

The GW Hatchet

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Test-optional applications soar, international student applications fall

RYAN ANASTASIO
REPORTER

ZACH SCHONFELD
NEWS EDITOR

GW is on track to notch its largest freshman applicant pool ever this year alongside a significant drop in students submitting college admission exam scores.

Officials said they received 27,141 first-year applications as of Feb. 3 – a 1.6 percent increase from last year – which could top an all-time record once the data is finalized in the coming weeks. Jay Goff, the vice provost for enrollment and student success, said the increase largely came from a growth in the number of domestic applicants while international applications fell nearly 20 percent with travel restrictions continuing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Given all the changes and the restrictions of the past year, we're thrilled to attract such a strong applicant pool," Goff said. "It's a great indication of the fact that students truly value the quality of a GW education."

Ben Toll, the dean of undergraduate admissions, said although the regular decision deadline passed last month, the final number may tweak slightly – likely by fewer than 20 applications in either direction – as officials review application files. If the application numbers hold, it would break an all-time record set in 2017 of 26,987 first-year applicants, according to data from the

provost's office.

Drop in test score submissions

Toll said roughly 75 percent of applicants typically submit standardized testing scores but officials expect less than 50 percent to have sent test scores to GW in 2021. The pandemic has prevented many students from taking the SAT and ACT, which likely drove the sharp decline, Toll said.

"I don't think it's a reflection of student choices," he said. "I think it's a reflection of availability."

He added that many students typically take both the SAT and ACT to determine which test they prefer, but they likely could not do so under current health restrictions.

"That's something that's also playing in here," Toll said. "Maybe a student applied test-optional – they may have taken a test, but they were hoping and expecting to take it twice. Then they decided, 'Well, this isn't a complete picture of who I am, because I was planning to take another swing at it.'"

Wafa Muflahi, a partner and senior program director at the college consulting firm Command Education, said many universities adopted test-optional policies in the past year because students were not able to sit through tests during the pandemic. Officials changed the University's admissions policy to be test-optional in 2015.

"Many applicants have strong applications with great extracurriculars and

grades but can't quite get their SAT or ACT scores to fall within top schools' average percentiles," Muflahi said. "These are the students who took the opportunity to apply to top schools without having to submit ACT or SAT scores this cycle and likely are the students who account for the increased application numbers."

Domestic applications rise, international applications fall

Goff and Toll said the number of freshman international applications fell to 3,157 this year, a 19.1 percent decrease from last year's figure. The drop, largely driven by falling applications from China, was anticipated as travel restrictions and uncertainty remain during the pandemic, they said.

But freshman domestic applications rose 5.2 percent this year to 24,140, with increases in 39 states. Officials also saw increases in the DMV.

"We've seen that ever since last March, that Maryland and Virginia students had a little bit higher yield, because I think there's a little bit of desire to be closer to home," Toll said.

Toll added that about 11 states, more than half of which are located in the northeast and mid-Atlantic, have historically served as GW's core "feeder" areas, and all but one of these states – Illinois – saw growth in applications this year. GW received 817 freshman applications from Illinois, a decrease of about



FILE PHOTO BY GRACE HROMIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
More than 27,000 students submitted applications to GW this year, a milestone that could top the previous record set in 2017.

10 applications from last year, Toll said.

"Overall, where you see the major volume of students coming from, we're seeing positive growth in each of those areas," he said

Academic interests shift

Toll said officials saw a 20 percent annual increase in the number of applicants intending to study public health and a 10 percent increase in applicants wanting to become a physician. Applicants' interests are a "mirror of society" and often shift based on world events, he said.

"Those make complete sense to me because of what we've been talking about – all the signs in people's front yards about health

care heroes and things of that nature," Toll said.

Medical school applications nationwide increased by 18 percent this year as the spotlight shifted to health care workers during the pandemic, which some admissions officers have called the "Fauci effect," according to an Association of American Medical Colleges release.

Toll added that the number of applicants desiring to pursue law increased about 10 percent this year, likely as a result of the 2020 presidential election.

"Will they end up being lawyers or not?" Toll said. "Who knows, right? That's why they're going to college – to discover these different outcomes."

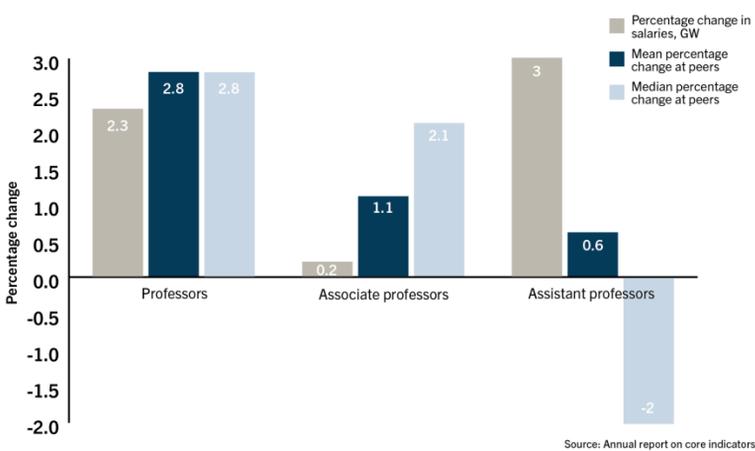
Students delay declaring GW commitment

Officials said GW experienced a drop in the number of students applying through the early decision rounds alongside an increase in the number of students applying through regular decision. Admissions programming has been held online since last March, preventing many applicants from visiting campus as they determine their top choices for college.

Toll said those changes, coupled with financial uncertainty and health concerns, were likely factors in applicants' decisions to not declare GW as their definitive top choice.

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Average percentage change in professor salaries at GW compared to average change at peers



SIDNEY LEE | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Faculty salaries hit record high relative to peers

NURIA DIAZ
STAFF WRITER

Officials said the University's rankings for faculty salaries have been improving over the past several years compared to GW's peer schools.

Provost Brian Blake said at a Faculty Senate meeting earlier this month that professors' salaries increased by 2.3 percent, slightly below the 2.8 percent median increase for GW's peer schools, from the 2018-19 to 2019-20 academic years. The Office of Faculty Affairs and the Office of Institutional Research and Planning said in a joint statement that average salaries for associate professors have maintained a fourth-place ranking compared to GW's peer schools, which they said has been the University's "best ranking over the years."

The rankings for full professors' salaries increased from sixth place to fifth, indicating that GW is "making progress" compared to its 12 peer schools, officials said. The overall changes could be the result of fluctuations in the faculty composition as different cohorts "move between cohorts," according to the statement.

"It is important to remember that the average

salaries in each cohort are not comparing the same people year over year," officials said in an email. "Faculty move up in rank, leave and there are new hires whose salaries differ by discipline. That said, there is a general upward trend across all ranks over the long term."

The average salary for associate professors increased by 0.2 percent compared to the mean and median percent increase for peer schools, which are 1.1 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively. The average salary for assistant professors increased by 3 percent, which was higher than the mean and median variations for the peer schools, with a 0.6 percent increase and a 2 percent decrease, respectively.

Officials said GW's improved standing with assistant professors' salaries was the result of overall "declines" experienced by the market basket schools.

"For example, Northeastern's mean salary reportedly went down 15 percent and Georgetown went down 2 percent," officials said. "This likely reduced the mean scores. Thus, by comparison, GW went up. Similarly, if you look at GW's change in rank for associate and full professors,

our ranking compared to our peers either went up or stayed the same."

Officials declined to say if there is an average amount that salaries for full, associate and assistant professors usually increase from year to year.

Administrators implemented a freeze on faculty merit salary increases last year to mitigate the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. But officials said the changes are not a result of the freeze because the freeze was implemented after the academic year ended.

Members of the senate's committee on appointment, salary and promotion policies said the rankings are an upward trend for the University even though they continue to remain below the averages for GW's market basket schools.

Joseph Cordes, a professor of economics and a member of the senate's ASPP committee, said the gap between GW's salary increase and that for its peer schools could be the result of slight changes in salaries for a single year if any school happened to hire several well-paid professors.

See **FACULTY** Page 3

Faculty to receive LeBlanc survey results Monday

ZACH SCHONFELD
NEWS EDITOR

The results of the faculty-wide survey assessing University President Thomas LeBlanc's leadership are expected to be provided to full-time faculty Monday.

A group of faculty senators managing the survey announced Friday that they would meet their Feb. 22 deadline to distribute the results after the survey closed at the end of last month. The survey will mark the widest measure of faculty sentiment toward LeBlanc to date after years of rising tensions.

"Since the survey closed on January 31, 2021, we have been working on analyzing the data," the faculty senators said in a statement Friday. "We want to thank you all for your active participation and for the robust response rate."

The group managing the survey said they received more than 1,200 responses, at least a 71 percent response rate.

The Faculty Assembly approved the survey in November following a monthlong deliberation about whether to censure LeBlanc or even take a formal no-confidence vote as hundreds of members of the GW community signed petitions and statements calling for LeBlanc's resignation.

As faculty prepare to release the survey results, here's a recap of how tensions grew:

As one of the hallmarks of his tenure, LeBlanc developed the 20/30 Plan, which sought to reduce the number of undergraduates by 20 percent while upping the share of undergraduate STEM majors to 30 percent over a five-year period. The plan was met with criticism from many faculty over shared gov-

ernance, diversity and financial concerns.

LeBlanc and other officials have said the plan is now obsolete after placing it on hold in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

GW's roughly 8 percent undergraduate enrollment drop this year, coupled with lost housing revenue and other income sources during the pandemic, created a \$180 million annual budget gap this fiscal year. The gap led administrators to cut employee travel, institute freezes on most hirings and capital projects and lay off hundreds of staff.

The layoffs – which occurred solely in administrative units, with many divisions being entirely restructured to save costs – inflamed some community members' frustrations, with hundreds citing the cuts in their calls for LeBlanc's resignation.

LeBlanc has said during public meetings and interviews that he has always prioritized the health and safety of the GW community, but the pandemic has necessitated "difficult" decisions, including layoffs, that could not be avoided.

As part of the reorganizations, LeBlanc named Heather Swain to lead GW's newly restructured communications and marketing divisions. Swain rescinded her acceptance of the hiring offer after many raised concerns over her decisions leading Michigan State University's communications office during the Larry Nassar sexual abuse case. LeBlanc later apologized for the hiring.

But the hiring was a step too far for some faculty, who began leading an effort to censure LeBlanc.

What led up to faculty-wide survey of LeBlanc



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SIDNEY LEE | GRAPHICS EDITOR

News

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THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

PRESIDENTIAL DISTINGUISHED EVENT SERIES - AN EVENING WITH CHRISTOPHER JACKSON

Feb. 22 • 8 p.m. EST • Free
In honor of George Washington's birthday and GW's bicentennial, GW will host Christopher Jackson to discuss his role as George Washington in the musical "Hamilton."

ON HOLD? THE BIDEN APPROACH TO ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN DIPLOMACY

Feb. 24 • 12:15 p.m. EST • Free
Two international affairs experts analyze President Joe Biden's strategy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and how it will be received in the region.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

JAN. 27, 1970

The Student Assembly, GW's student governing body and the precursor to the Student Association, votes nearly unanimously to abolish itself.



GRACE HROMIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Basement dining capacity in District House is limited to 25 percent capacity, in accordance with D.C.'s guidelines for indoor dining.

District House vendors reopen to students facing food insecurity

JARROD WARDWELL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Three GWorld vendors have reopened in District House over the past month, providing a few more options for students struggling to find open vendors this semester.

Chick-fil-A, Kin's Sushi and GRK Fresh Greek reopened in District House for the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19 in D.C., expanding options with 1,500 students returning to campus this semester. Residential students said the openings expand their dining options, but limited hours and a lack of affordable options have intensified food insecurity while more than 30 GWorld vendors remain closed.

Karen Zinn, the associate vice president of business services, said Sol Mexican Grill reopened last fall, Chick-fil-A reopened last month and both GRK and Kin's reopened earlier this month in the District basement. Officials cut basement seating to 25 percent capacity – per D.C.'s dining restrictions – and limit access to students on campus.

Zinn said safety is the "top priority" driving reopening guidelines, which require COVID-19 testing for employees and the installation of hand sanitizer dispensers, social distancing signage and plexiglass barriers at registers.

ers at registers.

Zinn said officials partnered with the Office of Campus Living and Residential Education to promote dining options for students on campus via email and social media. She said District House vendors follow public health "advice and direction" from the Milken Institute School of Public Health, the D.C. government and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to keep dining safe.

Zinn declined to say whether any additional GWorld vendors will reopen this semester.

Kostas Loi, a manager at GRK Fresh Greek, said he had to wait for officials to greenlight GRK's return to District before reopening earlier this month, and business has been "very slow" during the first two weeks back. He said GRK has reeled in about 10 to 12 customers per day, which he said doesn't even reach 10 percent of the number of daily customers from before the pandemic.

Loi said dining officials had been discussing the prospect of reopening the location for about three to four months before February, brainstorming when and how to reopen as more students returned. He said he hopes GRK will be able to maintain operations deeper into the semester, but the

number of student customers, who make up 95 percent of the clientele base, will ultimately determine the business's future.

GWorld vendors have suffered from the lack of student customers on campus over the past year with the pandemic keeping the majority of students off campus.

Zoubida Bicane, a sophomore living in Shenkman Hall, said finding affordable dining options has been challenging despite the vendors reopening in District House, where she buys meals about twice a week. She added that some vendors close earlier than their hours posted online suggest.

Bicane said she buys groceries from Trader Joe's and cooks most of her meals to account for the shortage of campus vendors and avoids "really expensive" prices at Whole Foods. She said she hopes more vendors like Bindaas, Gallery Gourmet Market and Dunkin' Donuts reopen later this semester.

Edy Koenigs, a freshman living in Shenkman Hall, said she's also struggled to find dining options on campus, noting that the majority of spots that are currently open are more expensive than others that are currently closed. She said limited hours, like Chick-fil-A's 6 p.m. closing time, limit meal options.

Fire alarms spark COVID-19 concerns in District House

JARROD WARDWELL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

District House residents have been forced to evacuate their residence hall nine times since the start of January because of a string of fire alarms triggered by kitchen smoke.

University spokesperson Crystal Nosal said six alarms were set off in January followed by three so far this month, each of which have cleared out the entire residence hall. She said students' cooking has caused every alarm during the time period, twice triggering alarms on back-to-back days, which has forced students to evacuate while they're trying to quarantine, isolate or distance indoors.

Nosal said kitchen smoke triggered six of the nine incidents and attributed two to cooking and one to a small oven fire. She said students who are isolating or quarantining because of COVID-19 still need to evacuate the building "in a safe and timely manner" like everyone else, ensuring they wear a face covering, abide by social distancing and return to their rooms "immediately" after the evacuation period ends.

All other students must also distance themselves from others during evacu-

ations to uphold COVID-19 safety protocol, Nosal added.

Nosal said D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services has responded to the alarms, and responders have filed "general orders" about each incident involving DC FEMS. She said building supervisors analyze the situation when they arrive at the scene of an alarm to determine the appropriate response.

Nosal said only one fire alarm in 2021 has come from a building other than District.

Students living in the building said the evacuations create crowds of up to 40 people waiting to reenter the building, disrupting daily schedules and raising concerns about how to safely follow distancing protocols amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Abigail Ingoglia, a sophomore living in District House, said two alarms went off while she was quarantining after testing positive for COVID-19 last month. She said she stayed isolated in her room during both evacuations and wasn't sure how to balance COVID-19 and fire safety.

Ingoglia said dozens of students stand nearby when she evacuates the building onto H Street during a fire alarm, but security officers try to encourage

students to distance themselves from each other. She said she hopes officials start to warn students ahead of a drill and continue to encourage "higher safety measures."

Senior Jane Meiter, who's lived in District House for the past three years, said frequent fire alarms have always been common in the building, but they have never sounded this frequently.

During evacuations, which range from 20 to 40 minutes, Meiter said students try to distance themselves, leaving two to three steps of separation while descending the building but gathering closer together at the bottom of the stairwell as they head outside. Students proceed to "spread out" or visit a nearby store like CVS once they're outside, she said.

District has more occupants this spring than last semester after the number of students on campus tripled following two weeks of move-in last month.

Meiter said the absence of resident advisers could have contributed to the frequency of fire alarms because freshmen and transfer students in the building might not understand cooking protocol or fire alarm sensitivity and don't have an RA as a resource for help.



FILE PHOTO BY SABRINA GODIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

All but one fire alarm triggered on campus this year has been related to an incident at District House.

SA senator becomes the first to launch campaign for executive vice president

CLARA DUHON
STAFF WRITER

A Student Association senator announced her candidacy for SA executive vice president Monday, planning to advocate for stronger mental health services and improved community relationships among SA senators.

SA Sen. Kate Carpenter, U-at-Large and a Hatchet photographer, said she plans to work with administrators, student organizations and students to improve access to mental health care and menstrual products on campus and increase school spirit. She said her experiences serving on five SA committees and caucuses, including a group updating the SA constitution and bylaws, and her involvement in organizations across campus have prepared her for the role.

"I want to make the change from the inside," Carpenter said. "I have this opportunity. I've been here for two years, but I also have a mindset where I understand that the Student Association does have room to change. It does have room to update, and I have great ideas for it to change and update and how to make it run efficiently and really work for the students that sometimes it does fail to work for."

Carpenter was SA President Brandon Hill's first nominee to fill a vacancy for EVP after Hill ascended to the presidency, but she did not receive the requisite number of senators' votes to confirm her nomination.

Carpenter, the first to announce a candidacy for EVP, is required to gather at least 250 signatures during the candidate registration period from Feb. 24 to March 3 and be approved by the Joint Elections Commission to qualify as a candidate. The senate approved legislation in November to cut the num-

ber of required signatures in half for candidates to run this year.

Carpenter said she has seen an "internal divide" in the SA between groups like graduate and undergraduate students, within various committees and on a "personality, friendship and colleague" basis, which she said limits the body's ability to advocate for students. She said, if elected as EVP, she would create "community-based events" and "hangout times" in person or on Zoom for SA senators to improve community relations.

Carpenter said Hill, the current SA president, facilitated "hangout time" for the senators last semester as executive vice president, which she intends to expand for senators.

"There's a lot of room for more camaraderie among senators that I think would eliminate a lot of the internal divide that we have," she said.

She added that she wants to reform mental health services offered by the Colonial Health Center to establish a "streamlined" way for students to access services. She said she wants to pursue expanding students' "access and awareness" to telehealth – which offers physical, psychological and mental services to students via phone – during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

She added that she intends to oversee research conducted by SA senators on how peer universities provide students access to contraceptives, birth control and menstrual products to find ways to increase GW students' access to those items. She said she will encourage SA members to conduct research on the topic using practices from GW's peer schools to determine how to improve access.

Carpenter said she intends to collaborate with female senators and the SA women's caucus as



GRACE HROMIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Earlier this month, the Student Association Senate rejected Carpenter's bid to serve as EVP in a move lambasted by SA President Brandon Hill.

well as student organizations, like People for Periods, that already focus on providing students with menstrual products.

The People for Periods project currently restocks more than half a dozen campus bathrooms with menstrual products.

She said she wants to work with Capital Peers, a group that educates students on mental health issues, and the Office of Student Life to reform sexual education at GW. In her experience at GW, she said the only time sex education was discussed among students was at freshman orientation.

Carpenter said she communicates with the sophomore class

president at Stanford University to hear about their "effective" sexual education programs implemented for their students. She said as executive vice president, she could work with officials and students to create more sex education modules to get students excited to learn about the topic.

Carpenter also said she has been working with officials in Gelman Library in her capacity as a senator to add exercise bikes inside the library study areas. She said the initiative would allow students to paddle on a bike while studying to improve their physical and mental health – a project that should be complete by the fall.

Carpenter said she also wants to establish a "streamlined" online calendar for students dedicated to advertising all University events so students can support fellow community members and ultimately improve school spirit. She said the Office of Advertising has contacted her to help increase school spirit in "any capacity" possible with support from the SA.

She said she plans to encourage students to find their own "niche" for school spirit and what makes them proud to be a GW student, like attending sports games, going to the annual Midnight Breakfast or bragging about spotting a big-name politician on the street.

Female full business professors earn higher average salaries than males

ISHANI CHETTRI
STAFF WRITER

Female full professors in the School of Business are continuing to make slightly more money than their male counterparts this academic year.

Female full business professors are making 14 cents more for every dollar that their male counterparts make, according to data presented at this month's Faculty Senate meeting. Experts in higher education said the disproportionate number of female faculty in the business school may distort that data, which indicate that female full and associate business professors make more money than male business professors.

"Gender inequity is an important issue in academia as well as in the business world," business school Dean Anuj Mehrotra said in an email. "Hence it is of great concern to me as a dean. During my time at GWSB, I have endeavored to resolve these concerns by taking a systematic, market-based approach to faculty salary negotiations and have conducted salary equity reviews in collaboration with the Office of the Provost."

Mehrotra said faculty salary varies by department. He said there is a gender disparity in salaries because of "where these faculty are located."

Salary equity in the business school has decreased slightly for faculty over the past three years.

Female business professors made 18 cents more for every dollar that their male counterparts made in the 2018-2019 academic year, according to the core indicators report from last March. The number decreased to 15 cents more in the 2019-20 academic year and is now at 14 cents more for the current academic year.

Mehrotra said the decline in salaries is "primarily" driven by changes in personnel. He declined to say how faculty members have responded to the changes in salary equity in recent years.

Mehrotra said the equity ratio for assistant professors in the business school stands at 88.95 this academic year, indicating that for every dollar that male professors make, female professors make roughly 12 cents less. He said the difference could be due to male assistant professors often working in "higher-paying disciplines."

"In addition, the Office of the Provost conducts an annual equity review of faculty salaries, including GWSB faculty salaries, and recommends equity adjustments be made when warranted," he said.

Tom Barkley, a professor of finance practice at Syracuse University and the chair of the budget and fiscal af-

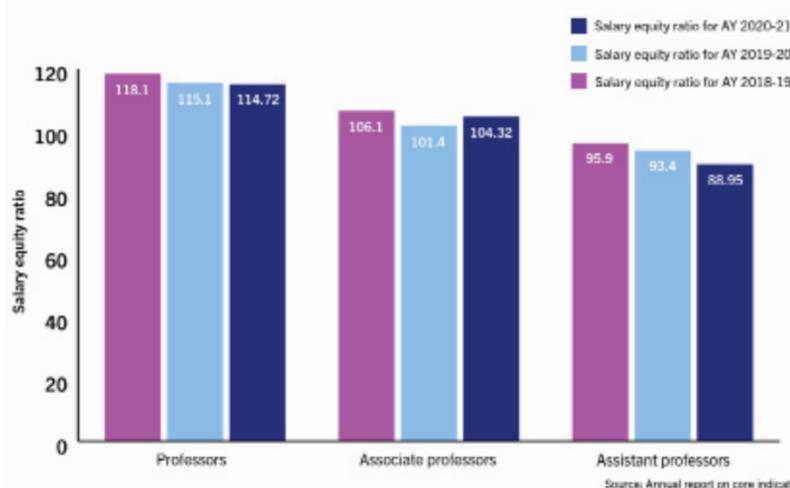
fairs committee at Syracuse's University Senate, said given the slowly declining equity ratio in the business school in the past three years, the difference in salaries could be the result of a few female professors whose salaries are "disproportionately high," distorting the overall ratio.

"Let's say as other male salaries come up, then the ratios are going to decrease and tend to get closer to 100," he said. "But without seeing the actual data and being able to play with it, it sounds to me that there is a female professor who gets a really good salary and that has thrown the ratios a little bit out of whack."

There are 11 female full professors and 26 male full professors in the business school this year, according to the core indicators report. These numbers have remained largely the same with only slight fluctuations since the 2018-19 academic year, when there were 10 female professors and 29 male professors in the school.

Tyler Bickford, the chair of the university senate budget policies committee at the University of Pittsburgh, said that because the number of professors in the business school is "too small," a few highly paid female professors may bring up the average. He said business schools don't generally pay female full professors more than their male counterparts.

Salary equity ratios by gender for professors in the business school



SIDNEY LEE | GRAPHICS EDITOR

"There are some well-paid women full professors within the business school, but I don't think that's the expression of some broader trend or generalization about how full professor pay works in North America," Bickford said.

He said in most higher education institutions, women are more likely to be over-represented in lower ranks like non-tenured track positions, especially in schools or fields that often have lower pay.

Female professors make up 29.7 percent of all full business professors this year, 33.3 percent of all associate

professors and 36.8 percent of all assistant professors, according to this year's core indicators report.

Charles Chang, the chair of the equity and inclusion committee in Boston University's Faculty Council, said if the University is willing to acknowledge and actively work toward decreasing the salary disparity between female and male professors, then female faculty members would have an "advantageous" position to bargain for higher salaries and more resources.

"As the business school faculty better approximates a 1 to 1, male-to-female faculty

ratio, then there's less of a disparity in terms of the drive to retain faculty of a particular gender," he said.

He said if female full professors remain underrepresented in the school, officials could be pressured to tend to negotiations with potential new hires to maintain retention while increasing those professors' salary rates.

"The loss of a male faculty member from the business school doesn't hurt as much as the loss of a female faculty member from the business school because the loss of a male faculty member doesn't increase the gender disparity," Chang said.

Medical school professor interviews residents on COVID-19 perceptions

ABBY KENNEDY
REPORTER

This story is part of *The Hatchet's semester-long project sharing stories of GW's faculty members at the forefront of researching the COVID-19 pandemic.*

With the COVID-19 pandemic reaching its one-year mark in the District, a School of Medicine and Health Sciences professor has spent the past month interviewing locals about their perceptions of COVID-19 public health recommendations and their thoughts on the vaccine's effectiveness.

Janice Blanchard, a professor of medicine and the chief of the section of health policy in the medical school, said she began her research project in mid-January and has since interviewed more than 20 residents over Zoom from all of the city's eight wards. She said she hopes her research will help local health officials address disparities in the pandemic's effects on the District.

"I am aware there are a lot of disparities already in D.C., and we have seen some of those augmented because of COVID, especially

when you look east of the river where Wards 7 and 8 are located versus the other wards," she said. "I have had a long interest in disparities, and I really wanted to look at what things were contributing to some of the disparities we see because of COVID."

By the end of the project, she said she hopes to interview about 40 to 50 D.C. residents.

Blanchard, who is conducting her research using GW's internal COVID-19 research fund, said she recruits interviewees in the D.C. area from patients at the GW Hospital's emergency department, where she and her colleagues work. She said she plans to wrap up the research in about three months.

Blanchard said she and her colleagues are focused on all wards throughout D.C. but are paying particular attention to areas of the city, like Wards 5, 7 and 8, that have high rates of COVID-19 infections but low rates of vaccinations. She added that her research breaks down groups of participants by their age to get a complete representation of the city's population.

Blanchard said the idea for her project began through the emergency department after she treated patients diagnosed with the virus and became concerned about perceptions of COVID-19 guidelines and how they varied by ward.

She said the project is still in its early stages of data collection, but the interviews so far have revealed that people understand public health recommendations but lack access to the vaccine in wards with higher COVID-19 rates.

Based on her research, Blanchard said she will write an academic paper to disseminate the results to help city officials understand how to ensure that people have equal access to COVID-19 information. She said she hopes the research can help identify specific barriers to accessing the vaccine, which could include transportation or internet usage, that can help guide government officials on what aspects of their pandemic response to target.

"If we find out people are having problems getting the vaccine because of transportation or because of internet



GRACE HROMIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Janice Blanchard, a professor of medicine, has interviewed residents across D.C. about their thoughts on COVID-19 restrictions and vaccines.

use or because of messaging they don't trust, I am hoping we can use that information to really target some of those barriers we are seeing," she said.

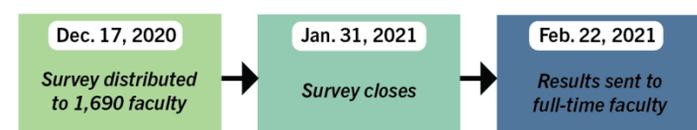
Blanchard said the chance to talk with District residents and find out more about them beyond a

clinical setting is what she is enjoying most about conducting her research. In the clinical setting, she only gets to know why patients are in the emergency department and does not get the chance to delve into deeper issues, like their perceptions of public health guidelines,

she said.

"I enjoy the opportunity to find out just a little bit more about patients in terms of what are other things that are going into their mindset about COVID," she said. "We just don't have time to talk to them about that in the clinical setting."

Tracking faculty-wide survey of LeBlanc



SIDNEY LEE | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Board stands behind LeBlanc as survey is completed

From Page 1

Arthur Wilson, the chair of the Faculty Senate's executive committee, said in September that the committee was also considering a faculty evaluation of LeBlanc's performance, and a "suitable survey instrument" had already been prepared.

After trustees asked faculty senators to soften their condemnation, the senate voted in October to voice "severe disapproval" instead of a formal censure.

Weeks later, a group of professors introduced the petition to launch the faculty-wide survey, which was approved by the Faculty Assembly in a 152-25 vote. The vote came after an intense debate about the peti-

tion and legitimacy of online voting.

As many faculty and student organizations have demanded LeBlanc's resignation, trustees have publicly defended him, saying he has demonstrated a "strong" ability to lead the GW community through the pandemic.

"On the completion of the February Board meetings, including a comprehensive update on the status of the University, the Board of Trustees commend President LeBlanc and his leadership team for the great work they continue to do managing effects of the pandemic to secure the University's future," the Board said in a statement earlier this month. "The University leadership has the deepest appreciation and gratitude of the

Board."

Board Chair Grace Speights said in an interview earlier this month that she had been invited to review the survey results, which she plans to look at, but she will ultimately rely on the Board's standard review of LeBlanc this spring before determining if his contract will be extended.

She said trustees are hiring an independent firm to assist with the review, which will conclude near the end of the academic year.

"We're going to rely on a process that we put into place to make sure that we have a fair and independent process," Speights said. "That's what we've done with every president, and that's what will be considered."

Faculty to look into salary increases

From Page 1

He said officials hope to increase faculty members' salaries to the top quintile of the American Association of University Professors' report, but their efforts have been stalled by the freeze on merit salary increases during the pandemic. Officials have proposed unfreezing the merit increases by July and will begin to hire new staff then, he said.

University President Thomas LeBlanc said at the senate meeting this month that officials plan to restore merit salary increases and matching retirement contributions this July.

Cordes said he is waiting to see the AAUP report for this

academic year to have a better idea of why GW had a smaller salary increase percentage relative to other universities in the 2019-20 academic year. He said the committee will "look at" the issue at its next meeting.

Murli Gupta, the chair of the ASPP committee, said GW has been doing "very well" in rankings compared to the other market basket schools but still has the chance to continue improving its position.

"In fact, it seems pretty high compared to the averages of the other market basket schools," he said. "But notice that our ranking is seven from a group of 13 [for assistant professors' average salaries] so we are smack dab in the middle."

He said because GW

doesn't receive large government subsidies like state schools do and donations can't be used for faculty salaries, GW's "incoming budget" prevents salaries from increasing as much. Gupta said faculty salaries should ideally increase by 10 percent every year, but "that's not practical."

The University of Pittsburgh, GW's only peer school that's a public university, saw a 3.7 percent average salary increase for its full-time professors in the 2019-20 academic year, more than 1 percent higher than GW's.

Gupta said faculty members don't get any automatic salary increases other than merit raises, and "most professors" don't expect large merit salary increases every year.

Applicants keep options open: expert

From Page 1

"Finding your college is supposed to be fun – going on college visits, going on tours, getting to meet people – and we're doing our best in the virtual environment, but it's not the same," Toll said. "We just have to remember, how do we bring a little bit more joy back in this process?"

Erin Earle, the former president of the New England Association for College Admission

Counseling and the director of campus visit experience at the University of Rhode Island, said the inability for prospective students to visit colleges may have also led to an increase in applications because of the difficulty in ruling out potential schools.

"A big thing with COVID is the inability to visit as much as people used to," she said. "They are applying to more schools because they have not narrowed down that list by visiting."

While GW became test optional before the pandemic, Ear-

le said more students may have found GW because they are now looking for test-optional schools. With application numbers potentially rising, she said universities may still see enrollment numbers decrease due to the pandemic.

"I hope that students will still see post-secondary education as really valuable and important, because I am worried that students are going to opt-out and miss out on amazing opportunities that are going to help them get to their goals," Earle said.

Student interns on Capitol Hill assist in COVID-19 pandemic messaging

BRENNAN FISKE
STAFF WRITER

In a normal year, sophomore Eshan Alamdeen's internship on Capitol Hill would involve drafting memos and taking phone calls for Rep. David Trone, D-Md. But now, he's part of a large-scale effort to ensure Maryland residents get the vaccine.

Last month, Alamdeen drafted an email detailing Maryland's COVID-19 vaccine roll-out plan to send to Trone's entire district. He said the assignment was "rewarding," especially when he heard the email was requested by the White House COVID-19 Response Team as a template for their own vaccine campaign.

"We needed to make it, basically, accessible and easy to understand and user-friendly in a format that could be sent out over email," Alamdeen said. "I needed to find testing locations, numbers, addresses and include their website with a direct URL to apply. And we had to do it for all our counties in district six, which is by far the biggest district in all of Maryland."

Alamdeen is one of half a dozen students currently working a virtual or in-person internship on the Hill this semester amid the pandemic. Students said throughout their internships at the Capitol, they've witnessed how constituents are struggling to receive essential needs, like financial relief, during the pandemic and emboldened their love

for politics and assisting people.

Alamdeen said he works three days a week virtually for Trone's office, which has been running "as smoothly as possible" through various communication channels, like Google Meet and Slack. He said it's been "fascinating" to watch officials operate during a historical year because of the pandemic.

"My first week was Jan. 4, and two days later and we had a terrorist attack on our Capitol," Alamdeen said. "So I think it's a perfect time to start working. And this is a fascinating time to be in politics."

Sophomore Julia Koscelnik, a political science major, said she is interning this semester for Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md. She said the pandemic has influenced "every part" of her internship — she has been answering and assisting constituents who call with concerns, like being months behind on their unemployment checks.

She said she still would have been taking phone calls for the office had she interned in a non-COVID-19 year, but now the phone calls and assignments she does receive are all aimed at providing COVID-19 assistance to constituents during the pandemic.

"I honestly couldn't imagine it otherwise," Koscelnik said. "Because almost every single call that we get has to do in some way with COVID, other than the impeachment. Obviously, [former

President Donald Trump] was impeached once before COVID. And then once during COVID, but I think that COVID has impacted the political landscape so much and has made it even more polarized."

She said it has been especially "interesting" following Trump's impeachment trial earlier this month, with Raskin taking a central role in the case. Koscelnik said she received "multiple" phone calls from supporters from areas outside of Raskin's district like Texas and California throughout the trial who called to back the representative's argument.

Raskin worked as impeachment manager, arguing that Trump incited the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol and threatened the safety of former Vice President Mike Pence.

"Now, because he was at the forefront of the impeachment trials, he gained such a national focus," Koscelnik said. "I thought that was really cool, seeing just how now I think almost everyone knows his name if you've been following impeachment."

Sophomore Josh Orenstein, a political science major, said he is interning this semester for Rep. Chris Jacobs, R-N.Y., in a hybrid capacity, making the trip to Capitol Hill twice a week and working one day remotely.

He said attending hearings and communicating between offices is "easy" to do virtually because



FILE PHOTO BY DEAN WHITELAW
Many students at GW have a firsthand view of the impact of the pandemic on the lives of citizens nationwide through their internships on Capitol Hill.

he can join any meeting on platforms like WebEx without having to be working in person that day. He said he attended and took notes on a virtual hearing Thursday on the aftermath of GameStop's sharp rise in the stock market last month to report back to the office.

"They're keeping as many people out of the office as possible, but in order to provide a more comprehensive and more complete experience for me as an intern, they've generously decided to allow me to come in as much as possible," Orenstein said.

Orenstein said his in-person days aren't "overwhelmingly different" from the time he spends remotely, as he's tasked

with similar duties like staffing the phones and conducting legislative research. Interns are no longer allowed to give Capitol Hill tours, but he said he wishes he could have that aspect of the typical position.

"There's no real physical interaction with constituents or guests to the congressman's office," Orenstein said. "Capitol Hill is largely devoid of people at the moment. The largest group of people is members of the National Guard and some staffers, but I imagine it's significantly busier before COVID."

Sophomore Cam Cayer, a political science major, said he spent last summer working in person for Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., in

the Rhode Island office before transitioning online for the fall and spring to the D.C. office. He said although he was not used to working virtually, he still feels his internship has connected him with resources, like communication channels, to feel a part of the team and their work.

Cayer said his virtual internship is also beneficial because he did not have to plan his class schedule around which days he would be working in person.

"In person, it was an actual experience, but online you still get exposure, and you're still learning about what the House does," Cayer said. "You're still seeing what the congressman does."

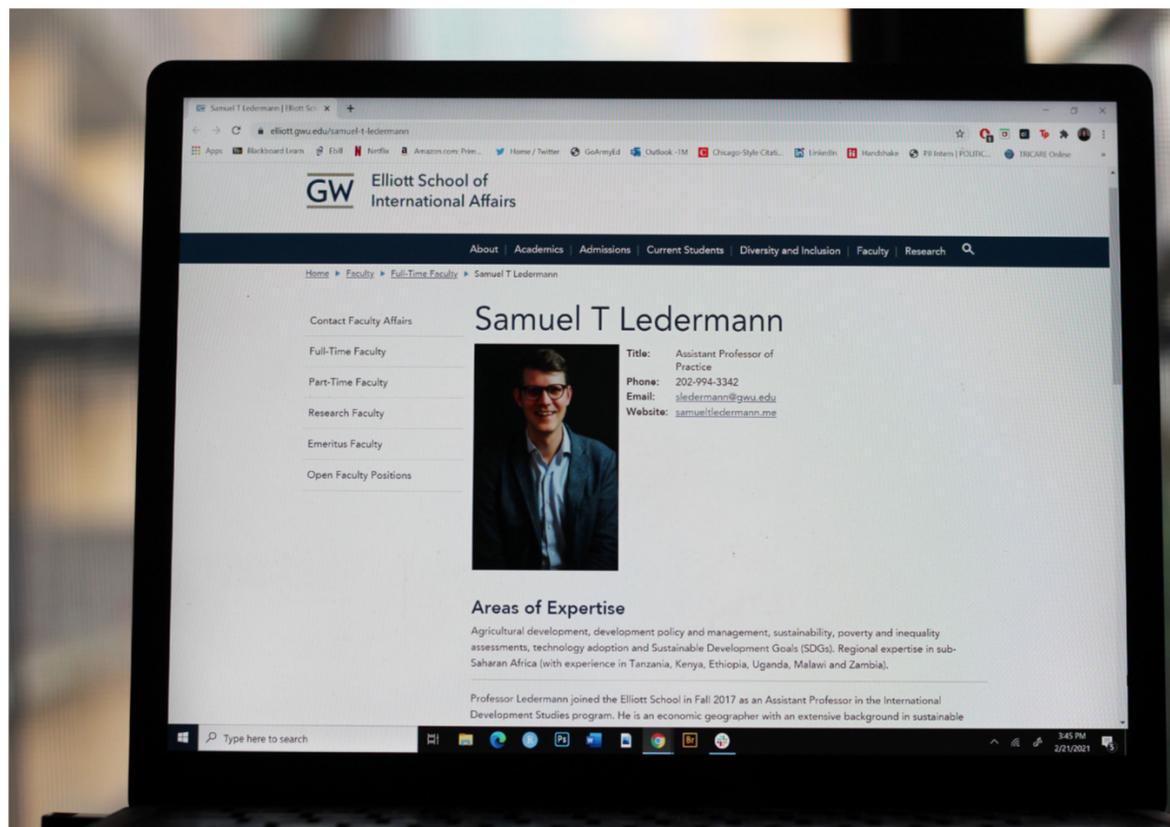


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LILLIAN BAUTISTA | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Professor Samuel Ledermann hopes to study how the COVID-19 pandemic may have affected the decisions of impact investors around the world.

Professors study how COVID-19 pandemic has affected investments made for social change

ABBY KENNEDY
REPORTER

This story is part of *The Hatchet's* semester-long project sharing stories of GW's faculty members at the forefront of researching the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two professors are teaming up to assess how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the number of investments made to affect social change.

Samuel Ledermann, an assistant professor of practice at the Elliott School of International Affairs, said he spent the past two and a half months creating a survey to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the number of impact investments made to create long-term social or environmental change. He said the pandemic has created an increased need for investments in social and environmental causes but has produced an economic environment in which making such investments can be financially risky.

"The fear would be with COVID, you obviously not only have an increase in inequalities and an increase in marginalization and so forth but actually that investors are retreating because of the risks that exist to the economy," Ledermann said.

He said the survey will be conducted globally and sent to

investors, investment advisers and other researchers in the field by late March or early April, and he expects to be able to analyze results in April.

Ledermann said these investments help provide private sector funding to aid the public sector in achieving social and environmental goals, like the 17 sustainable development goals set by the United Nations in 2015.

He said he hopes he can present his research to federal and international policymakers, which could help government leaders offer a "safety net" to incentivize people to make impact investments.

"If we identify that impact investors are retreating in a specific region because of a perceived higher risk of the investments defaulting so they would lose money on them, there are instruments that exist currently where a government can say, 'I take the first loss if an investment were to default,'" he said.

Ledermann said he received an impact grant in 2015 through his work at Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development, an organization that works to find sustainable ways to improve life for people in Africa. He said he was working to implement an agriculture technology project throughout eastern and south-

ern Africa, which sparked an interest in sustainable agriculture and partially motivated him to start his current project.

He said impact investments have been one of the fastest-growing classes of investments globally in the 15 years, and he wanted to understand their impact with COVID-19.

"Overall, we are looking at what is happening with the investments overall right across everything, but then we are honing down and trying to understand what is the impact on the level of health and at a level of food security," he said.

Reid Click, an associate professor of international business and international affairs who is working with Ledermann on the research, said the project will investigate whether impact investors are shifting from investments in agriculture to those in health care. He said other qualitative studies and surveys have shown that impact investments as a whole have been resilient throughout the pandemic.

A June survey administered by the Global Impact Investing Network on the pandemic's effect on impact investing reported that the pandemic has not made a significant dent in investments.

"I am curious to know

what happens during this pandemic to impact investing as a whole investment class, as well as maybe what happens to our agricultural investments, if everybody is shifting toward health care investments, so that is what the project is really about," Click said.

Click said he and Ledermann plan to send the survey out to about 300 self-identified impact investors and organizations and will then ask those investors for names of other possible respondents. He said this number will be able to provide a sample for the investing field.

Click said the survey will ask participants questions about how the pandemic has affected their investments and their social impact.

Jake Schwartz, a first-year graduate student working on the project, said his role as a research assistant is to contribute to the literature review and write a summary of all of the research completed to date on impact investing during the pandemic.

Schwartz said he also helped develop the survey, which is sent through an anonymous link by email to investors, organizations that conduct impact investing research, policymakers and advisers to impact investors.

IN BRIEF

Officials delay senior gift campaign, forego fundraising goal

Officials are delaying this year's senior class gift campaign, instead launching it this spring as students continue remote instruction.

Amanda Nugent, the director of leadership and loyalty annual giving, said this year's campaign will focus on connecting members of the senior class and encouraging them to stay engaged with GW as alumni. Development officials said they will also host events during the semester to connect seniors with current alumni.

"This year, the campaign's focus is to connect the class with each other and the University to set them up for their lifelong relationship with GW as alumni," Nugent said in an email. "Seniors will be invited to participate in events hosted by the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving that will connect them with GW's extensive alumni network. These events will range from networking opportunities to career advice and lifelong learning opportunities."

Nugent added that officials do not have any fundraising goals for the campaign this year. Past senior class gift campaigns have typically raised more than \$100,000 each year.

"We do not have any goals for the campaign this year," Nugent said. "The campaign is focused on engaging, connecting and supporting the senior class."

She added that officials will forego appointing seniors as student coordinators for the campaign, and the events will be promoted through a series of e-newsletters.

"Because of COVID-19, we are launching the campaign in the spring semester and our programming will be virtual rather than in person as has been the case in the past," she said.

Nugent did not return a request for comment about what date the campaign will start.

-Zach Schonfeld

CRIME LOG

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

Potomac House
2/14/2021 – 12:53 a.m.
Closed Case

GWPD officers also responded to a report about the third intoxicated female student in the group who had sustained an injury after falling and scraping her face while she was with the two other students. D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services responded to the scene and evaluated the student's condition, after which she was transported to the emergency room at the GW Hospital.

Referred to DSA.

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

Potomac House
2/14/2021 – 1:08 a.m.
Closed Case

GWPD officers received a report from an area coordinator about another intoxicated female student in the same group. Upon arrival, GWPD officers made contact with the student, who refused medical treatment.

Referred to DSA.

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

Potomac House
2/14/2021 – 1:14 a.m.
Closed Case

GW Police Department officers received a report from an area coordinator about an intoxicated female student. The student was accompanied by two other intoxicated female students. Upon arrival, GWPD officers made contact with the student, who refused medical treatment.

Referred to the Division for Student Affairs.

UNLAWFUL ENTRY

Duques Hall
2/14/2021 – 2:50 p.m.
Closed Case

GWPD officers responded to a report of an unknown male subject who refused to leave Duques Hall. Upon arrival, the officers discovered that the subject had left the scene. Shortly after, GWPD officers made contact with the subject outside of the building and issued him a bar notice. Officers later discovered that the subject provided a fictitious name and was previously barred from entering GW property.

Subject barred.

THEFT II/FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

Public Property On Campus (2200 block of G Street NW)
2/16/2021 – 1:00 p.m.
Closed Case

GWPD officers received a report of a dispute. Upon arrival, officers made contact with officers from the Metropolitan Police Department. MPD officers said two non-GW affiliated acquaintances were involved in a verbal dispute. Following the altercation, the male subject stole a set of car keys from a female victim, leaving her stranded in the car that both acquaintances arrived in.

Referred to MPD.

—Compiled by Kateryna Stepanenko



DANIELLE TOWERS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Updates to campus building HVAC systems like those in South Hall include increased ventilation and airflow and filters to block dust and contaminants.

GW upgrades HVAC systems across campus to satisfy energy standards, COVID-19 safety

YUTONG JIANG
REPORTER

The University is completing a second phase of HVAC upgrades in several campus buildings this semester to align with COVID-19 safety protocols and limit energy consumption.

David Dent, the associate vice president for facilities planning, construction and management, said officials are renovating the HVAC systems in Enterprise, Phillips, Rome, Discovery and Ames halls, Amsterdam House, the Smith Hall of Art and Building GG before June. He said officials upgraded eight other residential buildings last fall as part of the ReStart initiative, a project aimed to bolster HVAC systems on campus.

Dent said District, Potomac and International houses, Shenkman, South and Aston halls, 1959 E Street and One Washington Circle received upgrades this fall. He said officials enhanced building ventilation and airflow, maximized "fan production capacity" and "outside air flow and exchanges," repaired faulty equipment parts, renovated mechanical systems and installed MERV 13 filters — which block dust and contaminants from entering a room.

Dent said the ReStart Initiative, which is running this

academic year, helped officials determine that all buildings on campus are "safe for occupancy." The project's first phase of upgrades in the fall cost GW \$2.4 million, according to a University release issued in November.

The project also indicated that officials need to invest more into mechanical systems "to address deferred maintenance," Dent said. He said officials identified the buildings that needed more modernization to comply with the University's standards for carbon footprint, greenhouse gases and energy performance.

The release states that the initiative assessed the "mechanical capabilities" of each building's HVAC system to boost safety, according to guidelines outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Occupational Safety and Health Administration; and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

The project sets metrics for equipment, controls, environment, pollutant agility and domestic hot water, and the first phase of fall upgrades is "reaching completion" this month, according to the release.

Dent said officials are starting to draft designs for the next phase of HVAC upgrades, which will work to

modernize every University building beside the Lerner Health and Wellness Center, which has already received updated designs.

Mechanical engineering experts said the University's upgrades could enable safe ventilation during the pandemic, and officials should remain focused on maintaining frequent air filtration and finding alternative system designs to minimize energy consumption.

Leon Glicksman, a professor of building technology and mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said effective HVAC upgrades should block aerosols that could potentially carry the coronavirus and infect people inside a building. He said upgrades should depend on air change and recycling, which determine the amount of air that enters and exits a room.

Glicksman said systems "are not necessarily designed" to frequently filter air inside a room, so officials need to upgrade the systems to increase airflow and circulation. He added that officials also need to avoid systems that create horizontal airflow, which can transport aerosols carrying potential bacteria or virus strains from one person to another.

Glicksman said the University's installation of the MERV 13 filter, which blocks

contaminants, "works quite well" and meets the standard of ventilation expected of most buildings. He said the filters can stop all particles beside "the very tiniest" aerosols that a high-efficiency filter could block.

Forrest Meggers, an assistant professor of architecture at Princeton University, said the challenge for implementing HVAC upgrades under COVID-19 guidelines is the significant energy demand to ensure a maximum amount of fresh air is being delivered inside the buildings. He said the upgrades under the guidelines are often followed by a 200 to 300 percent increase in energy demand.

Meggers said officials should introduce a radiant hydronic system, a heating method that utilizes running water through pipes to create heat, to address the heating and cooling components of HVAC upgrades, which he said would ultimately be more efficient.

"You'd have to think about it as a campus for HVAC systems — I can make these great upgrades and make the buildings more comfortable and a little bit more efficient by putting water-based heating and cooling systems and making the ventilation be more focused on delivering care efficiently and having heat recovery," he said.

With no in-unit kitchens, Potomac residents rely on takeout, microwaves

SAMANTHA SERAFIN
STAFF WRITER

Freshman Charlie Wild said he was excited to learn that he'd received \$875 more in GWorld dining funds than his peers while living without an in-unit kitchen in Potomac House.

At the start of the semester, he said he figured he could eat off GWorld and cook meals in his room to avoid using the residence hall's only shared kitchen. But after a month of struggling to find GWorld meals or trying to cook in his kitchen-less room, he said he's limited in dining options and has resorted to microwavable meals or takeout.

"It's more of a safety concern," Wild said. "I don't think [the kitchen] gets cleaned very often, and I don't have the cleaning knowledge or supplies to clean an oven or to clean the stove top off, and I don't want to mess anything up."

Wild is one of about 175 freshmen living without an in-unit kitchen in the residence hall, navigating how to prepare and consume meals in the Potomac shared basement kitchen. Half a dozen freshmen said the communal kitchen's two-person limit, along with the dozens of GWorld vendors that are shut down or close early, have restricted their access to meals this semester.

Wild said having access to free delivery from local restaurants through Grubhub has been "super helpful," but he added that

the University should reconsider its policy prohibiting cooking appliances, like toasters, in residence halls. He said the mini-refrigerator in his room could not fit a Brita filter, and the microwave is "extremely slow" heating up his food, making it difficult to store and make meals in his residence hall.

"I initially thought it was great and then upon getting here with everything being closed so early, I'm really wishing I was in South Hall right now," Wild said.

Stewart Robinette, the assistant dean of students, campus living and residential engagement, said CLRE staff worked closely with GW's public health and safety and security experts to ensure students could safely utilize the shared community kitchens in their assigned hall. He said of the six residence halls occupied this semester, Potomac is the only residence hall where students do not have in-unit kitchens.

"Students are encouraged to cook and clean and then immediately leave the kitchen area to eat in another location so that their peers are able to rotate into the kitchen for cooking," Robinette said in an email.

Robinette said staff encouraged students to bring their own kitchen supplies to keep in their units and met with students at the beginning of the semester to explain how to use the community kitchen safely. Staff from Facilities Planning, Construction and Management have also added additional cleaning rotations

to all public areas, including community kitchen areas, in line with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, he said.

"We thank our residents in Potomac House for their cooperation in following the guidelines we have established for community kitchen use this semester," Robinette said. "It is a building-wide team effort to help each other out and be respectful of each other's cooking and meal preparation time during these unusual times."

Maggie Jones, a freshman majoring in international affairs from Columbia, South Carolina, said she stocked up on bulk groceries from Costco before moving in last month. Jones said she has been heating up microwavable meals in her room when she wants to avoid using the shared kitchen or spending her GWorld funds.

She said she has used the shared kitchen on occasion but tries to avoid going during the busiest hour, from 6 to 7 p.m., to decrease the risk of exposure.

She said although every student she's seen in the basement practices social distancing and wears a mask, sometimes the kitchen will feel "crowded" because students stay to eat and have to take off their masks. She said she and her suitemate prefer to wait until 7:30 p.m., once more students have cleared out, to cook meals together and feel less exposed.

"If it wasn't for COVID, I wouldn't mind it as much



SOPHIA YOUNG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR

For students living in Potomac House without kitchens, ordering on Grubhub or heating up a microwavable meal are among the most convenient alternatives to eating out.

because I would just be comfortable going down to the basement," Jones said. "But sometimes there's a lot of people there, and I can't go in there and cook because I'm worried about catching COVID with all these people with their masks off eating or it's over the capacity limit."

Jones said she has been to several restaurants on campus that are listed as GWorld partners on the University's dining website, like Chop't, but was told the "GWorld reader" wasn't working or that GWorld is no longer accepted. She said sometimes she gets frustrated when she has to go outside to get meals on windy or snowy days, because she

would prefer to stay inside.

"It does suck, especially when I'm sick of eating the same things over and over again, and I have to go walk to get food, which is even harder now that a lot of places are no longer taking GWorld because of COVID," Jones said.

Katrina Hauser, a freshman from New Jersey, said she will buy salad kits from Whole Foods to prepare in her room on days when she doesn't want to go out to eat but has been mainly eating on GWorld to limit her use of the kitchen. She said when she has used the communal kitchen, everyone has been wearing masks and following social dis-

tancing restrictions.

She said she doesn't mind sharing the kitchen with other people because she expected it when she received her housing assignment and enjoys using her GWorld to find new restaurants. She said the kitchen also has appliances for students to use and said students have been using a GroupMe chat to communicate and coordinate with one another, including asking to borrow kitchen supplies.

"People will ask in the chat 'Does anyone have a cookie sheet?' and then we use that to make cookies but also to meet people," Hauser said.

The athletic department should pause athletics for the spring

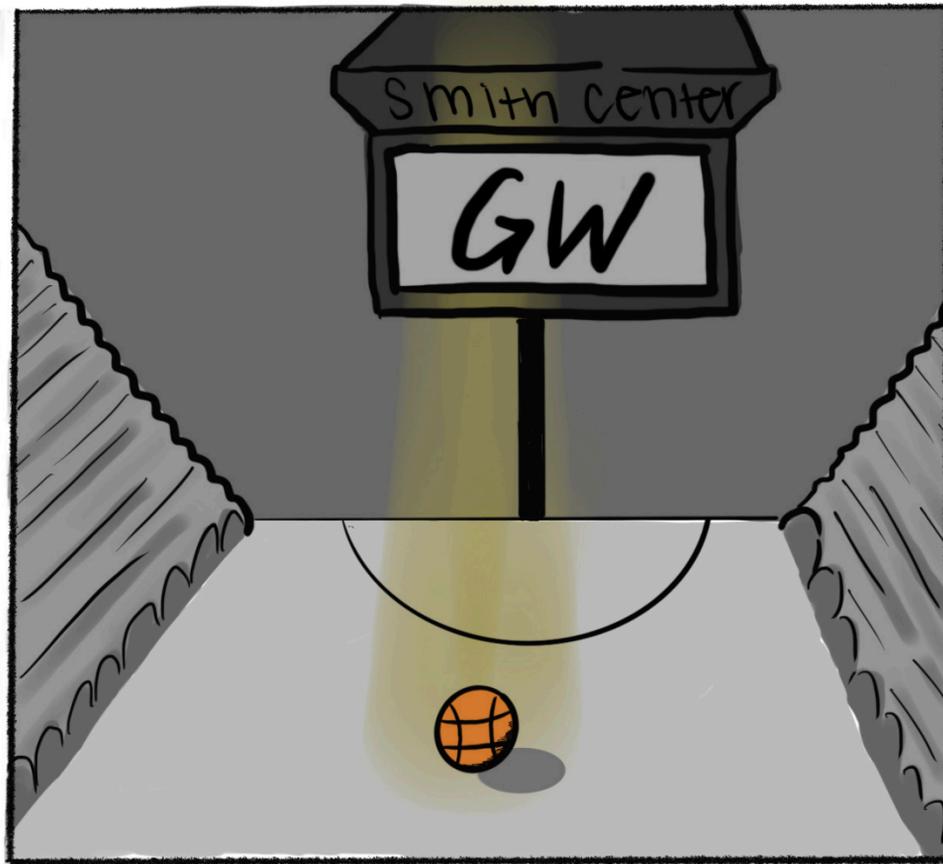
STAFF EDITORIAL

Thousands of college athletes have tested positive for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, sidelining teams for weeks on end. Just like almost every school, GW has faced these challenges – following a positive test from men's basketball head coach Jamion Christian, the team has missed a month's worth of games. And countless other teams have had to pause operations because another person came into contact with a COVID-19 case.

No one wants to say it, but it is not worth playing a sport when dozens of athletes' and coaches' health and safety are on the line. We have seen each team nearly cut their seasons in half because of COVID-19, but the danger to players and the community is still not zero. The risk is high, and the benefit is low. A half-baked season is not worth risking the health of athletes, staff and the community. Administrators should draw a line and pause sports this spring.

Both basketball teams – men's and women's – have presented at least one positive coronavirus case. Almost all sports, from basketball to gymnastics, are experiencing stop-and-go delays due to the virus. The women's squash team couldn't even hold a season because some international students are hesitant to travel back to campus during the pandemic, and the men's squash season is nearly nonexistent. The level to which the season has been disrupted points to the danger the pandemic poses to the community.

Pausing all sports would help to minimize the spread of COVID-19 by cutting sports travel, player interactions, staff interactions and more. The chances of a member of a team contracting the virus are not insignificant, with D.C. still experiencing relatively high case numbers. Traveling to another



Cartoon by Hannah Thacker

school then risks bringing the virus to another community – and it risks bringing the virus back to GW. We're hopefully nearing the end of the pandemic – teams should not risk their health just to be able to slide in a few games before the spring semester ends. Even if teams scrupulously adhere to mask-wearing and social

distancing requirements, there is still potential for outbreaks to occur on the court, on the field, in transit or at gatherings. These protocols are not perfect – they mitigate risk, rather than eliminating it. And there's always the chance that rules can get broken – let's face it, college students have a high potential for throwing caution to the wind after

essentially losing a full year of our young lives. These are fairly large holes that exist in any strategy to keep teams safe.

This is not just theoretical – there is ample evidence that college athletics have contributed to the spread of COVID-19 cases nationwide. Across university-level sports, more than 6,000

confirmed cases of the virus have been reported since the start of 2020. Not all departments and colleges have provided their case numbers, so the real tally is almost certainly way higher. College campuses have already been hotbeds for virus transmission, driven in part by students partying and socializing. Letting teams shuttle back and forth between campuses dramatically escalates the risk of making a disastrous public health situation even worse.

Obviously, pausing sports would not be without downsides, especially for the players. For student-athletes, their sport is a huge part of their life, their pride and even their career goals. The idea of robbing athletes, coaches and staff of something so important to them during a time of indescribable general stress and despair should not be taken lightly. But beyond the very valid personal disappointment it would cause, pausing sports would not necessarily harm college athletes materially as much as one might think. For example, the NCAA has decreed that all divisions need to ensure student-athletes will continue to receive their scholarships during the pandemic, even if they don't play. Although it is possible for a player to opt out of playing and a coach to retaliate by removing them from the team, pausing sports would eliminate the risk involved in one player choosing to opt out.

We are not saying that college athletes should simply shut up and stop dribbling – college students across the board have been told to suck it up more than enough during this crisis. But because of the risk of catching and spreading the virus that has killed nearly half a million people, GW should consider pausing athletics for the spring.

Closing the RSC would set an impossible standard

Last week, the far-left environmentalist group Sunrise GW wrote an op-ed advocating for GW to defund, or dissociate from, the Regulatory Studies Center. The organization alleges that the RSC is a climate change denying, radically libertarian organization, which is politically motivated to come to certain conclusions in their scholarship. But this is simply not the case.

Jack Elbaum
Writer

To substantiate the allegations they make, Sunrise GW would have to find glaring issues in the scholarship coming out of the RSC beyond simple disagreement with the outcomes. Sunrise GW has not found any such issues. They did not find a single study that has questionable methodologies. If they did, they surely would have made it known by now.

The student organization also dangerously conflates policy proposals that do not advocate for additional regulation, with climate denial or skepticism. They assume that if an organization or a scholar examines certain evidence and comes to the conclusion that more regulation on environmental issues is not the correct course of action, then they must – in some unspecified way – be corrupted. The truth is that the RSC is conducting honest research.

To all of my critiques, Sunrise GW would reply that the research of the RSC must be corrupted because the center is funded by the Koch brothers. The student organization's entire campaign to remove the RSC has been supported by an organization called "UnKoch My Campus." But Sunrise GW is creating an impossible standard. People both on the left and the right have long put money into supporting scholarly research. If we are now to assume that the research – even if we cannot point out any specific issue with it – is automatically tarnished as a result of that funding, then that means a lot of research that Sunrise GW likes may now be categorized in the same way. For example, at the start of 2020, left-wing philanthropist George Soros gave \$1 billion to various universities. Is it fair to assume that any research done with that money is simply propaganda? I don't believe so, and I'm sure neither does Sunrise GW.

If we know that this attack by Sunrise

GW is not on the quality of the RSC's scholarship or their funding, then what is it about? The answer is quite simple: Sunrise GW's attack on the RSC is purely motivated by a desire to remove any dissenting voices from higher education. I will not parse words in saying that this is a direct attack on academic freedom.

I would be remiss not to note the severity of allegations leveled against the RSC by Sunrise GW. On Twitter, for example, they wrote that "The RSC does not have scholars... it has ARSONISTS" who are peddling "propaganda." But the truth is that the RSC produces peer-reviewed scholarship and has been praised by former President Obama's regulatory czar as a "national treasure." That hardly sounds like an organization corrupted by the interests of the fossil fuel industry.

Even if one grants to Sunrise GW that the RSC has a slight anti-regulation slant, the fact that there is a single (possibly) right-leaning institute should not be a scandal. The vast majority of scholarship done at GW is most certainly left-of-center. More importantly, it takes scholarship that argues all sorts of positions in order to arrive at some new truth. Sunrise GW does not have a monopoly on truth, and, as a result, research that contradicts their beliefs should still be given the time of day. Even if the policies that Sunrise GW was fighting for were 100 percent correct, having counterpoints would still be necessary to sharpen their own arguments. But when academic freedom and viewpoint diversity are discouraged, the singular perspective – even if it is correct – becomes dogma. That is no way to advance a society intellectually.

When we review Sunrise GW's objections to the RSC, we find that there is simply not much there. The RSC's scholarship is highly regarded and published in "respected, peer-reviewed academic journals." It may be funded by the Koch brothers, but to assume that automatically tarnishes their work would be a non-sequitur and to engage in a double standard. In the end, we must all fight – no matter your specific policy positions – for a campus that invites vibrant intellectual and academic debate on a range of subjects. Shutting down the research or the voices of those we disagree with does not allow us to ever find new truths.

—Jack Elbaum, a freshman majoring in international affairs and economics, is an opinions writer.

It shouldn't take a crisis for Texans to acknowledge climate change

A week ago, Texas, my home state, was freezing.

The worst winter storm in the state in at least the last half-century left millions of people without power and killed dozens more. At one point, 12 million Texans were under a boil water notice as water reserves ran low, thanks to burst pipes, and were unsafe to drink. Austin, my hometown, has no snow plows. Most roads were impassable for days, and those low on food had few options to get more. Grocery stores were susceptible to the rolling blackouts in the state, leading to a massive waste of food. With icy roadways, neither delivery trucks nor people could get to grocery stores anyway.

Matthew Zachary
Columnist

A week ago, temperatures in much of the state were well below freezing. Millions of homes were without electricity for several days. And tens of millions of people could not access food or clean drinking water. After all, it's hard to boil water with no electricity.

This is a natural disaster, and I'm anguished that many Texans are learning what a tangible example of climate change looks like. As the Earth warms, extreme weather events are becoming more common and more violent. There will be more and more severe costs, both monetary and human, in addition to Texas' crisis. The state's own oil and gas industry has contributed to these effects, and it will take significant effort to drag the

state's energy sector and economy into the 21st century. I know firsthand how hard this will be, as there remains a lot of disbelief in my state about the gravity of climate change. If there's a silver lining to this failure of the state, hopefully, it can change some minds in this regard.

With more than 800 GW students from Texas, this is an emergency that impacts our community. Students do not have enough power to heat their homes, never mind accessing Internet for classes. Even if you do not have personal ties to the Lone Star State, you could understand the severity of the situation from both an academic and communal perspective.

My parents, after being without power for a day and a half, have been extraordinarily lucky to avoid any further blackouts so far. Many of my friends, on the other hand, have had far less luck. Some went three or four days with no power. Their houses were hardly above freezing anymore, with food shortages becoming an acute problem.

There are unforgivable failures that led to this crisis. It's worth noting that the state government has, for at least a decade, considered ways to curb the state's greenhouse gas emissions. What's more, there was a similar storm a decade ago that affected power production and led to blackouts. But the legislature blew off the opportunity to address oversight of the energy sector, and this year's failures ensued.

There is plenty of blame to go around. Already, there is much misleading information regarding the cause

of the power outages. But the most important thing to do right now is to save lives. Food and warmth are the two biggest concerns, with organizations providing emergency services and picking up all of the slack the state government has left. We're talking about blankets, shelter and warm meals here. Hotels have taken to price gouging, opting to raise their costs rather than allow people to sleep under a warm roof for a reasonable fee. And, again, even getting to a hotel is no surety.

The coronavirus pandemic continues to rage, with nearly every county in the state in at least "very high risk" conditions. With more people forced out of their homes to seek warmth, I fear that the virus will spread through the community.

What certainly won't help to limit the spread of the disease is travel. Unfortunately, the junior Republican senator from Texas, Ted Cruz, left the state – and the country – entirely, returning only after a public outcry. His explanation as to why he left a lot to be desired. I rage at the thought of a megalomaniac abandoning the state he represents in its worst crisis in decades. I rage at his ineptitude at bringing resources into our communities, at saving the lives of his constituents.

Some day, I hope my fellow Texans and I will confront the systemic issues that got us to this place. But for now, some soup and some blankets could determine whether someone survives this freeze.

—Matthew Zachary, a senior majoring in Latin American studies, is a columnist.

Culture

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THE SCENE

WIND DOWN WEDNESDAY: GOOD TROUBLE

Feb. 24 • Free • Online registration
Join a conversation about the Portrait Gallery's newly acquired John Lewis piece.

2021 ICE SKATING AT CAMERON PARK

Feb. 27 • \$15 • Online registration
Reserve a ticket for a socially distanced ice skating class.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

"MEDICINE AT MIDNIGHT" AN ALBUM BY FOO FIGHTERS

Students share awkward encounters and mishaps during online classes

ABRIGAIL WILLIAMS
REPORTER

CARLY NEILSON
STAFF WRITER

If you've ever forgotten to turn off your Zoom camera or mute your speaker during class, you're not alone.

From technical difficulties to interruptions from family members, students have experienced some funny and embarrassing moments during online classes. Here are a few standout stories of students who have recalled their most notable moments.

Disappearing professor

Junior Shereen Ragheb said one day during a web design class, her professor randomly disappeared from the computer screen about halfway through the four-hour class. She said the class only has about 12 students in it, and they were all "thoroughly confused" about where their professor went.

"He just disappeared mid-lecture without warning, and we all sat there for a minute, looking at each other wondering what to do."

Ragheb said it was "kind of ironic" because this professor is an expert in web design.

"I understand with other older professors the struggle with technology, but this man is literally teaching us how to build our own websites."

She said the class thought he might not have noticed that he wasn't on the Zoom anymore, so one of the students found his phone number on the syllabus and called him to let him know. Ragheb said the professor had no idea he had left the Zoom and had continued to lecture for about 10 minutes without anyone there to listen to him.

"He was just like 'Oh, really? OK, sorry about that. How long was I gone for?'" she said.

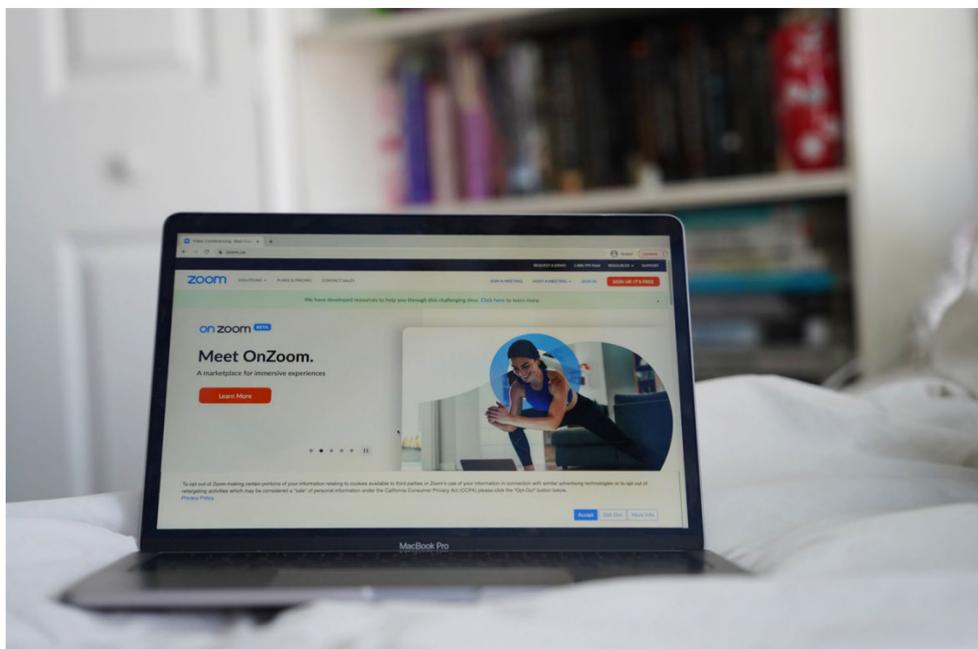


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CAMILLE DESANTO | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
From Zoom bombers to unmuted mics, technical difficulties have plagued students and professors during virtual classes.

Four-letter-word fiasco

Freshman Mackenzie Grace said she was sitting at her kitchen table when she unmuted herself during a Zoom class. As she started to speak, her dad walked into the room and started "screaming curses at the top of his lungs" out of frustration related to his own work.

"Everyone in my class got to hear it," Grace said. "I was super embarrassed and luckily everybody just started laughing, so I don't think anybody was too offended by it."

She said her professor eventually muted her and checked in to ensure everything was alright but not before the entire class heard her dad's fit of cursing.

"That sounds stressful, I hope

he's OK," her professor said following the swearing.

Grace said her professor asked her not to speak up for the rest of the class that day to ensure no one in the family would disrupt the class again.

"It is definitely super embarrassing but also really funny, it was in the first week of class too, so I definitely made an impression," Grace said.

Siri slip-up

Freshman Katie Noether said her professor put a poll on the screen during class. Noether said she didn't know the answer, so she asked Siri on her phone but didn't realize she was not muted.

"I'm pretty sure I asked Siri twice because she didn't hear me

the first time, so I said it louder the second time," Noether said.

She said her professor called her out by name during class for being unmuted after the whole class heard her ask Siri for the answer. Luckily the poll wasn't an actual quiz or test, so she wasn't penalized for cheating.

Awkward interruptions

Junior Elena Picone said she was in a Zoom breakout room with a few other students when her brother walked into the kitchen and passed gas "extremely loud" in front of an unmuted camera.

"I don't know if my classmates in the breakout room heard it, but I heard it and I knew what it was," she said. "I decided to not say anything, but I just had to try really

hard to not laugh."

During a separate incident, Picone said she was taking a test on Respondus LockDown Browser for Blackboard, an application that records users' audio and video while they complete an assignment, when her boyfriend put his foot in front of the camera and started wiggling it to joke with her, which the professor will see if they watch the recording. They had just finished dinner and she said he had a piece of onion on his sock, so he said "Would you like some onion?" to the camera.

"My boyfriend didn't know I was in a test," she said. "It was really funny, and I laughed a lot."

Zoom bomber

Sophomore Sophie Brault said her comparative politics class was "pranked" three consecutive times. She said someone who was not a student in the class would enter the Zoom call to play random "weird" videos from YouTube and type in the chat comparing the professor to C-3PO from Star Wars.

She said the class felt bad because the professor struggled to remove the bomber from the Zoom. And while the professor could temporarily mute the bomber, they struggled to prevent them from returning each class.

"The students were really annoyed and we all felt bad for the professor because he kept trying so hard to fix it and get back on track," Brault said.

Out of concern for "Zoom bombers," anonymous people who disrupt a Zoom call, administrators sent out a slew of security tips, like enabling waiting room or passwords, to keep them out of the classroom.

She said her class never figured out who the prankster was, but her peers assumed they were a GW student because they had access to the class Zoom link.



ZACH BRIEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Juniors Camila De La Cruz and Katherine Whiteside have started a podcast called "Fireballing Through College" where they talk about topics they find meaningful, sensitive or funny.

Students launch, grow side hustles into businesses during pandemic

CLARA DUHON
STAFF WRITER

While most students are using their childhood bedrooms to take online classes, others are running their own businesses.

Seven students said they turned their personal passions and hobbies, like self-care and bracelet making, into businesses and social media pages, which they've worked to maintain during the COVID-19 pandemic. The students said their businesses, which sell items ranging from painted shoes to knitted clothes, have given them a break from other commitments like schoolwork while remote learning continues.

'Comfyskin'

Sophomore Nicole Baylock promotes Korean skin care products through social media accounts, like YouTube, Instagram and TikTok. Her brand, which she launched in 2018, is fittingly called "Comfyskin."

While she doesn't sell anything specific, Baylock said brands like Then I Met You, Glass Skin Serum and Neogen Sponsor her posts. She said she

aims to use her skin care expertise as a licensed esthetician, her knowledge from talking and listening to dermatologists and her own personal experience with skin care products to address skin concerns, like acne.

"The key to really feeling good about yourself is to see other people that represent you and what you look like and what you're going through," Baylock said. "It makes you feel better about what you're going through, because you don't feel so alone."

'Fireballing Through College'

Juniors Camila De La Cruz and Katherine Whiteside talk about "funny" or "meaningful" topics on their podcast, "Fireballing Through College," which they launched last July. The duo said they also discuss stigmatized issues facing college students, particularly women, like masturbation, people pleasing and lack of confidence, in hopes of shedding light on "embarrassing" or taboo topics.

The co-hosts, who prepare 25 minute to 30 minute episodes every week, said they enjoy hearing

feedback from their listeners, many of whom are college-aged students dealing with similar experiences. De La Cruz and Whiteside said they work to "boost" the confidence of their viewers through their conversations about everything from spring break to mental health on the podcast.

'Morganne's Knots'

Sophomore Morganne Halpin said she started her bracelet business last summer as a "creative outlet" to make some money while she wasn't working during quarantine. She said she originally sold handmade friendship bracelets, which range from \$4 to \$10, to just her friends, but as she began growing her Instagram page, she received order requests from people across the country and thrift accounts.

Halpin said her business can be challenging to manage while at school, since each bracelet order can take up hours of her time to make. But she said if she becomes too "stressed" with schoolwork, she will turn to making bracelets and fulfilling orders as a way to wind down.

With BTS closed, here's where to find the best burger

DIEGO MENDOZA
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

SARAH SACHS
STAFF WRITER

With Burger, Tap & Shake's closure, students are desperate for a new restaurant to grab a delicious burger.

The Hatchet went out on a mission throughout the District to find the next best burger spot. We ordered each restaurant's original cheeseburger and ranked which one we thought was the best.

Number 4. Good Stuff Eatery's 'Farmhouse Cheese' burger (\$7.50)

The standard Farmhouse cheese also comes with lettuce, tomato, pickles and red onion for several flavors. The bun was a fairly standard soft bun that you would buy at the grocery store. There was nothing extremely special about it, but it was not poorly done either.

The meat was also flavorful and standard to what you would expect for a classic burger. Overall, it tastes most similar to a McDonald's or other fast food burger. It elicits tastes of a classic comfort sandwich

that would go great with a cold soda and greasy fries. *Good Stuff Eatery, 3291 M St. NW.*

Number 3. Z-Burger's cheeseburger (\$5.29)

The burger's standard toppings include mayo, lettuce, tomato, pickles, fried onion, sautéed mushrooms, ketchup and mustard, which come together for a mess of flavor.

The bun was a standard sesame, but it was soft and held together well. The meat was nice and juicy with a good meaty flavor. It was a good, hearty burger, perfect for the end of a late night out.

Z-Burger, 2157 P St. NW.

Number 2. Lucky Buns' 'The Lucky Bun' (\$15)

Lucky Buns' burger had a much more gourmet taste than the previous two. The bun had a slight sweetness to it. It did a great job of soaking up the oiliness of the rest of the burger, yet still staying together.

The Lucky Bun automatically comes with two patties, so there's a hefty portion of meat with each bite. The burger comes with its lucky sauce which is creamy and a tad spicy. The burger is also topped with gouda, arugula, pick-

les and grilled red onion.

The arugula addition is a nice touch, adding a unique freshness different from your standard lettuce. The gouda also paired well with the burger, offering a nice sharpness to the rest of the burger. This sandwich is a top quality choice if you are looking for a fancier option.

Lucky Buns, 2000 18th St. NW.

Number 1. Thunder Burger & Bar's 'Thunder Burger' (\$10.95)

What makes a good burger stand out from others ultimately depends on the patty and bun. Not only was Thunder Bar's patty juicier than the others, it also was seasoned the best. The burger included flavors of cumin, offering a Southwest kick. The brioche bun also appeared to have cheese melted onto the inner sides, making it taste like a mashup between a burger and grilled cheese.

While the standard toppings of pickles, lettuce, onion and tomato were nothing special, the addition of a creamy and garlicky aioli took this burger to the next level by better bringing out the flavor of the patty.

Thunder Burger Bar, 3056 M St. NW.



MADI GUIRAULT | PHOTOGRAPHER
Z-Burger, located at 22nd and P streets, is a perfect wrap to a night out in Dupont Circle.

GAMES OF THE WEEK



MEN'S SOCCER
vs. UMBC
Feb. 23 | 4 p.m.
The Colonials will look to build off last week's win over Mount St. Mary's.



MEN'S BASKETBALL
at St. Bonaventure
Feb. 26 | TBD
Men's basketball is set to play its final regular season game against the Bonnies.

NUMBER CRUNCH

26.7

The percentage of shots (15) men's soccer took against Mount St. Mary's that came on goal (4), compared to the Mountaineers' 3-for-3 shooting

Men's and women's cross country prepare for A-10 Championships

BELLE LONG
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

With only two meets on the docket this season, men's and women's cross country will enter their respective Atlantic 10 Championships with half the competition time as a typical season.

The Colonials kicked off the 2020-21 season Feb. 5, almost one year after finishing their last races at the A-10 Indoor Track and Field Championships March 1, 2020. Traditionally a fall sport, the squads were forced to merge the cross country and outdoor track and field seasons last spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We've been wanting competition for almost a year now," sophomore James Glockenmeier said. "We're all super excited and from the competitive standpoint. I feel like we're more competitive than we would have been."

Most of the men's and women's runners were not on campus this fall, instead opting to train at home. Glockenmeier said he and his teammates spent the fall physically preparing for the next time they'd be able to lace up and race by building up mileage and establishing a base.

"Having this time off was more of a mental hit than a physical head, and I feel like a lot of guys were able to focus mentally on getting driven for the competition," he said.

Head coach Terry Weir said accountability has allowed the squads to step back into competition after the long pause. He added that some players kept connected virtually with him and their teammates, while others, like six runners on the men's team, opted to train together.

"Both teams did a great job on their own last semester when they weren't here on campus," Weir said.

"They were at home and did their own training and all of them did it and they came back in great shape and so that makes the coaching part a little bit easier."

The women's team and two runners from the men's squad opened the season at the Richmond Invite in a five-school field Feb. 5. The women's team placed fifth as senior Kathryn Nohilly led the pack with a No. 5 finish. Glockenmeier and sophomore Lucas Brown nabbed No. 7 and No. 17, respectively, while competing as individuals.

Weir said the men were unable to field a full team against Richmond due to COVID-19 clearance protocols, but more runners were cleared for the second meet of the year.

Both teams then competed at the Spider-Patriot Cross Country Classic Feb. 20, where the women's team nabbed fourth and the men's team finished ninth of 10-team fields. Senior Margaret Coogan placed a team-high No. 9 while sophomore Ryan Fowkes paced the men's team with a No. 30 finish.

This season is the first season in nine years that GW will not compete in the Princeton Invitational. Despite the canceled meets and abbreviated schedule, runners said they're taking every opportunity available to them to compete.

"I feel really lucky that we're going to do even two weeks before our conference championship, because originally we weren't sure if we were going to be able to get in that," senior Kathryn Nohilly said.

Nohilly added that even though the teams' seasons are truncated, they have the benefit of competing on the same course, Pole Green Park.

She said runners can adjust their training based on their previous performances ahead of the A-10 Championship. Nohilly ran her



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Most of both the men's and women's cross country teams opted to train from home this semester.

previous eight-fastest 5K time in program history against Richmond but then bested her performance with a time of 17:56.6 on her second go-around on the course.

In their first two meets, the men's and women's teams have competed against George Mason, Richmond, Davidson, Saint Joseph's and Duquesne – all A-10 teams they will see again at the Championships.

Last season, the men finished No. 12 of 14 in the A-10 championship, while the women posted a second-place finish, the highest finish in program history.

The women's team returned nine members of last year's roster, while the men's team welcomed back 13 members.

The women's program added four freshmen and two graduate students, and the men's team tabbed three freshmen and one graduate student.

Weir said for a lot of runners, their first meet back allows them to readjust and acclimate to competition. Going into the A-10 championship, most Colonials will have at least one meet under their belts.

"What I'm looking for from

them is just a little more sharper, competitive mindset, and taking some chances and putting themselves into competitive situations that they didn't do last time," he said.

After the A-10 Championship comes the NCAA Championship, scheduled for March 15. Only two Colonials in program history have recorded qualifying times at the NCAA regional – Megan Hogan in 2009 and 2010 and Suzanne Dannheim in 2019. Ten days after the NCAA Championship, outdoor track and field commences.

Men's basketball tops Rhode Island for first win after pause

EMILY MAISE
SPORTS EDITOR

With four minutes left in Sunday's matchup with Rhode Island, men's basketball trailed by five points. Freshman center Noel Brown dished the ball to sophomore forward Jamison Battle, who nailed the triple from the wing and started a 15-2 run that handed men's basketball its first win in seven weeks.

After a 35-day COVID-19 pause that caused them to miss eight straight games, the Colonials (4-9, 3-3 A-10) topped the Rams (10-13, 7-9 A-10) 78-70. GW outrebounded, outscored and dished out more assists than the visiting team.

The Colonials used just eight players and played without forwards graduate student Matt Moyer and sophomore Chase Paar, who average a combined 15.4 rebounds per game. But the squad kept the Rams off the boards, holding them below their 39 rebounds per game average and narrowly outrebounding them 34-32.

The squad's assist-to-turnover ratio tallied 1.8 after the team handed out 18 assists and turned the ball over just 10 times.

Sophomore forward Hunter Dean nabbed a steal and gave the Colonials their first

offensive possession of the game. Lindo Jr. capitalized, netting a layup to put GW on the board. Battle followed up with a jumper to boost the lead to four.

Bishop, Battle and Lindo Jr. combined to keep the two-possession lead after Rhode Island worked a bucket inside.

A five-point burst from the Rams brought them within one point of the lead, which sparked a 9-2 GW tilt that provided an eight-point cushion. Freshman guard Tyler Brelsford and Brown joined in on the action, scoring a combined five points during the run.

A three-pointer from Russell spun the advantage into Rhode Island's hands, but a buzzer-beating shot from beyond the arc from Battle edged the Colonials ahead 37-35 heading into the final 20 minutes.

GW fired at a 53.6 percent clip outside the gate, and Rhode Island completed 43.3 percent from the field. The squad also notched one more bucket from distance.

Bishop started the half with a jumper, but the next three minutes belonged to the Rams. Rhode Island scored 12 straight points to build its own eight-point lead. Brown's layup broke the streak, but the squad played back-and-forth catchup for the following four minutes.

A seven-point spurt

gave GW a one-point lead, but Rhode Island responded with a six-point march to take another two-possession advantage. At the five minute mark, Bishop nailed a three, only to have Leggett respond with a trey of his own.

On the next possession, Battle sunk an attempt from deep to bring GW within two, and Brown went to work on the inside. He muscled his way to the rim, the whistle blew for a foul and the bucket fell, knotting the game at 68. He nailed the shot from the charity stripe to complete the three-point play and put GW ahead 69-68.

Bishop and Battle extended the lead to eight – five of which came from the free throw line. Rhode Island was held without a field goal for almost four and a half minutes before Russell completed a layup with 18 seconds to play.

Graduate student guard Brandon Leftwich scored his first points of the season, hitting two free throws and closing the book on GW's first game in five weeks. The Colonials closed out their home campaign with a 78-70 victory, shooting 50.9 percent from the field and 42.1 percent from behind the arc.

The squad is back in action Wednesday to take on George Mason at Eglebank Arena. Tipoff is slated for 6 p.m.



COURTESY OF THE GW ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The Colonials topped the Wildcats for their third consecutive win.

Women's basketball topples Davidson for third straight win

EMILY MAISE
SPORTS EDITOR

Within the opening minute of women's basketball's rematch with Davidson Thursday, redshirt junior forward Neila Luma swished a jumper from just outside the key to put GW on the board. The squad would net eight more points in an almost seven-minute span before Davidson found the bottom of the hoop.

The Colonials (7-12, 4-9 A-10) controlled both ends of the floor for the full 40 minutes, routing the Wildcats (8-11, 5-8 A-10) 59-44 for their third straight win. In its past three games, GW held every opponent under 50 points and nabbed the victories by double-digit margins.

Freshman center Ali Brigham, who earned Atlantic 10 Rookie of the Week honors Monday, led the Colonials with 14 points on 7-of-16 shooting. Graduate student guard Jasmine Whitney narrowly missed a triple-double, netting 11 points, ripping eight boards and dishing out seven assists.

Luma and redshirt junior guard Gabby Nikitinaite rounded out GW's double-digit scorers with 10 points apiece. Luma shot 83.3 percent, and Nikitinaite sunk 2-of-3 three attempts from beyond the arc.

Junior guard Cassidy Gould led the Wildcats with 14 points and seven rebounds. Sophomore guard Cameron Tabor followed closely behind with 13 points thanks to 3-of-7 three-point shooting. Davidson was without its top-two scorers – junior guard Chloe Welch and sophomore guard Suzi-Rose Deegan – who average a combined 26.9 points per game.

The Colonials shot the ball at their second highest clip this season, sinking 49 percent. In the second half alone, GW hit 54.2 percent of its attempts and landed 4-of-9 from three-point territory.

Davidson found the hoop at a lower rate, shooting 34 percent from the field. The Wildcats struggled from the three-point line, netting just 6-of-26 from deep.

GW dominated the paint, scoring 30 points down low – 12 more points than the Wildcats – and snatched 11 more boards. While the Colonials turned the ball over 14 times, the squad capitalized on turnovers at a higher rate, outscoring the Wildcats 18-14 on points from turnovers.

Whitney scored the next two buckets, and Luma encapped the 10-0 run with a layup. At the 3:39 mark, Davidson

scored its first points – a triple from Tabor – and followed the play with a jumper to string together a five-point tilt.

Sophomore guard Essence Brown swished a corner three to snap the mini run, and Nikitinaite nailed a jumper to put herself on the scoresheet and work the advantage up to eight. The Colonials closed the half shooting 46.7 percent and held their opponent to 27.3 percent from the field.

Both teams' offenses exploded in the third quarter, scoring a combined 38 points. The Wildcats opened the half with a four-point run before Luma responded with another jumper from the charity stripe. Both teams traded baskets before hitting a two-minute drought.

The Colonials outscored the Wildcats 12-3 – thanks to two triples from Nikitinaite – in a four-minute stretch to extend the lead to 17 points. Davidson fired back with two jumpers, but the Colonials entered the final 10 minutes with a 15-point advantage.

GW avenged an earlier four-point loss to the Wildcats, besting the squad by 15 points to split its home-and-home series.

The Colonials are set to return to the court Feb. 28 to take on George Mason. Tipoff is scheduled for 2 p.m.



COURTESY OF THE GW ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Sophomore guard James Bishop notched a career-high 28 points, leading the Colonials in scoring.