

# The GW Hatchet

## Opinions

The editorial board discusses the recent vandalism in a fraternity house. Page 6

## Culture

Read about a student-organized birthday surprise for a beloved Vex driver. Page 7

## Sports

Women's cross country captures first Atlantic 10 crown. Page 8

## What's inside

**Tracking COVID-19**  
Oct. 28. - Nov. 3

Weekly COVID-19 cases: 40

Weekly positivity rate: 0.36%

Change in cases since previous week: +13

## CAMPUS UNITES BEHIND JEWISH COMMUNITY

### 'Traumatic': TKE members band together in wake of Torah scroll desecration

**ABBY KENNEDY**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

**LAUREN SFORZA**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Tau Kappa Epsilon President Chris Osborne woke up to a string of texts from a fraternity brother at 3 a.m. last Sunday morning.

The interior of the TKE house had been vandalized and a Torah scroll was desecrated, the messages read. Osborne said the member who first discovered the vandalism was Jewish.

"I was outraged, I was upset hearing

from Jewish brothers in the fraternity who were there to find it," Osborne said. "Hearing them find the Torah destroyed was definitely disheartening."

Since the desecration of the Torah shocked GW's campus and cast TKE under the limelight of national media last week, members of TKE said they've turned to one another for support. Students in TKE said the University should increase its outreach to the Jewish community and tighten campus safety measures, like increased lighting and security cameras

around the townhouse.

Several staff members moved into the TKE house, and GW Police Department officers increased patrols around the surrounding area last week as part of heightened security measures officials took after the vandalism.

Osborne said he was "shocked" when he read the messages about the antisemitic act early Sunday morning, and many residents of the TKE house felt "violated" after their home was vandalized.

See **TORAH** Page 4

### Reported antisemitic incidents over the past three years

November 2019

A student posted a video on Snapchat showing a female student make antisemitic statements and threaten to bomb Israel.

February 2020

Zev Siegfeld, then-president of GW Young Americans for Liberty, alleged that pictures on his door of former President Donald Trump and former Vice President Mike Pence were vandalized with a swastika and a mustache resembling that of Adolf Hitler.

May 2021

A student alleged a professor in a public speaking class assigned a paper on Hitler's public speaking skills and required students to analyze an antisemitic metaphor that is used to demonize Jewish people.

October 2021

A female student living in Hensley Hall on the Mount Vernon Campus reported an image of a swastika was sent to her room.

November 2021

A Torah scroll that fraternity members said was used to swear in new members of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity was desecrated following a reported break-in.

A resident of Shenkman Hall said a mezuzah was stolen from her door before being returned damaged two days later, coming less than a day after the desecration of a Torah at the TKE house.

Rabbi Yudi Steiner said he received an email one day after the TKE house vandalism incident calling the incident an "Act of Resistance Against The Oppressor" and comparing Jewish people to Nazis.

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

### Timeline: How recent antisemitism has affected GW community

**ABBY KENNEDY**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Recent reported acts of antisemitism on GW's campus are part of a larger rise in antisemitism at colleges and universities nationwide, recent data from Jewish advocacy organizations show.

The University community has experienced a string of antisemitic incidents in the past three years, ranging from the desecration of a Torah scroll at the Tau Kappa Epsilon house last week to a Snapchat video of a student threatening to bomb Israel in

2019, both of which were met with swift condemnations from officials. Experts said the upward trend has been fueled by antisemites who have taken to online forums to connect more easily and diversity education programs that have overlooked antisemitism awareness efforts.

A Torah scroll was desecrated at the TKE house last weekend, prompting about 400 students to march through campus in support of the Jewish community and call on the University to take greater action in combating antisemitism,

with measures like more comprehensive education about the issue.

About 95 percent of more than 500 students and recent alumni who participated in a nationwide survey said antisemitism is a problem on their respective college campuses, according to a report by the Alumna for Campus Fairness – a Jewish advocacy organization.

We've compiled a timeline of antisemitic incidents that have occurred on campus within the past three years.

See **RISE** Page 4



FILE PHOTO BY SKYLAR EPSTEIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER University President Thomas LeBlanc denounced the incident as a "despicable" act of antisemitism.



FILE PHOTO BY SKYLAR EPSTEIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER About 400 students processed through campus last Monday after news spread about the desecration of a Torah scroll at Tau Kappa Epsilon's on-campus house.

## GW to enroll in U-Pass after years of student advocacy

**LAUREN SFORZA**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

**ZACHARY BLACKBURN**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students will soon have access to unlimited Metro rides after a years-long push from student leaders for officials to enroll in the U-Pass program.

Officials will announce Friday that the University will participate in a "free trial" of the program to offer students unlimited rides on Metrorail and Metrobus starting Dec. 1 through the end of final exams before tacking on student fees to the program in the spring. Chief Financial Officer Mark Diaz said in an interview that undergraduates

will be automatically enrolled in the program for a \$100 charge per semester while graduate students can opt out.

Diaz said U-Pass will enable students to travel throughout the city affordably, tying the initiative to administrators' multi-year effort to enhance the student experience.

"I keep hearing about the 'geographic endowment' or the 'D.C. variable' as it relates to GW, and that's great if you can point to it, but if you can actually really experience it, that's more powerful," Diaz said in the interview.

Officials said they will release details for students to obtain their U-Pass cards in the coming weeks.

Diaz said GW will partially subsidize the program's semes-

terly rate, which Metro advertises as costing about \$130 each semester. He said officials renewed talks with Metro about U-Pass in May, spearheaded by Bruno Fernandes, the vice president of finance who had just been hired at the end of the spring.

Student leaders have spent years pushing the University to implement U-Pass, but officials repeatedly declined the prospect of the program because of its cost and lack of flexibility for students.

"This has been something that the students have wanted for a long time, and so we're just picking up where all of those efforts, desires left off," Diaz said. "But now this is really about taking it to the finish line and executing."

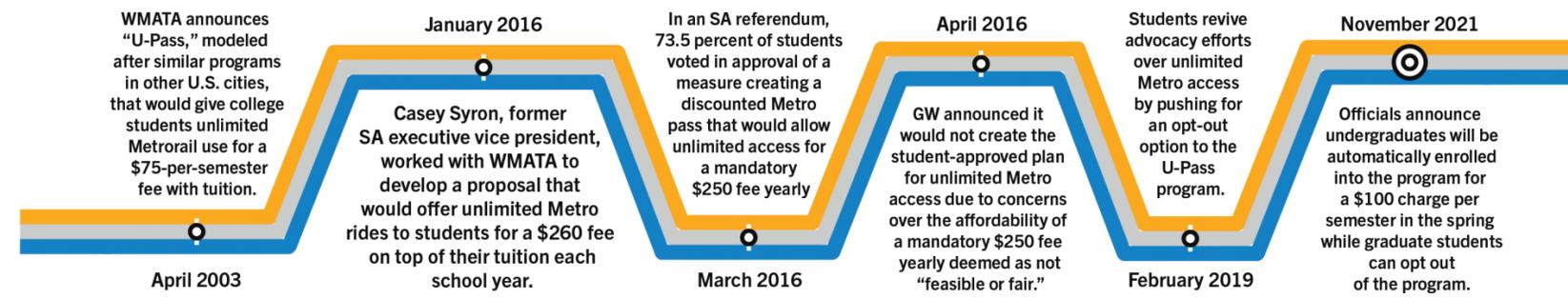
Students will receive a "special-designed" Metro card featuring GW's logo over the school's monogram, according to a release WMATA issued Friday. The release states the partnership with GW, the largest University to join U-Pass, will generate additional revenue for the transit service.

"We welcome GW to the U-Pass program, connecting students to opportunities across the region with an affordable, sustainable transportation option," Metro General Manager Paul Wiedefeld said in the release. "We appreciate the work of University leaders, students and the administration in seeing the value and benefits of transit for the GWU community."

Fernandes, who previously

served as D.C.'s deputy chief financial officer, said WMATA initially wanted to enroll all full-time students in U-Pass, but officials raised concerns about including international students and students who live outside of the Metro's reach. Fernandes said the flexibility for graduate students under the current plan is a "substantial benefit."

As GW continued negotiations, Student Association Vice President Kate Carpenter said she and SA President Brandon Hill started meeting in September with Diaz and Destiny Jackson, the director of transportation and logistics, to advocate for students' desire to implement U-Pass and ensure that the added fee would be covered by financial aid packages.



## 'It was just too much': Students reflect on losing loved ones to COVID-19

**MICHELLE VASSILEV**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As the Foggy Bottom has come back to life this semester, campus has returned to bustling with students gathering in Kogan Plaza, meeting for study groups and attending in person classes. But several who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 are still affected by the lasting tragedy of the public health crisis.

The coronavirus pandemic became the deadliest in United States history this fall, killing more than 750,000 people as of last week – a number surpassing the deaths from the 1918 influenza epidemic. Students

felt the effects as they parted with their loved ones alone in a time of fear and uncertainty, without proper funerals and without a chance to say goodbye.

Read their stories here:

### Matt Kaplan

Sophomore Matt Kaplan was solving problems for his economics homework in his residence hall on Superbowl Sunday earlier this year when he received a text message from his dad asking him to FaceTime.

Kaplan said his dad tried to stay positive over the call as he told him that his grandfather had contracted the coronavirus. Kaplan said from Feb. 6 on, he thought

this would be the end for his 88-year-old grandfather who already faced cancer and heart problems throughout his lifetime.

"From the sixth and beyond I was like 'Well grandpa is just going to die,'" Kaplan said. "It's weird when someone passes away, because there's always a period where you just know it, and it's just like, 'When's it going to happen?'"

Kaplan's grandfather died of the coronavirus three days later on Feb. 9.

Kaplan said the day before his grandfather died, doctors thought he was fighting the virus and was "on the uphill." He said the doctors even treated his

grandfather with the experimental drug cocktail that doctors gave former President Donald Trump when he entered medical treatment for coronavirus.

Sophomore Matt Kaplan's grandfather, who passed away in February, founded the company whose logo is emblazoned on Kaplan's sweater.

"Everything was being done to keep him alive, but I think in the end, it was just too much," Kaplan said.

Kaplan said he didn't accept his grandpa's death until he attended his burial service in New York City, which only 25 close family and friends attended in accordance with the city's corona-

virus gathering guidelines. He said he distinctly remembers that even his grandpa's dog started to whimper at the start of the service.

Kaplan, reflecting on his grandfather's work ethic, said his grandpa was the first person to start importing tarot cards, small paper playing cards that each display a different lesson or belief, from Germany into the United States.

Kaplan said his grandpa started his own tarot company in 1968, which became the premier publisher of tarot in the world, and he wrote the first encyclopedia of tarot in 1978. He said his grandpa worked six days a week in the office, as well as all day

on Sunday from home.

Kaplan said he remembers his grandpa at work dragging and lifting boxes for shipping at 85 years old.

"He didn't think he was above anyone," Kaplan said. "He truly treated everyone with such respect."

Kaplan said his grandpa was born on April Fool's day, and the tarot deck includes a fool's card which represents "taking a leap of faith," a motto that Kaplan's grandpa lived by.

"That's really how he lived his life," Kaplan said. "Like he really was never negative, always positive, always."

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# News

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## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

**IP SPEAKER SERIES - COURTNEY COX**  
 Tuesday • 4 p.m. EST • Free  
 Join GW Law for a discussion with Fordham University School of Law professor Courtney Cox on misinformation and lying in the field of law.

**DIGITAL TECH AND THE PANDEMIC: LEARNING FROM TAIWAN'S CRISIS MANAGEMENT**  
 Tuesday • 7:30 EST • Free  
 Join the Sigur Center for Asian Studies as Taiwanese Digital Minister Audrey Tang discusses technology and COVID-19.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Nov. 10, 1988

Officials announce a pilot tap access system to replace physical keys to access University buildings, The Hatchet reported.



COURTESY OF "STUDENT LIFE"

It remains unclear if Mark Wrighton, the incoming University president, will implement a new strategic plan during his tenure.

## Officials should prioritize immediate issues before strategic planning: faculty

**NICHOLAS PASION**  
 STAFF WRITER

Faculty said they aren't concerned if GW's next president chooses to establish a formal strategic plan, but instead hope he first focuses on including their opinions on major decision-making.

The University has lacked a strategic plan since officials labeled the plan set by outgoing University President Thomas LeBlanc, which the GW community said lacked shared governance, as "obsolete" last November given the COVID-19 pandemic. Faculty said they don't think a strategic plan is currently necessary and instead hope administrators focus on pressing issues like an understaffed IT department and layoffs.

Now, as the University enters a "transition phase" leading into an up to 18-month interim presidency, faculty say officials should set their sights on resolving the GW community's concerns about shared governance before developing a strategic plan.

"During this time, the important work of fulfilling our teaching and research mission is continuing," University spokesperson Crystal Nosal said in an email. "After Dr. Wrighton officially joins the University Jan. 1, he will be communicating his thoughts and plans with the GW community."

Board of Trustees Chair Grace Speights said to faculty in April that officials would conduct a broader assessment of shared governance policies at the University, because they rely on "constructive engagement" between faculty and officials.

Speights said in September that officials are willing

to pave a "fresh start" in talks between the Board of Trustees, faculty and administration to improve shared governance.

GW community members cited initiatives like LeBlanc's 20/30 plan – a plan to cut undergraduate enrollment by 20 percent while increasing the share of STEM majors to 30 percent – amid their calls for LeBlanc's resignation last year. Faculty said the 20/30 plan violated principles of shared governance and could lead to "major" cuts in funding to humanities departments.

As the University prepares for interim presidential leadership that could last into June 2023, officials have remained silent on when they expect to develop a strategic plan but also said they can't move forward with major University planning efforts like a fundraising campaign without a strategic plan.

Amid officials' silence on the status of the University's strategic planning efforts, they've also said that they can't move forward with certain campus-wide planning efforts without a strategic plan, like a major fundraising campaign.

Faculty said they're unsure if a long-term strategic plan is necessary, and they would prefer if officials would prioritize directing more funding to research, classroom technology and staff positions after officials laid off 339 staff members last year as part of their efforts to mitigate the financial impact of the pandemic. They said if officials did implement a strategic plan, they should take input from the GW community and shared governance into consideration through town hall meetings or surveys.

Harald Griesshammer, an associate professor of physics and a faculty senator, said he didn't think a new strategic plan was necessary because the University should instead focus on the student and faculty members' immediate demands, like addressing IT and staff layoffs.

Griesshammer said the University's implementation of its next strategic plan should be a "community effort" that includes all voices on campus, including students and faculty. He said officials must determine the University's mission through town halls and surveys.

Kim Roddis, a professor of civil engineering and faculty senator, said she feels she can trust Wrighton's experience and judgment to get the University "back on track," and determine whether or not GW needs a new strategic plan before the arrival of its next permanent president.

Shaista Khilji, a professor of human and organizational learning and international affairs, said with improved shared governance, the University can implement a strategic plan that GW community members will commit to.

Experts in higher education said strategic plans can help drive a university's mission and without one, universities are limited in how they can distribute resources.

Joseph Paris, an assistant professor of higher education at Temple University, said a strategic plan can help officials align the University's curriculum to its mission, which can help them determine how to distribute resources, like funding and administrative assistance, to its students and staff.

## GW works to reverse decline in international student enrollment

**EDUARDO RIVAS**  
 REPORTER

**HENRY HUVOS**  
 STAFF WRITER

Officials are developing outreach and recruitment strategies for international students in hopes of offsetting the recent decline in international student enrollment during COVID-19 pandemic.

Jay Goff, the vice provost of student enrollment and student success, said at a Faculty Senate meeting last month that worldwide travel restrictions likely caused the 7.5 percent decline in international student enrollment this fall after nationwide totals dropped by 72 percent during the last academic year. He said GW's enrollment management teams will rebuild international student enrollment levels with additional staffing and expanded communications to bring the student population back to campus.

"Planning for the rebuilding of our international student enrollments will be a priority for most of GW's enrollment management teams," Goff said in an email.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, numerous health organizations like the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have required and recommended negative tests and vaccinations for international travel. For much of 2020, both the European Union and China heavily restricted travel to and from the United States.

Goff said the University created a set of "microtrend committees" that monitor changes in student markets to address the enrollment drop. He said officials are attending virtual college fairs and online forums to better connect with

students from across the globe.

He said officials are also planning to hire more staff members to help plan international student recruitment efforts and visa support programs.

"The Enrollment and Student Success division will hire two additional positions this winter," Goff said. "Both positions will focus on expanding new student outreach and support services that best fit the changing pandemic travel restrictions."

A University-wide task force that officials established earlier this year to assess what the GW community has learned from the pandemic found in its culminating report that University community members said the loss of international students this year was a "substantial challenge" to diversity, equity and inclusion on campus.

Experts in higher education said concentrated efforts to help international students, like aiding in smoother transitions to American study and raising funding for recruitment efforts, on behalf of American schools could help reverse the decline. They said University leaders should offer international students guidance on the process of applying for visas and moving to the U.S. to boost international student enrollment.

Alan Ruby, a senior fellow in the higher education division at the University of Pennsylvania, said international students need help applying for a visa – assistance that would help offset the decline of international students.

"Institutions who want to have significant international student enrollment need to have an infrastructure that can help students through that process,"

Ruby said.

Geraldo Blanco, an associate professor of higher education and the academic director of the Center for International Higher Education at Boston College, said the enrollment decline is the result of factors like delayed vaccine distribution efforts in other regions of the world, particularly East and Southeast Asia, and economic crises in those countries.

Blanco said international students also struggle with acquiring visas, which they must carry to enter the United States. He said the pandemic has created delays and backlogs during the process of obtaining a visa, given issues like local lockdown measures and quarantine regulations in hard-hit regions like China and India, making an already difficult process even harder.

"This already, in many cases, was a complicated and cumbersome process," Blanco said. "And for the majority of last year, it was simply impossible to do that for many countries. And now, that's caused so many delays and such a backlog that that's a very significant, practical consideration."

Jeongeun Kim, an associate professor of higher and postsecondary education at Arizona State University, said the decline in international enrollment comes as a loss for all students. She said international students provide opportunities for domestic students to learn and experience different cultures and perspectives.

Kim said justifying a virtual American education to international students who have to remain in their home countries given international travel restrictions has been a challenge for recruiters at American schools.

International student enrollment 2012 - 2021



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Source: IRP

## Students staffers return to residence hall desks with new roles

**DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO**  
 STAFF WRITER

**TYLER KRAMBEER**  
 REPORTER

Students are working at front desks for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic – but this time in a different role from the previous student access monitor positions.

About 100 operations assistants – one of the eight new Student Affairs and Campus Living and Residential Education positions created this year after the elimination of resident advisers – will help students navigate campus services and act as customer service representatives for nine residence halls across campus. Officials said these positions are not meant to be security personnel but instead offer a "welcoming face" at the front desks of these buildings.

University spokesperson Crystal Nosal said the operations assistants are centered on "Neighborhood Hub" sites, located in larger residence halls, which offer students a range of miscellaneous resources, including blue carts, masks, bandages, chargers and games.

Student access monitors previously staffed residence hall desks

until the pandemic, where they acted a first line of security, recording everyone who entered the building and restricting access to students and their guests. Officials contracted Allied Universal Security during pandemic shutdowns to assign officers to monitor building lobbies while the student access monitor positions were inactive.

Operations assistants are scheduled in revolving shifts from 4 p.m. and ending at midnight in District and Potomac houses, The Aston, the Webb Building and Amsterdam, JBKO, Shenkman, South and Mitchell halls.

Fryda Cortes, a junior majoring in political science and sociology who is working as an operations assistant in The Aston and District House, said the operations assistant program does not foster the same sense of "community" or offer the same level of information about resources that the RA program did, especially for freshmen and sophomores who are less familiar with campus resources.

She said operations assistants receive less compensation than RAs, making it difficult for students who were relying on free housing and higher compensation as an RA to remain financially stable. Operations assistants earn about \$15.20 per hour, according to



Student access monitors previously staffed residence hall desks until the pandemic, when officials contracted Allied Universal Security to monitor building lobbies.

JOSEPH DECILOS | PHOTOGRAPHER

a university job posting, while RAs received a salary and free housing. "I took up this job because I

was supposed to be an RA, and then it got cancelled," she said. "As a student who was relying on the

RA system for housing, I feel like this is just a Band-Aid on a bullet wound."

# Professors launch substance use disorder training for health care professionals

**JACKSON LANZER**  
REPORTER

**SARAH HENDRICK**  
REPORTER

Faculty from three GW schools launched an online curriculum on substance use disorders to train health care professionals and any member of the University community.

The curriculum, which is composed of four modules on topics like the neurobiology and stigma behind substance use disorders, launched late last month in honor of Substance Abuse Prevention month. Reamer Bushardt, the senior associate dean for health sciences at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and one of the project's creators, said Project RESULT – which stands for “rethink substance use disorder practitioner learning and teaching,” according to its website — will help GW become a leader in training health professionals to diagnose and screen for substance use disorders.

“I'd love GW to be a national leader in how we prepare professionals, the advocacy work that we could do to support families and communities affected by substance use disorders and really leverage all of our campus expertise to really make an impact in substance use and addiction disorders,” Bushardt said.

Bushardt said the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agency aiming to reduce substance use, awarded GW a

\$200,000 contract two years ago to fund the project that launched late last month.

The most common addictive substances in the United States are tobacco, alcohol and marijuana, which about 40, 18 and 4.2 million people are addicted to respectively. Nearly 80 percent of U.S. college students have abused alcohol, according to Addiction-Center.

The project's team is composed of four faculty members from the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the Milken Institute School of Public Health and the School of Nursing.

Free registration is open on the project's website to any member of the GW community, and students can email any faculty member involved in the project to gain access to the Blackboard learning community, where they can take the online course. Bushardt said most students take four hours to complete the self-paced modules.

Bushardt said the first module explains the connection between brain disease and addiction to substances like alcohol and opioids, as well as the stigma around substance use disorders. He said the second module discusses contingency management, a behavioral therapy treatment that uses motivational incentives to help patients become abstinent from drugs and alcohol.

He said the third module will be about SBIRT – screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment – a method to diagnose individuals with substance use disorders for treatment. He said he



COURTESY OF GW MARKETING AND CREATIVE SERVICES  
Reamer Bushardt, the senior associate dean for health sciences at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, leads the team composed of four faculty from three of GW's colleges.

will teach the last module, which focuses on behavioral interventions and medications for substance use disorders.

He said the team is developing two new modules to treat patients with substance use disorders, with the first diving into motivational interviews, a technique professionals use to help patients resolve ambivalence about detaching from unhealthy behaviors, and the second about the

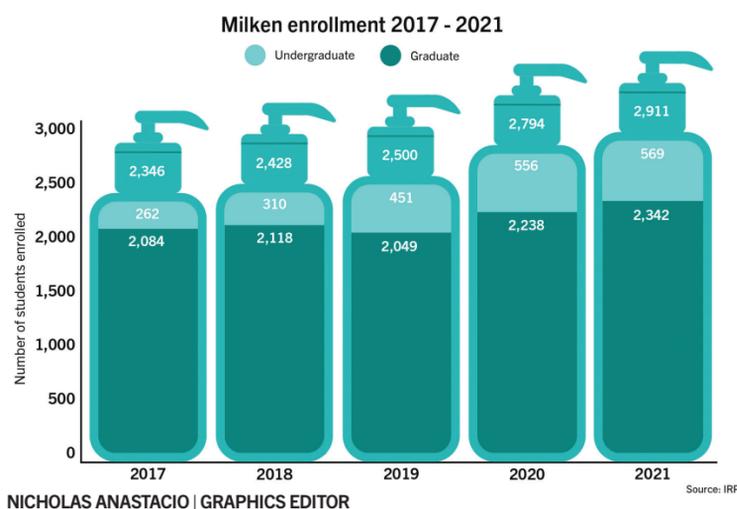
stigma patients with substance use disorders face.

“They feel ashamed,” Bushardt said. “They may feel that others are judging them, and it's a real barrier.”

Experts in psychiatry said educational programs like Project RESULT are critical to improve the screening and diagnosis of substance use disorders for early intervention.

Henry Kranzler, a professor of

psychiatry and the director of the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Studies of Addiction, said health care professionals may attribute substance addictions to their patients' “moral failing” instead of proven social and scientific factors. Family history of addiction, peer pressure and mental health disorders are all factors that affect the likelihood of developing a substance use disorder, according to the MayoClinic.



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

## Milken enrollment continues to rise through COVID-19 pandemic

**ISHANI CHETTRI**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS  
EDITOR

**ZAHAN RIYAZ**  
REPORTER

Enrollment at the Milken Institute School of Public Health has continued its nine-year climb this semester amid a three-year drop in University-wide enrollment lasting through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The total enrollment in Milken has risen by more than 16 percent to nearly 3,000 students this fall since the 2019-20 academic year, according to institutional data. Experts in enrollment management at public health schools said the enrollment increase is consistent with a nationwide trend in higher education as interest in public health fields has surged because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The number of undergraduates in Milken increased by more than 26 percent while the number of graduate students increased by more than 14 percent since the 2019 to 2020 academic year, according to institutional data. Officials said total University enrollment fell 2.1 percent this academic year at a Faculty Senate meeting last month, and the remaining nine schools saw simultaneous decreases in enrollment, like the College of Professional Studies and the School of Business.

Milken spokesperson Kathleen Facklemann did not return a request for comment.

Cindy Bryce, the associate dean for enrollment at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, said more students became interested in public health because the pandemic affected how the image and responsibilities of the field

were perceived in local communities and in the media. She said her school observed significant increases in the enrollment rate in fall 2020 and 2021.

“It's more than just that there was a pandemic, it's that the pandemic played a role in educating the public about the importance of public health,” she said.

Milken adjusted its admissions process in fall 2019, reducing the GPA requirement for the public health major from 3.0 to 2.75 and allowing students to apply directly as a public health major, which helped drive undergraduate enrollment at the school.

Clare Norton, the associate dean for enrollment management at the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health, said the pandemic has significantly raised the profile of public health, contributing to increased enrollment. She said community health care has become a more common discussion topic for people across the country, which has led more students to consider pursuing public health as a possible career path.

“A result of this pandemic is that there's been a lot of talk about public health work, predominantly epidemiology and infectious disease,” she said. “As all of that has risen to prominence, it's become part of regular news conversations and regular dinner table conversation, and I think we've seen people saying they should be in public health.”

She said universities have recognized the importance of more students studying public health in the face of an ongoing pandemic, and her school saw a “dramatic increase” in applications in the past two academic years, leading to their largest masters

in public health class currently.

“We felt like it was a critical moment in public health and that we really needed to be educating as many of the best minds as we could possibly accommodate,” she said.

Zachary Maggio, the associate dean of enrollment management at New York University's School of Global Public Health, said many workers view graduate school, especially in public health, as a new career path after the pandemic triggered a mass resignation of non-essential workers.

He said the current “prominence” of community health care in the media has directly caused the surge in enrollment. Maggio said a public health degree is now seen as a viable alternative because of public figures like Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser.

Maggio said the growth in public health enrollment has started to plateau this year, despite its previous exponential increase. He said applications are down eight percent from last year nationwide, even though the pandemic has sparked new interest and activity in public health.

David Hamer, a professor of global health at Boston University's School of Public Health, said a shortage of jobs during the pandemic response, like contact tracing and lab testing, has failed to meet the demand for public health professionals and led to increased public health subsidies. He said the growing interest in epidemiology is essential for the future coordination of disease control and public health programs at universities nationwide.

## Chemical system failure in Smith Center pool upends club team practices

**ZACHARY BLACKBURN**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Air quality issues in the Smith Center's pool disrupted practices for club water sports last week, leaving teams with fewer options to prepare for competitions.

Officials said the pool's chemical system failed recently, forcing club teams to cancel, delay or relocate practices that were originally scheduled there. University spokesperson Crystal Nosal said officials ordered a new “chemical integration system” for the pool to fix the air quality issue, and they will install the system Wednesday following a six-week manufacturing and shipping process.

She said officials had to manually add chemicals to the pool for cleanliness, which is a lengthy process. Club sports leaders said athletes have experienced respiratory issues and irritated eyes while in the pool, which they blame on the chemical imbalance.

Nosal said officials are limiting how many people can use the pool throughout the week to make it easier to clean and maintain because of the increased time it takes to put chemicals in manually.

“Currently chemicals are being manually maintained and due to the complexity, the decision was made to simplify the process,” she said in an email. “With adding a larger bathing load, manually adding chemicals gets difficult due to schedule.”

Nosal said officials will lift occupancy limits in the pool after they install the new chemical system, and the current manual transfer of chemicals to the pool has ensured it is safe to use. She said club teams were notified that their practices were delayed, and the teams have not held any practice off campus.

“The safety of our occupants is always a top priority, and the pool has been safe to occupy at all times,” she said. “All occupants have the ability to go off-site to practice and none have done so.”

Nosal declined to say if any groups are currently allowed to use the pool.

Peter Brukx, the president of the club swim team, said officials cancelled the team's practices at the Smith Center last week until after Thanksgiving because of air quality issues caused by the chemical system failure. Brukx said the air quality was poor because the Smith Center didn't have adequate air circulation, which caused chlorine chemicals to cluster around the indoor space.

“The pool wasn't cleaning the air well enough, it wasn't circulating the air well enough and the chemical balance in the pool was off,” he said. “So you end up with the air quality totally out of whack because the chemicals are out of whack.”

Brukx said officials told the team last Monday that all Smith Center practices would be canceled and offered no immediate backup plan for the team, which has an upcoming meet at the University of Pittsburgh this weekend. Brukx said several of the team's swimmers were forced out of the pool because of coughing fits from the poor air quality during a practice last month.

“We had one practice where multiple of our swimmers were out of the pool coughing, just because the air quality was so bad,” he said. “They told us they'd be canceling all our practices until Thanksgiving and they didn't have an immediate option for us.”

Brukx said members of the team are developing plans to practice in Arlington for the national championships, which 10 swimmers

qualified for, until the Smith Center is free to use.

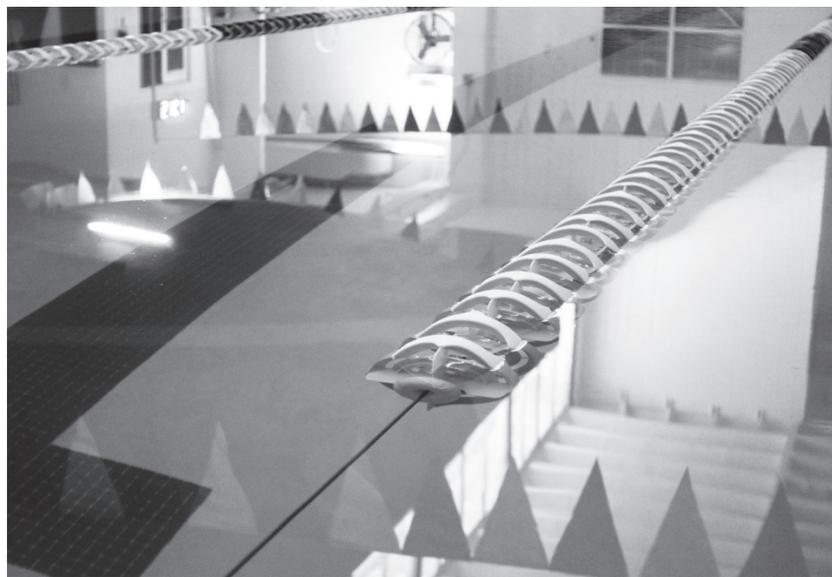
Brukx said officials told the team on Friday that it could practice at the Lerner Health and Wellness Center's pool for an hour and a half every Wednesday until the issues were fixed, a drop-off from the three weekly practices that used to be held at the Smith Center before the issues arose. He said the three-lane pool at Lerner was relatively small in comparison to the eight-lane Smith Center pool, more than doubling the number of people who must share each lane during practices.

Brukx also said the heating system for the pool at Lerner was broken, leaving the temperature significantly colder than normal competitive standards. He said the pool's temperature was about 73 degrees Fahrenheit on Tuesday, while the American Red Cross' pool temperature guidelines say the temperature should be about 78 to 82 degrees for “intense” activity.

Abigail Cate, the vice president of the club water polo team, said the cancellation of practices meant her team had no place to practice for most of last week.

Cate said the air quality issues were present in September when the team started practices, and they have since spoken to recreation officials about fixing the chemical problems. She said officials didn't respond to concerns about the pool quality until the varsity swim team coach complained about it late last month, which led to the cancellation of club team practices and the purchase of a new chemical system.

“We were like, ‘Our players are having respiratory issues, like it's burning our eyes,’” she said. “And they didn't do anything about it until last week, when the varsity swim coach complained about it.”



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The eight-lane pool is frequently used by GW's club swim team.

# Faculty compile FDA database to track infectious disease mutations

**EDDIE HERZIG**  
REPORTER

A team of faculty members is compiling sequences of genes from infectious diseases into a database for the Food and Drug Administration to help researchers detect new mutations of viruses and create vaccines and tests.

Researchers from GW, Temple University and Embleema, a medical technology company that specializes in data management and analysis, received a \$2 million contract in September to input sequences of viruses into a database that will annotate characteristics like their size, cleanliness and mutations. The team's researchers said scientists can reference the database to match sequences they are studying with variants of viruses like COVID-19 to quickly detect new mutations and stay on top of vaccines and treatments.

Raja Mazumder, a professor of biochemistry and molecular medicine and the project team's lead, said the team will develop standards for the database like the minimum size and the level of cleanliness of a genetic sequence that they will use to review the quality of

bacteria and viruses that researchers and health care practitioners submit to the database.

"This project is geared mostly towards detection like which portion of the virus is circulating in a certain population, so you'll get the sample, sequence it and then you'll use this resource to find out what is it," Mazumder said.

Mazumder said his team will then use these standards to create annotations on the virus samples that researchers submit to delineate the changes occurring in their genetic makeup and discrepancies between other viruses and bacteria.

He said the annotations will also indicate when and where the source took the sample, allowing the researchers to track diseases. He said researchers can analyze the data when trying to find connections to other outbreaks, like Salmonella or coronavirus.

"You have to have a reference database of pathogen genome that are correctly annotated and curated and so on so that once you have the sequences and you can use some piece of software to map it to what is known, so then you say 'Oh look this is a SARS-CoV-2 strain' or

"This is a Salmonella strain that was actually found earlier in other outbreaks three months ago," Mazumder said.

He said the research team has been working to create these datasets and analyze the quality of submissions for nearly 15 years, and it is now ready to implement them in the public database. He said test manufacturers can now use the data to develop new diagnostic tests for viruses and bacteria.

Keith Crandall, a member of the team and the director of the Computational Biology Institute in the Milken Institute School of Public Health said the team's work will mainly focus on the coronavirus, HIV, influenza and Salmonella to diversify the database with viruses and bacteria.

"We're trying to make sure that we have data that includes both viruses and bacteria because of the differences in complexity of those genomes and size of those genomes to be sure we're building tools in our database to accommodate a wide variety of sizes of genomic data," Crandall said.

Crandall said similar databases will allow public health officials and the FDA to quickly analyze new vi-



ANTHONY PELTIER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Raja Mazumder, a professor of biochemistry and molecular medicine, said the team has been creating the datasets for nearly 15 years and is now ready to implement them in the public database.

ruses.

"If you have a new virus that all of a sudden starts killing people, the first thing you want to do is figure out what that is and to identify whether it's something you've already seen before or whether it's new and what it's close to," Crandall said.

Robert Chu, the CEO of Embleema, said his company works on the technical elements of the project like

the algorithms and software of the database. He said his team relies on GW researchers to analyze the biological side of the project, like the genetic sequences in the viruses and the bacteria that Embleema will put into the database.

"We understand bioinformatics when it's data, but we don't understand the biology of all these viruses and bacteria," Chu

said. "This is where George Washington University is so powerful, so that's why it's such a good combination to go in front of the FDA and a successful one too."

Chu said scientists and researchers can use the database to quickly search for specific viruses, specific mutations or even a particular outbreak once the team publishes the database publicly in summer 2022.

## Bowser announces re-election bid for 2022 mayoral race

**ABBY KENNEDY**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

**MICHELLE VASSILEV**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Mayor Muriel Bowser will run for re-election in the District's mayoral race next year.

Bowser announced her campaign for her third term via Twitter Thursday, harkening back to her efforts in moving the "city forward" during unprecedented times like the pandemic and the Capitol insurrection. Bowser will face at-large D.C. Council member Robert White and Ward 8 Council member Trayon White in the mayoral race after the two announced their campaigns last month.

Bowser said she will participate in the public financing program, a program that ensures mayoral candidates can only receive small sum donations of up to \$200. The goal of the program is to provide an incentive for more candidates to compete in the electoral process and engage with everyday citizens and their neighbors to seek fi-



FILE PHOTO BY DEAN WHITELAW  
Bowser said she will participate in D.C.'s public campaign financing program for the election.

ancial support instead of relying on large contributions from special interests.

"Each dollar you give is matched 5 to 1 allowing us to engage more voters in a conversation about DC's bright future," Bowser said in the statement. "Together we will create more opportunity for all Washingtonians. Let's keep pushing."

Bowser said while she was mayor, the District fought against COVID-19 and pushed for affordable housing, better education, wom-

en's rights and public safety.

"You trusted me to lead D.C. through these unprecedented times," Bowser said in the statement. "I am asking once again for your trust and your vote in the Democratic Primary on June 21st."

Bowser has served as the city's mayor for two full terms after she was first elected in 2014, making her the first female D.C. mayor in two decades.

Bowser cited her administration's push in her past terms for af-

fordable housing, better schools, women's rights, public safety, D.C. values and for D.C. statehood. She said the D.C. government's finances are "excellent" and the office is ethical, accountable and transparent.

"But there are still challenges for us to tackle, and we have more work to do," the statement reads. "That's why I am running for re-election to be your mayor of the greatest city in the world, my hometown, and soon to be the #51stState."

## Torah desecration sparks safety concerns around TKE house

From Page 1

He said members of the fraternity have spent more time together during the past week, going out to dinner or playing flag football on the National Mall to support each other.

Osborne said TKE members are also concerned about safety

inside the townhouse without security guards or cameras to monitor dangerous behavior, making it easier for perpetrators to break into Greek life townhouses. He said he spoke with Brian Joyce, the directory of fraternity and sorority life, to increase police presence and street lighting on 22nd Street

by the TKE house.

Joshua Orenstein, a junior and member of TKE, applauded University President Thomas LeBlanc's statement condemning the vandalism as an act of antisemitism, but he encouraged the University to reach out to Jewish organizations to determine the best ways to sup-

port Jewish students. He said officials have failed to match the same response to the Torah desecration during previous acts of antisemitism — like the Snapchat video capturing a student threatening to bomb Israel in 2019 and a swastika that was drawn on a students' door in 2020.

## Students cope with pandemic losses as fall semester progresses

From Page 1

Kaplan said his fear of coronavirus has heightened following his grandpa's death. He said people are "selfish" if they don't get vaccinated, because they don't think about how they can risk the life of someone else's grandfather.

"This is going to be someone dying horribly," Kaplan said. "This is not a way someone should die, alone in a hospital, with a feeding tube, scared out of their mind."

**Ria Gupta**

Sophomore Ria Gupta lost five family members to coronavirus in India this past March.

Gupta said all five were extended family, and she found it stress-

ful staying in the United States, far away from where she could help.

"I was losing multiple people a week, and so it was like the constant feeling of grief hearing 'Oh yet another person wasn't able to overcome it,'" Gupta said. "It feels horrible because I especially felt so guilty, because I hadn't seen some of my relatives in so long."

Gupta said of all her relatives who passed away, she was closest with her great uncle, a quiet person who always wanted her family to visit him and showed his love through gifts and food.

"Whenever we would go visit him, he would make sure there was a whole buffet of food for us," Gupta said. "He was the first relative that as soon as he heard

that we were in India, would make sure that my mom came to visit him."

Gupta said her great uncle contracted the virus in March, a week after he decided not to get the vaccine because India drastically exaggerated the number of individuals who were getting sick waiting in line for their dose.

"It was devastating to hear because this whole thing could have easily been avoided, but because of misinformation in the area and because of hesitancy and because of not a proper distribution of information, it caused my family so much pain," Gupta said.

Within three weeks of getting diagnosed with the coronavirus, her great uncle passed away.

**Vidhi Patel**

Junior Vidhi Patel said her cousin twice-removed died from coronavirus two months ago after being placed on oxygen as his lungs failed at a hospital in Gujarat, India.

Patel said she used to visit her cousin in India and remembers tasting fresh crops and interacting with animals on his farm.

Patel said her cousin wasn't vaccinated because the vaccine was still in short supply in India, especially in the villages where he lived.

She said she wishes she had attended the funeral in India, where family members wear white clothes and ignite logs that surround the deceased person's body to cremate it.

She said she is angry at her classmates who show up without masks or don't wear them correctly over their nose because of their disregard for the public health risks associated with the pandemic.

"The worst part of being a person who's been affected by a loss is seeing how carefree other people can be and knowing that they probably won't even lose anyone to it," Patel said.

She said people with inadequate health care access and underlying medical conditions like cancer will be most affected by those who decide to not wear masks. Patel said she reported one of her professors for not wearing his mask during class and not maintaining six feet of separation from his students.

## Rise in antisemitism rooted in lack of education: experts

From Page 1

**November 2019: Snapchat video filled with antisemitic speech shakes campus**

In November 2019, a student posted a video on Snapchat, showing a female student, who said she was intoxicated at the time, calling Jewish people "pieces of shit" and threatening to bomb Israel. Officials obtained the video before it was then posted publicly on Facebook.

An unfilmed individual was recorded in the video saying "What are we going to do to Israel?" to which the woman responded, "Bro, we're going to fucking bomb Israel, bro. Fuck out of here, Jewish pieces of shit."

University President Thomas LeBlanc condemned the video in a statement a day after it was publicly posted, saying the comments made in the video were "disturbing and hateful." He said the University would not tolerate antisemitism or any form of bigotry on campus.

A week after the Snapchat video was posted publicly, about 100 students and SA members gathered in Fungler Hall to share personal stories about their experiences with antisemitism on campus with administrators. Students at the forum called on officials to share more information about how they planned to take disciplinary action against individuals involved in the video.

**May 2021: Student alleges professor assigned paper involving antisemitic metaphor**

A student alleged through a post on "Jewish on Campus," an Instagram account that anonymously shares students' stories of antisemitism on their college campuses, that a professor in a public speaking class assigned a paper about Adolf Hitler's public speaking skills. The post states the professor required students to analyze an antisemitic metaphor Hitler used to describe Jewish people as a cancer or infestation that must be terminated.

Officials said the Office for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement was "looking into" the incident, and students who were impacted could reach out to

the office via email or its bias incident reporting website.

**November 2021: Email threatens Jewish population with antisemitic speech**

Rabbi Yudi Steiner, the executive director at Rohr Chabad Center, said he received an email last Monday calling the TKE house vandalism a "Act of Resistance Against The Oppressor," comparing Jewish people to Nazis and stating that they "must have a death wish." Steiner said he posted the email and his response on social media to show Jewish students there was nothing to be afraid of and that GW is still a loving place for Jewish people even though a singular person was hateful.

**Educational gaps, online hate speech have spurred antisemitism, experts say**

Experts in Jewish history said officials should address factors influencing the uptick in cases of antisemitism on college campuses, including a lack of education and a trend in antisemitic discourse on social media, to reverse the growing rise.

Jonathan Sarna, the director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies and a professor of American Jewish history at Brandeis University, said officials across higher education need to clarify their opposition to hate speech and antisemitism, which are "antithetical" to everything they stand for. He said universities should respond to antisemitic events with statements from top administrators, increased education and strict punishments against perpetrators of hateful acts.

He said antisemitism will also inevitably lead to other forms of hatred on campus against other minority groups.

Jeffrey Herf, a professor of history at the University of Maryland who specializes in twentieth century Germany, said university offices of diversity and inclusion across the country are a "huge problem" because their education tends to focus less on antisemitism and more on other forms of hate on campus, like racism. He said education on antisemitism must increase to stop the issue on campuses nationwide.

# Alumna, former aide to Hillary Clinton reflects on career in political arena

**EMMANUEL CHING**  
REPORTER

A former aide and chief of staff for Hillary Clinton discussed her professional career in public service at Betts Theater Wednesday.

Huma Abedin, an alumna of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, recapped her career serving as Clinton's aide, from interning during Clinton's time as first lady to working as her deputy chief of staff when she was secretary of state. Nearly 280 people attended the event, which was moderated by Joy-Ann Reid, the host of "The ReidOut" on MSNBC and hosted by the Politics and Prose bookstore.

The event served as a review of Abedin's new book "Both/And: A Life in Many Worlds," a memoir of her experience as one of Clinton's closest advisers.

Abedin said her family viewed education as a "religion" with her family matriarchs defying societal norms, which was discouraged in her ethnic community. She said her parents' emphasis on the value of interreligious and intercultural awareness helped prepare her for life at GW.

She said she felt immediately welcomed at GW because of its diverse student body, and her classmates' persistence was the reason why she applied for an internship at the White House.

"The reason I walked onto this campus and said 'This place is for me,' is because it had that international community," she said.

Abedin said she felt the same sense of community when she interned for Clinton. She said as soon as she walked into the White House, she had an "ammah," which is Hebrew for a community of people where she never felt alone.

"I walked into that office and just fell in love with the work, the people – they only looked a couple years older than me – and I didn't even know if I was a Democrat," she said.

Abedin said as part of Hillary Clinton's staff, she felt a need to protect the then-first lady from former President Bill Clinton's betrayal during the Monica Lewinsky scandal and subsequent impeachment proceedings. She said she was shocked and couldn't process the situation, but she still had to carry on her duties serving Clinton at the time.

"I think all of us in 'Hillaryland' kind of felt this immediate need and want to really protect her," she said.

Abedin said while the scandal involving her ex-husband and former U.S. representative Anthony Weiner, who sent sexually explicit text messages to a 15 year old, was shocking, it was not the most difficult part of her political career. She said the toughest hardship she faced came when Republican members of Congress accused her of being in association with terrorist organizations in 2016.

She said the accusations pained her, because they attacked her



Alumna Huma Abedin began as a White House intern in 1996 while attending GW.

ANTHONY PELTIER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

mother, late father and brother for their religious identity as Muslims.

"Back in 1997, I felt very accepted," she said. "Then, 9/11, these horrific acts basically cast a shadow on my whole community, and I saw it happening in real time."

Abedin said the best advice she received within the political arena

is to feel and reflect on her emotions during difficult events. She said she was furious and felt personally responsible for Clinton's loss following her 2016 presidential campaign, where she served as vice chairperson, because of the investigation that opened 11 days before the election into her former husband's sex-

ting scandal and related emails.

She said she stopped feeling emotions in general, because it felt selfish to do so at the time.

"Allow yourself to feel," she said. "Don't shut things out, because I did it for a long time, and it almost killed me as you'll read in the book."

## CRIME LOG

### THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Academic Center  
11/1/2021 – Unknown  
Closed Case

A female staff member reported a stolen computer. She received a notification that it was delivered, but the package was not there.

**No suspects or witnesses.**

### THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Hensley Hall (Mount Vernon Campus)  
11/2/2021 – Unknown  
Open Case

A female staff member reported a television stolen from the lounge at Hensley Hall.

**Case open.**

### DEFACING OR BURNING CROSS OR RELIGIOUS SYMBOL, TAKING PROP WITHOUT RIGHT/OTHER

Shenkman Hall  
11/2/2021 – Unknown  
Open Case

A student reported that her mezuzah was taken from her residence hall room door before it was returned damaged.

**Case open.**

### THEFT II

2200 Block of I Street NW  
11/6/2021 – 12:23 p.m.  
Open Case

The victim observed a suspect searching through his backpack, which he had left unattended at the location along with his cellphone that had been left charging in an outlet, according to a report from the Metropolitan Police Department. The report states the suspect fled the location and the victim realized that his phone was missing.

**Case open.**

—Compiled by Carly Neilson



Metro-rail riders have experienced delays on all lines for weeks since last month's train derailment.

RAPHAEL KELLNER | PHOTOGRAPHER

## Reduced Metro-rail service to continue through end of month

**LAUREN SFORZA**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS  
EDITOR

Limited Metro-rail service will continue for the rest of November as the agency begins to reinstate more than half of its fleet, which was taken out of service after a train derailed last month, The Wash-

ington Post reported.

The Washington Metro-rail Safety Commission on Friday approved Metro's plan to test new inspection protocols, which would check wheels on every train car every eight days after last month's derailment was linked to wheel and axle issues, according to the

Post. This could allow Metro's 7000-series rail cars to return to service after the commission pulled the cars, which comprise about 60 percent of Metro's rail fleet, last month out of safety concerns.

This announcement comes after Metro said last week that reduced service

would last through at least Nov. 15 as they outline a new safety plan to bring back the suspended Metro rail cars.

Metro will test out its new inspection schedule over the next two weeks, the Post reported. If the testing is approved, then this data will be included in the

Washington Metro-rail Safety Commission's plan to bring back the 7000-series rail cars in December.

The Metro is also using its older model cars available in storage to alleviate wait times to increase the number of daily trains from 31 trains to 50.

# Duke professor talks role of digital storytelling in Israel-Palestine conflict

**KATELYN ALUISE**  
REPORTER

The Institute for Middle East Studies held a virtual discussion on the use of digital storytelling in the new age of conflict between Israel and Palestine Thursday.

Rebecca Stein, an associate professor of cultural anthropology at Duke University, discussed how the increase in the use of cameras is changing the politics of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is explained in Stein's recent book, "Screen Shots: State Violence on Camera in Israel and Palestine." Shana Marshall, an assistant research professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs, and Imani Cheers, a professor of media and public affairs, moderated the event.

Stein said "Screen Shots" is the second book in a multi-volume project that considers how the proliferation of cameras across the Arab-Israeli theatre changes the perception of state violence. She said although the conflict between Israel and Pal-

estine is centuries old, it has evolved in the digital age through the use of cameras that victimize and gain supporters for both Palestinian rights activists and the Israeli government and defense forces.

She said there was a "digital promise" that greater visibility and more cameras capturing the conflict from multiple angles and collecting evidence would create a political narrative for each of the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

"My book is looking at all these different eyes on the scene of state violence, all these different investments in the camera and what happens when the camera is live when state violence unfolds," Stein said.

She said the Israeli military believes that if the military has more cameras, the government can justify its actions and the occupation of historic Palestine. She said human rights activists supporting Palestine hope to use cameras to collect evidence of Israeli violence and secure international justice

for Palestinians, but they're failing because of Israeli military obstacles, like beatings and land occupations.

Stein said officials must have the original copy to use footage as evidence in a courtroom, requiring Palestinian videographers to physically deliver the video because of unreliable internet speeds.

"They had to actually deliver the memory stick or the VHS cassette physically to the West Jerusalem office across a highly militarized landscape of occupation with its numerous constraints and violently so on the Palestinian movement," Stein said.

She said Israeli forces are adopting a "repudiation script" through their attempts to silence Palestinian activists and label their records as false. Stein said the Palestinian movement has run into failure in its inability to present footage that has been validated in court to prove the human rights abuses that Palestinians are facing.

"I'm proposing that a re-



Stein's book examines how individual recordings of state civilian killings have shaped narratives in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

ally important avenue into this archaeology of fake news is a visual arena," she said. "Because the visual archive of state violence was such a profound piece of the story, these cameras became an incredibly important site

of contestation."

She said Palestinian witnesses have been unable to attain justice because the Israeli right-wing views them as "unreliable narrators" of their abuses and even their own history, land and the

violence they face from Israeli forces.

"A lot of the processes that I'm tracking here are really an attempt to take colonial argumentation, colonial processes and update them in the digital age," she said.

RACHEL SCHWARTZ | PHOTOGRAPHER

# Opinions

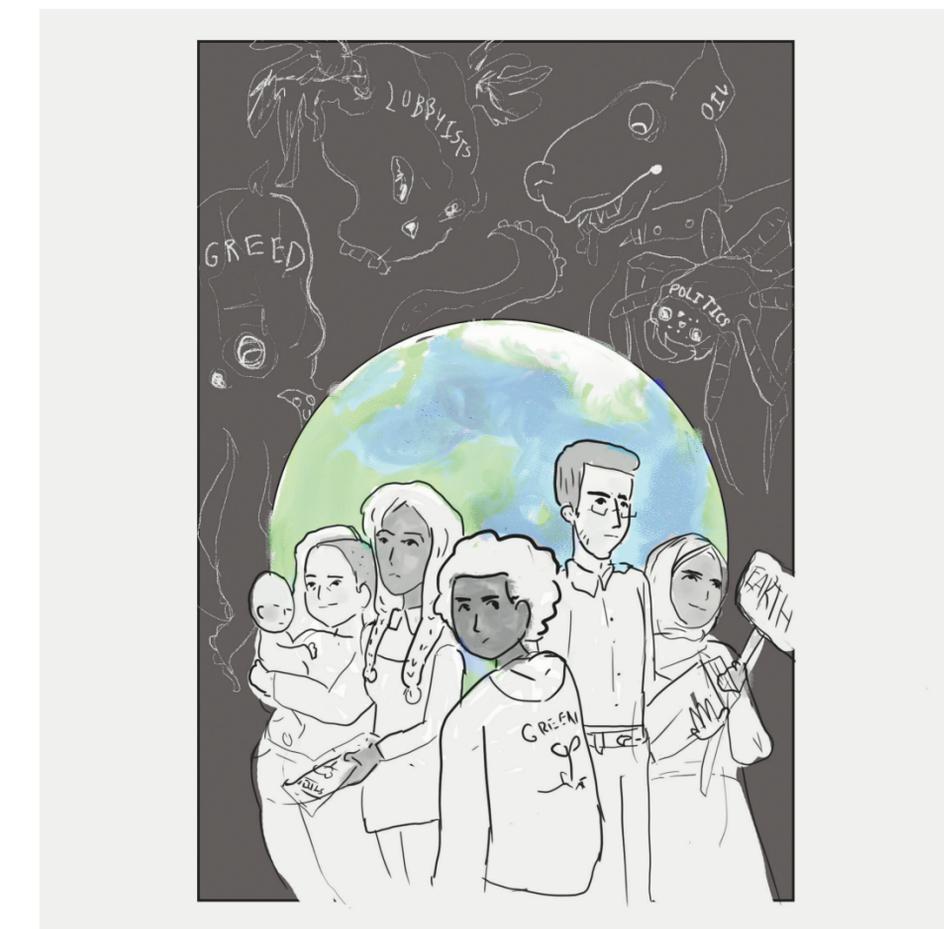
Nov. 8, 2021 • Page 6

## Students should take hunger-striking climate activists seriously

A group of five young hunger strikers backed by the Sunrise Movement sat in wheelchairs in front of the U.S. Capitol building and the White House for two weeks, imploring President Joe Biden to take stronger climate action with the Build Back Better agenda. They officially ended their fasting on Nov. 3 as Biden promised a 52 percent decrease in emissions by 2030 at COP26, the United Nations climate conference currently happening in Glasgow, Scotland. During their time in D.C., the hunger strikers were joined by Fridays for Future protesters, Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr.—the president of Hip Hop Caucus, a nonprofit that promotes political activism for young voters—sympathizers and journalists for lively demonstrations and vigils on the National Mall.

**Ken Baeza**  
Opinions Writer

Attending the activists' protest in front of the White House on Oct. 22 and keeping up with their Twitter feed made me see how they shed tears, chanted with passion, held posters and intensely confronted politicians like Senator Joe Manchin, D-W.Va. to advocate for the environment. These demonstrations, without a doubt, might have seemed dramatic and sensational to many. After all, even though several strangers agreed with the cause and quickly joined the protests, many bystanders were hesitant to step in, and some even went out of their way to insult the hunger strikers for their alleged hypocrisy. The climate movement as a whole might seem theatrical, but the backgrounds of those involved and the factors that cause their emotional responses



SOFIJA JUODAITIS | CARTOONIST

demonstrate that their actions are completely justifiable.

To comprehend and rationalize the dramatic reactions of protesters, being aware of how climate change has directly impacted them is es-

sential. If we fail to do so, it is easy to fall into the trap of seeing them as privileged idealists who are protesting fueled by a savior complex. It is reasonable to find it odd for climate activists to cry because the sea level

rose eight inches in the last century or because 270 billion metric tons of ice are melting every year – but when we understand what these numbers exactly mean and what their impact is on their daily lives,

everything becomes clearer.

The strikers' large personal investment in the movement demonstrates their level of commitment they have to calling on political leaders to take action. For instance, one of them, Abby Leedy, a 20-year-old from Philadelphia, has been actively involved in the climate movement for more than three years. In 2019, she addressed her City Council representing the Youth Climate Strike; in 2020, she raised awareness about climate change with her appearance in the TV show "Queer Eye" and she is currently taking a gap year working for the Sunrise Movement. This level of commitment demonstrates how much the movement means to her, consequently explaining her sentimental attachment to the cause.

Of course, there will always be people in climate strikes who only join because they see them as opportunities to upload a story on Instagram and get some attention. GW students must consider the impact these actions can have on people's perception of the climate movement, because they can ultimately discourage many from supporting the cause. It's important to not be deceived by their presence and remember that these strikers are simply advocating for a better future.

Ultimately, it all comes down to understanding that even though climate strikes might seem dramatic, the displayed passion is simply a reaction to the imminent climate catastrophe we face. Instead of judging and trying to second-guess others' intentions and genuineness, students all must work together to hold politicians to their word and demand them to take action while we still have time.

—Ken Baeza, a freshman majoring in finance, is an opinions writer.

## GW needs a cultural shift against antisemitism

### STAFF EDITORIAL

The desecration of a Torah scroll at the TKE fraternity house on campus last week has left campus reeling, and has left Jewish students and organizations wondering when the University will take action to make campus safe and welcoming for them.

This vile act is part of a broader problem of antisemitism at GW that needs to be addressed. A cultural shift against antisemitism needs to happen at GW in a way that is intentional, clear and takes place at every level. The University should make good on its pledge to not tolerate antisemitism and it needs to communicate exactly how it is going to discipline perpetrators and educate the community so that these kinds of incidents are stopped before they happen. From administrators on down to individual students, everybody has a role to play in rooting out antisemitism and making campus safe.

The vandalism at TKE is not an isolated incident even this semester. Last Tuesday, another student reported that a mezuzah, a small scroll of parchment placed on a doorpost traditionally inscribed with Torah verses, was stolen from her door and returned to her in a damaged state. On the Instagram page of Jewish on Campus, a student-led nonprofit that works to fight antisemitism on college campuses, GW's name comes up several times, another concerning phenomenon that highlights the culture of antisemitism at GW.

Jewish student organizations like GW Hillel and GW for Israel have spoken out against the incident as well as against the University's response. The president of GW for Israel,

Ezra Meyer, said there is a "substantive follow up that is lacking" in the University's response, and that students need to be educated on antisemitism, a topic that is missing in current diversity and inclusion training videos. According to a 2020 Jewish on Campus data collection, GW students reported 25 incidences of antisemitism to the group in 2020, the second-highest number of incidents on a campus after New York University's 30.

The administration needs to ensure that these incidents don't repeat themselves as they have for the past couple of years. Not only do administrators need to take care of the issue by disciplining perpetrators of antisemitism on campus, but they need to communicate their intentions to do so. The GW community deserves to know whether those who vandalize and spread hatred have been taken to task as a result of their harmful actions.

Combating hate requires an all-hands-on-deck approach from the University as an institution and the GW community. In the immediate term, GW needs to make clear what kinds of disciplinary actions will be given out to students who commit hate crimes and perpetuate antisemitism and bigotry. College students are not children – we're all adults here, and no amount of ignorance or youthful naivete can explain dumping laundry detergent on a Torah. This kind of behavior should be met with disciplinary action, and students should know exactly what kinds of consequences they will incur if they do similar things. LeBlanc said in an email that the GW community will not

tolerate hate – GW needs to prove it.

But not all acts of antisemitism are as discrete and clear as desecrating a religious text. The off-color comments, microaggressions and misconceptions that run rampant in student dialogue that can make Jewish students feel unsafe on their own campus. The University should combat this via education, be it by requiring students to learn about antisemitism and Jewish culture through courses or modules, or by communicating more specific information through community-wide emails. While you might not be able to educate someone out of pouring laundry detergent on a religious text, you can teach people about avoiding stereotyping language and microaggressions.

Students have a role to play, too. Every single person everywhere has a basic responsibility to be an upstander, not a bystander, when any form of injustice is taking place. In this case, that means interceding when someone says or does something antisemitic. It costs nothing and requires very little effort to smack down a slur or trope that somebody invokes. And it should be self-evident that you should step in if you see someone pouring laundry detergent on a religious text.

Fundamentally, combating antisemitism at GW is going to require a cultural shift. There needs to be an explicit, intentional effort at every level of the GW community to root out antisemitic words and deeds. The path forward is neither easy nor simple, but it's necessary. Jewish students deserve to feel safe on their campus.

## Professors should scrap multiple-choice testing

Almost every student at GW knows what it's like to take soul-crushing, multiple-choice exams that require straight memorization and hours of trying to decipher ambiguous questions. But students' annoyance aside, the use of multiple-choice tests has some major problems – although they've become a go-to way to easily test students, especially during the pandemic, they're still poor learning tools that are highly susceptible to cheating.

**Charlie Mark**  
Opinions Writer

GW should encourage learning across all disciplines and multiple-choice exams do the opposite. They contain unclear language, open the floodgates to academic misconduct and worst of all, hinder the learning process. What professors who assign multiple-choice exams could never anticipate is that, despite their advantages, they impede the academic goals of GW. In their efforts to promote deep thinking and learning, professors should stop giving multiple-choice tests.

Multiple-choice formats include unclear and ambiguous language. According to Cognitive Scientist Patti Schank, most multiple-choice questions are not well written. And ironically enough, the answers to these questions are factual, far from unclear and ambiguous. One would imagine the straightforward nature of answers calls for a straightforward nature of questions, but this is not the case. Instead, multiple-

choice exams boast clear answers to unclear questions.

Poorly-worded questions interfere with the learning process. This does a disservice not only to students but also to GW's goals. At best, multiple-choice exams simplify the grading process and measure fact-based knowledge and at worst, they discourage students from developing deep thinking skills.

Professors should also note the other drawbacks of multiple-choice exams, like cheating, so they can propose better alternatives. In the 2019-2020 academic year, coinciding with the start of pandemic-era learning, academic integrity reports rose dramatically, tripling at the business school.

Research has found that multiple-choice formats are specifically conducive to cheating because they give students few answer options, all of which are rooted in an objective fact. This enables students to easily collaborate with each other to discover which fact is true. An ill-retrieved answer is only a text or GroupMe message away. Students can also look up the right choice online in a matter of seconds. These methods of cheating are made easier by the virtual space, which now plays host to many multiple-choice exams.

Despite this, professors have decided to try improving multiple-choice exams before eliminating them, using tools like LockDown Browser that prevent students from adding other tabs online. Andrew Butler of Washington University in St. Louis conducted a study in 2018 that outlined

ways to improve the clarity of multiple-choice tests, such as avoiding "all of the above" as an answer option. The bottom line is that multiple-choice exams are a trap. Clearly written questions only perpetuate the cycle of academic misconduct. They will always be prone to cheating despite anti-cheating software and they will always be prone to reduced learning.

Across all disciplines, professors should replace multiple-choice exams with more open-ended assessments like essays and short-answer questions. These formats are a logical alternative to multiple-choice items, as they encourage students to form a thesis, develop an opinion or solve a problem. Even in areas like STEM, open-ended exam styles effectively judge fact-based knowledge. Additionally, research has proven open-ended assessments are at lower risk of cheating than their multiple-choice counterparts. Essays and short answer questions discourage students from looking up the answer online, because when worded originally, they can't. Instead, open-ended exams require students to find their own answers. This translates to analytical thinking and thus achieves GW's most important academic goal.

Perhaps multiple-choice exams were necessary during the pandemic, but they are not up to par with GW's standards and objectives. To further the learning process, professors should stop giving multiple-choice exams.

—Charlie Mark, a freshman majoring in political communication, is an opinions writer.

# Culture

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## THE SCENE

**RHYTHM AND FLO**  
Wednesday, Nov. 10 | The Gathering Spot  
DC | \$50  
Celebrate the fourth annual DMV Black  
Restaurant Week with a night of live  
music, food and a panel.

**NATIVE CINEMA SHOWCASE**  
Friday, Nov. 12 | Virtual | Free  
Discover the best of Native film through  
the National Museum of the American  
Indian's virtual program offering 47 feature  
films available for viewing on demand.

**RELEASED  
THIS WEEK:**

**NEW ALBUM: "VALENTINE" BY SNAIL MAIL**

## Students surprise beloved Vex driver with birthday gift

**RILEY GOODFELLOW**  
REPORTER

After just four months on the job, Mount Vernon Express driver Gwen Morris is already known by many student passengers as their "second mom" for her kindness and protective nature.

Freshman Megan Godshalk said Morris is quick to remember students' names, encourages them with kind comments or fist bumps and prioritizes their safety. To return the kindness, Godshalk and other students who ride the Vex with "Ms. G," as they call her, started a GoFundMe to surprise Morris with a \$250 Visa gift card on her birthday.

"I noticed that she knew everybody's name and kinda like had a relationship with everyone already, was telling everyone to have a great day, keep up with their studies and just seemed to really care about everyone," Godshalk said.

Godshalk and her friends saw this positivity in her interactions with everyone, noticing that she isn't simply polite but genuinely cares about the well-being of every student that steps on the bus. Morris talks about light-hearted gossip with the students, encourages them to stay on top of their studies and makes sure they are getting enough sleep, she said.

"She genuinely cares about every student she meets and cares for our safe-



GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Students said "Ms. G" is known to engage in light-hearted gossip as well as encourage students to stay on top of their studies and get enough sleep.

ty and happiness," Godshalk said.

She said one time, someone who wasn't a student boarded the Vex without a GWorld or identification and was adamantly disobeying Morris's directions to leave. To ensure the safety of the student passengers in this tense situation, Morris made them all exit the Vex while she got the individual off the bus.

"She took our safety really seriously and had us all get off so she could talk to him and he ended up getting off and then afterward she said 'No one touches my babies!'

"At some point, one of us brought up like we should totally do something nice

for her like around the holidays," Godshalk said. "She's like a second mom to us here and she deserves a nice gift from us."

They originally planned to raise money for a holiday gift, but after some students asked Morris what her zodiac sign was, they realized her birthday was coming up. This was just after they had started the GoFundMe, but it had already raised more than \$200, enough for a birthday surprise.

Godshalk said when Morris opened her birthday card with the Visa card inside she started crying and

was speechless. She even called her family later that day and told them about the gift.

"She was very happy and gave everyone an extra enthusiastic 'Have a great day!' once she realized we all had something to do with it," she said. "And then when I came off the bus later that day she gave us a hug and thanked us again."

Morris said she was surprised to see a crowd of students gathered outside the Vex when she was at work on her birthday, and when she went to see why, they surprised her with the card and bouquets of flowers.

"I opened it and I started crying," she said. "It's true, and I'm not a softie at all. I started crying and it made me feel so special."

Morris said her favorite part of her job is being able to interact with the students who she knows are mainly from out of town and not used to adult life yet.

"I am always here," she said. "I can talk to you about anything. It's mostly the students who don't have friends or study buddies but I'm here all day, at least for 12 hours a day, and they come by and talk to me. We might have coffee together or we can just talk, I like to talk to them."

As much as the students appreciate Morris as a "second mom," she said she enjoys being able to be that figure in their life and provide support in any way she can.

"I don't have any kids," she said. "But I do take care and help other people take care of kids, like significant others, my little cousins. I have no brothers and sisters. And it makes me feel good because they come back more than once to talk to me and appreciate me and say thank you."

Morris said along with making conversation with the students and always being there if they need to talk, she tries to show acts of kindness like lending umbrellas and coats to students who get caught in the rain and giving fistbumps.

**"I had done my homework about suicide, a lot of the college students thinking about suicide, so if you show someone you care, maybe I could save a life."**

**GWEN MORRIS**

MOUNT VERNON EXPRESS DRIVER

Morris said many students often stay around to talk to her, even after the bus shuttle has arrived or left. She said sometimes they just need to feel heard and express their feelings, so she will be there for them.

"We fistbump because I say 'Gimme some love and if you ain't had no love today, Ms. G gonna give you some love,'" she said.



SOPHIA YOUNG | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Montgomery said she hopes to grow her YouTube channel to teach other people how to braid, a way to "give back" after she learned the same way.

## Junior grows hair braiding service from high school hobby to business

**ABRIGAIL WILLIAMS**  
STAFF WRITER

Junior Destiny Montgomery learned hair braiding in a pinch as a high school freshman when her cousin needed a hairstyle that would fit her usual afro underneath a graduation cap. So, she took to YouTube and taught herself box braids.

Montgomery's cousin and family were impressed by the impromptu braids she executed, and before she knew it she found herself braiding hair for her friends and family, eventually building her passion into her own business.

"The main way I built my clientele was word of mouth," Montgomery said, "I did this person's hair and then somebody was like, 'Oh I like your hair,' and they were like 'Oh this is my stylist.'"

Montgomery, who majors in finance and economics, created her business Instagram page, @destechnique, senior year of high school after gaining a large clientele in her hometown of Houston, Texas. In April 2019, the hair technician submitted to be featured on GW's Instagram page for the class of 2023 and used the opportunity to promote her hair braiding business and gained exposure on campus from there.

"I created the business name of my Instagram my

senior year because my friends actually motivated me," Montgomery said. "I didn't really think that my work was that good but everyone was like, 'Oh my god, your work is so good! Why don't you have an Instagram? Why aren't you creating an Instagram?'"

At first Montgomery stuck to only booking GW students in an effort to safely build clientele in a new area, and maintained this policy throughout the duration of her time on campus during the pandemic. As of this semester, she has expanded her booking policy to college students in the DMV area.

Montgomery said she usually books two people a week to ensure she has enough time to fulfill her academic obligations. Montgomery said she over-extended herself in high school by taking on too many clients, but in college she books around her schedule so that she can balance school, club obligations and her business.

Montgomery said that her talent, business and drive doesn't come without support. In fact, besides her raving clients and motivational friends, her biggest supporters are her parents, especially her stepdad.

"He's always like, 'Your work is so good,' and he actually helped me create my goals for the week," Montgomery said, "He'll be like,

"This is how you could promote this, you can have this type of sale."

Lauryn Renford, a long-time client of Montgomery's, found her through a freshman group chat in 2019. The D.C. local and junior majoring in public health said Montgomery has been braiding her hair for three years now.

Renford said besides Montgomery's professionalism and sweet, warm southern hospitality, finding a reliable hair stylist in D.C. was what ultimately drew her to Montgomery.

"I'm from D.C. and it's really hard to find a consistent and reliable person who can braid your hair," Renford said. "That's extremely important to Black girls, young or old, to have a protective style, especially when you're in school because it just makes things easier."

After becoming comfortable with Montgomery and building a rapport over the years, Renford said they've also become good friends. Renford said Montgomery is just as professional as she is hospitable and they've had conversations about their school life, hometowns and future goals.

"She's extremely skilled and it's a super warm experience," Renford said. "She's braided my hair before for 10 hours straight and it doesn't feel like that, you feel at home, which is important to me."

## Three-step date plan to secure your boo this cuffing season

**SIDNEY LEE**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

As the air gets colder, the sweaters get thicker and the holiday season is almost upon us, another time of year is quickly approaching: cuffing season.

Before you can start planning the soft-launch of your new boo on social media, you probably need to lay some groundwork with a couple of first dates. Any initial encounters with a new romantic prospect can be awkward — especially if you're meeting someone for the first time — but don't let that deter you from finding love this holiday season.

We've gathered some ideas for a first, second and third date with a potential partner:

### First date: a drink

Let's be honest, a first date doesn't need to last more than two hours — it just needs to be long enough to get a solid vibe check. You don't want something so short that you can't get acquainted, but getting stuck on a never-ending date with someone that's just not doing it for you can be a nightmare scenario.

Grabbing cocktails, coffee or hot chocolate is the magic formula for being able to avoid those extreme situations.

Hit up a local happy hour on your first date

for a low stakes conversation and focus on gauging your potential boo's personality. If you're both having a great time, you can order a couple more, and if you're not, throw the first drink back and head out.

Some great deals close to campus can be found here. Or, if you're looking for someplace off campus, El Centro in Georgetown, Service Bar on U Street or St. Vincent Wine near Columbia Heights are perfect for a first time meetup.

### Second date: low-key activity

So you want to see this person again — how exciting. There can be a lot of grey area when it comes to a second date: you can keep it quick and casual like date No. 1 or sit down for a real dinner. You can still up the ante without getting too serious by doing a low-key activity together.

Visiting a farmer's market can be fun and allows you both to chat while shopping. It might also give you an unexpected insight into this person's interests. They might be buying ingredients for a whole home cooked meal or maybe they head straight for the craft cider table and circle back to the butcher tent for a breakfast sandwich.

You could grab a bagel from the Call Your Mother

Deli stand at Dupont Circle's FRESHFARM Market and chat about why the bagels from your hometown in New Jersey are still the best you've ever had in the outrageously long line. From there you can stroll the booths while eating, getting to know each other and, hopefully, getting primed for date No. 3.

### Third date: easy excursion

By the third date, you've likely got a positive outlook on this person. The chemistry is there, you've vetted any red flags and you're thinking this person may be "cuff-able."

This time, suggest an easy excursion. Not to sound like a tour guide, but seriously, take advantage of all the museums and exhibits in D.C. for date spots. Interactive exhibits are more exciting than your basic Air and Space Museum visit, and the colorful lighting in exhibits like the one at ARTECHOUSE can set a romantic ambience.

Janet Echelman's new exhibit at the Renwick even encourages visitors to lie down on the carpet under the dynamically-changing light installations to contemplate the work — a perfect excuse to get a little cozy with your new boo, in the name of art, of course.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR  
Valentine's Day is now less than 100 days away.

## GAMES OF THE WEEK



**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
vs. American  
Tuesday | 5:30 p.m.  
The Colonials take on the Eagles at the Smith Center.



**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
vs. Saint Francis  
Tuesday | 8 p.m.  
GW duels the Red Flash at home to kick off their nonconference slate.

**NUMBER CRUNCH**

**17:31.7**

Women's cross country's Margaret Coogan's time at the A-10 Championship, the third fastest time in program history.

## Women's cross country earns program's first ever A-10 crown

**WILL MARGERUM**  
STAFF WRITER

The Colonials won their first ever Atlantic 10 team title at the conference championship in Ohio after finishing in second in 2019 and third in the 2020-21 season.

The team's score of 50 was 25 points better than the next closest squad in the 5k event and four Colonials finished inside the top 15 to ensure the overall victory. Women's cross country has steadily built itself into a perennial championship contender since head coach Terry Weir took over in 2012, and it all paid off on Oct. 30.

Graduate student Margaret Coogan said that winning the A-10 title seemed like a "reach" when she was a freshman and the players have improved each season since she's been on the team.

"I think we've really made it our goal to develop the team a lot," Coogan said.

Four of the Colonials' five scorers were graduate students. Weir said the depth in their roster played a significant role in the Colonials' path to victory, as sophomore Catherine Ruffino also placed 30th which would've allowed GW to still win the title should have anyone else in the top 5 failed to do so.

Coogan paved the way for the Colonials, finishing in second place with a time of 17:31.7, the third straight year in which she has placed in the top five at the A-10 championship and breaking the "curse of fifth place" after finishing in fifth place the past two years.

"I was definitely thinking about 'Where can I finish?' but honestly mostly in relation to 'How is that going to help the team the most?'"

Coogan said. "When I reflect back already on the weekend, I don't even remember that I got second, the emotional aspect of winning as a team has completely overcome any of those individual feelings."

Graduate student Peri Pavicic crossed the line in 17:55.1 to take sixth place while graduate student Kathryn Nohilly was not far behind in 10th place with a time of 18:13.5. Nohilly said crossing the finish line and seeing her teammates right behind her was "awesome."

"That's when I was emotional because I was just so excited for her and for us as a team and just realizing that this is probably our last conference meet running with our team and together," she said.

Freshman Olivia Syftestad offered a glimpse of the future of the program as she finished in 15th place at the 18:19.3 mark and graduate student Julia Dempsey clocked in at 18:30.5, good for 17th place.

Syftestad has made an immediate impact since arriving at GW, claiming third place in her first collegiate meet at the Mount Saint Mary's Duals Sept. 3 and stayed strong throughout the season that culminated in a scoring position at the A-10 Championship.

"Winning is infectious, so now that we've done it once, you're going to want to keep doing it," Coogan said. "So for her to get that feeling in her first year and to be such a big part of what we accomplished, I think it just really goes to show that the program in general is going to keep that upward trend."

The victory represents the culmination of a long climb from the basement of the A-10 that started when Weir took over nearly



RACHEL SCHWARTZ | PHOTOGRAPHER

The Colonials came out strong at the A-10 Championship after a record-setting regular season.

a decade ago in 2012. Weir said that the program "felt more like intramurals" than a Division I unit back then but that he always knew the potential was there.

The Colonials had a strong showing at the A-10 Championship after a record-setting regular season in which the team achieved its first ever perfect score at the Mount Saint Mary's 5K Duals Sept. 3 and followed that up with another win at the JMU Invitational Sept. 17.

The victories marked the first time in program history that a Colonials' team won back-to-back meets, setting the tone for the historic campaign and raising expectations for the final conference meet.

"Nothing's ever for sure, that's why they run the race or play the game," Weir said. "You've got to do these things, but really, honestly, all they had to do was go out and execute. Everything was going to be fine."

Seven members of the 17-person roster are seniors or graduate students, meaning a significant chunk of the title-winning team will not be back next year. Despite the impending loss of experience, Weir said he is grateful for the positive culture of the program from top to bottom and the upward trajectory it is set on for the future.

"It's not just about the runners who are out there doing it," Weir said.

## Men's and women's soccer bid farewell to veteran players

**LIAM O'MURCHU**  
REPORTER

Men's and women's soccer will say goodbye to the groups of seniors and graduate students who were crucial to their success over recent years.

The players leaving the teams made hundreds of appearances and racked up tens of thousands of minutes for the Colonials. The seniors and graduate students were key cogs in their respective squads, as both teams look to move forward without making A-10 tournament appearances this season.

Here are some highlights of the departing players' time as Colonials:

The six players leaving the women's soccer program combined to make 260 appearances and racked up a collective 16,754 minutes for the Colonials. During their time on the squad, they helped guide the Colonials to the A-10 tournament in 2017, 2018 and 2019, when they made the A-10 Championship Final before falling to Saint Louis.

Kelly Amador, a native of Yardley, Pa., played in a staggering 83 games, starting 69 of them and racking up 6,098 minutes over her career. She tallied eight goals and eight assists over her career, serving as captain in her last three years with the program. A versatile player, she

played as a striker or a central midfielder and was recognized on the A-10 All-Conference Second Team this year.

Forward Sophia Kulchycky came to GW as a graduate transfer from UConn this year and made an immediate impact. She played in 13 games, starting nine of them while totaling 768 minutes. She scored one goal and had three assists over the season and was at her best when dribbling at defenders in space.

Goalkeeper Erica Lorenzana, a native of Manhasset, New York, appeared in 14 games, making four starts in her senior year. In her six appearances this year, she conceded seven goals and kept two clean sheets.

The seven players departing the men's soccer program combined to make 327 appearances and play 19,444 minutes as Colonials. They helped the team to two A-10 conference tournaments, in 2017 and the spring of 2021, where they made the conference championship game for the first time since 2011.

Defender Joshua Yurasits, a North Wales, Pa. native was a linchpin of the Colonial backline over the past five seasons. He started 68 of 71 games and totaled 6,066 minutes over his career. He scored one goal and tallied eight assists in his time at GW and was tied for the team lead in assists

in 2018 with four.

Forward Oscar Haynes Brown, who hails from London, England, cemented his spot in the program record books in his five years with the Colonials despite injury struggles. Over the course of 50 games and 39 starts, he accumulated 31 goals and six assists.

Haynes Brown ranks seventh on the Colonials all-time scoring list and ended his career on a high note, notching four goals in his final game in a 4-3 overtime win over Saint Bonaventure Oct. 30 to increase his tally to nine on the year.

He scored 10 game-winning goals in his time at GW, five of which came in overtime. He was named to the A-10 All-Rookie Team in 2017 and was also named to the A-10 All-Conference First Team in 2018. In the spring of 2021, he was named again to the A-10 All-Conference First Team in addition to the United Soccer Coaches All-Region Second Team.

Midfielder Sandro Weber joined the program in 2019 as a graduate student following a prolific career in Germany at the amateur and youth levels. Throughout his time in D.C., he racked up six goals and three assists in 39 games played, 28 of which were starts. In his penultimate season, he was named to the A-10 All-Academic Team and the A-10 All-Championship Team.



COURTESY OF JULIAN COLTRE

The 19-member team said they've raised \$9,938 so far, nearly meeting their fundraising goal.

## Student athletes raise money for teen battling cancer

**NURIA DIAZ**  
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

A group of students-athletes are raising money to take a teen battling cancer to the NBA All Star Weekend.

GW has formed its first collegiate Dream Team, focusing on raising funds to accomplish sports-themed dreams for children with life-threatening or life-altering conditions. The GWU Collegiate Dream Team, which was founded last November, is working alongside the Dream On 3 non-profit organization to raise funds to accomplish sports themed dreams for children with life-threatening or life-altering conditions.

The team is currently looking to raise \$10,000 to take Ace Culpepper, a 17-year-old with high-risk B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, to the NBA All Star Weekend.

Junior baseball player Steve DiTomaso and sophomore tennis player Charlotte Bell, are spearheading the organization. The duo said they began work on the campaign, starting with a biweekly meeting with a representative from Dream On 3, where they would be taught how to use social media for the campaign and how to continue working on it.

The Dream Team is currently composed of 19 members who were

chosen from a pool of students who responded to an interest email about the program. DiTomaso said the team currently allows all student-athletes who show interest to join, but are looking into new procedures like an interview process to admit new members if interest increases next year.

Bell said they made the majority of the \$9,838 that they've raised so far through their own personal fundraising efforts over the summer, where members created their own personal fundraising page and set a goal. She said most of the funds came from the team members' family and friends.

The team's webpage also offers options for company sponsorship of Culpepper's dream, including an option allowing the sponsor to attend and participate in a "VIP Sendoff" where they will be recognized for their donation.

DiTomaso said the COVID-19 pandemic heavily affected the fundraising efforts by the different teams in the university as sports were without any audience due to health guidelines. He said he participated in a fundraiser with the baseball team called Ks For Kids last season, where donors pledged a certain amount of money per strikeout the rest of the season.

He said the team expects more

participation now that the GW community is back on campus, making in-person fundraising a more viable option.

The Dream Team gifted Culpepper tickets Wednesday to the Wizards vs. Celtics game the following day and tickets to the NBA All Star Weekend in Cleveland in February. Bell said the reveal was emotional and exciting for everyone as they finally had the chance to meet Culpepper in person.

DiTomaso said they had talked with Culpepper's mother for a long time, so while they didn't know Culpepper, they had developed a connection with him and with what they were trying to accomplish.

Bell said the team will continue working on achieving their goal of \$10,000 by focusing on fundraising events with the GW community. She said they expect to continue getting to know Culpepper in the following weeks and sending him Christmas presents for the holiday season, as well as trying to put him in touch with Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum.

"To finally put the dream reveal into the moment and actually see him walk through the doors, it was pretty amazing," DiTomaso said. "And he's such, such an awesome kid. There's no one that deserves something like this more."



FILE PHOTO BY ARIELLE BADER

Kelly Amador racked up 6,098 minutes over her career, serving as captain for her last three years with the program.