

The GW Hatchet

Opinions

The Hatchet's opinions editor discusses the value of a business degree

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Smallest women's cross country team since 2013 prioritizes health for the upcoming season

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What's inside

Officials debut slew of dining options for Vern residents following Safeway closure



ALEXANDER WELLING | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Officials said that since Safeway closed, they have been in talks with resident advisers and Residence Hall Association leaders about constructing a convenience store and partnering with local grocers to bring more food options to the Vern.

ILENA PENG
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Months after the closest grocery store to the Mount Vernon Campus closed, officials are rolling out several new dining options to mitigate food access concerns.

Students expressed worries following Safeway's closure in May that they would struggle to find close and affordable grocery options on the Vern. Officials said they hope to alleviate students' concerns by implementing

a slew of changes, including expanded Pelham Commons hours and shuttles from the Georgetown Safeway to the Vern.

University spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said officials are holding conversations about building a convenience store where students can buy groceries on the Vern. She said officials are also considering partnerships with several companies to create a grocery delivery service that students can pay for with their GWorld cards.

"Providing access to grocery items remains an important component of GW's overall dining program and provides students opportunities to prepare meals in their kitchens and community rooms, enhancing their campus living experience and building community with other students," Nosal said in an email.

Vern residents can access four on-campus dining options, including 7th Hill Pizza and Higher Grounds Cafe. The CVS on MacArthur Bou-

levard – a six-minute walk from the Vern – is the Vern's nearest grocery option, but students said the store does not offer as many choices as Safeway.

Pelham Commons is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for an \$8 all-you-can-eat lunch and from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for a \$10 all-you-can-eat dinner. The dining hall offers bottomless brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays for \$12.

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SMPA professor's 'bedbug' tweet spurs discussion about civility and academic free speech

SHANNON MALLARD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

School of Media and Public Affairs Associate Director Dave Karpf had just finished teaching a class on the first day of school when he logged onto Twitter for a "light distraction."

While scrolling through his feed, he saw a report from the news organization Slate about a bedbug infestation in the offices of The New York Times and, after thinking for a moment, tweeted that the bedbugs were a metaphor for conservative Times columnist Bret Stephens.

On his way home from work, Karpf was disappointed to see that his tweet got zero retweets and just nine likes but was "surprised" to find an email from Stephens – with Provost Forrest Maltzman copied – in his inbox when he arrived home.

Karpf said Stephens' response to his online comments "violates" principles of academic freedom and stifles the free speech of non-tenured, female and minority academics. Academic freedom experts said university professors are largely free to express their opinions on social media.

"That would have a chilling effect on the speech of any younger academic or any academic who is less secure in a number of ways than me," Karpf said.

Karpf said that while the media attention was "goofy fun" for him – a white, male, tenured professor – if Stephens' comments had been directed at a woman or person of color, they would have been susceptible to online hate and threats.

Karpf said he felt confident that he would not face disciplinary action from officials because he has tenure but he would have been "terrified" of Stephens' email had he been a non-tenured professor.



LILLIAN BAUTISTA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

School of Media and Public Affairs Associate Director Dave Karpf tweeted last week that bedbugs found in the New York Times offices are a "metaphor" for conservative Times columnist Bret Stephens.

because he would have become known for "mouthing off" on social media.

"That's an abuse of power that would have real consequences for some people," he said.

Karpf said the fact that Stephens copied Maltzman on the email proves that Stephens was not interested in "civility" but rather in asserting his sense of superiority.

In his email, Stephens said Karpf's comments constituted a "new low" for online discourse and invited Karpf to his home to meet his wife and children.

"It's not a genuine invite to his house," Karpf said. "It's not a genuine call for civility. This is him saying, 'I'm a columnist at The New York Times, people like you are supposed to be fearful of columnists in The New York Times because we have a higher station in life than you.'"

Once Karpf tweeted Stephens' email, news organizations like The Daily Caller and NPR reached out to him for interviews and the email generated an unexpectedly large response from other Twitter users.

Maltzman publicly responded to Stephens' email with an affirmation of the University's commitment to protecting academic freedom and an invitation to speak on campus about "civil discourse in the digital age," a response Karpf called "spot-on."

Karpf said that although officials have not yet decided on an exact date and time, Stephens will take Maltzman up on the offer and come to campus this academic year to discuss issues pertinent to online civility.

Maltzman told The Hatchet that Karpf's tweet is a "protected right" em-

bedded in the Faculty Code and guidelines for Exercising and Defending Academic Freedom.

"Discussing issues such as how to enhance civil discourse is an important national conversation and is a conversation that our students should be a part of," Maltzman said in an email. "It is important that speakers with different views have an opportunity to defend their views on university campuses that value freedom of speech and academic freedom."

Shortly after Karpf sent out his tweets, Stephens wrote an op-ed piece comparing the spread of online hate over social media platforms like Twitter to "political fury" channeled over the radio in Nazi Germany.

Although Stephens did not directly mention Karpf in the piece, he included a quote from an anti-Semite overheard in Warsaw, Po-

land, during World War II saying, "The bedbugs are on fire. The Germans are doing a great job."

Karpf said the column "crosses the line" and is in "extraordinarily bad taste." He said he hopes that GW will bring Stephens to campus as soon as possible so they can meet face-to-face about Stephen's response to Karpf's initial tweets and his latest Times column.

"I have words for him,

and I would like to say them in a public setting," he said in an email.

Two New York Times spokespeople did not return multiple requests for comment.

Higher education experts said professors generally have the freedom to express their opinions without retribution from the university where they are employed.

Robert Post, a professor of law at Yale University,

STEM course materials about 85 percent costlier than humanities classes

JARED GANS

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Course materials required for introductory science classes cost about 85 percent more than those for introductory liberal arts classes, a Hatchet analysis found.

A review of the cost of required materials posted on the GW Bookstore website for 1000-level courses offered this semester found that students taking science, technology, engineering and math courses pay on average about \$45 more for books than those taking non-STEM courses. Faculty said STEM courses rely more on textbooks sold by large companies that control their prices, while liberal arts courses can easily substitute less expensive materials.

Courses were selected for the analysis if they were listed under a department with at least 30 students enrolled in at least one of the department's majors. The 133 books reviewed across 27 departments were materials sold by the GW Bookstore.

The analysis found that the costs of renting used books for introductory math courses like Single Variable Calculus I and II are among the highest of any subject, topping more than \$140, while students taking liberal arts courses like Archaeology pay only \$18.95 to buy their required book.

For one section of In-

troductory to Comparative Politics, students can rent a used copy of their required book for about \$45, while students taking a section of Contemporary Science for Non-Science Majors need to buy a new copy of the required textbook for \$204.

The average cost to purchase a single book for an introductory STEM course was about \$98 among 44 books reviewed, while the average cost of a single non-STEM book was about \$53, the analysis found. Although the cost of required materials for STEM courses is relatively higher, students enrolled in the courses typically need about 1.3 books on average as opposed to about two books for students enrolled in non-STEM courses.

The average cost of renting a used book for an introductory course in American studies is \$9.63, and no book costs more than \$23. Students only have to rent or buy about two books per American studies class on average, according to the analysis.

Gayle Weld, the chair of the American studies department, said faculty in the department tend not to assign "big expensive books published by major textbook publishers" and focus on more affordable primary sources, like Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Why We Can't Wait" for The Sixties in America course.

See **FACULTY** Page 2

called Stephens' email to Karpf and Maltzman "unreasonable" because academic freedom grants professors the right to publicly express their opinions. He added that the University's decision to invite Stephens to speak at GW will create a beneficial "educational moment" for students and faculty about civil discussion on social media.

"One doesn't have to approve of the way everyone talks as a matter of citizenship, one can say, well, we should be more civil," Post said. "This is not a matter of sanctioning, it's a matter of maybe life would be better if we talk to each other without using language like bedbug."

Cary Nelson, a professor of English at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a former president of the American Association of University Professors, said the concept of academic freedom was designed to protect faculty who present "unconventional ideas" to further advance knowledge in their field.

"It's the glue that holds the university together," Nelson said. "It is the fundamental principle of higher education."

He said academic freedom does not protect individuals whose online comments indicate they are unfit to fulfill their professional duties, giving the hypothetical example of a climate scientist claiming that climate change is a hoax. He said Karpf's tweet does not have any bearing "whatsoever" on his work because his tweet, while an insult, did not contribute to spreading disinformation about his academic discipline.

"That's the big distinction in social media, not whether you insult people, not whether you act like an idiot, but whether statements that you make have bearing on your professional responsibilities," Nelson said.

—Ilena Peng contributed reporting.

News

September 3, 2019 • Page 2

CRIME LOG

THEFT I/FROM MOTOR VEHICLE, DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/VANDALISM

Public Property On Campus (2000 Block of G Street)
8/21/2019 - 7:40 p.m.

Closed Case

An alumnus reported that someone broke his rear passenger window and stole his laptop computer, headphones and leather bag from inside of his blue BMW. Metropolitan Police Department officers responded to the scene and issued a report.

No suspects or witnesses

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

The Dakota
Unknown - Unknown
Closed Case

A male student reported to the GW Police Department that his textbooks, video games and shoes were stolen from his residence hall room while he was absent for 11 days.

No suspects or witnesses

ASSAULT ON A POLICE OFFICER

Science and Engineering Hall
8/23/2019 - 11:22 a.m.

Closed Case

GWPD officers responded to SEH after a man unaffiliated with the University was reported for loitering in the building. The man attempted to push past a GWPD officer after the officer made contact with him. EMeRG workers transported the subject to the Georgetown University Hospital emergency room, per his request, after he sustained minor injuries during his detainment. ER staff evaluated the subject and cleared him for a discharge. MPD officers reported to the ER, arrested the subject and transported him to the Second District police station for processing.

Subject arrested

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT: HIT AND RUN

Public Property On Campus (2100 Block of H Street)
8/24/2019 - 10 a.m.

Closed Case

A non-GW affiliated man reported that someone hit his parked Toyota Sienna and damaged the car's front bumper.

Referred to MPD

SEXUAL ASSAULT, DRUG LAW VIOLATION

District House
8/25/2019 - 1:47 a.m.

Closed Case

A female student reported that a male student sexually assaulted her in his District House room. GWPD officers responded to the subject's room and observed drugs and drug paraphernalia in plain view. GWPD officers confiscated the evidence and transported it to GWPD for processing.

Referred to Title IX office

THEFT II/OTHER, CREDIT CARD FRAUD

Various Locations
8/26/2019 - 12:30 p.m.

Closed Case

A female faculty member reported to GWPD that she observed several fraudulent charges posted to multiple credit card accounts.

Referred to MPD

—Compiled by Kateryna Stepanenko

SNAPSHOT

ALEXANDER WELLING | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR



Sophomores Nicolas Rios and Claudia Lugo, both members of GW Fuego, dance during the Multicultural Student Services Center Block Party Friday.

STEM professors cannot easily substitute cheaper course materials for more expensive books: faculty

From Page 1

"My strong sense is that professors in American studies – and throughout GW, I hope – are attuned to the costs of the books we assigned," she said.

Weld said professors should encourage students to take advantage of GW's available resources, like GW Libraries' Top Textbooks program, which allows students to borrow high-demand textbooks from the library for up to three hours.

She said faculty members in other departments, like those in STEM, may have more difficulty lowering costs for students than American studies faculty would because the prices of materials required for their courses are set by major textbook publishers like Scholastic and McGraw-Hill.

"I don't think we're better people than anyone else," Weld said. "I think it's just the nature of our discipline makes it easier for us not to rely on books that are priced the way textbooks are."

For introductory history courses, the average cost of renting a book is \$25.50, and no book costs more than \$50 to rent.

Katrin Schultheiss, the chair of the history department, said history textbooks tend to be cheaper than STEM textbooks because history books contain mostly text rather than charts and illustrations that are more expensive to print. She added that history books are marketed to more than students alone, lowering the prices of the books.

"Many of the books that are assigned in history classes are not textbooks per se, but are books about history that may have a broader readership outside of the classroom," she said in an email.

Schultheiss said textbook publishers keep costs high by issuing new editions that are "superficially different" from older ones to make it more difficult for students to resell their books.

"With history books, this tactic doesn't really work because in many cases, it doesn't matter if students are using different editions of the textbook because history books don't include problem sets or exercises that really have to be identical for all students in a given STEM or economics class," she said.

Required materials and find cheaper alternatives to textbooks in the past.

The Student Association passed a resolution in 2017 to ask faculty members to consider lower-cost materials instead of more expensive textbooks, and some SA senators partnered with members of the Faculty Senate last semester to plan ways to cut the costs of required class materials.

SA Sen. Louie Kahn, CCAS-U and the chair of the academic affairs committee, said members of the SA want to expand the

tions exists for non-STEM students.

Jay Halfond, a professor of the practice in administrative sciences and educational leadership and policy studies at Boston University, said there is "no easy alternative" for the expensive materials STEM courses require, whereas humanities professors can "easily" assign older used materials that are cheaper.

He said university bookstores struggle financially as students are increasingly able to buy cheaper versions of texts from other sources. Book prices should be lowered if bookstores want to compete with companies like Amazon and Chegg, Halfond said.

"Textbook publishers and campus bookstores are in trouble these days and have yet to figure out how to monetize more reasonably priced alternatives," he said.

Henry Levin, a professor of international and transcultural studies at Columbia University, said professors have increasingly substituted articles and other written materials for books in the past decade. He added that campus libraries have also stockpiled reserve copies of required materials for courses.

Levin said officials should give clear instructions to professors about which alternative texts they can substitute for textbooks to lessen the financial burden on students.

"If I was able to lower book prices for every student, I would," Kahn said.

"I just don't have that power because it's out of my hands, but these are the things that we can do to make it easier for GW students to get access to textbooks."

Kahn said he wants the SA to pass a resolution this academic year to encourage professors to post their syllabi online earlier in advance of the first day of classes so students have time to look for more affordable alternatives to what GW Bookstore sells.

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Free shuttles to take students to Georgetown Safeway, officials to expand Vern dining hall hours

From Page 1

Pelham Commons' Late Night Grill, which offered quick foods like grilled cheese and mozzarella sticks, previously operated from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. The dining hall will be open from 8 p.m. to midnight beginning this academic year and will begin offering "grab and go" snack and à la carte meals during the day, Nosal said.

She added that officials are working with the Georgetown Safeway on Wisconsin Avenue to add their location to the University's Supermarket Sundays – a program in which students receive \$10 if they spend \$40 on groceries every other Sunday.

Nosal said free shuttles, which students have to sign up for, began busing students between the Vern and Georgetown's Safeway over the week-

end.

Student dining representatives will discuss changes to Vern dining options with Residence Hall Association leaders and resident advisers to gather feedback about how to expand "healthy and affordable" cooking and grocery accessibility, she said.

Students have struggled to find affordable and healthy food on campus since the University switched to an open dining plan in 2016, in which students can spend GWorld at various vendors around D.C. The Hatchet reported in December that even three years after the shift, nearly 40 percent of students still suffer from food insecurity.

In response, officials launched a Meal Deals program, most recently increasing the dining dollar limit last year and adding five new restaurants to the Meal Deals program over the summer.

Students opened The

Store, a food pantry in District House's basement, in November 2017 and launched Last Call for Food, a company that partners with Foggy Bot-

the Vern.

Alex Sousa, a freshman living in West Hall, said he will eat more frequently at Pelham Commons once more food options

"It's really hard unless you like going downtown. Today, I don't really have any food for lunch or dinner unless I go downtown. It sucks."

GEORGINA JOLIVETTE
FRESHMAN RESIDENT, MOUNT VERNON CAMPUS

tom restaurants to provide less than \$5 meals to minimize both student food insecurity and restaurant food waste, last October.

More than 20 Vern residents said they have been eating primarily at GWorld dining vendors on the Foggy Bottom Campus – because of Pelham's limited hours and food selection – and are concerned that the nearest grocery store is at least a 15-minute commute from

are added. He said shuttling to Safeway is advantageous but that signing up for the shuttle in advance will create pressure on students if they can't make the shuttle departure times.

"Both of these changes will definitely make food less scarce on the Vern, and I look forward to these changes being implemented," Sousa said in an email.

Georgina Jolivette, a

freshman living in Somers Hall, said she plans to cook in her room with groceries from Whole Foods or Trader Joe's, but that commuting to purchase groceries is inconvenient.

"It's really hard unless you like going downtown," she said. "Today, I don't really have any food for lunch or dinner unless I go downtown. It sucks."

Dom Wang, a freshman West Hall resident, said he began shopping for groceries at Whole Foods on Sundays when GW Dining began offering Supermarket Sunday deals in October. But he said Whole Foods is "rather expensive" compared to the now-closed Safeway.

Wang said many Vern residents don't bother to walk to Pelham's location in West Hall because the cafeteria is opposite the Vern's other five residence halls. He added that Pelham Commons doesn't offer the wide variety of food that he can find at vendors in Foggy Bottom.

"The quality is fine, like the ingredients and everything taste-wise is ok, but still the selection is very limited," Wang said. "It's only a couple dishes compared to all the selections down in Foggy Bottom." Peace studies programs' websites do not include a tab for program-related news or events, but the Judaic studies program allows students to sign up for a mailing list to receive announcements.

Nelson, the University of Illinois professor, said the lack of a clear location for information to be posted forces those looking to post about the department online to "climb to the top of the Himalayas" before finding the right place.

"That's something the University should be looking at," he said. "Because it sounds like the department is just not being helpful to its students."

Three MFA surgeons made more than \$1 million in fiscal year 2018 as group's health care revenues increased

ZACH SCHONFELD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Three Medical Faculty Associates surgeons earned more than \$1 million in fiscal year 2018 amid a jump in patient revenue bills, according to financial disclosures.

The MFA, a nonprofit network of doctors practicing in the D.C. area who teach students in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, made about \$425 million in revenue during the fiscal year spanning July 2017 to June 2018 but incurred about \$450 million in expenses. The Internal Revenue Service requires organizations claiming tax-exempt status, like the MFA, to detail financial information – including top employee compensation, assets and liabilities – annually on a Form 990.

Top compensated employees

Warren Yu, the chief of the spine section of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, was the highest compensated MFA employee in fiscal year 2018. He earned \$1,795,431, according to the documents.

Yu, Paul Massimiano – a cardiothoracic surgeon who made \$1,063,571 – and Michael Rosner – a neurosurgeon and the vice chairman of the department who was compensated \$1,022,642 – were the only employees out of 2,644 total to make more than \$1 million.

MFA spokeswoman Barbara Porter said the MFA Board reviews and sets compensation for top physicians annually.

"The Board of the MFA weighs independent data gathered by doing market comparisons with similar health care organizations in similar geographic areas in setting its leadership compensation," Porter said in an email.

Health care experts said compensation for top medical officials is primarily driven by demand in the field and the physician's talent.

Andrew Hajde – a senior industry adviser at the Medical Group Management Association, which provides resources to health care executives and facilities – said market comparisons are typical in determining appropriate compensation levels.

"In many cases, they're using an independent, fair-market-value evaluation to determine compensation amount – looking at everything from the geographic area to the number of physicians in that area of that specialty to the productivity of the physician to what they're expected to produce," he said.

He added that compensation for physicians in and near the District is elevated compared to some regions not on the coasts because D.C.'s population density drives demand and the area has a high cost of living, which pushes wages up.

Kevin Grant, an accountant at the Tulane Center for Clinical Neurosciences, said surgeons' salaries typically consist of both a fixed amount and the revenue they generate from their procedures.



ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Three Medical Faculty Associates surgeons – the chief of the spine section of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, a cardiothoracic surgeon and a neurosurgeon – earned more than \$1 million in fiscal year 2018.

"Their base salary is guaranteed," Grant said. "If they are the residency director or in some sort of administrative position, they get paid through a base salary. Supplemental salary is all based on production, the number of patients they see and what kind of dollars they're generating for the school."

Yu's nearly \$1.8 million salary included \$1.35 million in base compensation and \$423,931 in bonus pay, approximately the same as the previous year. Massimiano received a \$1 million base salary and no bonus pay, while Rosner was paid a \$725,000 base salary and \$286,842 in bonus compensation, according to the documents.

Grant added that some top doctors and surgeons bring in higher demand and publicity to health care practices by attracting lots of patients, which may cause officials to provide additional bonus compensation.

"There's also a demand piece to it as well," Grant said. "Our top surgeon, there is high demand for him, so he's paid at the top higher than what he can produce."

Yu, Massimiano and Rosner were compensated more than all of the MFA's top executives. Robert Kelly, the CEO and treasurer of the group, received \$938,685 during his first full year in his role. GW restructured its relationship with the MFA last December, which granted the University the power to approve the organization's annual budget and appoint its CEO.

Kelly's salary is about 13 percent lower than the compensation paid to former CEO and treasurer Stephen Badger, who made \$1,078,631 during his last full year, according to past disclosures. The documents detail severance payments to Badger, which totaled \$850,000 over two years.

Porter, the MFA's spokes-

woman, said officials determine compensation for senior administrators by considering a "multitude of factors," like the market rate, experience and employee qualifications.

Revenues from patient care

The MFA brought in \$429 million from health care programs and patient bills, a near-

ly 11 percent increase from the previous year, according to the documents. Porter declined to say why the increase occurred or how the increase will affect the MFA's operations moving forward.

Hajde, the senior industry adviser, said the increase is a "little bit surprising" because many revenue streams for the group, like payments from

Medicare, remain fairly constant and only increase by "minuscule" amounts year after year. The growth is likely because of an increase in patients seen, he said.

"I would say most typically, it's because of growth of the number of visits, which even if the population hasn't grown, it's usually an aging population that is driving more people to the doctor," he said.

Insured through Cayman Islands

The financial documents show that the MFA's physicians, residents and interns receive liability insurance coverage, which protects them financially from malpractice lawsuits, through MFA Physicians Insurance Company, which is headquartered in the Cayman Islands.

Porter declined to say what the relationship is between the MFA and the insurance company, or why the company is domiciled in the Cayman Islands.

Hajde said the arrangement is not typical in his experience, but officials are likely taking steps to ensure that the company provides similar liability protection, as is typical for a company based in the United States.

"I've actually not personally seen a practice before that has had malpractice insurance based outside of the United States that I'm aware of," Hajde said. "But I can't really see any reason why a practice might pursue that other than if there's a cost savings associated with it."

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Students launch student organization to highlight, empower women of color

LILLIAN BAUTISTA &
LIZZIE MINTZ
REPORTERS

A group of female students established the first intersectional student organization for women of color and their allies last week.

GW Women of Color, which registered as a student organization Thursday, will "link" different multicultural student groups together and build community for women of color, the three founding members said. The group's leaders said they plan to host events, like professional development workshops or trips to the National Museum of Women in the Arts, to celebrate and encourage members to learn about different identities and cultures.

Junior Caitlyn Phung, the organization's president and a former Hatchet reporter, said she began creating GW Women of Color in February after noticing a historic rise in the number of women of color recently elected to U.S. Congress. Thirty-seven percent of the women currently serving in Congress are women of color, according to the Center for American Women and Politics.

"If you Google 'women of color clubs,' there's really nothing," Phung said. "It really came down to the fact of me being inspired by the media and word of mouth from people who were just really proud of women of color and their accomplishments."

Phung said she reached out to about 20 female students in March whom she thought would be interested in forming the organization.



DEAN WHITELAW | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sarah Currie, Rita Gavaskar, Caitlyn Phung and Pamela García are all members of GW Women of Color, which became an official student organization last week.

tion. The group currently boasts 26 members, she said.

Phung said the group plans to host a professional development speaker series this year and will host bonding events, like movie and tie-dye nights. She said the group also hopes to lead trips to museums in the District, like the National Museum of Women in the Arts, she said.

"Women like us would really feel empowered if we had that space or potential to realize that or feel safe in their own skin," Phung said. "That's how GW WOC came to be."

Junior Riya Gavaskar,

the group's treasurer and a former Hatchet reporter, said the founding members held about three meetings last spring to entice prospective members and encourage new members to take leadership positions on the group's executive board.

Gavaskar said the e-board spent the summer discussing their goals, like collaborating with other multicultural student groups on events and what steps they needed to take to register as a formal student organization with the Center for Student Engagement. GW Women of Color received approval Thurs-

day from the CSE, the founding members said.

Gavaskar said that many multicultural organizations operate on campus, but GW Women of Color will work to specifically unite women of different racial identities and cultures. She said she hopes the organization will provide community for women from all different backgrounds at the University, a predominantly white institution.

Nearly 1,700 white undergraduate students – almost 50 percent of last year's total undergraduate population – enrolled at GW in 2018, about 8,000 of

whom were white women, according to data from the Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

"I also came from a really diverse town, and it's not really until you leave that that you're defined by what you're not," Gavaskar said. "When you're on a campus that's mostly not people of color, you tend to want to find a community that will share your cultural interests."

Gavaskar added that she wants to partner with organizations like GW South Asian Society and She's The First GW – a group that advocates for girls' education in develop-

ing countries – to co-host events. She said she hopes multicultural student leaders will join the student organization so the groups can plan events together.

"It's difficult to find your community on campus, especially when there are some orgs that are very niche," Gavaskar said. "We want to provide an organization where anyone can join and where everyone can feel welcome."

Junior Pamela García, a co-founder and the communications chair, said that over the summer, she created the group's website, which will advertise the organization's events for the year.

"Having a website can really emphasize what our goals are, just tell a little bit more about what our organization means so people can see what we're about," García said.

Sophomore Sarah Currie, a body member of the group, said when she first came to the University, she attended events held by multicultural student organizations, like the Chinese American Student Association.

Currie said she enjoyed the events but did not feel a connection with other students in the organizations. She said GW Women of Color will bring multiple perspectives and identities together to help students avoid the same problem she encountered.

"I grew up with lots of biracial people and I have not really found that same connection with people here," she said. "WOC will have tons of identities that will hopefully include lots of different women's identities."

IN BRIEF

Metro board principal director Corbett Price resigns amid Jack Evans' ethics controversy

Corbett Price resigned from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board of Directors amid growing criticism over his position on a Metro ethics probe committee, The Washington Post reported Friday.

Price was accused of making statements during the investigation about Ward 2 Councilmember and then-Metro board chairman Jack Evans' private business dealings. He stepped down from the position in light of "medical and personal" complications, like an upcoming surgical procedure that will warrant an "extensive" rehabilitation period, according to Price's resignation letter obtained by The Hatchet.

"This medical issue and a personal family matter, for which I must devote considerable attention, unfortunately conflicts with my responsibilities as a member of the WMATA Board," Price wrote in the letter.

Price's resignation comes two days after the Metro board ethics committee met privately to examine Price's conduct during the Evans investigation, The Post reported. The committee did not take action but appeared prepared to do so, according to The Post.

A Metro board ethics committee found that Councilmember Evans violated Metro ethics codes when he failed to disclose a \$50,000 consulting agreement with Colonial Parking while he held a personal relationship with the company's CEO.

City leaders criticized Price, a member of the committee that investigated Evans, after he falsely stated that the committee did not find that Evans committed any violations, The Washington Post reported. Evans and Price came under fire for threatening the jobs of two Metro employees working on the probe in an attempt to keep the investigation's findings under wraps.

D.C. councilmembers stripped Evans of his Committee on Finance and Revenue chairmanship and launched an investigation into his business dealings in July.

The same day, a Council resolution introduced by at-large Councilmember Elissa Silverman to remove Price from the Metro board failed by an 8-4 vote. Silverman said in a July statement that Price "knowingly misled" the press through his statements about the investigation.

"District residents deserve a WMATA voting member who always acts with integrity and fidelity in the best interests of the city," Silverman said in the statement.

Evans is also the subject of a federal criminal investigation, which prompted federal agents to search his home in June. If he runs for re-election, Evans will face five challengers next year.

Mayor Muriel Bowser nominated Lucinda Babers, the deputy mayor for operations and infrastructure and the former director of the District Department of Motor Vehicles, to replace Price Saturday, The Post reported. Bowser, who originally appointed Price to the board in March 2015, said she is "grateful" for Price's work on the board over the past four years.

"From his efforts to secure a fair dedicated funding agreement to his work to create structures that allow for greater efficiency, Corbett has played a critical role in building a more stable and financially sound WMATA – a system that is able to focus their attention on safety, reliability and capacity," Bowser said in an email.

—Zach Schonfeld



Shenkman Hall residents can receive mail and packages from lockers in the building's lobby.

Officials add first Foggy Bottom in-residence package lockers to Shenkman Hall

KATERINA STEPANENKO & LIA DEGROOT
STAFF WRITERS

Shenkman Hall residents can now collect packages and mail without leaving the building.

Officials said they installed 174 package lockers in the residence hall to reduce long waits and large amounts of mail at GW Mail and Package Services. In interviews, more than 20 students living in Shenkman Hall said the lockers will make collecting packages more convenient because they can skip the two-block walk to package services, which is located on F Street.

University spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said officials installed package lockers in the residence hall at the beginning of this academic year after receiving positive feedback from the 108 lockers officials added in West Hall on the Mount Vernon Campus last summer.

"Given the popularity of online shopping, the University has seen continued and steady growth in the number of packages received annually by Mail and Package Services," Nosal said in an email. "In response, GW has worked to streamline its operations to over-

come the increase in volume and improve service for our students."

She said students can access the lockers 24/7 and will be notified via email when they receive mail or a package, which eliminates the need to check their mailbox daily and memorize a mailbox combination. Nosal said students can currently only use the lockers to receive standard mail, like letters and catalogs, but the lockers will hold package deliveries in the coming weeks.

"The postal locker system in Shenkman Hall is also a pilot program, but in this case, the 174 postal lockers will be both a replacement for standard student mailboxes and also offer package retrieval for Shenkman Hall residents," she said.

Nosal said officials will gather feedback from students and package services workers as the package lockers are used.

"We do not anticipate any negative impact to Mail and Package Services operations from the addition of these lockers," she said. "We will, however, monitor both operational impacts and gather feedback as we conduct this pilot program and determine what changes might be

appropriate and/or if additional locations should be added."

When students receive a package, they will be emailed a PIN to type into the screen at the locker dock, according to an email sent to Shenkman residents Thursday. The locker dock includes a card reader where students will be able to scan their student ID to open the locker with their package, the email states.

More than 20 students living in Shenkman said the lockers will make collecting packages easier, which could increase the frequency with which they place online orders.

Kelsey Sanderson, a sophomore, said the package locker system will make collecting mail more convenient than having to walk the extra three blocks to package services.

"You can just come from class and pick it up," she said. "It's kind of like when you are at home. You come home and you pick up your packages on the way to your home, instead of having to go somewhere else."

Sophomore Carson Ward said the package locker system should be expanded to residence halls farther from package services than Shenk-

man, like Munson and JBKO halls, so students don't have to carry packages more than a few blocks.

"That way, instead of having to go to regular packaging services, it can be further divided up so there aren't long lines between going to package services and going to our services here," Ward said.

Sophomore Kiera Fyffe said using the package lockers on the Vern when she lived in West Hall last year was convenient because she could grab her packages 24/7 instead of planning her pick-ups around package services' operating hours.

"I think it can help with the congestion that package services probably has because there is only one location on Foggy Bottom for packages," Fyffe said.

Sophomore Leeor Harel said she enjoys the convenience of the package lockers, but added that expanding the system to every residence hall could lead to a cutback in jobs for package services employees.

"It's tricky, because if they did it in every single residence hall and the people at package services would lose their jobs, and that's something to consider," she said.

Diversity and inclusion education director teaches course on black feminism

HAYDEN SMITH &
JARED GANS
STAFF WRITERS

Students enrolled in a new course this fall will explore the intersection of black feminist writings and pop culture.

Jordan West, the director for diversity and inclusion education, is teaching a course titled Black Feminism for undergraduate and graduate students this semester. West said the course, listed under the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, will focus on topics surrounding black feminist theory, like education and religion, and help students understand the "complexity" of experiences that black women face regularly.

"This course will always strive to affirm black women as enough, as knowers of their lived experiences and as owners of their body and mind," West said in an email.

West said students will review the writings of black feminists like Maya Angelou while studying black feminism in pop culture through artists like Beyoncé. She said WGSS director Kavita Daiyi invited her this summer to teach the course, which West said has the "potential to impact society widely" both inside and outside the black community at GW and in the world at large.

West added that the class, the first offered at GW focusing specifically on black feminism in at least two academic years, is intended to be a "liberating, intentional and challenging experience" for students. She said all 20 seats



ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Jordan West, the director for diversity and inclusion education, is teaching a course this fall for graduate and undergraduate students on black feminist theory.

in the class have been filled.

West said she hopes the course will push students through open discussion to build empathy, identify the issues affecting black women and think about how they can solve those issues, regardless of their own racial and gender identities.

"Blackness and womanhood are both on a spectrum, and students will experience the unique and dynamic complexity of black women through this course," she said.

She said "leading scholars" in black feminist theory

have been invited to visit the class throughout the semester. She did not elaborate further about who has been invited and whether they have confirmed if they will attend the class.

She said the course will allow students to learn about how black feminism is integrated into pop culture while learning about the movement's history, like the Combahee River Collective, a black feminist organization that was active in the 1970s.

Experts said West's new course will provide students with a broader perspective

of the intersection between feminism and race.

Stephanie Smith, a professor of English at the University of Florida who specializes in feminist theory, said the individual fields of black and feminist studies do not completely explain the experiences of black feminists, which is why a class teaching both together is "enlightening" for those who do not identify as black.

"Only one vector of identity is never going to give anyone a complete picture of what it means to be embodied within a socio-historical

and political matrix," Smith said in an email.

Smith said the emergence of movements like Black Lives Matter and #MeToo increases the course's relevance in today's political climate. She said recent attacks by white supremacists, like the 2015 shooting at a black church in Charleston, S.C., highlight the need to develop empathy for what black women experience.

"The future belongs to the compassionate and the informed, always, at least in the long run," she said.

Kabria Baumgartner,

an assistant professor of American studies at the University of New Hampshire, said the course could expose students to a wide range of ideas, like intersectionality, that originated from black feminist thinkers.

"Intersectionality is a concept that is often used now, but in such a class, students would learn that Kimberlé Crenshaw, a brilliant black woman legal scholar, coined this term, and that the concept – though not the term actually – circulated among black women activists as far back as the early 19th century," she said in an email.

Baumgartner said the course could explain the "crucial" role of black female activism in the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guaranteed women's suffrage, as the country approaches the ratification's centennial next year.

"It is important to celebrate this milestone while also acknowledging that the women's suffrage movement splintered over the issue of race," she said.

Logan Brown, the co-president of Black Women's Forum, said the class is an "opportunity of exposure" for students to understand the history of black women in the United States and the current issues they face, like their lack of recognition in the media.

"It creates a new level against the challenge of making sure that intersectionality is clearly represented and is equitable and accessible," she said.

Institute for Middle East Studies seeks to raise its profile among region's researchers with new collaboration, symposium

CIARA REGAN
STAFF WRITER

More than a decade after launching at GW, a center dedicated to Middle East research and teaching is working to raise its profile among researchers in the region nationally.

The GW Institute for Middle East Studies, housed in the Elliott School of International Affairs, will hold its first annual graduate student symposium later this month amid its recent acquisition of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, an organization that promotes the study of the region. IMES interim director William Youmans, an associate professor of media and public affairs, said the institute will continue to bring scholars of the region together and grow its expertise.

"IMES is a dynamic place that is open, inviting and supportive," he said in an email. "Anyone interested in studying the Middle East at the University should be involved."

Almost 50 faculty members are affiliated with IMES. The institute holds an annual conference and a film and speaker series for events like book launches, in addition to publishing research in several academic journals, according to its website.

MESA collaboration

The Middle East Studies Association, which had been located at the University of Arizona since 1981, signed a memo of understanding last month with IMES to establish its headquarters within the institute at the Elliott School.

MESA is a nonprofit that promotes the study of the Middle East through educational programs and scholarly publications, like The Review of Middle East Studies, according to MESA's website. Youmans said in the release that MESA has been "foundational"

elevating the University's profile as a "leading center" for studying the region.

"As the professional center of the field, having it at GWU could help highlight the University's growing expertise on Middle East affairs, but it's an independent, international organization that has its own interests in being in D.C. now," Youmans said about MESA.

Nathan Brown, a former director of IMES and a professor of political science and international affairs, said the move will lead to more Middle East

like a well-established background in Middle East studies, to expand the group's ability to connect individuals interested in studying the Middle East. Brown said the organization's move to the Elliott School will give faculty members more opportunities to work with MESA and potentially give students more part-time work opportunities.

"The hope is that by placing it in a city rich in institutions focusing on the Middle East and in a university with a strong commitment to Middle Eastern studies, informal as well as formal ties will develop," Brown said in an email.

Dina Khoury, the president-elect of MESA from December 2019 to December 2021 and a professor of history and international affairs, said she does not expect the move to affect the work each MESA member does, but it will give the organization more opportunities to collaborate with students and faculty interested in Middle East research and education.

Khoury said the group's executive director and the IMES director will work out the specific details of MESA's move. The association named a new director, Jeffrey Reger, who will begin in his position starting Sept. 1.

"We are grateful for GWU for giving us the space and resources to establish our headquarters,"

she said in an email.

Graduate student symposium

The institute will hold its inaugural graduate student symposium, entitled "Development, Humanitarianism and Security in the Middle East: Legacies and Futures," on Sept. 20, which will feature several panel discussions on interventions in the Middle East.

The panels will respectively focus on security and geopolitics, humanitarianism and development in the region. Sarah Pursley, an associate professor of Middle East and Islamic studies at New York University, will conclude the symposium with a keynote address.

Alyssa Bivins, a second-

year doctoral student and a coordinator of the symposium, said the event's three panel topics were chosen by graduate students associated with IMES. She said the symposium is a way for graduate students to present key ideas and learn about top researchers in the field.

More than 10 graduate students will participate in panels for the symposium, according to the institute's website.

"This is an event that is both backward-looking and forward-looking," Bivins said. "We want to allow scholars to share their critiques of the past but also discuss their hopes and predicted challenges of the futures in the Middle East."

IN BRIEF

Cancer biologist tapped to lead pathology at GW Hospital, medical school

A "world-class" gastrointestinal pathology expert and cancer biologist will lead departments in the GW Hospital and in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, according to a medical school release published Tuesday.

Antonia Sepulveda, who is the president-elect of the Association for Molecular Pathology, will serve as GW Hospital's chief of pathology service and clinical laboratory director and chair the medical school's Department of Pathology starting Oct. 1, according to the release. Sepulveda said in the release that she will prioritize bolstering clinical, scientific and translational research in the medical school.

"It is a great privilege to be chosen to chair the Department of Pathology and join GW's leadership and the pathology and clinical laboratory team to promote GW as one of the world's elite research institutions and a top destination for patients, students, trainees, staff, and faculty," Sepulveda said in the release.

She will also serve as the Ralph E. Lowey professor of oncology, the release states.

Sepulveda previously served as the vice chair for translational research and the director of the Division of Gastrointestinal Pancreas and Liver Pathology in the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, according to the release.

Sepulveda led the surgical pathology department at the University of Pennsylvania and was the school's founding director of molecular anatomic pathology and molecular test development, the release states.

Outgoing medical school Dean Jeffrey Akman said in the release that Sepulveda's background in medicine, research and education will allow her to drive the pathology department and the GW Cancer Center toward "preeminence."

"We are delighted to welcome a world class cancer biologist and leader in gastrointestinal pathology and molecular diagnostic pathology to serve as the new chair of the Department of Pathology," Akman said.

—Shannon Mallard



The Middle East Studies Association of North America, which was originally based at the University of Arizona, established its headquarters at the Elliott School's Institute for Middle East Studies last month.

ALEXANDER WELLING | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Opinions

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WHAT THE UNIVERSITY WON'T TALK ABOUT THIS WEEK

Why the MFA's insurance company is headquartered in the Cayman Islands. p. 3

FROM GWATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

"The University should strive to ensure that all students feel like they are part of campus by expanding tap access to those who live off campus."

— KIRAN HOEFFNER-SHAH ON 8/29/19

The University got too involved in the 'bedbug' fuss on Twitter

Officials took to Twitter last week to invite a so-called "bedbug" to campus.

David Karpf, an associate professor in the School of Media and Public Affairs, published a tweet calling New York Times columnist Bret Stephens a "bedbug." Stephens lambasted Karpf in an email to him and Provost Forrest Maltzman that was later posted on Twitter and went viral. Stephens deactivated his Twitter handle after the email spread on social media, then the provost stepped in.

Hannah Thacker

Contributing Opinions Editor

In response to the email, Maltzman released a statement on Twitter backing Karpf and inviting Stephens to campus to discuss civil discourse on social media.

Publicly responding to Stephens' email demonstrated that Maltzman condoned the columnist's unprofessional email. Stephens is a public figure who puts himself in a position where people can disagree with him because he is a columnist. Stephens was wrong to include Maltzman in the situation in the first place, but Maltzman should have left his temper tantrum alone instead of validating his unprofessionalism through an invite to campus.

The back-and-forth on Twitter was between two adults. One is a



Cartoon by Jekko Syquia

Times columnist, and the other is a GW professor. Stephens' choice to get the provost involved in the situation was childish and did not warrant a University response. Backing Karpf's original tweet is OK because Maltzman was looped into the scuffle, but turning the argument into a University event was wrong.

Instead of responding to Stephens directly on Twitter or emailing him back, Maltzman

could have released a statement saying the University would not get involved in the personal affairs of a professor expressing his freedom to speak. A response merely defending Karpf would have shown that the University acknowledges the incident but knows not to step in.

The opinions and thoughts of professors not directly concerning officials are not a matter they need to comment on, even if Stephens

invited their response. Maltzman should not have responded to Stephens' baiting email by inviting him to campus because it was a personal matter between Stephens and Karpf. But the University used the situation as a plug for more attention unto itself.

Maltzman's response to Stephens was also posted on Twitter, but Stephens had already announced he would deactivate his Twitter account. The University

wanted to be part of the national conversation even though the columnist stopped following along on social media at least. Since Stephens' Twitter account had already been shut down, officials' response was more of a call for public attention.

Rather than making the fight into a University event, the provost could have publicly explained to Stephens that involving Karpf's boss in a personal matter was unprofessional and unacceptable. Inviting Stephens to campus implies that somehow it was acceptable for Stephens to email Karpf's boss, because it legitimizes his complaint.

Stephens also did not invite Karpf to his home to have a civil discussion, he invited him to call him a bedbug to his face. Since Stephens did not extend the courtesy to have a civil discussion with Karpf, the University should not have shown the professional courtesy of inviting him to our campus.

The disagreement between Karpf and Stephens was a personal matter that did not warrant a University response. Standing up for Karpf is OK, but officials took the matter too far by asking Stephens to come to campus to gain public attention off of the media frenzy. The University should not set aside its professional integrity for a few moments in the national spotlight.

—Hannah Thacker, a sophomore majoring in political communications, is the contributing opinions editor.

Floating tuition will turn away prospective low-income students

STAFF EDITORIAL

Incoming students may have a more difficult decision committing to the University after officials announced they will eliminate GW's longstanding fixed tuition policy.

Under a floating tuition policy, the University can change the cost of tuition each academic year, similar to how officials change its residence hall prices. Officials have increased tuition by about 3 percent for the past few years, but now those increases can affect all future students as long as they attend GW.

If the University continues to up its price tag as it has done in recent years, students who already struggle to afford tuition may not stay at the University or come to campus in the first place. While the new policy would enable officials to expand their budget and fund Thurston Hall renovations and more community spaces, it could harm incoming students – especially those from low-income families – who do not want to adjust to an unpredictable sticker price from year to year. The University needs to prove its commitment to socioeconomic diversity and explain how a floating tuition policy will financially impact prospective students.

For many students considering where to attend college, price is the biggest determinant. For middle-class families that might not be eligible for much financial aid, the prospect of steadily rising tuition across four years could be daunting. Students who are not eligible for financial aid often rely on merit scholarships, which the University says will not increase under the new policy. If tuition increases and a students' merit scholarship does not, the University will become less and less affordable.

In addition to implementing a floating tuition policy, the University plans to reduce undergraduate enrollment by thousands of students. If the University relies on student tuition to

fund its budget, fewer students means there are fewer students around to pay the bills. An expected increase in tuition every year is predictable.

GW's cost of tuition is already unaffordable for most people – and it shows. More students are in the top one percent than the bottom 40 percent of family incomes. The University cannot afford to lose what little economic diversity it has, because economic diversity gives those from all classes different perspectives. But floating tuition will make it harder for middle- and lower-class families to afford sending their kids to campus.

Families struggling to afford GW need to know that they will be able to afford college down the line. The University's statement on financial aid – which said that the University will continue reviewing financial aid each year as it takes into account tuition changes – was vague and did not go far enough to ensure that financial aid packages will cover potential tuition increases. Students have spent summers and semesters stressed about their financial aid packages possibly changing, and that concern will only worsen if tuition is raised.

Students with lower incomes or those who are dependent on financial aid may be unwilling to attend the University, given that the University already does not meet financial need for all students and the University considers a student's need in their admissions decisions. Increasing the cost of attendance per year could lead to those who would require more aid from the University to not apply to or attend the school, or it could hurt students who go into school without enough aid to help them afford a tuition hike.

Moving to floating tuition brings GW in line with its peer schools, but the University's peers do more to help students for col-

lege. While all of GW's peer schools meet students' financial need, just three peer institutions – New York and Tulane universities and the University of Miami – do not meet financial need like GW. Among those three schools, NYU is the only university with a higher cost of attendance than GW.

Floating tuition might work for the University's peer schools, but officials may scare off prospective students if they cannot guarantee full need.

The University should not increase its own budget at the expense of the student body. While the University touts its commitment to the student experience, most students have their experience driven by their ability to pay for college. Newer classrooms, residence halls and community spaces – all improvements officials vowed to put the extra money toward – may help students currently on campus, but the University is simultaneously turning away those who may not be able to afford the school in the first place.

The University needs to be transparent about why they made the decision to ditch the fixed tuition policy. Officials should release specific breakdowns of what tuition increases will be spent on so students know where their money is going. The University needs to be honest about its decisions, and the initial statement on the new policy was far from enough to reassure prospective students and their families.

It should not be University policy that students need to afford the new price of attendance each year. Moving away from fixed tuition unfairly expects students to be able to afford increases in tuition and makes it clear that the University prioritizes students who have the privilege to know what their financial situation will be each year. The University should focus on admitting the most qualified students, not just the richest students.

Business degrees don't give students a valuable education

Business is the most popular college major in the United States, and that trend is not too different at GW. The School of Business is the third largest at the University, trailing the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and the Elliott School of International Affairs at No. 1 and 2, respectively.

Kiran Hoeffner-Shah

Opinions Editor

Pursuing a business degree makes sense – graduates are among the highest paid of any major. But we should not measure the success of academic programs in terms of salary and employment. The success of an education program should be weighed by its academic value, not its career value. Business schools are inherently flawed because they are not designed for learning but for career building – a skill that students can pick up through other campus resources.

Students should not shy away from taking business classes, but majoring in business is a mistake.

Pursuing a liberal arts education can help students learn skills like writing better than they can in business courses. Earning a degree in science or engineering can provide practical skills that can help students start businesses, and degrees in humanities topics would better teach students skills like writing and critical thinking. Students who value entrepreneurship or Wall Street careers do not need business school to get there, and they should not sacrifice their education for their careers. Using other resources on campus, like the Center for Career Services, can help them get these jobs, and choosing a different major will better prepare them for their career.

Criticism of business schools is not new. Administrators leading some of the country's top business schools – as well as higher education experts, students and journalists – have questioned the quality of business schools. Most of the criticism is based on the idea that universities should teach students about the sciences and arts instead of how to turn profits.

Business students take a core curriculum built on introductory courses and higher-level management courses, in addition to a required minor. Business courses put an emphasis on teaching management and leadership – from the mandatory first-year development course to advanced courses on career management strategy, which focus on resumes and job searches. Most business courses are not easy, but on average, business students spend less time

reading and writing while studying for fewer hours than students pursuing other degrees.

Students who want to work in business can learn career skills while seeking a more substantial major. Students can learn how to network and build resumes in the Center for Career Services, they can learn about the market in economics classes and they can learn how to make spreadsheets in statistics classes. Business degrees might bring gainful employment, but they teach the philosophy of business as if it were a science, which is not useful to students when they can gain these skills elsewhere and obtain a more meaningful degree.

Students in the business school are required to major in either business administration, finance or accountancy. Students majoring in business administration are expected to choose at least one concentration – accountancy; business analytics; business economics and public policy; finance; information systems and technology management; innovation and entrepreneurship; international business; marketing; real estate; or sport, event and hospitality management. These concentrations require students to take additional field courses and include suggested minors.

Concentrations make the business school seem more practical by giving students a deep dive into a particular area of business. But some concentrations, like innovation and entrepreneurship, are more vague than practical and include throwaway courses like Innovation and Creativity.

One of the reasons business schools create higher paying jobs is because connections to companies make it easier to get internships. But in D.C., there are already internships readily available, and going to business school is not necessary to find an internship. The University already offers services to help students find internships – and majoring in business does not give students more than what they would otherwise be able to find at the University.

There is plenty to learn in the business school, and not every major in the business school is impractical. The business school offers degrees in accounting and finance that set students up for specific careers. But vaguely titled majors like business administration should be avoided.

Students majoring in business should know that getting a high-paid job does not need to be accomplished through a business degree. An in-depth understanding of another field combined with some business classes is good enough. College should be about more than what comes after college.

—Kiran Hoeffner-Shah, a junior majoring in political science and psychology, is the opinions editor.

The GW Hatchet

609 21st St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20052

gwhatchet.com | @gwhatchet

news@gwhatchet.com

opinions@gwhatchet.com

sports@gwhatchet.com

culture@gwhatchet.com

photo@gwhatchet.com

multimedia@gwhatchet.com

Lauren Peller, project manager
Leah Potter, managing director*
Parth Kotak, senior news editor
Dani Grace, senior news editor
Shannon Mallard, assistant news editor
Zach Schonfeld, assistant news editor
Lia DeGroot, assistant news editor
Jared Gans, assistant news editor
Lizzie Mintz, contributing news editor
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Kate McCarthy, contributing social media director
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Submit to opinions@gwhatchet.com

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Culture

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THE SCENE

OF MONSTERS AND MEN

The Anthem
Sept. 4 • \$50
The Icelandic indie pop band, known for its hit "Little Talks," will perform Wednesday.

PHANTOGRAM

The Anthem
Sept. 6 • \$40
The lifelong friends and electronic rock duo will perform Friday.

DODIE
9:30 Club
Sept. 6 • \$25
The English singer-songwriter who rose to fame on YouTube will perform Friday.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

'NORMAN FUCKING ROCKWELL,' AN ALBUM BY LANA DEL REY

MOLLY KAISER

CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

An increasing number of D.C. restaurants are adding burgers to their menus – but without the meat.

Plant-based burgers like the "Impossible" and "Beyond" burgers have landed in more than 35,000 locations across the world and at least 30 locations in the District. Restaurant owners and chefs who serve the burgers said their high demand from both vegetarians and meat eaters frequently leaves them out of stock.

"Customers love having something they enjoy, as well as something their non-vegan guests will enjoy," Doron Petersan, the chef and owner of Fare Well, said in an email. "We don't have to convince anyone that they will enjoy it. It's gained so much popularity that it sells itself."

Two companies – Impossible Foods and Beyond Meat – have challenged traditional American cuisine with their meatless burgers, beef and sausage that are made to bleed and taste like real meat. The burgers are made from ingredients like plant protein, coconut oil and a molecule called heme, which gives the food its burger flavor.

The main difference between Impossible and Beyond burgers is the ingredients. Impossible burgers contain soy protein, sun-



COURTESY OF FARE WELL
The owner of Fare Well said the restaurant serves an entirely plant-based menu to encourage healthier eating habits.

flower and coconut oils and potato protein, while Beyond burgers are made from pea protein, canola and coconut oils, potato starch and beet juice extract.

Beyond Meat sells to grocery stores like Whole Foods, and Impossible Foods distributes to restaurants only. Both companies aim to decrease human dependence on livestock and minimize unsustainable practices in the meat industry like mass land usage and high carbon dioxide emission levels.

Impossible Foods' website states that its products

use 96 percent less land and 87 percent less water than animal food products. Beyond Meat reportedly uses 99 percent less water and 93 percent less land than a beef burger would require.

Several D.C. restaurants have embraced the popularity of plant-based burgers, adding Impossible and Beyond burgers to their menus.

Petersan, Fare Well's owner and chef, said the restaurant serves an entirely plant-based menu to encourage healthier eating habits. In addition to plant-based burgers, Fare Well offers dishes

like "Southern Fried Wings" made from chickpeas and burrata cheese.

Fare Well carries the Impossible burger, selling about 60 per day. The Impossible burger is the restaurant's most popular burger offering, selling three times more than any other plant-based burger it has tried serving, Petersan said.

"There is still quite a bit of work to be done in terms of getting people to choose vegan eating – whether or not they adhere to a vegan lifestyle – on a more regular basis," Petersan said.

Bareburger DC in Dupont Circle offers a menu with both meatless and beef burgers, including both the Impossible and Beyond burgers. Jonathan Lemon, the joint's director of culinary operations, said he originally added the Impossible burger in 2017 to diversify the menu, and it has since grown in popularity.

The Impossible burger accounts for 15 percent of burger sales, beating out Beyond burger sales, he said. The restaurant serves between 20 to 40 Impossible burgers per day and 10 to 30 Beyond burgers, compared to 220 to 260 beef burgers, Lemon said.

Lemon said the Impossible burger is favored by meat-eaters, and vegetarians and vegans prefer Beyond burgers because they do not have the same authentic beef taste.

"There's definitely a difference in taste," Lemon said. "The flavor of the Impossible burger is a little more like beef. Not only just the taste, but the appearance, the inside of the burger is pink, like it's medium rare."

An Impossible burger patty has 240 calories, and the Beyond burger has 250 calories. A beef patty typically has between 300 and 350 calories. Lemon said the difference in calorie content between plant-based and beef burgers is nominal, but the biggest chasm between the two brands is their environmental impacts.

Animal agriculture takes up about half of the land on earth, expends a quarter of freshwater resources and harms ecosystems, according to Impossible Foods' website.

"The main thing I think you get out of our plant-based options are, it's better for the environment and you're doing something toward the future, and I think if everybody participated, we'd be a lot better off," Lemon said.

Thunder Burger, a burger joint on GWorld, began selling the Impossible burger a year ago after several customers requested a plant-based alternative to a hamburger. The supply of Impossible burgers frequently ran out when it was added to the menu, prompting the restaurant to add the Beyond burger.

Moe Idrissi, the owner of Thunder Burger, said the vendor often sells out of Impossible burgers because it needs to compete with the high demand from customers and fast-food chains like Burger King that have also begun selling these plant-based meats.

At Thunder Burger, 70 percent of its vegetarian sales are attributed to Impossible and Beyond burgers, Idrissi said. Idrissi said customers sometimes come into the restaurant to eat only if the Impossible and Beyond burgers are in stock.

"From what I understand, the manufacturer can't keep up," Idrissi said. "They're just overwhelmed."

Corcoran exhibit prompts discussion on sustainable fashion

SIDNEY LEE
CULTURE EDITOR

Runway models, bold clothing and Vogue: the first images that come to mind when you think of the fashion industry. But if you're talking about fast fashion, you're in a different ballpark.

The exhibition "Fast Fashion/Slow Art" aims to spark conversation about the garment industry and its effect on labor and the environment through films and videos, its creators said. The exhibit, which is on display in the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design through Dec. 15, is co-curated by a University professor and an exhibit curator for the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

"The hope is that because it's art, it will attract some people that might not otherwise be thinking about these issues in this way," said Bibiana Obler, an associate professor of art history who helped organize the exhibit.

Fast fashion is inexpensive, trendy clothing produced for a mass market and often thrown away after a fashion cycle is over, while slow fashion refers to clothing made for quality and longevity. Launched in early August, the Corcoran exhibit explores issues affecting the fashion industry, including poor labor conditions and the impact of clothing manufacturing on the environment.

The display incorporates the work from a group of emerging and well-known contemporary artists and filmmakers like Cat Mazza, Carole Frances Lung and Martha Rosler. Each film and video created from these artists scrutinizes the garment industry through artistic techniques like satire, deadpan humor, demonstrations and metaphor.

Videos in the exhibit range from a 15-hour video of a work day in a garment-processing facility in China to a short film depicting a girl walking through Berlin taking a series of white t-shirts off and throwing them on the ground.

The 11 video installations are on display in several formats, like old cathode ray tube televisions, flat screens and wall projections in separate viewing rooms. Audio of machines rumbling and voices reading from Vogue magazine fills the three-room exhibit.

Obler, the associate professor of art history, said the exhibition was years in the making, its beginnings starting prior to

the opening of the Textile Museum in 2015. Obler said she and Phyllis Rosenzweig, a co-curator, wanted to collaborate with the Textile Museum on an exhibit, which sparked their idea for "Fast Fashion/Slow Art."

She said she wants the exhibit to provoke a conversation about the fashion industry that does not "clobber" viewers over the head with overly depressing displays. She said she wants the installations to attract people and give people insight into issues facing the fashion industry through videos of actual people at work.

"This is a show that is trying to get people to think and to question assumptions, not just go to the exhibition and think, 'Oh this is really cool, this is very beautiful' and leave again," Obler said. "But go there, and spend some time and then continue thinking about it once they have left."

Obler said that the issue of sustainability in the garment industry has been of concern since the Industrial Revolution, when textile machines and factories were first introduced. Now, she said there is more attention paid to slow fashion to fix problems like waste and harsh labor conditions that fast fashion has created.

"It does feel like we've been riding this wave, even though we've been working on the show for several years, and a lot of the videos in the show are from several years ago," Obler said.

Rosenzweig, the Hirshhorn Museum's curator who helped put together the Corcoran exhibit, said artists approach issues like sustainability creatively to make people think about the way they impact the planet's resources through the clothing they wear.

Advocates for slow fashion have pushed people to buy clothes from thrift stores or resale shops and donate unwanted clothing.

"I hadn't thought about it much before working on this show, but now I feel aware that every stitch on the garment I am wearing was made by someone sitting at a machine for hours," Rosenzweig said. "That overproduction and overconsumption of clothing nobody really needs creates a vast circle of waste, and that the fast fashion industry contributes to the pollution of our natural world."

—Zeina Mohammed and Kathryn Kline contributed reporting



SOPHOMORE CHARLIE PANFIL IS THE YOUNGEST PERSON TO OWN AND OPERATE A POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE RECOGNIZED BY THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION.

Student operates political action committee from campus

RACHEL ARMANY
STAFF WRITER

At 17 years old, sophomore Charlie Panfil was almost kicked out of a political action committee fundraiser because staff members didn't think a young student could financially contribute to the event. So Panfil started a PAC himself.

Panfil, who majors in political science, is the founder of the PAC Friends of Intelligent Democracy, making him the youngest person to own and operate a PAC recognized by the Federal Elections Commission. Panfil said he wanted to launch an organization that could advocate and donate money to support candidates on behalf of young adults who cannot financially back issues themselves.

"Young people at any age should be able to go into those spaces," he said. "A lot of people that I sat at that event with, they were part of political action committees or they were fundraisers, and there isn't a political action committee for young people. So that's where the PAC got started."

A PAC is a tax-exempt political organization that raises money to influence elections by supporting candidates and policy measures. Friends of Intelligent Democracy endorses issues like affordable education, criminal justice reform, climate change and strict gun control.

Panfil said he laid the foundation for his PAC in August 2017, gaining motivation from his participation in Model United Nations, his high school debate team and Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential

campaign.

Since Friends of Intelligent Democracy first launched, the organization has raised about \$20,500. In 2017 and 2018, the PAC raised \$4,200 and \$1,593, respectively, to support issues relating to voter registration and to help the group develop. So far this year, the PAC has raised \$14,750 of its \$50,000 to \$100,000 goal, which it aims to reach by the end of 2019, he said.

The organization also participates in political conventions and other events and puts the word out about the PAC to find donors. Members attended Politicon – an annual, nonpartisan convention held in Los Angeles – in 2018.

Panfil recruited a new team of seven other students earlier this year and plans to launch a new website about the organization in the coming weeks. On the website – which can be translated into different languages – candidates can apply for endorsements, voters can read about endorsed candidates, people can register to vote and voters can read the PAC's policy platform.

Although the PAC has not officially endorsed a presidential candidate, Panfil said the team is "leaning toward" Elizabeth Warren, with Kamala Harris as a "close second." The PAC will also endorse about 50 to 60 congressional candidates in spring 2020.

The PAC is divided into four teams – campaigns, communications, fundraising and policy – which each work on different projects, he said.

Panfil said the organization faces challenges in fundraising be-

cause of the members' ages. Panfil said donors sometimes express support toward the same issues and policies as Friends of Intelligent Democracy, but hesitate to donate to college students.

"We still have this influence of money in our politics, and the reality is it's not going to go away," he said. "We put ourselves automatically in second place if we don't take some steps to play the same game."

Harita Iswara, the PAC's communications director and human resources representative, said she was friends with Panfil while he created the PAC and worked together with him in GW College Democrats. Iswara said she joined the PAC because she was interested in running an organization that could influence Democratic policies she is passionate about.

Iswara works with Panfil and the social media team to plan and post on the PAC's social media platforms, she said. She also works with other PAC representatives to ensure the team functions in a "safe and positive environment," Iswara said.

Sophomore Alex Edwards said he formally joined the team as political director in January after meeting Panfil in class in the fall. One of his main responsibilities includes researching which political candidates are best suited for the PAC's endorsement, he said.

"I was just tired of sitting on my hands and watching the world burn around me," Edwards said. "I hope as Friends of Intelligent Democracy grows into a large organization, we can help represent a voice for young people in politics."

Sports

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GAMES OF THE WEEK



MEN'S WATER POLO
at Air Force Invitational
Saturday & Sunday
Recently tabbed as preseason
favorites, men's water polo
heads to Colorado to open its
season.



WOMEN'S SOCCER
vs. Liberty
Sunday | 3 p.m.
The Colonials look to repeat
last year's victory over the
Eagles in their third game of
the season.

NUMBER CRUNCH

5

The number of service errors volleyball has averaged per game this season, down from last season's average of 6.7.

Women's soccer outshoots competition in first two games of season

BELLE LONG
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS
EDITOR

Women's soccer split its first two games of the year for the first time since 2015.

The Colonials (1-1-0) opened the season outshooting their opponents but have spent the majority of the two games played trailing their competitors. Head coach Michelle Demko said scoring will come as long as the team works to create opportunities near the net.

"If we're in a game and we're not creating those opportunities, then that's going to make it more difficult to score," she said.

GW began play against William and Mary on Aug. 22 and endured a grueling 0-2 loss. The squad gave up two goals in the first half and tightened its defense to allow fewer shots in the second frame.

Despite the loss, GW fired 13 shots during the game over the Tribe's nine – six of which came on goal. A six-save night from the Tribe prevented the Colonials from breaking through.

The Colonials' aggressiveness continued into Wednesday's game against American. GW outshot the Eagles 14-6 and defeated



HATCHET FILE PHOTO
Redshirt senior defender Megan McCormick maneuvers around an opponent in a game against Georgetown last season.

them 2-1 thanks to goals from redshirt senior forward and midfielder Sofia Pavon and sophomore midfielder Maria Pareja.

The Colonials have outshot their opponents through the first two games for the second year in a row. Demko said the squad mastered the difficult part of scoring – creating opportunities at the net – and now

just needs to refine its final touches on the ball.

"The missing piece for us was just the final ball, which was either too far out in front or behind us or technically just being a little bit cleaner just on that final touch," Demko said.

The last time the Colonials split their first two games was in 2015, when the squad opened its sea-

son with a 1-0 overtime win against UC Riverside and fell to Cal State Fullerton 1-4. The team went on to finish 16-4, earning a clean 10-0 Atlantic 10 record.

Although the Colonials outshot American, they struggled with accuracy and put nine of their 14 shots on goal. In contrast, five of American's six shots were on frame. Redshirt

senior defender Megan McCormick said the team struggled to remain composed throughout the game.

"At William and Mary, we didn't do as well job as we did against American about calming down and realizing that 45 minutes, even one half, is a long time for you to work together and get a goal and come back from behind," McCormick said.

One reason for the high number of shots taken is Miami transfer and redshirt junior Rachel Sorkenn. The forward fired off six shots – four of which were on goal – in her two games with the Colonials. She started both games and has accrued 135 minutes for the Colonials.

McCormick said Sorkenn's confidence and aggressiveness are strong additions, adding that she brings a new style of play that will enhance the team's attack.

"It's awesome to have that new confidence and to have someone that can dribble up players and likes to take on a center defender and take shots," McCormick said.

In addition to Sorkenn, the Colonials added two other transfers and five freshmen to the 2019 mix. Sophomore midfielder Sam-

my Neyman joined the Colonials from Miami and redshirt sophomore midfielder Anyssa Ibrahim transferred from South Florida.

Midfielders Tori Minda and Isabelle Eskay, defender Haley Curtis and forwards Monique Perrier and Isabella Buck joined the team this season as freshmen. The Colonials lost four players to graduation, including starting goaltender Anna Tapen.

Goalkeeper Tamaki Machi joined the squad last January and has been GW's primary goalkeeper this season. She started both games and has made six saves on three allowed goals.

McCormick said Tamaki's confidence and steadiness has improved the overall dynamic of the team's backline.

"If you don't have a connection with the keeper, and they don't really have the confidence that Tamaki has, sometimes there's no communication and some things get lost in translation, so it's definitely been awesome having Tamaki back there," McCormick said.

The squad returns to action Thursday on its home field at 3 p.m. against Liberty.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO BY DEAN WHITELAW | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The women's cross country team huddles before a meet last October. The team rostered 17 runners last season compared to 13 this year.

Women's cross country finds strength in small numbers

BELLE LONG
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS
EDITOR

When women's cross country opened its season at the Mount St. Mary's Duals Friday, there was one noticeable difference from last year: the team's size.

With 13 runners rostered for the 2019-20 season, the Colonials are facing a slate of competitions with the fewest team members since 2013. Runners said a smaller squad could result in less team depth, but consistent health and strong sportsmanship will carry them through the season.

This season marks the second campaign in a row that GW has reduced its roster size. From the 2015-16 to 2017-18 seasons, GW rostered 22 each season. But that number dropped to 17 last season and fell again to 13 this year.

The Colonials are also undersized compared to the 13 other Atlantic 10 Conference teams that average about 19 runners on their rosters.

"It's no secret that we're a smaller team this year, which from the outside perspective could seem like a weakness," senior runner Suzanne Dannheim said. "But from the way the team's coming at it and our experience so far, I think it's actually a strength."

Following VCU's eight-member roster, GW has the second smallest women's cross country team in the A-10. Five programs have 20 or more runners, and Richmond leads the pack with 36 rostered runners.

Dannheim, who came in third place at the Mount St. Mary's Duals Friday, said a smaller team promotes better communica-

tion between runners and ensures every member is fully supported.

"It's a lot easier to get together, to communicate, to travel, to just be a unified team when you have fewer people," she said. "Everyone knows everybody really, really well. There's no hiding, there's no chance for anyone to slip through the cracks."

Last season, GW had middling showings in the postseason, placing seventh in the conference championship and 14th in the NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional. The Colonials enter this season with their highest regional ranking in program history, placing ninth in the preseason Mid-Atlantic Region Coaches' Poll.

Dannheim, who had a breakout junior campaign, is one of the nine returners to the team. The squad lost six seniors to graduation last spring, including Madison Yerke, Brigid Prial and Halley Brown, who were high finishers for the Colonials.

This season, Dannheim said the team is focusing on creating an environment where each runner is trusted and held accountable during practice and in competition.

"When everyone knows everyone, there's a lot of trust and accountability that builds up, and that's what we're working for this year," Dannheim said. "Those things just make you a better team."

Junior runner Kathryn Nohilly said the smaller numbers could cause issues for GW down the line since the team no longer has extra runners to swap in when someone faces injury or fatigue.

"We just really need to focus on keeping everyone healthy because we can't really afford to have too many injuries or sicknesses," Nohilly said. "That's going to be the toughest challenge there."

Nohilly said the team has emphasized getting enough sleep, proper warmups and strength training ahead of the season because of the smaller team size.

"We do a lot of rope stretching and warmups to make sure we're good before we go, so we're taking all the necessary steps," Nohilly said.

The team spent the summer focused on training and maintaining physical health. The squad upped its mileage and workout intensity to start the season stronger, Nohilly said.

Nohilly said the smaller team size allows the runners to spend more time with one another, improving the overall team dynamic and making each member feel more supported.

"Having a small team is better and almost really good for us because it makes us really tight-knit, and that's so important for cross country because cross is such a team sport," Nohilly said.

Nohilly said a smaller squad better facilitates team bonding because the entire team can travel and attend meets, which is often not possible for larger teams.

"A lot of us get to go to every single meet, which is different than normal, so I think that will just be really good for the team dynamic and that will make us better competitors," Nohilly said.

Emily Maise contributed reporting.

Volleyball heads into season with focus on attack

EMILY MAISE
SPORTS EDITOR

Volleyball began to see the fruits of its three-year-old system at play during its first tournament of the season this weekend.

The Colonials (2-1) opened the season with two wins in their first three games at the D.C. Challenge Friday and Saturday for the first time under head coach Sarah Bernson. Bernson said she and her coaching staff have been "strategic" about implementing her plans for the program since she joined in 2017, and the squad can focus on higher-level skills now that players have more practice under their belt.

"We didn't just dump everything on them year one," Bernson said. "This is the higher-level stuff. We're taking the team on this journey, so they're continuing to learn."

The Colonials hosted American, Howard and Hartford at the Smith Center, losing 3-1 to the Eagles but cleanly sweeping the Bison and the Hawks to close their opening weekend.

Coaches emphasized blocking and service reception as two main areas for improvement this season, Bernson said. The Colonials showcased these practiced skills in tournament play, averaging 3.4 blocks per set and limiting their reception errors to 17 between the three games – 12 of which came in their loss to American.

Bernson said players showed improvements in blocking and service reception this weekend but need to hone in on kills. She added that the team has rarely been able to focus on one area to improve and historically needed to juggle multiple ad-

justments at once.

"They can keep the blocking and the serve receive and just focus on one more thing, which is a different place than we've been before," Bernson said. "We've had to focus on so many things, now we can just add one more element, which just allows us to be more confident and comfortable."

The Colonials finished the season 11-21 with a 6-8 conference record. The squad squeezed into the postseason as the No. 6 seed and opened Atlantic 10 Championship play with a 3-2 upset victory over No. 3 Saint Louis. The Colonials fell to No. 2 Dayton in the semifinals.

Bernson joined the program nearly two months before the start of the 2017 season. In her second season with the program, Bernson fostered a strong team bond and focused on reducing errors. But the team missed the postseason last year, posting a 5-9 record against conference foes and finishing the year 11-15.

Senior outside hitter Skylar Iott said the team needs to turn its attention toward securing kills to be successful throughout the season.

"One thing that we do need to execute a little bit better is getting kills, putting the ball to the floor and getting kills instead of extending rallies," Iott said.

The Colonials tallied 114 kills throughout their first three games, 19 fewer than their opponents. The team hit more efficiently than its competitors, swinging at a .208 clip compared to a .170 clip from its opponents.

Six players recorded double-digit kills in the tournament. Iott led the pack with 32 kills, followed by recent transfer and graduate stu-

dent opposite hitter Paty Valle, who collected 23 kills.

Iott said the program emphasized blocking, service and passing during its preseason workouts and worked to solidify those skills throughout the tournament.

"Our serve has improved a wild amount since our first practice," Iott said. "In the past years, we struggled a little bit with driving serves and getting them in and challenging our opponents, but I think this weekend it was probably our most consistent, that and blocking."

Through the first three games of the 2018 season, GW committed six service errors per match. This season, the Colonials reduced their errors at the service line to five per match in their first three games.

Valle said the team's opportunities to record blocks rely on the quality of its service. Last season, the squad committed 25 more service reception errors than its opponents and racked up 25.5 fewer blocks than its competitors. The Colonials' 189 blocks ranked No. 6 in the A-10.

"Serve and blocking are connected," Valle said. "When your serves are good, you have more chance to block."

With 25 games remaining in the season, Iott said the team needs to continue believing in Bernson's coaching tactics to turn in results.

"Just keeping with the processes that we've put in place, we are going to see the result we want later on when we need to," Iott said.

The Colonials return to action Friday at Miami for the Hurricane Invitational. First serve is slated for 7:30 p.m.



ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Middle blocker Addie Feek and outside hitter Skylar Iott block the ball during the team's first tournament of the season.