

The GW Hatchet

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COURTESY OF BETH ETHIER



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ALEXANDER WELLING | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

More than 15 faculty members and graduate students said "systemic" improvements to the psychology department building are needed to address issues like poor ventilation and stains caused by pipe bursts.

'Rancid' psychology building 'embarrassing' for University, faculty and students say

JARED GANS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

This month's sewage overflow in the psychology department building at 2125 G St. is business as usual for Cynthia Rohrbeck, an associate professor of psychology.

Almost 10 years ago, Rohrbeck watched as sewage flowed from the third-floor bathroom about 20 feet down the hall to her office. Stains from that incident are still visible in her office.

This academic year alone, sewage pipe bursts have occurred twice, causing damage to bathrooms, hallways and offices. But the building's sewage overflow is among several problems the psychology department is currently facing, including mold, a malfunctioning air conditioning system and pests like rats and cockroaches.

Now, after years of hundreds of FixIt requests, more than 10 members of the department are demanding a new building.

"Bottom line – it's time for us to move," Rohrbeck said.

More than 15 faculty members and graduate students said "systemic" improvements to the building are needed to address issues like poor ventilation and smell and stains caused by pipe bursts. If the problems are not resolved, officials should relocate the department, they said.

Rohrbeck said Beth Ethier, the operations coordinator for the psychology department, has filed 30 to 50 FixIt requests for the building this academic year for issues that she said may have affected occupants' health. She said there have been water leaks and mold in the building throughout her time at GW, which has prompted some professors to stop working in the building.

"Some people have been saying, 'Maybe we shouldn't come back into the building now until we know it's safe,'" she said.

Rohrbeck said one mem-

ber of the department filed an anonymous complaint to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration following the sewage overflow two weeks ago. Last week, Brian Lee, the director of Health and Emergency Management Safety, sent a letter to OSHA explaining that a professional cleaning company removed the sewage and other contractors will begin to replace damaged tiles this week.

She said an anonymous faculty member also filed an OSHA complaint in December related to poor air ventilation, but the agency concluded its investigation after an inspector decided that the temperature in the building's rooms was satisfactory.

Rohrbeck added that officials originally planned to replace the HVAC systems in the building this summer to improve ventilation and abate extreme temperatures in some of the building's rooms. At a department meeting last week, John Philbeck, the department's

chair, said administrators told him that the HVAC improvements were no longer budgeted for the summer.

"We're appalled," Rohrbeck said. "A couple people said this gave them hope, and they were just astonished that now it isn't happening."

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said the Division of Operations and Health and Emergency Management Safety staff worked to clean the sewage leak by scrubbing the floor and removing calcium buildup in pipes for days after the building's occupants notified the University on May 1.

She said staff members will work to remove and replace affected floors and carpets in the next few days. After the work is completed, an outside contractor will test for sewage contamination and check the building's air quality, she said.

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Federal judge rejects motion to dismiss pay discrimination lawsuit

EMILY MAISE
SPORTS EDITOR

A federal judge denied the University's motion Wednesday to dismiss a lawsuit alleging officials paid an employee less money on the basis of sex.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a lawsuit against GW in September 2017 alleging that Sara Williams, the former executive assistant to former athletic director Patrick Nero, was paid about \$40,000 less than a male co-worker who held a similar position. The University motioned to dismiss the case in November 2017 citing a lack of evidence, but a U.S. District Court judge denied the motion, ruling that the EEOC had provided sufficient evidence to support its claims.

"Upon consideration of the briefing, the relevant legal authorities and the record as a whole, the Court denies the motion of defendant The George Washington University to dismiss the complaint or, alternatively, stay proceedings," U.S. District Court Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly wrote in the opinion.

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said the University was "disappointed" with Kollar-Kotelly's decision.

"As the court made clear, the EEOC still must prove its case," Csellar said in an email. "The University looks forward to demonstrating that we acted fairly and lawfully."

Csellar declined to say the University's next steps in the case, what the case proceeding means for the University and if officials are willing to settle.

Williams, who currently works at GW as an associate within the Business Management and Analysis Group, filed a complaint with the EEOC alleging that during her two years of employment in the athletic department, the University violated the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits employers from discrimination on the basis of sex.

The complaint alleged that Williams received lower compensation for work than her male co-worker, Michael Aresco, the former assistant athletic director for operations, events and facilities.

The complaint also contends she was denied opportunities of employment advancement and was treated differently within the workplace because of her sex. Williams alleged that she was told to "perform job duties that Aresco either failed to perform or was incapable of performing" and completed tasks like "running personal errands," according to the complaint.

Aresco did not return multiple requests for comment and is no longer employed by the University, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Williams declined to comment through Jessi Isenhardt, the attorney representing the case. Isenhardt said the EEOC was "pleased with the ruling and should be moving forward with the case" but declined to comment on the details of the case or the EEOC's next steps in pursuing the case.

Two months after the filing of the lawsuit, the University motioned to dismiss the case, saying the EEOC did not provide enough evidence to support that there was pay discrimination. Officials also requested a stay of proceedings, which would prevent the case from moving forward.

Kollar-Kotelly, the judge, denied the motion and did not grant a stay of proceedings Wednesday, allowing the case to progress.

She said in her opinion that the EEOC and GW disagree that Williams and Aresco had similar enough positions to be paid equally, adding that the EEOC's claims are "sufficient" for the court to continue pursuing the case without disputing each job description.

See **STEPS** Page 9

Officials to hire new Food Institute director amid decline in projects

JARED GANS &
CIARA REGAN
STAFF WRITERS

Eleven months after its last leader's departure – and amid a sharp drop in the number of projects it has sponsored – the GW Food Policy Institute will receive a new leader next academic year, officials said.

Milken Institute School of Public Health leaders said they will launch a search this fall for a new director of the Food Policy Institute, which facilitates research between staff, faculty and students on food-related issues. After Milken officials hire a director and increase funding, the institute's staff can ramp up the number of research projects, Lynn Goldman, the public health school dean, said.

"Recruiting somebody that matches our needs as much as possible will fit in well here," Goldman said. "I hope to find somebody with rock star potential."

William Dietz, the co-director of the Food Policy Institute, said in an email last month that the institute has been in a "holding pattern" and has had no recent projects since Kathleen Merrigan, the institute's former director, left last June. Dietz did not return multiple requests for further comment.

The institute has faced several issues since it moved to the public health school from the Office of Sustainability last summer, including a lack of permanent leadership, reduced funding, an outdated website and confusion among affiliated faculty about the status of the institute's activities.

Goldman said officials will hire a non-tenure track professor to lead the institute who will likely start in the position next spring. The director will find donors to support the institute's research and will have the ability to keep the institute's previous focuses on topics like sustainability and food deserts or add new policy areas to the institute's scope, she said.

"They will hopefully bring something exciting and new and a little different than what we had before," Goldman said.

She said many of the institute's donors were connected with Merrigan personally and left when Merrigan departed from GW. Goldman said the number of projects sponsored by the institute decreased after losing donors, and she has been reaching out to potential donors to discuss providing funds for the institute.

"I have needed to go out and make friends to find people who are supporting it," Goldman said. "To have an institute or a center, you need to have some support."

Goldman said the lack of a permanent director may have reduced the institute's research output, but the institute was able to spend some funds on a few research projects, like a study on the effects of low-calorie sweetened beverages on children and a report about the intersection between climate change, obesity and malnutrition.

Before Merrigan left, the Food Policy Institute worked on research related to food security and sustainability on campus. In February 2018, three student fellows of the institute released a report



ALEXANDER WELLING | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Milken Institute School of Public Health Dean Lynn Goldman said the new director of the Food Policy Institute will decide the project's focus and scope.

criticizing the University's dining plan, saying it was "setting students up to fail."

In June 2018, researchers conducted a study of the nutritional content of food aid sent to Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria, revealing that many foods sent contained high quantities of sugar, salt and fat.

In addition to reducing the number of its research projects, the institute operated with an out-of-date website for several months.

The school meal reform section of the website's "featured research" tab consisted of mock Latin placeholder text, and the most recent articles on the website were published last June. The website also named the 11th Hour Project, the Kellogg Founda-

tion and the Grace Communications Foundation as donors, but Kayla Williams, who no longer provide financial support to the institute.

Following an inquiry from The Hatchet last week, Milken officials updated the website and reduced the number of listed staff and faculty affiliates from 31 to six.

But Kayla Williams, who is listed as the executive coordinator of the now-defunct Sustainability Collaborative, no longer works at GW, according to her LinkedIn page. Robert Orttung, listed on the website as the research director of the Sustainability Collaborative, said he has not been involved with the Food Policy Institute since it moved to the public health school.

Ivy Ken, an associate pro-

fessor of sociology listed on the institute's website as the food faculty coordinator, declined to comment, citing a lack of knowledge about the institute. Kim Robien, a co-director of the institute, did not return multiple requests for comment.

Milken officials also added six new articles to the Food Policy Institute website, three from last June and three from this academic year. One of the articles from this year highlights research from Allison Sylvestsky, an assistant professor of exercise and nutrition sciences, which Goldman said was part of the institute's projects this semester.

But Sylvestsky declined to comment on the institute's activities, adding that she "was

not really involved" with the institute.

Food policy experts said the new director should determine the institute's main research goals and have a strong background in philanthropy to hit the ground running with fundraising.

Patty Lovera, the assistant director of Food and Water Watch, a nongovernmental organization that advocates for food and water-related issues, said the institute provides a forum for faculty from different academic disciplines to approach food-related issues like food insecurity from different backgrounds.

Lovera added that the institute's lack of a clear direction is a "missed opportunity" to conduct further research on food-related issues because faculty will not necessarily focus on these topics without the guidance and leadership of the institute.

"When you don't have somebody whose job it is to drive it all day, every day, things can stall out," Lovera said.

Rosalie Fanshel, the program manager at the University of California, Berkeley's Food Institute said any new director that GW's institute hires must have experience in fundraising skills to allow the institute's operations to resume immediately after a director is hired.

Fanshel said the new director should incorporate the opinions of staff, faculty and students through town halls about the institute's focus.

"Your own community knows best what its food institute should be and what it can be and what the potential is," Fanshel said.



A senior and her alumni parents reflect on their time at GW

SIDNEY LEE
CULTURE EDITOR

When senior Alex Rood decided to go to GW, she was dead set on reliving her parents' college experience. Her parents, Stacey and Gregg Rood, graduated from GW in 1984 and met each other on their first day of freshman orientation.

Alex Rood may not have met her future husband at Colonial Inauguration, but she and her parents have shared some of the same experiences between their four years at GW. The three Roods noted the similarities and differences between their time at the University

Thurston living

All three Roods began their college experience living in Thurston Hall – and the residence hall has barely changed.

Alex Rood said she was assigned to the same triple layout as her mom in Thurston Hall. While the rooms were not on the same floor, they both had the same room number and the setups were nearly identical.

Stacey Rood lived in the single alcove part of the residence hall room, so Alex Rood said she took the same spot when she moved into Thurston.

"I had said to her, 'This is



ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Senior Alex Rood, whose parents also attended GW, said she and her parents have shared some of the same college experiences.

the best room in all of Thurston because you're basically getting your own little private room," Stacey Rood said.

Neighborhoods around the District

Some of Alex Rood's favorite neighborhoods to explore in D.C. were Shaw, U Street and Adams Morgan, but those places were not as developed when Gregg and Stacey Rood were students.

When Alex Rood's parents attended GW, they

spent time at places closer to campus, like the National Mall and Georgetown, because other locations were unsafe and too far away. The Metro was not yet developed to travel far off campus, the parents said.

"Washington back then was very, very different from a safety or security standpoint," Gregg Rood said. "So pretty much no one really ventured beyond any streets lower than 19th Street because once you got to the White House, any-

thing beyond there were really bad, dangerous neighborhoods."

Gregg Rood added that many of the bars he frequented do not exist anymore. One of the most popular bars that has since closed was a disco called Abbey Road.

"Guys used to wear these white Capezio shoes, which were like almost ballet shoes," he said. "If you saw somebody wearing them today, it would look very comical."

D.C. politics

Most students will witness a presidential election during their time in the District. Alex Rood remembers when President Donald Trump was elected to office during her sophomore year.

She said that the night of the election, she was sure Trump would lose and anticipated running to the White House when presidential candidate Hillary Clinton was elected as president. Instead, Alex Rood recalls walking to the White House to witness people lighting candles like a vigil.

"I feel grateful that I was able to be here because it's something that not everybody gets to say, that they were here to witness this historical election, but it was definitely a somber experience," Alex Rood said.

Stacey and Gregg Rood were freshmen when Ronald Reagan was elected as president. Later that year, Reagan was shot and brought to the GW Hospital. Stacey Rood said there was "commotion and rumors" that Reagan had died or returned to the White House following the attempted assassination.

"You didn't have a 24-hour news cycle then, you couldn't check things on

your phone, and people over those few days would just come in with all kinds of stories," Stacey Rood said.

Commencement day

Alex Rood is gearing up for graduation on the National Mall, but the backdrop was a bit different on her parents' Commencement day.

Stacey and Gregg Rood graduated in the Smith Center. Gregg Rood said the Mall was too large to host Commencement at the time because the class size was relatively smaller than today.

When Alex Rood's parents graduated, former U.S. Rep. Silvio Ottavio Conte, R-Mass., spoke during the ceremony. The keynote speaker for Sunday's ceremony is Savannah Guthrie, the co-host of the NBC morning show "Today."

Despite the differences, Gregg Rood said seeing his daughter graduate from his alma mater will be "fairly emotional" because she is the "baby" of the family.

"We know that her experience at GW was tremendous and everything we would've hoped for, and very similar, but different than our experience was," he said.

Reflecting on four years: Events from freshman year to graduation

ILENA PENG
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR



March 2016 – Freshman year
Officials announce that J Street, GW's only Foggy Bottom dining hall, will close.
Jack Fonseca | Contributing Photo Editor

April 2016 – Freshman year
Officials decide to hold sorority and fraternity recruitment in the spring for the first time.



January 2017 – Sophomore year
Students protest President Donald Trump's inauguration.
Hatchet File Photo

January 2017 – Sophomore year
Thomas LeBlanc becomes GW's 17th University president.



March 2017 – Sophomore year
Students create the GW memes Facebook group after Student Association election turmoil.
Hatchet File Photo

August 2017 – Junior year
GW loses its four-year title as the most politically active campus.



December 2017 – Junior year
Wawa opens a Foggy Bottom location a few blocks from campus.
Hatchet File Photo

April 2018 – Junior year
Spring Fling is headlined by Lil Yachty after a last-minute cancellation by Lil Pump.



April 2018 – Junior year
Emmanuel Macron, the president of France, holds a town hall in the Smith Center.
Hatchet File Photo

September 2018 – Senior year
Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg speaks at Lisner Auditorium.



March 2019 – Senior year
Ron Chernow, the author whose book inspired the musical "Hamilton," speaks at Lisner Auditorium.
Alexander Welling | Assistant Photo Editor



SARAH URTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Venture to places on campus and around the District for the picture-perfect shot.

Ditch the Mall photoshoot for unconventional backdrops in D.C.

ARIEL ANZA
REPORTER

The backdrop of the Washington and Lincoln monuments will never disappoint for a graduation photoshoot. But there are more off-beat spots where you can pose with your cap and gown on campus and around D.C. that will make your photos stand out from the rest.

The stairs on the back of the honors program building

You may not know about this spot on campus, but the metal staircase descending from the back of the University Honors Program building is a hidden gem for a photoshoot. The honors program building sits on the edge of Kogan Plaza, and the metal, industrial-looking staircase is attached to the back of the building. You can pose on the stairs and snap a portrait without leaving campus. *University Honors Program building, 714 21st St. NW.*

Dumbarton Oaks Garden

Dumbarton Oaks Garden was purchased by art collectors Mildred and Robert Woods Bliss in 1920. For the next 30 years, the Blisses transformed the 50-acre property into a landscape filled with hundreds of different plant species, from enormous beech trees to rose gardens.

The grounds include several places for a photo opportunity, like the Arbor Terrace, a wooden terrace crawling with vines that overlook the lower gardens; an orchid filled with apple, cherry and pear trees; and the Box Walk, a long, brick staircase flanked by boxwood hedges. *Dumbarton Oaks Garden, 1703 32nd St. NW. Open Tuesday through Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m.*

The Bridge at Yard's Park

Yard's Park is one of the newest additions to D.C.'s ongoing development of the Southeast waterfront. The center of the park is a 200-foot pe-

destrian bridge that was completed in 2010. The bridge's tunnel-like rings that line the walkway stand out over the surrounding architecture in the park. The bridge can add depth to any photo, and graduates can pose in the middle of the tunnel for a portrait. *Yard's Park, 355 Water St. SE. Open every day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.*

The Blind Whino

The Blind Whino is a nonprofit organization and event space in Southwest D.C. The arts collective is housed in a historic church that was home to the Friendship Baptist Congregation for nearly a century. The worn-down walls on the exterior of the church have since been painted with abstract, vibrant artwork in all colors of the rainbow, becoming an Instagram-worthy location. For a funky photo with several colors, pose in your cap and gown in front of the Blind Whino. *The Blind Whino, 700 Delaware Ave. SW. Open Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m..*

Bucket list activities to check off your list before you graduate

RACHEL ARMANY
REPORTER

- **Visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture**
1400 Constitution Ave. NW, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- **Support local vendors at a D.C. farmers market**
14th and U Farmers Market, 2000 14th St. NW, Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **See the District in a 360-degree view**
The View of D.C., 1201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. Saturday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Go on the Ghosts of Georgetown Tour**
Locations and times vary

Step inside the landmark Folger Shakespeare Library

201 E Capitol St. SE, Sundays noon to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Find your state tree at the National Arboretum

3501 New York Ave. NE, open every day 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free comedy at the Wonderland Ballroom

1101 Kenyon St. NW, Sundays 8 p.m., 21+

Visit the home of Frederick Douglass

1411 W St. SE, open every day 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA COLUMBUS



ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Buy your senior friend a gift card to the Crumbs and Whiskers kitten lounge.

Low-cost purchases to gift your graduating friend

MOLLY KAISER
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

When your friends graduate next week, it may be difficult to gift them without breaking the bank.

If you're trying to keep a low budget, you can grab these gifts for under \$30 for all types of friends.

Trader Joe's cookbook (\$8.02) featuring recipes like a pizza with sauteed vegetables and mushroom melange or green curry stir-fry with wild caught shrimp. Your friend can also whip up these mouth-watering meals in a graduation-themed Class of 2019 apron (\$27.49).



For the friend who needs to destress

We all know a graduate who took every internship opportunity, joined multiple student organizations and picked up a part-time job along the way. Whatever it was, they likely need some activities to help them cool down after a busy four years. Help them alleviate their stress with a gift card to the Crumbs and Whiskers kitten lounge in Georgetown. The Instagramable shop, which opened in March and will close in June, features about 25 kittens up for adoption and a cafe. Gift cards start at \$25.

If your friend is not a fan of cats, allow them to revisit their youth with an adult coloring book (\$8.78). Coloring will give your friend a break from the stress of adulthood and help them focus on coloring between the lines.



For the friend who needs to organize their life

Your friend might not have a calendar mapping out the rest of their life, but you can help them organize their first year out of college. Grab a productivity journal (\$24.95), which includes advice on time efficiency, inspirational quotes and prompts for your friend to reflect and plan. While it's only a notebook, it may help your friend facilitate work schedules and map out events.

But organization also means finding time to relax. As your friend moves into a new, potentially stressful job, consider purchasing the "10% Happier Book" (\$11.59) by journalist Dan Harris. Originally a meditation and mindfulness skeptic, Harris wrote the book after he had a panic attack and turned to mindfulness for treatment. The book discusses how to incorporate mindfulness into an everyday routine with prompts and exercises.



For the foodie

As seniors transition out of GWorld-funded meals, jumpstart their kitchen with a reusable to-go bowl (\$26) or a set of travel silverware (\$14) from Anthropologie. For the coffee fanatic, grab them a Yeti tumbler (\$29.99) with vacuum suction that will keep their drink warm for hours.

Some seniors may have had a kitchen for most of their college careers but never cooked a home-made meal. Help them prepare meals after graduation with a



For the friend moving into a new space

Remind your friend of their home on campus with a D.C.-themed Homesick candle (\$29.95). Notes of cherry blossom and sandalwood will remind them of walks along the Tidal Basin in the springtime.

For the Netflix and Hulu fanatic who will lose their GW subscription post graduation, purchase your friend a Roku (\$29.88). Your friend can enjoy access to several streaming services, including YouTube and HBO, if they already have subscriptions.

Hotels for last-minute stays before Commencement

ANNA BOONE
STAFF WRITER

If your extended family or friends are trying to book a hotel in D.C. at the last moment, it's not too late. When more well-known hotels fill up, check into these locations to recharge between Commencement festivities.

Akwaaba Bed and Breakfast

The Akwaaba is a literary-themed bed and breakfast located in an 1890s historic townhouse in Dupont Circle. The bed and breakfast is close to several restaurants and shops in Dupont to entertain your family leading up to Commencement.

There are eight rooms with private baths, and all rooms sleep two guests except for the "Poetry Room," which holds two queen-sized beds for four guests.

The "Inspiration Suite" has a skylight in the bedroom and a green velvet chair that provides artists and writers with the peace and quiet they need to be inspired.

Four of the rooms are named after famous African American writers: Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Toni Morrison and Walter Mosley. Each of the rooms have book covers or framed posters reflecting the work of each author.

The bed and breakfast also offers a "Modern Classics" room with chic decoration, like all-white furniture and gold accents in the wallpaper and lamps. The loft-style "Poetry Room" features exposed brick walls and a gray L-shaped couch.

Every morning, a home-cooked breakfast is served in a



Ampeer-Patterson Mansion Lux Studios is an apartment building located in the heart of Dupont Circle that offers stays for up to 30 days.

communal dining room starting at 8 a.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. on weekends. The morning of Commencement, you can enjoy an earlier 7 a.m. continental-style breakfast or request a to-go breakfast package. 1708 16th St. NW. Rates range from \$165 to \$285 a night.

1921 Gessford Bed and Breakfast

If you're looking to squeeze in a couple extra guests to your graduation, 1921 Gessford Bed and Breakfast might have you covered. The bed and breakfast is a loft-style home with a private rooftop that offers views of

the U.S. Capitol Building. The place can accommodate up to four guests in its queen suite on the first floor and queen loft on the third floor, which has access to the rooftop.

The two-bedroom house is filled with modern art decorations, yellow-painted wood, exposed white brick walls and metal staircases. The first floor has a living room with complimentary cable, Wi-Fi, a bathroom and a patio. Stairs lead up through the foyer filled with natural light to the second floor, which has two living rooms and a kitchen where breakfast is served from 7 to 9:30 a.m.

Corner of 11th Street SE and Independence Avenue SE. Rates range from \$125 to \$215 a night.

Ampeer-Patterson Mansion Lux Studios

Ampeer is an apartment building located in the heart of Dupont Circle that offers stays for up to 30 days. The 20th-century neoclassical building was once called The Patterson Mansion, and former President Calvin Coolidge lived there while the White House was being renovated in the 1920s.

During the weekend of Commencement, tower courtyard rooms are available for tempo-

rary guests. The rooms are furnished with a queen-sized bed, a couch, a living area, a kitchenette and a full bath. Tower courtyard rooms, located on the first floor, have access to the building's outdoor courtyard.

Guests are provided with a gym, complimentary cable, Wi-Fi, a continental breakfast, evening hor d'oeuvres and cafe drinks.

15 Dupont Circle NW. Tower courtyard room rates range from \$269 to \$349 a night.

The LINE DC

The LINE DC is a 110-year-old church that was renovated into a hotel and culture center in late 2017. The hotel, known for its restaurants Brothers and Sisters, Spoken English and A Rake's Progress, is located just off 18th Street in Adams Morgan. The LINE also hosts a live radio show in its lobby featuring over three dozen hosts including Opie Crooks, the chef of A Rake's Progress.

The hotel is a refreshing and quirky addition to the crowd of big-name hotels of the District. The exterior has the architecture of the church it once was and includes remnants of the church inside, like an organ in the lobby and pews scattered throughout the building. Unlike chain hotels, every room is uniquely furnished and decorated with wooden coffee tables and desks, leather chairs and couches, house plants and unconventional lighting fixtures like geometric-shaped copper pendant lights. Several of the rooms also have views of the Washington Monument. 1770 Euclid St. NW. Rates range from \$548 to \$695 a night.

Students must recognize when they spread themselves too thin

Time commitments can pile up if you do not manage your time carefully. Between classes and extracurriculars, it is easy to get overwhelmed from too much work.

This semester, I took on a full course load and an internship at the U.S. State Department that required me to work at least 32 hours per week. I knew it was an ambitious schedule at the time, but I was convinced I could make it work. Other students typically take on multiple responsibilities and seem to find balance, so I thought I could too.

Kris Brodeur
Columnist

But the semester is more than just work — there were other life responsibilities I needed to account for in addition to my classes and internships. Mundane tasks like laundry, grocery shopping, cooking and cleaning were burdensome because I was burnt out from my packed schedule by the time I could complete each task. I often found myself asking for extensions on papers or turning assignments in late knowing I would be penalized by my professor,



Cartoon by Jeanne Franchesca Dela Cruz

but I did it anyway.

When students arrange their work and class schedules next semester, they need to recognize when they have spread themselves too thin. While balancing internships, class and work may seem like the norm at GW, it is OK to take on less and find a better balance between your responsibilities.

GW prides itself as a leading school for internship opportuni-

ties, but the amount of work I took on is not the norm. University President Thomas LeBlanc warned freshmen of the negative impact of "internship culture" earlier this academic year, and he is right that students should not bite more than they can chew.

I was not aware of the stress I would encounter this semester with an overloaded schedule. By the time I settled in each night to do homework, I

was so tired from a day of work that I only wanted to sleep. But the anxiety of being penalized for not doing my work forced me to stay up late and complete my assignments.

In addition to being sleep deprived, I was not making time to eat. I often snacked on protein bars whenever I had a free minute. I felt my body and mind call on me to slow down and take a minute to breathe,

but I figured I could tough it out until the end of the semester.

The bottom line is I fell victim to the internship culture that LeBlanc warned students about that assumes students should be doing something important at all times. But too often, students push themselves to the point where they are running themselves into the ground in an attempt to do the most. This internship culture

burnt me out until I could not put my all into every responsibility.

When you are overworked to your breaking point, something has to fall to the wayside and sometimes what you forget to do is take care of yourself. My experience cannot show students how to take care of themselves, but it can remind you to be self-aware. As important as your studies and resume-building internship may be, your health should be a priority. You need food, sleep and social interaction to stay physically and mentally sane.

If students want to take on an internship and a full course load, they should recognize the potential hardships and be prepared to drop activities. It is OK to take breaks from student organizations, but it is not OK to stop prioritizing yourself.

Do what took me too long to do — recognize when you are in over your head and have committed to more than you can handle. Be honest with yourself about how much you can get done in a day, and do not get discouraged if you do not accomplish all that you want.

—Kris Brodeur, a sophomore majoring in international affairs, is a columnist.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Officials must include more students in the search for a new provost

The University has begun searching for its next provost after Forrest Maltzman announced he will resign from the post once a new person is hired.

An 18-member committee — consisting of 14 faculty members, Deputy General Counsel Charles Barber, two trustees and Student Association President SJ Matthews — will lead the search, develop a profile for the position and interview candidates in the coming months. But those involved in the search for one of the University's most powerful administrators should not include just one student.

The provost oversees all schools and student life. While serving as provost, Maltzman oversaw the restructuring of the student affairs division, responded to a racist Snapchat with a slew of diversity measures, supervised the overhaul of the Office of Student Financial Assistance and pushed to increase the University's focus on research.

The provost has a direct impact on students' lives, both academically and socially. Officials must include more students in the search committee to ensure the next provost will adequately represent both students and faculty.

While the provost oversees both academia and student life, the University included a disproportionate number of faculty to students. Officials' decision to include more faculty demonstrates that they value professor input over students' opinions, overlooking the insight students could bring

to the committee. The search committee should be comprised of an equal number of faculty and students so both parties are adequately represented.

While officials included only one student in the committee, they are holding four listening sessions in person and through a livestream for students to provide feedback to the committee about how to design a profile for the post. But these sessions were advertised in one email sent late last month, and the sessions may attract few students because they are held in the middle of finals. Allowing students to comment on the decisions of the search committee is not an effective replacement for having only one student in the group.

Matthews represents the student body as SA president, but she may not speak for all students. More graduate students should be involved because they can ask questions about topics like graduate student unionization, an issue Maltzman responded to last academic year. Students could also ask the potential provost how they would respond to another racist incident like the Snapchat last February or how the provost could help first-generation students acclimate to campus life. Including Matthews in the process is a logical move to gauge student input because she represents the student body, but she may not bring all of these perspectives into the search.

Bringing students into the fold will allow them to comment on issues faculty may not

think to bring up, like affordability concerns or the call to change the Colonials nickname, during the hiring process. Students could also discuss their experiences in the classroom and whether the new provost should implement diversity training for faculty — an issue raised during SA elections earlier this semester.

The University should consider adding more student leaders to the committee. SA senators could speak to the specific needs of the students within various schools they represent. Student leaders of multicultural student organizations could offer insight on what they want in a provost.

In addition to asking questions about general student life, graduate students and those within the medical and law schools also need their interests represented. Their insight into the student experience as individuals who may not live on campus and have different academic needs than undergraduate students would be valuable in asking the potential provost questions concerning their respective schools.

Officials were right to include faculty in the committee — they are directly impacted by the provost and often communicate with the provost about issues ranging from research to new academic projects. But students also need a seat at the table. The provost of the University makes decisions that affect students, making them a vital component of the search for one of the University's next top administrators.

Students should pay attention to elections abroad

As a U.S. citizen, I understand the allure of the hotly contested upcoming presidential election that will decide whether President Donald Trump stays in the position. It can be easy to get caught up in the commotion of town halls and debates, but there are elections abroad that students could turn their attention to as well.

Ashwath Narayanan
Writer

I often feel that time and time again, I am a representative of my home country of India and need to explain political affairs to my peers. If students took the time to understand India's political affairs, I could better relate to my classmates because we could talk about more than the U.S. election.

GW has a large and growing international student population, but the politics of each students' home country often takes a backseat to U.S. news. To better connect with their international peers and become more culturally aware, domestic students should take a step back from U.S. politics and pay attention to elections around the world.

India, my home country, is currently going through an election to determine which political party will control the government. The election is held between the right-wing nationalist party of the current prime minister — the Bharatiya Janata Party — and the more liberal Indian National

Congress Party.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has announced that it wishes to remove those who are not Hindu or Buddhists from the country despite India being a secular country. I am not a Muslim, but I have friends back home who are. To hear that the party the incumbent prime minister belongs to wants to implement these policies is horrifying, but I cannot express those concerns to U.S. students who do not follow the election.

I have begun conversations about the Indian election with several students, but none of them have understood the gravity of the situation because they do not follow Indian news. Students are often willing to listen to me while I explain the situation, but we could move into a more productive discourse if my peers were already following along.

When the United States holds an election, the rest of the world watches. I remember my family and I paying close attention to the 2016 election because it was a news spectacle around the world. But Americans do not always do the same when hotly contested elections are happening around the globe.

Students who are concerned with Trump's rhetoric should also be concerned with the Indian election because the candidates mirror anti-Muslim rhetoric. Narendra Modi, the Indian prime minister, is running for re-election on a platform that targets those who are not Hindu, which could move the

country further away from secularism. Many of Trump's policies, like the Muslim ban, target minorities and send a message of Islamophobia to Muslims across the world.

There have already been elections in countries like Nigeria, Senegal, Egypt and 20 other countries this year, and there are elections in Israel, Argentina and 50 other countries in the upcoming months. These elections provide direct insight into the politics of different countries where international students are from and can teach domestic students about different political realms.

If students want to connect with their international peers, they should be cognizant of politics around the world. In doing so, international students may feel more at home because their domestic peers can have an informed discourse about politics in their country. I often feel more comfortable talking with someone who understands the current events in my culture because it demonstrates that they are culturally aware.

By reading international news and engaging in conversations with international student peers, students will learn more about the events happening in the homes of their international student peers. My experience at GW would be more meaningful if my friends from outside India paid attention to the elections in my home country and actively tried to learn more about my culture.

News

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CRIME LOG

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Bell Hall
5/2/2019 – 2:35 p.m.
Closed Case
A staff member reported that an unknown male subject stole a black DVD player from a closet on the first floor.
No identifiable subject

CREDIT CARD FRAUD

Off Campus
Multiple – Multiple
Open Case
A staff member reported that her bank notified her about at least two fraudulent charges made at two different dates to her account.
Case open

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/VANDALISM

Foggy Bottom Grocery
5/4/2019 – 5:42 a.m.
Closed Case
The Foggy Bottom Grocery owner reported to GWPD that someone had thrown a large rock through a second floor window. Metropolitan Police Department officers arrived on scene and issued a report.
Referred to MPD

LEWD, INDECENT OR OBSCENE ACTS

Fulbright Hall
5/5/2019 – 3:47 p.m.
Closed Case
GWPD officers patrolling Fulbright Hall observed two students engaging in lewd acts inside a stairwell.
Referred to the Office of Enrollment and the Student Experience

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING, CREDIT CARD FRAUD

Off Campus
5/6/2019 – 5:30 p.m.
Closed Case
A female student reported to GWPD that her wallet was stolen and one fraudulent charge was made to her bank account after she last saw it in Penn Grill. At about 9:30 p.m. Monday, a student reported to MPD that someone stole her Kate Spade wallet – which held multiple IDs, debit cards and cash – from the outermost pocket of her book bag while she ate at Penn Grill earlier that day, according to an MPD report. The student checked her bank account, noticed unauthorized charges for \$70 at J.Crew and \$20 at 7-Eleven, deactivated her debit card and immediately notified MPD, according to the report.
Referred to MPD

THREATS TO DO BODILY HARM/FRAUD

Off Campus
5/4/2019 – 4:10 p.m.
Closed Case
A male student reported to GWPD that an unknown female subject attempted to defraud him and threatened him on social media and over the phone. MPD responded to the scene and issued a report.
Referred to MPD

—Compiled by Kateryna Stepanenko & Lia DeGroot

Students to use new TV streaming service this fall

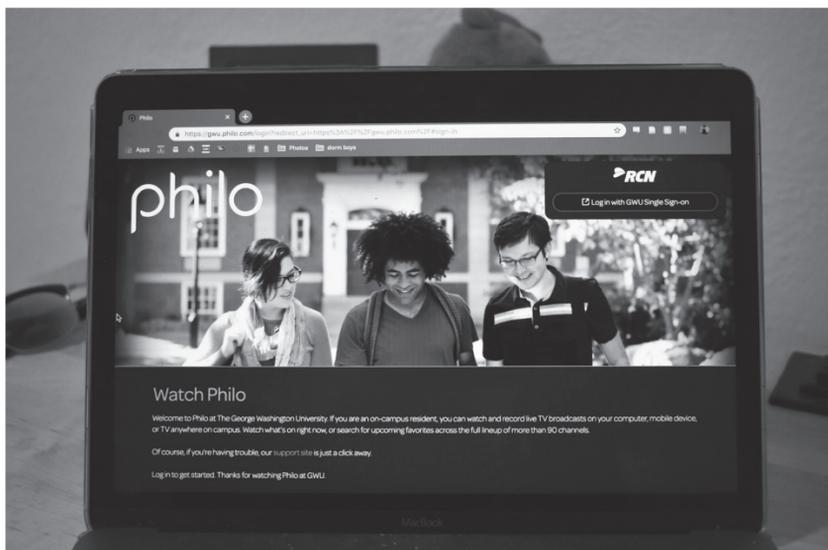
ZACH SCHONFELD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Officials have inked a deal with Comcast to use Xfinity On Campus, the company's authenticated streaming service, for the next three years. After the University's three-year contract with Philo Edu ends this academic year, administrators said students next fall will use Xfinity On Campus to stream live TV and record and download shows for viewing later. In addition to more than 60 channels and more than 55 video-on-demand applications like HBO Go and AMC, students can customize the new service by opting into additional "premium" and international channels for an additional cost, officials said.

"For GW students living on our campuses, it's important that we look at the total student experience, including television and Internet services, that provide powerful viewing, gaming and streaming capabilities for students to enjoy during their time outside of the classroom," Chief Information Officer Loretta Early said in an email.

Philo Edu, which partnered with the University in 2016, provided students who live on campus with free access to live television streaming and recording while connected to the University's Wi-Fi network on laptops, mobile phones and Roku smart TVs. Like Philo, Xfinity's streaming service will work with those three types of devices, but it will also allow students to download episodes to view without Wi-Fi.

Xfinity On Campus includes access to more than 100



CONNOR WITSCHONKE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Administrators will not renew the University's contract with Philo Edu after it expires this academic year.

live channels, according to the Xfinity website. Philo Edu currently includes 127 live channels.

Under the new plan, students can store up to 20 hours of recorded shows. Previously, students were guaranteed 20 hours of recording space on Philo but could record additional shows if space allowed, according to Philo's website.

Early said officials in the Division of Information Technology will transition to the new Internet Protocol TV service, which students will use for at least three years, over the summer.

Officials solicited feedback from students, faculty and staff about the switch to a new streaming service through a survey sent out to the GW community in February. The survey gauged satisfaction

with Philo and offered respondents a chance to name features they would like to see added to Philo or another IPTV service in the future.

Early said administrators also gathered feedback on Philo from Student Association and Residence Hall Association representatives this semester. She said students voiced concerns about Philo's confusing interface and streaming quality.

"Student feedback was instrumental in every step of the decision-making process," Early said. "We wanted to ensure that whatever provider was selected would not only be able to provide quality service, but also address student needs and preferences."

Students who attended the feedback sessions said the change is a step in the right

direction.

Tyler Kusma, a resident adviser in West Hall, said members of the IT division reached out to him to gather feedback about switching to a new IPTV service because RAs often host events using Philo, like watch parties for TV show premieres and sporting events.

Kusma said many residents have complained to him about Philo's requirement that students connect to a Wi-Fi network to watch shows because of brief yet persistent connectivity issues with GW's wireless networks, which hinder the service's accessibility.

GWHATCHET.COM

For more on how students feel about the new service

Facilities issues 'beyond' help: professors

From Page 1

"Our first priority in responding to the OSHA complaint is to ensure that the building continues to be safe and habitable," Csellar said in an email.

Csellar said officials will provide the results of the air quality and contamination testing and administrators' plans to fix the sewage issue to OSHA in a letter, which will be posted in the psychology building.

Faculty members have notified the dean's office in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences about "other recent issues" like pest control, Csellar said. She said the office is working with the Division of Operations to address the outstanding Fixt requests.

Csellar declined to name the cause of the sewage issue two weeks ago. She also declined to say whether the sewage overflow is a single incident or part of a continued pattern of building maintenance issues.

Ethier, the psychology department's operations coordinator, said all but one single-stall bathroom in the building

is shut down because of the sewage overflow. Ethier said the building's history of sewage leaks lead her to believe the cause is structural, unlike what maintenance workers told her.

"They tried to tell me today somebody might have put paper towels in the toilet, and I said, 'If this has been happening various times for years, I really don't think this is a single miscreant,'" Ethier said. "That doesn't seem logical."

She said the last sewage overflow happened in September and the effects of the overflow can still be seen throughout the building: Water stains remain on the second-floor ceiling, and paint on the walls continues to fall off.

"If this building was a human, it would have organ failure," she said. "It's beyond the help that they can give it. At the same time, there's no place to move us, so here we'll stay."

Andrew Gepty, a third-year doctoral student, said he has had to apologize to his psychology clients that visit the building because of the lingering smell from the sewage issue.

"That's really embarrassing, having to apologize for facilities," he said. "I couldn't work in my office down here because the smell was so bad."

Gepty said he has also struggled to fully perform his responsibilities as a teaching assistant because of "coughing fits" caused by mold and "unbearable" variations in temperature in the building's rooms resulting from the lack of internal temperature controls in the building.

"Since there's no ventilation or temperature control within the rooms, it's like we're at the mercy of having to call facilities every time there's some discomfort," he said.

Maria-Cecilia Zea, a professor of psychology, said psychology department faculty have met with prospective students who rejected GW's offer of admission, citing the building's maintenance issues as a significant factor in their decision.

"It's the nature of the building that's just uninspiring to come to study and spend five years of your life in a building like this one," she said.

Zea said faculty members feel the building's current sta-

tus is reflective of a lack of appreciation for the department having the second-highest number of enrolled students in CCAS and for what the department provides for the University.

"Some of us feel that psychology is the 'Cinderella of the University' in that we are the second-biggest major, and our faculty brings in millions of dollars in grants, but we do not get any rewards in terms of space," she said.

Paul Poppen, a professor of psychology, said officials repaint the building each summer to cover up the leaks throughout the building from the previous academic year. He said this approach to addressing the leaks shows how administrators generally address the problems facing the psychology department – with cosmetic fixes instead of solutions aimed at the root of the problem.

"What needs to be done is very expensive," he said. "The heating systems need to be dealt with. The electrical outlets need to be dealt with. The plumbing system needs to be dealt with. It's a whole set of things, and it requires a major re-examination of all those things."

Student organizations to switch from OrgSync to Engage by end of month

PAIGE MORSE
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Student organizations will adopt a new platform to communicate with members and organize information next academic year.

OrgSync, an online management system, merged with another management company in 2016 to create Campus Labs Engage, which student groups will begin using in mid-August, according to an email sent to student organization leaders on May 2. Officials said the platform will introduce new management capabilities, like election forums and ranked-choice voting, and allow students to track their involvement in organizations in a portfolio.

"This new platform combines the strengths of both systems as the largest providers of online community management systems into a more comprehensive program," Anne Graham, the assistant director of student involvement and Greek life, said in an email.

The student engagement website states that the platform will maintain all of OrgSync's features, like finance management and member roster access, except for a

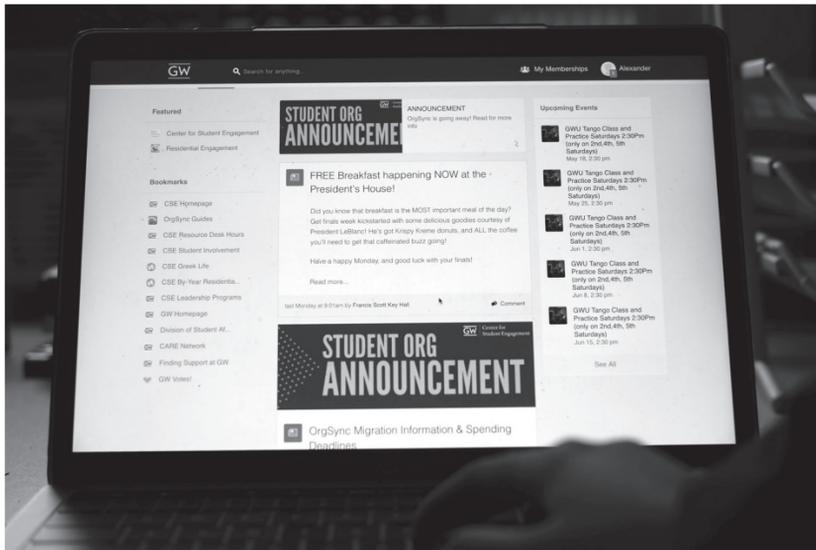
"website builder tool" that less than 10 percent of student organizations use. Graham said Engage will offer new technology, like mobile check-in at student organization events, online elections for organizations' executive board positions and ranked-choice voting for Student Association elections.

"Although the layout will look different, Engage will retain nearly all of the OrgSync tools to which organizations have become accustomed," she said.

The SA Senate voted last academic year to implement ranked-choice voting during this past SA election cycle but delayed its implementation to next academic year because the organization did not have the technology to use the voting method.

Graham said officials conducted "extensive research" into other online student organization management systems but decided Engage met "the needs of our student community." She said all universities using OrgSync or Campus Labs, another online management system, must switch to Engage by August.

Five of GW's 12 peer schools – Boston, Northeastern, Tulane and Syracuse



JACK FONSECA | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

OrgSync, an online management system, merged with another management company in 2016 to create Campus Labs Engage, which student groups will begin using in mid-August.

universities and the University of Miami – currently use OrgSync to manage student organizations. New York and Wake Forest universities and the universities of Rochester, Pittsburgh and Southern California use Engage, and Georgetown University uses Campus Labs.

Some student leaders said the switch to Engage will have little impact on their or-

ganizations, but others said the new features will create a more user-friendly system and offer helpful management tools.

SA President SJ Matthews said the SA plans to collaborate with Graham to create a presentation for student organization leaders to understand how to use the new system. She said Engage will incorporate all of the same

functions as OrgSync, like managing member lists and requesting budgets.

"The switch to Engage shouldn't impact student organizations negatively," Matthews said in an email. "Engage is the result of OrgSync being bought out by another company, so all of the capabilities of OrgSync will be seen in this new system."

John Olds, the chairman

of GW College Republicans, said the organization uses almost every OrgSync feature, like applications for office space and forms for budget requests submitted to the SA finance committee. He said he is "looking forward" to the switch because Engage will make student organization processes, like budgeting and tracking the organization's membership, more efficient.

"What I'm told is that it should be a smooth transition," Olds said. "It will have all the same functions for budgeting and forms and applications."

Jared Levinson, the Interfraternity Council president, said the IFC regularly uses OrgSync to keep a list of members and send out documents and upcoming event information.

Levinson said he will check in with members of the IFC executive board over the phone during the summer to ensure they are adjusting to the new platform and will require the executive board to pass information to fraternity chapter presidents about how the new platform works.

"We are just checking in, keeping up to date with everything that we want to do so we are ready to go in the fall," he said.

CHC to begin search for associate dean of health, well-being



ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Officials will launch a search for an associate dean of health and well-being this summer.

SHANNON MALLARD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The University formed a search committee late last month to find a new associate dean for health and well-being.

Officials said the search will commence this summer after the search committee finalizes the position description with consultants from the employment search firm Isaacson, Miller. Health care

administration experts said the new associate dean needs strong communication skills to effectively manage medical staff and accurately garner feedback from students about how to best suit student health care needs.

"We will continue the search until we find the most qualified candidate," University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said.

The Colonial Health Center has operated without

a permanent leader since Glenn Egelman's resignation in 2017.

Csellar said Mary Ellsberg, the director of the global women's institute, will serve as the search committee chair, and Gaby Julien-Molineaux, the associate vice provost of graduate enrollment management, will serve as co-chair. Consultants Natalie Leonhard and Julia Omotade from the employment search firm Isaacson, Miller will assist the search, according to a release on the Isaacson, Miller website late last month.

Isaacson, Miller is currently assisting searches for the deans of the College of Professional Studies, the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Engineering and Applied Science and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Csellar added that the committee will include at least two students, and a third student may later join the committee. She did not specify which faculty and staff members will serve on the committee or when the new dean will be appointed.

Csellar declined to say whether the new associate dean will be internally or externally hired or whether CHC staff will be involved in the search process. She declined to say what qualities and qualifications the University wants the new dean to have.

Dean of the Student Experience Cissy Petty said the dean's title was changed to reflect the position's new focus on developing relationships with students and providing advice on how to live a healthful lifestyle.

"The focus of the associate dean of health and well-being

will be to provide the strategic leadership for a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to our students' health and well-being," she said.

Petty said she garnered feedback from students, the Student Association and the Student Health Advisory Council about the CHC during the fall semester. She said students asked for "guidance and assistance" maintaining a "healthy lifestyle," which prompted officials to adjust the dean's position.

"Students still want to be able to visit the CHC to be treated when they are sick, however, they are seeking out new ways to develop relationships and create community with each other and with the health, wellness and medical personnel who provide them with resources throughout their academic career," Petty said.

Health care administration experts said the new associate dean must effectively facilitate cooperation between health care providers in University health centers to provide the best possible care to students.

Beth Scroggins, the director of the student health and counseling center at Western Oregon University, said the new associate dean must garner feedback from medical

staff and students about the health center to emphasize "inclusiveness and compassion" among staff and students in the center.

"To me, the most important thing is to listen to the staff and listen to the students and their feedback, and determine what needs to be done, what can be done," she said.

She added that the new associate dean must be "assertive yet compassionate." She said the dean has to be receptive to the concerns of medical staff but must be capable of making decisions on behalf of the health center.

"It's important that people feel heard," she said. "That doesn't mean people get their way, it means that they feel heard and they feel valued."

David Salafsky, the interim co-executive director of campus health services at the University of Arizona, said the new associate dean should emphasize forming relationships with students to understand how best to cater to their health care needs.

"I think some of the intangibles are someone with strong communications skills, works well with others, and I think ultimately someone who's really student-centered in the work that they do," he said.

Vex driver known for friendly disposition, trivia questions

ZOYA WAZIR
STAFF WRITER

Freshman Nicole Ross expected a normal commute to Foggy Bottom when she boarded the Vern Express late last month, but her ride was filled with trivia and candy from the Vex driver.

John Rasmussen, a Vex driver, is characterized by more than 10 students as one of the friendliest University staffers. Students said the 15-minute Vex rides with Rasmussen are typically packed with daily trivia questions, candy prizes and words of encouragement before and after a day of class.

Ross said she usually does not know the answers to Rasmussen's trivia questions, but one day she blurted out the answer to a geography question asking where the Bering Strait is and won a Life Savers mint. Ross said Rasmussen's enthusiasm for his job makes him stand out among the other drivers.

"He's so sweet, and some people are so genuinely good," Ross said. "A lot of people try to be nice and get it right half the time, but people like John get it right all the time, so I just really appreciate him as a Vex driver and as a person."

Rasmussen began driving the Vex after spending about seven years serving in the Navy and 30 years as a satellite communications salesperson. He said his wife advised him to find a more enjoyable job when he became stressed toward the end of his communications career, which led him to earn his commercial driver's license and start working as a bus driver.

He said he began posting trivia questions on a poster at the front of his Vex after winter break to help students de-stress during their Vex ride. His first questions prompted number answers for students to guess, like how many days until spring break and how long he had been married.

Rasmussen eventually

began posting various types of questions at the front of his bus daily for students to answer during their commute to Foggy Bottom and back.

"I just want to make this 4-mile trip interesting and fun, and I didn't want to be intrusive because you guys are so involved in your work and all the other things going on in your lives," Rasmussen said. "I thought I'd put up some trivia, and whoever was tired of studying would play the trivia thing, and that's been a lot of fun."

Rasmussen said he and his wife brainstorm ideas for the trivia questions together most nights. He said he typically writes the geography and history questions while she creates pop culture questions about celebrities.

He said students on the early morning Vex rides do not typically answer his questions because they're still waking up, but he gets about one to four responses per ride later in the day. He said he awards several prizes to students for correct answers, like Life Savers, Twizzlers and chocolate Easter eggs.

Rasmussen said he has the most fun with students when they try to deduce the answers to his trivia questions. He said one of his most noteworthy interactions with a student was when she knew the answer to a particularly obscure trivia question about the Latin translation of "woodchuck," which is "materiae materietur marmota."

Rasmussen said that while he aims to brighten his students' days with trivia questions during the Vex rides, students have also taught him how to keep a positive attitude under stress. He said talking with students about their majors and where they are from have been some of his favorite interactions with students.

"They just have such great attitudes and they smile a lot and they laugh a

lot, and they're always chatting, and they're just managing their stress really well," he said.

He added that his late mother was an "umbrella hoarder" and he found about 15 umbrellas when he was cleaning out her house. Rasmussen said he decided to keep the umbrellas on his Vex to give to students who needed one on rainy days. He has one umbrella left, he said.

"I remember when it was raining really hard one morning and I had two of them left and this one young lady was getting off and she's buttoning up her jacket and I pull one of the umbrellas out and I say, 'Here take it,'" he said.

Rasmussen said he will return to GW as a Vex driver in August, and he is excited for another year of driving.

"My wife teases me about banging out of bed at 5 in the morning and going down to get my bus," he said. "And she sees how excited I've been about it, and it really has been fun."

Freshman Sarah McGonagle said Rasmussen brightened her day when he handed her an umbrella when she forgot to pack one on a rainy day.

"I take the Vex a lot living on the Mount Vernon Campus and every morning, when I get John as a Vex driver, it's just a little something extra in your morning," she said. "He's always cheerful, always saying good morning to everybody."

Freshman Deniz Giray Gonzalez said the encouraging poster messages Rasmussen hangs at the front of the Vex — like "Happy Friday Eve!" — can help students remain positive during difficult parts of their weeks.

"I used to wonder if it was an act he was putting up to be liked and rewarded at his job, but he has kept it up for so long and does it with such an honest smile that it can only be genuine," Gonzalez said.



ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

D.C. Councilmember Mary Cheh's proposal would raise the maximum scooter speed limit from 10 to 15 miles per hour.

D.C. Councilmember calls to defund Circulator, increase scooter speed

LIA DEGROOT
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A D.C. Councilmember proposed revisions to the 2020 budget earlier this month that would create dedicated street parking for dockless bikes and scooters and reverse Mayor Muriel Bowser's decision to waive Circulator bus fares.

Councilmember Mary Cheh, who represents Ward 3 and chairs the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, proposed changes to Bowser's budget for next fiscal year, which will undergo a final vote at the end of the month. Neighborhood leaders said the raised scooter speed limit would discourage users from riding on sidewalks, and the parking spots for dockless vehicles would keep bikes and scooters out of pedestrians' way.

Cheh did not return requests for comment.

Defunding the Circulator

Cheh's budget proposal would reverse Bowser's decision to waive the \$1-per-ride Circulator fare. Bowser instated the free fares in February and extended the \$3.1 million program indefinitely in March.

The Bowser administration has pushed back against Cheh's recommendation to defund the Circulator, arguing that Bowser's decision has reduced the number of drivers in the District and worked toward the District's Vision Zero goal to eliminate traffic fatalities by 2024.

Junior and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner James Harnett said he supports keeping Circulator rides free. But he said the District should eliminate extra costs, like transfer fees on the Metrobus and Metrorail, to reduce public transportation prices.

Student leaders have urged officials and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to provide students with a Uni-

versity Pass, a discounted Metro pass program WMATA offers for D.C. students. University and WMATA officials said in February that negotiating a deal to provide students with UPass is not realistic because the University would not profit from the pass.

ANC Commissioner Patrick Kennedy said he is concerned about whether Bowser's decision to make the Circulator free was the "best use" of the approximately \$3 million the program costs. Kennedy said one alternative use of the money would have been to invest in bus service improvements, like adding two-way service on the H1 Metrobus line, which runs from Potomac Park to Brookland.

"There have been some increases in ridership, but I think Councilmember Cheh's concern, as I understand it and I would associate myself with this concern, is we need to be making decisions like that with a much more rigorous analytical eye," he said.

ANC Commissioner Detrick Campbell said he supports free public transportation but is concerned that the Circulator serves mainly residents in Ward 2, an affluent section of the District. The Circulator does not offer routes in Wards 4, 5 or 7.

"A lot of people think that there are other routes that are deserving, or if you're going to make the circulator free, you should make it more accessible to the entire city not just parts of it," Campbell said.

He added that if Bowser defunds the Circulator in the final budget, the money could be allocated to public schools, efforts to increase affordable housing options or government initiatives to lower D.C. crime rates.

Parking spaces for bikes and scooters

Cheh's proposal allocates \$115,000 to a pilot program that would create des-

ignated parking spaces for dockless bikes and scooters. The proposal would not require users to utilize the spaces, but the draft revision states that "if such spots are available, personal mobility device users will use them."

Campbell said he has heard complaints from residents that dockless bike and scooter users often leave their vehicles on the sidewalk and in front of buildings. He said some residents who use wheelchairs have had to call for help to remove a dockless vehicle that has blocked the door to their home.

The District Department of Transportation issued permits to scooter companies at the beginning of the year after its yearlong pilot program ended in January.

Harnett said the parking spaces would allow users to find available dockless vehicles without having to search around the city.

"Being able to keep these vehicles together for users' sake is a really good idea and for addressing some of the concerns that people have about dockless bikes and scooters taking up sidewalk space I think is also a good idea," he said.

Increased scooter speeds

Cheh's proposal would also raise the maximum scooter speed limit from 10 to 15 miles per hour.

Kennedy said increasing scooter speed could deter scooter riders from using the sidewalk and potentially hitting pedestrians, but the decision may be "counterproductive" because riders risk their own safety when using the vehicles in the street.

"We need spaces where bikes and scooters can operate off of the sidewalks where users feel comfortable operating off of the sidewalks, because if people are operating on 15 miles an hour on congested sidewalks, that's not going to work," Kennedy said.



ALEXANDER WELLING | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Vex driver John Rasmussen said he poses trivia questions to students at the front of the Vex during his rides.

E GEORGE
SHINGTON
IVERSITY
HINGTON, DC



ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

GW tallies a 76 in Walk Score's "bikeability" rating and a score of 98 in "walkability," which assesses an area's walking routes and residents' ability to run errands on foot.

GW ranks third among peers in access to transportation

ILENA PENG & LIA DEGROOT
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITORS

GW boasts the third-highest mobility ranking compared to its 12 peer schools, according to data compiled by a company that evaluates access to transportation.

Walk Score, which ranks locations in the United States, Canada and Australia on a scale of zero to 100 based on public transportation availability, measured GW's transit score at 93 – seven points lower than New York and Northeastern universities. Transportation experts said the variety of transportation options, like bike shares and subway stations, located near universities allow students to navigate the city without relying on a car.

Walk Score evaluates the distance and efficiency of public transportation routes, based on data from public transit agencies, to formulate each city's transit score. Walk Score also issues walk and bike scores, which take into account cities' biking infrastructure and the accessibility of walking and biking routes.

GW scores a 76 in Walk Score's "bikeability" rating and a score of 98 in "walkability," which assesses an area's safe walking routes and residents' ability to run errands on foot.

The Foggy Bottom Campus is located near the Metro station at 23rd and I streets, 10 Metrobus stops and two Capital Bikeshare stations. Students can also ride the Circulator bus, which has been free to ride since February, to places like the National Mall and Georgetown.

Transportation experts said GW's high transit score reflects the high speed and functionality of D.C. public transportation.

Ruth Steiner, a professor of urban and regional planning at the University of Florida, said transit scores often reflect the frequency of mass transit systems, like subways and buses. The Metro's orange, silver and blue lines typically stop at the Foggy Bottom station every three to four minutes, and buses around campus run about every 10 minutes.

"When you ask people why they choose the mode of transportation they use, whether it's transit or driving alone or bicycling or Uber and Lyft, they always say, 'I look at the convenience,'" Steiner said.

Kara Kockelman, a professor of transportation engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, said GW's high walk score could contribute to its high transit score because students are more likely to take public transportation if they can easily walk from a bus or Metro station to their final destination.

"Walking is always going to be important regardless of transit access," Kockelman said. "Of course, everybody is going to get off that bus and have to walk to their final destination, so it's going to be really important."

She said students on urban campuses like GW are likely to use public transportation because city traffic discourages them from bringing a car to campus. The District is the second-most congested city in the United States, according to a global traffic scorecard.

Christopher Hrones, the director of strategic transit initiatives at the New York City Department of Transportation, said high transit scores allow universities to limit the amount of money they allocate to building parking infrastructure and discourage students and faculty from taking cars to

campus.

GW owns 23 total parking areas in Foggy Bottom, eight of which are parking garages.

"For a lot of universities, building parking garages are expensive and they would much rather build new academic buildings and student housing and things like that rather than investing in a place for parking vehicles," Hrones said.

He added that students' access to public transportation options like the Metro-rail and Metrobuses saves them money they would otherwise spend on a car.

In interviews, more than 10 students said having several transportation options keeps them connected with the city because they can easily travel off campus using the Metro or bus.

Natalie Geisel, a junior majoring in women's studies, said riding off campus in an Uber is more convenient than taking the Metro, but she would use public transportation more often if the University offered student discounts.

"If they paid for transportation for us I would use it more often, like public transportation, because I know some other schools do that," she said. "I would definitely use it so much more if it was actually part of tuition."

Brian Toscano, a junior studying civil engineering, said having efficient transportation options like the Metro has helped him to explore the city.

Fabian Narach, a junior also studying civil engineering, said the District's public transit options are affordable and make traveling throughout the city easy for him.

"It's pretty convenient," he said. "Wherever you want to go, the area's pretty connected and it's cheap as well."

SA leaders voice concerns over lack of female representation in SA Senate

PAIGE MORSE
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Student Association leaders want the organization's senate to represent more women.

The incoming SA Senate is comprised of nine women and 22 men, SA leaders said at a senate-elect meeting late last month. SA senators said the number of female senators inadequately represents a student body that is 60 percent female, which could present SA leaders with difficulties when debating legislation that affects women.

"We truly want to do the job we signed up for, which is to advocate for everybody," SA Executive Vice President Amy Martin said. "We now have to work a little harder to make sure that everybody's voice is included."

Last academic year, 11 women served on a senate composed of 30 SA senators, according to the SA website. Women also held three of six committee leadership positions last year, but two female senators hold leadership positions this year.

Martin, who raised concerns about a lack of female representation at an April 30 senate-elect meeting, said SA senators must seek out women and students of color to speak about issues during public comment that the senate could address.

She added that she appointed three female students to serve in her three staff positions, like senate secretary and senate chief of staff, so the senate is a "more comfortable place for women." Former SA President Ashley Le appointed women to fill 21 of 28 cabinet positions in her executive cabinet.

Martin said she will prioritize training for all sena-

tors on subjects like Title IX and diversity and inclusion, and she will encourage the nine women elected to the senate this year to speak up about issues important to them. She said the last senate's male-majority body may have caused some women to feel uncomfortable running for a senate seat where females are the minority.

"There are a lot of women and a lot of people of color, women of color, who are qualified who didn't feel comfortable being here or who didn't want to be here for whatever reason," Martin said.

A senator representing the law school sued the SA last month in student court, claiming the SA lacks graduate student representation. Student leaders also highlighted a lack of female representation in the SA six years ago when five women held senate seats.

SA senators said the organization should widely advertise listening sessions on social media and in newsletters to ensure that women can voice their opinions.

Sen. Catherine Morris, CCAS-U and the vice chair of the finance committee, said a senate that does not adequately represent the women in the student body could blind the senate to issues female students face, like paying for menstrual products.

Morris said male senators may not prioritize maintaining initiatives like People for Periods – a student-led project supplying menstrual products in public campus bathrooms – because men do not need menstrual products.

"If there are less women in the senate, I think people might not realize the necessity, the lack of access in general, the cost of those prod-

ucts," she said.

Sen. Raina Hackett, CCAS-U and the chair of the diversity and inclusion assembly, said the senate could struggle to pass legislation that usually impacts female students, like Title IX or sexual assault-related legislation, because fewer women are in the senate to vote.

Hackett said the diversity and inclusion assembly will continue hosting listening sessions that the assembly promoted this academic year and will reach out to women on social media or through newsletters. She said the listening sessions allow students to more intimately discuss concerns, like Title IX matters or a lack of safe spaces for women of color, instead of presenting in front of the entire SA Senate during public meetings.

"We are lacking the voices we need, but if the voices in the senate are willing to listen to all people in the room, then I think it doesn't have to be a huge issue," Hackett said.

Sen. Sparkle Mark, CCAS-U, said the student body did not elect enough women to senate positions this year. Twelve women ran for senate positions this year, according to the Joint Elections Commission website, the same number as last year.

She said the senate should tune into the voices of the nine women currently on the senate to gain perspective from female senators of different races, ethnicities and income levels.

"Women could be represented more, but I would also say that the women who are in SA right now are pretty diverse with their backgrounds to be advocates for the female population," she said. "Even though it's small, it's pretty inclusive."



FILE PHOTO BY JACK FONSECA | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
SA Executive Vice President Amy Martin said the SA Senate currently does not adequately represent women.

Class of 2018 earns higher salaries than peers from previous years

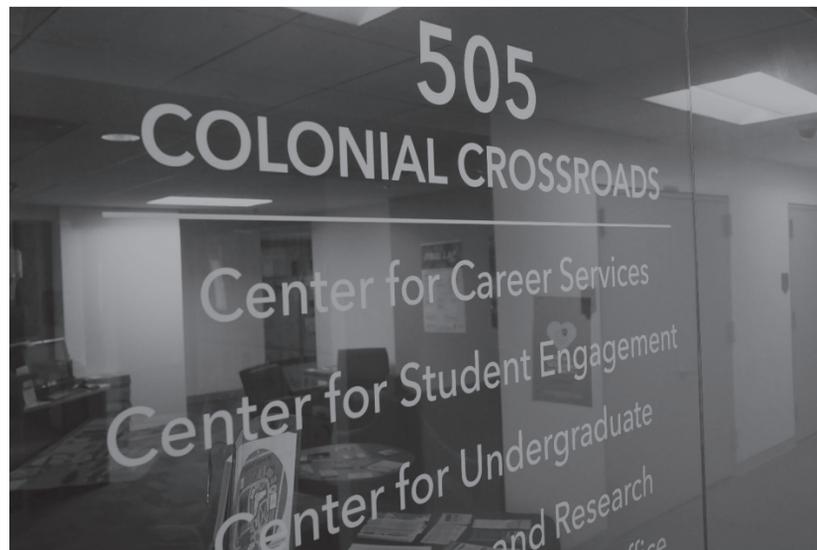
ZACH SCHONFELD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students in the Class of 2018 entering the workforce after graduation are making more money on average than their peers from the previous four classes, according to an annual University survey.

The First Destination Survey – an annual questionnaire sent to the last graduating class six months after Commencement that asks questions about their post-graduation plans – found that 32 percent of the Class of 2018 took jobs that pay more than \$60,000, a 6 percentage point increase from the average salary of the previous four graduating classes. Officials said the Center for Career Services continues to help students find employment through career coaching after they graduate.

Of the 84 percent of the graduating class that responded to the survey, 87 percent of recent graduates had plans for the future, including employment, continuing education, community service or travel, about a 2 percentage point decrease from last year, according to the survey, which was released Monday.

Rachel Brown, the associate vice provost for University Career Services, said the slight increase in salaries was not notable relative to the figures from last year, but the 2 percentage point annual decrease in gradu-



ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
About a third of the Class of 2018 took jobs that pay more than \$60,000, a 6 percentage point increase from the average salary of the previous four graduating classes.

ates earning under \$30,000 demonstrates that fewer recent alumni are earning lower wages than their peers before them.

Brown said that overall, the career outcomes of recent graduates have been "consistent" and "strong" between years.

Eight percent of graduates accepted a job offer in the public sector, a 2 percentage point decrease from 2017, according to the survey of the Class of 2018. The percentage of students working at nonprofits and private for-profit companies both in-

creased by 1 percent.

Brown said the decrease in public sector employment is likely attributable to hiring delays caused by recent government shutdowns and the 2017 federal hiring freeze. The survey may not capture students who received job offers from the government later than usual, she said.

"It's too early to know if it is an actual dip, or if it is a delay, and so that's something that we want to keep an eye on," Brown said.

Brown added that 80 percent of respondents to the survey provided answers

from about mid-March to mid-May before Commencement last year. As a result, some of the 13 percent of students who reported they were seeking employment have likely found jobs, she said.

In past years, officials have released the survey in early or mid-April. Brown said the release of this year's results was delayed because officials began collecting information for the survey using Handshake, GW's job search platform, to increase the questionnaire's response rate.

Michael McKenzie, the managing director of Career Learning and Experience at the Center for Career Services, said students and graduates may be improving their salary negotiation skills with the University's career coaches, explaining the jump in salaries. He said the coaches can help graduates understand the typical salary range for their industry, an important figure to understand when negotiating.

He said the center will contact the 13 percent of graduates who are still seeking employment and connect them to alumni and career coaching resources.

"We're just checking in so they know that resources are there," he said. "Some people drop away from it and don't think they need our help. They might say, 'No, I'm OK.' But when it comes to three months and six months and they're still looking, we need to be reaching out to them."

Career services experts said the high percentage of recent alumni with plans lined up after graduation is promising for prospective and incoming students.

Melissa Medlin, the director of the University of North Alabama's Career Center, said that despite the slightly decreased percentage of students who have post-graduation plans, the figure is high enough to demonstrate the value of a degree from GW to prospective students.

"The higher the percentage of students who are employed after graduation can be an indicator of the quality of the education," she said. "So if 87 percent of your students are employed within six months after graduation, that shows that they have been prepared with the skills that they need."

Gary Miller, the director of University Career Services at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said universities often struggle to obtain data from students about post-graduation plans. A typical knowledge rate measuring what graduates plan to do after graduation is about 65 percent, he said.

Officials said GW's knowledge rate is 84 percent, which gives administrators a more accurate picture of students' plans after graduating.

Miller added that while career counselors cannot guarantee students receive employment after graduation, staff have the ability to "influence" career outcomes if students are willing to think ahead about their futures.

"If a student is intentional about their planning, and does so relatively early, and higher education professionals are keenly supporting students as individuals, the likelihood of a desired outcome is greatly increased," he said in an email.

—Alec Rich contributed reporting.

New speaker series increased business school's reputation, participants say



The series kicked off at the beginning of the semester with a conversation between University President Thomas LeBlanc and business school Dean Anuj Mehrotra.

MEREDITH ROATEN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A new speaker series in the School of Business highlighted the school's ties to the business world and boosted its visibility on social media in its first semester, officials said.

Administrators concluded the inaugural series of George Talks Business – 15 interviews between business school professors or officials and business professionals – with a conversation featuring International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde earlier this month. Officials said the series, which will continue next semester and may feature summer events, boosted the business school's reputation by showcasing the expertise and

experience of faculty.

University spokesman Jason Shevrin said Leo Moersen, the associate dean for undergraduate programs, devised the series as a method for industry professionals to share knowledge with the business school community. Vivek Choudhury, the outgoing associate dean for strategic initiatives, developed the concept while serving as the interim dean of the business school.

"The 'George Talks Business' series was conceived as an information-sharing vehicle to showcase the scope, depth and breadth of GWSB's expertise in business and business education, both within the wider GWSB community – students, faculty, staff, and especially alumni – as well as with the

outside world," he said in an email. "It's proven to be an effective, informative and entertaining initiative."

The series kicked off this semester with a conversation between University President Thomas LeBlanc and business school Dean Anuj Mehrotra. The events are part of Mehrotra's initiative to prioritize student and alumni engagement with the business school community, which has also included the launch of an online happy hour to connect alumni and online students through video chats.

Shevrin said several of the events attracted more than 2,000 online views and large in-person audiences. Recordings of the conversations are available on the business school's

website and YouTube channel. "George Talks Business' has consistently drawn respectable in-person audiences, and on occasion, near-capacity crowds," he said.

Shevrin added that the events helped the school grow its social media audience by more than 100 new subscribers to the school's YouTube channel and more than 300 new followers on the school's Facebook page.

He said none of the 15 speakers were paid to appear, but each received an "inexpensive" gift like GW-branded apparel.

Participants in the speaker series said the events helped the speakers promote their research and connected industry executives with the business school community.

Donna Hoffman, a professor of marketing and the co-director of the Center for the Connected Consumer – the business school's marketing research collaborative – spoke at one of the conversations in February about changes in technology.

She said the series was an "exciting" way to inform the large virtual audience about the work research faculty conduct outside the classroom.

"I understand that a lot of people watched the video on Facebook, so that means the benefits extend beyond our students here on campus to the broader GW community and even beyond," Hoffman said in an email.

Jennifer Vey, a senior fellow with the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institute, said her appearance on campus in March helped her promote her research about innovation districts, a real estate strategy that aims to develop underperforming downtown areas through job opportunities and redesigned neighbor-

hoods.

She said the series was an opportunity for her to unveil her findings to more students, faculty and others by reaching a virtual audience in addition to the in-person interview.

Chris Leinberger, a research professor of urban real estate, interviewed Vey and Gabriel Galvan, the executive director of The MITRE Corporation, a nonprofit organization that provides technical guidance to the federal government. He said many of the events centered around "cutting-edge" research topics, which can start a conversation that inspires students and faculty to learn more.

Leinberger said after Vey's talk, a student's question about applying her research to Foggy Bottom led the researchers to revisit their analysis and make the final presentation of their research more comprehensive.

Danny Leipziger, a professor of international business, said his interviews of Lagarde, the IMF director, and Kristalina Georgieva, the chief executive officer of the World Bank, underscored the high-profile connections the business school can draw upon.

"If you're looking around Washington at the U.S. administration, the top three jobs are the head of the fed, the head of the World Bank and the head of the IMF, so anytime we can get people of that caliber to come and talk to our students, it's a huge plus," he said.

He added that students' "perceptive" questions demonstrated their intelligence and knowledge of the business industry to the guests on the series.

"They showed both the head of the bank and the head of the IMF that our students are thinking about global issues in a very sophisticated way," he said.

IN BRIEF

Two disability discrimination complaints no longer listed on education department website

Two federal investigations into disability discrimination complaints were removed from the Department of Education website.

Two disability complaints, filed by the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, were first listed on the Department of Education website on Feb. 7 and were removed from the website in April. Officials said one complaint was withdrawn, and the University was not notified about the status of the other unlisted complaint.

The first probe, filed under Academic Adjustments to Effective Communication, investigated whether GW denied an individual benefits because of their disability. The second complaint, filed under Free Appropriate Public Education to Treatment of Postsecondary Students, launched an investigation into whether officials retaliated against an individual for protesting disability discrimination.

University spokeswoman Maralee Csellar said one of the claimants "voluntarily" withdrew their complaint, and the University has not received an update on the status of the other case. She did not specify which complaint was withdrawn.

"The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights is obligated to review all complaints it receives," Csellar said in an email. "It may then close its review for any number of reasons, including because the complainant withdrew the complaint, the complaint is about matters outside of OCR's jurisdiction, or that there is no violation."

Last January, GW fell under federal investigation for disability discrimination based on the accessibility of University websites. GW began to create a plan last June to make GW websites more accessible for visually impaired individuals.

—Shannon Mallard

Vice president for research oversees ecosystem review in first year

SHANNON MALLARD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

After one academic year as vice president for research, Robert Miller said he has taken steps to enhance GW's reputation as a research institution.

During the first year of his tenure, Miller increased funding for research on new medical therapies, helped launch a research office for postdoctoral students and oversaw this year's review of the University's research environment. Officials and research experts said that while Miller has achieved some of his goals during his first year, he should continually reassess the strengths and weaknesses of the research department to determine which components of the research system need to be improved going forward.

"My goals over the last ten months have largely revolved around the strategic alignment of the research and academic missions, operational enhancements and improvements to the research experience for undergraduates, graduate students, postdocs and faculty," Miller said in an email.

Miller said he consulted with former Provost Forrest Maltzman, University President Thomas LeBlanc, trustees and other "key stakeholders" and "advisory committees" to set goals for research at the University. He said that instituting the recommendations in April's research ecosystem report comprises GW's "action plan" to improve research processes at the University.

"To move a number of strategic goals forward, we utilized the faculty-led research ecosystem review to collect input from the GW research community," he said. "The ecosystem review itself was a major goal of the University's strategic initiative and an important first step towards addressing a number of priorities."

LeBlanc's strategic initiative to boost GW's research profile focuses on expanding research opportunities for students, reviewing the University's research environment and increasing support for principal investigators.

Miller said officials have launched an electronic system to track compliance with University and federal research regulations. He said the new system will streamline developing grant proposals and manage pre-award and post-award processes.

"The potential efficiencies and transparency created by a new tool will address some of the concerns we're hearing



FILE PHOTO BY GRAEME SLOAN | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
In his first year as vice president for research, Robert Miller oversaw a review of the University's research ecosystem.

from researchers and research administrators," Miller said.

Miller said last year's "realignment" of the Office for the Vice President for Research under the Office of the Provost and increased willingness of leaders and staff in both offices to collaborate with one another helped bolster their relationship. He said cooperation between the OVPR and the Office of the Provost has strengthened undergraduate research "experiences" and non-sponsored research and scholarship.

"I am pleased to say that the Office of the Provost and the Office of the Vice President for Research have developed a much stronger working relationship than they have ever had," he said.

University officials said last April that the OVPR's new reporting structure will advance LeBlanc's strategic initiative to foster a closer relationship between academic and research enterprises and increase support for principal investigators.

In August, research faculty members said the reporting structure will help diversify GW's research output to include more humanities and social science research.

He added that the University, with the support of the provost and the University president, has increased funding for internal research programs and broadened access to intramural funding to more faculty members. Miller said allocating more funding to internal research funding programs will help researchers get external funding for their projects

or launch interdisciplinary research programs.

"These early investments by the University can pay large dividends when funded teams go on to win large external grants or launch self-sustaining interdisciplinary research programs," he said.

Miller announced in January that the University will increase funding for research on new medical therapies.

Miller said the second phase of the University research ecosystem review will find ways to increase support for postdoctoral students, increase usage of shared research facilities, increase investment in high-performance computing infrastructure and ensure that resources are equitably allocated to researchers. The findings from the review's second phase will be released in 2020.

Miller added that he plans to continue working with the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President to offer more research opportunities to undergraduate students, including "enhancements" to Research Days, and to increase interdisciplinary research efforts.

"A number of goals are ongoing and reflect the need for multi-year planning or effort and a long-term perspective," he said.

Leo Chalupa, the former vice president for research, encouraged students to reach out to professors about collaborating on research projects.

Research experts said vice presidents for research should continually observe which components of a research system are

effective at their own University and other schools and annually consult with officials to set priorities for further improving the University's research environment.

Peter Dorhout, the vice president for research at Kansas State University, said officials should determine the success of a vice president for research based on whether the vice president for research meets the goals decided on by university leadership. He said the Vice President for research should consult with university leadership to determine what aspects of the research environment need to be improved.

"They should be evaluated with whatever they were told they were going to be evaluated with at the beginning of their term," Dorhout said. "It's what the president or chancellor of the University has in mind for their performance expectations for the VPR."

Edward Hackett, the vice provost for research at Brandeis University, said vice presidents for research should make regular reassessments of strengths and weaknesses of the University research environment to determine what improvements need to be made in the future.

"It's a mixture of being responsive to the needs of the university and faculty and students there, and being foresightful," he said. "How much of the old do you want to continue, how much of what's new do you want to start, and in each case, why, what makes you think it's something worth continuing and what makes you think that's something worth starting."

GAMES OF THE WEEK



WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

at Swathmore Last Chance Monday
Two runners are competing at Swathmore for one final chance to qualify for the NCAA Preliminary Round.



WOMEN'S ROWING

at A-10 Championship Saturday & Sunday
The Colonials head to Cherry Hill, N.J. to compete in the Atlantic 10 Championship.

NUMBER CRUNCH

1.2

Average number of runs baseball's Nate Fassnacht — who leads the Atlantic 10 Conference with 60 runs batted in — drives in per game.

Next steps for University may include motion for summary judgment: lawyers

From Page 1

"It is sufficient for the Commission to plead that Ms. Williams and Mr. Aresco performed substantially equal work — and yet were paid differently — without getting into the 'equal skill, effort and responsibility' or 'similar working conditions' aspects," Kollar-Kotelly said in the opinion.

She said the EEOC's claim that Nero, the former athletic director, gave male employees preferential treatment would need more supporting details as the case moves forward.

"The court finds that the complaint contains sufficient factual content to permit 'the reasonable

inference that the [University] is liable for the misconduct alleged,'" Kollar-Kotelly said in the opinion.

Nero did not return requests for comment.

Nero resigned from his position as athletic director in December 2017. He became embroiled in controversy after a Deadspin article alleged that he acted inappropriately toward student-athletes and athletic department staff.

Experts in employment law said that because GW's motion was denied, the EEOC and the University will collect evidence to support each of their claims.

Deborah Eisenberg, a law professor at the University of Maryland's Francis King Carey

School of Law, said the University and the EEOC will request documents pertinent to the case and

said the University will likely file a motion for summary judgement, which alleges that the

"That's a similar motion telling the court, 'This case should not go to trial, there's no basis for this case,' and the difference is and the reason they get this second bite at the apple is that this time when they file, they will have more actual evidence."

PATRICIA WISE

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAWYER, SPENGLER AND NATHANSON P.L.L.

facilitate interrogatories between the parties involved in the case.

Patricia Wise, a labor and employment lawyer at the law firm Spengler and Nathanson P.L.L.,

plaintiff's claims or defense will not be successful, to have a second chance at dismissing the case before trial.

"That's a similar motion telling the court,

'This case should not go to trial, there's no basis for this case,' and the difference is and the reason they get this second bite at the apple is that this time when they file, they will have more actual evidence," Wise said.

Defendants submit summary judgement motions 90 percent of the time in employment discrimination cases filed in districts like the D.C. District Court, according to a summary judgement analysis by the Federal Judicial Center released in 2008.

Wise said GW may also attempt to justify the pay discrepancy between Williams and Aresco by illustrating that his skills qualified him for higher compensation during the summary judgement motion.

She said the University will likely argue that Aresco's and Williams' jobs were distinct, and the EEOC will argue that their positions were similar.

Nicole Porter, an employment law professor at the University of Toledo, said a small number of pay discrimination cases go to trial, and if GW files a summary judgement motion and loses, a settlement would be more likely than a trial. Five Equal Pay Act cases were filed by the EEOC in 2018, according to the commission's data.

"Most defendants at that stage, even if they don't think they've done anything wrong, are likely to want to settle just to avoid the expense and the uncertainty of the trial," Porter said.

IN BRIEF

Baseball dominates St. Bonaventure in home finale

Baseball bid farewell to Turner Field for the season with its first sweep in two months, besting St. Bonaventure in its last Atlantic 10 conference series of the season.

The Colonials (30–22, 11–13 A-10) held the lead throughout the entirety of the first two games, dominating the Bonnies (13–29, 6–15 A-10) 11–9 in game one and 10–3 in game two. The final game of the series — and the Colonials' last home game of the season — was a come-from-behind 6–5 win that extended into extra innings.

The sweep gives the squad its fourth 30-win season under head coach Gregg Ritchie. The Colonials are the third team in the A-10 to reach a 30-win mark behind VCU and Fordham.

"They don't remember a lot about how you started, but they remember how you finish," head coach Gregg Ritchie said. "Regardless of playoffs, no playoffs, the finish is always important, it's a growth."

Game one

An explosive third inning for GW's offense proved too much for St. Bonaventure to overcome. Despite a ninth-inning rally from the Bonnies, the Colonials came out on top 11–9.

The Bonnies' pitching allowed 16 hits and struck out three batters on the day.

A home run from senior utility player Dom D'Alessandro kicked off the third inning windfall for the Colonials, scoring the first of seven runs in the inning and solidifying GW's lead.

Freshman second baseman Noah Levin drove in four of the Colonials' 11 runs, hitting two singles to right field to accomplish the feat.

"He did a really good job with the plate," Ritchie said. "He knows he has to improve his game like everybody, but it is nice to see guys like him step up."

The Bonnies threatened the lead with a surge of their own in the ninth inning, scoring four runs and bringing the winning run to the plate. GW used three pitchers until junior right-handed reliever Keagan McGinnis recorded the final out for the Colonials.

Game two

GW boasted its most decisive win of the series in game two, outlasting St. Bonaventure and defeating the Bonnies 10–3.

Freshman left-handed pitcher Rich Pfluger started on the mound and pitched 4.2 innings, allowing one earned run and walking one batter. Senior left-hander Pat Knight relieved Pfluger, earning one run and striking out five in three innings.

A throwing error in the second inning scored two runs and gave GW a lead. A solo shot from D'Alessandro added to the lead in the fourth, and the Colonials scored at least one run during the subsequent four innings.

The Bonnies struck out seven times and notched six hits in the contest.

After the game, GW honored its six graduating seniors — D'Alessandro, left-handed pitcher Kevin Hodgson, right-handed pitcher Nate Woods, left-handed pitcher Pat Knight and catcher Alex O'Rourke — in an annual ceremony.

Game three

The final home game of the season spanned 10 innings and ended with a walk-off win from Levin.

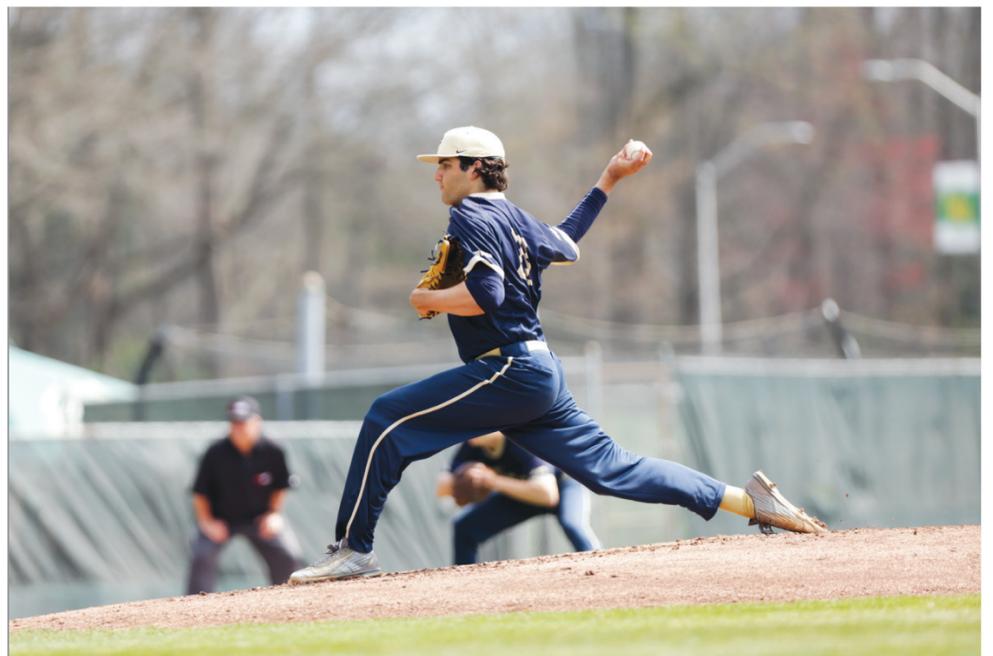
The Colonials' pitching got off to a rocky start after junior right-hander Jaret Edwards allowed four hits and three runs, forcing Ritchie to swap him out for Hodgson, who induced a strikeout and a groundout to end the inning.

"He wasn't commanding the ball except right in the middle of the plate," Ritchie said. "Those guys were getting more and more momentum, and I knew that if we wanted to figure out a way to come back in this game — against their No. 1 pitcher — I knew that if I let it go past three runs, it would be a really difficult thing."

The Colonials slowly gained back momentum, scoring at least one run in five of the 10 innings. A two-run bomb by D'Alessandro in the fifth tied the game in the eighth inning. D'Alessandro went 6-for-12 and hit a home run in every game of the series.

The two teams were at a standstill until the bottom of the 10th when a single from Levin scored junior utility player Steve Barmakian and clinched the victory for the Colonials.

—Belle Long



FILE PHOTO BY OLIVIA ANDERSON | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Junior pitcher Elliott Raimo pitches during a game against George Mason last month.

Raimo's return bolsters baseball's starting pitching

BELLE LONG
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Despite a season plagued with inconsistency on the mound, junior right-handed pitcher Elliott Raimo's return has opened a bright spot for baseball.

A shoulder injury at the end of last season sidelined Raimo for the last weeks of his sophomore season and the first month of his junior campaign. But his return to the mound has provided another option for a pitching staff riddled with injury and inconsistency.

"It's been a lot of ups and downs toward the end of the year," Raimo said. "I've started to feel a little bit better and feel a little bit more confident. It took time, but I stuck through and stayed with the process and did everything I could to get back, and it feels really good to be back."

Slowly, Raimo has returned to form, rebuilding his endurance and improving his command with every start this season. His first start this season on March 9 against UMass-Lowell lasted 0.2 innings because of a predetermined pitch limit.

Nearly two months later, Raimo has consistently gone deep into games. His last two turns on the mound on May 3 at Richmond and on May 10 against the Bonnies spanned more than six innings. He had his longest start of the season with seven innings of work on April 20 against Davidson.

After a rocky start against Davidson where Raimo walked four batters — one walk shy of his highest number of walks in a single game all season — head coach Gregg Ritchie said Raimo's command still was not fully up to par.

"In his last outing, he was probably the most Raimo-like we've seen," Ritchie said after

the game against Davidson. "His strikes are coming back, his velocity is coming back, his feel for his pitches, and each and every outing up to where he is now has been a solid difference and progression."

Raimo said one of his main focuses during his recovery process has been fine-tuning his mechanics to improve his command and velocity.

"When you go that long without throwing, I think the most important thing is to get back your mechanics because then everything starts to work," he said.

At a match against the Bonnies more than a month later, the right-hander struck out a season-high 10 batters and allowed a single walk.

Raimo has anchored the Colonials' starting rotation throughout his tenure at GW, ending his debut season

thing," Levin said.

Raimo has pitched 44 of the 472 innings played this season, the third-highest on the team despite his limited mound time earlier in the season. The squad allowed 167 runs, 244 hits and 128 walks, ranking it No. 11, No. 13 and No. 13, respectively, in conference play this season.

Senior right-handed pitcher Nate Woods also missed about a month this season. He averaged seven innings of work before his injury and in his six starts since returning, he has averaged about 3.1 innings on the mound. Despite the month off, Woods ranks fourth on the team in wins and fourth on the team in innings pitched with 42 innings total.

Levin said Raimo has been invaluable to the team throughout the final stretch of conference play.

Raimo leads the Colonials with a 3.27 ERA and 16 earned runs. He ranks second in lowest number of baserunners allowed per inning among regular starters for the Colonials.

"He is one of the guys that has really showed a lot of grit because he came back off an injury pretty quickly — he didn't miss a beat," Levin said. "He's been our guy that last couple of weeks here in conference down the stretch."

Ritchie said Raimo's drive to maintain the same level of performance as before his injury has led to his success this season.

"Any time you have to work your way through adversity of any kind and you're able to find your way back to some success, that's a terrific character builder and competitor builder," Ritchie said. "I never doubted his competitive nature from day one. He came in as a freshman and earned his starting spot in a weekend."

"It's been a lot of ups and downs, but toward the end of the year. I've started to feel a little bit better and feel a little bit more confident. It took time, but I stuck through and stayed with the process and did everything I could to get back, and it feels really good to be back."

ELLIOTT RAIMO
JUNIOR RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER, BASEBALL

ranked second in the Atlantic 10 conference with eight wins. In his sophomore campaign, he led the team with a 2.76 earned run average, a .211 opponents' average and 72 strikeouts among starters who pitched more than five games.

Freshman second baseman Noah Levin said the team felt Raimo's absence, and his return has given the squad a dependable and consistent starter.

"On the pitching staff side, he is definitely the rock for us and he really solidifies every-

Softball nabs first A-10 Championship in program history

BELLE LONG
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Softball clinched its first conference Atlantic 10 Championship in program history.

After inclement weather forced a cancellation of the deciding game against Fordham Sunday afternoon, Fordham and GW were declared co-champions. As a result, the Colonials (42-16, 15-7 A-10) punched their ticket to the National Invitational Softball Championship for their first-ever postseason appearance.

"Even though we would rather decide it out on the field, we set out to compete for a championship, and these girls are deserving of being A-10 champions," head coach Shane Winkler said.

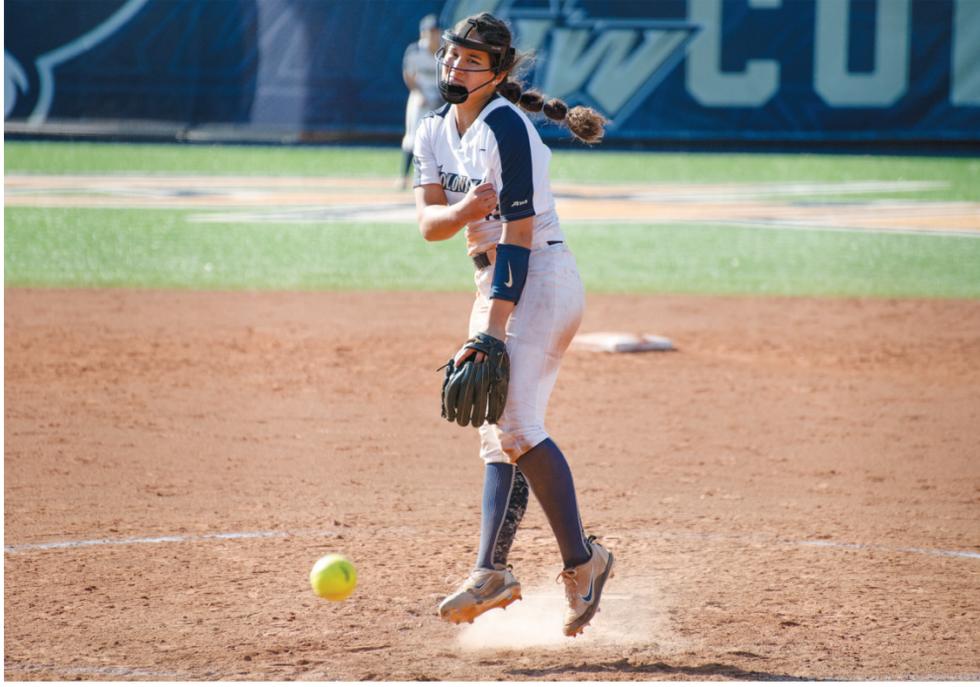
This season is Winkler's first at the helm. After nabbing 42 wins and a conference championship in his debut coaching season, Winkler said he is thankful for the adaptability of his team.

"The thing I'm most proud of is that these girls, they bought in from day one," Winkler said. "They bought in to what we were trying to build and the atmosphere that we were trying to provide."

The Colonials started off the tournament with a 4-3 win over No. 6 seed Saint Louis. The team earned its four runs in the first two innings, and junior utility player Jenna Cone drove in three with her 20th blast of the season.

A single and a home run over the right field wall brought the Billikens within one run of overcoming the Colonials. But sophomore utility player Sierra Lange stayed steady in the circle and retired nine batters to end the game 4-3.

The squad also upset No. 2 Massachusetts 2-1 in extra innings. The game remained tied



FILE PHOTO BY GRAEME SLOAN | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Sophomore utility player Sierra Lange throws a pitch during a game against Dayton last month.

0-0 for seven innings before a pair of singles from sophomore infielder Alessandra Ponce and junior infielder Elena Shelepek raised the Colonials to a 2-0 lead.

The Minutewomen gained one run in the bottom of the eighth but a groundout, fly out and strikeout from Lange sent the Colonials on to face No. 5 Saint Joseph's.

The squad dominated the first two innings, scoring nine runs and leading the game 9-3 heading into the third. The Hawks scored five runs and hit two bombs in the third and fourth innings while keeping GW scoreless to stay within one run.

Three runs at the top of the sixth from the Hawks and one from the Colonials evened the score heading into the seventh inning.

Lange downed three Saint Joseph's hitters before stepping into the batter's box herself and hitting a run batted in to win the game.

Despite sustaining an injury to her ankle early in the postseason, Lange started every game in the circle during championship play, owning a 1.29 earned run average over that span. Lange has been a highlight in the circle and at the plate all season, leading the conference in strikeouts, wins and

batting average.

"What she did in the tournament was something special, and not many kids are asked to do that as a pitcher and a hitter, to throw every inning and then also be one of the biggest hitters in your lineup," Winkler said.

Another postseason standout for the Colonials this season was Cone, a recipient of GW's first A-10 Player of the Year Award in program history. Over the four championship games, Cone went 4-11 with three RBI and one home run.

"We had so many players in our three wins that really stood out at different moments," Win-

kler said. "The nice thing is that we have a ton of talent and we can rely on any one of our hitters in the lineup."

After its walk-off win, GW was one win away from clinching the conference championship. But a 5-2 loss to Fordham Saturday forced a tie-breaking match into Sunday. The Colonials scored an early first inning lead against Fordham but their bats fell silent for the rest of the game, stranding 10 baserunners throughout the contest.

"We had an opportunity to steal the momentum but unfortunately, we didn't do so," Winkler said.

The Colonials' overall season has been record-breaking in more ways than one. The team brought home its first championship title and can now claim its first A-10 player of the year and its highest number of wins in a single season.

Although losing four seniors, the core of the Colonials' lineup will be returning next season. Cone, Lange, Ponce and junior utility player Jessica Linnquist provided the bulk of GW's offense this season and will return next season. Those four players combined for 274 of the Colonials' 557 hits this season.

"We return such a big part of our group and if you look on paper, already we're going to have the most experienced team in the conference and we have the most talent returning in the conference," Winkler said. "So we'll absolutely be one of the favorites, and the reason is what these girls did this year to build the foundation for the future."

The Colonials are back in action Thursday as they take on Marshall at the NISC Liberty Regional. First pitch is slated for 1 p.m.

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3:30 PM CELEBRATION

PARTICIPATING MAJORS

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- American Studies
- Anthropology/Biological Anthropology
- Arabic Studies
- Archaeology
- Art History/Art History and Fine Arts
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- Geological Sciences
- German
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- Interior Architecture/Interior Architecture and Design
- Japanese
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- Music
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- Women's Studies/Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
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- Each graduate will receive 6 tickets to the Smith Center for guests. Overflow seating in other venues featuring video feed will be available for guests without tickets. Please contact ccascele@gwu.edu with any Celebration questions.
- Tickets will be distributed in District House B114 on:
 - Wednesday, May 15th from 12-7pm
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Teams keep up high academic ratings for eight straight years

EMILY MAISE
SPORTS EDITOR

Eight athletic programs received honors for maintaining academic eligibility, high retention and graduation rates.

Women's cross country, women's track and field, volleyball, softball, men's tennis, women's water polo, gymnastics and golf earned NCAA Academic Progress Rate Public Recognition Awards for falling within the top 10 percent of their respective sports. Each squad's success continues an eight-year trend of at least six teams earning the honor.

"We've always focused on student-athletes' academic success," Tanya Vogel, the director of athletics and recreation, said in an email. "I saw firsthand as a student-athlete myself, then as a coach, now as an administrator, academic excellence is at the core of everything we do."

APR measures student-athletes' chances of graduation using retention rates and academic standing. The rates help NCAA officials monitor or penalize schools that do not retain or graduate academically eligible student-athletes.

A higher APR score indicates a higher retention or graduation rate for a program. All eight teams earned a 1,000 APR, which is the highest rate. Eight teams also received the score for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons, down from a GW-best nine programs during the 2014-15 season.

Men's tennis maintains the longest perfect 1,000 APR streak for the Colonials, earning the honor every season since the 2008-09 academic year. Women's track, which joined GW as a varsity program during the 2014-15 season, has maintained a perfect score every year since it joined GW.

The Nelson and Michele Carbonell Academic Center, which first opened in 1983, assigns student-athletes an academic adviser to assist them with NCAA and Atlantic 10 eligibility requirements and graduation requirements, monitor their academic progress through weekly meetings, check progress reports and contact student-athletes' professors.

Educational Support Services, located in the Carbonell Center, is the main source of academic support for student-athletes, according to its website.

"In collaboration with multiple support units on campus and each individual college, ESS can provide the support needed for our students to achieve their goals," Vogel said.

Both women's basketball and women's soccer have remained even at an APR of 991 and 997, respectively, for three consecutive years. Both scores place the teams above the 982 and 989 national APR average for each respective sport.

Men's soccer, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's water polo, men's cross country and women's tennis all saw dips in APR scores from the 2016-17 to the 2017-18 academic years. Women's tennis had the largest decline, decreasing from a 990 to 979 APR.

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