

## Opinions

The editorial board calls on professors to be understanding of student burnout.  
Page 5

## Culture

Check out the Best of Northwest picks for food and drink, quarantine trends and D.C. life.  
Page 6

## Sports

Track and field sets the tempo, breaking 11 school records, each by an underclassman.  
Page 8

## GW COMMUNITY GEARS UP FOR POST-PANDEMIC LIFE

### Vaccinated faculty comfortable teaching in person this fall

ISHA TRIVEDI  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

YANKUN ZHAO  
STAFF WRITER

Faculty who have received the COVID-19 vaccine say they feel safer about teaching in person this fall as vaccinations continue to expand across the country.

Seven vaccinated faculty members said they feel optimistic and comfortable returning to campus next semester for in-person instruction and to restore the traditional campus experience for students. More than 200 faculty opted out of teaching in person last fall due to concerns of contracting the virus, but vaccinated faculty said they now encourage students and the rest of the GW community to get the vaccine at the earliest opportunity to be protected from the virus and for normal campus life to return.

Officials have not yet announced whether they will require students to be

vaccinated as part of fall reopening plans, but other D.C.-area schools like Georgetown and American universities did. Lynn Goldman, the dean of the Milken Institute School of Public Health, signaled her support for the requirement at a Faculty Senate meeting earlier this month, saying a requirement would help GW manage classrooms to align with public health guidelines.

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

Administrators have consistently stated that students will be on campus "to the fullest extent possible" this fall but have not yet definitively announced the status of the fall semester.

See **FACULTY** Page 3



Experts in infectious diseases said if a student's entire friend group has been fully vaccinated, seeing them indoors and without face masks is safe.



FILE PHOTO BY DONNA ARMSTRONG | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
McAlister said getting vaccinated made her more energetic and gave her hope that she will be able to teach in person this fall.

### Vaccinated students adjust to looser restrictions

TARA SUTER  
REPORTER

TIFFANY GARCIA  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As COVID-19 vaccinations increase across the District, students are confronting a new pandemic-era challenge: readjusting to looser distancing guidelines one year into the pandemic.

In interviews, half a dozen vaccinated students said despite the "peace of mind" they've felt since receiving their vaccine, they've struggled to get comfortable expanding their social circles after a year of following strict distancing guidelines. Experts in infectious diseases said vaccinated people are generally safe from contracting the virus and can socialize indoors with friends, but they should still practice social distancing guidelines outdoors to encourage others who aren't vaccinated to do the same.

"I still follow [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] guidelines, and I don't think a vaccine is permission

to go out and do whatever you want necessarily," sophomore Caroline Jeffrey said. "It's definitely been comforting though, to know I can go out to eat and go to more outdoor activities with little worry."

Jeffrey, a waitress at Homeslyce living in an off-campus apartment, said she feels more at ease visiting with friends in person because she received the Pfizer vaccine in March as an essential worker. She said her life in D.C. is "isolating" as an online student, but the fear of spreading the virus at her job kept her from expanding her bubble beyond her apartment.

Jeffrey said while she still only sees the same people from her social pod, engaging in more public activity, like studying in a cafe, is "super weird." She said being vaccinated quells her anxieties when she is doing activities in crowded public spaces like running on the National Mall, but she still continues to practice CDC guidelines.

See **CIRCLES** Page 3

## Administrators remain optimistic about fall return

RYAN ANASTASIO  
STAFF WRITER

As a second full semester of online learning comes to a close, officials continue to express optimism about the prospect of returning to campus this fall.

Officials have consistently said they anticipate returning to campus to the "fullest extent possible" but have yet to make a definitive decision. Administrators announced in March that the University will initiate a phased campus reopening this summer with courses that require face-to-face instruction held in person and other classes held online.

"The local and national COVID-19 vaccination roll-out has given our commu-

nity reasons to be more optimistic for the rest of 2021 that we will see declines in coronavirus hospitalizations and deaths," officials said in the announcement. "While this is encouraging, our public health and safety experts think it likely that the vaccination roll-out will continue through the summer for many in our community."

Administrators launched this fall's on-campus housing application for all students this month. Only 500 students lived on campus last semester before an uptick to 1,500 campus residents this spring.

Officials also announced fall course registration will take place between April 15 and April 26, according

to an email sent to students in late March. The schedule of classes states that spring courses were taught remotely but doesn't specify the format for fall 2021 classes.

Provost Brian Blake said in an email last month the housing process will be "flexible" to meet GW community members' in-person and remote needs.

"We expect that, in observance of District of Columbia public health guidelines, course offerings will be a blend of in-person and hybrid instruction to ensure a safe learning environment for our community," Blake said.

Administrators submitted a plan to D.C. leaders last June to get approval to hold the fall 2020 semester

in a hybrid format. Officials planned to reorganize classroom spaces to maintain a six-foot distance between students and faculty and to develop programming for students to "connect" with one another despite social distancing protocols limiting large gatherings.

Blake said in early July that more than 200 faculty submitted requests to opt out of teaching in person, but the requests became obsolete when officials reversed their decision in late July and announced that the fall would be fully online.

Faculty who have received the COVID-19 vaccine now say they are excited to teach in person this fall and would feel safer doing so compared to last year.

Officials developed in-house COVID-19 testing services for students currently living on campus and faculty who are approved to have access to campus facilities. They later expanded testing access to off-campus students in September and switched to self-administered tests for on-campus, asymptomatic students in February, which sped up the testing process.

Officials have remained steadfast that fall plans will depend on the speed and availability of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout but have yet to announce whether they will require students to receive a vaccine to return to campus this fall.

LeBlanc said in early April that the University is considering a COVID-19

vaccine requirement, and several schools, like American and Georgetown universities, have announced plans to implement the policy.

"We would build the capability to give the vaccination, order the vaccines – all of that good stuff – assuming we have the right to do it," LeBlanc said in an interview earlier this month. "It's just right now we don't, and we have no indication from either the federal government, the CDC or the District as to when that might happen."

Lynn Goldman, the dean of the Milken Institute School of Public Health, signaled support for a vaccine requirement earlier this month.

## Faculty survey results could jeopardize LeBlanc's future at GW: experts

ISHA TRIVEDI  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Experts say the results from a recent faculty survey of top administrators could affect University President Thomas LeBlanc's future at GW.

Officials released the survey's quantitative results in February before releasing the qualitative results earlier this month, both of which found that a majority of full-time faculty lack confidence in LeBlanc. Some experts in higher education administration said the findings are not enough for the Board of Trustees to ask LeBlanc to leave, while others said faculty's initial approval of the survey itself indicates a lack of trust in his leadership abilities, which could be enough for the Board to remove him.

Faculty voted in November to conduct a survey of University leadership amid rising tensions between the GW community and administrators.

George Justice, a professor of English at Arizona State University who has written about higher education administration, said he would not be surprised if LeBlanc steps away within the next year or two or if the Board asks

him to leave GW given the "overwhelmingly negative" faculty sentiment indicated in the survey results.

"If this high-quality faculty, uniformly across the various academic bodies signaled their displeasure with the leadership, most often a board of trustees – even if it agrees with the president – are not going to be able to stand by the president," he said.

The Board started conducting its regular assessment of LeBlanc this month with an outside facilitator that will "meet with stakeholders" and "summarize their perspectives." The Board last conducted a review of LeBlanc in spring 2019 with the help of a third party.

Board Chair Grace Speights said in an interview in February that she has been invited to review the survey results but will rely on the Board's standard review of LeBlanc to decide whether or not to extend his contract this summer. The outside consultant will review the survey results, according to an announcement from the Board.

"We're going to rely on a process that we put into place to make sure that

we have a fair and independent process," Speights said. "That's what we've done with every president, and that's what will be considered."

A University spokesperson declined to comment on the initial release of the results, deferring to the announcement of the Board's standard review of LeBlanc.

The survey's qualitative results indicate that faculty sentiment across all 10 schools at GW is more negative than positive, and results did not vary by faculty rank.

Justice said the level of disapproval expressed in the results could be enough to have the same impact as a vote of no confidence because part of GW's prestige comes from its "high-quality" faculty. He said if there is a vote of no confidence, the Board could either ask LeBlanc to slowly transition out or resign completely.

"It's really hard for an administration to weather this kind of criticism from a very high-quality faculty, but at the same time I don't think he's 'done the wrong thing' from the trustees' perspective," he said. "But it's going to be hard for them to keep him on, even if as I suspect,



FILE PHOTO BY ARI GOLUB | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
The Board of Trustees is conducting a standard review of LeBlanc this spring before deciding whether they will renew his contract.

he's doing what they want him to do."

Justice said the Board – which has largely backed LeBlanc despite increasing frustration from the GW community – may approve of his work since his arrival at GW but may not be able to continue supporting him in light of the faculty criticisms indicated in the survey results.

"Until you find out who the next president is going to be, it's going

to be unclear whether he's a scapegoat for policy trustees really wish to put in place regardless or whether somehow he veered off track," he said.

Chris Bonneau, the president of the Faculty Senate at the University of Pittsburgh, said faculty wouldn't have voted to conduct a survey of University leadership if they didn't already doubt LeBlanc's abilities.

"It's not a vote of no confidence, but it's pretty

damn close," he said.

Bonneau said even if the Board renews LeBlanc's contract to allow him to stay at GW, he may face "a lot of opposition" to his work.

"When the president loses the confidence of the faculty like that, and it's very public, that is not a good situation for anybody," he said.

See **RESULTS** Page 3

# News

April 19, 2021 • Page 2

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

**D.C. MONDAYS: DEAR CHINATOWN, D.C.**  
 April 19 • Noon EDT • Free  
 Join project curator Jenn Low as she shares her project "Dear Chinatown, DC" which highlights the rising D.C. living costs and commercial redevelopment impairing Chinatown.

**MONOPOLIZING WHITENESS: AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. ERIKA K. WILSON**  
 April 21 • Noon EDT • Free  
 GW Law will host a discussion with Dr. Erika K. Wilson examining the monopolization of "high quality" schools by White students and using antitrust law for educational equity.

**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY**  
 April 23, 1990  
 Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Gail Short Hanson announces she will step down from her position after more than 20 years at GW.



FILE PHOTO BY JACK FONSECA | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
 Officials are planning for a \$25 million surplus next fiscal year, but some faculty say those funds should be used to restart research delayed by the pandemic.

## Officials should allocate more funds for research, faculty say

**ISHA TRIVEDI**  
 ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Faculty said current financial planning for fiscal year 2022 doesn't allocate enough funds for research.

Officials said as the deans for all of GW's schools and vice presidents submitted funding requests to build a budget for FY 2022, administrators found that they could not fulfill all of these requests while also meeting other financial goals. But faculty said officials should prioritize funding for research in light of delays during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Financial Officer Mark Diaz said officials asked the deans and vice presidents to justify their requests rather than receive money based on how much they have been allocated in the past, as they typically do in non-pandemic years. Diaz said the deans requested more money than the University could afford to give them, so officials have been met with a \$50 million gap.

Joseph Cordes, the chair of the Faculty Senate's fiscal planning and budget committee and a professor of economics, said at the April senate meeting that officials are looking to reduce unit- and school-based requests by \$50 million to close a projected deficit of \$10 million, allocate

\$15 million for contingencies and use \$25 million for a surplus.

He said nonprofit organizations like GW often run a surplus, so they can invest in the future of the organization, which GW has done in the past. Cordes said allocating more money to a surplus can also boost GW's bond rating – the assessment given by credit rating agencies that identify the quality of an organization's credit.

Standard and Poor's Global Ratings and Moody's Investors Services have rated GW as A+ and A1, respectively, during the pandemic. The ratings came at a time when Moody's downgraded higher education as an industry from "stable" to "negative."

But Cordes said faculty, administrators and the Board of Trustees should have conversations about the necessary size of the surplus. He said the gap in the current FY 2022 budget proposal indicates that officials have made a conscious decision to allocate money to a surplus instead of using the funds for other purposes, like research.

Diaz, the chief financial officer, said setting money aside for a margin or surplus can help officials reinvest money in the University and its infrastructure to support GW's long-term well-being. He said if officials don't set

aside a surplus, they could end up with a "significant deferred maintenance backlog" that can delay renovations to campus buildings and affect other parts of student life.

Officials suspended all hiring processes and most capital projects last March at the beginning of their efforts to mitigate the financial impact of the pandemic.

Harald Griesshammer, a faculty senator and an associate professor of physics, said officials should tap into the endowment to provide more money for faculty research or redirect the part of the budget proposal allocated for reserves to cover additional research expenses for the upcoming fiscal year.

Grace Speights, the chair of the Board, vowed last May not to tap into GW's endowment for officials' pandemic budget mitigation efforts to protect the University's long-term financial standing.

Griesshammer said with GW working through a "budget crisis" as the pandemic progresses, officials should allocate more money for research in FY 2022 than they have in pre-pandemic years because faculty will need more funding to conduct research and field work during the upcoming fiscal year to make up for the opportunities they missed due to the pandemic.

## Local leaders urge city officials to downsize D.C. police

**ZACHARY BLACKBURN**  
 STAFF WRITER

Local leaders are pressing for dozens of recommendations to reform law enforcement in the District.

The D.C. Police Reform Commission, a 20-member group of local legal experts and reform activists, published a 259-page report earlier this month outlining more than 90 recommendations to reform policing in the District, including slashing the size of the Metropolitan Police Department by as much as 3,000 officers. The report also calls for MPD to require police to use technology that turns on body cameras whenever an officer pulls their gun and abolish qualified immunity, which protects police from civil lawsuits.

Robert Bobb, the co-chair of the commission and a former D.C. city administrator, said offering residents alternatives to calling the police, like mental health experts, can provide a more appropriate response to situations, like drug overdoses, threats of suicide and other behavioral health crises.

The D.C. Council established the commission to create this report last September following the protests against police brutality

last summer. Bobb said the Council and MPD have the capacity to implement many of the recommendations, but officials have yet to act.

The report's release comes nearly a year after nationwide protests in light of the police killing of George Floyd and during the trial of Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer charged with Floyd's murder.

Bobb said implementing the reforms would likely be a yearslong process, saying that many of the commission's recommendations, like improving mental health care in the District, are long-term projects unlikely to happen overnight.

Chris Geldart, the acting deputy mayor for public safety and justice who commented on behalf of MPD, said D.C. and MPD officials plan to review the recommendations over the next several months.

Christy Lopez, the co-chair of the commission, said the report aims to reduce police's footprint in D.C. with other officials responding to minor law violations. One recommendation would give the District Department of Transportation the authority to issue citations for minor traffic violations, which she

said is justifiable following the police-involved killing of Daunte Wright during a traffic stop earlier this month and other similar incidents of police brutality.

Lopez said she first received pushback from locals who didn't understand the need for traffic stop policy reform. But she said recent headlines rationalize the move, including body camera footage showing police use physical force, guns and pepper spray to pull over a Black Army lieutenant in Virginia during a traffic stop.

She said the commission developed its recommendations over the course of six months after listening to direct suggestions from community members at regular hearings and using their own expertise in law and policing. Lopez said the commission focused on making recommendations to improve D.C.'s mental health and housing policies, like building more homeless shelters to prevent crime or other emergencies.

The D.C. Police Union, which represents about 3,600 MPD officers, attacked the recommendations shortly after the report's release earlier this month, calling the report "regressive and dangerous."



HATCHET FILE PHOTO  
 The D.C. Council established an independent commission to create the report in September following the protests against police brutality last summer.

## Nursing program enters U.S. News and World Report's top 25 rankings

**MICHELLE VASSILEV**  
 STAFF WRITER

The School of Nursing ascended 11 spots to crack the list of top 25 graduate nursing programs in the country in U.S. News and World Report's rankings earlier this month.

The nursing school now ranks 22nd overall in the country and sixth for administration and leadership, according to the rankings. Pamela Jeffries, the dean of the nursing school, said she is "thrilled" that the 11-year-old nursing school entered the top 25 after she set the goal six years ago when she became dean and the school was ranked 58th nationwide.

"This is not an easy endeavor – the rankings speak of our faculty excellence, our impactful student outcomes and contributions of our graduates," Jeffries said in an email.

Jeffries said she does not know "all the specifics" that helped the school rise in ranking, but she thinks a recent uptick in research funding contributed to the increase. The rankings state that research activity can determine a school's standing, and Jeffries said officials strategically recruited "stellar" faculty to develop the school's "research base."

"They have brought new energy to our school, resulting in a significant increase in research funding," Jeffries said. "This was a notable difference over previous years. Kudos to our researchers at GW Nursing for making this happen and continually pursuing the goal of bringing in more funding and grants while contributing to nursing and public health research."

The rankings state that "student selectivity," which includes undergraduate GPA, also serves as

part of the criteria. Jeffries said she hopes this ranking will continue to encourage "top-notch" students to attend the school.

Pamela Slaven-Lee, the school's senior associate dean for academic affairs and associate dean for student affairs, said the combination of nurse clinicians, nurse researchers and professional educators contribute to the school's standing as a top institution. She said the Online Learning and Instructional Technology department helped create an online course design that supports students and faculty.

"We have an outstanding Online Learning and Instructional Technology department of instructional designer and experts in the creation and delivery of online courses that supports our faculty in the creation of engaging, rigorous and pedagogically sound courses for our students," Slaven-Lee said in an email.

Slaven-Lee said the nursing school is committed to accepting a diverse group of students who have different interests and attributes each year. She said the school considers applicants through a "holistic approach" that goes beyond an individual's GPA and into their "unique experiences."

Slaven-Lee said the school's doctoral program and "impactful" interdisciplinary research led by faculty elevate officials' hopes to become a "preeminent" institution in nursing science and research.

She said the school's community engagement office strengthened the program's reputation within the health care workforce, which is also considered in the rankings. The office works to establish partnerships with organizations like the D.C. Housing Authority and the Alzheimer's Association, she added.

Deans at other top-ranked nursing schools said strengths in



HATCHET FILE PHOTO  
 This year's rankings feature a new category based on health care professionals' thoughts on the ranked schools' master's programs.

research, clinical experiences and student diversity are the necessary factors in making a top nursing school.

Shari Ireton, the assistant dean of marketing and communication at the University of Washington School of Nursing, said she believes her university has been ranked in the top 25 graduate nursing schools since the U.S. News and World Report rankings began.

She said 40 percent of the ranking is based on peer assessment, which is determined through a survey sent to all nursing school heads around the country. Ireton said the survey consists of questions asking nursing school lead-

ers about their awareness and attitude toward other schools in the rankings.

She said this year's rankings feature a new category based on health care professionals' thoughts on the ranked schools' master's programs. Ireton said the remaining criteria is split into research activity, faculty resources, the number of degrees the school has awarded and student selectivity based on undergraduates' GPA.

She added that nursing schools shouldn't accommodate for their ranking more than other components of their institution. She said officials should prioritize equity and inclusivity, hands-on experi-

ence and community impact.

Bernadette Melnyk, the dean of the College of Nursing at The Ohio State University, and Cindy Anderson, the senior associate dean for academic affairs and educational innovation at OSU, said top-ranked schools must teach students resiliency skills that can be used to "live well." OSU was ranked ninth this year, according to the U.S. News and World Report rankings.

Melnyk and Anderson said faculty should use "innovative" teaching strategies like engaging students with clinical partners in practice to motivate them to take advantage of opportunities that the school offers.

# Foggy Bottom Association to launch project on neighborhood's history

YUTONG JIANG  
REPORTER

The Foggy Bottom Association is piecing together a yearslong project documenting the history of Foggy Bottom.

FBA President John George said the project will feature a website that includes interactive maps, a blog for short stories about Foggy Bottom's history and links to historical information to celebrate the neighborhood's history. He said he hopes the Foggy Bottom community will learn from the neighborhood's history to be "mindful" of future changes to the neighborhood, like building demolitions.

He said the FBA has reached out to residents informally and will utilize the FBA website, newsletters and community meetings for further outreach to residents. George said he has talked to long-term residents of Foggy Bottom and wants to include their stories and knowledge of the area as part of the research and oral history in

the project.

He said the project emphasizes incorporating historic homes into more modern structures, which he said has been one of the association's goals since its founding in the 1950s. The FBA is currently pushing administrators and the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission to save the Waggaman House, which currently houses the Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service, on I Street from its planned demolition.

He said about four or five part-time volunteers from the FBA's board of directors and other community members will work on the project, researching archives and cataloguing books and other reference materials to distribute online. George said the FBA is continually looking for volunteers from the University to contribute to the project.

Denise Vogt, a FBA board member and an alumna, said highlighting the "rich" history of Foggy

Bottom allows residents to be aware of and educated about the neighborhood's history.

Vogt said the FBA already started gathering historical materials from long-term local residents, including old newspaper clippings of the Foggy Bottom Metro station's construction along I Street, old photographs of historic buildings and other documents about the neighborhood's history.

She said she also hopes to work with interested students who are willing to research, contribute photos and conduct interviews to expand the project, which does not yet have an official launch date, once COVID-19 restrictions are loosened. Vogt said she has been interested in learning about Foggy Bottom's history since last September, when she moved into her parents' home and because of her roots in the neighborhood as a student.

Vogt said the project might never formally end, and she hopes to expand its collection of historical materials on the FBA's



FILE PHOTO BY LYDIA EMBRY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Foggy Bottom Association leaders said they plan to access historical documents housed in Gelman Library once pandemic restrictions are lifted.

website as the years progress.

She said she hopes the project honors the FBA's mission to raise awareness about neighborhood history and motivate people to protect historical architecture in the community,

like the Waggaman House.

Vogt said she has communicated with the archivist at Gelman Library via email for historical files about Foggy Bottom, but she has been unable to access hard copies because the building is closed

to the public during the pandemic. She said once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, the FBA plans to access those files, including articles and photographs, and hire a software programmer to make their website more interactive.

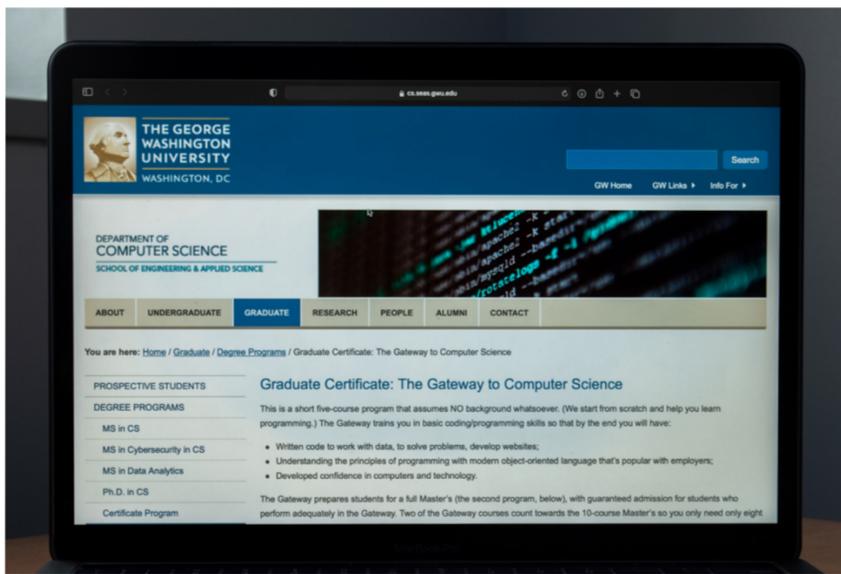


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE TOWERS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Faculty said the 10 courses in the master's program will teach students how to work with databases, cloud design and code the user interface to prepare them for careers in computer science.

## SEAS to launch two online computer science programs this fall

NICHOLAS PASION  
STAFF WRITER

Students with no experience in computer science will soon have the chance to learn to code once School of Engineering and Applied Science officials implement two new online programs this fall.

SEAS officials will start accepting applications in June for the two online coding programs – the Gateway to Computer Science Certificate and the subsequent master's in applied computer science – which will provide students from any major with additional computing skills and career opportunities. John Lach, the dean of SEAS, said officials created the programs because the computer science industry is growing as the world increases its focus on data, technology and computing.

Lach said software development is the most common entry-level job for new computer science students, but the programs also prepare students for other careers in the IT industry or system administration.

Lach declined to say how the programs are being advertised.

Raul Simha, a professor of computer science, said the five-class Gateway certificate lasts 16 months and will teach students basic coding, featuring introductory programming courses and an introduction to web development

class. Upon completing the four core courses in the certificate program, students will be eligible to apply for the master's program in applied computer science, which includes courses on app development and administrating systems, Simha said.

Simha said the Gateway program is open to all students who already have a bachelor's degree regardless of their major and requires no previous math or computing experience.

Simha said he has led the development of the two programs for a few years, considering how to ensure content in the programs is understandable without prior math experience. He said the programs will teach students marketable skills, like how to work on various aspects of websites from animation forms to databases and servers.

Students can also apply for the master's degree if they have taken the equivalent prerequisite courses as undergraduates, according to the University bulletin. Students who complete the Gateway program and apply to the master's degree won't need to submit a Graduate Record Examination, the standardized test often required for entrance to graduate schools, to be accepted into the program.

Simha said the 10 courses in the master's program will teach students how to work

with databases and cloud design and code the user interface to prepare them for careers in computer science.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts the number of computer and mathematical jobs will rise about 12 percent over the next eight years, compared to a total employment growth of only 3.7 percent in the same time frame.

He said the two programs will remain permanently online to accommodate students who may be working part-time or full-time jobs while enrolled.

Simha said the master's program will provide students with capstone courses that will help them build portfolios and work on projects that they can display during job interviews. He said the courses will also include interview preparation and practice problems to help students find a job in software development or IT.

Computer science experts said the programs can help students improve skills that can be applied to daily life, like list sorting or securely using a computer.

Nasir Memon, the vice dean for student and academic affairs and a professor of computer science and engineering at New York University, said he created the NYU Tandon Bridge program, which helps students without a computer science background transition to a master's program over 17 weeks.

## Faculty vaccinations boost hope for fall return

From Page 1

Melani McAlister, a professor of American studies, said she received her first dose of the Moderna vaccine in February as part of Maryland's IC vaccine rollout stage, which includes employees in higher education. She said getting vaccinated made her more energetic and gave her hope that she will be able to teach in person this fall.

McAlister said the pandemic has caused her students to become more burnt out and exhausted than normal at this point of the semester compared to the fall and believes they are ready to return to a social life beyond their childhood bedrooms.

Steven Roberts, a professor of media and public affairs and a member of The Hatchet's Board of Directors, said he received two doses of the

Pfizer vaccine in Maryland in February and experienced no major side effects. Roberts said he is "eager" to return to campus next fall because students have been physically and emotionally disconnected from the campus and wider University community.

He said students and faculty will be safe to return to in-person instruction as more vaccines are distributed.

Roberts said he restarted his networking tradition at Founding Farmers two weeks ago of catching up with former students over breakfast with more people getting vaccinated. He said meetups like this on campus serve as a "lively" and "critical" component of students' college experiences that have been lost during the pandemic.

Everyone above the age of 16 became eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine

last week in the District, including out-of-state students currently residing in D.C.

Colin Linsley, a teaching professor of accountancy, said he received his first shot of the Moderna vaccine about three weeks ago in Florida, where he is currently teaching online, with his second shot scheduled for this week. He said he experienced side effects from the vaccine for only a day, reminding him of when he contracted the virus in February and fell ill for nearly two weeks.

He said he will feel safe from the virus after his second shot, and he is impressed with the vaccine's high level of protection against severe infections. He said he hopes the pandemic will be completely under control and life will return to normal by next year as more states continue to expand their vaccine rollout.

## Social circles expand as vaccine rollout continues

From Page 1

Certain factors like gender, socioeconomic status, prevalence of COVID-19 cases in one's home state and a higher perceived risk for infection were correlated with more social distancing observance, according to a November Understanding America study.

About 70 percent of the U.S. population will be vaccinated by the summer, the minimum threshold to achieve herd immunity, according to a report from The Atlantic. Earlier this month, students living in the District became eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and can pre-register for an appointment through the District's coronavirus website.

Freshman Nicholas Danilich, said he received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine earlier this month with a group of his friends in D.C. He said he

still feels hesitant doing activities in public out of routine after the past year of following distancing guidelines and worries a vaccinated student could still test positive for the virus.

Junior Jack King, a student living in an off-campus apartment, said he posts daily updates of D.C. locations with available vaccine appointments on Twitter to encourage his peers to sign up and get vaccinated. King said he received both doses of the Pfizer vaccine last month after qualifying early as an essential worker.

Experts in infectious diseases said students should still practice social distancing guidelines outdoors to be "conscious" of others who have not yet received the vaccine. But if a student's entire friend group has been fully vaccinated, seeing them indoors and without face masks is safe, they said.

Paul Beninger, an associate professor of

public health and community medicine at Tufts University, said students should check the CDC's COVID-19 post-vaccination website once a week to guarantee they are up to date on the recent guidelines. He said students can gather indoors without masks with a low risk of contracting the virus, but they should still practice social distancing outdoors as more of the population awaits the vaccine.

Joshua LaBaer, a professor in personalized diagnostics and the director of the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University, said the public is in an "in-between period," which makes discerning the permitted activities for vaccinated students difficult. He said the United Kingdom's coronavirus variant has been hospitalizing younger age groups more, so students should not be gathering in large groups maskless if they are not vaccinated.

## Survey results could have similar impact to no-confidence vote, experts say

From Page 1

Eddie Rice Cole, an associate professor of higher education and organizational change at UCLA, said he doesn't think the Board will make any major changes to University leadership without an official vote of no confidence in LeBlanc from the faculty. But he said the survey's release could at least encourage the Board

to take the results into consideration as part of their review of the president.

"Considering that this is not a formal vote of no confidence, this is a survey of faculty sentiment, I think it will catch trustees' attention, but I'm not sure if this would be a deciding factor on its own in whether they decide to keep the president at your university or not," he said.

Cole said a vote of no

confidence is "most often" enough for a board of trustees to consider changes in leadership because it indicates that the president will face difficulty in "effectively" leading a university.

Cole said administrators should meet with faculty leaders like senators and other GW community members in regular public forums to discuss University policies, maintain transparency within

the administration and rebuild trust between GW leaders and community members.

Noelle Arnold, a senior associate dean and professor of educational administration at The Ohio State University, said if the Board decides to renew LeBlanc's contract despite the survey results, faculty could opt to protest by choosing not to teach.

Professors from the Faculty Association, an

independent group of full-time faculty, developed a set of "GWUFA memes" last fall as tensions between faculty and LeBlanc escalated to express their disapproval with LeBlanc and Speights. The graphics included claims that some faculty will be unavailable to students on Wednesdays in protest of LeBlanc or will give students A's to "unburden faculty from the considerable labors of grading."

"One of the things that's really difficult is that there are not a lot of great examples in higher ed of leaders who've actually had issues that have reached a boiling point, where they've remained and then been successful after that," Arnold said. "And so you have to ask yourself, even if they remain another year or two, how successful are presidents at 'turning that around,' so to speak?"

# New BSU leaders to continue community initiatives, expand campus presence

**ABBY KENNEDY**  
STAFF WRITER

Incoming executive board leaders of the Black Student Union said they plan to increase collaboration with multicultural student organizations and increase their campus presence in the year ahead.

BSU President-elect Gianna Cook and Executive Vice President-elect Tony Peeler will kick off their term April 28, following a year in which leaders revamped advocacy and community building with new initiatives like “Black Power” conversations with other Black organizations at GW to promote collaboration on campus. Cook and Peeler said they plan to rename BSU’s general body meetings as “fellowship nights” to engage members and “re-center” the group around the Black community.

“We’ve all endured a tough year,” Cook said. “We’ve all suffered loss in some form or some way, and my goal is to be as transparent as possible and make sure that people feel that they have resources and one another to come to on campus.”

Cook said she hopes to continue initiatives that BSU established this year, like the Big Brother, Big Sister Program, which pairs freshmen with upperclassmen who share similar majors and interests to foster community. She said she also plans to continue BSU’s Re-thinking D.C. Project, which

leaders started last June to monitor Metropolitan Police Department practices and drive down youth arrests.

She said the incoming e-board will continue to actively monitor racism and microaggressions on campus through the director of advocacy position and will educate those from all identities on Black culture.

“We have such strong momentum in those areas – people being interested and just general education,” she said. “Especially with this year of police brutality and all these things going on, there are resources where everyone can be aware, so no one doesn’t know.”

She said members want to continue to partner with other Black and diasporic organizations at GW, like Black Girl Mentorship and the Multicultural Business Student Association, to grow the organization’s presence on campus.

“That will make our presence known because one of our tenants of GW is diversity and inclusion,” she said. “It’s not just enough to just go within your own community but branch out with the other marginalized and minority communities.”

Cook said she hopes to hold “truth circles” with administrators to discuss past “discrepancies” and improve trust between BSU members and top officials.

“The University has made it clear that they want to improve and stick by the Black community in light of the past year we’ve had of

protests, addressing police brutality, college scandals, and I intend to hold them to their word,” she wrote in an email.

Cook said she looks forward to working with other e-board members to continue to foster transparency, communication and a strong sense of community.

“I’m just looking forward to a great year,” she said. “I’m really excited. We have an amazing e-board with so many great candidates, and I think that we’re going to do a great job. Like I said, I’m just really excited. I heard everyone’s ideas and plans and, GW, just get ready.”

Peeler, who also serves as a Student Association undergraduate senator for the Elliott School, said he hopes BSU implements more social occasions like networking events and cookouts when students can attend in person, so members get to know each other better.

“Community building is really important to me,” Peeler said. “People are, to put it in the best way, socially starved for one, and they’re dying to get back to campus.”

He said he hopes to continue events like BSU’s DMV “meet and greet,” during which students from BSU chapters at schools in the DMV area participate in games and team-building exercises to get to know each other.

“I got to meet people in D.C. that I’d never met before because we had an influx of freshmen but also



COURTESY OF GIANNA COOK AND TONY PEELER  
Cook said she plans to hold truth circles between the administrators and BSU members to discuss past “discrepancies.”

who went to other schools and saw what they did with their BSU, how they’re creative as well, was a really great experience for me, and I’m sure dozens of others,” he said.

Peeler said while serving on the SA’s Black Senators’ Caucus, he connected with members of other newly formed caucuses in the SA. He said he hopes to build a relationship with caucus leaders and Black organizations to revamp BSU event promotion.

Peeler said officials should respond more proactively to improve the Black experience instead of just previously taken “reaction-

ary” measures to harmful events on campus, like the resignation of a professor who lied about her racial identity.

He said administrators were apt to listen to BSU after the killing of George Floyd spurred Black Lives Matter protests last summer, and he wants to continue that communication. He said BSU should hold officials responsible for improving the experiences of Black students at GW.

“It shouldn’t have to be BSU always reaching out,” Peeler said. “I feel like the administration should pay more attention to what we want in our concerns, be-

cause we have to live this life and we go through our thoughts every day. We go through our organizations every day, and we know what’s going on, but administration sometimes I feel has a distant relationship with that.”

Peeler said although BSU hopes to host events in person next year, the group will also offer a virtual component via Zoom for each in-person event they host. He said BSU leaders hope to give as many people as possible an opportunity to participate even if they are not comfortable meeting face to face in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.



COURTESY OF SUZY WISE  
Paul Tschudi, an assistant professor of health sciences and alumnus, died earlier this month in a house fire in the District.

## Assistant professor of health sciences dies at 73 in house fire

**CARLY NEILSON**  
STAFF WRITER

Paul Tschudi, an assistant professor of health sciences and an alumnus of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development, died April 7 in a house fire in the District. He was 73.

Tschudi joined GSEHD’s faculty more than two decades ago and served as the founding director of the school’s Grief, Loss and Life Transitions Graduate Certificate. Faculty and students who knew Tschudi said they will remember him as a “true collaborator” who was authentic and compassionate.

Tschudi was the former executive director of the Wendt Center for Loss and Healing and previously owned a private grief counseling practice. He was also a Vietnam War veteran, having served as a medic.

Tschudi and his dog died in an accidental fire in his Northeast D.C. home, D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services officials said. Officials are still investigating the cause of the fire and whether there were working smoke detectors in his home.

Rebecca Dedmond, an associate professor of counseling in GSEHD, said she met Tschudi more than 10 years ago at a school faculty meeting when they were both professors, and they bonded over their shared interest in helping others make major life transitions in school and careers.

She said many students viewed Tschudi as their favorite professor, and his class on grief and loss was the most popular in

the program. She said he often reminded students and colleagues to take care of themselves amid the demands of teaching and learning.

“He was helping us to learn to take care of ourselves and not to lose sight of it,” Dedmond said. “If we’re not taking good care of ourselves, we’re not going to be a whole lot of use to others.”

Sylvia Marotta-Walters, a professor of counseling, said Tschudi was already teaching at GW when she started in 1992, and she met him when he first proposed his grief class to the counseling and human development department. She said he had a passion for counseling and said she learned from Tschudi to always advocate for those who are marginalized.

“Paul was an ever-present colleague and friend to me,” she said in an email. “He had a great sense of humor and such a positive outlook on life that he just naturally engaged with us all, colleagues, staff, students alike.”

Scott Beveridge, an associate professor of counseling, said he met Tschudi in 2007 when he started teaching at GW. He said he always enjoyed working with Tschudi and that they shared interests in helping veterans deal with their wartime trauma and injuries, especially given Tschudi’s service during the Vietnam War.

Beveridge said he never saw Tschudi upset or frowning. He said he can still picture Tschudi smiling and laughing during the lunches that they spent together.

Suzy Wise, an assistant professor of psychology at Valparaiso University and

a GSEHD alumna, said she met Tschudi in 2010 when she took one of his graduate counseling classes at GW.

She said Tschudi was the most “authentic, compassionate and kind” professor she had in her decades as a student. She said he helped people through their grief, which was never a burden for him.

Daniel Minot, a 2015 graduate from GSEHD’s master’s program in school counseling, said he met Tschudi in 2013 after taking his grief and loss class. He said his classes and personal experiences with Tschudi left an “indelible mark” on his life and professional career as a counselor.

Minot said he and Tschudi continued to keep in contact after graduation, and Tschudi’s impact extended beyond the classroom. He said after his father’s unexpected passing, Minot and his wife – both GSEHD alumni – met with Tschudi for support touched by his “compassion” and “empathy” through their conversations.

Minot said Tschudi has a “tremendous” legacy in counseling through his work at GW and in the District. He said Tschudi’s lessons on grief and loss can help his friends and family navigate through his death.

University spokesperson Crystal Nosal said members of the University are mourning Tschudi’s passing. She said he previously consulted with the University on developing curriculum in end-of-life care fields and was a “sought-after” speaker on issues of grief, loss and life transition.

## Educational barriers limit diversity in health care workforce: Milken study

**LAUREN SFORZA**  
STAFF WRITER

Educational barriers contribute to a lack of diversity in the health care workforce, Milken researchers found in a study conducted late last month.

Edward Salsberg – the lead researcher of the study examining 2019 data on health care industry professions – found that a shortage of Black, Hispanic and Native American graduates could continue to limit workforce diversity across the country. Salsberg said he encourages medical institutions to ensure their educational requirements aren’t barriers to cultivating a more diverse workforce.

“There is some literature and documentation that shows that a more diverse workforce will help address disparities in health outcomes and health care,” Salsberg said. “Black, Hispanic and Native American practitioners are more likely to serve underserved areas and underserved populations, and having a diversity class in the pipeline improves cultural sensitivity for all practitioners.”

Salsberg said researchers created a “diversity index” to determine which ethnic and racial groups were underrepresented in 10 health care positions, like nurses, physician assistants and physical therapists. The index divides the total number of health care professionals from a specific ethnic or racial group by the total working age population of that ethnic or racial group in the country, he said.

He said the researchers used 2019 population data with employment trend statistics from the Census Bureau’s American

Community Survey and the National Center for Education Statistics’ demographics data on college graduates to analyze diversity across the professions.

A diversity index scoring of less than one indicates underrepresentation of a racial or ethnic group in that health care profession and a score equal to one meant there was equal representation, according to the study. The mean diversity index was 0.54 for Black individuals, 0.34 for Hispanic individuals and 0.54 for Native American individuals, according to the study.

Black, Native American and Hispanic individuals were most underrepresented in the physical therapist profession and best represented in the respiratory therapist profession, according to the study.

Salsberg said there were fewer Black graduates than there were Black medical professionals in the workforce in five of the 10 health care professions in 2019. He said the disparity of Black graduates in the educational pipeline could be tied to an increase in educational requirements for some professions.

Salsberg said his team wants to conduct more research into an additional 20 health care professions in the future to continue addressing the lack of diversity in the health care workforce.

Experts in health care said diversity in the workforce will increase trust between patients and providers. They said the difficulties that some minorities face in receiving education could influence this lack of diversity.

Only 37 percent of Black young adults have at least a two-year college degree

compared to more than 50 percent of White young adults, according to a study by the Institute for College Access and Success.

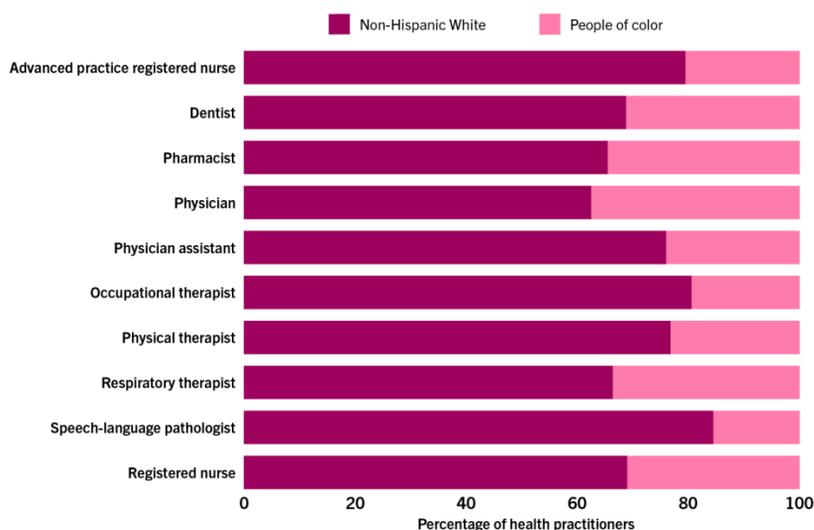
Gregory Hall, a professor of integrative medicine at Northeast Ohio Medical University, said patients are more likely to take advice about medication or surgeries from a doctor of a similar background.

Hall said standardized tests like the MCAT, which medical students must take, are “deliberate barriers” to increasing diversity in the health care system because testing is not an accurate measure of ability to provide quality medical care. He said underrepresented groups in medicine, like Black Americans, are more likely to receive lower test scores because they don’t receive necessary support to get into medical school.

Aliria Rascon, a clinical associate professor at the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation at Arizona State University, said competitive medical programs can create a “divide” between first-generation students, who are not familiar with the admissions process, and the rest of the applicant pool. She said medical schools serve students from the majority population and should instead work toward representing more diverse cultures.

Rascon said the Milken study highlights the disparities in the health care system that may push institutions to support underrepresented communities in health care. She said institutions need to invest in more scholarship and mentoring programs for students who do not have access to these resources.

### Workforce estimates of health practitioners by race/ethnicity



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | STAFF DESIGNER

Source: JAMA Network Open 2019 American Community Survey

## The faculty survey is more evidence that LeBlanc needs to go

The GW community's tolerance of University President Thomas LeBlanc's leadership is dwindling.

Students have expressed previous frustration with LeBlanc, ranging from criticism over insensitive remarks to concerns about an extravagant inauguration in his very first semester at GW. Faculty and students have found themselves angered over layoffs and have expressed frustration with LeBlanc's administrative priorities, like his 20/30 plan that has now gone stagnant because of the COVID-19 pandemic or his decision to hire Heather Swain. But until recently, those concerns had been limited to faculty senators or members of the Faculty Association, who make up a minority of overall faculty.

**Kiran Hoeffner-Shah**  
Managing Director

This week, a faculty-wide survey approved by the Faculty Assembly revealed an “overwhelmingly negative” sentiment among faculty toward GW's leadership. Faculty critiqued the University's partnership with the Disney Institute, the campus climate and LeBlanc himself. Some faculty members pointed to the hiring of Heather Swain — who withdrew from the hiring process after concerns over her role in the Larry Nassar sexual abuse case came to light — as an example of LeBlanc's poor leadership. Others highlighted nepotism in LeBlanc's top hires, who frequently come from the University of Miami, his previous institution.

The results of the faculty-wide survey are revealing of an unfortunate trend — LeBlanc's



Cartoon by Hannah Thacker

leadership is more divisive than ever. The Board of Trustees' standard review of LeBlanc's performance is under way, and the body will soon decide whether or not to renew his contract. The results of the faculty survey should make that decision clear — LeBlanc has now lost the trust of faculty, and it is time for the Board to move on.

While LeBlanc won decent marks for his handling of the pandemic — 51 percent of faculty indicated ambivalent or positive

feelings — the most worrisome trends are transparency and diversity. More than 80 percent of faculty indicated they were unhappy with LeBlanc's handling of those areas.

Concerns about diversity are not new to LeBlanc. When he was first hired, faculty criticized the lack of diversity on the search committee and pushed LeBlanc to make diversity a priority in his administration. Instead of meeting the challenge, LeBlanc has balked at improving

diversity. But these concerns are trumped by disapproval of LeBlanc's leadership skills.

The most important leadership skill for a University president is transparency, especially when it comes to leading during a crisis. GW has been in crisis for years before the pandemic, dealing with high debt, low alumni giving and plummeting rankings. Looping in professors, staff and students is key to improving campus because administrators cannot tackle GW's problems alone. But rather

than prioritizing transparency, LeBlanc has dodged addressing faculty questions and concerns.

LeBlanc's problematic 20/30 plan has been the source of many tensions between faculty and administrators. The planned enrollment cut would harm diversity and make it harder for low-income students to attend GW, while also negatively impacting humanities departments. Faculty have been critical of the plan, but LeBlanc continued pushing it forward until the pandemic stalled progress. It's not the first time that LeBlanc has ignored the opinions of faculty and staff. When he was denounced for hiring the Disney Institute to review the campus culture and climate, he elected to extend the partnership.

LeBlanc has repeatedly ignored and minimized faculty opinions, leading to an unsurprising 85 percent of faculty not trusting the administration and a majority who have lost confidence in LeBlanc himself. That level of trust is not sustainable for the University, especially given current circumstances. GW needs strong leadership from its top leaders, but that is not possible without the trust and support of faculty.

The LeBlanc experiment has lasted three years too long. While he has previously caused outcry on campus with misguided decisions and public blunders, this survey has made it clear that he has lost the trust of faculty. When the majority of faculty say that it is time to move on, then it is time for trustees to do what LeBlanc cannot — listen.

—Kiran Hoeffner-Shah, a senior majoring in political science and psychology, is the managing director and former opinions editor.

## Op-ed: How the University should support AAPI students

Over the past few weeks, Asian American and Pacific Islander student leaders at GW were faced with the horrific news of the March 16 shooting in Atlanta, where a violent hate crime took the lives of eight people, six of whom were Asian women.

**Grace Bautista**  
AASA Historian

During our grief and processing, many of us also learned we had finally won our yearslong fight for an Asian American studies minor. It was a bittersweet moment. For members of the Asian American Student Association who had been advocating for the minor for years, it seemed as if this moment would never arrive. But the minor's implementation is a reminder of all we have faced this year and how far GW still needs to go to provide AAPI students with the resources and support we deserve.

In addition to the minor, campus leaders must increase funding for Asian American studies and student organizations and reform how money is allocated. AAPI student organizations and programs require funds to create and manage the initiatives that strengthen and support our community. If the Student Association can bail out the Greek fraternity Beta Theta Pi for \$30,000, the SA can also ensure cultural organizations are properly funded. We are

the students creating important spaces for underrepresented groups on campus, and there is no reason for the SA to continually overlook and underfund us. We also implore administrators to devote funds to the recently approved Asian American studies minor. AAPI students and our peers deserve dedicated resident Asian American studies faculty and increased course options to learn about Asian American histories and experiences.

University President Thomas LeBlanc wrote in his March 18 statement in response to the Atlanta shooting that “AAPI students may be “seeking spaces to process, share and receive support,” but nowhere did he acknowledge that the majority of these existing spaces are student-created, student-run and — despite our best efforts — underfunded. We led fundraisers, partnered with local community organizations, held difficult conversations and elevated our own voices. We had to prove our own histories and experiences worthwhile to pass the minor, and now we fight for visibility even as we are harassed, attacked and murdered. AAPI student leaders have never sat idly by, waiting for administrators to listen, but we ask them — and our peers and allies — to recognize our work.

Administrators must also reconsider their messaging in statements responding to anti-Asian violence. LeBlanc and Columbian College of Arts and Science Dean Paul Wahlbeck must

retract and apologize for their original statements on the Atlanta shooting and anti-Asian violence, which implied that the event was not a hate crime. Though LeBlanc's recent statement highlighting #GWSolidarity is a marked improvement, the original statements reflected the administration's lack of action regarding anti-Asian racism on campus. Their condolences without action did not meaningfully benefit our community, and GW must condemn the shooting as a hate crime.

We thank those of you who have supported our organizations, our Asian American studies minor initiative and our community during this challenging year. As members of the Asian American Student Association said in our Statement Against Anti-Asian Violence, do not mistake our silence for inaction as student leaders grieve and process the trauma of racial violence. Student leaders should be given the time to process just like everyone else. No neat list of demands can adequately express the grief we feel over the violence against our community, our friends and our families this year. But we hope that by raising our voices — as AASA is inviting students to do — we can spread a little more empathy and understanding to cultivate a campus where AAPI students feel safe and welcome.

—Grace Bautista is a senior and historian for the GWU Asian American Student Association.

## Professors must be flexible with students to combat Zoom fatigue

### STAFF EDITORIAL

It's April at GW, which means finals are approaching, internship application season is in full swing — and students are in full swing — and students are in full swing.

GW's ultra-competitive environment leads students to feel perpetually stressed and overextended even in normal times. These times are not normal — and yet, students are expected to perform as if nothing is wrong. The inherent challenges of online classes and the general disruption caused by more than a year of pandemic life have left students facing an entirely new dimension of burnout.

Unlike last year at this time, students don't have the option of taking their full course load on a pass/no pass grading scale, making finals unnecessarily stressful for students dealing with personal struggles. Rising seniors are facing a second summer with slim internship opportunities and are at a loss for how to fill in their resumes before entering the job market.

Students, especially seniors, face burnout at this time every year, but the added strain of the pandemic has combined with Zoom fatigue to make this time of year particularly unbearable for students. Students are expected to perform at the same capacity and balance as many responsibilities as before the pandemic but are facing more challenges. Currently, many students are struggling to see their classes as worth their time. Many classes simply involve students sitting in front of a screen for hours while a professor lectures. Ask any GW student, and they will tell you that's no way to learn.

But the life of a GW student is usually not centered solely on classes, which is a

point of pride for the University. Students spend their off-hours involved with campus organizations, jobs and internships, which are just as important to the GW experience as courses. With everything relegated to an online format, it becomes even harder to draw a boundary between work, school and extracurriculars. Everything blends together into an overwhelming hodgepodge of work that needs to get done. In one day, students could go from attending virtual class to clocking in to their job to running an event for a student organization to watching Netflix without moving from their desk or couch. This sheer lack of variety and boundaries make it so much harder to drill down and focus on coursework.

Professors are in a position to implement policies in their virtual classrooms that would mitigate student burnout and fatigue. For starters, professors should not require that students turn their cameras on for class. Seeing their students' faces is helpful for professors to gauge attention and participation, but some students don't want to reveal their living situation or can find it difficult to focus when staring at themselves on screen.

Professors should also ensure that their one-on-one office hours are available, acceptable, advertised and encouraged for students by mentioning them in class and beyond just the syllabus. Classes can feel highly impersonal right now, and office hours provide a smaller setting for students to feel more connected and comfortable asking their professors questions. As for in-class activities, professors could break up the monotony of Zoom

classes by utilizing breakout rooms for discussions on Zoom that require students to actively participate in class rather than just listen. Breakout rooms also give students the opportunity to create bonds with the other students in their classes. Although this group work is helpful in class, professors should not expect students to work on group projects outside of class. Many students cannot operate at their normal level right now, which makes it difficult to distribute work fairly to each member of a group.

The biggest thing a professor can do outside of all of these action items is be understanding and flexible. Professors should not judge students who don't turn their cameras on. They also should excuse students having things like food, pets, other people or the outdoors in their frames during class. Everyone is just trying their best to deal with the hand we've been dealt. Being flexible with attendance policies, grading and having an open line of communication with students is paramount as we struggle through severe burnout together.

Just as students expect their professors to be understanding of their capacity and mental health, students should also show empathy and grace to their professors. Many professors are struggling with child care, familial crises and so much more. Students should be forgiving when professors have pets or children interrupt class, when grades come in later than usual or they don't have their camera on. Students must remember that professors are people too and should extend the same level of understanding we are asking of them.

# BEST OF NORTHWEST 2021

## Best of student life, D.C.

### Best outdoor date spot: Hillwood Estate

**MAKENA ROBERTS**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Walk along the cherry blossom trees, pansies and tulips with your significant other for your next spring date.

The Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, a roughly 15-minute Metro ride from campus, is set on 25 acres of land that include a rose and European-style garden, a greenhouse and a Japanese-style garden. Start off your day with a picnic basket of your favorite snacks at the “motor

court” – the back entrance to the Hillwood Estate mansion that features a stone statue surrounded by blooming azaleas, dogwoods and distinctive purple-leaf plum foliage. After your picnic, stroll through a garden of pink, red, coral, white and yellow roses that commemorate Marjorie Post – the original designer of the gardens in the 1950s.

Next, pass through the estate’s Japanese garden featuring pagodas, stone lanterns and statues of “storied significance,” like two stone foo dogs said to

ward off evil spirits. Share memories of your childhood pets as you wander through the dog cemetery, where Post wanted to remember and celebrate her beloved four-legged friends.

Reserving tickets is free, but the museum sets “donation requests” of \$10 for college students to keep the grounds and mansion afloat.

Bring your camera and partner to capture the sights of spring in D.C. at the Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Visitors will be able to stroll through a garden of pink, red, coral, white and yellow roses that commemorate Marjorie Post, the gardens’ original designer.



PHEBE GROSSER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dupont Underground’s newest exhibit, which will remain open through May 23, examines how democracy can influence architecture.

### Best art gallery: Dupont Underground

**CLARA DUHON**  
STAFF WRITER

The best art gallery in Northwest D.C. is known for its nontraditional and thought-provoking exhibitions.

Dupont Underground was once an abandoned streetcar station before being converted into an artistic platform for creators and musical performers from around the world. The gallery presents events ranging from an exhibition of photog-

raphy across the globe to an interpretation of women’s issues through cello music.

Unlike other D.C.-area art galleries that display traditional paintings and sculptures, Dupont Underground collaborates with several artists to put on events. The newest exhibit, “Architecture & the question of Democracy,” explores how democracy can influence architecture, and how the architecture of public spaces may in turn

reflect democratic ideals. The exhibit, which debuted on April 9 and will run through May 23, prompts visitors to both think about architectural developments in Dupont Circle and the transformation of Portuguese architecture after the country’s transition from a dictatorship to a democracy.

If you’re looking for an art gallery that gets you to think deeply about sound and photo, head to Dupont Underground.

### Best place to watch the sunset: The back of the Lincoln Memorial

**ZACH SCHONFELD**  
NEWS EDITOR

Millions of people walk up the steps of the Lincoln Memorial every year to come face to face with the 19-foot-tall statue of the 16th president. But you can find another awe-inspiring scene if you venture to the back of the monument: a sunset across the Potomac River.

By taking just a few steps away from the top of the Lincoln Memorial stairs, you can see new sights of the western side

of the National Mall, including a stunning sunset.

With a spectacular view of the Potomac River, you can watch the sunset as you look out at the skyscrapers in Rosslyn, Virginia, or even the Arlington Memorial Bridge with the faint sound of commuters traveling back into Virginia after their day’s work.

If you’re not ready for your night to end after the sun moves beyond the horizon, the Reflecting Pool is just a few steps away to begin a nighttime walk through the rest of the National Mall.

The next time you’re looking to catch a sunset, ditch the rooftop and head to the nation’s most iconic memorials for an unforgettable view.

Readers’  
Choice

### Best quarantine outfit: Stylish loungewear

**ABRIGAIL WILLIAMS**  
REPORTER

It’s hard to stay cooped up inside all day taking online classes, but at least you can always wear comfortable clothes.

Loungewear, the unofficial uniform of quarantine, has become not only socially acceptable but the expected outfit to wear during your Zoom class. Loungewear – coordinated, aesthetically appealing yet incredibly comfortable – earns our stamp of approval for top outfit during

quarantine.

While you can find comfortable loungewear at practically any clothing store, we’ve found some of our favorite fits at Urban Outfitters, Uniqlo and even the GW Campus Store.

The Urban Outfitters’ “Out From Under” line clothed a lot of us during quarantine. The line includes sweats, bralettes and comfy undergarments that are both comfortable and fashionable. The brand Cotton On also sells a similar line in loungewear, featuring joggers, sweatshirts,

undershirts and bralettes for women and cloth shorts, matching hoodies and joggers for men.

Our honorable mention goes to another go-to for students with remote internships: business on top and sweats on the bottom. Sure, a lot of professors encouraged coming to class in comfortable clothing considering the virtual instruction period, but the occasional professional Zoom meeting or interview had us dressed for the occasion – from the waist up.

### Best Spotify study playlist: ‘Audible Adderall’

**ISABELLA MACKINNON**  
STAFF WRITER

With exams on the horizon, you might find yourself seeking motivation or some mental stimulation to propel you through your work. Look no further than the playlist “Audible Adderall” on Spotify.

The playlist, created by an unnamed user, features mainly lyric-less, lo-fi music tracks. Whether you need to drown out the chatter of your roommates and family or fight fatigue at the end of a long remote

semester, the upbeat, electronic-tinged songs make this playlist your newest study buddy.

Everybody has their preference for background ambiance while studying. Some opt for classical music, while others prefer to soundtrack their studies with rap. For those who turn on their favorite playlist only to catch themselves typing the lyrics to a song playing instead of the analysis for their paper, “Audible Adderall” will bring the hype without the added distraction of catchy lyrics.

At more than 16 hours long, this playlist offers enough variety to last even the longest of study sessions. The playlist is composed of mostly wordless, laid-back electronic rock sounds and borderline EDM tracks like “Eyes Closed” and other tracks by Big Gigantic and “The Monolith” by Gramatik.

“Audible Adderall” is the best pick for a study playlist to keep even the most exhausted college student awake and studying for the final stretch before the summer.

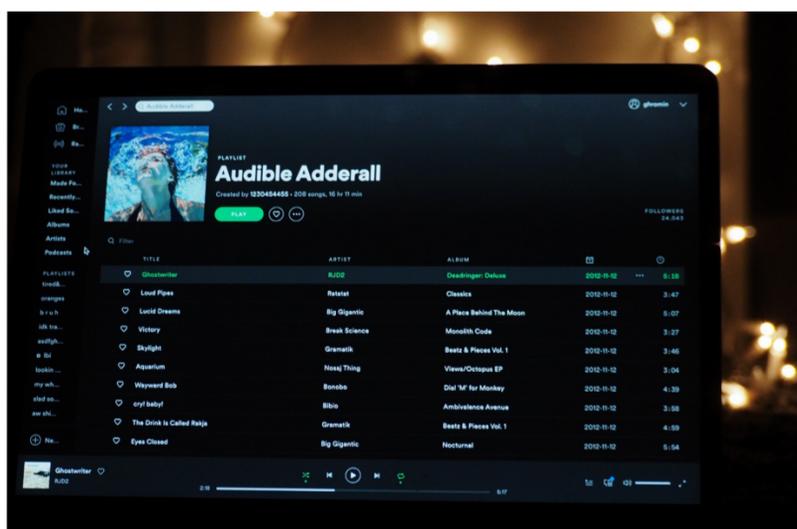


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE HROMIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The playlist mixes a blend of hip hop and rock with experimental production and dubstep beats to keep listeners engaged.

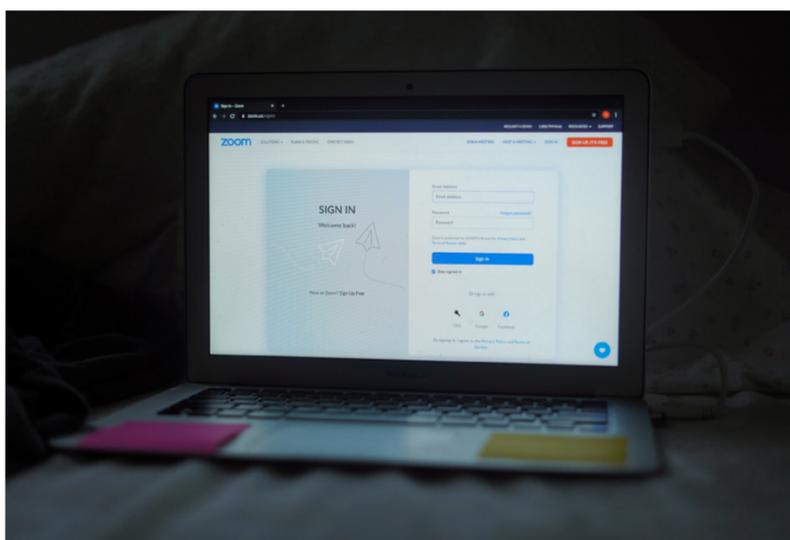


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SABRINA GODIN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Students prefer Zoom over other online platforms because they can easily use it for classes, virtual parties and extracurricular activities.

### Best online class platform: Zoom

**ABRIGAIL WILLIAMS**  
REPORTER

What does going to class, attending a GW speaker series and spending time with your friends all have in common? Probably not much before 2020, but ask anyone after the past year and without hesitation they’ll answer you with this: a Zoom link.

Online video conferencing platforms have carried us through the virtual instruction period in our time of transition. Up against similar platforms like Blackboard Collaborate Ultra and Microsoft Teams, Zoom

takes the cake for its user ease, video display options and universal popularity.

Blackboard Collaborate, WebEx and Microsoft Teams mainly fall short in their mainstream applicability. Outside of academics, they don’t have appeal. Students like Zoom because they use it not only for classes but for virtual parties and extracurriculars.

Aside from academics, friends have used Zoom to host what they called “Zoom parties.” Users can

now pin emojis to their screens and hosts can issue polls for participants to interact with. One of Zoom’s main features

is its breakout rooms, which allow meeting participants to join separate groups, which is useful for study groups, socializing and dishing about something you don’t want the whole group to hear.

For academic or everyday use, Zoom is the best platform for virtual meetings.

Readers’  
Choice

# BEST FOOD AND DRINK



PHEBE GROSSER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
The East Coast brunch blog "Bitches Who Brunch" awarded the deli a five mimosas out of five rating.

## Best bacon, egg and cheese: Call Your Mother

**CHLOE WILLEFORD**  
STAFF WRITER

It's convenient to head over to the GW Delicatessen for a hangover breakfast of bacon, egg and cheese. But if you're willing to make the trek to Georgetown, Call Your Mother's bacon, egg and cheese is the best in town. The bagel sandwich is deceptively simple – but because it's made with just a few ingredients, it's crucial that each ingredient is cooked correctly, assembled in the right proportions and served on a bagel crispy on the outside and chewy on the inside. Call Your Mother's bacon, egg and cheese goes above

and beyond expectations. Calling itself a "Jewish" deli, Call Your Mother has become a D.C. favorite for its handcrafted bagels and its carefully compiled sandwiches, and its "Sun City" bagel is no exception. Topped with local bacon, eggs, both American and cheddar cheese, spicy honey and served on an everything bagel, this sandwich is sure to please even the pickiest bacon, egg, and cheese devotee.

The East Coast brunch blog "Bitches Who Brunch," known for its in-depth reviews of D.C. breakfast options, has raved about the Sun City sandwich. The blog gave

the eatery a rating of five mimosas out of five.

"It's the perfect hangover cure," wrote Annie Johnson, the blog's former social media manager. "You're never going to want a bacon, egg, and cheese sandwich without spicy honey again. That hint of sweetness elevates every bite."

The Georgetown location is the closest Call Your Mother spot to campus. If you live farther from campus, you can also check out its brick-and-mortar locations in Park View, Capitol Hill and Bethesda, as well as outposts at the Silver Spring, Mount Vernon Triangle, Mosaic and Dupont farmers markets.

## Best to-go cocktail: Calico's Lavender Lemonade

**SIDNEY LEE**  
STAFF WRITER

Packaged in a pouch reminiscent of a Capri Sun, The Hatchet's choice for the best to-go cocktail is Calico's Lavender Lemonade.

Calico, a chic cat-themed urban backyard and restaurant located in Shaw's Blagden Alley, offers three "adult juice boxes" on its menu: Cat You on the Flip Side, Blagden Rose and Lavender Lemonade. Each 6.3 ounce cocktail is served in a resealable, twist-off top pouch and sold for \$12.

The Lavender Lemonade is a concoction of One Eight District Made gin, lavender, honey, lemon

and Giffard Cassis Noir de Bourgogne – a liqueur made from blackcurrants. The adult juice box is served chilled and stiff, making a satisfying drink for a spring Friday afternoon. The strong lavender flavor adds a refreshing, floral taste to the cocktail, and the honey acts as a natural sweetener.

Calico offers a sturdy menu of snacks including mac and cheese (\$7), loaded tots (\$10) and chili (\$11); mains like a meatball sub (\$15) and cheeseburger (\$15); and an assortment of

tomato pies (\$15-19). In addition to its adult juice boxes, Calico offers a selection of hot and draft cocktails (all \$12), draft beers (\$7 to \$8), cans (\$4 to \$8) and wine by the glass (\$10 to \$12) or bottle (\$30 to \$36).

The location has been featured in several publications' rankings for best bars in D.C., including Zagat, Condé Nast Traveler's list and Washingtonian. Enjoy a Lavender Lemonade adult juice box from the patio with friends or pick up the portable drink to bring home for a night in.

Readers' Choice



ANTHONY PELTIER | PHOTOGRAPHER  
Calico offers plenty of outdoor seating for customers to enjoy their drinks and snacks, creating a cozy backyard atmosphere.

## Best restaurant to open during the pandemic: Mercy Me

**LINDSAY PAULEN**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

While this year has been a struggle for many restaurants in the District, a few new spots have popped up during the pandemic. And one of the best places to open throughout the year is known for its delicious Latin food and airy atmosphere.

The all-day restaurant and cafe, which opened in June, offers "sort of" South American fare, including grab-and-go breakfast, weekend brunch and dinner options. With ample amounts of seating both inside and outside, Mercy Me is the best place to go to study or grab dinner and drinks with friends.

At night, you can sip on an assortment of some of the best tropical cocktails around, like



LILLIAN BAUTISTA | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR  
Mercy Me's wide offerings can satisfy students looking for a quick bite or first-date dinner.

the Kick Ass Colada (\$14) with coconut, caramelized pineapple and rum or the Pachamama (\$14) with rum, scotch, passion fruit and lime.

After a round of cocktails, order some crispy cheese bites (\$6) with pepper jelly or hot fries (\$4) for the ta-

ble to snack on before your main course of banana leaf snapper (\$26) in a Caribbean curry sauce with coconut rice and fried plantains or adobo roasted chicken (\$24) with epazote grits and pickled peppers.

Mercy Me's eclectic offerings can satisfy anyone – from a student looking for a quick bite in between classes to a first-date dinner.

Readers' Choice

## Best restaurant to close during the pandemic: Burger, Tap & Shake

**CIARA REGAN**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

This past year has forced one too many beloved D.C. restaurants to close their doors. Among the fallen is Burger, Tap & Shake, a long-time burger joint on Washington Circle.

BTS announced its retirement in a tweet in October with the headline, "Goodbye... for now, burger lovers." BTS's owners had hoped to reopen later on during the pandemic, but for now, they remain optimistic, adding they will "hopefully" see customers soon in a "spiffy" new location.

For now, the former burger joint sits empty and dark across from the GW Hospital emergency room entrance. Before shuttering, BTS promised classic American burgers with a flavorful twist, like its popular "Big Daddy," (\$8) with its signature thick cut bacon, bleu cheese, mushrooms and

AP sauce. Customers could complement their burgers with thick milkshakes and, for those over 21, a selection of draft beers on tap.

It used to be hard to find a table at BTS on weekend evenings and warm D.C. nights. The line often stretched out the door of the restaurant and onto the sidewalk as excited customers chatted and perused menus while waiting.

Once you ordered, you were given a pager to notify you when your food was ready. In the meantime, customers hovered over and sometimes scouted crowds at tables who appeared prepared to pounce on the perfect booth.

If you were so unlucky to be left without a table, braving the bar was your best bet.

Once seated, customers were free to wait for their meals while listening to the

buzz of a packed restaurant. It was hard to go an entire meal without spotting a friend, ex-hookup or sometimes even a professor.

Unlike most GWorld restaurants, local families and tourists frequented BTS because of its proximity to the Metro, Georgetown and the monuments. Its surroundings made the restaurant a prime location for post-work drinks, family dinners and quick bites to eat.

BTS meant more than its classic, mouth-watering American burgers.

The restaurant offered a sense of community to D.C. students, working people and families, which is something that the pandemic has robbed from so many of us.

Though we'll mourn its prime spot on Washington Circle, we hope to see BTS open up in the near future in a new location

Readers' Choice

## Best cooking trend from quarantine: Sourdough bread

**LINDSAY PAULEN**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Excess free time, online class and virtual internships have given students a little more free time to experiment in the kitchen with trending TikTok recipes. Of those dishes, the viral sourdough bread recipes are top-tier cooking.

The hearty bread, known for its distinct sour taste, is made with a sourdough starter: a mixture of water and flour that is "fed" for a few days to weeks, which ferments and cultivates the natural yeasts that are found in the air. Because the trend blew up when stay-at-home orders were first issued last year, many home bakers even opted to name their starters with

bread-related puns on Reddit, like Bread Pitt, Clint Yeastwood or Yeast Witherspoon.

For many, like myself, baking sourdough bread helped to stifle quarantine-induced boredom and pandemic-induced anxieties. The act of creating something from literal scratch required a lot of time and took a lot of patience and love.

Sourdough bread is notoriously easy to mess up – starters take a long time to mature, the process of making the bread itself takes hours on end and special baking equipment is often needed. But when you finally achieve your first sour-

dough success, there's no better feeling.

The fresh bread is versatile and tastes great by itself, with toppings or in a sandwich. Some of my personal favorite ways to use up my homemade sourdough are pan-fried in butter with flaky sea salt, in a gooey grilled cheese or slathered in nut butter and homemade jam. Sourdough can also easily be sliced up and frozen before going stale.

While I haven't touched my sourdough starter in more time than I'd like to admit, I'll always have fond memories of exploring the art of making bread during quarantine.

Readers' Choice

## Best open air patio dining: Fiola Mare

**TIFFANY GARCIA**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

For the days you want to treat yourself to an outdoor dining experience, several spots around the District offer scenic views and delicious courses. But only one offers a panoramic view of the Potomac River and an even better array of meals to choose from.

Fiola Mare, located on the Georgetown Waterfront, boasts a spacious outdoor patio overlooking Roosevelt Island and the Arlington skyline. The restaurant offers several seafood dishes for breakfast, lunch, brunch and dinner. Diners can order from either a paper menu or a QR code on the table that digitally displays the menu, which rotates out the chef's newest dishes daily and seasonally.

This sophisticated out-



SOPHIA YOUNG | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR  
The sophisticated outdoor dining experience makes Fiola Mare the best place to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries or just to enjoy a delicious meal.

door dining experience makes it the best place to go with friends to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries or to just escape your apartment to treat yourself to a delicious meal. The restaurant sticks to its Italian

coastal theme with delicious meals like Mediterranean Branzino (\$38), wild Rhode Island calamari (\$28) and lobster crudo (\$40).

For waterfront dining on a warm spring day, reserve a table at Fiola Mare.

## GAMES OF THE WEEK



**BASEBALL**  
vs. Towson  
Wednesday | 3 p.m.  
The Colonials take on the Tigers  
Wednesday.



**SOFTBALL**  
vs. Saint Louis  
Saturday | Noon  
GW begins a four-game series against  
the Billikens in a double-header  
Saturday.

**NUMBER CRUNCH** **.422**

Lacrosse's 2021 season shot percentage, up from its five-year average of .387.

## Men's and women's outdoor track and field finish record-setting season

**ALEC RICH**  
STAFF WRITER

After a year away from the track, men's and women's outdoor track and field have rewritten the record books as both programs forge ahead toward their respective Atlantic 10 Championships next month.

Each program raced a five-meet regular season, breaking five GW records on the men's side and five program records on the women's side. After missing out on an outdoor track and field season last year, head coach Terry Weir said both programs are "grateful" to be competing again.

"As much as it starts to feel a little bit normal getting back out and competing again, it's still fresh in our minds that we didn't get to do this last year," Weir said. "And so I think every athlete out there, for both of our teams, feels very grateful for this opportunity and they're trying to take advantage of that."

Sophomore Ryan Fowkes inked his name into the record books this season, running a 3:48.02 in the 1,500m at the Raleigh Relays March 25 to 27 in his GW debut. The COVID-19 pandemic shut down the 2020 outdoor track and field season before it began, forcing Fowkes and his fellow sophomores to wait a year before competing on the collegiate outdoor track.

"Ryan Fowkes is running really well," Weir said. "He's one of the top milers in the A-10. His 1,500m loosely converts to about a 4.4 mile, and for a sophomore that's fantastic."

He kept his momentum at the team's next race, the Towson Invite April 2 through 3, resetting the 800m school record. His 1:54.14t time was also good enough to place him atop the podium in the

event. At the same competition, sophomore Miles Grant nabbed program-bests of 11.91 in the 100m dash and 6.83m in the long jump. His latter performance earned him third place.

Fowkes' 800m school record did not survive long. Freshman William Gay's 1:53.54 time rewrote the record books at the Mason Spring Invitational April 11. Weir said Gay is exceeding expectations as runners usually take about a year to get settled into GW's systems.

Grant was back in the record-setting mix at the Hopkins/Loyola Invitational Saturday, earning a GW-best 1.90m in the high jump and a second-place finish at the competition.

Each record was broken by an underclassman, and 11 of the team's 17 members are either freshmen or sophomores. Gay said the young core will not only produce a strong performance this season but also for seasons to come.

"I feel like we all have a lot of faith in each other and a lot of trust in each other," Gay said. "We all rely on each other. I feel like if we're going to spend three years together – for the sophomores and the freshmen – we're going to be able to build a strong program in that time."

The women's side found equal success at smashing records this regular season. Senior Kathryn Nohilly started the team off with a program-best 2:14.22 in the 800m at the Towson Invite April 2 and 3. She had a podium appearance, finishing third.

Senior Brittany Wilkinson narrowly shattered the fresh record with a 2:13.79 run at the Mason Spring Invitational April 11.

But Nohilly's name would not be removed from the record books. At the same meet, she earned another third-place finish with the



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Despite a truncated 2020 season, runners said they are "grateful" to compete again.

fastest 1,500m in school history (4:28.83).

Nohilly and Wilkinson were back in action and snatched more school records at the Virginia Challenge Friday and Hopkins/Loyola Invitational Saturday, respectively.

Nohilly paced the program with a 10:23.74 in the 3,000m steeplechase, earning her a top five finish at the Friday meet. She broke 2020-graduate and former NCAA steeplechase qualifier Suzanne Dannheim's previous record of 10:23.95.

Graduate student Peri Pavicic

and senior Margaret Coogan also gained experience Friday and Saturday in the 3,000m steeplechase, respectively, with Coogan nabbing first place in her debut at the Hopkins/Loyola Invitational. Weir said Nohilly will be focusing on the 3,000m steeplechase as her main event heading into the A-10 Championships.

Wilkinson slashed the previous six-year-old 400m dash record by 1.19 seconds with a 59.85 finish, nabbing third place to cap the tenth GW record in 2021.

Looking ahead to the men's and women's A-10 Championships

on May 1 and 2, Weir said the squads will remain focused on maintaining their momentum after finishing off the regular season Saturday.

"I'm just really kind of blown away by how our teams just handled everything here in the last year or so," Weir said. "I think it's a tribute to each of them leaning on each other, learning from each other, staying focused and really being grateful about the opportunities you have here."

Both squads will take the track again at the A-10 Championships May 1 to 2.

## Men's basketball transfer marks eighth departure this season

**EMILY MAISE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Freshman guard Tyler Brelsford left the men's basketball team, entered the transfer portal and committed to Bryant, he confirmed in an interview Friday.

The 6-foot-4-inch guard was in his first season with the Colonials (5-12, 3-5 A-10) and averaged 4.4 points a game. He is the eighth player to leave the program and the fifth to transfer since the 2020-21 season concluded in a second round Atlantic 10 tournament loss to George Mason last month.

"I was looking for a better opportunity to play my natural position at the point guard spot," Brelsford said. "I just figured at GW, I don't think I was going to be able to get that opportunity to play my natural position and to maximize at my natural position."

Sophomore guard James Bishop served as the team's primary point guard this season, logging 36.3 minutes a game and starting in all 17 games.

Brelsford said he spoke with head coach Jamion Christian and a few of his assistant coaches about his intention to transfer, and he ultimately decided transferring would provide him with a better opportunity to handle the ball.

"I just figured it wouldn't be fair to me to try to keep

forcing to want to stay or fair to the team to be out there and I'm one foot in, one foot out," he said.

Brelsford played in 14 games during his first collegiate season, making one start and averaging 19.4 minutes a game. He fired at a .385 clip from the field and nailed 35.5 percent from long distance. He ranked second on the team with 16 assists and recorded five steals.

He said he will be suiting up for Bryant next season. He added that the Bulldogs' program was the "closest thing to being perfect" for him in terms of athletics and academics.

"They know that I'm a point guard, and that's what they want me to play for them," he said. "So once they did that, I'm like, 'All right, they're going to give me an opportunity to play the position that I want to play, and that's the reason why I'm leaving GW.' And then the academics are good. They have one of the best business programs, which my major's in. It just checked all the boxes."

Despite turning the page after one year at GW, Brelsford said he "wouldn't change" the time he spent with the Colonials.

Brelsford's time with GW was shortened after GW went on two COVID-19-related pauses and canceled a game when Mayor Muriel Bowser imposed a District-wide curfew after the insurrection at the U.S.

Capitol. The first COVID-19 pause lasted two days while the second break carried on for 35 days.

Of the team's 18 scheduled conference games, 10 were ultimately canceled amid the pauses. Brelsford said the pandemic did not impact his decision to transfer.

He joins seven other players who left the team this season. Senior guard Maceo Jack, senior forward Ace Stallings and sophomore guard Jameer Nelson Jr. left the team in December after the squad finished nonconference play. Once the season ended, sophomore forwards Jamison Battle and Chase Paar, junior forward Sloan Seymour and freshman guard Lincoln Ball entered the transfer portal.

Brelsford said the coaching staff was not the source of the movement and added that players wanted another opportunity and to get a "new look" just like he did.

The Colonials have added five new additions to the roster in the offseason. Two commits – guard Brayon Freeman and forward Daniel Nixon – will join the squad next season for their first collegiate campaign. Three transfers – junior guard Brendan Adams, freshman guard Joe Bamisile and senior forward Ira Lee – will compete in a buff and blue uniform for the first time next season.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Silberman started all 11 games this season, racking up almost 1,000 minutes played.

## Women's soccer ends season after stalemate with Davidson

**ROMAN BOBEK**  
STAFF WRITER

Women's soccer fell just short of the Atlantic 10 Tournament after battling Davidson to a draw Sunday.

The Colonials (6-4-1, 4-3-1 A-10) concluded their season on a bittersweet 1-1 draw. Despite scoring a game-tying goal in the 79th minute of regulation, GW failed to come away with the victory against the Wildcats (6-3-3, 4-2-2) in a must-win scenario to advance to the postseason.

Despite GW dominating the time of possession and creating multiple chances throughout the first half, the Colonials failed to put the ball in the back of the net and instead found themselves in a hole heading into halftime.

In the 16th minute of play, the Colonials put together a give-and-go down the sideline.

Freshman midfielder Elizabeth Cruz played a low curving cross to the top of the box, forcing a Wildcat defender to dive in front to clear the ball. Senior midfielder Natalie Silberman came away with the ball and struck it toward the net, but the ball deflected into the hands of junior goalkeeper Mary Grace Bunch.

Davidson broke

the stalemate in the 29th minute of play. The Wildcats played a high bending cross into the Colonial box. A miscommunication along the GW backline caused sophomore goalkeeper Tamaki Machi to hesitate coming out of the net to clear the ball.

It settled at the feet of Wildcat sophomore forward Hailey Braemer, who chipped the ball past a stranded Machi. The momentum shifted in the remainder of the half as the Colonials were not generating opportunities on offense.

The Wildcats continued to apply pressure in the second half. In the 65th minute, Machi was forced to make a diving save to push the ball away from the net, conceding a corner in the process. Machi tallied five saves on the day to keep the Colonials in the game.

Moments later, a cross off a Davidson counterattack left midfielder Riley Patton alone in the box. She failed to corral the ball at her feet, allowing sophomore midfielder Isabelle Eskay to step in front of the shot.

Senior midfielder Kelly Amador attempted to tie the game with a long-range try in the 74th minute, but the shot traveled straight into the waiting arms of Bunch.

The Colonials finally drew the game level

nearly five minutes later. Sophomore midfielder Tori Minda sent a long ball into the opposing box. After a brief scramble, junior midfielder Maria Pareja hit a sliding shot to slot the ball into the back of the net.

The Colonials had a brief scare in the final minute of the game. Wildcat junior forward Kendall Bushick broke away on the counter attack, launching a shot at Machi from the edge of the box. But Machi came up with the save to send the game into extra minutes.

In the first half of overtime, the Colonials earned a free-kick try at the edge of the box after a handball by a Wildcat defender, but the attempt was cleared. Junior midfielder Beth Ellinport hit a shot wide, but the frame remained scoreless at the horn.

With just more than five minutes left in overtime, Amador had a chance just outside the six-yard box but was stonewalled by Bunch. The Wildcats spent the remainder of the second half of extra time milking the clock.

The Colonials awaited their fate as they hoped for a chance to compete in the A-10 Tournament, but the program was not named as one of the four qualifying teams for the postseason.



COURTESY OF GW ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Brelsford, the fifth player to transfer since the end of the past season, played 14 games during his freshman year.