denim to members of the FBA to be refurbished with paint and rips. The FBA also hosted a discussion with Deborah Sawaf, the founder and president of the fine accessories company Thalé Blanc, earlier this month.

"We're a new org, and we have a lot of talent to show, but we don't necessarily have a lot of contacts yet," Salfiti said. "We have these amazing stylists on the team. We

decided to crowdsource and have people from GW and from our team submit looks that make them feel good and that they value."

After the show, guests were invited to network with the stylists, local entrepreneurs like Lynda Peralta, the inventor of Pocket Palette – a travel-size makeup palette – and business school faculty to talk about job opportunities in the fashion industry.

Garcia, one of the co-founders, said living in D.C. could limit the FBA's outreach to designers because there are few people involved in the fashion industry.

"It's harder to come into contact with people just because a lot of them are in bigger cities where fashion is more of a topic of conversation and more of a lifestyle," Garcia said in an email.

"It does become harder to facilitate and get designers on board or keynote speakers to come and speak."

She said she hopes the organization will help build a professional network of students interested in fashion who can learn more about skills like directing a photoshoot and writing editorial articles about different styles. The organization could be a channel for students to connect with local professionals in retail, she said.

"My dream would be for FBA to become a direct channel between GW students and recruiters in the world of fashion," Garcia said. "I'd love for FBA to be recognized among recruiters as an organization that provides great talent, dedication and drive."



DEAN WHITELAW | PHOTOGRAPHER

Urbana grows herbs and vegetables at a rooftop garden and uses the produce in its Italian cuisine.

## As Starbucks locations close, local coffee shops take over

**LINDSAY PAULEN**  
CULTURE EDITOR

A green mermaid once sat on nearly every street corner in the District, but at least seven Starbucks locations have shuttered over the last four months.

Starbucks in neighborhoods like Dupont Circle, Chinatown and Downtown D.C. have closed their doors, and local coffee shops have begun to take their place. Workers at local coffee shops said more people may turn to coffee shops only found in D.C. for a more personal experience between customers and employees.

There are several local and small chain coffee shops within 20 minutes of campus, including Bourbon Coffee, La Colombe and Compass Coffee.

A Starbucks spokesperson declined to say how many locations have closed in the District within the past year or if the chain will open more stores in D.C.

Abie Siegel, an assistant store leader at Philz Coffee, said customers may prefer the shop over Starbucks because employees focus on getting to know the store's customers instead of making their coffee as quickly as possible. Philz Coffee serves each cup of coffee without the lid so customers can taste the drink and tell baristas if they like it, she said.

"People are looking for a personal experience,

like having a barista you can talk to," Siegel said. "It's just not like when you go to a bigger place when you order at the register and you don't know who's making your coffee – it's just passed down the line. We don't do that."

Micah Asis, an assistant manager at Bourbon Coffee, said students who frequent the shop may keep coming back because employees try to remember each customer's order and get to know them.

"Especially with a lot of the students and people that you know come in every day – make them feel welcome, make them want to come back," Asis said. "If you remember a customer's drink, they say, 'Oh they know me,' so that's what makes them constantly come back."

In interviews, a dozen students said they prefer local chains or independent coffee shops to chains like Starbucks or Dunkin' because of the welcoming atmosphere and quality of coffee.

Sally Kim, a freshman majoring in international affairs, said she often goes to Compass Coffee because baristas remember her and her order.

"When you go to Starbucks, you can go there every day but the baristas are always changing or it's just like, 'Hi, what are you ordering?' and then you just get your coffee and go," she said. "I love it when I go to Compass and they're like, 'Oh, want the

usual?'"

Lauren Monk, a freshman majoring in math, said she travels a few times a week off campus to Philz Coffee in Dupont Circle, which opened in September. Monk said she prefers Philz Coffee to Starbucks because each customer's order is taken by the same person who makes the drink, ensuring it is properly made.

"I feel like at a place like Starbucks, it's just making the drinks as fast as possible and getting it out," Monk said. "At smaller places, there's more attention on you as a customer."

More than half of the students interviewed said they would be more willing to walk the distance to local coffee shops farther off campus, like Compass Coffee or La Colombe, if GWorld was accepted. But some said they still buy drinks from Starbucks because it accepts GWorld and there are two located on campus.

Jason Lei, a freshman majoring in public health, said that while he is "sick and tired" of Starbucks and its "burnt coffee," he still continues to go because he can use his GWorld dollars and he does not have to travel far for a cup of coffee.

"If a place like La Colombe was on GWorld, I would go there every day," he said.

—Sidney Lee and Liz Provencher contributed reporting.

## Start sustainable practices around the District on Earth Day

**SIDNEY LEE**  
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

If you haven't already, Earth Day is the best opportunity to begin sustainable habits.

From eating at restaurants that embrace local farming to participating in cleanups, there are plenty of places around the District where you can give back to the planet on Monday in honor of the holiday.

### GW Earth Day Fair

The Office of Sustainability will host its annual Earth Day Fair in Kogan Plaza from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday. The event will feature two new activities, including a sustainable cook-off and a clothing swap.

To participate in the sustainable cook-off, you can whip up a dish that uses locally sourced food and portion it into bite-sized samples. Students will taste and vote on their favorite dish, and the top two winners will receive a free Cuisinart food processor or a Crock-Pot.

At the clothing swap, you can exchange up to 10 items of used clothing for other pieces students want to trade in. Jamila Madyun, the owner of Stitched with Style, a local sewing company, will also attend the event to demonstrate how to "upcycle" old articles of clothing or accessories with

new buttons or repaired hems at a repurposing table in Kogan Plaza.

### FRESHFARM Market

You can also head to FRESHFARM Market outside of the metro station located at 901 23rd St. to buy some locally grown produce. The market is open every Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m. through the end of November. With the warm summer months approaching, the market is in peak season with more than 50 local and regional farmers offering organic fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, bread, eggs, pasta and cheese.

Buying locally grown food reduces the distance imported food needs to travel to grocery stores and preserves small farmland that otherwise might be developed for industrial or commercial use.

### Urbana

If you don't have time to shop at farmers markets, eat at environmentally conscious restaurants like Urbana.

Located at 2121 P St. NW in Dupont Circle, Urbana grows herbs and vegetables at a rooftop garden and uses the produce in its Italian cuisine. Urbana also uses a food waste technology called the Biodigester, which converts leftover food scraps into gray wastewater that drained and treated without using chemicals.

While you're there, you can try an appetizer like the beet salad (\$12) with gorgonzola, apples, chives and aged balsamic, or the white and green asparagus (\$14) with salsa verde, quail eggs, almonds and capers. For your main dish, try the margherita pizza (\$15) with tomato, basil and mozzarella, the pappardelle house-made pasta (\$28) with organic mushrooms, black truffle and parmesan, or scallops (\$32) with parmesan risotto, asparagus, pancetta and leeks.

Wash down your meal with a Milano mule (\$7), daiquiri (\$7) or Aperol spritz (\$7) during happy hour from 3 to 7 p.m. every day.

### Earth Day tree planting

You can also give back to the Earth in a literal way by planting trees. The College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences of the University of the District of Columbia and Casey Trees, a nonprofit organization that aims to protect trees in D.C., will host a tree planting event Monday. Volunteers will plant trees at the university's Van Ness campus at 4200 Connecticut Ave. NW from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Make sure to wear closed-toe shoes and bring a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated while you give back on Earth Day.

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