

The GW Hatchet

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JACK BOROWIAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Provost Brian Blake intends to sit down with each of the school's deans and discuss their visions for their schools.

New provost spends first four months touring schools, learning names

JARED GANS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

GW's new provost grew up working at his dad's gas station.

By the time he was 13, Brian Blake was responsible for several aspects of the station's upkeep – controlling inventory, managing the adjacent convenience store, keeping the station clean and ensuring the station abided by environmental regulations. Meanwhile, he helped keep an eye on competition from other local stations and gradually picked up on every aspect of running the shop.

Blake said that while he spent enough years at that station to probably run his own, he doesn't have the same level of familiarity with serving as provost of an institution of higher education – yet. Since he took over as provost last semester, Blake said he has spent time visiting each of GW's 10 schools to acquaint himself with the University and get to know the goals of students and deans.

"I feel like if I had to start a gas station, I probably could do it," Blake said. "I don't think as a provost I'm at that level yet, but after five years, you have a

comfort with the role, and you've dealt with all these different places."

He said that one thing he knew when he entered the role at GW in November was that he didn't want to simply repeat what he had done in his four and a half years as Drexel University's provost.

"That would be your natural inclination," Blake said. "So I fought that."

First months as provost In his first few months in the post, Blake said he has engaged in "half-day visits" to observe each school and meet with their respective deans and department chairs. He said the visits include a tour of the school's building and open forums for students, faculty and staff to discuss school-specific needs.

"I honestly listen," he said. "I go, I sit with everyone and I ask questions. I try to talk and have a conversation with everyone I see."

Blake said he has visited all but three of GW's 10 schools – the Elliott School of International Affairs, GW Law School and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences – and plans to conclude the tour by the end of March. He added that he is planning

to reach out to some of the students he met on the tour after it concludes to discuss their thoughts on ways to improve the University.

"I think that group would be really interesting because all of them had different perspectives," Blake said. "Bringing that information together, I'll write up something to the community about what I think I heard and then write a fresh perspective on their concerns or considerations."

Blake said one of the endeavors he wants to tackle in the upcoming months is to track where the University is making financially "significant investments" for research and present the information to the GW community and reconsider which areas officials should prioritize.

Officials released the results of GW's first-ever faculty-led review of the University's research ecosystem last April, calling for a series of changes like improving communication among faculty, staff and students and adding trainings about GW's policies pertaining to conducting research.

See **PROVOST** Page 3

More than 80 faculty sign petition calling on LeBlanc to resign

ZACH SCHONFELD
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

More than 80 faculty have signed a Faculty Association petition calling on University President Thomas LeBlanc to resign.

The group released the petition Wednesday, adding in a statement that the call for LeBlanc's resignation has gained "urgency" following the "racist remarks" he made earlier this month. The petition cites LeBlanc's support for the 20/30 Plan, which "will have a negative effect on the racial, ethnic and economic diversity of GW's student body," and comes amid increased tensions over GW's next strategic plan and the institutional culture initiative.

"Now it is time to act," the group said. "We believe it is essential to show students, staff and faculty of color that the entire GW community stands with them in their right to safety and respect from the highest levels on this campus."

The association has served as an informal labor union since more than a 100 faculty members banded together to create the organization in 2014, members said last spring.

LeBlanc apologized for making the "insensitive" comment, made in a video that surfaced earlier this month, the day after the video emerged. The comment, which also revealed GW's fossil fuel investment profile, sparked multiple student protests the following week.

"We understand LeBlanc's comment to be just the latest evidence of his disregard for both diversity and democracy at GW," the group said in the statement.

The petition also criticizes LeBlanc for "ignoring a formal request for information" about the 20/30 Plan and claims that the plan will create "a condition of financial insecurity" and "jeopardiz[e] academic programs."

LeBlanc's plan calls for a reduction in the undergraduate population by nearly 20 percent while increasing the proportion of STEM students to 30 percent. Internal enrollment models obtained by The Hatchet last year reveal that the changes could cost GW between \$8 million and \$36 million in annual revenue loss and a 2 to 7 percent decline in minority enrollment relative to the baseline.

The Faculty Assembly – a group of all full-time faculty members – approved a petition in October requesting LeBlanc provide faculty with the data trustees considered when they developed the 20/30 Plan.

Oct. 22

The Faculty Assembly passes a measure calling on the Faculty Senate to collect data on University President Thomas LeBlanc's 20/30 Plan.

Dec. 13

The senate passes a resolution creating a special committee to address each request for information in the assembly measure.

Feb. 25

The special committee presents its findings to a special meeting of the assembly, which approves the committee's actions.

Feb. 26

Citing LeBlanc's refusal to give information to the special committee and other concerns, the Faculty Association releases a petition calling on LeBlanc to resign, which garners more than 80 signatures in 24 hours.

OLIVIA COLUMBUS | DESIGN EDITOR

The Faculty Senate, a group of elected faculty members, established a special committee in December to address the petition, which received "fragmentary" information that did "not logically support" the enrollment changes. The assembly unanimously voted to support the senate's actions Tuesday, hours before the Faculty Association began circulating the petition.

"Despite repeated faculty protests, LeBlanc has shown no recognition of this concern," the association's statement reads.

See **ASSOCIATION** Page 5

Professor sues GW, Medical Faculty Associates alleging breach of contract

LIA DEGROOT
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A medical school professor is suing the University and the Medical Faculty Associates, alleging that the two entities breached their faculty agreement.

In an 18-page lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for D.C. Thursday, Guillermo Gutierrez, a tenured professor in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, claims that GW and MFA officials failed to follow agreements to pay him his salary during his sabbatical. He alleges that MFA and GW officials gave him conflicting information about whether he would be paid during his semester-long sabbatical.

Gutierrez is asking for \$137,500, which includes legal costs and the salary he would have earned throughout the semester had he not left to go to Belgium, according to the complaint.

Gutierrez and his attorney, Michael Veve, declined to comment.

University spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said the University had not been served with the complaint at the time of publication and "cannot comment on the specifics."

Gutierrez is suing the University for one count of breaching its faculty agreement with him, suing the MFA for one count of breaching its faculty agreement with him and

suing for one count of the University and the MFA breaching its joint contract with him.

He is also alleging that the MFA and the University violated the D.C. Wage Payment and Collection Law, which allows D.C. workers to recover 10 percent of their wages for each day employees' wages are late.

Gutierrez, who received tenure in 2001, was granted a Fulbright scholarship to conduct research in Belgium in 2019 and requested a semester-long sabbatical to complete the research, according to the complaint.

In April 2019, Gutierrez emailed MFA CEO Robert Kelly and Alan Wasserman, the chair of the department of medicine in the MFA, requesting that he receive half his salary while on sabbatical. The lawsuit states that he said he would continue to read electronic transmission pulmonary function tests for the MFA, which are medical tests that reveal how well a person's lungs work.

Ray Lucas, the senior associate dean for faculty and health affairs at the medical school, told Gutierrez over email in June that he was eligible for sabbatical based on the University's guidelines but added that MFA officials would ultimately determine whether he would be paid, according to the complaint.

The lawsuit states that Provost Brian Blake, GW's chief academic officer, approved Gutierrez's request for a sabbatical in an email Dec. 10 that claimed Gutierrez would receive "full salary." Reassured by the provost's email, Gutierrez departed for Belgium Dec. 16, according to the complaint.

Gutierrez sent an email to Sophie Pawlak, an MFA official, Jan. 2 confirming the salary arrangement for the period from Jan. 1 to June 30, the complaint states. He received a response back stating that the provost's office likely erroneously sent the email claiming he would receive full pay because GW and the MFA are separate entities, and the MFA does not offer pay to professors on sabbatical, the complaint states.

Blake sent Gutierrez another email Jan. 7 claiming the University would approve the sabbatical and that the MFA would pay his full salary while he is abroad, the complaint states. Blake sent an additional email Jan. 9 correcting his previous email, stating that the University would grant the sabbatical but reiterating Lucas's point that the MFA would determine his salary.

The complaint states that Gutierrez has received no pay during his leave of sabbatical since Jan. 1, the semester's start.

See **PLAINTIFF** Page 5



FILE PHOTO BY SOPHIA YOUNG | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
A committee of officials and students will propose several dining changes in the coming months.

Officials to present suggestions for dining improvements this spring

LIA DEGROOT, RYAN NORRIS & TAYLOR ROWE
REPORTERS

After a year's worth of discussions, officials are piecing together plans to improve campus dining by the end of the semester.

University spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said officials formed a committee at the start of the academic year to discuss potential dining changes, like adding dining options to Thurston Hall when renovations to the building are complete, and will present recommendations to "stakeholders" later this semester. Committee members are using a survey disseminated earlier this year, which asked where students typically eat and how much they spend on each meal, to determine appropriate changes to the dining program, she said.

"Since GW's dining offerings have evolved over the years, the University is

taking a look at campus dining and how it can be more integrated into the student experience and help foster a sense of community on campus," Nosal said.

She said officials held focus groups for students in October to share their dining experiences with administrators, and the committee is still reviewing students' responses from both the groups and the dining survey. Nosal added that the committee typically meets each month but held more frequent meetings in October when the survey and focus groups occurred.

Nosal said representatives from the Division of Student Affairs and the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Mark Diaz serve on the committee. She said officials are holding conversations about the food service slated to be included in the Thurston Hall renovations.

See **HALL** Page 4

News

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CRIME LOG

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Ross Hall
2/19/2020 – 1:15 a.m.
Open Case
A male student reported that two bags of groceries were stolen from the study lounge refrigerator.
Case open

UNLAWFUL ENTRY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE

Public Property on Campus (2000 Block of G Street)
2/19/2020 – 9:22 a.m.
Closed Case
GW Police Department officers responded to a report of a female subject who unlawfully gained entry into an open motor vehicle. Officers who arrived on scene discovered that the woman was previously barred. Metropolitan Police Department officers arrived and transported the woman to D.C. General Hospital for mental health screening, and GWPD officers issued her an updated bar warning.
Subject barred

SIMPLE ASSAULT

Public Property on Campus (800 Block of 23rd Street)
2/20/2020 – 8:31 a.m.
Closed Case
An alumna reported that an unknown man spat on her face.
No identifiable suspect

DESTRUCTION OF FIXTURES/VANDALISM

Academic Center
Unknown – Unknown
Closed Case
A GWPD officer discovered words drawn with a sharpie on the wall in the men's restroom.
No suspects or witnesses

–Compiled by Kateryna Stepanenko

SNAPSHOT

DEAN WHITELAW | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Students perform at the National Pan-Hellenic Council's step show Friday as part of the final events for GW's Black Heritage Celebration.

IN BRIEF

Officials to cancel Italy study abroad programs amid threat from COVID-19

Administrators have informed students participating in study abroad programs in Italy to leave the country amid an outbreak of coronavirus, according to an email obtained by The Hatchet. The email states that students enrolled in programs and exchanges in Italy are "asked to immediately undertake plans to depart" and to work with their program providers and academic advisers regarding academic planning. The message from Kim Rush, the manager of advising services in the Office for Study Abroad, cites an "elevated risk level" announced Saturday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and urges students not to "delay arranging departure." "Contact your airline and prepare to depart," the email reads. "GW Study Abroad will update you on details." Italian cases of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus strain spreading around the world, have reached 650, including 17 deaths, NPR reported Thursday. The U.S. State Department's Level 3 alert for the country urges travelers to Italy to reconsider their plans. The cancellation of the study abroad program in Italy is the fourth cancellation this academic year. Administrators canceled programs in Hong Kong in November and Chile in December following violent protests in those areas and announced that student travel restrictions to China, the center of the COVID-19 epidemic, will be extended through the end of March.

–Parth Kotak

GW has one month to ensure websites meet federal accessibility standards



GRACE HROMIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Officials have until April 1 to ensure their websites meet the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights's requirements.

SHANNON MALLARD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

GW has until April 1 to make its online content universally accessible following a disability discrimination complaint three years back.

The U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights launched an inquiry into the accessibility of GW's websites in April 2017 and closed the investigation in June 2018 after officials resolved to update its websites with accessibility features by this April. University spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said the Office of Ethics, Compliance and Privacy, Disability Support Services and Information Technology have made "significant" progress in increasing web accessibility but declined to say when all websites will be updated with the necessary features.

"The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment that is accessible for everyone, including people with disabilities," Nosal said in an email. "Digital accessibility is an essential part of a positive experience and a critical component of the University's academic environment for students with disabilities, as well as for faculty,

staff and visitors who have disabilities."

The complaint alleged that GW webpages lacked accessibility tools like screen reader compatibility and color contrast for users with disabilities, especially visual impairments. The complaint stated that individuals with vision and print disabilities and motor impairments or those deaf or hard of hearing would have difficulty navigating websites lacking accessibility features.

After the OCR publicly disclosed the investigation in 2018, officials formed a task force to examine website accessibility issues like lacking tab navigation, video captioning and text photo captions. The department closed the investigation in March 2018, and officials signed an agreement mandating that GW implement a new plan to improve digital accessibility.

The plan included measures like reevaluating current resources and instituting staff training to ensure all online content is accessible. The education department required GW to submit a report to the OCR demonstrating that officials satisfied the terms of the resolution by April 1.

GW met the ED's first deadline to solidify the plan in January 2019. Nosal

declined to say when officials anticipate all University websites will be completely accessible.

She said officials now use methods like Siteimprove – an accessibility-monitoring software system – to monitor online accessibility issues as websites update. She said GW requires third-party technology service partners and products to ensure University services and products maintain accessibility over time.

Nosal said all schools and divisions now must account for accessibility when purchasing new online products and services. She added that officials established a "mechanism" for accessibility feedback and requests and developed a Digital Accessibility Committee to oversee accessibility improvement efforts.

Nosal said officials will continue "remediating" existing online content and instituting procedures for ensuring future online content accessibility. She said officials instituted a Web and Digital Content Accessibility Policy last spring that "affirms" GW's commitment to providing accessible online content to students.

"Becoming fully digitally accessible is a

significant and continuous undertaking as technology is always evolving and website content and applications are continually updated," she said.

Accessibility experts said universities should train staff about website creation to ensure future online content includes accessible features.

Cyndi Rowland, the associate director for the Utah State University Center for Persons with Disabilities, said the ED now less strictly enforces deadlines for satisfying resolution agreement mandates under Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos' leadership. She said the current ED does not check in on universities' progress in fulfilling resolution agreement mandates in many discrimination cases.

"There's a certain date where they're supposed to have certain things in place, and nobody is looking," Rowland said.

She said failure to com-

ply with the terms of a resolution agreement often compels complainants to sue educational institutions for discrimination. Rowland said a university's failure to take all necessary measures to correct discriminatory behavior indicates that the institution is "willfully neglecting" complainants' civil rights.

"I would caution, any institution, anybody, I don't care who you are – if you had an OCR complaint before, take it seriously, do engage in the due diligence and stay on the timeline, because if not, the next knock on the door is from an attorney," she said.

Nancy Horton, an information specialist for the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center, said universities should implement protocols to proactively ensure the accessibility of online content. Horton added that officials should consult experts in university disability student services offices to identify how best

to make "legacy material" – old website content – accessible to all.

"You want to make sure that if you've got old stuff to fix, then you have to deal with that," Horton said. "But you also want to make sure that, as new content is going up, that it's designed to be accessible from the outset."

Keri Gray, the senior director of stakeholder engagement and strategic communications at the American Association of People with Disabilities, said disability student services officials should facilitate conversations between academic departments and university offices about how best to implement accessibility measures like screen-reader compatibility, alternate text captions for photos and video captioning.

"Disability services can be a place to just lay a foundation for having this conversation about being inclusive and understand disabilities 101," Gray said.

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Administrators roll out pre-med concentration for public health majors

JAYDE LYON
REPORTER

Officials in the Milken Institute School of Public Health will debut a public health pre-medical concentration this fall to help students in the major prepare to attend medical school.

The expansion of the pre-med concentration to the public health major comes as officials open the major to all undergraduates with a GPA of 2.75 or higher, officials said. They said the concentration will give students interested in medical school an advantage when applying, and students enrolled will receive specialized, “pre-med specific” attention from academic advisers about preparing for medical school.

Sara Wilensky, the public health school’s director of the undergraduate program in public health, said public health school officials will be able to keep track of students who register for the concentration to tailor academic support efforts to their interest.

“We also believe we will be able to serve pre-med students better in terms of outreach for events, information and advising since they will be clearly identified,” Wilensky said in an email.

She said that to take advantage of the concentration, students must fulfill all of the pre-med requirements on top of the requirements for the bachelor’s degree in public health, which include History of Public Health and Global Health and Development.

A pre-med concentration is currently available only for exercise science majors in the public health school, but nutrition science majors are able to take pre-med coursework, Wilensky said.

She said planning for the pre-med public health concentration began last semester. Officials plan to develop a pre-health concentration for other public health students during the summer, Wilensky said.

“Milken Institute School of Public Health has always had a good portion of pre-med students,” she said. “We think [the concentration] will highlight public health as a major to consider for pre-med students across the University.”

Wilensky said public health school administrators have also removed the enrollment cap for the public health minor and removed the application process for the major to open the program to all



Undergraduate students majoring in public health will be able to sign up for a pre-medical concentration next semester.

students above the minimum GPA requirement.

“Every year we had to turn away too many students who wanted to study public health,” Wilensky said. “We are excited to be able to provide the opportunity to major and minor in public health to so many more students.”

A public health expert said she does not see the value a pre-med concentration could bring to public health students because public health and medicine are two different

fields and attract different groups of students.

Rebecca Wurtz, an associate professor in the division of health policy and management at the University of Minnesota, said she has not heard of any other university providing students with a similar program. She said she does not think the concentration is a good idea from a “medical point of view” because future doctors should take a wide range of electives and study the liberal arts to best prepare

them for their practice.

“Doctors should have very diverse backgrounds and study the liberal arts in college,” Wurtz said.

Another public health expert said she thinks the concentration would be a useful addition to the public health program as a bridge between the two fields.

Melissa Hawkins, the director of the Public Health Scholars program at American University, said she sees the pre-med concentration as a “great

complement” for students who are interested in clinical education. She said the increase in exposure is beneficial for students to understand “what health means.”

“We see a prosperity of diseases and conditions that really impact different communities, and different individuals within communities disproportionately,” Hawkins said.

Hawkins said students in the 21st century seem to be passionate about helping others and making a difference and have the ability to study previously unexplored areas of public health.

The number of undergraduates majoring in public health more than doubled in the last year and has increased about 270 percent in the last five years, according to institutional data.

“You can have an interest in health and improving health, but there’s still lots of room to explore health and public health,” Hawkins said. “Ultimately, the mission of public health, to improve health and well-being, resonates with this generation who are looking for an education, and ultimately a career, that is going to make a contribution and be meaningful to make a difference in this world.”

Classics and Near Eastern studies major looks to add biblical Hebrew option for students

JULIA RUSSO
REPORTER

Members of the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations plan to debut a Biblical Hebrew program next semester.

Students majoring or minoring in Classical and Ancient Near Eastern studies previously could fulfill their history, culture and language requirements only by taking two years of ancient Greek or classical Latin. Faculty said the new program will allow students to study an archaic form of the modern language to fulfill their language requirement, allowing them to explore a different classical language based on enthusiasm from students and faculty.

Christopher Rollston, an associate professor of Northwest Semitic languages and literature, said the idea for a Biblical Hebrew program grew out of interest from students and recent faculty hires with backgrounds in Mesopotamia and the ancient Levant.

“Because of the broadening nature of our course offerings, the faculty decided at our most recent faculty meeting a few weeks ago that it would be useful and important to allow Biblical Hebrew to be one of our language options,” Rollston said in an email.

Rollston said he taught one student Biblical Hebrew as an independent

research course in the fall, and since then four other students joined this informal “course” this semester, which inspired him to want to offer a full program with official courses to more students.

He said he believes that there will be a strong interest in the Biblical Hebrew program because of its role and importance to students in the major studying or interested in Judaism and Christianity.

Rollston said the program may appeal to students in the Elliott School of International Affairs because many Elliott School courses focus on the Middle Eastern region, and this program would give students a knowledge of the foundational elements of the ancient Middle East.

Rollston said faculty in the classics department are working with Columbian College of Arts and Sciences officials to finalize and approve the program, which he hopes will happen in the next one to two months. He said the department still has to send formal documents to deans establishing the program and must work with the advising office to set up the program’s requirements in DegreeMAP.

Because Rollston is the only person in the department trained in Biblical Hebrew, he said he will teach a 2000s-level course titled Biblical Hebrew, which he said will start during the 2020-21

academic year. He said the department will also offer a 1000-level course titled Elementary Modern Hebrew that will start next academic year, taught by multiple professors in the department.

He said no new faculty will be hired for the program.

“Doing a major with us will mean that students are studying with faculty who are very devoted to teaching and with faculty who are also very devoted to impacting the field with our research and publications,” Rollston said.

Six of GW’s 12 peer schools have course offerings in Biblical Hebrew.

Eric Cline – a professor of classics, anthropology and history – said allowing students to take Biblical Hebrew to satisfy the CANES language requirement will appeal to students who are interested in “the Near Eastern side of things” and will potentially give them “a better chance to get into graduate school” by allowing them to gain experience with more ancient near eastern course options to complete their major.

“I expect that it will appeal to a number of people especially interested in this as a second major – it is a natural fit with the archaeology major or a history major, for example,” Cline said. “I also think that we’ll get more minors as well.”

Orian Zakai, an assistant professor of Hebrew and Is-



The Department of Classical and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations plans to roll out a Biblical Hebrew program next semester.

raeli literature and culture, said she will teach Modern Hebrew, a prerequisite for students taking Biblical Hebrew program, along with a few other professors.

“I am very happy about the offering of Biblical Hebrew because it is consistent with my vision of Hebrew as a language that has multiple histories, both ancient and modern, and it’s relevant both to classical studies and to studies of the contemporary Middle East,” Zakai said.

Zakai said the Biblical Hebrew program will offer students knowledge that

will help them in studies of Judaism, the ancient Middle East, the relationships between ancient Middle Eastern languages and modern Hebrew.

She said students studying modern Hebrew may be interested in studying the older version of the languages enhance their understanding of modern Hebrew since a lot of the idioms, tropes and words are influenced by biblical Hebrew.

“Hebrew is really both a language that is contemporary and relevant to politics of the day, but it is also a language that is a cornerstone

of western civilization much like ancient Greek or Latin,” Zakai said.

Zakai said she was “impressed” by the wide-ranging academic interests of students who are curious about Hebrew as a language.

“GW is very unique in the sense that students who study Hebrew and Hebrew culture have multiple interests in the language,” she said. “They want to be able to use it in contemporary Israel but they are also interested in the long history of the language and its connection with religion and the ancient Jewish texts.”

Provost creates new task force to tackle enrollment changes, names law dean

From Page 1

“I’d like to inventory all of it – to see where we’re making significant investments – and then give that back to the community and say, ‘Look, we’re investing in this,’” Blake said.

He said he is also seeking to learn more about GW’s 10 deans and their goals for their respective schools. Blake, GW’s chief academic officer, said he is considering holding a set of retreats and breakfast meetings with the deans to discuss their vision for GW as a whole as well.

“I’m just getting to know the deans more and more and what their aspirations are and trying to figure out how to do that centrally,” Blake said.

Early accomplishments

In addition to the listening tour, Blake named hiring Dayna Bowen Matthew as the law school’s new dean – the first woman to lead the school – among

his first accomplishments in office.

Blake said he found the diverse range of candidates for the position “stunning” – applicants included people from several ethnic backgrounds and representing different fields of law, he said.

“It’s a significant bonus to me for us to get a woman dean to be the first – that wasn’t easy,” he said. “And to get someone that has a national reputation that aligns us really closely with the work we do in D.C. and what we see as the vision for the law school is good.”

Another endeavor Blake said he has overseen is the Future Enrollment Task Force, which he said emerged from the listening tour he conducted when he arrived. Blake said he felt the task force was a necessary aspect of the strategic planning process after visiting three or four schools.

“Everyone is trying to get more concrete information about how that plan is going to be implement-

ed, so I’m delighted for that task force to be in its fourth or fifth meeting and for them to be bouncing around ideas,” Blake said.

Blake gave a presentation on the task force’s progress to a special ses-

"It's a significant bonus to me for us to get a woman dean to be the first – that wasn't easy."

BRIAN BLAKE
PROVOST, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

sion of the Faculty Assembly Tuesday, where he said members are discussing ways to improve the academic experience for future students given the enrollment changes under the next strategic plan.

He also announced last month at a Faculty Senate meeting that he is considering raising the minimum GPA requirement for students to keep merit-based scholarships and aid from 2.0 to about a 2.7 average.

Blake will be respon-

sible for hiring a new dean of the Elliott School after Reuben Brigety steps down at the end of the semester. He will appoint an interim dean “in the coming weeks,” according to a University release.

Involvement in strategic planning

Blake said he has heard concerns from faculty, particularly in the Elliott School and CCAS, about the 20/30 Plan, which will cut undergraduate enrollment by 20 percent over the next five years while increasing the ratio of STEM majors to 30 percent.

He said the professors on his enrollment task force, which he created in December, are mostly

non-STEM faculty, which he said is appropriate because the plan boosts GW’s STEM presence, and the committee’s membership can help offset that emphasis by adding voices familiar with concerns of non-STEM faculty at large.

More than 10 professors in the humanities and social sciences said earlier this year that they were concerned that the 20/30 Plan could lead to less funding for non-STEM departments.

The Faculty Association, a group of faculty who aim to serve as an informal labor union for employees of the University, released a petition last week – which has since been signed by at least 82 faculty members – to call on LeBlanc to resign partially based on his support for the 20/30 Plan.

Blake said the fraction of STEM students at GW will naturally increase to about 30 percent of the undergraduate student body over the next five years

anyway, so the 20/30 Plan will not displace many students from non-STEM disciplines. He said the trend is based on student interest and the creation of degree programs like the bachelor of science degree in international affairs.

“At the end, it’s not a lot of change,” he said. “It sounds more impactful than it really would be based on what the target was given. We would probably get 30 percent over five years if you did nothing at all.”

Blake said that by taking action proactively to reduce the undergraduate population, officials are ensuring they have the flexibility to adjust the discount rate or the number of students enrolled in the future, as applications from high school seniors are projected to decrease.

“I think to do that systematically now under a controlled circumstance, that really puts us in a better position now,” he said.

–Parth Kotak
contributed reporting.

African studies institute highlights field through research, events



AKASH PAMARTHY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Institute for African Studies Director Jennifer Cooke said the seminar series will promote new research on Africa and connect students, policymakers and scholars.

FALYN O'BRIEN
REPORTER

As the international affairs school dean prepares to leave his post, the Institute for African Studies marks four years working on one of his goals – increasing the visibility of the second-largest continent in the school's research and academics.

The institute, housed in the Elliott School of International Affairs, has raised its profile over the period by holding seminar events related to African studies and has become a competitor among other academic institutions for research and bringing students into the field, faculty said. Officials said the

events have generated interest in and raised awareness of African studies, allowing for increased collaboration, research and courses related to the field.

Elliott School Dean Reuben Brigety founded the institute in 2016 to increase scholarship in African culture and politics, one of his main priorities since he became dean.

"We have a clear demand signal from students that they would like more Africa-focused opportunities," he said in an email.

Brigety said members of the institute aim to engage students on African affairs and to place the continent in the mainstream of the

study of international affairs, which Brigety said is "where it should be."

Before he announced that he would step down Friday, Brigety said he hopes to establish a department of African studies that would promote "excellence in research, scholarship, teaching and learning."

"It should be the go-to place for expertise and policy debate on African issues," Brigety said.

Throughout its history, the institute's members have launched an annual conference that brings together policymakers and activists working on African issues, collaborated with academics with backgrounds in African

studies throughout the District and established a seminar series to help students and faculty learn more about African politics and culture.

Jennifer Cooke, the director of the institute, said the goal for the institute's seminar series is to foster new research on Africa and give students the opportunities to connect with scholars, policymakers and "African thought leaders, activists and practitioners."

She said the institute has hosted more than 40 events in the past year and brought in a variety of speakers from the region like Tanzanian opposition leader Tundu Lissu, Sudanese protest leader Mohamed Nagy Alassam and Mcebisi Jonas, the chair of Africa's largest telecommunications company.

"These kinds of interactions, to my mind, are what get people interested and energized about African issues and hopefully encourage them to learn more," Cooke said in an email.

Cooke said institute staff push students to engage more with African studies because the field traditionally doesn't receive much attention in the American public education system and the continent is generally portrayed by media in a negative light. She said education from experts in the field is a way to overturn negative stereotypes of the continent.

"Media narratives have tended to emphasize images of conflict, poverty and disease," Cooke said. "And as a result, the continent has too often been seen as somehow

on the margins of global affairs. That perception is thankfully changing."

Cooke said students may find African studies courses – which feature African political, economic and security issues – helpful to understand global trends like trade, environment and security challenges.

She said the current number of undergraduate students enrolled in African studies courses has increased by more than 81 percent – from 179 to 324 students – since the institute opened in 2016.

Cooke said the trend is similar among graduate students – the number of graduate students currently enrolled in African-related courses has grown by 62 students since 2017.

Elliott School officials have hired six new adjunct faculty members and created one new graduate course on Africa this academic year, Cooke said. She said officials will also add two additional undergraduate courses – West African Film and African Literature and Politics – next fall.

"Ultimately, we want GW to be the place you come if you want a deeper understanding of contemporary Africa, its place in global affairs and the mega-trends that are shaping the continent's future," Cooke said.

Officials hope to explore different angles of the field by fostering collaboration beyond the Elliott School – like with the history department, the School of Media and Public Affairs and the Milken

Institute School of Public Health, she said.

Cooke said that while there is no department of African studies at GW, the institute and Elliott School officials are working toward creating a graduate degree program in African studies and more short-term study abroad opportunities for students to increase engagement with the field.

Daniel Whitman, a professorial lecturer in African studies, said Africa is becoming a larger player in both the global economic marketplace and the "marketplace of ideas," adding that international affairs students should be cognizant of developments on the continent before they start their careers.

Whitman said he has worked in collaboration with the Bureau of African Affairs in the U.S. Department of State to bring speakers to GW, which will be happening in the "near future."

"We're all doing this in our separate ways," Whitman said. "And you put it all together, and it's a very positive picture."

Whitman teaches a course called Africa: Problems and Prospects and said he is proud of the diversity of the students enrolled in the course, which includes racially and ethnically diverse students and students with differing levels of knowledge about Africa.

"It's always a plus if you have an ethnic group studying itself – that's fine," Whitman said. "But if you have the interest of others, I think it's fantastic."

Officials to transition GW community from Google mail, calendar services to Microsoft this year

ZACH SCHONFELD
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Officials will gradually transition students, faculty and staff from Google mail and calendar services to Microsoft Office 365 in three phases over 2020.

Officials announced the move last month, which will leave the rest of the G-Suite platform, including Google Drive, unaffected. Officials said the new email and calendar system will provide "improved" security through an "enhanced" security toolset, which includes features to help users mitigate spam, phishing and other attacks.

"Our goal is to provide more access to the latest technology for our campus community, and provide students with hands-on experience with other tools they may encounter when entering the workforce," University spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said in an email.

Nosal said the project is still in its initial stages, and officials will take a "gradual" approach to familiarize the University community to the new system.

She added that officials reviewed the new technology with various campus organizations involved in making technology recommendations to their respective schools and departments to gain feedback, adding that this phase is "nearing completion."

"Listening sessions are also occurring with campus partners to share what the project entails and gather specific feedback, concerns and considerations, as well as ideas on how to complete the migration with minimal disruption," Nosal said. "GW executive leadership will continue to reach out to campus stakeholders throughout the course of this initiative."

She said the migration to Microsoft Outlook is part of administrative efforts to put "people first," a hallmark of University President Thomas LeBlanc's institutional culture initiative. Officials hired a chief people officer to lead an overhaul of human resources and held culture training sessions for faculty and staff as part of the initiative.

But some faculty have expressed discontent with the change from Google to Microsoft, which they say seems redundant and was introduced with little community input.

Kim Roddis, a faculty senator and professor of civil and environmental engineering, said at a Faculty Senate meeting last month that the change is not collaborative – one of the seven values established as part of the initiative – because employees were not consulted on the change.

She said many faculty and staff she has spoken with feel "disheartened"

because the GW community is accustomed to and already uses the same email system. She added that the reasons administrators have given for the switch seem identical to those given for the move to the Google-based email system a decade ago, Roddis said.

"This doesn't make sense," she said at the meeting. "It's saying that something is being done for a reason that was the same reason we were given for transitioning to Google Mail, and there's a lot of staff that are really upset and just feel like this stuff is coming down."

She said officials should solicit feedback from more faculty and staff before making decisions that affect the way faculty and staff operate.

"It profoundly affects the way people do their day-to-day work," she said. "Where are these things coming from? It seems like nobody knows until all of a sudden this announcement is out."

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Mark Diaz, who announced the switch to the University community in an email last month, said the move will allow all students, faculty and staff to share one email domain and platform. The alignment could improve teamwork and efficiency across schools and units, he said.

"Over the following



ALEXANDER WELLING | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Officials said students will keep the rest of the G-Suite platform after GW switches to Microsoft Outlook for mail and calendar services.

months, we plan to migrate the community to Office 365 email and calendar in a phased approach, providing staff to assist with the transition," he said in the email.

The Division of Information Technology's website includes a frequently asked questions page with contact information for IT staff where members of the University community can share feedback and ask questions. The timeline for the migration is still in development, according to the website.

"GW Information Technology staff will assist with the transition during times that are the least

disruptive possible for our GW community," the IT website states.

Under the new system, users will be able to increase productivity by easily collaborating through integrating Microsoft's email services and other applications, like OneNote. Users can currently integrate their files in Google Drive with Gmail and Google Calendar.

"With one set of credentials and many features of O365 applications and services, users can complete more tasks easily with fewer steps," the website states. "This leaves more time for learning, exploration, creation and in-

novation."

Officials also said the new service will make students more "workplace-ready" by equipping them with a service used at an increasing number of companies.

"Microsoft is investing in technology to meet diverse learner expectations, improve student outcomes, and drive innovation through investments in artificial intelligence, advancing research and innovation, and rethinking teaching and learning – all of which provide opportunities to learn and work with future-ready skills," the website states.

Additional dining hall would build campus community, students say

From Page 1

"What that food offering will look like within the building, such as the vendor or the look and feel of the space, is still under discussion," she said.

Student Association President SJ Matthews said she served on the committee to discuss potential dining changes, like adding a dining hall to Thurston and transitioning GWorld options to a tier system under which students can choose their price bracket for food.

She said officials are planning to include an "all you care to eat" dining hall in Thurston, but she would like the University to consider constructing an additional dining hall. Matthews

said she and officials are in conversations about the best location to place a potential second dining hall.

Student leaders recommended in April that officials add a dining hall to the Foggy Bottom Campus to combat food insecurity. The suggestion came out of a year-long task force that looked into ways the University can improve campus dining.

"I think students want it," Matthews said. "And I think it would be nice to have that community building aspect."

The Foggy Bottom Campus' former dining hall J Street shuttered in 2016 when the University switched to an open dining plan. A number of food vendors and a student-run food pantry began operat-

ing in the basement of District House after the hall opened in 2016.

Matthews said officials should consider student feedback when making the final decision about whether to add the second dining hall.

"Getting food is one of those things you shouldn't have to worry about," Matthews said. "College is already stressful enough."

Residence Hall Association President Trinity Diaz said officials are still figuring out the "logistics" of a "dining experience" in the Thurston renovation plans.

"A lot of the feedback I hear from students is they'd love to have a dining hall and it's the one thing missing for them," she said. "They'd love to have a good variety of

food, they don't want just a pizza bar and fried food. They want to make sure that there are healthy options in there."

In interviews, more than 20 students said proposed plans to add a dining hall to the Foggy Bottom Campus would help them find a centralized place to eat and socialize.

Elizabeth Benjamin, a freshman and Thurston resident, said she typically purchases food from Whole Foods and prepares meals using the microwave in her residence hall room, but buying healthy foods can be expensive.

She said the cheaper options closer to Thurston, like Carvings and 7-Eleven, are not as healthy as vendors like Whole Foods on the oppo-

site end of campus.

"In general, I feel like for most places you go to, something that you get is going to be like at least \$10, which is kind of annoying," she said. "I would say that cheaper food is definitely less healthy for you."

Anna Adler, a freshman and Thurston Hall resident, said officials should prioritize adding dining options to the edges of campus, where most freshmen live.

SA Sen. Howard Brookins, U-at-Large and a candidate for Student Association president, said he wants officials to establish a student-run food cooperative near F Street, which is farthest from the on-campus grocery Whole Foods.

Adler said a residence hall will give students af-

fordable food options and increase variety in student diets.

"I'd also hope they would put it in a central location that is accessible for all students on campus," she said.

Sophie Spiro, a freshman and Potomac House resident, said the current dining plan is unfair to students who can't afford to add more money to their GWorlds. Spiro said adding a dining hall with affordable options would help students who struggle to afford meals from GWorld vendors.

"I do think having a dining hall would help build a sense of community among the student body because we would feel more equal and less divided according to financial status and factors like that," Spiro said.

Textile Museum, GW Arts Committee expand event to highlight students' artistic work

ISHA TRIVEDI
STAFF WRITER

The Textile Museum and the Student Association's GW Arts Committee will celebrate student artists this week in the second-ever Art Walk, which will now be held annually and be expanded to include more student work.

Committee members and Textile Museum officials expanded Art Walk – an opportunity for community members to survey GW's art galleries – to include a Day of the Arts Thursday featuring more student performances and art sales, following the large attendance of the first event in 2019. Textile Museum Director John Wetenhall said they hope the event will be an opportunity for community members to further recognize students' artistic talents and the "rich and diverse cultural" content offered across campus.

"It's an evening of exploration and fun that should be, we hope, a source of GW community pride," Wetenhall said in an email. "We at the museum look forward to welcoming all."

Lori Kartchner, the museum's curator of education, said she hopes the event will serve as a "fun" way for students to explore lesser-known Foggy Bottom museums and galleries.

"We wanted to raise awareness about all kinds of creativity happening on

campus – from the professional exhibitions to student artwork, music, dance and more," she said in an email.

Kartchner said the event will kick off Thursday afternoon when interested community members will be invited to explore the museum and Gallery 102, a contemporary art gallery located in Corcoran School of the Arts and Design's Flagg Building. She said participants can purchase works at a student art sale and engage in discussions at the gallery before heading to the Flagg Building for a party with food and music.

Kartchner said she hopes officials provide more funding for this year's event to grow the collection the group can display in future Art Walks.

"We want people to realize that GW has an incredible array of performing artists from the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design and GW student organizations," she said.

Jenna Campolieto, an outreach and programming assistant at the Textile Museum who helped plan last year's event, said officials were surprised that a large portion of the 300 total attendees from the District were not from the GW community. She said the turnout prompted organizers to show off the "great things" students are producing at this week's Art Walk.

"This year's event is go-



Textile Museum Director John Wetenhall said Thursday's Art Walk is an opportunity for the community to recognize student talent on campus.

ing to be hopefully bigger than last year's event," she said. "A lot of it is really similar to last year's event, but the most exciting addition this year is that we're doing student art sales as part of the event."

Campolieto said about 15 student artists will display their work at the Textile Museum to kick off the Art Walk Thursday. Event attendees will be provided with maps of the exhibits in the Textile Museum, Gallery 102 and the Flagg Building, she said.

Campolieto said organizers are posting on social media and notifying resident advisers to inform students in residence halls.

"It's a really cool opportunity to connect with people from the D.C. community who want to see the art that's on campus, who want to know what students are up to and who maybe want to buy student art and see student performances," she said.

Campolieto said the event was funded entirely through financial contributions from campus museums and about

\$400 from the SA, a "grass-roots effort" from students involved in the planning.

"It's been really exciting to see how amped up everyone is to have this opportunity," she said. "Hopefully as we continue to move forward anyone who's interested in making art will feel like they have this space to showcase themselves and their talents."

Hannah Clayton, the director of the SA's Arts Committee who helped plan the Day of the Arts, said the idea for adding the Day of the

Arts this year came from a committee member who proposed creating an event celebrating art and art students like Harvard University's Arts First Festival.

The SA committee hosted an Arts Week in 2018, featuring student organizations that put on a dozen musical performances, plays and other arts activities.

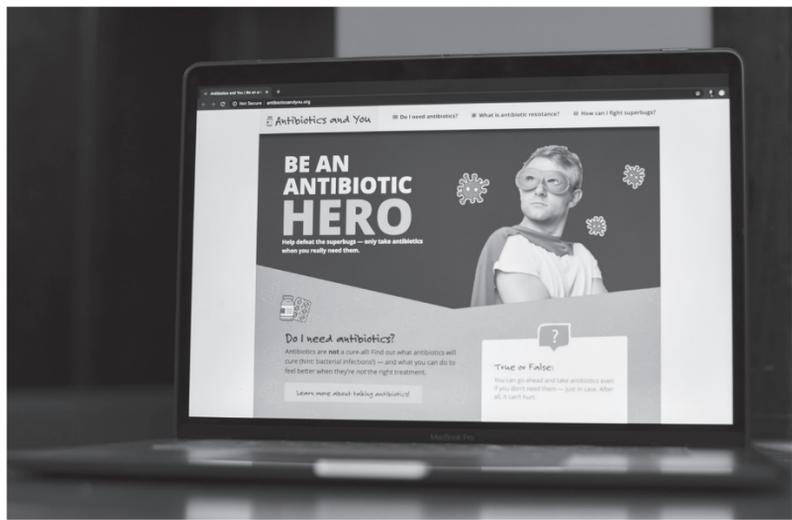
"I noticed just how Corcoran students are swept under the rug a lot of the time, and I wanted to emphasize their presence on campus and show that this campus is full of great and diverse students that have different interests that aren't necessarily associated with politics," Clayton said.

She said about 10 groups signed up to perform in the first Day of the Arts this spring, but the committee might hold the event over a weekend in the future when students are more available to attract more attendees.

"I think it was hard to get people on board, to understand that this is an event created by students for students, not a professionally designed event but something that's needed," she said.

Clayton said she expects about 400 or 500 people to appear for this year's event throughout the day.

"I think a lot of students really like what we're doing and want this to be an annual thing, and I think that's really cool," she said.



ARIELLE BADER | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR
The Antibiotics and You website offers different resources to inform the public about the risks of antibiotic resistance.

Milken leader launches website on antibiotic resistance

CATELYN DI LEVA,
ILENA PENG &
SHANNON MALLARD
REPORTERS

The head of an antibiotic resistance research hub developed a website to spread public awareness about the danger of drug-resistant infections.

Laura Rogers, the deputy director of the Antibiotic Resistance Action Center in the Milken Institute School of Public Health, said the "Antibiotics and You" website, which launched late last month, offers educational resources about the purpose of antibiotics and how the public can counteract the proliferation of antibiotic resistance. Microbiology experts said the website will increase public knowledge of antibiotic resistance and preventative strategies as drug-resistant infections become a pressing concern worldwide.

"We created the website to educate people on the crisis we face and to engage them in helping develop solutions," Rogers said in an email.

The website includes interactive quizzes about when people should use antibiotics and features an "antibiotic superhero" that uses over-the-counter medicines and non-antibiotic treatments to limit the spread of antibiotic resistance.

Rogers said the "overuse and misuse" of antibiotics in people, food, animals and plant agriculture causes drugs to lose efficacy over time. She said procedures like routine surgeries and chemotherapy could become life-threatening and small injuries like a scraped knee could turn into a "deadly" infection if antibiotics intended to treat the illnesses no longer worked.

Rogers said sick patients generally "demand" antibiotic drugs during cold and flu season even though the medicine does not effectively treat viral infections like the common cold. She said the website touches on the "serious" side effects – like a yeast infection, rash and diarrhea – of unnecessarily taking antibiotics.

"We want to arm people with the right information so that, when they go to the doctor and don't receive an antibiotic, they are happy rather than upset," Rogers said.

She added that the website's target audience is patients who visit urgent care clinics. Rogers said patients who visit urgent care facilities typically do not have a close relationship with their health care provider and therefore feel more comfortable demanding antibiotic prescriptions.

She said she and fellow web developers designed the site to be "fun" and "informative" to educate website visitors about antibiotics without inducing panic about antibiotic resistance.

Rogers added that she hopes site visitors will share information they learn about the resistance crisis with friends, family and co-workers to further inform the public about the phenomenon.

"We also hope that the next time they are sick, they won't demand antibiotics from their caregiver, but instead ask if one is needed and be sure that the provider has conducted an appropriate diagnostic test to determine if the infection was in fact bacterial [antibiotics will help] rather than viral [antibiotics won't help]," Rogers said in an email.

Microbiology experts said the website will raise

the general public's awareness about how to counteract the spread of antibiotic resistance.

Mohamed Seleem, a Purdue University professor of microbiology, said antibiotic resistance is currently the world's most "pressing" health issue because bacteria are forming a resistance to antibiotics faster than pharmaceutical companies can produce the treatments. He said researchers must lead efforts to search for new antibiotic treatments because the pace at which bacteria develop resistance financially deters pharmaceutical companies from creating antibiotic drugs.

He added that concerns over drug-resistant bacterial infections could encourage individuals to demand that food producers decrease the use of antibiotics, which could curb the development of antibiotic resistance in microbial organisms.

More than three-quarters of meat and poultry products available in U.S. supermarkets contain "superbugs" – bacterial strains resistant to antibiotics – according to a 2018 report from the Environmental Working Group, a non-profit environmental research organization.

"As researchers, we're trying to compensate for this gap and try as much as possible to discover new drugs," he said.

Faramarz Valafar, a professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at San Diego State University, said the prevalence of antibiotic resistance to some diseases differs among countries.

GWHATCHET.COM

H to learn more about the antibiotics website

Association condemns LeBlanc for lack of transparency

From Page 1

The statement also bashes administrators for "paying consultants from the Disney Corporation unknown amounts of University funds" to participate in their efforts to improve GW's institutional culture. Disney Institute staff have hosted multiple conferences in Florida for University employees, facilitated culture training sessions for faculty and staff and conducted a survey of employees to kick off the initiative.

Administrators said the survey cost the University about \$300,000 but have declined to provide the cost of the entire partnership.

"Enough is enough," the Faculty Association statement reads. "It is time to show Thomas LeBlanc the door and to put GW on a course worthy of its considerable potential."

Andrew Zimmerman, the group's acting president and a professor of history and international affairs, said 82 faculty of all ranks and across multiple departments signed

the petition in the first 24 hours.

"It takes courage for a faculty member to sign a petition like this, especially under – and against – an administration that seems to have thrown norms of academic governance out the window," he said. "As is typical, the number of new signatures slowed after the first 24 hours – but we expect another wave over the weekend."

He added that Guillermo Orti, the group's former president, resigned to focus on his work as a faculty senator.

"He is pursuing an independent, but equally important and complementary, path that also seeks to bring transparency and accountability to the LeBlanc administration," Zimmerman said in an email. "This is such a crisis for the University as a whole that it did not make sense to have one person leading efforts in the senate and in GWUFA at the same time."

Guillermo Orti, a professor of biology, said serving as president of the association "has been a privilege and an honor" despite leading the orga-

nization during a "turbulent period of time." Orti declined to say why he resigned or whether his resignation is tied to the group's petition.

"It has been a learning experience and I am thankful for this opportunity," Orti said in an email. "I remain tightly committed to working in a constructive way toward shared governance and making GW an excellent and equitable University."

University spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said LeBlanc has acted "in good faith" to respond to questions and requests for information about the strategic plan and enrollment initiatives and will continue to do so.

"There are differences of opinion about how best to approach strategic planning and how to address the call from members of the university community to improve GW's culture," she said in an email. "Members of the university community who want to shape these efforts have the opportunity to do so and their active engagement is both welcomed and encouraged."

Plaintiff's charges of breach of contract may not hold water: experts

From Page 1

Gutierrez claims in the complaint that the medical school has paid the salaries of faculty who have gone on sabbatical in the past.

"GWU has never failed or refused to provide the salary of a GWU School of Medicine full-time faculty-member during GWU-approved research sabbaticals lasting the equivalent of one semester," the complaint states.

MFA spokeswoman Barbara Porter declined to comment, citing an MFA policy not to comment on pending litigation.

Experts in higher education law said Gutierrez does not stand a good chance of winning the case because neither of the respondents in the case violated any state or federal law or breached their contract with Gutierrez.

Luke Cornelius, the director of higher education administration at the University of North Florida, said the Univer-

sity will have to decide whether it stands to lose more by settling the case or going through to trial.

"All universities have to do fundamental math when they get sued," Cornelius said. "Is it worth fighting?"

He said since the MFA, not the University, directly pays Gutierrez's salary, the University does not have an obligation to provide him payment during his sabbatical semester.

"The problem is the University is making the argument that they don't directly pay this man," he said. "He's going to GW, what, 19 years now? He has never directly been paid a dime by George Washington University."

Cornelius said Gutierrez's case will likely depend on whether the MFA has paid for tenured professors' sabbaticals in the past, which could be hard for Gutierrez to prove based on the facts he provided in his complaint. He said attorneys draft complaints based on the facts available, which

is often only what their client provides them.

"It really comes down to does GW customarily pay medical faculty – not other faculty, medical faculty – for sabbatical?" he said. "And if they've done this, as this guy claims, in the past, then that would establish a pattern that would establish an expectation in his contract that they would pay him as well."

Kathleen Conn – a counsel for the law firm King, Spry, Herman, Freund and Faul, LLC – said Gutierrez does not have a strong case against the University because he should have been aware of the stipulations regarding salary and sabbaticals present in his contracts with GW and the MFA.

"He can only sue in contract," Conn said. "And he took the position with the Fulbright Fellowship, and the University looked like it was going to be happy about it, but Medical Faculty Associates were the ones that had to give permission."

GW tries to make college affordable, but it's nowhere near its peers

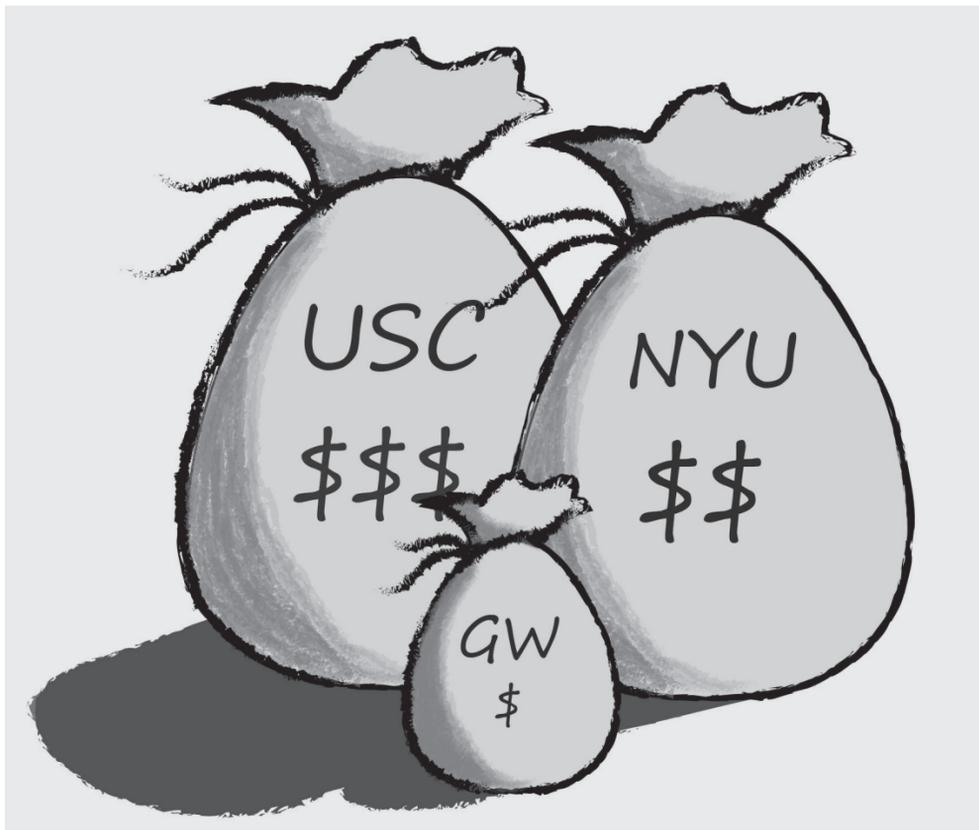
STAFF EDITORIAL

As college prices rise nationally, the University's peer schools are working hard to lower costs for prospective students. But despite GW's best intentions, it is moving in the wrong direction.

The University of Southern California announced late last month that tuition would be free for students whose families earn less than \$80,000 each year. Beginning this academic year, students in the medical school at New York University will receive free tuition. Several other peer schools have instituted policies to keep their schools affordable. Tufts, Georgetown, Boston, Northeastern and Wake Forest universities and the University of Rochester meet the full demonstrated financial need of admitted students. GW does none of those things.

Officials try to make GW more affordable in small ways. They have raised the amount of GWorld dollars and allowed students to take a free 18th credit. But those are trivial wins compared to the progress of our market basket schools. The University does not have a clear plan in place to make the actual cost of attendance smaller for students who want to come here but financially cannot. If anything, the University is becoming more expensive because of a few recent missteps from administrators.

One of the most pertinent financial issues that has raised concerns from students and faculty is officials' 20/30 plan. The planned enrollment cut — which will decrease the student population by 20 percent and increase the fraction of STEM students by 30 percent — may result in revenue losses. The University already relies heav-



Cartoon by Hannah Thacker

ily on tuition to fund its operating budget, so an enrollment cutback could require raising tuition even more.

On top of the enrollment cut, GW is nixing fixed tuition starting with the Class of 2024. Floating tuition, which can rise with each year, will make the University more expensive for students. Even if the initial price tag is affordable for a student, they might not want to

attend knowing that the cost could increase in the coming years. The University moving away from fixed tuition is indicative of GW's budget crisis. Take a look at GW's endowment. The University's debt is rising and already clocks in at the slowest endowment growth of its peers and tallies the lowest alumni giving rate. Floating tuition might help the University pay off expenses, but it is not

going to make the school any more affordable for students.

The University's planned changes might keep them high on the rankings or grant them more prestige, but they are not going to make the school any more affordable for the students who want to attend. For now, GW will not be like its 12 peer institutions that are making concerted efforts to better the student experience by lowering costs at

their schools. Officials should know by now that students want an affordable college experience more than anything else. It comes up in conversations about dining, textbook costs and housing. That is students' end game — to leave GW without thousands of dollars in debt — and it will ultimately make GW a better place.

There are small tasks the University has accomplished to make the school more affordable. The University has expanded financial aid for five consecutive years, increased GWorld dining dollars and reduced the cost of printing and laundry. The University is also looking to increase the number of international students — who typically pay full tuition — by 2030, which would help officials bring in tuition funds. But these changes are marginal compared to the major pushes other schools have made to ensure people of all economic backgrounds can come to the University.

The University is targeting a certain type of student who does not need to consider tuition costs when they apply or decide whether to enroll. The University is showing a clear preference toward students who can afford to pay, rather than those who are the best students. The current policies of the enrollment cut and floating tuition show that GW is not looking to close the financial gap with other schools.

GW has the choice to make itself more accessible and to do more to close the wealth gap on campus, but instead, it is choosing to take small steps rather than leaps. The University should and must do better to make itself more financially accessible to those who deserve higher education.

Housing rates changes indicate a bigger financial issue

The cost of tuition is the most important factor for many students applying to college. For students applying to GW, they face about a \$71,000 cost of attendance — and that figure will continue to rise.

Nicole Caracappa
Writer

Housing factors into the cost of attending GW. Officials announced last month that they would establish five tiers of housing ranging from \$10,120 to \$16,400 and will remove the cheapest housing options like Thurston Hall, which cost a mere \$9,530. These housing rates might seem like small increases relative to the overall cost of attendance, but a few hundred dollars can be a big sacrifice for students who already struggle to afford GW.

Raising housing costs makes it harder for low- and middle-income students to attend the University, especially considering GW's relatively high tuition cost. Housing prices should not be going up, they should be going down. The University should work to bring down the cost of housing to make the University more affordable.

The increased housing costs are part of a larger affordability issue at the University. There is no use in pretending — GW never shed its reputation as a school for rich white kids, and its ever-rising cost of attendance proves that administrators do not wish to overcome the reputation in the coming years. In addition to hous-

ing, the University is cutting enrollment and fixed tuition. These changes could lead to rollbacks in financial aid and shrink the University's revenue. Faculty were right about University President Thomas LeBlanc's plan to cut enrollment — we might as well return to "the days of old, when GW was known primarily as a rich white kids school."

LeBlanc's decision to eliminate fixed tuition will drive away students intimidated by the high price tag and further the University's reputation as a rich school. Especially at a

"There is no use in pretending — GW never shed its reputation as a school for rich white kids, and its ever-rising cost of attendance proves that administrators do not wish to overcome the reputation in the coming years."

school with such an enormous price tag, the promise of fixed tuition is appealing to low and middle-income students who are assured that prices will not rise and they will be able to attend the school of their choice until they get a degree. Floating tuition presents a threat that the cost of attendance will rise, which discourages lower-income students who cannot afford the potential increase.

Financial aid lessens the burden for some, but the University does not meet full demonstrated need. Earlier this academic year, LeBlanc said he would not leave out the possibility of reducing the amount of financial aid given out to students to make up for the loss from cutting enrollment. By doing so, he would devalue prospective students from low-income households who rely on financial aid to attend school.

GW has a reputation of putting rich students first. We are trying to become a smaller institution with increased tuition and housing rates, which will only exacerbate the issue. The University is on a trajectory to become less diverse and less affordable, which would back-track issues officials have tried to work toward. Officials have attempted to increase diversity with recruiting trips to urban areas and plans to improve the campus culture. But those efforts are not doing enough to solve the root of GW's diversity problem. Their reluctance to tell the truth about plummeting diversity rates exhibits a lack of care toward students other than the rich, white kids who have always attended GW.

The University should not be limited to only rich students, and expanding efforts to increase diversity should be part of GW's strategic plan. But officials have instead chosen to push for an enrollment cut which will decrease diversity. Raising the cost of attendance, through big changes like nixing fixed tuition or small changes like raising housing costs, will contribute to a campus which lacks diversity.

The issue of diversity on campus has caused a great divide between the administration and its students. If the administration truly wants to change its rich kid reputation, then they should start by addressing the classist policies which have allowed it to persist for so long. But the University is raising the cost of housing instead of bringing it down.

—Nicole Caracappa, a freshman majoring in archaeology, is an opinions writer.

It's time for a graduate student senate

The Student Association in its current form cannot efficiently represent and serve graduate students. The SA is too large, has too much undergraduate representation and is structured in a way in which most graduate students would have to put a considerable amount of time and effort to even try and interact with the body. It is time that the SA seriously considers breaking in half and forming a separate graduate student senate.

Samuel LeDoux
Master's Candidate,
Graduate School of
Political Management

Many universities across the country have separate student governments for graduate and undergraduate students because they understand the drastic differences between the two populations. With GW's entire population being almost half graduate in its makeup, it is obvious that the majority of undergraduate SA cannot serve as reasonable representation. Many of the so-called accomplishments touted by the SA have almost no effect on my experience with the University. The SA should not be shocked by low graduate voter turnout, graduate schools not putting up candidates for office and many of them backing a presidential candidate who vowed for the organization's abolishment when the organization provides them with almost no benefits.

The average graduate student is a working professional, often going to school and working full time. They

also tend to be commuters, and many live outside of D.C. Holding meetings that run until the middle of the night on a Monday pertaining mostly to undergraduate student issues is never going to attract people who live off campus or who are not undergraduates. For this reason, it will always skew younger, less diverse and often unemployed students. This means the SA rarely, if ever, discusses the issues surrounding graduate student assistantships and fellowships, access to night classes and the safety surrounding them, the lack of scholarship opportunities for graduate students and many of the countless other graduate specific issues our campus faces.

Graduate students deserve a body that is representative, that cares about issues that concern them and that can accommodate them if they wish to be involved. This can be accomplished with the establishment of a separate body, one free from the undergraduate politics and drama that get in the way of making meaningful reform to many of the issues graduate students face. Maybe with a new body, the SA will not need to beg to fill graduate student vacancies and pretend to be shocked when they find out many graduate students have negative feelings toward the organization. Separating representative bodies of the undergraduate and graduate student populations would help administrators get a better pulse of issues involving both of those student bodies. I urge the SA to give this idea some serious thought.

—Samuel LeDoux is a master's candidate in the Graduate School of Political Management.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. Richmond
Tuesday | 7 p.m.
The Colonials battle in the first game of the A-10 Tournament.



MEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. Fordham
Wednesday | 7 p.m.
Men's basketball hosts the Rams in its last home game.

NUMBER CRUNCH

47

The percentage of softball's 107 innings that were pitched by senior utility player Faith Weber.

Head women's rowing coach gains experience helming men's and women's programs throughout career

EMILY MAISE
SPORTS EDITOR

Women's rowing head coach Marci Robles thought her career would end as a student-athlete at Boston College.

But Robles struggled to find a job with her art history and a theology degree from BC and museum studies certificate from Tufts, and eventually, rowing found its way back into her life. She is now approaching her second season with the Colonials since taking the helm of the program in fall 2018.

"I'm a teacher at heart, and coaching offered a unique teaching opportunity," Robles said in an email. "Rowing shaped my life in ways I couldn't have imagined, so to stay with the sport and coach/teach really seemed like a calling."

Robles rowed for the Eagles throughout her time in college, serving as a female coxswain on the men's rowing club team. She led the men's lightweight 4+ to a first-place finish in her senior season.

"As club athletes, we had to be our own advocates," Robles said. "We were also responsible for the administrative side of running a program, so there was more work involved in ensuring that our team was successful."

Robles added that being a female on an all-male team did not get in the way of her team's wins, adding that she focused on being a clear and effective

communicator as coxswain.

"I grew up with brothers and training with male athletes, so there wasn't much of a change when I transitioned to collegiate athletics," Robles said. "We were fortunate enough to win big races, so the focus was on bringing our best to the team no matter what your gender was."

After she completed her undergraduate degree and Certificate of Museum Studies at Tufts, she volunteered at Georgetown. After a year, she was promoted to varsity lightweight assistant coach and within a year she was offered a job at Gonzaga as an assistant women's rowing coach.

Leading the Bulldogs, the Varsity 4+ team won a West Coast Conference Championship and finished the season No. 16 in the NCAA. She stayed at Gonzaga for three seasons before moving into her first head coaching position at Jacksonville.

Robles spent three seasons with the Cougars and led her Varsity 8 and 2nd Varsity 8 boats to first-place finishes at the 2015 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship. She said helming a men's team was a goal early in her coaching career because there were "very few" women in men's rowing.

"I wanted to help change that," Robles said. "It was a great experience - I really enjoyed working with my athletes there, and I learned as a first-time



FILE PHOTO BY DEAN WHITELAW | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Under head coach Marci Robles' leadership, the rowing team finished at its highest season score for the Atlantic 10 Championship last season.

head coach."

Robles worked for a season at Rutgers before joining the women's rowing program at GW, where she has coached for two years to date. As head of the women's team, Robles said she listens to her rowers and communicates with them as more than student-athletes.

She added that she

encourages the rowers to develop ways to communicate for themselves about their own progress, and she works on empowering her female student-athletes.

In the water, she led her squad to its highest team score in program history at the Atlantic 10 Championship last season. The Colonials nabbed

second, with a total of 48 points, for its highest finish in six years.

"We also talk a lot of being, owning your role in your own success (borrowed from a mentor of mine)," Robles said. "We want our women to develop their own voices and be able to advocate for themselves, so developing empowerment is a big part of our mentorship."

Sailing works through 'growing pains' with young squad

BELLE LONG
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

After an inconsistent fall, sailing opens the spring slate looking to solidify a young roster and mitigate the increased pressure of spring play.

Seven freshmen and three seniors bolster sailing's roster. Head coach Billy Martin said despite facing "growing pains" throughout the fall, a young team allows for him to establish a solid team dynamic and instill good habits on the water.

"You can really pay a large amount of attention to those details early on and have that learning curve be as cohesive and as gradual as possible for everyone," Martin said. "And I think it's easier to teach one segment instead of everyone individually."

The Colonials kicked off their fall run with a first-place Riley Cup finish but were unable to sustain their momentum. GW wrapped up fall competition with fifth and sixth-place finishes at the Middle Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association Championships.

Despite this stumble, the program improved over the past few seasons. Last year, the Colonials landed their highest finish in program history at the 2019 ICSA Women's National Championship.

The Colonials went from 13 rostered seniors last season to only three this year, including Sarah Noyes, Aitana Mendiguren and Michael Houllahan. Martin said the team's youth requires him to alter his coaching style because the younger team isn't

as mature.

This season, 20 of GW's 28 sailors are underclassmen. Martin added that while the lack of experience poses challenges, it also provides an even playing field for sailors to learn as they go.

Sophomore Matt Logue, one of GW's highest performing co-ed competitors, said the varying results from the Colonials' fall run, which saw six top-three finishes out of 17 regattas, were partly caused by focusing on the team's rank.

"We had some regattas where we did really well, some where we didn't do as well as we wanted to," Logue said. "But in the end there was some pressure because we weren't ranked. We aren't ranked right now."

Logue added that the team's youth could even be an advantage because there are fewer expectations from competitors, which makes the team harder to scout before competitions.

"Since we're a young team we're going into regattas with people not really judging us on how we're going to be," Logue said.

The squad opened spring competition over the weekend by hosting Hobart and Smith, Navy, Penn, SUNY Maritime and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy for the GW Team Race.

The Colonials placed third at the competition, taking a 9-6 record throughout 15 races. Five underclassmen and four upperclassmen competed over the weekend.

Because of the team's youth, the Colonials will have

to weather the transition from fall to spring play with a roster less accustomed to making that adjustment. Noyes said spring competition is more team-based than during the fall and culminates not in a conference championship, but the ICSA National Championship.

She added that the team has been preparing for the spring team races in practices, breaking down races and weather conditions to be as prepared as possible for the course.

"For team racing it's a lot of breaking down the course of the race into smaller pieces, so on certain days we'll focus on smaller pieces and then throughout the week we'll build bigger," Noyes said.

Martin said during the spring, he begins to incorporate higher level racing strategies into practice after the sailors have experienced a full fall slate under their belts.

"In the spring is when I'll start bringing in other variables like weather considerations and typical wind patterns and the more strategic and tactical game," Martin said.

Martin added that during the spring, sailors also face the added pressure of qualifying for nationals, a factor that could provide distractions throughout the course of the three-month-long season.

"When you're competing just to do the best you can, that's one thing, and we're competing for the chance to go to nationals and representing your team and not letting your team down," Martin said. "It just raises the level."



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

After Torrie Browning stepped up to lead the tennis programs, she was named Head Coach of the Year in the A-10 Conference.

Women's tennis head coach 'fortunate' to have led men's, women's squads

EMILY MAISE
SPORTS EDITOR

In her fourth and final year at Wichita State, Torrie Browning knew she wanted to continue her tennis career behind the bench.

After graduating, she went on to coach as an assistant coach and associate head coach for both men's and women's tennis programs. Browning has helmed the women's team at GW for four seasons.

"Not only was I able to fulfill my dream of competing at a high Division I level, those four years gave me the tools to go on and be successful in life," Browning said.

She was a decorated student-athlete at Wichita State, holding a winning singles and doubles record and notching 100 career singles wins. She notched 20-plus singles wins each season as a Shocker.

After completing her collegiate career, Browning moved straight into coaching at Norfolk State. She served as an assistant to the men's and women's program from 2009 to 2013, which she said helped her improve her coaching skills at the D1 level.

"I believe my experiences of coaching both men and women at the D1 level is a skill set that most female coaches don't have, so I feel very fortunate to have done both."

She was promoted to the associate head coach for the women's program for the 2013-14 season. Her promotion came with increased responsibilities to recruit, arrange travel, set the budget and organize the practice and game schedules.

After her time at Norfolk State, Browning moved on to GW,

where she led both the men's and women's team as an assistant coach. After men's and women's tennis head coach Greg Munoz resigned five games into both programs' seasons, Browning stepped up to helm the squads.

Under her guidance, the men's squad captured its third straight Atlantic 10 title, and Browning was named Coach of the Year in the conference. In the same year on the women's side, GW upset the No. 2 seeded Massachusetts before falling in the semifinal round as the No. 7 seed.

Browning said she has dealt with "challenges" from opposing coaches as a female head, but the men's squads she oversaw "always respected" her. She added that schools need to give more women the opportunity to coach men's teams to increase female representation in male athletics.

"I think it also helps if you know what you're talking [about]," she said. "If you know what you're talking about you will earn the respect, whether you're male or female."

After her interim season, Browning became the official head coach of the women's program in July 2016. Under her guidance, the women's program reached its best finish in team history in 2017-18, recording a 13-8 overall record and a 6-1 conference record. The squad also earned its highest A-10 Tournament seed in program history, taking No. 2.

She added that she has generally encountered roadblocks as a coach, which is expected in a profession with college athletics.

"It comes with the job," Browning said. "But if you know what you stand for and have integrity and values behind your actions, you can't go wrong."



FILE PHOTO BY ARIELLE BADER | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

GW's sailing team is strategizing with a young roster after wrapping up fall competition with fifth and sixth place finishes at the Mid Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association Championships.

Men's squash drops two, picks up win at CSA Team Nationals

TARA JENNINGS
STAFF WRITER

Men's squash wrapped up the College Squash Association National Team Championships over the weekend, finishing the season ranked No. 15.

The Colonials (10-13) opened up the weekend with a match against No. 11 Western Ontario (21-4) Friday. A 7-2 loss pushed the Colonials into the consolation bracket, where they fell 5-4 to No. 15 Brown (7-10) Saturday. The Colonials closed out the weekend with a 6-3 win over No. 16 MIT (14-10) Sunday.

The team finished the tournament ranked No. 15 in the nation, falling from their No. 9 ranking last season. It was the first time in three years the Colonials did not capture the Hoehn Cup (B Division).

"I thought physically, the team performed fairly well across the weekend because that's always a concern when you have three hard matches back-to-back-to-back," head coach Anderson Good said.

Friday

The Colonials dropped their first match of the weekend to Western Ontario Friday in a 7-2 loss that sent the squad to the consolation bracket.

Freshman Moustafa Montaser, playing at the No. 1 spot on the ladder, topped senior Matthew Henderson in three games to secure the Colonials' first win of the day. Junior Salim Khan overcame an 11-6 loss in his first game to win in four games, picking up another win for the team.

Three members of the squad –

junior Inaki de Larrauri, freshman Karim Thabet and senior Juan Sebastian Laguna – extended their matches to four games before falling to their opponents. All other Colonials fell in three games.

The Colonials last faced off against the Mustangs in the 2018-19 season, when the Colonials notched a victory over Western Ontario in the first round of tournament competition to earn its second Hoehn Cup in as many years.

The squad's loss Friday pushed them into the consolation bracket.

Saturday

The Colonials picked up their second loss of the weekend against Brown Saturday, falling to the Bears 5-4.

Montaser and Khan each picked up their second wins of the weekend. De Larrauri and sophomore Abbas Saeed secured their first individual victories of the tournament against Brown. Of the four, Montaser was the only one to defeat his opponent in three games.

Saeed downed senior Blake Gilbert-Bono in a match that extended to five games. After beating Gilbert-Bono in the first two games, Saeed fell in the third and fourth. He came back to win in an intense 13-11 final game.

Four of the Colonials' losses came in matches that pushed beyond three games. Senior Jamie Oakley and Laguna both pushed their matches to four games before falling to their opponents. Thabet and junior Luke Stauffer extended their matches to five games before being downed by the Bears.

"It seems like most of the close



FILE PHOTO BY ARIELLE BADER | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR
At the College Squash Association National Team Championships, the Colonials did not win the Hoehn Cup for the first time in three years.

matches went Brown's way," Good said. "And unfortunately at Nationals that can't happen."

Sunday

The Colonials secured their first and only win of the weekend in their match Sunday, topping No. 16 MIT 6-3.

Montaser and Khan both picked up their third wins of the weekend. Montaser solidified his undefeated weekend in three games, while Khan overcame a loss in his second game against junior Joe O'Connor

to win his match in four rounds.

Three members of the squad – Thabet, Laguna and senior Geordie Laird – all picked up their first win to secure the victory for the Colonials.

All three Colonial losses came in four-game matches, finishing off a weekend of intense competition up and down the ladder.

The win marked the end of team competition for the Colonials and the conclusion of a season filled with roster changes. It will be the last time seniors

Oakley, Laguna and Laird appear in team competition at GW.

While the team finished ranked No. 15 in the nation, six spots below its No. 9 finishes in 2018 and 2019, respectively, Good said he saw the win against MIT as a good way to end the season.

Selections for the men's and women's Individual Nationals Tournament will be made later in the week. Men's and women's program members who are picked for the tournament will play in Philadelphia over the weekend.

Softball notches two wins, one loss in home-opening tournament

WILL MARGERUM
STAFF WRITER

Softball pushed its season back on track this weekend, winning two of three games at the Colonial Classic powered by a trio of seniors.

The weekend series against Towson, Morgan State, Princeton and Georgetown was the first time the Colonials had a chance to play at home after a series of road games to open the season. GW will now play 15 consecutive games at home to build momentum for Atlantic 10 competition.

Head coach Shane Winkler said the squad wanted to start the season off stronger to build momentum heading into the team's homestand.

"We wanted to win a few more games than we did on the road early on, but when you get home you want to be comfortable," Winkler said. "You want to start building some momentum going into A-10 play but at the same time, we're going to have to learn to win on the road."

Senior utility Faith Weber threw two complete games for the Colonials (5-12), senior utility Jessica Linquist paced the team with a .750 batting average on the weekend and senior infielder Elena Shelepak batted in seven runs, including a walk-off homer.

Game one

The Colonials' first home game of the campaign Friday was a tight one, as they fell 3-2 in eight innings to Towson (5-6). Linquist had a hand in both runs for GW, stealing home in the third inning after a leadoff triple and then knocking in Weber with a single in the fourth.

Weber tossed a complete game and pitched a shutout through five innings as she continues to see the

lion's share of innings in the absence of junior utility Sierra Lange.

"At the end of the day we've got to score more runs than the other team," Weber said. "My job as a pitcher is just to make sure I can lock it down enough so we can do that."

A two-RBI triple from sophomore infielder Chloe Poulich broke Weber's shutout in the sixth inning and tied the game, sending it to extra innings after neither team scored in the seventh frame.

Extrainnings were played under the International Tiebreaker Rule, which starts each additional frame with a runner on second base. A single from senior utility Julia Smith-Harrington scored freshman outfielder Briana Ramirez for the Tigers' go-ahead run in the top of the eighth.

The Colonials could not respond in the bottom half of the inning and succumbed to the Tigers.

Game two

GW bounced back Saturday, beating Morgan State (2-10) by a score of 9-0 in five innings. Shelepak led the way with five RBI, and senior pitcher Kaitlin Buff threw a three-hit shutout to notch the Colonials' win.

Shelepak collected three of her RBI with a single swing of the bat in the bottom of the third inning, knocking a double into right field that cleared bases.

A pair of errors from the Bears put GW up 6-0 in the fourth inning before a two-RBI single from Shelepak triggered the run-rule and ended the game. Junior outfielder Sidney Bloomfield scored the ninth and final run.

After clocking in a .305 batting average last season, Shelepak is hitting at a .211

clip this year and is looking to use this weekend's performance as a starting point for the rest of her campaign.

"It's just nice to have a good weekend where you can say, 'Yes, that was where I performed best,'" Shelepak said. "So try to recreate that."

Game three

The Colonials ended their weekend with a bang in their first game of a scheduled Sunday doubleheader, walking away with a 7-5 win over Princeton (4-4) thanks to a walk-off home run from Shelepak in the bottom of the eighth inning.

An error once again gave GW an opening in the second inning, as a drop from sophomore outfielder Madison Hamilton allowed Linquist to reach third base and two runs to score. In the next at-bat, senior infielder Jenna Cone launched a home run over the left-field fence to put the Colonials up 4-0.

Princeton chipped away at the lead in the top of the fifth inning, courtesy of a single up the middle that scored two. In the sixth inning, freshman utility Adrienne Chang recorded an RBI double before scoring herself to even the score at four runs apiece.

The game went to extra innings and the Tigers struck first with an RBI single that scored one, putting the Colonials under pressure.

Bloomfield came through with a clutch two-out single that brought Linquist home as the tying run, then up stepped Shelepak. She drove the ball over the left-field wall to secure a winning weekend for the Colonials.

The Colonials will look to continue their momentum at the Buff and Blue Challenge next weekend, starting with a 2 p.m. showdown against Winthrop Friday.



JACK BOROWIAKI STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The women's team secured a No. 8 A-10 Tournament playoff berth, a place higher than last season.

Women's basketball gears up for A-10 Tournament

ROHAN KANDESHWARATH
STAFF WRITER

After riding a three-game skid to kick off Atlantic 10 play, women's basketball finished the regular season with a trio of double-digit victories.

The Colonials (14-15, 8-8 A-10) secured a No. 8 A-10 Tournament playoff berth, a place higher than the squad's seeding last year. Head coach Jennifer Rizzotti said the team focused on finding ways to incrementally improve rather than chasing wins with every game.

"We just haven't ever gotten complacent," Rizzotti said. "We really haven't won enough to get complacent. Even when we started to play better, there is still a sense of, 'We have a long way to go.' We kind of changed our mentality to, 'Let's just creep there instead of trying to leap in bounds to the finish line.'"

The squad's nonconference slate challenged the Colonials, and they finished the 13-game spurt 6-7. The Colonials opened the season on the road with a win against Villanova but dropped its next two to 2018-19 Ivy League Champions Princeton and Lehigh, respectively.

The squad's first comeback win of the season came the following game at Memphis when redshirt freshman forward Mayowa Taiwo netted a buzzer-beating layup. Comeback victories have been the Colonials' bread and butter this year, notching seven come-from-behind wins throughout the season.

In the first five games of the season, four Colonials were injured at different times, beginning season-long woes that relegated five different GW players to the bench. Injuries sidelined redshirt junior guard Sydney Zambrotta, graduate student guard Ariel Stephenson, graduate student forward Alexandra Maund and sophomore guard Maddie Loder.

Against the Terrapins, the team lost junior forward Neila Luma to injury. She was last season's leading scorer and a key defender for the squad. She hasn't stepped on the hardwood since Nov. 20.

The injuries opened up the lineup for first-year players to take a leading role as redshirt freshman guard Hyduke, Taiwo and freshman forward Faith Blethen procured significant minutes.

The trio played in all 29 games throughout the regular season, and they led the team in average minutes played. Of the players who fired more than 90 shots from deep, Hyduke and Blethen led the team in three-point shooting. With 175

rebounds on the season, Taiwo ranked first on the squad and averages six per game.

Throughout the season, Rizzotti said ball handling was an early focus for the squad after averaging 18.8 turnovers in nonconference play. During the conference portion of their season, the team dropped its turnover rate to 12.9 per game.

Post-play boosted GW's offense thanks to Maund and sophomore center Kayla Mokwuah, who fire at .504 and .481 clips, respectively, from the floor. The duo averages 19.4 points per game and is second and third, respectively, in rebounds.

A little more than halfway through conference play, Rizzotti pulled out two new strategies for the team – a five-in, five-out substitution system she first implemented against VCU, and a plan to involve the team in scouting and preparing strategies, which she first put into motion before George Mason.

Maund said the Colonials gathered together to parse through the film of the Patriots and themselves to devise ways to prevent the same mistakes that cost them the win in their A-10 opener.

"A big thing that has been consistent throughout this entire year is building our chemistry as a team and working together and collaborating because we have so many new pieces," Maund said after the George Mason game Feb. 15. "It was just another exercise of us coming together and trying to make sure that everyone's voice is heard."

The substitution strategy allowed the majority of the roster to notch double-digit minutes, which Rizzotti said showed the team's depth.

"Against Duquesne, Ariel hit a bunch of threes for us," Rizzotti said. "Against Rhode Island, Tori hit a bunch of threes for us. Tonight it was Faith and Sydney's turn to hit our threes. We're talking about four different players that are capable of spreading the floor for us so we can continue to go to our post players."

The Colonials finished the season with a 10-point win over Richmond Saturday and are set for a quick turnaround rematch. "Now we turn the page and Richmond is our opponent on Tuesday," Rizzotti said. "Sometimes that's easier, sometimes it's not, but to know exactly what we're going to face and to be able to stay at home and not travel is a good thing for us."

With a victory against their upcoming opponent already in the books, the Colonials will look to repeat the feat and advance in the tournament. Tipoff is slated for 7 p.m.



Senior utility Faith Weber threw two complete games for the Colonials.

ZACH BRIEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Men's basketball falls to VCU, extends skid to three games

ROMAN BOBEK
STAFF WRITER

A triple from junior guard Maceo Jack put men's basketball momentarily ahead, but a barraging second half from VCU stifled the Colonials, who clocked in their third straight loss Saturday.

The Colonials (12-17, 6-10 A-10) were defeated by the Rams (18-11, 8-8 A-10) 75-51. Despite the deficit reaching just four points at the half, a commanding second frame performance by the Rams handed GW a definite loss.

"We really handled that same level of pressure well in the first half," head coach Jamion Christian said. "We just didn't come out in the second half and handled it as well as we had in the first. We just weren't able to get the ball to the people in the place we needed to be effective."

Jack led the Colonials in scoring with 12 points on 4-of-13 shooting from the field. Senior forward Arnaldo Toro and freshman forward Jamison Battle notched 10 points apiece, with Toro coming off the bench for 18 minutes of action.

After Jack's three-point bucket, the Rams quickly

responded with two deep threes of their own. Battle finished a layup to pull the Colonials within a point. Freshman guard Jameer Nelson Jr. nabbed a steal, but Battle couldn't connect on the three-point attempt.

The Rams went on a 10-point scoring run capped by two back-to-back three-balls. Battle got the Colonials back on track, ending the run with a basket from beyond the arc.

The Colonials found some rhythm after Jack nabbed a steal and finished the play with a jumper on the fastbreak. His effort started a seven-point run for GW.

The Colonials and Rams traded baskets throughout the last six minutes of the half. When GW and VCU headed into the locker room, the Colonials trailed 32-28.

GW finished the half 44 percent from the field and 30 percent from beyond the arc. The Rams also shot 44 percent from the field but outgunned the Colonials from three-point territory, hitting nearly 55.6 percent of their shots to maintain the lead.

In the second half, VCU took control of the game. The Rams set the tone early with

a three-point shot 45 seconds in. Despite a retaliatory three-point strike from Jack, the Rams proceeded to march on an 11-point scoring run.

The Colonials' shooting decreased in the second half as they only hit 7-of-21 from the field and 2-of-8 from beyond the arc. From the charity stripe, GW shot at a .526 clip on the night, improving from its last outing against Richmond, where the team connected on 50 percent of attempts.

"I think we've been putting ourselves in the right positions to get to the free throw line," Christian said. "We've been good there all year long. We've been shooting them all the time in practice, sometimes you just go through these ruts."

For the final 14 minutes, the Colonials struggled to trade baskets consistently and convert their free throw opportunities as the Rams continued to pull ahead further. The Rams captured their largest lead of 27 points with one second remaining before senior guard Adam Mitola sunk a three-point attempt to send the Colonials off behind 75-51.

The return of junior forward Javier Langarica,



FILE PHOTO BY ARIELLE BADER | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR
Junior guard Maceo Jack led the men's team in scoring at the game against VCU.

who checked in for the first time since Dec. 21 after missing two months with a hand injury, was a bright spot for the squad. He recorded five minutes, one assist and a defensive rebound.

VCU stifled redshirt senior guard Armel Potter, allowing him just six points and four assists. He turned the ball over nine times

throughout the contest. Potter, who logged 39 minutes on the court, had his lowest scoring performance when playing 20 or more minutes since Jan. 11 against Duquesne.

"Most of the time we want the ball in his hands and he gets everybody going," Christian said. "He's a guy we have so much

confidence in. We just needed him a ton. There was a lot of pressure out there today and a struggle to get the ball to the right places."

The Colonials return to the Smith Center for their final home game of the regular season and senior night Wednesday. Tipoff against Fordham is slated for 7 p.m.

Lacrosse adapts to new head coach as majority of roster returns

WILL MARGERUM
STAFF WRITER

Lacrosse boasted a nearly identical roster to last year's squad when the season kicked off Feb. 8, but the program reset its coaching staff in preparation for the 2020 season.

The Colonials (0-5) have dropped their first five contests of the season, getting outscored 80-49 across the board. Head coach Jennifer Ulehla, who joined the program in June after former head coach Tracy Coyne resigned last year, said she wasn't going to "focus on the wins" during the nonconference schedule and tested her team with a

range of opponents.

"You want to throw them as much as you possibly can, a bunch of different levels and see how you come out," Ulehla said. "Every single game you're analyzing something different."

Despite not recording a win in its first five games for the first time in three seasons, Ulehla said she has emphasized getting them in the mindset of competition.

"We stay consistent with our message and try to get them to compete hard and practice every day," Ulehla said. "This is all about learning how to compete, it's not about whether or not we have the talent, it's about, 'How do you compete? How

do you get out there on the very first whistle and give them everything you have?'"

Ulehla said her coaching style has been an adjustment for the Colonials because her offensive system relies less on set plays and more on players' ability to analyze defenses in real time.

"They have to understand the game as opposed to me just saying 'You go here, you go here, you go here' and then the ball goes in the net," Ulehla said. "It doesn't work that way because you can have that plan, but when you get against a team that takes you out of your plan, you've got to be able to recognize it and adapt."

While the Colonials may

have a new head coach on the sidelines, their playing lineup looks almost identical from last year. Every player from the 2019 squad was eligible to return this season, giving the team greater cohesion but presenting new challenges to the coaching staff, who need to impart their methods onto a tight-knit group.

"It's a new coaching staff, it's a learning process and a learning curve for not only players but also for the coaches," junior attacker Ioanna Mantzouratos said. "I think every game, every practice, we're learning more."

The loss of goalkeeper Jenna Oler marked the only member of the 2019 squad

to not return this year. Oler, who is now at Mount St. Mary's, started 16 games last year, leaving the Colonials with little experience between the pipes.

Sophomore goalkeeper Megan Patrick has started all five games so far this season for the Colonials, allowing an average of 15.22 goals per game while stopping 44.9 percent of shots sent her way. Junior goalkeeper Alexa Solomon appeared in relief against No. 21 Duke and against American, allowing 10 goals in 25 minutes of play.

Senior attacker Morgan McDonnell leads the team with 11 points, notching five goals and a team-leading six assists in three games on the

field. Sophomore attacker Kendall Lambert and senior midfielder Katie Quinn each have a team-leading eight goals to their names.

Senior attacker and midfielder Caroline Kiernan said the core group of players has helped build each other's confidence throughout the four years competing together.

"We've definitely learned from things that could have gone wrong last year and are trying to do things to fix it or prevent certain things from happening," Kiernan said.

GW is back in action Wednesday to close out its homestand against Georgetown. The game is scheduled for 3 p.m.

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Culture

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THE SCENE

THE FREE NATIONALS
Songbyrd Record Café and Music House
March 3 • \$50
Anderson Paak's live band will debut their new album.

LUCKI
Union Stage
March 3 • \$20
Lo-fi rapper Lucki will perform SoundCloud hits like "4 the Betta."

BLACK GIRLS ROCK FESTIVAL WITH MS. LAURYN HILL AND ALICE SMITH
The Kennedy Center
March 6 • \$79
Hill and Smith will perform R&B.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

"YHLQMDLG," AN ALBUM BY BAD BUNNY

D.C.'s official music genre: go-go

SARAH SACHS
REPORTER

D.C. is known for its monuments, museums and art, but the District has also adopted its own signature sound: go-go.

Mayor Muriel Bowser signed a bill making go-go the official music of D.C. late last month after the D.C. council voted unanimously on the bill in January. Music professors and D.C.-natives said go-go, which was brought to D.C. in the early 1960s, has mostly remained popular in the District because it is best played live so performers can engage with the audience through call and response.

"Today, we're going to let the world know that go-go is D.C.," Bowser said at the signing. "We have to put our shoulders to the wheel to make sure we are creating a real legacy for generations to come."

Gayle Wald, a professor of English and chair of the American studies department, said go-go was created by singer and guitarist Chuck Brown when he moved from the south to D.C. in the 1960s. Wald said the musician introduced a type of funk music that was influenced by rhythm and blues.

"Unlike a lot of other musical genres, go-go has an origin story," Wald said. "He began to work

with musicians and developed the trademark rhythms and sounds of go-go, and so there is no one who talks about go-go without talking about Chuck Brown."

Unlike other regional styles of music like hip hop and jazz, go-go's influence did not spread to other parts of the country outside D.C. because it was mostly played at live performances instead of on published tracks, adding that attending a go-go show is a large part of experiencing the music genre. She said artists like Justin Timberlake have tried out go-go music when they come to the District for concerts.

"Calling out your community, calling out your block is really important to go-go," Wald said. "It's all about place. It's all about D.C."

Wald said Bowser's decision to make go-go the official music of D.C. now is likely tied to an incident last year when a new D.C. resident called to complain about a Metro PCS store that was blasting go-go music. The store was told to turn off the music, which resulted in "Don't Mute D.C." protests from people who worried that silencing the music was a sign of gentrification.

"My sense is that the decision, that I guess was the mayor and the city council to make go-go the official music was partly

in response to the symbolic threat of its erasure, which was represented by this whole brouhaha over loud music being played," Wald said.

Kip Lornell, an adjunct professor of ethnomusicology and history and the co-author of "The Beat! Go-go Music from Washington, D.C.," said that despite the genre's origin in D.C., it is difficult to find places to listen to go-go music. Lornell said there are one or two clubs in Ivy City that play go-go music on a regular basis, but the clubs are all 21 plus.

Bands like Sirius Company play go-go music at Ivy City's City Winery every Wednesday.

"There are so relatively few number of the all-age go-go performance, which there used to be a lot of," Lornell said.

He added that go-go may be heard in fewer parts of the District because people associate the genre with low class or violence.

"They're looked upon as problematic and perhaps troublemakers," Lornell said.

Despite being named the official music of D.C., fewer groups are playing go-go music. To remedy the issue, Lornell said the city should put money into supporting go-go through projects like a go-go museum that is under construction.

"That will really be



Rare Essence performs at the Kennedy Center's Go-Go Friday, a monthly event highlighting the official music of D.C. SOPHIE MOTEN | PHOTOGRAPHER

the test as to how serious the city is," Lornell said. "That, for me, would be a second and even larger step the city could take to really not just recognize go-go, but to support go-go in the way that it should be, not just associated with the city, but supported in a much broader and wider financial way."

Freshman Anaya Shaw-Taylor said she began listening to go-go music in high school when her friends introduced her to the music genre. She said that while live venues are hard to find, go-go music is still prevalent in the DMV area.

Shaw-Taylor was born in D.C. and now lives near Bowie, Maryland, which she said is a popular area for go-go music. She grew up attending go-go concerts in Fairwood, Maryland, Shaw-Taylor said.

"Fairwood has this concert every summer at the end of the summer for like just bands to play," she said. "A lot of the bands play go-go music. If anything, it's getting more attention cause a lot of the bands, they play go-go music. They remix like popular songs. I know there was the Adele song, 'Hello.' Someone remixed it. It had go-go music with it."

Shaw-Taylor said go-

go is passed down by generations, which helps keep the music alive in her community of friends and family. She said one of her friend's moms is from D.C. and influenced her daughter to listen to go-go music, who in turn introduced Shaw-Taylor to the genre.

"A lot of them were from the DMV area and that's basically how they got introduced to it, and also around the Don't Mute D.C. time it was on the news a lot and it really influenced the whole DMV about not muting go-go music because it was a big part of Maryland and D.C.," Shaw-Taylor said.

Last-minute spring break destinations near D.C.

MIRANDA NAZZARO
REPORTER

It might be the middle of midterms, but spring break is on the horizon.

Some students might spend their week jet setting out of the country or back home. But if you're still in the District and scrambling for activities to fill up the week, there are plenty of ways to take a vacation. Here are four vacation destinations in the DMV to make the most of your week off:

Old Town Alexandria

You would never know Old Town Alexandria is only a 15-minute car ride and 20-minute metro ride from Foggy Bottom with its historical landmarks and buzzing nightlife, making tourists feel as if they are far from the city.

You can first take a walk down King Street, considered one of the "Great Streets" of America for its character and things to do, and explore the row of boutiques, restaurants and the award-winning Port City Brewing Company. If you're a history junkie and want to learn more about George Washington, head to his Mount Vernon home and look around his estate and surrounding gardens.

Other activities include Alexandria's Nightly Spirits Ghost Tour and Pub Crawls

and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, where you can find archived notebooks and relics from the past. Finish the night off on a sweet note at Old Town Dolci Gelati for its famous artisanal gelato or Nicecream, which features made-to-order, liquid nitrogen ice cream.

Kilgore and Gunpowder Falls

The second-tallest waterfall in Maryland, Kilgore Falls is part of the Rocks State Park of Pylesville, Maryland. Located less than an hour from Baltimore, the park offers three and a half miles of scenic hiking, picnic areas and the sight of 17-foot Kilgore Falls. Drive just a half-hour from the falls and tube, kayak and bike around the famous Gunpowder Falls. To get there, you can take the \$7 MARC train from Union Station to Baltimore and rent a Zipcar once you're in Baltimore to drive to the falls.

Virginia Beach

Hop on a four-hour-long bus ride to get a taste of sun at Virginia Beach. It may not be summer temperatures yet, but the weather is usually warm enough to spend time on the boardwalk's beaches and tourist shops.

If you like unconventional adventures, try out the iFLY Virginia Beach Indoor Skydiving or rock

climb and zipline at the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center. Check out Wanderu for cheap bus tickets ranging from \$30 to \$60 round trip and split an Airbnb with your friends to make for an affordable spring break. Book a room a few blocks away from the beach to keep expenses low while still having easy access to the beach.

Charlottesville, Virginia

From historical sites to a growing arts scene, Charlottesville, Virginia, has something for just about everyone. The city is a two and a half-hour drive from the District, and you can purchase bus tickets for less than \$30 for a round trip.

Music lovers can catch a concert at University of Virginia's John Paul Jones Arena, which will host Dan + Shay and DaBaby on March 13 and 14, or check out the Southern Cafe and Music Hall for performances nearly every weekend.

Charlottesville's historic downtown outdoor mall also hosts cinemas and musical theater performances along with more than 120 shops and 30 restaurants. If you're looking to do something outdoors, end your trip with a hike on Carter Mountain Trail and watch the sunset at the Carter Mountain Orchard.



Vintage patterns and groovy styles are reemerging as this spring's fashion trends. SARAH URTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Stay in style with these spring fashion trends

MOLLY KAISER
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

The month of February opened a new chapter in the book of global trends, with fashion weeks rolling out new designs in Paris, New York, London and D.C.

Not all trends shown on the runway can be worn as everyday clothes, but you could spot a few new styles around campus in the coming months, including disco collars and retro prints. Get ahead on your spring wardrobe with these 2020 fashion trends.

A '60s revival

You can expect to see prints reminiscent of your grandmother's living room wallpaper this spring. Pastel floral prints and chunky shape designs are regaining popularity, especially in dresses and skirts.

The disco collar – a long, pointed lapel that was made popular by celebrities like John Travolta and Sylvester Stallone – is also reentering the fashion scene. The style has been given a modern flare on coats, button-downs and jackets. You can layer a disco collar under a printed sweater for a preppy vintage look or wear it alone to add a twist to your regular internship attire.

Groovy, baby

Walking into a Free Peo-

ple store might feel more like Woodstock this spring with the reemergence of fringe embellishments and suede pants. You'll see fringe bags, fringe earrings and fringe ponchos. Add an element of this style to your look for a '70s inspired, laid back look.

In addition to fringe, retro styles like tweed vests and suede have made a comeback from their '70s roots. For a nostalgic Fleetwood Mac groupie look, pair a denim vest with a turtle-neck and a suede mini skirt or pants.

Everyday corporate wear

Incorporate some sophistication into your everyday apparel with blazers, trousers or even a full suit. Plaid and checkered blazers were staples in the lines of Christian Dior and Saint Laurent's at the February Paris Fashion Show.

GW Fashion Club President Andrew Evans, a senior studying political science, said corporate wear has become especially prevalent in menswear at Paris Fashion Week.

"There was a weird corporate trend in Paris menswear," Evans said. "There were a lot of black suits and ties, skinny white ties."

Unconventional colors

Channel the bright and fresh colors of spring in your wardrobe this season. Pair

a matching mint blazer and skirt for a refreshing mint monochrome look.

If a muted mint green isn't bold enough, hop on the highlighter hue trend. Neon colors, especially yellow and pink, are becoming commonplace in body con dresses, matching sets and bodysuits.

Evans said adding neon to an outfit can add an energetic and fun look to an otherwise plain fit.

"It offsets a more traditionally nonchalant look," Evans said. "It's a way to add a bit of color, it kind of takes it to the extreme a little bit in a sense but it's fun."

Stylish workwear

Workwear was initially designed as heavy-duty clothing made for labor like boiler suits, grandad shirts and canvas pants. But workwear has become trendy in the past two years, popularized by brands like Dickies, Carhartt and Wrangler.

Evans said men's workwear is entering mainstream trends, as many brands draw inspiration from Dickies' use of canvas and polycotton materials.

"It's interesting because it's something that was born out of necessity, like you need something that's going to last a long time, you need a pair of jeans that is not going to blow out on you and now it's become commodified in a sense," Evans said.



Kilgore Falls is the second tallest waterfall in Maryland and is part of the Rocks State Park. FILE PHOTO BY ARIELLE BADER | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR