

The GW Hatchet

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GW, D.C. OFFICIALS TACKLE CORONAVIRUS

Mayor Bowser confirms first COVID-19 case in the District

SHANNON MALLARD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Mayor Muriel Bowser confirmed the first "presumptive positive" case of COVID-19 in the District during a press conference Saturday.

The patient, a male D.C. resident in his 50s, did not appear to have a history of recent international travel or close contact with anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, Bowser said. She added that D.C. Department of Health is now "contact tracing" – identifying people who may have had contact with COVID-19 infected individuals – and planning the next steps in response to the presumptive positive result.

Bowser added that officials are also aware of people who visited the District and later tested positive for COVID-19, like another man in his 50s who tested positive for the virus at a Maryland hospital after recently spending time in D.C.

"We are making our best effort to work with the health departments of states where patients test positive to understand if there was any exposure in D.C.," she said.

The Washington Post reported Sunday that the D.C. patient with COVID-19 is Rector Timothy Cole, the highest-ranking clergy at Christ Church Georgetown, an Episcopal church. Cole has been hospitalized since Thursday in stable condition, and church officials are reaching out to congregants and have canceled Sunday services, The Post reported.

Eleven people in the District – including Cole – are currently being monitored and have been tested for COVID-19, according to the latest data from the public health lab in the D.C. Department of Forensic Sciences. Ten of the 11 tests came back negative, according to the lab.

Bowser said she will not yet declare a state of emergency because the unique structure of D.C.'s government gives her the ability to allocate resources to address COVID-19 without taking that drastic step. She said events like the annual Cherry Blossom Festival will continue as planned.

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FILE PHOTO BY DEAN WHITELAW | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



FILE PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WELLING | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Health officials refuse to test GW Hospital patient for virus

SHANNON MALLARD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A patient in the GW Hospital was refused testing for COVID-19 after she spent time in South Korea late last month and developed respiratory symptoms.

Maggie McDow, a strategic partnerships manager at the rainforest preservation nonprofit Health and Harmony, wrote in a Facebook post Saturday that D.C. Department of Health staff refused to test her for COVID-19 because she had not spent enough time in South Korea. McDow said she connected through a South Korean airport on her way to Thailand and began experiencing chest congestion, coughing and shortness of breath Tuesday.

"Do I have COVID-19?" McDow said in the post. "Who knows. Do we have a broken public healthcare system that is utterly failing during a health pandemic? Absolutely."

She said she spoke with a man from the D.C. health department Tuesday who took down a history of her symptoms and travel history and recommended that she limit her interactions with others, wash her hands frequently and wear a mask in public.

The representative from the health department said the department would monitor her case, she said.

After her symptoms worsened Wednesday night, McDow said she spoke to a different official from the D.C. health department unfamiliar with her case who told her she did not need to self-quarantine and to treat her illness like a cold or the flu. She said the woman directed her to ask her doctor to recommend that she be tested, but McDow said the doctor told her that her office lacked the "capacity" to deal with COVID-19 and directed her to go to the emergency room.

South Korea is under the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Level Three risk category, which advises Americans to avoid any non-essential travel to the country. Officials are requiring students returning to the U.S. from South Korea to "self-isolate" for 14 days.

See **MCDOW** Page 4

Classes, housing options in flux as students return from China, Italy programs

CIARA REGAN & MAKENA ROBERTS
STAFF WRITERS

Students returning from abroad amid COVID-19 worries said "vague" communication from officials about their future plans for the semester has left their housing and academic status in flux.

Seven students studying in China and Italy, who were called home in February, said officials did not give them the option to continue classes in person or guarantee on-campus housing for them for the remainder of the semester. They said the uncertainty has left their graduation status up in the air because many of their programs fulfilled specific major requirements, and their study abroad payments have not been refunded since their transition back to the United States.

"It's just been frustrating because it's like I am alone in this whole process," Isabella McCallum, a junior studying Chinese, said.

Officials announced last week a ban on international travel for GW-affiliated trips until July 1. Students returning home from abroad are required to stay quarantined off campus for 14 days, while faculty on campus are preparing an online curriculum in case in-person classes are halted after spring break.

Donna Scarboro, the associate

provost for international programs, said the office is working with more than 35 students in Italian GW-approved programs to accommodate class changes and financial refunds. Scarboro said most programs will continue through "distance learning" with the exception of a "few" courses, and all students who studied in Italy will be able to finish academic coursework they started abroad.

"We are working with these individual situations in cooperation with academic advising to provide guidance, recommendations and other options to help a few students who need to supplement the online courses," she said in an email.

Scarboro declined to say the number of students who have returned home from study abroad programs.

Students who traveled abroad said officials have not reassured them that their academic credits will count or transfer to classes back home, and they cannot return to campus because there are "limited" housing options currently available.

McCallum, the junior studying Chinese, said she started a six-month program in Hamilton College's Associate Colleges in Beijing, China in January. She said officials told her to leave China in mid-February "immediately" and secure a spot in another program, but the al-



FILE PHOTO BY WILLIAM STRICKLETT | PHOTOGRAPHER
Students who were enrolled in study abroad programs that were canceled say there are limited housing options back on campus.

ternative abroad locations were outside of Asia and did not match her course curriculum requirements.

McCallum said she transferred to an abroad program in Rome that offered her the most transfer credits of the options presented to her.

"I'm in a situation where it's very difficult for me to graduate on time, especially because there are Chinese classes at different levels," she said.

She said her original program in China allowed her to transfer

five classes toward her major, but the Rome program only allows two classes to count toward graduation – one of which she petitioned to include.

See **STUDENTS** Page 3

Officials to reimburse students for canceled short-term abroad trips

JARED GANS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students whose short-term abroad programs this semester were canceled out of concern for COVID-19 will be reimbursed for their expenses.

Donna Scarboro, the associate provost of international programs, said in an email sent to affected students that the University will credit all of the prepaid program fees and reim-

burse students for "demonstrated out-of-pocket, unrecoverable program-specific expenses related to airfare and lodging." The update comes after administrators suspended all non-essential GW-affiliated travel abroad Thursday amid concerns over the virus.

"Because of the unusual nature of this global health situation, the university is making a special policy exception and will compensate students participat-

ing in these short-term abroad programs who have directly incurred program-specific expenses," she said in the email. "Given the unique nature of these individualized programs, the compensation process will vary by program and student."

She said officials have selected a representative in each of the schools and units affected by the closure of the programs to serve as a "point of contact" for students to work through issues

related to the reimbursements. Students should expect "initial outreach" from a staff member by Tuesday regarding the process, Scarboro said.

The moratorium on GW-related travel will extend until July 1, officials announced in an email last week.

Scarboro said students enrolled in short-term abroad programs related to spring academic coursework during the semester will have the opportunity to com-

plete the "academic portion of the program." She urged students to get in touch with their academic adviser if they have any questions.

"We understand that this initial outreach will not answer all of your questions," she said. "All of us here at GW pledge to continue working with you as the semester continues. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work together through this rapidly evolving situation."



JACK LIU | WEB DEVELOPER

Amid federal crackdown, GW reports about \$135 million in foreign funds over five years

OLIVIA COLUMBUS
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Amid a nationwide crackdown on foreign gifts to universities, officials reported more than \$135 million in foreign contributions between June 2013 and June 2018, according to the U.S. Department of Education records.

More than half of the total amount – about \$78.6 million, more than any other university in the U.S. over the same period – originated from the Saudi Arabian government through tuition payments for students attending GW, according to the data. Title IV-eligible universities, including GW, are required to report foreign gifts and contributions in excess of \$250,000 to the Education Department twice a year.

The department has intensified its scrutiny on foreign gifts to universities in recent months, proposing formal guidance for foreign gift reporting and opening investigations into Yale and Harvard universities last month for potentially failing to disclose “hundreds of millions of dollars” in foreign gifts and contracts, including those from Saudi Arabia.

The proposed regulations have received criticism from higher education organizations for the costs associated with meeting the new guidelines. University spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said in November that the new guidance was proposed with “little input” from the higher education community and

will require administrators at GW to hire additional staff to track foreign gifts.

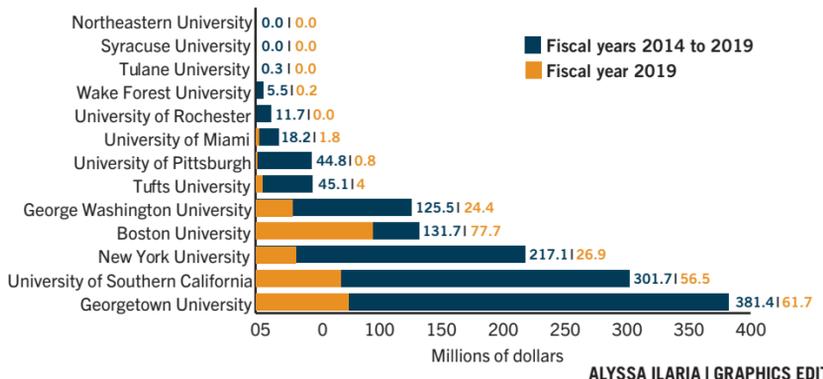
Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos has said the proposed regulations are intended to increase “transparency” and hold universities accountable.

“If colleges and universities are accepting foreign money and gifts, their students, donors and taxpayers deserve to know how much and from whom,” DeVos said in the release. “Moreover, it’s what the law requires. Unfortunately, the more we dig, the more we find that too many are underreporting or not reporting at all.”

Foreign gifts and contracts have also received increased criticism in recent years over concerns of intellectual property theft and the human rights’ records of giving countries. Nosal in January declined to take a position on criticisms of ties between the U.S. and China and Saudi Arabia.

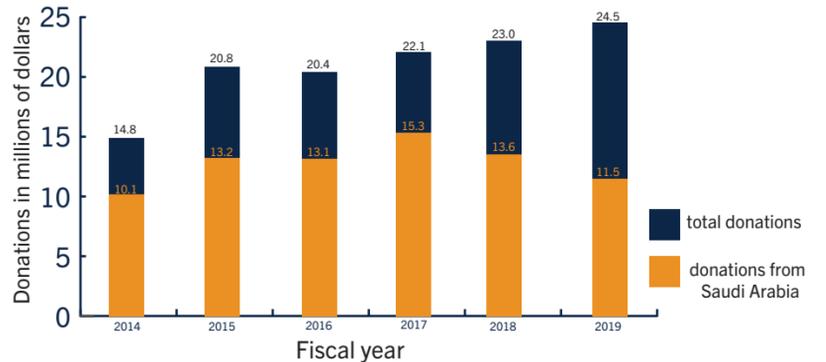
GW’s foreign gift and contract total ranked fourth out of its 12 peer schools in fiscal year 2019, behind New York, Boston and Georgetown universities and the University of Southern California. Northeastern, Syracuse and Tulane universities and the University of Rochester did not report any foreign gifts or contracts that met the \$250,000 threshold during the last fiscal year.

Foreign gifts, contracts among peer schools



ALYSSA ILARIA | GRAPHICS EDITOR

GW’s foreign gifts, contracts during fiscal years 2014 to 2019



Top three countries by total gifts and contracts awarded to GW and its peers

<p>United Kingdom</p> <p>\$69,410,297</p> <p>total amount in foreign gifts across schools in FY19</p> <p>Peer school with most donations: Boston University</p> <hr/> <p>\$1,458,430</p> <p>total amount in gifts, contracts to GW for FY19</p> <p>Ranking among peer schools: No. 4</p>	<p>Qatar</p> <p>\$57,683,435</p> <p>total amount in foreign gifts across schools in FY19</p> <p>Peer school with most donations: Georgetown University</p> <hr/> <p>\$0.00</p> <p>total amount in gifts, contracts to GW for FY19</p> <p>Ranking among peer schools: N/A</p>	<p>China</p> <p>\$37,263,364</p> <p>total amount in foreign gifts across schools in FY19</p> <p>Peer school with most donations: University of Southern California</p> <hr/> <p>\$723,065</p> <p>total amount in gifts, contracts to GW for FY19</p> <p>Ranking among peer schools: No. 4</p>
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Students rejected or wait months before securing work study positions

JARROD WARDWELL
REPORTER

Freshman Delia Nelson set aside a few hours per work last semester to dedicate to a federal work-study position, but she did not start a job until January.

Nelson said she received two responses from the 12 applications she submitted between September and November, but she did not get accepted until December and could not finally start until January. She said she now spends up to 15 hours per week at SmartDC, a University-sponsored tutoring partnership with D.C. Public Schools, to make up for the time last semester when she could not secure a job.

Nelson is one of more than 30 students who said officials have taken up to two months to respond to their applications for Federal Work-Study jobs or have rejected their requests. They said the stagnant communication from FWS jobs left

them without extra funds and prevented them from racking up the amount they are awarded per academic year.

“Coming here and trying to do work-study and then having the school be so uncooperative with actually assisting students in getting the jobs feels like a slap in the face,” Nelson said.

University spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said a student could be immediately denied from a work-study position if the student was not approved to apply for the position by the University in the first place.

“The two reasons are either that the student answered that they are not approved for FWS or they answered a qualifying question in a way that no longer makes them qualified,” Nosal said in an email.

Bridget Schwartz, the director of student employment, said the Center for Career Services has posted 953 position openings for work-

study jobs, 558 students submitted applications and 347 students accepted their offered positions since December 2019.

Schwartz said officials do not limit how many applications a student can submit for work-study jobs, and applications that denote that student has received an FWS award in their financial aid package are not rejected.

“A student is not qualified for a federal work-study job if they have not been offered/did not accept a Federal Work-Study award from the Office of Student Financial Assistance for the relevant academic year,” she said. “Federal Work-Study awards are given solely by the Office of Student Financial Assistance based on the student’s demonstrated financial need.”

Nelson, the freshman working at SmartDC, added that she doesn’t know if she can obtain the full financial reward that a full semester would have provided

her because she needs to set aside more time for her studies.

“Work-study is supposed to take minimum hours a week, but especially the system here, people have to overload themselves because it takes so long to get things,” she said. “It’s like you’re setting students up to fail, academic wise and financially.”

Oscar Rios, a freshman studying political science, said he was denied from 45 out of his 47 work-study jobs, did not receive a response from one application and was hired to one earlier in September. Rios said he applied to 47 work-study positions to have a “massive” safety net in case he was not accepted to some.

“They have to do more accommodating for the students that depend on this federal work-study money as part of their financial aid,” he said. “Because if you don’t work, you don’t get that money, you’re missing out on a crucial opportunity.”

Rios said employers took anywhere between two weeks to multiple months to provide any updates on his application status.

The Student Employment office transitioned the posting and hiring system in the fall from Handshake to the Student Employment Talent Management System. The system update aimed to decrease the time between when a student receives a job offer and the official start date.

Tony Peeler Jr., a freshman studying international affairs, said the work-study program is “inefficient” because students who are offered a work-study job opportunity – as stated in their financial aid – are not receiving a job. Peeler said he applied to 12 work-study positions two months ago but has not yet received an offer.

“Everyone should be able to have a job because we’re promised that \$3,000 of work-study, and for some people that’s a make or

break deal,” Peeler said.

Peeler said career center officials should hire more advisers and create more work-study positions to accommodate students who qualify for the award. He said officials should improve the visibility and advertisement of the new application system and work-study opportunities so students can capitalize on the time they have in the semester to work if they have to apply to positions outside of a work-study job.

Peeler said navigating the new recruitment system after being familiar with Handshake led to confusion and miscommunication between students and officials. He said students are used to the Handshake system, so he is unsure if he is using the new system correctly when submitting an application.

“I guess they tried to make it better with a new website, but that’s just putting a bandaid on it,” Peeler said. “It’s just not really fixing it.”

Outgoing Elliott School dean shifted focus to ethics, African studies

ALEC RICH & JULIA RUSSO
STAFF WRITERS

When asked about his greatest accomplishments over his tenure as dean of the Elliott School of International Affairs, Reuben Brigety thought of alumnus Atem Malik.

Malik, who hails from South Sudan, received “critical financial assistance” from a donor, Brigety said. He now works for the pro-democracy nonprofit International Republican Institute on issues in Africa, and Brigety said he had “no doubt” that Malik will “go back in short order to help build South Sudan.”

“I have spent a great deal of time over the past five years seeking benefactors for the school, explaining our mission and the need to expand support for students like Atem,” Brigety said. “It’s been challenging but also among the most rewarding of our accomplishments.”

As he prepares to depart the Elliott School after a half-decade at its helm, Brigety named new programs like the Leadership, Ethics and Practice Initiative, the creation of a full-time diversity program manager and the ability to garner donors as among his achievements in the position. Faculty said Brigety’s departure leaves a void in the Elliott School that the next dean can fill by embracing research and promoting African studies.

“It has been a great honor for me to have been your dean for these last five years,” Brigety said.

Brigety announced last week that he would step down from his post at the

end of the semester to serve as president and vice-chancellor of Sewanee: The University of the South. After Brigety leaves, the Elliott School will be the seventh out of GW’s 10 schools to lose its leader since University President Thomas LeBlanc arrived on campus in 2017.

Prior to his start as dean, professors were hopeful that Brigety’s experience as U.S. Representative to the African Union and his expertise in African relations would beget new research centers and opportunities for students.

When Brigety arrived on campus in 2015, he emphasized a “collaborative and transparent” leadership approach and introduced the STEP model – scholarship, teaching, ethics and practice – to break down the areas he identified for improvement at the school.

One year into his tenure, Elliott School officials launched the Institute for African Studies, which has worked to increase its profile, hosting popular seminar series with experts and becoming a leader in both research and awareness pertaining to African studies since 2016.

The school under Brigety’s leadership also kicked off the Leadership, Ethics and Practice Initiative, which includes a speaker series and a review of the undergraduate curriculum to incorporate the LEAP framework across all of the school’s courses. Brigety spearheaded new diversity initiatives like unconscious bias training for faculty and staff after meeting with students over coffee to chat, a fixture of his tenure.



FILE PHOTO BY DONNA ARMSTRONG | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Outgoing Elliott School Dean Reuben Brigety said he is most proud of the relationships he formed with students and his focus on improving research and diversity.

During his tenure as dean, he hosted speakers like French President Emmanuel Macron and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

Brigety said the most challenging part of his job has been attracting donors to support the school’s mission but added that donors have contributed to the creation of new research initiatives and offered direct support to students through scholarships.

“It’s been challenging but also among the most rewarding of our accomplishments,” Brigety said.

Brigety said the Office of the Provost will make the final announcement regarding an interim dean, but he advised his successor to capitalize on the school’s research programs to provide new opportunities to students.

“I hope that my successor continues to build on the strengths of the Elliott School, provides even more opportunities for our remarkable students, champions the important scholarship and research that advances the public debate on global issues and policy and, of course, continues to develop the next generation of leaders for the world,” he said.

Melani McAlister, a professor of international affairs and the director of undergraduate studies in the American studies department, said Brigety has made a “very important difference” in the school’s academics by supporting the Institute for African Studies.

McAlister cited Brigety’s “significant” contribution from the Elliott School to a conference she organized

in 2017 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the start of the Nigeria-Biafra Civil War in 1967 as an example of this commitment to exploring the increasingly relevant – yet often neglected – field of international affairs.

She said that while Brigety’s new opportunity at Sewanee is a “great step forward and exciting for him,” his successor will arrive at GW in the middle of intense debate over the future of the institution, given LeBlanc’s push to grow the ratio of STEM students to 30 percent of the student body.

“At a time when students, staff and faculty are deeply angered about LeBlanc’s recent statements, GW is at a crisis point,” McAlister said.

“I think it will be a challenge to replace Dean Brigety in that context. But we need somebody who can stand

up for the value of what the Elliott School does and who will be part of a broader academic leadership that is willing to challenge the imperious behavior coming from the top.”

Brigety emphasized student and faculty research as one of his top priorities when he took the position of dean. Officials hosted the school’s first-ever interdisciplinary research conference last March to allow researchers from various departments to share their research.

In April, the school overhauled its Undergraduate Research Scholars Program by creating the Dean’s Scholars Program, which gives students more time and funding to produce multi-year research projects.

Brigety has also worked to integrate freshmen more thoroughly into the Elliott School by creating a mandatory first-year experience course on leadership development in 2018 and a revamped first-year retreat for incoming freshmen last April.

Andrew Zimmerman, a professor of history and international affairs and the acting president of the Faculty Association, said he has always had “very good feelings” for Brigety, especially after Brigety issued a ban in 2017 on events featuring all-male panels at the school to address “signs of gender bias” and to promote diverse viewpoints, despite receiving some faculty backlash.

“This is the kind of leadership that we need from administrators – one committed, not just in words but also in action, to excellence through diversity and inclusion,” Zimmerman said.

Students feel like they are set up for failure, they say

From Page 1

McCallum said officials told her she could not enroll in GW spring classes or receive an exemption for the credits she could not make up in Rome because officials offered her alternative abroad options.

She said she reached out to professors in the Chinese department to find out if she could enroll in courses for the remainder of the spring, but one said re-enrolling would be “a real stretch” and the other told her University rules state she cannot re-enroll.

McCallum said academic advising officials were “very helpful” in providing timely responses about course information and credit fulfillment moving forward, but study abroad officials did not present her with other Asia-based course options that would help her fulfill credits.

She said she will return to the United States on March 13 because she already bought tickets to travel around Europe over spring break. McCallum said she’ll return to campus after the mandatory 14-day period of “self-isolation” officials instructed and will meet with advisers to understand her next steps forward.

Gemma Guttenberg – a junior studying political science enrolled in the Institute for International Education of Students Abroad program in Rome, a GW partner program – said officials requested her to “leave immediately” from Rome mid-February.

Officials emailed students in the Rome program to take IES Abroad courses from home after departing from abroad programs to fulfill their credit requirements, Guttenberg said. She said professors restructured their Rome course syllabi to adapt to an online curriculum, like uploading videos for students to watch so they can finish assignments.

But Guttenberg said some courses, like “Rome is a living museum,” are difficult to study online because each assignment depends on visiting museums and analyzing architecture in the country.

“It’s really hard to keep track of what you’re supposed to be doing – the videos buffer for the whole time, you can barely watch them and there’s no way for the teachers to even know if you’re watching,” Guttenberg said. “It’s just setting students up for failure because it’s just so unorganized and last minute and something that I don’t think they were

prepared for either.”

She said officials emailed her that re-enrollment on GW’s campus depends on class availability in each department, and officials are working with the housing department to open up housing space – though it is “extremely limited.” The email states that financial officers are working in tandem with “provider programs to discuss the possibilities of recoverable funds.”

“This is very last minute, but the situation wasn’t that bad in Italy,” she said. “We were not quarantined and it wasn’t, in my opinion, a threat to our safety to stay. Since they didn’t know what they were going to do with us, I really do believe that they should have thought about it first before they told us to just pick up our apartment and leave.”

Liat Wasserman, a junior who participated in the Tel Aviv University Spring Semester Abroad, said officials instructed the group to stay quarantined in their Tel Aviv residence halls for 10 days. She said there was initially little instruction as to how students should spend their time, get food or complete their courses while staying in Israel.

The Health Ministry in Jerusalem has confirmed 17 COVID-19 cases in Israel as of March 7, and more than 70,000 individuals are quarantined in the country.

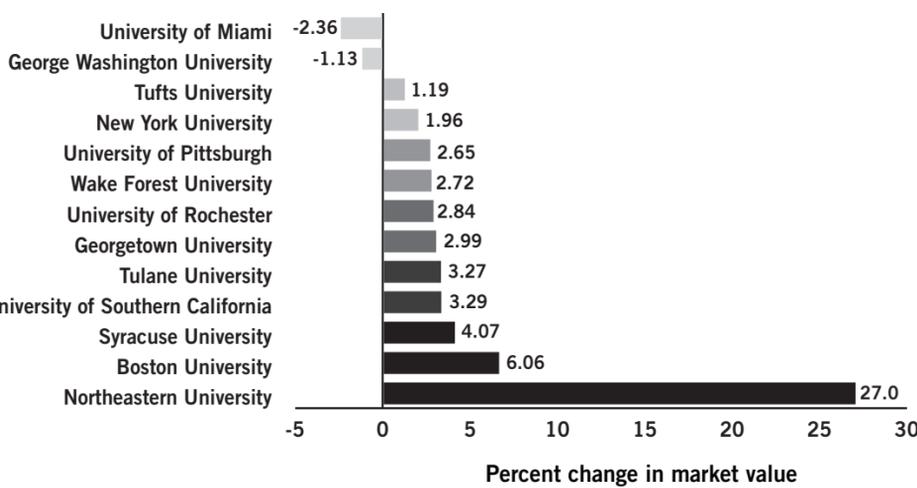
“At the beginning of my quarantine my friends and I didn’t feel very supported by the University mostly because there was a lot that wasn’t clear in terms of how we were going to spend our time,” Wasserman said.

She said professors were told to give students “more flexibility” in accepting assignments for students who had to stay in their residence halls and away from class. A \$100 meal stipend per day was given to students living off campus, and programs gave students living in residence halls two hot meals per day, Wasserman said.

She said quarantined students use Moodle, a managing and education system, to keep track of assignment dates and view PowerPoint lectures. Wasserman said her non-GW affiliated friends who are still able to go to class send her notes to help her study.

“It feels more difficult than actually being in class because I’m missing out on a ton of context and explanation of readings,” she said. “I wish that they would have found a way to record lectures for us as well.”

Change in market value of endowment from fiscal year 2018 to 2019



ALYSSA ILARIA | GRAPHICS EDITOR

GW fell behind most peers in endowment growth last year

AMY LIU
STAFF WRITER

GW’s endowment shrunk in value during fiscal year 2019 while all but one of its peers’ endowments grew.

Only two schools among the University and its peers – GW itself and the University of Miami, University President Thomas LeBlanc’s former institution – faced negative growth in the market value of its endowment, according to a report released last month. GW’s endowment decreased in value by 1.13 percent in fiscal year 2019 – from about \$1.80 billion to about \$1.78 billion – according to the report, which officials have said is the result of natural variation in returns on investments.

The National Association of College and University Business Officers and the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America released the report, which details the endowments of 774 U.S. colleges and universities and found that university endowments grew by 5.3 percent on average in fiscal year 2019.

“Endowments continue to play a significant role in institutions’ operations and financial strength, making it essential to take advantage of a wide range of investment options and strategies,” Kevin O’Leary, the chief executive officer of TIAA Endowment and Philanthropic Services, said in a release. “Endowment asset allocations and re-

turns varied across different size endowment cohorts.”

Eleven of GW’s 12 peer institutions experienced positive endowment growth during the fiscal year, while Miami’s endowment shrunk by about 2.36 percent – double the rate of GW’s decline. Northeastern University’s endowment grew the fastest, at 27 percent over fiscal year 2019.

In fiscal year 2018, the University’s endowment grew by 4 percent, the slowest among its peers.

The sluggish endowment growth comes after students concerned with climate change organized several protests calling on LeBlanc to divest GW’s endowment from fossil fuel companies. LeBlanc revealed last month that about 3 percent of the endowment is invested in fossil fuels.

Higher education and economics experts said the reduction in the endowment’s value can place a restraint on the University’s ability to pay for additional resources and increase the possibility of budget cuts.

Ronald Ehrenberg, a professor of industrial and labor relations and economics at Cornell University, said below-average endowment growth relative to peer schools could indicate poor investment performance.

“A decrease in endowment may indicate that they were spending too much out of the endowment and that it would be prudent for them to

spend less,” he said. “It could also simply indicate that they failed to get any substantial gifts to build the endowment.”

Rick Seltzer, a project editor for news outlet Inside Higher Ed, said administrators rely on the funds generated by an institution’s endowment to supplement spending needs. He added that a drop in the endowment value is normal from time to time but deserves scrutiny if the negative rate makes the institution an outlier relative to peers.

“In a year like last year, when most posted growth, I think it’s fair to look at any institution losing endowment market value and ask what happened,” he said in an email. “The answer to this question could be extremely varied. One investment in particular could have lost a lot of value, there could have been some sort of extraordinary draw for a project that will be paid back over time or accounting for a certain gift may have changed.”

Seltzer added that the degree to which endowment decreases could affect the student body depends on the duration and size of the decrease.

“Colleges and universities generally don’t set spending rates based on one year’s change, so a single year of losses probably won’t be felt directly by students currently on campus,” he said. “But if you have losses year after year, it’s possible institutions will lower their

spending rates.”

Mark Stater, an associate professor of economics at Trinity College, said a shrinking endowment could necessitate budget cuts.

Former University President Steven Knapp instituted a budget cut of 3 to 5 percent across all administrative units over five years, starting with the 2017 budget year following a drop in graduate student enrollment.

“The higher the endowment, the more funds are available for the institution to spend,” Stater said in an email. “So the administration can either balance the budget more easily or use the additional funds for spending on academic or athletic programs and campus infrastructure.”

He said administrators can counteract smaller or negative returns to an endowment’s value through fundraising campaigns and investments. GW’s alumni giving rate has clocked in as the lowest of its 12 peer schools for two consecutive years, but the University experienced its third highest fundraising year in fiscal year 2019.

“Universities can build up endowment through fundraising, conducting capital campaigns, working with their fund managers to adopt a higher-return investment strategy, which also probably entails higher risk, or simply trusting the existing investment strategy and waiting,” he said.

Lach plans to boost interdisciplinary programs, expand diversity as dean

JARED GANS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

When John Lach first told his colleagues that he would be taking the reins of GW's engineering school, some of them didn't know the University had one.

He said that gap in knowledge—that people don't identify GW as an engineering school—is a problem his old institution, the University of Virginia, faced roughly two decades ago with its own engineering program. He said he worked to change the narrative by consulting with companies that hired UVA students to determine what skills they found desirable in UVA graduates.

Almost seven months after taking over as dean, Lach said he will work to create a "unique" brand for the School of Engineering and Applied Science that synthesizes GW's STEM and non-STEM strengths. He said he wants the engineering school to bolster interdisciplinary programs that connect to GW's traditional strengths, like politics and international affairs, while improving the school's diversity and inclusion efforts.

"The thing that drew me to GW in the first place was just tremendous opportunity," Lach said. "This is a world-class institution and in a very dynamic international city, and I'm a big believer that engineering is going to play an increasingly large role in shaping the future."

Interdisciplinary work

Lach said that in his first

few months, he has met multiple times with individual students, related student organizations and the Engineers' Council to hear their suggestions about how to improve their experience.

"A lot of my interactions with students too have been through these student groups where they have a passion, they want to achieve something and I meet with them to talk about what their needs are from that," he said.

Lach said he met a senior at a lunch with students who told him she wanted to be a leader in transportation engineering, which she believed required her to study other topics than those in traditional engineering courses.

She enrolled in courses related to urban planning and social justice offered in other schools outside of SEAS, but Lach said she faced difficulties petitioning the school to count the courses toward her already-established major requirements.

He said he wants to make changes to the school to encourage students like her to add cross-disciplinary coursework to their schedules and to press SEAS students to experiment outside of the school.

"We should say, 'Here are those courses,'" he said. "And we should say, 'And they'll count, and here's how they'll count.'"

Lach said he hopes SEAS can become an "outward-facing" engineering school that is more closely integrated with other schools and professional organizations across D.C.



GABRIELLE RHOADS | PHOTOGRAPHER
School of Engineering and Applied Science Dean John Lach said he wants to bolster the school's relationship with non-STEM schools.

He said the greater integration between SEAS and other schools may lead to opportunities to meet University President Thomas LeBlanc's goal of increasing the share of STEM students to 30 percent of the undergraduate body without removing the students from schools that tilt heavily in favor of the liberal arts, like the Elliott School of International Affairs.

"That's right in line with what I saw as the best opportunity for engineering at GW going forward, and it also is in line with my own personal interests," he said. "I've always been interested in interdisciplinary education and research."

Lach said he has taken "a

lot of time" interacting with the deans of some of GW's other schools to look for opportunities for a bridge between STEM and non-STEM disciplines. He said he asked for one-on-one meetings with as many current deans as possible during his interview as a finalist for the dean position to plan for possible partnerships.

He said one of his most "vivid" memories during that process was his meeting with Reuben Brigety, the outgoing dean of the Elliott School, about ways for engineering and international affairs students and faculty to collaborate on refugee-related issues.

He and Brigety discussed

how international affairs students can apply their knowledge of the problems refugees face to temper the solutions engineering students are able to devise for the problems they anticipate that refugees encounter.

He said one of the responsibilities SEAS officials should take on is to make its courses more accessible for non-STEM students that may lack the quantitative background needed to succeed in STEM coursework.

He said officials debuted the "CS for All Initiative" earlier this academic year to make computer science and programming more accessible for students who might not have as much familiarity

with the fields.

Diversity in engineering

Lach said improving the number of female and underrepresented minority faculty and students in SEAS is "one of the most important" questions that officials must confront as an engineering school and as an academic institution.

"I'm a big believer that if we are going to make progress on solving grand societal challenges, not only does it require an interdisciplinary approach, as we've been talking about, but it's going to take just different life perspectives, different lived experiences, brought to the table," he said.

He said GW shows a lot of promise with respect to gender diversity—the number of female engineering students at GW is about twice the national average—but he is focused on bringing in more female faculty, which he said female engineering students have relayed to him would fix one of their main concerns about the school.

He said he has discussed expanding the reach of the SEAS Center for Women in Engineering to highlight and promote other forms of diversity than gender with Rachelle Heller, the center's director. The center opened last May to identify and solve problems that women in engineering face and to increase the number of female faculty and students in the school.

"You can have diversity, but you might not have equity and inclusion," Lach said.

CRIME LOG

THREATS TO DO BODILY HARM

Thurston Hall
2/28/2020 – 4:49 p.m.
Closed Case

A male student reported that his roommate verbally threatened him during a dispute.
Referred to the Division of Student Affairs

PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS

Public Property On Campus (700 block of 23rd Street)
3/1/2020 – 3:23 a.m.
Closed Case

GW Police Department officers responded to a report of an intoxicated female student on campus. D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services arrived on scene and transported the student to the GW Hospital emergency room for medical treatment.
Referred to the Division of Student Affairs

HARASSMENT (VERBAL OR WRITTEN), DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Marvin Center
3/2/2020 – 9:10 a.m.
Closed Case

GWPD responded to a report of a female student being verbally harassed by an unknown man. Officers who arrived on scene did not locate the suspect. GWPD received a report that the suspect had entered the women's restroom. Officers escorted the subject from the restroom and issued him a warning bar notice.
Subject barred

—Compiled by Kateryna Stepanenko

D.C. response to COVID-19 'fluid': Bowser

From Page 1

Bowser said officials' response to COVID-19 is "fluid," and the D.C. health department has the "discretion" to take action to protect the District's residents. She said public health officials are closely monitoring Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and will react accordingly.

"I will be very sure that our health department has checked and double-checked to make sure that we're mak-

ing the tests available to everyone who meets the guidelines, but if there are special circumstances that present, that they will get a hard look from us and be implemented to test if the situation warrants it," Bowser said.

Bowser advised D.C. residents to frequently wash their hands, to avoid touching their faces, to stay home if they are not feeling well and to call health care centers in advance if they suspect they have COVID-19.

A GW Hospital patient alleged in a Facebook post Saturday that D.C. De-

partment of Health officials refused to test her for COVID-19. Anjali Talwalkar, the principal senior deputy director for D.C. Department of Health, said at the press conference that the patient did not fit the CDC's criteria for COVID-19 testing because she had only been to a South Korean airport and did not venture elsewhere in the country.

"We look at where they actually were in that country, where they were actually exposed to, what communities outside of an airport that they were actually experiencing to assess their risk," she said.

McDow required no testing, health officials say

From Page 1

"I asked her whether I should extend my self-quarantine since I am now displaying symptoms, and she said 'no,' that I don't need to self-quarantine, and that I should treat it just like if I had a cold or the flu," McDow said, referring to the health department worker she contacted. "I can go out in public just try not to cough on anyone and wash my hands a lot. I was stunned."

McDow said she arrived at GW Hospital's emergency room Friday, where a doctor administered tests for viral illnesses like influenza that came back negative, which led the doctor to tell McDow she would test her for COVID-19. McDow said the doctor told her she had a high likelihood of having COVID-19 based on her travel history, symptoms and negative test results.

After "several" hours, McDow claimed that her doctor said the D.C. health department was "refusing" to administer the test. She said she was

discharged from the hospital the same day, but her doctor told her to return for treatment if her symptoms worsened.

"She was furious," McDow said about her doctor. "She said she was still trying to get them to change their mind. She got the chief of staff involved. She kept trying. Nothing."

McDow was not immediately available for comment.

Anjali Talwalkar, the principal senior deputy director for D.C. Department of Health, said at a press conference with Mayor Muriel Bowser that the patient did not fit the CDC's criteria for COVID-19 testing because she had only been to a South Korean airport and did not venture elsewhere in the country.

McDow's complaints about D.C.'s testing standards come as Bowser confirmed the first presumptive positive case of the novel coronavirus, a rector at a Georgetown Episcopal church.

Administrators informed students in an email Saturday that 30 students who attended the American Israel Public Affairs Committee policy confer-

ence earlier this month were not at risk of contracting the disease. Two other attendees to AIPAC's conference in D.C. have tested positive for COVID-19.

The email states that public health officials determined that the two individuals did not present symptoms while in the District and current information indicates there is no "identifiable risk" posed to anyone who interacted with them at the conference.

Officials said they provided students who attended the conference space to self-quarantine in a separate email sent to the GW community early Saturday morning. After conferring with D.C. Department of Health and public health experts at GW, administrators have determined that there is no "current need" for attendees to continue to self-quarantine, the email states.

"We appreciate the flexibility of the students to rearrange their plans so that they could help keep their friends and community healthy," the email states. "In every community there are those who may be more vulnerable because of underlying health issues."

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On-campus fires rise after hitting nine-year low

LIA DEGROOT
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

After on-campus fires hit a nine-year low in 2018, residence hall fires are on the rise again.

Eight fires occurred in 2019 – the majority of which started from a kitchen appliance, like a microwave or stovetop – compared with five in 2018, according to GW's annual fire log. Fire safety experts said GW's year-to-year variation is fairly low relative to the number of students who live on campus, and students should vigilantly attend to their cooking and use proper extension cords to prevent starting a fire in their residence hall room.

University spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said the fires that occurred in 2019 – which all started from unsafe cooking practices or banned items, like candles and toaster ovens – could have been prevented.

She said the Division of Safety and Security and Campus Living and Residential Education posted fire prevention safety content in the lobby of each residence hall this academic year and held a Student Advisory Board meeting dedicated specifically to fire safety.

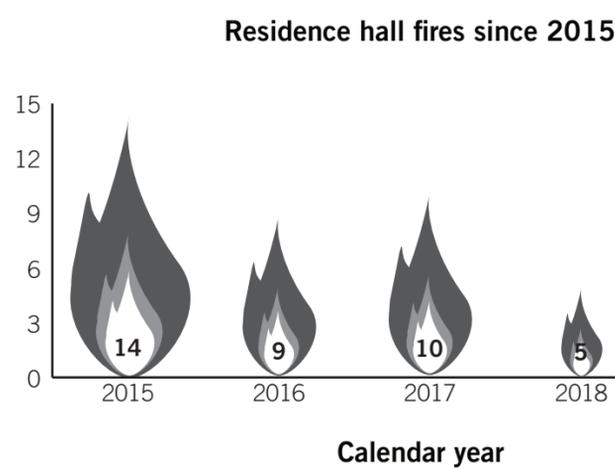
Two fires have occurred so far since the start of the 2020 calendar year – a stovetop fire in Fulbright Hall and a stovetop fire in District House, according to the fire log.

Nosal said officials are not aware of any fires other than the incidents listed on the daily fire log. She said students should follow University policies about banned items to prevent fires on campus.

"Students should take the policy on banned items seriously and avoid bringing those items into residence halls," she said. "If students are cooking, they should supervise the cooking tools at all times."

Vito Maggiolo, a spokesperson for D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services, said GW's three-fire uptick is too small of an increase to draw a significant causal analysis. He said the majority of fires on campus from the past two years have started in a residence hall kitchen, which students can prevent by not leaving cooking unattended.

"Don't be trying to cook when you're under the influence of alcohol, or anything else for that matter, because your judgment may be impaired, and that could lend itself



ALYSSA ILARIA | GRAPHICS EDITOR

to a fire starting with cooking," Maggiolo said.

He said students should heed the University's fire policies, like keeping the smoke alarm turned on and not using candles in the room, to ensure fire safety in residence hall rooms.

Maggiolo said a fairly low number of fires occur at GW given the large number of students living in residence halls. GW houses about 7,400 students, according to the housing website.

American University, which sleeps about 4,000 undergraduates, sus-

tained just one residential fire in 2019, according to the university's daily fire log. Georgetown University tallied one fire in 2018, according to its annual fire safety report.

Maggiolo said D.C. FEMS will send about 40 firefighters for any report of a fire in a large building, like a residence hall. He said firefighters will work with GW Police Department officers to file students out of the building and communicate how students should evacuate in case of a fire.

He added that students should remember to close

the door behind them while evacuating a fire to contain the fire's flames and heat.

"If you leave the door open, the heat and smoke and fire will spread from that room to other areas of the building," Maggiolo said.

Andrew Roszak, the executive director of the Institute for Childhood Preparedness, which trains children and early childhood educators on emergency preparedness, said an uptick in fires at universities sometimes occurs in the winter months when many stu-

dents misuse additional heating units in their residence halls.

"What you have to take into account is variance just based on the season so I mean, like right now in D.C., we've got this big cold coming through, which probably means people are going to start looking for alternative heat sources," Roszak said.

A heating unit in Thurston Hall caught fire in October, according to the annual fire log.

Rozsak said universities with a large number of housing options present more opportunities for fires to occur, resulting in a higher yearly average of sustained fires.

"GW is, I wouldn't say it's an outlier, I would say it's pretty standard for what you're seeing across most college campuses," he said.

Rozsak said distractions while cooking, like falling asleep or taking a phone call, can often lead to fires erupting in a kitchen.

"It's the person that is cooking on the stove and then answers a phone call or an Instagram or a Tik Tok or whatever and gets distracted and forgets the pot's on the stove and not it's boiling over," he said.



COURTESY OF REAMER BUSHARDT
Bushardt, the senior associate dean for health sciences, said GW has eight agreements with local community colleges to accept transfer students.

Community college partnerships increase health sciences enrollment in first five years

SHANNON MALLARD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A partnership between the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and Virginia-area community colleges has boosted enrollment five years after its implementation, medical school officials said.

The program – which allows students with associate degrees in health sciences to round out their education at the medical school – has increased the diversity of the student body and led to more employment opportunities for students since its 2015 debut, officials said. Reamer Bushardt, the school's senior associate dean for health sciences, said the transfer program creates a "clear" and "direct" pathway for students to earn advanced professional certifications and degrees.

"Programs like these are part of a larger workforce development initiative focused on careers in health care as well as clinical and translational research," Bushardt said in an email.

The program guarantees admission to students from nine local community colleges who have completed an associate degree with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 and earned a grade of C or higher in transferable coursework, according to the school's website.

Bushardt said the school maintains "active" transfer agreements with eight DMV-area community colleges like Northern Virginia Community College and the College of Southern Maryland.

He said the transfer program has increased the school's enrollment over the past five years and that transfer programs have

generally gained popularity as health care employers increasingly require more advanced academic qualifications.

Bushardt did not specify how much the program has grown since 2015, but total enrollment in the medical school has increased 15 percent between 2015 and 2019, according to institutional data.

He added that students who transferred to the medical school have increased the diversity of the student body, which "enriches" the experience of other students who can learn from their peers' varying backgrounds. Bushardt said the transfer program and similar transfer pathways will gradually increase the diversity of the health care workforce because community college students tend to hail from more diverse backgrounds.

"Unfortunately, we have a long way to go in the United States to realize a health workforce and research teams that better reflect the patients, families and communities they exist to serve," he said. "Health sciences is working to shape a more cutting-edge, diverse workforce."

Bushardt added that maintaining local partnerships over the past five years has strengthened the medical school's networking relationships with local higher education institutions and health care providers.

"In addition to growing our student body and enhanced diversity, educational partnerships with community colleges have enabled health sciences to build stronger connections with the community, employers and gain important insights from regional community colleges," he

said. Bushardt said health sciences faculty received a \$3.1 million grant in September 2018 to collaborate with Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College and Montgomery College, to provide transfer students advising, mentoring and financial assistance.

Bushardt added that medical school officials established the Office of Student Life and Academic Support in Health Sciences "a few years back" to accommodate the academic and personal needs of traditional and transfer students.

He said the school collaborated with Graduate School of Education and Human Development faculty to research factors that "positively" contribute or present obstacles to transfer students' academic success, then altered the transfer program accordingly.

"We began enriching our student support services to make sure they emphasized the positive factors we had identified and addressed common barriers to student success," he said.

Higher education experts said the partnership will grant health sciences students opportunities to earn advanced degrees that will make them more competitive job applicants than those who don't wield degrees.

Amy Getz, the manager for systems implementation for higher education at the University of Texas at Austin, said growing demand for health care workers in the U.S. necessitates that more students can access health sciences education. She said opportunities to attend schools like GW increase opportunities

for marginalized communities to begin careers in historically exclusive fields like medicine.

"It's just really valuable to help our community college populations move into those higher levels of credentials," Getz said.

Health care provider employment is projected to grow by about 14 percent between 2018 and 2028 in response to increasing demand for health care professionals to care for the aging U.S. population, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Getz said the medical school partnership allows students to "stack" their credentials or pursue higher degrees without having to retake previously completed community college courses. She said the partnership allows students to easily complete degree programs without paying for courses they have already taken.

"A smooth transfer means that there are fewer credit flaws, and that impacts both the timeliness of completion and also the cost for students," Getz said.

Whitney Lovelady, the director of the transfer center at Virginia Commonwealth University, said the partnership broadens opportunities for community college students to differentiate themselves to prospective health care employers, who she said are increasingly searching for applicants with advanced degrees.

"Especially with health science programs, it is a booming field that's not going to be slowing down anytime soon, and we need to encourage our qualified, diverse body of transfer students to apply for those competitive health science programs," she said.

Efficient lights conserve 18 million kilowatt-hours over four years

LIA DEGROOT
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Four years after officials first piloted LED lights in Amsterdam Hall, officials said GW has saved enough energy to power more than 2,000 homes for a year.

University spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said the University's use of energy-efficient lights has saved 18 million kilowatt-hours over the past four years, the amount of energy needed to power 2,150 homes for a year, removing 2,700 cars from the road for a year or planting 210,000 trees. Energy efficiency experts said GW's push to switch to LED lighting is consistent with other U.S. universities' efforts to lower overall carbon emissions.

"From a GW perspective, these energy savings are enough to power District House since construction, with enough remaining to power Amsterdam Hall the past four years," Nosal said in an email.

LED light bulbs last for about 25,000 hours and cost \$1 in annual energy, according to the Department of Energy's website. Officials piloted LED lights to a room in Amsterdam Hall in 2016 to track how much energy the lights could save.

Nosal said just more than half of the University's 24 residence halls are completely outfitted with LED lights. She said "significant portions" of six halls like International House, South and JBKO halls have LED lights.

Cole, Clark, Hensley, Merriweather and Lafayette halls were not included in the list Nosal provided as having significant portions of LED lighting.

Nosal said the majority of academic buildings, like the School of Media and Public Affairs and Gelman Library, are equipped with LED lights. She said officials added LED lights to residence halls at times least disruptive to students' lives, like over the summer and when a hall was scheduled for construction.

"This summer's LED projects are currently being planned based on these criteria," Nosal said. "Typical LED lighting upgrade projects produce a payback within several years. These savings are enhanced by rebates from the D.C. Sustainable Energy Utility."

She declined to say how much money the University has saved over the past four years from using LED light bulbs.

Energy efficiency experts said officials may not have switched to entirely LED lighting because overhead fluorescent lighting can require complex replacement

processes.

Michael Craig, an assistant professor of energy systems at the University of Michigan, said institutions will almost always save money by switching from traditional light bulbs to LED lights.

"Every single study says if you have incandescents, throw them out immediately and put in an LED," Craig said. "You will pay some amount of money upfront, but you will save money and you will reduce emissions. Zero uncertainty about that."

He said the University could hold off on adding light bulbs to 100 percent of its buildings because replacing compact fluorescent light bulbs can be more costly than the amount of money saved.

"I think the key question would be 'One, do they actually save money for replacing right away?'" he said. "And two, how much do they care about carbon emissions?"

James Sweeney, a professor of management science and engineering at Stanford University, said Stanford has made efforts for "quite a while" to reduce its total carbon footprint, which included adding LED lights to its campus. He said replacing incandescent light bulbs is easier than replacing fluorescent light fixtures, which often require more technical work to replace.

"If the fluorescent lighting that has been built into the ceilings are built into the infrastructure, it takes some more work to get in there and take out the old ones and replace it with whole new lighting fixtures," Sweeney said.

He added that the money that officials save from using LED lights is higher than the money they put upfront to pay for the LED lights.

"This is the opposite of a barrier," Sweeney said. "It's a benefit for not having to constantly or frequently replace a light bulb. You do it once and you're done for eight to 10 years."

Leon Glicksman, a professor of building technology and mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said LED lighting saves about 25 to 50 percent of the energy that fluorescent lights use and up to 80 percent of the energy that incandescent light bulbs use.

He said the University should opt-out from switching LED light bulbs in areas in which the light is turned on for only a short period during the day, like a closet.

"If it's only on say for half an hour per day, well then the energy savings and the cost savings just not very much," Glicksman said. "And it certainly would not be high enough on the priority list."

LeBlanc was never the right fit for the University

STAFF EDITORIAL

More than 80 faculty members want University President Thomas LeBlanc to resign. We agree.

Members of the Faculty Association outlined a laundry list of reasons why LeBlanc should step down, ranging from his 20/30 plan that devalues humanities and social science departments to the insensitive analogy caught on video last month. But criticism toward LeBlanc and his administration since he stepped in is not new — faculty have been complaining that he does not belong at GW before he even got started.

LeBlanc is and has been moving the University in the wrong direction, and his insensitive comment was the last straw. He has shamed students for speaking out about a poor choice for Commencement speaker, ignored faculty concerns over a costly partnership with the Disney Institute and has confirmed the worries professors shared during his hiring process. LeBlanc was not the right fit in the first place, and he should resign.

The backlash began in 2016, a year before LeBlanc took charge. Faculty criticized administrators for the lack of diversity and representation of humanities professors on the presidential search committee. At the time, faculty were concerned that the Board of Trustees was pushing an agenda that was out of touch with some professors and that hiring another white man to head the University would disregard the diversity officials are striving for. LeBlanc's short tenure proves they were right.

In LeBlanc's first year, he was openly contemptuous toward the student body, criticizing students' response over the



Cartoon by Jeanne Francesca Dela Cruz

National Academy of Sciences President Marcia McNutt being named Commencement speaker that year. Campus was rocked by a racist Snapchat post the same year, and LeBlanc's lackluster response was a red flag. Although the University rolled out a plan to address future incidents, the sorority involved with the post did not face many consequences despite demands from student leaders.

The next year, LeBlanc told

students not to worry about securing an internship even though internships are one of GW's biggest draws. He also created a partnership with the Disney Institute in his second year to improve institutional culture, but many professors were not pleased with the plan. Despite their criticism, he chose to extend the partnership. His disregard for student and faculty input raises questions about his priorities and whether he

truly values feedback.

Most recently, LeBlanc has come under fire for his 20/30 plan, which is projected to decrease diversity and harm humanities departments. He also decided to nix fixed tuition, which could make GW less affordable and turn away low-income students. LeBlanc also rolled out the next strategic planning process in his third year, but it does not emphasize one of the biggest topics of our

generation: sustainability.

Throughout his time leading GW, LeBlanc has also made questionable hiring decisions and has struggled to maintain stability among the University's top leadership. LeBlanc's tenure at GW has included high administrative turnover and a slew of hires from the University of Miami — the school where LeBlanc previously served.

The Hatchet's editorial board has closely kept track of these instances in the past couple of years and has been among LeBlanc's biggest critics at GW. LeBlanc's plan for the future of the University and his past mistakes are out of touch with students and faculty. While his most recent remark about fossil fuel divestment in itself may not be enough to ask for his resignation, it added onto a pile of instances in which he did not show respect for students or faculty.

University presidents tend to resign over major scandals. Then University of Missouri President Tim Wolfe resigned over his handling of racist incidents on campus in 2015. Then Michigan State interim president John Engler stepped down from his post after saying that the sexual assault victims of a university physician were enjoying the spotlight that the assault brought them.

Although LeBlanc has not endured a tenure like these presidents, there is one large overarching issue that warrants his resignation. He was not the right fit for GW before he even got here. His repeated struggles to move the University in the right direction and listen to students and faculty are reasons enough for him to leave GW.

Gendered language and products make campus less inclusive

"Ladies and gentlemen" is among the most common greetings heard before classes, but it ignores students who do not identify with either descriptor.

Laya Reddy
Writer

Using gendered language in the classroom reinforces gender binary beliefs, creates division among students and makes the classroom environment less welcoming to non-binary students. The issue is not specific to the classroom. Gendered products, like clothing and merchandise in the GW Campus Store, are also unnecessary when the University is selling clothing like sweatshirts and t-shirts that could be worn by any gender.

Officials say the University is committed to being inclusive, but gendered speech from professors and division between male and female sections of the campus store prove that there is still room to improve. The University should work to be more cognizant of these issues by encouraging professors to avoid gendered language and creating a more inclusive campus store.

When professors and speakers use gendered language like "ladies and gentlemen" or "guys and gals" to address the class, it is a form of transphobia. It excludes and alien-

ates non-binary students. Even if those speakers are not intending to be exclusive, it can still hurt students who do not identify as a woman or man.

It would only be appropriate for a speaker to use those phrases if they were aware that every person in the room identified as a woman or man. But even so, it is unnecessary. There is no purpose in defining a group by their genders, and there are several alternative phrases that professors could use instead. One of my professors says "you folks" instead of the commonly used phrase, "you guys." She creates an inclusive environment by choosing her words carefully and not using exclusionary phrases. Other professors should follow suit and enact a small change that would make students feel much more comfortable in the classroom.

Gendered language goes beyond introductory phrases. When discussing romantic relationships, professors sometimes refer to couples as girlfriends and boyfriends or husbands and wives. Again, this excludes non-binary people from the conversation. The terms "partner," "significant other" or "spouse" are better terms to use to be more inclusive and do not assume an individual's relationship status.

The issue persists outside of the classroom and in campus stores, especially in shopping for clothing products. Stores usually separate games

and other entertainment products into categories of boys and girls. In the campus store, clothing and merchandise are separated by boys and girls as well as men and women. This implies that people of different genders are interested in different games because of their gender. It also reinforces the gender binary because there are no options for non-binary people.

The division also gives the University more of an opportunity to be sexist. Most of the men's accessories are plain buff and blue socks, while the women's accessories include scarves and headbands, and some even have glitter. These items strengthen the archaic gender stereotypes that imply that men should go for duller colors and accessories, while women are allowed to experiment with glitz and bright colors. The University should streamline clothing options for both men and women to ensure students who identify as non-binary do not feel ashamed by the section they choose to shop in.

Students and faculty alike should be more cognizant of their language and how it resonates with non-binary individuals. In a similar way, the University can take steps to ensure their merchandise is inclusive to all gender identities. These small steps would go a long way to make the University overall more inclusive.

—Laya Reddy, a freshman majoring in political science and music, is an opinions writer.

GW should weigh these factors when considering a higher GPA

Provost Brian Blake recently floated the idea of raising the minimum grade point average required to continue receiving merit aid. That could bring the University more in line with its peer schools, but officials must ensure the policy is fair.

Andrew Sugrue
Columnist

If it is not implemented properly, the proposed policy could disregard differences in academic rigor and bring difficulties to low-income families. Schools with more difficult classes could have a harder time keeping up a higher GPA, while poorer families could struggle to foot the tuition bill without merit aid. Officials must consider these factors to ensure low-income students and students taking difficult courses are not unfairly affected by the policy.

The minimum GPA to keep the presidential scholarship is currently a 2.0. This requirement is the same across all 10 schools, even though not all majors are the same difficulty. Being a student in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences is not academically the same as being a student in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. Different programs across different schools might be more or less academically challenging than others.

Varying academic rigor means raising the GPA requirements could unfairly strip scholarship money away from students who are performing just as well as their peers but are taking more difficult courses. The University should consider requiring different GPAs for students to maintain their merit award.

Given that the presidential academic scholarship is up to \$25,000 each year for up to 10 semesters, losing the scholarship would make some students financially insecure. Low-income students would be hit especially hard, and one semester of bad academic standing should not mean they can no longer pay for school. Administrators should also ensure that raising academic standards does not disproportionately affect low-income students.

Blake had proposed bringing the required GPA up to a 2.7 per semester, which is above average grades. A 2.0 GPA, the current minimum, converts to a C, which is traditionally considered to be an average grade. A 2.7, meanwhile, equates to a B-, which has no special characteristic beyond just being higher than average. It is not far-fetched that students be required to achieve above-average grades to receive merit aid — after all, the award is given to students who perform exceptionally well academically. But what is considered to be above average might differ across schools.

The University Honors Program could help address these concerns. Students in the program must have a clear, probable path to having a GPA of 3.0 by the time they graduate. This is a policy that is not necessarily enforced with an iron fist — it is far easier for special circumstances like family matters, mental health or physical health to be taken into account if a student falls short one semester.

Merit aid cannot operate on the exact same system, because the University can take honors away from graduating students, but they cannot take away aid that was already granted. Still, the honors system does allow for a grace period, so students do not lose out in one semester when their GPA lags behind. If the GPA requirements for merit aid were raised, instituting a semester- or year-long grace period in which students keep their aid would give them time to catch up or deal with special circumstances.

Officials are right to want to align the University with its peers. It makes us a better institution and ensures we are keeping up with best practices. But the University should consider how students in more academically challenging schools and low-income students would be negatively affected by the proposed policy.

—Andrew Sugrue, a sophomore majoring in political science, is a columnist.

Culture

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THE SCENE

TALL HEIGHTS
U Street Music Hall
March 10 • \$15
The indie folk duo behind the hit "Spirit Cold" will perform Tuesday.

CELINE DION
Capital One Arena
March 11 • \$100
Iconic Canadian singer Dion will ignite nostalgia at her show.

SOB X RBE
The Kennedy Center
March 13 • \$20
The group rose to fame after debuting their hit "Paramedic" on the Black Panther movie.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

"HOW I'M FEELING," AN ALBUM BY LAUV

Top events to celebrate Women's History Month

RACHEL ARMANY
STAFF WRITER

Women's History Month is an opportunity for people to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices women have made throughout history. And in D.C., there is no shortage of things to do.

Take advantage of the month at museum exhibitions, celebrations and trivia nights. There are dozens of events happening around D.C. to celebrate the month, but here are the top six events to mark on your calendar.

All month – 'Women of Progress: Early Camera Portraits' at the National Portrait Gallery

This exhibit features a dozen portraits of influential women from mid-nineteenth-century America, including figures like abolitionist Lucretia Mott and author Harriet Beecher Stowe. The portraits, which are on display until May 2020, depict individuals who served as early icons during a time when both portrait photography and the "presence of women in public life" became more common, according to the National Portrait Gallery

website. Those featured include journalists, literature authors, abolitionists and women's rights activists.

8th St. NW & F St. NW.
Open from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day. Free.

Saturday, March 14 – Women's History Celebration at DAR Constitution Hall

The Daughters of the American Revolution Museum is recognizing the work of women who have influenced American history at a daylong celebration later this month. The free party includes information sessions about heroines in history, along with interactive activities, crafts, music and games. Last year's event recognized women's achievements in art, science, women's suffrage, exploration, espionage and history archival, according to the DAR website.

Located at 1776 D St. NW.
Event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Free tickets here.

Tuesday, March 17 – Bread and Roses: 'We Were There' at Busboys and Poets

As part of a monthly series focused on workers' rights and organized labor, Busboys and Poets is hosting a night of poetry readings that depict the struggles of women throughout history by the DC Labor Chorus. The night will highlight the lives of women like abolitionist Sojourner Truth and farm rights activist Dolores Huerta. The series also features discussions and film screenings about organized labor on the third Tuesday of every month, and food and drinks are available for purchase during each event.



Visit the "Women of Progress: Early Camera Portraits" at the National Portrait Gallery during Women's History Month.

235 Carroll St. NW. Event from 6 to 8 p.m. Register for free online.

Wednesday, March 25 – Lean In DC Presents: HERstory Trivia Night and Happy Hour at Femme Fatale DC

Lean In DC and Femme Fatale are teaming up for a professional women's networking event to celebrate Women's History Month and International Women's Day. The event is an opportunity to learn more about women's contributions to culture and society with fun facts and trivia, drinks and a chance to meet other female professionals in the DMV area.

Located at 401 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Event from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Register here.

Thursday, March 26 – Queer Women of Washington Awards by the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs

Hosted by the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs and the Washington Blade newspaper, this ceremony honors the achievements of queer women who are making contributions to the District community. You can nominate yourself or a friend for this year's celebration here, to be featured in this month's issue and attend an induction ceremony in late March. Last year's honorees included professional athletes, musicians and company CEOs.

Eaton Hotel, 1201 K St. NW. Event from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Free registration here.

Saturday, March 21 – Jane Austen Comedy Show at Solid State Books

Celebrate the famed female author of books like "Pride and Prejudice," "Emma" and "Sense and Sensibility" at Solid State Books' comedy show. The event aims to "poke fun and pay tribute" to author Jane Austen, according to the event's page. Spend the evening watching stand-up comedy, laughing at comical PowerPoint presentations.

Located at 600 H St. NE. 8 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased here.

Dance professor depicts artist's work through choreography

CHLOE KEARIN WILLEFORD & SIDNEY LEE
REPORTERS

The Smithsonian's first choreographer-in-residence and a GW dance professor is bringing a new show to the National Portrait Gallery modeled off a recently opened exhibit.

Accompanying the gallery's new exhibition "John Singer Sargent: Portraits in Charcoal," professor Dana Tai Soon Burgess' dance company is working on a 30-minute performance to reflect the portrait artist's depictions of people of the 20th-century United States. Three GW students – sophomore Aaron Mancus and juniors Aleny Serna and Katie Auerswald – are joining the dance company on stage for the performance next month.

"I'm interested in his approach to capturing images, to capturing beauty and what was that relationship to his personal life," Burgess said about Sargent. "The characters from very specific paintings of his over the years will be represented in the dance, almost like moving paintings in a sense."

The exhibition, "John Singer Sargent: Portraits in Charcoal," is open from Feb. 28 to May 31 and is the first major exhibition of Sargent's work in 50 years. The dance "Reflections of Sargent" will be performed in the National Portrait Gallery's Nan Tucker McEvoy Auditorium three times.

Burgess said he focused the upcoming performance on some of Sargent's famous portraits, including "Madame X," "El Jaleo,"

"Egyptian Woman" and "W. Graham Robertson." He said each dancer will represent a different subject of a portrait through their makeup and clothing.

To prepare the dances, Burgess said he spent time researching the artist's work, meeting with historians and curators at the gallery and reading about Sargent's life. Through that research, he said he learned about Sargent's Edwardian and romantic painting styles that he wants to shine through in the dance.

"I think that he had a very romantic approach," Burgess said. "He really embodies this Edwardian time period, and I feel that his paintings are very romantic in a sense, and there's this under-riding sensuality and sexuality that is a through-line within his work."

As the first-ever Smithsonian choreographer-in-residence, Burgess said he has needed to define his own role in producing his shows. The Smithsonian hired Burgess in 2016 to work with historians at the National Portrait Gallery to turn exhibit pieces into dance forms, which he said makes the art more accessible to audiences that learn kinesthetically or auditorily.

"Part of the actual position of being the first-ever choreographer-in-residence at the Smithsonian is to really interpret exhibits, great pieces of art and portraiture, through dance in order to give the public a kinesthetic experience which allows for the work to be more accessible," Burgess said.

Mancus, Serna and Auerswald – the three students – will dance in the show

alongside the company. As a professor of dance at GW, Burgess said "dance is a field of mentorship" and he wanted to provide the students with an opportunity to work with a professional choreographer and perform on stage.

Mancus and Auerswald will perform a two-minute duet within the larger dance piece, in which Mancus portrays a soldier who was blinded by mustard gas and Auerswald portrays a "theater woman" who holds a lantern that guides Mancus, based off the woman in Sargent's "La Carmencita." They said that they held a private rehearsal with Burgess last week to learn their choreography and will continue to work with the company in the coming weeks.

The duo said they take class for about an hour and a half with Burgess and then break off to learn choreography for an additional two hours.

"There's a dynamic where he involves us and asks for our feedback, or asks us to maybe choreograph a little bit and then he'll take what we do or see what we do," Mancus said.

Mancus and Auerswald said apprenticing with the DTSBDC has helped them hone their skills and gain experience dancing in a professional environment.

"Now in the company rehearsals, if a company member does something really well, and he wants us to do it really well or do something like that, he'll have them work with us for 10 to 15 minutes and work on that specific thing," Mancus said.



FILE PHOTO BY LILLIAN BAUTISTA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
The cherry blossoms are expected to bloom about four days earlier than last year.

Cherry blossoms to bloom early after warm winter, experts say

CARLY NELSON
REPORTER

Tourists count down the days until cherry blossom season every year, but their vacation dates are changing as the trees adapt to warmer winter weather.

Cherry blossoms are expected to bloom between March 27 and 30 this year, about four days earlier than the anticipated date last year. Three environmental science professors said relatively warmer winters like this year's are causing cherry blossoms to bloom earlier each year, and recent flooding in the tidal basin – where cherry blossom trees are mostly planted – could harm the trees' roots in the future.

The National Park Service reported that the trees' green buds were visible by Feb. 28 this year, while they were first visible March 5 last year and Feb. 25 the year prior. The florets – when the green buds extend and begin to open up – became visible March 3 this year, compared to March 17 last year.

Keryn Gedan, an assistant professor of biology, said warming temperatures have caused the pink okame cherry blossoms to pop up earlier than usual. The warmest years on record in D.C. have occurred in the last decade, which she said is a signal of climate change.

The 2010s marked D.C.'s hottest decade so far, The Washington Post reported. The weather reached a record high 60.8 degrees in 2017, compared to an average winter temperature of 43.2 degrees this past year.

"Most species of plants integrate those signals to

decide when to flower," she said. "I'm not sure how much information the cherry trees are taking from light availability which is constant over time versus that temperature cue, which has obviously been very different this year."

Gedan, who researches sea level rise and its effect on the tidal basin, said the basin has been flooding more recently, which could get in the way of tourists' walking routes around the cherry blossoms. She said mixing salt water from the basin with the trees' roots could also negatively impact the plants because they have not adapted to salt water conditions.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation launched a "Save the Tidal Basin" campaign to raise money for preserving the man-made reservoir. The narrow walkway around the water have led tourists to step on the trees' roots, and the basin itself has flooded at high tide twice per day, The Post reported last April.

"I'm really interested to see the effects of sea level rise on the cherry blossom trees around the tidal basin, which is the main focus of the festival and the tourism events," Gedan said.

Stephen MacAvoy, the departmental chair of environmental science at American University, said that although he cannot link D.C.'s warm winter this season to the issue of climate change, the early blooming of the cherry trees is tied to increasingly warm winter.

"What we can say is that the area is warming regionally and the plants are cer-

tainly showing the effects of that," MacAvoy said. "For example, two years ago it was actually a little bit warmer and the trees actually ended up blooming earlier than they will this year."

MacAvoy added that early cherry trees blooming can indicate other changes for animal migration and plant blooming. He said birds may struggle to adjust their migratory patterns if weather patterns continue to change, which can upset the food cycle in the future.

"We don't really know what is going to happen, and that's what makes biologists nervous," MacAvoy said.

Amy Zanne, an associate professor of biology, said that while warm weather is causing cherry blossoms to bloom early, a cold snap in the coming months could cause less flowering later in the season.

"We've seen that in past years before, where we've had early warming but then a big cold snap which destroys a bunch of the cherry blossoms," Zanne said.

Zanne said the varying weather has a large impact on tourism and events around the Cherry Blossom Festival. She said tourists may not be able to accurately plan their trip around peak bloom, adding that some trees may bloom later than others depending on how they adapt to the climate changes.

"Obviously the draw is for people to come see the cherries so with variable weather, if cherry blossoms are not flowering people will come to see it less reliably," Zanne said.



Junior Aaron Mancus is one of three students depicting portrait artist John Singer Sargent's work through dance at the National Portrait Gallery.

SOPHIA YOUNG | PHOTOGRAPHER

GAMES OF THE WEEK



BASEBALL
vs. Towson
Tuesday | 3 p.m.
Baseball's homestand continues against Towson.



WOMEN'S TENNIS
vs. Howard
Thursday | 1 p.m.
The Colonials take on local rival Howard.

NUMBER CRUNCH

2.6

The number of wins women's tennis averages per match so far this season, down from last season's average of 3.5.

Men's basketball falls into postseason riding five-game losing skid

BELLE LONG
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

After hitting a bumpy conference stretch to close out the regular season, men's basketball is heading to Brooklyn, New York for its first Atlantic 10 Tournament under head coach Jamion Christian.

The Colonials (12-19, 6-12 A-10) are set to face No. 14 seed Fordham (8-22, 2-16 A-10) for the third time this season in the first round of the tournament. Fordham is ranked second to last in the conference, finishing with just two conference wins, but the Rams' two lone conference wins came against GW on Jan. 22 and March 4.

"Now we get the chance to go let it all hang out here, and we have a great opportunity against a really good Fordham team that's beaten us twice," Christian said. "We're going to be motivated to play against them."

Despite their low win margin, Fordham boasts one of the best statistical defenses in the conference. The Rams' defense leads the A-10 with an average of 62 points given up per game. They top undefeated Dayton, who averages 64.5 points allowed per game.

The Rams were able to flip the script on the

Colonials each time the teams squared off. In both matchups this season, Fordham orchestrated a defensive lockdown against GW's main weapon – three-point shooting – and thwarted GW's own strong defense against three-point attempts.

Christian said combating the Rams' defensive approach and distributing the ball effectively will make way for opportunities on offense. Fordham recorded 18 steals against the Colonials, narrowly matching GW's number of assists (21) over the course of two games.

"We have to take care of the ball," Christian said. "We haven't taken care of the ball against them. They're really stingy defensively, so we have to take care of the ball and keep it moving and give ourselves the opportunity to shoot."

The Colonials made only 17.9 percent of their three-point attempts during the first tussle with the Rams, marking their second-worst outside shooting performance all season. GW improved slightly in the teams' second matchup, converting 21.7 percent of shots from beyond the arc.

The Colonials have two players ranked in the top 25 most accurate three-point shooters in the conference – freshman forward Jamison

Battle and junior guard Maceo Jack – while Fordham has none. Battle and Jack sit at No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, in three-point field goals per game. The pair average 2.8 and 2.6, respectively.

Christian said allowing his key shooters to be aggressive and get good looks is a key part of GW's offensive approach.

"When Jamison Battle's getting 10, 20 shots a night, I think we have a good chance offensively," Christian said.

"When Maceo stays aggressive, we have a good chance offensively, so just trying to encourage our guys to be aggressive and let the ball fly."

The first time the squads faced each other this season, Fordham drained nine triples in 20 attempts for a 45 percent three-point percentage. GW's perimeter defense improved in the team's second meeting and allowed the Rams to connect on 4-of-12 from behind the arc.

Historically, the Colonials had the edge over the Rams. Barring the past three times the teams met, GW hadn't lost to Fordham since 2012, riding a nine-game win streak during that span.

A trio of players served as Fordham's main offensive producers during the regular season. Senior guard Antwon Portley, sophomore guard Jalen Cobb and



FILE PHOTO BY ZACH BRIEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
GW is looking for redemption against Fordham during its first matchup of the A-10 Conference Tournament.

redshirt junior forward Chuba Ohams all average double-digit performances on the season. In GW and Fordham's first game in January, Cobb put up 22 points with 5-of-7 shooting beyond the arc.

In their second meeting, a separate trio of Fordham players proved to be scoring threats. Junior guard Josh Colon, freshman forward Joel Soriano and senior guard Erten Gazi all contributed double-digit performances. Soriano notched a double-double with 14 points and 15 rebounds.

"Defensively, just be ready to guard, ready to defend," Christian said. "Those are sharp-shooters. They've out-dueled us twice. I'm excited for the opportunity to go against them one more time."

GW enters the championship looking to prevent history from repeating itself. For the second season in a row, the Colonials ended the regular season with a five-game losing streak. After a win against Massachusetts, the 2018-19 GW squad was ousted by George Mason in

the second round.

If GW takes down Fordham Wednesday, the Colonials will advance to the second round and take on No. 6 seeded Duquesne. The Colonials fared better against the Dukes, earning a season split. In their most recent game, GW won 70-67, firing at a .481 clip from the field and a .450 clip from deep.

The Colonials will kick off their run for the 2019-20 A-10 Tournament crown Wednesday in Brooklyn, New York. Tipoff is slated for 3:30 p.m.

Juniors headline squash programs at CSA Individual Nationals



FILE PHOTO BY ARIELLE BADER | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR
Junior Salim Khan was one of two upperclassmen to win a second match at the College Squash Association Individual Nationals this weekend.

TARA JENNINGS
STAFF WRITER

Men's and women's squash capped its 2020 season with a series of victories at the College Squash Association Individual Nationals this weekend.

All five Colonials selected for the tournament secured a win in the first round of play Friday morning, and

two Colonials – senior Engy Elmandouh and junior Salim Khan – picked up a second win in the afternoon. Junior Zoe Foo Yuk Han became the first Colonial on the men's or women's side to be named a First-Team All American.

"In our first-round matches, all five people who represented the team all won in the morning, which was great," head coach Anderson

Good said.

On the women's side, Foo Yuk Han competed in the Ramsay Cup (A Division), where she earned All-American status for the third year in a row. Her five-game win over Trinity sophomore Sarahi Lopez secured her status as a First-Team All-American.

Foo Yuk Han moved into the quarterfinals of

the A Division Friday afternoon, where she fell to senior Amelia Henley from Harvard in three games. She finished the season with 18 wins. Good said she also had big ambitions for her final season at GW.

"Zoe and I talked about it, but she wants to try to be one of, if not the best player in the country next year," Good said. "Which I think is very attainable for her."

Elmandouh, who competed in the Holleran Cup (B Division) West bracket, topped junior Ona Prokes from Drexel in five games. Four games extended beyond 11 points, including an intense 15-13 win in the fifth game to secure the match for Elmandouh.

The win pushed her further into the main bracket, where she downed Williams junior Julia Ward in four games. One of these games – Ward's 13-11 win in the second round – pushed beyond 11 points, making it Elmandouh's fifth extended game of the day.

"For Engy, she was playing among some underclassmen, and she used her experience," Good said.

Elmandouh returned to competition Saturday in a semi-final matchup against

junior Emme Leonard from Princeton. She fell in three games, finishing the 2020 season with 14 wins.

On the men's side, Khan advanced furthest, making it to the semifinal round of competition in the Molly Cup (B Division) South bracket. He started off the weekend with a three-game win over Cornell junior Luke Park, who he topped by an average of 7.3 points per game.

He coasted to another three-game win over Yale sophomore Eric Kim to advance to the semifinal round. He took on junior Yash Bhargava from Pennsylvania Saturday but was downed in three games, finishing his season with 16 individual wins for the Colonials.

Senior Jamie Oakley topped Williams junior Wyatt Khosrowshahi in three games Friday morning to advance to the quarterfinals of the Molly Cup (B Division) North bracket.

He fell to sophomore Enzo Corigliano from St. Lawrence in three games, the last of which extended to 12 points. Oakley finished the season with 12 wins.

Good said that while Oakley had a "tough draw" in the tournament, both he and Elmandouh ended their careers on high notes.

Junior Inaki De Larrauri opened the tournament with a four-game win against Williams sophomore Jacob Bassil. He came back from a 13-11 loss in the first game to top Bassil by an average of 4.3 points, moving to the quarterfinal round in the Molly Cup (B Division) East bracket.

He fell to Harvard's sophomore George Crowne in four games, ending the 2020 campaign with 14 individual wins. Good said de Larrauri and Khan hope to join Foo Yuk Han as All-Americans next season.

Last month, the women's team ended the season ranked No. 14 in the nation, one spot higher than No. 15 last year. The men's squad, which did not secure the Hoehn's Cup B Division for the first time in three years, finished the season ranked No. 15 in the nation last week.

"Because you go through the entire year, you're competing as a team, which is inherently kind of an odd thing in an individual sport," Good said. "And then one weekend after the biggest team competition of the year, you get to completely switch gears and go to the individual side of things."

Softball upperclassmen lead squad, set sights on next A-10 title

WILL MARGERUM
STAFF WRITER

Coming off the most successful season in program history, softball is relying on its experienced upperclassmen to once again guide them to the postseason.

After setting a program record for single-season wins (44) and achieving a share of the Atlantic 10 title for the first time, the Colonials (8-13) return six seniors and five juniors as they aim to reach their first NCAA Tournament. Head coach Shane Winkler said the 11 upperclassmen have handled the bulk of the playing time this year, leaning on postseason experience to lead the team on the field and as mentors to younger players.

"We have great character in our

upperclassmen and that's big because you want leaders, but you want leaders that you truly want your underclassmen to follow," Winkler said after a loss to Monmouth Sunday. "They're the type of people and the type of players that we want our younger kids to follow."

The Colonials added five freshmen to the roster for the 2020 season. Freshman utility Maggie Greco said the guidance of the older players on the roster, especially senior utility Jessica Linquist, has been crucial to the freshmen feeling at home in Foggy Bottom.

"She was super nice, super open to helping out with anything I needed whether it was softball, school or just life in general," Greco said prior to the season. "She's a great teammate,

a great athlete."

Linquist started all 62 games last season as catcher and led the team with 65 runs scored. This campaign, she has started all 21 games and leads the team with 16 runs, but Winkler said her presence as a leader behind the plate is just as valuable to the team.

"Jess is our leader," Winkler said after a win over Princeton March 1. "She's going to catch 56, 60 games this year so she calls a lot of our games back there behind the plate. We rely on her a ton."

Every position player in the regular starting lineup this season is an upperclassman, with the exception of Greco, who has appeared in 18 out of 21 games, including 16 starts.

Aside from Greco, the other freshman players have seen just 23 at-bats between them

this season as Winkler has relied heavily on the seasoned veterans. He said he decided on the lineup based on practice performances.

"I write what I think gives us the best chance to win and obviously we want to give opportunities as much as possible but our job is to make sure we get the best lineup that gives us the chance to win," Winkler said. "But too, that we're giving us the best chance to grow as a team and as a program."

Winkler said Greco's athleticism and ability to be a "true utility player" convinced him to rearrange his lineup and shift the reigning A-10 Player of the Year, senior infielder Jenna Cone, to second base.

GW HATCHET.COM

for more about the team's older leadership

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