

The GW Hatchet

What's inside

Opinions

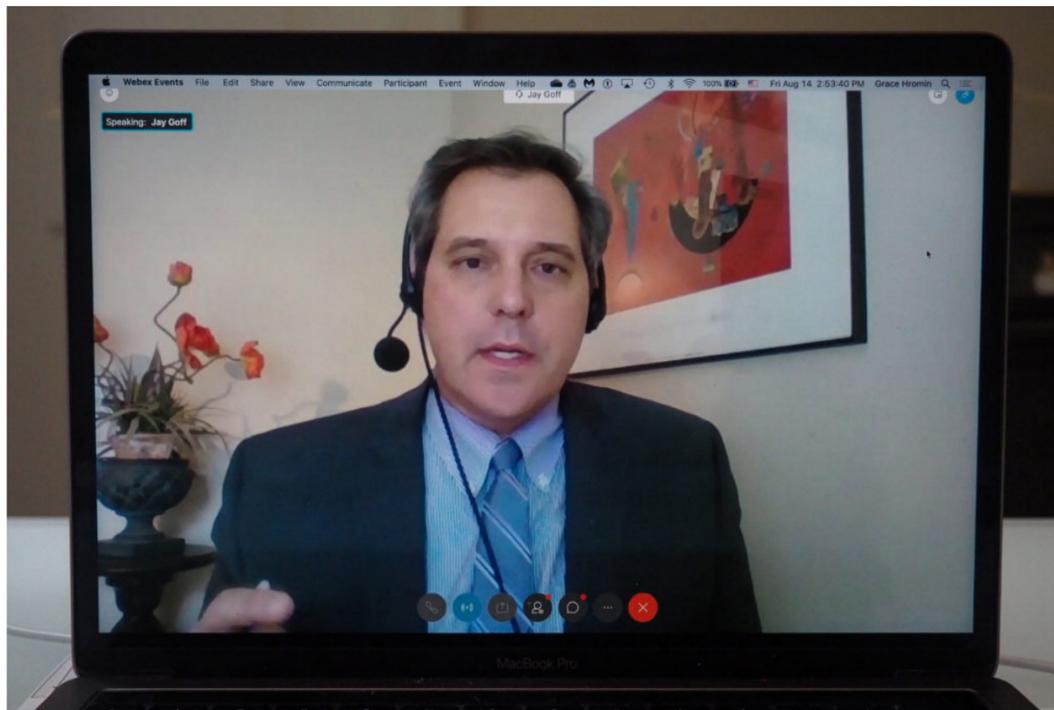
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FILE PHOTO BY GRACE HROMIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Goff said uncertainty in the size of the new student population may cause officials to lean on the waitlist, as they did last year.

Enrollment levels remained steady this spring after drop last fall, officials say

BRIANNA BUDELLI
REPORTER

GW's overall enrollment remained relatively stable this semester following a sharp drop in the fall as officials continued remote learning for the academic year.

Jay Goff, the vice provost of enrollment and student success, said the total number of students enrolled at GW fell by 2.7 percent compared to last spring. The metrics are generally on par with enrollment levels in the fall, when officials saw a large drop in the international and undergraduate student populations because of the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

He said officials are on track to meet GW's enrollment targets for next fall, including a steady number of transfer applications.

"I feel like we are in the best position possible to achieve the new targets set by the Future Enrollment Planning Task Force," he said. "If needed, we will use the admissions waitlist to fill any emerging gaps in this year's class."

The task force, chaired by Goff and Provost Brian Blake, has spearheaded

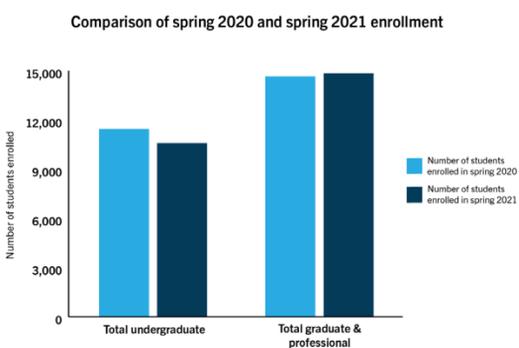
planning for the composition of GW's student population. Officials accepted the task force's recommendations earlier this year to enroll between 2,475 and 2,550 freshmen and between 150 and 300 transfer students this fall.

Goff said the uncertainty in the new student population may lead officials to utilize the waitlist more than in pre-pandemic years. Officials accepted multiple rounds of waitlisted students last year to stabilize enrollment levels once the pandemic hit.

Current deposit rates among regular decision students are comparable to the rates at this point last year, he said.

Goff said the number of undergraduates dropped by 7.7 percent compared to last spring while the number of graduate students rose by 1.2 percent. The latest enrollment data show officials are continuing to see increasing interest in public health, law, nursing, business, education and health sciences.

He added that a "significant" number of the 86 freshmen who started classes in the spring were admitted for fall 2020 but deferred their admission. The num-



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | STAFF DESIGNER

ber of new students who started at GW this spring jumped by 30 percent compared to last spring, and the number of students registering for summer classes this year also increased, he said.

Goff said officials also saw an increase in the number of graduate applications this spring, receiving 1,127 more applications compared to last year. Each graduate program has examined its capacity and adjusted outreach toward students, he said.

"The communications were designed to promote the idea that there could be additional seats available if the students were willing to apply for the spring semes-

ter," he said. "The graduate enrollment managers did an excellent job of implementing these new communication plans very quickly last fall, and we achieved the results we were hoping for."

The University enrolled about 800 fewer international students this semester, which Goff attributed to ongoing travel restrictions during the pandemic.

"These were your students that did not have the ability to either get into the country to start at GW, or they were students who were unable to return to GW and were unable to take online courses," Goff said.

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GW could receive millions under Biden's relief package

DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO
REPORTER

The University could receive millions of federal dollars under the American Rescue Plan signed into law by President Joe Biden last month, sending a third round of emergency aid payments to low-income students.

The American Rescue Plan provides about \$40 billion for higher education institutions nationwide as they grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic. Higher education experts said the new round of stimulus payments would help the higher education industry supplement lost revenues and aid struggling students hardstruck by the pandemic.

The U.S. Department of Education has not yet announced how much GW will receive under the plan, which is allocated based on institutions' share of Pell Grant recipients and overall enrollments. The department distributed a total of nearly \$20 million to GW under the CARES Act last March and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act in December.

"This plan also includes \$40 billion in critical resources to help colleges operate safely and provide assistance to help students complete their studies," Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said in a statement last month. "It will take years to address the devastating impacts of COVID-19 – including the ways that the pandemic exacerbated the existing inequities in our education system."

Colleges and universities must use at least half the funds for emergency student aid – including tuition, food, housing, health care, mental health services and child care. The remaining portion can be used for institutional costs to replenish lost revenues, like ventilation and health infrastructure, according to the ED website.

Lynn Pasquerella, the president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, said higher

education institutions have received limited guidance on which students are eligible for aid and other ways to spend the stimulus.

"We were constantly asking for clarity around the distribution of the funds, and there's a sense of timeliness of distributing these funds," Pasquerella said.

The American Council on Education projected last month that GW would receive \$24,768,000 from the legislation, more than the total from the last two packages combined.

Officials chose to spend the entirety of GW's \$9.1 million package from the CARES Act legislation on emergency student aid, instead of opting to use the maximum amount for institutional costs under the second round of funding while directing about \$4.5 million to students.

The CARES Act funding faced controversy because of restrictions prohibiting emergency grants from being used for students enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. But Pasquerella said the Biden administration has signaled those restrictions will be removed under the American Rescue Plan.

While the higher education portion of the CARES Act passed last March was largely targeted at aiding students, Pasquerella said the American Rescue Plan is also aimed at infrastructure development for colleges, like installing ventilation systems compliant with COVID-19 recommendations to allow institutions to reopen.

"It doesn't do any good to put all of the money into student aid if we don't have the facilities where we can educate the students," Pasquerella said. "We need to focus on ventilation systems and classrooms that are going to allow students to engage in safe social distancing."

Officials are continuing to upgrade GW's HVAC ventilation systems to align with COVID-19 protocols and recommendations on energy consumption.

See **UNIVERSITIES** Page 3

Students scramble to secure summer internships with limited options

TIFFANY GARCIA
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Junior Justine Gendy, a criminal justice and psychology major, said she found the "perfect" internship last summer working in a clinical psychologist practice.

But shortly after she secured the job, the COVID-19 pandemic led the practice to switch to remote work, and Gendy was told she could not shadow the doctors virtually. Gendy said she was left without an internship before she had a chance to start.

In preparation for this summer, Gendy said she's applied to more than 10 internships over the past four months but has heard back from none. Now a rising senior, she said she's felt stressed entering her last summer of college with a limited resume.

"It's exhausting applying to many at the same time," Gendy said. "Internship to internship and writing a different cover letter for every internship and then just not hearing back. Me and my roommate were saying 'At least tell us we didn't get it.' We're just not getting anything back."

Gendy is one of more than half a dozen students who said they are concerned about finding an internship for the summer because of limited opportunities available for remote work. Students said they've

felt increased pressure as they approach a second year of the pandemic without gaining any experience to build their resumes but feel too burnt out from classes to continue applying with one month left of school.

Last spring, 40 percent of college students' internships were canceled without any alternative offer, according to a study published by the Journal of Public Economics.

Gendy said applying to internships this year has been "exhausting" because students from across the country are also applying for the same limited remote positions available.

"I feel that there's just not as many opportunities, or it's very competitive, and it is very tiring to keep looking and wondering if I'm even going to get anything," Gendy said. "We're already in April, so it's just really exhausting."

NPR received more than 20,000 applications for its 27 internship openings last fall, a "significant" increase from a total of nearly 2,600 applications for 55 openings in 2019.

Sophomore Lily Vassalo, an international affairs major, said she feels stressed having yet to secure any of the 15 internships she's applied for with one month left in the semester. She said some of the political offices that she applied to have canceled their internship programs or decreased the

number of students they accept because of budget cuts.

Vassalo, a professional horseback rider, said she secured a position professionally riding horses in the Netherlands last summer, but her job was canceled the day her flight was scheduled because of pandemic-related travel restrictions.

Now approaching her second summer without a job or internship, Vassalo said she's struggled to stand out in an increasingly competitive applicant field. She said with fewer available internships, she feels that competitiveness between students has surged because "everyone's applying for anything that they can get."

Vassalo, who currently lives off campus in D.C., said many of the available Capitol Hill internships are unpaid and require interns to work in person a few days a week. But she said those positions are not feasible for her because she would have to pay a high housing rate to stay in the District over the summer.

"The Hill internships that I have heard back from that I could have require you to stay here for the summer," Vassalo said. "And I don't have family here, so it doesn't make sense to pay to stay here for the summer since internships are unpaid now."

Student Association Sen. Gabriel Young – CCAS-U and a sophomore from San Jose, California, double ma-

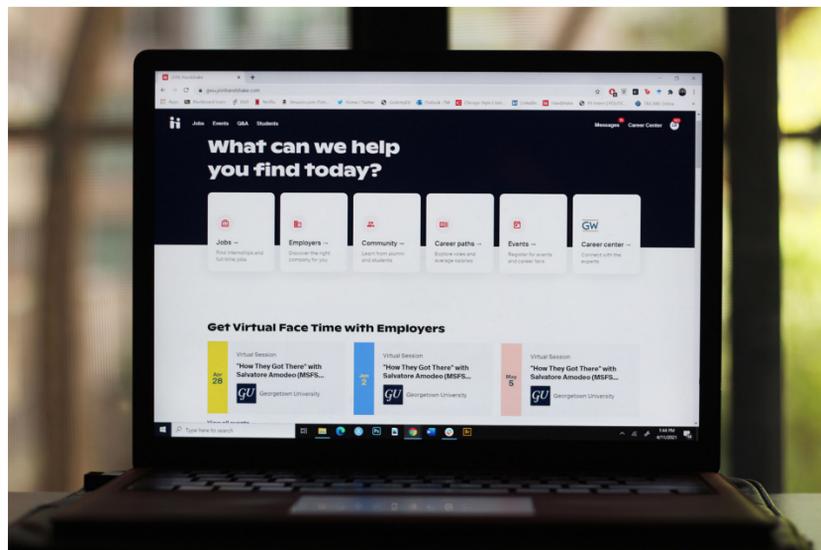


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LILLIAN BAUTISTA | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Students said they're worried as they potentially face a second straight summer without an internship.

joring in international affairs and political science – said he's received three rejections from internships so far and feels "anxious" submitting applications for the few available positions in his area of interest. He said politically minded students outside of the District have even fewer opportunities in towns less politically active than D.C. due to the cancellations.

Young said GW's "internship culture" has harmed his mental health this past year because he feels a need to compete with his peers pining for the same limited opportuni-

ties. He said he has to move around his schedule to attend events like the Center for Career Services' internship fair because he's struggling to adjust to a different time zone.

He said he has been unable to present his "best self" to recruiters at career fairs because he feels tired and mentally "toll" between his classes, personal time commitments and the three-hour time difference.

Sophomore Katelyn Monostori, a philosophy major, said she has only heard back from three of the more than 15 internships she has applied to since last

November, receiving rejections from each. She said she signed her lease in D.C. with the intention of securing a paid internship over the summer, but she's now applying to retail jobs with only a month left until her parents cut her off financially.

She said the lack of responses she's received and burnout she's felt from being in classes all day have made it difficult to continue applying to internships. She said budget cuts reduced the number of available positions at the offices she applied for, increasing applicant competition.

News

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THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MIGRATION AND STABILITY IN GUATEMALA
 April 15 • 7:30 p.m. EDT • Free
 Join the Latin American and Hemispheric Studies program as experts discuss complex, extensive factors that create migration issues and displacement in Guatemala.

TAIWAN AND COVID-19: HISTORY, RESPONSE AND OUTLOOK
 April 15 • 7:30 p.m. EDT • Free
 The Organization of Asian Studies will host a panel of experts as they converse about Taiwan's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

April 16, 1989

Stephen Joel Trachtenberg is sworn in as GW's 15th president in a ceremony at the Smith Center.



FILE PHOTO BY DONNA ARMSTRONG | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 McAlister said the interviews were originally meant to just focus on the pandemic experience but also started featuring topics like the November presidential election as the year went on.

American studies project documents pandemic experiences with interviews

GREYSON WEBB
 REPORTER

ISHANI CHETTRI
 STAFF WRITER

American studies faculty and students are documenting the GW community's experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic as part of a project to demonstrate how the crisis shaped modern history.

Faculty and students teamed up on the project to record video interviews through Zoom with students, their families, faculty, staff and alumni to illustrate the virus's social and political impacts on their lives. Researchers said interviews and donated materials, like photographs and drawings from GW community members, will be available on the GW Libraries' archives for historians and researchers to use to understand life during the pandemic.

Melani McAlister, a professor of American studies and international affairs, said she initiated the project last May with funding from the American studies department and the GW Humanities Center. She said staff working on the project have conducted about 70 video interviews so far, which last around 35 minutes, with hopes to finalize the project

by the end of this summer.

She said project members have hired undergraduate students as research assistants to ask friends, relatives and peers about the pandemic in interviews.

She said researchers collaborated with the archives to index and "digitally download" the interviews to make their transcripts searchable online. She said the archives also helped develop donation forms for pictures, emails and drawings to document participants' experiences.

McAlister said interviews focused on the subject's quarantine experience, mental health and adjustments in work and school during the pandemic. Other major events, like the Black Lives Matter protests and the 2020 presidential election, also appeared as topics in interviews as the past year progressed, she said.

McAlister said the project offers students an opportunity to serve as "knowledge producers" for historians, providing historical documents accessible to future generations. She added that the interviews have allowed subjects an opportunity to process the emotions they experienced over the past year.

McAlister said the project lacks the resources and

funding to finish, but she recently applied for a grant from the D.C. Humanities Council to extend the project into the summer. She said the funding would allow her to hire GW staff to collect more interviews with other University community members.

Kim Probolus, a professorial lecturer in American studies, said her interview subjects expressed a "real concern" for various social justice movements like the BLM movement, which have received national attention during the pandemic.

Brigette Kamsler, the University archivist, said the archives provided the oral history and "donation agreements" necessary for the interviewers and interviewees to understand how researchers would use the conversations.

She said faculty and students involved with the project have completed one semester of interviews and have submitted the necessary paperwork to transfer the project to the archives.

Sneha Bose, a senior majoring in American studies and a research assistant for the project, said recording the GW community's experiences has brought students, faculty and staff closer together after departing campus so quickly last March.

GW adds chapter of national immigration advocacy group

ABBY KENNEDY
 STAFF WRITER

Students interested in advocating for undocumented immigrants can now join a national, youth-led organization fighting for immigration reform.

Student leaders said UndocuGW, GW's chapter of United We Dream, registered on Engage Tuesday and plans to support undocumented students and staff through discussions on immigrant rights and policy reform. Executive board members said they hope to advocate for undocumented students by providing resources like a mutual aid fund and educational discussions.

Sophomore Christian Alvarez Silva, the president of UndocuGW, said United We Dream has had a campus presence before, prompting the group to establish a formal chapter this year. He said students participated in a walkout on campus in 2017 as a part of the Clean Dream Act Campaign, launched after former President Donald Trump rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

He added that students organized a second walkout in 2019 to protest the termination of DACA and sway the U.S. Supreme

Court during arguments over the constitutionality of the case.

Alvarez Silva said he and seven other members came up with the idea for the chapter after they saw many students participate in the 2017 and 2019 protests. Some of the founding members of the chapter also participated in previous United We Dream walkouts at GW, he said.

He said the group's main focus for the rest of the semester is to grow its social media presence rather than recruiting new members because students are preparing for finals. But he said UndocuGW will co-sponsor events like a "Let's Talk" series on Instagram, explaining immigration legislation with other local chapters of United We Dream.

Celia Peña-Gómez, a second-year master's student studying international affairs and the group's graduate liaison, said GW's graduate programs often lack Latino, immigrant and first-generation students, emphasizing the need for the group to attract graduate students. She said the organization plans to attract undergraduate and graduate students through Instagram Live discussions about current events and social media posts.

Freshman Gabriel Madison, the vice president of the chapter and a business major, said all of the organization's work is intersectional, with immigration often overlapping with many other social issues, like incarceration, access to health care and higher education.

Junior Jennifer Cuyuch, the chapter's social media director and a political communication major, said the group is trying to connect with other universities' chapters to create a larger DMV network. She said the group plans to reach out to local high schools and universities, like George Mason and Georgetown universities, that already have chapters of United We Dream.

She said the group plans to create a mutual aid fund and resource bank for undocumented students at GW this fall. The resource bank will include information like organizations that advocate for immigration, scholarships open to DACA students and common questions and answers on immigration legislation, she said.

Some of the group's savings from the mutual aid fund will be used specifically for DACA renewals, which currently cost DACA recipients \$495 every year.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO
 Christian Alvarez Silva, the president of the chapter, said the idea for the group came following multiple on-campus protests to support immigrant rights.

BSU 'revamped' advocacy, community building this academic year: leaders

TIFFANY GARCIA
 ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

One year after the Black Student Union's first election in more than three years, executive board leaders said they have ramped up their campus presence to improve Black students' community at GW.

BSU student leaders said they have bolstered student engagement this past year through increased collaboration with the Student Association and initiatives like the Big Brother, Big Sister Matriculation program and meetings with other Black student groups. Leaders said Black students have come together to form a more united presence on campus this year through social events and advocacy efforts, like a campaign to reconsider several campus building names.

BSU President Devon Bradley, a senior, said the organization completed a "strategic overhaul" this year with "better quality" event flyers, a new logo and a website to increase its presence on and off campus. He said BSU was less "visible" at GW in the past, but this year's e-board has been active in calling for changes at GW like a University-wide diversity audit and more meetings with administrators.

He said he has noticed BSU mentioned in class discussions, which has been a "major win" for the e-board. He said the nationwide Black Lives Matter protests last summer prompted administrators and students to start listening, engaging in activism and supporting BSU through efforts like fundraisers.

"The summer of 2020 really was a big moment for BSU and Black people everywhere," Bradley said. "Because, as I said earlier, people started listening. Not just listening, but paying attention and actually

granting us the funding that we asked for, granting us the meeting that we asked for, and that was just very new."

Bradley added that this year's e-board hosted five "Black Power" meetings with Black student organizations to promote collaboration between students. He said SA and BSU leadership didn't meet in the past, drawing BSU leaders to establish a "personal connection" with SA leaders last fall to enhance communication between the groups.

"We were connected with the SA finance desk," he said. "We were in contact with certain senators, so nothing like in the past where they didn't even know who led BSU. That's been very powerful for us as well."

Junior Peyton Wilson, BSU's executive vice president, said BSU moved its office from the Multicultural Student Services Center to the fourth floor of the Marvin Center earlier this month, completing the effort from the previous year's e-board. She said securing an office alongside other major student organizations in the Marvin Center was "necessary" to expand BSU's campus presence outside of the MSSC.

She said the organization hosted a socially distanced office reveal party at the Marvin Center earlier this month after acquiring the space, offering students on campus a chance to meet each other and connect in person.

"That was really fulfilling only because we haven't really been around each other," Wilson said. "And that was the first opportunity where students could come by and get some semblance of normalcy amid all the nonsense that's going on and see other Black students and connect because people made new friends and developed connections."

Wilson said some of her plans

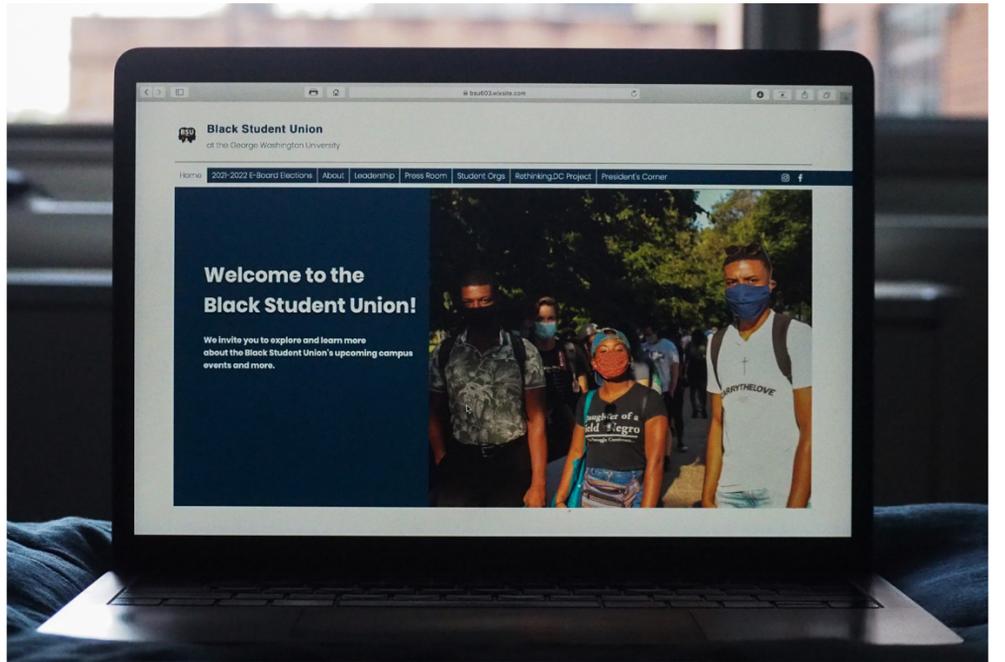


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE HROMIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
 Devon Bradley said BSU leaders worked to establish a "personal connection" with members of the SA that hadn't existed in the past.

to expand programming to students on the Mount Vernon Campus were not possible this year, but the group hosted more than five Instagram livestreams with topics varying from mental health check-ins to current events discussions. She said student leaders avoided hosting too many events to prevent burnout during the pandemic while still offering programming that would generate a large audience.

She said BSU leaders advocated for students this past year through efforts like the organization's first State of Black GW Report, which included recommendations like hiring more Black faculty members, for officials to support Black

students on campus.

Junior Bishop Walton, BSU's chief of staff, said the BLM protests and general conversation about the Black student experience at GW encouraged the group to hold programming through the summer, which he said members have not done in the past. He said the group hosted events like a "Quarantine Series" during the summer that covered topics like how to engage in local activism and secure student internships.

Walton said BSU's Instagram has grown from 900 to more than 2,500 followers in the last year. He said continuing large community-building events like the Black Heritage Organization was necessary to

support members at home or on campus who might've felt isolated from their peers.

Walton said he helped create the Rethinking D.C. Policing and Youth Diversion project last summer to research D.C.'s youth diversion tactics and policing. The project will recommend policies to the Metropolitan Police Department, expanding BSU's advocacy throughout the District.

He said the project was in its "pilot year" and was renewed for the upcoming year. He said students will present their research and recommendations for criminal justice topics, like judicial justice for D.C. youth, next week at the GW Research Showcase.

Medical Faculty Associates joins trial testing maternal mental health app

LIA DEGROOT
NEWS EDITOR

MICHELLE VASSILEV
STAFF WRITER

The Medical Faculty Associates will participate in a trial of an app for new mothers to track their mental health and expand accessible medical resources for pregnancy and childbirth.

Officials announced last month that Babyscripts, a company that conducts research and develops internet-connected monitoring devices and apps for maternal health, is developing the module to aid new mothers. Experts in maternal mental health said mothers could use the app to screen for symptoms of mental illness like depression and physical symptoms like changes in blood pressure, but the technology should also include a feature to connect patients to mental health care providers if any symptoms become severe.

Kathryn Marko, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, said she hopes the product will enable new mothers to take care of their mental health and discuss symptoms with their health care providers.

About 13 percent of women after childbirth and 10 percent of pregnant women worldwide face mental health issues like depression, according to

the World Health Organization. These mental health issues can cause mothers to eat less, stop taking care of themselves and have suicidal thoughts, according to WHO.

"Maternal mental health is a critical component of healthy pregnancies," Marko said in an email. "By supporting pregnant patients in this new way, we aim to empower them to take note of their mental health and facilitate ways to discuss this with their providers."

Marko said the MFA's trial will last one year, and developers will incorporate the module, which includes education on mental health and online screening forms, into the current Babyscripts app that measures blood pressure and weight for existing patients.

"The module will add a significant amount of patient education to the app regarding maternal mental health," she said. "It has all been vetted by MFA physicians and midwives. Additionally, it will offer a way for patients to fill out mental health screening forms in the comfort of their own homes. This allows real-time evaluation and provider monitoring of maternal mental health."

Marko added that she hopes the technology will allow health care providers to intervene early if patients start to show symptoms of mental illness like anxiety and depression.

"Maternal mental health is one of the most common and critical complications of pregnancy," Marko said. "By utilizing technology, we can empower pregnant patients with resources, vetted by their providers, at their fingertips."

Experts in maternal health said prenatal and new mothers often feel that their mental health issues aren't normal because of a stigma surrounding mental health care, which prevents them from seeking medical help. They said the Babyscripts app could allow mothers to more willingly share their mental health symptoms in private.

Pamela Geller, an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and public health at Drexel University, said doctors have increased their attention to the mental health treatment of pregnant mothers in recent years to prevent symptoms and disorders like depression from developing into larger issues like suicidal thoughts.

She said these symptoms fall under an "umbrella term" called Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders, which includes depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder in perinatal mothers – mothers who will give birth soon or recently gave birth.

Geller said mothers experience drastic hormonal changes during and after pregnancy, which are associated with baby blues – feelings of sadness that oc-

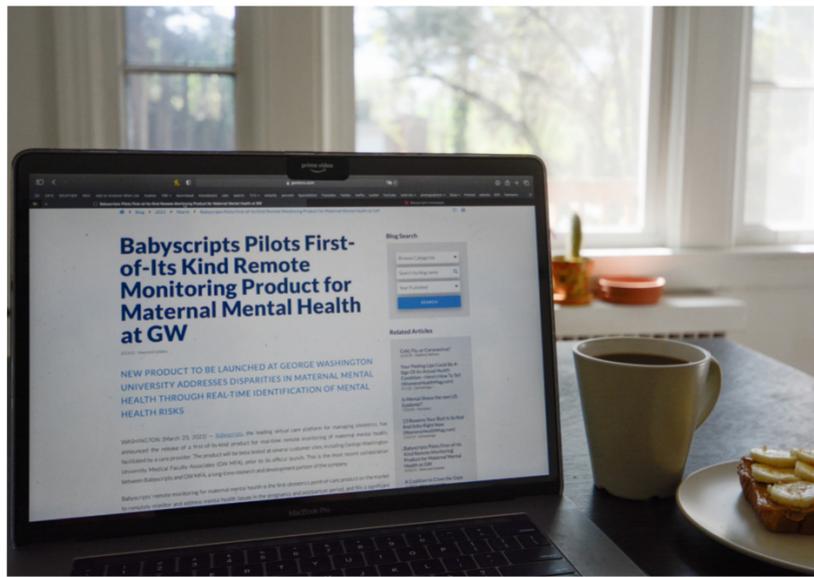


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIE MOTEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

About one in 10 pregnant women worldwide face mental health disorders like depression during their pregnancies, according to WHO.

cur in the two weeks after pregnancy. She said mental health problems in mothers may also arise due to changing relationships and time commitments after childbirth.

"Even if they have other children, those relationships change when the baby is born," Geller said.

"So there's a lot of reasons why, other than hormones, that there's a big change for women. Also, like that there's a lot of priorities that women are juggling. They have less time for self-care." Geller said the

Babyscripts app is a "great idea" that would be easy to use through a mobile device. She said if the app identifies health issues in mothers, they should be connected to follow-up services like treatment that can assess these health problems and suggest the appropriate response.

Nancy Byatt, an associate professor of psychiatry, obstetrics and gynecology and population and quantitative health sciences at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, said screening for signs of men-

tal illness is generally more difficult than connecting patients with a health care provider.

Byatt said barriers to mental health care, like the stigma around mental illness and access to care, have increased for new mothers during the COVID-19 pandemic, with many of them going through the postpartum period in isolation. She said mental health care providers suggest reaching out to friends and family to combat symptoms of mental illness, which can be difficult in isolation.

Blake withdraws from consideration for URI president

ISHA TRIVEDI
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

ZACH SCHONFELD
NEWS EDITOR

Provost Brian Blake has withdrawn himself as a finalist to become the next University of Rhode Island president.

Blake told senior officials Friday that he withdrew his name from consideration in advance of the URI

Board of Trustees' special meeting held Thursday to decide between him and one other finalist for the role, according to an email obtained by The Hatchet. Blake said he had not fully weighed whether he would desire the role when he was revealed as a finalist last week.

"This public announcement came before I had a full opportunity to weigh the professional and personal aspects of leaving GW at this time," Blake said in the email to senior staff. "I have now had that

opportunity for discussions with my family and with my colleagues. As a result of these often heartfelt conversations, I concluded that there is much important work yet to be done at GW, especially as we emerge from the pandemic."

Blake did not return a request for comment through a spokesperson.

Blake was revealed as a finalist alongside Marc Parlange, the provost of Monash University in Australia, out of more than 200 ap-

plicants. The Providence Journal reported. Blake said a search firm had "aggressively recruited" him, and he did not seek out the role on his own.

"I look forward to working with all GW's stakeholders as we seek to address our immediate priorities and as we chart the path together to reach our academic aspirations," Blake told staff Friday.

Before Blake arrived at GW, he told his alma mater that his career goal was to become a university

president in five years, adding that he wanted to serve at a private university with a football team in a major East Coast city. Located in Kingston, URI has a Division I football team but is a public university.

URI's student paper, The Good Five Cent Cigar, reported last week that Blake discussed at an open forum for the final candidates his plans to support diversity and inclusion, individualize the academic experience and build distinctive signature areas.

Higher education funds should go to students: experts

From Page 1

Anthony Bieda, the former executive director of the Kentucky Association of Career Colleges and Schools, said the extent of ventilation and coronavirus-related infrastructure work needed at each school could determine how much funding will go toward student aid versus the institution.

"Maybe it's OK to say you should recover some of your cost for that higher investment initially but not all of it," Bieda said. "Most of that additional cost that you made at your institution accrues benefit to your institution for years and years to come."

Bieda said the ED will release guidance on how institutions should spend their allocations under the American Rescue Plan "in the next few months."

Marissa Navarro – a research assistant at the Center for American Progress, a public policy advocacy organization – said higher education institutions should focus on directing federal funds toward emergency student aid.

"It is important for institutions to

have the means to function, but we also know that in order for a university or institution to function, they need students, and if students aren't able to afford college, then that is something that will hinder the whole system," Navarro said.

She said the amount of federal spending directed toward higher education in the three rounds of government stimulus includes severe financial shortfalls, with not enough overall stimulus to aid the ailing industry.

In a letter to congressional leaders in October, the American Council on Education, which includes GW as a member, called for \$120 billion in swift aid to address the financial crisis facing higher education caused by decreased enrollment rates and overall economic tightening.

Stimulus payments for higher education institutions in all three rounds amount to about \$77 billion.

"We've seen in the last package that they received a larger amount of money," Navarro said. "In order to meet the needs of higher education institutions, we would need that same amount of funding in order to be in the right place in terms of helping institutions and helping their students."

Universities aggressively recruiting, experts say

From Page 1

John Dysart – a former University financial aid officer and the president of The Dysart Group, a higher education consulting firm specializing in enrollment management – said universities like GW will have trouble increasing international enrollment for the fall because the pandemic is out of the University's control.

"For colleges and universities like GW, there is no question that the pandemic has impacted international enrollment severely, and I have not seen any indication that it's going to be better for this coming fall," Dysart said.

He said universities across the country are pursuing more aggressive recruitment activities – like digital marketing, text messaging and telephone outreach – to stabilize domestic enrollment. But one of the most powerful recruitment tools is increasing financial aid, he said.

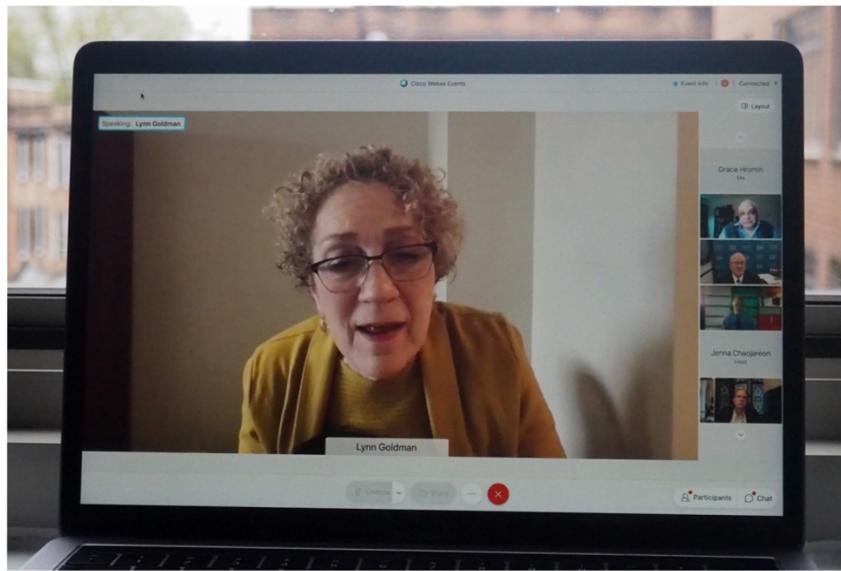
Officials have pushed for increased financial aid in recent months, announcing

several major gifts from alumni totaling tens of millions of dollars.

"The economy and unemployment rates have impacted the abilities of many families to pay, and so some individuals are electing not to attend or to attend less expensive or different colleges just because the impact of the bad economy has inhibited their ability to pay," Dysart said.

Jonathan Williams, the assistant vice president for undergraduate admissions at New York University, said many colleges and universities reported an increase in the number of applicants compared to last academic year.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has created a great deal of uncertainty in the college application process, both for the applicants and for the colleges and universities they seek to attend," Williams said in an email. "That said, it has been inspiring to see how the cohort of applicants in this current cycle persevered and persisted through all the challenges they have faced."



GRACE HROMIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Goldman said she has heard from parents and Milken faculty members advocating for officials to institute a vaccine requirement for the fall.

GW's top public health official signals support for vaccine requirement

ZACH SCHONFELD
NEWS EDITOR

GW's top public health official signaled her support for requiring students to be vaccinated for COVID-19 to return to campus this fall, as officials continue weighing reopening metrics for next semester.

Milken Institute School of Public Health Dean Lynn Goldman, who advises administrators on the University's COVID-19 response, said at a Faculty Senate meeting Friday that a vaccine requirement would make it "easier" to manage classrooms and for students to have a more normal campus experience. University President Thomas LeBlanc said administrators are continuing "active discussions" but have not made a final decision about requiring vaccinations.

"My professional opinion is that we should move in that direction," Goldman said. "That's certainly for the students, that it could make an enormous difference in their health and

wellbeing as well as their ability to have more normal social experiences as college students."

She said she has heard from parents and Milken faculty who are advocating for a vaccine requirement for students and faculty.

"I'm hearing also from parents that they would be more comfortable if they knew the professors also were immunized," Goldman said. "I think that we're going to be eager to hear from the faculty about their feelings about these issues, but I believe we have a much better chance of having a full University experience for our students and much more ability for our faculty and staff to feel confident about the safety of the campus if we have everyone possible [vaccinated]."

She added that officials are also discussing accommodations for members of the University community who have medical exemptions for vaccines. Officials currently allow for medical and religious exemptions for

other required vaccines.

"We haven't yet figured out among especially the staff who is going to be teleworking over time, who will be in person," Goldman said. "If people are teleworking, there might be a different consideration."

LeBlanc said at the meeting that he regularly consults Goldman as officials make pandemic-related decisions, and he is continuing to gather input from members of the GW community. He added that officials will not force students to be vaccinated against their will, but there would be "consequences" for refusing to do so if a requirement is implemented.

"We are doing the best we can to be guided by the science on this one," LeBlanc said. "Any decision we make will be somewhat controversial to some subset of our community. We just want to make the best decision possible for our community so that we can safely bring people back to campus in the fall."

Global Women's Institute launches online credential exam

NURIA DIAZ
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Global Women's Institute launched an online credential exam last month, the first of its kind, to certify experts in gender and international development.

Officials involved with the development of the GenderPro Credential said the exam is designed for professionals working in the international development or humanitarian fields who want to be certified in their work to address gender inequality worldwide. Those who pass the exam will demonstrate their knowledge and skills in gender analysis – the study of public policy outcomes through the lens of gender issues – to colleagues and potential employers, according to the exam's website.

Chelsea Ullman, a research scientist and policy associate at GWI, said the exam incorporates the most essential "competencies" needed to address gender inequality, like gender analysis and gender-integrated program evaluation. She said the exam was developed in consultation with global leaders and experts in the international development and humanitarian fields.

"The goal of both the GenderPro credential

exam and the Capacity Building Course is to strengthen international development and humanitarian programming so that it better addresses gender inequality," she said in an email.

Interested candidates can prepare for the exam by enrolling in GWI's GenderPro Capacity Building Program, a 16-week course in gender analysis integration and advocacy programs monitoring.

GWI content developers and contributors piloted the program in 2019. The course is endorsed by the GenderPro Alliance, a group composed of organizations like the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Ullman said UNICEF and the Gates Foundation provided the funding necessary to develop the exam. She said officials hope the exam will standardize and professionalize the field of international development and humanitarian programs, so they can better address issues of gender inequality.

"We were committed to making the credential exam free to take and widely accessible and as such wanted to develop an exam that could be

taken entirely virtually in a multiple-choice way without adding the administrative cost of grading a different kind of exam," Ullman said.

Experts in international development said the credential will help integrate the application of gender concepts to the field of international development since it typically lacks official benchmarks to measure talent and knowledge.

Nancy DiTomaso, a professor of management and global business at Rutgers University, said professionals can "fill in gaps" in their knowledge of women's issues in the field by taking the exam. She said passing the exam will help employers identify prepared and qualified candidates in the field.

"Such kinds of credentialing usually improves things for everyone," DiTomaso said in an email. "It legitimizes the field in the sense of demonstrating that there is knowledge and skill involved."

She said professional organizations in other fields like diversity, equity and inclusion and human resource management often create these types of standardization credentials instead of higher education institutions.

DiTomaso said universities looking to



FILE PHOTO BY CONNOR WITSCHONKE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Candidates interested in taking the exam can take a 16-week course developed by GWI on gender analysis integration and advocacy program monitoring.

developing such an exam indicates to the public and potential employers that gender analysis is a skill that those in humanitarian work have to cultivate through in-depth study.

"The people that we think will most want to develop these skills, again, it's not just getting the credential, it's developing gender analytical skills, which most people come out of university or out of graduate programs not having," she said.

Enloe said the exam will help mid-career specialists in development and environment at Clark University, said

non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations. She said the exam would assess subject areas that graduate programs don't typically teach, like a feminist-informed study of policy areas.

"You need gender analytical skills to craft and evaluate every program that is for social justice," she said. "The people that will probably be most interested in gaining these skills and showing them that they have them by earning this credential are likely to be people in NGOs, civil society organizations or are in government agencies."

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GRACE HROMIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Bracey said recent changes to the Faculty Code include a new institutionalized review of the provost's performance and an updated parental leave policy.

Officials to continue using consulting body to update bylaws

YANKUN ZHAO
STAFF WRITER

ISHA TRIVEDI
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Officials said they plan to continue convening a two-year-old consultative body that will field and approve incoming requests to change bylaws within GW's schools.

Chris Bracey, the vice provost for faculty affairs, said at a Faculty Senate meeting Friday that a consulting body termed the "brain trust" – made up of Provost Brian Blake, the senate parliamentarian and faculty from the senate's professional ethics and academic freedom committee – will respond to requests for policy updates that officials have submitted. Bracey said he established the body in 2019 to align the school's bylaws with changes the Board of Trustees approved to the Faculty Code.

"In general, it's my belief that it's never a bad thing to consult the faculty on these sorts of things," he said.

Bracey said recent changes to the Faculty Code – which officials implemented in June – include a new institutionalized review of the provost's performance, an updated parental leave policy and updates to the University's promotion and tenure processes. The updates separate criteria for appointments and promotions for non-tenure track, specialized faculty and regular faculty and increase confidentiality

in job evaluations, like recommendation letters during the tenure and promotion process.

The changes also grant specialized faculty the same parental leave rights provided to regular faculty.

"At this point, every school's rules have been reviewed and approved for compliance with the revised Faculty Code," Bracey said.

Arthur Wilson, the chair of the senate's executive committee, said officials finished compiling the quantitative results for the faculty survey on University leadership last week, and the executive committee will develop a set of recommendations for the senate to vote on in a special meeting on April 23. The Faculty Assembly voted in November to conduct the survey, and officials completed gathering the quantitative results of the survey in February.

Senators also passed a resolution of appreciation for outgoing senate parliamentarian Steve Charnovitz to recognize his "dedication and skill" in advising University President Thomas LeBlanc and former University President Steven Knapp during the 13 years he served as parliamentarian.

"In recognition of his tireless efforts on behalf of and his outstanding contribution to the George Washington University and its faculty as parliamentarian, colleague and friend, the Faculty Senate of the George Washington University hereby

expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude to Professor Steve Charnovitz for his distinguished service," the resolution reads.

The senate unanimously approved Sarah Binder as the senate's next parliamentarian. The senate also unanimously confirmed the membership of next term's senate executive committee, with Wilson continuing to serve as chair.

Senators also confirmed Marie Borum to serve on the fiscal planning and budgeting committee and Joan Schaffner to serve as the dispute resolution committee chair.

Lynn Goldman, the dean of the Milken Institute School of Public Health, signaled support for requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for students returning to campus during the fall, saying campus would be safer with a vaccinated population. She said officials are discussing medical exemptions to a possible requirement.

Officials haven't yet decided if they will require vaccination and said they're hearing feedback from students, faculty and parents about the issue.

"My professional opinion is that we should move in that direction," Goldman said. "Certainly for the students, it can make an enormous difference in their health and well-being as well as their ability to have more normal college experiences."

Bikeshare company rolls out dockless electric mopeds in D.C.

CHOW PAUEKSAKON
REPORTER

A fleet of electric mopeds hit the streets of Foggy Bottom earlier this month, giving students a new transportation option to navigate D.C.

Lime, a ride-sharing company for dockless vehicles, dispersed 100 new mopeds around the District and will roll out 500 more throughout the summer, adding to its offering of more than 2,000 electronic bikes and 2,500 scooters currently scattered around the District. Foggy Bottom residents said they welcome more environmentally friendly and affordable transportation options, but they're concerned the deployment of the mopeds could cause safety and parking issues.

Robert Gardner, Lime's mid-Atlantic director of government relations, said the mopeds will be "widely available" for riders age 21 and older on campus, in Foggy Bottom and in other areas of D.C.'s Central Business District. He said Lime wanted to offer affordable transportation options to cut down on the District's car traffic, where D.C. commuters spend dozens of hours every year.

"D.C. is the first city globally for Lime to have mopeds launched where we've made the largest investment in vehicle type, safety and getting people into a socially distant and reliable form of transportation," Gardner said.

He said Lime worked with the District Department of Transportation to ensure its deployment of mopeds followed city regulations,

which require at least eight Lime vehicles to remain in each ward at a time. The company chose to "rebalance" a higher number of mopeds to the Central Business District, the Navy Yard and Ward 6 – busier areas with a high number of commuters – so locals can avoid using cars during their commutes.

Gardner said Lime officials are using technology to ensure all safety rules are followed, including a test that uses photos to verify that riders match their driver's licenses and sensors that confirm riders are wearing a helmet.

He said the company consulted with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, a developer of motorcycle safety education materials, to design a mandatory, multi-chapter e-course for moped riders and traffic situation guides. Gardner added that Lime officials banned repeated violators of safety guidelines from registering accounts to use their vehicles to ensure pedestrians and other commuters stay safe.

"We are taking it a step further by making sure that the moped itself is top of the line, our education and curriculum are top of the line, but then additionally, our partnerships are with the best possible educational leaders," Gardner said.

John George, the president of the Foggy Bottom Association, said he's worried the mopeds could fill up parking spaces because of the limited street space in Foggy Bottom. He said he would like to see specific Lime-designated parking spaces that can fit multiple mopeds to save space for cars.

"In the short term, we have to think about how to address multiple modes of transportation that's fair and equitable to all vehicle owners or renters," George said.

George said Lime's verification of driver's licenses, helmet use and riding speed will help encourage moped riders to follow safety precautions and traffic laws. He said riders should understand that mopeds, unlike scooters and bikes, are a "serious" form of transportation, adding that law enforcement officials should enforce rules, like proper lane usage and stopping at stop signs.

Foggy Bottom residents voiced similar safety and parking concerns when dockless bicycle programs were first introduced to the District in 2017. Since then, thousands of dockless bicycles and scooters have filled the streets of D.C.

The only other company to operate mopeds in the District currently is Revel, which deployed 400 mopeds in 2019.

George said pedestrians, commuters, governing bodies and law enforcement officials will need a "period of acclimation" for residents to grow accustomed to the increased number of mopeds and modify safety measures accordingly. He said FBA members plan to engage with community members through board meetings to gauge their reactions to the mopeds.

He said Lime should release public service announcements to better inform locals about the newest addition to transportation services in the District.



DANIELLE TOWERS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Robert Gardner, Lime's mid-Atlantic director of government relations, said Lime officials are using sensors to confirm moped riders are wearing helmets.

What prospective students should factor into their decision to attend GW

STAFF EDITORIAL

Dear Class of 2025: Congrats on your admission to GW – we're sorry you have yet to see campus.

If you did not get a head start on campus tours before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, there are a few things to know about the University before sending in your initial deposit. For starters, come to GW if you don't care much about sports. Steer clear of the University if you care more about your classes than your next internship. You'll fit right in here if you love learning the ins and outs of a city and are involved in activism.

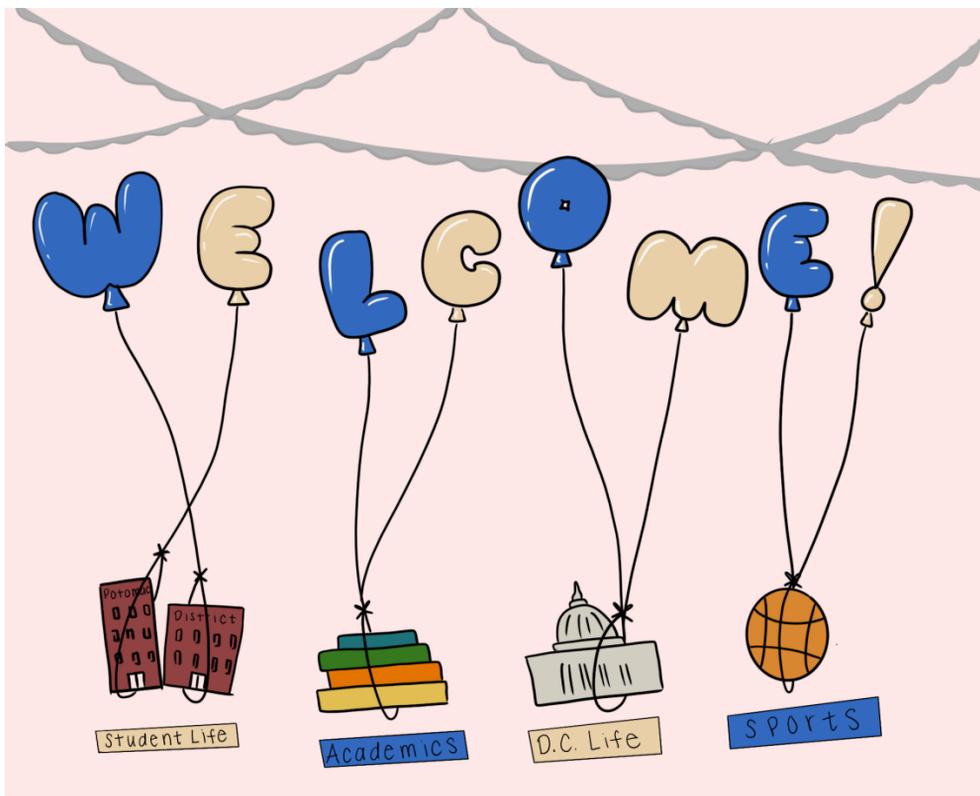
Student life

Student organizations are the heart of student life at GW. You can sign up for some of the larger groups like the Student Association, GW College Democrats or GW College Republicans – or you can get involved in more niche organizations like MediaFile or GW Balance. When we say there is something for everyone, we mean it. GW lacks communal spaces like a cafeteria or a quad, meaning the student organizations you choose to join ultimately shape your social space.

Keep in mind that GW students are always pining for a good internship and are the first to post their new opportunity on LinkedIn. Students are typically very passionate about their extracurriculars and are highly interested in their careers and outcomes, so much that it can feel overwhelmingly competitive. But if that's the kind of culture you want, you will definitely fit in here.

Academics

Outside of the majors and areas of concentration GW offers, students must keep in mind that their academics are what they make



Cartoon by Hannah Thacker

of it. At many universities, students go to class and just focus on those classes. At GW, many students see college as an opportunity for professional development rather than excelling academically.

Because the University is pretty large, you may lack direct guidance from an adviser or professor. If you choose to attend GW, you need to be proactive in contacting professionals at GW who will help you succeed academically. That

means showing up for office hours and heading to academic advising and career services on your own accord.

Greek life

Unlike many universities, Greek life is not an overpowering presence on campus. The Panhellenic Association and Interfraternity Council recruitment numbers drop every year and are constantly plagued by charges of

racism and sexual assault. You could find a social circle here, but keep in mind that you would be complicit in the institution's history of misogyny and racism.

As an alternative option, students could find communities in alternative Greek life like service-oriented organizations and career/professional groups and multicultural Greek organizations. These organizations function much more like interest groups

and provide a more close-knit place for students to find like-minded friends.

D.C. life

Being in the heart of D.C. means students have unparalleled access to internship and activism opportunities. Location-wise, students are in a better position to land high-profile internships than their peers at other universities because of access to transportation and proximity to prominent government buildings.

You likely already knew this applying to GW, but there is no shortage of activism here – and part of the reason for that is the University's location. You could get involved in the D.C. or GW organization pushing for D.C. statehood, or you could get involved in the District's chapter of Black Lives Matter. Plus, there are protests pretty much year-round, and many of those demonstrations cut right through campus.

Sports

When it comes to sports in D.C., the city plays host to several winning teams that students can always, in non-COVID times, get tickets to watch. D.C. prides itself on the Nationals, the Capitals, the Washington Football Team and actually has one of the few WNBA teams, the Mystics.

But GW itself is not much of a sports school. We were once decent at basketball, but we're pretty bad at this point. Some of our other teams are actually good, though. Consistently, our water sports like swimming and water polo excel every year. If you're not interested in a varsity sport, there are a range of club teams you can join spanning from ultimate frisbee to cross country.

Op-Ed: A new SA runoff election would be undemocratic

Former Student Association presidential candidate Hannah Edwards' proposal to hold another runoff election subsequent to the ranked-choice election that has already been held is fundamentally undemocratic.

Ethan Davis
Junior

Edwards filed this injunction after current SA President Brandon Hill was named victor of the 2021 SA election, claiming that 61.4 percent of the student body will not see their first-choice candidate elected. But she ignored the reality that if she were elected, that number would rise to 77.5 percent given the current election results. Edwards believes that since the SA has no rules about an incumbent running, a so-called "incumbency advantage" that Hill possessed merits reviewing the election and revising election procedure.

This advantage in reality likely had a minimal impact on the election. As many political science students know, the incumbency advantage largely rests on three main components: legislative accomplishments, resources of the office and name recognition. Hill's legislative accomplishments did not play into his campaign because his time as an incumbent was not long enough to achieve any such notable victories. As president of the SA, there were very few, if any, resources that were at Hill's disposal to give his campaign an unfair advantage. The

only component of the incumbency advantage that Hill may have possessed was name recognition.

But any aspect of the incumbency advantage is at no fault to Hill. The burden of overcoming the incumbency advantage was on Edwards' campaign, and hers alone. But even if Hill had an insurmountable advantage because of his position, the Joint Elections Commission and SA should not alter election rules based on an extraordinarily rare circumstance. As Edwards notes in her own petition, the last time an incumbent ran was in 1987.

Edwards misused political phenomena like the incumbency advantage to make her case for a separate runoff, but much of the academic literature in the realm of political science undermines the overall case she is trying to make. The only aspect of the current process that will really change in a secondary runoff election is voter turnout, which tends to be lower in runoff elections. In fact, this is one of the main issues that ranked-choice voting addresses. Researchers have found that ranked-choice voting "helps reduce the substantial drop in voter participation that commonly occurs between primary and runoff elections."

Looking at our University's history, even in the highly energized runoff between former SA presidential candidates SJ Matthews and Justin Diamond in 2019, 240 fewer people participated than in the general election. Subsequent elections have been nowhere near as

exciting or captivating to the student body. I voted for Hill as my second choice, and with good reason, but if there were a runoff between only him and Edwards – two similar and uncontroversial candidates – then a significant number of voters (primarily those of then-SA Sen. Aborisode and junior Christian Zidouemba along with students that were not all that enthusiastic about any candidate) would likely not participate.

I am not a fan of the SA, but here at GW, we do not lean toward authoritarianism. We embrace democracy and the rigor of competition that comes with it. Ranked-choice voting is perhaps one of the most democratic systems of voting to be conceived, and meddling with it because Edwards is not happy with the election results would be a grave misstep. As part of the 61.4 percent who will not see their first-choice candidate elected, I am glad I was able to put them down as my number one option and never have to place anyone above them. A separate runoff would make no difference in the representation of my or my fellow students' vote for our favored candidates because the runoff already happened under ranked-choice voting. Ranked-choice voting captures the energy of all candidates' voting blocs, allowing for the fire of democracy to burn like no runoff election could. I call upon all SA senators and the JEC to act against any consideration to change the current voting system.

—Ethan Davis, a junior, is a political science and economics major.

New SA leaders must rethink the organization's advocacy

Another Student Association election season has come and gone, and I can feel the entirety of the student body collectively sigh, knowing that they won't have to see another infographic on Instagram about building community for at least another year.

Yes, that's right, if you haven't heard – or are living under a rock – students have elected a new executive leadership team and senate. To those elected leaders, I bid you congratulations. Genuinely, as someone who has run three of my own SA campaigns, I know just how much time and effort is put into these campaigns, and I am genuinely happy for all of the newly elected students.

George Glass
Former SA Senator

But speaking as someone who served in the SA for three years, newly elected officials must think outside of the box to create positive change. Otherwise, they risk the SA continuing on its current, sad trajectory: a glorified suggestion box for administrators with no real power to make change.

Outside of allocating money to student organizations through the finance committee, the SA doesn't do much, if anything at all. The senate officially has the power to pass legislation that modifies SA bylaws, condemns distasteful acts on campus or recommends changes to administrators. Changing bylaws can make for a more efficient SA. Condemning distasteful acts on campus is good, but we don't really need a whole body for that. Providing recommendations to officials to change things is great, but it's absolutely useless in its current

state because administrators can simply ignore recommendations they don't like. And that happens all of the time.

The SA charter states, "The Student Association shall derive its authority to participate in the University governance from the Board of Trustees of The George Washington University." The SA is literally only allowed to exist because the Board says it can, but do they have an incentive to give students any legitimate power to change things they don't like? Of course not.

The SA does have representation on the Board, but even that is marginal at best because the seat has no voting power and is essentially a token to make it look like officials care about the student voice. Don't take my word for it, take former SA President SJ Matthews' word for it.

So if all the SA can officially do is allocate money to student orgs, condemn acts of hate on campus, modify its own bylaws and implore officials to make changes that can simply be ignored, then the SA is essentially a glorified suggestion box, right? Most of the time yes, it absolutely is. But I wouldn't be writing this if that was completely the case.

On the whole, SA actions are mostly meaningless, but there are a select few who work hard researching and working on initiatives to foster genuine change.

For the most part, officials say no to our pleas and ideas. But there are some initiatives that are thoughtful, worked on diligently and discussed with administrators that eventually do come to fruition. Examples include increased laundry credits, a fall break and LGBTQ housing.

But these initiatives and changes should not be wholly credited to the SA. In fact, you'd be hard-pressed to say that the SA deserves any

credit for these initiatives because the common denominator between the passage of these initiatives was individual, hardworking students, not the SA. If the SA were to not exist, they still could easily have been accomplished because students have the drive to make change on campus regardless if there's an organization to support their initiatives or not.

And this gets to one of my final points: The SA plays a very minuscule role in student life on campus. This might sound like the opinion of a student still bitter that he lost his race last year, but voter turnout statistics prove this sentiment holds true. 3,246 students voted in the past SA elections. That's barely 13 percent of 26,000, which is abysmal when you consider how many students voted in the presidential election in November. We're one of the most civically engaged campuses in the country but not when it comes to the SA.

There are many reasons for such low voter turnout, but the main one is that most students know deep down that the SA doesn't operate in a way that meaningfully impacts campus life. When you really think about it, it's easy to justify not voting.

But it isn't all doom and gloom for the SA. The body has the people and energy necessary to be a positive, effective force for change. We have plenty of opportunities at hand for advocacy, but time and time again we've shown ourselves that the status quo and even the organization's bylaws simply aren't enough. Newly elected SA leaders must think outside of the box to positively impact the student experience at GW. History is doomed to repeat itself otherwise.

—Senior George Glass is a former undergraduate-at-large Student Association senator.

Culture

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THE SCENE

ADMO ART WALK

April 12 • Free • Adams Morgan
Take a self-guided walking tour around Adams Morgan to admire diverse artwork in various local storefronts.

BREAKING INTO COLOUR

April 12 • Free • Online registration
Explore a virtual exhibition that looks at the ways in which artists use color to express ideas and emotions.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

NEW SINGLE: "SHY AWAY" BY TWENTY ONE PILOTS

Plant-based recipe ideas for any meal

RIKA KANESHIGE
REPORTER

If you're looking to improve your health or incorporate environmentally friendly practices into your everyday life, consider cooking plant-based meals.

One of the best ways to reduce your carbon footprint is to incorporate plant-based meals into your diet, according to data from the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Plant-based meals don't have to be boring or bland. Try these quick, easy and delicious meals whether you're just starting your plant-based journey with a meatless Monday or are diving in to a full-on vegan lifestyle.

'Sweet Overnight Oats' by MJ & Hungryman

½ cup uncooked, old-fashioned rolled oats or cooked quinoa

½ cup plant-based milk of choice (sweetened or unsweetened)

1 teaspoon chia seeds
Sweetener of choice
2 tablespoons greek yogurt or dairy-free alternatives (optional)

Whether you're living in a residence hall on campus or in your childhood home, this reliable overnight oats recipe will up your breakfast game. This recipe includes soaking oats with desired flavor additions in plant-based milk overnight and adding toppings to taste. To elevate the base recipe, you can add ingredients like grated carrots, cinnamon and dates to make the carrot cake version or pumpkin pie spice and pumpkin puree for the pumpkin pie version.

'The Best Tofu Scramble' by Nora Cooks

1 tablespoon olive oil



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SABRINA GODIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Try a plant-based recipe for a healthy and sustainable meal.

1 (16-ounce) block firm tofu
2 tablespoons nutritional yeast

½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon turmeric
¼ teaspoon garlic powder
2 tablespoons plant-based milk

Did you know that a serving of extra-firm tofu has more protein than an egg? Veganize your morning by starting the day off with a 10-minute tofu scramble. Pan-fry this soy-based meat or egg alternative with turmeric to give this dish an egg-like color and savory flavor. Simply mash the tofu into a pan, sauté for four minutes or until most of the moisture has evaporated and add in the rest of the ingredients. Add any toppings you

like – avocado, hot sauce or vegan cheese.

'Easy Vegan Falafel' by Minimalist Baker

1 (15-ounce) can chickpeas (rinsed, drained and patted dry)
½ cup chopped fresh parsley (or sub cilantro)

4 cloves garlic, minced
2 medium shallots (minced)
2 tablespoons raw sesame seeds (or sub finely chopped nuts, such as pecans)

1 ½ teaspoons cumin (plus more to taste)

¼ teaspoon each sea salt and black pepper (plus more to taste)

1 pinch each cardamom and coriander (optional)

3 to 4 tablespoons all-purpose flour (or sub oat flour or

gluten-free blend with varied results)

3 to 4 tablespoons avocado oil for cooking (or sub any neutral oil with a high smoke point)

Panko bread crumbs for coating (optional)

Missing your GWorld lunch stops at Roti? A falafel pita wrap is a refreshing meal to enjoy as spring weather approaches. This recipe calls for slightly more complicated instructions, but the result is worth the extra effort.

'Tofu Poke' by Onolicious Hawai'i

12-ounce block of deep-fried tofu

1-ounce ogo seaweed, chopped into ½ inch pieces

One 2-inch piece of ginger,

minced

2 to 3 stalks green onions, chopped

1 tablespoon sesame seeds

2 teaspoons sea salt (preferably Hawaiian)

1 tablespoon sesame oil

1 tablespoon shoyu (soy sauce)

Plant-based poke is a delicious substitute for the usual tuna poke you could find at Kin's Sushi in District and can be enjoyed on top of salad or rice. Tofu poke can be made ahead of time and enjoyed throughout the week. You'll need to blanch and cube the tofu and combine it with your remaining ingredients. The longer you let the tofu marinate, the more sauce will be absorbed.

'Veggie burger' by Chocolate Covered Katie

1 can pinto or black beans (other varieties also work)

3 tablespoons tomato paste or ketchup

½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon garlic powder, optional

½ teaspoon onion powder

2 tablespoons flour of choice (or oat bran)

½ cup cooked diced vegetables of choice

It's easy to grill up some plant-based burgers at home with several meatless burgers on the market like the Beyond and Impossible burgers, some of which even mimic the taste and texture of the perfect medium-rare burger. But if fake meat isn't for you, here are some delicious and easy veggie patties that you can meal prep and freeze whenever the craving hits. And if you don't feel like cooking, fast food establishments like Starbucks, Dunkin' and Burger King are now offering a plant-based Impossible beef substitute.

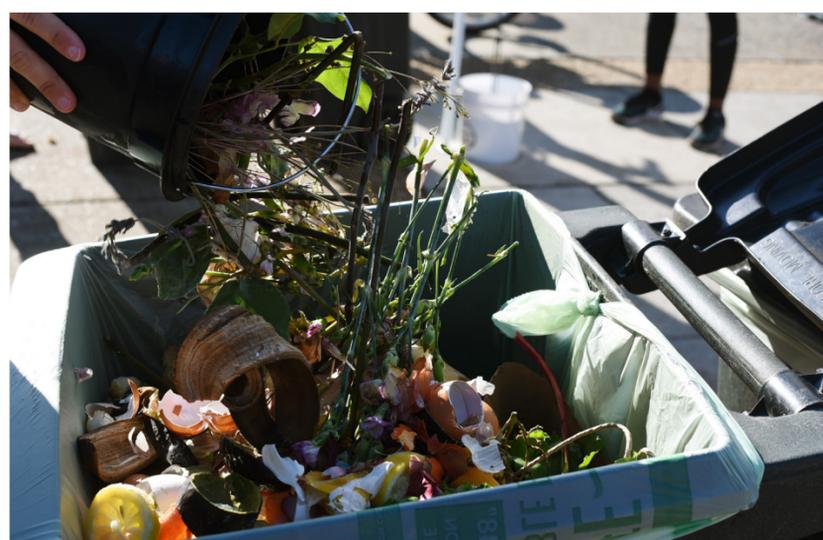


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Students in the Office of Sustainability are continuing to collect compost in Kogan Plaza every Friday morning for Foggy Bottom.

Composting 101: All you need to know to start reducing food waste at home

STEPHANIE CHEUNG
REPORTER

Before you throw away all of your food scraps, give composting a try.

Nearly 40 percent of all U.S. food supply is wasted, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. But if you could do anything to reduce that waste, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it should be composting, along with four other efforts like feeding hungry people and animals.

For composting starters, here's everything you need to know:

What is composting?

Composting is the natural process of recycling organic matter, like leaves and food scraps, into material that can be reused as fertilizer, according to The Natural Resources Defense Council. By composting, you divert organic waste from landfills and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers.

What can I compost?

Anything from leftover fruit scraps and eggshells to old class notes written on paper – yes, you can compost paper with ink – is fair game for composting. GW's Facilities Planning, Construction and Management division listed these acceptable mate-

rials:
Fruit and vegetable scraps

Bread
Eggshells
Meat
Bones

Dairy products
Tea bags without staples
Pizza boxes
Soiled cardboard without tape

Any product labeled acceptable for industrial composting facilities

What materials am I not allowed to compost?

When in doubt, refer to this list of non-compostable items given by D.C.'s Department of Public Works:

Milk, cheese or other dairy products
Meat or fish scraps and bones

Fats, grease, oil or oily foods
Plastic bags, wraps or film

Coated or uncoated paper and cardboard (paper bags, plates, bowls)

Plastic, metals, foil, glass or Styrofoam
Pet refuse

Diseased or insect-infested houseplants and soil
Biodegradable or compostable plastics and packaging

How do I compost?

Now that you've identified your acceptable com-

posting material, you can either take a gallon-sized plastic bag or a reusable container and place your leftover food scraps and paper waste inside. Because most places collect compost once a week, you could place the plastic bag containing your compost into the freezer, then take it out on the appropriate day to avoid any funky smells. You can also buy bins like these made to hold compost and reduce its smell.

Where can I compost?

If you're living on campus or in Foggy Bottom, composting collections take place on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Kogan Plaza clock tower. This composting program, which was previously run by Campaign GW, is being continued by students in the Office of Sustainability. If you're living on the Mount Vernon Campus, the collection is in Ames Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

If you're living off campus but near Foggy Bottom, you can compost at Dupont Circle Farmers Market at 1500 20th St. NW, year-round, on Sundays between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

If you are living in the D.C. area, you can find composting locations at the D.C. Department of Public Works' Food Waste Drop-Off website.

Eco-friendly eateries around D.C.

MOLLY KAISER
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE
EDITOR

You don't need to look far to find eco-friendly eateries in the District.

From Dupont Circle to Chinatown, you can find sustainable meals ranging from plant-based burgers to cocktails made with almond milk. If you want to stick to your plant-based streak while treating yourself, check out a sustainable joint that uses compostable to-go packaging and serves plant-based meals with locally produced ingredients.

Here's a rundown of a few sustainable restaurants to visit in honor of Earth Day:

Chaia Tacos

With a fully vegetarian menu of eclectic tacos and quesadillas, Chaia Tacos defies everything you thought you knew about traditional Mexican dishes. Its lineup of tacos (three for \$13 or one for \$4.50) includes a braised mushroom with feta, creamy kale and potato with pepper jack cheese and a smoky collard greens flavor. It also offers sides like black beans (\$4), chips and dips (\$4) and a host of seasonal drinks like

kombucha (\$4), hibiscus tea (\$3.50) and margaritas (\$8). Chaia Tacos partners with local farms for its plant-based ingredients and composts its utensils, serving trays and excess food, according to the restaurant's website.

Georgetown, 3207 Grace St. NW, Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday and Monday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Chinatown, 615 I St. NW, Monday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday, closed.

Firefly

Firefly is a contemporary American restaurant in Dupont Circle that has been in business for more than 20 years. The restaurant recycles used fryer oil, implements recycled and compostable take-out packaging and sources ingredients from local farmers, according to its website. The restaurant is currently offering a "Cherry Blossom Menu" (\$55), which includes a cocktail, appetizer, entree and dessert. The options include "The Moon and Back" cocktail, a combination of New Amsterdam Vodka, Giffard Ginger liqueur, Taro root powder, homemade ginger syrup, St. Germain and almond milk foam;

a taro milk pudding dessert; and a Japanese-inspired ceviche appetizer.

1310 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Wednesday through Friday 4 to 10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 5:30 to 10 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

HipCityVeg

HipCityVeg is a vegan fast-food chain that started in Philadelphia and has expanded to two locations in D.C. The eatery offers vegan takes on classics, like burgers, cheesesteaks, wraps and milkshakes. In addition to its meatless menu, HipCityVeg promotes sustainability by using 100 percent non-GMO ingredients and composting and recycling its food and packaging. The chain is currently running a promotion called "Take the Veg Pledge," which encourages customers to eat one plant-based meal a day between HipCityVeg's birthday, April 16, and Earth Day, April 22. By signing up, customers get a free birthday cake shake and will receive an email each day of the week with a discount and sustainable life hack.

Downtown, 712 7th St. NW, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Dupont Circle, 1300 Connecticut Ave. NW, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.



ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
HipCityVeg uses entirely non-GMO ingredients while composting and recycling its food and packaging.

GAMES OF THE WEEK



SOFTBALL
vs. St. Joseph's
Saturday | 1 p.m.
GW faces off against St. Joseph's in a doubleheader.



MEN'S SOCCER
vs. Dayton
Thursday | Noon
The Colonials take on the Flyers in the semifinals of the A-10 Championship.

NUMBER CRUNCH

.861

Men's soccer's save percentage this season, up from its five-year average of .770.

'The team to beat': Softball bulldozes through A-10 play midseason

ALEC RICH
STAFF WRITER

After its 2020 campaign was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic, softball put on a dominant showing in conference play to remain undefeated heading into its final five series.

Forced to abandon its 10-14 season last March, softball has bounced back, notching numerous blowout victories against its pod opponents, including 11 wins by run-rule this season. Head coach Shane Winkler said the Colonials' (20-7, 12-0 A-10) 11 upperclassmen helped secure their success.

"One of the biggest keys for us is just our maturity and our veteran leadership overall," Winkler said. "We start nine seniors, whether they're fourth- or fifth-year seniors, and that's huge for us when our entire lineup, outside of one first-year kid, is all 21 to 23 years old."

With 23 rostered players, the team's largest number in 18 years, Winkler said the squad has taken advantage of the additional year of eligibility granted to athletes due to the pandemic. Three current graduate students — utility Faith Weber, infielder Jenna Cone and utility Jessica Linquist — all returned for a fifth season in the buff and blue.

The squad also added two graduate student transfers — outfielder Olivia Vinyard and infielder Amber Lotz — from Yale and Valparaiso, respectively, who took advantage of the additional year of eligibility.

Winkler said the team has built a winning mentality through intense game planning and a strong focus on reviewing film.

In 2019, the team set a

program record for single-season wins with 44 to earn a share of the A-10 title for the first time. As the Colonials aim to return to their 2019 heights, Cone, who leads the team in home runs — nine — and slugging percentage — .805 — said the offseason work they've put in has also contributed to their success.

Building team chemistry has been a focal point following the arrival of seven freshmen and two graduate student transfers. Cone added that the squad has worked to bounce back mentally following the cancellation of the 2020 season.

The Colonials have missed just four games this season, due to postponements at the start of the season, against Howard and Villanova.

The team was named the A-10 preseason favorite back in February, which Linquist said has empowered the squad.

"One thing that we've talked about this season is that pressure is a privilege," Linquist said. "So it's good that we have that and we should kind of be in that position, and we know how good we are and that as we get further down the road, we know that we're going to be the team to beat."

The team has also been bolstered by the addition of freshman pitcher Alexa Williams, who was named A-10 rookie of the week twice in March. Winkler said Williams has benefited from the mentorship of older teammates and has brought "energy" to the starting lineup.

"When we recruited her, we expected her to be a really good offensive player and a really good pitcher for us," Winkler said. "We haven't needed her as



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Linquist said being chosen as the A-10 preseason favorite in February empowered the team going into the season.

much in the circle, but that's one of the exciting things is we know that she's going to bring a lot to the table pitching-wise."

Weber has also contributed to the team's hot streak, leading the team with senior utility Alessandra Ponce with 29 RBIs. Redshirt junior utility player Sierra Lange has also held a 1.90 ERA through 96 innings pitched this spring, and tops the team with 33 hits so far this year. She has returned to pre-injury form after missing the entirety of the 2020 season.

As the season winds down,

Winkler said the squad has "unfinished business" with Fordham, who currently leads the A-10 north division with an undefeated conference record. The two teams are not slated to compete in the regular season due to the A-10 pod system, which schedules teams that are geographically close to play as the pandemic continues.

Winkler said there's a "good chance" the two teams will face each other in the postseason, but he added that his program is just focused on winning games on their docket.

"Right now, all we get to do is watch what they're doing in their division, but we've got to take care of ourselves before we really focus on what the conference tournament or what a potential championship looks like," Winkler said. "We've really got to focus on every single game we play right now being the most important game of the season."

The Colonials will gear up for a nonconference doubleheader against James Madison Wednesday at 3 and 5 p.m., respectively.

'Grit and moxie': Baseball hones pitching as it launches into A-10 play

WILL MARGERUM
STAFF WRITER

With an explosive offense already in check, baseball is looking to strengthen its defense heading into conference play.

The Colonials (12-9, 3-1 A-10) rank in the top 15 in the nation with a team batting average of .300. But consistency on both sides of the ball has been an issue for GW this season as the team's ERA of 5.46 ranks in the bottom half of all 284 Division I teams nationally.

GW surrendered an average of 8.6 runs a game across an eight-game stretch in mid-March. The team dropped all three games to Saint Joseph's and its final two games against Seton Hall despite picking up a win in its first showing against the Pirates.

"In a few earlier games, we kind of let the hitters down," junior left-handed pitcher Rich Pfluger said. "They had some good offensive outputs, and as pitchers, we allowed too many free bases and things like that, so just to throw strikes and pitch to our abilities by attacking hitters."

Pfluger said he and his fellow pitchers would "do our part" to win games in the A-10. Pfluger added that the team's slate of high-caliber opponents in the nonconference slate has prepared them well

heading into conference play.

The Colonials faced Virginia — a top 10-ranked team in the preseason according to Baseball America — twice during their nonconference slate, losing both games 11-1 and 7-2.

GW's nonconference schedule was highlighted by series sweeps of Lehigh and Delaware State. In three games against Delaware State alone, the Colonials scored 32 runs and averaged .402 at the plate.

Pfluger and Fergus said the most memorable moment of the nonconference campaign came against Lehigh in the series finale.

After being down by as many as five runs, junior infielder Noah Levin hit a game-tying home run in the eighth inning to help the Colonials claw back into the game and secure the series sweep. Fergus said the series showed that the Colonials can win any game, regardless of a poor start.

Despite the up-and-down results of the early season schedule, the team has won three of its last four games in nonconference play, giving up its only game to the Cavaliers.

Ritchie said the recent momentum shift has increased his confidence in the team, particularly in the pitching staff. The Colonials

notched 26 strikeouts and an ERA of 2.82 over the last four nonconference games.

To kick off the majority of the team's conference slate, the Colonials topped VCU in three of their four meetings Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The squad bounced back from a 6-4 opening loss Friday to nab three straight one-run wins. The series win was GW's first against VCU since 2013.

The Colonials allowed the Rams to score an average of four runs a game and held them below their season batting average, swinging at a .262 clip throughout the series. GW's arms recorded a 3.61 ERA throughout the series.

After last season's premature end amid the pandemic, Ritchie said his roster this season follows a next man up mentality and has built a "family unity" to keep players focused on winning.

He added his team is built to handle difficult situations both on and off the field, and its determination to grind out wins will carry on throughout the remaining 20-game A-10 slate.

The Colonials will take about a two-week respite from conference play with standalone matches against Coppin State Wednesday, Georgetown April 20 and Towson April 21. First pitch is set for 3 p.m. against the Eagles.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Pfluger said the team's schedule of high-caliber opponents in nonconference play has prepared them for conference games.



FILE PHOTO BY SABRINA GODIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Chambliss said she takes pride in her intense preparation both physically and mentally before competitions.

From injury to NCAA Regionals: Gymnast qualifies on vault

NURIA DIAZ
STAFF WRITER

After suffering a season-ending achilles injury in 2019, junior gymnast Deja Chambliss is on her way to competing at the NCAA Salt Lake City Regional on the vault.

The Colonials qualified as a team at the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional in 2019, but Chambliss was sidelined for the effort. The regional appearance marks the first in Chambliss' college career and the first time a Colonial has qualified on vault since current assistant coach Chelsea Raineri's feat in 2017.

"I definitely walked away very proud of my first NCAA regional appearance of college, but I know there's a lot more that I can improve on, and I don't only want to be there for vault," Chambliss said. "I want to be there on the all-around with my team, so that was just a stepping stone of what I want to do in the future."

Chambliss scored a 9.825 at the competition, just below her career-high 9.900 on vault. During the regular season, she recorded two 9.875s and one 9.900 on the vault.

She said she takes pride in her intense preparation both mentally and physically before her competitions. She added that her rigorous

preparation allowed her to be "calm, cool, collected" when she reached the national stage.

Chambliss said Raineri, who traveled with Chambliss for the competition, offered her support and advice that helped her stay focused and calm at the competition.

The five-meet season was the first full slate Chambliss was able to compete in after missing the end of her freshman and sophomore seasons to injury and the COVID-19 pandemic, respectively. Chambliss said she was proud of herself and the team for persevering through the season despite the challenges the pandemic presented.

Head coach Margie Foster-Cunningham said Chambliss faced many obstacles in her career between her injury and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but she continued to be a "great example" for the team.

This season, the squad missed a team NCAA Regional appearance for the first time in five years and finished fourth among a seven-team field at the EAGL Championships. She added that Chambliss' NCAA performance will serve as a primary motivating factor for the team next season.

She said Chambliss' NCAA showing proved she belongs on the "big

stage," adding that she demonstrates a strong work ethic. She added that Chambliss has done everything she can to not take her opportunities for granted and be a leader for the team in the age of the pandemic.

Chambliss was no stranger to postseason accolades prior to her Regional appearance. She was named to the All-East Atlantic Gymnastics League First Team for the Vault and the All-EAGL Second Team for the bars in her shortened sophomore season. She returned to the All-EAGL First Team for the Vault and also earned a spot on the All-EAGL First Team for the All-Around after the 2021 season.

Foster-Cunningham said Chambliss performs under-pressure exercises during practice to prepare herself for competition. Her fellow gymnasts all pause their training to watch Chambliss complete her routine to mimic the setting of the big stage, she added.

To return to the Regional competition, Chambliss said she will work to be more comfortable and consistent earlier on in the year. After redshirting her freshman season, Chambliss will have two more tries to get herself and her team back to what she called a "one in a million" experience at the national competition.