

The GW Hatchet

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What's inside

RESEARCHERS, HOSPITAL WORKERS ADAPT TO PANDEMIC

Milken faculty contribute to COVID-19 awareness effort

SHANNON MALLARD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As COVID-19 spreads across the District and the world, researchers in the Milken Institute School of Public Health are helping spread awareness of how to combat the disease.

Researchers in the school have explored topics ranging from the effects of COVID-19 on displaced populations to sustaining the health care workforce during the pandemic. Researchers said the harmful societal and health effects of COVID-19 drove them to research solutions to various components of the outbreak.

Patricia Pittman, the director of the Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity in the public health school, co-authored an article earlier this month detailing strategies for how to sustain the health care workforce during the pandemic.

Pittman said government officials must ensure providers are prepared to cross state lines to fill gaps in the health care system because medical professionals are disproportionately located in wealthier areas. She said officials should adopt strategies redeploying furloughed and underutilized health professionals, calling on medical students to treat patients and expediting licensing processes to maximize the number of providers available for patient care.

"Unless local, state and federal officials plan for workforce shortfalls, the problem of lack of access could rapidly escalate if and when infection spreads and the demand for care surges," Pittman said in an email.

She said discussions over ventilator shortages and sharing equipment between hospitals are "meaningless" if hospitals can't maintain an "adequate" supply of health care workers. Pittman said hospital administrators are laying off and furloughing workers who do not treat patients in intensive care units, which leads health professionals to be underutilized.

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FILE PHOTO BY ARIELLE BADER | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR



ERIC LEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Medical workers observe extra precautions amid virus

SHANNON MALLARD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Health care professionals in GW's medical enterprise are working up to 12-hour shifts as the District approaches its peak COVID-19 caseload.

Staff in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, GW Hospital and Medical Faculty Associates said they have taken on longer hours, increased safety precautions and shifted patient care protocols to prevent spreading COVID-19. The precautions come as D.C. braces for its highest number of cases in April.

Sonal Batra, an assistant professor of emergency medicine who works shifts at GW Hospital, said hospital staff have curtailed the use of Nebulizers – an asthma treatment – and CPAP machines, which treat respiratory illnesses like sleep apnea, to avoid spreading respiratory droplets. She said staff have instead opted to treat patients with respiratory illnesses using inhalers and high-flow nasal cannula, a device used to provide patients with supplemental oxygen.

Batra added that she and other hospital staff wear head-to-toe personal protective equipment – like hospital-issued scrubs, N95 masks and gloves – for their entire shift. She said she would periodically change her mask prior to the pandemic but now opts to wear the same N95 mask all day to avoid exposing herself to the virus.

"There are common things that we would do for critically ill patients with other diseases that we're not doing frequently anymore," Batra said.

She said she enters her house through a back door leading to her basement and takes a shower before going upstairs to keep her and her family safe during the pandemic. But she said the precautions GW Hospital has adopted have "mitigated" her concern over contracting COVID-19.

See PROVIDERS Page 3

ANC commissioner drives fundraiser for unemployed restaurant workers

JARROD WARDWELL
STAFF WRITER

A local leader is spearheading a fundraising campaign to support restaurant workers left unemployed during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Trupti Patel, a Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission commissioner, said she has helped raise more than \$32,000 for more than 200 unemployed restaurant workers through a partnership with the Restaurant Opportunity Center, a non-profit restaurant worker advocacy group. Patel said she hopes the ROC-DC Restaurant Worker Relief Fund, which began donating between \$100 to \$300 to each worker late last month, will prompt officials to raise pay for subminimum wage workers.

"I, along with the other members of ROC United D.C., was immediately inundated with stories of our own respective co-workers who were terrified and petrified in how they were going to be able to pay their bills," she said.

Patel said the campaign has earmarked almost \$40,000 from ROC's matching policy in which the company donates extra money for workers who have a child or need either urgent care or unemployment insurance. After surpassing the ROC's previous \$30,000 benchmark, the organization is now eyeing a new fundraising goal of \$50,000 and asking restaurant workers if their living situation qualifies for matched funds, Patel said.

"We are just so overwhelmed with gratitude at the generosity of complete

strangers for a segment of the population that usually goes unseen, unnoticed," she said.

Patel, laid off from her bartending job in the wake of the outbreak, said she has used her Ward 2 leadership positions within the ANC and D.C. Mutual Aid Network – a group of local residents exchanging food, groceries and financial assistance – to urge others via social media to donate to the fund. She said she has asked community members to send tipped workers who earn subminimum wages to Patel and the ROC team to receive donations.

"I did this all in my personal capacity, but I do know that people in the community trusted me to know that it was something legitimate," she said. "I had put my name to it. I was pushing it."

ROC United is transferring donations via Venmo or PayPal to pay workers "as quickly as possible," she said.

Patel said many restaurant workers have been struggling emotionally through the isolation that comes with unemployment and the District's current stay-at-home order, which Mayor Muriel Bowser put in place March 31 and currently lasts until May 15.

"A lot of them have just said that it was about a lifeline that they needed," she said. "It has made a difference in their emotional well-being as well as their physical well-being."

Patel said workers have told the organization they are struggling to pay for food, medicine and insurance. She said some of the workers are struggling to scrape together enough

money for rent.

"I've never had so many people say, 'I never thought I would be in this position where I wouldn't be able to take care of myself,'" Patel said. "And it is a very humbling and very grounding experience. It just goes to show that COVID-19 does not discriminate against anybody."

She said the many local tipped workers who are undocumented are resisting financial support from community resources out of fear that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will deport them. Patel said witnessing local undocumented workers labor through fear and financial struggle is "heart-breaking."

"No one wants to risk going out to get these resources and then to get deported by ICE or have the threat of, 'Well the police are going to call ICE because they know I come to this resource center,'" she said.

Patel said she hopes the fundraiser will draw attention to the need for a single minimum wage, now \$14.00 per hour for all non-tipped workers, instead of the current \$4.45 subminimum for tipped workers.

The D.C. Council repealed a proposed ballot measure called "Initiative 77" in 2018 that would have raised tipped workers' wages to standard minimum wage by 2026.

"People are starting to see the deep inequity, how this is hitting an industry in such a hard, hard way," Patel said. "And if I can get anything out of this entire pandemic, it's for Americans to start saying, 'You know what, this is not OK.'"

Miriam's Kitchen feeds homeless struggling through pandemic

LIA DEGROOT
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A local organization that provides meals and housing assistance for residents experiencing homelessness has moved operations outdoors to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Mei Powers, the chief development officer for Miriam's Kitchen, said the organization has moved meal pick-up to tents stationed outside its building at 2401 Virginia Ave. and has been delivering groceries to residents living in affordable housing since mid-March. Powers said Miriam's Kitchen must continue to provide food during the pandemic because the homeless population doesn't have access to stable health care or housing and are "vulnerable" to infection because of "complicating health factors" tied to old age.

"When you think about our neighbors experiencing homelessness, they already face a multitude of inequities and challenges that make them have poorer health outcomes," she said. "They have a shorter lifespan than the average resident, and the pandemic only throws more complex layers on

top of that."

A University of Pennsylvania report released last month found that individuals experiencing homelessness are more likely to require critical care or hospitalizations or to die from COVID-19 compared to the general population. Powers said many of the kitchen's guests consider finding housing "a feeling of life or death circumstance."

"If they're elderly, they already have complicating health factors, and they don't have a place to wash their hands or place to stay home when they're sick," Powers said.

She said Miriam's Kitchen has added portable bathrooms outside the meal tents in the courtyard facing Virginia Avenue to provide community members with a safe place to use the bathroom and wash their hands.

"When you don't have a place to call home, you don't have a sink to wash your hands, you don't have a place to isolate, you can't follow these basic protocols to protect your health," Powers said. "We're just trying to fill in the gaps as best we can."

See KITCHEN Page 3



Miriam's Kitchen is still serving people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. ERIC LEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

News

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CRIME LOG

DRUG LAW VIOLATION

Thurston Hall
4/9/2020 – 11:35 a.m.
Closed Case
GW Police Department officers responded to Thurston Hall where an area coordinator found a bong and a grinder in a male student's room. The officers collected the contraband and brought the items to the Academic Center.
Referred to DSA

DRUG LAW VIOLATION

Thurston Hall
4/9/2020 – 5:10 p.m.
Closed Case
GWPD officers responded to Thurston Hall where an area coordinator found a bong in a male student's room. The officers collected the bong and brought it to the Academic Center.
Referred to DSA

BURGLARY I/FORCIBLE

Mitchell Hall (7-Eleven)
West Hall (MVC)
4/13/2020 – 7:15 p.m.
Open Case
A GWPD officer found two males not affiliated with GW in West Hall who admitted to removing window screens and entering the building. The officer issued one subject a bar notice and released both to the custody of their parents..
Case open

UNLAWFUL ENTRY

Duques Hall
4/14/2020 – 2:08 a.m.
Closed Case
GWPD officers responded to a report of an unknown man asleep in a classroom. The officers discovered the subject was previously barred. GWPD reissued the subject a new bar notice and sent him out of the building.
Subject barred

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

Public Property On Campus (2100 Block of G Street)
Unknown – Unknown
Closed Case
A GWPD officer found a parked car with a destroyed rear window. The male owner of the vehicle reported a key stolen from his car
No suspects or witnesses

DRUG LAW VIOLATION

Thurston Hall
4/14/2020 – 6:50 p.m.
Closed Case
GWPD officers responded to Thurston Hall where an area coordinator reported marijuana in a female student's room. The officers collected the marijuana and brought it to the Academic Center
Referred to DSA

—Compiled by Kateryna Stepanenko



FILE PHOTO BY GABRIELLE RHOADS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Many Panhellenic Association and Interfraternity Council chapters were forced to cancel philanthropic events this spring but began new fundraising efforts for people impacted by COVID-19.

Panhel, IFC transition to online philanthropy in light of pandemic

LAUREN SFORZA
STAFF WRITER

Greek life leaders are transitioning their philanthropic efforts to virtual fundraising campaigns in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Panhellenic Association and Interfraternity Council chapter leaders said they've created competitions to raise donations for charities providing relief during the crisis. Panhel and IFC leaders said the transition to online fundraising has been challenging, and some have needed to cancel philanthropic events, but they've been able to generate donations for their national charities through social media.

Sophomore Reese Geyer, the Tau Kappa Epsilon philanthropy chair, said he is planning online fundraisers using Venmo and his fraternity's fundraising page to collect donations from community members for St. Jude Children's Hospital, which the group has partnered with for more than 30 years. He said chapter members have been communicating daily and making social media graphics like "Venmo boards" to motivate students to participate.

"Most of the time you just walk by the fundraiser and you're like 'Oh, there it is, let me participate,' and this is harder to get people to take a few extra steps to actually donate online," Geyer said. He said fraternity

members launched a social media campaign in collaboration with Panhel earlier this month to raise donations for the Capital Area Food Bank's COVID-19 emergency fund, which distributes resources to people struggling with food insecurity. Geyer said the groups asked for donations to be sent via Venmo and raised \$600, hundreds more than their \$100 goal.

"That was a new amazing event that I've never done that I'm pretty sure GW Panhel has not done either," Geyer said.

Sophomore Lizzie Irwin, the Sigma Delta Tau president, said the sorority "went full force" with virtual programming, using WebEx and FaceTime to host chapter meetings, movie nights and study hours. She said the sorority canceled its in-person fundraising events like profit share nights with restaurants on-campus, but members are planning online fundraisers to continue their philanthropic efforts through the spring.

Irwin said the sorority had planned to host events like national Wear Blue Day during April's Child Abuse Awareness Month in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse America, an organization sorority members work with that raises awareness about child abuse. She said Sigma Delta Tau recently held a virtual craft night making pinwheels to put on display in their homes to symbolize safe homes

for PCAA's Pinwheels for Prevention campaign.

"Our vice president of philanthropy has been working to plan virtual events to raise awareness for the cause and keep in mind our philanthropy," Irwin said.

Irwin said the sorority is collaborating with fraternity Delta Tau Delta to raise money for We Are Family, a D.C.-based organization that delivers groceries to homebound seniors during the pandemic. She said sorority leaders set up a Crowd Change page April 7 to collect donations for the organization, raising \$160 so far.

"Because of everyone's different situations across the country, really across the world, it's just encouraging ways to give back," Irwin said.

Carrie Kowalyk, a sophomore and the service and philanthropy chair for Kappa Alpha Theta, said the sorority has taken in \$2,000 fewer philanthropy funds this spring than last year. She said now-canceled in-person events like the annual Theta Grilled Cheese sale traditionally raised the majority of the sorority's donations for the chapter's national charity, Prevent Child Abuse America.

"Since there is nothing in return for donating online, donors have to be very connected to the cause or the chapter in order to donate," Kowalyk said in an email.

She said sorority mem-

bers have stepped out of their "comfort zone" to boost donations for philanthropy, like making fast-fact sheets about their partner organizations. Kowalyk said members used their social media accounts to attract attention for their April 15 fundraiser for Court Appointed Special Advocates, an organization that promotes and supports efforts to find safe, permanent homes for neglected children.

"We have used fast-fact sheets, fun boards to fill out and even did a Q&A with a court appointed special advocate on the Theta Instagram in order for outside communities to understand what we are fundraising for," Kowalyk. "In the future, we are going to be utilizing the things we have learned and apply them to future fundraisers in order to boost overall donations."

She said the sorority and Tau Kappa Epsilon planned the Capital Area Food Bank's crowdfunding campaign in response to the COVID-19 pandemic over email and text. Kowalyk said updating their campaign methods to online platforms has given the sorority a model for future fundraisers.

"It entailed making the fundraising page for the food bank, making Venmo boards, posting on social media (primarily on Instagram and Facebook) collecting the donations and donating directly on the food bank's fundraising website," Kowalyk said.

SA leaders say they improved campus accessibility, health resources during term

LAUREN SFORZA & MAKENA ROBERTS
STAFF WRITERS

The outgoing Student Association leaders said they prioritized ways to address accessibility issues and increase student input on top-level decisions throughout their term.

SA President SJ Matthews and Executive Vice President Amy Martin said they started their leadership roles at the beginning of the year responding to racist acts and anti-Semitic instances but were able to follow through on campaign initiatives like expanding the People for Periods project and eliminating transcript fees. Martin said forming relationships with student leaders and taking time to collect information about the Americans with Disabilities Act ensured they were able to accomplish goals like increasing physical accessibility of classrooms.

Martin said she, SA Chief of Staff Nicole Cernamo and 20 student volunteers spent months researching ADA regulations and photographing inaccessible spaces on campus to create a report with suggestions to update 68 spaces. Martin said officials updat-

ed the H Street Crosswalk and allocated more funds toward updates to classroom accessibility after the report's release.

"We felt that this was a really important thing to accomplish for students, and the more important you feel a project is, all of a sudden, the more challenging it becomes because the stakes are higher," Martin said.

SA leaders released a report in January including more than 40 initiatives members of the SA completed last semester, like forming the "Task Force On Combating Anti-Semitism," starting the "Colonial Moniker Taskforce" to change the University's nickname and supporting the creation of a Mount Vernon Campus health clinic.

Martin said she hopes future SA leaders will continue the expansion of the People for Periods program, which provides pads and tampons to various campus bathrooms using University funds, to allow all students equal access to sanitary products. Matthews and Martin said they hoped their push for fossil fuel divestment and a new University nickname would have come to fruition under their leadership, but "big changes" typically take

more time.

Martin added that she is proud of SA members' response to support students during the COVID-19 pandemic. SA leaders held a food drive for students' unwanted food to donate to The Store before leaving campus and set up a spreadsheet for students to document resources for students affected by COVID-19.

She said SA members acted quickly to facilitate these programs and communication about legislation with all members are scattered throughout the country to hold their senate meetings online.

Matthews said administrators often listened to SA leaders' ideas and have been open-minded about initiatives like changing the Colonial moniker and divesting from fossil fuels. She said the creation of task forces within the Board of Trustees to discuss issues like building name changes and divestment demonstrated a positive relationship between SA leaders and administrators.

"I think I came in expecting a lot of pushback on ideas and more often than not administrators were always willing to hear what you had to say," Matthews said. "And more often than

not, they were supportive of it."

Matthews said SA leaders also pushed to increase financial accessibility for students through the elimination of transcript fees, which the Faculty Senate will vote on in May.

SA leaders also worked with administrators last semester to give students more laundry and printing credits. The Board will vote on eliminating transcript fees and on the expansion of the first-year forgiveness policy in May, according to an email sent to students in early April.

Matthews said she hopes the next SA administration will continue to increase affordable, accessible grocery options for students and bring at least one dining hall back to campus. She said the addition of food trucks in Potomac Park provides more affordable food options and was a "good first step" to decrease food insecurity, but officials must add a dining hall to fully address the issue.

"I think that's an example of being able to adapt short-term to meet the needs of food insecurity, while also keeping our eyes on a longer-term goal of completely eliminating it," Matthews said.

IN BRIEF

Administrators plan to hold in-person classes this fall: website

Officials plan to resume in-person classes and residential housing this fall, a University website states.

Administrators plan for students to return to campus for "in-person instruction and a residential academic experience" in the fall 2020 semester, with more "detailed" communication about plans for operation promised by May 15, the website states. All students were required to move off campus by March 20 unless they applied and qualified for University housing after officials moved classes online for the remainder of the spring semester.

"As we work to develop these plans, we are doing so with a commitment to both safety and care for our students, staff and faculty," the website states.

Officials announced April 3 most summer courses will be held online and residence halls will be closed throughout the summer. Lost revenue and unexpected expenditures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic will total about \$25 million, University President Thomas LeBlanc told the Faculty Senate at its April meeting.

Boston University, one of GW's 12 peer schools, announced last week that its COVID-19 recovery plan includes the possibility of pushing back the start of the fall semester to January 2021 in the event that public health authorities continue to limit mass gatherings.

—Makena Roberts

Nando's donates meals to hospital, restaurant workers during pandemic

JARROD WARDWELL
STAFF WRITER

A restaurant chain is supplying free meals to D.C. restaurant and hospital workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sam Blum, the brand manager of Nando's PERI-PERI, a South African restaurant chain with six District locations, said Nando's founded the Stand Together program late last month to donate meals to essential workers using its own profits. Blum said Nando's has distributed 6,000 meals to D.C.-area hospital workers and unemployed restaurant workers, including Nando's employees.

"It's all about building community, doing the right thing and making sure that these people feel appreciated for just how hard they're working," he said.

Nando's delivers free meals to District hospitals every day and shipped 700 meals Friday to the GW Hospital as one of the program's "larger donations," Blum said. He added that the company also shipped deliveries to Howard University Hospital and hospitals in Baltimore and northern Virginia.

"We're really trying to leverage the power of our communities to understand who needs help and where we can provide that type of support," Blum said. "And our guests have actually done a great job, whether they work in hospitals themselves or know someone who's on the front lines."

He said the company caters

meals for hospital workers and offers free takeout for restaurant employees. Blum said customers can nominate workers and organizations to receive free meals from Nando's through email or social media.

"It's been really as many people as we're able to provide meals for," he said.

Blum said Nando's is paying for the costs of the donations with their own profits, which "doesn't come cheaply." The program will continue until at least May 3, when the company will decide whether or not to continue meal donations depending on the pandemic's severity and the company's finances, he said.

TwentyTables launched a similar program called "Feed the Frontlines" last month, which pays food trucks to serve meals for health care workers in D.C.

"Obviously, the situation continues to evolve day by day," Blum said. "So it's something that we are looking at constantly, not just for this particular campaign but also our own restaurant operations."

He said only Nando's employees who volunteered are working the Stand Together program, and they must undergo health checks at the beginning and end of every shift. Blum said Nando's is allowing only 10 customers in the restaurant at once, requiring workers to frequently wash their hands, clean surfaces and comply with each hospital's safety guidelines, like wearing masks and staying outside when making deliveries.

"We're making sure that every-



District restaurant Nando's PERI-PERI has distributed 6,000 meals to hospital and restaurant workers.

ERIC LEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

thing in the restaurant is following the guidelines that have been set out but also, when those deliveries are being made, that we're doing the same thing," Blum said.

He said Nando's is filling extra shifts with staff members and "doing everything" possible to keep its workers employed even after the company's sales "have taken a large hit" since the outbreak began. Blum said the company may

have to "consolidate some operations" as the pandemic progresses.

"It's not about the chicken," Blum said. "It's about the people that make the chicken. And that is that our Nando's family comes before profits, before anything. So we're working as hard as we can."

GW Hospital spokeswoman Susan Griffiths said the hospital is grateful for the 700 meals Nando's delivered Friday on top of the

"outpouring" of donations from other organizations throughout the D.C. area.

"It reflects the commitment that the community has to help our care team as they remain steadfastly committed to helping our patients," Griffiths said in an email. "It encourages them throughout their shift and reminds them that their work is greatly valued."

Providers try to reduce risk to family, they say

From Page 1

Officials announced they would temporarily house medical professionals in residence halls late last month. The first group of medical workers moved into Munson Hall beginning last week, according to an email sent to the GW community Friday. Hospital officials have postponed elective surgeries, rescheduled all "non-essential" appointments and instituted testing sites at the hospital and the MFA.

Health care providers in GW's medical enterprise tested positive for the novel coronavirus last month. Officials said in an email to the GW community that individuals afflicted with the virus were self-isolating and "doing well."

"I do have some degree of concern that I'll get COVID and pass it along to my husband and my kids, but even if I do get it, I'm trying to minimize how much of the virus they are exposed to," Batra said.

Yasmin Al-Atrache, an MFA physician assistant and clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine, said she works 10 to 12 hour shifts at the GW Hospital and the United Medical Center several days a week and assists operations at the MFA COVID-19 testing site.

Officials at the GW Hospital, MFA and University partnered to build a drive-thru and walk-thru COVID-19 testing site on 20th and H Streets earlier this month. The site operates from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and patients need an order from a physician to receive the testing.

Al-Atrache said staff are required to wear only hospital-issued scrubs, N95 masks – which health

care workers wear to block splashes and large particle droplets – and gloves at all times when in the hospital, even if they are not directly caring for COVID-19 patients.

Al-Atrache said she leaves her shoes outside her door at home and self-isolates at all times to prevent spreading the disease to others, especially vulnerable populations like the elderly and chronically ill.

"Being able to self-quarantine and practice distancing and not going out unless it's for emergencies, that is very important, and it makes a very big difference in terms of infection rates, as well as keeping people in the community safe," she said.

Ahmad Aalam, a medical resident at GW Hospital, said he is currently working within the Telemedicine ED team, which offers virtual health services to patients, and the COVID-19 hotline response team at GW. Aalam said he triages patients at the screening tent, based on the severity of their symptoms and either diverts them to the GW Hospital emergency room or a physician via telemedicine.

GW is currently triaging patients showing symptoms of COVID-19 due to a shortage of available tests.

Aalam said he is glad to see fewer people visiting health care facilities in person but is concerned that some people in the D.C. area who have the virus may not be able to access the health care they need.

"Things are changing, and we are trying to help COVID and non-COVID patients by communicating via telehealth means," he said in an email.

Kitchen serves 250 meals daily

From Page 1

The District reported its first case of coronavirus on March 7 and has hit nearly 2,800 confirmed cases as of Sunday, according to D.C.'s coronavirus website. Mayor Muriel Bowser ordered the closure of all non-essential businesses and issued a stay-at-home order on March 31, leaving homeless shelters with packed quarters.

Powers said Miriam's Kitchen served about 200 people March 13, the first day the organization moved services outside, and volunteers are now serving between 250 and 270 meals each day. She said the kitchen is delivering an additional 100 meals to areas with high concentrations of people experiencing homelessness.

"There are some folks who didn't want to go to shelters or places before, and with the pandemic, they are even more concerned about going to shelters," Powers said. "We're trying to walk that last mile, literally, for some folks so people can still have access to food."

Kitchen volunteers have been dropping off 20 to 25 daily non-

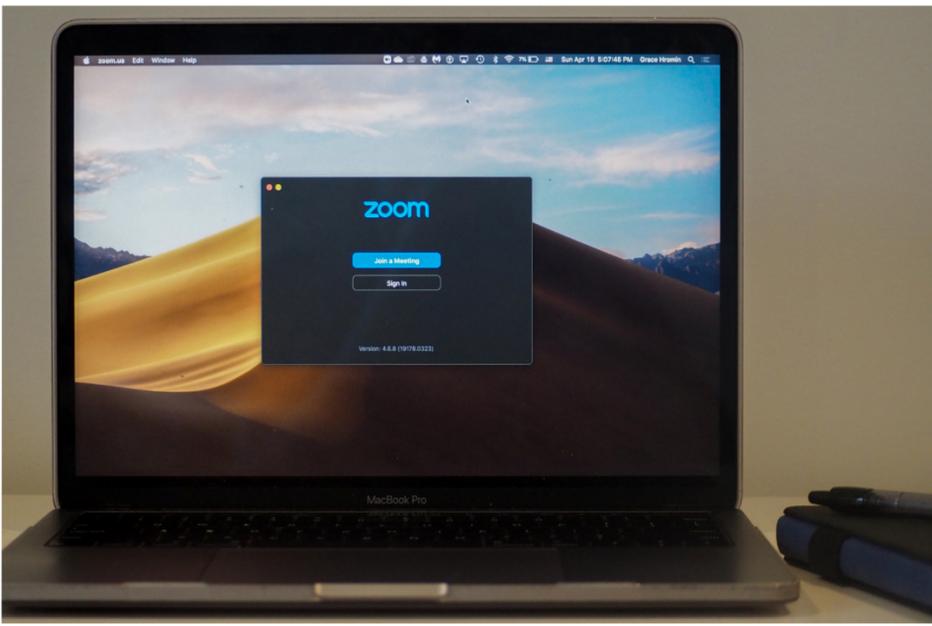
contact grocery deliveries to local residents since the pandemic's outbreak, Powers said. She said the deliveries are a new feature of the kitchen's housing program that help locals view housing options and run errands so they can permanently reside in their own housing units.

"It's not just about housing people," Powers said. "It's making sure that people can stay in housing. And that's what we want as a community."

She said organization leaders decided to halt most volunteer shifts to limit personal contact and protect elderly volunteers, who are especially at risk of contracting the virus. Powers said chefs are now working 14-hour shifts to make up for the decline in volunteers.

Powers said she doesn't know when the kitchen will return to normal operations, but leaders plan to keep working as long as safely possible.

"We have never once closed our doors," she said. "We've endured recessions, government shutdowns, snow-apocalypses, things like that. It is our intent to continue to be open for our guests when they need us most."



Local Nashman Center partner The Latino Student Fund transitioned its tutoring services online to continue to help families during a city-wide shutdown.

GRACE HROMIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tutoring group moves lessons online to serve Latino students during COVID-19

LIZZIE MINTZ
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

After education professional Clara Lincoln helped a mother set up a Zoom meeting, the woman's two boys have been tuning into weekly online tutoring sessions through Lincoln's tutoring program.

The Latino Student Fund – a Nashman Center partner that offers free tutoring for Hispanic students and families to address inequality in Hispanic education – has turned its services online to continue helping families impacted by COVID-19. Lincoln, the LSF tutoring program manager, said juggling household and helping her children complete homework has been "overwhelming" for the mother, demonstrating how COVID-19 has forced families to balance work and full-time childcare while schools are closed.

"She doesn't have time to sit and work on reading comprehension with them throughout the whole day," Lincoln said. "She says that they have tutoring time so that they can sit aside and work with tutors who will just work with them."

D.C. public schools shuttered March 16, and Mayor Muriel Bowser announced Friday that schools will remain closed for the rest of the academic year. Bowser extended D.C.'s public health emergency, which includes a stay-at-home order, to the same date, according to a release from the mayor's office.

LSF offers four main educational programs, like workshops on applying to privately owned or religiously affiliated parochial and independent schools, math and reading tutoring, a college preparatory program and mentoring, ac-

ording to the organization's website.

Lincoln said the organization switched to distance learning March 23 and has since logged more than 250 hours of video tutoring. She said more than 100 volunteers are currently working with about 75 students from more than 25 different schools.

Lincoln added that the transition to distance learning has required a "learning curve" for families needing to balance more childcare and teaching responsibilities from the house. But she said parents and tutors have told LSF staff that the program's two-hour lessons provide structured time for students and tutors during the day while people cannot leave their homes.

She said online programming has helped students complete their work when they cannot receive help at school and their families may have to work, not speak English or face other "barriers" between students and their schoolwork.

"It's amazing to see the ways that our community is coming together right now to support the folks that need the help this time," Lincoln said.

Blanca Agudelo, the organization's programs manager, said the Latino Student Fund has increased its amount of programming since the organization moved online to further meet their families' needs during the pandemic. She said students can now sign up for tutoring Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. after the organization originally held tutoring only on Saturday mornings.

"We're really excited that we were able to pull our resources and just work really hard to make that available to

our families," she said.

Agudelo said the organization now offers extended hours for its postsecondary success program, which includes programming like mentoring and college prep, Monday through Friday because their students now have different schedules. She said the program currently serves about 25 to 30 students per week, but program coordinators worked individually with 65 students last week, down from 120 weekly students the program served before the pandemic.

Agudelo said staff "constantly" calls and emails families to keep in touch, reach out and ensure they know the organization will continue supporting them throughout the pandemic.

"We have pages of resources that we're updating for our families: where to get meals, where to be able to get health care or whatever it is that they're needing – where if we can't provide it, we're trying to let them know who can in the community," she said.

Agudelo said LSF has begun to see an influx of nationwide applicants since the program's switch online, and program leaders are hoping they can find ways to attract more mentors and tutors for the organization.

LSF is looking to mail SAT prep books to their high schoolers so students can still prepare for exams, which have been postponed until the pandemic recedes, she said.

"Our seniors are now feeling a little alone because they're not at school," Agudelo said. "We've seen the need to be able to be there for the seniors and still help them wrap up anything that they're missing or keep applying to scholarships – whatever it is that they're going through."

New Venture Competition organizers move event online amid COVID-19

ZACH SCHONFELD
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Winners of GW's annual start-up competition said officials' decision to hold the competition virtually this year allowed them to propel their business ventures despite the impacts of COVID-19.

Officials held the final round of judging for the New Venture Competition online and broadcasted the awards ceremony live on Facebook in place of the in-person ceremony typically held in April. Scott Stein, the associate director of student entrepreneurship programs in the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, said officials made changes to the program to ensure it could continue despite the ongoing pandemic, which had a "huge impact" on the event.

"We heard from a lot of different students around the idea that some of these competitions have been closed or postponed, but we decided that we were not going to do that," he said at the awards ceremony. "Students said they really enjoyed working with us and wanted to see this through. We made lots of adjustments."

Administrators announced in February that this year's competition received 428 entries, an all-time high, and participants took home a combined total of \$500,000 in cash and prizes.

Judges selected one winner for each of three categories: tech ventures, which offer new proprietary technology and an intellectual

property component; social ventures, which offer solutions to "social or environmental problems"; and new ventures, which involve commercial services, products or businesses to "drive substantial market impact," according to the competition's website.

Anna Grim, a junior in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, said her team's winning tech venture, called Ichosia Biotechnology, developed a method to mass-produce Erythrosine, an enhanced red blood cell product aimed at replacing the need for donors to give blood.

She said her team's venture could help alleviate shortages at blood banks caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"We will eliminate the current donor blood shortages by producing an alternative to donor blood that is universally compatible and disease-free," Grim said in an email.

Grim said she was "amazed" when she learned her team won the competition and \$40,000 in cash prizes, which they plan to use to further develop their product. She said she found the online competition was "less stressful" because the competition's audience was smaller.

"It was incredible to see all of the hard work and effort be rewarded, and I am so grateful," she said.

Lucas Vining-Recklitis, a sophomore in CCAS who was a part of the Ichosia Biotechnology team, said he started research on the topic in late 2017 for his senior thesis in high school but has

been working on the product as a business venture for about a year with the rest of his teammates.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused many other competitions the team entered to be canceled, which strained their fundraising opportunities, but Vining-Recklitis said the New Venture Competition allowed the group to raise more than double their initial goal of \$50,000 for the project by the end of spring.

"From March 1 to March 15, I watched 80 percent of our funding opportunities leave me," he said. "So that was a really big strain and I thought, 'OK, well where's the money going to come from now?' Because you still need to do the research and development, or else we're a very static company, and we don't have anything going on. George Washington was pretty much the only competition that happened."

He said the team is determining the most cost-effective methods to continue research, which has been complicated by laboratory closures resulting from the virus.

RestEasy, a wearable monitor that detects nighttime asthma attacks in children and entrant in the competition, received the event's inaugural Audience Choice Award, said Shelly Mishra, a doctoral student in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and member of the RestEasy team.

"The aim of RestEasy is to decrease the stress that parents with asthmatic children face while also provid-



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

One of the New Venture Competition's winning teams created a device to track asthma attacks in children.

ing better monitoring for asthma attacks," she said in an email. "Additionally, we want to give parents the option to share this information with clinicians and schools to provide better communication regarding the status of their children's asthma."

Officials debuted the audience award at this year's competition to community members to vote for their favorite of the 12 finalists in the days leading up to the final awards ceremony.

"We hope that the ideas of GW's most talented students from all over the world inspire you as much as they have our team during this difficult time," officials wrote in an email to the University community

encouraging members to vote. "Now more than ever innovation, ingenuity and inspiration are needed to keep us hopeful."

Mishra said her team was "shocked" when they were told they had received more than 1,000 of the approximately 6,000 total votes.

"We had definitely put a lot of effort into spreading knowledge about RestEasy from telling family and friends to even emailing the medical school and sending a message to our entire class about the product," she said. "However, I did not imagine that people would have been as supportive as they were and helped us to win that award."

She added that the new

award, which included a \$10,000 cash prize, gave teams an incentive to share their creation with others outside of the GW community. Her team reached out to many of their family members and friends to promote RestEasy, Mishra said.

"I was able to hear their opinions and questions about RestEasy and get some new insights that I hadn't thought of before," Mishra said. "Overall, I think the Viewers Choice Award as an additional prize challenges teams to reach outside their normal network and be more entrepreneurial in raising publicity about their innovation."

—Alec Rich contributed reporting.

Top Vern academics official debuted new cultural programs in first year

ISHA TRIVEDI & YANKUN ZHAO
REPORTERS

The head of academics and special programs on the Mount Vernon Campus has implemented new cultural celebrations and established a student advisory committee during her first year in the role.

Elizabeth Chacko's inaugural year as associate provost for the Mount Vernon academic experience and special programs coincided with the debut of two new living and learning communities — groups of students focused on a common topic like sustainability who reside together on the Vern. Chacko said in the past year, she has worked with faculty and students to debut new programming for residents.

Before starting in the position, Chacko said she would focus on building community among students in LLCs and the honors program by holding events that would be "accessible to all."

Chacko said faculty and students have enjoyed their involvement in the LLCs and the smaller class sizes in the programs, which have allowed students to bond with one another. She said she is working with faculty on developing new field trips for students enrolled in LLC-affiliated classes that are more relevant to the courses' content.

"Overall, students were very positive about the program and appreciated the sense of community that was built in the living and

learning communities," she said in an email.

In light of the recent pandemic, Chacko said students are encouraged to keep in touch with each other and faculty, but professors are not requiring students to participate in any additional LLC-related activities outside of their classes.

She said faculty in the LLCs have adapted their courses for the instructional continuity period, and students in the program will participate in virtual Inside GW sessions this month over WebEx to speak with and answer questions from incoming students admitted to the LLCs.

Students in the two newest LLCs, those focused on sustainability and global connections, said they enjoyed the time they spent living in the LLCs but wished there were more ways for them to stay connected to faculty and community members after their one in the program.

Elizabeth Johnson, a freshman in the sustainability LLC majoring in history and political science, said the academic and community aspects of the program were "strong" given that the students in the community have remained in close contact through social media following the COVID-19 outbreak despite no longer living together.

"It was really nice to be in a community of people who share the same interests and academic goals," she said.

Johnson, who is also a member of one of the stu-

dent advisory committees Chacko set up to gather input from students about potential community-building events, said students on the committee served as spokespeople for LLC students and have relayed ideas for new events and guest speakers they would like to see.

She said Chacko was very "open" to suggestions, even from students who are not members of an LLC.

"Honestly, you could email her any time, and she would definitely set something up," she said.

Johnson said Chacko gave students in the LLCs opportunities to be involved in helping coordinate and plan the logistics for Vern events like movie screenings and allowed students to provide their input on the events they would like to attend.

"She definitely wants the students to help put this program together based on what we want," she said.

Karina Ochoa, a freshman in the sustainability LLC majoring in political science and philosophy, said she has benefited from being part of the community.

But Ochoa said she wished the faculty teaching the sustainability community's courses were able to stick with the LLC for longer than two years to plan improvements to the community, adding that the two-year tenure hindered its progress.

"Since we're going to be cycling through faculty every two years, for the program there's no specific direction for growth or a long-term plan," she said.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Christopher Deering, the interim dean of the College of Professional Studies, said the FinTech bootcamp will teach participants skills that are in demand in the job market.

College of Professional Studies to hold online finance bootcamp

RYAN LIPTROT
REPORTER

College of Professional Studies officials are partnering with a virtual education company to hold a bootcamp dedicated to preparing students to work in finance.

The school partnered with Trilogy Education, an organization that hosts similar technology bootcamps to teach "skills-based training programs" and provides career services support for universities. Officials said the bootcamp will help prepare students for careers in finance as the demand for careers in the field increased in recent years.

The financial technology industry — which incorporates technology like the internet, cloud services and mobile devices in the financial services sector — has become a multibillion-dollar industry in recent years, and a greater number of universities have introduced similar bootcamps for students.

Christopher Deering, the interim dean of CPS, said the bootcamp's mission is to provide a "preeminent education for non-traditional students," given that the program is geared toward those who are currently in the workforce full-time.

"Trilogy Education's mission is to provide skills-based training for working adults with particular emphasis on the digital economy," Deering said in an email. "So we think this is a natural partnership for

both."

The bootcamp's curriculum will cover topics like financial fundamentals, machine learning applications in finance, financial programming and cryptocurrency.

Trilogy Education has worked with several universities in other cities like Vanderbilt University and the University of Toronto to provide bootcamps in financial technology and other subjects like cybersecurity and coding.

Deering said the bootcamps offered by Trilogy are a "great add" to CPS's existing programs in technology and cybersecurity. Trilogy has worked with GW in the past to establish bootcamps in coding, data analytics, cyber security and user experience and user interface design.

Cyrus Homayounpour, the associate dean for marketing and enrollment management for CPS, said the program's goal is to prepare students for in-demand jobs in technology and data.

"Demand for financial technology jobs has been increasing significantly over the last 10 years with the number of jobs growing by a factor of three to about three million jobs," he said. "At the same time, there have been tremendous advances in big data, artificial intelligence, machine learning and blockchain which are increasingly being used in the financial sector."

Homayounpour said officials hired "highly quali-

fied instructors" who are also practicing professionals to teach the bootcamp, and they plan to constantly collect feedback from students about the course and subsequently adjust teaching and learning methods to adequately prepare students for jobs in the field.

He said a professor in the School of Business approved the curriculum, and other GW professors with expertise in the subject approved all bootcamp instructors before finalizing the project.

Homayounpour said administrators will measure participants' success based on program completion, personal evaluations by students at the end of the course and the number of students who eventually become employed in their desired fields who use the career services available to them during the bootcamp.

The program will enhance participants' career and employment opportunities by providing trained financial coaches and recruiters to give feedback on their resumes and help students navigate their job search, according to the program's website.

The bootcamp is a part-time program that will run for 24 weeks with classes offered online, the program's website states. In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, Homayounpour said the pandemic has had little effect on the bootcamp's plans other than a shift from in-person classes at the University's Arlington campus to online.



FILE PHOTO BY DONNA ARMSTRONG | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Elizabeth Chacko said she has spent her first year as the Mount Vernon Campus's associate provost gathering feedback from students and introducing cultural celebrations.

Skill-building, experiential learning courses added to MBA curriculum

CARLY NEILSON
STAFF WRITER

School of Business officials are overhauling Master's of Business Administration programs with new courses and enhanced career services support this fall.

Business school officials announced the changes earlier this month to expand student engagement efforts, program curriculum, career services and experiential learning within their five different MBA programs. Officials said the changes were implemented to keep the program current as the business world continues to change.

Liesl Riddle, the associate dean for graduate programs in the business school, said the program will be updated to decrease the amount of time needed to complete the degree to three semesters and to make it easier for students to tailor the program to their own interests with a wider selection of course offerings.

"The desire for more hands-on experience with employers, more opportunities to grow students' professional social network and an emphasis on adding more analytic and technical skills into the curriculum was a common theme expressed by all stakeholders," she said in an email.

The business school offers five MBA formats: global, professional, online, accelerated and online health care. Several MBA programs have recently

risen in the most recent U.S. News and World Report rankings, in which the business school's international program offerings ranked No. 8 among international programs.

Riddle said officials are "utilizing new creative intensive formats" by offering courses on weekends and during holidays like fall, winter and spring break. Officials also reduced the total number of credit hours necessary to graduate so students can more quickly finish the program, she said.

"We created curricular pathways for full-time MBA students to complete their degrees in as few as three semesters if they would like to do so," she said. "Students in our part-time programs, accelerated MBA, healthcare MBA, online MBA and professional MBA can complete the degree in as few as two years."

Riddle said officials collected input from the dean's corporate council, the school's board of advisers, students, faculty and staff before making the changes.

As part of the move to create more experiential-learning classes, a new course called "Business and Technology in D.C." will give students the opportunity to work with local employers and help solve any issues they may have with technology, she said.

In addition to new experiential learning courses, Riddle said the program will add new one-credit

skill-building courses covering topics like artificial intelligence and health care that will help students tailor their classes to their specific interests.

Mark Strassman, the executive director of the F. David Fowler Career Center, said officials are making complementary changes to the center's operations that make it better suited to serve the various MBA programs in the business school.

"Whether on campus or online, full-time or part-time, we recognize that all our MBA students are a part of GWSB and deserve access to our excellent career guidance," he said in an email.

Strassman said officials hired new career consulting staff members and have adjusted the center's hours to serve the "growing" and "diverse" MBA student population. The center's hours have been extended in the morning and evening, according to the business school website.

He said the center has also opened up the Consulting Community of Practice program to all graduate students as part of the changes. The program provides students with mentorships, skills training and the opportunity to work pro bono on consulting projects, according to the program's website.

"The Fowler Career Center feels that with the diversity of the student population that each program brings to the table,



FILE PHOTO BY ARIELLE BADER | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR
Business school officials said they added more skill and experiential learning to the five MBA programs to stay competitive.

our programs will better represent today's workplace," he said. "In that light, we continue to explore programs that will collaboratively involve all MBA program cohorts."

Susan Kulp, a professor of accountancy and the faculty director of MBA programs, said the most recent changes come from the need to adapt the curriculum to a "continually changing business environment."

Kulp said the new curriculum will allow students to apply their classroom knowledge to real-world situations firsthand.

"Experiential learning provides students the opportunity to apply these

academic theories, from different disciplines to real business problems," Kulp said in an email.

She said students have an opportunity cost to the amount of time they spend receiving a degree. Decreasing the amount of time it takes to graduate and allowing students to "customize their degree" will help them better fulfill their personal and professional goals at a faster pace, she said.

David Halliday, a teaching assistant professor of strategic management and public policy, said the changes to the MBA programs in which he teaches – global, part-time and online MBAs – are "ap-

propriate" because MBA programs are constantly changing.

"It's not a radical overhaul," Halliday said. "It's the right changes that GW should be making here."

Halliday said one new addition to the curriculum, a course on "business improv," will allow students to practice business skills like pitching, interviewing, presenting and thinking under pressure that are directly applicable in the workforce.

"There is no doubt that this will improve our standings relative to our peer schools," he said. "GW has honestly the most adaptable overall MBA program that I've ever seen."

IN BRIEF

GW to hold virtual commencement ceremony May 17

GW will host a virtual Commencement celebration on the University Facebook page, according to an email sent to the GW community Thursday.

University President Thomas LeBlanc said in the email that the virtual ceremony will take place on Sunday, May 17 at 11 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. Officials still plan to host an in-person Commencement with the Class of 2020 on the National Mall in 2021, the email states.

"Despite these challenging times, I am pleased we will be able to confer your degree and welcome you into our worldwide network of alumni who share your passion for changing the world and making a difference in people's lives," LeBlanc said in the email.

Officials canceled Commencement in March amid concerns over COVID-19 and rescheduled the ceremony for May 2021 on the National Mall.

The announcement to postpone Commencement came after more than 6,500 people signed a petition calling on officials to reschedule the ceremony.

—Shannon Mallard

Researchers study virus's risks to low-income countries

From Page 1

"People deliver care, and in the context of the current pandemic, we are seeing a dangerous dichotomy between our public discourse and the practices in many hospitals," Pittman said. "We call the health workers heroes, and yet health workers often lack access to personal protective equipment and are risking their own and their families' infection."

Carlos Santos-Burgoa, a professor of global health, and William Dietz, the director of the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness, reviewed research on the 2009 H1N1 pandemic and reports of COVID-19 in Italy and China for a letter to the research journal *Obesity* earlier this month.

Dietz found that obesity could be associated with many chronic illnesses and predisposes patients with respiratory viruses to "severe" illness and higher chances of death.

He said COVID-19 patients who have obesity could experience similar health complications to those who contracted H1N1, and the higher prevalence of adult obesity in Italy relative to China could explain the discrepancy in COVID-19 mortality rates between the two countries.

"For any new disease or illness, medical and public health professionals examine a wide variety of potential associations between ex-

isting health conditions in patients and their response to the new disease to determine the appropriate treatment," Dietz said in an email.

Dietz said research shows that H1N1 patients with obesity experienced potentially fatal difficulties with ventilation, decreases in respiratory function and increases in inflammation. Health care providers should take obesity into consideration when treating coronavirus patients, he said.

"While the effects of COVID-19 on patients with obesity are still being explored, lessons learned from the H1N1 pandemic should be taken seriously by those caring for patients with obesity and particularly patients with severe obesity," Dietz said.

Ronald Waldman, a professor of global health, co-authored a study late last month outlining the effects of the pandemic on low-income residents and individuals displaced by humanitarian crises and natural disasters.

Waldman said many low-income countries lack the financial and health care resources to enact proposed World Health Organization recommendations – like isolating people with the virus, instituting testing and tracing contacts. He said most low-income countries lack sufficient testing capabilities and adequately trained public health and medical officials to enforce quarantines.

Low-income countries have a per

capita gross national income of less than \$1,026, according to the World Bank.

Waldman added that instituting a mandatory lockdown could deprive populations living in low-income countries and displaced persons camps access to food and other necessities.

The study concluded that extensive social distancing efforts can only realistically last for weeks at a time in low-income countries without bearing devastating economic effects. The authors instead suggested that officials target disease shielding efforts – like self-isolation – to vulnerable populations.

"We felt an alternate strategy needed to be proposed, even though we agree that WHO was recommending the best strategy," Waldman said in an email. "But it was what should be done, not necessarily what could be done."

Waldman said he and his co-authors decided to highlight potential recommendations for curbing the effects of the pandemic in low-income settings because poorer countries will "likely" experience the highest mortality rates from the disease.

"When you look at the health disparities that have become so evident in the U.S., these are multiplied many folds in low-income countries where a much higher proportion of the population will suffer because they lack the means to protect themselves and/or their families and to seek health care," Waldman said.

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SA leaders must explain how they would split the organization

STAFF EDITORIAL

In the Student Association election a couple of weeks ago, students voted for more than just the next student body's leadership. Nearly 70 percent voted in favor of a referendum that urges the SA to be split into a graduate and an undergraduate body. The editorial board may have initially rejected the proposal, but the issue is worth investigating with a majority of student support.

Right now, the referendum leaves us with more questions than answers. The student body might want the organization to split, but what would that actually entail? What would that mean for the hundreds of student organizations – both undergraduate and graduate students – that need funds each year? These logistics were left unanswered in the referendum. It was part of the reason we disliked the idea – we couldn't back a proposal that lacked a plan.

If the SA wants to go any further with the referendum, they need a game plan. SA leaders must spend more time detailing how the split could happen and how it would impact student organization funding.

The SA uses referendums to gauge student sentiment and ultimately show the University what students like and dislike. Votes on topics like divestment from fossil fuels and voting power on the Board of Trustees are examples of referendums the student body favored to make real institutional change. Even though this referendum was not supported by former



Cartoon by Hannah Thacker

SA Executive Vice President Thomas Falcigno and the editorial board, the SA must still take the vote of the students into account. The editorial board initially did not endorse this referendum because it was vague and did not give enough information about how student organization funding would be affected. The SA needs to outline the pros and cons of the move before it goes any further. This split could actually

benefit graduate students. The SA's top leadership is currently held by undergraduates, and the SA has been criticized for a long time for lacking graduate student representation. Halving the organization could ultimately ensure graduate students are adequately represented and can bring their concerns to light.

On the financial side, a separate graduate SA could deal with funding for graduate stu-

dent organizations only. The SA currently distributes funds to "umbrella" organizations like the Student Bar Association and the Elliott School of International Affairs' graduate student board, which then dish out money to smaller graduate student groups. In theory, a graduate SA could allocate funds without leaning on an umbrella organization, but student leaders should still map out those logistics.

Those who support a separate graduate student SA say meeting hours are not conducive to graduate students who live different lives than undergraduates. Many graduate students commute, have jobs and are unable to convene at the hours a majority-undergraduate SA have set. Graduate students may be deterred from trekking to campus to listen to or partake in a meeting and choose to not participate for that reason.

Many issues impacting graduate students do not make it on the senate's agenda. Graduate students have more responsibilities than the majority of undergraduate students – they need to pay rent, work for the University as a teaching assistant, do not have the ability to unionize and may have a family of their own to take care of. On the other hand, most undergraduates live on campus and face problems ranging from food insecurity to inadequate academic advising. Graduate students might deal with those issues too, but the solutions to them are addressed differently. They should not be forced to spend their time working with an organization that primarily advocates on behalf of undergraduates.

Splitting the SA is worth scoping out if the majority of students want it. But before there is follow-through, the SA needs to tell us how the change would impact the organization's finances and how they would begin to cut the body in two.

Law professor's ignorance reflects poorly on University

With the rapid spread of the coronavirus, many people across the United States have taken a page out of the tired college students' handbook: ordering from Uber Eats. Since mid-March, orders in the United States and Canada have risen by 30 percent, with frequent orders for french fries and pad thai.

Matthew Zachary
Columnist

Fox News published the most common Uber Eats orders for the month of March in 35 states, and it is hard to find anything noteworthy other than the popularity of the above foods. But GW Law professor Jonathan Turley found something interesting, tweeting, "The most popular uber eats orders in Oklahoma is spicy tuna roll and in both Missouri and Wisconsin crag [sic] ragoon? California is chicken tikka masala? I don't even know what that is beyond the chicken. If true, we have an outbreak of the panpompous."

A few things stand out about his tweet. For one, it illustrates the man's ignorance of American culture. Not knowing about common dishes like chicken tikka masala is a reflection on the tweet's author, not the Californians who order the popular Indian food. If he truly does not know what chicken tikka masala is, I invite Turley to Flavors of India once we return to campus.

"Panpompous" is also not a word. It does not exist in the Merriam-Webster or the Oxford English dictionaries. The law professor tried to show off his wide vocabulary by using a made-up word to describe people who order these common foods. It demonstrates his ignorance and narcissism beyond Twitter.

This recent tweet is a minor transgression by Turley's high standards. He argued in favor of the appointment of Attorney General William Barr and has since defended Barr through accusations of corruption. While defending the attorney general, Turley noted that he felt Barr was unfairly being judged by the media, even as Barr continues

to make legally and ethically dubious decisions in defense of President Donald Trump.

It's not the first time Turley has made arguments in defense of the president. Turley's testimony in defense of Trump at the president's impeachment trial earlier this year seemingly contradicted testimony he gave decades ago during President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial about what is and isn't an impeachable offense. Turley's words and actions continually aim to aid the Trump administration's public image and convince Americans that the president's leadership is sound.

For the most part, I do not care what professors do or say in their spare time. But when one from my school goes on national television to support heinous men and their policies, I feel embarrassed. It is upsetting that the University continues to employ Turley.

Earlier this year, the law school named Dayna Bowen Matthew its next dean. Matthew said she wants to use her position to create a pre-eminent space for civil discourse and constructive collaboration. Turley's ignorant words and antagonistic actions work counter to her aims. Matthew should reprimand Turley by firing – or at least censuring – him to demonstrate that his speech does not meet the values of the University.

Matthew should not allow Turley's words and actions to represent the values of GW. Using his credentials as a professor at our University makes his comments and actions representative of GW, even if they are not reflective of the University's values. The law school has a fresh start with the introduction of Matthew, and this is its chance to reevaluate its professors and what type of institution it wants to be.

Turley's ignorance paired with his job at GW makes the University look like an institution that hires bigoted professors and condones their rhetoric. Turley's use of his University credentials makes me feel as if I am an accomplice to his actions. And to cure himself of at least one type of pompousness, he should really try some Chicken Tikka Masala.

—Matthew Zachary, a junior majoring in Latin American and hemispheric studies, is a columnist.

Essential workers deserve more support from GW community

When I was younger, I saw essential workers as incapable and uneducated. I thought working at a grocery store or cleaning shops and schools did not contribute something "substantial" to society. I could not have been more wrong.

Jina Park
Columnist

I came to realize how naive I was while I ran a club called "Unsung Heroes," a student organization that highlighted campus workers through interviews. Getting to know their stories and realizing the sacrifices they made for their careers and families reminds me of essential workers who are forced to continue doing their thankless jobs during the pandemic.

We need to recognize and support the essential workers that are risking their lives to provide services that we use every day. This support must come from both the University and students.

Many donations like food and masks are provided to doctors, nurses and medical staff. This service should also be provided to essential workers who are risking their lives, and we can play a role in that effort. The University must also take this time to step up and give financial support to their workers who need to stay on campus to do their jobs.

The frontline workers of the pandemic are the doctors, nurses and medical professionals who are risking their lives working without adequate personal protective equipment. While they are not working under the same conditions as medical staff, we also need to appreciate frontline workers like

grocery store workers, janitors and delivery employees that do not have the luxury to stay in quarantine during the crisis.

There are several ways to support workers, one being National Hazard Pay, which is additional pay given to those working in conditions that could result in a high probability of injury or death. If you do not have money to spare, smaller acts of service like thanking workers can show appreciation and encouragement. First responders cheered on and applauded medical workers at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. In New York, "quarantine clapping" starts at 7 p.m. and recognizes medical workers for their service. We also need to give a round of applause to the essential workers on the frontline, too, because this pandemic has shown that those people are needed for America to function.

While students and peers can show their support for all essential workers, the University is in a unique position to give tangible support and aid to their essential workers. More support should be given to essential workers at GW, whether it is financial incentives like overtime pay, sick paid time off or childcare. GW contracts some workers through Aramark, meaning it may not be able to directly provide support, but the University still employs workers that they can directly support.

GW is opening up Munson Hall to medical professionals, and I wonder whether GW is taking care of other essential workers as well. The University could invest more money in Pandemic Time (PND), a paid leave option that provides paid time off for sick leave. There are also financial resources for students like the GW Cares Student

Assistance Fund, which assists undergraduate and graduate students facing financial hardship, and a GW mutual aid spreadsheet for students. These resources should also be extended to GW's essential workers that are still working on campus.

When I lived in District House from junior to senior year, I began to greet and thank the janitor I always saw. While other students and I were studying in the basement, he made sure that the lights remained on even when it was 1 a.m. It was small acts of service that made me feel supported as a student. When I worked at Gelman Library, I was uplifted by my supervisor and had encouraging conversations with the janitor as well. At 2 a.m. while I complained about how much homework I had to finish, the janitor encouraged me and cheered me on. Even after talking to multiple campus workers, I was struck that their favorite part of their job is seeing students.

Although they might work long hours with lower pay and less benefits, campus workers at all institutions and essential workers across the country deserve to be recognized and taken care of as well as doctors, nurses and medical staff. Without our grocery workers, janitors, delivery workers and other essential staff, life cannot run as normal. The least GW can do for its essential workers is to provide more financial relief, and the least we can do is thank them and donate to services that can help.

The workers we now consider essential have often been overlooked and cast aside. It is time for us to show them how essential they really are through appreciation, financial assistance and donations to help offset their hardship.

—Jina Park, a senior majoring in English, is a columnist.

Culture

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THE SCENE

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April 23 • \$5
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The head bartender from the award-winning Dead Rabbit bar in New York City will demonstrate how to make cocktails.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

"FETCH THE BOLT CUTTERS," AN ALBUM BY FIONA APPLE

Students reminisce on past 4/20s while in quarantine

ANNA BOONE & DIEGO MENDOZA
STAFF WRITERS

If we weren't in quarantine, we'd likely spend Monday gathering in discreet places around campus to celebrate 4/20.

This year is different, for obvious reasons. Although you can't be with your friends to recognize the unofficial holiday and your stash might be running low, we want to honor the spirit of 4/20. Five students, who spoke under the condition of anonymity because they were below the legal age in D.C. to possess and smoke marijuana, shared stories from their past 4/20 experiences.

Enjoy laughing, cringing or envying your peers' THC-induced stories.

GWPD raid

Being honest with law enforcement is sometimes your best bet to avoid trouble, as one junior discovered after a GW Police Department officer interrupted last year's 4/20 celebration.

The junior said he and two friends decided to smoke in the main area of his Guthridge Hall room, where he lived sophomore year. But 10 minutes into the festivity, the student said they heard a knock on the door from GWPD.

He immediately fessed up to the officer about the weed but explained to the officer that he has a medicinal marijuana prescription to treat a neurological condition. The student showed GWPD his medical card, at which point the officer asked him to flush away his remaining herb down the toilet.

"It was just a little bit, but it was still worth a lot of money," he said.

After the officer left the room for a few minutes, he said the officer returned with a brown bag. The officer placed the student's bong in the bag, brought him and his friend to the residence hall basement and stomped on it, smashing the \$70 glass paraphernalia.

"I was terrified, I thought he was taking me to more GWPD officers where I was going to get yelled at and fined," the student said. "When it was finally just shards, he handed me the bag and just said, 'Don't smoke in your room again.' And that was it. He walked off."

Knowing he got off lucky, the student said he returned to only discreetly smoking from his room's bathroom. He said he thought the officer was "really understanding" and was glad he wasn't



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ARI GOLUB | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
If you can't celebrate 4/20 this year, take a look at some of the GW community's favorite memories of the day.

fined. "I was a sophomore when this happened, not some edgy Thurston freshman, so I feel [the officer] wasn't as concerned," he said.

Prom pandemonium

For one junior whose high school senior prom happened to land on 4/20, a night of blazed teenagers led the banquet hall to ban the school from using its property again.

To alleviate stress as finals and Advanced Placement exams approached, the student said the leaders of the school's student

organizations created a pact to all eat a "very strong" rice crispy treat just before their prom. They bought the edibles from a friend, he said.

"Everyone from the quarterback of the football team to the president of the foosball club, we all popped a rice crispy treat," he said.

As president of his school's model United Nations team, he said he was "obliged" to try an edible for the first time. Although the night was overall a big blur to him, the student said there were certain moments he

remembered, like when his friend challenged their 70-year-old teacher to a dance battle.

But the student said things took a turn for the worse when his other inexperienced friend "decided it would be funny" to smash open the men's bathroom window.

"He then proceeded to climb down the façade of the building and do 'the dougie' dance in the middle of the parking lot, where he almost got hit by a car much to the amusement of us spectators in the bathroom," he said. Although the school

never punished the high schoolers, the junior said his class' student body president told him the banquet hall had sent them notice to not book with them for future events.

"It was my first and last edible," he said.

Cannabis dinner party

A now-senior recalled a 4/20 experience at the end of his sophomore year, when he gave his friends a three-course cannabis-infused meal.

The student said he and a friend sent out a message inviting their fraternity and a couple other friends to enjoy a 4/20 dinner.

After buying two ounces of weed, they went to an off-campus Dupont Circle fraternity house and made their own "cannabutter." The pair cooked a mac & cheese grilled cheese appetizer, chicken and waffle entree and caramel, walnut-covered brownie dessert in the house to 20 of their friends, free of charge.

"We got to cook a three-course meal that was entirely edible sponsored by weed that was bought at GW, of course," he said. "There were just a lot of 4/20 miracles that happened that made that meal go perfectly."

Students turn to online gaming to stay occupied, connected

CLARA DUHON & SIDNEY LEE
REPORTERS

Every day during the pandemic, three students have met up on a version of campus they constructed on Minecraft.

Freshman Ian Ching and sophomores Justin Diamond and Sebastian Loreda said they use the gaming system to feel closer to each other and campus, creating everything from GW Deli to residence halls. The trio got the help of 70 other students after posting the project on Overheard at GW, and the group uses the app Discord to communicate about construction, which they said will wrap up in about three months.

"We were just sad that we weren't on campus anymore," Ching said.

Minecraft is one of several games students have picked up to pass the time or feel closer to friends while in quarantine. If you're looking for something more to do, here's a few throwback games that students have been playing since they left campus.

Animal Crossing

Sophomore Chris Pino said he picked up Animal Crossing New Horizons, the newest version of Animal Crossing that was released March 20. Pino said playing New Horizons takes him back to when he played the game with his friends growing up.

"It's nostalgic and blissful to be able to relive the kind of experiences that I

had as a kid, playing with my best friends in our town and going fishing on the Animal Crossing beach," Pino said.

In Animal Crossing, time is synced with the player's time zone and players control their character's life on the island, building, developing and trading with other characters in the game.

Pino said he normally logs three to five hours a day on the game, but it's not just the "hardcore" fans like him that are getting invested in the game. He's noticed his friends tally more than 125 hours on the game since they began playing.

"I know that this is something that is transcending the core fan base," Pino said. "I know that it's something that, I'm sure, is helping a lot of people cope with these difficult times."

Webkinz

Sophomore Lexi Ordakowski has reconnected with Webkinz World, a virtual world in which users can register adoption codes from their Webkinz stuffed animals to create an online version of the animal.

Ordakowski said she has more than 20 Webkinz from when she was a child, and she started reconnecting with the childhood game after noticing it gain traction on Twitter.

Webkinz World offers several online games for users to play with their pets.

"They're the same games that were on there when I was little, so it's not like anything's dramatically

changed, but I'm significantly better at them as an adult," she said.

Super Smash Bros.

At GW, sophomore Gabriel Bras said he would play Smash alone. But when he returned home after the University moved classes online, he started playing with his brother like they did as children on their Wii.

"That's been a cool update to a routine that I think has helped me out, helped me stay sane I think a little bit in the quarantine," Bras said.

Ultimate, the newest edition to the Super Smash Bros. video game series, is a crossover fighting game in which each player attacks and weakens their opponents until one player is left standing. He said playing the game is like an "updated version of a childhood habit."

"When I got older, it's like I found a new game within the game," Bras said. "I was prioritizing different things, and I was having fun with different aspects of the game."

Bras added that he feels more "comforted" that Smash has taken up a bigger portion of his schedule because it's something he would still play even if he weren't in quarantine.

"Regardless of the nostalgia or whatever gratification I may get out of it, it's just a fun experience," Bras said. "And at the end of the day, I think that's something that a lot of people gravitate toward during the quarantine."

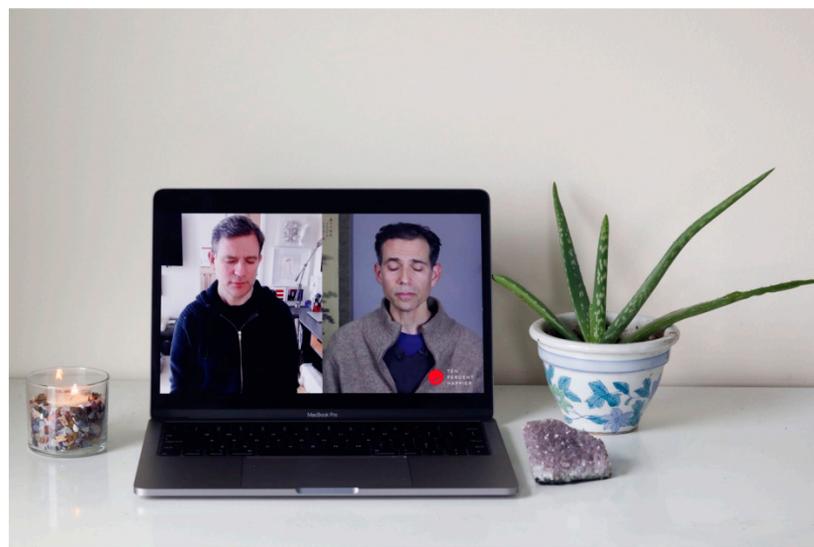


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CAMILLE DESANTO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Take care of your mental well-being during quarantine by practicing mindfulness.

How to combat the quarantine blues

MOLLY KAISER
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

Practice mindfulness

Mindfulness, or practicing awareness and being present, can curb feelings of stress and improve focus. It's not only achieved through meditation. Activities like yoga, journaling, tai chi, coloring or focused breathing can help you reach this state of awareness.

The meditation app Ten Percent Happier is offering free, live-guided meditations by professional meditation coaches every weekday at 3 p.m. EST on its website. The meditations last about 20 minutes and can be easily slipped in during a lunch break.

One of my favorite meditation techniques is called tapping. Like it sounds, you simply tap different pressure points on your body to center your focus and relax if you're feeling panicked or stressed. Some of the points include the top of your head, the eyebrows, the side of your eye, the chin and your collar bone. Breathe deeply while gently tapping these points to find inner peace.

Boost endorphins

It's cliché, but exercising a few times a week can help you stay upbeat while you're confined to your home. You don't need to be a bodybuilder, but making time in your schedule for a walk, jog, online fitness class or some self-guided yoga will get some happy juices flowing.

If you're not into the outdoors, there are a few at-home indoor workouts.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CAMILLE DESANTO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Animal Crossing is one gaming world that students are flocking to during a time of social distancing.



WOMEN'S ROWING
at A-10 Championships
Sunday, April 20th, 2008
GW placed sixth for the second season at the conference.



SAILING
at MAISA Women's Championship
Sunday, April 24th, 2016
Sailing earned its second championship in its fourth year as a varsity program.

GW outpaced A-10 peers in funding distribution last season

BELLE LONG
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

With the fourth largest 2018-19 budget in the Atlantic 10, GW more evenly distributed its funds between men's and women's programs compared to its 14 conference peers.

Across the A-10, men's squads' head coaches earned about \$216,000 per year, while female program head coaches earned \$93,000 annually, according to the Equity in Athletics Data Analysis, a U.S. Department of Education database. But at GW, male program head coaches made on average about \$8,000 more per year than female team head coaches – the lowest pay gap in the A-10, the data shows.

Ellen Staurowsky, a professor of sports management at Drexel, said GW's coaching salaries were a good sign of equal funding distributions between men's and women's programs. But she added that the data only factors salaries and does not include financial incentives, like bonuses.

"Whatever we see in the salary base, with the EADA, that tells us something, but it doesn't tell us about all the bonus structures," Staurowsky said.

Here's a breakdown of 2018-19 coaching salaries, recruiting expenses, student-athlete aid and overall athletic budgets at GW and across the A-10.

Funding distribution at GW

GW's recruiting budget between men's and women's teams was more equitable than its A-10 peers, spending an average of \$179,000 for men's teams and about \$172,000 for women's teams. These expenses include transportation, lodging and meals for prospective recruits, according to the NCAA.

GW's most profitable and highest-funded team was men's basketball, which generated about \$3.5 million on a total game-day operating budget of about \$442,000. Women's basketball followed behind with about \$2.5 million in revenue on about a \$290,000 game-day

operating budget. Of the 538 student-athletes rostered throughout GW's 27 teams, 53 percent were female. Women's teams received a total operating budget of \$12.2 million compared to men's teams' \$10.8 million. Female student-athletes were allocated \$7.3 million in aid, while male student-athletes received \$4.8 million.

Kwame Agyemang, an associate professor of sport, business and management at Ohio State, said GW's status as a private school and pricey location could hike its student aid percentage.

"I'm sure that plays a large part in terms of why there's such a huge discrepancy in what you disseminate in terms of scholarships compared to other institutions, which are public schools and cheaper," Agyemang said.

When she was named to her current position in 2018, Athletic Director Tanya Vogel said she intended to spread financial resources to all teams. Staurowsky said a school's commitment to gender equity can be seen in funding distribution.

"A lot of schools have rhetoric around that," Staurowsky said. "But there are some schools, you can really see that playing out. And there are a few schools, where in their financial-like allocations, you can see where that gender equity principle is very strong."

Salary equity in the A-10

The average pay gap between men and women's teams' head coaching salaries across the A-10 was \$123,000, but GW's average gap stood at \$8,000.

Saint Louis and Dayton held the largest disparity in pay between male and female coaches. At Saint Louis, the average male head coach made \$472,000, while the average female head coach was paid \$91,000. Dayton held a \$190,000 difference between male and female coaching salaries.

David Ridpath, an associate professor of sports management at Ohio University, said salaries can become artificially inflated because they are set by

each respective athletic department. Ridpath added that coaching salaries have "essentially skyrocketed" since the NCAA does not cap the salary.

"At the end of the day, those earnings are capped and restricted for the players, so thus there's not the standard economic effects of supply and demand, budgeting, those kinds of things," Ridpath said.

Massachusetts took the cake for the highest paying average women's team head coach salary with just more than \$127,000 per year. VCU, Fordham, Richmond and Dayton rounded out the top-five, each allotting more than \$100,000 per year to the helms of its women's teams.

La Salle had the lowest paid men's and women's team head coaches, paying an average of about \$83,000 on the men's side and \$47,400 on the women's side.

Recruiting, revenue and aid in the A-10

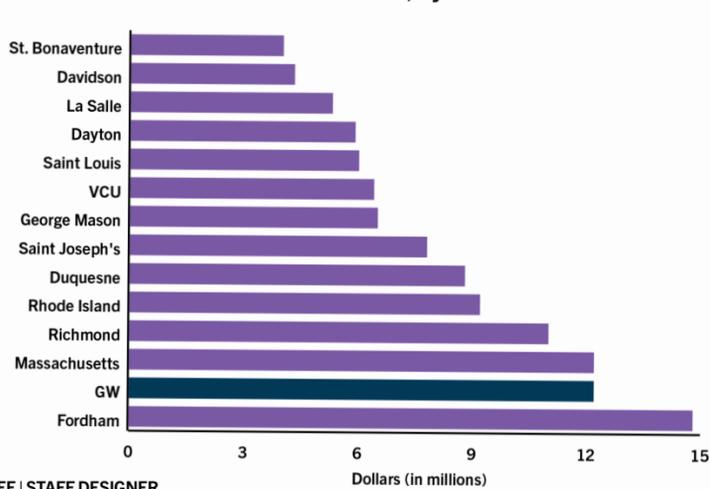
Schools across the A-10 vary in its makeup and funding distribution. Operating budgets swelled to \$40 million at Massachusetts and deflated to \$14 million at St. Bonaventure. GW held the fourth largest budget for the 2018-19 season at \$31 million.

Despite the variations, most A-10 schools didn't turn a profit from its athletic programs. Davidson, Dayton, La Salle, Richmond, VCU and Rhode Island did generate profits ranging from about \$275,000 to \$3.4 million. GW and the remaining seven other universities broke even last year.

Massachusetts had the largest recruiting budget on the men's and women's side, allotting nearly \$780,000 and \$282,000, respectively. Saint Joseph's claimed the lowest recruiting expenses at about \$130,000 on the men's side and St. Bonaventure dished out the lowest recruiting expenses on the women's side at \$79,000.

On average, the A-10 spent \$314,000 on men's teams' recruiting expenses and \$178,000 on women's teams. GW was on par with women's recruiting

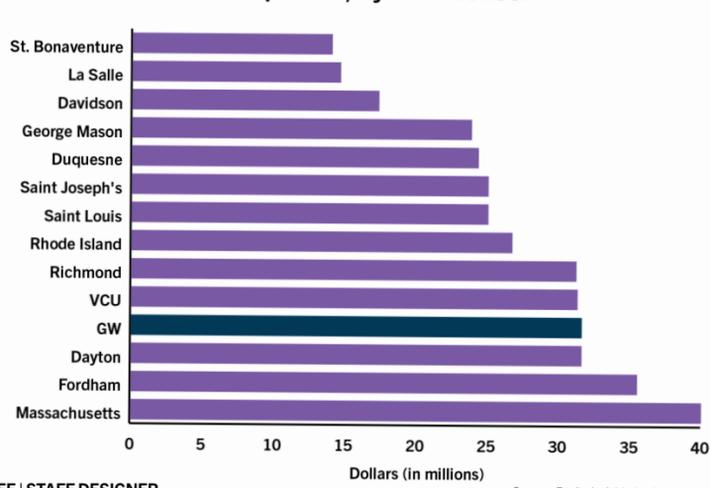
Total athletics-related student aid, by A-10 school



SIDNEY LEE | STAFF DESIGNER

Source: Equity in Athletics Data Analysis

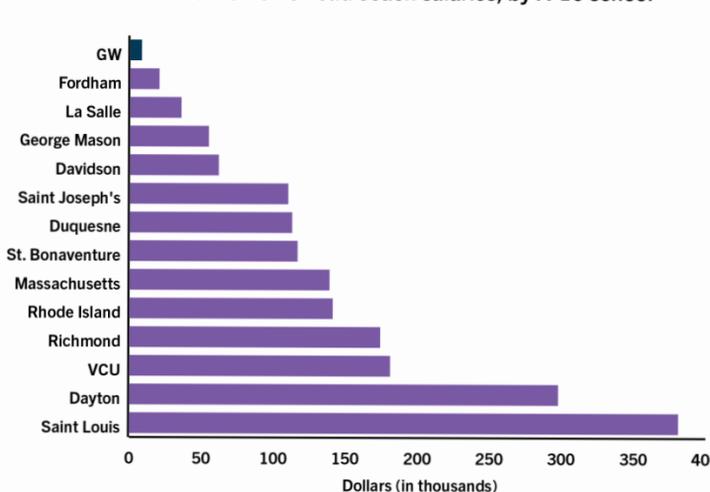
Total athletic expenses, by A-10 school



SIDNEY LEE | STAFF DESIGNER

Source: Equity in Athletics Data Analysis

Difference in men's and women's head coach salaries, by A-10 school



SIDNEY LEE | STAFF DESIGNER

Source: Equity in Athletics Data Analysis

expenses but trailed by about \$135,000 in men's recruiting expenses. Still, the athletic department was the most equitable university in recruiting funding overall.

Andrew Zimbalist, a professor of economics at Smith College, said that while Title IX requirements are vague around pay equity, they are well-defined in areas like recruiting expenses,

division of facilities and scholarships.

GW's student-athlete financial aid packages, which totaled more than \$12 million, represented 38 percent of its entire athletics operating expenses, the second highest in the conference behind Fordham, which shelled out about \$14.7 million in aid.

GW joined six other A-10 schools that allotted

more athletically-related student aid to women's teams. Davidson spread its student-athlete aid the most evenly among men's and women's teams with about a \$242,000 disparity.

"Very few universities are in compliance strictly with the various regulations," Zimbalist said. "It sounds like GW has made an effort to comply, and that's wonderful."

IN BRIEF

Volleyball nabs transfer setter to round out 2020 roster

A South Florida sophomore setter transferred into the volleyball program, head coach Sarah Bernson announced Wednesday.

Lauren LaBeck led South Florida's roster with 767 assists during her sophomore campaign. Bernson said LaBeck, who has two remaining years of eligibility, will help bolster the team's offense and can help build the team's existing setting corps, which consists of sophomore Heather Merryman.

"As a setter, she has a strong presence, thrives on communication and is inclusive to all her attackers," Bernson said in the release. "We look forward to her joining our setter corps with Heather Merryman and being a source of offense for our exciting attackers."

She was second in assists her freshman year, transitioning to South Florida's primary setter in the final stretch of the season. During her two years as a Bull, LaBeck tallied 175 career sets, 298 digs and 63 kills.

"I'm excited and honored to be a part of the GW volleyball program," LaBeck said in the release. "GW is a place where I have the opportunity to continue playing high-level volleyball, earn a first-class education and be supported by my coaches and teammates."

Before breaking onto the college scene, LaBeck attended Grayslake Central. She holds the single-season assists record (784) and the career assists record (1,795) at her alma mater.

Last season, the Colonials ranked second-to-last in the Atlantic 10 in assists per set, with an average of 10.6. Their opponents averaged 11.7 assists per set, good for fifth in the A-10.

Next year, the Colonials will be without senior setter Jaimeson Lee, who ranked seventh all time in career assists and notched 894 assists in her final season with the program.

Volleyball returned to the A-10 tournament for the second time under Bernson after missing out on postseason play in 2018. The Colonials are set to return nine members of last season's squad. Freshman setter Malia Yim no longer appears on the roster and is no longer with the program, according to athletic department spokesperson Kevin Burke.

LaBeck rounds out a four-member recruiting class including graduate student opposite Ashley Waggle, freshman outside hitter Elizabeth Drelling and freshman opposite Liv Womble.

—Belle Long

IN BRIEF

Men's basketball tabs second graduate student transfer

Brandon Leftwich, a 6-foot-3-inch guard from Brooklyn, New York, committed to the men's basketball program, according to an Instagram post Tuesday.

Leftwich comes to Foggy Bottom from Mount Saint Mary's, where he played three seasons after walking on to the team in 2017. In his senior season with the Mount, Leftwich averaged three points and 2.2 rebounds in 10.9 minutes per game.

"[I'm] excited to continue my athletic career and receive my masters from The George Washington University," Leftwich said in the post.

He joined Mount Saint Mary's as a walk-on during his sophomore year, playing in 10 games and averaging 1.2 minutes on the hardwood. He earned a scholarship at the conclusion of the season. Leftwich played under head coach Jamion Christian for the 2017-18 season before Christian departed for Siena.

During his junior season, Leftwich played in eight games, averaging 1.9 minutes per game. He netted an average of .4 and .5 points per game in his first and second seasons, respectively. But as his minutes increased in his senior season, so did his scoring production, rebounding, steals and assists.

He is the fourth transfer and second graduate student transfer to join men's basketball this season. Vanderbilt senior forward Matthew Moyer, Maryland sophomore guard Ricky Lindo Jr. and LSU freshman guard James Bishop all announced their commitment to the squad.

Men's basketball will be without freshman guard Shawn Walker Jr., sophomore Mezie Offurum and senior forward Arnaldo Toro, who entered the transfer portal. The team will keep 10 members of last year's roster.

—Emily Maise