

BASKETBALL GUIDE

The GW Hatchet

"Hungry,
humble and
smart."

JAMION CHRISTIAN
MEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH



Men's and women's basketball rosters take new shape

ROMAN BOBEK
SPORTS EDITOR

With reconstructed rosters, men's and women's basketball will look to make the most of a season in rebuild mode

as they attempt to contend in the A-10 once again.

On the women's side, new Head Coach Caroline McCombs said she has prioritized finding experience in rebuilding the roster, leaning on the veterans of the roster but also adding graduate students to support the incoming players. On the men's side, Head Coach Jamion Christian began to cobble together a roster right after the offseason, taking advantage of the NCAA rule change last season that allowed transfer students to play right away.

Four players transferred out of the women's team in March and April

"She's been at GW, she knows the University, she knows the program, she knows the conference," McCombs said. "So just her coming in, just with that understanding is really important. She's worked really hard in the offseason, whether that's being a shooter, knocking down shots, getting in the gym and knowing her role as a leader."

Among the graduate additions to the roster, graduate student forward Ty Moore averaged 9.7 points per game with 6.0 rebounds and 0.9 assists during her senior season at Troy. In the Colonials' home victory against American, she registered 18 points and 11 rebounds.

"She really gets after it," McCombs said. "She can score 15 feet and in. So we're really looking for her versatility, defensive presence. Again, she can score the ball as well and create some havoc out there."

Graduate student Sierra Bell averaged 10.7 points during her senior season, recording a double-double against Cleveland State Feb. 12 where she had 11 points and 13 rebounds for the Colonials.

"Kyara Frames and Sierra Bell are both experienced point guards that will be able to help run the team, lead the team," McCombs said. "It's important that they're an extension of the coaches out on the floor. So just with that experience that they have and always they can score, they can shoot, and they can lead a team."

Although the Colonials have gotten a makeover, McCombs said she expects

the connections developed between the players to help them drive forward this season despite the short amount of time spent together.

"It's been special because of the connection that we've built with our players," McCombs said. "From just having six players and getting to know them, and spending time with them and doing spring workouts with them. And then as you're able to bring in transfers and different players at different times, that just happened naturally."

The NCAA one time transfer rule change in April proved key in allowing Christian to pick up valuable players who could play immediately for their new team without having to sit out an entire season first.

Christian added then Arizona senior forward Ira Lee, Virginia Tech freshman guard Joe Bamisile and Connecticut junior guard Brendan Adams in April. Though Lee suffered a season ending injury over the summer, Bamisile and Adams have proved vital to the Colonial offense, becoming the top two scorers on the squad through the first four games.

These additions came after the Colonials' roster suffered attrition midseason and in the offseason. Eight players – senior guard Maceo Jack, senior forward Ace Stallings, sophomore guard Jameer Nelson Jr., sophomore forward Jamison Battle, sophomore forward Chase Paar, junior forward Sloan Seymour, freshman guard Lincoln Ball and freshman guard Tyler Brelsford – left the team.

"Our history, although rocky the last few years, I definitely believe that we've made a ton of strides," Christian said. "Starting with the talent we've been able to put together on the roster, moving into our style of play, and just understanding a deeper, deeper belief of where we need to be at to be a top four team in this league."

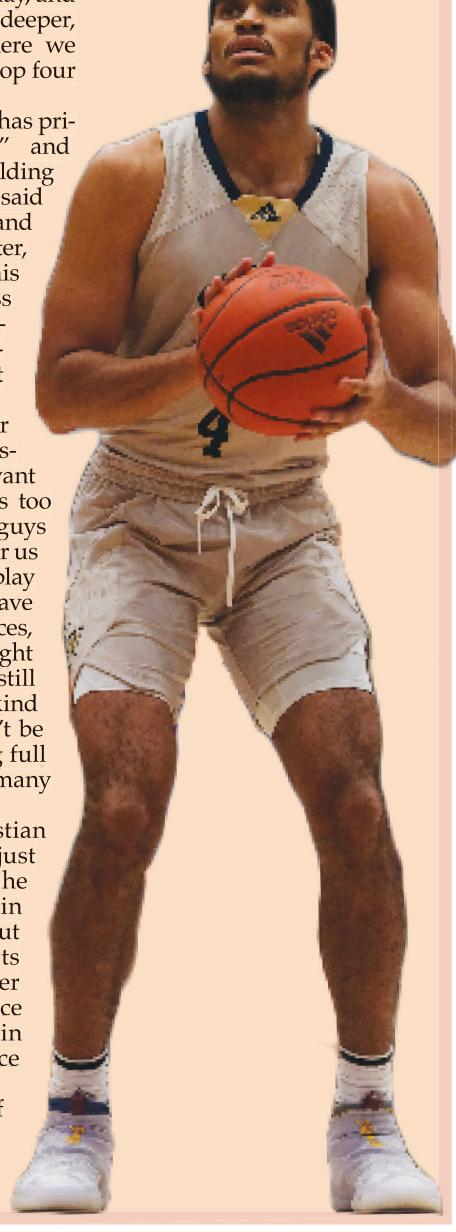
Christian said he has prioritized "toughness" and "versatility" in rebuilding the roster. But, he said given the strength and size of the new roster, he will modify his signature high press "mayhem" style defense he has implemented in the past two years.

"I like the way our bigs can play," Christian said. "I don't want to extend those guys too much. I want those guys to protect the paint for us and I love the guard play that we have. We have a lot of versatile pieces, so I think for us right now, we're going to still pressure and that kind of stuff, but we won't be kamikaze pressuring full court, taking too many risks."

Though Christian may have to adjust some of his strategy, he said he is confident in the roster he has put together and expects the team to grow over the nonconference slate and contend in the A-10 conference this year.

"This isn't GW of the last five years, this is a new edi-

tion," Christian said. "It's a new edition of guys who are hungry. Hungry, humble and smart. And that's going to be scary to play against."



following the firing of former Head Coach Jennifer Rizzotti March 15 after three straight losing seasons and early round exits in the A-10 tournament. Redshirt junior guard Gabby Nikitinaite, redshirt junior forward Neila Luma, freshman center Ali Brigham and freshman forward Caranda Perea all left the team.

With the departure of those players, McCombs said experience will be important moving forward. She said she hopes to find some of that in senior guard Maddie Loder.

ZACHARY BLACKBURN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

and pressured officials to grant mental health services through OAS.

Rani Al-Hindi, a GW Law student who is Palestinian-American, delivered a speech in Kogan Plaza before protesters marched to the F Street House, University President Thomas LeBlanc's on-campus residence.

The fact that the mental health of Palestinians is even being scrutinized against, is being used as a tool of oppression and is being weaponized to marginalize students here on campus is something alarming and dangerous," he said during his speech. "Mental health is something really basic. It's a basic human right that everyone should be afforded."

Al-Hindi said the University has rejected student demands to divest from companies that allegedly contribute to Palestinian human rights abuses, and he encouraged other protesters

to call on administrators to end its "support to Israeli apartheid."

Al-Hindi said GW shouldn't interfere with OAS' operations and must ensure all students have reliable support from the University.

After marching to the F Street House, the group then moved toward the Elliott School of International Affairs, but they returned to Kogan Plaza after a GW Police Department officer turned the protesters away.

University spokesperson Crystal Nosal said in a statement last week that the University received the complaint from Palestine Legal and will investigate the concerns.

"GW is committed toward diversity, equity and inclusion and to maintaining a nondiscriminatory work and educational environment," she said in an email.

When her lease was set to expire earlier during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dean of Students Cissy Petty realized it was time to find a new living arrangement.

Now, with the University reopen, Petty has found her new neighbors on the first floor of District House.

Petty, who also serves as the vice president for student affairs, moved into District in October along with her 15-year-old dog, Jazz, and will continue her stay through the rest of the academic year, an initiative to better connect with the student body and the GW community.

"I don't have to drive home and drive back," Petty said in an interview. "I can just decide, 'Alright, doing seven events in a day or something, I can get everywhere I want to get'

because sometimes me just showing up, which I think is kind of crazy, is important. It says you matter."

Now that she can spend her days and nights on campus instead of commuting to and from work, Petty said she's been able to attend events like basketball games and student organization events to break down the "administrative barrier" and better connect with the student body.

She said connecting with more students has helped her gain a better understanding of students' needs on campus.

Petty said as part of her increased campus involvement, she meets with the Multicultural Student Services Center for Friday lunches, attends Student Association meetings and chats with students who stop by outside her door.

Petty said she has sought to ease the Univer-

sity's transition into the "neighborhood model" that officials implemented this fall. The move reorganizes residential buildings into five residence hall "hubs" staffed by Campus Living and Residential Education staff after GW eliminated the resident adviser program in February.

Liam Searcy, the president of the Residence Hall Association, said Petty's move to District will bring more attention to residents' needs and create a more "conducive" space for living and learning. He said RHA is planning a series of events with Petty, including separate meetings between her and the general student body, the RHA's District House council and community coordinators who can speak about their experience living and working on campus as staff members.

Students rally after group files human rights complaint against GW

ZACHARY BLACKBURN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Dozens of students marched from Kogan Plaza to the F Street House Friday after a Palestinian rights advocacy group alleged officials shut down a "virtual processing space" for Palestinian students in the wake of violence in Gaza.

The protest comes nearly two weeks after Palestine Legal sent the University a complaint filed in D.C.'s Office for Human Rights, which alleges officials called an emergency meeting before instructing the Office of Advocacy and Support to take down information about a "virtual processing space" for Palestinian students in June. About 50 protesters calling for Palestinian freedom carried signs reading "Protect Palestinian Students" as they denounced what they consider racism within the administration

Petty moves into District House to foster residential community

ABBY KENNEDY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

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McCombs emphasizes defense, team culture in first season leading the Colonials

LIAM O'MURCHU
STAFF WRITER

Since she joined GW in April, women's basketball Head Coach Caroline McCombs has made defense a point of emphasis wherever she has been.

Fresh off a trip to the NCAA tournament with Stony Brook after spending seven years at the helm, McCombs was hired this off season to replace former Head Coach Jennifer Rizzotti. McCombs will lead the Colonials after they came off a 9-14 season in which they finished 11th in the Atlantic 10, ultimately losing to Richmond in the second round of the A-10 tournament.

"How we guard the ball is the most important thing, and having five people on the floor that know what they're doing at the same time is really important," McCombs said.

Under her tutelage, the Seawolves consistently ranked in the top 50 nationally in scoring defense. Two seasons ago they held their opponents to just 54.6 points per game, the 11th-best number in the country at the time.

Following the end of last season, Rizzotti, who led the Colonials for five seasons, was fired. She led the Colonials to the Women's National Invitational Tournament in 2017 after winning a share of the Atlantic 10 regular season title and the NCAA tournament in 2018 after winning the A-10 tournament, but posted three losing seasons afterwards.

McCombs is looking to make an imprint on a Colonials team with only six players returning from last year and the defense has



SYDNEY WALSH | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

McCombs has brought her 'pound the stone' mantra to the team, encouraging players to focus more on their personal growth.

been the focus coming into the year. She said though the offense will take time to develop, the defense will remain consistent.

"She always says defense is going to win us games, offense decides by how much," graduate student guard Kyara Frames said. "So defense is definitely our priority. Our team is defense and that is what we represent."

McCombs said the defense will be primarily man-to-man and will aim to be "scrappy" on the court to guard the ball and prevent opponents from getting easy

points inside.

Through their first four games, the Colonials have allowed 53.8 points per game, although they kept their opponent under 50 points three times, conceding 47 points to American, 48 points to Minnesota and 45 points to Old Dominion.

From going shopping together to having team game nights, Blethen said the Colonials have grown together quickly away from the basketball court as well as on it.

"On the court, we've just spent a lot of time together," junior forward Faith Blethen

said. "People get in the gym together in different pairs, and I think that's just increasing our comfort levels with each other and leading to better chemistry."

Though it is early in the McCombs era at GW, she said she is hopeful the work that the team has been putting in over the summer leading into their first few games will pay off in the long run.

"It's the daily habits that we create that are really important to our success," McCombs said. "And we don't always have to change a

scout going into who we're playing. So that allows us to really focus on us and what we do no matter who we play."

McCombs' 'pound the stone' mantra focuses more on the process than the results at this early point in her tenure at GW.

"It's all about the process and the growth and having a growth mindset," McCombs said. "No matter what happens, continuing to persevere, be resilient. Through successes, through failures, you never know when the stone is going to break. You

could be at the brink of it, or you could be far from it. But in whatever you're doing, just continuing to pursue greatness."

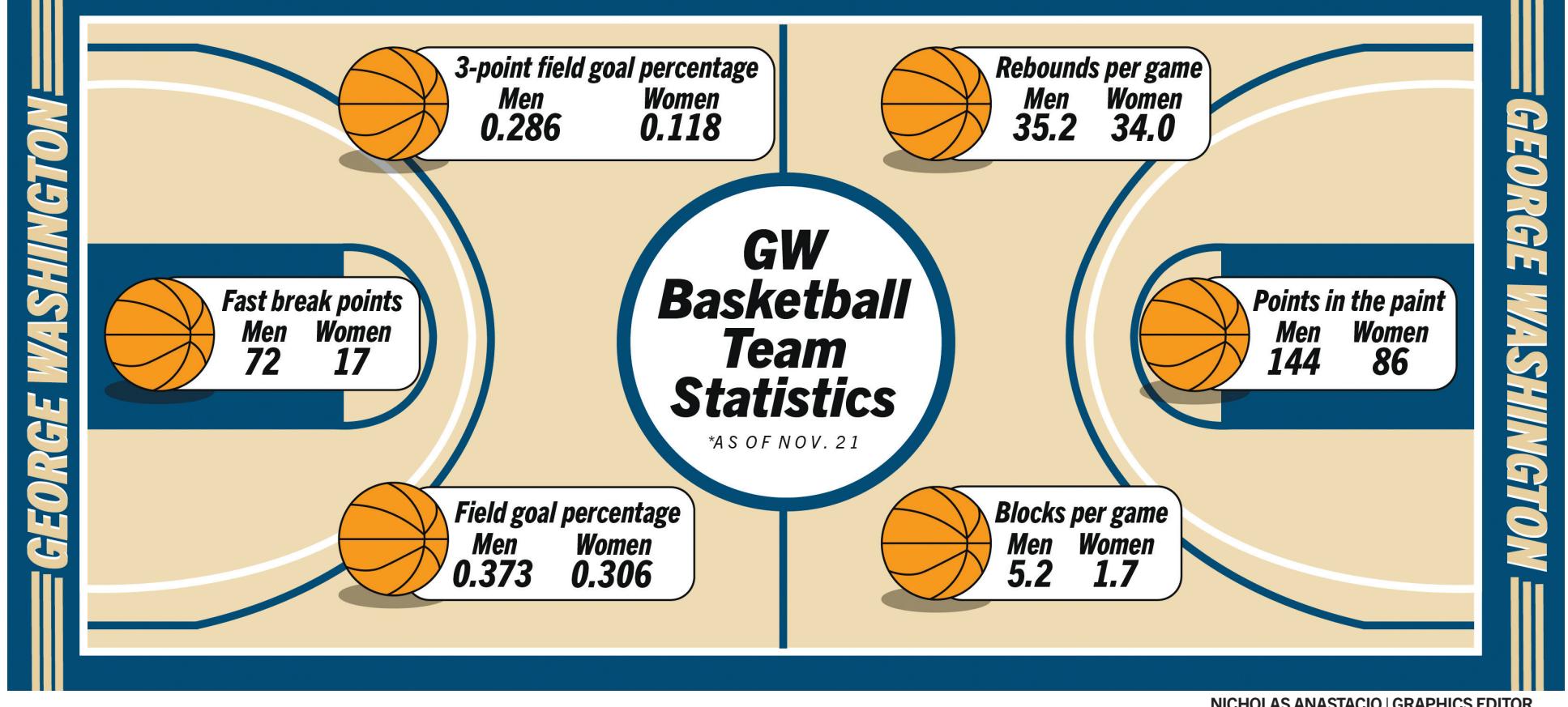
So far, members of the team, both returners and newcomers, have been buying into this new philosophy.

"Coach McCombs, since she's been on GW's campus, has really drilled that with all of us, and it's the way she lives," Blethen said. "It's the way all of us are beginning to think and adapt. And it's a lifetime mindset. It's not just a basketball or an athletics mindset. It's a mindset that we'll carry throughout our lives."

Although the Colonials have only averaged 43.8 points per game in their first four games this year, they've played two power-conference opponents in Minnesota and No. 24 Virginia Tech. The Colonials have averaged 14 points from turnovers per game, with points off turnovers making up 32 percent of their total points.

Coming into the year, the defense was meant to be the foundation on which the rest of the team would be built, and so far, that has rung true. GW has forced 15.8 turnovers per game, highlighted by a 24-turnovers-forced game against American to open the season. They've averaged 7.3 steals per game, led by sophomore guard Aurea Gingras, who had a four-steal performance against Minnesota.

Although the Colonials still have a way to go, the flashes of talent are visible and the squad continues to improve every day. "It's always fun to play against somebody else and see where you are," McCombs said.



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Men's basketball establishes offensive identity

SUNIT CHAKRABORTY
REPORTER

Men's basketball is looking to run a versatile offense this season that prioritizes both attacking the basket and shooting a high volume of 3-pointers, continuing on a similar trend from last season despite a revamped roster.

The Colonials have gone 28-of-98 from beyond the arc thus far, good for a 28.6 percent conversion rate and three percent higher than their opponents on average, despite the higher volume of shots. The Colonials are also earning on average 1.2 3-point baskets more per game than their opponents.

"We got a lot of good players that make outside shots," Christian said. "I don't know if we'll take 60 percent of our shots for three, or 50, but we'll still take a good number of threes. And the thing is, we have a talented roster, it's about giving these guys enough freedom where they can go out and make plays."

Advertisement

After adding 10 new players to the roster this season, the Colonials now have more offensive weapons than in previous years.

GW relied heavily on junior guard James Bishop to score last season, who finished second in the A-10 in scoring with 19.1 points per game.

Christian said he believes the new roster additions will help to share the offensive load this year and play fast in transition.

"Last year, James Bishop was prominently our ball handler, and he's a great point guard," Christian said. "I think the nation's going to get a chance to see him operate and create for others this year. And he's always been a great scorer, but you know, he's got a better canvas to play with this year."

Despite Bishop's prominent role last season, he has had somewhat of an inconsistent start. Bishop has shot 28.2 percent from the field through four games this season after sinking 42.7 percent of his shots last year, but he remains tied for second in scoring for the Colonials with 63 points and has eight assists.

Bishop said the emphasis for him this year is to keep the "ball moving."

"We got a lot of great scorers, a lot of great shooters on our team, making sure everybody's touching the ball, making sure ev-

erybody's involved in the offense," Bishop said.

Sophomore guard Joe Basimile and graduate student guard Brendan Adams, both of whom transferred to GW this season, lead the Colonials in scoring so far through the first four games. Basimile has scored 70 points in total while shooting at a .400 clip while Adams has scored 63 points while shooting at a .392 clip.

Adams said he's going to do "everything in his power" to help the team stack wins this season after the team finished 5-12 overall last year.

"I'm just a two-way player," Adams said. "Someone who's gonna be consistent on offense, someone who's gonna make shots on offense and then be consistent on defense."

In both the home opener against Saint Francis and their first road game against Maryland, four players on GW's roster took the vast majority of shots – Bishop, senior forward Ricky Lindo Jr., Basimile and Adams. They shot 49 out of the total 62 team field goal attempts against Saint Francis and 60 out of 66 team field goal attempts against Maryland.



SYDNEY WALSH | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Graduate student guard Brendan Adams said he will be consistent on both offense and defense as he joins the Colonials this season.

The Colonials overall scored most of their points from deep shots, free-throws, and points in the paint. GW scored 71 out of 75 total points against Saint Francis from 3-pointers, free throws and points in the paint and scored 54 out of 64 points against Maryland from these same areas.

Through five total games, the Colonials have scored a good portion of their points in transition,

scoring 22 points in transition against Saint Francis, 10 against Maryland, 11 against UC San Diego, 18 against Cal State Fullerton and 20 against Massachusetts Lowell.

While GW has recorded

47 assists

in their first five

games, fans can expect the Colonials to keep the ball moving through their offense this season.

Christian said he will

focus on giving his play-

ers the necessary freedom to go out and make plays, even when it seems there are none to be made.

"It's going to be good to have a group of guys like that, because that group of guys, like we could be in a scoring lull and they can make something then get an offensive rebound, they can get in the lane," Christian said. "You need all those things to be a great team."

Men's basketball capitalized on summer to bond ahead of season

NURIA DIAZ
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS
EDITOR

Men's basketball began their offseason training and forming relationships over the majority of the summer to prepare for the incoming 2021-22 season with a revamped roster.

After the exit of eight players both during and after last season, Head Coach Jamion Christian said he focused on using the summer to bring his team together after bringing in transfers in the month of April along with a handful of returnees. Last year, he said he didn't have all his players back until almost September due to delays and issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, while the majority of other teams in the A-10 got everyone back in July.

This year, Christian said he preaches to the team that "connections are gifts" and it's been a "major benefit" that the majority of the team has been at GW since the end of May.

"We just didn't have the time last year to dig deeper," Christian said. "And so I really appreciate the time this year when we were able to really connect with our players. The first two weeks, we spent only talking about culture, our way of life and how we like to operate. Because I felt like that was really important



AUDEN YURMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After bringing in several transfer students, Head Coach Jamion Christian said he used the summer to bond the team together.

before we did any basketball."

He said the summer was important for the team since it allowed the players to bond with each other on a personal level, especially coming out of a year altered by the pandemic.

"Great teams have great love," Christian said. "You build some of that through basketball, but you build a lot of that

through talking about trials and tribulations that guys have had, and bonding together over something much bigger than yourself."

Sophomore center Noel Brown said the team spent a lot of time outside of practice on the court playing games amongst themselves in addition to just being friends.

"We could do a lot of pickup and we could play

a lot together to just kind of feel each other out," Brown said. "We hang a lot, we hang out a lot outside of practice like involuntarily and I think that helps us when we get onto the court."

As a newcomer, graduate student guard Brendan Adams said the team spent a lot of time learning on and off the court to bond the team and build a sense of chemistry with

one another, even through their mistakes.

"Really learning what it's gonna take for this team to gel together, cause it's different for every team," Adams said. "So that was a big part of the summer. But we also spent a lot of time just learning the system, going through a new offense, trial and error, we spent a lot of time just figuring it out."

Junior guard James Bishop said the summer training also allowed the team to see what they had with a new roster, while also focusing on the team's ability on both sides of the ball. He said he was able to get long hours in the gym and create a "rapport" with his teammates.

"So having that time to really get in here and work out with the guys and play with the guys, it really helped us and really built our bond and built camaraderie on the court," Bishop said. "And then just focusing a lot on defense. Being able to guard and keep guys from scoring. Offense is just getting the flow of everything and getting the continuity and learning what guys are like out there and just each other on the court."

Christian said the veterans of last year's squad have proved crucial to establishing the squad's offense and culture and continuing what they had last season, specifically senior forward Ricky Lindo Jr. and Bishop.

"I feel like we have a roster full of guys that are two way players," Christian said. "So I felt like the amount of time we've been able to have has really been beneficial to us, maybe more so than anyone else. Because we needed that time to gel. I do feel like we're on pace right now."

Junior guard looks to build on strong debut season

WILL MARGERUM
STAFF WRITER

As men's basketball plods out to a losing start to the nonconference slate, the Colonials' hopes for a successful season rest with a key DMV native guard.

Baltimore-born junior guard James Bishop has been a revelation for the team since arriving as a transfer from Louisiana State last year. Head coach Jamion Christian said he's a "special" player and person who will only continue to get better.

Bishop finished second in the Atlantic 10 last year in points per game with 19.1 while notching a career-high 29 points in GW's second round exit to George Mason in the A-10 Tournament, nearly half of the team's 59-point output that day.

"He might be the most underrated player in the country right now," Christian said. "I'm glad to say he's ours because he plays the game with so much love and appreciation for the work that he puts in. I haven't had a more consistent player in my life."

Distribution was also a major part of Bishop's game in his debut season in Foggy Bottom, ranking fourth in the league with 5.1 assists per game. Christian said his assists are an "important number" given the wealth of new talent they have on the squad this year.

"When he came here from LSU, we talked a lot about him playing with the ball in his hands and being able to learn how to create for other people," Christian said. "And he's done an

outstanding job that I don't think he got enough credit a year ago for how he was able to create for the guys we had on our roster. He's only gotten better at it."

Bishop was a three-star recruit out of Mount Saint Joseph High School but did not make an immediate impact as a freshman at Louisiana State. He averaged 3.1 points over 8.6 minutes per game on a Tigers team that finished in third place in the Southeastern Conference before transferring to GW for his sophomore year.

Recruiting high-profile players from top programs via the transfer portal has been a theme during head coach Jamion Christian's time at GW, with Bishop as the clear standout thus far. Christian has brought in seven players from the traditional Power Five conferences and the Big East in the last two years in an attempt to bolster the roster and accelerate the rebuilding process.

Graduate student Brendan Adams, a transfer from Connecticut, also hails from Baltimore and said he and Bishop have been playing against each other since the age of eight at the high school and AAU levels. He said their games against each other were "always the big game in the city."

Bishop and Adams both said the opportunity to play closer to home was a major factor in their decisions to come to GW. Bishop said that his family in Baltimore was influential in his early life when it came to playing sports, playing for the first time when he was just 5 years old.

"I just fell in love with

the game when I started playing," Bishop said. "My favorite player was Kobe Bryant, so I looked up to him, and my brother and my dad always played basketball."

Bishop said his older brother used his basketball experience to work out with Bishop and train him on the court, helping him rise to become one of the most coveted players in his class from the DMV.

Looking toward his second campaign in Foggy Bottom, Bishop said he has been improving his game on the defensive side as well as working on his shooting and facilitation of the offense during the offseason. He said his improvement in the passing game will contribute to the offensive look of the team being centered around spreading the ball to multiple scorers this year.

Sharing the love on offense and incorporating more players into the attacking game plan will be a significant change from the 2020 Colonials, which saw Bishop and sophomore forward Jamison Battle combine to take 49 percent of the entire team's field goal attempts.

So far across the first five games of the season, four Colonials have attempted 45 or more shots, while Bishop is tied for the team in scoring along with Adams while averaging 12.6 points per game.

His attitude and personality have rubbed off onto the rest of the squad, as sophomore center Noel Brown said Bishop's growth both on and off the court has been "outstanding."



ELISSA DETELLIS | PHOTOGRAPHER

Men's basketball star James Bishop said he has been improving his game on the defensive end



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Men's squad welcomes key roster additions

LIAM O'MURCHU
STAFF WRITER

Following a pandemic-altered season last year, men's basketball returned just six players, forcing head coach Jamion Christian to replenish the roster with five transfers and four freshmen this offseason.

Christian said he has focused on utilizing transfers to revitalize the program as the team looks to move forward from last season. His 2021-22 team includes 10 total transfers on its roster, the second most in the country behind only Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

After the NCAA rule change that granted all transfers immediate eligibility in the middle of last season, Christian said he knew it could help the program rebuild faster.

"We have a great culture of transfers," Christian said. "Our transfers enjoy D.C., they love GW, they love the graduate school opportunities they have here. So part of the plan all year was always going to be taking transfers and bringing those guys in."

Three of the transfers are graduate students, including guards Brendan Adams and Bryan Knapp and forward Ira Lee. Christian hopes the experience of the graduate transfers can help the team in high-stakes situations.

"Whether it's Ira Lee or Brendan Adams, those guys have great experience in their lives," Christian said. Adams, a Baltimore, Maryland native, spent the first three

years of his college career at Connecticut, where he appeared in 78 games and averaged 4.9 points and 1.8 rebounds, although he only started eight games. He was ranked as a top 150 player in the country by the collegiate prospect ranking site Rivals.com coming out of high school and also received a scholarship offer from GW under former interim head coach Maurice Joseph.

"It's pretty close to home, a great school academically, a great place to come get my MBA," Adams said.

Adams has featured heavily for the Colonials three games into the season, tied for the most playing time with junior guard James Bishop with 144 minutes while starting all three games. He is averaging 16 points per game and is shooting 45.7 percent from the field thus far and led the Colonials with 22 points in their season opening win over Saint Francis.

Knapp, a D.C. native, comes to GW after spending four years at Cornell, which had its season cancelled last year due to the pandemic. He averaged 4.0 points, 1.3 rebounds and 15.8 minutes per game with the Big Red.

Lee transferred to GW from Arizona after spending four years with the Wildcats, averaging 3.9 points, 3.2 rebounds and 13.2 minutes per game while in Tucson. Unfortunately for the Colonials, Lee ruptured his patellar tendon playing pickup basketball over the summer and will miss the season.

Sophomore guard

Joe Bamisile transferred from Virginia Tech after just a year with the Hokies where he averaged 3.5 points, 1.5 rebounds and 8.9 minutes per game in 13 appearances.

For the Colonials, he has been a star through four games, showing his athleticism and ability to finish at the rim.

He has started all three games and averaged 17.3 points and 4.3 rebounds per game, highlighted by a 20-point performance against Maryland.

Bamisile has taken 36.1 percent of the Colonials' shots so far this year and figures to be key cog for the Colonials' attempt to make an A-10 tournament run this year.

Junior forward Qwanzi Samuels, from nearby District Heights, Maryland, came to GW from Florida Gulf Coast. In his time with the Eagles he appeared in 27 games, averaging 1.7 points, 2.3 rebounds and 11 minutes per game.

Among the four incoming freshmen, the only one who has seen significant minutes so far this season is guard Brayon Freeman. Freeman, a native of D.C., is a shifty 6-foot-2-inch guard who Christian said does well to create opportunities for his teammates.

The remaining first-years, Daniel Nixon, Laziz Talipov and Tyler Warner all look to be important pieces moving forward for the program. "We've definitely had ups and downs, but I think we're coming together now, we can see the progress, we should be good when it matters most," Adams said.



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Graduate students provide boost to retooled women's basketball roster

SUNIT CHAKRABORTY
REPORTER

Women's basketball welcomed three new graduate transfers to the team this season that will provide valuable Division I experience on both sides of the court.

Graduate student forward Ty Moore and point guards Sierra Bell and Kyara Frames all played significant roles on their previous teams and proved vital to the Colonials' first two wins of the season. Collectively, the trio has logged 215 minutes of playing time through 240 minutes of play thus far this season.

Moore, who played for Troy last season, averaged 9.7 points and 6.0 rebounds as she helped Troy win their fourth Sun Belt Championship. Bell averaged 10.7 points last season playing for Purdue Fort Wayne, and she dropped the fourth most free throws in program history when she sank 15-of-18 free throws against Robert Morris Feb. 20.

Frames was the team captain of Albany and averaged 8.3 points and 3.3 rebounds while leading her team from deep, shooting at a 35.7 percent clip. Frames said her goal this year is "just to have fun."

"This is my last year," Frames said. "I want to bring an im-

pact to this program and just win some games. I would love to build some better chemistry with my teammates, and you know, it's going to be a battlefield every time we play."

Head coach Caroline McCombs said she looks for Frames and Bell to bring leadership to the point guard position as they work to understand everyone's roles and positions on the team. McCombs also said Moore has been a "terrific presence" for the team on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball.

In the squad's home opener against American University, Moore dominated the game through her scoring and rebounding. She recorded a double-double, scoring 18 points and grabbing 11 rebounds while shooting 75 percent from the field. Moore had a plus/minus of plus-16 when she was on the floor, the best of any Colonial, and she hit a myriad of mid range jumpers to close out the game in the fourth quarter.

Moore said McCombs has been "one of the most comfortable" and "down to earth" coaches she's ever played for. She said she's been putting all her work into McCombs because McCombs has been putting all her work into her.

In addition to Moore, Frames and Bell also played significant roles in GW's comeback home opening victory.

Sierra Bell spurred GW's second quarter offense, drawing two shooting fouls and hitting 4-of-5 from the free throw line early in the quarter. With 7:10 left in the quarter, Bell grabbed an offensive rebound and moved the ball until Frames hit a jump shot with 6:59 left to bring GW within two points at 18-16.

Frames scored 4 points and grabbed three rebounds in the duel with the Eagles. She played tough defense throughout the game, forcing a charging foul on American with 5:29 left in the third and also showed her leadership by directing the Colonials' offensive sets. She hit the first shot of the second half, a crossover layup, which set the tone for GW's aggressive driving as they eventually took the lead in the third quarter.

Frames talked about the importance of the team staying together during difficult times. She said the team will go through some "tough moments" both on and off the court but is confident in their ability to remain a team through it all.

"As long as we stick together, then there's

not going to be a lot of people that can beat us," Frames said. "I feel like we're our own worst enemy if we fall apart. So if we stick together, then there's going to be a lot of teams that can't beat us when we're in this gym."

After the comeback victory at home, the Colonials dropped their next two games, losing to Virginia Tech at home and Minnesota on the road, before capturing a narrow victory over Old Dominion Thursday where Frames scored 11 points. As the Colonials look to establish a winning record, leadership from all three graduate students will be pivotal in GW's success.

Throughout the season, Frames is looking to encourage younger players to appreciate the various parts of the season, through both wins and losses. She said as a graduate transfer, she has a greater appreciation for still having the chance to play because "this time doesn't last forever."

"I thought that last year would be my last year playing college basketball," Frames said. "Luckily, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to come here. I think that just being appreciative to be able to wake up every day and do something everyone else doesn't get to do."

Men's squad started off strong, dwindled in recent games

NURIA DIAZ
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Men's basketball began their preseason slate with a home victory but have fallen into a losing streak in the last four games.

The Colonials (1-4) have been shooting at a .373 percent clip from the floor while holding a .286 average from the three-point line. Last year, the Colonials held a .462 shooting average and shot at a .343 percent clip from deep through five games.

Since transferring to GW in April, sophomore guard Joe Bamisile has become the top scorer on the team, hitting 28-of-70 from the floor to net 70 total points.

The team has consistently gotten themselves into foul trouble, which has played a role in their opponents outscoring them thus far. GW's opponents have shot a total of 127 free throws to the Colonials' 81, converting on 91 of them.

During GW's home opener and sole victory against Saint Francis, the Colonials were able to close out the game 75-72 in a nail-biting finish with the Red Flash. The Colonials sank 24-of-62 attempts from the floor, firing at a .375 clip from downtown, and the Red Flash followed closely behind with a .377 shooting percentage, converting 1-of-9 from beyond the arc.

The Colonials began the first half with an early 11-6 lead in the first five minutes of the game with three different players scoring from inside the paint. A fast break dunk by senior forward Ricky Lindo Jr. marked his 11th and 12th points of the first half to consolidate the GW lead.

The Red Flash gained momentum during the second half with a 6-0 scoring run to shorten the lead to 7 points. Graduate student Guard Brendan Adams responded with a 3-pointer to bring GW back up to 32.

Redshirt senior Forward Mark Flagg began a 10-2 scoring run for the Red Flash with a layup, helping the Saint Francis team cut the lead to one point. Lindo Jr. finished the game for the Colonials with two free throws that finalized the Colonials' lead of two points. He ended the game with 17 points, nine rebounds, six blocks and three steals in a strong individual performance.

In their second game, the Colonials faced Maryland where they fell 71-64 after the Terrapins gained momentum during the second half to eliminate GW's lead. The Colonials hit at a .409 clip from the floor, netting 23.5 percent from the 3-point line.

Bamisile netted 20 points for the Colonials, slamming home

a breakaway windmill dunk 3 1/2 minutes into the second half. Junior Guard James Bishop followed along with 13 points, two assists and four rebounds. Maryland pulled through in the second half with the help of Georgetown transfer junior forward Qudus Wahab, who amassed 18 points and 15 rebounds on the night.

The Colonials continued their three game road stint, traveling to California to take on the UC San Diego Tritons, but fell 75-55. The Colonials hit at a .362 clip from the field. Lindo Jr. notched a double-double, his first of the season, netting in 13 points with 11 rebounds for GW. Bamisile and Adams followed along with 12 points each.

GW was only able to connect on 3-of-19 3-pointers, good for a .158 average. The Colonials scored 17 points off turnovers compared to the Tritons' 15.

The Tritons had a .40 scoring percentage from the paint while netting .440 from the 3-point line. San Diego hit a 21-10 advantage early on the 11-minute mark, hitting 11 3-pointers.

A game against Cal State Fullerton left the Colonials at a 79-54 deficit marking the third consecutive loss of their pre-season slate. This time Bishop led the way for the Colonials with 19 points and three assists, shooting 7-of-21 from the field and 5-of-14 from 3-point range.

GW shot at a .373 clip from beyond the arc and forced 11 turnovers, off of which 10 points were scored. The Titans shot at a .433 clip, hitting .364 percent of their shots from behind the 3-point line.

The Titans began their advantage with six minutes left to go in the first half, going on a 19-point run while the Colonials entered a scoring drought.

The Colonials went on a 16-0 run in the final three minutes of the game, but were ultimately unable to overcome the Titans' lead, falling to an 11-3 spurt by the Titans. Sophomore center Noel Brown scored his first double-digit effort, netting 10 points with three rebounds.

In GW's most recent Friday game against Massachusetts Lowell, the Colonials fell 67-56, succumbing to their fourth consecutive loss in their pre-season slate.

In the second half, the River Hawks went on a 13-4 run, shooting at a .548 clip from the floor to tie the game with just over 15 minutes left to play. The Colonials were able to regain the lead with a jumper and a free throw from Bamisile.

The Colonials will look to snap their losing streak, hitting the road for the Naples Invitational beginning Nov. 22. Their first opponent will be Wright State with tip-off at 7 p.m.

Women's senior guard forges bridge between teammates new and old

ROMAN BOBEK
SPORTS EDITOR

Women's basketball will look to senior guard Maddie Loder to provide a bridge between the newcomers and the veterans of the squad.

Basketball has been a part of Loder's life since the beginning, picking up basketball when was just 4 years old and playing the sport and soccer for most of her youth. She said she ended up choosing to stick with basketball because she was simply better at it.

"I just fell in love with it because I was bigger than everyone else, and I was better than everybody else," Loder said. "And from there, you just grow with the sport. You grow up with it and it grows with you. So it was just great having that for so long."

Loder said she grew up in the suburbs of Minnesota, about 30 minutes west of the Twin Cities. She played a season-high 21 minutes against the Golden Gophers last Sunday in her hometown reunion.

She said she has been encouraging the rest of the team to not only be great basketball players, but "great D.C. residents" as well and take full advantage of their time being in the nation's capital.

"Slightly put, I'm very much not from the city," Loder said. "So coming here has been one of the greatest adventures, just living in D.C. being so close to the monuments. Sometimes when I'm frustrated after practice, I just walk down, I find myself down by the National Mall and I'm like 'How did I get here? This is



Maddie Loder is the only senior and four-year veteran of the program on the roster.

where I live."

This year, Loder is the only senior and four-year veteran of the program on the roster. Though three graduate students are also on the roster, all of them have transferred in from other schools.

"I've played a lot of games," Loder said. "I've played a lot of minutes. I know what's going on. And I think that's the biggest thing for me has been just like, 'Hey, I know what happens here. I know what we do. And this is

what coaches say that we're going to do.' So I know how to implement it."

Last year, Loder appeared in 23 games, starting in 18 of them, while averaging 4.8 points, 1.4 rebounds and 1.6 assists per game. She shot 29.5 percent from the floor and led the team from the charity stripe shooting 87.9 percent.

In her GW career, she has played in 75 games for a total of 1,609 minutes donning the buff

new," Loder said. "We're playing a completely different defense than I've played in the last three years."

Despite being the only senior, Loder said she can rely on the other five returning members of the roster to deliver the message of what they're about to the rest of the squad.

"I'm not doing this by myself," Loder said. "I have Mayowa. I have Faith and Essence who were both here. And even our sophomores Piper and Aurea, they've been awesome and helping us just move forward with what we want to do and what we want to be."

Loder will look to recreate some similar season defining moments in the remainder of her final season, starting with a home matchup against Quinnipiac Monday.

Loder said the most memorable moment of her long GW career was redshirt junior forward Mayowa Taiwo's buzzer-beating shot with 0.9 seconds left against Memphis that gave the Colonials a 64-63 win over the Tigers in 2019. Junior forward Faith Blethen hit Taiwo with an inbound pass and Taiwo leapt to snatch the ball and power her way through contact to lay in the ball.

"There was just so much freaking joy from that moment," Loder said. "Beating a school like Memphis, that was the second year that we had played them and we beat them the first year, and just going down to Memphis being able to play them and having that moment of just seeing all your hard work pay off."

Men's Schedule

Home Away
N Naples Invitational
P GW Passport Event
A-10 A-10 Championships

NOVEMBER 2021

22	Vs. Wright State	2:30 PM
23	Vs. Kent State	N NOON
23	Vs. JMU	N 5:30 PM
24	Vs. TBD	N TBD



SYDNEY WALSH | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The development of the new freshman players will be a critical focus in the future for Head Coach Caroline McCombs.

DECEMBER 2021

1	Vs. Boston	P 7:00 PM
4	At Charlotte	2:00 PM
8	Vs. Coppin State	P 6:30 PM
13	Vs. Radford	P 7:00 PM
22	Vs. Maryland Eastern Shore	NOON
30	Vs. St. Bonaventure	A-10 4:00 PM

JANUARY 2022

2	At Saint Joseph's	A-10 1:00 PM
5	At Duquesne	A-10 7:00 PM
8	Vs. Dayton	A-10 NOON
11	At VCU	A-10 7:00 PM
17	Vs. George Mason	A-10 2:00 PM
22	At Rhode Island	A-10 12:30 PM
26	At Saint Louis	A-10 8:00 PM
30	Vs. Fordham	A-10 NOON

FEBRUARY 2022

2	Vs. La Salle	A-10 7:00 PM
5	Vs. Davidson	A-10 2:00 PM
9	At Massachusetts	A-10 7:00 PM
12	At Dayton	A-10 2:00 PM
19	Vs. Rhode Island	A-10 7:00 PM
22	Vs. Richmond	A-10 7:00 PM
27	At George Mason	A-10 2:30 PM

MARCH 2022

2	Vs. Duquesne	A-10 7:00 PM
5	At Fordham	A-10 2:00 PM

Women's Schedule

Home Away
SJ San Juan Shootout
P GW Passport Event
A-10 A-10 Championships

NOVEMBER 2021

22	Vs. Quinnipiac	5:00 PM
26	Vs. UTMartin	SJ 1:15 PM
27	Vs. Florida	SJ 8:00 PM

DECEMBER 2021

2	Vs. James Madison	7:00 PM
5	Vs. Virginia	P 2:00 PM
9	At Georgetown	7:00 PM
12	Vs. Howard	P 2:00 PM
21	Vs. Lehigh	2:00 PM
28	Vs. West Chester	4:00 PM

JANUARY 2022

1	Vs. Saint Louis	A-10 2:00 PM
5	Vs. Richmond	A-10 NOON
8	At Dayton	A-10 2:00 PM
12	Vs. Rhode Island	A-10 7:00 PM
15	At St. Bonaventure	A-10 NOON
19	At Fordham	A-10 7:00 PM
22	Vs. Massachusetts	A-10 2:00 PM
26	Vs. Davidson	A-10 7:00 PM
29	At George Mason	A-10 3:00 PM

FEBRUARY 2022

6	Vs. La Salle	A-10 1:00 PM
9	Vs. Davidson	A-10 7:00 PM
12	At Massachusetts	A-10 2:00 PM
16	At Dayton	A-10 7:00 PM
20	Vs. Rhode Island	A-10 2:00 PM
23	Vs. Richmond	A-10 7:00 PM
26	At George Mason	A-10 2:00 PM

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Women's team gets off to lukewarm start

ROMAN BOBEK
SPORTS EDITOR

Women's basketball has had a mixed start to the season, finishing with a 2-2 record through four games.

Though GW was predicted to finish 12th out of 14 teams in the A-10, the Colonials showed promise in their home opener comeback victory over crosstown rival American. Despite a slow start, the Colonials found a spark in the second quarter before eventually retaking the lead in the third quarter to claim the first victory of head coach Caroline McCombs' GW career by a score of 58-47.

GW came out of the half playing to their strengths in the post, as graduate student forward Ty Moore and redshirt junior forward Mayowa Taiwo began to take control of the game. Moore finished the game with a double-double, notching 18 points and 11 rebounds while sinking 9-of-12 from the field. Taiwo amassed 10 points and seven rebounds of her own, while netting 5-of-7 from the field to complete the night.

The Colonials trailed just 23-20 despite shooting only 25 percent in the first half compared to

the Eagles' 60 percent. GW kept it close through a strong effort on the glass, as they would finish the game with nine more offensive rebounds and 10 more second-chance points than American.

Graduate student guard Kyara Frames kicked off the scoring in the third, using a crossover move to get inside and finish a layup. With 6:12 left, Taiwo hit a layup to bring GW within one at 29-28. Despite pair of Eagles 3-pointers, Taiwo intercepted a pass and finished a layup on the break to bring the Colonials back within one. Junior guard Sheslanie Laureano sliced through the American defense and netted a layup to finally put GW ahead 36-35.

GW finished the third quarter ahead 40-37 thanks to 16 points in the paint and an improved 66.7 percent from the field. The Colonial defense held American to just 6-of-14 from the field, but allowed two 3-point buckets.

GW dominated in the fourth, going on a 7-0 scoring run to start the quarter. Moore fired a barrage of mid-range jumpers, scoring 8 of her 18 total points in the final quarter alone, and hit a contested fadeaway to put the Colonials up 7 points with just over a minute

to play and eventually hand GW a 58-47 victory.

But in the following home game against No. 24 Virginia Tech, Moore got into foul trouble after racking up three fouls in only seven minutes of first half play, taking her out of rhythm and removing a key offensive weapon for the Colonials throughout much of the game.

Meanwhile, on the other end of the court, Virginia Tech Center Elizabeth Kitley dominated for the entirety of the game, racking up 34 points and snatching nine rebounds while shooting an eye-popping 80 percent from the field.

Though the Colonials kept it close in the first quarter, trailing only 19-14 by its end, the Hokies pulled away quickly in the second quarter and never gave the Colonials a chance to mount a comeback.

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 nearly four-minute-long scoring drought in the final five minutes.

By the end of the third, the Hokies held a 61-32 advantage. Virginia Tech widened their lead

in the fourth by as many as 34 points before finishing with a final score of 75-38.

After their first defeat at home, the Colonials fell to Minnesota in a low scoring defensive battle 48-32. The Colonials shot a season low 19.2 percent from the floor, but the GW defense kept the Golden Gophers to a season low 48 points.

GW earned their first points of the second quarter after nearly four whole minutes, thanks to a 3-pointer from Laureano. At halftime, the Colonials trailed 28-15 and had shot just 7-of-31 from the field while sinking just 1-of-7 from deep.

The Colonials offensive struggles continued in the third quarter as they hit just 2-of-11 from the field, 0-of-3 from deep and 1-of-4 from the free throw line. By the end of the quarter, the Colonials trailed by the largest deficit of the game at 40-20.

In GW's most recent game, the Colonials led by as many as 16 points on the road against Old Dominion but required a clutch 3-pointer from Laureano to scrape out a 47-45 win.

As they did in their first victory, the Colonials started off slow, falling behind 7-0 until Frames got on

the board. Frames sunk a 3-pointer off a high screen to give GW a 27-19 lead before the teams traded baskets in the final two minutes. The Colonials went into the break up 29-21 as the Monarchs made just two field goals throughout the entirety of the quarter.

The Monarchs cut the lead to 10 points in the final two minutes of the third quarter before junior forward Essence Brown knocked down a jumper at the buzzer to cushion GW's lead heading into the final period with a score of 41-29.

The Monarchs capitalized on the Colonial offensive lull, scoring 7 straight points out of the media timeout to reclaim the lead 45-44. Despite missing back to back attempts on the next two possessions, GW's defense remained stout and regained possession with less than 30 seconds left, courtesy of a steal by Laureano.

Old Dominion got a shot off during their final possession which banked off the glass to presumably tie the game. But upon review, the clock had expired before she let go of the ball, allowing Colonials to escape with their second win of the year and first on the road.

News

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Tracking COVID-19

Nov. 11 - Nov. 17

Weekly COVID-19 cases: 45 Weekly positivity rate: 0.46% Change in cases since previous week: +15

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

D.C. MONDAYS: THE LIFE OF JOSIAH HENSON

Monday, Nov. 22 • Noon EST • Free
Join historian Jamie Ferguson as she describes the life of Josiah Henson and how he rose to international fame despite his former enslavement.

HOW TO "UN-DO" ILLIBERALISM? POLAND, HUNGARY, AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

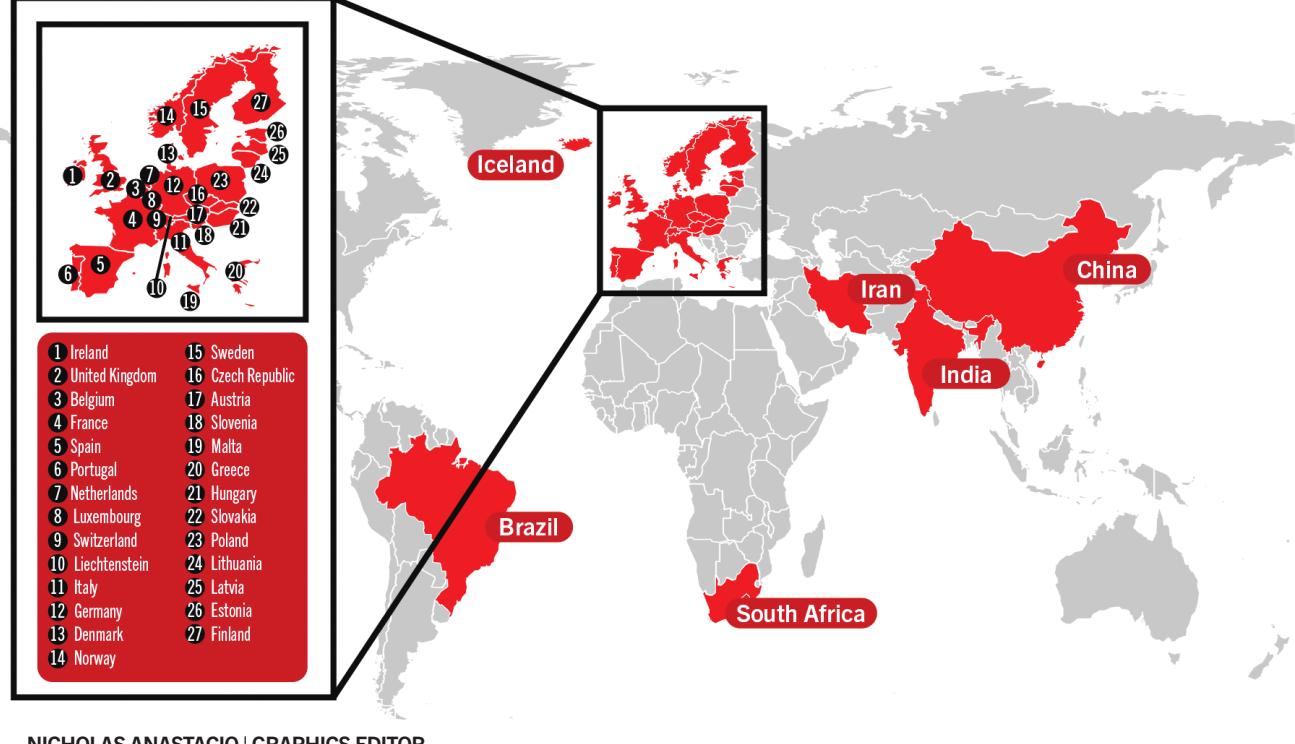
Tuesday, Nov. 23 • 11 a.m. EST • Free
Tune into a discussion hosted by the Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies as experts in European constitutional law explain the impact of liberalism in Europe.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Nov. 25, 1985

GW's budget director reverses a prior statement that attributed a nearly 10 percent tuition hike to GW's difficulty leasing space at 2000 Pennsylvania Ave., The Hatchet reported.

Countries with recently lifted restrictions for non-essential travel



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Source: NAFSA: Association of International Educators

Lifted travel bans bring 'relief' for international students ahead of holiday break

TALON SMITH
REPORTER

International students can now return home and invite family members to D.C. for visits after the United States lifted travel restrictions on more than 30 countries earlier this month.

Federal officials removed travel bans on countries including Brazil, China, South Africa, India, and much of Europe earlier this month, pulling back restrictions put in place when the country shut down travel at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. International students said the removal of the travel bans will allow them to host loved ones on campus for events like Commencement and return home for holiday breaks in the wake of uncertainty surrounding the safety of global travel.

The decision to loosen travel restrictions comes almost a year after the Food and Drug Administration issued its first emergency use authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in December before granting subsequent authorization for the Moderna and the Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Officials are still mandating proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 test for travelers despite the looser restrictions.

João Cardoso, a freshman majoring in international affairs from Brazil, said the removal of the travel bans was a

"relief" because travel into the United States will be easier for his family, who will no longer need to obtain visas to enter the country.

"I think it became clear that it's just going to be a lot easier to do that travel," he said. "There's not as many restrictions there, and it's also easier for people to come here. So it's easier for family members to come visit if we need assistance with something. So that was a big relief."

Officials said earlier this month that they're developing outreach and recruitment strategies for international students in hopes of offsetting the recent decline in international student enrollment during COVID-19 pandemic. Jay Goff, the vice provost of student enrollment and student success, said at a Faculty Senate meeting last month that worldwide travel restrictions likely caused the 7.5 percent decline in international student enrollment this fall after nationwide totals dropped by 72 percent during the last academic year.

Cardoso said he has felt isolated from his parents, interacting with them digitally via platforms like WhatsApp since moving onto campus in August. But the lifted travel restrictions have opened an opportunity for him to reunite with them this January, he said.

"What's been difficult, there's obviously a big factor of homesickness and that kind of stuff, and being apart I'd say that—as far as travel restrictions go—I think a big difficulty is that it's going to take a lot of time for people back home to get visas," he said.

Mason Liu, a senior from China majoring in business analytics, said while lifting the travel bans will not personally affect his travel choices, his friends who are international students can now travel home and see their family on breaks. He said his friends from Australia are now booking flights to travel home for winter break to visit

family and friends whom they haven't seen since August before they moved in.

"My Australian friends are going back home for sure, and they're feeling really glad and happy about it," he said. "They're switching their travel options just recently. They never planned to go back in the winter, but after a lift up they just changed their plan."

Even though the travel ban on China was lifted, Liu could not make new plans to return to China because the country's mandatory 14-day hotel quarantine would have made it difficult for him to visit his family. He said he hopes the pandemic will become more under control by the spring so China's travel restrictions can ease and his family can fly to D.C. to watch him graduate.

Gerald Keusch, a professor of medicine and international health and the associate director of the National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratories at Boston University, said federal officials lifted the travel bans because they were ineffective and costly.

"The costs and benefits, potential of introduction of the virus versus tourism, travel, trade, family, etc. means benefits outweigh the risks, and I think those are the kinds of things that get weighed," he said.

He said vaccine efficacy and the limitation of coronavirus variants will determine how the travel ban removal continues.

2100 Pennsylvania Ave. construction disrupts sleep, study schedules: students

ACACIA NIYOGI
REPORTERSAMUEL HARRIS
REPORTER

Construction work at 2100 Pennsylvania Ave. is close to wrapping up, but as the site passes its second year of hammering and drilling, students said they're hoping for an accelerated finish to the project.

GW signed a nearly \$200 million, 75-year lease with Boston Properties in 2019 to develop the site into a glass office complex with stores and restaurants, now slated to open as soon as this summer. But more than half a dozen students living in Lafayette Hall and District House say early-morning construction noises—which they say start as early as 5 a.m.—from the nearby site have disrupted their sleep schedules.

Sean Sullivan, the vice president for development at Boston Properties, said the company is not aware of any noise complaints from residents. He said company officials are in "close contact" with the University and are cooperating to confirm that construction is ongoing within permit-

ted hours if complaints do arise.

"We work with our general contractor to ensure the construction activities stay within the noise levels and hours permitted by the city," he said in an email. "The activities on our site are typical for a downtown construction project of this size."

Sullivan said slower government utility inspections and construction material delivery delays caused minor setbacks to the project, but the completion timeline is still in line with the original projection of the first quarter of 2022.

"We have experienced some material delivery delays related to the ongoing disruption to the global supply chain, but we have overall fared better than some other projects in the region," he said. "We did experience some delays early on in the project related to inspections from government agencies (they stopped visiting sites or reduced staff) but that process is now thankfully back to normal."

"We are excited to be delivering 2100 Penn in the very near future and look forward to announc-

ing new retail offerings for the surrounding neighborhood," he said.

The building has been under construction since 2019, when Lafayette Hall residents initially lamented over disruptions to their sleep.

Students complained about construction noise coming from 2100 Penn disrupting their sleep and interfering with their class work throughout this semester.

Much of the building's construction coincided with the pandemic, and Boston Properties obtained late-night work permits through last July in hopes of getting back on schedule while students were away from campus. But as students reoccupy nearby residence halls, they say the noise has remained a constant in the neighborhood.

Sophomore Maria Fugel, a fourth-floor District House resident, said morning construction noises can wake her as early as 5 a.m. as the clamor continues throughout the day, leaving her unable to fall back to sleep.

Sophomore Dylan Lyman, who lives on the eighth floor of District, said



CAMILLE DESANTO | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The building has been under construction since 2019 and is expected to be completed early next year.

he has awoken multiple times throughout the semester to the sound of work outside of the building.

"Construction noises, trucks and loud machinery usually wake me up an hour or two before I plan on waking up in the morning," Lyman said. "It usually wakes me up around 8-ish or a little bit after."

Sophomore Chris Cho,

who lives on the fourth floor of District, said he has noticed intermittent periods of loud machinery and other construction-related noises.

"Hammering and machinery is super loud at random times throughout the day," Cho said. "The District group chat every week or so complains about random hammering through-

out the day or night."

Some residents of Lafayette Hall, which is closer to the construction site, echoed the same concerns about construction noise, which interferes with their studies and early morning sleep. Freshman Penda Hott, who lives in Lafayette, said the noise has become excessive for her and her roommate.

GW Teach provides supplies to D.C. teachers through Smithsonian partnership

NICHOLAS PASION

STAFF WRITER

Faculty and students have donated classroom materials to D.C. Public School teachers this semester to enhance in-person learning and accessibility in STEM courses.

Participants with GW Teach, a program that certifies undergraduates to teach K-12 by the time they graduate, said they have distributed thousands of STEM materials, donated by the Smithsonian Science Education Center, to about 14 DCPS teachers and University alumni this semester. Faculty and students involved with GW Teach said teachers can use the donated materials to perform more STEM-related activities, like labs and experiments in their classroom.

Alicia Bitler, an assistant professor of teaching with GW Teach, said D.C. schools are "variant" in the supplies they have at their disposal because of funding discrepancies and stolen equipment. She said the new supplies will expand learning methods and opportunities for students in the District, who can have more "engaging, meaningful and rich" experiences in the classroom.

"A lot of the schools that are getting these materials are schools that really don't have anything, and so it really opens up the opportunity for those students to be able to engage in hands-on learning," she said.

A 2020 report on DCPS found the District's public schools have struggled with "funding gaps" between DCPS faculty, which lead to inadequate class provisions that make it difficult for teachers to conduct higher-cost classroom activities, like labs and experiments.

Bitler said faculty and students at GW Teach store the materials in their offices, where they sort, conduct inventory and distribute the class materials. She said several students in the program have volunteered to help her perform inventory checks and organize the supplies over the past few weeks.

Bitler said since the program's inception in 2015, GW Teach has certified more than a dozen teachers to teach in STEM related classes in DCPS. She added that GW Teach distributed school supplies to about 14 teachers who graduated from GW Teach and work in Northwest, Northeast and Southeast regions of the District.

"Since the first people that we made these available to are our mentor teachers, we know that these are teachers that are dedicated to giving students amazing learning experiences and to doing inquiry learning and to doing hands on learning," she said. "And so we know that these materials are really going to be used in these schools to give these students amazing experiences."

She said GW Teach hosted an open house on Nov. 11 to donate materials, like stopwatches and safety goggles, to other DCPS teachers, but even after the event, the program still has thousands of items leftover to distribute. She added that GW Teach will continue to hand out the materials through the rest of the semester and will host another open house in early December to hand out the remaining materials.

"It does work so much better for the teachers to come in and see stuff because we had one teacher that



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
The program still has thousands of items leftover to distribute, which will be handed out over the course of the rest of the semester.

had her department head on video phone with her and was taking her around and her department head was like, 'Oh my gosh, we need that,'" she said.

Beth Short, a science curriculum developer at the Smithsonian and doctoral candidate at GW, said the Smithsonian Science Education Center sent GW Teach materials that would not fit in the new offices that the center moved into earlier in the fall after downsizing. She said GW Teach has connections with

several teachers in DCPS who graduated from the program and need the supplies for their classrooms.

Bethany Rosera, a middle school math teacher at Stuart-Hobson Middle School in Northeast D.C., said she picked up calculators and rulers at the GW Teach open house, which will be used "daily" by students in her classroom.

Junior Lorenzo Lopes, a biology major, said he volunteered at the open house earlier this month, helping distribute materials to teachers

from all over DCPS who came to GW to pick up supplies. He said the teachers were looking forward to picking up materials that they may not have otherwise had access to if not for the donations.

"A lot of teachers that pick up the stuff, you can see there is a joy in their eyes when they get it. It's almost like giving a kid a present," he said. "And at the end of the day, that's the best feeling because you've just allowed someone to become a better teacher."

GW relaunches faculty leadership program to cultivate skill-building

IANNE SALVOSA
REPORTER

Administrators re-launched an academic leadership initiative involving faculty leaders across the University this fall after a year-long pause during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The GW Academic Leadership Academy returned this year with a curriculum for faculty to hone their leadership skills with a personal project documenting their experience in the program and training seminars on topics like conflict management and communication. Officials said they relaunched the leadership academy for participants to fully engage in the program as the University returns to in-person teaching.

The program consists of seven seminars that administrators present to help faculty cultivate skills, like emotional intelligence and vision creation. After completing the academy, members of that year's cohort participate in a graduation ceremony where they present their project and what they learned throughout the experience.

Interim Provost Christopher Bracey said officials and deans from each school nominate faculty to the cohorts in a manner as "inclusive as possible," and faculty can also join through a self-nomination process. He said officials selected the 19 faculty members of this academic year's cohort over this summer.

"We are quite proud of the diversity of our current cohort, and it has added tremendous value to the experience for all involved," Bracey said in an email.

Bracey and then-Provost Forrest Maltzman created the academy in fall 2019 to initiate connections between rising faculty leaders, like

department heads and deans, across different schools. Faculty in the program this year said Bracey and Sara Métila, the executive consultant at the Office of the Provost, currently run the academy.

Hiromi Ishizawa, the chair of the sociology department, said she assessed her "developing" leadership style through the program's evaluation of conflict management.

She said the first academy seminar – where Barbara Bass, the dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, spoke about her experience at GW and the concept of "vision" – inspired her to start brainstorming her own vision to create more research opportunities for students.

"Within this training, it's not only about how to be the leader but also about understanding ourselves," Ishizawa said.

Ishizawa said participating faculty discuss what they learned in small groups after each seminar, helping cohort members foster relationships among themselves for potential collaboration on research or curriculum development.

She said she enjoys being a part of a diverse cohort with participants across different schools and departments.

She said by the end of the program, participating faculty will have a better understanding of how the University functions, helping them "give back" to the GW community.

"Being a chair of the department, it's a small unit in the bigger University, so it's good to know what other units are doing and trying to solve," Ishizawa said. "Sometimes we share similar concerns, but they sometimes don't, and it's interesting to hear their experiences."

Robert Ortung, a research professor of international affairs, said the academy has scheduled meetings



COURTESY OF HIROMI ISHIZAWA
Hiromi Ishizawa, a cohort member of the academy, said participating faculty will have a better understanding of how the University functions.

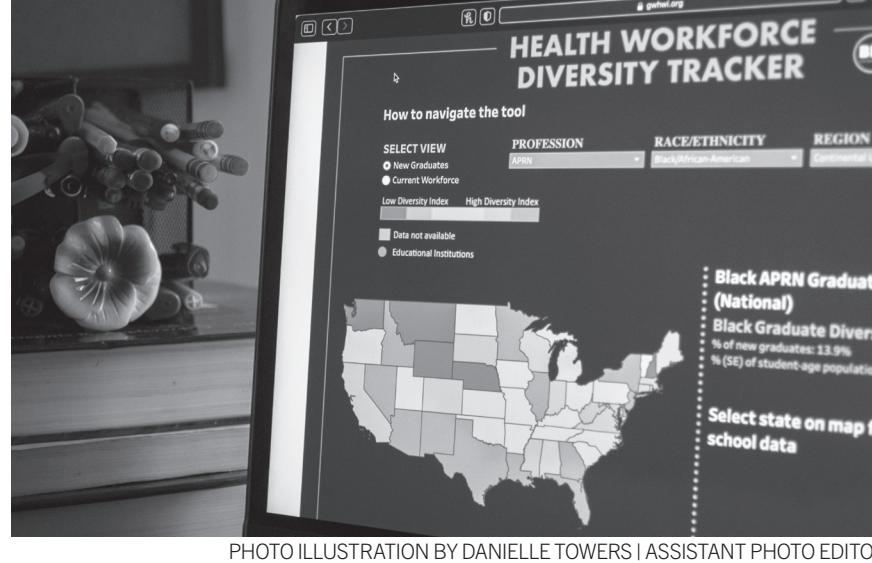


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
The tracker identified physical therapy and physician assistants as the least diverse professions.

Milken tracker highlights racial disparities in health care workforce

NICHOLAS PERKINS
REPORTER

SARAH HENDRICK
REPORTER

Faculty launched an interactive online tracker to analyze workforce diversity in 10 health care professions earlier this month.

The Healthcare Workforce Diversity Tracker, which is run out of the Milken Institute School of Public Health, displays a map outlining the diversity of graduates and health care workers, including nurses, dentists, therapists, physicians and pharmacists, in comparison to the diversity of the general population. The tracker's map shows minority representation in health care professions is well below minority representation in the general U.S. population.

Edward Salsberg, a health services research professor at Milken and the head of the project, said the tracker reports data on the representation of white, Black and Hispanic professionals within the existing health care workforce and the pipeline to the professional industry, including health profession schools, like medical or dentistry institutions.

"The project's overall long-term goal really for us would be to be the go-to data source for people who want to know how well the nation, how well states and how well are schools doing in terms of graduating and producing a diverse health workforce," Salsberg said.

The tracker found that racial and ethnic inequality spanned across nine out of the 10 studied professions. Physical therapy and physician assistants represented the least diverse professions, and

advanced practice registered nurses ranked as the most diverse.

The proportion of Black physical therapists is just 22 percent of what would match their representation in the general population.

When a viewer clicks on a state, they can see diversity index data for individual universities. Salsberg said the diversity tracker helps "motivate" schools and professions to increase outreach to underrepresented populations.

The tracker is part of the Health Workforce Diversity Initiative, a program within the Milken-based Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity, which studies how health care inequity can perpetuate disparities in the health care workforce.

Researchers received \$185,000 in startup funding last August from the California Endowment, an organization that strives for social justice and health equity, and the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, which aims to advance education and training of health professionals, he said.

Salsberg said his colleagues created the database with information from the American Community Survey and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

He said the team plans to add about 15 professions and the option to view representation of Asian Americans and Native Americans over the next six months to make the diversity tracker more comprehensive. Researchers are engaged in a marketing campaign on social media to share the tracker with other organizations that have similar diversity goals, like the National Association for

Erin Brantley, a researcher who helped write the methodology for the project, said the tracker will help "raise awareness" about health care fields, like physical therapy, that have low diversity but don't get as much attention as fields like nursing and medicine.

"So we have the opportunity here to let people know more about some of the places where certain professions are really lagging behind," she said.

Community Health Centers, he said.

"I think it's really critical because I think we build a great tool," he said. "But if we don't get the message out that people can get this information, then we aren't getting the full value."

Toyeze Oyeyemi, a co-lead of the health workforce diversity initiative, said health care professions are among the fastest growing careers in the United States.

Oyeyemi said ensuring that minorities have access to these well-paid professions will increase their "economic benefit," which will allow them to invest more in their communities.

He said the tracker can introduce tracking and accountability for stakeholders to notice whether their institutions or communities are intentionally addressing diversity.

"We're seeing that there's some intentionality by institutions to actually address diversity in their community, and having this tracker can be a tool that should be able to support your efforts because you have to be able to measure what matters in order to know what kind of changes need to be created," he said.

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Bracey and then-Provost Forrest Maltzman created the academy in fall 2019 to initiate connections between rising faculty leaders, like

with members of the first cohort from 2019 to pass on their knowledge to the current class.

He said he sees the academy as an opportunity to support those who have "weaker" relationships among faculty at GW because the academy facilitates connections and discussions across departments and schools.

"This project is developing a lot of these weak ties in the sense that no, it's not like they're family and friends, but they're part of a bigger network that I can call on if I want advice about how to do things across campus," Ortung said.

Alexander van der Horst, the deputy chair of the physics department, said he received feedback from past and current cohort members about their goals during their time in the academy. He said he plans to extend the current faculty workshops on pedagogy and teaching within the physics department through his own personal project in the academy.

He said cohort members from previous academies who faced similar challenges with their projects have assisted with solutions that they had tried.

He said individuals in academia tend to stick to a certain position they attain, but the academy will strengthen leadership skills for those who want to take their career to the next level.

Casey Burgat, the director of the legislative affairs program, said officials hosted speakers like Bass and Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Dean Paul Wahlbeck during the first two seminars to explain their "everyday challenges" similar to those Burgat faces in his department.

Robert Ortung, a research professor of international affairs, said the speakers talk through their solutions to those issues was helpful to his own situation.

COURTESY OF HIROMI ISHIZAWA
Hiromi Ishizawa, a cohort member of the academy, said participating faculty will have a better understanding of how the University functions.

CRIME LOG**THEFT I/BICYCLES**

Private Property Within Campus Bounds
11/15/2021 - 9:00 a.m.
Open Case
A male faculty member reported his bicycle stolen.
Case open.

DRUG LAW VIOLATION

Mitchell Hall (Rooftop)
11/16/2021 - 10:52 a.m.
Closed Case

A community coordinator observed male and female students smoking with an odor consistent with the smell of marijuana. The community coordinator confiscated all contraband and turned it over to the GW Police Department.

Referred to Division for Student Affairs.

THEFT II/FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

Tompkins Hall Parking Lot

Unknown - Unknown

Open Case

A female staff member reported that her personal items were stolen from a GW-owned facilities truck. A thermometer, personal medicines, a bag of potato chips and a box of candy were stolen from the vehicle.

Case open.

HARASSMENT (E-MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA), HARASSING TELEPHONE CALLS

Off Campus

Multiple - Multiple

Open Case

A female student reported that another female student harassed her following a dispute.

Case open.

SEXUAL ASSAULT, UNLAWFUL ENTRY

Potomac House

11/16/2021 - 9:16 p.m.

Open Case

A female student reported that a male student, who was her acquaintance, sexually assaulted her. She reported that he entered her room without permission and refused to leave.

Case open.

CREDIT CARD FRAUD, THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

One Washington Circle (One Bistro Bar)

11/16/2021 - 9:30 p.m.

Open Case

A female student reported her credit card stolen, resulting in unauthorized purchases.

Case open.

-Compiled by Carly Neilson

Elliott School unveils third consecutive diversity action plan

EDUARDO RIVAS
REPORTER

GRACE CHINOWSKY
REPORTER

The Elliott School of International Affairs released its third consecutive diversity action plan last month in hopes of diversifying the school's community and curricula.

Officials said this year's action plan is centered on four goals – increasing the number of diverse students, staff and faculty, improving the 'overall climate of inclusion,' expanding the discussion of social justice in the Elliott School's curricula and organizing an infrastructure that continually supports these plans. Officials launched the school's first annual diversity action plan in 2019 as a part of ongoing efforts to increase diversity, inclusion and equity at the University and said they hope to transition to a multi-year plan next school year.

Jonathan Walker, the Elliott School's senior assistant dean for student services, diversity, equity and inclusion, said the school began developing the plan in May, holding a number of meetings and workshops with all offices. He said Elliott's leadership team and its Council on Diversity and Inclusion – a body of students, faculty and staff who advise the leadership team on the implantation of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives – received a draft for the plan at the beginning of the semester before announcing the plan in October.

Walker said the goals outlined in this year's plan were grounded in the Elliott School's "inclusive excellence framework," the structure that the diversity, equity and inclusion office created to carry out their goals to diversify the school. He said the framework produces con-



The school's previous two plans focused on expanding the diversity and inclusion council's staff while the current one centers around maintaining already-existing structures.

crete goals through a multi-step process – identifying strengths and opportunities, assessing an individual unit of the school and producing specific strategies and metrics.

"It also emphasizes our community's collective responsibility toward achieving a more diverse, equitable and inclusive environment at Elliott," Walker said in an email. "Each goal aligns with one of the four [inclusive excellence] dimensions: access and equity; climate and intergroup relations; learning and development; and infrastructure and accountability."

He said Elliott's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion created a toolkit to identify strategies and tactics to achieve its goals after drawing on resources from the state of Virginia and the University of Michigan.

Walker said school officials plan to work closely with GW's Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement and use the results of GW's campus-wide diver-

Milken professor publishes study connecting Black mortality to air pollution in D.C.

EDDIE HERZIG
REPORTER

ETHAN FOX
REPORTER

Milken Institute School of Public Health researchers conducted a study on how air pollution has affected Black mortality rates in D.C. that has garnered national attention.

NASA posted an online map displaying how air pollution has affected Black mortality in the District earlier this month from a study that a Milken professor conducted this fall. The October study on air pollution and related health implications, like cancer, showed that wards 7 and 8, which make up the majority of Southeast D.C., were home to the highest concentrations of PM 2.5, an air pollutant detrimental to human health.

Susan Anenberg, an associate professor of environmental and occupational health and one of the paper's authors, said the study found that even though air pollution levels across the District have declined, the pollution's related health risks remained "inequitably distributed," which the researchers indicated on the study's map of D.C.'s neighborhoods.

"We explored the inequity and air pollution related health risks across Washington, D.C. at the neighborhood scale," Anenberg said in an interview. "And this is novel because most other studies that have explored air pollution have equity have really stopped exposure, so they're looking at the difference in air pollution levels at the neighborhood scale and comparing concentrations of pollutants to each other. We took that a step further and also considered population vulnerability."

The Earth Observatory, a NASA website that publishes global maps and shares research on the Earth's climate and environment, featured the map as its "image of the day" online earlier this month. The Earth Observatory publishes images



AUDEN YURMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Anenberg said past studies have investigated the differences in air quality throughout the city, but this is the first systematic study looking into the disparities' connection to health inequities.

each day, capturing events like severe flooding in the Pacific Northwest and increased fire activity in India.

The image of the District's map colored neighborhoods with more air pollution and higher Black populations dark blue. Southwest D.C., which has a higher Black population compared to the Northwest, recorded the highest levels of air pollution.

Anenberg said the study found higher rates of PM 2.5-related health risks in neighborhoods where communities faced lower educational attainment and a lower household income.

Anenberg said while studies in the past have examined differences in air quality throughout D.C., this is the first systematic study that also explores air pollution's correlation to health inequities. The study found that air pollution in the District led to 220 cases of excess all-cause mortality, 90 cases of ischemic heart disease, 20 cases of lung cancer, 10 cases of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and 10 stroke deaths annually.

Mortality rates attributed to air pollution particles are more than four times higher in ward 7 than in wards 2 and 3, which have a smaller

percentage Black population, according to the study.

Anenberg said the neighborhoods where air pollutants elevate mortality rates face 10 percent lower education and employment rates.

The study found that the rates of poverty and education and employment are 10 percent lower, and residents earn a medium household income that's \$61,000 less in wards 5, 7 and 8 than wards 1, 2 and 3. Wards 5, 7 and 8 have the highest PM 2.5-attributable all-cause mortality rate, and wards 1, 2 and 3 have the lowest.

Anenberg said air pollution has declined in the District as a whole because of regulations like the Clean Air Act – which restricts pollution in states from the Midwest, where consistent winds carry emissions to the District – and regional controls that limit emissions from industrial activity in the immediate D.C. area.

Elena Austin, an assistant professor of environmental and occupational health sciences at the University of Washington, said local pollution sources also drive up levels of PM 2.5 in the neighborhoods' air. Austin said lower income neighborhoods are closer to major sources of local emitters that increase air pollution.

"Increased proximity of lower income neighborhoods to important sources of PM 2.5 including roadways, train yards, industry sources and other transportation emissions such as aircraft and ships," Austin said in an email. "Previous work has demonstrated that in the U.S., communities of color experience systematic increase in exposure."

Austin said the results of this study can lay the groundwork for lower income communities to advocate for action to improve air quality.

"This study has the potential to empower communities to demonstrate their need for mitigation, including increased efforts to reduce emissions, community-led air quality sampling and indoor air quality improvements," Austin said.

Jesse Berman, an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, said the study's map of the District, featured as NASA's image of the day, is valuable because of the relationship it displays between mortality rates from air pollution and the percent of the Black population in different D.C. neighborhoods.

Students approve SA referendums to reformat elections

ABBY KENNEDY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students approved two Student Association special referendums to replace ranked-choice voting for certain SA Senate elections and to divide at-large seats for four schools into separate undergraduate and graduate positions.

About 66 percent of students voted to replace ranked-choice with a plurality system in multi-seat senate elections, and about 86 percent of students voted to create separate undergraduate and graduate seats for the Milken Institute School of Public Health, the School of Nursing, the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the College of Professional Studies. These changes will go into effect immediately for the coming SA elections this spring and reformat future senate races.

Students voted in the election through the Engage platform from Wednesday morning until Thursday night.

Members of the special elections committee, tasked with monitoring the special election, did not immediately return a request for comment on how many students participated in the election.

Senators set the two referendums in motion in September with two resolutions unanimously approved by the senate. Senators also approved a third

referendum at the meeting to ask students to reestablish first-year senate seats, but the Student Court invalidated the referendum last month after determining that it violated the SA's founding documents.

With plurality voting, students will be able to vote for up to the number of candidates equivalent to the number of seats available for each race.

The SA has been using ranked-choice voting for both single-seat and multi-seat elections. In that system, voters rank their top candidates in order, and the candidate with the least number of first-place votes is eliminated from the race. The remaining candidates then proceed to the next round – eliminating the next candidate with the lowest number of first-place votes – continuing until a candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote.

SA Sen. Chris Pino, CCAS-U, the sponsor of the resolution creating the plurality referendum, said earlier this week that the change would reduce confusion about multi-seat elections.

SA Sen. Cordelia Scales, SEAS-U, the sponsor of the resolution establishing the seat division referendum, said earlier this week that the adjustment would ensure undergraduate and graduate constituencies are proportionally represented in the senate.

annual action plan.

"There's never going to be too many diverse teachers," Whyte said. "There's never going to be too much of a curriculum that's too equitable and inclusive of all backgrounds."

Whyte said preparation and proper planning is essential to execute these goals and ensure that the Elliott School is inclusive and open. She said this year's action plan calls for town-hall style coalitions and increasing the number of student representatives as a part of the efforts to engage with members of the Elliott School community and learn from their concerns.

"You can't be a global leader if you don't believe that there should be a seat at the table for every identity," Whyte said. "At the table, everyone should have the food they need. And working within that analogy, Elliott leaders must understand that international affairs is nothing if it's not rooted in diversity, equity and inclusion."

Danielle Whyte, the first-year undergraduate representative of the Elliott School's diversity and inclusion council, said the council wants to maintain and move forward with the same goals that it focused on in the first

Opinions

Nov. 22, 2021 • Page 9

WHAT THE UNIVERSITY WON'T TALK ABOUT THIS WEEK

Projected timeline for the Elliott School of International Affairs' diversity action plan p. 8

FROM GWATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

"GW students who care to improve the conditions of our University should take notes on Howard's student activism."

—KARINA OCHOA BERKLEY ON 11/18/21

The University should do more to cultivate strong teaching skills among faculty

Many students are surely familiar with the agony of sitting in a classroom with a professor who is highly knowledgeable in their field of study, but is incapable of translating their industry jargon into language their students can grasp.

William Bosco
Opinions Writer

Professors have gained a wealth of expertise, often through decades of work in their specific fields to get to where they are in their careers, but they should understand that students aren't equipped with the same career-specific vocabulary when they step into the classroom. I'm not arguing for a less rigorous curriculum or for administrative oversight in the classroom. Students should understand that they get from college what they put in, and faculty should have broad freedom to teach how they like. What I am arguing is that GW can make structural changes to its employment policy and to the class information provided by the registration process that will create greater harmony between professors and students in the classroom.

The quality of teaching at GW partially depends on the University's tenure policy which forces professors to weigh their time spent teaching against that which they devote to research. As the Faculty Code makes clear, among the considerations for tenure include a commitment to the University's standing as a "preeminent research university." While GW states that excellence in teaching and service are "prerequisites" for tenure, it quickly clarifies that "they are not in themselves sufficient."

The administrative motives be-



SOFIJA JUODAITIS | CARTOONIST

hind this are fairly clear. Much of GW's funding and prestige comes from investments in faculty who produce an abundance of research. But this justification alone, aimed at only one aspect of GW's competitiveness, is short-sighted. The primary social good of GW is not to churn out publications. It is to raise a generation of resilient, critical and caring adults who will become future leaders in their fields of work. This goal is deeply tied to the quality of teaching and precedes the goal of research advancement.

The classroom experience is foundational to the health of academia. If GW's tenure boards understood this, perhaps they would

raise the importance of excellence in teaching to be at least on par with scholarly production – and, in doing so, encourage professors to distinguish themselves pedagogically. Another step, perhaps more easily taken, would be to increase the number and prestige of teaching awards. In 2021, GW's three major awards for teaching, the Amsterdam, Bender and Trachtenberg prizes, offered \$500, \$1,000 and \$1,500 respectively to a combined total of ten professors. In sum, if we want people to bet on better teaching, I suggest we sweeten the pot.

The path to better teaching also involves students. Many of my peers would agree that no matter

the class, a professor's teaching style can make or break that hour of your day and even entirely change your opinion on a field of study for better or worse. GW can address this by asking professors to provide general information about their teaching style for a particular course and then embedding that information into the course option as it appears on the schedule of classes.

Students can also do their part in encouraging administrators to prioritize teaching as a standard for faculty excellence. The main obstacle to focusing on teaching skill as a cause for promotion is that it's naturally harder to measure than scholarly production. Much of the

data on teaching comes from students. If students want their professors to teach better, they should fill out their course evaluations and do them well – concretely praising the excellent teachers and constructively critiquing the rest. Professors, for their part, can designate class time for filling out evaluations, offer extra credit for it and, above all, actually read them. It's also useful for professors to create opportunities for anonymous feedback during a class so that students may have a say in their current classroom experience.

There is a big caveat here. When evaluating teaching effectiveness administrators must not rely on a single kind of assessment. Alarming patterns in student ratings also emerge along criteria irrelevant to teaching, such as the professor's race, gender or physical attractiveness. If administrators wish to elevate teaching as a cause for promotion, they must seek a holistic process of assessing teaching ability. The sharpness of student ratings can be rounded out by considering teaching awards, peer reviews of course materials, peer classroom observation and student exit interviews. Overall, the more robust and reliable this data is, the more justification tenure boards will have to reward professors for their pedagogy, which brings us full circle.

Underlying all these economic arguments is an ideal that speaks to the heart. One of the most joyful experiences for a professor should be channelling their knowledge into a story grand enough to shatter a student's world and build it anew. And as a student, I can say there is nothing more worthy of a true education than such an experience.

—William Bosco, a junior majoring in philosophy and political science, is an opinions writer.

Strategic planning depends on picking a worthy University president

STAFF EDITORIAL

At the same time as GW is emerging from a disruptive global pandemic, the institution also approaching a post-LeBlanc era. After incoming interim University President Mark Wrighton's up-to-18-month tenure is complete, a new chief administrator will have the opportunity to move GW forward in a new strategic direction that will benefit the entire GW community.

But in the meantime, GW is adrift. As higher education emerges from the COVID-19 era, GW needs a long-term plan that will make the University a place where everyone can thrive and feel welcome. Even in the absence of a strategic plan for the institution, making good on pledges to bolster shared governance and involve the whole GW community in picking the new president will put the University in a strong position to succeed.

Officials periodically draft a strategic plan that is intended to set a unified direction for the University. From facilities to academics, every aspect of GW factors into strategic planning. Any long-term goals the University hopes to achieve are laid out in the plan, and changes large and small flow from it. Officials were working on a plan when the pandemic hit, placing it on hold as operations moved online.

Since then, there has been zero motion on a strategic plan. For a University that has experienced a crisis of confidence in its leadership over the past few years, this is somewhat concerning. The entire GW community has been crying out for a new direction – whether it's shared governance, divestment or balancing

GW's focus on STEM versus the humanities.

GW needs a new strategic plan. But first, it needs a new president. Wrighton's years of experience as a college chief administrator make him well-positioned to guide GW through the immediate post-pandemic and post-LeBlanc period. But his role is as a caretaker. His task is to come in and steer the University through some of the more acute problems it faces, like layoffs and returning to pre-pandemic operations. But deciding on a new direction for GW should be left to a permanent president.

In one of our previous staff editorials, we laid out several goals that Wrighton should prioritize to put the next University president and the GW community as a whole in the best position to prosper after his departure. Most importantly on that list of goals, the Board of Trustees must act on their promises of shared governance and inclusivity as they pick the next University president.

LeBlanc's last full strategic planning effort included the 20/30 Plan, which would have increased undergraduate enrollment in STEM disciplines and decreased humanities enrollment. The plan was a severe miscalculation. Non-STEM faculty members raised concerns about funding cuts in their own departments, and the Faculty Senate declared that the plan violated shared governance principles.

The 20/30 Plan was rendered obsolete in light of the pandemic. But if it had taken effect, the plan was projected to reduce diversity levels in the undergraduate population

while also decreasing the University's net revenue. It was ill-advised, unapproved by the GW community and would have harmed both the undergraduate students and the University itself.

Clearly, the problem with the previous strategic plan stemmed from the administration that authored it. GW's next permanent president should be chosen via a process that solicits and internalizes meaningful input from all corners of the University. It is much more likely that someone chosen by that kind of process and steeped in the values of shared governance and diversity will point the direction in the kind of strategic direction that will benefit the entire community.

In the meantime, the outgoing LeBlanc administration and incoming Wrighton administration can lay the foundation for their permanent successor to succeed. They should continue to look after GW's humanities departments and ensure that the University is affordable and racially diverse. Trustees must begin to create this new culture of shared governance and inclusivity by incorporating the community into the search process for a new president.

The University has an opportunity to move in a more inclusive and unified direction in a way that benefits every member and every level of the community – from individual students to staff to professors. The first step on that journey is to get the presidential search process right. The strategic plan GW needs will follow naturally from there.

Students should take advantage of sports' ability to unite student body

On Tuesday, Nov. 9th, students filled the Smith Center's 5,000 seats for the men's basketball home opener, cheering on and supporting the team to a narrow win against Saint Francis.

Charlie Mark
Opinions Writer

But another victory took place that night, one which all students should be proud of – we came together as a University to voice school spirit, show pride and form a community.

As a student body, sports afford us a unique opportunity to reap the experiential benefits of a pre-pandemic era. They bring us together in one common space for one common purpose: supporting GW's sports teams. In turn, they foster an inclusive community that every student can enjoy, and we should therefore continue to bring our civic engagement to GW's sports programs.

GW's urban layout not only results in a lack of school spirit but also a lack of community. The city voids us of certain communal spaces, like dining halls, and beyond our residence halls there isn't a place for students to gather in one home court. Instead, GW encourages students to leave campus and explore the city, as seen in its "101 Things To Do Checklist." Of course, exploring D.C. is an integral component to the GW experience, but the unfortunate product of our urban environment is a physical campus with little school spirit and community.

Rather, GW's city environment naturally attracts individualistic people. Students are

focused on pursuing their unique goals in the form of activism or internships, which leads to much smaller communities at the University that are inclusive for some but alienating for others. GW is home to a sprawling political community, for example, but not all students are interested in politics. Many students join professional, career related organizations, but not all students know what they want to pursue after college. In plain terms, GW's niche culture can be uninviting.

Sports, on the other hand, are a place for us to put our aspirations aside and our collective appreciation for GW at the forefront. Our Division 1 programs are a medium through which every student can show school spirit, regardless of personal opinions, political affiliations, career goals or even interest in the game itself. The manifestation of this is an inclusive community that anyone can join.

But students don't come to this University because they want community. Instead, it's the individualistic culture and professional opportunities that attract students to GW. And while it's difficult for the University to establish a community, it does encourage and promote personal goals. After all, GW was ranked by the Princeton Review as the No. 1 college for internships in 2016. Furthermore, whether it's budgeting GWorld or navigating the Metro, a city culture helps foster adulthood more so than a traditional campus environment.

Of course, we should not neglect these benefits and goals. They are the appeal of coming to college

in the nation's capital. And school spirit isn't the only mechanism by which sports create community on campus either. Investing in our teams and players also allows us to return to a pre-pandemic era of tailgates and large in-person events. With virtual exams and mask mandates, we are still feeling the lingering effects of COVID-19. Sports can help remediate these effects, providing a public space where students can all congregate in person. They can help bridge the gap between the pre-coronavirus era and what we're experiencing now.

Engaging with sports is a way for us to recognize a more traditional college experience and this is something we as students should take advantage of.

And even those who dislike sports can participate in the environment they provide. In attending this school, we wanted to come to a place with like-minded individuals. Yet, in a culture as individualized as GW's, it can be hard to find these people. Sports are a way to establish a community between students where the focus isn't necessarily on the games themselves but instead on pride and spirit. These are feelings anyone can have in common.

GW has a passionate student body composed of individuals who are engaged in their surroundings, driven by their beliefs and motivated toward their futures. It is long overdue that we bring this passion and civic engagement to our sports programs. In doing so, we can forge a spirited community on campus that is open to everyone.

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

The GW Hatchet

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Culture

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THE SCENE

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

WEEKLY FARMERS MARKET

Tuesday, Nov. 23 | CityCenterDC | Free
Purchase fresh produce and prepared goods from DMV small businesses on the last day of CityCenterDC's farmers market.

FUTURES

Saturday, Nov. 27 | Arts and Industries Building | Free
Celebrate the Smithsonian's 175th anniversary with an exhibition exploring the future through art, technology and history.

NEW SINGLE: "ERASE ME (FEAT. JACOB COLLIER)" BY LIZZY MCALPINE AND JACOB COLLIER

Go all out with school spirit this basketball season

ABRIGAIL WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

GW's basketball season might be one of your few chances each school year to get a real taste of school spirit, so make it count.

Although it can't compare to the intense school spirit students experience at colleges with more eminent sports programs, you can come close by flooding the stands after the COVID-19 pandemic prevented fans from attending games last year. From sporting buff and blue with fun accessories to making it on the Jumbotron with an eye-catching sign, we've compiled some ways for you to show your school spirit at GW's basketball games.

Raise high a supportive sign

An interactive and attention grabbing way to show your school spirit is to show off a hilarious sign that might land you a spotlight on the Jumbotron. Visit any website that offers custom signage like Party City and bring a custom big-head George Washington cutout to the game. If you want to go the traditional route, you can head to CVS and get a poster board to write supportive puns like "GW scoring higher than my GWorld" or "GW, get that ring by spring!" Find more inspiration for GW themed humor on Jeti, a social media app



Sport buff and blue with fun accessories or make it on the Jumbotron with an eye-catching sign to show your school spirit.

frequented by GW students. Write your favorite trending jeet on a sign.

Flood the stands

When it comes to attending this season's games, the more friends you bring, the merrier. Make up for lost time last season and gather your group of friends and make a day out of

it. Text your core friend group chat and suggest hanging out at a game or send a message in your class GroupMe and propose some post-midterm, pre-final serotonin bonding. Convince your Marriage Pact match to couple up and go to a game – it's a high-energy environment, a low-stakes date and it's free. Take advantage of the old

school date vibe and get your date a snack at the concession stand.

Coordinate festive outfits

For an easy way to show school spirit that requires minimal planning, don any GW merchandise and you'll be looking like a die-hard fan. Wear anything with a GW logo on it and if you're really in a pinch,

wearing the school buff and blue colors works just as well.

For a more festive look, you can throw on blue, white or dark yellow accessories like a cowboy hat or beads. To show full commitment, you could even try out some blue eye-black, glitter or eyeshadow. Spread a little humor in the stands with funny t-shirts like ones from Redbubble. Upperclassmen, represent your seniority with a shirt that says "I survived Thurston" or bring some ear-rubbing luck to the game and wear a shirt emblazoned with "Hippo Kid."

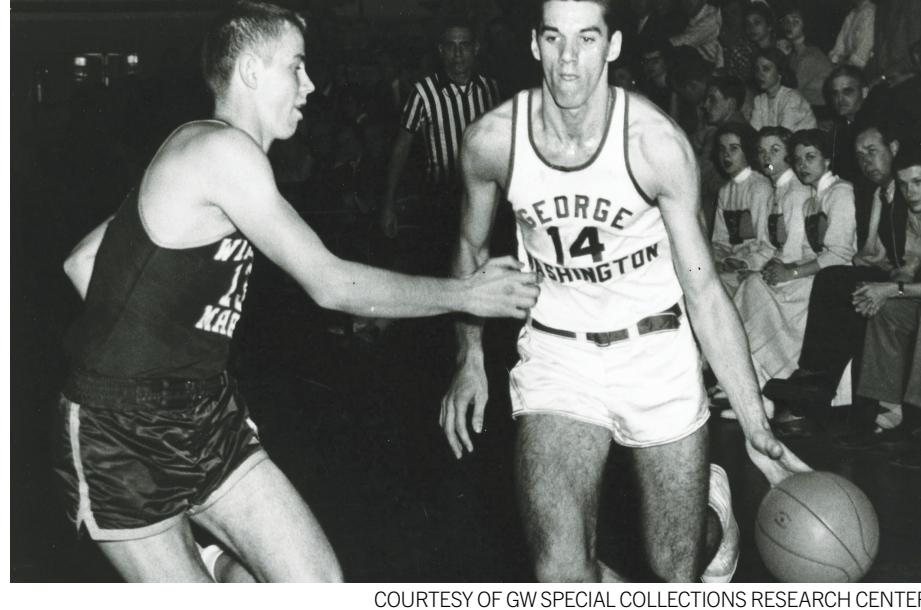
Attend a pregame

What better way to get in high spirits than to hang out with a group of friends before a game. Get pumped and get ready together while listening to a great playlist to get you in the right spirit. The Sounds of Spotify Schools has a GW Spotify playlist compiling the most played songs by students on campus. Alternatively, you can listen to a high-energy game day playlist or one of your own.

Make a few GW-themed cocktails with your friends and indulge in a drink or two before the game.

Learn the cheers and chants

When Cheer and the First Ladies come out to rile up the crowd, you know it's time to chant. Learn the GW Fight Song word for word to add to the roar of the crowd and show off your singing skills. Out-shout the opposing team's fans by raising GW high and your voices even higher with the "Na Na Na Na, Hey, Hey, Hey, Goodbye" chant.



COURTESY OF GW SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER

Experts said the excitement of winning drives school spirit for college sports.

Experts in collegiate sports break down school spirit at GW

ERIKA FILTER
REPORTER

MEGHAN FLANAGAN
REPORTER

It's the peak of college basketball season, but you wouldn't be able to tell based solely on the stands at the Smith Center during a home game.

GW's overall lack of school spirit is not a new phenomenon – students have been voicing their frustrations on this issue for years and improving school spirit routinely appears as a platform point for many candidates for Student Association offices. We decided to take this question up with experts in collegiate athletics to get to the bottom of GW's lack of school spirit.

John Allgood, the academic director of the executive master of science in sport business program at Temple University, said the driving factor of school spirit for college sports is the excitement of winning.

"Winning consistently over a certain amount of time creates the demands and the excitement for that sport," Allgood said.

Allgood said sports are especially difficult for city schools that have inherently less land to place their stadiums and training fields. Another barrier to a thriving athletic department at GW is the fact that, unlike public colleges like Temple University, GW relies on its own funding to support sport programs.

"Private schools are typically smaller, so they don't

get public funding from the state," he said. "It's all from donations, endowment and enrollment. So public schools are able to fund their athletic programs more than private schools."

Despite its upper hand in subsidized funding by Pennsylvania, he said even Temple University, like GW, has had to overcome the physical barriers of being a city school. The Temple athletic department pays large sums of money to the Eagles, Philadelphia's NFL team, so that their football program can practice on its professional football field.

"So inner-city schools have a more difficult time because of where they're landlocked, which is unfortunately why major football and basketball powers are usually in the suburbs," Allgood said.

Ray Glier, a freelance sports reporter based in Atlanta, said the pandemic was "a big blow" to college athletic departments.

"Some sports were cut around the country," he said. "There were sports cut because of COVID, and I don't know that they all came back."

GW cut seven athletics programs after the 2020-21 season including men's rowing, sailing, men's and women's squash, men's indoor track, men's tennis and women's water polo. But this wasn't the first time some of the University's sports programs were cut. GW's football program was cut because of sparse attendance and high costs.

A decline in students' interest in college sports

has been documented since well before the pandemic.

Joel Maxcy, the department head of sport business at Drexel University, said D.C.'s wealth of cultural and social opportunities draws students into the city and away from activities college students may otherwise turn to for entertainment on nonurban campuses.

"If you're asking a college student to go to a college football game, that's a big chunk out of their Saturday afternoon or Saturday evening – three, four or five hours maybe when it's all said and done," Maxcy said. "And given other options and things to do with their time, it's not as important as it once was."

Maxcy said student excitement around college teams ultimately boils down to whether their teams are winning.

"If you have a winning team and a team that makes it to the tournament, that awakens the sleeping giant in the student body oftentimes," he said. "That not only brings the student body back, brings the student body into more actively rooting for the team and going to games, but it extends to alumni and donors and everybody else."

Almost six years have passed since the men's basketball team's last winning season in 2016-17, a long period to expect school spirit to maintain despite other factors like funding and location.

"I think, as is always the case in sports, winning matters," Maxcy said.

Handling the holidays with unvaccinated friends and family

JACKSON LANZER
REPORTER

Set realistic expectations for social interactions with family

With Thanksgiving less than a week away, many students are confronted with the challenge of navigating the holidays with unvaccinated friends and family.

We spoke with experts in psychology and epidemiology on tactics to navigate the holiday with loved ones who may not see eye to eye on COVID-19 vaccines.

Here's what they said:

Gather in a well-ventilated space

The commonly known risks of any gatherings with unvaccinated people are the transmission of the virus between unvaccinated guests or the rare possibility of a breakthrough case. Yet, experts in epidemiology said there are several ways to reduce these risks, including coronavirus testing and physical distancing.

Stephen Morse, a professor of epidemiology at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, said small indoor gatherings with proper ventilation are "fairly safe." He said hosts should ensure that their gatherings are well ventilated and have space for distancing if they are expecting unvaccinated guests.

"If you're fully vaccinated, with some precautions like good ventilation, these are likely to be safer than all the other settings most students will encounter, like stores, transportation and many indoor places," Morse said in an email.

Break up large gatherings into several small get-togethers

Mary McNaughton-Cassill, a professor of psychology at University of Texas at San Antonio, said holidays are important to "remember our past" and "cement our culture," but traditions can change and be updated for the pandemic.

"Maybe we don't have a giant family gathering, but different groups of people get together in smaller pieces," McNaughton-Cassill said. "You could have dinner with the family that's vaccinated and do something virtual with the ones that aren't. It's about thinking outside the box."

Don't spar with unvaccinated family members

Maureen O'Reilly-Greif, a professor of social work at the University of Maryland, said there are several mental health benefits of social contact that lead to "longer, happier, healthier lives."

As students experience in-person holiday celebrations for the first time in two years, he said they should manage their expectations about the holidays.

"The challenge for students and everyone is to lower expectations about what is going to happen," Greif said. "You can't cram in the last 18 months or 20 months that people may have missed into one vacation."

Have the hard conversations gently and with research to back you up

Asha Shahajan, the medical director of Health Equity and Disparity for Beaumont Health in Michigan, said students should approach conversations with their unvaccinated friends and family with "the three C's": compassion, connection and collaboration.

"The biggest thing is people just tell people to get vaccinated and they kind of roll their eyes or they get upset when people don't want to get vaccinated," she said. "And instead, if we approach it with a lot more compassion and listening, then it's going to bring the guard down of the other person and then you're able to have more of a conversation."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIA YOUNG | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Roughly 18 percent of adults remain unvaccinated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.