

The GW Hatchet

Opinions

The contributing opinions editor discusses anti-Semitism at GW
Page 6

Culture

Read the section's exploration of stories behind murals in Northwest D.C.
Page 7

Sports

Women's soccer records highest A-10 Championship finish in 22 years
Page 8

What's inside



JACK FONSECA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Student leaders said the offensive Snapchat video was representative of a larger issue of anti-Semitism on campus.

Student leaders host forums, extend support in wake of anti-Semitic post

SHANNON MALLARD & ZACH SCHONFELD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITORS

Student leaders said an offensive Snapchat video made public last week is emblematic of a larger issue of anti-Semitism at the University.

Since the post was made public on Facebook Tuesday, student groups like GW for Israel and the Student Association have held or planned to host forums and are providing support resources for people hurt by the comments made in the video. Student leaders called the post “not surprising” and said the video reflects anti-Semitic sentiments nationwide and on campus.

The post shows an un-filmed individual asking, “What are we going to do to Israel?” to a woman on screen who responds, “Bro, we’re going to fucking bomb Israel. Fuck out of here, Jewish pieces of shit.”

At the University’s fifth annual Diversity Summit keynote last week, Caroline Laguerre-Brown – the vice provost for diversity, equity and community engagement – said the incident reflects why events like the summit

are necessary to educate students on diversity-related issues.

“Events just this week on our campus involving hateful and disturbing words directed at GW’s Jewish community are a stark reminder that we have more work to do,” Laguerre-Brown said. “All communities should stand together in condemnation of hatred and bigotry.”

University President Thomas LeBlanc condemned the video in a statement Wednesday, and University spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said officials have identified the students involved with the post and are assessing information “to determine the most appropriate response consistent with the Code of Student Conduct.”

Nosal said she could not disclose any further information for legal reasons.

The woman in the video claimed she was intoxicated at the time and did not remember making the comments heard in the video or that the man was filming her. The Hatchet is not identifying the woman in the video to preserve her privacy as officials decide on disciplinary action.

The woman in the video said she filed a GW Police Department report this week after strangers sent her messages likening her to a Nazi and including information about her family.

The woman said she is still waiting to hear if she will face any repercussions, but Christy Anthony – the director of the Office for Student Rights and Responsibilities – told her that suspension or expulsion “isn’t likely.” She said she met with Rabbi Yudi Steiner, the rabbi for Chabad GW, on Thursday and plans to write an apology.

“Of everyone that has tried to help me, he’s been the person who has helped me the most,” she said. “He’s cleared my mind the most, he’s made me see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

The student who filmed the video said the woman told her friends she had been “drinking heavily” over the past couple of weeks and asked them to record her remarks so she could see what she had said while drunk after sobering up. He said he accidentally posted the video to his account’s story when trying to

save the video to his phone.

The student said he and the woman rode in an Uber together earlier that night with a Palestinian driver who told them about the violence his family has experienced in Palestine. He said the driver told them that if Palestine bombed Israel, other countries would step in and “remedy the situation,” demonstrating that he believed that the international community was a “little biased.”

The man said the woman started recounting the conversation when the two students returned to Thurston Hall. He said the conversation in the video did not begin because the students are both “pro-Palestine” or because of their shared “Arab descent,” contradicting the woman’s statements to The Hatchet published Wednesday.

But the woman said she does not remember having the conversation with the Uber driver.

“She was just recounting what he was saying or mocking him in a way,” he said. “Then when I wanted to get the video, I told her to say it again.”

See SA Page 2

Trustees delay final vote on next strategic plan to retreat next summer

ILENA PENG & JARED GANS
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITORS

The Board of Trustees will take a vote on the final five-year strategic plan weeks later than initially planned after officials heard faculty concerns over the original timeline.

University President Thomas LeBlanc said at a Faculty Senate meeting Friday that the vote will be held during the trustees’ retreat next summer – not during the body’s final meeting of the academic year next May. The delayed timeline follows a petition introduced at a Faculty Assembly meeting last month demanding that officials provide more information about the data they used to craft several key aspects of the plan.

“I hear that concern, and I understand that concern, in significant part because I believe there was a faculty concern that the board would be asked to approve something before the faculty really had a chance to look at it,” LeBlanc said.

Sylvia Marotta-Walters, the chair of the senate’s executive committee, said officials, including herself, made the decision to push the vote last weekend.

The strategic planning process, which LeBlanc announced in September, focuses on what he called the four pillars of a “modern” university – graduate and undergraduate education, faculty and research. The four committees created to collect feedback on those pillars held several public forums this and last month which were attended by hundreds of faculty, staff and students.

Faculty raised concerns at the Faculty Assembly meeting about LeBlanc’s twin goals of cutting undergraduate enrollment by about 20 percent and increasing the ratio of STEM majors from 19 to 30 percent of the undergraduate population, two decisions that will be reflected in the strategic plan. After the assembly meeting, Marotta-Walters introduced a resolution at the Faculty Senate meeting encouraging the strategic planning committees to share information with faculty.

Marotta-Walters said the assembly’s original petition, which signatories wanted to appear before the senate, included deadlines for the committees to report their progress to the senate that do not work “with the way the senate conducts business.” The execu-

tive committee took “urgent actions” to change the dates to work with the senate’s structure and schedule, she said.

The resolution asks administrators to provide the data that forms the basis for the enrollment cut and STEM increase by the senate’s December meeting. The legislation also asks the strategic planning committees to provide a “first draft” of their reports to the senate by Jan. 3, a week prior to the January senate meeting.

“The senate urges its committees and the strategic planning committees to have ongoing communications as this process is laid out,” Marotta-Walters said.

Senators amended the resolution to strike the second and sixth sections, one of which states that the senate does not concur with the petition’s call for the committees to present their reports to the faculty for approval and amendment before submitting them to administrators because the move would “interrupt the flow of strategic planning.”

Marotta-Walters said the step is unnecessary because multiple faculty members are also serving in administrative roles on the strategic planning committees.

“Many people here are serving on committees, they’re already going to have the information,” she said. “Why unnecessarily stop the process to provide information to many people that already have it?”

Guillermo Orti, a senator and the president of the faculty assembly, said the petition does not “suggest to interrupt” the strategic plan. He said the reports should be submitted to senate committees for approval and amended so faculty can provide input before administrators act on the reports.

“This is in some of the reports that we have on the table here,” he said. “Bypassing the process is sort of a contradiction of the structure from the senate.”

Harris Mylonas, a senator and an associate professor of political science and international affairs, said the inclusion of the section contradicts the intentions of faculty who introduced and voted for the petition.

GWHATCHET.COM

H for more faculty remarks on the passed resolution

Officials working toward ‘proactive’ fix for faculty salary inequities

JARED GANS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Three semesters after beginning a project to improve faculty salary equity, officials said they are working to develop a proactive approach to ensure faculty are properly compensated.

Christopher Bracey, the vice provost for faculty affairs, gave updates about the Faculty Salary Equity Committee’s work to adjust base salaries that lag behind the mean salary of those with similar tenure status and time in rank at a Faculty Senate meeting Friday. He highlighted the number of salary increases officials have made over the past three semesters to eliminate outliers but said the committee wants to develop a dynamic model to address the issue.

“Ideally, we won’t be reactive, constantly having to tweak people on the back end,” Bracey said.

Bracey said committee members developed two regression models to identify regular faculty whose salaries are considered “outliers,” more than one standard deviation lower than the average salary for professors similar to them in tenure and amount of time in current rank. One model included all regular faculty, while the other excluded faculty hired

with tenure and “star” faculty to ensure mean salary figures were not skewed upward, he said.

He said the committee worked with the Office of Institutional Research to compile the data.

Bracey said at a senate meeting last March that the committee previously faced challenges collecting and analyzing salary data quick enough to present it to school deans before the figures became outdated. He said the addition of controls for tenure and time in rank allowed the committee to expedite the process and report data quicker.

Bracey said the committee completed a review of faculty in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, the Elliott School of International Affairs, the School of Business, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Graduate School of Education and Human Development and the GW Law School earlier this month. The committee identified 79 faculty salaries that fell one standard deviation below the mean, he said.

He said committee members work with the deans of each school to determine if there are “legitimate” factors contributing to a professor’s outlier status, like market factors, poor teaching



ERIC LEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Officials will push back the approval of a new strategic plan after a faculty petition called for more information about the process.

ability or lackluster research output.

“These are just a sampling of the legitimate factors that might explain why someone’s salary seems a little bit lower than what we otherwise would expect for them,” he said.

As a result, although almost 80 faculty members’ salaries were flagged in this month’s review, officials adjusted only 17 salaries because other factors contributed to lower salaries in

the majority of cases, Bracey said.

The committee reviewed CCAS, SEAS, Elliott School and business school faculty salaries last November and identified 60 faculty salaries that fell below the mean, and officials increased 10 of them, he said. Committee members also reviewed School of Nursing and Milken Institute School of Public Health faculty salaries in July and found 13 salaries that lagged behind the mean, and offi-

cially increased three of them, Bracey said.

He said the committee has worked to keep the number of adjustments low but added that the number of salary adjustments officials have made has remained “flat” for the last two years.

“Although they’re not always the same people that we are adjusting, we seem to be adjusting about the same number,” Bracey said.

He said the next step for the committee is to work

with Brian Blake, the incoming provost and executive vice president, to consider the reasons that naturally cause a faculty member’s salary to fall below the mean. He said he wants to “constructively engage on the front end” to learn in advance of a faculty member’s outlier status.

“That’s probably a more constructive and productive way of doing this,” he said.

Anthony Yezer, a faculty senator and a professor of economics, said members of the committee should consider releasing the regression equation they modeled so individual faculty members can determine where they fall relative to the mean salary.

“I bet there’s lots of faculty who would like to see the regression equation you’re using in their school that affects them so that they can put themselves into the equation and see where they are,” he said.

Holly Dugan, a senator and an associate professor of English, said salary equity committee members should consider the effects of gender and parental leave on salary inequity.

“I think that there are conversations to be had around this issue, and I’m interested to see how the data connects to those,” she said.

News

November 11, 2019 • Page 2

CRIME LOG

DESTROYING/DEFAACING STRUCTURE, DISORDERLY CONDUCT/INTOXICATION

Mitchell Hall
11/3/2019 – 1:54 a.m.
Closed Case

GW Police Department officers responded to a report of a male student kicking the front door of Mitchell Hall on the building's first floor. Upon arrival, GWPD officers discovered that the student destroyed the door. EMERG workers arrived on scene to conduct a medical assessment of the subject, but he was uncooperative. GWPD placed the student under arrest. Metropolitan Police Department officers arrived on scene and transported the student to the Second District police station.

Subject arrested

UNLAWFUL ENTRY

The Dakota
11/3/2019 – 2:32 a.m.
Closed Case

GWPD officers responded to a report of an unknown female subject refusing to leave the building. GWPD issued her a bar notice and arrested her. MPD officers responded to the scene, issued a report and transported the subject to the Second District police station.

Subject arrested

SIMPLE ASSAULT (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE)

Thurston Hall
11/2/2019 – 10:40 p.m.
Closed Case

A male student reported that his roommate assaulted him. GWPD arrested the roommate, and MPD transported him to the Second District police station for processing.

Referred to MPD

– Compiled by Kateryna Stepanenko

Students join hundreds to defend DACA at Supreme Court rally

TIFFANY GARCIA
REPORTER

Protesters defended a policy granting children of undocumented immigrants deferred action from deportation in front of the Supreme Court Friday.

A crowd of about 200 students – about 70 of them from GW – organized a walk-out Friday and gathered at the Supreme Court to rally support for undocumented recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, the constitutionality of which will be hotly debated at oral arguments before the highest federal court Tuesday. Students said they hoped the protest will encourage justices to vote to continue DACA's protections.

Under the program, undocumented immigrants are eligible for deferred action on deportation and authorized to work in the United States if they are under 31 years old as of June 15, 2012, came to the United States under the age of 16 and have continuously resided in the United States from June 15, 2007 to the present. The program has been the subject of a prolonged legal battle since President Donald Trump moved to terminate the program two years ago.

Alejandra Varela, a freshman majoring in political science, said DACA and immigrants' rights are personal issues to her because she knows people who will be deeply affected by the outcome of the case. She said she turned out to the protest because she believes everyone has a right to access educational opportunities regardless of their legal status in the country.

"To have the privilege of just being born here is huge," Varela said. "So, for me, to be here showing my support and being that voice for them and also supporting them in any way that I can is why I'm doing this – for them."

Students gathered in Kogan Plaza at



Students said they hoped the protest will encourage the Supreme Court to vote to continue DACA's protections. SOPHIE MOTEN | PHOTOGRAPHER

10:30 a.m. before meeting with students from other universities in the area, high school students and local activists. Student speakers spoke in front of the U.S. Capitol building before proceeding toward the Supreme Court at the event, which was supported by United We Dream, a youth-led community organization dedicated to running campaigns in support of immigrant rights.

Senior Rebecca Lewis, an international affairs major, said she became involved in United We Dream after a DACA protest two years ago. She said she helped organize the walk-out to show solidarity and support for the undocumented immigrant community.

"I think one of my guiding principles is the belief that we need to fight for the liberation of all people," Lewis said. "And that means coming out and showing up for our undocumented brothers and sisters in a time where they need our sup-

port."

Fryda Cortes, a freshman majoring in biology, was among the students who spoke at the protest. Cortes is a documented immigrant and said the value allies bring to this policy sphere cannot be understated.

"We have to use our privilege to make a stance," Cortes said. "I have to use my voice to elevate their voice and support them."

Freshman Jose Casillo, a business major, said he hopes that by coming out to rally in favor of DACA, others will feel empowered to show their support for immigrants.

"It starts with one person and then leads off to this," he said. "So for those who couldn't make it today, they're going to see it online, they're going to read about it and they're going to feel the power through there, and change is going to happen."

SA to propose legislation to address incident

From Page 1

The student added that he has received a few "nasty looks" but not received any threats. He said he filed two statements with GWPD officers and detectives, add-

ing that SRR officials told him this week that they are unsure whether he has violated University policy but, if he did, he will likely have to meet with officials or appear in front of a hearing board.

The Hatchet is not identifying the man who filmed the video to preserve his privacy as the University decides on disciplinary actions.

SA President SJ Matthews said the SA released a statement condemning the post to immediately make clear that the SA supports students. She is holding additional office hours to meet with students to talk about the incident, she said.

"I cannot speak to what steps officials are taking, but I can say that discrimination and hateful remarks cannot be tolerated or normalized on our campus," she said in an email.

SA Sen. Raina Hackett, CCAS-U and the chair of the SA diversity and inclusion assembly, said the students' actions warrant their removal from campus. Officials should at least institute "educational remedies" to ensure the individuals understand what is "wrong" with their actions, she said.

Hackett said she will host one-on-one meetings with students concerned about the post and will co-sponsor the SAs forum Tuesday to discuss the video. She added that the University's "institutional culture" allows for "discrimination, hate and ignorance" to proliferate on campus.

Hackett added that the University should consider measures like a diversity and inclusion G-PAC requirement to "propel" a change in GW's culture.

"There are still dozens of incidents that funnel through the anti-bias reporting system and through campus culture that have not been videotaped," Hackett said in an email. "Just because we do not see it all the time, does not mean it doesn't exist. If we do not shift this culture, incidents like this will continue to occur."

SA Sen. Louie Kahn, CCAS-U, said he and other SA senators are drafting a resolution that would implement lessons about anti-Semitism into freshman diversity training, develop an SA-run anti-

Semitism task force and establish a comprehensive definition of anti-Semitism.

"The overall goal of this resolution is to condemn all hate directed toward Jews on this campus and campuses across the country," Kahn said.

In an email sent out to parents, Adena Kirstein – the executive director of GW Hillel – said the organization has hosted two support sessions for students, hosted a session about understanding anti-Semitism at the diversity summit and is planning educational initiatives with the Anti-Defamation League.

Tali Edid and Katelin Gochberg, the co-presidents of the Jewish Student Association, said the post is an "unfortunate reminder" of anti-Semitism on campus.

"It never gets any easier to watch or listen to," they said. "It's become a sad routine of just adding recent examples of anti-Semitism to a running list that has proven to be growing more and more rapidly with every passing year, both on campus and across the country."

They said LeBlanc is a "strong ally" of GW's Jewish community, and they "appreciate" his response to the incident, but they added that "the administration can only do so much" and students must grapple with this issue to enact change.

Yoni Slater, the chair of GW's chapter of J Street U – a student group that advocates for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict – said members of his organization are stopping to "pause and process" the incident before announcing any specific programming in response to the video.

"It was a video of somebody walking that line of taking criticism of Israel one step too far, where it's not criticism of Israel – it's clearly anti-Semitism," Slater said.

Max Webb, the GW for Israel president, said at a town hall organized by his group Thursday that it is "not appropriate" for people to confront the students involved, and people should spread a "positive message" instead by discussing the incident together as a community.

"You can't fight something nasty with something else nasty," he said.



Minor in Human Anatomy

Designed for students planning to enter the health professions

Offered for Undergraduates in:

Columbian College of Arts & Sciences
School of Business

School of Engineering & Applied Science
School of Public Health & Health Services

Obtain a basic understanding of human Gross Anatomy, Embryology, Histology and Neuroanatomy. Acquire an asset for future careers in Medicine, Dentistry or other health care professions, as well as Anthropology, Athletic Training, Speech and Hearing, and Biomedical Engineering

Required courses:

ANAT 2130: Human Embryology (3) Fall Only
ANAT 2150: Human Microscopic Anatomy (3) Fall Only
ANAT 2160: Human Functional Neuroanatomy (3) Spring Only
ANAT 2181 Human Gross Anatomy (3) Spring Only

Courses are taught in the GWU Medical School (Ross Hall) by faculty in the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

Prerequisites: BISC 1005 and 1006 (3 credits each) or BISC 1111 and 1112 (4 credits each), or permission of the Director.

For more information:

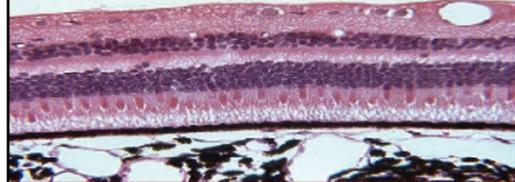
<https://www.smls.gwu.edu/anatomy/>

or contact the Director:

Dr. Kurt E. Johnson

kurtj@gwu.edu

703-801-0242



Great lifestyle. Guaranteed.

We redefine apartment living by blending uniquely stylish apartments with high-caliber service delivered by our friendly and professional staff. We work relentlessly to ensure your total satisfaction. It won't take long to realize that living with us is easier. More reliable. And notably better.

- Walk to Foggy Bottom Metro
- Oversized floor plans and ample closet space
- 24-hour concierge and 24-hour fitness center
- Located on the GW campus
- Online rent payments
- **Free utilities!**



THE STATESMAN
2020 F Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006
866.432.1395
TheStatesmanApt.com

We're confident you'll love us. Ask your friends about us, you'll be surprised how many already live here!

Scooter companies offer discounts to people receiving federal aid

SHREYA SATAGOPAN
REPORTER

Students receiving federal aid can now scooter around the District for free.

Scooter companies Skip, Bird, Lime, Jump, Bolt and Lyft that operate in D.C. unveiled late last month discounted plans for low-income individuals and Pell Grant recipients. More than 20 students said that while they cannot use the scooter discounts because they don't qualify as low-income, the discounts will provide low-income District residents with affordable means of transportation to take to work.

Skip and Bird provide discounts to undergraduate students who receive Pell Grants, or federally funded aid-based grants, according to the companies' websites. Bird eliminates the \$1 base fee per ride for Pell Grant recipients, and Skip grants recipients unlimited free rides less than 30 minutes, according to the company's website.

"Skip has created the Rider Accessibility+ Program to allow as many people as possible to experience the joy of riding Skips," Skip's website



CAMILLE DESANTO | PHOTOGRAPHER

Students who receive Pell Grants or federal aid for food can now ride one of the six scooter brands for free.

states.

To qualify for the plans, students and residents in D.C. must provide paperwork from Medicaid, SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or show that they are covered under a state or

federal assistance program. Jump's Boost Plan and Lyft's Community Pass require discount-eligible customers to pay only \$5 a month, and customers receive unlimited rides up to 30 minutes.

Spokespeople for Bird,

Skip, Lime, Jump, Bolt and Lyft did not return requests for comment.

Freshman Sahas Srinivasan said the discounts will mainly benefit residents in low-income areas of D.C., like the Anacostia and Bright-

wood neighborhoods. She said the discounts will provide an affordable avenue for people to get to and from work.

"One of the most important things is for people to be able to access their jobs, and some of the best jobs are in the city center, like near Capitol Hill," Srinivasan said.

Metro rides cost riders between \$2.25 and \$6, according to WMATA's website. Metrobus base fares start at \$2, and express buses, which operate on 16th Street and Georgia Avenue, can cost users \$4.15, the website states.

Thirty-minute rides on Capital Bikeshare bikes cost riders \$2, and a 24-hour pass costs \$8. Students can buy a \$25 annual bikeshare membership for unlimited 30-minute rides.

Lime conducted a test earlier this year in which the company placed about a quarter of its scooters in areas of D.C. with large low-income populations, NBC Washington reported last month. Lime found that the demand for dockless scooters lies in the center of the city, NBC Washington reported.

The District Department of Transportation proposed new regulations last month to deploy dockless scooters in certain "equity emphasis areas" of the city – mainly Wards 5, 7 and 8 – for two-hour periods in the mornings.

Freshman Emily Furman said she won't use the discounts because she doesn't qualify as low-income, but most students are unaware of the scooter companies' discounts because the companies have not widely publicized the deal to students.

"I don't think they'll stop using scooters for the discounts, and I don't think kids who use scooters will use more scooters because of the discount," Furman said.

Freshman Margaret McDonald said the discounts likely won't directly help her, but she would benefit from having more scooters available near her residence hall when she leaves to commute to work in Dupont Circle in the morning.

"There are other people in my classes that work as Capitol Hill interns, and they always struggle to find scooters in the morning at like 9," McDonald said.

Man sues GW Hospital doctor for terminating care, accusing him of romantic advances

LIA DEGROOT
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A man is suing the GW Hospital, a Medical Faculty Associates doctor and a Medical Faculty Associates member alleging that a hospital doctor falsely accused him of trying to initiate a romantic relationship.

In a two-page report filed in the D.C. Superior Court Monday, Ossama Elshbarbassi said the GW Hospital wrongfully denied him treatment after he asked his doctor to dinner and attempted to give her a gift. Elshbarbassi is representing himself

and requesting \$500,000, claiming that the hospital wrongfully terminated his treatment and falsely accused him of trying to initiate a romantic relationship with his doctor.

Elshbarbassi, 72, claims in a hand-written complaint that he thought Maram Alkhatib, a primary-care doctor, was making romantic advances toward him during an appointment. The lawsuit states Elshbarbassi met Alkhatib on an undisclosed day for an appointment, during which she placed her finger in his rectum to check why his stool was bloody.

The complaint states that Alkhatib shook Elshbarbassi's hand with both of her hands at his next appointment. Elshbarbassi said in the complaint he thought Alkhatib was trying to get his attention because she spread her legs "more than normal" during the rest of the appointment, allowing him to see her "private part."

"On the next appointment with Dr. Alkhatib when I entered her office and I checked her hand to say hello and she put her left hand too on my right hand I felt her warm feelings," the complaint states. Elshbarbassi sent

Alkhatib two letters inviting her to dinner and left her a gift at the front desk of the GW Hospital after the second appointment, the complaint states.

He said in the complaint that he received a termination of care letter on Oct. 2 that falsely accused him of sending "inappropriate" letters to Alkhatib.

The lawsuit includes a photo of Alkhatib and a letter from the Medical Faculty Associates barring Elshbarbassi from receiving further treatment at the hospital.

"On Sept. 26, you sent a letter to the doctor that

was romantic in tone including sexual innuendo that made her feel extremely uncomfortable," the letter states. "The very next day on Sept. 27, you disregarded our directives and showed up at the doctor's office to deliver a personal gift."

A conversation about any issues a provider or patient might have with each other must be held between the two parties, and at least two warnings should be given to the patient prior to care termination, according to MFA risk management policy.

Both the conversation and the two warnings must be

documented, the policy states.

Elshbarbassi declined to comment. GW Hospital spokeswoman Susan Griffiths did not return a request for comment.

Emma Elms, the patient representative who sent the letter notifying Elshbarbassi that his treatment will be terminated, did not return a request for comment. MFA spokeswoman Barbara Porter declined to comment, citing an MFA policy not to comment on pending litigation.

The case is scheduled for an initial scheduling conference on Feb. 7, according to court records.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

A former patient of the GW Hospital is claiming that officials should not have ended his care because of his romantic pursuit of his doctor.

IN BRIEF

Officials add pre-health, pre-law advising to Vern

Students interested in law or medical school can now access pre-health and pre-law advising services on the Mount Vernon Campus.

Officials added the specialized advising services to the Vern earlier this semester, enabling Vern residents to meet with advisers on their own campus instead of traveling to the Foggy Bottom Campus, said Gilda Mossadegh, the director of undergraduate and pre-professional academic advising. She said these advising services were expanded to "meet the increased needs of our students and alumni" based on student feedback gathered over the past couple of years.

"For nearly two years, we collected post-appointment feedback from students via a survey link sent to students by our online scheduler after they met with a pre-health or pre-law adviser," she said in an email.

Mossadegh said advising staff will hold information sessions and programming on both campuses. Foggy Bottom students can still meet with pre-law and pre-health advisers by phone and in-person during their Foggy Bottom office hours, which are posted on the pre-law and pre-health websites, she said.

She added that members of the dean's office in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences worked with the provost's office to identify available space on the Vern for the offices. The offices are located in the Vern's Academic Building in Suite 119, and appointments can be made online, the websites state.

Pre-law and pre-health student leaders said the move will benefit Vern residents and support further efforts to bolster advising services on both campuses.

Junior Gaurav Gawankar, the president of the Pre-Law Student Association, said he supported the move, adding that freshmen – who constitute the majority of the Vern's residents – may find it a useful service.

"It's very important to give Vern students at least some semblance of being fully integrated," he said.

Senior Jack Conlon, the president of the Pre-Health Association, said adding advising resources on the Vern will provide an "important resource" to more students, adding that he finds pre-health advising services helpful.

He said the move will create stronger bonds between the two campuses because more students from Foggy Bottom may voluntarily travel to the Vern to take advantage of the services.

"It is important to get another person to look at your experiences that contribute to your chances of getting accepted into medical school, and the pre-health advising office is very experienced with that," Conlon said. "They do a great job of targeting weak spots in applications and helping students work on improving those areas."

— Max Skidelsky

IN WITH THE NEW

OUT WITH THE OLD

Personalized hold notifications may be viewed in the GWeb Information System at <https://banweb.gwu.edu> and on the Registrar section of the **GW Mobile App**.

DID YOU...

- Pay your student account balance
- Submit your immunization records
- Meet your academic requirements
- Update your local address and contact information in GWeb
- Take care of all of your official administrative business

LOG IN TO THE GWEB INFORMATION SYSTEM:

- Click on the "Student Records and Registration" folder
- Click on "Student Records Information Menu"
- Click on "View Administrative Holds" to view your holds

USING THE GW MOBILE APP:

- Open the GW Mobile App and choose "Registrar"
- Sign in using your GWid and password
- Under student records, choose "Holds" to view any holds on your account

Students can regularly view registration hold alerts and other important university information, such as housing selection, financial aid award notification, student accounts and other personalized business, on the myGW Portal.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

CONNECT WITH US:

[@GWServicesHub](https://twitter.com/GWServicesHub) [GWServicesHub](https://www.facebook.com/GWServicesHub)

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP

Community kitchen cooking supplies too 'gross' to use, students say

RYAN NORRIS &
TAYLOR ROWE
REPORTERS

The Residence Hall Association added pots and pans to community kitchens two years ago, but students said the supplies are too dirty to use.

The RHA, Campus Living and Residential Education team and dining officials replaced the cooking supplies in each residence hall's community kitchen at the beginning of the semester after hearing student feedback that the old supplies were broken, RHA President Trinity Diaz said. In interviews with more than 20 students, 15 said they use the pots, pans and utensils, but nine said the cooking supplies are not clean enough.

Diaz said she has received positive student feedback about the new pots and pans, which are nonstick and oven safe.

"They also have given us feedback on what items they would like to see added to community kitchens so that they can cook even more," Diaz said in an email. "We hope to use this feedback to inform future years of the program to try and make the pots and pans

program as successful as possible."

She said some of the cooking classes the RHA hosts, which were expanded to every freshman residence hall last month, were cut short because the community kitchens lacked clean supplies for the class instructors to use.

"There were a few items that we couldn't use, but that was due to the communities not properly cleaning them," Diaz said. "While RHA, dining and CLRE provide the pots and pans, we rely on community members to clean and respect the provided supplies."

Students who live in residence halls with community kitchens said housing officials should implement policies in each hall that would ensure students clean up after themselves.

Jessica Carr, a first-floor Potomac House resident, said she often sees unwashed supplies piled in the hall's kitchen sink and expired food in the hall's community refrigerator. She said she still uses and cleans the supplies before leaving the kitchen.

Carr added that resident advisers should talk individually with

students who frequently leave the kitchen dirty to encourage residents to keep the space clean.

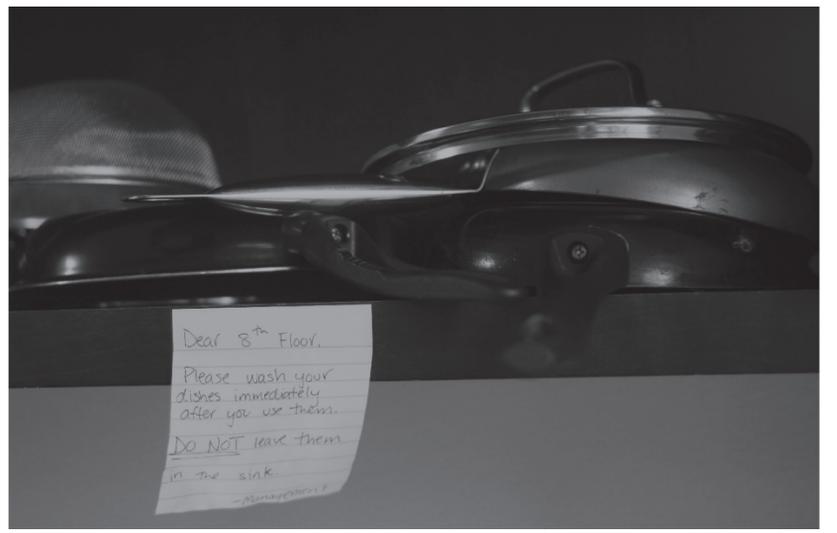
"Everyone should clean up after themselves," she said. "That should be a requirement to share. I don't know how RAs would find out who's doing it, but I guess if they got reports about certain people, then they should be talked to."

Sua Cho, a fifth-floor Thurston Hall resident, said the first-generation cohort she is a part of was provided with its own pots and pans, but she still avoids using the kitchen because residents leave dirty dishes in the sink and on the counters.

"There could be someone there to clean," she said. "There should be a policy that if you use it, you should clean it."

To encourage residents to keep the community's kitchen clean, RAs in Potomac House are holding a Community Kitchen Initiative event Nov. 9 to encourage residents to clean up their kitchen messes, according to an email residence director Hannah Wasco sent to residents last week.

"During this time, the RAs will be working with residents to clean the



LILLIAN BAUTISTA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Students living in residence halls said they want officials and RHA leaders to create policies that encourage students to clean up pots and pans in community kitchens.

kitchen and to also establish standards to keep it clean and enjoyable for everyone," Wasco said in her email.

Zoubida Bicane, a ninth-floor Thurston resident, said she has had to borrow her floormates' pots and pans because the items in the community kitchen are usually dirty.

"I've used the community kitchen to bake with my roommates, but the sink is super dirty and overflows with water and

food particles," Bicane said.

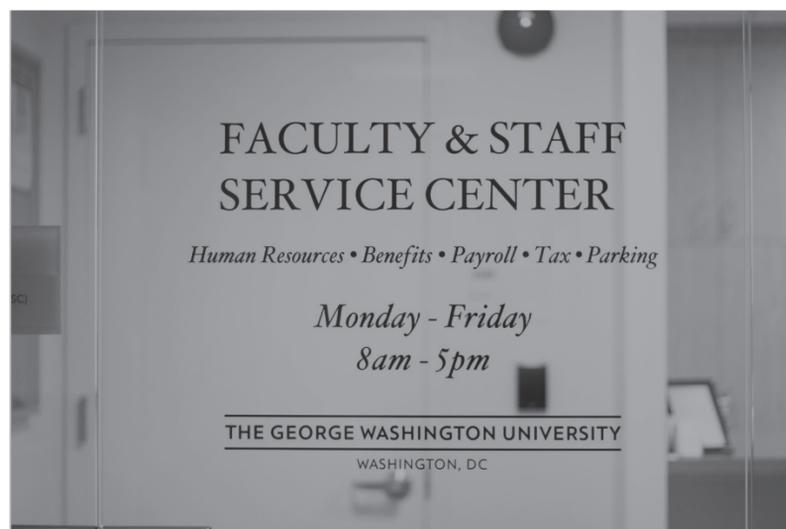
Seventh-floor Madison Hall resident Sofia Schuchner said her residence hall's kitchen lacks several key supplies, like oven pans and spatulas, but she still uses the kitchen as much as possible because she enjoys cooking.

"A lot of them are old, melted and broken," Schuchner said. "For the most part, I wash them. At the beginning of the year, they gave us a box of new

ones, so I try to use those, but people just leave things unwashed."

Seventh-floor Madison resident Sidney Grimsley said she wishes officials would replace the supplies or encourage students to take care of the community space.

"I'm pretty sure every time I eat food, it's contaminated," Grimsley said. "Sometimes I clean them if they're dirty, and I don't feel like they're clean but I still use them."



LILLIAN BAUTISTA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The transition to Talent@GW will feature an online performance management system and new employee modules by the end of 2020.

Officials to complete transition to Talent@GW system by next year

AMY LIU
STAFF WRITER

Officials are rolling out new recruitment and onboarding tools to an online hub to make it a "one-stop shop" for training, management and hiring by the end of 2020.

Administrators said Talent@GW, a portal originally debuted in 2017 to assist current GW staff in their professional development and improve the hiring process for new applicants, will boast features like an online performance management system and new employee modules by the end of next year. The initiative is part of a push to improve institutional culture and put people first in the organization, officials said.

"Our goal is to move toward a major reorientation, a change in paradigm, to how our University supports and values our people," Chief People Officer Dana Bradley said in an email.

Bradley said officials launched "learning" and "performance" modules to allow staff trainings and performance reviews to be completed and tracked online in 2017 and 2018. The modules allow applicants and recruiters to track applications and share data during the hiring process.

Modules for recruitment and onboarding are due to roll out in the "next few months" as the next major additions to the platform enable the "new employee to focus on successful acclimation" to their position, Bradley said.

The new onboarding module will include a defined list of steps for new employees and managers to track the

onboarding process, she said.

Bradley added that officials will also launch a "succession" module in "late 2020" – a year after the last module was originally slated to be developed – to allow employees to explore advancement opportunities that align with their personal and professional goals. The new tool will also help the University retain talent by identifying "critical roles" for employee growth and retention, she said.

Bradley said the system will provide "solution-focused" services, tools and training in one platform so GW staff can "achieve their career goals" and manage hiring. The platform will streamline referral programs and allow managers to share recruitment metrics and dashboard reports to help inform decision-making, she said.

"Research shows that people who join organizations through referral programs tend to perform better, stay longer and above all, fit well with the culture and share in the organization's values," Bradley said.

Human resources experts said improving recruitment and onboarding is critical to a school's ability to more efficiently hire and retain staff.

Kelly Bankston, the director of talent acquisition at Tulane University, said systems like Talent@GW can keep employees "engaged" and improve personal and professional benefits to employees by consolidating employee's skills and career objectives in one platform.

"These systems and programs are the life-

line to an employee's entire career from beginning to end," she said in an email.

She added that enhancing recruitment and onboarding tools can improve how potential employees perceive the University.

"The technology that a prospective candidate encounters is reflective of the company's image and branding," Bankston said. "The candidate experience on the front end of the recruitment process sets the tone for their future with the organization."

Three of GW's peer schools have similar systems to manage recruitment and onboarding.

Christiane Harrison, the onboarding manager at the University of Colorado Boulder, said the success of recruiting and onboarding effects can be seen in the diversity and quality of candidates and the ability to retain staff.

"By continually improving using tools such as your Talent@GW hub, leaders and managers can focus on the big picture and streamline the time and effort involved in these important personnel management activities," she said in an email.

She added that officials should be willing to invest time and resources in implementing "meaningful systems and business practices" to refine recruitment and onboarding systems.

"There is so much involved in helping new hires become quickly productive, fully integrated members of the community, and that can't be accomplished with one new-hire orientation session," Harrison said.

Graduate sociology students study course material affordability

CARLY NEILSON
REPORTER

Graduate students enrolled in a sociology class this semester are investigating the cost of course materials for undergraduate students.

Students involved with the effort said they will spend the semester conducting interviews with undergraduates to produce a report on textbook and class material affordability for GW Libraries. They added that they aim to gather personalized experiences about course materials from undergraduate students through interviews to help find solutions to make materials more affordable.

Rachel Landis, a second-year doctoral student studying public policy and health policy who is enrolled in the class, said she is part of a subset of the class in partnership with the Open Educational Resources team, a group in Gelman Library that studies course material affordability. She said her team is interviewing undergraduate students who filled out an online survey saying that they have had difficulty accessing affordable course materials.

One of the graduate students reached out to each undergraduate who filled out the survey to set up a meeting to speak more extensively about their experience, according to the survey. Interviews took place from Oct. 31 to Nov. 8, the survey states.

"The present research is intended to help strengthen OER programming and provide evidence to University faculty and administrators about the urgent need to structure courses using affordable and accessible materials," Landis said.

She said members of the Open Educational Resources team – which studies course material affordability – approached assistant professor of sociology Michelle Kelso

before the semester began about conducting a semester-long research project on the issue.

She said students involved promoted the survey to undergraduates through flyers around campus, digital advertisements in Gelman Library and the Colombian College of Arts and Sciences newsletter. She said library staff are providing incentives, like entry into a raffle for a limited number of \$5 printing vouchers, for students to participate in the study.

The three-credit course, Qualitative Methodology: Doing Field Research, meets once a week on Wednesdays, according to the schedule of classes. Students are tasked with conducting research projects based on data collection and observations taken in "natural settings," according to the University bulletin.

Landis said the class' students worked with library staff to create an outline for the project and design interview questions. She said the research project is divided into two teams, one that conducts in-person, one-on-one interviews and one that conducts focus groups with undergraduate students who filled out the survey.

Student Association leaders partnered with members of the Faculty Senate in April to form a subcommittee to research the price of required materials and suggests ways to reduce costs.

"Accessibility and affordability of course materials is an important issue that many undergraduates face, and we need to better understand not only what those issues look like, but also how GW and GW Libraries can help to make course materials affordable and accessible," Landis said.

A Hatchet analysis of course materials for introductory courses across the largest disciplines found that the average cost of a single book in STEM courses is

about \$98, while the cost of a single book in non-STEM courses clocks in at about \$53.

Nicholas Cucuras, a second-year graduate student studying international affairs, said high costs deter some students from buying textbooks for their classes, causing their grades to drop as a result.

Jason Vergne, a student in the combined five-year bachelor's/master's program for sociocultural anthropology, said the course's students are taking a "proactive" approach toward making course materials more accessible and affordable by meeting directly with students to hear firsthand about their issues. He said library officials were interested in conducting the project because they want to collect good data directly from students on the issue.

"They would like to get data about the student experience to help shape policies rather than just anecdotally people saying course materials cost too much – that doesn't help anyone solve a specific problem," Vergne said.

Vergne said that based on his own experience as an undergraduate, many students come to GW without an understanding of the most affordable ways to rent or purchase their course materials. He said a "fundamental shift" in the way students, specifically freshmen, are integrated into the GW community is required to help students find more affordable and accessible versions of their materials.

"They are not just claiming to have the solutions, but they are seeking out the student's input in order to formulate strategies to enhance student success," Vergne said. "I think it is a really important story that people know that there are real people within the institution working hard on behalf of the students."



EMMA CAAMANO | PHOTOGRAPHER
Graduate students enrolled in a sociology class are working with library staff to design the project and propose changes to make class materials more affordable.

GW's Handshake activation rate tops market basket schools, officials say

MEREDITH ROATEN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

More students at GW have activated their profiles on the University's job-finding platform than students have at similarly-ranked schools using the platform.

Officials said more than 80 percent of students have activated their profiles on Handshake, a platform for jobs and internships made available to students since 2017. Students can customize their profiles to receive more specialized job postings and career assistance, which appeals to many students and sells them on the career search resource, officials said.

Rachel Brown, the associate vice provost for University career services, said GW's activation rate was the highest of its market basket schools that Handshake ranked.

"Student access to career programs has increased through GW's move to Handshake in 2017," she said in an email. "Handshake is available to all GW students and all career programs and events are listed in Handshake."

GW adopted Handshake in summer 2017 after dropping the in-house career management service GWork. Two of GW's peer schools, the University of Miami and Boston University, also use Handshake.

Michael McKenzie, the managing director of career and learning experience, said students who use Handshake receive more notifications about jobs and internships based on their

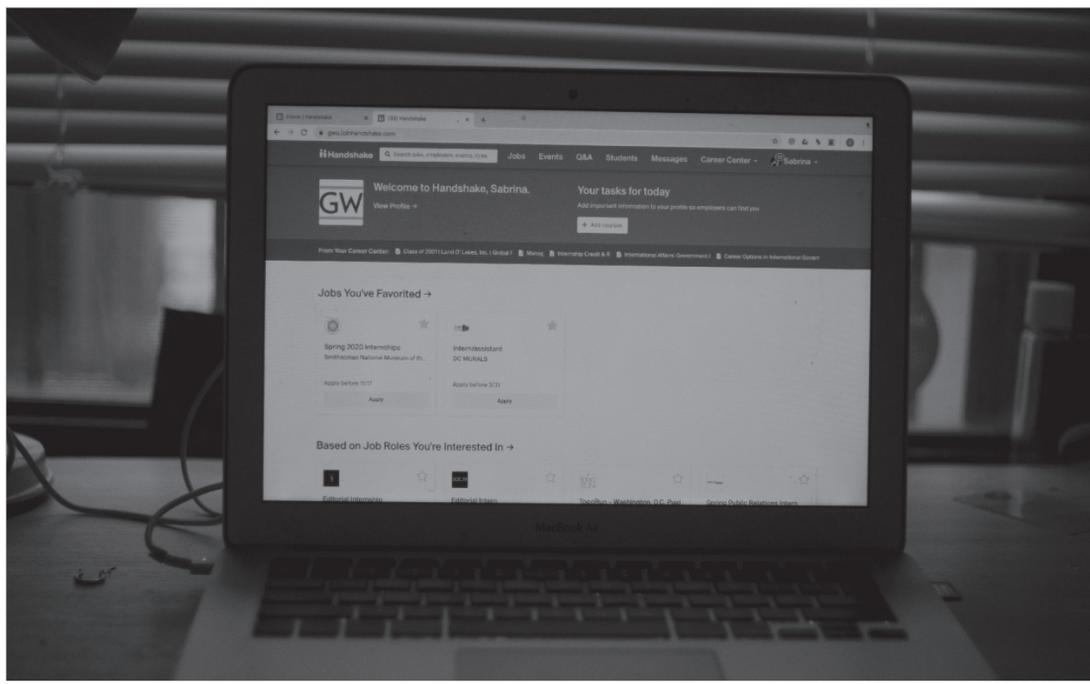


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SABRINA GODIN | PHOTOGRAPHER

More than 80 percent of GW students have activated their Handshake profiles, a higher rate than GW's peers that also use the platform.

career interests than the previous platform offered.

"When students activate their account, they go through the account set-up process which has a major impact on how well the Handshake and career staff can help students find the right information and opportunities," he said in an email.

Officials started using Handshake to list job fairs and webinars for federal work-study students last summer.

McKenzie said information like experience and skills from student profiles helps center staff identify what resources to offer

students and how to advise academic departments on student interests and needs.

He added that students participating in Handshake also benefit from the network of students who they can search for by career interest to gather information about particular internships or firms during the job search.

"We also encourage first- and second-year students who are building their profiles to review junior and senior profiles with similar interests to learn more about the experiences that may have helped them get key intern-

ships," he said in an email.

McKenzie said Handshake also assists students in building their resumes by giving them tips and guidance, which can benefit students looking for internships and jobs by bolstering their applications.

Career center experts said students who activate their Handshake profiles see increased chances of successfully finding jobs and internships.

Christian Garcia, the associate dean and executive director of the career center at Miami, said the platform draws students in because of its accessibility and ease of navigation. The plat-

form's algorithm, which shows students jobs and internship listings based on their profiles' characteristics, encourages students to use the platform, he said.

Some students at GW who used the service reported two years ago that the simplified system reduced the delay between getting hired and starting a new job.

Garcia said that before Miami switched to using Handshake, the school's career services platform was "passive" and required employers who wanted to find employees to expend greater effort because the platform's search function

was less sophisticated than Handshake's.

"But if they open their profile, employers can do searches," he said. "Handshake will suggest things based on their experience."

Jon Schlesinger, the career director at Brandeis University, said the system is beneficial to students because without Handshake, students could miss out on many job opportunities that fit their interests.

"Employers can target students based on what they have said they are interested in all across the country," he said.

Schlesinger said the system is easy to convince students to use because it is "intuitive," and information is easy to find.

"We get fewer questions about how to use basic features than the previous system," he said.

Schlesinger added that students were also more inclined to go through the platform for their job hunt because the platform automates some of the work in finding job postings.

Nicole Van Den Heuvel, the director of career services at Rice University, said companies only have so much time and money to use on sending representatives to recruit college students. More participation in Handshake means students can reach employers located in their desired location, she said.

"We want it to be ideally seamless, a one-stop shop for the students and for the employers," she said. "If Handshake is used in the right way, that's really what it is."



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

A professor in the Milken Institute School of Public Health produced, co-directed and co-wrote the film "Sequestrada," or "Kidnapped," to raise awareness of the impact of a dam in Brazil on an indigenous population.

Professor produces film about impacts of dam construction

ED PRESTERA
STAFF WRITER

An associate professor of environmental and occupational health and sociology spent three years producing a film that explores the effects of a hydroelectric dam on the indigenous people of the Amazon.

Sabrina McCormick, the producer, co-director and co-writer of the film "Sequestrada," or "Kidnapped," said the film focuses on how the Belo Monte Dam in Brazil will cause flooding, deforestation and the displacement of indigenous people. McCormick said she hopes the film will inspire audiences to advocate on behalf of the Amazon and its inhabitants.

The Belo Monte Dam is part of Brazilian government officials' plan to construct 60 large hydroelectric dams in the Amazon over the next 20 years, according to International Rivers, an organization that advocates for indigenous populations.

McCormick said the dam's impending destruction has forced indigenous populations to migrate from their native lands to places like Altamira, Brazil. She said the influx of new populations into these areas has prompted increases in kidnappings and sex trafficking of children.

"When I first learned about it, I knew it was a super important project," McCormick said. "But it wasn't until several years ago that I decided, no matter how hard

it was going to be, to make this film."

She said the film focuses on a young girl in the Arara tribe, a group indigenous to the Brazilian Amazon, who is kidnapped by sex traffickers and must find a way to escape and return home to her family.

"We really use her story as a way to see behind or into this world where the dam is, has been built and will soon become functional or very likely," McCormick said.

She said flooding resulting from the dam's construction has displaced indigenous communities from their homes, which disrupts their health and cultural roots.

The roughly 90-minute film will premiere Friday in New York and will be released Dec. 17 on iTunes, Google Play and other platforms, according to a release from the Milken Institute School of Public Health. McCormick said officials in the Dirksen Senate Office Building are hosting a special screening on Capitol Hill Dec. 9.

McCormick said she wants to address climate change and Amazonian degradation because Americans tend to be "detached" from global environmental issues. She said she hopes the film allows audiences to empathize with a situation that is foreign to them.

"It's hard to think beyond our own immediate circumstances to the way

that the rest of the world might affect us," she said. "It's just that it's a challenge to the human psyche."

McCormick said using a narrative structure for the film creates a stronger connection between viewers and the "emotional" story than a strictly fact-based documentary film would. She said she hopes audiences will empathize with the young lead character and demand that policymakers stop building large dams like the Monte Belo.

"Reaching the human heart is more important than reaching the human mind," McCormick said.

Environmental experts who study the Amazon said audiences will empathize with the young girl's struggles, which will raise awareness and inspire people to take action on issues affecting the Amazon.

Eve Bratman, an assistant professor of environmental studies at Franklin and Marshall College, said the forced relocation of indigenous people from native lands to urban communities has divested them of their cultural attachment to the rainforest. She said the dam's construction will cause flooding and decrease fish populations, which throws indigenous peoples' river-based lifestyle "into chaos."

"That meant lifestyle changes that make their current ways of living completely unrecognizable from how they were in the past," Bratman said.

Environmental law professors reflect on program's 50 years

ISHA TRIVEDI
REPORTER

The GW Law School's environmental and energy law program is ringing in its golden jubilee with a series of events throughout this academic year.

The celebration kicked off late last month with an event featuring keynote speaker William Reilly, a former Environmental Protection Agency administrator, and will conclude next fall with a symposium on the future of environmental and energy law. Faculty said the events commemorate the program's popularity and accomplishments, like helping further the field of environmental law.

The anniversary celebration includes events focused on the two areas of law like guest speakers who worked on "seminal" environmental law cases and conferences and symposia with alumni and current students, according to the program's website.

Robert Glicksman, a professor of environmental law in the program, said the program's current focus is to understand what changes those in the field need to make with respect to teaching environmental law to deal with the ongoing problem of climate change.

"Intelligent environmental law and policy decisions are more critical now than they have ever

been if the country is going to overcome some significant obstacles to progress that have arisen recently," he said in an email. "GW Law's environmental and energy law program is well situated to play a leading role in the debate over how best to provide effective policy solutions to problems such as climate change."

Glicksman said program members have strengthened research in the area of energy law through their analyses of environmental protection over the past several decades.

"We are doing important research on sustainable energy, microgrids, electric vehicles and rebuilding electricity systems after disasters," he said.

Glicksman added that the program teaches students the intersection of the law underpinning environmental protection and law governing energy production. He said officials decided to expand the program in 2009 to recognize the value the energy program brings to the law school, bringing the program to its current state with a team of "prolific" faculty.

The program currently offers four foundational courses and more than 30 advanced courses and employs more than 30 faculty members, according to the program's website.

LeRoy Paddock, the former associate dean for environmental law studies and a professorial lecturer of law, said he has worked in the program since 2007. He said he hopes program faculty continue to produce the volume of high-quality research and publications, like studies on electric vehicles and the role of science in climate litigation, that they have in the past 50 years.

The program was founded in 1970, the same year that the Nixon administration created the EPA in response to ecological disasters like the Cuyahoga River fire in Ohio and the Santa Barbara oil spill in California in 1969.

He said the program has since expanded its course offerings by adding classes on food and agricultural law and oil and gas law, establishing a student-run energy and environmental law journal that publishes three times per year and now holding an annual symposium in March to bring environmental law experts together.

"My hope is that the environmental law program will remain one of the top programs in the country as it has over the past 50 years," he said.

GW HATCHET.COM

For more on how program faculty want the program to grow



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT GLICKSMAN
Robert Glicksman, a professor of environmental law, said members in the program have strengthened the environmental protection area of law over the past 50 years.

Feminist Student Union posters did not foster productive dialogue

The Feminist Student Union hung controversial posters around campus late last week detailing misconduct in "white Greek life." The posters encouraged students to avoid recruitment and rush for fraternities and sororities, pointing to a list of sexual misconduct and racial incidents related to Greek life over the past several decades.

But FSU did not begin a productive dialogue about issues in Greek life – it tore into the organizations and sparked a fight. There is no shortage of legitimate criticism of Greek life on campus, but the flyers ineffectively protest these flawed institutions in the wrong ways.

The poster does not include background information or sources

Matthew Zachary
Columnist

and refers to some incidents that happened decades ago. The poster also contains an unclear subtext suggesting that women should reject recruitment to avoid rape culture instead of encouraging men to exercise even the smallest amount of self control. A single-page document is far from the ideal forum to provide details on such complicated and sensitive incidents, and the FSU's poster was more provocative than informative.

The Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association may have troubled pasts and still have a ways to go, but telling people to reject the institutions entirely is unproductive.

One incident included on the poster – an IFC fraternity closing for hazing and alcohol-related violations – is not related to white supremacy and rape culture, which are the main themes the document addresses. The actions of the four fraternities and two sororities reflect poorly on Greek life but are not related to the central issues of the FSU document. If FSU believes that these Greek organizations were shut down over issues of racism and misogyny, the group should have said so explicitly instead of throw-



Cartoon by Jeanne Franchesca Dela Cruz

ing in extra information that does not relate to "white Greek life."

The first claim on the document also stems from incidents between Sigma Alpha Epsilon and the University from 1998 – so long ago that many students were not born when it happened. At that time, the chapter of SAE had already been kicked off campus and was not recognized by the IFC but was still recognized by its national organization. The chapter formally returned to GW in 2011, promising to act in line with University expectations. Using

outdated information muddles the organization's call to action. Greek organizations deserve their reputation for contributing to rape culture, but they should be criticized for their actions now, not incidents from more than 20 years ago.

In a follow-up statement made on Instagram, FSU leaders clarified the intent behind the poster – to "display [white Greek life organizations'] histories, encourage radical reform" and discourage student participation in Greek life. FSU was right to issue a statement about the posters, but the organization should have better prepared for the backlash before the posters were hung around residence halls. The

poster offered only a glimpse of decades of rot caused by rape culture and white supremacy, and the only reform the poster hinted at was to eliminate Greek organizations rather than advocate for reform.

To be fair to Greek life, Panhel started a task force in 2017 to try to tackle a startling increase in sexual assaults and a number of drug-ging incidents. The group released a document with a dozen Greek organization-specific recommendations like risk management and survivor support. The IFC has also worked to improve diversity and inclusion and required fraternities to participate in sexual assault prevention training. Still, the Uni-

versity, IFC, and Panhel have more work to do to curb rape culture and white supremacy, but they should work with instead of against FSU members if they want to be part of the conversation, too.

The poster's message to end white supremacy and rape culture is a powerful one, but a single sheet of paper is not an effective method of information dissemination. I am not a member of any Greek organization, and I agree with the overall message sent by the FSU, but the brevity of the flyer clouded the intent of the FSU.

—Matthew Zachary, a junior majoring in international affairs, is a columnist.

Officials must improve student culture, alumni office to increase donations

STAFF EDITORIAL

Just 8 percent of GW alumni donated to the University last year, the lowest number of alumni donations among GW's 12 peer schools.

It can be easy to think that GW's high cost of tuition could leave graduates paying off instead of paying back, but GW's peers also have high costs of attendance, and these institutions still see higher returns from alumni. Competitive sports like football and basketball might be one factor that drives donations for some of GW's peer schools, like the University of Southern California or Syracuse University. But not all of the University's peer schools have elite athletic departments, and they continue to outpace GW in alumni donations.

GW's struggle with alumni donations is not about loans or athletics – it all trickles down to whether or not students enjoyed their time at GW.

The University has made recent efforts to improve the student experience, fighting food insecurity and increasing the affordability of items like laundry and printing. But the University still does not garner the same return in alumni donations as its market basket schools, and for now, that is OK. So long as administrators continue fostering school spirit and repairing the alumni relations office, they may soon see payoff in years to come.

In the past few years, the University has experienced

difficulty with alumni relations. In 2018, several GW Alumni Association board members resigned after officials planned to merge the organization with the Office of Alumni Relations, causing an independent alumni association to form. GW also saw turnover at the top of the alumni office, which might make it harder to forge long-lasting connections with alumni.

Alumni giving is a serious problem – it is factored into the methodology of the U.S. News and World Report college rankings. A lack of donations can also cripple the University's budget because alumni donations are used to support student life, athletics and scholarships.

But boosting alumni donations takes more work than just repairing the office. Officials should set realistic expectations to improve school spirit. GW may never have the sports culture of USC or Syracuse, and GW may take more time to build up the legacy of some of its peer schools like Georgetown and Tufts universities because it was recently considered a commuter school.

The University can slowly change its perception by expanding its branding. GW is not recognized as an elite university around the country, but being a student in D.C. is a brand. Officials continue to push the narrative that GW is an opportunity for internships and a stepping stone to careers in the District when recruiting

prospective students. But branding the University as a stepping stone does not help students gain pride in their school.

The alumni association also needs to be strong and organized to create lasting connections with potential donors. Until early September, the University had two different alumni associations, which could have created confusion and mistrust. Working to improve school spirit and establish firm relationships with alumni will slowly but surely boost the University's donations.

We cannot fix campus issues that may lead to students not feeling that their experience is worth donating back to, but our peer schools with higher alumni donations do have more traditional campuses, which have more legacy. Our peer schools with higher alumni giving rates are more established universities that have more of a history, which creates a legacy of excellence that leads people to have more pride in their school.

The University cannot fix its legacy and the fundamental things that could lead to a lack of school spirit, but it can increase alumni relations and aim to raise school spirit to help students be more proud of the University when they graduate. It may not lead to a drastic change in donations overnight, but at least the University would be trying.

Anti-Semitic video is not an isolated act of hate

As a Jewish woman, I have faced anti-Semitism in varying degrees. I have been told I do not look like a Jew, asked if my parents wanted me to be a lawyer, told that all the Jews are in control of Hollywood and told that "my people" would burn in eternal damnation. But time and time again, I have been told that anti-Semitism is no longer an issue.

Hannah Thacker

Contributing Opinions Editor

When someone thinks of Jewish people, they tend to think of stereotypical professions – lawyers, doctors, bankers – people who are successful in America. Jewish people are viewed as successful, and anti-Semitism is often only taught in reference to the Holocaust, so many think that anti-Semitism is a thing of the past.

But in a Snapchat video that went viral across campus, a student made an anti-Israel and anti-Jewish statement with a Rosh Hashanah filter over the video, leading to swift condemnation from student organizations and officials. The incident is indicative of the rarely seen but still prevalent anti-Semitism that Jewish students face.

With an undergraduate Jewish population of about 25 percent, the video impacted many people on campus and is by no means an isolated incident. Students can still feel the pain of a gunman walking into the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh last year and killing 11 Jewish people during services, and they are reminded again that Jews never feel truly welcome here.

Jewish students carry the baggage of centuries of oppression and genocide. Many Jewish stu-

dents like me have family members who arrived in America because they were fleeing the Holocaust or fleeing programs in Russia, and many have family who were torn apart by anti-Semitic hate. Jews have been persecuted from before Christ, and all Jewish children are taught the history of our people. But most people are only taught about anti-Semitism in the context of the Holocaust, and if you see the Holocaust as the example of anti-Semitism and then look at "Jewish success," it would look like anti-Semitism does not exist anymore.

Anti-Semitism existed before the Holocaust, and it continued to exist after the Holocaust.

It is still very real in this country, and it comes in many forms. It is seen in actions as drastic as the Tree of Life shooting and anti-Semitic chants in Charlottesville, Va. It is seen in simple student flyers and graffiti on campuses across America. All of these incidents are anti-Semitic, and they impact Jewish students no matter the severity.

But it is important to note the anti-Semitism is not the biggest issue on this campus. With GW's racist history, recent racist posts from students in sororities like Alpha Phi and Phi Sigma Sigma and a recent push to get students to not rush Greek life, there are pressing race relations issues on this campus. Just because anti-Semitism is not the biggest issue on this campus does not mean that this is not indicative of a bigger problem.

In the aftermath of this recent campus event, students must work to realize that anti-Semitism is not just one isolated event – it is a wider issue that still impacts Jewish students today.

—Hannah Thacker, a sophomore majoring in political communication, is The Hatchet's contributing 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

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
Ilena Peng, blog editor
Kiran Hoefner-Shah, opinions editor*
Hannah Thacker, contributing opinions editor*
Sidney Lee, culture editor*
Molly Kaiser, contributing culture editor
Emily Maise, sports editor*

Sarah Roach, editor in chief

Belle Long, contributing sports editor
Alexander Welling, assistant photo editor
Sarah Urtz, assistant photo editor
Arielle Bader, assistant photo editor
Jack Fonseca, contributing photo editor
Jack Schapiro, video editor
Heidi Estrada, assistant video editor
Dante Schulz, contributing video editor
Olivia Dupree, design editor
Olivia Columbus, contributing design editor*
Alyssa Ilaria, graphics editor
Jack Liu, web developer
Aaron Kovacs, contributing web developer
Kelly Hooper, copy editor

Natalie Prieb, assistant copy editor*
Ciara Regan, research assistant
Alec Rich, research assistant
Amy Liu, research assistant
Ed Pretera, research assistant
Katherine Abughazaleh, research assistant
Meredith Roaten, digital manager
Annie Dobler, social media director
Kate McCarthy, contributing social media director
* denotes member of editorial board

Business Office
Andrew Shlos, business manager
Tyler Loveless, accounting manager

Submissions — Deadlines for submissions are Friday 5 p.m. for Monday issues. They must include the author's name, title, year in school and phone number. The GW Hatchet does not guarantee publication and reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, grammar and clarity.
Submit to opinions@gwhatchet.com

Policy Statement — The GW Hatchet is produced by Hatchet Publications Inc., an independent, non-profit corporation. All comments should be addressed to the Board of Directors, which has sole authority for the content of this publication. Opinions expressed in signed columns are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of The GW Hatchet. All content of The GW Hatchet is copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written authorization from the editor in chief.

Culture

November 11, 2019 • Page 7

THE SCENE

SINÉAD HARNETT, U Street Music Hall Nov. 11 • \$20
The English R&B singer will perform in the District Monday.

CLAIRO 9:30 Club Nov. 12 • \$50
Lo-fi artist Claïro will debut her new album "Immunity" in concert.

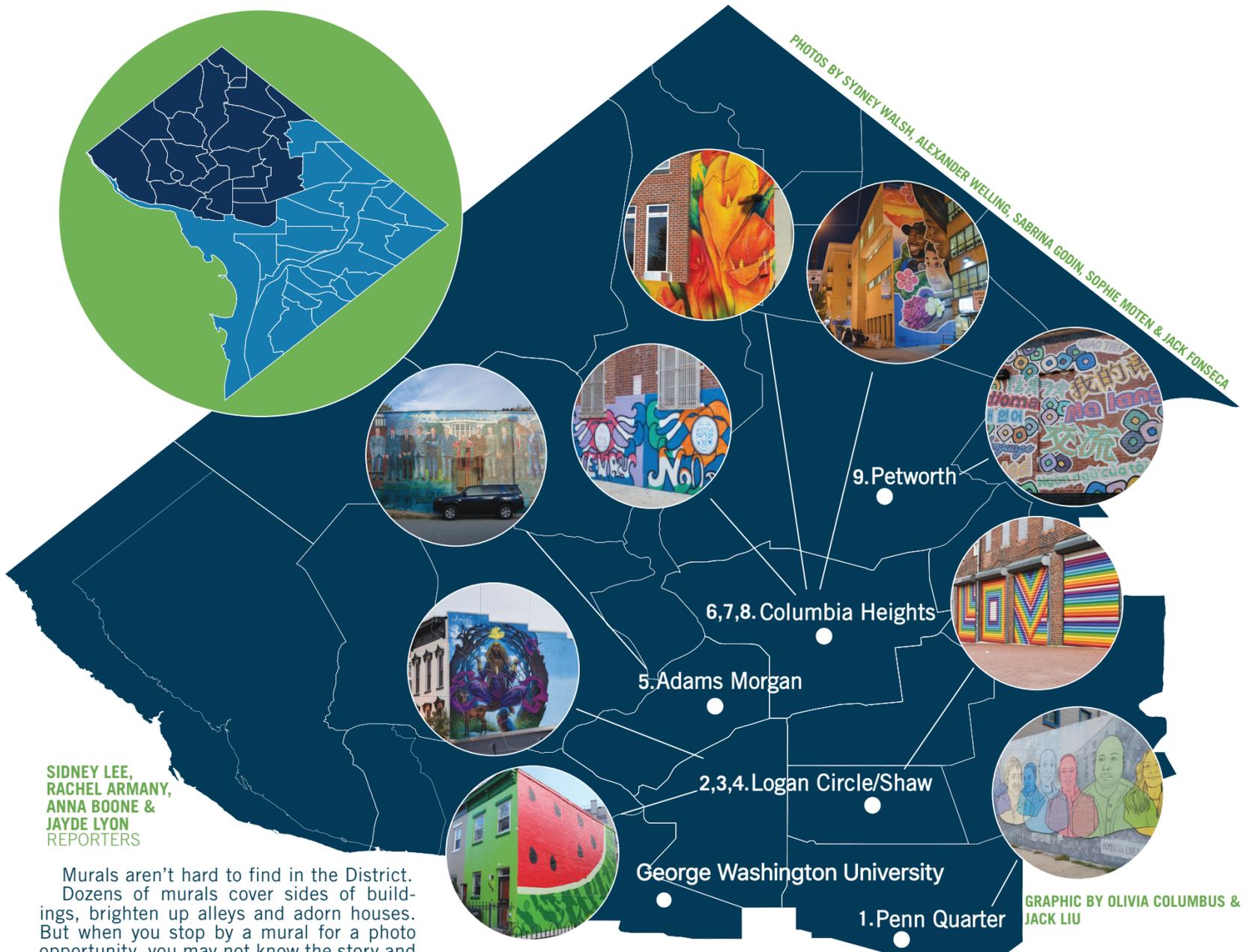
LOUD LUXURY Echostage Nov. 16 • \$20-\$25
Artists of dance hit "Body" will perform in the District Saturday.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

'HOT PINK,' AN ALBUM BY DOJA CAT

MURALS OF NORTHWEST D.C.

THE STORIES AND INSPIRATION BEHIND THE ART



SIDNEY LEE, RACHEL ARMAN, ANNA BOONE & JAYDE LYON REPORTERS

GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA COLUMBUS & JACK LIU

Murals aren't hard to find in the District. Dozens of murals cover sides of buildings, brighten up alleys and adorn houses. But when you stop by a mural for a photo opportunity, you may not know the story and meaning behind the art.

The Hatchet met up with nine artists to talk about their work, the process of creating a mural and the inspiration behind the pieces. The murals illustrate wide-ranging issues like homelessness in D.C. and health

equity for immigrants and incarcerated individuals.

Eight of the nine murals were commissioned by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities' MuralsDC project, initiated in 2007 in an effort to abate the preva-

lence of graffiti around D.C.

Local artists and artists from around the country have come to the District to take part in the project, painting murals that range from a woman depicted in a meditation pose to a famous White House reporter.

1. 'Homeless Lives Matter'

Located on the side of one of the largest homeless shelters on the East Coast, the "Homeless Lives Matter" mural aims to draw attention to D.C.'s housing crisis.

Nine colorful portraits of members and supporters of the Community for Creative Non-Violence homeless shelter comprise the mural at the corner of Second and D streets. D.C.-native artist Rose Jaffe said she painted the mural in 2016 because she wanted to honor the community of people who use the shelter and stray from painting portraits of famous and well-known figures.

D.C. tallied one of the highest homelessness populations of any city in the country in 2018 with about 6,900 people experiencing homelessness, according to Forbes.

2. 'Watermelon House'

Artist Wade Wilson decided to paint a mural on the side of his home located at 1112 Q St. NW when a paint job went wrong. He said he originally bought the house in a mint green color plastered with graffiti and wanted to cover it up with new paint, amusing the Sherwin Williams employees who eventually recommended he use a high-gloss red that could easily wipe off graffiti.

The high gloss of the red paint lightened the bright red and turned the color into a "Pepto Bismol pink," Wilson said. The red-pink color reminded Wilson and his partner of a watermelon that their nephew had painted on a half wall of their former home in New Mexico, inspiring them to begin the watermelon mural project on their new home.

Wilson began the transformation in July 2006, and he continues to add updates over the years.

3. 'Namaste'

Right around the corner from the infamous Blagden Alley, an image of a woman in a meditating yoga position seems to float in the air.

The "Namaste" mural is plastered on the second-story wall of the dog daycare and grooming salon Wagtime at 1232 Ninth St. NW. Aniekan Udofia said he wants to remind onlookers of humanity and nature through the act of meditation drawn in the mural.

Udofia also said he drew inspiration for the mural out of his love of illustrations. He said the woman who is levitating in the middle of the wall is reminiscent of the fictional comic book "Dr. Strange."

The mural features vibrant colors of purple and blue, and the woman in the painting is sitting in a cross-legged position. Bare trees intertwine around her head, and birds and a deer stand in the foreground and background.

4. 'LOVE'

Lisa Marie Thalhammer said D.C. "needed some love" after the 2016 presidential election – so she turned the thought into a mural.

Thalhammer painted the "LOVE" mural in 2017, a multicolored design that spells out the word on four garage doors in Blagden Alley at the rear of 926 N St. NW. She said she wanted the painting to draw in policymakers and politicians and remind them of the uplifting power of colors incorporated into the 13-color spectrum mural.

The "LOVE" mural is a part of Thalhammer's "love series," a D.C.-based project launched in 2015 with a grant from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Throughout 2020, Thalhammer said she will embark on what she refers to as a "love campaign," painting similar artwork across U.S. cities beginning in Hawaii.

5. 'Mama Ayesha's Restaurant Presidential Mural'

For three years, artist Karla Rodas-Israel worked to paint former presidents from Dwight D. Eisenhower to Barack Obama on the side of an Adams Morgan Middle Eastern restaurant.

"The Mama Ayesha's Restaurant Presidential Mural," located at 1967 Calvert St. NW, depicts former White House reporter Helen Thomas, a longtime patron of the restaurant, linking arms with 11 former U.S. presidents, 10 of whom she covered during her tenure.

The background of the mural blends together D.C. landmarks among the changing seasons. Rodas-Israel said the changing seasons behind Thomas and the former presidents represent changing times throughout American history.

6. 'CentroNía'

Ryan McDonnell teamed up with about 10 high school students to complete a mural that now lines the alley of the CentroNía elementary school.

McDonnell, who is also an instructional lab associate for the University's ceramics studio, led the creation of this colorful mural at 1420 Columbia Road in the summer of 2008 during a course he taught for high school students. McDonnell said he wanted to brighten the community surrounding the school.

The mural consists of nine paintings of Olmec colossal heads – human heads of people from ancient Mesoamerica – made out of stencils in all colors of the rainbow. Sun rays beam out of the heads, and the student who painted each design wrote their name underneath the head in large bubble letters.

7. 'Calla Lily'

When Kaliq Crosby stumbled upon a mural painted at 3400 13th St. NW, he said it was "falling apart."

Crosby said he wanted to give the wall a do-over, painting it in yellow and inviting children from around the city to help complete the mural now known as "Calla Lily" on the side of Addis Park Market. The 17-by-11-foot mural depicts a calla lily – the country flower of Ethiopia – using the red, yellow and green colors of the Ethiopian flag to honor the grocery store owners who are Ethiopian.

Crosby said the process took about three weeks to complete, finishing the project in late August with the help of local youth who learned about the process of creating a mural from the sketching to painting stages. He said he wants the mural to engage onlookers who can stop and admire the piece on their way to and from work.

8. 'You Are Welcome'

The mural "You Are Welcome," located at 3020 14th St. NW, was designed and painted by muralist Cita Sadeli, who is also known as "MISS CHELOVE."

Sadeli said the piece depicts three "multicultural, multi-ethnic and multigenerational figures" – a grandmother, a young man and a child – adorned with flowers and leaves in front of a sunset.

Sadeli said she was inspired to paint the mural after meeting with property owners at Unity Healthcare to research what kind of mural she would depict on the side of its building. She found that the practice has been around for 30 years, providing primary and specialized care to anyone who needs it even if they do not have health insurance or are not U.S. citizens, she said.

9. 'Language Access For All'

At MacFarland Middle School, artist Juan Pablo Pineda wants every student to know that language barriers should not divide the school community.

So, Pineda painted the "Language Access for All" mural on the side of the school, located at 4400 Iowa Ave. NW, with some help from youth in the area. The mural spells out the words "language access" in a dozen different languages, including Ethiopian, Japanese, Chinese, Spanish and Hindi.

Pineda said he wanted all ethnicities to be represented equally in the school community regardless of language barriers. The mural is intended to "enhance the community" and inspire others to accept those from different backgrounds in the community, he said.

To learn more about the murals, check out www.gwhatchet.com

GAMES OF THE WEEK



MEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. American
Tuesday | 7 p.m.
The Colonials battle crosstown rival American in their second home game of the season.



VOLLEYBALL
vs. Rhode Island
Saturday | 5 p.m.
Volleyball hosts the Rams for its final game of the regular season.

NUMBER CRUNCH 7

The number of shots women's soccer took against Saint Louis, compared to its season average of 17.7

Women's soccer takes second at A-10 Championship after loss to Saint Louis

ROMAN BOBEK
STAFF WRITER

Women's soccer traveled to Saint Louis in hopes of bringing back the Atlantic 10 Championship for the first time in program history.

But the host team proved to be too much for the Colonials, who snapped their two-game win streak and wound back to the District as the A-10 runner-ups, their highest finish in 22 years.

The squad topped Saint Joseph's and Massachusetts in the quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively, on its way to its highest finish since 1997. The Colonials (14-3-4) fell to the Billikens (17-3-2) 3-1 in a rematch of their regular season finale.

"We lost our last game trying to win a regular season title, and then we lost our third game of the postseason trying to win a conference title," head coach Michelle Demko said after the loss to Saint Louis.

The Billikens started the scoring, converting two penalty kicks within two minutes. Ten minutes later, Saint Louis struck again to take a 3-0 lead.

The Colonials remained scoreless for 83 minutes before redshirt sophomore forward Rachel Sorkenn net-

ted her 11th goal of the year. She lofted the ball under the bar and above redshirt goalkeeper Mary Niehaus' outstretched hand. Junior defender Allie Nornes picked up her second assist.

Demko said Sorkenn added another layer of scoring this season and provided the squad with more options at the forward position.

The team saw a marked improvement from last season's 10-8-1 performance, losing five fewer games this season. After dropping a game against William and Mary Aug. 22 to start the year, the team suffered just one loss over two months.

The Billikens handed the Colonials their second loss of the season in a tightly contested 2-1 game to end the regular season. But the squad earned its highest seeding in four years to enter the A-10 Championship ranked No. 2.

The Colonials outscored their opponents 43-25, and Sorkenn led the pack with 11 goals. The team spread the scoring wealth this season, with 10 Colonials netting at least one goal.

But against Saint Louis in the final, GW mustered seven shots and allowed the Billikens to take 24 shots.

The squad boasted 172 shots per game and allowed



HATCHET FILE PHOTO BY GRACE HROMIN | PHOTOGRAPHER
Redshirt senior defender Megan McCormick dribbles the ball during the A-10 quarterfinals against Saint Joseph's. The Colonials fell to the Billikens but still notched their highest A-10 ranking in more than 20 years.

its opponents just 10 shots per game throughout the year. The team shot on frame with a .548 clip and averages 9.89 shots on goal per game, ranking third among all Division I soccer programs. But in the final, the Colonials notched just three shots on goal, while Saint Louis took 11 shots on frame.

Pavon, Sorkenn and redshirt senior defender Megan McCormick earned spots on

the A-10 Championship team. Six Colonials also earned postseason accolades. Sorkenn, Zaluski, Pareja and sophomore defender Madi Coyne earned Second Team honors, while McCormick nabbed a First Team nod and redshirt freshman Tamaki Machi was named to the All Rookie Team.

Demko said each players' strong relationships with one another allowed it to find suc-

cess on the field. She added that the postseason awards were "outstanding" because the honors were voted on by A-10 coaches.

On the defensive side, redshirt freshman goalkeeper Tamaki Machi stopped 91 opportunities, denying 78.4 percent of all shots on goal by opponents this season. In the final against Saint Louis, Machi made eight saves.

Before the team played

Massachusetts and Saint Louis, McCormick said the team was more comfortable and familiar with one another on the field compared to last season, which contributed to the success they've seen on the field.

"A big difference from last year is just overall team chemistry," McCormick said. "I know a lot of people overlook how big of a piece that is to how well you play."

The Colonials defeated Saint Joseph's 3-0 Nov. 2 in a quarterfinal matchup. Pareja and Pavon each netted a goal, and Zaluski notched both assists. Sorkenn took a goal of her own to close out the game.

"We just have to go and play our hardest," Sorkenn said before the matchup.

The Colonials topped the Minutewomen 2-1 in the semifinal game Friday. Pavon and Sorkenn scored for the Colonials to lift the team to the finals.

Demko said the team's senior leadership exuded "determination, commitment and respect" for their teammates.

"They led the way for us and everybody else had a chance to follow and walk that line they set the example of," she said.



ZACH BRIEN | PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior forward Arnaldo Toro takes the ball to the rim during Saturday's game against the Bison. The Colonials beat Howard 76-62 to earn their first win of the season.

Baseball acclimates freshmen to college play during fall ball

BELLE LONG
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Baseball season doesn't officially start until February, but Tucker Field isn't sleeping during the offseason.

Beginning in October, baseball practices 20 hours a week, per NCAA practice rules, taking full advantage of the fall to hone skills and help freshmen acclimate to collegiate and GW play. Players and coaches said the practices allow for the team to sure up its fundamentals before it officially takes on teams in the spring.

Head coach Gregg Ritchie said the daily practices range from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m., a tight time frame that forces players to squeeze in drills. He operates from a printed schedule, with drills on defense and base-running - skills Ritchie called "overlooked" - that are planned by the hour.

"Offensive work is generally last, it's the cherry on top, it's the little piece of candy," Ritchie said. "We have to be very careful not to give the hitting first on a daily basis because everyone likes hitting."

Ritchie said he usually splits the squad into four different groups and bounces between them, overseeing drills and activities.

One of the team's tried-and-true drills is called "27 outs." The drill requires the entire team to earn 27 consecutive outs, with Ritchie calling out various scenarios like "play at first" or "second and third, no outs." Pitchers take turns on the mound, an assistant coach hits and the position players are required to make snap defensive decisions.

When the players finally get the 27th out, they react like someone hit a walk-off homer in extra innings. The team cheers wildly and dog piles in the infield.

During one practice, it took the players 23 minutes of balls in play to record the 27 outs.

Pitching coach Rick Oliveri

said the drill has been a staple of GW baseball since he joined the program three years ago. He added that the skill prepares players for the high-stress environment of a real game.

"It really simulates important moments in the game," Oliveri said. "If we're up by a run in the ninth inning, and a player has to field a ball with two outs and he feels the pressure of the situation, well he felt that in practice."

Oliveri said the fall practices aren't just for the players. He said the coaches use the time to track how players are improving and what areas they need to focus on before the season begins.

"Every day after practice, we meet as a coaching staff and debrief," Oliveri said. "We talk about the day, positives, challenges that we faced, strides guys are making, if guys are going backward in some areas, where guys can ask for help."

Freshman outfielder Stephen Ditomaso said the "27 outs" drill is one of his favorites because it made him feel more connected with his new teammates. If one player bobbles a ball and fails to record the out, the count resets and the team has to start the drill over again, Ditomaso said.

"It makes us come together and we have to do this for each other," Ditomaso said. "Everyone is accountable for everyone else, so you have to make the play so that every single other person on the field will make the play for you."

He said as a freshman, he would be nervous for his first collegiate baseball game if the team started practicing in the spring. The fall practice time allows the team to bond and the freshmen to get a taste of college baseball, he said.

Baseball added 10 freshmen and three junior college transfers to the ranks this season.

"Everyone varies, but it definitely helps with how prepared you're going to be, and it definitely helps you feel like you belong when you're working in the fall with everyone," Ditomaso said.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO
Sophomore utility player Noah Levin throws the ball during a game in May. The team has taken part in 20 hours of fall practice per week this semester.

Men's basketball opens three-game homestand with win against Howard

EMILY MAISE
SPORTS EDITOR

Four players contributed double-digit scoring to lift men's basketball above Howard in its opening game at the Smith Center Saturday.

The Colonials (1-1) were neck and neck with the Bison (1-1) through most of the first half but turned on the gas to take a lead they never let up. After falling to Towson earlier in the week, GW topped Howard 76-62 to earn its first win of the season.

"I thought we made a big step from Towson to tonight and although they are different opponents, there's always a point in the game where it could go one way or the other," head coach Jamion Christian said. "We've really stepped up tonight, and we really continued to play as a unit."

The team created opportunities, taking 61 shots from the field and 32 shots from deep. The squad converted 42.6 percent of its shots from the field but lacked efficiency from the three-point line, netting 28.1 percent of its three-point shots.

Christian opted for a forward-heavy starting lineup, surrounding freshman point guard Jameer Nelson Jr. with four big men - freshman Jamison Battle, sophomore Mezie Offurum, junior Javier Langarica and senior Arnaldo Toro.

He said he wanted to experiment with different lineups during the first games of the season to improve the team's performance later in the season.

"I think we have a lot of guys that can help this team win and sometimes you just need a little bit of a jolt, something a little bit different," Christian said. "We made some adjustments."

In the first half, GW struggled

to hit shots from the field, going 2-of-9 in the first four minutes. But the squad bounced back, going on a five-point run to end the half, bumping its field goal percentage to 37.5 percent to start the second frame.

Free throws and defensive stops kept GW neck and neck with Howard, which led the first half for nearly 10 minutes. The Colonials made seven shots but couldn't keep up their consistency from the line as the game went on, ending the night netting 15-of-22 free throws.

Battle led the team in scoring in the first frame, securing 14 points and shooting 50 percent from the field and behind the arc. He made his first start of the season after playing 20 minutes off the bench in the team's loss to Towson.

The Colonials outplayed the Bison in the paint during the second half, scoring eight more points down low. GW's defense held Howard's forwards ineffective, and the three big men netted a mere combined nine points.

Howard and GW remained close on the stat sheet, turning the ball over 10 times, scoring 30 points in the paint and netting 10 second-chance points each.

The Colonials' 10 turnovers were an improvement from the team's 15 turnovers against Towson. Nelson Jr. said the team's decrease resulted from trust in his teammates to handle the ball and help him navigate his role at the point.

"I know that I can just trust my teammates and just get them the ball," Nelson Jr. said. "It's just that easy with guys that you trust and you love on and off the court."

A difference came on the fast break. The Colonials monopolized fast break points, scoring

14 points to Howard's five. GW's bench was also more influential, notching 19 points, nearly two times more than Towson.

The squad's defense also took off in the second half, creating stops and nabbing three of the team's five steals. Despite the defensive strength, the Colonials couldn't curb senior guard Charles Williams, who put up 21 points on 7-of-14 shooting from the field.

Christian said Offurum, Williams and junior guard Justin Mazzulla kept the ball out of Williams' hands and worked to limit his opportunities.

"Just speaks to how good a player he is, but that doesn't speak to how bad our defense was," Christian said. "We made him really work for it and that's really what we try to do with good players."

Toro was the biggest difference-maker for the squad. He went on a tear for the Colonials, scoring 22 points and ripping 18 rebounds from the boards to lead all players. His physicality down low sent him to the charity stripe a team-leading nine times, and he shot at a .750 clip from the field.

Christian said strong post-play and three-point shooting go hand in hand to create space on the floor, which allows the team to gain confidence on the court.

"The three-point shot is highly efficient when you have a great penetrator and great post players," Christian said. "The ability to space the floor that way and just allow guys to know and be confident."

The Colonials are back in action Tuesday to take on American at the Smith Center in their second game of their three-game homestand. Tip off is scheduled for 7 p.m.