

Opinions

The editorial board calls on Wrighton to improve GW's financial aid system. Page 6

Culture

Learn where to enjoy interactive Asian dining in the DMV. Page 7

Sports

Get to know Katie Reifert, an alumna and the newest head volleyball coach. Page 8

Tracking COVID-19
Jan. 13 - Jan. 19

Weekly COVID-19 cases: 335

Weekly positivity rate: 3.92%

Change in cases since previous week: -220

MANAGING OMICRON ON CAMPUS

Isolation housing tops GW's added spring COVID expenses, officials say

ERIKA FILTER
REPORTER

Officials have spent millions on pandemic-related costs over the past nearly two years, but with the Omicron variant elevating GW's caseload, administrators now face an added expense of isolation housing for infected students.

Administrators expanded GW's isolation housing this semester to the Yours Truly Hotel, where infected students isolate for 10 days at GW's expense. A University spokesperson declined to provide the cost of the 250 hotel beds officials have reserved through Feb. 26, but Jared Abramson, the vice president for financial planning and operations, said the added cost is considerably smaller than the budget impact if students had not returned to campus this semester.

"The incremental expenses this year are far less material compared to the impact of not having a residential student experience early in the pandemic," he said in an email.

When classes remained online last academic year, the associated loss in housing revenue helped drive a \$180 million annual revenue shortfall that led to a swath of budget cuts, like layoffs and a temporary suspension of employee retirement contributions. Financial projections had estimated GW would lose \$100 million in housing revenue alone as a result of online operations. GW eventually broke even last year after implementing the financial mitigation.

Abramson said students occupied 7 percent of residence hall space at the start of the 2020-21 academic year, when officials limited on-campus housing opportunities under strict COVID-19 guidelines.

GW later gradually increased its residential population throughout



FILE PHOTO BY NADIA PRIMER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Officials have spent millions on pandemic-related expenses, including the creation of an in-house testing lab.

the academic year, housing roughly 500 students in fall 2020 before tripling the residential population to roughly 1,500 students the following semester. Students who tested positive for COVID-19 at the time isolated in vacant residence hall rooms and sometimes shared living units with their roommates who were not infected with the virus.

But with students now back on campus and filling 99.8 percent of housing space at the start of this academic year, officials have resorted this semester to using the hotel space for isolation housing as COVID-19 cases fall from a record high earlier this month. University spokesperson Crystal Nosal said a daily average of roughly 15 to 25 students have entered or exited isolation housing in Yours Truly this semester after five students entered isolation on average each day in the fall.

"The additional hotel rooms are new costs as well as the incremental costs related to the make-up commencement ceremony that was held in the

fall on the national mall," Abramson said.

Even with a comeback in housing revenues this year, Abramson said a continued drop in international student enrollment and COVID-19 testing costs have persisted as "major impacts" on GW's finances.

GW's international student enrollment fell by 7.5 percent this fall compared to the previous year, with international students often paying more for college in the United States than domestic students.

Officials have administered roughly 370,000 COVID-19 tests through GW's in-house lab, with vaccinated students required to test every 15 days to maintain campus access. The testing costs are part of continued pandemic expenses that totaled \$179 million last fiscal year and were projected to cost \$8.4 million this fiscal year, according to the Faculty Senate's fiscal planning and budget committee.

The expenses' impact on GW's budget has been softened by millions in federal aid allocated as part of three pandemic

relief packages. Officials used all of the first funding round to provide grants to students but opted to direct a total of \$21.6 million from the final two rounds to offset the pandemic-related expenses.

Experts in public health, finance and higher education said the added pandemic-related costs this semester is justified to maintain an on-campus student population.

Daniele Paserman, a professor of economics at Boston University, said among universities' new expenses this semester include spending on personal protective equipment, like the two free N95 masks per person that the University is providing to the student body.

"As we learn more about the pandemic and sort of more of the population is vaccinated, I think that university administrators are reevaluating the cost and benefits of shutting down things entirely versus taking some calculated risks and trying to keep the community going on as is," he said.

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Inside the hotel housing students with COVID

ZACHARY
BLACKBURN

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A four-star hotel is housing isolated students infected with COVID-19 this semester as part of GW's latest investment in pandemic mitigation measures.

Yours Truly, a hotel located north of Washington Circle, has taken in between 15 and 25 students each day since the start of the semester, holding some of the more than 1,000 students who have tested positive for the virus this year, University spokesperson Crystal Nosal said. Students said despite hotel rooms with TVs, private elevators and queen-sized beds, \$30 daily dining charges and logistical issues have hampered their stays in the hotel.

GW's move to reserve 250 beds in the hotel until Feb. 26 is one of the University's largest new investments as officials fight to contain the Omicron variant and keep classes in person.

"As spring 2022 approached, we were seeing that the Omicron variant was fast-spreading," Nosal said in an email. "Planning

for all scenarios, we increased our on-campus isolation capabilities, and we engaged in a contract with Yours Truly Hotel to provide extra capacity and flexibility."

Nosal said the University charges students isolating in Yours Truly \$30 per day in dining cash for three meals – a smaller price than normal room service meals, which the University partially subsidized.

The University grants students without a kitchen \$2,445.50 in GWorld dining cash per semester, which provides for roughly \$20 of spending per day.

Nosal declined to say how many students are currently in isolation, which buildings on campus are used for isolation and whether students received alternative meal options at Yours Truly. Nosal also declined to say how much the University was paying for the hotel space.

She said if the isolation housing beds reach capacity, officials would institute an "isolate-in-place" protocol, but they still need to finalize the strategy.

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GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Students who test positive for the coronavirus are required to isolate for 10 days under GW's guidance.

Faculty call for increased dialogue as GW looks to repair shared governance

ISHA TRIVEDI
NEWS EDITOR

NICHOLAS PASION
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Faculty called for increased opportunities to collaborate with the Board of Trustees and increased transparency at a series of virtual town halls last week convened as part of officials' push to strengthen shared governance.

A task force of faculty, administrators and trustees spearheading the initiative organized the town halls to gather feedback from professors, which they will use to develop recommendations on how to improve shared governance that are expected to be considered by the trustees in May. The initiative comes after faculty repeatedly voiced concerns over violations of shared governance principles in recent decision-making, with hundreds having cited the concerns in their calls for former University President Thomas LeBlanc's resignation leading up to the end of his tenure.

Board Chair Grace Speights announced GW's plans in September to improve shared governance through the task force, which will also make its recommendations based on a soon-to-be-launched survey.

Ann Franke, a former tenured general counsel for the American Association of University Professors, and David Maxwell, a senior consultant and fellow with the Association of Governing Boards, facilitated the town halls.

Officials outlined the same four questions at each of the town halls, asking how faculty recommend administrators and trustees

shape shared governance. Professors spent the meetings responding to the questions on how collaboration, decision-making, information-sharing and faculty expertise can influence shared governance, University initiatives and strategic planning.

Interim University President Mark Wrighton attended the meetings, which took place from Tuesday through Thursday, and thanked faculty for providing their input and committing to improving shared governance.

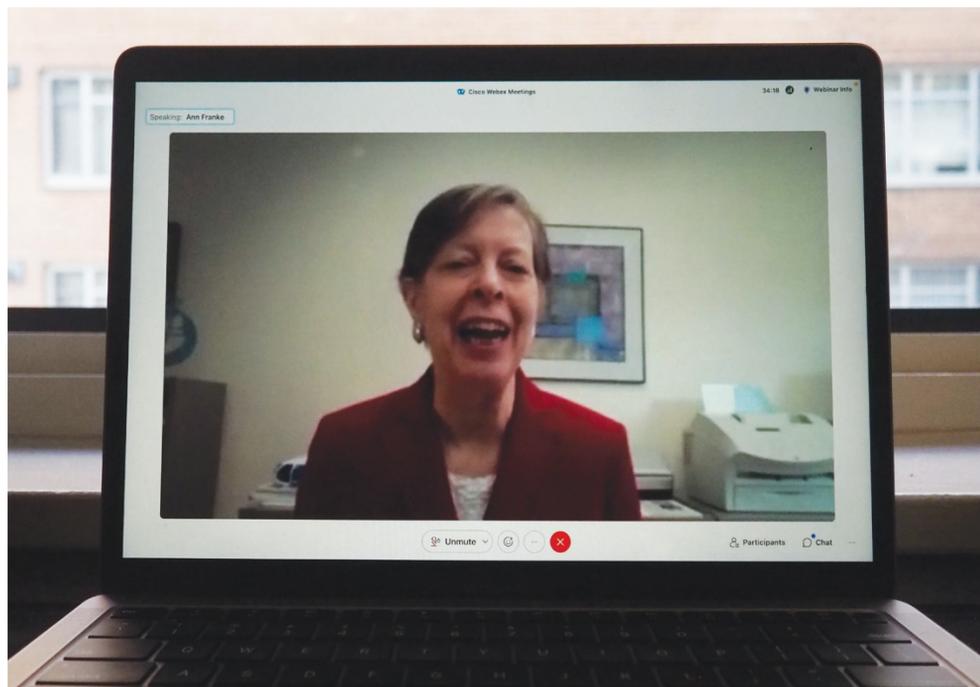
"This shared governance task force is a very important undertaking, and I know that we can make some important progress in a short space of time of several months," he said at Tuesday's meeting.

The task force is comprised of trustees, faculty and administrators, each with four members.

Interim Provost Chris Bracey, one of the task force's co-chairs, Senior Vice Provost Terry Murphy, Columbian College of Arts and Science Dean Paul Wahlbeck and Interim Deputy General Counsel Richard Weitzner make up the administration membership on the task force.

The faculty on the task force include Christine Pintz, a professor of nursing, and Shaista Khilji, a task force co-chair and professor of human and organizational learning and international affairs. Joe Cordes, a professor of economics and public policy and public administration, and Arthur Wilson, the chair of the Faculty Senate's executive committee and an associate professor of finance, also represent faculty on the task force.

Trustees Amr ElSawy, a task



GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

The task force is expected to distribute a survey to faculty, staff and trustees based on feedback from the town halls.

force co-chair, Mark Chichester, Madeleine Jacobs and Todd Klein also serve as members.

Faculty said at the town halls that they want to develop an easier way to communicate with the Board to help strengthen shared governance. They said trustees should sit in on senate committee meetings and host faculty dinner to get a better understanding of professors' priorities.

Forrest Maltzman, a professor of political science and a former provost, said officials should

encourage input from the GW community when developing the University's priorities to establish shared governance. He said because GW's physical space as an urban campus is so limited, any decisions about the use of campus space would reflect the University's priorities that the faculty should help develop.

Maltzman said shared governance at GW has historically worked "pretty well," recalling when officials made changes to the Faculty Code in 2019, but ad-

ministrators' collaboration with community members began to decay when officials started to present University-wide decisions to the Board before the faculty.

Eric Grynawski, a faculty senator and associate professor of political science and international affairs, said shared governance has weakened over the years partly because the Board may not always see the long-term implications that budgetary decisions may have on the day-to-day lives of GW employees.

News

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THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

NAVALNY: PUTIN'S NEMESIS, RUSSIA'S FUTURE?

Tuesday, Jan. 25 • 11 a.m. EST • Free
Tune into a discussion presented by the Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies as a panel of experts in Russian politics discuss opposition leader Alexei Navalny and the future of Russia.

THE TRILLION DOLLAR WAR: THE U.S. EFFORT TO REBUILD AFGHANISTAN

Wednesday, Jan. 26 • 2 p.m. EST • Free
Join the Elliott School of International Affairs as alumnus Abid Amiri discusses his new book about the 20-year international effort to rebuild Afghanistan.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Jan. 25, 1974

The Faculty Senate votes down a proposal recommending the senate expand to an "All-University Assembly," which would include students, alumni, staff and lower-ranking faculty.



GRACE HRONIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

SA Senate resignations have been a regular occurrence in recent years, but an especially large number of senators have departed this term.

SA Senate resignations nearly double since last term

LAUREN SFORZA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

RIYA SHARMA
REPORTER

Nine Student Association senators have resigned since the start of the SA Senate's term in May, nearly doubling the number of early departures during the previous term.

More than half of the SA senators who resigned said they did so to commit their time to matters outside the SA, leaving vacancies in seats representing graduates or undergraduates from five of GW's schools. SA leaders said vacancies have become a more pressing problem for the body throughout the academic year, as the now-smaller senate has struggled to vote on legislation, like by-law amendments, and handle external issues.

SA Sen. Cordelia Scales, SEAS-U and chairperson pro tempore, said this year's resignation total nearly doubles the number from last year when five stepped away from the senate. Scales, who works to fill senator vacancies, said the switch back to in-person meetings this fall may have prompted more senators to resign because it required more of a time commitment to travel to the meetings instead of just signing on to Zoom.

She also said the "toxic environment" of the senate may discourage people from staying. She said the atmosphere in the SA is "not great" right now because senators often have disagreements about pieces of legislation, like the

President LeBlanc Recognition Act, and because the SA is not seen as the "most respected" body on campus right now.

"To better the atmosphere, we need to have more open and honest discussions and actually listen to each other instead of coming into meetings with preconceived notions about the way things should go," Scales said.

The senate started its term in May with 14 vacancies, which has been a recurrent trend in the SA during previous years. The SA has rarely kept a full senate this term, confirming new senators at nearly every meeting since August and posting applications for vacant seats on its social media every month since May.

38 senate seats represent undergraduate and graduate students from 10 of GW's schools, which are apportioned based on the school's population. One undergraduate CCAS seat is currently vacant, more than a month after the last resignation.

Alex Griffin, a former CCAS undergraduate senator, said last month that he resigned to focus his time on GW Greenhouse Club, which looks after the Wilbur Harlan Greenhouse in the Science and Engineering Hall. He said he and SA Sen. Sofia Packer, U-at-Large, were the only senators to vote against the President LeBlanc Recognition Act at a meeting last month, and his opposition to the senate's decision to pass the LeBlanc resolution made it "easier" for him to resign.

Conner Hounshell, a former Milken graduate senator

who resigned in October, said in his resignation letter that he does not have enough time to commit to the SA, but he appreciates the body's work and looks forward to "collaboration" with them in the future.

Charlotte Gaynor, a former graduate senator for SEAS, said she chose to resign from her position in September because she could not make time for the SA while working as a middle school teacher in DC. Nolan Madden, a former undergraduate senator for the business school, said he resigned before attending any senate meetings during the summer because of time conflicts with meetings.

SA Vice President Kate Carpenter confirmed former senators' assertions that time constraints were a large reason why many resigned. She said senators generally spend about 20 hours per month working for the senate, most of it in biweekly senate meetings and committee meetings.

Carpenter also said vacancies made it difficult to pass legislation in the senate, especially because the SA bylaws state that at least two-thirds of the senators must be present to pass legislation. Any amendments to the Constitution also require a two-thirds majority of approval from the senate, according to the bylaws.

Former SA senators Charlene Richards, Jovawn McNeil, E'Quince Smith and Adam Snyder, who also resigned from the senate during the fall semester, did not return requests for comment.

King Week keynote lecture unpacks racism in higher education

SAMANTHA SERAFIN
STAFF WRITER

A pair of education professors outlined the psychological violence facing African American students at predominantly white institutions Thursday as part of the keynote event of this year's annual week-long celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Denice Dortch, a professor of higher education administration, said she completed a yearlong study that followed nine African American students at a predominantly white institution in the Midwest where students relayed their stories about different forms of violence they experienced there. Nearly 180 students attended this year's keynote event, which was hosted by the Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

"I was really honored to be selected as one of the MLK featured speakers for the week, given my topic in the subject matter that could be really receptive to understanding what the experiences may be like for African American students," Dortch said in an interview.

The weeklong celebration also included GW's annual Day of Service, which featured online service events and a keynote address from interim University President Mark Wrighton and D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine. The School of Medicine and Health Sciences will host its own annual King Week celebration next week with a pair of virtual

discussions entitled "Advancing the Dream: We Cannot Walk Alone" Lecture Series.

Dortch said during her keynote address that attending a predominantly white institution as an African American student was like living within a "master's house." She said these institutions choose to permit only the "smallest" changes to address issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion. "What you notice is that there's always some type of excuse as to why changes can't be made," she said. "We don't have enough money. We don't have enough students. We don't have enough interest. We don't have the right people." It's always simple. But what I noticed is that when the master wants the house to move, it moves."

She said she began her research on psychological trauma at academic institutions after completing a larger project that examined why African American students earn so many fewer doctorate degrees than undergraduate degrees.

She said students shared their stories about psychological violence they experienced so she could best understand their experience at predominantly white institutions and contextualize their story in her research.

"What is psychological violence?" Dortch said. "It includes confinement, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation, infantilization or any other treatment which may diminish the sense of identity,

dignity and self worth."

Dortch said she hoped her research and speech would help students gain a new understanding about the potential "humiliating" and "dehumanizing" violence that African American students may face when entering an academy.

Dortch said her research categorizes three types of psychological violence – situational, ephemeral or short-term, and multifarious or consisting of many types. She said she included nonverbal cues like stuttering or stammering in her quotes from student interviews to add another layer of analysis to contribute to students' stories.

She said faculty who perpetuate racism at academic institutions can contribute to psychological violence, which can be "isolating" and "humiliating" for African American students.

Laura Engel, the other keynote speaker and an associate professor of international education and international affairs, said Dortch's research highlights how diversity, equity and inclusion are situated within the structural components of academic institutions. She said reports of abuse and neglect of students often can go unreported at academic institutions.

"We're also learning about how systemic influences shape those behaviors, give rise to them, incentivize them whether in more outright ways or in silence and through these processes of academic socialization," she said.



FILE PHOTO BY RACHEL SCHWARTZ | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Nashman Center volunteers lined up in Kogan Plaza and the Mount Vernon Campus quad to hand out free t-shirts and boxed lunches to students throughout the Day of Service.

CCAS to hire faculty from marginalized backgrounds as part of diversity push

HENRY HUVOS
STAFF WRITER

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences officials are looking to make a dozen hires as part of a broader push launched last year to improve diversity in the school.

CCAS' Inclusive Excellence Initiative, which was launched over the summer, has led officials to authorize 12 searches for faculty positions specializing in subjects like criminology, race, mental health inequities and African American studies throughout the academic year. CCAS faculty and staff said the initiative will enhance the school through more diverse curricula offerings and build a faculty that is more racially reflective of the school's students.

About 20 percent of faculty employed last academic year belong to minority groups, according to institutional data.

CCAS Dean Paul Wahlbeck, who created the initiative in tandem with the school's dean's council, said the past year was the "opportune time" to launch the initiative because of a large number of faculty positions left open by professors who retired throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and student demand for increased representation of underrepresented minority professors. Wahlbeck said the new positions will make the curriculum and faculty more inclusive to support student success.

CCAS faculty started calling for increased diversity last spring

with a petition to cluster hire, a method to target and hire multiple underrepresented faculty. In May, members of the Faculty Senate's diversity, equity and inclusion subcommittee said the timeline to increase the number of underrepresented faculty within CCAS was a "work in progress."

Officials are searching for potential faculty in areas like Africana and American studies, anthropology, art history, theater and dance, history, political science, clinical psychology, sociology and the University Writing program, according to the University website.

Department chairs said they submitted Inclusive Excellence position requests for administrator approval last year, and after receiving permission, they started searching for potential candidates last semester. They hope to make the hires by the start of the next academic year.

Daniel Schwartz, the chair of the history department, said the department is targeting two candidates with specialties in Latin American history and American slavery and emancipation to address gaps in the department's curriculum. Schwartz said the faculty search comes from high demand for courses that teach unique perspectives on racial history.

Schwartz said his department is nearing the first round of interviews in the search process, and he hopes to make hiring decisions by early- to mid-March.



COURTESY OF GW TODAY
The three-pronged Inclusive Excellence Initiative seeks to bolster academic achievement for minority students, increase faculty diversity and establish an inclusive curriculum.

Hiromi Ishizawa, the chair of the sociology department, said her department is using a search committee, which includes a diversity advocate and department leaders, to review candidates' publications and ensure they are meeting Inclusive Excellence Initiative goals. She said the department's job list-

ing for an assistant professor who specializes in criminology encouraged Black, Latino and Indigenous candidates to apply in hopes of offering new courses and perspectives to improve the department's curriculum.

Gordon Mantler, the executive director of the University Writing

program and a professor of writing and history, said UW faculty are looking for a specialist in anti-racist pedagogy. Mantler said program leaders have been looking to add the position for "quite a while" because the makeup of the faculty should be more representative of the student body.

Hill, Carpenter compensated more than leaders at peer student governments

TARA SUTER
STAFF WRITER

The Student Association's president and vice president received scholarships for the academic year that surpassed compensation totals provided to student leaders at several of GW's peer universities.

The Office of Financial Assistance awarded SA President Brandon Hill and SA Vice President Kate Carpenter each \$11,250 for the current academic year – the first time in GW's history the two roles received equal amounts, University spokesperson Crystal Nosal said in an email. She said the SA vice president received \$7,500, while the SA president received \$15,000 during the previous five years.

"The University provides awards to recognize and honor the time, energy and passion that student leaders dedicate to specific roles in order to make meaningful contributions to the greater GW community," Nosal said in an email. "Providing a student leader award also makes these roles accessible to a greater number of students."

Student leader scholarships are given to students involved with certain student organizations, like

WRGW and the Cherry Tree Yearbook, according to GW's website.

SA Vice President Kate Carpenter said her scholarship funding allows her to focus on college life without having to work long hours at her on-campus job as a tour guide, where she works two to three hours a week on minimum wage.

"These programs are integral for student leaders," Carpenter said. "And because it makes it to where any student can run regardless of socioeconomic status, and I think it really just makes it more equitable, these positions, which is something that's so important because truly, like I said, these positions do take a lot of time."

SA President Brandon Hill said while the scholarship he receives is "designed" to help student leaders bypass financial barriers, like needing a second job, the program can be "wildly ineffective" and "misunderstood" in the eyes of students who assume otherwise. He said the money does not help him financially because the school cut his financial aid, so he ended up receiving the same amount of money as the previous year, when he served as the SA's vice president before becoming interim

president last January.

"Then when I became EVP and president, I still received that exact same amount in financial aid but only because the University lowered my amount of financial aid and replaced the amount they lowered it by with the Student Leadership Award," Hill said.

Three of GW's 12 peer schools, which are comparable to GW in terms of endowment, tuition costs and programs, offer smaller amounts of financial compensation to student leaders than GW.

New York and Syracuse universities each award their student government presidents \$5,000 per academic year, about 44 percent of what GW's top SA leaders receive. Northeastern University typically allocates \$1,000 to \$2,000 to the president and other student government leaders per year depending on financial need.

Anthony Cruz, the president's council vice chair of New York University's student government assembly, said in an email that the three Student Government Assembly vice chairs each receive \$1,000 each semester. He said six other SGA leaders receive semesterly stipends of \$500, including a chief of staff and directors



FILE PHOTO BY DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Officials have provided scholarships to student leaders in certain groups like the SA, WRGW and band.

of finance, diversity, elections, communications and operations.

David Bruen, the student body president of Syracuse's Student Association, said that the president, vice president and comptroller of the university's student association each receive stipends of \$5,000 for the full academic year.

"We are expected to conduct a regular review of our stipend with the goal of expanding it by the end of the session," Bruen

said in an email. "My administration is also looking to restructure the annual operating budget to include more stipends for other leaders by the end of the year."

Casey Buttke, the student body president of Northeastern's Student Government Association, said the association funds \$1,000 to \$2,000 in stipends for the number of leadership members who need financial aid.

In the District, Catholic University's Student Asso-

ciation president and vice president do not receive any compensation from their school for their roles, their Student Association president said.

Media relations and student government organizations at GW's other peer schools – Georgetown, Boston, Tufts, Tulane and Wake Forest universities and the universities of Miami, Pittsburgh, Rochester and Southern California – did not respond to multiple requests for comment.



KYLE ANDERSON | PHOTOGRAPHER

Preparations for the demolition, like asbestos removal and plumbing and gas inspections, are in progress.

GW prepares to demolish century-old Staughton Hall

TYLER KRAMBEER
REPORTER

If you've walked down 22nd Street, you've probably seen the yellow-hued brick building that's been nestled behind Gelman Library for more than 100 years, housing women's residence halls and naval research throughout its time in Foggy Bottom.

But the now-vacant Staughton Hall will be demolished later this year as part of GW's 15-year-old plans to develop the site.

Officials said they applied for a permit to demolish Staughton Hall and turn the area into green space in July before the D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs approved the application in August, but there is no specific timeline for the site's redevelopment. A University spokesperson said officials are removing asbestos from the building as they prepare for demolition.

Some local community members have raised concerns about the University's decision to destroy old buildings on campus because of their century-long presence in Foggy Bottom. The spokesperson said GW has met with community members to discuss the plans to demolish the building and its redevelopment but did not share any more details about the nature of the meetings.

"While a timeline has not been developed for a new building, Staughton Hall has been vacant for many years, and the site is well suited for additional green space until the redevelopment occurs," the spokesperson said in an email.

DCRA's website shows that preparations for the demolition, like asbestos removal, plumbing and

gas inspections, are in progress.

Frank Leone, a co-chair of the Foggy Bottom Association's project that has documented the history of buildings in the neighborhood, wrote a blog post in November exploring the building's history as GW's second women's residence hall and the home of a U.S. Navy research center during the Cold War. Leone said while the FBA has not announced official opposition to the destruction of Staughton, the demolition is representative of a larger issue with the University's development plans, which has destroyed buildings that the FBA deems historic.

The association criticized the University's decision to tear down the former Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service building, also known as the Waggaman House, last year leading up to its demolition in October. Leone said members of the association were disappointed the University tore down the building without photographing or documenting the structure and its history.

GW designated six buildings – Fulbright, JBKO, Madison and Munson halls, the GW Deli building and the Medical Faculty Associates facility – as historically significant in 2010 as part of the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan, which set the course for GW's construction and demolition plans.

"The bigger concern is GW has a lot of historic buildings, and under the campus plan they agreed to preserve an area that would be a historic district," Leone said. "And they also agreed to preserve certain buildings, but then they were not

limited in terms of demolition of other buildings."

Leone said officials should release reports on buildings before their demolition, with information including their previous owners. He said the University should work with a historical preservation company to photograph and record the building's history before it is destroyed.

John George, the president of the association, issued a letter to the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission last March urging commissioners to consider preserving the Waggaman House after efforts to lobby the University were unsuccessful.

"When I have raised these issues with GW before, the response has been, 'Well we don't have money for that,' which is frankly kind of silly," Leone said. "If they've got money to demolish a building, they certainly have enough money to document its history and take a look at it as they proceed."

Leone said he wishes the University spent more time talking to students about the campus history or taking action like placing more plaques detailing the history of buildings in Foggy Bottom. He said officials authorized him access to the Waggaman House before it was demolished to document the design and status of the building with pictures.

"I appreciated them letting us in, but it would have been nice if they had a policy as to how they are going to treat their older buildings that may not qualify as historical landmarks but say a lot about the history of the University and the history of the community," he said.

Supply chain shortages inflate prices, drain inventories at local restaurants

AIDEN ORR
REPORTER

On-campus restaurants are facing product and labor shortages as the Omicron variant upsets the world's supply chain, sending the costs of some items soaring.

A half dozen restaurant managers said labor shortages in the supply chain are minimizing menu item availability, inflating prices and limiting ingredient inventory. They said the shortages are the latest speed bump in what has been a difficult two years for restaurants since the start of the pandemic.

Jeremy Pollok, the managing partner of Tonic and a GW alumnus, said obtaining biodegradable straws, beers and signature menu items – like crab and chicken wings – has become more difficult and taken more time because of supply chain issues. He said even if items are easily accessible, Tonic has struggled to make sales at the same reasonable prices because of inflation.

"Certain beers we haven't gotten in months, so it's a little bit all over the place," Pollok said in an interview. "Some things you just can't get, and some things are just so expensive that you have to choose not to."

Pollok said steeper costs have forced the restaurant to decide between increasing and maintaining prices on many items, which could dramatically cut margins into their profit during a challenging time for restaurants facing staff and item shortages. Experts have said weather and COVID-19 related labor shortages are to blame for shortfalls in grocery availability in D.C. and across the country.

"You try to avoid passing that on as much as

you can to the guest, but sometimes you just have to raise the prices on certain things," Pollok said.

He said most customers are understanding of the shortages and often don't mind choosing other items from the menu. He said the supply chain problems could begin to slightly ease once the United States passes the peak of cases caused by the Omicron variant, which public health experts expect to arrive in the next four to six weeks.

"But I said that in 2020," he said. "So in a way, it's a little freeing because there's not a damn thing you can do about it except manage it on a day-to-day basis, or week-to-week, or month-to-month."

Luis Reyes, the general manager of Roti Modern Mediterranean, noticed the start of product shortages in June and July and said the vendor for the restaurant's supplies is responsible for periodic unavailability of menu items. Reyes said Roti is facing an unusual shortage of protein that the restaurant uses in vegan meals, which are central to its menu and popular among students.

"Since that one has a lot of labor and raw materials combined, most of the time it will be one of the ones that when it's out, it's out," Reyes said. "And it will take sometimes a couple of weeks – sometimes a month – to get it back."

Reyes said as Roti loses customers because some menu items are unavailable, he struggles telling customers that the restaurant is out of stock of the meal they want. He said even the smallest recurring drop in patronage can be a significant loss for the business.

"If you take into consideration if we lose five to six customers a week, that

hurts," he said. "Imagine how we will be at a month, at six months, at a year from now, so the impact is not only on the small business, it will be long term."

Md Abdul Bhuiyan, the owner and manager of Flavours of India, said his restaurant started experiencing supply and ingredient shortages six months ago, and he doesn't envision an end in sight. He said the effects of inflation have also severely affected the restaurant's business.

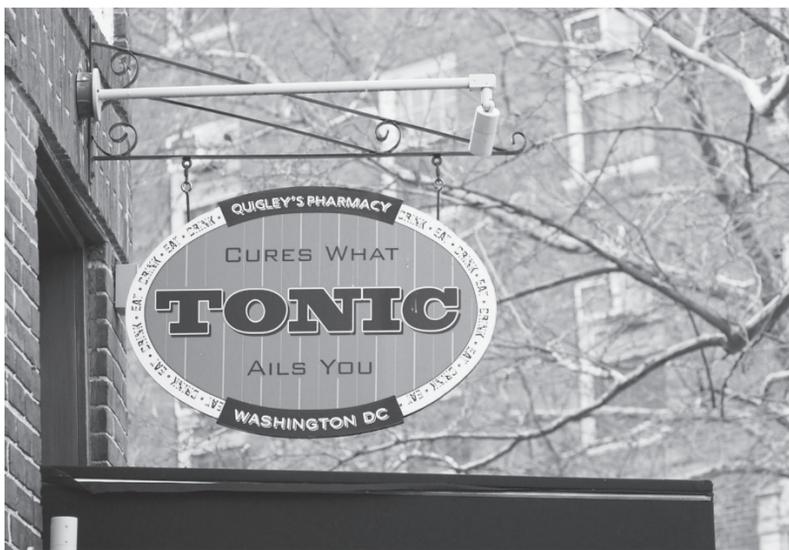
"It's not only a shortage – the price is going up," he said. "They are up, some of the items, 40 to 50 percent."

Bhuiyan said workers have quit their jobs at record rates recently, which has caused many of the supply chain issues and lowered staffing. He said his complaints are not directly aimed at the government or local workers, but he wants laborers to return to work despite the end of pandemic-era government stimulus.

"No matter if you get money or not, you have to come back for work," he said. "That's the main thing."

Kostas Loi, the district manager of GRK Fresh Greek in District House, said the labor shortage has made it difficult to find enough workers to adequately staff the restaurant. Loi said the University's pandemic mitigation measures, like remote classes during the first week of the semester and GW's grab-and-go dining policy, have financially hamstrung his business and reduced the number of potential customers.

"Keeping the door closed to the public, that affects me too," Loi said. "Business-wise, compared with before COVID, I'm down maybe 70 to 80 percent."



GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Tonic's managing partner said they took crab off the menu after the price from suppliers more than tripled.

Credible COVID-19 posts more common than misinformation, study reveals

JACKSON LANZER
REPORTER

A study from the School of Media and Public Affairs found that social media posts with credible sources on COVID-19 were more common than posts spreading misinformation during the start of the pandemic.

The study, published earlier this month by Institute for Data, Democracy and Politics, found that the number of links shared through Twitter and Facebook that include misinformation related to general health topics like depression and cancer outnumbered links with COVID-19 misinformation from March to May 2020. Of the more than 300 million Twitter posts analyzed, 72 percent contained COVID-19 keywords that linked to “more credible” sources, while 67 percent contained other health issues during the pandemic, according to the study.

Xiaolei Huang, one of the study’s co-authors and an assistant professor of computer science at the University of Memphis, said the research team discovered that people were more likely to use sources, like the federal government and major news organizations, instead of news articles with false COVID-19 content. “Normally, people feel like there’s more and more people believing in the misinformation,” Huang said. “But according to our findings, people have more awareness about the misinformation online and that is people are more likely to trust the trustworthy news media.”

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director general of the World Health Organization, used the term “infodemic” to describe the mass amounts of misinformation about the coronavirus, according to the study.

Huang said the infodemic applies to other public health is-



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Some public health officials have coined the term “infodemic” to describe the mass amounts of misinformation about COVID-19.

issues, like misconceptions about vaccines – not only those for COVID-19. He said the study found COVID-19 tweets to contain “not credible sources” – website domains rated between “very low” and “low” credibility by the Media Bias/Fact Check factual reporting scale – that were more likely linked to state-sponsored sources from countries like Russia.

He said users who followed and retweeted information from verified sources like CNN and The New York Times during the start of the pandemic helped reduce misinformation. He said the users’ pattern following credible sources indicates how continuous anti-misinformation policies are

necessary to protect public health and general welfare.

“Working against misinformation should never be stopped,” Huang said. “It’s a long-term issue.”

David Broniatowski, the associate director of the IDDP and an associate professor of engineering management and systems engineering, led the study and research team. He did not return a request for comment.

Experts in media and data science said the politicization of the pandemic damaged the public’s trust in online health communication and medical experts.

Amy Leader, an associate professor of population science and medical oncology at Thomas Jef-

erson University in Pennsylvania, said the pandemic is constantly evolving and allows for more misinformation to be spread while public health experts attempt to share accurate information.

She said conversations on COVID-19 topics like vaccination and masks may have sparked the rise of misinformation, but the public misinterpreted the difference between credible and non-credible information. She said the public should refer to trusted messengers on social media who understand and can share factual information about COVID-19 or general health issues in addition to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Everything doesn’t all have

to come out of the mouths of the public health professionals or the CDC person,” Leader said. “We can partner with other people that are credible and have the ears and the voices of the public.”

Jeffrey Blevins, a professor of journalism at the University of Cincinnati, said the study highlights how credible information about COVID-19 is available online, but researchers should have considered how people may not use online sources to find information for themselves.

“They tend to go to find facts, find narratives that support their already pre-conceived disposition or what social scientists would call confirmation bias,” he said. “We want to have our biases confirmed.”

Blevins said while the study recognized that accurate COVID-19 information is available on social media, the findings won’t sway those who disregard information from credible sources like news outlets and government organizations. He said the public “unfairly demonized” health experts, which decreased their credibility and authority to speak on their areas of expertise.

Yonaira Rivera, an assistant professor of communication at Rutgers University, said the study should have broadened the number of social media platforms it analyzed to include Instagram and WhatsApp. She said the study should have also indicated that image-based searches within Facebook groups could share links of videos and images to “not-credible” sources about COVID-19 and create echo chambers that fueled the politicization of the pandemic.

She said the study’s researchers wouldn’t have been able to analyze platforms like WhatsApp and TikTok because of how fast social media users could share their opinions and influences.

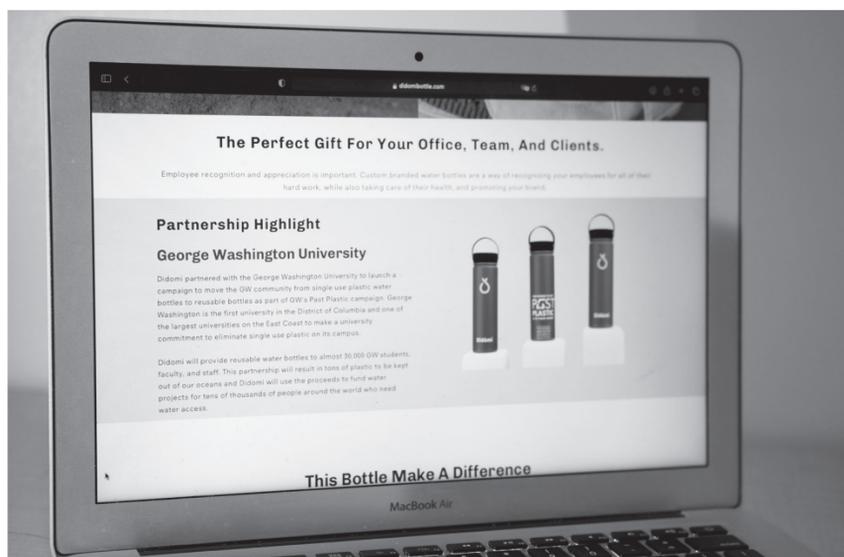


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ELISSA DETELLIS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Officials said the bottles will be distributed at the COVID-19 testing site later in the semester.

GW forges partnership to distribute reusable water bottles on campus

ISHANI CHETTRI
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A social enterprise dedicated to combatting water crises will supply the University with 26,000 reusable water bottles this spring to advance GW’s commitment to eliminate single-use plastics on campus.

Didomi, a reusable water bottle company, plans to provide the water bottles to GW, which will distribute the bottles to community members at the COVID-19 testing center this spring, Kimberly Williams, the stakeholder engagement associate in the Office of Sustainability, said in an email. Williams said GW’s investment, which will fund water accessibility projects in other countries, will help students, faculty and staff find reusable alternatives to plastic bottles to align with GW’s ongoing initiative to reduce plastic waste and install water bottle refilling stations on campus.

The University announced its commitment last year to eliminate single-use plastics, later announcing plans to install a new line of water-bottle filling stations and remove plastic bottles from vending machines as the policy went into effect in July. Williams said officials have installed at least one water bottle filling machine in every residence hall and academic building on campus, including other outdoor locations.

“As part of this culture change on campus, GW is partnering with Didomi to provide a reusable bottle to all students, staff and faculty on campus,” Williams said

in an email. “The reusable water bottle is branded with the logo for GW’s Past Plastic campaign, as well as the Didomi company logo. This co-branding represents both GW and Didomi’s commitment to reduce plastic waste and promote access to fresh water.”

Williams declined to say on how much money the University invested in the initiative.

The University is the first in the District and one of the largest schools on the East Coast to implement a single-use plastics elimination policy, which prohibits community members from purchasing items like plastic bottles, utensils and shopping bags for events and to have them use available alternative products instead.

Anaa Jibicho, one of the co-founders of Didomi, said the University’s investment in the bottles will help provide more than 25,000 people in countries like Ghana and Uganda with water access in the next 10 years. Didomi plans to use the proceeds from its water bottle sales to build factories and employ people affected by water crises in African countries, according to its website.

Jibicho said the company ensures that the 24 oz. water bottles lined with double-wall stainless steel are “responsibly” made in China.

“We hope to be on campus in the next few months, if health conditions permit, to help with the distribution of the bottles and share about the water crisis and the impact we have been able to make with our partnership with GW,” he said.

Tara Scully, the director of

the sustainability minor program, said GW’s new water bottle supply from Didomi could help officials continue removing plastics from locations like vending machines and installing more water bottle stations on campus.

Scully said GW’s investment in the water bottles will fund Didomi’s current projects to increase water accessibility in African countries like Uganda and reduce water-related poverty and location issues.

Robert Orrtung, the director of research for sustainability initiatives, said the University should try to purchase products from reputable companies known for their commitments to sustainability when funding environment-friendly initiatives.

The Board of Trustees’ environmental, social and governance task force urged the University to address the environmental impact of single-use plastic use on campus in June 2020, which prompted then-University President Thomas LeBlanc to enact the Past Plastics policy.

Orrtung said the recent collaboration could serve as a model for the University to invest in more sustainability-focused companies and highlight its effort to be sustainable with more environmentally friendly products.

“We’ve made these commitments at the Board of Trustees level, so I think it would be good to know the extent that we can partner with such companies, and hopefully GW students will be creating these companies and they become partners for the university in the future,” he said.

Thousands gather to protest Roe v. Wade at March for Life

ABBY KENNEDY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

LAUREN SFORZA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

SEJAL GOVINDARAO
STAFF WRITER

Tens of thousands of anti-abortion demonstrators gathered in D.C. Friday for the annual March for Life, pressuring federal officials as the U.S. Supreme Court considers a case that could overturn a decades-old precedent that established abortion rights nationwide.

Protesters marched down Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court calling for the court to reverse the Roe v. Wade ruling, which marked its 49th anniversary this weekend, chanting “Roe v. Wade has got to go” and carrying signs reading “the future is anti-abortion.” The court is deliberating a case over a Mississippi abortion restriction law through which it could reverse its previous rulings, with more states moving to limit abortion access across the country.

Many of the demonstrators, which included student groups like GW College Republicans and Students for Life, said religious values and previous abortion experience pushed them to join the protest. Patriot Front, a white supremacist organization, also joined in the march before being escorted away from the

crowds.

Advertisement Naomi Whittaker, a gynecologist who traveled from Harrisburg, Pa. with her family to attend the demonstration, said she provides medical care to mothers and unborn children during pregnancies and trauma relief to patients with past abortions – professional experience that has shaped her pro-life ideology.

“I take care of both the unborn and the mother at once, and so I have the responsibility to protect both lives,” Whittaker said. “And there’s a way to do both and honor and love both through top-quality medical care, so me, my job as a physician is to keep both hearts beating.”

Whittaker said many of the women she treats face “pain and suffering” after abortion.

“I do help mourning women who have regret after taking the first Mifepristone pill, the antiprogesterone pill,” she said. “So I get a lot of women who have pain and suffering after abortion.”

Donald Kloster, a priest who traveled from Connecticut, said he has attended the March for Life for more than 20 years in hopes of overturning Roe v. Wade because he wants the law to “defend every human being.” He said theology guides his perspective on abortion, and every religious person believes “life is precious,” which has inspired him to at-

tend the march annually.

“It’s always first life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” Kloster said. “If you don’t have the defense of life – liberty and the pursuit of happiness don’t matter.”

Sherri, a demonstrator from Pennsylvania who had previously gotten an abortion, said she felt “terrible regret” after her abortion and wants to ensure that others don’t face the same struggles. She declined to share her last name, citing privacy concerns over her past abortion.

“I had an abortion experience and felt terrible regret, remorse, shame, guilt, and Christ saved me and freed me from that,” she said. “Forgiveness, and I totally feel forgiven and set free.”

Chris Kladezgir, a New York resident who has attended the March for Life for more than 10 years, said he hopes the Supreme Court overturns Roe vs. Wade after seeing the large crowd that gathered amid the court’s looming decision.

Kladezgir, who identified as a Christian, said his religious values influenced his opposition to legalized abortions and he hoped the country would follow suit in the spirit of being “founded on” Christian values.

“Many of our laws were created based on Christian values from the Bible and everything,” he said. “So make it about God again. Just make it all about what God would want us to do.”



JOSEPH DECILIOS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GW College Republicans organized a group of students to attend this year’s march.

CRIME LOG

CREDIT CARD FRAUD, THEFT II/OTHER

Off-Campus
1/14/22 – 1 to 2:30 a.m.
Open Case

A female student reported that she lost her cellphone and credit cards. The student tracked the items to a location off campus and reported fraudulent charges linked to her credit cards at this location.

Case open.

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

Madison Hall
1/15/22 – 1:32 a.m.
Closed Case

GW Police Department officers responded to a report of an intoxicated female student. EMeRG paramedics arrived on scene and, after medical evaluation, the student refused any further treatment.

Referred to Division for Student Affairs.

UNLAWFUL ENTRY

The Dakota
1/15/22 – 12:34 p.m.
Closed Case

GWPD officers responded to a report of a female student's ex-boyfriend gaining entry into her residence without permission. GWPD officers made contact with the subject, issued a bar notice and sent him on his way.

Subject barred.

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

621 22nd Street NW
1/17/22 – 2:09 a.m.
Closed Case

GWPD officers and EMeRG paramedics responded to a report of an injured male student near the Tau Kappa Epsilon townhouse. Upon arrival, the response team discovered that the student was intoxicated and injured himself in a fall. EMeRG paramedics evaluated the student and cleared him after further treatment.

Referred to DSA.

UNLAWFUL ENTRY

One Washington Circle Hotel
1/18/22 – 9:30 p.m.
Open Case

GWPD officers responded to reports of an unknown male subject who entered One Washington Circle Hotel while following a group of students as they entered. Upon entry, the subject rummaged through the front desk drawers. Shortly thereafter, the subject left the building. The case has been turned over to the Metropolitan Police Department.

Case open.

TAKING PROP W/OUT RIGHT/FROM BUILDING

Ross Hall
1/19/22 – Unknown
Open Case

A male faculty member reported an unauthorized consumption of personal beverages kept in their office.

Case open.

—Compiled by Acacia Niyogi



A recent survey of health care workers found that the majority of respondents reported mental health repercussions from the pandemic. GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Milken to organize initiative combatting pandemic burnout in health care field

CRISTINA STASSIS
REPORTER

A research institute in the Milken Institute School of Public Health received \$6 million earlier this month to organize a federal initiative addressing burnout and stress among health care professionals during the pandemic.

The Health Resources and Service Administration awarded the grant to the Fitzhugh Mullan Institute of Health Workforce Equity to develop an organizational center where 44 higher educational institutions and health systems will exchange potential support services for the next three years. The HRSA will fund grants for the institutions to create a training program and a system to promote mental health for health care professionals alongside the center.

Candice Chen, the project lead and an associate professor of health policy and management, said the Health and Public Safety Workforce Resiliency Technical Assistance Center will provide the grantees with webinars and trainings to combat burnout in the professional health care field.

"We want to make sure that we really maximize their work, their learnings, and make sure it's available to others who need it,"

she said.

Chen said the center will oversee how the grant recipients advance their work with potential changes like new childcare delivery methods and observe each organization's health care environment to learn about the current challenges that need to become nationwide priorities.

She said the center will provide the grantees with technical assistance to professionals like emergency medical technicians who may be under pressure to obtain medical certifications. She said the pandemic's impact on the health workforce increased both burnout and suicide rates among doctors and nurses.

"COVID is just exponentially increasing the pressure on our healthcare workers, so it's really important to bring attention to this issue so that we can start to address some of the underlying issues," Chen said.

Of more than 1,300 front-line health care workers, 55 percent experienced burnout and 62 percent reported mental health repercussions from the pandemic, according to a survey from the Kaiser Family Foundation and The Washington Post.

Patricia Pittman, the project's co-investigator and the Mullan Institute's director, said the institute

will not directly work with health care professionals but will conduct learning sessions to assess the grantees' health care burnout initiatives and ensure the organizations are improving.

She said the center is preparing to meet with its partners – the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Moral Injury of Healthcare and the American Federation of Teachers – and the 44 grantees soon. She said the center's team will include health care workers in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the School of Nursing.

"There'll be a lot of reading and interviewing, and we'll share that work across the board of organizations that are in the Technical Assistance Center," she said. "Everybody's very interested in understanding what's happening on the ground and what the plans will have and we will be convening these grantees for."

Public health experts said the new center will address the need to confront burnout and mental issues in health care communities and can target personal issues facing health care workers, like increased stress.

Ralph DiClemente, the associate dean of public health innovation at the New York University

School of Global Health, said the tools and resources the center provides to the other institutions will depend on the level of burnout and challenges health care professionals are experiencing within those institutions' communities.

DiClemente said health care communities should use tools like surveys so workers in the health service industry can convey the specific solutions and strategies they need to combat burnout and improve their mental health.

"There are certainly some strategies I hope will be developed as part of this program to compensate for that lack of personal interaction and personal touch, if you will, so that people feel more engaged and supported," he said.

Joseph Amon, the director of the Office of Global Health at Drexel University, said the center can identify health care professionals' needs and strategies to address them, but it should provide solutions on a broader scale to improve structural factors that make working in the health care industry difficult.

"Health care workers are an incredibly important frontline resource that we need to protect and that we need to support as much as we can," he said.

Students give mixed reviews of hotel isolation process

From Page 1

"Anyone who tests positive would stay in their room with their roommates (if they have any) and would be provided the required resources versus being moved to a separate isolation space," she said in an email. "Residential students who have not tested positive would be allowed to access campus dining and medical/public health facilities, but asked to limit contact with others as much as possible and not leave campus."

Students living in isolation at the hotel shared mixed reactions toward GW's handling of their move-in and isolation process, with experiences ranging from anxiety-inducing to simple and easy.

Sophomore Charlie Wild's return to campus went awry quickly when he tested positive for COVID-19 before moving into Shenkman Hall. Wild proceeded to walk with his suitcase to Yours Truly that afternoon.

He said his time at Yours Truly was "anxiety-provoking" as a result of what he called miscommunication and a lack of clarity from the University, which he said complicated his safe check-in and stay at the hotel.

Wild said a University staff member told

him in an email that officials barred isolating students from receiving food or grocery deliveries at Yours Truly. He said he started skipping some hotel meals that weren't compatible with his lactose intolerant diet, and he didn't order food from outside the hotel until three days into his stay when hotel employees told him friends or delivery services could drop off meals.

"The email that I received explicitly stated that delivery services like food or grocery or anything like that were not allowed," Wild said. "And then the hotel said, 'Yeah, no problem. You can have deliveries.'"

Wild said while looking for vital information about his stay, he initiated nearly all communication with the University, calling various medical, COVID-19 and housing-related hotlines more than 40 times. But he said staff members didn't share some information, like hotel check-in procedure, until days after he needed it.

He said he approached the hotel's main door instead of a separate check-in door for students who were infected with the coronavirus because he did not receive GW's communication about the move-in process in time.

Wild said University

officials waited until his ninth day in isolation to conduct any form of contact tracing, when the COVID-19 support team sent him a survey that included questions about his recent close contacts. He said he had to rely on his friends to deliver vital items like medication, which made him feel like a burden during his stay.

"I really think that the University should have someone that's responsible for that, for some type of delivery service so that you're not making your friends do that," he said.

The University provides students with a "student affairs support team liaison" who helps deliver groceries and other essentials to residents isolating with the virus on campus, according to an email that GW sent to residents earlier this month.

Vincent Patierno, a junior who isolated in Yours Truly, said he received GW's emails about the hotel's check-in policy and took a service elevator up to his hotel room Tuesday, which included a king-size bed and TV. Patierno said he reported his positive at-home COVID-19 test results to the Colonial Health Center last Monday but received guidance for his isolation more than a day later after he reached out to his District House community coordinator.

"I had to contact my community coordinator in District House for next steps because the CHC never contacted me," he said in an email. "After 36 hours, I reached out for help because my roommate was away waiting for my next steps."

Patierno said officials required him to submit a credit card number for potential incidental charges related to his stay at the hotel, and he expects GW will charge him for hotel meals even if he decided to order food deliveries. He said the overrun move-in process for isolation disrupted his roommate's ability to return to campus while he waited to move into Yours Truly.

"The system as they have it designed currently is overwhelming, but everyone is doing their best," he said. "Other than that, I wish maybe students were allowed to get some fresh air at least once per day."

Thomas Carrigan was at his internship on Capitol Hill Jan. 12 when officials called to notify him that he tested positive for COVID-19 and needed to pack for a 10-day stay at Yours Truly. Carrigan said staff clearly communicated instructions regarding hotel check-in and grocery and meal delivery, which hotel staff brought to his door.

Officials weigh COVID-19 risks, revenue opportunities

From Page 1

Paserman said universities can justify the level of risk they take in returning to in-person operations because of the less severe symptoms that people experience when infected with the Omicron variant.

"So unless there is an escalation of the severity of the disease, I think that what most universities will do is to basically try to stay on the course and maintain in-person instruction, and that should sort of minimize the financial hit," he said.

Pamela Eddy, a professor of higher education at The College of William and Mary, said universities are concerned that a decrease in campus tours because of pandemic-related restrictions will lower enrollment and tuition revenue. GW has paused on-campus tours until at least Jan. 31.

She said many higher education leaders are looking at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's projection of when Omicron will reach its peak to determine when to transition to fully in-person operations.

"The early data show that the symptoms are not as severe for the vaccinated, so the recovery time should be quicker," she said. "Showing care for students will ultimately build a more committed alumni base, so thinking long-term is important too."

Sherry Glier, a professor of public service and the dean of the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University, said in light of the recent spike in COVID-19 cases and the spread of the Omicron variant, universities are mainly facing "logistical problems" like giving students isolation space and meals during isolation periods.

But she said officials would likely prefer housing students on campus instead of keeping them home, where they would pose a greater risk of spreading the coronavirus to parents or other family members 50 years or older.

"I think it's just a terrible idea to send young people home to their elderly parents," she said. "I think it's just asking for a public health nightmare."

Abigail Turner, a professor of medicine and epidemiology at The Ohio State University, said university leaders may spend more this semester to secure isolation housing, clean public spaces and perform contact tracing in light of increased COVID-19 cases recently.

"The big thing about Omicron that is different is the sheer number of cases compared to previous waves," she said. "So if there are set costs to each positive case, the university is going to end up spending more with Omicron than they would have with waves driven by other variants."

Opinions

Jan. 24, 2022 • Page 6

Administrators and faculty should embrace open-source textbooks

The second semester is well underway, bringing with it the semesterly ritual of buying exorbitantly priced textbooks. The national average price for course materials is \$153 per course, which can mean students may be forced to pay in the area of \$1,000 a semester just to obtain the reading materials they need. This puts a further financial strain on students and their families for a higher education institution that is already expensive enough.

GW and other institutions must turn to more affordable and accessible textbook options rather than letting a few textbook publishers place further financial burdens on students. They should use open educational resources, which are educational sites and materials that are free, accessible online and available for use and sharing.

Evan Wolf
Opinions Writer

The responsibility to switch to cheaper and online textbooks falls on both administrators and professors. Administrators should publicize open-source options and encourage faculty to use them in their classes.

The root of the issue lies with textbook publishers who can get away with charging ungodly prices for their works. A 2016 Public Interest Research Group report found that four textbook publishing corporations own more than 80 percent of the textbook industry. Textbooks are usually required course materials for students, so textbook publishers can raise prices and students will still be coerced into buying them. After all, as one NBC article pointed out, there is no "textbook insurance" to help students afford expensive course materials. In addition, textbook choices and prices are usually very limited. Bound by their professor's syllabus, students don't typically have access to alternative prices or options. This allows textbook publishers to monopolize the industry, for which students must pay the price.

The results within the publish-

ing industry are self-evident. College textbook prices have risen by more than 1,000 percent since 1977, which more than triples the rate of inflation. The skyrocketing prices have a very real and tangible im-

act on students who are paying enough for college as it is.

As I mentioned in a previous column, GW's annual tuition amounts to almost \$60,000, which prompts many GW families to take

out education loans. These loans can haunt students and their families for a lifetime, which is counter to the belief that everyone should have the right to an accessible and affordable education. Students may

spend more than \$1,400 on textbooks and other supplies each semester, which is not included in our tuition. Paying for textbooks is not nearly as expensive as the price of tuition, but it is still thoughtless and unreasonable for GW and other universities to expect their students to pay for something as simple yet essential as textbooks.

A 2018 survey by Morning Consult, a polling and data company, found that 85 percent of current and former college students considered spending on course materials like textbooks to be one of their highest financial stressors. This was only surpassed by college tuition itself. Disturbingly, 43 percent of those surveyed skipped meals to afford paying for course materials. In addition, Black students are 35 percent more likely than other respondents to skip a trip home to afford paying.

This survey clearly demonstrates that the price of textbooks and other course materials places a financial burden on students. Many students must sacrifice, often to a great extent, just to afford the course materials they are expected to purchase.

In addition to diagnosing the problem, this survey can also help highlight some solutions. More than 80 percent of respondents said that accessible online course materials would benefit them.

The educational landscape is more heavily using the internet, a trend that the pandemic has only accelerated. Colleges in general and GW in particular must get with the times and leave expensive textbooks pumped out by publishers and required by professors in the past.

To have students pay for expensive textbooks is to put an unnecessary financial strain on students paying enough as it is. Many families, at GW or elsewhere, are already struggling to pay the price of tuition. Administrators and professors must take simple but crucial steps to make textbooks more affordable.

—Evan Wolf, a freshman majoring in political communication, is an opinions



JENNA BAER | CARTOONIST

Wrighton can fix financial aid at GW STAFF EDITORIAL

Newly minted interim University President Mark Wrighton has signaled that one of his priorities will be to improve GW's financial aid office – a necessity amid many students' pandemic-era financial insecurity.

As an interim president, his only major mandate is to right the ship and keep the University in a steady state until a permanent successor can be appointed. This puts Wrighton in a unique position to spearhead efforts to make the University's existing programs and policies work better until they can be more dramatically overhauled – and the Office of Student Financial Assistance is a perfect place to start.

From a purely operational standpoint, GW's financial aid office is frustrating to navigate. Students who are trying to figure out if they can quite literally afford to keep attending GW are often stuck frantically following up or getting the run-around from overworked staff. Students are often in the dark about how much aid they will be receiving until the last-possible minute.

This is best illustrated by the disastrous rollout of updated aid packages in fall 2020, when nearly 5,000 students suddenly had their aid packages changed as the University shifted to online operations for the semester. Students were left panicking, and officials were left to frantically hold town halls clarifying that

for most students, their out-of-pocket costs would not change. This was an unforced crisis at the time, but it is representative of how opaque, uncommunicative and unhelpful the financial aid office can be. Trying to figure out whether you can keep going to college is an existential, all-consuming and deeply emotional experience – one made no easier by the financial aid office a lot of the time.

Fortunately, as of late, GW seems to be improving its public communication, most notably the University's response to the Omicron-driven surge in coronavirus cases. If Wrighton's administration can follow through on making the financial aid office work better and pair that with the kind of improvement in communication the University displayed when it came to Omicron, that would go a long way to making students' lives easier.

The pandemic hit GW's pocketbook hard, and overarching fundraising legwork is hard to do until there is a University-wide strategic plan in place. But that is not a good excuse for complacency by GW. The University did roll out a "focused initiative" to bolster opportunities for Pell-eligible students, and it is excellent to see that Wrighton has pledged to see these efforts through. But not all students in financial need are Pell-eligible, and for those who are, Pell grants are seldom enough on their

own. The maximum Pell grant is just shy of \$6,500 per academic year – which, considering that the total cost of attendance at GW is nearly \$80,000, is often a drop in the bucket unless paired with other sources of aid.

The University's decision to hold off on a more comprehensive fundraising campaign until there is a strategic plan in place and then barely take any specific action to fill the gap in the meantime is shortsighted.

The fact that emergency aid for students from federal pandemic aid legislation, like the \$9 million GW received from the CARES Act, ran out so quickly should be indicative of the acute need for more awards, scholarships and funds for students who need financial support. Even if these efforts are piecemeal, like establishing a fuller smorgasbord of various tuition awards and college-specific funds for students who meet certain criteria, it's certainly better than nothing – and besides, GW students are unfortunately pretty familiar with navigating a complex and fragmented financial aid system.

In his first few weeks in office, Wrighton has built up well-deserved goodwill from students, faculty and the GW community by being accessible and forward-looking. To keep that going, he should make getting GW's financial aid efforts unstuck a key priority.

GW needs to stop surprising students with new roommates

As the fall semester drew to a close, two of my suitemates informed me that they were not planning to return to our Amsterdam Hall unit for the spring semester. One had decided to study abroad and the other had chosen to move off campus.

Zachary Bestwick
Opinions Writer

My remaining roommate and I wondered what this would mean for us. Would we have the whole unit to ourselves, or would our departing roommates be replaced with new folks? We waited for a heads-up from GW that never came. We never received an email, physical notice or phone call notifying us that two students who had not been on campus in the fall would be moving into our room. Had we not gone out of our way to check the housing portal, we would have been totally blindsided by this change in our living situation. GW should notify students as soon as they're assigned a new roommate to give them time to communicate before the shift.

One can imagine how daunting it must be to enter into a new living environment where the rules and norms were created without you. It may take time before both parties feel comfortable asking each other to

quiet down or get on the same page about chores. Common spaces like countertops, cabinets and refrigerator shelves may have been divided up evenly at the beginning of the academic year, and new residents might have a hard time getting an equal share. Sometimes these points are settled on paper and sometimes agreements are made more naturally – things are addressed as they come up. Students who were not around when decisions were made might feel like they have no agency, that they are guests in someone else's home.

I'm finding out, in the early stages of my new arrangement, that these issues tend to be ironed out on an as-needed basis, but the process could have gone more smoothly if we had the chance to communicate beforehand. I showed my new suitemates the cabinets their predecessors had used, and I asked them to speak with me if they had any problems, but after that we've all pretty much kept to ourselves. Sometimes I wish I could start at the beginning and get everyone on the same page, but with this semester's staggered move-in, that would have been very difficult. Thankfully, my new suitemates are very friendly and polite, but they could have benefited from a little support from our residence hall

community coordinators to ensure that they don't feel like they have to do things our way just because we were here first.

Next year, when spring housing adjustments are made, students taking on new roommates should be notified via email as soon as someone gets added to their unit, and residents should be encouraged to reach out to get to know one another before they start living together. Residence hall community coordinators should also email these students with guidance on how to collaboratively create a living environment that works for old and new residents alike.

Every on-campus student deserves to feel at home at GW. If incoming students and the unit's existing residents have an opportunity to coordinate before the fall semester begins, and then get a chance to draw up a new roommate agreement, everyone can feel like they have a say and that changes were not thrust upon them by surprise. The bare minimum approach to midyear housing adjustments puts both incoming and pre-existing residents at a disadvantage and should be updated to avoid the stress and distraction that may arise under the current system.

—Zachary Bestwick, a sophomore majoring in political science, is an opinions writer.

The GW Hatchet

609 21st St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20052
gwhatchet.com | @gwhatchet

609 21st St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20052
gwhatchet.com | @gwhatchet

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Submissions — Deadlines for submissions are Friday 5 p.m. for Monday issues. They must include the author's name, title, year in school and phone number. The GW Hatchet does not guarantee publication and reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, grammar and clarity. Submit to opinions@gwhatchet.com

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Cost — Single copies free. Additional copies available for purchase upon request.

Culture

Jan. 24, 2022 • Page 7

THE SCENE

TRANSIENT: IMPERMANENT PAINTINGS
Thursday, Jan. 27 | ARTECHOUSE | \$20
Uncover an immersive adventure into art production through this exhibition of audiovisual paintings.

BYOB CANDLE MAKING WORKSHOP
Friday, Jan. 28 | FSC Workshop | \$50
Choose from more than 20 different scents before you create and pour your own 8-ounce candle.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

NEW SINGLE: "THE WEEKEND - MILLI REMIX" BY 88RISING, BIBI, MILLI

Interactive Asian dining: a brief history and where to enjoy it in the DMV

SIDNEY LEE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Interactive Asian restaurants like Chinese hot pot or Korean barbecue may be new to the American lexicon, but these cuisines have histories dating back thousands of years.

From do-it-yourself dining experiences like Japanese shabu-shabu to efficient conveyor-belt sushi, you may be wondering where you can try these traditional dishes around the DMV. We researched some of the best spots to find these culturally steeped establishments around D.C. and what you can expect while there.

Here is a brief history of each cuisine and where you can taste it yourself:

Chinese hot pot

Although there are similar cuisines in other Asian countries, China is typically regarded as the home of hot pot. The Chinese word for hot pot – huǒguō – directly translates to “fire pot.”

A traditional hot pot meal involves a large bowl of broth that comes in a variety of flavors, like spicy Sichuan or ginger and scallion, that is placed in the center of the table and heated by induction or flame. Using chopsticks, diners submerge various ingredients into the boiling broth to quickly cook before dipping in a sauce and eating.

Ingredients submerged in the broth can vary greatly, including vegetables like onions, mushrooms or bok choy, thinly sliced meats like beef, pork or lamb, and noodles.

Diners can make their own concoction of dipping sauces



Kura Sushi is just one local iteration of kaiten-sushi restaurants that have sprouted throughout the world in the past 60 years.

from ingredients provided by the restaurant like soy sauce, sesame oil, vinegar and crushed chilis.

It's commonly believed that this traditional way of cooking came from Mongol warriors who camped outside and ate dinner circled around a pot over the fire, which was helpful to keep warm and get everyone fed. Today, the tradition is carried on as quality time to sit with friends or family and share food while eating slowly.

You don't have to travel far from Foggy Bottom to try authentic hot pot. Hot Pot City, lo-

cated in Rockville, Md., serves Chongqing style hot pot known for its spicy Sichuan pepper broth. Supreme Hot Pot in Arlington also offers a full menu of traditional hot pot items, and Urban Hot Pot just opened a new location in Merrifield, Va.

Japanese shabu-shabu

Shabu-shabu is the Japanese take on Chinese hot pot. Similar to hot pot, shabu-shabu is served with beef and vegetables cooked in a dashi broth at the table. The meal also comes with its own set of dipping sauces and rice on the side.

The name ‘shabu-shabu’ translates to the onomatopoeic words ‘swish-swish.’

This style of hot pot arrived late to Japan in 1946 just after World War II. The backstory stands that a Japanese doctor was sent to Beijing as an army surgeon during the war where he tried Mongolian hot pot. He later lived in Kyoto where he introduced the dish to a chef at one of his favorite restaurants.

To try shabu-shabu near campus, head to Shabu Plus located in Adams Morgan. The restaurant describes its food as an “updated version of tra-

ditional Japanese Hot Pot with top grade meats, organic poultry and sustainable seafood.” If you're willing to make the trek to Annandale, Va., Omy Hot Pot & Bar also serves Shabu-Shabu-style hot pot in a cozy and relaxed atmosphere. Gyu Shige offers a variety of hot pot dishes in addition to a full sushi menu in Merrifield, Va.

Conveyor-belt sushi

Conveyor-belt sushi, or kaiten-sushi, is a worldwide phenomenon that you'll enjoy for its efficiency and entertaining style.

The history of conveyor-belt sushi began in 1947 when Osaka restaurateur, Yoshiaki Shiraishi, visited an Asahi beer factory and observed the bottles floating across the filling floor on a conveyor belt. Shiraishi spent years refining his own conveyor, and in 1958, he opened Mawaru Genroku, the world's first kaiten-sushi restaurant.

At most kaiten-sushi restaurants, customers can place individual orders with the sushi chef or via a tablet. Your food then arrives to you on the conveyor-belt, and the tab is calculated by an automatic count of your plates once you finish and place them in a dish slot at your table. Some chains even use RFID tags embedded in each plate and electronic wands to add up the bill.

Kura Sushi in Chinatown offers the full experience. At Kura Sushi, guests can choose to either order specific sushi plates through a table tablet or pick up any of the sushi plates that are continuously revolving around the conveyor belt.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR
To make it through a cold and occasionally snowy winter, try out one of these warm drinks to keep you toasty through the season.

Warm cocktails to fight winter blues

DIANA CROMPTON
REPORTER

Whip up a batch of warm cocktails and cozy up with friends to beat the frigid winter weather.

“Original Irish Coffee” by Food Network

Yields one serving
1 cup freshly brewed hot coffee
1 tablespoon brown sugar
3 tablespoons Irish whiskey
To top: heavy cream, slightly whipped

Rinse a mug with hot tap water to warm it up. Add hot coffee into the pre-heated mug, and then mix in brown sugar until dissolved. Stir in the whiskey, and top with a lining of heavy cream by pouring the cream over the back of a spoon. Be sure to serve warm.

“Peppermint Hot Chocolate” by delish

Yields one serving
½ tablespoon Peppermint Schnapps
1 tablespoon Godiva Chocolate Liqueur
1 cup hot chocolate
Optional garnish: crushed peppermint candy, whipped cream

Warm your peppermint schnapps, chocolate liqueur and hot chocolate in a saucepan on low heat to the temperature of your liking. Serve with a whipped cream topping and optional

peppermint candy garnish.

“Honey-Bourbon Toddy” by Bon Appétit

Yields two servings
For apple bourbon:
1 750-ml bottle of bourbon
4 fuji apples, sliced
4 cinnamon sticks
For drink:
6 tablespoons apple bourbon
2 tablespoons honey
1 cup hot water
2 (3x ½ inch) strips lemon peel
2 cinnamon sticks

To add a fruity twist to your drink, make apple bourbon in batches by combining a 750-ml bottle of bourbon with four sliced fuji apples and four cinnamon sticks in a pitcher. Leave covered in the fridge to chill for at least three days before straining. Opt for store-bought bourbon if you're in a time crunch. Stir honey into hot water in a measuring cup until it dissolves. Divide your bourbon of choice and hot water into two mugs. Garnish with a twist of lemon twist and cinnamon sticks.

“Vanilla Chai Tea White Russian” by Half Baked Harvest

Yields one serving and enough syrup to make six
4 chai tea bags
½ cup honey
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
¼ cup vodka
3 tablespoons Kahlua

2-4 tablespoon chai syrup
2-4 tablespoons heavy cream
Optional garnish: cinnamon sticks and star anise

To make the chai syrup, boil one cup of water then remove from heat. Steep chai tea bags for 15 minutes. Remove the tea bags, then add honey. Put back on the heat, and bring to a boil before adding vanilla. Once the mixture is cooled and you are ready to assemble your drink, fill up a glass with ice. Add the Kahlua, vodka and chai syrup to taste then lightly stir. Add heavy cream or dairy-free substitute, and finish by topping the drink with star anise and cinnamon.

“Hot Buttered Rum” by The Spruce Eats

Yields one serving
2 teaspoons brown sugar, packed
1 tablespoon unsalted butter, softened
1 splash pure vanilla extract
1 dash ground cinnamon
1 dash ground nutmeg
1 dash ground allspice
¼ cup dark rum
½ cup hot water
Optional garnish: cinnamon stick

Muddle together sugar, butter, vanilla extract and spices in the bottom of a mug. Pour in rum and hot water. Mix until the muddled mixture is dissolved. Garnish with a cinnamon stick and enjoy.

Concerts to add to your calendar this spring

JULIA KOSELNIK
REPORTER

Mark your calendars because a slew of concerts are happening in D.C. over the next several months.

For students curious about which artists to buy tickets for this semester, we've listed some of our most anticipated concerts this spring coming to our favorite venues in the District. Read on to hear more about the D.C. tour dates of everyone from huge stars like Kacey Musgraves and emerging voices on the music scene like soft pop artist Clinton Kane.

Be sure to have your vaccine card on hand, and bring a mask to be in compliance with Mayor Muriel Bowser's COVID-19 regulations.

Union Stage

740 Water St. SW

Located just a few feet away from The Anthem, Union Stage is like the venue's quirky younger sister. With a capacity of just 450, the venue is an intimate spot to grab a drink at its bar Taproom and enjoy less mainstream artists and bands. The venue is subject to Bowser's mask and vaccine mandates.

Claire Rosinkraz | Feb. 21 with opener Aidan Bissett

Emerging pop singer Claire Rosinkraz will headline her first tour after

racking up more than three million monthly listeners on Spotify. The California-born pop singer is just 16 but has been writing music since she was eight and has already experienced a great deal of success in the early stages of her career with her viral hit “Backyard Boy.” Tickets are \$22.

Briston Maroney | March 12 with opener Jackie Hayes

Electric indie rock artist Briston Maroney got his start on American Idol in 2014 as one of the 30 semi-finalists. Maroney racks up almost three million monthly listeners on Spotify with popular songs like “Freakin' Out On The Interstate” and “Small Talk.” Tickets are \$18.

9:30 Club

815 V St. NW

The 9:30 Club, which first opened in 1980 in Northwest D.C., has a rich history as one of the most popular night clubs in D.C. Although a nearly windowless exterior may lead you to think otherwise, the 1,200-person capacity, extensive lighting and sounds systems make the venue an ideal spot for wild and loud music events.

Fletcher | March 20 with opener Julia Wolf and Amelia Moore

Pop artist Fletcher will make a stop in D.C. on her headlining U.S. tour.

The singer-songwriter reached great success in January 2019 with her hit single “Undrunk,” which reached more than 145 million streams on Spotify, followed up well by her more recent single “Bitter,” which became a certified Gold record. Tickets start at \$154.

Songbyrd

540 Penn St. NE

Located near Union Market, Songbyrd's new location offers more space for concerts than its previous home in Adams Morgan with a capacity of 200 people. The front of the building looks like a garage door, painted white with the giant colorful Songbyrd logo. The inside kind of feels like a garage too with concrete floors, exposed brick walls and a dark intimate feel. In its short time being open, Songbyrd's new location has attracted mainly indie and emerging artists for those who prefer a more laid back and interactive concert experience.

Clinton Kane | Feb. 27

Twenty-six-year-old soft pop singer Clinton Kane will perform his “I'm Not Toxic I Swear” tour, playing hit songs like “I Guess I'm in Love.” The Australian musician boasted a major single in 2021, reaching 90 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. Tickets start at \$57.



AUDEN YURMAN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Former American Idol semifinalist Briston Maroney is among the slate of artists scheduled to perform at Union Stage this spring.

GAMES OF THE WEEK



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. Davidson
Wednesday | 7 p.m.
The Colonials play the Wildcats at home after four consecutive losses.



WOMEN'S TENNIS
at Delaware
Friday | Noon
GW looks to win their first match of the spring season.

NUMBER CRUNCH **.292**

Volleyball's winning percentage under former Head Coach Sarah Bernson.

Reifert looks to rebuild women's volleyball after lackluster fall season

NURIA DIAZ
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Eleven years ago, Katie Reifert brought promise to women's volleyball as team captain and middle blocker, earning the titles of team MVP and GW's offensive player of the year. Now, she has taken the reins of her former team once more as the program's newest head coach.

Reifert said she was first an avid softball and basketball player in high school before turning her focus to volleyball after friends introduced her to the sport.

"When I was a student athlete, I never saw myself as a coach," Reifert said. "I loved playing – I still do, I still play as much as I can – I just loved playing, and I couldn't see myself sitting on the sideline and telling people what to do."

Reifert was named to the Atlantic-10 Second Team after finishing second overall in the conference with a .357 hitting percentage. She also holds the fifth all-time GW record for hitting percentage with a .282 across four seasons.

After her career at GW, Reifert went on to compete professionally in Europe, where she played for Kuusamo Pallo-Karhut in Finland in 2012 before joining FC Luzern in Switzerland in 2014.

Reifert said she picked tactical know-how in her professional career, which encouraged her to eventually enter the coaching realm and try it for herself.

Reifert started out as an

assistant coach at Loyola University Maryland for a season, before serving four seasons at the helm of the men's and women's volleyball programs at Illinois Tech from 2014-18. Reifert took the women's team to two straight appearances in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association National Championship in 2016 and 2017 and led the program to a top-10 finish in the USCAA in 2017.

In light of her success with the women's program, Reifert was also named the head coach of the newly formed men's program in 2015. She boosted the team's overall record through three seasons and eventually led them to their first double-digit win total in 2018.

Reifert also served as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator with Brown University from 2018-20. In 2019, she helped guide Brown to their first winning season since 2001 and three student-athletes to all-conference recognition.

Reifert was announced as head coach in late December after the quiet exit of former Head Coach Sarah Bernson in November. As the tenth head coach in program history, she inherits a squad that hasn't seen a winning season since 2015, capped by a 2021 season in which the team finished with a 2-25 record overall.

Reifert said she plans to build an offensive-minded team that goes after their competition, a shift from the defensive teams of recent years.

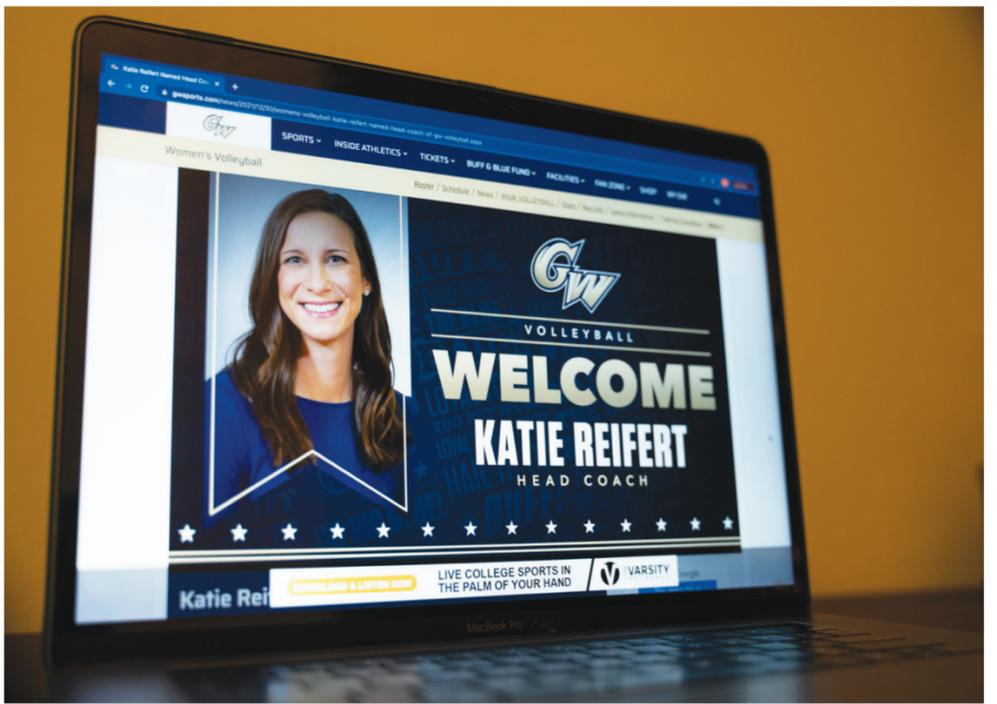


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SYDNEY WALSH | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Throughout Reifert's coaching career, she has helped lead multiple programs to victories in the regular season and championships.

As she looks to build the team in her image, Reifert said she's prioritizing bringing in well-rounded volleyball players with "good first touch" and that are not "one-trick ponies." In addition to the technical qualities, she said she wants players who are passionate about the sport and willing to buy into the program's

mission.

After a disappointing fall season, the team has recently begun spring training. Reifert said the first session went "incredibly well" and the team is excited to get off the ground and work toward a more successful season.

Reifert said GW has always

been a huge part of her life as it allowed her to create lifelong friendships with her teammates and led her to meet her mentors and coaches, whom she still keeps in touch with. She said her experiences at GW allowed her to form many of the skills she still uses to this day as a professional coach.

Women's basketball loses fourth straight game

LIAM O'MURCHU
STAFF WRITER

Women's basketball lost their fourth consecutive game Saturday afternoon against Massachusetts.

The Minutewomen (15-4, 3-2 A-10) were in control for much of the game and emerged victorious 68-41 for their first-ever win at the Smith Center. The Colonials (7-10, 0-4 A-10) struggled offensively throughout the game, shooting only 16-of-61 from the field and just 5-of-29 from behind the arc, an area of the court in which they've struggled all season.

"I think we beat ourselves in this game," graduate student guard Kyara Frames said. "We just discussed – I don't think this team is 30 points better than us. They're definitely a solid team, but I think that there's a lot of things that we could've fixed as a team that would've kept us in this game a lot longer."

The Colonials have slowly been returning to full health recently after a rash of injuries and COVID-19 sidelined key starters. Frames returned to the lineup Sunday after she missed the team's last two games due to COVID-19. Unfortunately, the rust showed for the Albany transfer, who went 2-of-11 from the field and 2-of-8 from deep.

Redshirt junior forward Mayowa Taiwo played well on defense despite the team's struggles, racking up 13 rebounds while nabbing three steals as well.

On the other side of the court, the Minutewomen got

back on track after losing consecutive games to Dayton and Rhode Island. Graduate student forward Sam Breen scored 20 points and notched 13 rebounds, two assists, one steal and one block to earn her 12th double-double of the season and 27th since the start of the 2020 season, per Nathan Strauss of WMUA 91.9 FM.

The only player with more double-doubles over that period is Aliyah Boston of South Carolina, who is projected to be the first overall pick in the 2023 WNBA Draft.

Reigning A-10 Player of the Week and junior guard Sydney Taylor also chipped in an efficient 17 points of her own on 5-of-8 shooting, while nabbing five rebounds and an assist. Sophomore guard Ber'Nyah Mayo capped the stat sheet with 6 points, five rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Massachusetts shot 45.3 percent from the field and 46.7 percent from 3-point range and finished at 50 percent or above from the field in every quarter except the third. Meanwhile, GW finished 26.2 percent from the field and 17.2 percent from beyond the arc.

The Colonials kept it tight to start the game, only trailing 17-14 at the end of the first quarter. GW played strong defense, forcing six turnovers and racking up four steals. Junior guard Sheslanie Laureano gave the Colonials a 4-point lead, their largest of the game, with 3:02 left following a turnover by Massachusetts.

But the Colonials began to crumble in the second quarter, going scoreless for 5:53 of gametime, allowing

the Minutewomen to jump out to a 21-14 lead. Massachusetts scored 22 points in the second quarter, compared to GW's four, two of which came off free throws.

The Minutewomen, who were 11-0 when leading at halftime coming into the game, led 39-18 at halftime and never looked back.

Both teams struggled offensively in the third quarter, with Massachusetts shooting 3-of-14 and GW shooting 5-of-22 from the field. But Massachusetts still held a commanding 50-30 lead by the end of the quarter.

The fourth quarter proved to be more of the same, as the Minutewomen outscored the Colonials 18-11 in the final stanza. The Minutewomen got out to a 64-33 lead, their largest of the day, with 3:52 remaining in the game before the Colonials trimmed the deficit slightly to end the game lagging behind 68-41.

A notable absence for the Colonials the past few games has been graduate student forward Ty Moore, who has played in 17 games this year, starting 11 of them while averaging 7.8 points and 8.2 rebounds per game. Moore came to Foggy Bottom as a transfer from Troy this offseason, while also spending time at Trinity Valley Community College earlier in her career.

McCombs said Moore remains ineligible to play moving forward due to health and safety protocols.

GW will look to snap their losing streak against Davidson at home Wednesday night at 7 p.m.



FILE PHOTO BY ELISSA DETELLIS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
NCAA college football currently operates under rules similar to the A-10 basketball proposal.

A-10 conference petitions NCAA to waive redshirt eligibility rules

LIAM O'MURCHU
STAFF WRITER

Men's and women's basketball conference play is in full swing, but the COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to disrupt the season.

Men's basketball has rescheduled two games so far due to COVID-19 issues, and women's basketball has been forced to play multiple games shorthanded, leaving the future of the teams' success this season in flux. The Atlantic 10 petitioned the NCAA earlier this month to allow redshirt players limited participation without jeopardizing a full year of eligibility to help combat COVID-19 roster shortages, a move that could help GW remedy its shortages throughout the remainder of the season.

Current NCAA rules prohibit players from redshirting after they have played in a game, but A-10 Commissioner Bernadette McGlade is asking that players designated for redshirt be able to play in up to four games in emergency scenarios while maintaining their extra year of eligibility. The Athletic reported earlier this month.

The waiver would apply to all NCAA Division I college men's and women's basketball players, although it would only apply for this season. The NCAA currently applies similar rules to the college basketball

proposal in college football. In football, players are allowed to compete in up to four games out of the 12-game schedule and still qualify for a redshirt season, per an NCAA rule change in 2018. College basketball teams typically play roughly 30 games in a season.

The men's team had a 26-day pause in December due to cases within the program, missing games against Maryland Eastern Shore, Saint Bonaventure, Saint Joseph's and Duquesne. The Saint Joseph's and Duquesne games were rescheduled for Jan. 19 and Feb. 16, respectively.

As of Saturday, freshman guard Laziz Talipov is the only player on the men's team who would qualify for a redshirt under current rules, as he is yet to play in a game this season.

If the temporary rule change is approved, freshman forwards Tyler Warner and Daniel Nixon, junior forward Miles Gally and senior guard Theofanis Stamoulis would be eligible for a redshirt season. Warner, Gally and Nixon have played four games, and Stamoulis has played two games.

The women's team has struggled with COVID-19 throughout the season and has been forced to play multiple games shorthanded. They were missing redshirt junior forward Mayowa Taiwo, freshman forward Sophie Haydon and freshman guard Leila

Patel for their games against Lehigh (70-57 loss) Dec. 21 and West Chester (64-31 win) Dec. 28.

GW also suffered a 73-42 loss to Rhode Island on Jan. 12, when they were missing graduate student guards Kyara Frames and Sierra Bell, graduate student forward Ty Moore, junior guards Nya Lok and Essence Brown and junior forward Faith Blethen, all of whom have been important contributors this year.

The team dropped its fourth straight conference game to Massachusetts 68-41 Saturday in the absence of Moore as well. Assistant coach Adam Call was also missing for the victory over West Chester, while the team was without Head Coach Caroline McCombs for their 66-63 loss to Richmond Jan. 5.

The women's squad has had three games postponed due to COVID-19 cases so far this season. Their game against Saint Louis, scheduled for Jan. 2, was postponed due to COVID-19 issues within the Billikens program.

No one on the women's team would be eligible for a redshirt this season under the current rules, since everyone on the roster has played in at least one game.

If the temporary rule change was implemented, freshman guard Leila Patel and sophomore guard Piper Sackme would be eligible for a redshirt season.



FILE PHOTO BY SABRINA GODIN | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Colonials kept the game tight through the first quarter, but Massachusetts started pulling away in the second quarter.