

The GW Hatchet

Opinions

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What's inside

SA announces plan to reduce laundry, printing, rental room fees

SARAH ROACH
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Students may not need to pay most printing, laundry and rental room fees this fall.

Student Association leaders released a statement Monday proposing to allot students 24 free loads of laundry and to reduce the cost of printing and renting space in Lisner Auditorium and the Elliott School of International Affairs' City View Room next academic year. The proposal, which must be approved by the Board of Trustees next month, comes after a yearlong push from SA leaders to nix auxiliary charges that up the cost of campus life.

"When it comes to affordability, it affects every single student, right?" SA President Ashley Le said. "We're leaving with three tangible successes. I think it shows the next administration that they can do that too, that their conversation will be able to make changes."

SA leaders penned an affordability report last spring outlining more than 10 everyday costs, like dining, laundry and printing, finding that the University's services are more expensive in nearly every category compared to its 12 peer institutions. Le also highlighted affordability in her top priorities for the academic year, vowing to advocate for lower laundry and rental room fees.

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said officials are working with SA members to reduce the costs of rental rooms, printing and laundry. "We are pleased to be working with the Student Association as we continue to focus on improving the student experience," Csellar said in an email.

Printing

The SA proposed allotting students with "printing credit" that they can use at any WEPA kiosk. The

announcement does not specify how much credit students will be given each semester.

Students currently pay 9 cents to print one single-sided black-and-white page and 5 cents per side for double-sided black-and-white pages. SA leaders pushed to save 1 million pieces of paper by the end of last summer, hitting about 75 percent of their student savings goal.

SA leaders said switching to a model that allots students a certain amount of money to print would mirror a similar setup at the University of Miami, where students are given \$130 annually to print paper. Le said Mark Diaz, the University's chief financial officer who was previously an official at the University of Miami, brought the idea up earlier this year because the cost of printing is an "educational" fee that some students must pay for class assignments.

"You're not printing because you want to really, so printing for him was like a no-brainer that needed to be reduced because it is something that is being forced upon students to do by professors," Le said.

Laundry

SA leaders suggested providing students with 24 free loads of laundry, or 12 free washer-dryer cycles, this fall. If a student surpasses the allotted number of free loads, which averages to about one washer-dryer cycle every week and a half, they will pay the \$3.50 currently required to wash and dry a load of clothes.

Rose Collins, the SA's vice president for undergraduate policy, said she submitted a proposal to the board in March calling on the University to cut laundry fees. Collins said the move will help students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds and leave students with more GWorld dollars to purchase meals.

The University's laundry fees are double the amount charged at most of its 12 peer institutions, according to the affordability report. Four schools in GW's market basket

"Students should not have to give up their cleanliness to get by financially," Collins said.

Yannik Omictin, the SA's chief of cabinet, said SA leaders based their plan to reduce laundry fees on Georgetown University, which offers students 24 free loads of laundry. He said the two schools also use the same laundry service, Caldwell and Gregory Laundry.

"Assuming that the student population uses this minimum, and everyone uses 24 loads, that's \$3.50 every time you go," Omictin said. "This is what the student population will be saving per semester, that's pretty big."

Rental space

SA members also proposed reducing or eliminating the rental fee for Lisner Auditorium and the City View Room, located on the seventh floor of the Elliott School building. Lisner and the City View Room currently cost about \$3,500 and \$625, respectively, to rent for about a day.

Nassim Touil, the SA's vice president for financial affairs, said the SA finance committee typically gives student organizations co-sponsorships and allocations to pay for rental fees in the two rooms.

The SA finance committee allotted about 20 percent of its funds, or about \$250,000, last fiscal year to help student organizations pay to host events in the two spaces, the SA announcement states.

He said eliminating the cost of renting the rooms will allow the finance committee to reallocate funds to more student organizations, especially smaller groups that often return to the SA throughout the academic year to request co-sponsor-

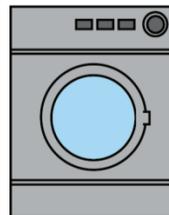
ships. "By having that money back in our pool to allocate, it will of course trickle into every org," Touil said.

Bella Gianani, the SA's vice president for campus operations, said student organizations would still need to pay for additional costs, like labor and sound, while they host an event in the two spaces. She said reducing

or cutting the charge to rent either space will allow organizations with smaller budgets to compete with larger groups to hold events in the rooms, increasing demand for them.

"It's really just a barrier to using that space, and it's frankly just unfair to have that barrier for a space that we pay for to come to as students here," she said.

Proposal to reduce University costs

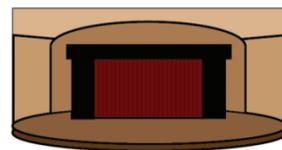


24
loads of laundry



Credit

allotted to pay for printed paper



Free
City View Room and Lisner Auditorium rentals

ALYSSA ILARIA | GRAPHICS EDITOR



JACK FONSECA | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

SMPA Director Frank Sesno said the school will be in "better shape" this fall when six professors return.

SMPA to fill vacancies with new hires, returning faculty

SHANNON MALLARD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Faculty turnover in the School of Media and Public Affairs this academic year led officials to stop offering certain courses, but officials said new and returning faculty will fill the gaps. Six SMPA faculty will return to the school, and officials will hire up to four more professors next fall to fill seven vacancies, SMPA officials said. The returning faculty and new hires will mitigate issues caused by the departures, like the increased student-faculty adviser ratio and reduced course offerings, administrators said.

SMPA Associate Director David Karpf said the departures left the school unable to offer some journalism capstone courses and classes like Broadcast News Reporting this semester and Big City Reporting this fall. He added that officials are finding "alternative" courses to help students affected by the lack of course offerings to fulfill their major requirements.

"We also recognize

that some students found it more difficult to get into the courses they needed this spring semester with a confluence of sabbaticals, parental leave and retirements," Karpf said in an email.

He said SMPA students whose advisers are departing this semester needed to be reassigned to faculty remaining at the school, increasing the number of advisees per professor. Karpf said that as a result, students could have more trouble scheduling advising appointments and wait longer to receive answers to questions from their advisers.

"We're exploring options to make sure faculty members have a reasonable number of student advisees and the responsibility of advising students is shared equally," he said.

SMPA Director Frank Sesno said the number of faculty departures this year was an "aberration" where multiple faculty members retired or accepted positions at other schools. He added that the remaining SMPA professors have

stepped up to teach additional classes that the school otherwise would not have been able to offer.

"I think everybody really pitched in and picked up what they needed to do," Sesno said.

Sesno said six professors left or will leave SMPA before the start of the next academic year. Professors Robert Entman and Roxanne Russell retired this year, professors Debbie Cenziper and Nikki Usher accepted jobs elsewhere and two professors went on parental leave, he said.

Jeffrey Blount, SMPA's journalist in residence, said his yearlong contract with the school expires at the end of this academic year.

Sesno said the school will be in "better shape" next academic year because several "core" SMPA faculty, including professors Patricia Phalen, Kerric Harvey, Catie Bailard and Matthew Hindman, will return from sabbatical; professor Kimberly Gross will return to teaching after serving as an interim associate dean in the Co-

lumbian College of Arts and Sciences; and SMPA officials will hire two new faculty members to teach courses in political communication and broadcast journalism starting this fall.

"Our utmost concern, our top priority with regards to the student experience at SMPA, is to be first class, world class, that's why we're taking this as seriously as we have," Sesno said. "That's why we're able to do and that's why we're gratified that the situation will be vastly improved next year."

Karpf, the associate director, said that in addition to the two faculty hires in progress, SMPA officials are seeking permission from CCAS administrators to hire two additional full-time professors to teach journalism courses.

He added that because hiring new tenure-track faculty members is a "lengthy" process, officials may hire a visiting professor to teach courses and advise students in the interim.

See **TURNOVER** Page 2

Faculty to use in-house opinion poll to study 2020 elections

HAYDEN SMITH
STAFF WRITER

After a polling group that tracks voters' intentions ended its partnership with the University, faculty plan to build up their own national opinion poll to stay at the forefront of political research.

The Graduate School of Political Management and the School of Media and Public Affairs decided last fall to stop hosting the Battleground Poll, a bipartisan survey that was housed at GW for 15 years. As the country nears another presidential election, faculty and officials said the University's other independent political research projects, like the GW Politics Poll, will allow GW to remain a prominent source of information during the 2020 election cycle.

For a decade and a half, the University paid a portion of the operating costs of the Battleground Poll, conducted by The Tarrance Group and Lake Research Partners, two polling firms, and received the right to store polling data for student and faculty research. The poll's operators left GW and joined Georgetown University's Institute of Politics and Public Service in January, where they released the first Battleground Poll of the 2020 election cycle last week.

University spokesman Jason Shevrin declined to say why the Battleground Poll moved to Georgetown.

Shevrin said the GW Politics Poll, which launched in June 2018 and surveys registered voters about candidates and political issues, continues GW's "strong tradition" of polling research. He said the poll, a collaborative project between GSPM, SMPA and political science faculty in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, will remain a resource for students, scholars and "political practitioners" interested in using the data to study politics.

"The poll seeks to advance our understanding of American politics and public affairs by generating timely and rigorous data and analysis," Shevrin said in an email.

He said the Politics Poll will release three reports about voter preferences in the upcoming 2020 presidential election and a longitudinal survey tracking how voter opinions shifted during the primary and general election campaigns. YouGov, an online polling firm, conducts the poll,

and GW faculty and graduate students are able to submit questions for the poll through an online portal on the SMPA website, Shevrin said.

He added that GSPM's Public Echoes of Rhetoric in America Project, which started in 2015 and investigates how voters react to presidential candidates' social media posts, will also allow faculty to engage with the upcoming election.

Faculty members said the method by which the Politics Poll's operators accept questions for the survey – the poll's directors decide based on faculty submissions – yields data relevant to faculty research projects. They added that the Battleground Poll, operated by a separate company, did not afford them as much flexibility.

John Sides, a professor of political science, said he created the Politics Poll with Kimberly Gross, an associate professor of media and public affairs, and Michael Cornfield, the research director of the Global Center for Political Management, to give faculty an outlet to obtain the data they need for their studies.

He said that during the 2018 election cycle, the Politics Poll conducted a survey in which the same group of respondents was polled four times to track how their opinions on certain politicians and policies shifted throughout the year. Sides said few other opinion polls chart how preferences change over time, setting this poll apart from competitors.

"Much has been gained," Sides said in an email. "GW was not doing election polling. Now it is."

Sides said officials redirected funds earmarked for the Battleground Poll to the Politics Poll to expand the Politics Poll's operations.

He added that he viewed GW's relationship with the Battleground Poll as "less than optimal" because faculty had little say over the poll's questions, which made it difficult for them to gather data applicable to faculty research. He said that because of the setback, the University made a "deliberate decision" to terminate its relationship with the Battleground Poll and cease funding.

See **FACULTY** Page 2

News

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CRIME LOG

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Thurston Hall
4/18/2019 – Unknown
Open Case
A female student reported to the GW Police Department that someone stole her Lululemon leggings from the Thurston Hall laundry room.
Case open

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

University Mall
4/19/2019 – 4:04 p.m.
Closed Case
GWPD officers responded to the University Mall after a female unaffiliated with GW activated a blue light emergency phone. Upon officers' arrival, the woman repeatedly activated the phone, although there was no emergency or threat apparent. GWPD officers realized the subject was previously barred, updated her bar notice and sent her away from campus.
Subject barred

SIMPLE ASSAULT, THREATS IN A MENACING MANNER

Public Property On Campus (2100 Block of G Street NW)
4/20/2019 – 5 p.m.
Closed Case
A female student reported that two unknown male subjects assaulted and threatened her while she waited for her Uber and walked toward the intersection of 20th and G streets. GWPD received a report two days after the incident.
No identifiable suspect

HARASSMENT: EMAIL AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Various Locations
Multiple – Multiple
Closed Case
Two female students reported to GWPD that a non-GW affiliated male subject harassed them over social media. They reported that the male subject created fictitious Instagram accounts in their names and contacted other students through those accounts.
Off-campus incident

SIMPLE ASSAULT

Off Campus
4/22/2019 – 4:02 p.m.
Closed Case
A male student reported to GWPD that an unknown male subject yelled at him and attempted to punch him at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and I Street. GWPD and Secret Service stopped the subject, then Metropolitan Police Department officers arrived and arrested him. GWPD issued the man a bar notice and MPD officers transported him to the Second District police station.
Subject arrested

CREDIT CARD FRAUD

Off Campus
4/22/2019 – Unknown
Open Case
A female student reported that she noticed an unauthorized fraudulent charge posted to her credit card after losing her wallet.
Case open

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/VANDALISM

South Hall
4/23/2019 – Unknown
Closed Case
A staff member reported that pieces of broken furniture and a cracked and bent ping-pong table were left in a South Hall community room.
No suspects or witnesses

—Compiled by Kateryna Stepanenko & Valerie Yurk

Turnover could hurt students' chances of developing mentor relationships: experts

From Page 1

"We're exploring options to make sure faculty members have a reasonable number of student advisees and the responsibility of advising students is shared equally," Karpf said.

Higher education experts said the departures could affect students' ability to form bonds with faculty mentors, who in turn help students when they are applying to graduate school and searching for jobs.

Robert Kelchen, an assistant professor of higher education at Seton Hall University, said high fac-

ulty turnover may exacerbate uncertainty in students' post-graduation plans because they may not have mentors who can guide them through the application process for graduate school or a job search.

"The biggest concern with turnover is building relationships with students," he said. "If you're majoring in a subject and faculty are leaving, it can be more difficult to build relationships that help students get into graduate school or get jobs."

Sean Robinson, an associate professor of higher education at Morgan State University, said universi-

ties should make an effort to retain professors for longer periods of time to avoid hindering students' efforts to develop relationships with professors.

"A mentor really gets to know a student, or what I think of as a protege, and builds that relationship over time," he said.

Robinson said the fact that SMPA will have to onboard a few faculty hires at once may reduce the quality of academic instruction because current faculty members will need to devote more time to guide new professors, which can take away time spent helping students.

"Someone learning all of that for the first time, it creates a certain amount of stress on a department – if you have multiple people who all need that at the same time," he said.

Joshua Boyd, an associate professor of communication at Purdue University, said students may have to alter their academic plans as a result of courses canceled because of faculty departures.

"If somebody leaves, then it makes it difficult for students because it might be difficult to find that class being taught," he said.

—Lia DeGroot contributed reporting.

Elliott School reforms first-year retreat with increased faculty engagement

JARED GANS & ALEC RICH
STAFF WRITERS

The Elliott School of International Affairs is revamping its annual retreat for incoming freshmen.

Officials said they will increase opportunities for Elliott School students to connect with professors during the second iteration of the retreat and reduce its length. Higher education experts said the changes could better prepare incoming Elliott School students to establish strong relationships with professors early in their college experience that they can develop throughout their time at GW.

At last year's retreat, which was held in late August, students participated in a scavenger hunt around campus and discussed an autobiography about a member of the Peace Corps who traveled to a village in Africa to teach English.

Jonathan Walker, the Elliott School's assistant dean of student services, said the redesigned retreat will allow for more faculty interaction and will be shorter than last summer's retreat. He did not specify how officials will increase interactions with faculty or the new length of the retreat.

"The changes emphasize the importance of

relationship-building with faculty and staff early in students' tenure, allow the Elliott School to begin building connections with members of the community and ensure students are informed," Walker said in an email.

Officials launched the retreat last year as part of the Elliott School's Leadership, Ethics and Practice Initiative, a project spearheaded by Elliott School Dean Reuben Brigety to teach students professional skills to become an "effective international affairs practitioner."

Walker said Elliott School officials decided to make changes to the retreat based on student feedback they obtained through a survey for first-year Elliott School students released at the beginning of the fall semester.

He said the changes will better align the program with the LEAP Initiative and the University's new freshman orientation program, which will occur around the same time as the retreat.

"The changes being made are intended to better reflect a commitment to leadership, ethics and practice, as well as to deliver the content in a way that students will best receive it," Walker said.

Experts said the changes to the retreat will better prepare students

for their freshman year by connecting them with faculty before classes begin.

Joyce Holl, the executive director of the Association for Orientation, Transition and Retention in Higher Education, said increased student engagement with faculty and advisers at orientations and first-week events helps acclimate students to school.

"Getting to know your faculty and getting to develop those relationships with the faculty helps retain students on campus, whether it's a faculty member or staff member or other students," she said.

Holl said shortening the first-year retreat, which is currently one day long, will not necessarily impact what students learn from the retreat as long as content is not cut from the orientation. She added that first-year orientations typically vary in length from one to two days.

"Equally as important when the students are coming back and they're moving on to campus is activities that are happening," she said.

LeAnn Jones Wiles, the director of first-year programs at the University of Washington, said if students have the chance to meet with faculty and advisers during an orientation program like the Elliott School's retreat, they can begin to discuss their

academic careers, explore potential majors and minors and consider which extracurricular activities to join.

"They can start early on thinking about what steps do they need to take so they can be successful and graduate and persist," she said.

Wiles said the reduced duration of the Elliott School's orientation will not significantly affect freshmen if advisers continue to teach students how to adjust to college throughout freshman year.

"It's hard when you have everything packed into orientation, so information does need to be scaffolded throughout the time of a student's first year," she said.

Lisa Gruszka, the director of orientation programs at the University of Minnesota, said students should view the Elliott School's changes to the retreat based on student feedback as a positive because it means officials are listening to students' thoughts.

"It is important to consider the learning outcomes of the orientation program and plan the content and length to best meet these outcomes," Gruszka said in an email. "I would be remiss if I didn't mention quality assessment of the program is a must to ensure you are meeting those learning outcomes."



Higher education experts said the Elliott School's redesigned retreat will allow students to develop relationships with faculty. JACK FONSECA | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Faculty say Politics Poll will keep GW at the forefront of political research

From Page 1

"The Battleground Poll had GW's name on it but not much input from GW faculty or students," Sides said.

Gross, a co-founder of the Politics Poll, said that for "years," the University did not receive data from the Battleground Poll's operators, violating the pollsters' agreement to share the data with GW for archiving. She said

the operators resumed sending data to the University by 2017 following a request by GSPM and SMPA faculty.

Gross said one advantage of the Politics Poll over the Battleground Poll is that the Politics Poll's findings are available by request through Gelman Library, where students and faculty whose questions were included in the survey can see the direct results of their work and gain experience in profes-

sional polling.

"We now have an opportunity to do much more," she said.

Ed Goetas, a co-founder of the Battleground Poll and the president and CEO of The Tarrance Group, a polling firm, said he and his team had a "good relationship" with GW for more than a decade. He said his poll parted ways with GW because GSPM faculty who used the poll's data wanted to shift questions

away from studying voter preferences on candidates and toward public policy issues.

"I think many professors that were using the Battleground data involved in tracking it were wanting to move away from the current political environment, or as they called it, horse race," Goetas said.

Sue Zoldak, an adjunct professor for digital strategy at the Graduate School of Political Man-

agement, said the Battleground Poll's departure from the University was "unfortunate" because the poll is a "well-respected" source of public opinion data for researchers, students and professors.

"It gave access to data that was in-house and that they could bring to their classrooms and talk about," Zoldak said.

Zoldak said that despite the Battleground Poll's departure, GW could remain relevant

during and after election seasons because the school has several faculty with backgrounds in polling who are familiar with the survey process. She said faculty can teach students to understand how polling is conducted and how to interpret results.

"I've always told my students that it is an integral part of their education not only in public policy, but in economics and any kind of social study," she said.

University adds water filter stations to hillside residence halls on the Vern



TIM BIONDO | PHOTOGRAPHER

Student Association Executive Vice President Ojani Walthrust said the new filters will help save students time and money.

NIA LARTEY
STAFF WRITER

Four Mount Vernon Campus residence halls are now supplied with free filtered water stations.

Officials installed four water filters earlier this month in each of the hillside residence hall communal kitchens – Merriweath-

er, Clark, Cole and Hensley halls. More than 10 Vern residents said the filters, which provide hot and cold water, provide students with convenient access to filtered water that they would otherwise need to leave their residence halls to obtain.

Meghan Chapple, the director of the Office of

Sustainability, said officials will continue to work with “groups around the University” to add water refill stations “when appropriate.”

“GW is committed to reducing plastic bottled water usage by integrating water bottle filling stations into buildings,” Chapple said in an email.

Student Association

Executive Vice President Ojani Walthrust, who advocated to install the water filters, said students living in hillside residence halls previously relied on two water foundations in West Hall and one in Ames Hall to fill their water bottles. He added that several students purchased plastic water bottles and Brita filters for water in their residence hall rooms.

“Water is a huge necessity, and the alternative was you either go to Eckles and buy water bottles from the vending machines or you go to West to the water fountain,” Walthrust said.

He said the new filters will save students time and money because they will not need to leave their buildings to purchase filtered water from other places on the Vern.

“They can have Brita filters and all these things, but they should not have to pay for all these things,” he said. “GW should provide them access with all these things, which is why I advocated for it.”

Walthrust said he originally wanted to add more water fountains to the residence halls, but the Vern’s

water piping system could not reach hillside buildings. Walthrust said he thought of the idea to add filters to Vern residence halls after noticing that Rice Hall had water filters of the same brand, Oasis.

Walthrust added that he worked to add the refill stations with officials like Anne Graham, the assistant director of student involvement and Greek life; Colette Coleman, the interim associate dean of students; and Dan Wright, the area coordinator for the Mount Vernon Campus.

Eleven students living in hillside residence halls said the filters provide convenient access to clean water. Students said they hope officials will continue updating hillside residence halls by adding more water stations and preventing flooding.

Junior Dulani Northover, a resident adviser in Hensley Hall, said he “greatly” appreciates the filters because they increase the quality of life on the Vern.

“We obviously had access through our bathrooms or through the kitchen sink, but it’s more

reassuring to see the water is being filtered through a system,” Northover said.

Northover said RAs have received complaints from residents about a lack of access to clean water in the building. He said adding the filters shows that the University is addressing students’ concerns.

“They are hearing us and understanding us in some capacity and yielding new results,” Northover said.

Freshman Carson Dike, a resident in Clark Hall, said he purchased a Brita filter at the beginning of the academic year because he did not have access to filtered water in his residence hall.

He said the filters will encourage students to drink water out of a reusable water bottle rather than a plastic bottle. Dike said the initiative is a “step forward” for providing hillside residence halls with the same resources as residence halls on the Foggy Bottom Campus that have filtered water.

“The benefit of it honestly might just be encouraging people to drink more water,” Dike said.

Businesses relocate in preparation for University building demolition

LIA DEGROOT & ILENA PENG
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITORS

Two University buildings will be missing from campus when students return this fall.

GW partnered with the construction company Boston Properties in 2017 to demolish and redevelop 2100 Pennsylvania Ave. and Rice Hall into commercial spaces by 2022. Shop owners in the 2100 Penn complex said they were forced to relocate their businesses as a result of the demolition, which is slated to begin in October.

Sean Sullivan, the senior project manager at Boston Properties, said the University worked with his company to develop the Residences on the Avenue apartment complex in 2011, and the company is “very eager” to work with GW to develop 2100 Pennsylvania Ave. and Rice Hall. Rice Hall will be demolished in August.

Sullivan said Boston Properties is also working with Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects and WDG Architecture to design the new complex. He said there are no plans for specific vendors to move into the renovated building at 2100 Pennsylvania Ave., but the building will include commercial spaces, like restaurants and a daycare.

“The selection and lease negotiation with specific retailers or restaurants will develop over the next two years,” he said in an email.

Sullivan said the District Department of Transportation still needs to review the final traffic control plan while the demolition is underway, which will limit parking spaces on Pennsylvania Avenue and 21st and I streets. He said Boston Properties plans to complete the redevelopment plan in the first quarter of

2022, and retail spaces will open the following year.

University offices previously housed in Rice Hall, including the Title IX office and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, were relocated to other campus buildings earlier this semester to prepare for the demolition.

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar deferred comment to Boston Properties.

Cathy McNeal, the manager of Esteem Cleaners, which was previously located at 2100 Pennsylvania Ave., said the University’s notification at the end of last year about the demolition was a “shock and surprise” because her business had been housed in the building for about 30 years.

“For them to run out small business and try to tear it down and put in a new corporate development with just restaurants, it’s not fair,” McNeal said.

McNeal said she initially worked with Mark Diaz, the University’s chief financial officer, to find a new location for her business when she was first notified about the demolition, but she has not yet been able to find a new complex to lease.

McNeal said she moved out of the complex in March and has been taking customers’ clothes to be cleaned at Bubble Cleaners in Arlington, Va. until she finds a new location.

“I’m just trying to keep everything together so if we get the place that we want on K Street then we won’t have much of a problem in trying to build that business back up,” McNeal said.

Alvaro Pessotti, the owner of Kiko’s Shoe Shine, said he closed his shoe repair company in 2100 Pennsylvania Ave. last month in anticipation of the demolition, but he still owns a shoe shine in The Shops at

2000 Penn.

“There is nothing that I can do, you know,” he said. “I had to shut down the business. I lost all the clientele that I did for several years on that place.”

Pessotti said there is “no guarantee” he will be able to return to the 2100 Penn complex after renovations are complete because the building will be under new management.

Antonio Puglisi, the owner of Puglisi’s Hair Cuts, said Boston Properties notified him of the demolition last year and gave him an initial Dec. 31 deadline to move out of the complex. Puglisi said he worked with Boston Properties to extend the deadline because he could not immediately find a new location, and his business will move out of its current space in 2100 Penn Saturday.

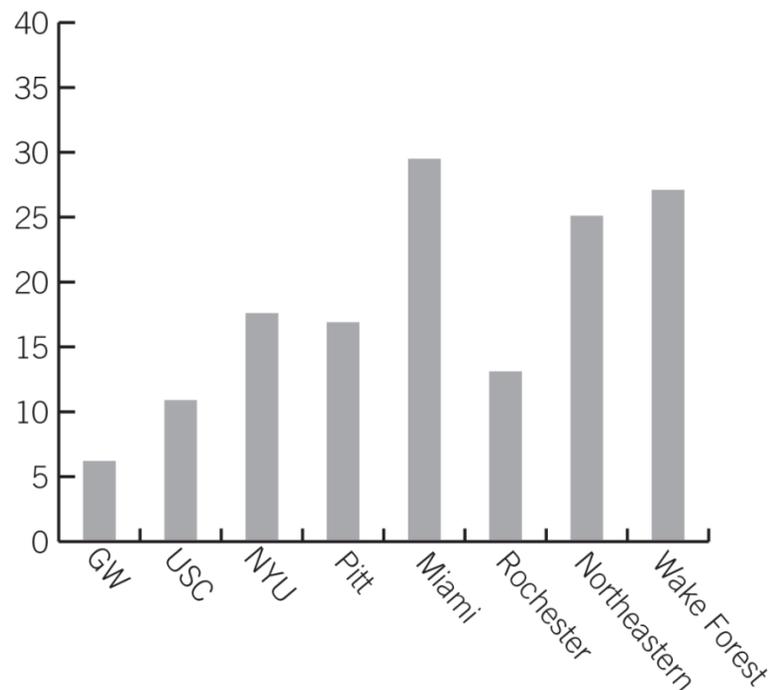
“I’ve been here all my life, 60 years,” he said. “We have a good business. People who come in the shop for 40 or 50 years, for generations of family.”

Puglisi said he struggled to find a new location because the cost of rent is relatively high in the neighborhood, but he eventually negotiated with Boston Properties to occupy a space in The Shops at 2000 Penn.

Jody Rosenstein, the director of operations at the patent law firm Sungrue Mion, which is housed in offices at 2100 Pennsylvania Ave., said her employees are excited about the redevelopment of the building because they will relocate to the eighth and ninth floors of The Shops at 2000 Penn.

“I’ve been here 30 years and I thought, ‘Well, the building could use a little love, so if it’s going to come down and have a new building, I think that’s great,’” she said.

Percentage of male nursing school faculty



ALYSSA ILARIA | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Source: University nursing school websites

Nursing school lags behind peers in employing male faculty

ED PRESTERA
STAFF WRITER

Despite a nearly 50 percent increase in nursing school faculty members since 2014, GW still lags behind its peers in hiring male faculty.

In 2014, the nursing school hired four male professors out of 55 total faculty members, but five years later, the school employs five male professors out of 82 total faculty members. Faculty and nursing experts said the lack of male faculty decreases the number of role models for male students and limits diversity within the school.

Pamela Jeffries, the dean of the School of Nursing, said hiring more male faculty members will give the increasing male student population in the school more relatable mentorship in a predominantly female field.

“It is important that we have members of our faculty who represent that demographic to give students classroom leaders they can relate to in terms of shared personal and social constructs,” she said in an email.

Six percent of faculty at the nursing school are male, while nursing schools at seven peer institutions maintain an average of about 20 percent. New York University and the University of Pittsburgh have the highest share of male faculty, with 17 and 18 percent, respectively.

Jeffries said a relatively low population of male nursing students will eventually translate to a lower proportion of men in each graduating class, which could skew the ratio of male

to female faculty members.

Jeffries said the nursing school lists faculty openings on job boards like The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Education and Higher Ed Jobs to reach “a broad pipeline of candidates” across the United States. She said faculty and officials in the nursing school also network with male attendees at nursing conferences.

“The learning environment for our predominantly female student body is enriched as well through exposure to the teachings and contributions of faculty from all backgrounds, including males,” she said.

Mark Tanner, the assistant dean of the Bachelor of Science nursing program, said male students currently do not have a “role model” to connect with. Tanner said male students feel more comfortable reaching out to male professors because of their “shared life experience” as men.

“The experience of being a male in our society is inherently different than the experience of being female, so I do think that individuals who identify as male bring different worldviews to the field of nursing,” Tanner said in an email.

In 2011, about 10 percent of registered nurses were male, compared to roughly 3 percent in 1970, according to the Health Career Institute.

“I think the real challenge is in making it clear that nursing is a great career option for people, regardless of gender, who are smart, serious and who want to apply scientific knowledge and compassion to make a difference in people’s lives,” Keepnews said.

Fidelindo Lim, a clinical associate professor at New York University, said a higher number of male faculty has increased the number of male mentors. Lim said an NYU student-led group called Men Entering Nursing provides a forum for male nursing students and faculty to socialize with one another, which can encourage them to stay in the field.

“As we see more men seek a career in nursing, a more balanced gender distribution among the faculty will add value to their education, not just in the diversity of gender, but in the diversity of thought,” he said in an email.

Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, the nursing school dean at the University of Pittsburgh, said nursing schools should recruit more male faculty to give all nursing students the opportunity to work with a group of nurses that will reflect the male role models they may encounter in the workplace.

“This is important to the overall nursing workforce, to the diversity of thought about the profession and to broadening the accessibility to a wonderful career,” she said in an email.



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Medical school begins search for new dean and vice president for health affairs



GRAEME SLOAN | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jeffrey Akman, the dean of the medical school, will remain in his position until a new dean is hired.

SHANNON MALLARD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences launched a search committee last month to find a new dean and vice president for health affairs.

Officials announced at a Faculty Senate meeting in March that a committee is looking for someone to replace outgoing medical school Dean Jeffrey Akman, who announced his plan to resign in January. Faculty and medical school experts said the incoming

dean should understand the school's culture and the goals of faculty and staff.

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said Anton Sidaway, the chair of the surgery department and a professor of surgery, and the employment search firm Isaacson, Miller will lead the search. Phillip Jaeger, Katie Stellato and Ashton Lange – consultants at the recruitment firm – will help lead the search, according to a release from Isaacson, Miller earlier this month.

"We will continue the search until we find the

most qualified candidate," Csellar said in an email.

She said the search committee was formed according to medical school bylaws governing how to conduct dean searches. Eight faculty and at least one student appointed by the SMHS Executive Committee will serve on the committee, according to the bylaws.

Csellar declined to say when a new dean will be appointed.

Akman, the current medical school dean and the vice president for health affairs, will return as a fac-

ulty member at GW once a successor is appointed. He focused on expanding research initiatives and increasing diversity of medical school students during his tenure as dean, and he oversaw administrative processes in the medical school as vice president for health affairs.

In the past year, the deans of the College of Professional Studies, the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering and Applied Science have left the University and have not yet been replaced. Isaacson, Miller will also assist searches for these deans.

Medical school faculty members said the new dean should continue Akman's efforts to expand research in the medical school and provide equal opportunities for research funding and promotions to members of all departments.

Julia Cruz, a clinical instructor of medicine, said the search committee should consist of an equal number of members from a variety of departments, like oncology and microbiology, within the medical school. Cruz said asking for feedback about the medical school from faculty in a range of departments prevents the incoming dean from favoring one department over another when allocating

funding for research or promoting faculty members.

Andrew Garrett, an associate professor of clinical research and leadership, said the new dean of the medical school should continue to prioritize medical research to raise the University's research profile.

In the past three years, the University has increased spending on research efforts to bolster research conducted at GW.

"Taking a purposeful look at making sure that the research environment is embraced and that it is adequately resourced for faculty which are involved, can be a challenge for someone who's overseeing all aspects of a medical school, remains an important priority," Garrett said.

He said the new hire, whether they are internally or externally hired, should take time to understand the school's working environment and the needs of faculty and staff, like research funding and advancement opportunities, to better serve the school.

"You need to have the ability to win hearts and minds and influence people to move in the direction that's laid out by the school," Garrett said. "The leadership of the dean has to be critically important to bring all of the different moving parts together."

Medical school experts said the new dean must effectively communicate with administrators and emphasize the school's current strengths in teaching and research within their first few years as dean.

Charles Falcone, a consultant at the search firm Russell Reynolds Associates, which specializes in medical school administrative searches, said prospective medical school deans should set agendas to fulfill what he said is the "tri-part mission" of medical schools: teaching, research and clinical work.

"They've got to be able to balance those missions, they've got to be able to have a thorough understanding of those missions, and it's best that they've got deep experience in at least one or two of those missions, often-times all three as well," Falcone said.

John Mahoney, the associate dean for medical education at the University of Pittsburgh, said the new dean must frequently and actively engage with other medical school administrators because they facilitate communication between administrators and faculty.

"This isn't a sit back and watch the machine run kind of role – this is something you really have to have passion about for the goals of the school," Mahoney said.

Visitors to GW's websites increase by 50 percent

AMY LIU
STAFF WRITER

The number of visitors to the University's website has increased by about 50 percent in the last year, officials said.

Officials said that about 4,000 unique visitors – a third of them from mobile devices – accessed www.gwu.edu each day last year, tallying about 1.5 million site views over the course of the year. Experts said the website traffic increases may be the result of improved data analytics, revamped website content and increased accessibility of University websites on mobile devices.

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said about 35 percent of visitors accessed GW's websites last year on a mobile device like a smartphone, a 3 percentage point increase from the previous year. The increase follows a series of updates to the University's mobile websites in recent years, like changes to the size of text and the display.

"In general, mobile has been an increasing priority across all of the University's digital assets, websites and applications for several years," she said in an email. "We are consistently looking for ways to improve the mobile experience, as we know that students as well as our faculty and staff are increasingly using mobile phones for more than just phone calls."

Csellar said about 400 of the University's websites, including the main site and myGW, automatically change their size to adapt to a user's computer or mobile device – about a 33 percent increase in the number of GW's "responsive design" websites over the past year.

She said officials did not spend money on website redesigns this year. Officials declined to comment last year on the cost of the mobile website updates.

Experts said timely and "focused" curation of web content may have contributed to the increase in web traffic.

David Sandor, the senior vice president of communications and public affairs at Emory University, said officials can expect an increase in web traffic at certain points throughout the year and maximize page views and engagement by providing visitors with easy access to applicable content.

Sandor said an effective website strategy consists of "superior storytelling" – creating content that tries to "customize" the experience for viewers. GW's home page includes social media posts and personal testimonies from students.

"I challenge my team each day to answer these two questions when they prepare to post content," he said. "Would you share it? Would you pay for it? If the answer is 'no,' start over."

Sandor added that officials may be using data analytics – examining raw data to draw conclusions – to shape their strategy to increase online traffic. The increase in mobile users makes accessibility more "essential" than in the past, which may explain GW's focus on accessibility in recent website updates, he said.

"Most will interact via mobile and, in that environment, content must be compatible with the time and attention individuals will spend there," Sandor said.

Thomas Winston Thorpe, the director of web strategy

at the University of Washington, said enhanced website accessibility on mobile devices can improve a university's reputation because prospective students and families – who heavily rely on school websites as a source of information – form their perception of the university based on the website.

He said his university increases web traffic through paid promotions and advertisements and search engine optimization, which increases the visibility of websites on search engines like Google.

"We make sure that we've got really good available content that can be indexed by Google and other search engines," Thorpe said. "We want to know that when someone is searching for something around the University of Washington, that the result on Google is exactly what they're looking for."

He added that increased website traffic may lead to a jump in philanthropy if a university publicizes a link to donate on its website. GW's website hosts an online donation form where donors can make a direct contribution to the University.

But Thorpe said universities should be mindful and maintain enough servers to handle large increases in website traffic.

"It is our job that the servers that run the website are highly available, if we see a spike in traffic, we have to be able to meet that spike in traffic," Thorpe said. "If we can't do that, and if for whatever reason the University's homepage would be unavailable, I think that would be a very disastrous thing, not being able to serve out the content that people need."



JACK FONSECA | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
SA Sen. AJ Link, Law-G and the chair of the diversity and inclusion assembly, said the listening sessions allowed minority students to voice concerns about problems they face on campus.

Diversity and inclusion assembly to continue listening sessions this fall

LIZZIE MINTZ & PAIGE MORSE
STAFF WRITERS

After wrapping up a months-long effort to garner insight from underrepresented communities, Student Association leaders plan to use their feedback to promote diversity awareness on campus.

The SA's 24-member diversity and inclusion assembly, comprised of student organization leaders and SA senators, hosted nine listening sessions over the past academic year to learn about issues minority groups said they face on campus. Assembly leaders said conversations held in the sessions gave them insight that they can use to propose changes in University policy and write SA legislation advocating for minority students.

"When you're sharing experiences and struggles on campus and the different types of microaggressions marginalized communities can face in the classroom and other places, you can educate more people around campus," said SA Sen. AJ Link, Law-G and the chair of the diversity and inclusion assembly.

Shortly after its launch in September, the assembly introduced the listening sessions to receive feedback from minority groups in the GW community about how to better assist students with problems they face on campus, like discrimination and accessibility concerns.

Link said students who attended the sessions – which ranged between zero and 20 students per session – discussed issues including how students with physical disabilities struggle to access the Multicultural Student Services Center

because it does not have an elevator.

"When the situation requires us to work with admin there's no barrier there, we're more than willing to do it, but it kind of just depends on each problem that's raised or issue that's raised," Link said.

SA Sen. Rilind Abazi, ESIA-U and a member of the assembly, said the town hall-style listening sessions created a platform for students to voice community-specific frustrations.

Abazi said students at the LGBTQ listening session raised frustrations about how freshmen are not allowed to live in the LGBTQ affinity. He said assembly members want to use the feedback to help first-year LGBTQ students find a community that could help ease their transition into college life.

Abazi added that the SA can pass legislation to protect groups from discrimination and speak with administrators to address students' requests.

"It's just making sure we're getting the input on how the University can improve the atmosphere so that it's more welcoming and more inclusive and empowering, but those are things we're kind of gathering and seeing the best ways to approach them," Abazi said.

Raina Hackett, an undergraduate SA senator-elect for the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and the incoming diversity and inclusion assembly chair, said the assembly is still finding its "foothold" at GW and plans to continue the listening sessions next year to build trust with students.

"Diversity and inclusion is an ever-changing

issue, so with the students on this campus, their needs are changing all the time, so one year there might be one issue and the next year there might be another," Hackett said.

She said not all students are comfortable expressing their opinions to the assembly because some topics, like racism and exclusion, are often sensitive. Hackett said she and other SA members released a demographic survey two months ago that will stay open until the fall to allow students to bring concerns to the assembly without face-to-face interaction.

"If we don't have a large majority of that marginalized community on campus it can be very easy to assume that what one person says is representative of the entire group, which is not necessarily true," she said.

Hackett added that next academic year, the group will speak to officials to push for mandatory diversity training for all students, staff and faculty on campus, following the required virtual diversity for all incoming freshmen that the University implemented in February.

Senior Kendrick Chang, the outgoing president of Hawaii Club and one of two students who attended a session for the Asian and Pacific Islander, said members of the Asian and Pacific Islander community want the assembly to clarify with attendees what the assembly should do with the information they garnered from listening sessions.

"Right now, it's just been unclear in terms of what specifically they're trying to accomplish besides the listening sessions," Chang said.

–Gabby Pino contributed reporting.



JACK FONSECA | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
Officials said 4,000 unique visitors – a third of them from mobile devices – accessed www.gwu.edu each day last year.

The University should adjust graduation honors requirements

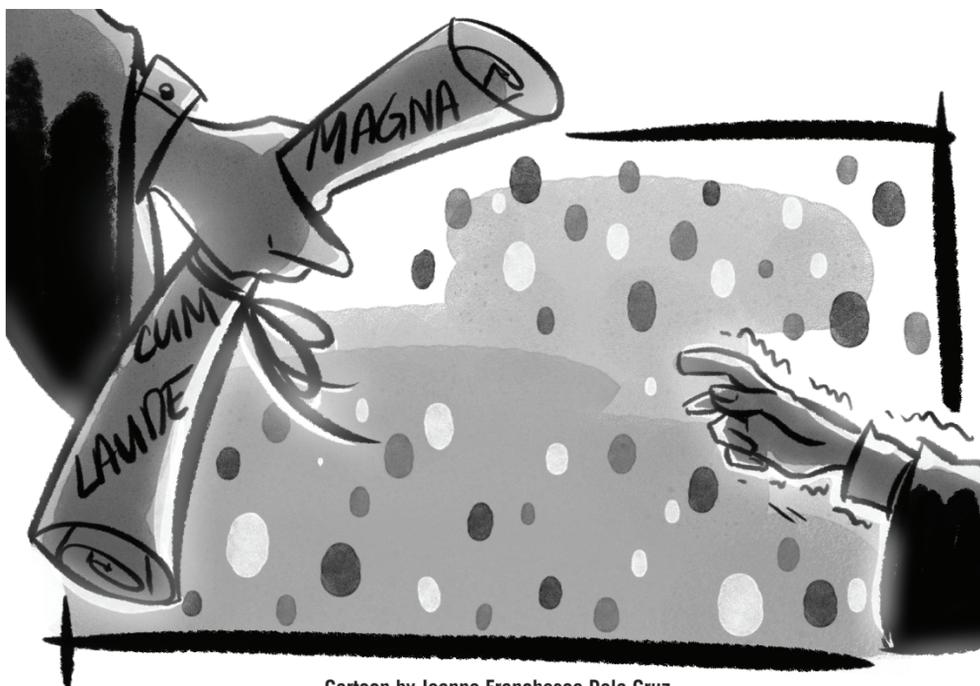
When graduating seniors sit on the National Mall for Commencement, some will leave GW with honors while others will just have a degree. But these honors are significantly more difficult to achieve for students who take difficult majors based in science, technology, engineering and math than for students taking courses in the humanities.

Michael McMahon
Writer

There are three levels honors: Cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude, and students across every school must have at least a GPA of 3.4, 3.6 and 3.8, respectively, to possess these honors. Because it is difficult to obtain a high GPA in some majors, it is more difficult to achieve University honors. But those differences should not limit students' ability to earn University-wide honors when they graduate. The University should modify its GPA requirements to achieve University-wide honors for each school to ensure every student has an equal chance of receiving the recognition.

Departmental honors are still available for some students. In the GW School of Business departmental honors are given to the top ten percent of the graduating seniors, and to the top three percent of graduating juniors. The Columbian College of Arts and Sciences allows each department to hand out honors, and graduating with departmental honors usually requires maintaining a specific GPA and taking an honors seminar. But students in the School of Engineering and Applied Science don't have an opportunity to receive departmental honors.

Because STEM students can't even achieve departmental honors, they should have a fair chance



Cartoon by Jeanne Franchesca Dela Cruz

at earning University honors. These University-wide achievements may not be major deciding factors when employers and graduate programs are hiring or accepting, but they do help differentiate candidates and tip the scales in their favor for being admitted or hired. Because honors can help students stand out from the crowd later in life, they should be fairly achievable to all.

Implementing a system that varies GPA requirements across schools would be more fair to students that major in areas that are more difficult because they would have a better chance of earning University honors. This would even the playing field between majors that typically have students with higher GPAs and majors in which it might be more difficult to achieve a higher GPA and ultimately help STEM students

who are hoping to earn University honors at graduation.

Making it easier to earn honors in harder disciplines is not a new idea. Six of the University's 12 peer schools, including Boston, New York, Georgetown, Tufts, Miami and Syracuse universities, allow each college within the University to dictate its own honors requirements for university-wide honors. For example, the required GPA at NYU to earn the most basic honor, cum laude, in their School of Liberal Studies is 3.8 while students in the School of Engineering are required to obtain a 3.5 GPA. GW should implement a similar system that takes into account differences in average GPA and difficulty among each school.

While some higher education experts question the importance of achieving honors when applying to graduate school

and jobs because of the holistic approach used in the application process, some schools have changed their honors system to ensure that these distinctions equally serve their graduates. In 2010, Northwestern University expanded the number of graduating seniors who qualified for these honors from 16 to 25 percent by decreasing minimum GPA requirements for all students because they believed their graduates were losing out on graduate school admission opportunities. Similarly, GW should change its honors system to allow individual schools to set their own GPA requirement for University honors. That way, STEM students would be competitive against other engineering students who might receive university honors from their respective schools, because as

of right now it is too difficult to obtain University honors in majors which are more difficult to maintain a high GPA.

Lowering the requirements of certain schools does not lessen the accomplishments of students that major in humanities because they will still receive honors for their hard work. It just acknowledges that STEM majors typically do not have as high of GPAs and grants them University recognition for their work.

Students who feel pressured to maintain high GPAs to graduate with honors might trade in courses they are interested in for a class that will be an easy A. But for students who might someday wish to attend graduate school, taking challenging classes might be beneficial in the long run even if their GPA might drop a bit. GW should allow each college to create its own requirements. By changing the honors requirements, STEM students could freely pursue their interests and not have to worry about achieving a high GPA.

Decreasing the required GPA for more difficult majors to achieve honors would more accurately distribute the award and be more representative of each student's academic effort. It does not matter if students only want the honor so that they can have another cord at graduation or so they can put it on their resume. STEM majors should still be able to graduate with the same recognition from the University as their peers.

Switching to a more equally distributed system makes more sense compared to the University's current method that gives an unfair edge to students with easier majors. It might be too late for seniors graduating in a few weeks, but implementing this change would benefit future graduates by finally giving them the credit that they deserve.

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

STAFF EDITORIAL

GWPD should hire and arm experienced law enforcement officers

GW Police Department officers are not armed. But as GWPD leadership experiences turnover, the department has an opportunity to reevaluate the office and determine how to improve the safety of its students. The majority of GW's 12 peer institutions arm at least some of their police officers, and GW should follow suit.

Foggy Bottom has a relatively low crime rate compared to other areas of the District, but that does not mean the University should not be prepared for a dangerous incident. GWPD officers should not need to call the Metropolitan Police Department to ensure students' safety in the event of a violent incident. GWPD officers should be prepared to interfere and prevent violence, but they cannot do so effectively without weapons.

The University has two types of police officers: security officers, who perform patrols in campus buildings, and special police officers, who can make arrests. The officers do not carry weapons and are not qualified to do so because they have not been trained. We cannot expect the University to invest years of time and money into training officers to properly use a gun, but we should proactively prevent tragic in-

cidents. Some qualified officers with prior experience in using firearms should be hired to GWPD and armed to respond to emergency situations.

The majority of the University's peer schools already arm some members of their respective police forces. New York University stations officers from the New York Police Department on campus to respond to emergency incidents, like an active shooter. At Northeastern, Tufts and Boston universities — schools located in a city — some campus police officers also carry weapons. While GW has the option to call MPD, the University should follow the lead of its peer institutions and arm some qualified officers.

GWPD officers are familiar with University buildings and are required to perform walkthroughs of campus buildings daily. GWPD officers serve as first responders and should be armed because they know the layout of campus buildings and can easily navigate a campus space if a violent event arises.

GWPD officers, not MPD officers, must be the first responders to dangerous incidents. Officers who could potentially risk their lives in dangerous situations would be adequately pro-

tected and prepared to face a threat if they were armed. Officers should not be expected to intervene and get students out of a dangerous situation if they are without a weapon. Armed GWPD officers should be first responders who have the same weapons as MPD, including a gun.

The University should not hand out weapons to any officer. Rather than training current officers to carry weapons, the University should implement a third category of officers who are already trained to handle weapons. The officers could have worked for MPD or another police department. It is unreasonable to expect the University to effectively implement training for its officers to carry and use weapons with top leadership in flux. Hiring officers with on-the-job experience in handling weapons will ensure the University does not need to train its current police force.

Adding experienced officers to campus will also help maintain relationships students have already established with current GWPD officers. Police officers should instill trust in students, but arming all officers could undermine the relationship. Armed officers should not respond to noise complaints or break up

parties. They should be on campus to respond to the unlikely case of an active shooter.

GWPD should not be a middleman between the school and MPD for an emergency incident. GWPD should have the ability to adequately protect students with weapons.

Not all officers need to have a firearm, and they are not qualified to handle one. Training current officers with those who are armed would create tension between students and campus police. The University should only arm some officers who are qualified in handling firearms to give students the comfort in knowing there are on-campus armed officers who can respond to emergency situations.

The University should only arm some GWPD officers who are qualified and have experience using firearms. The University could lose the trust of its students and cause them to feel unsafe on their own campus by arming every officer, especially those whose responsibilities are only to patrol campus buildings. The University must ensure GWPD officers are not the middleman between MPD and the school, and it must arm some of its officers in the case of a violent incident.

UW classes on Foggy Bottom would improve accessibility

Students are required to take one University Writing class on the Mount Vernon Campus. Between the trek from the Foggy Bottom Campus to the Vern, traveling can be time-consuming and tiresome, but it does not need to be.

Kiran Hoeffner-Shah
Opinions Editor

Riding the Vern Express to attend a mandatory UW class tacks on time for students to travel back and forth. For some students, especially those with a physical disability, the trip can be more difficult because they may need to spend extra time getting on and off the Vex.

The Vex is also crowded with students before and after UW classes are held, making the ride even more disconcerting for a student with a disability. Officials have a responsibility to students to ensure all classes are accessible, but GW cannot fulfill its promise when all UW classes are not located on the main campus. The University should hold some UW classes on the main campus to ensure students with disabilities can more easily access the class.

Getting on and off the Vex can be difficult for someone with a physical disability. Although the Vex accommodates wheelchairs, there is not adequate space for students with physical disabilities to have a comfortable ride. The issue is exacerbated during peak travel times when UW classes are beginning or ending. Students with disabilities should not need to worry about traveling on the Vex to attend a mandatory course.

But it is not just the required class on the Vern that disadvantages students. Most UW professors hold office hours on the Vern, which can be troublesome for students because office hours are held

outside of class time, and students would need to travel back to the Vern to visit a UW professor. In addition to holding UW classes on Foggy Bottom, officials should also consider moving professors' office hours to the main campus.

The University may currently hold UW classes on the Vern to ensure first- and second-year students can experience both campuses. For a student who lives on Foggy Bottom, they may not have any reason to travel to the Vern unless they know a peer who they want to visit on the campus. But officials are doing a disservice to students who struggle to get to the campus. While the UW department is located on the Vern, GW should strive to designate some classes on Foggy Bottom.

Making it to the Vern is not easy, especially for students with disabilities who may already struggle to access academic buildings on Foggy Bottom. Other students who do not have disabilities may also struggle to attend the class if they have classes directly before or after their UW. Students should not have to take extra time to attend a required course if they do not need to.

The University should be aware that students with disabilities struggle to travel to the Vern and should work to offer more UW classes that are not on the Vern. Officials could add UW classes to Foggy Bottom and allow students who are registered with Disability Support Services to be the first students to register for classes on the main campus.

UW is a mandatory course, and GW must ensure everyone has equal access to it. While the Vex might be accessible, it is not comfortable or convenient for students, especially those with disabilities who might have trouble getting on or off the Vex while rushing to class. Designating some UW classes to Foggy Bottom creates a more accessible campus for all students.

GAMES OF THE WEEK



BASEBALL
vs. Penn State
3:30 p.m. • Tuesday
The Colonials take on the Nittany Lions at home Tuesday for a nonconference matchup.



BASEBALL
vs. Coppin State
3 p.m. • Wednesday
Baseball hosts Coppin State, which sits at No. 1 in the Mid-Eastern Atlantic Conference rankings, at Tucker Field.

NUMBER CRUNCH

11

The number of times this season men's tennis gave up the early doubles point and lost the overall match, including its defeat in the A-10 quarterfinals Friday

Golf senior makes program history with A-10 Championship win

ALEC RICH
STAFF WRITER

Senior Logan Lowe has inked his name in GW golf history, setting several program records and topping off his legacy with an Atlantic 10 Championship win Sunday.

Lowe entered GW as the program's sole recruit for the Class of 2019. Looking to fill the shoes of prominent departing senior Jack Persons, he garnered multiple top-10 wins and A-10 accolades.

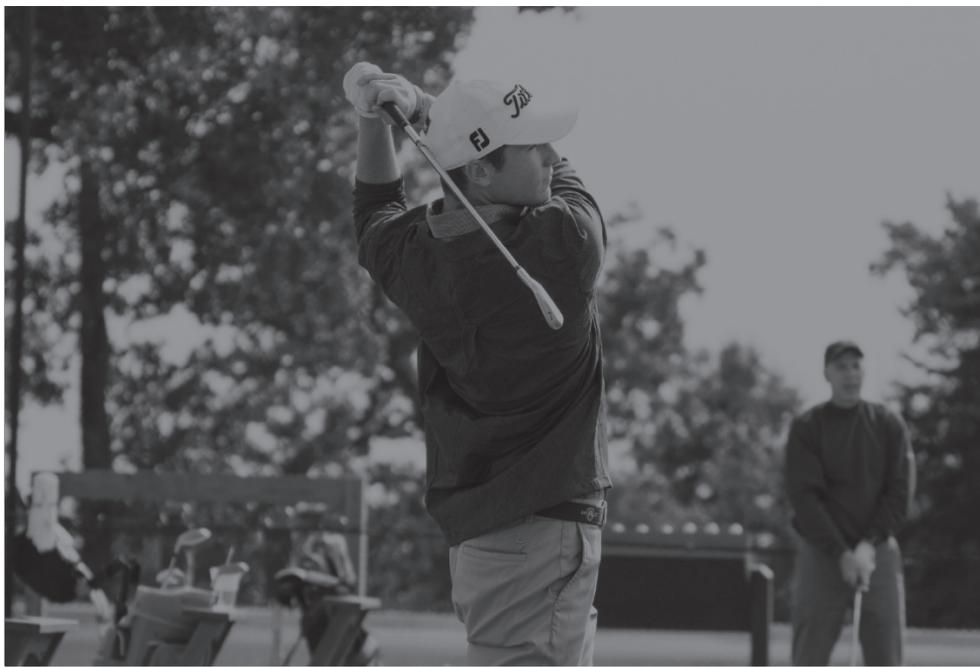
"I'm an open book when it comes to my career," Lowe said. "I'll tell guys the success I've had and all the accomplishments, but I'm more than willing to share how I played bad this stretch."

With a combined career scoring average of 71.94, he eclipsed the previous lowest career scoring average of 72.86 that Jay Randolph set in 1958.

Lowe also became the first player in program history to make the A-10 All-Conference Team four years in a row, earning the honor in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. He committed another program-first when he won Atlantic 10 Golfer of the Year in 2018.

A six-time A-10 Golfer of the Week selection, Lowe has four individual tournament victories, including one in 2017, two in 2018 and the A-10 Championship in 2019. He led GW to a first-place finish at the Navy Spring Invitational last season and clinched the A-10 Match Play Championship earlier this season.

Despite his successes over the past four years, Lowe said he has "underperformed" this season. He said midseason adjustments helped



Logan Lowe swings his club during a practice at the Army Navy Country Club in October. DEAN WHITELAW | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

him realign and hit his stride again. Low finished outside the top-10 in four of his 11 tournaments this season. He placed in the top-five in four tournaments.

"I played around with my swing a little bit at the beginning of this semester and tried to change a few things I thought would help," Lowe said. "They didn't pan out, so I went back to old feels and ball flight that have helped."

He said the A-10 Championship has "a bit more meaning" for him as

he prepares to enter amateur golf and eventually become a professional golfer.

"I'm going to still make my game plan and be as disciplined as possible," Lowe said before the tournament. "The goal is always to win, that doesn't really change."

His current season scoring average of 71.18 ranks him first on the team, 2.75 lower than junior Adrian Castagnola's second-best average of 73.93.

Throughout his first three years

at GW, Lowe consistently lowered his scoring average, ending his freshman season with 73.31, his sophomore season with 72.59 and his junior season with 70.67.

Junior Yoo Jin Kim said Lowe's skills extend beyond the course, describing him as a "brother" and supportive teammate.

"Everyone can see he's a great golfer, but what I think is more special, being his teammate, is seeing him off the course and seeing how he has matured," Kim said. "Off the

course, he's one of my best friends, he's one of my brothers for life and he's someone I can rely on."

Kim said Lowe's game has improved each year and his room for growth is "minimal." He said Lowe needs to remain consistent in his play to eventually make the Professional Golfers' Association of America pros.

"That's what differentiates him from the PGA pros, just a little bit more consistency," Kim said.

Head coach Chuck Scheinost, who first met Lowe when he was 12 years old at the Stanford Golf Camp, said Lowe had a "different level" of play than other golfers when he was younger. He followed Lowe's U.S. Junior performances throughout the following years and recruited him to GW, Scheinost said.

"Logan was all about golf when he was growing up, and you kind of saw him rise throughout the years," Scheinost said.

Scheinost said Lowe was a team leader throughout his time at GW, and the team could count on him to perform at a high level heading into major tournaments like the A-10 Championship. Beyond the tournament, Scheinost said Lowe has proven that he can play professional golf in the future.

"There are a lot of guys that have talent but don't have the drive and they don't make it," he said. "I think that is one of the biggest assets he has, is that he is willing to put in the work to get himself there, and I think that will pay dividends."

Lowe's win on Sunday earned him a berth for the NCAA Regionals. He will return to play from May 12 to 15.

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GRAEME SLOAN | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Junior catcher Priscilla Martinez hits the ball during Saturday's game against Dayton.

Softball rewrites history with new win record

EMILY MAISE
SPORTS EDITOR

Softball smashed its single-season win record last weekend and leaned on its momentum to earn its 12th and 13th conference wins against Dayton Saturday.

The Colonials (37-15, 13-7 A-10) boast 37 victories – four more than last year's program-best 33 wins. The team's success this season has brought it to third in the Atlantic 10, compared to a sixth-place, regular-season finish last year and its highest ranking since 2013.

The Colonials tied their past season win record in their first game of a series against St. Bonaventure in April, eclipsing it again in a subsequent 4-0 win. The squad captured the series, claiming three wins and shutting out the Bonnies twice to cement its place in history.

Over the course of the team's record-breaking season, junior utility player Jenna Cone smashed the former program record for runs batted in, leading the team and the A-10 with 62 RBI. Junior utility player Jessica Linquist also inked her name in the Division I softball record books with a 28-game hitting streak.

GW also leads the A-10 in batting average, RBI, home runs and stolen bases. The team's pitching, spearheaded by sophomore utility player Sierra Lange, also leads the conference in wins and strikeouts.

Head coach Shane Winkler said the team has not focused on its win record

or individual records the team has amassed this season but focused on conference play and preparing for the A-10 Championship.

"We feel like we have the talent to compete for a championship," Winkler said. "If we play to our ability level and our potential, then those numbers are just going to be part of the product right there."

The Colonials' offense has been blazing since the start of the season. The squad pieced together two eight-game win streaks before A-10 play and entered conference competition 21-7.

The team also won four of its eight series against conference competition, replacing last year's 12 conference victories with one more series in tow.

Winkler said the Colonials emphasize momentum, especially in A-10 play, to elevate themselves to the postseason. He also wants the squad to play every game with a "championship calibre" heading into the A-10 Championship.

"Everyone comes in with energy," Winkler said. "Everyone comes in with the same record when it comes to the tournament, but it's all about stealing momentum."

GW has increased its number of wins gradually since it earned 23 wins in 2016. The squad tallied five more wins in 2017 and added another five victories in 2018 to reach the former program-best 33 wins.

Junior catcher Priscilla Martinez said the team's success this year is "excit-

ing" and indicates the program's continuing development.

"It's awesome to see the softball program develop as a whole," Martinez said. "Each year, it's just getting better and better."

The team earned its 12th and 13th wins Saturday in a doubleheader against Dayton to open a three-game series, taking six runs in each game. But the squad ended the series scoreless on Sunday, losing 9-0 to the Flyers.

After the team's loss to Dayton Sunday, Martinez said the team needs to regroup and focus on small details ahead of the season finale.

"Going down back to the basics is going to really help us to improve what we need on and off the field," Martinez said.

GW has one more series left in the regular season against La Salle. The Explorers sit at the bottom of the conference rankings with a 5-15 A-10 record.

Senior infielder Marta Fuentes said she enjoyed being a part of the team's upward growth over the last few seasons and is confident in the team's direction after she graduates.

"I know that I'm leaving here and leaving the program in good hands and with a good reputation, a good foundation," Fuentes said.

The Colonials are back in action Saturday to take on La Salle in their last regular season series. First pitch is at noon.

—Will Margerum contributed reporting.

PARACHUTE
9:30 Club
May 1 • \$25
Pop-rock band Parachute performs its first single in three years, "Ocean."

A\$AP FERG & JESSE REYEZ
Xfinity Center
May 3 • \$30
"Plain Jane" rapper A\$AP Ferg takes the stage at UMD's Xfinity Center.

JID
The Fillmore Silver Spring
May 3 • \$25
Rapper JID shares the stage with artists Saba and Merèba Friday.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

'LOVE AND FEAR,' AN ALBUM BY MARINA

New dating app allows users to video chat with potential matches

SIDNEY LEE
CULTURE EDITOR

A D.C.-based dating app launched Thursday allows users to video chat with their potential matches.

Spottle goes live on Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 to 9:15 p.m., allowing users to spin a virtual bottle on the app and enter a 30-second video chat with the person the bottle lands on. Creators of the app said the game fosters a more genuine connection between potential couples than messaging-based dating apps by setting up face-to-face conversations.

Before users play, they have the option to preference the gender, age and location of potential matches they want to land on. Users have a five-second buffer window where they are given an icebreaker question like "Tell me about your perfect date" or "What do you think about Trump?" Players can also use the five seconds to cancel the video chat.

After the conversation, users can "kiss" the person by selecting the option on the app. If both people select "kiss," they match and can continue communicating with more video chats or through a messaging section of the app.

Max Rosenberg, the co-founder and chief executive officer of Spottle, said the app is an easier way to talk with random people than heading to a bar but "more genuine" than messaging

people on Tinder because users can see and hear the person they talk with. He said video chats may seem nerve-wracking at first, but the conversation eliminates situations where two people text each other for weeks but lack a connection once they finally meet.

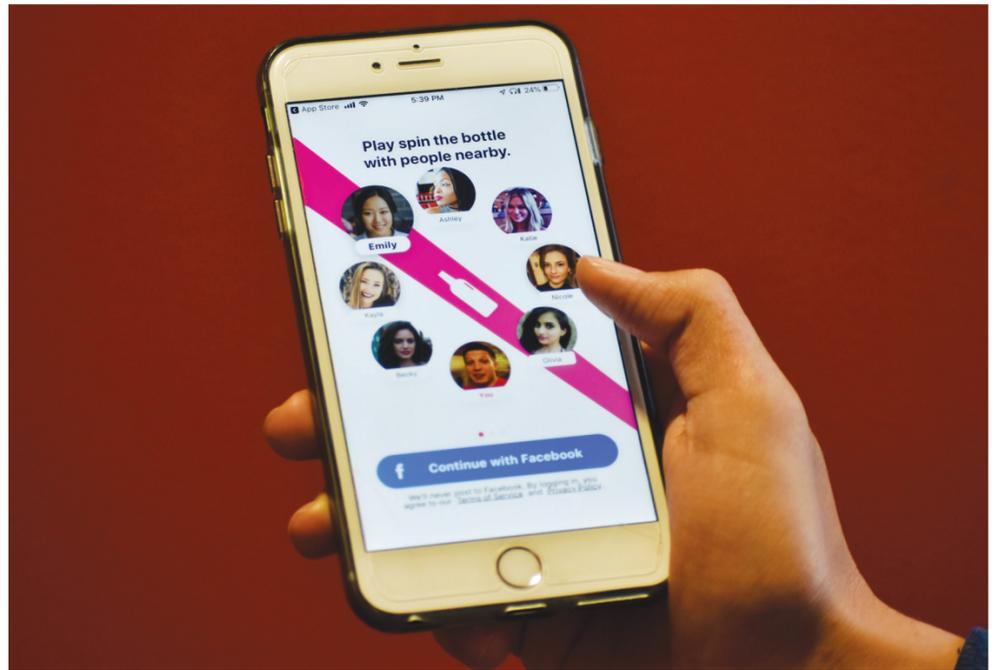
"We're trying to combat catfishing culture in a lot of ways, and when I say that, I'm not specifically talking about a 60-year-old man who is pretending to be a 23-year-old girl," Rosenberg said.

Rosenberg said other dating apps give people an outlet to boost their ego by getting matches and likes, but Spottle users need to talk and see one another before they can match.

"Our users are people that are actually interested in meeting other people," Rosenberg said. "They're not just on there looking to get matches—that's the whole point of this. We want to facilitate real relationships, real interactions, and the other apps don't do a great job of that."

Another feature of the app is called a "direct hit," which allows users to use coins they either buy or win for free to choose someone "around the bottle" to chat with. Users can see the photo, first name, age and location of individuals who enter the session.

Each of the two spin-the-bottle rounds on Thursday and Saturday lasts 15 minutes. Rosenberg said the 15-minute rounds ensure potential users



ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

A new D.C.-based dating app allows users to video chat with their potential matches.

have enough time to enter the app and play.

"The app does not work if some people want to play at 6 and some people want to play at 9, so that's why we gave a 15-minute window," he said. "Everyone gets in at the same time, and it gives you the best chance of finding quality matches."

Spottle also has facial recognition features. If there is no face on a screen, the entire image will be blurred, and users

can also report others who use the app.

"Safety is a huge thing for us," Rosenberg said. "We want people to really want to meet in real life, but we don't want them to be worried that they don't know who they're meeting."

Rosenberg said Spottle will add more live spin-the-bottle games in the future after receiving feedback from users. The first live game took place Thursday evening, and

Rosenberg said his friends and family participated and offered feedback about their experiences on the app.

"We designed it based on what we thought would be good, and that's a good start, but the best way to build an app that the masses really like is to continually get feedback," Rosenberg said. "We haven't had thousands of users on it yet, but the users are growing and the feedback has been really positive so far."

Corcoran student recreates childhood quinceanera photoshoot



JACK FONSECA | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

Senior Ashley Llanes presented her senior thesis photography project, which consists of five self-portraits.

SIDNEY LEE
CULTURE EDITOR

Senior Ashley Llanes never had a traditional quinceanera photoshoot when she turned 15 years old.

Llanes said that when her mother asked her if she wanted a photoshoot, like her older sisters and grandmother had before her, she denied the opportunity because it "felt out of character."

Eight years later, she decided to recreate her own quinceanera photoshoot through a series of self-portraits for her fine arts thesis project, La Quinceañera, which is displayed in the Flagg Building until May 18. Llanes said she wanted to give the traditional photoshoot a more critical lens by highlighting the cultural expectations of a quinceanera, which marks the transition from girl to

woman. "I made some aesthetic choices that are very over-the-top, that highlight the very commercial aspects of it and the very tacky and cheesy aspects of it," Llanes said.

Llanes said she appreciates the tradition in her culture but views it as "sexist" because the celebration signifies that a "woman is now available" for a partner.

"It's very much like

white signifies purity and chastity, and I see it very much as a sacrament," Llanes said. "They do a whole ceremony in the church. It very much aligns with femininity and vanity, and I just don't think any of that was true to my character."

Llanes said she is often skeptical of traditional practices. She said she is more of an "existential person" than a spiritual individual.

"One thing that is very important to me is that chastity and virginity isn't so black and white, but it's more of a spectrum," Llanes said. "And I think that's why wearing this white dress is a very big symbol towards the expectations that my parents carried out for me because they do still expect me to be a virgin, and that's just a lot of pressure, unrealistic pressure."

Her photography project consists of five self-portraits of Llanes wearing a dress, makeup and an updo. The photos, which are placed in "heavy and gaudy" gold-leaf frames, show Llanes posing in different styles of dresses.

"There's one picture that I'm on this prop phone, and I'm pretending to be on it, pretending to talk to someone, and it's just so god-awful tacky," she said. "I also photographed myself again in the same outfit and did a transparency where I'm in the background, and it's very, very over-the-top cheesy. It's just making fun of the whole process."

Another gold-leaf frame contains three separate photographs of Llanes: one of her blowing out candles, one pouring tea and one laughing in an off-the-shoulder floral dress. Llanes said the shots reflect the "hyper-feminine" element of a quinceanera.

"I had a very, very hyper-feminine upbringing," she said. "I can re-

member going to a lot of tea parties as a kid, so I just thought of having a tea set, and I'm staring the camera down very deadpan and pouring tea."

Llanes added that her Cuban American identity has a strong impact on the art she chooses to create. She said transferring from school in Miami to GW her sophomore year "hit her like a truck" because she stood out as a woman of color and as a Latina artist.

"I just really took that for granted, especially in my art," Llanes said. "A couple semesters in, I started realizing that my aesthetic was something that very much had to do with my enculturation."

Llanes said her art is also influenced by her Catholic upbringing. She said that while she is not spiritual, she went to Catholic school for most of her life and she tries to incorporate the aesthetic of Catholicism into her art, like her quinceanera photoshoot.

"I love that you can attribute beauty to something even though it doesn't have to spiritually mean anything to you," she said. "That became a huge groundbreaking thing in my work, and I started going back into archives and family photos and realizing how the heritage had an impact on me. Like I said, it hit me like a truck, and I haven't been able to separate myself from it since."

Check out our coverage of Spring Fling at the gwhatchet.com



SARAH URTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR



ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR



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