

The GW Hatchet

What's inside

Opinions

The editorial board discusses GW's plan to hold another semester online.
Page 5

Culture

Read our rundown of D.C.'s thrift shops that offer the best bang for your buck.
Page 6

Sports

Check in with gymnastics and women's tennis as they navigate an unprecedented fall.
Page 7

POST ANNOUNCEMENT, STUDENTS, FACULTY CONFRONT ONLINE SPRING

Faculty worry about layoffs, salary cuts, 'uncertainty'

ISHA TRIVEDI
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

VITA FELLIG
STAFF WRITER

Professors said they have adapted well to virtual learning, but the threat of budget cuts has damaged their confidence in GW.

Faculty said last semester that online learning forced them to adapt their teaching methods and develop new teaching strategies, and some struggled to replicate arts and science activities. At the start of this semester, professors said they were "excited" about the online fall semester, but almost halfway through the fall, they said they are bogged down by the stress of school-wide layoffs and other financial cuts.

LaKeisha McClary, an assistant professor of chemistry, said she feels stressed by the "uncertainty" of layoffs and worried about faculty salary cuts before GW ruled them out late last month. She said she needed to find ways to cope with the uncertainty of her job in addition to virtual learning.

Officials also decided not to raise salaries for promoted faculty as part of budget cuts, a decision the Faculty Senate resisted last month.

"It took up a lot of brain matter," McClary said. "And the unfortunate thing about it is that was mental energy I wasn't spending working on my class, trying to help students, and all that because I was just literally trying to function myself, and if I can't function myself, I can't really help other people."

McClary said she appreciates that officials announced the spring semester will be held online "sooner rather than later" so professors have more time to prepare, but she added that she was looking forward to teaching some of her upper-level chemistry labs in person.

"For the lab classes there is some concern, frustration about what that's going to be like, especially for the upper-level classes, because we're preparing them for the next level of upper-level classes," McClary said.

She said some students have been understanding that faculty are limited in their teaching abilities this semester while others have largely checked out of online learning. She said she has noticed more students have chosen to stay after class to ask her questions or attend her office hours this semester.

Ivy Ken, an associate professor of sociology, said her students have been treating each other with "a little more grace than usual." She said her students seem to appreciate the time she spent this summer making her classes visually interesting.

But she said the University's ongoing budget cuts have hurt morale for herself and other faculty.

Ken said officials could have drawn more money from GW's endowment to alleviate the stress of layoffs, a suggestion made by Columbian College of Arts and Sciences faculty while GW considered other budget cuts this summer.

"Faculty are despondent, thinking about our staff colleagues struggling because of this," she said in an email. "It didn't have to be this way. We know the administration could have made other choices than to fire the most vulnerable members of our community during a pandemic."

But Ken said despite the impending budget cuts, faculty seem to be "banding together" to resist the "harmful actions" of administrators.

Students, faculty, staff and alumni have launched more than a dozen petitions, letters and statements in the past few months calling for University President Thomas LeBlanc to resign or to reverse recent financial decisions.

See **FACULTY** Page 4



Arie Dubnov, the director of the Judaic studies program, said faculty and students have bonded as they navigate the online semester.



Students interviewed said their motivation and enthusiasm have tanked as they prepare for another few months of online classes.

Students with COVID-19 grapple with recuperating, balancing academics

CLARA DUHON
STAFF WRITER

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STAFF WRITER

Students diagnosed with COVID-19 this semester said they have struggled to balance their schoolwork and debilitating symptoms.

Five students who tested positive for the coronavirus in the past two months said they struggled to watch lectures or complete assignments on their computers while experiencing headaches and fatigue. The students, who spoke anonymously to keep their medical record private, said some professors made accommodations, but they wish officials could establish a policy requiring academic extensions to help alleviate stress while they recover from the virus.

A junior living in D.C. said he was "annoyed" when he discovered he had contracted the virus indirectly from an off-campus party Delta Tau Delta fraternity members held last month. He said he has been "very cautious" with who he interacted with, and the decision to host a party was "inconsiderate" of other people's safety.

He said half of his teachers were understanding of his situation and gave him extensions on his assignments, but the other half required his attendance in class. He said a professor told him he would have to complete a make-up assignment if he missed a lecture, but his head and body aches made it difficult to participate and grasp class material.

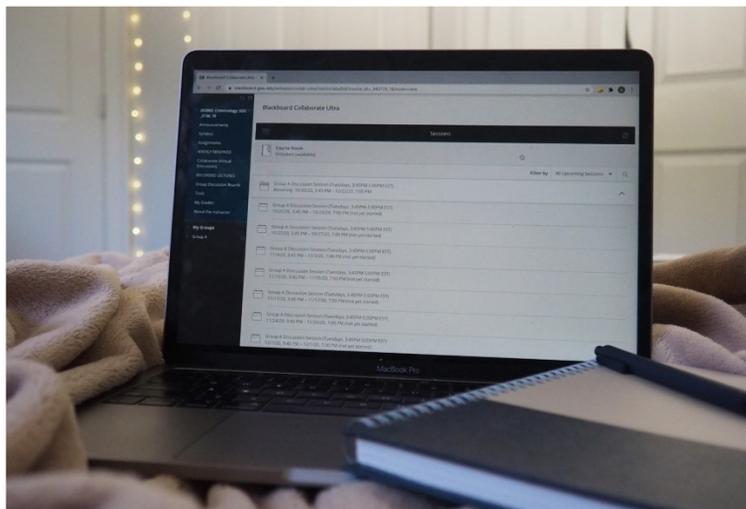


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE HROMIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Some students who contracted COVID-19 reported that their professors showed them little empathy, requiring assignments in lieu of attendance and refusing to budge on assignment deadlines.

"I'm already sick - I don't need to be doing more work if I'm not going to make it to class," the student said. "I think it was a little inconsiderate compared to what we're going through."

He said professors should have a standardized procedure to accommodate students with the virus in their classes. He said he understands professors might feel students cannot "truly get a grasp" of the course material unless they attend, but insisting students complete a make-up assignment upon missing class because they're sick is "ridiculous."

"If the University was to standardize a procedure, and if a student did test positive for coronavirus, I do think that it would make communications a lot easier, and they would know the protocol that they're required to follow," he said. A freshman taking classes in Iowa said

when she was diagnosed with the virus three weeks ago, it had felt like her professors "couldn't care less" after she told them she was sick. She said the virus hit her "like a train," and she was diagnosed with pneumonia soon after testing positive.

But she said she struggled to complete coursework with no slack from professors while dealing with headaches and a 103-degree fever.

"I did get some grades that I look at now, and it's not a direct reflection of what I could have done if I didn't have COVID at the time," she said.

The student said one of her professors unexpectedly announced to the class of about 50 students that she had the coronavirus, which she had not asked them to do. She said she laughed it off at the time, but the professor's announcement embarrassed her. She said another

professor required her to take an exam the day she joined the class, even after telling them she was struggling to manage her symptoms and catch up with the material she missed. She said the professor told her not to worry about feeling unprepared because students are allowed to drop their lowest exam grade at the end of the semester, but she would have preferred an extension to study.

A sophomore living in an off-campus apartment said she and her roommates tested positive for the virus in late September. She said she was "pleasantly surprised" with the attentive care she received from Colonial Health Care physicians after she received her positive test result at the Smith Center.

"The GW doctor reached out to me and my roommates at least three times each and was super helpful," she said.

Students struggle to focus on academics

TIFFANY GARCIA
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

After working toward her bachelor's for about nine years, senior Stephanie Ratajczak was looking forward to celebrating Commencement as the first in her family to graduate from college.

Then, GW announced that for the second year straight, students will likely not graduate on the National Mall, and the rest of the academic year will be held online.

Ratajczak said her focus in classes has been "completely shot" since the University moved online in March and has struggled to balance her time between two in-person jobs and classes. She said she's set up a study corner at her home in Hyattsville, Maryland, and is thankful for her professors who have granted her extensions when she is overwhelmed about completing assignments.

"And it's not even general laziness or distractions by the things in my house," Ratajczak said. "I sit down in my study corner, and I'm ready to go. And I open research articles to look up sources for referring to while writing. When I read, my eyes go over the same sentences five, six, seven times, and none of the words stick in my brain."

"Luckily, I saw one professor because we had a happy hour. Other than that, I'll never see any of them again, that I've been working with for three, four years and even friends."

Ratajczak is one of a dozen students who said while they understand officials' decision to continue virtual instruction this spring, they're worried about feeling burnout after months of learning away from campus. Students said they are bracing for the next online semester by taking easier classes and moving out of their homes to maintain focus.

"For safety's sake, I'm glad we're doing online classes, but my morale is shot," Ratajczak said.

Senior Kayla Larmore, a speech, language and hearing sciences major, said receiving the news that her final semester of college would be online in the same email as learning about Commencement made her feel like officials "dismissed" the significance of graduation for students.

"I think it was also premature to say [Commencement is] not possible after they also promised that the class from last year would graduate with us if they wanted to," Larmore said. "You're letting down two years of students that have also paid so much money and committed so much time to then getting dismissed in a little chunk of an email."

Students launched a petition earlier this month calling on officials to reconsider holding an in-person Commencement on the National Mall, which has garnered more than 450 signatures.

Larmore said she wishes officials would allow seniors to take upper-level classes, like a senior seminar or capstone, in person to make the most out of the demanding class.

She said it's been hard to find motivation this semester to complete her classes and graduate school applications knowing she lacks connections and communication with peers and professors while studying online. She said it was disappointing to know she may not see professors she's worked closely with throughout her college career again.

"Luckily, I saw one professor because we had a happy hour," Larmore said. "Other than that, I'll never see any of them again, that I've been working with for three, four years and even friends. All of it together, it does not feel like it's the way to end this education even going into graduate school."

See **STUDENTS** Page 4

News

October 19, 2020 • Page 2

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

GW MOCK PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Oct. 21 • 5:30 p.m. EDT • Free
Join the GW College Democrats and GW College Republicans for an engaging debate on topics similar to those of the first presidential debate.

DEEP DIVE: WHAT IS ANTI-SEMITISM?

Oct. 22 • 4:30 p.m. EDT • Free
Join Inclusion at GW for the first conversation in the Deep Dive Series as it aims to provide a space for learning, understanding and dialogue about topics impacting members of the GW community.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

October 16, 1962

Young Democrats agree to hold a new round of elections after the group's outgoing president accused his newly elected successor of allowing nonmembers to vote.



FILE PHOTO BY SOPHIA YOUNG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
About 120 GW community members have volunteered to distribute extra doses of the flu vaccine to underserved residents of Wards 7 and 8.

Medical school distributing flu shots to underserved areas of D.C.

LIA DEGROOT
NEWS EDITOR

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences is partnering with community organizations to provide free flu vaccines to medically underserved areas of the District.

Medical school officials said they are providing vaccines and volunteers from the GW community to several partner organizations, including United Medical Center and Family and Medical Counseling Service, that will help administer the vaccines to residents in mainly Wards 7 and 8. Experts in medicine said ensuring people have access to flu vaccines this season is critical to prevent flu season from further complicating the COVID-19 pandemic.

Raymond Lucas, the senior associate dean for faculty and health affairs in SMHS, said the medical school's committee on health and wellness had recommended that the University offer free flu vaccines to students, faculty and staff this fall and ordered a large volume of vaccines. Since moving the semester online, he said officials decided to distribute the excess vaccines to the D.C. community.

"In an effort to promote health and wellness in the greater community of D.C., the University made the decision to donate our extra influenza vaccine to use in underserved populations in D.C.," he said in an email.

Lucas said about 120 GW community members have volunteered to staff vaccine sites, and he anticipates administering about 2,500 vaccines across all partner organizations. Volunteers can work as greeters, runners, distributors of the vaccine or medical leads, according to the program's volunteer sign-up sheet.

"We purposely tried to be inclusive and add additional members to the planning team who are involved in community outreach as they became known," he said.

Michael Serlin, the medical director of Family and Medical Counseling Service in Anacostia and an associate clinical professor of medicine, said his organization started distributing the GW-provided vaccines last week and hopes to administer 20 to

30 vaccines per day. He said volunteers come to the clinic to disburse vaccines on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

He said people over six months old should receive a flu vaccine each year, but getting one this year is critical as experts are uncertain of the effects of contracting both COVID-19 and the flu at once.

"Obviously we know that coronavirus can be very bad, and unfortunately, it's not as if you get one respiratory illness, it doesn't mean you are immune from another," Serlin said. "It is possible for someone to have flu and coronavirus at the same time, and we really don't know what that will look like."

He said his organization is planning to publicize the vaccine clinics over the radio, on its website and on street signs that direct people to the clinic.

"We do work in an underserved community, in Anacostia, and we see a lot of patients who are uninsured or underinsured, and we have a commitment to everybody, regardless of their ability to pay for care and things like that," Serlin said.

Viral infection experts said getting a flu vaccine this year will help reduce the chances of the flu and the coronavirus interacting, which could potentially strain the country's hospital capacity.

Alexander Ploss, an associate professor of molecular biology at Princeton University, said people should get their flu shot each year because the virus changes annually, requiring a different vaccine each season.

"Flu is a virus that comes in many flavors and constantly changes its outer coat, which makes it very difficult for the immune system to generate antibodies and T-cell responses that can basically protect you against every single flu strain," he said.

He said ensuring that people are vaccinated for the flu reduces the strain on hospitals, which will likely see increases in hospitalizations dealing with both the pandemic and flu season.

"On top of this, the COVID situation, it's particularly important to get vaccinated more than ever, to make sure that the hospital systems don't get overwhelmed," Ploss said.

He said a large portion of the population needs to get their flu shot for the vaccine to be effective in preventing community spread, but some people may not have the resources to receive a vaccine.

"If you get vaccinated, you will benefit from it," he said. "But at the same time, 10 people around you may benefit from it that you never know or get to know because they couldn't get vaccinated, either because they weren't offered the vaccine or they couldn't afford it."

Jeffrey Bratberg, a clinical professor of pharmacy at the University of Rhode Island, said medical workers should work to offer underserved communities flu shots because many of their residents are typically uninsured or underinsured.

He added that the coronavirus and the flu exhibit similar symptoms, making it difficult for people to know which virus they might have. COVID-19 precautions, like staying away from groups and wearing masks, could limit the spread of the flu this season, but he said the added burden of treating both viruses could put pressure on hospitals.

"We're expecting to see actually probably significantly decreased flu transmission because we know it works for COVID, the respiratory viruses and probably other respiratory viruses as well," Bratberg said.

Gerald Evans, a professor of medicine at Queen's University in Canada, said researchers don't yet know if being exposed to the coronavirus and the flu would result in viral interference, meaning only one virus would take control of a body.

He said the southern hemisphere's flu season, which runs from June through September, has been milder this year compared to other years because of coronavirus precautions and a large reduction in travel.

"But it also could be that lots of people took the flu shot during this year during the southern hemisphere flu season, and maybe we're going to see the same effect here, which is why we're still encouraging people to get their flu shot this year," he said.

—Daniel Galgano and Makena Roberts contributed reporting.

Bracing for winter: Medical experts' tips as pandemic hits six months

RACHEL ANNEX
STAFF WRITER

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REPORTER

As medical experts gather more information about the COVID-19 pandemic, they recommend continuing to wear masks in public spaces and avoiding indoor dining.

Half a year into the pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has changed its coronavirus guidelines several times, but experts in public health said limiting outings and contact to a small group of people are still essential to prevent the spread of the virus. The White House has offered conflicting guidelines for navigating the pandemic, but as winter and the holidays approach, experts said wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing is still critical in stopping the spread of COVID-19.

As colder temperatures near, people are beginning to explore which indoor and outdoor activities they can partake in while maintaining a low risk for the transmission of the virus.

More than 8 million Americans have been infected with COVID-19 and 219,000 people have lost their lives in the United States since the pandemic began. Experts said lower humidity levels and re-opening of schools could be contributing to nationwide upticks in COVID-19 cases.

Here's what public health experts recommend to stay safe this winter:

Visiting friends indoors

Paul Beninger, an associate professor of public health and community medicine at Tufts University, said people should consider a room's size and air filtration system when deciding whether to spend time indoors. He said a study from the beginning of the pandemic found that in a crowded restaurant with about 100 people, one person infected with COVID-19 infected almost everyone on one side of the restaurant due to poor air circulation.

"If you've got very poor

filtration because there's not a flow of air going on what you're doing is breathing the same basic air," he said. "And if it's dense, one person who may have COVID could easily spread it to other people."

Jacob Bor, an assistant professor of global health and epidemiology at Boston University, said he recommends keeping a "pod" of people, which could include roommates or close friends, that can interact with each other inside without masks. Bor said the likelihood of transmission outside is low as long as people are maintaining a distance of at least six feet apart.

"One of the difficult things about mask use is having one of those conversations with friends and you know, 'Hey is it OK if we wear masks while we hang out?' and that can be a little tricky at first," he said. "But I actually found that people appreciate it when you have those conversations up front, and it's substantially reduces risk of transmission."

He said people should leave the house to exercise and get fresh air, but they should be sure to maintain proper distance from anyone they may encounter. He said as the weather gets colder, people should consider engaging in outdoor activities, like ice skating or walking, with just a few friends.

"Get out of the house absolutely, go out in the rain and in the snow," he said. "Get exercise. This is something transmitted mostly indoors but mostly from being close proximity to other people or an indoor place where someone else has recently been COVID-infected."

Traveling

Bor said travelers should abide by laws in each state so state health officials can provide contact tracing and prevent the spread of the virus.

D.C. officials are requiring travelers from dozens of high-risk states to quarantine for two weeks after arriving in the District, and officials are discouraging people from taking non-essential trips outside the

city. "A responsible thing to do is to get tested before you travel, make sure you're not traveling with any symptoms and had no recent exposure to COVID and to follow state regulations around testing and quarantine," he said.

Beninger said flying on planes can pose a low infection risk if COVID-19 precautions, like social distancing and mask wearing, are taken because planes have relatively strong air circulation, which can reduce the risk of coming in contact with the virus.

Harold Slavkin, a professor of dentistry at the University of Southern California, said frequent hand washing can prevent people from spreading the virus to surfaces they touch, including their nose and mouth.

"The reason for washing hands is primarily when people touch their faces, which basically transfers something that might be on your hands onto your nose and mouth," Slavkin said. "The increase of hand washing with warm water is an important piece of the public health suggestions for how to cope with this crazy era that we're all going through."

Eating at restaurants

Bor, the BU professor, said people should remain cautious about interacting with those outside the pod.

"We know how COVID transmits is most indoors, poorly ventilated spaces, proximity to other people without masks," Bor said. "You cannot wear a mask when you eat. People don't go out to eat to just eat. People go out to eat, talk. Especially loud talking along with singing is one way COVID spreads."

Slavkin, the USC professor, said eating outside or ordering takeout is still a safer option than eating inside a restaurant.

"So it's outdoor dining with six feet separation between tables, everyone wearing masks including the waiters, including a plastic shield," he said. "Or you can do takeout. And the only reason for going inside is to pick up an order to take home."



KATE CARPENTER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Braving the winter weather to hang out with friends wearing masks outdoors may be preferable to indoor gatherings with inadequate ventilation, public health experts say.

Officials use travel form to monitor students living on campus

JARROD WARDWELL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Officials are using a form to monitor how students living on campus travel outside the D.C. area during the COVID-19 pandemic.

University spokesperson Crystal Nosal said Campus Living and Residential Education staff have contacted students living on campus "on multiple occasions" to remind them to fill out the Student Travel Notification Form, a portal officials use to track where

students, faculty and staff members travel during the pandemic. She said students must fill out the form if they travel to anywhere outside D.C., Maryland or Virginia.

Students who travel to one of the 31 states the District classifies as high-risk must self-isolate for 14 days under city guidelines upon return, she said. Although the form seeks to monitor student travel, Nosal said it is not intended to regulate travel plans.

"This form is not a document seeking permission

to travel," Nosal said in an email. "Every member of our on-campus community has the ability to make their own informed decisions as to what is best for their situation."

The travel form includes questions that ask whether the traveler is a student, faculty or staff member, the campus where students may reside, their expected transportation method, the length of absence and their travel destinations. Students, faculty and staff must also specify whether they will travel

outside D.C., Maryland and Virginia, whether they will miss one of their required COVID-19 tests and whether they will be unable to complete their symptom survey.

Nosal said officials hope the form will allow students to continue updating their health status even if they're not on campus, so officials are aware if students exhibit any coronavirus-related symptoms.

"One of the main purposes of the form is to provide a secure way for individuals who do need

to travel during the semester to communicate directly to campus support team monitoring that each individual member of the approved campus cohort is continuing to fill out their daily symptom check in the medical portal and adhering to regular COVID testing," she said.

Nosal said most of the 500 students who live on campus remained isolated in their respective residence halls during Fall Break, which benefited the University's COVID-19-related precautions.

"We realize that this time of year during midterms can be a stressful time, and we appreciate that almost all of our on-campus residents remained on campus during the break," she said. "This helps demonstrate their commitment to following the University's and District's health and safety protocols."

She declined to say how many students have used the form so far this semester and how many students left campus during Fall Break using the form.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

A new bus service located a block away from campus will make travel up and down the East Coast much easier.

FlixBus to install intercity bus stop in Foggy Bottom

JARROD WARDWELL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students in Foggy Bottom will soon receive direct bus service to New York City just a block away from campus.

Senior James Harnett, the chair of the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission, said officials from FlixBus – an intercity bus service provider – will install a bus stop in front of the International Monetary Fund building on the 1900 block of G Street. Harnett said the bus will offer local residents, employees and students better access to cities along the coast in the Northeast.

“If demand exists to get folks to New York, to Boston, to any other city in a particular neighborhood, then it makes sense to provide more direct access for that neighborhood to get around, and this is a piece of that,” he said. “And I assume that this will be the first of maybe a few intercity bus stops that open in Foggy Bottom.”

He said its installment – slated for the fall – was delayed by the pandemic, but FlixBus officials have consulted with ANC commissioners and IMF officials over the past year to plan for the bus stop.

Harnett said the bus stop could especially help students during the holiday season in future years, a time he said the majority of students travels off campus, since they’ll no longer need to trek to Union Station to board a bus or train.

“Being able to get from city to city is an important part of any transit ecosystem,” he said. “You don’t want to be crowding roads with passenger vehicles going up and down the

East Coast.”

Harnett said commissioners wanted to ensure the stop would be “pedestrian friendly.” He said officials searched through streets where locals could easily board a bus without crossing any major roadways and find the stop near an area with office space, residential buildings and a Metro station.

He said his “biggest concern” about installing the bus stop is that FlixBus’s new stop would violate D.C.’s idling law, which prohibits any bus from sitting in place for more than two minutes to limit excessive carbon emissions. Harnett said stakeholders, including ANC commissioners, agreed to locate the stop in front of the IMF to avoid blocking nearby buildings while keeping the stop close to workspaces like the IMF, the World Bank, the Eisenhower Executive Office Building and the White House.

Harnett said while officials wait to install the stop, FlixBus has continued to work with ANC commissioners to agree on the stop’s logistics, like ensuring dimensions don’t run too wide and requesting officials install additional trash cans near the stop to prevent heightened littering.

“It’s those little challenges that were really the priority from both of our organizations’ perspectives to make sure that this worked well and met the needs of the community, and that’s something that FlixBus was amenable to and why we’re off to the races,” he said.

FlixBus officials did not return multiple requests for comment.

Transportation experts said they applauded the de-

cision to install the bus stop near the Foggy Bottom campus, adding that the service will boost revenue for a bus industry struggling through the pandemic.

James Moore, an engineering professor at the University of Southern California, said the new bus stop could help bus companies recover from the financial effects of COVID-19, during which bus service providers have been left with little funding from the federal government. He said the stop’s proximity to GW could have attracted FlixBus officials since many students are likely to utilize the low-cost method of transportation.

“The students are important because the students need to travel,” Moore said. “They’ve got families, and they’re often a little short on resources. So I can imagine that these operators look at the GW market and think, ‘Alright, this is a place where demand is likely to exist.’”

Anton Nelesse, a professor of urban planning and design at Rutgers University, said intercity bus stops are able to reach almost every major university he knows. He said all bus stops need to be within a “reasonable walking distance,” or 10 to 15 minutes away from most pedestrians, so a college neighborhood that also includes several organization and government buildings could have appealed to the company.

“The idea of a college campus’ original bus stop is a really very great thing, given what we are going to be needing in the future for mass transit facilities,” he said.

– Chow Jirayu contributed reporting.

Nursing school to offer scholarships to Peace Corps alumni

LIA DEGROOT
NEWS EDITOR

The Peace Corps is teaming up with the School of Nursing this semester to provide a fellowship for returned Peace Corps volunteers.

Nursing students returning from the Peace Corps can apply for the Paul D. Coverdell fellowship, which provides a \$28,000 scholarship to continue a graduate education at a partnering U.S. university. Pamela Jeffries, the dean of the nursing school, said the fellowship will attract students who can use their experiences abroad to enhance their nursing education.

“By virtue of their participation in the Peace Corps and their demonstrated commitment to public service, returned Peace Corps volunteers are a highly attractive population for us,” she said in an email. “It seemed serendipitous once we discovered that there are other schools at GW who participate in the Coverdell Fellowship program as well.”

The School of Business and the Milken Institute School of Public Health are also listed as fellowship partners on the Peace Corps website.

Jeffries said the nursing school hosted its first fellow this fall and has already seen an uptick in applications to the program. She said fellows study at GW for 15 months with the help of an adviser who guides them through their fellowship experience.

“An immediate benefit, of course, is the cost savings that results from the scholarship,” Jeffries said. “Our ultimate wish, however, is that the long-term benefit for these students is the realization that their GW Nursing education was the perfect

complement to their Peace Corps training and that we gave them the tools they needed to thrive in the clinical setting and continue to advance in the profession.”

Herminia Gomez, the program specialist for university programs at the Peace Corps, said the Peace Corps partners with schools through fellowships to offer an option for returning volunteers to complete their education.

She said partner schools are expected to contribute at least 25 percent of the scholarship amount, and the Peace Corps considers the amount of financial support and internship opportunities that institutions can provide when determining partner universities.

“We’re really happy to partner with GW, the fellows program, because they do offer a significant scholarship for volunteers, and they also provide excellent internship opportunities,” she said.

She said academic programs the Peace Corps chooses to partner with are based on the returning volunteers’ interest. This year, the Peace Corps added partner schools in nursing, social work, human development and education programs, according to a press release.

“For the past three years, the proposal has been open to programs that are of interest to our returned Peace Corps and have shown to be underrepresentation of study in our offering as a whole in the fellows program,” Gomez said.

Higher education experts said partnering with the Peace Corps brings prestige to the University and attracts high-quality students who have had international service experience.

George Justice, the former dean of the Univer-

sity of Missouri Graduate School, said he directed the school’s fellowship program when he served as an administrator. He said the program included a local community service project that fellows organized as part of their graduate work.

“We wanted to recognize that with scholarship and support for their studies, but also we wanted their energy and their experience to invigorate both our community and the graduate programs in which they were placed,” he said.

Justice said the program can be costly for universities, but participating in the fellowship brings prestige to institutions and attracts students with international service experience that they can apply to domestic service work.

He said fellows who participated in the program he ran at the University of Missouri were at first expected to create their own community service projects, but after students struggled with time constraints, they adapted the requirement to instead allow them to complete five hours of community service per week.

Molly Ott, an associate professor of higher education and postsecondary education at Arizona State University, said both the institution and the students benefit from partnering with the Peace Corps for a fellowship because returning volunteers can bring cross-cultural perspectives to solving domestic problems.

She said the Peace Corps partners with a selective group of about 200 graduate programs around the country, narrowing the school search that returning fellows have to choose from and ensuring that the schools attract the best students.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

The nursing school has joined the business and public health schools as participants in a scholarship program for students returning from the Peace Corps.

SA identity caucuses to create temperature reports for minority groups

DAVID BROTHERS
REPORTER

MAKENA ROBERTS
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

The Student Association Senate established five new caucuses this month to advocate for historically underrepresented groups and draw up yearlong temperature reports.

SA senators passed the Identity Caucus Structure Act in late August, establishing guidelines for the five caucuses that formed this month representing female, Latino, first generation and interfaith students and those with disabilities. SA Sen. Jovawn McNeil, ESIA-U and the chair of the diversity and inclusion assembly, said the caucuses will engage with constituents via surveys and town halls to compile yearlong reports outlining how GW can improve support for these groups.

“On a lower level, we need to focus on things that this SA should be doing better to advocate for the groups, how organizations – which are the community hubs for these universities – can be doing better to advocate for and really create a community for them,” McNeil said.

The five caucuses joined the Black Senators’ Caucus

established in fall 2019 and the LGBTQ+ and Asian Pacific Islander Desi caucuses established last month. McNeil said more than 20 members, both SA and non-SA, have joined the new caucuses.

He said the identity caucus legislation also establishes “clear” guidelines for the structure of SA caucuses, which state that all members of the GW community are eligible to participate in these bodies – even if a student is not involved in the SA.

“I wanted it to be really fleshed out and describe that all students in the University should have the ability to join different caucuses because they are advocating for ideas that represent you,” he said.

SA Sen. Sam Packer, CCAS-U and a member of the diversity and inclusion assembly, said while caucus members focus on advocating for their respective groups, the SA as a whole can work on more general policies, like improving administrative support during the remote semester.

“These caucuses are going to provide a space for people – LGBTQ+ people, Black people, Asian American people – all these different groups to have a place to specifically focus

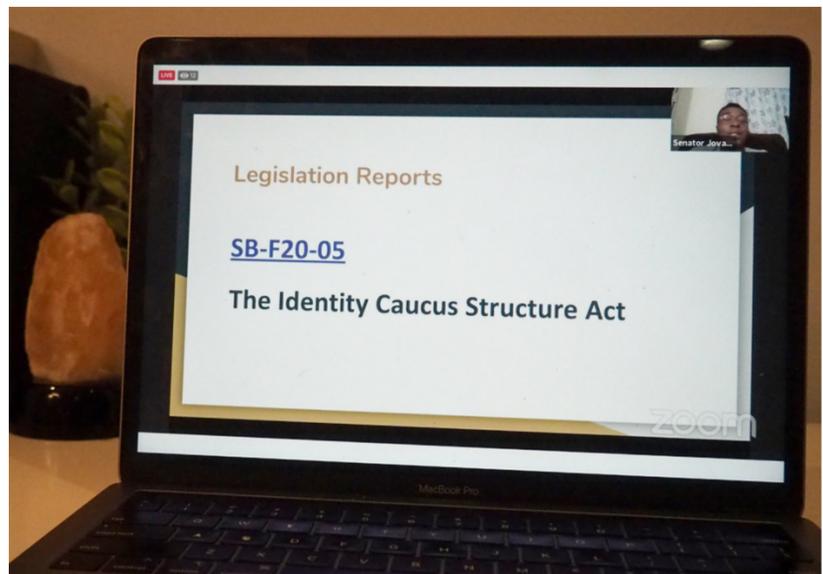
on their issues in the context of the pandemic and just as University students without always being talked over by people who think that broader COVID-related issues are more important to focus on in the committees,” Packer said.

Andrea Grimaldo, the chair of the Latinx caucus and a member of the diversity and inclusion assembly, said the caucuses allow underrepresented students to share their own experiences, like challenges for a non-White student studying at a predominantly White institution like GW. She said these spaces will allow caucus members to directly bring concerns to the full SA Senate and eventually to administrators.

She said the caucus will “ideally” meet once or twice per month and host virtual meetings with the Latino community to create “vulnerable” spaces for students to feel safe talking about any of their concerns that administrators or non-ethnic students may overlook.

Grimaldo added that she hopes the caucus serves as a space for students to find community.

“I want more Latinx-identifying students to get involved in voicing their concerns, opinions and



FILE PHOTO BY GRACE HROMIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

SA Sen. Jovawn McNeil, ESIA-U and the chair of the diversity and inclusion assembly, sponsored legislation at an SA Senate meeting in August to create and regulate identity-based caucuses under the DIA.

ideas as students at GW,” Grimaldo said in an email. “If you see students that look like you, having a similar identity, wanting to amplify an underrepresented group, then you are more likely to join in.”

Yan Xu, the chair of the first-generation caucus and a first-year undergraduate senator, said members of the group will meet later this week for their first meeting to discuss their

priorities for the year. He said he will reach out to other student groups like First Gen United to develop the most effective initiatives to work with first-generation students.

Xu said he intends to expand the Hippo Handbook, a document created two years ago that compiles financial resources and advice for navigating GW, to include specific tips for coping with college as a low-

income or first-generation student. He said the caucus will allow every first-generation student’s concerns to be heard, adding that their experiences and backgrounds are varied.

“I believe personally that my experience as a first-generation student does not apply to others because everyone has a unique experience,” Xu said. “They have a unique point of view.”

CRIME LOG

SIMPLE ASSAULT, THREATS TO DO BODILY HARM, DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

West Hall (Mount Vernon Campus)
10/6/2020 – 6:18 a.m.
Open Case
GW Police Department officers responded to a report of a terminated male employee who made threats of bodily harm. GWPD officers made contact with a male staff member who reported that when he terminated the then-employee, the subject became belligerent, chased him and broke a table. The victim stated he was not interested in legally pursuing the subject.
Case open.

ASSAULT WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON

Public Property On Campus (2200 Block of Virginia Avenue)
10/6/2020 – 12:30 p.m.
Open Case
GWPD officers responded to a report of an assault with a dangerous weapon. Upon arrival, officers made contact with a female victim who stated that an unknown male subject had chased her with a weapon. The victim believed the weapon to be a knife but wasn't sure. GWPD officers canvassed the area with negative findings.
Case open.

THEFT II /FROM BUILDING

Mitchell Hall (7-Eleven)
10/7/2020 – 6:27 p.m.
Open Case
GWPD officers responded to a report of theft at 7-Eleven. Upon arrival, GWPD officers made contact with the complainant who reported that an unknown male subject stole several cereal containers. GWPD officers canvassed the area with negative findings.
Case open.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT: HIT AND RUN

Public Property on Campus (2100 Block of I Street)
Unknown – Unknown
Open Case
A female student reported that her loaner vehicle was damaged in a hit and run when it was parked on I Street. The damage to the driver's side fender appeared to indicate that a commercial vehicle hit the student's car.
Case open.

URINATING OR DEFECCATING IN PUBLIC

Parking Lot #3 (2003 H St.)
10/9/2020 – 5:11 p.m.
Closed Case
GWPD officers observed an unknown male subject urinating behind a van running mammograms. GWPD officers issued the subject a bar notice and escorted him off GW property.
Subject barred

BURGLARY II/NON-FORCIBLE

Tonic Restaurant
10/14/2020 – 8:30 p.m.
Open Case
GWPD officers responded to a female complainant's report of burglary. Upon arrival, Tonic staff reported that an unknown male subject stole money from the office safe.
Case open.

—Compiled by Kateryna Stepanenko

SNAPSHOT

GABRIELLE RHOADS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Thousands of protesters marched down Constitution Avenue toward the Supreme Court at the Women's March Saturday.

Student-led credit union prepares to launch next semester

TIFFANY GARCIA
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The COVID-19 pandemic may have delayed its initial rollout, but the University's first-ever, student-run credit union is preparing to launch by early next year.

The GWU Credit Union Initiative, a student-run financial cooperative that has been working to create a banking system for three years, is preparing to establish a credit union to help students and alumni save money. Senior Sahil Pankhaniya, the chief executive officer of the initiative, said the team has conducted almost 1,000 surveys over the past three years on undergraduate students' financial concerns to learn how to help students bank cheaply, build credit and manage their finances.

"We'd like to have as many students as possible join the credit union, open accounts with us," Pankhaniya said. "We've got great products, great services, great team of students that understand the needs of students. We've spent a lot of time surveying students to understand what students want."

Pankhaniya said he and two other students first started working on the credit union's foundation in 2018 after winning \$5,000 in the GW New Venture Competition and an office space at a start-up incubator their freshman year. He said the team has since raised more than \$690,000 in funds and committed deposits – an amount of money deposited once the credit union begins accepting students – from private donors and other credit unions, like SecurityPlus Federal Credit Union.

He said the raised funds will be used to cover filing fees, premium accounts like their website and bank-



FILE PHOTO BY CONNOR WITSCHONKE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The GWU Credit Union Initiative has raised nearly \$700,000 in funds and committed deposits ahead of an anticipated launch by early next year.

ing fees. The union's \$5,000 credit base, the base level of funding, is also being used to help cover those expenses, he said.

He said the group has expanded from three members to 21 since October 2017, each cross-collaborating in operations, communications, development and technology committees. He said the organization is also reaching out to student finance organizations like GW Women in Economics to recruit more female students.

"I think in the hustle of things, we did not make as good enough of an effort at the beginning to be diverse," Pankhaniya said. "And that has changed dramatically."

He said the group had planned to begin accepting students in May 2020, but after the University announced in March that classes would remain online, they shifted to remote workshops. He said the team is in the

process of submitting their finances and required paperwork to the National Credit Union Administration, the bank and credit union regulating branch of the federal government, for approval before officially launching.

Once the NCUA approves the credit union, the team will be able to open to students. Pankhaniya said the credit union will be chartered, regulated and insured by the NCUA and use many of the same procedures major banks and credit unions use nationwide, like using volunteers as the first point of contact for students who want to deposit money.

Sophomore Julian Daszkal, an analyst for the credit union, said the team has offered financial literacy workshops since 2018 to students, a program they are expanding into its own branch of the credit initiative. Daszkal said he and another student, Jacob Honig, worked with

Colonial Central Director Jennifer Vaden to purchase financial literacy programs like Cash Course to students, but the program is paused as the union prepares to launch.

Senior Christian Trummer, the chief technology officer, said he is responsible for digitizing the credit union for students to access and deposit money remotely. He said his team contacts businesses that offer technology like automated lending services and obtains contracts to implement those technologies in the union.

Trummer said the team's main hurdle has been proving to the NCUA their organization can "soundly" operate the proposed credit union. He added that building the credit union and developing a curriculum to teach students how to manage their finances has provided him with a "real experience" in business management.

Faculty say they feel 'in the same boat' as students

From Page 1

Paul Carrillo, a professor of international economics, said he is "optimistic" about the rest of the fall semester and is "happy" to work at GW despite the financial cuts and transition online. He said while layoffs are "unfortunate," they are a necessary part of keeping GW "financially healthy."

"COVID-19 is a public health crisis that affects all institutions, and some adjustments need to be made," he said. "We are all suffering from this national health crisis, but this situation at GW is not necessarily that different from any other private institution."

He said officials have provided faculty with online resources to facilitate virtual learning, like their

own Zoom accounts to hold online classes. GW offers FLEX, or Forward Looking Explorations, teaching camps to teach professors "effective course design" during remote learning.

But Carrillo added that administrators should be more transparent about ongoing layoffs and budget cuts, which he said has worried faculty and other GW employees.

"We have seen fac-

ulty and students protest against the administration, though they have remained mostly silent," he said. "So I really hope in the near future more bridges are built so the University shares more of their thoughts and ideas. I'm optimistic we can get over this, but we need more communication. That is key."

Arie Dubnov, an associate professor of history and the director of the Ju-

daic studies program, said faculty have expressed that they feel they're "in the same boat" as students, which has helped them navigate the virtual semester.

"The students are doing the best they can, and that motivates us," he said. "There is something very humbling about having students see that the professor on the other side of the screen is human."

Dubnov said virtual learning has allowed officials to open up experiences like alumni or author speaking events to a larger public via Zoom and has given students the time to attend events that they might not have been able to in other circumstances.

"Our menu as a university is not as rich as it would have been in a normal year, but at the same time in a normal year students

Students seek alternate accommodations following spring announcement

From Page 1

Freshman Brooke Stallman, a biological anthropology major, said she's been looking forward to attending college for years now, but her mental health has tanked since she started classes at home in Phoenix. She said she was confused why administrators had not made

any accommodations for freshmen and seniors to take classes in person.

Administrators had considered gradually phasing a spring in-person reopening that would prioritize freshmen and seniors.

Stallman said she plans to apply for a spring housing arrangement because she has struggled to focus and find friends

during the remote semester. She said if she is not accepted, she will have to continue taking classes in Arizona because she can't afford D.C. housing.

"I'll have bursts of productivity," Stallman said. "I won't really want to do anything for a day or so because the previous day was just so overwhelming. But then I'll sit down and work on my computer

for eight hours."

Sophomore Katelyn Monostori said she wasn't expecting the University's spring announcement so early into the fall but is now considering taking a leave of absence next semester to focus on her mental health and possible internships. She said she's had difficulty remaining optimistic and productive in classes,

which have hurt her ability to retain information in class.

Monostori, a philosophy major, said the majority of her classes are discussion- and paper-based, which has required her to spend more time studying to understand new concepts. She said having classroom discussions over Zoom has made it harder to interact natu-

rally and would prefer to wait to experience them in person.

"It's very easy to fall behind because teachers are being flexible with due dates, which I really appreciate," Monostori said. "And it's been a big help. But then it's also very easy to say, 'Oh I'll watch this week's lecture next week,' but next week also has a lecture."

Voting third party is a privilege that ignores the realities of our system

In the 2000 presidential election, we could have elected a president who was committed to enacting sweeping environmental protections. Instead, we got two never-ending wars in the Middle East. There are any number of reasons why former President George W. Bush was victorious over former Vice President Al Gore, but without the third-party “Green” candidate Ralph Nader on the ballot, Gore would have won handily. Bush won the decisive state of Florida by about 500 votes. Post election, a study found that while half of those Nader voters would have sided with Gore in a two-candidate election, only one fifth would have voted for Bush.

Zoe Eberstadt-Beattie
Writer

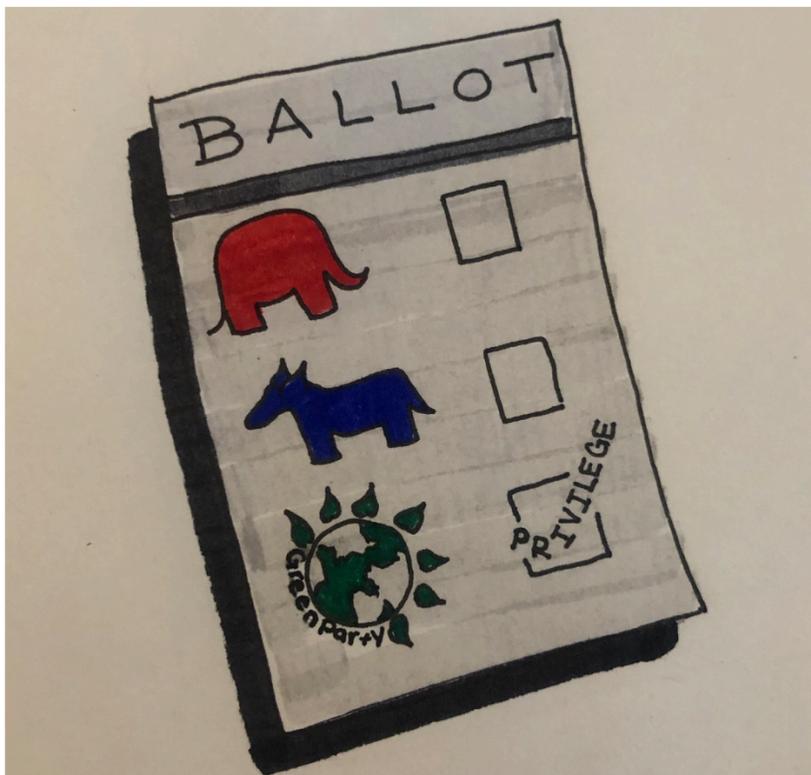
In 2016, many voters were frustrated with Democrat Hillary Clinton as an imperfectly progressive candidate. Many Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., supporters, in particular, refused to vote Democratic after Sanders lost the primary. Many refused to vote for “the lesser of two evils.” As if there were such a thing as the perfect progressive candidate. And the year 2000 repeated itself. President Donald Trump won the all important “Blue Wall” states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, each by tiny margins that were dwarfed

by the votes won by third-party candidates.

This election cycle, many complain about Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden being too moderate for them and are threatening to sit this one out or write in another name. They act as if there are no differences between the candidates’ positions and policies. While this is, of course, objectively false, it’s still a problem. It’s a privilege to vote third party or write in.

We know the next president of the United States will be Biden or Trump. There is no other candidate who has a chance of winning. It will not be Libertarian Jo Jorgensen, Green Party Howie Hawkins or Kanye West. If you feel comfortable enough to vote for someone without a chance of winning, you’re coming from a place of privilege and must cast your ballot for someone who has a chance of taking office.

I am a White woman and live in reasonable economic stability in New York City. My socioeconomic status protects me from retroactive policies and injustices. It is likely that I will always have the ability to exercise my reproductive rights, will never fear for my life in the presence of police or white supremacists, will always be able to love and raise a family with my desired partner, will never be locked away at the southern border, won’t be flooded by another hurricane and will have access



Cartoon by Hannah Thacker

to safe and affordable health care. In short, for so many reasons, this election will have few concrete effects on my actual well-being – that is, aside from my mental health. But that is not true for everyone. It isn’t true for those who aren’t means, who aren’t White, who aren’t citizens and who aren’t living in a blue state.

Certain policy changes, like environmental regulation and tax reform, affect all of us to different degrees. But most policies are almost completely dependent on socioeconomic identity. Criminal justice reform, reproductive freedom, LGBTQ rights, affordable health care, education, voter suppression and im-

migration are only a fraction of these issues. If we cast a ballot for someone who only cares about the environment, but we essentially want a Democrat in office, we’re ultimately giving Trump a greater chance at winning. And that would mean the people affected by these crucial policies will feel the horrific repercus-

sions of a second Trump White House, even if you won’t.

Let’s be clear: re-electing Trump will not have the same effect on privileged wealthy White people as it will on everyone else. Voting third party, writing in or not voting at all in this election will effectively give a victory to Trump – a victory wrapped in glitzy gold paper, tied with a spray-tanned orange bow.

It’s kind of like wearing a mask. Because you are healthy and young you think you are more likely to survive a COVID-19 diagnosis. But that’s a privileged position. You could be a carrier, and without a mask on, you could easily spread it to others, others who may not be as young or healthy as you. As Biden says, it’s your patriotic duty to wear a mask, to protect yourself yes, but really to protect others. I would argue it is also your patriotic duty to vote for Biden – not just for yourself but for others who would feel the devastating effects of Trump’s policies for another tenure.

Do not allow your “principles” to overshadow your privilege. Rather, use your privilege to ensure a presidency whose policies protect those who will truly suffer under the repercussions of a second Trump White House.

—Zoe Eberstadt-Beattie, a junior majoring in criminal justice and political science, is an opinions writer.

Students have a right to be disappointed about spring semester

STAFF EDITORIAL

Over Fall Break, we got the notification that we all knew was coming: Classes will be online once again in the spring.

Emotions from the GW community have been mixed, with some students expressing grief, anger and bleak resignation. Students are questioning the decision to cancel commencement events this far in advance, whether or not residence halls will be open and what college will look like in a third pandemic semester. They are posting and petitioning for changes, like a chance at coming back to campus this spring.

Meanwhile, other students are blasting their peers for their grief, calling upset students “selfish” or “spoiled.” Conversations have broken out on social media, with many students expressing their sadness about the situation, while others are going as far as to suggest that students should not be upset because GW made the right decision. This sentiment is misguided. Students are trying to grab control of a situation that is completely out of their hands, and they have every right to do so.

The bottom line is that we all know the University made the right call to move online and consider halting in-person commencement events once again with a pandemic that is still raging. We know deep down that an in-person semester would be dangerous. We know officials are trying to accommodate the wants of both students and professors by offering one pass/fail course. But that does not mean students should happily accept a grim reality. We have every right to be upset that we have been dealt another crush-

ing blow by the pandemic, and students should lend a hand to one another rather than try to be a voice of reason.

“From the abrupt cancellation of the past semester, to a lost summer, to a virtual fall semester, students have been made to run through the gauntlet because of the pandemic. Adding the double-whammy of a virtual spring and no Commencement just heaps more disappointment on top.”

Over the summer, the University’s final decision to close down campus came only weeks before students were slated to move in. Even though the wait was fully justified, it made it even more painful for students. In letting us know about the spring as early as possible, the University prevented students from getting their hopes up for naught.

The same holds true for Commencement. The Class of 2021 has been told since they stepped foot on campus that their Commencement, GW’s bicentennial, would be a special moment in the University’s history that they could celebrate. The health crisis is what made this promise impossible to keep, forcing the University to make yet another difficult call. Students in their final year at GW are rightfully upset, just like last year’s graduating class that got the brunt of the University’s pandemic response.

Planning for the University’s bicentennial has been years in the making and was supposed to be a point of pride for the University and its students. Canceling the yearlong ceremonies almost certainly was not taken lightly. Speakers and other legis-

tics needed to be planned and paid for right away, so the University likely was not in a position to belabor making the call. This is fully justifiable and rational – but that does not in any way, shape or form invalidate what a let-down it is for students.

From the abrupt cancellation of the past semester, to a lost summer, to a virtual fall semester, students have been made to run through the gauntlet because of the pandemic. Adding the double-whammy of a virtual spring and no Commencement just heaps more disappointment on top. There is no reason why students should not be angry, sad and grieving about what they have needed to go through. So while students should acknowledge that the University made the right decision in this particular case, none of us should think or be made to think that our negative feelings about this situation are unjustified. Students shouldn’t pit themselves against each other and instead try to navigate this year together. We need to hear out each other’s complaints and try to understand where we are all coming from.

We have heard this time and time again, but we are all living in unprecedented and unpredictable times. We barely have control over the pandemic and its detrimental impact on our jobs, families, social connections and academic lives. We get it, coming back to campus in person is probably not safe, and students should not go out of their way to say that to their peers. But we must show compassion for one another and try to understand that every frustration is someone’s way of grieving, which they should not feel ashamed to do.

LGBTQ families depend on your vote this November

When you’re a kid growing up with LGBTQ parents, you don’t realize that your family unit is “different” until you’re told. For me, this came in the form of some first grade biology experts, who, when I told them I didn’t have a dad and that I had two moms, declared it to be impossible. “You can’t have two mommies, you need a mommy and a daddy to have a baby,” they said, arms crossed, faces smug with their own self-assuredness. I never brought this interaction up with my parents, nor any of the other increasingly vile homophobic vitriol I would hear as I got older. But at such a young age, the confidence with which those kids made their statement, coupled with my own 6-year-old ignorance, left me questioning whether or not my family was normal, and even worse, if there was something wrong with us.

Jaden DiMauro
Writer

Lucky for me, it was right around this time when one of my moms sat me down and gave me “the talk” all LGBTQ parents have with their kids at some point. She told me some families have two moms, some have two dads and some have a mom and a dad. She said it doesn’t matter what your family looks like as long as there is love. I knew my parents loved each other. I knew they loved me and my sister. And that was all the explanation I needed.

Since then, a lot has

changed for my family and families like mine. In 2008, two years after that conversation, gay marriage was legalized in our home state of Connecticut. My parents had been together for 17 years at that point and were finally able to exchange rings and vows and have their love recognized in the eyes of the law. While that was certainly meaningful, marriage also held more pragmatic benefits. When both me and my sister were born, my mother had to go through the process of legally adopting each of us so that if anything happened to my other mother, she would have legal custody. Additionally, before they were married, the other would not be able to make life or death decisions if something tragic did happen to either one of them, or in some cases even be allowed in the hospital room, as they wouldn’t be considered a “family member.” It would take another seven years before this right to marriage, and the right to the benefits that come along with it, was extended to LGBTQ couples all across the country, when the Supreme Court ruled in the case of Obergefell v. Hodges that same-sex couples are entitled to the same right to marry as straight couples.

Now, all that may seem to be a great deal of progress to be made in nine years, and that’s because it is. It’s undeniably easier and safer to start a same-sex family today than it was in 2006. But there remains a vocal minority who, just like those first-graders, staunchly believe that marriage should be bet-

ween a man and a woman and a family should consist of “a mommy and a daddy.” From the moment Obergefell v. Hodges was decided, these individuals have been attempting to sidestep the protections it affords with their ultimate goal being its reversal.

And a mere five years later, this goal appears to be in reach, as one of their number, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, is a Senate confirmation away from becoming Justice Amy Coney Barrett. If confirmed, she would join justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, who just last week publicly criticized Obergefell v. Hodges and called for the case to be revisited on the grounds of violation of religious liberty. Barrett, a religious dogmatist herself, would almost certainly side with Thomas and Alito, as would the other two conservative justices already on the court. If confirmed, Barrett would serve as the vote needed to overturn the case.

While Barrett’s confirmation earnings have already begun, there is still hope that her confirmation and the potential confirmation of more conservative justices over the next four years, which could have disastrous results for LGBTQ families, can be prevented. So when you cast your vote this November, think about the lives that vote could directly and fundamentally impact. I hope that you choose to vote for kindness, for compassion, for families and ultimately, for love.

—Jaden DiMauro, a freshman majoring in English, is an opinions writer.

Culture

October 19, 2020 • Page 6

THE SCENE

VIRTUAL BATTLEFIELD TOUR
Oct. 20 • Free • Facebook Registration
If you're a history geek, sign up for this event where a historian will virtually guide you through the Battle of Cedar Creek.

ROOFTOP URBAN FARM TOUR
Oct. 25 • \$5 • H St. Farms
Tour D.C.'s largest rooftop farms and talk to the owners about tips on starting your own garden at home.

RELEASED THIS WEEK: "ANIME, TRAUMA AND DIVORCE," AN ALBUM BY OPEN MIKE EAGLE

Foggy Bottom restaurants buy heat lamps, blankets to prep for the cold

CHLOE KEARIN WILLEFORD
STAFF WRITER

CLARA DUHON
STAFF WRITER

When summer hit, restaurants that once grappled with providing safe dining during the pandemic could at least offer outdoor seating in the warm weather.

Now, the cold months are creeping in again, and restaurant owners are once again trying to accommodate customers with a pandemic still raging. Foggy Bottom restaurant owners said they are limiting the inside of their restaurant to half capacity in accordance with D.C. rules and purchasing items like heat lamps and blankets to continue providing outdoor dining during the cooler weather.

"We're going to make it a comfortable space," said Omar Masroor, the owner of Bistro Aracosa. "We're going to do whatever we can, even if it's snowing outside, so that our guests can sit out there."

Masroor said his restaurant runs "hospital grade" air purifiers and keeps windows open to ensure customers feel safe eating indoors. For those who want to sit outside, space heaters used to combat temperatures as low as 15 degrees are placed in Bistro Aracosa's outdoor seating area.

"Guests sit outside in snowstorms, rain, August heat waves and so on. This year, guests will be even more likely to sit outside."

He said guests are "risking their livelihood" when they decide to go out to eat at a restaurant during the pandemic. He said he anticipates guests will keep coming back when they recognize that Bistro Aracosa staff are following safety protocols and taking measures to ensure guests feel secure.

"We have to make sure that the decision that they made, that they feel comfortable about it once they leave from here, that they feel good about it, that they feel safe about it," he said.

Tonic owner Jeremy Pollok said customers can expect both outdoor and indoor seating this winter. He said Tonic will install overhead heaters and a tent covering part of the garden area to keep people relatively warm while they eat outside.

Pollok added that the area around Tonic feels like a "ghost town," so restaurant staff are trying to find creative ways to encourage customers to dine, even when it's cold. The restaurant is looking to encourage customers to participate in a BYOB — "bring your own blanket" — to get a discount on a meal.

"Bring your own blanket and get a discount of some sort — we're still trying to figure out what that is," he

said. "Probably a hot drink. We're trying to find ways to get people to come out in the colder weather."

Tonic is also offering several specials and outdoor activities, like outdoor Monday trivia nights, Taco Tuesdays with 99-cent tacos and outdoor movie screenings on Saturdays. This month, Tonic will show Halloween movies on its 15-foot screen, Pollok said.

Duke's Grocery managing partner Daniel Kramer said the restaurant remains open for indoor and outdoor seating this winter. Customers can choose from three seating areas — an outdoor patio, inside the restaurant and a galleria inside 2000 Penn. Duke's Grocery will add heaters and tents to the patio to combat winter weather, he said.

"Guests sit outside in snowstorms, rain, August heat waves and so on," Kramer said. "This year, guests will be even more likely to sit outside."

The D.C. government is also rolling out the Streatery Winter Ready Grant Program, which provides about \$6,000 to D.C. restaurants to help them adapt their outdoor seating to the conditions of the colder weather. Restaurants can use the money to purchase items, like heaters and expand outdoor seating.

GCDC owner Bruce Klores said he plans to expand outdoor seating to



HATCHET FILE PHOTO
To keep patrons safe and comfortable, Tonic and several other Foggy Bottom restaurants will maintain outdoor seating with the use of heat lamps and space heaters.

sidewalks because few people walk by the restaurant. Klores said restaurant staff will also offer Heatsheets, disposable blankets that reflect body heat, to customers.

"If you run a marathon, or if you're like a hiker and you want to protect yourself against a cold spell, you're out in the woods," he said. "So they have these disposable tin foil wraps that keep your body heat inside, and so we're going to use those for people, that's sort of a fun idea anyway, so you can

wrap yourself up outside."

Corey Neamo, Circa Bistros' D.C. director of operations, said Circa at Foggy Bottom already utilizes a patio with heaters, which will help them continue to offer outdoor seating. He said if customers prefer to eat outside, staff can roll down the patio awning and turning up the heaters so guests can feel comfortable in cooler weather.

Neamo said the restaurant applied for and received money from the Streatery

Winter Ready Grant Program and is using the grant money to buy additional heaters for their patio dining area.

He added that dining could "take a dip" in the colder months, depending on customers' comfort level and the number of COVID-19 cases in the District.

"If we can keep D.C.'s caseload low, I think that's going to make residents feel a little safer to dine outside for sure," Neamo said. "Even when it's a little colder."



FILE PHOTO BY SYDNEY WALSH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Be sure to give these shops a call before you visit to learn about their COVID-19 precautions, which may include limits on hours or the number of shoppers allowed at once.

D.C. thrift stores to score clothing, accessories and furniture

ABRIGAIL WILLIAMS
REPORTER

Finding sustainable alternatives to retail clothing, furniture and electronics isn't difficult if you look in the right places.

You can find clothing to fit your style at second-hand shops, and your wallet likely won't hurt as much as retail shopping. Here's a list of some thrift stores in D.C. to guide you toward some affordable steals.

For women's fashion finds

If you're looking for designer items, head to Fia's Fabulous Finds. The establishment is a boutique-type thrift store for women that sells clothing like Kate Spade coats, Gucci heels and designer handbags, according to the store's Instagram. Fia's Fabulous Finds doesn't only sell designer items — if you want even better deals, you can check out the store's "bargain basement" that offers \$10 and under items, according to a few customers on Yelp. Make sure to visit the store's Instagram and Facebook pages, where you can browse new arrivals or participate in online sales.

806 Upshur St. NW

For '60s, '70s & '80s vintage

Check out Meep's Vintage to find true 20th-century pieces, costume wear or accessories. Established in 1992, the store of-

fers a selection of vintage clothing guaranteed to add some spunk to your wardrobe. You can scroll through its Instagram to get a feel for its pieces, including 1960's slip dresses or 1970's Levi's flared jeans. You can also visit the store on Depop, a website that allows customers to shop from second-hand vendors online.

2104 18th St. NW

For vinyls and graphic tees

At Joint Custody, music and fashion do not exist without one another. You can grab that oversized graphic tee you were looking for along with a new record to add to your music collection. The store prides itself as the "home for the strange and freaky" — you can easily find soul, funk, jazz, reggae, rock and any other genre you can think of at Joint Custody. You can see for yourself why Joint Custody tags itself as "freak emporium" on its Instagram or website.

1530 U St. NW

For furniture

If you're looking to add some hand-me-down furniture pieces to your place, Miss Pixie's won't let you down. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, shopping at Miss Pixie's is currently only available by booking an appointment on its website. You can bring up a party of four to the store for a private shopping ex-

perience for 30 minutes. Check out its Instagram to see its most recent stock.

1626 14th St. NW

For exclusively designer buys

A great place to find second-hand designer items is Reddz Trading in Georgetown. You'll find brands like Gucci, Chanel and Louis Vuitton at this high-end resale store. Since Reddz Trading resells designer brands, the prices may be a tad bit steeper compared to other second-hand shops, but if it's the designer look you're for, you'll find it at Reddz Trading. The store sells a range of shoes, handbags, clothing and accessories. You can scope out their stock on its Instagram or check out its website.

1413 Wisconsin Ave. NW

For a one-stop shop

If you've ever shopped at a large department store like Marshalls or TJ Maxx, shopping at Unique Thrift might be second nature to you. Unique Thrift is a large department-store-like thrift shop big enough for you to browse for hours. You can score everything from oversized jeans to trendy second-hand handbags at this thrift store. Besides selling men's and women's clothing, you can also find handbags, furniture and hardware at Unique Thrift.

2956 Gallows Road, Falls Church, Virginia

Takis, ghost photoshoots: Get up to speed with viral TikTok trends

ANNA BOONE
CULTURE EDITOR

ANNABEL HAZRATI
REPORTER

From peppers with cream cheese to back-cracking pranks, TikTok is your go-to for do-it-yourself tips and tricks.

With more than 800 million active users, it's no surprise some of those ideas have become viral trends. You can find a gamut of ideas, like new snacks, pranks and photoshoots, on TikTok to try out with your friends and family.

Here's a rundown of some of the most popular TikTok trends that you can try out yourself:

Food trends Reconsider not cleaning your fruit

A TikTok trend encouraging users to soak their fruit in salt water before eating is reminding us that when it comes to produce, ignorance is bliss. While it may seem like common sense to at least rinse the fruit you purchase before eating it, this trend has revealed you're basically eating bugs if you don't wash your fruit. The TikTok videos encourage users to buy cleaning products, like this one from Trader Joe's or the substitution of vinegar for salt.

Jalapeño, Cream cheese, Takis.

TikTok's latest spicy food challenge, which has been praised by Lizzo,

involves just three ingredients: jalapeños, cream cheese and Takis. Hollow out the jalapeño and stuff it with the other two ingredients, and you've made a delicious snack with a balance of flavors and textures.

The Charli D'Amelio drink

Charli D'Amelio has become one of the most popular users on TikTok since her debut on the app last summer. Nearly 94 million people follow her, and about 7 billion people have liked her content. That said, it's no surprise that her love for Dunkin's cold brew with whole milk and three pumps of caramel swirl is now named after her.

Elevate your charcuterie board

Maybe pronouncing the word "charcuterie" is a little complicated, but making your very own charcuterie board doesn't have to be. Most of the TikTok famous charcuterie boards are made by professionals who perfectly balance a blend of salty meats, fresh and dried fruits, nuts, spreads and cheese. But plenty of TikTok accounts explain how to make an easy, picnic-perfect charcuterie board without any professional experience. You can follow accounts like @loverboards, @magsmeals and @kayeatscharcuterie for inspiration.

Photoshoot trends Grab Party City wigs

TikTok's newest hair

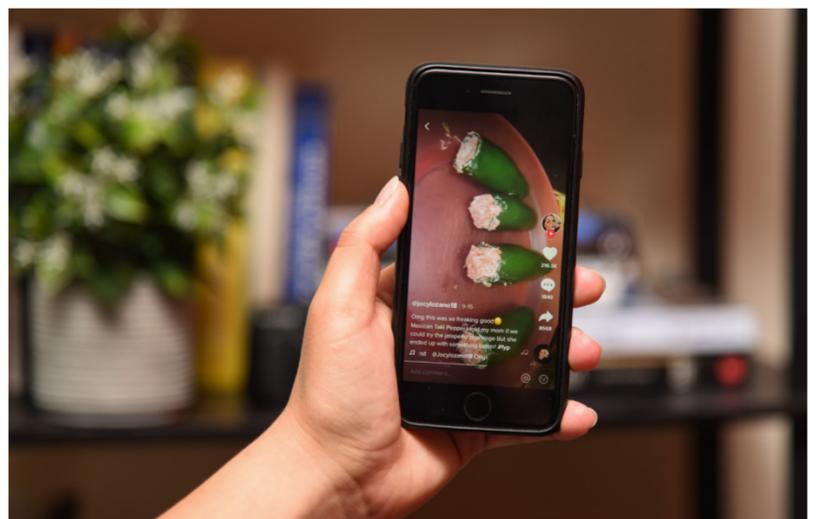
trend calls for a brightly colored wig that you can find at stores, like Party City and Walmart. This trend was popularized by ordinary teenagers on the app, but influencers quickly picked it up all over the app. Instead of reserving the wig for a costume party, most viral TikTok creators wear it just about everywhere as they go about their otherwise normal day. Just don't forget to stop and take pictures along the way.

Ghost photoshoot

The easiest TikTok photoshoot trend is also one of the most eccentric. You need four items: a white sheet, sunglasses, a camera and a friend. A dog would also work. Then, dress yourself up as a ghost and take a mix of goofy and spooky photos. The results are impressive regardless of where and how you take the pictures, but some of the most viral ghost photo TikToks took place in New York City, Santa Monica, California and a random empty parking lot.

Outdoor mirror selfies

This photoshoot trend gained popularity during quarantine. Users posted the stunning results of dragging their stand-up mirrors into their backyards during golden hour and snapping some selfies. Some people got creative with the trend by decorating their mirror and having friends take the pics for more varied camera angles.



ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
If you find yourself with time on your hands during the pandemic, try hollowing out a jalapeño or soaking your fruit in salt water to emulate some popular TikTok trends.



WOMEN'S SOCCER
vs. Duquesne
Oct. 22, 2017 | 1 p.m.
Women's soccer rounded out conference play with a 0-0 draw against the Dukes.



MEN'S WATER POLO
at Pacific
Oct. 20, 2016 | 10 p.m.
The Colonials lost 19-11 to No. 4 Pacific, their highest ranked opponent all season.

NUMBER CRUNCH

23.1

The percentage of goals scored in 2019 by men's soccer that came against Liberty.

Fall sports check-in: Gymnastics, women's tennis take varying approaches

BELLE LONG

CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

With fall sports delayed until the spring semester, The Hatchet is checking in with head coaches from affected programs to gain insight on how each team is handling the pause on competition. Check back each week for new installments.

Women's tennis and gymnastics are on opposite sides of the spectrum while preparing for a return to athletics.

Gymnastics head coach Margie Foster-Cunningham said she has a full 18-member roster in Foggy Bottom, and the team is adapting to campus safety protocols. Meanwhile, women's tennis head coach Torrie Browning said her nine-member roster is spread across the world, making it difficult for athletes to keep the same practice regimen.

Here's how the two squads are handling an unprecedented season:

Gymnastics
With a full squad back on campus, Foster-Cunningham has been able to continue practices.

While gymnastics is a winter sport, it typically practices throughout the fall semester to prepare for its competition season in January. She said the team has been back in the gym for more than a month and following a strict health and

safety regimen.

In order to be cleared for practice, each student-athlete had to receive two negative COVID-19 tests in a three- to five-day period and quarantine for two weeks if they were coming from a high-risk state.

Some players coming from low-risk areas were able to start practicing weeks before their teammates, Foster-Cunningham said. She added that student-athletes from fully locked-down states, like New Jersey, were unable to access their home gyms and train throughout the off-season during the summer.

Foster-Cunningham said some athletes were more prepared than others this fall. She structured practices based on each student's capabilities, she said.

"We're a little bit behind on routines, but that will come," Foster-Cunningham said. "Because it's coming back to them, their bodies are catching up to their minds right now. They think they can do it, but their bodies are not quite there yet. We're getting there."

She said players live in two District Hall affinities, allowing them to create completely separate "pods" and curtail any risk of a team-wide infection. The affinities are complete with ping pong tables and corn hole, which Foster-Cunningham said have

helped the team relax and have fun.

Practices are structured to maintain as much distance as possible, which is easier to achieve in a no-contact sport like gymnastics, she said.

She said before every practice, players get their temperature taken, complete a survey on their symptoms and prove that their COVID-19 test is negative. Once inside the gym, they take off their outside shoes and put them in plastic bags, and masks can be removed once practice starts, Foster-Cunningham added.

Despite having her entire team in D.C., Foster-Cunningham said she prefers virtual meetings over in-person gatherings where masks are still required because the team likes to see each other's faces. She said the lacking social interaction is the hardest part of this season.

"We're big huggers, we're big high-five people," Foster-Cunningham said. "We haven't been able to touch each other, and I think in athletics, you really realize that's missing right now."

Women's tennis
For the women's tennis program, this fall is a true virtual season – no player returned to campus.

Browning said three of the squad's four international players are currently in their home countries of New Zealand,



FILE PHOTO BY GRAEME SLOAN
The gymnastics team is living in two separate pods in District House affinities, reducing the likelihood that the whole team could contract COVID-19 at once.

Germany and Macedonia. Five other players are living and training together in Florida for the semester, she added.

Women's tennis has its main competition season in the spring, but the program usually participates in a few fall tournaments from early September to October.

The fall slate gives the team valuable time to not just work on skills but to gel before spring competition, Browning said. She said not missing that time together puts the team at a "disadvantage."

"I know they're

practicing and playing, but I can't see exactly what they're doing so we don't know exactly where they would be when they come back in the spring," she said.

Browning said she and her coaching staff hold weekly team and individual meetings, where they check in with players about classes, training progress and current events both inside and outside of GW. The team has struggled to manage varying time zones, but Browning said the meetings are important for team cohesion and training. She added that coaches

are splitting the team into rotating "accountability groups" of three players that check in with each other about their semester and training.

Browning said coaching her team remotely has been a challenge, but the distance is teaching her players to be independent.

"If you're there in person, you're seeing every little thing," Browning said. "But now, it's all based off of their experiences. There's no one there to coach them. They have to coach themselves. It's a really interesting dynamic, but it still works."

Women's basketball to take part in tournament

EMILY MAISE

SPORTS EDITOR

Women's basketball will compete in the 2020 DC Paradise Jam, according to a release last week.

The annual tournament, usually held in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, will take place Nov. 26-28 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The field of teams will be released at a later date, but the Colonials were confirmed to be contenders on the women's side, according to the release.

"Sports have the power to unify and inspire during

laboratory, will provide frequent COVID-19 PCR tests for all participating student-athletes, coaches, staff members and officials "in accordance with NCAA recommendations" and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

Men's and women's teams taking part in the tournament will be housed in the adjacent Courtyard/Residence Inn by Marriott Washington Downtown. The hotel will be equipped with specialty services like "learning spaces" for student-athletes and meeting areas for teams, the release said.

"Sports have the power to unify and inspire during challenging times – and the 2020 DC Paradise Jam tournament is a prime example of us getting creative and continuing to showcase Washington, D.C."

GREGORY A. O'DELL

PRESIDENT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF EVENTS DC

challenging times – and the 2020 DC Paradise Jam tournament is a prime example of us getting creative and continuing to showcase Washington, D.C., not only as the sports capital but as a hotbed for basketball events," Gregory A. O'Dell, the president and chief executive officer of Events DC, said in the release.

Events DC and Basketball Travelers Inc., the group that organizes the annual tournament, plan to implement "comprehensive COVID-19 protocols" to ensure the safety of all players, coaches and staff members, the release states.

The release states that Curative Inc., a D.C.-based

The release added that fans are not allowed to attend in person, but games will be streamed on the ESPN family of networks.

The Colonials last competed in a nonconference tournament during the 2018-19 season when the squad played in the Cancun Challenge. GW came back to Foggy Bottom empty-handed, dropping both games.

In 2017, GW played host to the Paradise Jam when damage from Hurricanes Irma and Maria moved the tournament out of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Colonials picked up a win and two losses on their homecourt in the tournament.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO
The Colonials knocked off the Princeton Tigers to earn their first-ever NCAA Tournament match win.

Top GW sports moments: Men's water polo makes program history with NCAA victory

ROMAN BOBEK

STAFF WRITER

In lieu of fall sports, we're dusting off the history books and taking a look back on 10 of the best GW sports moments, ever. Here's to hoping some old-fashioned nostalgia can keep us going until the restart.

No. 9: Men's water polo nabs NCAA victory, program-best record

The 2018 men's water polo squad put together a historic season culminating in the program's first NCAA tournament win and its second straight Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference.

Helmed by then-second year head coach Barry King, the Colonials achieved a 23-7 overall record, tying the 1997 squad with the most wins in program history. The feat came just three years after the Colonials went winless in conference play.

The Colonials earned a taste of postseason victory in 2017 when they won their first conference title and earned their first NCAA tournament berth. The team collected 17 victories – the most in a single season since 1998.

But after taking home the MAWPC 2017 Championship with a victory over Wagner, Harvard edged the squad in its NCAA debut with a 15-13 overtime thriller and sent it back to Foggy Bottom with a renewed vigor for 2018.

The squad kicked off the season with a bang, winning all four of its games at the Navy Open, including a heavy-hitting battle with No. 20 Wagner to open the tournament. GW knocked off No. 16 California Baptist and Iona before falling to No. 9 Harvard 12-11 to close out

the Princeton Invitational.

The Aggie Roundup proved difficult for the Colonials. The team began and bookended the tournament with losses to ranked opponents, including an overtime loss to No. 17 San Jose State to send the Colonials into conference play.

GW split its first two conference games, smashing La Salle in an 11-goal victory and falling to Wagner by three goals. The Colonials bounced back to string together four-straight wins, including a 20-9 defeat over No. 15 Bucknell.

Bucknell would enact its revenge eight days later, besting GW 13-12. The Colonials quickly overcame the setback with another four-game win streak. Wagner returned to ruin the team's rhythm and handed the squad an 18-16 loss.

The Colonials capped the regular season with a 17-8 victory over Navy to complete a 19-6 regular season record. The No. 2-seeded team bounced McKendree and Wagner in the MAWPC tournament quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively.

GW then squared up with Bucknell in a rematch of the 2017 final. GW topped Bucknell 12-11 in overtime to add a second banner in the Smith Center and earn its second straight NCAA tournament berth.

The team faced off with No. 12 Princeton in the first round of the NCAA tournament. After falling five goals behind the Tigers, the Colonials scored six unanswered points to take the lead. Princeton struck late, scoring with 26 seconds left to send the contest into overtime.

The Tigers scored early in extra minutes, but the Colonials netted back-to-back possessions and shut out the Tigers until the final buzzer

sounded on a 14-13 win.

In the quarterfinals, GW traveled West to take on the No. 2-seeded and defending national champions UCLA. The Bruins put the Colonials in a four-goal hole early in the first quarter and kept the offense bumping throughout the game, scoring at least three goals each quarter.

The Colonials, led by junior center Andrew Mavis, countered with six goals – three of which came in the fourth quarter. But the effort wasn't enough, and the Bruins nabbed an 18-6 win.

Despite the loss, the 2018 season was a series of firsts for the then-34-year-old program. GW nabbed its first NCAA tournament win, its highest ranking at No. 11 and the best record in program history. The team made it to the MAWPC final for the third straight year in 2019 but fell short of the title in a loss to Bucknell.

A trio of upperclassmen in Mavis, senior goalkeeper Austin Pynch and junior utility player Atakan Destici led the squad throughout the regular and postseason. Destici and Pynch notched All-Conference First Team nods, while Mavis was selected to the All-Conference Second Team. All three earned a spot on the MAWPC Championship All-Tournament First Team.

Destici cemented himself into the record books as No. 1 in assists against the Bruins. He tacked on 44 helpers his senior season to top off 238 career assists. Mavis and Destici sit at No. 3 (279) and No. 5 (259), respectively, in career goals. Pynch's 2018 performance ranks him within the top three in single-season saves (302) and save percentage (55 percent).



FILE PHOTO BY ERIC LEE

Tournament organizers will subject athletes and coaches to a rigorous testing regime and ban spectators from the venue to ensure safety.