

# The GW Hatchet

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**Tracking COVID-19**  
Nov. 4 - Nov. 10

Weekly COVID-19 cases: 30

Weekly positivity rate: 0.25%

Change in cases since previous week: -10

## Students back U-Pass enrollment as program start date nears

**ANNIE O'BRIEN**  
REPORTER

**SAMIHA FAROOQI**  
REPORTER

Students are welcoming the arrival of the U-Pass program, echoing years of advocacy that led officials to enroll in the program.

The University announced its enrollment in U-Pass earlier this month with plans to charge all full-time undergraduate students a rate of \$100 per semester and allow graduate students to choose whether or not to enroll in the program after offering the program for free for the first three weeks of December. In interviews, more than 10 students said they mostly approve of the savings offered through U-Pass for commuters traveling to work or internships, but some said they wished undergraduates could opt out of the program.

James Harnett, an alumnus and former Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in Foggy Bottom who pushed officials to enroll in U-Pass in 2019, testified in front of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority two years ago urging them to allow students to opt out of the program. With the program set to debut next month with a graduate student option, Harnett said the program will grant lower-income students greater access to employment opportunities across the city.

"I would love to see more students riding Metro," Harnett said. "I would love to see students that have financial difficulty, like I did when I was a student, being able to afford the trips on Metro every day."

Harnett's advocacy came as part of a years-long struggle of students prodding officials from the University and WMATA to participate in the program.

The student push for U-Pass at GW dates back to 2003, when some student leaders pushed for a Metro pass similar to the one K-12 students use in the District.

Students renewed a push for the University to enroll in the program through a referendum in spring 2016, but



FILE PHOTO BY RAPHAEL KELLNER | PHOTOGRAPHER  
The U-Pass program is set to go into effect on Dec. 1, providing students with a free trial before costing a \$100-per-semester fee in the spring.

officials said WMATA's terms were not "feasible or fair" for GW. WMATA launched the program that fall with American University and now includes 26 schools.

SA presidential candidates have regularly included launching U-Pass in their platforms, including Christian Zidoumba in 2021 and George Glass and Georgie Britcher in 2020.

Harnett said students who normally rely on ride-sharing services might now choose to utilize public transportation instead because of the unlimited rides that U-Pass offers, which saves money and is better for the environment.

The \$100 U-Pass fee per semester qualifies for financial aid coverage at GW because it will be included in the University's cost of attendance.

"The University, to their credit, did a really great job of prioritizing students' needs in their negotiations directly with Metro, and that has resulted in the program we're seeing today where all of those boxes have been checked," Harnett said.

Student Association Vice President Kate Carpenter said she met with officials during the past few months to urge them to enroll students in U-Pass. She said the program will support students who

need affordable transportation to their internships.

"Since we have such a strong internship culture, we encourage our students to go to internships, we haven't really provided them a means of transportation to do so," she said in an interview last month. "So the first and foremost thing that comes to mind is internships, getting students to where they need to go to be able to make the money that they need."

Senior Surya Bromley said she'd prefer an option to bypass U-Pass enrollment because the program will cost her more money than she typically spends on transportation if she doesn't regularly use the Metro. Bromley said the pass would help commuting students or students with District-based internships, but many students may not need to use the Metro very often, especially those living on campus.

"I'd prefer to opt in or opt out, because honestly, students don't need the Metro, and that should be their choice to make," she said. "If you're living on Foggy Bottom, which freshmen through juniors are, or the Vern, you don't need the Metro."

Student leaders pushed WMATA to permit students to opt into U-Pass in 2019, but

a WMATA spokesperson said at the time that the option was "not under consideration."

Aidan Schwab, a sophomore studying international business, said U-Pass will help him save money on the Metro, which he rides several times a week. Schwab said the price is fair for people who regularly ride public transportation, and he is excited to continue using the Metro several times a week to explore D.C.

"I figured, 'Damn, school's expensive enough, so \$100 isn't too much for it,' so it doesn't really bother me," he said.

Mahi Bhatt, a sophomore majoring in neuroscience, said she's "very glad" the University is enrolling in the program, and the \$100 rate is reasonable for her use of the Metro.

Amy Fehr, a sophomore from Virginia studying biomedical engineering, said U-Pass will make trips to visit her family across the Potomac more affordable.

Fehr said although all undergraduate students must pay for the program, U-Pass doesn't make sense for people who don't ride the Metro often, left without the flexibility to opt out.

"If you don't use the Metro, what are you paying for?" she said.

## Bicentennial costs forecasted to double budgeted amount

**ISHA TRIVEDI**  
NEWS EDITOR

GW's bicentennial celebrations are forecasted to cost \$2.8 million this fiscal year, more than double the budgeted amount, according to a Faculty Senate committee report released Friday.

Officials began celebrating the University's bicentennial virtually in February and did not report any related spending last fiscal year, which ended June 30, according to the fiscal planning and budgeting committee's report. But as campus reopened and celebrations moved in person this fall, costs were forecasted to surpass the \$1.3 million budgeted this fiscal year based on the committee's Aug. 31 projections.

Bicentennial celebrations culminated with a three-day, in-person Centuries Celebration Weekend last month after campus reopened.

Officials previously declined to provide the cost of the weekend-long celebration.

The culminating event also included a makeup Commencement held on the National Mall for the classes of 2020 and 2021, which was forecasted to cost \$2.1 million, according to the report.

Joe Cordes, a faculty senator and the committee's co-chair, said the University's finances are "pretty good" overall — a sign that GW has largely "survived" the pandemic after last year's budget cuts.

"This is not a university that right now is struggling financially," Cordes said at the meeting.

The report forecasted a \$10.1 million surplus this fiscal year, slightly above the budgeted amount. Faculty expressed concerns

in April that the budget should direct more funds to research instead of setting aside money for a surplus.

The University's stable financial footing comes after administrators implemented controversial cuts to close last fiscal year's \$180 million projected budget gap, vowing to reduce expenses instead of using the endowment. GW's budget mitigation efforts included layoffs, a freeze on most hirings and capital projects and pay cuts for top administrators.

Ellen Zane, the chair of the Board of Trustees' finance committee, said at a Board meeting last month that the University ultimately broke even on its net operating income last year as a result of the mitigation.

GW's endowment grew by 30.8 percent during the fiscal year, totaling about \$300 million, which Cordes called a "strong" performance.

Officials said last September that they planned to use up to \$20 million in unrestricted assets to close the remainder of the gap. Officials ultimately only used about \$10 million, which will be repaid over the next three years, according to the report.

Cordes' report states that officials budgeted \$8.4 million on pandemic mitigation efforts this fiscal year — including the cost of GW's in-house COVID-19 testing — down from the \$179 million budgeted last year. Officials have used roughly \$20 million in funding from federal stimulus packages during the last year and a half to defray costs related to the pandemic.

The report also states that officials budgeted \$1 million on dining lease buyouts, but they now project an expense of roughly \$800,000.

## Angela Davis delivers keynote address at Diversity Summit

**HENRY HUVOS**  
STAFF WRITER

**TALON SMITH**  
REPORTER

The Office for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement hosted the seventh annual Diversity Summit late last week, featuring more than 20 virtual sessions including a keynote address from Angela Davis.

Nearly 40 speakers including students, scholars and activists participated in the virtual summit Thursday and Friday, headlined by the theme "The Audacity of Hope, The Power in Community," which sought to educate the University community to protect diverse identities and enhance racial equity across the country. The summit's lineup featured distinguished civil rights activist Angela Davis who delivered the keynote address, speakers from GW and honorary guests Dr. Tony Keith and Rebecca Russo, who discussed issues ranging from policing's effect on D.C. youth to the intersection between sexual violence and disability.

Davis reshaped her journey of advocacy from the Civil Rights Movement to modern-day racial justice issues, like prison abolition and intersectional discrimination and advocacy, during her address Thursday.

She said she has spent her career writing eight books about social justice issues and lecturing about civil rights throughout the United States, Europe, Africa, Australia and South America. She said as a child growing up in the Jim Crow south, she developed a life centered around resistance from a young age, recalling a game where

her friends would dare each other to ring white people's doorbells before running away.

"We even turned resistance into a game," Davis said at the summit. "But most importantly, it became a way of life. It became the way in which we live our lives."

Davis said Black feminists have faced an intersectionality of discrimination on the basis of race, gender and sexuality, evidence of how multiple identities have conceptualized "our place in the world."

"Intersectionality is a particular formulation of the kind of interconnectedness and interrelatedness that Black feminists have been arguing for for a very long time," she said.

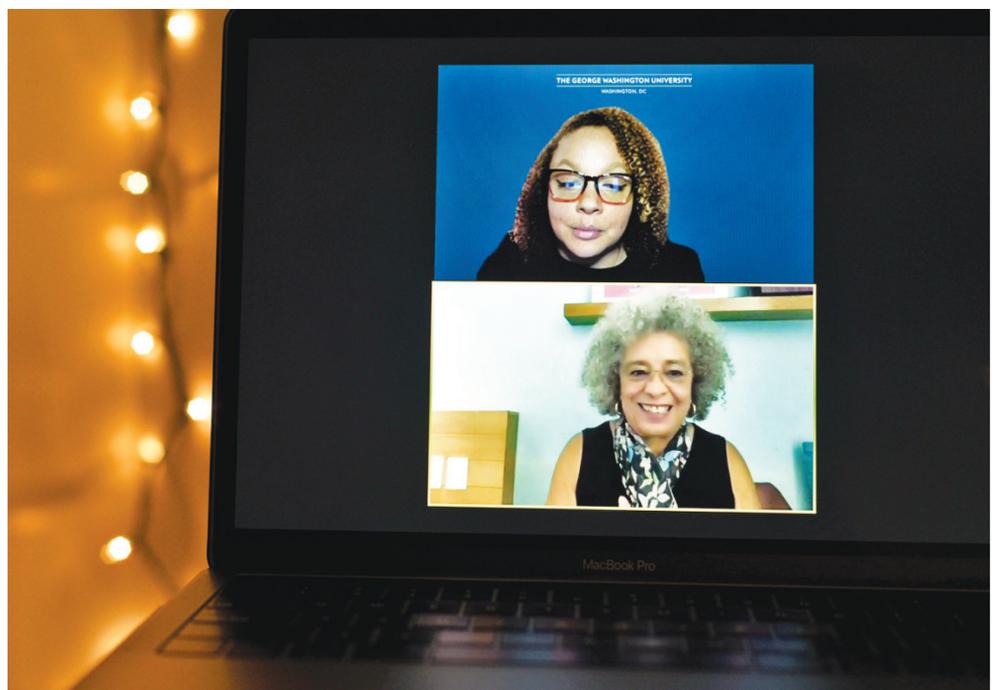
Davis voiced her support for the prison abolition movement at the summit, saying that without prisons, people would be free to live their lives without the fear of oppression and harm.

"A world that would no longer need prisons and police for security would be a world in which people were happy and free and were able to explore their own individual desires and passions," Davis said. "It would be a socialist world, let me put it that way."

She said everyone comes from a community, which in turn shape their individual personality, tying into this year's theme invoking the power in community identities, relationships and voices.

"We are all produced by communities, we would not exist as individuals if not for our communities," she said.

Other speakers at the Diversity Summit discussed antisemitism, critical race theory and health concerns related to racial trauma as



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR  
Angela Davis delivered her keynote address virtually Thursday night as one of more than 20 sessions offered during the two-day summit.

issues that affect community diversity.

Sabrina Soffer, a freshman majoring in international politics and Judaic studies and an opinions writer for The Hatchet, spoke at an event about antisemitism and Jewish inclusion on campus Thursday, where she advocated for an increase in Holocaust education and more awareness about a recent rise in antisemitism across college campuses.

Antisemitism resurfaced as a

campus-wide discussion at GW after a Torah was desecrated at Tau Kappa Epsilon's townhouse earlier this month, drawing hundreds of students to voice their support for the Jewish student population.

"We have to remember history in order to prevent what's going on, especially because GW has a one-third Jewish population, but yet we have the second most cases of antisemitism across colleges in the nation," Soffer said in an interview.

Following Russo's presentation, a panel of faculty and administrators answered questions and explained available resources, like bias reporting, to address concerns about antisemitism at GW. Caroline Laguerre-Brown, the vice provost for diversity equity and community engagement, said on the panel that officials have a mission to build a more inclusive GW through these resources.

# News

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## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

**BOOK CONVERSATION WITH PAUL KENDRICK, AUTHOR AND TRACHTENBERG ALUMNUS**  
Monday, Nov. 15 • 5:15 p.m. EST • Free  
Join alumnus Paul Kendrick as he discusses his upcoming book, "Nine Days: The Race to Save Martin Luther King Jr.'s Life and Win the 1960 Election."

**A CALL FOR ANTIRACIST ACTION IN THE US NUCLEAR COMMUNITY: A CONVERSATION WITH NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS**  
Tuesday, Nov. 16 • 12:30 EST • Free  
Join two nuclear scientists as they discuss the importance of calling for anti-racist action in the nuclear field.

**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY**  
Nov. 17, 1988

GW is set to expand its borders beyond the District with a new research center located in Loudoun County, Va., The Hatchet reported.



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR  
President Joe Biden is expected to sign the infrastructure package into law at a ceremony Monday at the White House.

## Infrastructure bill includes funds for low-income students

**BAXTER WAREHAM**  
REPORTER

**CAITLIN KITSON**  
REPORTER

President Joe Biden is expected sign into law a \$40 billion investment in higher education initiatives Monday that experts say will provide relief to low-income students strained by the pandemic.

A portion of the \$40 billion designated for higher education institutions will provide enough funding to increase the maximum Pell Grant award from \$6,495 to \$7,045 for students at private and public nonprofit institutions like GW. University officials have previously signaled support for an increase in Pell Grant awards, signing a letter in March along with 1,200 other colleges and higher education organizations to double the size of the award.

The broader \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, which Congress passed earlier this month, will also direct funding to improve the country's roads, bridges and waterways.

"Generations from now, people will look back and know this is when America won the economic competition for the 21st Century," Biden said in a statement after Congress passed the legislation.

Officials announced a fundraising initiative last month to increase the financial aid budget for Pell-eligible students as part of a larger effort to make the University more affordable. As part of the GW initiative, officials will increase the financial aid budget for Pell-eligible students by roughly \$2 million each year to fund

need-based grants, loans and work-study packages.

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

A report from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators earlier this month found that increasing the maximum Pell Grant award would help make the funding more effective and accessible.

"The simplest, most predictable method of expanding Pell Grant eligibility further into the middle class is to increase the maximum Pell Grant award," the report states.

Experts in higher education said the increase in Pell Grant funding from the infrastructure bill will help support low-income students, but the federal government and higher education institutions should make permanent institutional reforms, guaranteeing food and shelter and providing cash incentive programs for those students.

Lynn Pasquerella, the president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, said the increase in funding for Pell Grants will help alleviate the economic strain that students have faced because of the pandemic. The U.S. Census survey conducted last August found low-income students of color are facing disproportionate economic barriers to finishing college.

Pasquerella said the in-

frastructure bill is a step toward diversifying the student body because it will help students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds to get a college degree, but officials should take more steps to ensure students can afford essentials like textbooks and food.

"There's a need to focus on the fact that Pell is a start, but students still might be denied access to the resources necessary to complete college if they can't afford to pay for books, food, housing and other necessities of life," Pasquerella said.

Jennifer Delaney, an associate professor of higher education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, said Pell has lost much of its "purchasing power" as tuition increases over time, but the infrastructure package may help address this issue.

But Delaney said the Pell increase is a "step in the right direction" since the bill allocates a large amount of money to "wraparound" programs, which provide additional support services to students and increase college retention rates.

"Increasingly, the academic literature is showing that it's not enough to give somebody Pell," she said. She said when the U.S. economy faces a downturn, more students may move into the income bracket to qualify for a Pell Grant. In turn, colleges across the country will see more students looking to use the Grant, making increases to available Pell Grant money more significant, she said.

"It's a lot of new money, and every time we've seen Pell go up, we have seen increases in low-income students attending college," she said.

## Faculty Senate pushes for more faculty influence over facilities plan

**ISHA TRIVEDI**  
NEWS EDITOR

**NICHOLAS PASION**  
STAFF WRITER

**ZACHARY BLACKBURN**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Faculty Senate passed a resolution Friday calling on officials to increase faculty influence over a plan that will guide future University construction projects in Foggy Bottom.

By a vote of 20 to 4, faculty senators urged administrators to allow the senate to vet and modify the Strategic Campus and Facilities Master Plan, a guideline for five potential future projects in Foggy Bottom, including a new ambulatory care center, a new student center and a "reimagined" Kogan Plaza. Senators also passed a resolution of appreciation for outgoing University President Thomas LeBlanc by acclamation, but he was not present to receive the honor.

Sylvia Marotta-Walters, the chair of the senate's physical facilities committee, said the resolution aims to supplement the master plan, which is still in its initial planning phase. She said senators want to be more involved in the decision-making process as officials move from concepts to actual designs, in line with recent advances toward shared governance between faculty, administrators and the Board of Trustees.

"We want to expand so that all faculty in all schools of the University are engaged in the process of making recommendations as part of the three-legged pillar of shared governance, so we see this

very much as being within our purview," she said while introducing the resolution during the meeting.

The resolution also aims to clarify plans for buildings like Madison and Tompkins halls, which the projects outlined in the master plan would remove from campus. The plan outlines concepts to replace Tompkins Hall with an ambulatory care center, and Marotta-Walters said the senate expects administrators to clarify their plans for the site.

"We want to have the administration address the loss of Tompkins Hall, which right now is significantly used by several schools at the University, not only for classroom space, but also for research needs," she said.

The resolution urges officials to work with the D.C. government to extend the city's deadline for GW's developmental rights, currently set to expire in 2027, in accordance with the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan. The plan stipulates that the University must build or receive approval to construct at least 70 percent of its 3.5 million square feet of real estate by 2027 to retain the rights to continue development projects on the entire plot of space.

University President Thomas LeBlanc said during a Faculty Senate last month that officials will likely need to approve the designs by the end of 2022 if they wish to implement them before the developmental rights expire.

The resolution also calls on officials to expand the master plan to include other aspects of the University's future, like student enrollment numbers and diversity efforts. Marotta-Walters said

the University should also incorporate financial aid commitments to underserved communities in the plan, alongside diversity and student enrollment plans.

"We want to make sure that in those discussions of what's going to be built when and where and how that there'll be discussions that emphasize the key priorities of the size of the student body," she said. "That has obvious implications for residence halls."

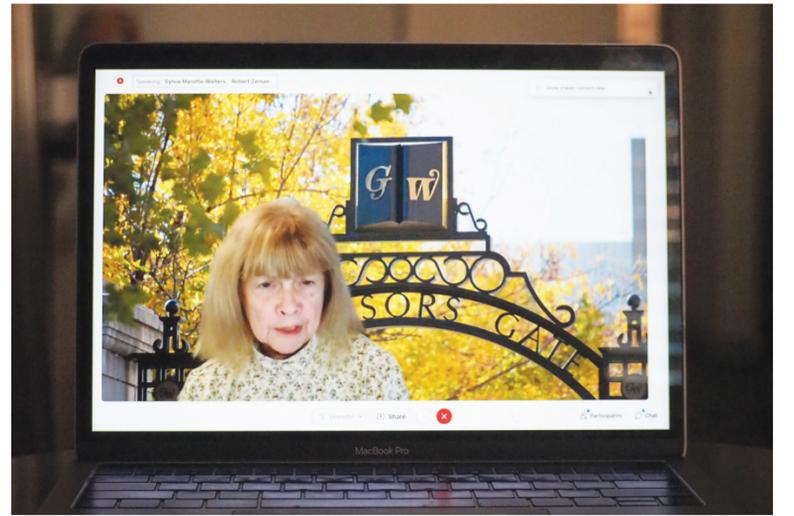
Senators also presented a report on the University's finances at the meeting, which showed that officials forecast GW's bi-centennial celebrations to cost GW \$2.8 million after budgeting only \$1.3 million for the events.

Eric Grynawski, the chair of the technology subcommittee of the educational policy and technology committee, delivered a report stating that the volume of support requests have overwhelmed GW Information Technology staff under the current shared services model that officials established during the pandemic last year.

"The subcommittee believes that no organizational model would be sufficient with current staffing levels," he said. "We simply don't have enough people answering the phone, and it doesn't quite matter how you organize them."

GWIT support requests more than doubled during the first week of classes this semester compared to spring 2021. Faculty said the IT department is understaffed and was not adequately equipped to handle the influx of support requests at the start of the semester.

See **BRACEY** Page 5



GRACE HRONIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR  
Sylvia Marotta-Walters, the chair of the senate's physical facilities committee, presented the resolution about the facilities plan to the senate.

## Students, faculty attend COP26 conference to assess sustainability goals

**ALEXANDRA KICIOR**  
REPORTER

A group of students and professors attended the annual United Nations Climate Summit in Glasgow, Scotland last week to observe key policy conversations and bring back information to GW about sustainability development and research.

The UN convened from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12 for the 26th annual conference, known as COP26, where the member nations met to commit to sustainability goals, including securing global net zero emissions by mid-century and protecting the planet from rapid temperature rises and extreme weather events. Two professors – Robert Orttung and Stephen Smith – attended the conference in Scotland alongside two undergraduate students conducting research and reporting, while several other professors participated virtually.

Peg Barratt, a professor of psychological and brain sciences and a virtual panel speaker at the conference, said she spoke for a side event run by Solar Cookers International, a company that focuses on using solar energy to cook, which was at the

World Health Organization's pavilion at the UN conference.

Barratt said her involvement at the conference will help establish the University's presence in global environmental sustainability and policy making through network opportunities with other conference leaders, policymakers and environmental activists representing different countries.

"Attending this conference is an important piece of making our presence known as GW with some expertise and some programming in sustainability, as well as us sharing what we know about our particular aspects of sustainability," Barratt said.

Barratt said indoor cooking can release smoke into the atmosphere and has negative effects like respiratory illness and preterm births. She said solar cooking takes energy from the sun to cook food with no smoke emissions as a solution to indoor cooking.

Barratt said major countries and organizations at the conference, like the WHO, were stationed at their own "pavilions," where speakers hosted various events, like exhibitions, cultural performances, workshops and



FILE PHOTO BY SARAH URTZ | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Academic professionals were invited to Glasgow to discuss reforming curricula to promote teaching about climate change.

talks.

The United States also played a role in convincing other nations at the conference to stop

funding the construction of foreign coal plants. In addition to setting targets during the conference, UN countries also

reached a climate agreement to scale back the use of coal.

See **RESEARCHERS** Page 5

# Club sports struggle to secure equipment, practice space with reduced funding

**SAMANTHA SERAFIN**  
STAFF WRITER

Several club sports teams struggled securing practice space and equipment because of a drop-off in funding after returning in full swing this semester in light of shut-downs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Half a dozen members of club sports teams said their funding from the Student Association has decreased as a result of the SA's shrunken budget this year, receiving remaining funding from the Office of Campus Recreation and forcing them to host their own fundraisers to finance their sports. They said limited practice space and a lack of communication with officials about booking practice space has damaged their membership levels and day-to-day operations.

Aubre Jones, the director of recreational sports, said concerns from club sports about access to practice spaces arise because of a lack of space around GW's urban location which also affects varsity sports on campus. He said adding lights to the Mount Vernon Campus fields could extend the number of hours the field is used and add to available practice space.

Jones said club teams request practice spaces through the scheduling office in the University Student Center or through the Office of Campus Recreation. He said club sports funding from the SA varies by year, and campus recreation allocations have consistently hovered at \$75,000 during the past five years.

He said 16 teams practice at off-campus facilities not owned by GW,

10 practice in the Lerner Health and Wellness Center, nine practice on the Mount Vernon Campus, eight regularly practice in the Smith Center and two practice in other GW buildings.

"The lack of space not only affects the sport clubs at GW, it also has varsity sports at GW like Baseball, Water Polo and Gymnastics traveling off-campus to practice," he said in an email.

Senior Emily Irvine, the social chair of the women's Rugby Football Club, said the University has not clearly outlined when to meet funding request deadlines, leaving some members confused about the process. The rugby club received \$3,150 of its nearly \$7,000 funding request from the SA this year after raking in \$3,650 from the SA in 2019, according to the SA budget book.

She said daylight savings shortened how long the team can practice outside before it gets dark on the Mount Vernon Campus, where fields lack lighting and often cut practices short.

Senior Carrie Kowalyk, the co-president of GW Women's Club Volleyball, said the team practiced at least three times a week before the pandemic, but members now struggle to log two weekly practices because of the limited hours and space in the Smith Center and Lerner, which are occupied by varsity sports who take precedence from the University. The team's funding this year remained nearly consistent with its 2019 level surpassing \$4,000 but falling about \$10,000 short of its request this fall.

"I didn't sign up to be a logistics coordinator and a volleyball president," Kowalyk said.



ELISSA DETELLIS | PHOTOGRAPHER  
Emily Irvine, the social chair of the women's Rugby Football Club, said some members have been unclear on funding application deadlines.

Junior Dorsey Ducharme, the president of GW Club Tennis, said the staff member who used to assign teams tennis court space on the Vern before the pandemic is no longer employed by the University.

He said officials have failed to monitor and clean the tennis courts, where unkempt facilities and broken nets have discouraged members from attending practices. The tennis team's funding from the SA plummeted this year, totaling less

than \$600, down from more than \$2,200 in 2019, according to the SA budget book.

"People aren't as willing to come to practice anymore because it's very clear the facilities aren't being taken care of," Ducharme said. "We probably have the worst practice turnout since I have been here as a student."

Senior Colin Rosadino, the president of Club Baseball, said the team lacks sufficient funding from

the SA. He said the team, which practices on the Vern's softball field without any baseball field on campus, has been strained waiting for funding that's distributed after the season starts.

Club Baseball's funding from the SA increased to more than \$7,300 this year, up from about \$4,700 in 2019, according to the SA budget book. The team's package came nearly \$10,000 short of its request this fall, the book shows.

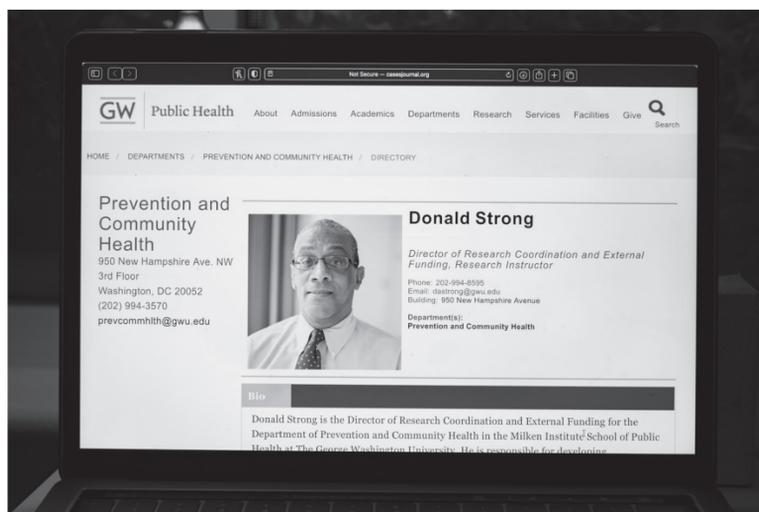


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR  
Donald Strong had been instrumental to securing external funding for Milken research.

## Milken research staff member dies at 62

**ABIGAIL FLEMING**  
REPORTER

**MICHELLE VASSILEV**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Donald Strong, a faculty member who was integral in growing the Milken Institute School of Public Health's relationships with community health organizations, died Oct. 29. He was 62.

Strong served as the director of research coordination and external funding for the Department of Prevention and Community Health to develop relationships with local and state government entities, connecting faculty with research and training opportunities at agencies like the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the D.C. Department of Health. Milken faculty and staff who worked with Strong said the GW community will remember him for his enthusiastic character and passion to help others despite the severity of his own health difficulties.

Lynn Goldman, the dean of the public health school, said the GW community will miss Strong, who cared deeply for his colleagues and students "more than words can express," in a newsletter she sent to the prevention and community health department earlier this month. She said Strong advanced inclusivity and health equity through his work with local and community organizations as a leader, co-worker and "dear friend."

"Don was a devoted member of our community who was instrumental in innovating and improving the experience for students at the GW Milken Institute School of Public Health," Goldman said in the newsletter. "His dedication to the pursuit of

health and equity is a testament and exemplar for all others to emulate and strive to achieve."

Strong joined the department in 2013. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois, a master of business administration from the Columbia University and a master of public health from GW.

"He was a force of nature and our hallways will not be the same without his warm presence," Goldman said.

Yolandra Hancock, a professorial lecturer of prevention and community health, said in the 20 years that Strong worked in the public health field, he was committed to using his professional relationships to help his students secure practicums and take advantage of opportunities in the D.C. area.

"He didn't just put students with any old body—he made sure that the students would be well taken care of, that they would really get something out of the opportunity that they've invested in with the money that they pay for tuition," Hancock said.

She said Strong was one of the only people who would call her at midnight just to talk. Hancock said she remembers him calling her a week before he died when he dropped his brother off at the airport to tell her to be proud of herself.

"One of the last things he said to me was, 'I'm just so proud of you because your work was not limited to who you were as a professor, and that's not going to stop who you are as a change agent in this field. So no matter how people see you or treat you in academia, you continue to remember who the f— you are,'" Hancock said.

Olga Acosta Price, an associate professor of pre-

vention and community health and the director of the Center for Health and Health Care in Schools in Milken, said Strong was "boisterous" and enthusiastic.

Price said she once heard someone accurately describe Strong as the "soul of the department."

Mark Edberg, a professor of prevention and community health, said Strong helped with community engagement projects for centers like the University's Avance Center, which focuses on developing projects to advance refugee and immigrant health.

"He was an incredibly resilient, optimistic and energetic person, even in the face of multiple, and I am talking about multiple health challenges," Edberg said. "His will was indestructible."

Gene Migliaccio, Milken's associate dean of applied public health and a professor of global health, said Strong went to every health department in D.C., as well as health departments and hospitals in Maryland and Virginia, to build relationships with them and ask to help provide COVID-19 testing to their communities.

Karen McDonnell, an associate professor of prevention and community health, said she remembers delivering a presentation with Strong at the United Nations on female genital mutilation, an "emotionally heavy" subject matter.

McDonnell said she knows GW, the public health field and Strong's family will dearly miss him as the community mourns his loss.

"Don, my friend, I'm going to miss you," McDonnell said. "May you rest in peace, and may your power be instilled in each of us to continue your mission."

## New Corcoran director leverages experience at NPR to lead school

**ISHANI CHETTRI**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Just four years ago, Lauren Onkey began spearheading a video series of live concerts for NPR.

Before too long, "Tiny Desk Concert" exploded in popularity, reeling in guest appearances from superstars like Mac Miller and Harry Styles. The series had attained billions of views when she stepped away from her position as NPR Music's senior director over the summer.

Onkey oversaw the viral shows during her time at NPR from 2017 to this summer, as she led a team of journalists, critics and video content creators at the station to expand the impact of music reporting through public radio and social media.

Onkey is now stepping into another leading role in the arts, but this time at GW as the director of the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design. She said she hopes to use her high-profile music industry leadership and previous museum experience to guide the school forward.

"It's an honor to have the seat and to get to see students and faculty doing their core work has really been exciting," she said in an interview.

Onkey joined GW in July as Corcoran's second permanent director since the school merged with the University in 2014, succeeding interim director Kym Rice, the school's current deputy director. She said she hopes to transfer her experience and management skills from NPR and other leadership roles to help improve diversity among faculty and students.

### Journey to NPR Music

Before working for NPR Music, Onkey headed education and public programs at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

and Museum in Cleveland from 2008 to 2015. She said she has carried insight into Corcoran's museum studies program with potential to unite creators and audiences after learning to organize art exhibitions and schedule guest speakers at the Hall.

Onkey said NPR tracked diversity among the staff who decided on Tiny Desk programming, which attracted a younger and more diverse audience on YouTube than other NPR shows. Onkey also wrote obituaries of famed artists, reported on new album releases and reviewed media, like music documentaries at NPR.

"Tiny Desk Concert had the youngest and most diverse audience of anything that NPR was doing, and I learned a lot about how you get to a result like that, which is very relevant to our experience here at GW as we think about our DEI goals," she said.

Onkey said she observed listeners' comments and attitudes from the video series to better understand what they wanted out of the series and create more unique episodes. She said she can apply a similar tactic to the Corcoran student community as she offers guidance for projects within different programs.

### Rebuilding the Corcoran community

Onkey said she plans to build interdisciplinary experiences, courses and projects among Corcoran's programs as the school gradually returns to post-pandemic normalcy. She said she hopes to maintain performance spaces in the school through meetings with benefactors so Corcoran can continue its mission to advocate for and define the significance of the arts within the University.

The majority of Corcoran's academic programs shifted online alongside the rest of

the University's schools during the pandemic, with select classes with studio space continuing with in-person elements. Since the University's reopening, Corcoran has rebounded with a greater digital focus as some programs remain on hiatus or face their final years before they're canceled.

Suse Anderson, an assistant professor of museum studies, said Onkey has been consulting faculty members in academic committees to familiarize herself with each program's obstacles, like a lack of funding or advertising for events and performances.

"Coming in to understand what the students are experiencing, what staff are experiencing, what the faculty are experiencing is I think that in itself is a pretty good place to start," Anderson said.

### The future of arts at GW

Andrea Dietz, an assistant professor of exhibition design, said Onkey promised her earlier this month to prioritize developing a "stable" approach to improve the design department. She said most of Corcoran's challenges stem from the University overlooking the school's significance, and she hopes Onkey can secure Corcoran's place and value within GW and the larger arts and design community.

Onkey said she has met with representatives from the National Gallery of Art to potentially establish art exhibition partnerships with the school. She said the National Gallery is "committed" to hosting an annual exhibition and other collaborated projects with the school in the Flagg Building once some repairs are completed.

She said she hasn't met with any arts student organizations in the District, but she plans to as part of her next steps as director.



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR  
Lauren Onkey took over as the director of the school on July 12.

# GW leads medium-sized universities in federal study abroad scholarship

KATELYN ALUISE  
REPORTER

NOUSHA FLORE  
REPORTER

GW has produced more recipients of a State Department study abroad scholarship than any other U.S. institution of its size.

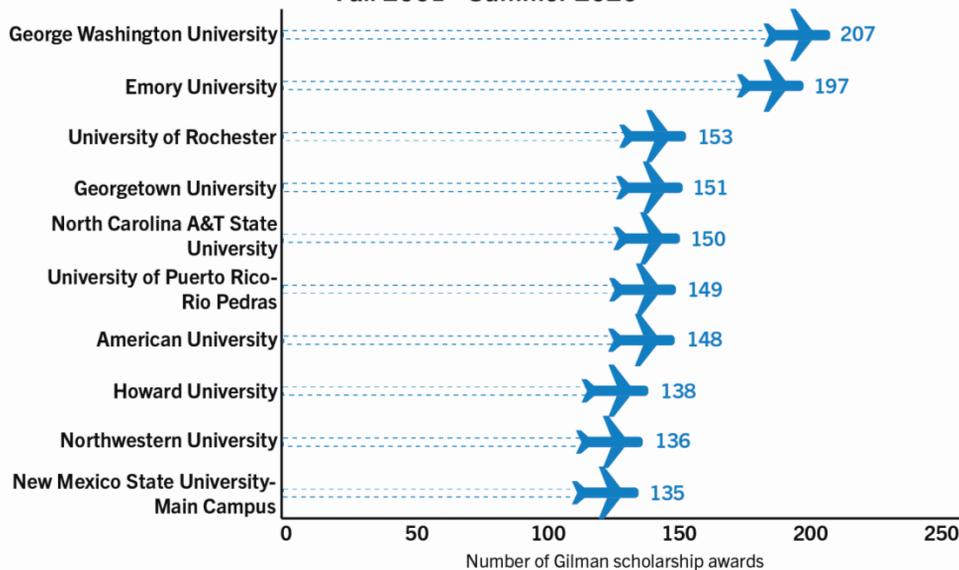
A total of 207 GW students have received funding from the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, which awards undergraduate Pell Grant recipients up to \$5,000 to study and intern abroad, the highest among other “medium-sized” U.S. higher education institutions with between 5,000 to 15,000 students. Officials from the study abroad office said the University has become a top producer of Gilman Scholarship recipients because of an increase in overall study abroad participation before the pandemic along with greater levels of promotion through info sessions and support and outreach programs at GW.

Kimberly Rush, the office’s manager of advising services, and Jennifer Donaghue, the executive director of international education, said in a joint email that the Gilman Scholarship has reduced the costs of study abroad and allowed more students to experience an international education. They said the scholarship has helped the office fulfill its mission to ensure that study abroad is accessible to all students.

“The Gilman Scholarship has assisted us in our efforts to break down barriers and improve diversity, equity and inclusion in study abroad,” they said.

GW has been the second highest producer of the Gilman Scholarship among the University’s peer schools, according to State

Gilman scholarship awards among medium-sized schools  
Fall 2001 - Summer 2020



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Source: U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Department data. New York University, which has a significantly larger undergraduate population, was first with 307 recipients while Syracuse University was third with 180 students, followed by the University of Southern California, University of Rochester and Georgetown University at 159, 153 and 151 students, respectively.

Rush and Donaghue said 15 students received the scholarship for the March 2021 deadline cycle, which includes study abroad programs for this summer and fall and next spring, and 13 students received the maximum amount of \$5,000. The officials said the number of scholarship recipients peaked in the fall 2018 cycle with 20 students, but GW has averaged

between 10 to 15 per semester in “recent” application cycles.

“Our status as a top producer of Gilman Scholars, we believe, is largely a result of both the hard work and dedication of GW students in submitting competitive application essays as well as our office’s resources, support and outreach for the program with the help of campus partners like the University Writing Center,” they said.

Rush and Donaghue said the spring semester before the COVID-19 pandemic drew the most Gilman scholarship applicants at GW and the highest number of students enrolled in a study abroad program, totaling nearly 600 students studying in a different country. They said the study

abroad office’s level of outreach and promotion of the scholarship, like info sessions, essay workshops, alumni events and newsletters, spread the word among students interested in programming and helped them develop “competitive applications.”

The officials said the scholarship provides students with “direct funding” for any study abroad related fees, like transportation costs, books and supplies, while most higher education scholarships can only be used toward tuition and billable fees.

“This scholarship has supported students in defraying the costs of both the billable and personal expenses associated with study abroad, often making the experience possible for them,”

they said.

Rush and Donaghue said the scholarship also provides recipients a year of “noncompetitive eligibility” hiring status within the federal government for job openings outside the normal process. They added that recipients of the Gilman scholarship join a “diverse” alumni network with opportunities to attend networking events and conferences worldwide.

“As international educators, our office believes in the power and value of study abroad as a tool for fostering intercultural competencies and skills needed to succeed in a global marketplace,” they said.

Experts in study abroad said universities that are high-placing producers of the Gilman scholarship are holding workshops to promote the opportunity and assist students with the application process. They said the scholarship has allowed more students, especially from lower-income households, to afford to study abroad and broaden their “world-view.”

Jess Mercier, the study abroad adviser and coordinator for outreach at the University of Florida, said the Gilman scholarship has allowed students who are “traditionally underrepresented” and cannot afford to travel abroad normally to expand their educational experience. She said she has heard from recipients at UF that they were only able to study abroad with the funding from the Gilman scholarship and underwent a “life-changing” experience while doing so.

“Even just the possibility of receiving the Gilman makes study abroad more realistic to these students, rather than an unimaginable goal,” she said.



Food trucks have been a longtime staple of GW’s campus, but business quickly fell once students left Foggy Bottom during the pandemic.

JOSEPH DECILOS | PHOTOGRAPHER

## Food trucks return to campus following hiatus throughout pandemic

EMMANUEL CHING  
REPORTER

NICHOLAS PASION  
STAFF WRITER

Lines of students have flocked to the smells of new and familiar food trucks that have trickled back into Foggy Bottom in recent weeks, marking the return of the mobile businesses that disappeared during the pandemic.

Workers from more than half a dozen food trucks said they have reopened on campus this fall, stabilizing business after more than a year and a half of limbo caused by the pandemic. More than 10 restaurants have reopened in the months following the return of students to campus and workers say they’re happy to serve students on campus again in light of continued financial uncertainty throughout the pandemic.

Giovani Melchor, a cook at CaliBurger in Potomac Square, said business slowed last year, when about 90 percent of food trucks left the District due to low customer demand, WTOP reported last summer.

“This year is much better,” Melchor said. “Last year was really slow, but thank god this year has been perfect, and I think next year will be better.”

TwentyTables, a former food truck partner with the University, suspended service on campus last fall and removed most food trucks from campus after the program failed to reel in “consistent customers.” But as students have returned this fall, food trucks have followed.

“It’s one of the things that makes me really happy, hearing ‘This was good. The hamburger was delicious,’” Melchor said. “For me, it is a

privilege to hear that. It’s my cooking, and it makes me happy that they enjoy my food.”

Darryl Mathis, the operations manager at the Roaming Coyote Truck located in Potomac Square, said the return of students to campus has helped him maintain stable business even during the pandemic. He said the business and students have a “mutually beneficial” relationship because the students have access to quick, quality food as the truck earns more money.

“As long as you guys enjoy the food, that’s really the big thing with us,” Mathis said. “We’re going to keep going back and making sure that the food’s good. We’ll do that as long as you guys keep eating. As long as you guys keep coming back and keep eating the food, we’ll be happy.”

The University offers two different food truck dining options for students living on campus – semi-permanent GWorld vendors, like TastyKabob and Yumpling on 22nd Street, and Curbside Kitchen trucks in Potomac Square. At the Curbside trucks, students can pre-order and view schedules of when food trucks will be on campus to purchase meals.

Curbside Kitchen has contracts with more than a dozen food trucks that serve food in groups of four in three-hour time slots during lunch and dinner hours Monday through Friday in Potomac Square.

Loan Tran, a cook at New Gourmet Delight in Potomac Square contracted through Curbside Kitchen, said the food truck program gives each truck a “fair opportunity” with similar amounts of time.

“They rotate us out and

stuff, like what days to show up, what days not to, so they tried to give us a fair opportunity for every single truck to come in certain days and plus give you guys a different variety so you don’t see the same trucks to come over and over,” she said.

Nearly a dozen students said they’re happy food trucks are back and enjoy the rotation of options in Potomac Square, which they say provides diverse eating options.

Sophomore Anastasia Brickner said she is glad the food trucks are back because she can quickly and easily order food online and have it ready right after class. She said paying for her food during class with GWorld through the Curbside app makes dining more convenient.

“It gives you the ability to do what you can’t do in District, which is order ahead,” she said. “We literally just came from class. We were sitting in class ordering food and then immediately came out and got the food, so that’s a big plus.”

Chris Lierly, a second-year graduate student, said eating at the food trucks provides new variety to the available restaurants on campus as more dining options opened while students returned to classes. He said he can eat at fast food restaurants like Chick-fil-A anywhere, but Foggy Bottom food trucks, like the Thai food truck Ricebowl, offer cheap and unique dining options that he can’t find anywhere else.

“It’s diverse in its options, and the prices are, I would say, better than places that I’ve tried,” he said.

## Students host Diwali celebration after last year’s canceled plans

ABBY KENNEDY  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

About 130 students gathered in the city view room of the Elliott School of International Affairs to celebrate Diwali last Saturday with dancing, food and Hindu traditions.

The Hindu Student Association partnered with GW Desis to host the event in celebration of the five-day festival, during which Hindus light lamps to honor the triumph of good over evil. Student leaders said the day brought students together if they could not be with their families, allowing them to meet other members of the Hindu community at GW and celebrate the holiday.

Nikhila Archakam, the president of HSA, said students could receive henna tattoos and paint diyas – clay oil lamps – at the event, which also included food from Taj of India and dance performances from GW Balance, GW Fuego, GW Bhangra and GW Naach. She said the event was especially valuable because students could physically meet one another and celebrate as a community after hosting events virtually last year.

“Diwali is a huge celebration for Hindus,” she said. “It marks the new year, so Diwali is like the new year for us and it’s usually celebrated with a lot of people. We do fireworks, there’s a ton of lights around, and it’s just a way to bring everyone closer together.”

Archakam said she struggled to plan the event this year because the HSA e-board was accustomed

to planning events online and leaders had to purchase new inventory to compensate for resources that were missing or lost when they returned to campus. She said the Org Help Finance Team, a drop-in support office for student organization finances, helped the group plan the in-person event.

“I tried learning on my own online, and it was really difficult so I went in person,” she said. “They’re all really helpful, and no one looked down on me for not knowing anything, but they all just supported me and helped me.”

She said students of Indian and South Asian heritage and international students who are celebrating Diwali away from home could especially benefit from the event and come together with other Hindu students to celebrate.

“I’ve spoken about this in the past, but being someone of Indian or South Asian heritage away from home, it’s already kind of sad that we’re not able to celebrate with our families, and that even during COVID it was really sad because we couldn’t celebrate with any other people,” she said. “So being able to celebrate with a lot of people and have a full blown party was a great opportunity and, like, a great experience that everyone really enjoyed.”

Rohan Joy Mathew, the president of GW Desis, a graduate student organization that helps transition international South Asian students to campus and the U.S., said the Di-

wali celebration was Desis’ first in-person event in nearly two years after the organization shut down all operations during the pandemic.

“We do cultural events, we do talks based on especially immigration talks and all those things,” he said. “This organization started in 2013, but during the pandemic nobody could take responsibility, and we had to take it upon ourselves to restart it.”

He said the organization set up decorations at the event and introduced their organization to attendees to spread awareness after relaunching at the start of this academic year. Joy Matthew said the Diwali celebration was an opportunity for new leaders within the organization to learn how to plan events for the future.

“For two years, technically, nobody did any sort of meet and greet events,” he said. “Nobody did because everybody was confined to their own houses pretty much and this opened up the space for people to come in as needed.”

Puneeth Geddalahalli Hanumantharaya, the financial officer for GW Desis, said student leaders wanted to host events so people would know that Desis was still “alive” after being inactive for two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Then, the next immediate thing was to organize events and then try to tell everybody that the organization is alive, not dead and pretty much do whatever the organization used to do prior to COVID,” he said.



Organizers said the event enables students celebrating Diwali away from home to celebrate with other Hindu students.

COURTESY OF HSA

## CRIME LOG

### DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/VANDALISM

District House  
11/7/2021 – 12:56 a.m.  
Open Case

A staff member reported that a fire extinguisher was discharged through a hallway.

Case open.

### UNLAWFUL ENTRY

2000 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
11/9/2021 – 2:40 p.m.  
Closed Case

GW Police Department officers responded to a report of a previously barred subject on campus. Upon arrival, officers made contact with the subject and arrested him. Metropolitan Police Department officers responded and transported the subject to MPD's Second District station for processing. Subject barred.

### CREDIT CARD FRAUD, THEFT II/OTHER

Various Locations  
11/10/2021 – Multiple  
Open Case

A female student reported that her wallet was lost and her debit card was used for unauthorized purchases.

Case open.

### PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS

Public Property on Campus (600 Block of 21st Street NW)  
11/12/2021 – 12:50 a.m.  
Closed Case

GWPD officers responded to a report of an intoxicated non-GW affiliated female. MPD officers were already on the scene. EMeRG responders arrived on the scene and transported the subject to the GW Hospital emergency room.

No further action.

### SIMPLE ASSAULT, HARASSMENT

Public Property on Campus (1900 Block of F Street NW)  
11/1/2021 – 12:30 p.m.  
Closed Case

A female student reported she was assaulted by an unknown, non-GW affiliated male who grabbed her arm while she was walking on F Street.

No identifiable subject.

—Compiled by Zachary Blackburn and Carly Neilson



CAMILLE DESANTO | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Officials had said in February that they would soon update Lerner's HVAC systems.

## Lerner to close for portion of 2022 as officials make roof repairs, HVAC updates

ZACHARY BLACKBURN  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Lerner Health and Wellness Center will shut down for part of 2022 for roof repairs and HVAC renovations, officials said in an email Friday.

Baxter Goodly, the associate vice president of facilities planning, construction and manage-

ment, said officials are developing a timeline to replace the building's roof to fix leaks, which will close the facility for "a portion" of 2022. Goodly said the roof repairs will likely coincide with a "modernization" of the building's HVAC systems, and officials are currently soliciting bids for the project from mechanical firms.

Officials said in February that Lerner already received updated HVAC system designs.

"At this time, we have not finalized the timeline to conduct this extensive project, but anticipate that Lerner H&W will be closed for a portion of 2022," he said in an email. "Once we have selected the mechanical firm to

conduct the modernization, we will be able to provide the specific timeline of when Lerner H&W will be closed."

Officials declined to say how many FixIt requests have been filed at Lerner.

Goodly said Lerner lost power to its swimming pool's heater, which needs a new exhaust vent-

ing system, for four weeks. Members of club sports said the broken system has left them to swim in waters significantly colder than normal competitive standards.

Goodly said officials are working to find the needed parts to replace the exhaust system, which he said could take eight to 10 weeks.

## IN BRIEF

### GW platforms accepting updates to personal names, pronouns

GW community members can now indicate their chosen first name, gender identity and pronouns across University platforms, officials announced in an email Thursday.

Community members can update their identifiers on their personal information section on GWeb which will carry over to Blackboard, Microsoft 360, the GW directory and GW Engage, according to the email. Community members can also submit a request through a form to update their chosen first name on Google Suite services, Zoom and Handshake.

"These changes are intended to be affirming to all members of our community by enabling everyone to indicate how they identify and would like to be addressed," the email reads. "These changes also allow others to easily access information about how members of our community wish to be addressed, further facilitating respectful discourse."

Student Association presidential and vice-presidential candidates have pushed for the new feature for years, suggesting a one-step process to update their first name and encouraging faculty to use students' preferred names in class. Community members are not required to update this information but they may do so at any time, according to the email.

The email states the Office for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement will continue to work with remaining GW platforms to ensure chosen first name, gender identity and pronoun information will be available across all GW software. The office will collaborate with Admissions and Human Resource Management and Development to allow applicants to share these identifiers during the application process.

"Inviting candidates to share this information allows us to welcome and address them as they would like from the very beginning of their GW experience."

—Lauren Sforza

## GW speakers discuss systemic racism at Diversity Summit

From Page 1

In response to a question from the audience regarding the summit's theme of hope, Laguerre-Brown said that in the face of rising antisemitism, she finds hope in the GW student community.

"As the head of the Office for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement, to be sure, the mission of the office is really every single day to work on as many fronts as we can to try to build a more inclusive GW," she said.

Wendy Ellis, an assistant professor of global health and the director of the Center for Community Resilience in the Milken Institute School of Public Health, spoke during the closing event entitled "Trauma, Equity and Re-

silience: A Call to Action." The discussion focused on trauma created by forms of systemic racism, like inequitable economic opportunity, social capital and housing affordability, which have oppressed and marginalized communities.

Ellis said community resilience is essential to break from cycles of trauma. Recounting her own childhood experiences with an abusive father who murdered her mother, Ellis said the resilience of her community and the availability of an education propelled her to where she is today.

"We know what equity means, we know what diversity looks like and we know the importance of inclusion," she said. "So let's get to work."

Interim Provost Chris

Bracey delivered a presentation about critical race theory, its origins and its inclusion in public school history curricula at an event Friday. Bracey said critical race theory originated in the legal field, and that the term acts as a verb in describing "one who engages in critical race theory" to learn more about the role of race and racism in society.

Bracey said conservatives have worked to oppose critical race theory and its inclusion in public school history curricula, fearing it may negatively portray white people.

He said this resistance has driven the growing attention toward critical race theory, but these conservative opponents who "have no clue" about the true meaning of the term are actually opposing the rise of multiculturalism.

## Bracey announces plans to devise five-year academic plan

From Page 2

Officials consolidated GW's technology departments into a centralized, shared services model last summer to reduce costs and mitigate the financial impact of the pandemic. Officials laid off dozens of technology staff and asked them to reapply for a smaller number of positions under the new structure.

Researchers in the geography department said they were unable to access troves of data for more than a month as officials transitioned the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences' online file storage system to an updated platform.

Senators at the meeting also unanimously approved four faculty nominations to the appointments, salary and promotion policies

committee and the education policy and technology committee.

Interim Provost Chris Bracey included in his prepared remarks that he is resuming meetings to review academic activities at various schools and units at GW during Fiscal Year 2022, where he will assess whether there are any budgetary issues he can help resolve.

He said officials are also beginning work on an academic plan running from fiscal years 2023 to 2027. Bracey said they have met with leaders of all schools and colleges and plan to meet with administrative units in the provost's office just before Thanksgiving.

"I look forward to having productive conversations with them as I have with the schools and colleges as we begin to chart a course for the future," he

said.

Former Provost Brian Blake suspended the development of his academic master plan last November after receiving criticism from faculty over a lack of their inclusion in the plan's development.

Bracey added that officials are relaunching the "GW Academic Leadership Academy" to hold seminars for various schools and academic units at the University on topics like conflict management and academic program planning.

"The Academic Leadership Academy was the brainchild of Forrest Maltzman and myself several years ago," he said. "It facilitates cross-institutional networking among academic leaders and was designed to build leadership capacity for the participating schools and units."

## GW researchers attend global forum at UN sustainability conference

From Page 2

Robert Orttung, a research professor in the Elliott School of International Affairs and the research director for Sustainable GW, said he traveled to Glasgow last week because he wanted to observe the conference and the series of panels, where cabinet secretaries, prominent professors and climate

activists discussed reducing climate change.

"You have a lot of academics and experts and policy tanks talking about different ideas about how to go about reducing climate change," Orttung said. "And so the policymakers are meeting, the idea is people are all talking, and it's all sort of taking place in one space."

Orttung said there were

25,000 participants at the conference who could visit any of the 90 pavilions to listen to speakers. He said this was the first time the United States pavilion invited academic professionals representing higher education institutions to discuss reforming school curricula to include more thorough information about environmental impacts of climate change.

Orttung said he hopes to bring his observations of how well-known researchers, policymakers and activists communicate their research ideas to his sustainability research methods class at GW.

The University has implemented sustainability initiatives over the past year, including its commitment to eliminating single-use plastics on campus and

installing solar panels on five campus rooftops.

He said professionals at the conference engaged in conversations about sustainability issues that are also ongoing at GW, like how to generate a more equitable energy system and how to include diverse voices in the policymaking process.

Jane Barkholz, a senior majoring in environmental

studies and a research assistant with Sustainable GW, attended the UN Climate Change Conference alongside Orttung to research what makes international events like COP26 successful.

Barkholz said one of her takeaways about the conference's missteps was excluding notable voices, including youth and indigenous speakers.

# Opinions

Nov. 15, 2021 • Page 6

## Extensive G-PAC requirements stifle students' intellectual pursuits

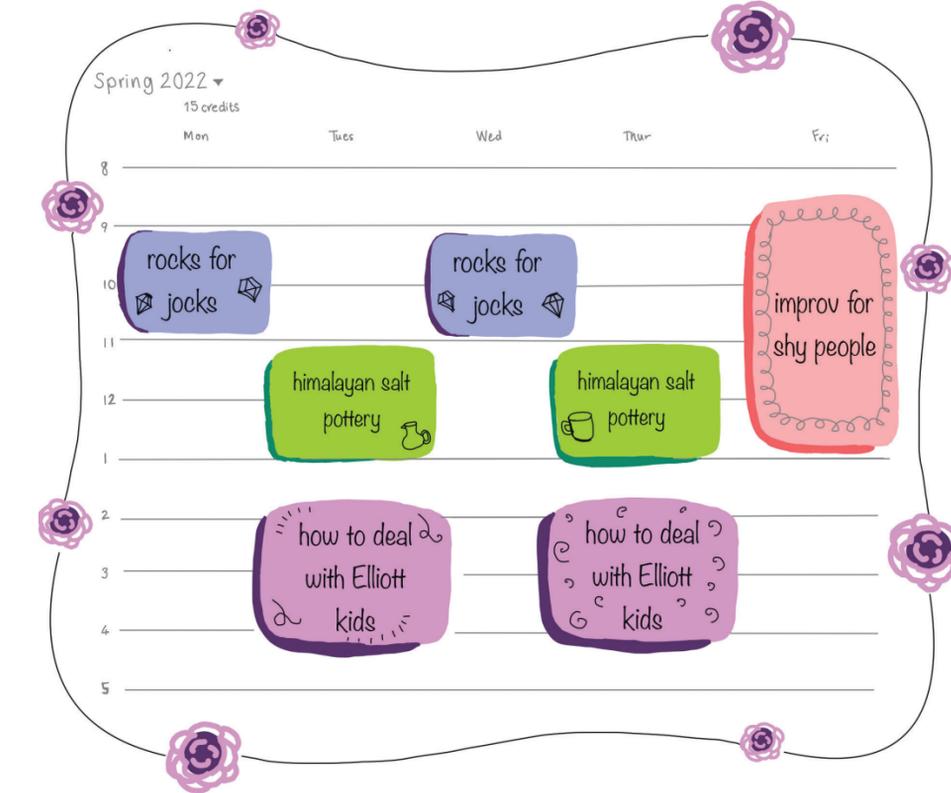
When I chose to attend GW, I was initially excited about experiencing a true liberal arts education. As a creative writing major, I knew that most of these general education courses would likely not count toward my major, but I still looked forward to being exposed to new material. I thought that I could find a subject I was even interested in minoring in through these courses that I had not been exposed to yet.

Jenna Baer  
Opinions Writer

Unfortunately, those expectations were never realized. Instead, I have discovered a system that forces CCAS students to take courses they are uninterested in purely for the purpose of meeting these guidelines set by the college. These guidelines distract students from pursuing their major courses and often fail to retain student interest.

The general education courses required by CCAS exist to ensure that students take a variety of liberal arts courses. Although not explicitly stated in CCAS's mission statement, these courses can function as an equalizer for students who did not have access to these critical thinking, skills-based courses in high school. Nonetheless, I have heard many classmates in these general education courses complain of a sense of hopelessness about whether they'll ever be able to focus on their major.

To graduate with a degree from CCAS, students must complete six college-specific general education courses in addition to the six that are required by GW. These are referred to as G-PAC. The variety in these requirements is varied because their purpose is to expose



JENNA BAER | CARTOONIST

students to every subject the liberal arts has to offer.

But the requirements that students take a laboratory science and a humanities course are actually repeats of the University-wide general education curriculum. But one

course can not be applied to each set of requirements. Taking one of the humanities or laboratory science courses on their own for GW's general education requirement exposes students to information outside their major and stimulates inquiry.

Repeating this process for CCAS becomes redundant if the students are not interested in the material and the courses have no application for their future career paths.

G-PAC course requirements have actually forced me to hold off

on taking several classes for my major because I do not want to procrastinate my completion of these requirements and then have issues graduating. This pause has also made it harder for me to secure internships because I have not taken the more advanced courses that employers expect. I understand that the purpose of these courses is to push students outside of their intellectual comfort zone. But students should not be paying as much as \$57,980 to feign interest in courses just to check off every box on the liberal arts education checklist.

CCAS students are not able to use the Pass/No Pass policy on any of their general education requirements. In contrast, CCAS students can use this policy for elective courses that are not directly related to their majors. Having the Pass/No Pass policy on its own encourages students to take courses outside their major because they do not have to worry about their GPAs being negatively affected, fulfilling the intended goal of the G-PAC curriculum.

The main purpose of higher education is to prepare students for the future careers that they plan to pursue in the real world. Students should be able to focus their time on the courses that will put them on the path to success for their individual futures. Similarly, the time students spend languishing in these general education courses could have been spent doing an internship that is actually related to the job field they wish to enter after college. CCAS leadership should strongly consider trusting students to design their own intellectual pursuits and allow students to step out of their comfort zones in their own time.

—Jenna Baer, a sophomore majoring in creative writing, is an opinions writer.

## U-Pass will be a game changer for students

### STAFF EDITORIAL

For years, students have been demanding, pleading and beseeching the University to implement U-Pass. Now, at long last, that day has finally arrived. Starting in the new year, all undergraduate students will be automatically enrolled in the program for a \$100-per-semester fee which will allow them unlimited rides on Metrorail and Metrobus. Graduate students will have the ability to opt out, but all in all, this policy will cover almost the entire student body.

U-Pass is an outstanding policy that's been a long, long time coming. From saving students money to protecting the environment, this program is almost all upside.

The policy will affect almost all undergraduate students. The vast majority of students will take the Metro at some point, albeit with varying frequency. The University is located right on the Metro's Orange, Silver and Blue lines, and part of the GW experience includes taking advantage of accessibility to other parts of D.C., like traveling to visit the Smithsonian museums or trying off-GWorld eateries.

For students who don't typically have an incentive to travel outside of Foggy Bottom on the Metro, the new policy will serve as encouragement to explore more of the DMV. Students have criticized GW's culture of living in a bubble for years

now, discussing tensions between students living in the Foggy Bottom area and full-time residents of the city and calling out the University for its greedy approach to real estate and its subsequent effect on the community. U-Pass might be the impetus we need to harbor a more integrated culture between GW students and full-time inhabitants of the city.

For some, the Metro is a routine way of getting to campus and back home. The pandemic drove many students to seek off-campus housing and for the students who use the Metro day in and day out, the U-Pass announcement is a boon. Even those who live just one Metro stop away spend close to \$5 daily on a round trip. The Metro offers monthly passes for regulars, but the discount is fairly minor and complicated by frustrating minutia, like the pass being limited to, at the very most, one calendar month depending on what day of the month one buys the pass.

The Metro is also a sustainable way to travel, and in GW's pursuit to become greener, U-Pass contributes to that goal by providing an affordable alternative to Ubers, Lyfts or any other taxi service. Having a Metro pass on hand will encourage students to take public transit in situations when they otherwise might have called a car to take them to their destination.

But administrators should be cognizant of the fact that a \$100 fee

is not a trivial amount of money, especially for students who do not plan on using the Metro frequently. Sure, in the grand scheme of things, \$100 might seem like a drop in the bucket compared to the total cost of attending GW in a given semester, but the University should still offer options to accommodate those who aren't in a position to pay a fee for a service they didn't ask for.

GW has some existing structures through which reimbursement for travel can take place. For example, the Knowledge In Action Career Internship Fund Travel Grants, also known as KACIF, offer students in an unpaid internship up to \$300 in travel reimbursement. That program could be expanded, or a new program could be created in a similar mold, to cover the \$100 U-Pass fee for students who demonstrate a financial need.

For many, many students, U-Pass is going to be a game-changer. This is a victory for the student activists who have been calling for this for years now — and the University should continue to listen to the demands of students. An institution that boasts about the jobs, internships and activities that its members do across the broader D.C. community has finally given its students a means to do that affordably.

And, of course, this gives GW the final leg up over American University.

## GW should bolster CHC's mental health resources

College students face incredible challenges, like academic pressure and financial burdens, as they deal with living away from home for the first time. With these challenges come mental health complications like anxiety and depression, or the exacerbation of existing ones.

Riley Goodfellow  
Opinions Writer

Currently, the Colonial Health Center offers brief individual counseling to students free of charge, and while there is no session limit, the goal is to end therapy within a semester and then refer students to outside counseling if they have long-term concerns. The brief and free option is a step in the right direction, but the short-term counseling is often not enough for young adults, and since outside therapy is not covered by GW, students may face exorbitant charges. In addition, the CHC's psychiatric department only offers appointments at a cost. To help students take control of their mental health, GW should create a need-based system through financial aid grants to cover the expenses of outside counseling and psychiatry for those who cannot afford it.

While some insurances cover outside therapy, many students have insurance that only covers care they receive in their home state or have insurances that do not cover the total cost of therapy. This means a student may have to pay out of pocket for long-term therapy, which isn't feasible for everyone and students should have the option of long-term counseling, covered by GW.

The second-leading cause of death among young adults is suicide. Suicidal ideation is not necessarily something that can be treated and resolved

in the semester-long therapy that the CHC offers for free. If a student is struggling with self-harm and the CHC refers them to counseling that they cannot afford, the student may be left without options. Then, GW is putting students at risk of hurting themselves or others simply because they do not have the luxury of money.

Mental health problems are common among college students and often persist for several years. Because of the longevity of their problems, only offering students brief counseling leaves them needing to make an impossible choice between paying exorbitant sums of money or going without the help they need.

I, personally, have gone to therapy for more than five years and need long-term guidance on the issues that affect me. Going to counseling does not make mental health issues go away, it only helps people cope with and work through them. Long-term counseling is much needed for students who suffer from conditions that are complex or permanent.

To address this, GW should implement a need-based system through financial aid grants to cover the costs of long-term counseling for students that need to work through issues for an extended period of time. Students' mental health must be one of GW's main priorities and that includes covering long-term counseling for students who cannot afford it.

Another mental health resource that should be included in a financial aid grant system is psychiatry. A study shows that 17 percent of college students in the U.S. use psychotropic medication. By charging students for psychiatric appointments, only those wealthy enough to pay for it have access to

this necessary treatment. This perpetuates economic discrimination on campus when in reality, all students deserve mental health resources regardless of their financial status.

Mental health diagnoses are rising in college students. Early intervention is always beneficial, but appointments for these diagnoses can only be obtained by wealthy students if the CHC continues to charge for their psychiatric services.

Economic inequality can't be discussed without acknowledging that it disproportionately affects people of color and also that mental health care has a history of systemic racism. Students of color and lesser financial status deserve full access to mental health resources.

While it is recognizable that the pandemic has taken a large toll on GW's budget, it is also important to notice the massive detriment the pandemic has caused to students' mental health. Nothing should be more important than the well-being of students. A financial aid system must be put in place to provide affordable long-term counseling and psychiatric resources to all students, depending on their ability to pay for those resources.

Society has come a long way in breaking down the stigmas surrounding mental health. Young adults now know that it is beneficial to go to therapy and be medicated. But not everyone can afford to pay for these resources, even when they are looking for help. GW needs to address this issue and step up for its students by providing affordable mental health resources through a need-based financial aid system.

—Riley Goodfellow, a freshman majoring in political science, is an opinions writer.

# Culture

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## THE SCENE

**AKRAM KHAN COMPANY**  
Thursday, Nov. 18 | The Kennedy Center  
|\$25 to \$99  
Watch an innovative dance performance that portrays the emotional story of a colonial soldier in World War I.

**DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY MARKET**  
Friday, Nov. 19 | F Street NW between 7th and 9th streets | Free  
Kick off the beginning of the holiday season at an outdoor shopping village featuring local small businesses.

**RELEASED THIS WEEK:**

**NEW ALBUM: "RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION)" BY TAYLOR SWIFT**

## Student astrology buffs reflect on the boom of zodiac popularity

**ISABELLA MACKINNON**  
STAFF WRITER

Junior Mya Burrell's aunt introduced her to astrology at the age of 13, and like most novices to the world of astrology, Burrell took to Google.

"I typed in 'what is a Scorpio,' and was like, 'Oh my god, that's me. That's me in so many different ways,'" Burrell said. "I just felt so seen. And as a Scorpio, it's such an important thing for us to feel seen because we feel like we're not."

Her aunt picked up knowledge on the subject from her all-girls college, Mount Holyoke, and told Mya that she would learn a lot about herself if she picked up astrology. From her initial, casual Google searches, Burrell said she started doing research into the "scientific" basis of astrology and used that to build her own knowledge.

"There's just so many scholars, academics scholars, because I view astrology in that way, like any other type of academic field," she said. "There's so much knowledge and science behind all of it."

But she said she acknowledges the immense skepticism toward astrology.

"There is a lot of skepticism, which I understand," she said. "You can be skeptical of so many things. I think one of the reasons that people don't like astrology is because a lot of people don't like to hear the truth about themselves. It's hard hearing the truth about yourself. But I think that's why it's so important."

A surge of interest in astrology has prompted many students to download apps like Co-Star, an astrological social networking tool, in hopes of understanding basics like their sun, moon and rising zodiac signs.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIA YOUNG | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR  
Astrology buffs said the passion influences everyday aspects of their lives from relationships to work to mood.

But for the student astrology buffs we spoke with, this mainstream surge only intensified their beliefs and practices.

Junior Olivia Cook became interested in astrology when she entered college, and her interest only increased during the pandemic.

"In Gen Z, there's a decrease in interest in traditional, organized religion," Cook said. "A lot of people my age would go to church because they would have to go. They wouldn't care and I think it's like our way of being spiritual and connected to something higher without having to be excluded or hated or judged for being who you

are."

She said she thinks young people have been drawn to astrology because it reflects how Gen Z feels about acceptance and being their true selves.

"So much of astrology is figuring out who you are and telling you about yourself and how to be a better version of yourself and I think that's why we like it so much," she said. "It gives you a sense of community."

Senior Lauren Durniak said she thinks it's funny when skeptics shrug off astrology while simultaneously holding what she sees as questionable beliefs about

modern practices, like cryptocurrency or the stock market.

"I get being skeptical," Durniak said. "I don't take it 100 percent to heart, but it's funny because it's usually the finance bros who are like 'I believe in the stock market, but I don't believe in astrology' and I'm like, 'OK, kind of both are made up.'"

Durniak said she has always enjoyed reading her horoscope in magazines, but she became more invested in astrology after being exposed to the practice on social media during the pandemic. She said she finds that speaking with people about their own birth

chart often helps her to connect with them on a deeper level and even forge new friendships.

"If you look at someone's chart, certain placements have characteristics that are tied with that chart," she said. "They're not necessarily 100 percent on the nose, but that gets you talking about that person and what they may believe and how they may perceive the world and experience things differently."

Junior Bug Kavanous said they "wouldn't bother" trying to explain astrology to a skeptic because they buy into the pop culture portrayal of astrology as something for "crazy" people rather than seeing it as a legitimate practice. The often negative stereotypes associated with astrology that are common in mainstream media can cause people to write it off as insanity before they learn about the logistics and history behind it, they said.

Kavanous' personal interest in astrology was piqued in high school by their astrology-enthusiast friends.

"People see people who believe in astrology as crazy both in the media and in real life," they said. "I think it's just one of those things that's been completely overwritten by media, and people just think that's how it is. As soon as a person, usually a woman, says they believe in astrology, nothing they say holds any value and they're crazy."

But at its heart, Kavanous said astrology is a belief system that can require some degree of assumption or faith, similar to religion or political ideology.

"It's a belief system that makes assumptions about you based on when you're born," they said. "It's a form of divination."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIA YOUNG | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR  
Whether you decide to cook, host a potluck or order in, follow these tips to host a successful Friendsgiving.

## How to host a successful Friendsgiving

**NORA FITZGERALD**  
REPORTER

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and with it comes the annual tradition of Friendsgiving.

Planning a Friendsgiving gathering includes several components: curating the menu, delegating which dishes each guest is responsible for and determining a location for the event. Use this guide to ensure you cover all the basis to host your best Friendsgiving yet.

Whether you're in it for the friends or the food, we have you covered with these tips to planning a successful Friendsgiving:

### Delegating responsibilities

Depending on the size of your group, a good rule of thumb is to ask each guest to bring one or two items. In addition to food, make sure to delegate drinks, dishes, utensils and decorations. As the host, you are already sharing your space, so it could be a good move to dole out most of the other food, drink and decoration responsibilities. Not every guest has to bring food or drinks — if some friends are doing the brunt of the cooking, have others take dish and cleanup duty.

Communication is key when a group chat specifically for your Friendsgiving could help facilitate

communication and even checklists are simple tools to ensure that nothing important is forgotten.

### Shortcuts on labor-intensive dishes

If cooking a full turkey seems too advanced for you and your apartment or residence hall oven, you're not alone. One option is to swing by the grocery store and grab one or two rotisserie chickens. Presented nicely on a platter, they evoke the same holiday feelings as a turkey with the added benefit of not laboring over the cooking for hours.

Pies are an essential part of every Thanksgiving meal, but making them can become labor intensive. Luckily Pelham Commons has you covered. See the cashier at Pelham to pre-order a 10-inch pie before Nov. 19 and enjoy one or more of the six flavor varieties at your Friendsgiving.

### Options if you don't want to cook

Cooking a Thanksgiving dinner, or even just one dish, can simply be too much for some college students, especially as we head into finals season. If your Friendsgiving is taking place at a residence hall, Whole Foods also offers Thanksgiving catering for up to 12 people. Just make sure to put your order in 24 hours ahead of time.

For a less traditional

meal, have everyone to bring one dish from their favorite restaurant for a buffet featuring an assortment of food from all around D.C. The Founding Farmers restaurants are also offering a specialty Thanksgiving menu (\$42.99 per person).

### Finding an ideal spot to host

Whether you're in Foggy Bottom or your hometown for your Friendsgiving, a warm and mild fall day could give you the opportunity to host a picnic-style meal outside. If you are planning on being with your college friends in Foggy Bottom, the National Mall, U-Yard or the Capitol lawn could all make for good spaces. Since bearable weather isn't guaranteed, the key in finding an ideal hosting spot is a spacious kitchen, if you are planning on cooking, and a large table.

The cooking process can get rather chaotic with multiple chefs and dishes, so a large kitchen is ideal. A common kitchen in a residence hall or affinity housing could accommodate a bigger group. Eating and cooking in the same space can make things a bit easier and cut down on transportation time. Residence halls may be lacking in the table department, so you can always opt to sit on the floor in a circle or check out your building's common room.

## Sexual health resources for busy students on a budget

**ANNA BOONE**  
CULTURE EDITOR

As a busy college student on a budget, it can be daunting and time consuming to find the right resources to meet your sexual health needs.

We've compiled information on five D.C. clinics and resource centers to help you better manage your sexual health when factors like money, time and fear of shame become barriers:

### Foggy Bottom Plan B

Run by members of the GW community, Foggy Bottom Plan B is a donation-based organization independent of the University. Anyone in the Foggy Bottom area, not just students, can fill out a simple, confidential Google form to be delivered free, emergency contraception within 24 hours. On the form, you can indicate your preferences for delivery, like what semi-private space you'd like to meet at for your pick up, if you'd like condoms delivered with your emergency contraception and a preferred gender for the Foggy Bottom Plan B delivery volunteer. The organization delivers the medicine Preventza, which is taken as a one-dose pill meant to prevent pregnancy after birth control mishaps or unprotected sex. You can find extensive information about emergency contraception on the group's website.

### Planned Parenthood, Carol Whitehill Moses Center

Located at 1225 4th St. NE, just two blocks from the NoMa-Gallaudet U Metro station, this Planned Parenthood center provides services like testing and treatment for STIs, multiple birth control methods including internal and external condoms and LGBTQ+ resources like hormone replacement therapy. If you don't have health insurance or Medicaid, you can get information on other government-funded programs or lower fee scale options. On its website, you can book appointments 24/7 without having to call the clinic, which is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday and Monday, until 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday and until 4:30 p.m. Thursday through Friday.

### Whitman-Walker Health Clinic

The Whitman-Walker Health Clinic, located at 1525 14th St. NW in Logan Circle, is a good option if you need care quickly and it's just a three-minute walk from the 14th Street & Rhode Island Avenue DC Circulator bus stop. Through its donation-funded business model, this clinic is able to provide people with free walk-in rapid HIV testing and free STI self-testing kits. You can also access free Pre-Expo-

sure Prophylaxis, commonly known as PrEP, a daily medicine meant to protect higher-risk demographics, like people engaging in anal sex, from contracting HIV. Post-exposure prophylaxis, or PEP, is also available as a combatting treatment if exposure to HIV is suspected. The clinic is open Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 to 5 p.m.

### HIPS

This non-profit organization was established in 1996 as an outreach and counseling hotline service for people in the sex work industry. While HIPS has expanded to also offer harm reduction services and tools for drug users like Narcan, HIPS is still a valuable tool for anyone who engages in sex work. The HIPS drop-in center is located at 906 H St. NE, a two-minute walk from the Metrobus H & 8th streets NE stop. The center provides resources ranging from shower, laundry and bathroom facilities to gender inclusive safer sex materials, drug testing kits and clinical services. The facility is open from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and Friday 1 to 4 p.m. You can also call its 24-hour hotline at 800-676-4477 for crisis help or emergency situations.

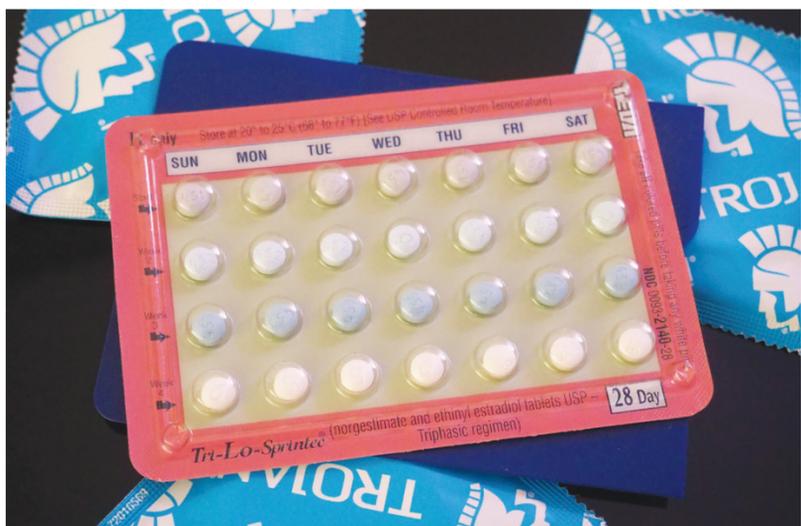


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR  
Students can take advantage of a variety of resources around D.C. that promote sexual health.

## GAMES OF THE WEEK



**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
vs. UMass Lowell  
Friday | 7 p.m.  
The Colonials return to the Smith Center after a three-game road stint.



**MEN'S WATER POLO**  
at MAWPC Championship  
Friday-Sunday | All day  
GW gears up for the chance to earn their first conference title since 2018.

**NUMBER CRUNCH** **17.3**

Men's basketball's sophomore guard Joe Basimile's average points per game through three starts.

## Women's rowing forms novice squad to boost varsity program ranks

**NURIA DIAZ**  
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

**ROMAN BOBEK**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Student athletes on the women's novice rowing team formed this semester said the program has allowed them to improve their rowing skills in an environment with other athletes at their skill level.

Women's rowing formed a novice team this fall composed of students from many athletic background to bolster the ranks of the varsity program. Assistant coach Ashley Myles, who began leading the team in August, said she has taken charge of the team with the goal of putting novice rowers in the A-10 boats which would allow some athletes to move up to varsity status.

"The athletics department recognized that in order to be competitive, most of the top programs in the country have a novice squad," Myles said. "Not a lot of high school programs have rowing and there's so much raw athletic talent, athletes coming into college that are not pursuing their sports or have been burnt out."

Myles said she and the other coaches created a structure to allow the team to build relationships and work together to strengthen the unity of the team as they learn together.

"Just as far as the training, we set up a trajectory for them to go from being nonrowers to now they're integrated with the varsity as of this past week, doing full varsity workouts after two months of rowing," Myles said. "So I am really proud of them, they've done

a really great job."

Freshman Caroline Crutsinger-Perry said she rowed throughout all four years of high school but wasn't sure if she wanted to stick with it in college. She said the novice program offered a manageable way to continue the sport that she could enjoy.

Crutsinger-Perry said she has also appreciated the transparency of the coaching staff as the team tries to get over the learning curve and maintain a positive attitude. She said the staff has emphasized preparedness to help them adjust to the possible overwhelming feelings from the new sport.

Freshman Maya Rezende Tsao said she first became interested in the team because she saw it as a way to become more involved with campus culture, though she had never rowed before. She said she used to be a gymnast and didn't get a lot of satisfaction out of the sport because once she mastered a skill, she didn't feel rewarded moving forward.

"With rowing, after every single workout, after every single row, you feel that satisfaction that I did that, I made that happen," Tsao said. "And then when you're on the boat, and it's moving, you feel like you're floating almost and, I don't know, it's pretty amazing."

Tsao said she is looking to improve both her speed and strength as a rower but also trying to maintain the sportsmanship among the rest of the team.

Crutsinger-Perry said it was "crazy" how quickly the team formed a community around each other both on and off the water.

"When you have those relationships with your teammates, that bond and that connection,



FILE PHOTO BY DEAN WHITELAW

Assistant coach Ashley Myles said the coaching staff specifically structured the team to allow the members to build relationships.

then that really enabled me to move faster on the water because you're doing it not for yourself, but for other people," Crutsinger-Perry said.

After months of training, the team finally made their debut at the Head of Occoquan, finishing in fifth and 13th place in the 8+ while the 4+ boat came in sixth. Myles said she was impressed with the way the team carried themselves in an unfamiliar environment.

"At no point of the day did I think that they didn't know what they're doing or the nerves started to sink in," Myles said. "They handled it like a team, which I love to see."

Tsao said it was a "surreal" experience being on the water because she became completely absorbed by what was happening in the boat.

"Once you're on the water, you just forget about everything else that's going on," Tsao said. "I just

remember staring at the person in front of me. There were three stars on the back of her shirt, and I'm just staring at the middle star the whole time, watching her, making sure that I was matching my strokes. And I just remember thinking 'one more stroke, one more stroke.'"

With the fall season wrapped up, the Colonials will use the rest of the fall to prepare for the spring slate and improve upon their second place finish.

## Women's basketball suffers loss at home

**SUNIT CHAKRABORTY**  
REPORTER

Women's basketball was dealt a blowout loss at the hands of No. 24 Virginia Tech Thursday night.

The Colonials (1-1) managed to keep the game close for much of the first half, but Virginia Tech (2-0) expanded their lead late in the second quarter, finishing with a final score of 75-38. Head Coach Caroline McCombs said the team was competing at a "high level" in places throughout the game and they will learn from their struggles in the second half of the game.

Virginia Tech Center Elizabeth Kitley dominated the game from start to finish, scoring 34 points and grabbing nine rebounds while shooting just over 80 percent from the field.

"She has some unguardable moves, so you just really try to not let her touch the ball as much as possible," McCombs said. "But she's a pretty good player. And she didn't have a great game her first night out so she was probably trying to redeem herself."

Kitley scored Virginia Tech's first 14 points, converting all seven of her field goal attempts. Despite the Hokies' hot start, GW was able to keep the game close in the first quarter due to an organized effort to generate close shots.

Redshirt junior forward Mayowa Taiwo scored 6 of her 10 total points in the first quarter alone, all off of layups. The Colonials scored all 14 of

their first quarter points in the paint, which kept them within 5 points by the end of the first quarter trailing 19-14.

"I think we took some rushed shots, maybe some early shots, where if we allowed the offense to work, get it all the way through, we could have had some better execution there," McCombs said.

In the second quarter, the Colonials pulled within a point of Virginia Tech when sophomore guard Aurea Gingras nailed a mid-range jump shot to put the score at 18-19 with 8:39 left. The Hokies responded by going on a 16-2 run before sophomore guard Taylor Webster hit a corner 3-pointer with three seconds left in the half, resulting in a halftime score of 35-23.

GW shot 40.7 percent from the floor in the first half overall compared to Virginia Tech's 51.7 percent. Webster was a bright spot in GW's offense, scoring 9 points in the first half on an efficient 4-of-6 from the field, while knocking down her only attempted three of the half as well.

But graduate student forward Ty Moore, who scored 18 points and snatched 11 rebounds in Tuesday's home opener victory over American, quickly got into foul trouble after racking up three fouls in only seven minutes of first half play, taking her out of rhythm and eliminating a crucial offensive weapon for the Colonials throughout much of the game.

"It's our second game coaching her. We obviously

saw two different things today and sometimes you're on the bench for a while, you get cold, and she was just trying to come in and make a play," McCombs said.

In the third quarter, Virginia Tech extended their lead to 29 through the continued dominance of Kitley as well as a productive 4-of-6 shooting from 3-point range, including two from senior guard Kayana Traylor. GW scored just 9 points in the third quarter compared to Virginia Tech's 26 and shot at a .308 clip compared to the Hokies' .611, suffering a scoring drought from 5:15-1:48 left in the quarter.

"They're just a really good team inside out, they shoot a lot of threes," McCombs said. Virginia Tech also outrebounded GW in the third quarter, grabbing 13 rebounds compared to GW's three rebounds as well as four offensive rebounds that led to 6 second chance points.

"We talked about that after the game, just that we need to rebound the ball, we need to give better effort on the glass," McCombs said.

By the end of the third, the Hokies were up 61-32. Virginia Tech continued to apply the pressure, expanding their lead in the fourth quarter, going up by as many as 34 points before finishing the game up by a margin of 27 with a final score of 75-38.

The Colonials will face Old Dominion on the road Thursday, Nov. 14. Tipoff is slated for 6:30 p.m.



COURTESY OF GW ATHLETICS

After an injury caused Doak to leave behind her gymnastics career, she said she incorporated much of what she had previously learned in her diving.

## Junior diver smashes two-decade-old record

**NURIA DIAZ**  
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Junior diver Jamie Doak set a pair of program records last month, smashing a two-decade-old record held by an alumna.

Doak set a new record on the one-meter board with a score of 279.23, smashing the previous record set by alumna Lynne McCormick in 2001, while also landing the five-dive platform record score of 210.60 against Pittsburgh. Doak placed third in the one-meter and the three-meter and finished sixth on platform in addition to meeting the NCAA Zones qualifying standard on the one-meter for the second time this season.

"It was really exciting," Doak said. "I wasn't expecting it, and we actually didn't think I broke the record until later that night, which was fun, because I knew I'd broken the tower record, but the one meter record just seemed out of reach for a while until Friday."

Doak became a diver after an injury led her to leave gymnastics her freshman year of high school. She was drawn to diving because she knew another gymnast who had made the switch to the aquatic sport.

She said much of what she had learned

from gymnastics translated to diving.

"I have a lot of the skills that came with it, just being able to work through your fears and the actual flipping and twisting that you have to do," Doak said. "But diving has brought a whole new perspective of it all, because there's a little less impact on injury - I'm not gonna die if I mess up, where in gymnastics, you will."

Doak said the sport has helped her mature as a person and learn to "take everything as it goes."

"There's always things that are changing so you have to be able to adapt," Doak said. "I think that's really helped me with that and becoming a little less type A and needing to know everything, have a perfect schedule that's going to work out how I want it to be."

After returning from an ACL injury she incurred in her freshman year, Doak made her GW debut last season at the A-10 Championships, nabbing a bronze medal on the three-meter board, posting a score of 282.40 that helped the women's squad finish in fourth place. She also qualified for the A final on the one meter before placing eighth with a score of 241.80.

Head diving coach Christopher Lane said he has been working with Doak on

maintaining consistency in hurdles and takeoffs as the season progresses. He said the team is looking to contend for the A-10 conference title but is also hoping to get Doak to the NCAA tournament this year.

"It's still the beginning of the season," Lane said. "And I think that the trajectory that we're on, I would expect that we will probably be breaking this record several times. I think that this is probably just the first of many records that will come, that will be broken this year."

Lane, who was a volunteer assistant for two years prior to his head coaching position, said he is excited for the remainder of the season because he hadn't had the chance to watch Jamie dive until this season. He said maintaining her health has been a "huge factor" in determining her success moving forward and is impressed with the work they've done together up to this point.

"This is the first record to go down," Lane said. "But we have our eyes set on all the rest of those records and making sure that Jamie's name stays up on that board for years to come."

Doak will look to set even more records when the Colonials hit the pool once again at the NC State/GAC Invitational beginning Nov. 18.



GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

The Colonials were able to keep the game close in the first quarter with a series of close field goals, but the game got away from the team in the second half.