

# The GW Hatchet

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COURTESY OF "STUDENT LIFE"



## WRIGHTON TAKES OFFICE

### Wrighton holds introductory meetings, focuses on pandemic in first days

**ISHA TRIVEDI**  
NEWS EDITOR

**ZACH SCHONFELD**  
MANAGING EDITOR

If you wake up before sunrise, you may see interim University President Mark Wrighton walking his dog, Spike, around campus to start his day.

Wrighton, who moved into the F Street House Friday as GW's third president to reside on campus, said he starts his morning at 4:45 a.m. – part of his new daily routine on the Foggy Bottom Campus. After exercising, Wrighton said his workday starts at 8 a.m. with daily pandemic-related meetings with GW's Medical Advisory Group, which has decided on major moves like the University's return to in-person classes Tuesday.

"I'm really very proud of the

work that so many people are doing to assure that we are safe and healthy," Wrighton said in his first interview as president.

In addition to Spike, the F Street House will be home to another furry friend – a cat whom Wrighton nicknamed "Purrfessor."

He said he hopes his daughter, a School of Business alumna who lives in the area, will bring his grandchildren to stay with him and his wife as they settle into the neighborhood.

"We're hoping that they will come and visit us and maybe even stay the night, and I'll encourage them to prowl around with me," Wrighton said of his grandchildren.

Wrighton's first two weeks on the job have consisted of regular meetings with senior administrators, trustees, faculty leaders and D.C. government officials like

Mayor Muriel Bowser for introductions and discussions on the pandemic.

After seven fall campus visits to prepare for the role, Wrighton began his tenure on Jan. 1, taking a campus tour to mark his first day. The following Tuesday, he convened GW's deans and senior administrators for a two-hour meeting to overview challenges the University faces in connection with the pandemic.

Wrighton said last week's remote instruction had gone "very well," but with in-person social events and other gatherings still restricted through at least Jan. 31, he is "anxious" for the normal college experience to resume. The University's daily total positive COVID-19 cases reached an all-time high on Jan. 5 with 196 cases, and Bowser reinstated the District's public health emergency last week.

"The good news is that the positivity rate right now seems to be on the decline in the D.C. environment, and our own testing program is really top notch," he said, pointing to his recent negative test result from GW's in-house lab.

Beyond the University-wide leadership discussions, Wrighton has also convened individual meetings with administrators, including the provost, chief financial officer, vice presidents and all of GW's deans. He said he discussed GW's contributions to D.C.'s pandemic response in his meeting with Bowser.

"My days here in Washington have been extremely full," Wrighton said.

Wrighton said he attended an executive committee meeting of the Board of Trustees last week after joining a Faculty Senate executive committee meeting the

previous Friday. The next day, he cheered on the men's basketball team at its game against Dayton, receiving special permission to attend the match even with a pandemic-related ban on spectators.

Wrighton called the experience "incredibly impressive," saying he had never worked at a school with Division I teams, and he plans to attend future games once fans are allowed back in the stands.

"I use those opportunities for informal interactions, and it helps me to understand what's on people's minds," he said.

At his second game on Monday, Wrighton was embraced by the men's basketball team after their win against George Mason.

Wrighton said he plans to make building the University's financial aid resources a priority during his tenure.

See WRIGHTON Page 5

## Students delay campus return over concerns of coronavirus transmission

**ABBY KENNEDY**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

**LEO KEHAGIAS**  
REPORTER

Concerns over catching COVID-19 and speculation that GW would ultimately send students home led some students to delay their return to campus.

Many campus residents returned during the weekend of Jan. 8 and 9, when they waited for rapid COVID-19 test results on the third floor of the University Student Center – which filled with about 90 students at a time – and quarantined until receiving two negative COVID-19 test results. Some students decided to tune into the first week of classes from home to avert potential infection and avoid the crowds in case officials decided to clear community members from a campus with cases at an all-time high.

Last week, the University confirmed its plans to return to in-person classes Tuesday despite record high COVID-19 caseloads, fueled by the highly transmissible Omicron variant leading up to the move-in period. Georgetown and American universities are maintaining online classes until at least the end of January.

Anika Sharma, a freshman majoring in public

health, said she delayed her drive from Virginia to campus until GW resumed in-person classes because she was concerned officials would shut down campus during the first week of the semester. She said she was worried about contracting the coronavirus from the large number of students traveling back to campus and exposing family members after returning home to isolate.

"Why would I risk myself, and then in the case that we get shut down, why would I bring my germs home, and my parents are high risk," she said. "I live with my grandfather, so why would I do that?"

Sharma said she considered moving back to campus during the move-in period to be more productive with her class-work, but she decided to delay her travel plans after learning that her favorite study spots, like Lisner Hall, would be closed. She said she feared that she and her roommate in Munson Hall would not have enough space in a shared bedroom to complete classes virtually without disturbing each other.

Georgia Kopf, a freshman majoring in biology, said she tested positive for COVID-19 two days before she planned to return to campus Jan. 9 and had to delay her flight from Cin-

cinnati until completing her isolation period. She said she uploaded her positive test results to the Colonial Health Center portal to indicate that she would arrive to campus later than the move-in period.

Interim University President Mark Wrighton said in an interview last week that no community members had severe illness from COVID-19 at the time, and officials were only aware of one community member who had been hospitalized during the fall. The individual was discharged after three days, he said.

Gabriel Young, a Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Student Association senator and a junior studying political science, said he decided to stay home in California with plans to return the day before in-person classes began because he feared contracting the virus after Georgetown and American universities delayed in-person operations.

"It makes me so skeptical about why we're the only D.C. school in the northwest quadrant who is not going back that late," he said in an interview last week. "Furthermore, Mayor Bowser just declared today a state of emergency for the District, which makes me even more skeptical."

## Faculty brace for high COVID-19 caseload as in-person classes resume

**NICHOLAS PASION**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

**SOPHIA GOEDERT**  
REPORTER

Although officials expect high rates of COVID-19 infections this spring following record-high caseloads at GW earlier this month, faculty said the University's guidelines will protect community members as in-person classes resume this week.

Professors said they will offer "reasonable accommodations," like increased hybrid class discussions and recorded lectures for students who contract COVID-19 in the spring as the University braces for a surge in positive cases. Officials have repeatedly said they expect a "large number" of students to test positive for COVID-19 because of the highly contagious Omicron variant, but more than half a dozen professors said they feel safe and prepared to return to in-person instruction because of the GW's layered COVID-19 mitigation approach.

Janet Woodcock, the acting commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, said the Omicron variant that became the dominant COVID-19 strain in less than two weeks in December will likely infect most Americans at a U.S.

Senate hearing earlier this month.

Interim University President Mark Wrighton said in an interview last week that no community members had severe illness from COVID-19 at the time, and officials were only aware of one community member who had been hospitalized during the fall. The individual was discharged after three days, he said.

Fran Buntman, an assistant professor of sociology, said while in-person instruction is easier for learning, she has "mixed feelings" about returning to in-person classes because of the possibility of contracting COVID-19.

"I want to be back in the classroom; I think it's good for students and I prefer it," she said in an email. "At the same time, I am nervous. It is risky."

Buntman said she will start recording all her lectures and will make them available online for students to watch after class. She said she has been more lenient throughout the pandemic in an effort to be more "flexible" with students.

"I'll give students any and all reasonable accommodations, e.g. extra time, incompletes," she said. "If there are very high rates of illness, especially at the same time, I might need

to create alternative approaches so everyone can manage."

She said the University should accommodate faculty who contract COVID-19 because sickness can interfere with their instruction, research and tenure track.

"If a professor is too sick to teach that will mean a certain amount of material normally taught over the semester just can't be taught," Buntman said. "I don't really hear people saying that out loud, and I think it needs to be said. Faculty must not be penalized if they get sick."

Dylan Conger, a professor of public policy and public administration and the associate director of the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, said even with the possible increase in COVID-19 cases this semester, she feels safe returning to in-person instruction because of GW's multi-layer protection measures like mask and vaccine mandates.

Gerald Feldman, a professor of physics, said while positivity rates may rise in the spring, the University should follow the same protocols it did in the fall. He said he is thankful GW will return to in-person instruction after one week of remote learning because it allows a more effective teaching style.

# News

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## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

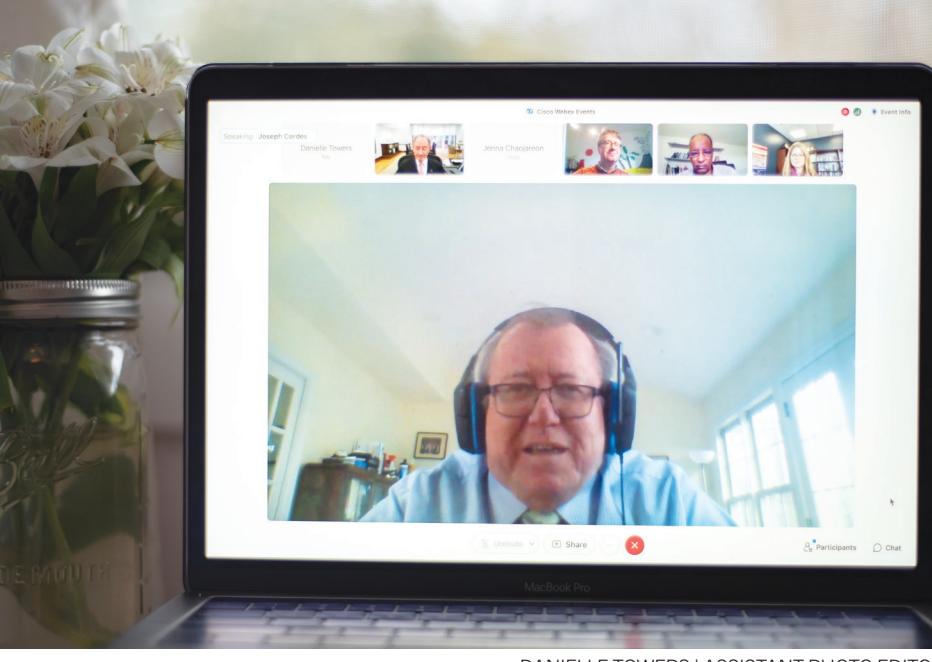
### THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Jan. 21, 1988

The Board of Trustees votes to confirm Stephen Joel Trachtenberg as the 15th president of GW, succeeding outgoing University President Lloyd Elliott.

### Tracking COVID-19

Jan. 6 - Jan. 12



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR  
Cordes said in his committee's annual report that GW may experience an increase in expenses that is not accompanied by an increase in revenue next fiscal year.

## Funding for faculty promotions, raises increase in FY 2022 budget

**ISHA TRIVEDI**  
NEWS EDITOR

**NICHOLAS PASION**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Officials restored funding for faculty merit salary increases in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget with additional spending on faculty promotions, nearly two years after they suspended certain salary benefits to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic's financial impact.

Joe Cordes, the co-chair of the Faculty Senate's fiscal planning and budgeting committee, said at a senate meeting Friday that officials restored 3% merit raises and increased funding for promotions and other pay adjustments by half a percent this fiscal year. The change comes as officials have been winding back COVID-19 budget mitigation efforts they implemented to limit the pandemic's financial impact, like the suspension of base and matching retirement contributions.

"As a former department chair, I can tell you that this is helpful because in the past we had to take funds for promotions and other adjustments out of the 3%," Cordes said at the meeting. "So by adding the half a percent, you raise the cap just a little bit."

Cordes said the University may face an increase in expenses next fiscal year that isn't accompanied by an equivalent revenue increase.

The revenue and expense mismatch is an issue that affects nonprofits and has affected GW in the past. Officials cut the budget in 2015

after the University failed to meet its projected revenues to offset expenses following a decrease in enrollment.

"In the past one way of dealing with it was the then-chief financial officer, Lou Katz, would periodically call a financial crunch, and the schools and units would have to cut the budgets to restore balance between revenue and expense growth," he said.

Cordes said the Class of 2022's graduation could lead to revenue challenges because the class has roughly 200 more students than most others at GW.

"We're going to need to increase other admissions to make up for this, but I consider that to be a challenge," he said.

GW's undergraduate enrollment fell by almost 2% this year, marking a slowdown of a multi-year decline. Officials said the change was "on track" with their targets for the year.

Cordes also said officials are looking to increase investments in equity markets to optimize the endowment's return with lower interest rates during the pandemic.

Interim University President Mark Wrighton also delivered his first-ever president's report at the meeting Friday, where he discussed the Board of Trustees' goals for his time in office to prepare for his permanent successor. He said he will work to improve shared governance, fundraising and faculty retention at GW.

"It will be my hope that we can see evident progress over the time that I'm with GW," he said. "I know that

we have many talented leaders of the University who are already working on these areas. And I'm looking forward to working with everyone building a consensus on what we want to be and what steps we need to take to do that."

Interim Provost Chris Bracey said at the meeting that officials have started developing the "review team" for the diversity programs review that his office is spearheading. Officials announced last semester that they would hold an internal review of the University's diversity, equity and inclusion in a reversal of the University's plans to conduct an external audit of campus diversity last academic year.

Faculty also voiced concerns at the meeting about the return to in-person teaching this week, saying they were unsure if the University's contact tracing and testing infrastructure was well suited to handle the Omicron variant.

Lynn Goldman, the dean of the Milken Institute School of Public Health, said the Medical Advisory Group and public health faculty have monitored the status of Omicron and decided in-person classes would be safe, based on the University's COVID-19 handling protocol.

"This has been a very fast-moving situation," Goldman said. "And when I think that's been very anxiety-provoking for people in our community, and I think one of our biggest issues is going to be really reinforcing the efficacy of the people on our campus, our capacity, our capability to be able to live with this thing."

FILE PHOTO BY AUDEN YURMAN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The competition from many other ongoing presidential searches nationwide is partly what led officials to choose an interim president to replace Thomas LeBlanc.

## Extremism program releases report on demographics of Jan. 6 defendants

**CAITLIN KITSON**  
REPORTER

A year after a mob of rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol, a GW research institute's report compiling demographics on the more than 700 defendants federally charged in connection to the insurrection has gained national attention.

Research fellows from the Program on Extremism – a research center that analyzes forms of domestic and international extremism – published a report earlier this month detailing the age, gender, residence, political ideologies, extremist group affiliations and military history of 704 defendants who allegedly stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6. The New York Times, ABC News and the Boston Globe cited the report's data to add statistical evidence to their news stories and social media posts about the insurrection's one-year anniversary.

Bennett Clifford, a co-author of the report and a senior research fellow at the extremism program, said the 48-page report combines the arrest information from each insurrectionist's court records with statistics from the program's Capitol Hill Siege online database, which includes the percentage of rioters who pleaded guilty. He said the team of research-

ers used the U.S. Department of Justice's public court record system to access the available indictments of each defendant and worked with the geography department to determine the geographical origin of each rioter.

"Our main goal in putting that data out there is for people to be able to compare what other folks are saying about it to see what really holds muster or not because it's one of the few primary source databases about what happened on Jan. 6 that's available to the public," he said.

Clifford said the report's data shows how domestic extremism within the United States has become increasingly common in recent years because social media allows online extremist communities to easily share ideologies with one another.

He said only about 11 percent of the insurrectionists held ties to domestic violent extremist groups like the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers prior to Jan. 6, and 11% possessed military experience. Men made up 87 percent of the total number of charged defendants, according to the report.

Alex Mallin, a DOJ reporter for ABC News, said he and other reporters used the database to report on the common factors among the rioters at the insurrection, including residential states.



Bennett Clifford, a co-author of the report, said the team collaborated with the geography department to determine each rioter's residence.

prior military involvement and previous federal charges. He said the data showed that the rioters were diverse in ideologies, geographic origin and demographics.

Experts in domestic terrorism and extremism said they found the report comprehensive because it included new national security strategies like the National

Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism, which the federal government created in response to Jan. 6, in addition to the insurrectionists' demographic diversity.

# D.C. traffic deaths reach 14-year high as Vision Zero Initiative faces scrutiny

**EDUARDO RIVAS**

REPORTER

**ZACHARY BLACKBURN**

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Seven years ago, Mayor Muriel Bowser pledged to work toward eliminating traffic fatalities by 2024. Last year, the District tallied the highest number of traffic deaths the city had seen in 14 years.

The Metropolitan Police Department recorded 40 traffic fatalities in 2021, three more than in 2020 and the most since 2007 when 54 people were killed on D.C. roads. The uptick in deaths comes as the Vision Zero Initiative, a program that Bowser created in 2015 in hopes of eliminating all traffic fatalities in the city, undergoes an audit initiated by the D.C. government because of alleged poor performance.

Six of the 40 deaths occurred in Ward 2, tied for second-most behind Ward 7. District data shows the nearest traffic death to Foggy Bottom occurred in March after a vehicle struck and killed a pedestrian on Virginia Avenue near 25th Street.

Locals and traffic experts said weaker traffic law enforcement because of the COVID-19 pandemic and unreliable public transportation alternatives, like Metrorail delays related to the suspension of 7000-series railcars, likely were the cause of the increase in traffic fatalities.

Jeri Epstein, the chair of the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission, said the District's decision

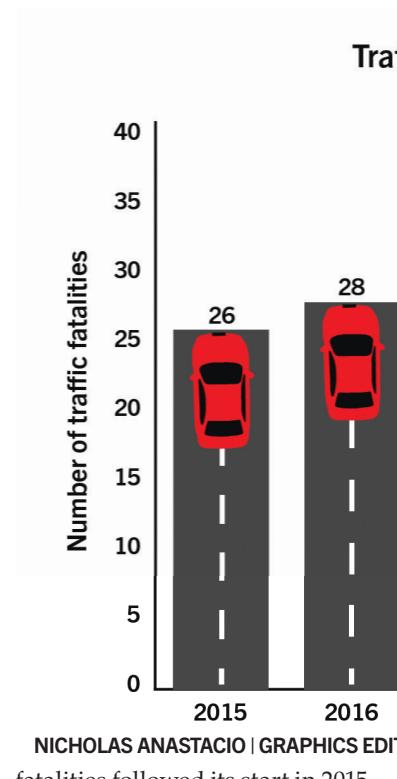
to not have police conduct minor duties, like handing out speeding tickets, to avoid the spread of COVID-19 left pedestrians crossing the street more vulnerable to more reckless driving. She said the pandemic has also left the streets relatively empty, allowing cars to reach higher speeds that can be more dangerous.

"We need to make a safe environment for people who are coming back to school, and assuming most people are coming back to GW, that means there's a lot of people who will be crossing at the same time," she said.

Epstein said more locals have started driving because of Metro's recent service reductions since October. She said without reliable public transit tools like the 7000-series railcars on the Metro and enough bus drivers because of COVID-19 infections, the city can't achieve the mission of the Vision Zero Initiative, which is based on decreasing the city's reliance on cars.

The Metro sidelined its 7000-series railcars, more than half of the Metro's train fleet, because of wheel issues after a Blue Line derailment near Arlington Cemetery in October, and Metrbuses have been operating on reduced schedules because of bus driver shortages caused by the spread of the Omicron variant. Eight of the 40 fatalities occurred in the two and a half months after the Metro pulled 7000-series trains, according to District data.

The Office of the D.C. Auditor opened a 10-month investigation into the Vision Zero Initiative in September after a steady rise in



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

fatalities followed its start in 2015. During the past three years, the District Department of Transportation has built more bike lanes, lowered speed limits and banned right turns on red lights in high-risk intersections as part of the program, but the number of deaths has continued to climb.

Evan Yeats, an ANC commissioner from the Takoma neighborhood and a co-chair of a Vision Zero-focused committee in his ANC, said officials need to redesign city streets to discourage dangerous driving with speed bumps and make them safer for

## Traffic fatalities in D.C. since 2015

Source: Metropolitan Police Department  
were struck by vehicles in highly publicized incidents in September and October.

"In November 2021, MPD announced new traffic safety enhancements around school areas within each of our districts to target traffic enforcement and education in and around these areas before school arrival and after school dismissal," she said in an email. "Our hope is that this focused enforcement will ensure the safety of our young people traveling to and from school as well as educate all roadway users."

## Top legislation passed by the Student Association Senate in fall 2021

### The Safe Ride Expansion Act

"A Resolution to expand the GW Safe Ride program's serviced areas."

### The Hippo Community Library

"A Resolution to formally charter the Hippo Community Library for students to directly connect to other students to buy, trade, give or find free textbooks."

### The Raise High Act

"A Bill to engage the GW Student Association with campus culture and recreation."

### Financial Reorganization Act

"A Bill to reorganize the Student Association financial processes."

### The Inclusive Transportation Act

"A Resolution to call on University Administration to urge the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to include part-time law students in the forthcoming U-Pass program with any available option."

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

## SA Senate reformed elections, expanded transportation this fall

**LAUREN SFORZA**

CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

The Student Association Senate passed more than 20 pieces of legislation since the start of its term in May, a slight downturn from the virtual fall 2020 semester.

Senators are tasked with allocating more than \$1.5 million to student organizations each year, collaborating with officials to improve the student experience and holding senate meetings to pass legislation. During their 12 meetings since May, senators passed 23 pieces of legislation, with seven coming at the last meeting of the fall semester and two of them struck down by the Student Court.

The 23 pieces of passed legislation is a slight decline from the 26 approved the previous fall, according to the SA's Legislation Tracker. Last semester was the senate's third straight fall with more than 20 pieces of legislation passed after only voting in favor of four pieces in fall 2018, five in fall 2017 and 12 in fall 2016, according to the tracker.

In case you missed it, here's what the SA Senate has worked on since the start of its term in May:

### Election reform

Senators passed three special resolutions in September to each establish a fall referendum aimed at reforming SA elections – the First-Year Senators Amendment Act, the Proportional Representation Act and the Plurality-At-Large Voting Amendment Act.

The fall referenda were set to ask students if the SA should hold elections for first-year senators each fall, if undergraduate and graduate constituencies should be divided in four additional schools and if plurality voting should

determine outcomes in multi-seat elections, like senate races.

The SA Office of the Legislator General filed a lawsuit against SA Sen. Chris Pino, CCAS-U and the sponsor of the first-year senators resolution, SA Sen. Cordelia Scales, SEAS-U and senate chairperson pro-tempore, and SA Vice President Kate Carpenter, alleging that first-year senate seats violated the SA's Constitution and other founding documents. The Student Court struck down the planned first-year senator referendum after hearing oral arguments in October, ruling that the resolution was "inconsistent" with the SA Charter and the University's Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities.

The SA held referenda on proportional representation and plurality-at-large voting in November, when about 66% of students voted to replace ranked-choice with a plurality system in multi-seat senate elections. About 86% 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.

### Finance

The senate passed five pieces of legislation that shaped SA budget allocations to student organizations and its three branches and amended the financial bylaws. In May, the senate unanimously approved \$431,000 in budget allocations for student organizations through October, marking a nearly 60% jump in funding compared to the \$270,660 distributed in Fiscal Year 2021.

Senators passed a bill in September to reallocate

more than \$25,000 of the SA's internal budget to the general fund for co-sponsorship funding that senators distribute to student organizations. The senate later approved more than \$440,000 in general allocations to student organizations for the spring semester at a meeting in October, but the funding fell short of what student organizations requested after the University cut the SA's budget by about \$100,000 this fiscal year.

Senators also voted to revise the SA's financial allocation process under the Financial Reorganization Act in December.

### Student life

Senators approved legislation to boost academic resources, school spirit and transportation options as students returned to campus on the heels of more than a year of online education.

In August, senators unanimously approved a resolution that Carpenter sponsored to expand SafeRide, the University's program offering students free late-night rides across Foggy Bottom, to off-campus locations. The following month, officials added stops at 2400 M Apartments, The Flats at Dupont Circle and the Lincoln Memorial.

Senators voted in September to create a textbook exchange program for students to buy and trade books through a Google Form, where they will be able to post their materials with course information and book prices in addition to links to PDF files for textbooks.

The senate also passed the Raise High Act in October, a bill that amends SA bylaws to require senators to attend at least three GW-sponsored events, like sporting events and cultural celebrations, throughout the course of the academic year.

## Clinical research office will promote project collaboration: medical faculty

**ISHANI CHETTRI**

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Professors said a new office that the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Medical Faculty Associates launched last month will increase the University's efficiency in conducting research.

Mardi Gomberg-Maitland, the director of medical research in the Office of Clinical Research, said the office oversees 200 active clinical trials with human subjects, including COVID-19 vaccine studies, and will use an online management system to track funds and expenditures for clinical research within SMHS and the MFA. She said the office will also educate new clinical researchers on the ethical regulations of medical trials to prevent future issues with proposal submissions that can delay the research process.

She said OCR is working with SMHS and MFA faculty members on projects to improve technological medical devices and to test drugs that can alleviate post-operative pain.

She said the MFA and SMHS created the office to serve as a centralized hub where the 14 medical school departments can contact the office, ask for the appropriate physicians and collaborate on clinical drug trials across various specialties like cardiology and rehabilitation sciences.

"From an operational standpoint, it's now allowing the research staff to have a career ladder and to grow and to have the group feel like it's a real team instead of each individual department because we had 14 different departments all doing research on their own," she said.

Gomberg-Maitland said the office will launch a website next month that

features links for new clinical researchers to access research sources like University training modules and SMHS courses in clinical trial design. She said the office's next phase will include offering courses like clinical trial management in the next year.

"It's a lot to accomplish, but I think we have a great team of both clinician scientists and clinician researchers working together to achieve it," Gomberg-Maitland said.

She said OCR's team is negotiating with officials to begin housing the office in the MFA building and in Ross Hall next month.

Gomberg-Maitland said the office will start to use electronic medical records through OnCore, an online management system that organizes consent forms and clinical protocols, manages patients' results and tracks grants and expenditures. She said the system assists research investigators and OCR staff in maintaining and organizing current and new clinical trials in a single, accessible online space, increasing efficiency for conducting University-wide clinical research.

"It's a huge asset that we are now just transitioning to, and I think that it's going to help a lot again with the efficiency of all parts of research," she said.

Reamer Bushardt – the senior associate dean for health sciences and a co-director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at Children's National, a partnership between GW and Children's National Hospital – said the office provided him input for one of his projects through the partnership called the Virtual Organizer, a website that research teams can refer to learn about the research cycle.

He said the office must have the necessary mechanisms that can encourage clinical researchers who focus on human subjects to find solutions for evolving medical issues in collaboration with translational researchers who concentrate on social behavior.

"The center will bring our scientists and research teams together to conduct scientific investigations, to learn and grow as research professionals and sustain best practices and highest ethical standards in the clinical research we perform," he said in the email.

Gaetano Lotrecchiano, an associate professor of clinical research and leadership, said OCR could help his doctoral students in the health sciences doctorate program ask faculty members in the MFA to join research projects and observe their daily lives and social behaviors in the lab.

"I personally do not have a project going on with the MFA, but students of mine would definitely highly benefit from this sort of office to help them do their research in some of the projects that they've become interested in," he said.

Homa Ahmadzia, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, said her current projects within the office include testing steroids that can help prevent heart disorders in babies and conducting a clinical drug trial to figure out the optimal amount of tranexamic acid – a drug used to reduce heavy menstrual bleeding – that doctors should administer to prevent pregnant women from experiencing postpartum hemorrhages.

"Given GW's clinical service to an underserved population, we are poised to make a positive impact in maternal morbidity and mortality in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area," she said in an email.



GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

The office's director of medical research said OCR will serve as a centralized resource hub for members of SMHS' 14 departments.

# Redrawn District boundaries place Shaw neighborhood in Ward 2

DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

The District's ward boundaries shifted for the first time in 10 years earlier this month, and Foggy Bottom will now share a ward with additional areas of the Shaw neighborhood.

Ward 2, which includes Foggy Bottom, gained about 12,000 residents with new territory in Shaw – which was moved from Ward 6 and now completely falls within the ward's boundaries – and lost about 2,000 residents near the Judiciary Square neighborhood to Ward 6. The D.C. Council undertook the decennial redrawing of the ward maps from September to late December, balancing the populations in each ward to provide for equal representation on the Council.

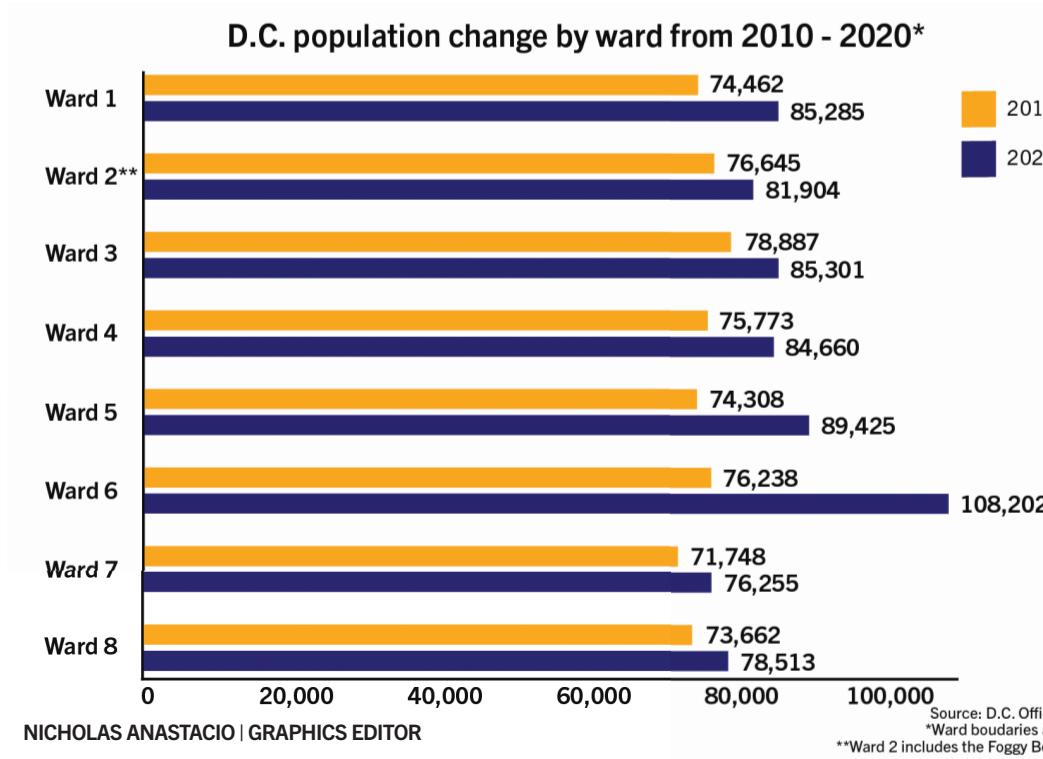
Ward 2 Council member Brooke Pinto said the new Ward 2 boundaries, especially the additions in the Shaw neighborhood, will provide "exciting opportunities" for community members. Pinto said the newly gained ground in Shaw will add more racial and ethnic diversity in a ward containing predominantly white institutions like GW and Georgetown University.

Almost 70% of Ward 2 residents are white, less than 10% are Hispanic or Latino and 9% are Black or African American, according to government data released in 2016.

"Due to some of these changes, our diversity in race and ethnicity will be increased and improved, which I think benefits our city and benefits our ward and my ability to represent everybody equitably," Pinto said in an interview.

Logan Circle and the Shaw-Howard University Metro station are also now in Ward 2 instead of Ward 6 as part of the recently redrawn ward lines.

Ward 2's population grew by



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

about 7% from 2010 to 2020, making it one of the slowest-growing wards in the District, while the city as a whole grew by 14.6% in that same time frame. The relatively slow growth meant Ward 2 needed to gain land and population through redistricting as a way to keep its population balanced with the rest of the District's wards.

Pinto objected to an early redistricting proposal in November that would have split a portion of the North Dupont Circle neighborhood with Ward 1, a recommendation that drew criticism from members of the predominantly-LGBTQ+ community in the neighborhood for dividing the area. Lawmakers eventually scrapped plans to separate North Dupont Circle after continued public pres-

sure. Pinto said more than 40 Ward 2 residents testified at several D.C. Council hearings about the issue in the fall, and she was proud to keep the LGBTQ+ community in North Dupont Circle united in a single ward as their representative.

"We have dozens of LGBTQ-owned businesses and residents who have chosen to live in that neighborhood – we have our sidewalks painted rainbow there," Pinto said. "And so it's a real hub of inclusion and has a real history of inclusion for the LGBTQ community in particular."

Lawmakers will focus on redrafting the borders of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, a series of local governing bodies, from January to March, according

to a timeline posted by At-Large Council member Elissa Silverman. Jeri Epstein, the chair of the Foggy Bottom and West End ANC who represents northern sections of Foggy Bottom, said she expects that the boundaries of the ANC will remain mostly unchanged.

"I think we'll lose a little bit off the top end there, so we can see some minor changes," Epstein said. "But really, the ANC members work together to do everything, and they don't always agree on everything. But they eventually work together to get it all done."

Epstein said the new Ward 2 territory in the Shaw neighborhood will bring a larger entertainment industry and more small businesses to the ward than local officials are used to supervising.

She said Shaw will bring Ward 2 more local commerce and business license applications for commissioners to review.

"The only thing that I think Shaw will bring us in terms of more issues will be that they have more entertainment – they look for more entertainment licenses, more bar licenses, more restaurant licenses than we normally get," she said. "We have some, but I think that their part of town is growing in terms of restaurants and outdoor venues and so forth."

Joel Causey, the vice chair of the Foggy Bottom and West End ANC, said growing populations have overwhelmed some ANCs across the city and made it more difficult for commissioners to effectively represent their constituencies, which are usually set at 2,000 people but have grown beyond that more recently.

"What's happened in some areas over the last 10 years is that some ANCs have grown exponentially beyond the 2,000 people, and it may have affected the ability for the ANC to represent all those individuals, just by sheer volume," Causey said.

Causey said officials from universities like GW and Georgetown University have stayed involved and lobbied in the redistricting process through hearings and meetings, and it was unlikely that any part of campus would be split between different ANCs. He said since five out of the eight commissioners represent at least some part of campus, the GW community plays a "large role" in most zoning and policy decisions that the ANC makes.

"Howard University, GW and Georgetown all pretty much are areas that I think are largely unaffected by a serious change," Causey said.



COURTESY OF ARIELLE BADER

Ezra Kottler, a doctoral student teaching the course, said the class will count toward GW's sustainability minor.

## Restoration ecology course to explore campus sustainability solutions

NIKKI GHAEMI  
REPORTER

Undergraduate students are able to learn how to recreate healthy ecosystems in damaged and polluted areas on campus through a new ecology course this semester.

Sustainable GW announced the course in the biological sciences department last month called Restoration Ecology, which will teach students how to prevent invasive plant and bug species from damaging the environment and overgrowing in nearby ecosystems. Ezra Kottler, a doctoral student teaching the course, said they want students to first learn the natural biological processes of a healthy ecosystem before using these lessons to restore areas facing human disturbance from activities like mining, pollution and agricultural practices.

"I hope that they will gain a better understanding of the interactions between all these different natural processes and human processes that contribute to what our landscape looks like," they said.

Kottler said students will search for locations on campus in need of restoration as part of their final projects through BioBlitz, a Sustainable GW project that aims to apply sustainable practices to damaged areas on campus.

They said students who participate in BioBlitz will propose ecological restoration projects to revive campus locations, which could become capstone projects that new and incoming students will continue to develop in the sustainability program.

"It's a challenge bridging the theory to the applied

and working with the sustainability program is really helping me to show those real world issues in the context of the course," Kottler said.

They said the course will

also feature guest lecturers like Amy Langston – the natural resources program director at the Mojave Desert Land Trust, a nonprofit organization preserving the Mojave Desert ecosystem – who will share their experiences working with nongovernmental organizations on restoration projects.

They said the course will count toward the sustainability minor launched in 2012, and students in the course will work closely with Sustainable GW to advance the University's campus-wide sustainability initiative. The initiative aims to encourage intellectual discourse on policies and technologies that can contribute to a sustainable future, like reusing rainwater to hydrate plants on campus, according to Sustainable GW's 2018 Sustainability Progress Report.

Kottler said they are collaborating with Tara Scully, the director of the sustainability minor program, to create a closer tie between Restoration Ecology and ongoing initiatives at Sustainable GW.

Charlie Hertz, a junior majoring in molecular cellular biology, said he's "excited" to apply the ecology lectures' teachings in the final project because GW offers few opportunities for biology majors to test biological theories in real-world environments. He said the course will be a "great opportunity" to interact with other disciplines like ecology

and biology.

Hertz said courses like Restoration Ecology could be difficult to teach because of GW's urban location, which doesn't provide students with many opportunities to practice sustainable methods in natural environments or

nature.

Experts in sustainability sciences said incorporating sustainability-focused classes like this course in a curriculum allows students to observe real-world effects, like climate change, on the campus environment and create solutions that can help GW increase sustainability.

David Bennett, the department chair of geographical and sustainability sciences at the University of Iowa, said a course like Restoration Ecology helps students and faculty members learn the biological processes needed to modify ecosystems and ensures GW's commitment to a more sustainable campus environment.

"Any course that helps us understand natural processes and the degree to which humans have altered these natural processes like modifying ecosystem dynamics is a step in the right direction," he said.

Alice Reznickova, the director of the Sustainable Urban Environments program at New York University's Tandon School of Engineering, said universities like GW need to prioritize allocating enough time and money for faculty to be able to teach sustainability-focused courses like Restoration Ecology because faculty members are often required to design, teach and maintain the courses all on their own.

## Former Biostatistics Center Director Elizabeth Thom dies at 72

NICHOLAS PASION  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Elizabeth Thom, a research professor and the former head of the Biostatistics Center, died of cancer last month, after nearly 35 years at GW. She was 72.

Colleagues and friends said Thom was an international academic leader whose "practice-changing" research on prenatal health saved "countless" lives and redefined medical practices. They said her loved ones and colleagues will remember her as humble, caring, funny and "distinctly British" for years to come.

Scott Evans, the director of the Biostatistics Center, and Trina Billingsley, the director of administration at the Biostatistics Center, said in an email to the center's staff that Thom was a leader at GW and her research on prenatal and motherly care helped define the industry.

"Liz was a giant in her field, internationally recognized as the pre-eminent biostatistician in maternal-fetal medicine, a distinguished researcher who contributed in immeasurable ways to the improvement of obstetric and perinatal care and to fetal diagnosis and therapy," they said.

Thom earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Oxford University and later received her Master of Science in biometry from the University of Reading in England, the email stated. Thom then joined GW's mathematical statistics doctoral program and remained at GW for the rest of her life.

John Lachin, a research professor of biostatistics, bioinformatics and statistics, said Thom was nationally recognized by the National Institutes of Health for clinical research and for her statistical and medical leadership. Lachin said he will miss Thom's smile and "delightful British accent."

William Rosenberger, a professor of statistics at George Mason University, said he and Thom both received their doctorates in mathematical statistics from GW in 1992, and she was always considered "the brilliant one" in class.

Homa Ahmadi, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, said while she was a maternal-fetal medicine fellow she thought of Thom as "approachable and warm."

Naji Younes, an associate research professor of biostatistics, said he never worked directly with Thom, but he was able to get to know her through meetings, dissertation defenses and office holiday parties.

Diane Uschner, an assistant professor of biostatistics and bioinformatics, said Thom would leave behind a "tremendous legacy" that will live on through her work and loved ones.

Mimi Ghosh, an associate professor of epidemiology, said Thom made statistics fun with quirky posters and an approachable and caring attitude. She said she inspired young faculty at the center and left behind a legacy for future faculty and staff.

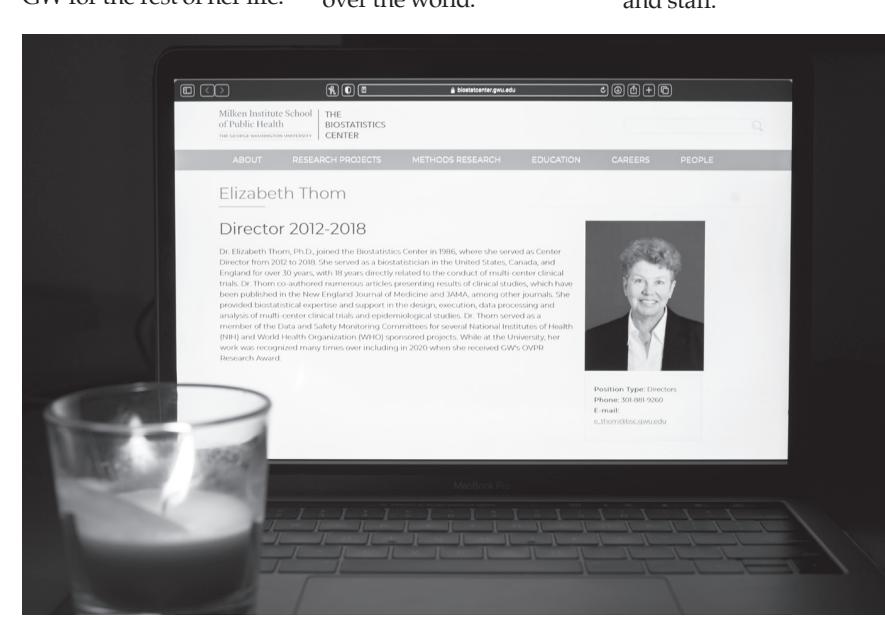


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR  
Elizabeth Thom's friends and colleagues said her humble and caring attitude will be remembered for years to come.

## CRIME LOG

### THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

D Mitchell Hall (7-Eleven)  
18/2022 - 11:27 a.m.  
Case closed.

GW Police Department officers responded to a report of theft by a non-GW affiliated male subject in the Mitchell Hall 7-Eleven. Police made contact with the subject, who claimed he only took a courtesy item and did not steal any items that were for sale. Subject barred.

### SIMPLE ASSAULT

Off-Campus  
1/9/2022 - 1:30 p.m.  
Open Case  
A female student reported that an unknown male subject shoved her into the street.  
Case open.

### UNLAWFUL ENTRY

Mitchell Hall (7-Eleven)  
1/10/2022- 7:33 p.m.  
Closed Case  
While on patrol, GWPD officers witnessed a non-GW affiliated male remove a package from the steps of 621 22nd Street, the off-campus townhouse of Tau Kappa Epsilon. While making contact with the subject, officers were able to notify the complainant, who verified that the package was stolen from that location. GWPD officers arrested the subject, and he was sent to the Metropolitan Police Department's Second District station for holding. Subject arrested.

### TRAFFIC ACCIDENT: HIT AND RUN

1900 Block of F Street NW  
1/10/2022 - 6:58 a.m.  
Open Case  
A male GW contractor reported damages to his vehicle after it was involved in a hit-and-run accident.  
Case open.

### THEFT II/FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

600 Block of 20th Street NW  
1/12/2022 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Open Case  
A male GW contractor reported personal belongings stolen from his unsecured work vehicle.  
Case open.

—Compiled by Acacia Niyogi

## Phi Gamma Delta joins GW this spring as newest social fraternity

ABBY KENNEDY  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A new social fraternity will join the Interfraternity Council this spring with the goal of recruiting founding members to launch its newest chapter at GW.

Phi Gamma Delta, a fraternity that focuses on leadership, service and philanthropic work with 113 chapters nationwide, will recruit founding members from the GW community this semester before enlisting enough students to become a nationally recognized chapter in about two years. A member of the fraternity's national organization said he hopes to begin to build a campus presence and connect with the GW community through informal events, like tabling and outreach to other student organizations on campus, to recruit members to rush in the fall.

Brian Joyce, the director of fraternity and sorority life, said the fraternity has been in discussions with GW about expanding on to campus for "many years."

"Phi Gamma Delta has a dedicated alumni base and international headquarter office that is committed to building a sustainable and contributing fraternity to our FSL community," he said in an email.

Joyce said Phi Gamma Delta will begin recruiting its first potential new members this spring as part of formal rush, and the chapter is looking for students who will serve as founding members to establish the chapter on campus.

"GW FSL will assist the chapter by helping them navigate the resources they have available to them," he said. "We will also help explain GW policies and procedures so that Phi Gamma Delta is best equipped for success."

Graham Hess, a field secretary for Phi Gamma Delta who travels to chapters in the Northeastern United States to provide consulting services,

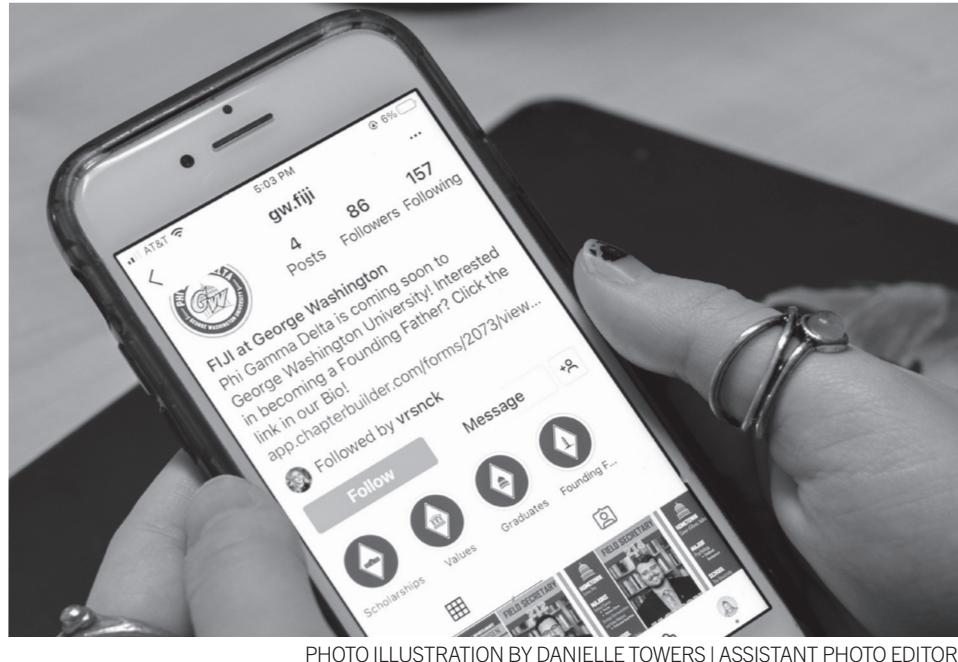


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The fraternity does not currently have plans to house members on campus but may do so in the future.

es, said he will teach the GW chapter's founding members how to run the fraternity before he leaves campus to travel to another chapter. He said the establishment of the fraternity at GW is still in the "very early" stages, and members of the national organization are focused on promoting the fraternity's name to the GW community with social media advertisements on platforms like Instagram and Facebook.

He said the fraternity is currently a colony at GW, a group of students attempting to establish a chapter of a fraternity, until it can petition Phi Gamma Delta's board of directors for a charter to become a chapter. He said he anticipates GW's colony to become a chapter in about four semesters once the founding members have recruited enough students and are established on campus.

"All we're focused on is getting our name out there, trying to ascertain what sort of colony or chapter that we can build at GW that's going to be sustainable where the interest is going to be recruiting that initial class within the confines of the rules, and then we'll engage in the re-

cruitment process," he said. "So we are very, very early on in the expansion."

He said the fraternity does not currently have plans to house members on campus, but the chapter could decide to offer housing at a point in the future. He said the organization is working to recruit founding members and teach them the core values of Phi Gamma Delta before allowing them to run the chapter on their own.

"Really what we're focused on, especially short term from an international perspective, is just recruiting the men and sort of training them on how to operate as a fraternity," he said. "And we don't necessarily think that a house is totally instrumental in making that happen. Plenty of our chapters and Phi Gamma Delta adults are successful without houses."

Hess said Phi Gamma Delta will launch a media campaign including free and paid promotions on platforms like Instagram and Facebook to familiarize the GW community with the fraternity and increase its campus presence. He said the organization will also hold informal events like tabling and will reach out to some of

the largest student organizations on campus outside of Greek life to better understand students and become leaders within the campus community.

"One of the priorities for us as we set up this new chapter of Phi Gamma Delta is that we want to be not just a participant in the GW community but a leader in that community," he said. "Best way to do that is to build as many relationships as possible and facilitate that sort of partnership experience."

Patrick Tajanlangit, the president of IFC, said the council will reposit the fraternity's media campaign on Instagram and host recruitment groups in February to present the fraternity and help Phi Gamma Delta establish a presence at GW.

"In the constitution, we have this expansion policy, where we're supposed to support new fraternities that are opening up," he said. "So I organized the recruitment groups, where we have the new chapters, relatively new chapters on one night, so PNMs, potential new members, can have the opportunity to get to know the new chapters as well as all the chapters."

## Wrighton reflects on first weeks in office

From Page 1

Officials launched an initiative in October to make GW more financially accessible for Pell-eligible students, and Wrighton said he has been in conversation with Donna Arbide, the vice president for development and alumni relations, to push those efforts forward. Wrighton also said he attended a GW alumni event in St. Louis before starting as president.

He said his top priorities also include improving diversity, equity and inclusion at GW and helping in the fight against climate change. "We want to continue to strengthen diversity, build an inclusive community and provide equity in terms of resources that are needed to have the top-notch educational experience and college experience that we want for all of our students," Wrighton said.

He said he was excited by the "outstanding" academic leaders he saw at GW when he visited in the fall. Wrighton, who started a public health program at Washington University at St. Louis, said the Milken Institute School of Public Health is a "premier" program with "considerable potential."

He added that he was excited to broaden his experience in foreign relations at the Elliott School of International Affairs, a school he called "one of the most outstanding programs in the country."

"There are things here that I really need to learn more about before I can help prioritize the academic agenda," Wrighton said.

da, but there are really talented people who've been here for a while and will help me learn, and I will look forward to that," he said.

Wrighton said ongoing updates to campus buildings like Thurston Hall can serve as an opportunity for officials to improve heating and cooling systems in the buildings, both in the interest of saving money and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

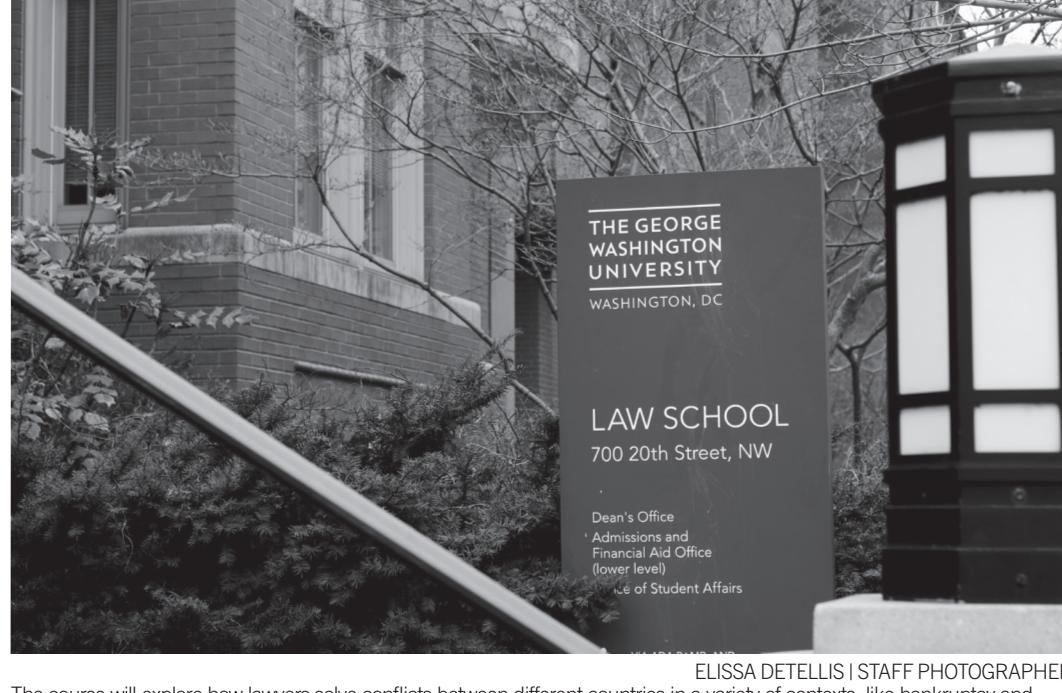
"We need to be attentive to our expense structure so we can do something positive in connection with carbon dioxide emissions and also lower the operating costs of our facilities," he said.

Last semester, faculty senators called for officials to release more information about the timeline for updates to HVAC systems made in hopes of limiting the spread of COVID-19 in light of concerns that officials spread "misinformation" about the timeline.

Wrighton said he shared a positive relationship with former University President Thomas LeBlanc — whose tenure was marked by GW's pandemic response and a growing mistrust between him and the GW community — and Wrighton met with him almost every time he was in the District last fall during the presidential transition.

He said LeBlanc's leadership handling the pandemic has served the community well, adding that he helped acquaint Wrighton with "many of the issues the University has been facing."

"We had a good relationship," Wrighton said to Wrighton at the meeting.



ELISSA DETELLIS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The course will explore how lawyers solve conflicts between different countries in a variety of contexts, like bankruptcy and national court litigation.

## GW Law explores growing international economic disputes through new course

### IANNE SALVOSA

REPORTER

A new GW Law course offered this spring will help students examine increased international business disputes caused by globalization.

Law school officials added the Global Economy and International Disputes course this semester following recommendations from the school's International and Comparative Law Program to satisfy requirements for new J.D. and L.L.M. concentrations.

Kiran Gore, a professorial lecturer of law who is teaching the new course, said global economic transactions have grown as the world becomes more connected, and her class will teach students how international economic disputes can be interpreted and solved through law.

"The opportunities to engage with commentary and academic debates is really unique to this class because what we're really trying to achieve in terms of a thesis for the class is to understand how things unfold in practice, which is very different from what law school classes typically cover, which is basic principles and ideas," Gore said.

Gore said her class will explore how lawyers solve conflicts between different countries in a variety of contexts like bankruptcy and national court litigation. She said the spring class was originally at full capacity with 18 students but expanded to include 20 students because of high demand.

She said students taking the course are pursuing similar advanced courses to further their understanding of international business transactions and have expressed interest in the field through prior internships and beginner-level coursework on dispute resolution. She said many of her students also took all of the possible prerequisite courses for the class, surpassing the standard requirement.

You can't be a business lawyer or a business litigation lawyer in Washington D.C. or a city like New York without having an international flavor to your practice," Gore said. "So there's just no such thing, in my personal opinion, as a local lawyer anymore, and you need to be open to understanding how global trade and global business transactions unfold."

She said modern legal and

economic issues, like the COVID-19 pandemic and last year's Suez Canal blockage, complicated global transactions and have created a high demand for international dispute resolution lawyers.

Experts in international business transactions and commercial arbitration said legal cases that involve disputes among different countries are inevitable and require lawyers that are apt in international law.

Ronald Brand, a professor of law at the University of Pittsburgh, said courses like Global Economy and International Disputes will increase law students' awareness of different forms of dispute resolution, like online dispute resolution. He said a global perspective on matters like arbitration helps students further understand other law topics, like litigation.

Cash Nickerson, a visiting professor of practice at Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, said law education should have an international focus because the United States has established "mediation systems" to deal with business disputes that may not be as accessible in other countries.

He said he was excited by the "outstanding" academic leaders he saw at GW when he visited in the fall. Wrighton, who started a public health program at Washington University at St. Louis, said the Milken Institute School of Public Health is a "premier" program with "considerable potential."

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"There are things here that I really need to learn more about before I can help prioritize the academic agenda," Wrighton said.

"We had a good relationship," Wrighton said to Wrighton at the meeting.

said. "I think he had some challenges, and he shared pretty openly how I might avoid some of the same kinds of difficulties."

Student Association Vice President Kate Carpenter said Wrighton met with her and Student Association President Brandon Hill once in October to discuss top issues for the student body, like climate change.

"I see lots of interaction on social media, which is great, and also just a buzz around campus about what this new administration will look like even though it is just for 18 months," she said, pointing to Wrighton's active Twitter account.

"And I really do encourage everyone to go in with an open mind and really just hold him accountable but also understand that he's excited to be here on campus."

Harald Griesshammer, a faculty senator and associate professor of physics, said at a Faculty Senate meeting Friday that based on Wrighton's resume, his role at the University for the next 18 months will be to re-establish "good relations" within the GW community and to lay the groundwork for a permanent leader. Wrighton will have to address issues like faculty concerns about a lack of GW Information Technology staff, Griesshammer said.

"You have a lot on your plate, it's a job that I don't envy you about, but I would like to work with you and I think everybody would really like to work with you," Griesshammer said to Wrighton at the meeting.

How GW's contact tracing, COVID-19 testing can contain the Omicron variant p. 2

FROM GWHATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

"To aid the non-GW D.C. community through the COVID-19 spike driven by the Omicron variant, GW should consider opening extra testing sites to test non-GW District residents."

—SHREEYA ARANAKE ON 1/12/2022

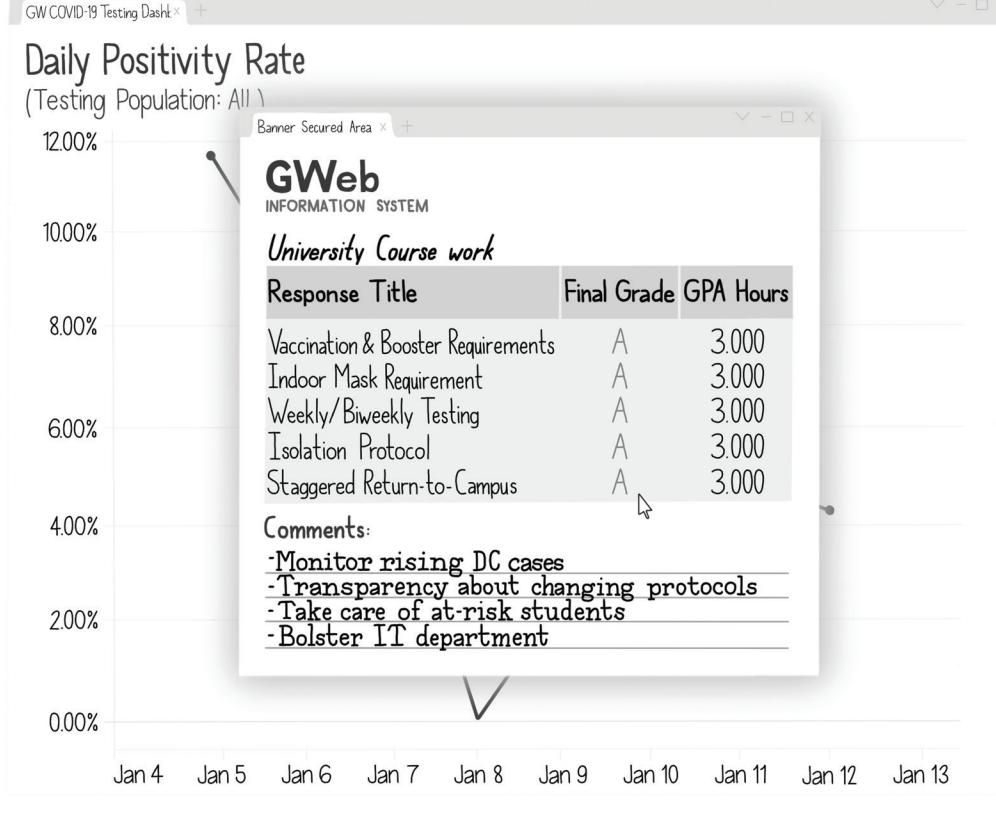
## Administrators deserve credit for GW's Omicron response STAFF EDITORIAL

It's a new year, and GW has welcomed a new president. As the University's top job comes to be occupied by former Washington University in St. Louis Chancellor Mark Wrighton and GW enters a fifth pandemic-era semester, now is a good time to take stock of what the University has been doing right in response to COVID-19, what it has done wrong and how GW should proceed from here.

Of course, the biggest and most noteworthy pandemic decision GW has made recently was to hold the first week of the semester virtually — and to stick to its Jan. 18 date of resuming in-person classes. Time will tell whether sticking to reopening on that date was the right move, but generally speaking, the University has shown good judgement and clear vision in its COVID-19 policies in the past few months — especially in response to the rapidly spreading Omicron variant.

GW's decision in December to move the first week of the semester online was clearly indicative of a desire to restore normalcy as quickly and safely as possible. Given the inherent difficulties associated with online education, the University is wise in making every effort to reopen classrooms safely. Zoom University is the best Plan B when in-person education is unsafe, but it does not offer anywhere close to the instructional quality as being in the classroom does. Placing educational quality toward the top of the priority list is one of administrators' chief responsibilities.

But an even higher responsibility is keeping the community safe. In many areas, administrators have exhibited clear-eyedness about the risks posed by Omicron and willingness to move quickly to prevent outbreaks on campus. GW announced a booster shot requirement well before many other colleges and universities did — and the University made a decisive and



sober choice in moving the booster deadline sooner to prevent cases from skyrocketing when campus reopened. With robust testing requirements in place, limited residence hall access and the closure of many campus facilities to the public or even to students, it is clear that getting students back in the classroom safely is a top priority.

These elements of GW's COVID-19 response have been positive substantively, but they were also communicated clearly and effectively. The move to online learning for the first week of classes was announced with about three weeks' notice, which, considering how

rapidly the pandemic's facts on the ground have been changing, is impressively far in advance. The University has also been communicative over email about booster requirements, limited access to campus facilities and the importance of masking.

There are still several aspects of GW's pandemic response that it needs to improve upon. The University needs to create and enforce a set of standards that tells students what to do if and when they test positive, and one that tells professors how to handle this situation. As of now, many professors are maintaining their position on attendance, mak-

ing every class mandatory or only making one or two allowances for "unexcused absences." This becomes suffocating for students who not only have the burden of school and work, but also the burden of being worried about catching COVID-19, ensuring their families and friends are safe and healthy and potentially isolating themselves from everybody if they test positive. This stress is taking a large toll on everybody, and some more empathy from professors in the form of more leniency would give students more time to breathe.

GW also needs to create a space to hold faculty accountable if they

do not give students enough leeway with attendance if they test positive or if they do not respect students' mental health enough to allow them to miss a couple more classes than they would in normal circumstances. This would ensure that professors adhere to the created set of standards and thus would aid in keeping students' mental health intact. Once we return to in-person classes this week, professors will also need to be masked up regardless of how far away they stand from students. GW should also create an online system for students to register a complaint against a professor who does not wear their mask during instruction.

The University should also improve upon GW Information Technology infrastructure and staffing. Because of the uncertainty regarding the coming months, GW should prepare to hold classes either in a hybrid format or going completely online. A stronger GWIT department will make both of these course formats smoother.

Even as most of us attend classes in-person, those at-risk might want to stay home and take classes online especially during the flu season. This aspect underscores the importance of strengthening the GWIT department because a stronger hybrid learning plan in place will allow those who want to take classes from home to be able to do so with minimal technical difficulty.

The editorial board is generally loath to offer praise to the University, its decision-making and its decision-makers. But in this case, GW has done a generally proficient job responding to the Omicron variant. Much of what we called for in our most recent staff editorial — a booster requirement, better testing and more attentive public communications — has been fulfilled by the University in the past few weeks. For that reason, we offer praise, albeit qualified praise.

## GW should combat misinformation about critical race theory

The economic elite have successfully fabricated a new moral panic to further their political agenda: critical race theory, a discipline that studies how social structures like laws affect the livelihoods of certain racial identities.

Karina Ochoa Berkley  
Columnist

The charge against critical race theory gained enormous traction when conservative pundit Christopher Rufo appeared on Fox News' "Tucker Carlson Tonight" in summer 2020 to claim that critical race theory had "pervaded every aspect of the federal government" and was "being weaponized against core American values." After Rufo's appearance, Fox News mentioned critical race theory in its news segments nearly 4,000 times and made patently false claims about the discipline that have since become popular.

As a result of the controversy, 33 states have alarmingly either moved to restrict or ban the teaching of critical race theory in schools. Academics, as educators, have a responsibility to combat the repression of critical race theory along with misinformation surrounding the discipline. They should do so by institutionalizing critical race theory into their curricula. This is especially true of academics at GW, an institution that has a history of being influenced by economic interests. For

example, GW's Regulatory Studies Center, a University research center funded by Koch Industries and Exxon Mobil, almost universally "advocates against environmental regulation and relies primarily on researchers with ties to groups funded by the Koch family."

The attack on critical race theory is a part of a larger effort to defund and restrict access to education, an attack funded in large part by elite economic interests. Koch Industries, the same fossil fuel interest that donates millions of dollars to the RSC, also invests millions of dollars into conservative think tanks — with the expectation that they will produce content about critical race theory designed to create confusion, distrust and anger. One Koch think tank author, for example, absurdly argued that the Stoneman Douglas shooting in 2018 was a result of critical race theory curricula at the high school.

Critical race theory, a term coined by UCLA Professor of Law Kimberlé Crenshaw using this method of structural analysis and inquiry, explores how racism is not merely a concern of individual prejudice but that the foundational features of various social, economic and political structures produce circumstances that make it harder for people of color to flourish compared to their white counterparts. Educational institutions like GW bear the responsibility to take an

authoritative stance against disinformation, especially when the disinformation perpetuates historical discrimination and racism.

It is public knowledge that Black people are incarcerated at a higher rate than their non-Black counterparts — not because there is an explicit law requiring this or because prisons across the country conspired to incarcerate more Black people. Instead, critical race theory research has enlightened researchers to consider how less obvious social phenomena like housing segregation, economic inequality and lack of access to education can create these conditions. Restorative policies that would provide the necessary decades-overdue reparations to rectify these environmental inequalities are heavily repressed, back then when white segregationists claimed discussions of race were racist and now where some are claiming the same. By institutionalizing the study of critical race theory, GW would be better equipping their students to create and hold those discussions about justice.

With incoming generations being exposed and conditioned to false information about such a crucial academic framework like critical race theory, ensuring students understand how to critically think about race and racial systems is not only necessary but moral.

*Karina Ochoa Berkley,  
a junior majoring in political  
science and philosophy, is an  
opinions columnist.*

## GW must consider diverse candidates for the presidency

GW marked its 200th year with a tradition it needs to abolish: appointing only white men to the presidency. On Jan. 1, 2022, Mark Wrighton was appointed interim president of GW, and it was incredibly disappointing to see that most of the student body will not be represented, once again.

Riley Goodfellow  
Opinions Writer

A total of 21 permanent or interim presidents have led the University and not a single one of them has reflected the students of color and nonmale students that attend GW. This is by no means a problem unique to GW — only about 5 percent of university presidents in the United States are women of color. But the Board of Trustees has a responsibility to break the cycle of excluding marginalized people from the top position at higher education institutions and choose a president that comes from at least one marginalized group.

Historical stereotypes and oppression continue to influence the way society views marginalized groups by creating implicit biases. This is an issue of systemic sexism and racism — whether it is intentional or not — and the Board must be conscious of their biases in their search for a permanent leader.

Women are often kept out of leadership positions because of the belief that women are not fit to lead or that they are too authoritative and

emotional. Women make up half of the U.S. workforce and receive more bachelor's and master's degrees than men. Yet, women only hold approximately 8 percent of CEO positions by optimistic estimates.

Whether it is seeing women as less competent or simply less likeable, these biases play a large role in the fact that fewer women are in positions of leadership than men.

Patriarchal expectations: women staying at home with children and being more emotional than men contribute to society's bias toward seeing women as inferior. Lack of gender equality creates a false narrative that female leadership is not normal nor acceptable. History is marked with men in most leadership positions because of these hurtful stereotypes — and GW must not buy into it.

The presidential search committee must be aware of its implicit biases against women that have been ingrained in every single human without consciously knowing about them. They also need to actively fight against those biases by prioritizing the appointment of a more diverse president in the upcoming selection. Everyone has implicit biases based on what they have experienced and been taught, so none of this is to say that GW is making the purposeful decision to be sexist. But failing to recognize those biases is what perpetuates them and continuing to appoint men to positions of power will never get rid of those biases.

Minority students need to see themselves in leadership positions to encourage them to go onto their own leadership positions. Approximately 17 percent of enrolled students were white men in 2021, yet they have been represented in the GW presidency 100 percent of the time, according to the Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

In the search for a permanent president, the search committee must prioritize diverse candidates that better reflect the University's student body. Students should express similar sentiments when officials shortly begin the process of asking for student input on the search process. Demanding and putting more pressure to select a more inclusive president will leave little room for the Board to appoint another white man.

While Board Chair Grace Speights has said the search for a permanent president will focus on inclusion, Wrighton's appointment does not reflect that statement, and it is imperative that the next selection fall in line with what has been promised. To support students of color and nonmale students, Wrighton must consult them as well as officials that are minorities.

The Board needs to reevaluate their implicit biases and work toward eliminating them by appointing a president that is a person of color, not a man or both.

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

# Culture

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## THE SCENE

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

**FALCONS: THE ART OF THE HUNT**  
 Thursday, Jan. 20 | National Museum of Asian Art | Free  
 Check out a new exhibit of paintings and objects spread from ancient Egypt to China centered around the art of falconry.

**THE FRIDAY FUNNIES SHOWCASE**  
 Friday, Jan. 21 | Cafe Saint-Ex's | Donation  
 Watch an exceptional line-up of DMV-based comedians perform in Cafe Saint-Ex's newly renovated basement.

NEW SINGLE: "LAST DAY ON EARTH" BY TAI VERDES

## Rise of Omicron variant creates obstacles for D.C. Restaurant Week

**CLARA DUHON**  
 CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

**RHYMA ASIM**  
 REPORTER

As the city faces a surge in COVID-19 cases and staff and supply shortages threaten local businesses, some local restaurants remain hopeful that Restaurant Week discounts will boost their sales.

This year's D.C. Restaurant Week, which runs from Jan. 17 to Jan. 23, happens to coincide with the implementation of a vaccine-card mandate, a regulation some restaurants said they wish had come sooner. Amid numerous permanent restaurant closures, still more than 200 restaurants are expected to participate in the city-wide food event while adapting to the mandate.

Alan Popovsky, the owner of local restaurants Lincoln and Teddy and the Bully Bar, said he felt that the D.C. government announced the mandate with enough time for restaurants to "organize a plan of action." While the vaccination requirement for restaurants went into effect on Jan. 15, Popovsky said he implemented the requirement at both of his restaurants beginning Jan. 1 in hopes of getting his customers "used to" the mandate and in the interest of his staff's health.

"I needed to have the safety of my staff as the number-one priority and the safety of my customers as an equal priority," Popovsky said.

Some restaurants have felt the strain of the rising spread of the Omicron variant and closed their services prior to



Several restaurants closed in advance of the week to prepare for the expected inflow of customers.

Restaurant Week to prepare for the busy upcoming events. Bresca, a modern French restaurant near Logan Circle, closed for two weeks at the start of January to prepare to welcome an influx of customers during Restaurant Week.

Popovsky said the indoor mask mandate in D.C., which was lifted last November, should have never been lifted and the vaccine requirement should have gone into effect sooner.

"We could have nipped a lot of this in the bud if we had left the mask mandate in place,"

Popovsky said. "Because once you tell somebody to take off their mask, it's very hard to tell them to put it back."

Popovsky said his establishments have participated in Restaurant Week for as long as each restaurant has been open – eight years for Teddy and 11 for Lincoln. He said the decline in sales due to the current surge of Omicron cases in the D.C. area makes this year's Restaurant Week "especially" important for local dining venues.

"I've gone through different iterations, different things that have happened in our coun-

try like owning restaurants through 9/11," he said. "Even then, it wasn't like it is now. So it's vital that restaurants participate in this week-long thing."

In addition to requiring vaccines, Popovsky said his restaurants are emphasizing their to-go order feature for customers to enjoy their food without having to dine inside the restaurant.

"We're really going through a very challenging time, but we'll get through it and we'll be stronger for it," Popovsky said. "I mean, I've been in this business for a very long time,

30-plus years. And we will be resilient, and we'll make it."

Rebecca Morris, the regional event sales director of tapas bar Boqueria, said the D.C. government has done little to prepare restaurants to properly enforce the vaccine mandate. She said more information on how vaccination status will be checked should have been provided to restaurants in the D.C. region.

Morris said Boqueria will be able to handle the mandate better than other restaurants since they have a parent store based in New York City, where a similar mandate has already been enforced for the past eight months. She said she knows of other restaurants and managers in D.C. who do not feel as prepared.

"They feel as though they now have to have a manager stationed at the host stand because of this new mandate going into effect, especially because they're not versed on what exactly to say when you have that irate guest coming in the door that really just does not want to do that," Morris said.

Boqueria employees are instructed to complete health screenings before going into work. With these precautions and the vaccine card verification mandate in place, Morris said she hopes customers feel more comfortable coming into their locations and supporting them during Restaurant Week.

"We are hopeful in such a way that guests will feel more comfortable and confident being able to go out knowing that the ones that they're surrounded with in the same environment are vaccinated," she said.



JORDAN YEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ian Ching, the treasurer of the GW Chess Club, said he hopes the club can bring in more members who may have been turned off by the game's perceived exclusivity.

## A look into Foggy Bottom's chess scene

**NORA FITZGERALD**  
 REPORTER

For many people, watching The Queen's Gambit may have been the first time they were introduced to the ins and outs of a chess game. But the D.C. chess scene is alive and well, expanding in size and diversity, with a primary hub right outside the Foggy Bottom Metro station.

GW Chess Club has spent the last year organizing events and gathering with community members to play games. Members of the club said they enjoy D.C.'s chess scene for its diversity and community-building aspect, and they hope to continue eliminating barriers to the game, like intimidation and presumed exclusivity, for newcomers.

Ian Ching, the treasurer of GW Chess Club, helped put on the events and frequently visits the Foggy Bottom Metro station to play games.

"Over last spring we did play a lot with a local community here by the Foggy Bottom station, and I think we went there almost on a weekly, biweekly basis just to go play a few games," Ching said.

Advertisement

Ching said the club hopes to continue to popularize chess within the GW community and draw in members who may have been deterred by the game's perceived exclusivity.

to be successful in chess like analytical thinking and patience translate well to academic settings.

"The best thing about chess is that it is really good for developing good study habits," Diamond said. "My GPA has gone up pretty significantly with my chess rating. It helps your focus."

After learning the basics as a kid, Diamond started playing chess again in 2020, coming to the Foggy Bottom Metro station daily to hone in his skill. It was there that he met Griffin, who helped teach him how to play the game and took him to his first tournament.

"Once a game starts, it doesn't matter who your opponent is," Griffin said. "It's sort of like a war game. For some people it's recreation. But if you do two things it's about consistency. Play a lot. Study a lot."

Justin Diamond, the president of GW Chess Club, attributes much of the club's increase in membership over the past year to the popularity of the 2020 Netflix series, The Queen's Gambit.

"The TV show probably did more for chess than anything in chess history," Diamond said.

Diamond said he enjoys the analytical aspects of the game, and he studies the history of chess, his own prior games and chess tactics. He has also found chess has increased his focus because some of the skills necessary

## What to do if you test positive for COVID-19

**MOLLY KAISER**  
 SENIOR STAFF WRITER

There's an overwhelming flurry of information on the internet about what to do if you test positive for COVID-19 – we've got you covered with everything you need to know if you end up contracting the virus.

GW has put out a specific set of guidelines on how to manage your diagnosis, but finding and keeping track of all of this information can be challenging. To help you out, I've compiled the University's guidance on what to do once you've tested positive for COVID-19, along with some of my own advice having contracted the virus over winter break.

### How will I know I'm positive and what should I do first?

GW's public health lab will upload COVID-19 test results to the Colonial Health Center portal under "Lab Results" within 24 to 72 hours of when the sample was collected. If you test positive through the campus testing program, you will be contacted by phone shortly after receiving their results, according to the University's coronavirus website.

Next, the Campus COVID Support Team will interview you to determine who you've been in close contact with and inform them of their isolation or quarantine

status. In most cases, if you are a close contact and are fully vaccinated, the CCST will send you instructions and you can continue to attend class as usual. You will need to be tested three to five days after your exposure. If you're not identified as a close contact, no action is required.

You should begin self-isolation at home as soon as you receive positive test results. The University is requiring community members who test positive to isolate for 10 days, regardless of whether they experience symptoms. During this time, your GWorld access will be limited to your residence hall.

Alert your professors or work supervisors that you are sick and won't be able to attend class or work.

### How can I get food?

Plan to have food brought to your isolation location so that you don't risk infecting others. The GW CARE Team will reach out to you to make arrangements for food delivery, according to the University's guidance on testing positive. As a part of these arrangements, GW Dining is offering a quarantine meal delivery service. You should create an account with the University's catering partner Chartwells and order their meals by 2 p.m. the day prior. Meals will be charged to your dining plans and

will be delivered to designated areas that allow for social distancing.

If you don't have a GW Dining plan, you should opt for food delivery services. If you're looking for grocery delivery, check out the services offered by Whole Foods or Safeway. Or use up that extra GWorld money you have leftover on Grubhub.

### How should I best take care of myself?

I unfortunately tested positive for coronavirus over winter break, and despite my triple-vaccination status, my symptoms were moderate. I was extremely fatigued, had a scratchy throat and congestion and felt generally weak. Gatorade – lots of it – was my saving grace, along with tea, cough drops and long nights of sleep.

I was lucky enough to have my mom around to drop off remedies at my bedroom door, but if you're isolating on campus, I would recommend ordering from food delivery services like Gopuff or asking a trusted friend to drop off meals or ingredients at your door. The University similarly suggests drinking plenty of fluids, taking acetaminophen, resting and staying well-nourished. Contact the CHC at 202-994-5300 if you think you might need an inhaler or anti-nausea medication.



KYLE ANDERSON | PHOTOGRAPHER

You should begin your 10-day self-isolation period as soon as you receive positive test results.

# Sports

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## GAMES OF THE WEEK



**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
vs Massachusetts  
Saturday | 2 p.m.  
The Colonials seek their first conference win at home.



**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
vs Saint Joseph's  
Wednesday | 7 p.m.  
GW looks to earn their second conference win on the road.

## NUMBER CRUNCH .548

Women's tennis' doubles winning percentage, up from its five-year average of .436.

## Shorthanded women's basketball drops second conference game

**ROMAN BOBEK**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Women's basketball lost their second straight conference game against Rhode Island Wednesday night.

The Colonials (7-8, 0-2 A-10) fell to the Rams (12-3, 2-0 A-10) in a 73-42 defeat. The Colonials were undermanned throughout the night, enduring the absence of several starters due to health and safety protocols.

Among the notable absences from the lineup were graduate student forward Ty Moore, graduate student guard Kyara Frames, junior guard Nya Lok and junior guard Essence Brown. The quartet has combined for a total of 1,187 minutes through 15 games played this year.

In their stead, freshman guard Leila Patel saw her first career start, and sophomore guard Piper Macke and freshman forward Sophie Haydon both set a career high in minutes played with 10 minutes and 20 minutes, respectively. Freshman guard Maxine Engel nearly matched a career high of 21 minutes played with 20 minutes on the night.

"Unfortunately, there's things outside of our control," Head Coach Caroline McCombs said. "So who we had today was who was able to compete tonight."

Graduate student guard Dez Elmore spearheaded the Rams' onslaught with a double-double, racking up 18 points and 10 rebounds. Sophomore guard Dolly Cairns and redshirt senior forward Emmanuelle Tahane also netted 14 points each to boost the Rhode Island offense.

"They're just a very good team," McCombs said. "They have a very experienced team as well. So we had different players in different roles, and they haven't been practicing those for the last two days. So we had a lot of people just in different positions that they're not necessarily used to."

In the Colonials' camp, junior guard Sheslanie Laureano and sophomore guard Aurea Gingras led the squad with nine points apiece.

With so many inexperienced players on the court, GW was overwhelmed and outgunned throughout the night, beginning in the first quarter.

After an early turnover by redshirt junior forward Mayowa Taiwo, she played tough defense, forcing a poor shot by a Rams player before blocking a pass to spring Gingras on the fastbreak and lay the ball in to give GW the first bucket of the game with 9:14 left in the quarter.

But following the opening basket, the Colonials quickly fell behind and remained so for the rest of the game.

By the end of the first quarter, GW was already down by double digits, trailing by a score of 22-8.

The Colonials struggled with shooting throughout the opening quarter, converting just 3-of-16 from the field. The Rams capitalized on GW's poor shot selection, snagging 13 rebounds to GW's six.

Rhode Island continued to press their lead in the second quarter, opening with a 7-2 scoring run, highlighted by a 3-pointer on the fast break by Cairns with 7:42 left in the half.

After falling behind by 19 points, McCombs called a timeout with 6:51 remaining in an attempt to rally her team. After a missed layup by Haydon, Laureano hit a trey to end the Rams' scoring run.

But Rhode Island struck back quickly, hitting an 8-2 scoring run to prompt another timeout from GW with 2:22 left to play. Again, the Colonials answered out of the timeout but succumbed to the Rams offense once more and trailed heading into the locker room 39-19.

Rhode Island dominated in the paint, accumulating 18 points compared to GW's 10 in the first half. They also controlled the



FILE PHOTO BY SABRINA GODIN | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GW played without several key members of the lineup, including graduate student forward Ty Moore and junior guard Nya Lok.

game off the boards, snatching 26 rebounds to the Colonials' 14, including 20 defensive rebounds to limit GW to just three second-chance points in the whole half.

"I just think people were in different roles so we've never experienced that before," McCombs said. "I thought just competing, getting on the floor for loose balls, making hustle plays - I think that's something that we can do. That doesn't take any skill. That's just effort. And we continually challenge them throughout the game to be able to do that."

The Colonials finished the half shooting just 25 percent from the field and 9.1 percent from beyond the arc, sinking just 1-of-

11 3-point attempts. Meanwhile, the Rams netted 54.8 percent from the floor and 50 percent from deep.

The second half opened a little tighter as both teams traded baskets, but Rhode Island again established their dominance. The Rams built up a 33-point lead following a pair of free throws by Elmore and a score of 62-29 by the end of the third quarter.

The Colonials improved their shooting in the second half, hitting 9-of-27 from the floor but could not find a way to slow down the Rams offense.

Rhode Island earned their largest lead of the game of 35 points with 5:32 left in the game and a score of 68-33. The

Colonials put together a trio of 3-point buckets, a pair from Patel and a single from Gingras, to close out the game, but it was ultimately not enough to overcome the sizable deficit.

"It's just understanding what it is like to play a game, because some of our players don't always get that opportunity, and being able to bring that now to practice," McCombs said. "The normal level of competition can be raised because they get to experience that. And again just playing against a really good team today we were able to see those things."

The Colonials will prepare for a road game against Fordham Wednesday. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.



FILE PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WELLING

The team will be looking to improve on its performance last year, when it lost in the championship semifinals.

## Women's tennis prepares for spring season

**NURIA DIAZ**  
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Women's tennis is set to start the spring season after a two-month break following their fall schedule.

After last year's fall slate was canceled and no players were able to return to campus to train, the squad has been able to capitalize on the fall this year and get valuable reps ahead of the main spring slate. The team is hopeful to keep the current conditions of the pandemic under control to finalize their conference play this season.

"What I am most excited about this season is to be able to compete as a team," senior Alexandra Vesikallio said. "The fall is mostly individual so it will be fun to be able to compete for each other."

The Colonials kicked off their fall slate with the Bedford Cup in which senior Katarina

Marinkovikj earned a first-place finish in Flight D of singles play while sophomore Stella Wiesemann was a runner-up in Flight A.

Marinkovikj and Wiesemann also advanced to the doubles semifinals at the Intercollegiate Associate Division I Atlantic Women's Regional Championship in early October and earned a bid to the ITA Super Regionals but ultimately fell to Virginia's Sofia Munera and Natasha Subnash.

The team returned with seven players from last season while adding freshman Alejandra Ramirez. Both Marinkovikj and junior Lara McNaughten returned to the court after missing the last spring season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Colonials are looking to win the Atlantic 10 Championship after being knocked out during last year's semifinal in two sets 7-5, 7-6.

appearance, following a 4-0 defeat against VCU. Prior to the defeat, GW had taken down La Salle and Fordham in shutout victories en route to the semifinals.

Wiesemann finished last spring season with a 9-4 singles record and a 7-5 doubles record to hold the No. 1 spot in the conference in both positions. She was also named the Most Outstanding Rookie Performer and selected to the All-Conference First Team.

GW capped this year's fall season at the Seahawk Ocean Classic hosted by North Carolina Wilmington where junior Sarah Bodewes and freshman Alejandra Ramirez, as well as senior Alexandra Vesikallio and Wiesemann, picked up doubles victories. Wiesemann also took home a win in singles play before being defeated by Appalachian State's Ksenia Aleshina in two sets 7-5, 7-6.

A major takeaway

from this past fall season was that seeing how everyone competed and improved throughout the fall season," Vesikallio said. "We will have a really strong team this spring."

Vesikallio said the team has been working on "positive body language and attitude" for the spring season.

But as the Colonials are set to hit the court on Jan. 28, the current spike in COVID-19 cases driven by the Omicron variant leaves the matches to be held without ticketed fans.

"Hopefully the spike of COVID-19 will not impact this season," Vesikallio said. "As of right now everything is to stay the same and hopefully nothing will change and COVID-19 stays under control."

The Colonials are set to return Jan. 28 where they will host Delaware at the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center. First serve is set for 12 p.m.

## Lacrosse releases spring 2022 schedule

**NURIA DIAZ**  
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Lacrosse announced its spring 2022 season schedule last Monday.

The season is set to begin on Saturday, Feb. 19 as the team hits the field at Annapolis to face off against Navy. The team will look to improve during Head Coach Jennifer Ulehla's second full season at the helm, following a 6-6 record last year and a 0-7 record in 2020 in which the team was not able to play its conference slate.

The Colonials are set to play their first three nonconference matches away where they will play against Villanova and UMBC. After a four-day break, GW will return to the Mount Vernon Campus March 2 where they will take on crosstown rival American to wrap up their slate of nonconference matches at home.

After another four-day break, the Colonials are set to play against another crosstown rival, this time Georgetown on March 12, with the location still to be determined. The final two nonconference matches will be played at the Vern where the Colonials will face off against Kennesaw State and Longwood.

Last year, GW finished its condensed nonconference schedule with an overall record of 3-2, winning three straight games against Old Dominion, American and Longwood.

Atlantic 10 conference play

will begin in North Carolina as the Colonials take on Davidson. GW will return from a four-day break to duel Richmond at home.

The Colonials will once again take the road to Philadelphia where they will play against La Salle. Holding a two-day break where they will return to D.C. for the last home game for the following week, they will face off against St. Bonaventure.

GW will begin a three-game road swing where it will visit Massachusetts, George Mason and Saint Joseph's in a period of a week beginning April 8.

The Colonials will return home to finish their last two matches where they will play against Duquesne and VCU hoping to set the final necessary points to qualify for the championship. Last season, GW concluded the conference slate with an overall record of 3-4, causing them to miss the postseason.

GW has neither earned a winning record nor made the postseason since the 2013 season, in which they secured a 9-8 record before losing to No. 13 Massachusetts 13-5 in the semifinals of the A-10 Championship.

This year, the A-10 Championship will take place in Amherst, Mass. from April 28 until May 1, where the Colonials will compete for a spot in the NCAA Tournament, seeking their first berth since 2007.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO  
The Colonials rode a three-game winning streak last season to finish nonconference play but ultimately finished their abbreviated 2020 campaign at .500.