



GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

'FIGHT LIKE HELL'

Warren calls on recent graduates to 'fight hard' for justice

ISHA TRIVEDI
NEWS EDITOR

ISHANI CHETTRI
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., didn't give up on her dream of becoming a teacher when she dropped out of GW after two years.

She went on to finish her undergraduate career in Houston, saying she was "one of the lucky ones" for having the opportunity to attend GW and later earning a law degree. Standing in front of roughly 5,000 graduates from the classes of 2020 and 2021 and their 15,000 guests at GW's postponed, in-person Commencement Saturday, she called on graduates to "dream big" and "fight hard" for their passions.

"Get in the fight for opportunity — race, gender, sexual identity — opportunity to survive in a world not suffocated by climate change or bled to death by wars," she said.

After administrators postponed Commencement on the National Mall for two consecutive years because of

the COVID-19 pandemic, the classes of 2020 and 2021 traveled back to Foggy Bottom this weekend for a joint ceremony coinciding with the culmination of GW's Bicentennial celebrations. Administrators conferred degrees upon the two classes, who finished their coursework remotely, at earlier virtual ceremonies.

Warren said when she unpacked her suitcases and moved into what is now known as Thurston Hall in 1966, women could not own property, start a business or sign a contract without their husbands' permission.

She said fighting for a cause can be difficult but graduates would "never be sorry" for doing so, referencing her presidential run in 2020 that she said she has never regretted.

"Now I know what you're thinking," she said. "That's a lot to carry. And after all, some of you are barely sober this morning."

She said her heart was full of hope for what the graduates of the classes of 2020 and 2021 can accomplish as they move to the next phase of their lives.

"So here's some simple advice as you enter your next chapter," she said. "Focus on what you believe in, and then fight like hell for it."

University President Thomas LeBlanc awarded the President's Medal — the highest honor GW's president can award — to Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

In pre-recorded remarks, Fauci congratulated the two classes for their creativity, adaptability and resilience in managing their education during a global pandemic that "contorted" many lives for 20 months. He said he was delighted the celebration took place on the National Mall, as it symbolized a sign of progress and provided a message of hope for the graduates, who persevered through "extraordinary" constraints and uncertainty.

"Please be assured our commitment and continued efforts will help us achieve a successful end to this unprecedented public health emergency," he said.

LeBlanc also awarded the medal to two professors who helped lead GW's pandemic

response.

Andrew Maurano, an associate clinical professor of emergency medicine who led the Medical Faculty Associates and COVID-19 response teams, and Cindy Liu, an associate professor of environmental and occupational health who spearheaded the on-campus COVID-19 testing laboratory, were recognized on stage and spoke briefly to the graduates.

Liu said she was proud of the Campus COVID Support Team's efforts in setting up testing labs and training staff to work and to test the GW community in fewer than ten weeks. Officials have administered more than 200,000 tests processed through the lab since it opened in August 2020, according to GW's online dashboard.

"It doesn't matter that everyone says that it is impossible," Liu said. "When you find the greatest good that you can do, you do exactly that. You do just that."

Maurano thanked the University for frequently approving the emergency medicine department's requests to develop more testing centers, health spaces and teams

to manage the pandemic in the community. He asked the graduates to look at the possible unknowns in the world as an opportunity to learn something new everyday and to listen to questions of fear and anger for better understanding.

"Your ability to understand those in your community will foster a community of tolerance," he said. "And it is only with understanding and tolerance that you will be able to adapt and innovate, and take on the challenges and the unknowns that lie ahead."

Interim Provost Chris Bracey said GW's education prepares future leaders through a challenging academic experience and encouraging "impactful" research. Graduates improved study habits, completed impressive internships and grew their confidence, he said.

He said it was a "rare" privilege to have address the graduated classes together after a long absence from the University.

"We do not take this privilege lightly, and we are thrilled to be here today to

celebrate your graduation and all the ways you have already started in making the world a better place," Bracey said.

University President Thomas LeBlanc said it was a joy to watch the classes of 2020 and 2021 "discover their passions" and grow during their time at GW.

"Especially through times of change and challenge, your contributions to our world shine as great forces for good," LeBlanc said. "Thanks to you, GW has been a force for good for 200 years."

Board Chair Grace Speights said graduates will have the support of their friends, family and the GW alumni community as they go forward with their careers and lives outside of GW.

"No matter what path you have taken, you walk as a leader, armed with the tools to succeed in whatever you do," Speights said. "You walk the path as a leader who has committed to being a life-long leader, eager to continue building your knowledge and your specialties, and hopefully to begin learning brand new things as well."

Student leaders allege Title IX office has mishandled sexual assault cases

ABBY KENNEDY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Student leaders said the University's response to Title IX violations failed to protect sexual assault survivors from their abusers through a lack of communication and failures to bar assailants from campus.

A string of social media posts in recent weeks raised concerns about how officials handled Title IX cases, saying they have taken months to respond to sexual assault reports and withheld barring notices without a formal notification process or documentation of evidence. Student leaders said sexual assault survivors don't feel safe under the threat of their abusers returning to campus without punishment as a result of the University's "unacceptable" handling of Title IX violations.

Senior Stephanie Lee, who oversees an advocacy group for sexual assault survivors called GW Protects Rapists, said the Title IX Office should hold itself accountable, and officials should outline the case reporting and barring processes to bolster communication. She said she was aware of students who planned to attend

Commencement on the National Mall this weekend despite having allegedly sexually assaulted other students on campus in the past.

She said these recent graduates could return to campus because they never received barring notices from the GW Police Department, making survivors at GW feel unsafe.

"There are people that shouldn't be graduating up there, and so we want that kind of presence to be known," she said.

GW's Title IX and diversity, equity and community engagement offices issued a statement late last month in response to the concerns raised on social media. Officials said they were implementing new case management software and hiring more staff to address students' concerns.

Sexual assault survivors said they were hesitant to report their cases to the Title IX Office after hearing about officials' slow response to students' reports, according to a post on GW Survivors — an Instagram account designed to anonymously share survivors' stories.

Shira Strongin, the co-president of Students

Against Sexual Assault, said the organization published a statement last Sunday demanding GWPDP standardize its barring policy and clarify the process for students. The statement also called for more "long-term" funding for the Office of Advocacy and Support as SASA works to support survivors and advocate for administrative reforms.

Caroline Laguerre-Brown, the vice provost for diversity, equity and community engagement, said the Title IX Office's responses to sexual assault cases "took longer than they should have been" during the last academic year when only two staff members were working in the office. She said these staff members faced a "tremendous amount of pressure" handling the office's workload that was previously split between five employees.

"We were hearing that, we acknowledge it and we're not disputing with students that there may have been periods where their response times were just too long," Laguerre-Brown said in an interview. "And that's not acceptable to us."

She said the Title IX Office is hiring four new staff members — includ-

ing two investigators, a case manager and a response coordinator — efforts drawing support from interim Provost Chris Bracey.

GWPDP Chief James Tate said officers may deliver barring notices to students expelled from the University or anyone with police or court records indicating they will appear in a criminal court trial. Tate said that without these forms of documentation, officers must formally notify a subject to bar them from campus and legally arrest them for violating the barring notice.

Tate said GWPDP is working to clarify its barring policy and will answer students' questions to address concerns about the barring process.

Will Hoadley-Vrill, the co-president of SASA, said GWPDP should standardize the barring process in their response to all Title IX cases and clarify how it issues a barring notice and who is susceptible to one. He said Tate's authority to determine who receives a barring notice has stirred concerns that officials could make decisions based on a student's "wealth and status."

Officials conclude bicentennial celebration, launch initiative to increase financial aid

ISHA TRIVEDI
NEWS EDITOR

Officials wrapped up the University's bicentennial with a culminating, weekend-long celebration on campus, unveiling a new fundraising push aimed at increasing financial aid at Saturday night's Bicentennial Bash.

The GW Centuries Celebration Weekend was filled with events for parents, alumni and the University community, capping off a multi-month recognition that began in February and was primarily celebrated virtually amid public health concerns. Board of Trustees Chair Grace Speights said officials will prioritize scholarships and fellowships through the new action, which will help close the "financial gap" for incoming undergraduates who receive federal Pell Grants.

Speights said the University raised \$30,000 for the initiative during the weekend.

"This is just the beginning of our work to ensure that GW opens the doors of opportunity for the most talented students around the world," Speights said at the Bicentennial Bash. "We are making scholarships and fellowships a major fundraising priority to ensure every future leader has the same opportunity."

The Bicentennial Bash took place in Kogan Plaza Saturday night with food trucks, music and an aerial performance on the walls of Gelman Library for students, alumni, family, faculty and other GW community members. Offi-

cialists said late last month that 12,000 people registered for the event.

The weekend also included events like a tour of campus, alumni reception events, a student showcase and a film screening. Officials also honored 72 former students as "Monumental Alumni," hoisting banners with their names and photos around campus.

The University launched a \$1 billion fundraising campaign in 2014, which lasted until 2017, for expenses like student scholarships, endowed faculty positions, construction projects and GW's athletics program. Officials had announced plans at a Board of Trustees meeting in February 2019 to unveil a major fundraising campaign at the bicentennial celebration.

The new initiative comes as the University community emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, when officials executed several rounds of staff layoffs and other mitigation strategies to close a \$180 million budget gap.

"Every bit counts, and every gift is important," Speights said. "Our students should have access to an education without the burden of financial stress, and I want you to know that we are working every day to make this a reality."

The push also coincides with several administrative changes at GW, with Mark Wrighton set to replace University President Thomas LeBlanc in January and Interim Provost Chris Bracey filling in for Brian Blake, who left the University this summer.

News

Oct. 4, 2021 • Page 2

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

NONSTATE WARFARE BY STEPHEN BIDDLE

Oct. 5 • 4 p.m. EDT • Free
Join the security policy studies program in the Elliott School of International Affairs as it hosts Columbia University professor Stephen Biddle for a discussion on his new book on guerrillas, warlords and militias.

AMA: IMMIGRATION RESOURCES FOR GW STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS

Oct. 6 • 10 a.m. EDT • Free
Check out the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship's advice for how international students can use the U.S. immigration system to create start-ups.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Oct. 5, 2005

GW officials announce that an area of the National Mall between 4th and 7th streets may be available to hold the 2006 Commencement, setting the stage for future ceremonies.

Tracking COVID-19

Sept. 23 - Sept. 29

Weekly COVID-19 cases: 21

Weekly positivity rate: 0.18%

Change in cases since previous week: -4



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Ward 2 Mutual Aid relies on contributions from individuals and organizations to pay for the supplies, and members work throughout the week to prepare for the delivery effort each Friday.

Locals deliver essentials to homeless residents through mutual aid relief

ZACHARY BLACKBURN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

After spending the day working with elementary and middle school students as an art teacher at a local public school, Kyle Scadlock spends most Fridays walking around Foggy Bottom, handing out supplies to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Scadlock spent nearly four hours last Friday evening handing out water bottles, snacks and toiletries to some of Foggy Bottom's unhoused residents. He said helping unhoused neighbors has been a focus of his since moving to D.C. last July, feeling a need to support neighbors who he thinks have been left behind.

"It's about supporting our community and especially people that don't have basic human rights, like shelter, water, food as a result of failed government and failed policy," Scadlock said.

Scadlock is one of more than a dozen volunteers who participate in weekly outreach to homeless residents in Foggy Bottom on behalf of Ward 2 Mutual Aid, an organization that works to support community members in vulnerable situations, like homelessness or unemployment. Every Thursday, volunteers fill supply packs before heading out Friday to deliver them to homeless people throughout Foggy Bottom, offering much-needed support to people who they say have been left behind by failed government housing policy.

The volunteers gather near the E Street homeless encampment every Friday at 5 p.m., serving the dozens of residents living there before walking to two encampments near the Watergate Hotel and Washington Circle, according to the group's Instagram page. They tow wagons and coolers, filled to the brim with supplies, to every homeless resident they can find — they're friends with most already.

A D.C. government pilot program is set to close the E Street encampment after officials provide housing to the residents there. A total of seven mutual aid organizations serve the District — one for each ward except wards 7 and 8, which share a joint mutual aid group that serves both.

Scadlock said he first got involved with the weekly outreach program after he moved to D.C., learning about Ward 2 Mutual Aid via Google while looking for ways to become involved in his new community. He said he felt the need to participate after learning about D.C.'s mutual aid network.

"So I found out I was in Ward 2 and found out through the Internet and got involved that way," he said.

Ward 2 Mutual Aid relies on contributions from individuals or organizations to pay for the supplies they distribute. The group focuses on transparency and publicly lists their transaction history and current available funds, which sits at more than \$21,000, according to its website.

Members of the organization work throughout the week to prepare for Friday outreach, packing boxes for distribution starting Thursday.

The group's website lists the programs they offer in ward 2, which include the weekly encampment outreach, grocery deliveries to about 150 families, back-to-school supply drives and hot meal donations.

Queenie Featherstone, a volunteer experiencing homelessness, said she attends the outreach event nearly every week, despite facing tough living conditions. She said she lives out of her car but feels obligated to support the volunteers and other unhoused residents.

"My faith is what keeps me strong because I know if I help others, good will come to me," she said. "I believe that."

Featherstone, who is 62, said she spends some of her time writing poems as a

vendor for Street Sense Media, a local newspaper that focuses on raising awareness for homelessness in the District. She said she's been unable to find housing after the rent dramatically increased at her previous home, forcing her out.

"I lost my hearing, I have no children, I'm not on drugs, I'm not an alcoholic. But yet no one can help me for housing."

QUEENIE FEATHERSTONE
VOLUNTEER

Bryce Maples, a senior studying history and women's, gender and sexuality studies, said he started volunteering almost weekly after learning about the group on social media. He said he knows he can't be as helpful as a government, but he wants at least to try to help people's lives become "marginally" easier.

Maples said the general student body should be more aware of the conditions that homeless people face in Foggy Bottom. He said students should realize that society's negative view of homelessness stacks the odds against people who are trying to find housing, which traps them in a system of homelessness.

"A lot of students at GW really believe in the propaganda that's been shoved down their throat, that people are unhoused because they're lazy," he said. "When really, people are unhoused because they're set up to fail in the system."

Maples said GW should end its policy that allows GW Police Department officers to bar people who sleep on campus benches from returning to GW property, especially because of GW's history of gentrification in D.C.

"A lot of students forget how much impact the University has on the community and how much of that impact is negative," he said.

History faculty prioritizing diversity one year after Krug incident

NOUSHA FLORE
REPORTER

SEJAL GOVINDARAO
STAFF WRITER

A year after former professor Jessica Krug admitted she pretended to be Black in place of her white identity, the history department is now implementing recommendations from a temporary diversity, equity and inclusion committee assembled after the incident.

Faculty in the history department said the committee recommended plans to hire more faculty of color and create a standing committee to combat diversity, equity and inclusion issues within the department following Krug's admission. Faculty and students in the department said the Krug incident highlighted the ongoing need to diversify the department's faculty composition, courses and curricula, and the proposals could help guide the department in the right direction.

History faculty said at the time of Krug's admission that they were "shocked" and "appalled" that Krug lied about her identity for her entire career. Students who attended Krug's classes said she "betrayed" them for falsifying her identity, and the department must hire more faculty of color.

Sara Matthiesen, an assistant professor of history and the chair of the standing DEI committee that formed this academic year, said efforts to improve diversity, equity and inclusion within the department remain an "ongoing project." She said the Krug incident helped bring these issues to the forefront of departmental reform and revealed the need for the standing committee.

"The Krug event exposed longstanding issues within the history department around a lack of diversity in terms of faculty, around the lack of diversity in curricular offerings and around the desire for a

more diverse curriculum," she said.

She said the temporary committee "redoubled" its efforts to diversify faculty composition in the history department, providing more attention to a diversity advocate serving on faculty search committees to recruit more scholars of color. Matthiesen, who was a member of the temporary committee last year, said history faculty underwent implicit bias training this spring and held meetings discussing "inclusive teaching" to make classrooms more welcoming to students.

She said the department also launched a speaker series on race, equality and inequality that will host two talks per semester from scholars in these three fields.

"Oftentimes departments will create committees ad hoc as needed, but we decided that this committee needed to exist in perpetuity to continue the work," she said.

Matthiesen said the standing committee is currently developing its next steps after selecting three student representatives last week — juniors Josemanuel Tello and Allyson Bonhaus and doctoral student Naz Yucel. She said the other history faculty on the standing committee this fall include Abigail Agresta, Eric Schluessel and Hope Harrison.

Matthiesen said she hopes the standing committee will build on last year's recommendations, especially considering that Krug's incident was "extremely hurtful" for faculty and students in the department. She said the committee should also recognize how other identities, like gender and citizenship, may be marginalized in society and at a predominantly white institution like GW.

"My hope for the [diversity, equity and inclusion] committee is that we build on the work that we started last year around racial marginalization and

racism while also paying attention to other places, such as gender, class, sexuality, ability, where power can be wielded to exclude or marginalized people," she said.

Dan Schwartz, the chair of the history department, said the standing committee will continue to implement the recommendations that last year's committee outlined, like reworking syllabi to include issues of gender and ethnicity. He said the department also drafted a mission statement on its website last year outlining its values and the need to promote equity in the discipline in the aftermath of the Krug incident.

"It's important not only to become a truly excellent department research-wise but also teaching," Schwartz said. "Having people from different backgrounds teaching new courses to bring their own perspectives and being able to forge connections with students who look to them as examples of minorities, people of color, in the faculty is extremely important."

Schwartz said the three students on the standing committee will serve in advisory roles, partaking in conversations with the committee on new courses and ways to diversify curricular offerings.

He said while graduate students served on the temporary body last academic year, history faculty decided to add undergraduate students to the standing committee based on feedback from a town hall that took place shortly after Krug's admission.

"The idea of bringing undergraduates in is to let them know that they have a stake in this too, and that is a set of eyes and ears to get the undergraduate perspective," Schwartz said.

Junior Harry Shaheen, a history and international affairs major, said teaching history requires a "holistic" approach because scholars tend to tokenize and caricature marginalized groups. Historians should unders



GRACE HRONIM | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

The department's new diversity, equity and inclusion standing committee features both faculty and student members.

Students silently protest officials' alleged mishandling of sexual assault cases

ABBY KENNEDY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

LAUREN SFORZA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

About 75 students marched by the site of Commencement on the National Mall Saturday to silently protest GW's handling of sexual assault cases and demand a more detailed barring process for those with Title IX violations.

GW Protects Rapists, a student advocacy group for sexual assault survivors, organized a demonstration at Kogan Plaza before marching down H Street, turning onto Pennsylvania Avenue, proceeding down Constitution Avenue and congregating outside Commencement on the Mall until about 11

a.m. Participants said they sought to push officials to hold alleged assailants accountable for their actions through barring notices after denouncing communication issues throughout the Title IX process.

Students at the protest carried signs reading slogans like "Hold Abusers Accountable" and "When Will They Protect Me?," silently protesting near the back of the Commencement seating area and facing the written messages toward the stage.

Barrett Liebermann, a sophomore majoring in international affairs who said she was sexually assaulted, said she's hesitant to report her case to the Title IX Office because of the experiences she's heard from other students who never received timely responses from officials.

"It does give me a lot of anxiety that if something were to happen that it wouldn't necessarily be listened to or heard," she said.

Protesters alleged the University has recently mishandled Title IX cases through delayed outreach and a failure to bar assailants from campus. GW's Title IX and diversity, equity and community engagement offices responded late last month, saying they were implementing new case management software and hiring more staff to address students' concerns.

Liebermann said seeing multiple students post on social media about their struggles and the University's mishandling of their cases has been "frustrating." She said she hopes the University will listen to survivors and clarify Title IX protocols. "To actually feel safe, I would

hope that those changes that we're advocating for and that students have, like SASA are advocating for, can be implemented sooner rather than later," she said.

Izzy Vallance, a sophomore who serves as the designated Title IX reporter at Kappa Delta, said members of her sorority must share their experiences with sexual assault to her before she can relay them to the Title IX Office. She said she hopes officials will change this process so survivors can tell their own stories.

"I want them to come up and talk to me, feel safe talking to me but let them have that choice to be able to go to Title IX," she said. "Obviously we disclose that to our members ahead of time, I tell the whole process, but still it's not right that I'm telling their story." She said administrators don't

take survivors' issues with Title IX and the campus barring process seriously enough, and she hopes the protest will help officials notice survivors' concerns.

"I hope that GW will stop protecting rape culture and really taking the survivors' claims seriously," she said.

Schuyler Vantassel, a sophomore majoring in Chinese and international affairs, said the Title IX Office should hold assailants accountable for their actions, unlike how she views its current system of management.

"Right now, I feel like it exists so GW doesn't actually have to go through with stuff," he said. "I feel like a lot of the actions they take are very performative, and I want to see legitimate accountability for sexual assaulters."

Faculty teaching without masks comply with social distancing policy: students

ASHLEY KHOO
REPORTER

JACKSON LANZER
REPORTER

JENNY SELIGMAN
REPORTER

Students said professors have kept six feet of distance when taking off their masks in class this fall as part of GW's masking requirements set for faculty teaching in person.

Interim Provost Chris Bracey said at last month's Faculty Senate meeting that students have reported "a few" complaints about faculty who break the University's masking policy, which currently permits professors to lecture without a mask in a classroom if they are more than six feet away from students. More than 10 students said their professors have started taking off their masks during class to better project their voices and articulate their words but have stayed in compliance with the distance requirement.

"I encourage you all to remind your colleagues to abide by the mask mandate when in class because the students are paying attention," Bracey said at the senate meeting.

Bracey said cases of mask non-compliance include not wearing masks properly over the nose and instructing without masks within six feet of students. He said of-

officials have developed a "review, tracking and enforcement process" that monitors repeat offenders as a result of the complaints.

Chidera Ejeh, a sophomore from the Milken Institute School of Public Health, said her chemistry professor does not wear a mask while lecturing in a class of 50 students.

"Because of all of the precautions that I have taken before, like taking my vitamins, getting vaccinated, wearing a good mask like a KN95 mask, I don't think I am so scared about him not wearing a mask," Ejeh said.

Freshman Jenna Stanco said she feels "uncomfortable" that professors can take off their masks because the University's indoor mask mandate requires students to keep masks on at all times and creates a double standard for professors.

Officials said 97 percent of students are fully vaccinated, two percent received medical and religious exemptions and one percent is not compliant with the vaccine requirement as of Sept. 15. Students who don't comply with the vaccine requirement aren't allowed to access GW buildings, and in "very limited and specific instances," the University has withdrawn students for noncompliance, according to an email officials sent late last month.

Christine Bistline-Bonilla, a professor of Spanish, said she wears her mask at all times, regardless of whether she's six feet away from students.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIA GOEDERT | PHOTOGRAPHER

Officials have developed a tracking process to identify community members who repeatedly violate GW's mask mandate.

Experts in public health said social distancing is helpful in preventing the spread of the virus if professors are maskless.

Susan Hassig, an associate professor of epidemiology at Tulane University, said it's a "good idea" for professors to wear their masks during lectures since they need to constantly project their voice and

could possibly spread the virus while lecturing.

Hassig said professors can use microphones among several other solutions to help students who may otherwise struggle to comprehend faculty with masks. She said the blue surgical masks instead of cloth masks can allow professors to better project their sound from be-

neath the masks because the cloth tends to muffle the sound.

Tomoko Udo, an associate professor of health policy, management and behavior at the State University of New York at Albany, said professors can safely take off their masks during class if a university has a vaccination coverage higher than 90 percent like GW.

Law professor's report finds ankle monitors as restrictive as incarceration

ABIGAIL FLEMING
REPORTER

ISHANI CHETTRI
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

KYLIE BROWN
REPORTER

A law professor found that wearing an ankle monitor during probation or parole is just as restrictive as incarceration in a report published late last month.

Kate Weisburd, an associate professor of law and the lead researcher of the study, said she worked with a team of 10 GW Law students who collected contract records from 247 agencies that oversee individuals on pretrial release, probation and parole across the country to analyze the effects of ankle monitors on daily life. She said after two years of research, her team found that ankle monitors limit individual privacy, personal autonomy, relationships, employment and financial security as much as incarceration.

"Having an ankle monitor on is seen as much less restrictive and favorable as compared to being in a prison cell, and while I think that intuitively makes sense, what this report does is it sort of debunks that assumption that it's better than prison or jail," Weisburd said.

The study found that more than 51 percent of convicts wearing ankle monitors must remain at home at all



SYDNEY WALSH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kate Weisburd, the study's lead researcher, said many individuals don't have stable housing or reliable electricity access to recharge their monitors on time, leading some to reincarceration.

times, more than 41 percent must charge their monitors multiple times a day and more than half must follow a set daily schedule of activities like when they can leave the house to go grocery shopping or attend religious services. The report also found that agencies charge wearers fees for the failure to pay for ankle monitors, which could cost hundreds of dollars a month.

Weisburd said people who are on pretrial, probation or parole are under a form of "community supervision" from a criminal court judge that restricts their life-

style even though they aren't in jail.

Weisburd said her former job as staff attorney for a juvenile court in California inspired her to create the report. Some of the young people on probation who she worked with in California told her their ankle monitors would beep during their school classes, embarrassing them and scaring them from attending school again, she said.

She said many people with ankle monitors are arrested a second time because they fail to comply with

monitoring policies like the requirement to recharge the monitor's battery before it dies.

James Kilgore – the director of the Challenging E-Carceration Project at MediaJustice, a media organization that fights for racial and economic equity – said he spent a year on a monitor after serving time in prison in 2009 for bank robbery and pleading guilty to second degree murder. He could only exit the house between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. from Mondays through Fridays while wearing his ankle monitor, he said.

CRIME LOG

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

1959 E Street
9/26/2021 – 12:23 a.m.
Closed Case
GW Police Department officers and EMeRG medics responded to a report of an intoxicated student. Upon arrival, officers made contact with the underage female student, who had been drinking. EMeRG conducted a medical evaluation of the student and transported her to the GW Hospital emergency room for further medical treatment.
Referred to the Division for Student Affairs.

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Elliott School of International Affairs
Unknown – Unknown
Open Case
A GW contractor reported a microwave stolen.
Case open.

SIMPLE ASSAULT, RESISTING ARREST, ASSAULT ON A POLICE OFFICER

University Mall
9/29/2021 – 8:40 p.m.
Closed Case
While on routine patrol, a GWPD officer observed an unknown female subject assault a female student. Officers approached the subject, who was non-compliant. GWPD officers arrested the subject shortly thereafter.
Subject arrested.

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING, CREDIT CARD FRAUD

Burns Law Library
9/29/2021 – 5:40 p.m.
Open Case
A student reported theft of a purse, which contained credit cards that were later used for fraudulent online purchases.
Case open.

–Compiled by Carly Neilson

GW Writing Center to continue virtual appointments with in-person service

ABIGAIL MITTENDORF
REPORTER

ISHANI CHETTRI
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

The GW Writing Center will continue offering virtual appointments this fall even as it reopens its physical location.

Writing center staff said virtual appointments have increased by more than 20 percent during the first two weeks of fall compared to last year and the center will continue to offer both in-person and virtual services to support students on and off campus. Students and staff working at the center said the continued virtual appointments will provide more flexibility and options for students who may not always have access to in-person services and resources.

Carol Hayes, the director of the writing center and an associate professor of writing, said the number of virtual meetings for the first two weeks of this semester jumped from 271 last fall to 330. She said new students may be visiting the center more because of its visible location on the first floor of Gelman Library, where they can interact with staff to book appointments and use the space's resources after operating entirely online last year.

"That visibility helps students

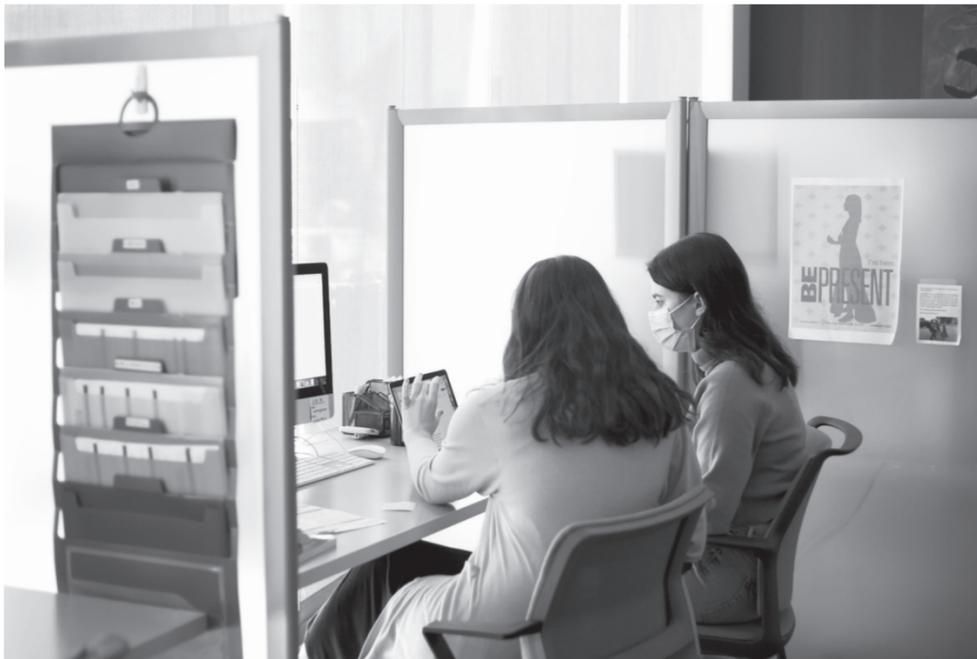
find out about the [GW Writing Center]," she said in an email. "During last year's virtual operations, the writing center simply didn't have that same visibility."

She said three-fourths of the writing center's appointment slots are now in person.

Hayes said the center, which began experimenting with virtual appointments over Zoom starting in 2015, has delayed the opening of its satellite locations in Eckles and Himmelfarb Health Sciences libraries until next spring because the center is rebuilding its "sense of community" among its student employees this fall. She said they hope to launch a once-a-week satellite center at the Multicultural Student Services Center later this semester.

Hayes said the center downsized from eight to five consulting desks and advised its staff members to sanitize their desks at the beginning and end of each shift to adhere to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

Gordon Mantler, the executive director of the University Writing Program and an associate professor of writing and history, said the center logged 4,820 appointment hours the last academic year, a nearly three percent increase from the 4,682 appointment hours from the previous year. But its use fell from the two years prior to the pandemic, when the center previ-



SAMANTHA SHORT | PHOTOGRAPHER

The center began experimenting with virtual appointments over Zoom in 2015.

ously logged more than 5,000 appointment hours, he said.

Mantler said while the shift to online operations last spring reduced the number of students who booked appointments, staff at the center implemented programs

to motivate students to continue writing. He said staff has limited physical capacity to 14 people in the center and installed a plexiglass barrier at the front desk as a part of its management of COVID-19 protocols. He said the

center's staff also released a set of community standards during the summer as a part of its response to combating racism, discrimination and microaggressions to make the environment more equitable to students.

GW must bolster IT staff to address technology issues

Since the beginning of the semester, I have personally witnessed valuable class time wasted and multiple lectures delayed due to professors' inability to configure classroom technology. In one instance, my professor had to push back an entire lecture because the projector would not display her class materials. A student remarked that another professor encountered the same issue with the same classroom's projector, and, despite calling GW Information Technology to have the issue fixed, no one showed up to assist them. The frequency and persistence of these errors can be directly attributed to GW's administrative decision to lay off dozens of IT staff members last year.

Michael DiFabrizio
Opinions Writer

Lingering technological issues are not limited to the classroom. After submitting a ticket with IT support more than a month ago, I still cannot connect my Xbox console to GWConnect, the Wi-Fi network designated for gaming consoles and streaming devices. I've had to use up the entirety of my data plan's hotspot allowance to connect my device to the internet. The pandemic has heightened the GW community's dependence on technology and internet connectivity, requiring professors to utilize newly installed lecture capture technology to record classes and requiring students to access digital class content from their homes. The availability of a sizable IT support team is paramount to ensuring that the needs of GW's students, faculty and staff are met. Administrators should bolster IT staff levels to continue reversing the layoffs they implemented last year to address the needs of the GW community.

As part of a string of pandemic-related layoffs, GW decided to consolidate its technological

support systems into what administrators call a shared-services model, aimed at reducing overlap in what each individual IT division covered. Instead of separate IT departments across many of GW's schools and offices, the shared-services model utilized a centralized GWIT department,

placing the GW community's IT needs in fewer hands and allowing for the University to reduce its expenses. The removal of these technology staff members has proven to be counterintuitive and resulted in the overworking of GW's IT support team. It should come as no surprise

that in-person education amid a pandemic would result in a surge of technological issues and requests for IT assistance. As experts have predicted the long-term prevalence of COVID-19 since the pandemic's inception, the University should have anticipated the need for heightened technological support

upon a return to in-person instruction, even if the demand for on-site support was low during remote learning. As a result, faculty GWIT support requests have more than doubled and total GWIT support requests have increased by 46 percent overall from the spring 2021 semester. The only way to rectify this error is to reinstate the IT positions that were cut.

The implementation of new classroom technologies designed to support a hybrid learning system is partially responsible for the increased demand for IT support. As many professors are unfamiliar with new technologies as it is, the installment of these new systems further complicates the teaching process. With issues typically accompanying the introduction of new hardware, the University should have expected that reinstating prior IT positions would be necessary to facilitate a learning environment conducive to hybrid learning. While faculty have been offered instructional training regarding the use of newly installed classroom technologies, it is unrealistic to expect professors to navigate these intricate systems and troubleshoot issues without the help of IT specialists.

It is clear that the GW community is in need of greater technological assistance than the GWIT department can provide at its current size. Stripping the University of vital IT employees is antithetical to the maintenance of a sound and productive academic environment. Without a sizable IT team, the precious time of GW students, faculty and staff will continue to be wasted dealing with trivial technological errors. The IT staff is stretched too thin and deserves to have more positions reinstated to allow for more efficient and timely assistance to the community.

—Michael DiFabrizio, a junior majoring in political science, is an opinions writer.



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

The SA is student government, not the U.S. Senate

STAFF EDITORIAL

A legislative battle is brewing in D.C.—bills are being introduced, vetoes are being issued and court challenges are being filed. But this is not happening on Capitol Hill. It's happening right here at GW, with the various branches of the Student Association locking horns on the issue of first-year SA senators.

This entire episode is embarrassing and nearly incomprehensible. It began with the introduction of a resolution in the SA Senate that would establish a referendum on whether first-year undergraduate and graduate students should have dedicated senate seats. The SA's Office of the Legislator General then filed a lawsuit against the resolution in the SA's Student Court, contending that it violated the SA's governing documents. The court will hold a hearing on the constitutionality of the resolution Sunday and release a decision soon after, but in the meantime, a bill that would revise the SA's bylaws to provide for electing first-year seats was vetoed by SA President Brandon Hill.

There does not seem to be any discernible movement among students in favor of the policy, nor do there seem to be any overriding reasons why it should not be passed. One thing is clear: the SA has the opportunity to focus on substantive issues but instead wastes time on meaningless and asinine procedure.

The stated goal of the SA is to "further the interests and promote the welfare of all students at GW." In practice, mainly on the part of the senate, this means embarking

on meaningless debates about creating committees and changing bylaws that produce zero tangible benefit for students. Instead of spending all of their time talking about issues impacting the GW community, student legislators have spent hours and hours making aimless procedural maneuvers or debating breathlessly about the organization's multiple separate governing documents until the central issue at hand is not even visible in the debate.

Everyone needs to take a moment and realize that this is not an episode of *The West Wing*. This is not the floor of the U.S. Senate. Student government is not real government. Sure, procedure is important, but when you have members of a student organization asking other members of a student organization to file a preliminary injunction or set a hearing date, that's not procedure. That's playing make-believe. It's both unproductive and nonsensical. This is why people dunk on the SA constantly.

It does not have to be like this. There is precedent for the SA accomplishing important tasks that will significantly help the student body. In our last staff editorial, we praised SA Vice President Kate Carpenter and the SA for working with administrators to expand the scope of SafeRide. Last month, after students complained that they lacked a centralized resource to buy and rent used textbooks from other students online, the senate voted to establish a textbook exchange program on Google Sheets.

The meaningful work the SA has done goes even further than that. Students with periods might have noticed that there are free tampons and pads in restroom dispensers across campus. To accomplish this, the SA executive branch worked with the Division for Student Affairs, Finance Division and Division of Safety and Facilities to fund the installation of dispensers across campus buildings in September. The senate also passed a resolution urging officials to increase the amount of GWorld that students receive to combat food insecurity. The following year, administrators did just that.

But even in the SA's successes, we see its failures: most of these actions took place through members liaising and directly working with University officials. The most important things the SA has delivered for students lately have had little to nothing to do with the parliamentary pageantry or procedural drama. In fact, they seem to have been in spite of it.

There are plenty of people who join the SA for good reasons who want to get involved and help students. Imagine what would happen if instead of getting bogged down in imaginary lawsuits and pretending to be members of an actual legislature, the entire SA spent all of its time making small, meaningful changes to student life. That would be an SA worthy of the people who join it and of the students it's intended to serve.

This is student government, not the U.S. House of Representatives. The SA needs to act like it.

GW should strengthen its contact tracing system

Administrators brought students back to campus this fall with the promise that they would be able to attend classes safely. But every week, I listen to my friends bring up another email informing them that someone in one of their classes tested positive. As coronavirus cases continue to be diagnosed on campus, GW's contact tracing proves insufficient.

Jane Cameron
Opinions Writer

Since August, the University has recorded nearly 300 positive cases, and the virus has continued to spread throughout the school year. While the threat of infection becomes greater, students have reported that the University's contact tracing system has left out vital information like the time and location of potential exposures. GW needs to reconstruct its contact tracing system because students' health is in jeopardy.

Officials have created an ambiguous policy and procedure for contact tracing when a student tests positive. GW Occupational Health sends a vague email to students, which sometimes only reveals that an unidentified person tested positive and was near them at some point in time. This discourages students from taking the risk seriously because they don't have specific information

about their contact with an infectious person. Vaccinated students are told to get tested within three to five days of receiving the email—but there are no follow-up measures to ensure students are getting tested after.

GW has not taken enough action to respond to the threat of students cohabiting in an environment that is conducive to the spread of the coronavirus. At the beginning of the pandemic, college campuses experienced infection rates that were more than twice the national average. Today, colleges around the country have been reporting increases in cases and many have responded by adjusting their management of the coronavirus. Schools have decided to move some classes online, begun weekly testing and reduced capacity in indoor recreational areas.

Students would benefit from a well-resourced and efficient contact tracing system. If the University feels overwhelmed with the current demand then they must hire more staff. Many universities also now offer courses to educate students on how to contact trace which allows more hands on deck in their campuses' contact tracing systems. Although this can be costly, it is likely cheaper than the alternative of switching to online classes and lowering tuition once again. This would also be funding a program that is affecting the entire student body and would

make the University more attentive to student needs.

GW has barred professors from asking whether students have been vaccinated against the coronavirus. Contract tracers should at least ask students if they can disclose their names to professors so that they are able to make decisions about each individual class and monitor them accordingly. They will be able to decide if they must switch their methods of class interaction if they learn of positives in one of their classes.

GW should alter its coronavirus instructions to encourage students to disclose positive test results to all their professors immediately after receiving their positive result. This way, professors can alert their class and make decisions on potential next steps as soon as possible.

The CCST must tell students the time and date of potential exposures. If GW does not clean up its act, students may be faced with the prospect of packing up their belongings and returning home for another year of online learning. Contact tracing is a public health strategy that has been utilized for years to stop the spread of viruses and GW should understand its importance in its action plan against the spread of coronavirus.

—Jane Cameron, a rising junior majoring in journalism and mass communication, is an opinions writer.

Culture

Oct. 4, 2021 • Page 5

THE SCENE

FARMERS MARKET
Tuesday, Oct. 5 | The Park at CityCenterDC | Free
Drop by CityCenterDC's weekly farmers market to purchase fresh produce and prepared dishes from local small businesses.

BECOMING DR. RUTH
Friday, Oct. 8 | Warner Theatre | \$35-70
Attend a show about the life of sex therapist and media personality Ruth Westheimer, who survived the Holocaust before her rise to fame.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

NEW ALBUM: "IN THESE SILENT DAYS" BY BRANDI CARLILE

Sophomore breaks into D.C. drag scene during pandemic

NORA FITZGERALD
REPORTER

STELLA LANUTI
REPORTER

Sophomore Nolan Phillips said his drag persona, Patricia Diamond, was formed from a combination of boredom while staying isolated during the pandemic, a fair amount of internet research and a lot of practice.

Phillips, a sophomore, said he has always had an interest in drag, but it wasn't until the pandemic hit that he got his start. He said the downtime allowed him to craft his persona before performing in his first show in his home state of South Carolina this June, followed by his debut onto the D.C. drag scene at the start of the school year.

Phillips said he saw the development of Patricia Diamond not as a way to reinvent himself but rather as an extension of his personality.

"The persona of Patricia Diamond is the same as me," Phillips said. "I'm just maybe a little more friendly or not as reserved. I based it around who I am and the way I perform."

Phillips said the name Patricia Diamond ties together the name of his favorite comedian, stand-up comic Miss Pat, with his birthstone, a diamond.

"I wanted an old white lady name," Phillips said. "Diamond is my birthstone, I was born in



COURTESY OF NOLAN PHILLIPS

Phillips said the namesake of his drag persona comes from a combination of his favorite comedian and his birthstone.

April and that was actually my mom's idea."

Phillips spent months crafting the other aspects of Patricia Diamond including the hair, outfits and makeup. A typical look for Diamond includes white tights, a black leotard, rainbow eyeshadow, voluminous black hair and her signature mole on her left cheek bone.

Phillips said the pandemic allowed him time to polish Patricia Diamond's appearance and his act as a whole before he hit the stage in South Carolina.

"The local queens didn't really know that I was that new," Phillips said. "I had so much time to make sure my makeup was polished, make sure everything looked good."

Phillips designs and sews his

own performance outfits and said he wants to start working on commissioned retail outfits for new drag queens, a goal that Phillips said can be achieved as he increases his exposure in the D.C. drag scene.

"Something that I make could go for like as much as like \$80, \$120 for an outfit," Phillips said. "So one of the goals is to kind of start selling things like

that. But you kind of have to start making a name and start making a couple things for people."

While makeup, hair and costumes are an essential part of the drag experience, Phillips said he thinks good drag really comes down to the performance. Phillips said he pulled together aspects of other drag shows to curate a show that pays homage to queens who came before him. Performances include a combination of lip-syncing songs, dance routines and occasional comedy acts.

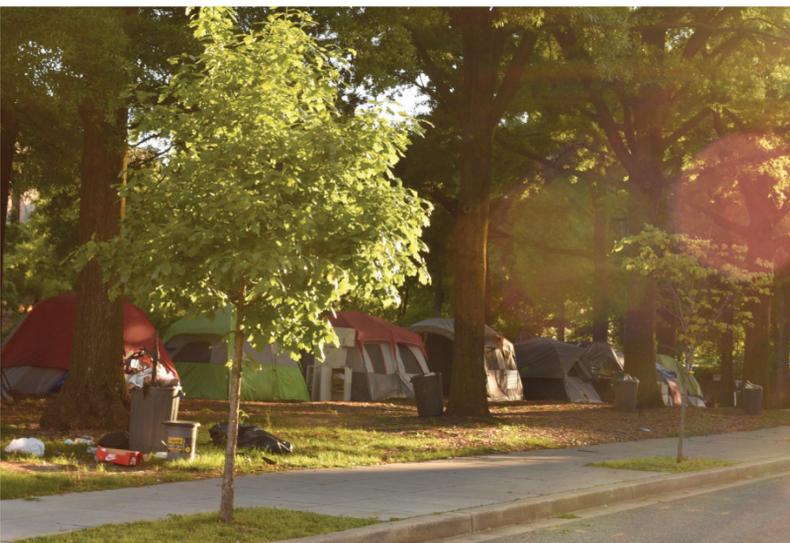
"I'm just trying to make it where people can't take their eyes off of the show," Phillips said. "So they go home and say, 'That was a really good show.'"

A typical performance for Diamond is very high energy, Phillips said his goal is to keep the audience on their toes and entertained.

"You have a lot of like stunts, like split kicks, a lot of the high energy stunts, which I've always been able to do, all that kind of stuff," Phillips said.

Phillips said every queen just wants to entertain and bring joy. Though the world of drag queen can seem somewhat intimidating, Phillips said that every performer is just trying to overcome their own insecurities.

"Entertainers, they're all insecure at heart," Phillips said. "I always want to make sure everybody has a good time."



FILE PHOTO BY DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

For students concerned about the status of homeless encampments in light of Mayor Muriel Bowser's initiative to shutter three locations, Miriam's Kitchen is just one of the organizations where people can volunteer.

How to support residents experiencing homelessness

ABRIGAIL WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

As D.C. officials move forward with plans to shut down encampments for unhoused people, here are some ways you can support Foggy Bottom's neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Mayor Muriel Bowser recently announced Homeward 2.0, a plan to which is meant to end homelessness in the District by 2025. But many people without housing are worried that Bowser's proposal, which will permanently shut down three of D.C.'s homeless encampments, will leave some displaced or in possibly dangerous situations.

From donating funds to volunteering, we've compiled a list of ways you can help unhoused neighbors.

Where to donate

Mutual aid funds

You can donate to mutual aid funds by ward to support residents experiencing homelessness.

A ward 4 mutual aid fund organized by the neighborhood group, "Unhoused Advocacy," focuses on providing basic necessities to people with food and housing insecurities. The donations from this fund go directly toward buying food, clothing and hygiene products for those in need and are dispersed weekly. The Unhoused Advocacy set up the fund to promote neighborhood equity and

accepts both one-time and recurring donations. The group has raised \$3,417 so far.

A ward 2 mutual aid fund, organized in connection with the D.C. Mutual Aid Network, gathers funds to financially support unhoused individuals with high risk medical conditions, organize supply drops to encampments and run a help hotline for ward 2 residents experiencing homelessness. You can learn more on the website and even track where the fund spends donations.

Remora House DC supplies donation

Remora House DC is a collective that provides supplies to people without housing all over the District. The organization has compiled an Amazon wish list accessible to the public, sorted by supplies needed from the highest to lowest priority.

The list consists of items like wet wipes, lanterns, grocery totes and phone chargers that can be sent to the gift registry address that appears in your Amazon check out after ordering from the wish list. Remora House DC also collects monetary donations via Givebuttr and CashApp which go toward the supplies fund.

Donate supplies using the Amazon wish list here. Donate to the supplies fund through Givebuttr or CashApp. Find more information on Remora House D.C.'s Instagram and Twitter pages.

Where to volunteer

Miriam's Kitchen

Miriam's Kitchen is a multifaceted nonprofit organization that provides warm meals, free housing through housing subsidy vouchers and social services like applying for IDs to D.C. residents experiencing homelessness.

You can volunteer with Miriam's Kitchen by handing out meals and supplies at a tent outside their kitchen. And while full-on meal prep assistance is temporarily suspended because of the pandemic, volunteers can help prep ingredients and support the staff in their ongoing duties.

Back on My Feet

Back on My Feet is a national organization with operations in 14 major US cities including D.C. This organization focuses on getting residents experiencing homeless to unite with volunteers through group walks and runs and provides them with other tools like career counseling and professional resources.

You can volunteer either by leading morning walks and runs or getting involved in the Workforce Development programming. This programming provides residents experiencing homelessness with career coaching, professional development and skill-building workshops and referrals to education and employment opportunities.

Trip ideas to fill your fall break weekend

ANALYS BARINAGA
REPORTER

If you couldn't tell by the crispness in the air and the smell of pumpkin spice lattes, fall is upon us and so is a much needed three-day fall break.

The break, from Oct. 22 through 24, is still a few weeks away, but we've compiled a list of both overnight and day trip ideas so you can start making plans for how you'll spend the long weekend. From the bustling cities of the East Coast to smaller getaways and even a National Park, here are a few curated itineraries to get you started.

Williamsburg, Virginia

This hidden gem of a city is filled with so many activities that you will likely have trouble fitting everything into three days. Filled with gorgeous gardens, museums and historic buildings, like the former Capitol building of Virginia and Governor's Palace, Colonial Williamsburg is a must-see for history buffs. After exploring, you can grab dinner at the King's Arm Tavern, a colonial-style chophouse built in 1772.

If you already get enough history from your classes, then throwing it back to your childhood days with a trip to Busch Gardens might just be what's in store for your fall break.

Of course, taking some time to relax is important too. After a full day you may want to shop around Merchant's Square and eat at the Blue Talon Bistro. Finally, you can take a night to

celebrate spooky season by catching a ghost tour in this historic city.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Fall break is a great time to hop on a bus over to Philly where there are at least 100 ways one could plan their stay. Perhaps you want to explore Philly "National Treasure" style and check out the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. Or take a walk down the scenic Benjamin Franklin Parkway, where you can visit museums like the Rodin Museum, Franklin Institute and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

For dinner, you can try Moshulu, a seafood and steakhouse restaurant inside an anchored ship. Afterward, you can take a lovely evening walk on the waterfront and enjoy views of the Delaware River. You can also check out some must-take photos around the city, including the Rocky Steps and LOVE sculpture. Of course, top it off with a Philly cheesesteak at John's Roast Pork or the original Tony Luke's, and you'll have a solid Philly vacation.

New York City, New York

This list would hardly be complete without mentioning New York, which is just a four-hour train ride from the District. The Big Apple needs no introduction, but if you're traveling to the city for the first time you might want to start with the basics. Explore the plethora of stores in Times Square, including fan-favorites like

M&M World and Midtown Comics, or take a stroll through nearby Bryant Park.

If you're able to snag some tickets in advance, a Broadway Show would be a great way to spend an evening. Among the many shows planned for that weekend are Hamilton, Wicked and SIX. The Statue of Liberty and Empire State Buildings are simply must-sees, even if you don't go inside them.

Finally, if you're able to fit any space into your jam-packed itinerary, you could have a picnic at Central Park and experience iconic gossip-girl scenes at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Shenandoah National Park, Virginia

Shenandoah National Park is an ideal fall trip for an escape into nature, and you might even be able to catch the changing leaves in all their glory.

While you're there, you take a hike up Old Rag Mountain, where you'll get a spectacular view of the Blue Ridge Mountain range. Or you can explore Shenandoah by horseback instead of by foot. Skyland Stables offers horseback rides through the park and an apple orchard.

At night, take a look up at the stars from Big Meadows, a lush mountaintop field, or go there during the day with a picnic. If you're not into camping, you can stay in one of the lodges inside the park, which include Skyland, Big Meadows Lodge, the Lewis Mountain Cabins and other public use cabins available for reservation.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIA YOUNG | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Fall break will give students time to see a variety of landmarks and historical sites, from the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia to Central Park in New York City.

GAMES OF THE WEEK



WOMEN'S SOCCER

vs. La Salle
Sunday | 1 p.m.
The Colonials return to the Vern to face off against the Explorers.



SOFTBALL

vs. Howard
Saturday | 10:30 a.m.
GW takes on the Howard University Bison at home.

NUMBER CRUNCH 114

2021 kills for volleyball's Salem Yohannes, out of 135 total freshman kills.

Volleyball finds bright spot in freshman outside hitter despite early season losses

MATTHEW GARFINKLE
REPORTER

Despite a winless season thus far, volleyball has found a bright spot in freshman outside hitter Salem Yohannes.

Though the team has lost 15 consecutive games, Yohannes has posted some impressive statistics throughout the season, including a team leading 141.5 points and 130 kills on 465 total attempts. On the defensive side, she boasts another team high .936 reception percentage and 119 digs on 357 total attempts, placing her just a spot behind senior libero Bella Bowman with 220 digs.

The first year player donning the No. 1 jersey has made a name for herself with both viewers of the game and her teammates and coaches.

"Sally is one of our smoothest players in regards to going from the start of a skill to the end," head coach Sarah Bernson said. "That was evident in practice right away, and also that first weekend of play, which she did really well and made everyone else take notice."

Bernson said other teams have started to take notice of Yohannes and have been specifically targeting her in the scouting game in an attempt to limit her impact on the court.

"I think the last two weeks, she's done a really good job of learning how to handle responsibility, knowing that teams are gonna try to limit her ability to score and impact her," Bernson said. "She's a six rotation player, so she's involved all the time so she doesn't get any mental breaks. Her learning how to manage that and how she can control that has been really great to see."

Bernson said Yohannes has built her strong reputation through her hard work ethic, ability to be coached and strong relationships with her teammates both in practice and the games. She said she has emerged as a leader in practice despite her young age in relation to the rest of the roster.

"As much as my body would hate it and my brain would love it, I can't be on the court with them for every point," Bernson said. "I only have two timeouts so their ability to adjust and problem solve amongst themselves is really important. And Sally has been able to navigate that even though she's a first-year."

Yohannes said she had to learn how to adjust quickly and manage her time in between classes and volleyball at the collegiate level, but has fallen into a daily routine that allows her to maintain a consistent performance. She said she's also adjusted to playing with a new team after playing with the same people at the club level for so long and built the necessary trust to succeed on the court.

But hard work does not always translate into team results as the team has stumbled its way to an 0-15 record. Yohannes said the biggest challenge for both her and the team is maintaining confidence moving forward.

"I know I can do it, and I know what I can do," Yohannes said. "But sometimes when you're playing with older people, especially on our team, even other teams are four or five years older, they have more experience."

As the year goes on, Yohannes said she is learning to become mentally resilient throughout the daily practices and the game-packed weekends as the team tries



FILE PHOTO BY GABRIELLE RHOADS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Yohannes said keeping up her confidence despite the team's record can at times be a challenge.

to position itself for future success.

"It's physically exhausting, but also mentally," Yohannes said. "I just think I have to learn to have more patience with myself, to not be so hard on myself, because this is something new. College volleyball is not easy, or everyone would be doing it."

Because of this newfound mental toughness, Bernson said Yohannes has assumed some of the leadership of the team at a young age, and her role is only projected to grow as she improves

her communication on the court and the ability to relay information quickly in tight moments.

"It all comes down to presence," Bernson said. "So you can be quiet if you have a presence, and Sally definitely has that. She communicates where she is next to people and the team has learned her tone. She doesn't need to be super loud, and the team has learned to communicate with her in that way."

Despite the rocky start, the team will look to close out the season on a high note. With just four conference

games played, the team has plenty of time to turn their fortunes around and make a run in the A-10 Championship.

"Individually, I would say to take more risks and take more chances because playing safe obviously doesn't work," Yohannes said.

The Colonials will look to turn the corner and capture their first win of the season in a conference matchup on the road against Fordham Friday. First serve is set for 5 p.m.

Men's, women's swimming and diving set sights on A-10 crown once again

SUNIT CHAKRABORTY
REPORTER

As they gear up for a new season, men's and women's swimming and diving are seeking to become A-10 champions once again.

The men's team is seeking their fifth conference title in six seasons while the women's team, who finished fourth at last year's A-10 Championships, is looking to bounce back and win it all this year.

Senior Erin McCarthy, who won the gold in the 1,650 meter free relay in a come-from-behind victory during last year's tournament, said the "ultimate" motivation of both teams is to win the A-10 Championship.

"That's what we're aiming for, but in order to do that I think we need to foster a lot of team togetherness," McCarthy said.

The men's team, after becoming A-10 champions last year and having won A-10 titles four out of the past five years, are setting their sights on another consecutive title victory. Junior Tyler Kawakami, who earned five gold medals at last season's A-10 Championship, said the team is also looking to shine on the national stage.

"This year, we're looking to increase our national ranking, which was previously not really on our radar," Kawakami said.

The Colonials will have the help of an explosive new freshmen class, which Kawakami said "seem like they've been part of the team

for years."

Head coach Brian Thomas said he loved the team's enthusiasm, and the fall slate brings a "sense of renewal" as they get ahead of the conference competitions in the spring.

"We try to set them up for the long haul and prepare them well, knowing that four years, a long time and especially in our sport, it's consistency that matters most," he said.

GW will also have the help of new staff members hired over the summer. Thomas said the arrival of assistant coaches Temarie Tomley and Mike Sullivan as well as head diving coach Christopher Lane will bring valuable experience to the table and a "fresh set of eyes" to help the athletes take the next step forward.

After months of preparation, the squads finally had the chance to show off their talents in their first meet against Virginia Tech this past Saturday. It was the first time the team had competed in the Smith Center in almost two years. Thomas said he would use the showcase to identify places of weakness in their skillset and determine if the team can keep up with the top teams in the country.

Both the men's and women's squads succumbed in their first meet against the Cavaliers. The men lost 190-102, while the women lost 178-111 by the day's end. Despite the loss, both the players and coaches remained optimistic after the meet.

"I think we had a lot of victories here," junior Becca Brown said. "Even if we didn't win an event, we've had a lot of good things here, and I think just taking that with us next week and getting back in the water practicing and working hard for this next week and I think we're going to see some great results."

Junior Jamie Doak placed third and hit an NCAA zone qualifying time on the 1-meter dive, beating her previous career high by nearly 16 points and nearly capturing a program record. Thomas said Doak's diving performance was phenomenal and accomplishing a NCAA zone qualifying time was a "very rare" feat.

As the Colonials look to bounce back in next week's meet, Kawakami said a lighter practice schedule will help the team, giving their bodies a chance to recover from the first four weeks of grueling training.

Brown said the Colonials will also be boosted by a close-knit culture despite the influx of new staff members and teammates.

"We didn't blink an eye — we just got right back into it, and we have to do something great," Brown said. "The people here are amazing, and we were pushing each other so it's just been great to be back."

The Colonials will look to capture their first win of the budding season on the road against Old Dominion Friday at 3 p.m.



SERENA LUM | PHOTOGRAPHER

The Colonials' closest chance for a goal came in the 33rd minute, but the team was unable to register a shot on target.

Men's soccer loses six of last seven games

LIAM O'MURCHU
REPORTER

WILL MARGERUM
STAFF WRITER

Men's soccer slipped against Saint Joseph's in their conference home opener Saturday afternoon.

The Colonials (3-7-1, 1-2 A-10) stumbled to their sixth loss in the last seven games against the Hawks (4-7, 2-1 A-10) in a 2-0 defeat. GW struggled to create clear chances and failed to register a shot on target throughout the entire 90 minutes.

"We're just disappointed," head coach Craig Jones said. "To be honest, we didn't show up, right? We got totally outplayed in every area. I'm not saying anything I'm not going to share with the guys. We just weren't good enough today."

Junior goalkeeper Justin Grady notched six saves for GW while junior midfielder Chris Hunt and junior midfielder James Fletcher found the back of the net to claim the victory for Saint Joseph's.

The first several minutes of the game proved choppy as both sides tried to find their rhythms. But Saint Joseph's nearly found the opening goal in the ninth minute as Omry Perel muscled past graduate student defender Joshua Yurasits on GW's left hand side, but Grady

managed to smother his shot and keep the Colonials out of an early hole.

The Colonials had a penalty appeal just moments later as graduate student forward Oscar Haynes Brown went down under pressure inside the box, but the referee waved play on.

A mistake from senior midfielder Grant Barrientos allowed Fletcher to burst through GW's defense in the 13th minute, but Grady got just enough off a hand on the shot to prevent it from trickling over the line.

Despite the lack of shots, the Colonials' best chance came in the 33rd minute when a low, driven cross from Yurasits took multiple deflections into the feet of Haynes-Brown, but his redirection from point-blank range could not find its way past sophomore goalkeeper Luis Ludosan.

The physicality of the Hawks caused problems for the Colonials, who could not find many avenues through their opponent's defense.

Saint Joseph's recorded five shots to the Colonials' two and Grady racked up four saves in total to keep the Colonials alive as both teams went into the halftime break level at 0-0. Grady said the team was "hanging around" but didn't give enough in the half to "deserve" to be

ahead by the sound of the half whistle.

The Hawks began the second half just like they finished the first as Fletcher's pace finally paid dividends. A quick give and go play between Perel and Fletcher allowed the Australian native to carry the ball inside the box onto his right foot and rifle a low shot past Grady in the 46th minute.

GW's frustration began to reveal itself on the pitch and the first yellow card of the game was shown to freshman midfielder Sean Vaghedi, after taking down a Hawk's player from behind at midfield.

Saint Joseph's capitalized on the ensuing free kick and doubled their lead in the 69th minute. The visitors looped a free kick into the box and the ball was headed back across the face of goal. Junior midfielder Chris Hunt leapt into the air for a bicycle kick that glanced off the crossbar and into the net.

GW nearly clawed a goal back when sophomore defender Aaron Kronenberg had a free header at the back post in the 82nd minute, only to watch the ball fly over the crossbar.

The Colonials will be back in action Wednesday, Oct. 6 with another A-10 bout against Dayton. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. at the Mount Vernon campus.



SYDNEY WALSH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Both the men's and women's squads succumbed in their first meet against the Cavaliers, but the players and coaches are remaining optimistic.