

# The GW Hatchet

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The editorial board calls for the University to take action on systemic racism at GW. Page 6

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**Tracking COVID-19** Jan. 27 - Feb. 2 **Weekly COVID-19 cases: 114** **Weekly positivity rate: 1.18%** **Change in cases since previous week: -81**

## Officials launch survey to assess strategies to improve shared governance

**ISHA TRIVEDI**  
NEWS EDITOR

**NICHOLAS PASION**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Officials launched a survey to solicit feedback on shared governance from full-time faculty, administrators and the Board of Trustees Thursday as part of broader efforts to develop recommendations to enhance shared governance at GW this spring.

Efforts to build trust between administrators and the rest of the GW community date back to the end of former University President Thomas LeBlanc's tumultuous tenure, which was marked by faculty concerns that officials violated shared governance principles amid a proposed enrollment cut with little consultation from faculty. The survey is part of a multi-step process including a retreat with faculty, trustees and administrators to discuss the results of the survey and eventually deliver a set of recommendations to the Board in May on how to improve shared governance moving forward.

With officials ramping up their efforts to improve shared governance in the coming months, here's what you should know:

### Shared governance over the years

Faculty concerns about shared governance came to a head in February 2020 when the Faculty Senate passed a resolution criticizing officials for violating principles of shared governance amid a plan to cut enrollment that LeBlanc was spearheading at the time.

Board Chair Grace Speights sent an email to professors last May stating she had been "troubled" by some professors whose discourse had done more to "foment discord" than contribute to civil dialogue. Her email came the day after LeBlanc announced his departure following a year of rising tensions with faculty members.

The Faculty Association, an independent group of professors who consistently opposed LeBlanc and administrators, referenced LeBlanc's departure in several tweets after the announcement he would be stepping down, some containing vulgarities and memes.

LeBlanc's tenure, which was largely overshadowed by the onset of the pandemic and growing distrust between him and the University community, culminated at the end of 2021 with interim University President Mark Wrighton's arrival on campus.

Speights said at a senate meeting in September when she announced Wrighton would become interim president that there was "work to be done" to improve shared governance before installing a permanent leader for GW. Her remarks at the meeting marked officials' first formal and public indication of the start to their efforts to improve shared governance at GW.

She said the GW community has seen a "problem" with shared governance in recent years and a lack of trust among the Faculty Senate, administrators and trustees. She and faculty senators also discussed a report on how to improve shared governance at the University at the meeting.



Shared governance had become a hot topic in recent years as relations between faculty and administrators broke down throughout former University President Thomas LeBlanc's term. FILE PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WELLING

The report outlined a series of recommendations based on successful instances of shared governance in the past as a "starting point" for improving shared governance in the long term. The report cites officials' efforts to modify the Faculty Code – which trustees approved in 2019 – as an example of successful shared governance.

Speights said at the September senate meeting that the Board met with consultants from the Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities and the American Association of

University Professors this summer to discuss how GW should approach shared governance reforms.

"There's also been an issue of lack of transparency, and we understand that, and we have heard you," Speights said at the meeting. "The Board spent a lot of time over the summer thinking about the issue of shared governance and how we could move forward together – the three constituents – to make this an even better University, and the Board, I can tell you, is committed to doing that."

### Defining shared governance this spring

Officials outlined their plan to improve shared governance at GW in October, including a series of town hall meetings, a survey and a retreat to ultimately develop a set of recommendations for Board approval in May. They announced in January the makeup of a shared governance task force that has been overseeing officials' broader efforts this semester.

See **TASK FORCE** Page 5



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

This year's theme, "Homecoming: Been Black," represents the resilience of the Black community.

## Alumni reflect on history of Black leadership, unity at BHC kickoff

**RIYA SHARMA**  
REPORTER

The Black Alumni Association kicked off the Black Heritage Celebration Friday, commemorating GW's 17-year history of BHC events and featuring an address from interim University President Mark Wrighton.

Black alumni at the event said the unity they found with other multicultural communities on campus has lasted beyond graduation and into their careers, and they encouraged Black alumni to continue to stand together into their adult lives. About 45 people attended the event, where Wrighton commended the University's "palpable" commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and the support from alumni aiming to advance these efforts.

The kickoff marks the second event of this year's BHC, which is headlined by the theme, "Homecoming: Been Black," to represent the resilience of the Black community.

Sam P.K. Collins, a journalist who graduated from GW in 2014, reflected on his time as a leader in the Black community while he was editor of The Black Ace Magazine, a publication of the Black Student Union.

Collins said after uniting with one another and earning their degrees from GW, Black alumni have become self-sufficient entering their professional careers instead of facing the effects of racial inequity.

"I'm very proud to have been at GW because GW laid the foundation for my African consciousness, so to speak," Collins said. "It was in that environment where I learned who I was and who I'm not."

Nikki Lane, an alumna and former BHC committee member, said she was excited to reconnect with other alumni, some of whom she mentored as a Multicultural Student Services Center employee after graduating from the University.

"This is a joyous thing for me to see the Black Heritage Celebration thrive all these years later and to see my Black Alumni Association active and getting us all involved," Lane said.

Wrighton emphasized the gravity of Black History Month and the BHC during his address, which will continue strengthening diversity, equity and inclusion at GW.

"I'm confident that this emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion will serve us well," Wrighton said at the event. "This is what we

need to be able to attract the most talented students, the most outstanding faculty members and a great staff."

Thousands signed a petition last week calling for officials to fire a professor who a student said incorrectly claimed she couldn't have a service dog in class. Two weeks earlier, a GW-Teach professor who said the N-word in a Jan. 18 class stepped down from her responsibilities teaching the course.

"I know that many George Washington University alumni, students, faculty and staff are working hard to make our environment more diverse and more inclusive," Wrighton said. "I'm extremely proud to be leading a University who has this commitment, and I am confident that we will continue to make progress overcoming racism and building a more inclusive community."

Natasha Dupee, the chair of the association, and Andrew Dixon, a member of the association's executive board, encouraged students to apply for the GWBAA IMPACT Award, which honors students and alumni for their commitment to GW and achievements in fields like community service, research and entrepreneurship.

## GW's enrollment drop fits with nationwide projections, experts say

**DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

The latest available demographic and enrollment data indicate that GW will fit into a nationwide college enrollment drop within the next few years largely due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and declining birth rates, experts said.

Officials said in October that GW's undergraduate enrollment rate decreased by 1.6 percent as total enrollment fell by 2.1 percent from 2020 to 2021, a smaller decline than an average industry-wide undergraduate enrollment drop of about 3.1 percent, according to data published by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center last month. Higher education experts said GW's enrollment drops mirror trends across colleges nationwide, which are receiving fewer applications and lower enrollment rates because of gradually declining birth rates and the pandemic's economic impact.

The number of college-age students will start declining again by 2025 after birth rates dropped by about 2 percent during the 2008 recession, according to a 2020 report from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

"Nationally, the number of high school graduates is expected to peak in the mid-2020s before entering a period of modest decline through the end of the projections in 2037," the report reads.

Jay Goff, the vice provost of student enrollment and student success, said in October that officials will prioritize international student recruitment and outreach efforts after this year's drop in enrollment. He said domestic enrollment was "relatively stable," decreasing by 1.3 percent.

"That will help us regain these numbers and get more actively engaged in the international community because we know that this is a very important part of our campus student body and part of our diversity efforts," Goff said.

Experts said schools like GW will face increasing competition to recruit and enroll undergraduate students, as the number of high school graduates dips during the next decade.

Christopher Lydon, the vice president for enrollment, management and marketing at the Catholic University of America, said schools in the Northeastern and mid-Atlantic United States will likely have the most difficulty recruiting more students because the number of college-age

people in the region will decrease by almost 600,000 – one of the largest regional drops. Almost 35 percent of GW students come from states in the Northeast, according to institutional data.

"You might see more of a demographic decline, say in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic, and potentially for stronger numbers, South, Southwest and West, which are natural locations for where immigrants come into the country as far as that's concerned," Lydon said.

Officials said in 2020 when they were planning an enrollment cut that they were aware of the downward trends in enrollment in Northeast and mid-Atlantic states and planned to expand their efforts to increase enrollment in Southwestern states to make up for the potential loss.

Lydon said the higher education industry faced a similar decrease in college-age students of almost 2 percent in the late 1980s and early 1990s at the end of a population boom. He said colleges and universities had to implement more "aggressive" marketing strategies, which included more high school recruitment visits and mail and flier campaigns.

See **EFFECTS** Page 5



COLIN BOHULA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Experts said the number of college-age adults in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic could drop by more than half a million in the coming years.

# News

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## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

### NORTH KOREA ECONOMIC FORUM: DELVING INTO KIM JONG-UN'S TEN YEARS

Wednesday, Feb. 9 • 8:30 a.m. EST • Free  
Join the Institute for Korean Studies for a discussion about North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and the stability of one of the world's few nuclear states.

### EQUITABLE ACTION IN CLIMATE CHANGE FEAT. KIRIT PARIKH AND JYOTI PARIKH OF IRADE

Wednesday, Feb. 9 • 8:30 a.m. EST • Free  
Tune into a guest lecture hosted by the Sigur Center for Asian Studies discussing climate change and economic development in India.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Feb. 7, 1987

Dozens of people protest outside a fraternity chapter party after a flier invites members to celebrate "White History Week."

# Officials struggle to hire part-time faculty six months after end of hiring freeze

**HENRY HUVOS**  
STAFF WRITER

**SOPHIA GOEDERT**  
REPORTER

The number of faculty the University hired last fall decreased by 6 percent compared to fall 2020 after officials eliminated a freeze on most hiring this summer.

University spokesperson Crystal Nosal said they hired 76 new faculty last fall – eight fewer than the 84 hired during fall 2020 – after officials eliminated the Resource Allocation Committee in July, which was tasked with hiring employees during the hiring freeze throughout the pandemic. Department heads said they have struggled finding part-time faculty members because of high demand, low pay and COVID-19 safety concerns that have made prospective faculty members hesitant about accepting positions at GW.

Danika Myers, the director of first-year writing for the University Writing Program, said officials asked program leaders during the pandemic to limit UW classes to full-time faculty and a small group of "regular part-time faculty," who can have their contracts to teach UW courses renewed. She said this fall, most of the program's part-time faculty sought employment from other universities that could better meet their demands for higher pay.

"Our need for part-time faculty was further increased by several of our full-time faculty choosing to retire or taking positions with other institutions that offered

them resources that our program could not match," she said in an email. "We needed to hire many more part-timers than we have ever hired in a single cohort."

Myers said the program is hiring temporary and regular part-time faculty but depended more on temporary professors this year because many full-time professors retired during the pandemic. She said the program can't compete with other universities' pay for temporary part-time faculty because GW requires they teach four-credit UW classes, while other institutions pay the same for less-demanding three-credit courses.

"Right now we not only can't compete with the other area institutions like American and Howard that staff many of their writing classes with one-year, full-time contracts," she said. "We can't even compete with other GW units that can offer our instructors the same pay to teach fewer credits."

Tadeusz Zawidzki, the chair of the philosophy department, said his department is unable to hire new faculty. He said the department started struggling to hire faculty six years ago when the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences introduced a budget crunch in 2014, when the number of faculty hires hit a low.

He said the pandemic made it more difficult to hire full-time tenure-track faculty because the department doesn't have any open tenure-track positions.

Robert Van Order, the chair of the finance department in the School of Business and a profes-

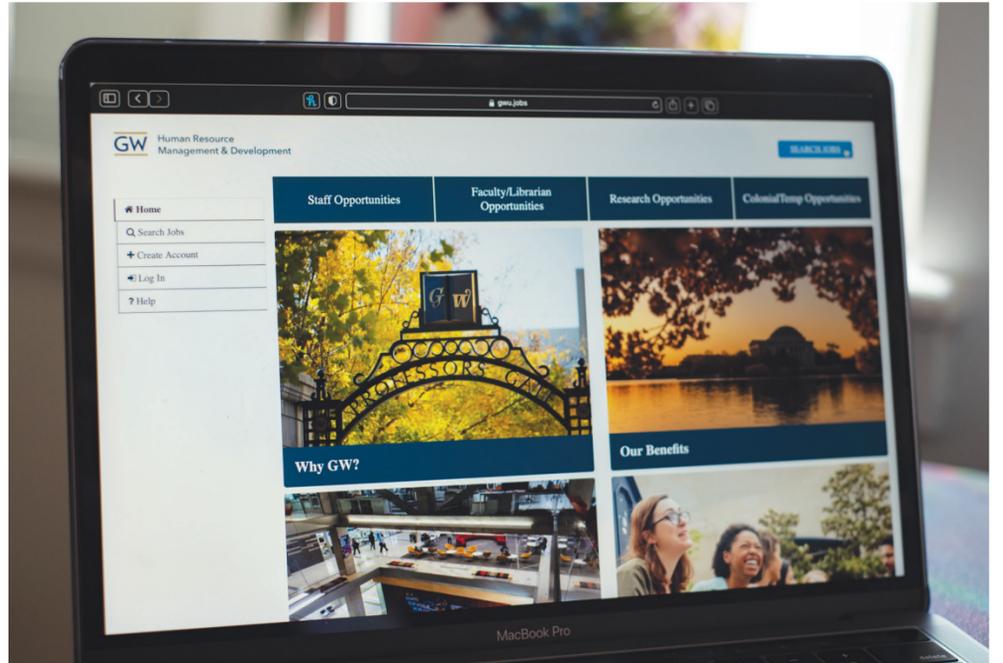


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR  
Department chairs said hiring new faculty has been a challenge even after the University's hiring freeze has been lifted.

sor of economics and finance, said given the hiring freeze, bringing on full-time faculty has become easier with a pool of candidates that is twice as large as before the pandemic, now including doctoral graduates who weren't hired during hiring freezes.

Teboho Moja, a professor of higher education at New York University, said universities must listen to faculty and students' recommendations, like hybrid

teaching options as the University returns to in-person instruction, to hire more effectively. Moja said universities that don't show flexibility in faculty pay and in-person teaching requirements will drive away those who feel like their needs are being ignored.

Moja said if GW wants to hire more underrepresented faculty, the University must demonstrate a commitment to welcome a diverse environment for prospec-

tive faculty members to see. She said the University will have a difficult "starting point" hiring more underrepresented faculty if it already has a reputation of being an unwelcoming environment.

"If I want to come to George Washington, and I look at the department and see that I'm going to be the first person of color to belong to a minority group, I might not be attracted to that," Moja said.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Interim Provost Chris Bracey said the rankings do not show the full financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic because fiscal year 2020 only includes about the first four months of the pandemic.

## Research spending grew in FY 2020 while national rankings idle: officials

**ISHANI CHETTRI**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Officials and faculty said GW's internal expenditures on research initiatives increased by 12 percent during the past five years as its national rank for external funding continued a decline.

The National Science Foundation released its Fiscal Year 2020 Higher Education Research and Development survey in December, tracking and measuring how much a university annually spends and receives from federal agencies on research projects. Each university in the United States receives a number to signify the amount of money it spent in a fiscal year to develop research within all disciplines, according to the NSF's website.

Interim Provost Chris Bracey said the University spent \$66.5 million in institutional funds dedicated to research in fiscal year 2020 compared to \$59.4 million in fiscal year 2016. The University ranked 86th out of 653 universities in the federally financed higher education research and development expenditures category and spent more than \$157,500 for all research fields in fiscal year 2020, according to the NSF's website.

"There is no one-size-fits-all measure by which a university can measure its research output," Bracey said in an email. "And uni-

versities cannot rely solely on the HERD survey because research funding is not equally available to all disciplines."

Bracey said GW's total support for the research is difficult to quantify because funding can include mediums like direct funding from federal agencies for projects and library resources.

He said the HERD rankings for fiscal year 2020 will not indicate the COVID-19 pandemic's financial impact because its range from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 only includes roughly four months of the pandemic.

Faculty members urged administrators during a Faculty Senate meeting last April to provide more research funding as the fiscal year 2022 budget failed to meet their funding requests while pushing forward other financial goals.

Bracey said while HERD rankings can be a useful metric to compare the University to similar institutions' research activities, they cannot measure the "impact" of GW's research output that can come in the form of grants, faculty-published books and policy advising.

Pamela Norris, the vice provost for research, said she's impressed by the University's support for research during the pandemic because the "faculty-led research ecosystem" elicited enhancements for research-

ers. She said she is confident the University is committed to combining research and academic missions in hopes of increasing research capacity and scholarly output.

Dwayne Wright, an assistant professor of higher education administration, said faculty members felt reluctant toward the University's efforts to become a premier research institution because they moved to the decentralized pod model while the permanent vice provost for research remained empty. He said faculty wanted GW's research leadership to provide them with support and resources to continue projects and studies affected by the pandemic.

Joe Cordes, the chair of the Faculty Senate's fiscal planning and budget committee and a professor of economics, public policy and international affairs, said multiple factors like changes in federal funding for research development can account for the University's fall in the federally funded research and development expenditures category of the HERD rankings.

He said the drop is not an automatic guarantee that the University developed less research between fiscal years 2016 and 2020. He added that future rankings for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 will display the pandemic's effect on universities' research and output.

## SMHS administers first doses of mRNA HIV vaccine in Moderna trial

**ISHANI CHETTRI**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

GW was one of the first institutions in the country to administer doses of the first mRNA HIV vaccines to human test subjects late last month.

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences and its Vaccine Research Unit collaborated with Moderna to test the safety of the vaccine and the immune responses of two participants in the Phase 1 clinical trial. The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation sponsored the mRNA HIV vaccine research, according to an International AIDS Vaccine Initiative release.

David Diemert, the clinical director of the GW Vaccine Research Unit, and Jeffrey Bethony, a professor of microbiology, immunology and tropical medicine, said in an email that the research unit's team administered the first HIV vaccine dose at the Medical Faculty Associates building in late January. The said researchers are testing two mRNA HIV vaccines in Phase 1, which is the first human clinical trial.

Four institutions including GW enrolled 56 HIV-negative adult participants for the vaccines' clinical trials, according to the release. The release states 48 patients will receive one or two doses of the primary HIV mRNA vaccine, 32 will receive an additional booster dose and eight participants will receive the booster dose alone.

"The vaccines we're testing in this study required a lot of knowledge about the human immune response to HIV and the retrovirus itself," Diemert and Bethony said in the joint email. "It is part of a very large team effort with groups at other institutions both here in the U.S. and abroad."

Diemert and Bethony said GW's Clinical Immunology Laboratory played a critical role in creating and optimizing the necessary sample methods to collect blood and tissues from the participants for Phase 1.

They said the research unit's clinical team and the laboratory developed a procedure called ultrasound-guided lymph node fine needle aspiration. During the procedure, medical professionals would drain a lymph node – structures within the immune system that filter foreign substances like viruses – to remove cells from the germinal center, where white blood cells activate and mutate, using a needle guided by the ultrasound imaging.

They said the technique is unique to the HIV vaccine trials because the vaccine targets the germinal cells in the lymph node to stimulate B cells – white blood cells that produce antibodies – to deter them from entering the blood circulation.

Diemert and Bethony said the mRNA HIV vaccine aims to block the replication of HIV strains and stimulate the production of broadly neutralizing antibodies –

which control the virus within HIV-positive patients' immune systems.

"As with all vaccines at this investigational stage in their development, the primary outcome of the study is to determine the safety and immunogenicity of the vaccine for the first time in humans," they said. "It is the first step in a long developmental process for new vaccines."

Infectious diseases experts said the HIV vaccine used mRNA technology, which helped create the COVID-19 vaccine and demonstrates how COVID-19 research can advance treatments for other health issues like sexually transmitted diseases and cancer.

Patrick Jackson, an assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health at the University of Virginia, said medical researchers use mRNA technology to inject patients with instructions to create their own viral protein cell and develop an immunity to the viral cell. He said the mRNA technology

Eleanor Wilson, the associate director of clinical research at the School of Medicine Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland, said traditional vaccine strategies like administering a weaker strain of HIV can't guarantee reliable results because researchers aren't certain if they've actually weakened the strain enough to not infect a patient with HIV.



COURTESY OF DAVID DIEMERT  
A total of four institutions enrolled 56 HIV-negative adult participants in the vaccines' clinical trials.

# The Student Association's new finance bylaws, explained

**TARA SUTER**  
STAFF WRITER

The Student Association Senate has voted to regulate spending on its internal budget and funding requests from student organizations as part of financial bylaw updates approved during the past year.

The senate started reforming its finance bylaws nearly two months into its term in June with a vote to establish a special finance reform committee to streamline the SA's fund allocation processes and increase transparency with the student body as student leaders have voiced concerns about lack of funding. Since then, senators have passed two rounds of bylaw updates, which they will consolidate into a Code of Financial Policies before distributing a guide for organizations to understand its terms regarding funding requests.

The updated SA bylaws limit the type of student organizations' co-sponsorship requests and prohibit funds for political activities and non-GW-related fundraisers. They also regulate the SA's internal budget, mandating that the executive and legislative branches must request their funding from the finance committee in a list of costs, instead of receiving the funding without an explanation of spending plans.

Here's a breakdown of the finance policies that the SA has updated in the past year:

## Prohibited spending and temporary funding

Senators unanimously passed the Bylaws Part V Update Act last month, which added three sections to the SA's finance bylaws – prohibited spending of SA and University funds, temporary funding policies and political activities.

The spending bylaws will prohibit student organizations from requesting funds for social media advertising services, miscellaneous costs and food and drinks at student organization meetings, according to the legislation. This bill also bars student organizations from requesting money for non-GW fundraisers dedicated to institutions like local charities.

Student organizations cannot request funds to donate to or support a student running for any elected office on campus, the bylaws state. The bylaws prohibit student leaders from using SA funds to pay or compensate their members for performing services related to their student organization.

The new section on temporary funding policies will allow the finance committee to reallocate funds from

events that move online because of pandemic-related restrictions. The University returned to fully in-person operations last week after starting the spring semester with classes online.

The bylaws' section on political activities will prevent student organizations from spending SA funds on political organizations or donating funds to political candidates running for public office.

## Internal funding regulations

Senators voted to revise the SA's internal financial allocation process under the Financial Reorganization Act in December. After graduate student umbrella organizations like the Student Bar Association receive money from the SA's general fund, the executive and legislative branches now must request the remaining cash, according to the legislation.

Under the legislation, the branches together may receive either 5 percent or \$40,000 – whichever is the highest total – of the remaining amount from the fund. The bill states that the judicial branch will receive \$300, a decrease from the \$500 that was allocated to the branch in previous years.

This bill will also require the internal SA branches to submit an itemized list of all their internal costs to deter-



COLIN BOHULA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The SA's special finance reform committee, chaired by SA Sen. Yan Xu, ESIA-U, has been conducting an overhaul of the body's finance bylaws for much of the current term.

mine how they will split the funding.

## Clarifying the bylaws for student organizations

SA Sen. Yan Xu, ESIA-U and chair of finance committee, said in an email that the special finance committee will submit the first draft of the Code of Financial Policies once it's completed to SA Vice President Kate Carpenter, who will refer the bill back to Xu and SA Sen. Cordelia Scales, SEAS-U and

senate chairperson pro-tempore. After Scales and Xu review and approve the code, the full senate will vote on it as a bill.

Xu said the Code of Financial Policies will clarify how student organizations are allowed to spend their money and will require the SA to release reports on the state of the SA's financial affairs. He said all of the SA's financial policies, like general allocation and co-sponsorship requests, will be "standardized" in the code

and will be condensed in a separate guide for student organizations.

Xu said the finance committee will create a guide for student organizations to understand the new document, which the Office of Student Life will distribute later this semester once the code is completed. He said the guide will indicate how student organizations can apply for co-sponsorships under the updated bylaws and what they can spend money on.



COURTESY OF ALYSSA AYRES

Alyssa Ayres said she wants to launch a research center focused on international affairs and governance and grow the school's outreach to U.S. and international policy communities.

# Elliott School dean focused on strategic plan, diversity in first year

**CAITLIN KITSON**  
REPORTER

**ERIKA FILTER**  
STAFF WRITER

Alyssa Ayres has spent her first year as the dean of the Elliott School of International Affairs focusing on student outreach and strategic planning for the school's future.

Ayres said the Elliott School is currently in the middle of its strategic planning process, but she hopes to bolster its standing as a "top 10" international affairs institution as the school returns to in-person operations. She said she hopes to develop a strategic plan that will advance the school's initiatives to diversify faculty and curricula this year, expand research and build continuing education programs for adults who previously discontinued their studies.

"Look around the world: the pandemic has only reinforced how connected we all are and highlighted the interconnections among international trade, national security, global health, the digital economy and so many other fields," she said in an email. "This all makes international affairs concerns more visible and more relevant than ever."

Ayres stepped into her position last January, replacing Ilana Feldman, a professor of anthropology, history and international affairs, who served as interim dean after spring 2020.

Feldman had filled in for Reuben Brigety, the Elliott School's former dean, who introduced new programs and added a full-time diversity program manager position to the school during his tenure.

As a part of her ongoing strategic planning,

Ayres said she wants to build a new research center focused on international affairs and governance, expand the school's continuing education programs and grow its outreach to U.S. and global policy communities. She said the strategic plan will expand upon the Elliott School's mission, which aims to engage with public and policy communities, educate future world leaders and produce research and scholarship that builds an understanding of international affairs.

"We are still in the midst of strategic planning, but I am hopeful that we will be able to make some institutional changes to advance these priorities," she said.

Ayres said she will use shared governance tactics through faculty town halls and monthly all-staff meetings to create the school's strategic plan. She said she has had "regular conversations" with the dean's council of elected faculty representatives and has held "Coffee with the Dean" sessions for any interested students.

Ayres said during the past year, she has led the Elliott School through a variety of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. She said she oversaw the launch of Inclusive Excellence Week, which surveyed community members on how to diversify the school, and formed the LGBTQ+ student group OUT in International Affairs.

"We owe it to our community to make sure that every Elliott School student who dreams of being a future leader in international affairs has the opportunity to do so," she said in an email. "We will continue to do everything we can to make that possible."

Ayres said Elliott School officials have added two new student scholarships – the Elliott Equity Fund and the Ambassador Edward "Skip" Gnehm Jr. Fellowship – to increase the school's accessibility for students who may be struggling due to the pandemic.

Faculty said Ayres' meetings with professors and attention to their accomplishments through attendance at events and assistance with networking have demonstrated her passion for collaboration with faculty.

Edward Gnehm, a professor of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula affairs, said Ayres has taken feedback from faculty before she "takes action" on new initiatives or decisions. He said Ayres also reaches out to individual faculty members over their academic work like book launches and research panels.

"By personal engagement, I mean she reaches out to individual faculty," he said. "When an individual faculty has a notable experience or event, such as a book launch or an interview, she is ever ready to be a part of that, and she often moderates the panel or introduces the book review."

Gnehm said Ayres has connections to experts and policy leaders currently working in the field of international affairs, including ambassadors, whom she can introduce to Elliott School faculty.

Deepa Ollapally, a research professor of international affairs and the associate director of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, said she hopes to see a significant increase in the diversity of the Elliott School's faculty during Ayres' tenure.

## TWEETED



**GW is ahead at the half by 8! Davidson is really tough....so exciting so far....our students are so great! Good to be surrounded by them.**

Mark Wrighton on 02/05/2022

# Locals concerned over loss of affordable meals with dining overhaul

**ZACHARY BLACKBURN**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As the University shifts away from an open dining plan and restricts public access to District House, some Foggy Bottom residents are resisting the closure of affordable restaurants on campus.

A new dining hall in District House, which will open this fall, will replace most of the GWorld vendors in the building's basement over the summer, a move that locals said could make meals less affordable in the neighborhood. Sol Mexican Grill, Kin's Sushi, Wiseguy Pizza and GRK Fresh Greek will shut down after the semester, removing some of the less expensive dining options from Foggy Bottom, which includes menu items surpassing \$15 in the more than 10 restaurants scattered on I Street and Western Market.

The University will also open dining halls in Thurston and Shenkman halls as part of the new dining system that will provide all-you-can-eat meal access under an unlimited plan, which students said can break down food insecurity and barriers to dietary restrictions. The Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission approved a GW zoning re-

quest last month that would change District's zoning designation from public to residential dining, barring locals from building access.

Carlton Ackerman, a School Without Walls High School social studies teacher, said during the ANC meeting last month that students at the high school – which lacks a traditional cafeteria – would lose out on meal access after the District House vendors leave campus this summer. He said Kevin Days, GW's director of community relations, plans to deliver a report to the high school addressing the issue, which Ackerman would like to see before expressing further opposition to District House's closure to the public.

"I do have concerns about GW's move to a dining hall format for its students in that it leaves our students, many of whom rely on GW's campus for their lunches, with a very different lunch experience," Ackerman said in an email.

Chick-fil-A will relocate to the University Student Center, and Peet's Coffee will remain near the I Street entrance to District House under the new dining system.

Customers can purchase meals at District House vendors for less than \$10 – two large slices at

Wiseguy Pizza cost \$8, and Sol sells burritos for \$9.59. Other dining options in the area are consistently more expensive – salads at Sweetgreen start at \$12, and small sandwiches at Capo Deli in Western Market start at \$10.50.

Commissioner Trupti Patel relayed concerns during the meeting from her constituents about the departure of local and affordable food vendors that will leave District House to make room for the new dining hall. Days said officials are changing District's dining setup to reduce food insecurity among the GW community and better serve the student population, which is the University's main priority.

"The University is not interested in reducing public facilities for the community," Days said at the meeting. "What we're doing is transforming them and reallocating our space to serve our primary function, which is to serve the GW student population."

Karen Zinn, GW's associate vice president for business services, presented initial plans for the dining hall to the ANC, showing the seating arrangement and potential restaurants like "Tú Taco" and "Piccola Italia" dispersed throughout the floor.

## Comparison of prices between District House and non-District House vendors\*



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

\*Prices do not include additional tax

# Students organize emergency response training with local ties through new club

TALON SMITH  
REPORTER

A new emergency management club will allow students to receive first-aid training and learn how to respond to real-life emergencies with help from student organizations and local professionals.

The GW Emergency Management Club, which two juniors started this semester and now includes about 10 to 15 students, will host events to simulate medical disaster situations to prepare members for realistic situations they may encounter in the emergency response field and train students to perform CPR. Leaders within the organization said they felt the need to educate students on campus about how to be better prepared for real-life emergency events after noticing a lack of knowledge on emergency preparedness in the GW community.

Junior Christopher Cheng, the president of the club and a public health major, said he started organizing the group after taking Community Risk Management and Safety in Emergency Health Services for his emergency health services minor. He said the student organization plans to hold monthly general body meetings and emergency preparedness simulations, where students simulate health disasters in a discussion and learn the proper procedures that emergency management agencies follow.

"I was able to see that I could help people at a community level, whereas as a doctor I'm only helping one person at a time," Cheng said. "With emergency management, I could help entire communities, entire populations."

He said students who are interested in learning more about

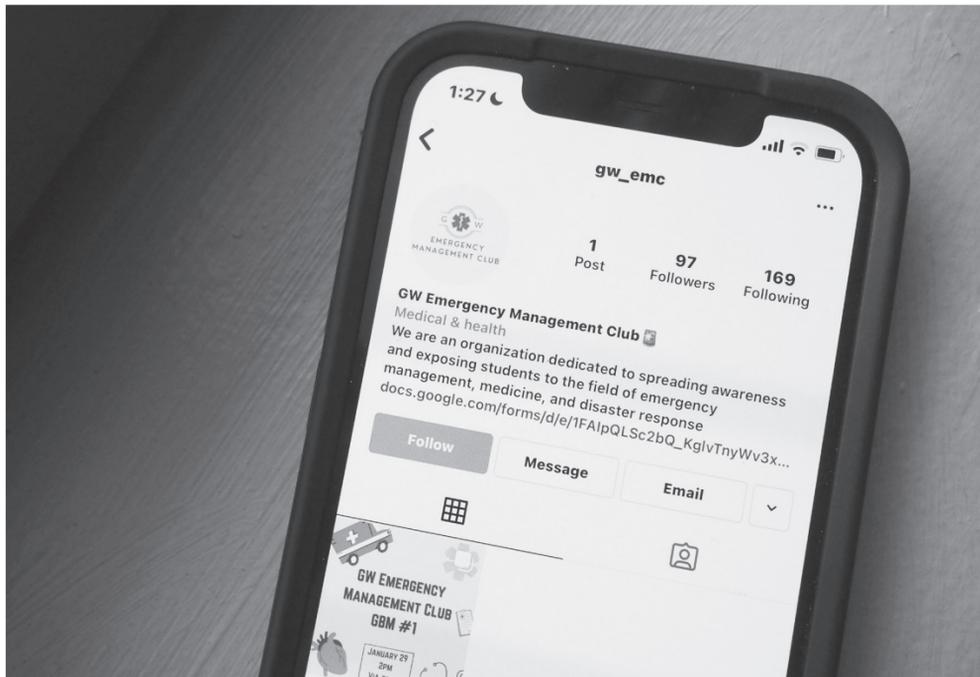


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Club leaders said the organization will help train students to respond to real-life health emergencies.

everyday preparedness for large-scale health disasters, regardless of their academic focus, can learn to perform life-saving procedures if necessary through the club.

"Not everyone's doing an EHS minor, but this is a way that people can still find a way to learn that information, learn some really, really important skills," Cheng said.

Cheng said the organization plans to hold first aid training events this spring, where students can learn how to perform CPR. He said members plan to invite the D.C. Community Emergency Response Team, a local volunteer program that trains residents to

respond to emergencies in their communities, to host the training sessions, and he hopes to eventually expand the training to the general student body in the future.

"If you have that knowledge, you could save a life," Cheng said.

He said members are also looking to partner with local hospitals to host tours of emergency rooms at Children's National Hospital or the GW Hospital, where students could observe emergency settings in action.

"That will give a lot of pre-med students kind of a firsthand look as to what they're heading toward within their career," Cheng said.

Cheng said the student organization will host monthly "tabletop exercises," discussions about simulated emergency events to prepare and assess plans for a hypothetical future disaster. He said the Federal Emergency Management Agency conducts these exercises, which the club will use to recreate FEMA's training drills and give students a glimpse into the federal government's emergency response.

"I think a lot of people will benefit from it, and a lot of great people are going to come out of the club at the end," Cheng said.

He said the club will also col-

laborate with other student organizations on campus, like GW's chapter of the American Red Cross and EMeRG, which focus on making on-campus safety information accessible to students. He said he hopes to spread his passion for emergency management with other students at GW through events and partnerships with other student organizations.

Sean Tajanlangit, a junior and the organization's chief of planning, said he was unfamiliar with the emergency management field before he began volunteering to administer COVID-19 tests through a New Jersey branch of the Medical Reserve Corps in Middlesex County, which exposed him to the inner workings of emergency management systems.

"There was just a lot of basic essential pieces of knowledge that I didn't even know, such as tabletop exercises," he said. "I just felt in order to enhance not my resume but my skills in the pre-med field, this club was the perfect way to get me started."

Patrick Tajanlangit, a junior and the organization's chief of operations, said the club is using social media platforms like Instagram to inform students about its founding and gain new members. He said the Student Association and Office of Student Life accounts reposted the club's original post, and the Division of Safety and Security reached out via Instagram to discuss future collaborations between the two organizations.

"If someone's dying, I'd love to help them, and I feel like this club definitely teaches you from the basics to the in-depth part," he said. "The Emergency Management Club will attempt to provide students with the first aid skills to act in such a situation."

## GW looks to student SafeRide drivers to mitigate staffing shortages

ANNIE O'BRIEN  
REPORTER

The next time you take a SafeRide, you might be driven by a fellow student.

GW is turning to students to supplement a depleted staff of drivers that has sent officials looking for alternative options this year. Officials said the University will expand SafeRide, which provides free late-night rides around the Foggy Bottom campus, to include 10 to 15 new drivers from the student population.

Destiny Jackson, the director of transportation and logistics, said staffing shortages have limited SafeRide operations, and officials are turning to students to maintain consistent operations.

"During these unpredictable times as a result of the pandemic, we have had staffing constraints and have had difficulty like many organizations around the country hiring drivers," Jackson said in an email. "We have to think of innovative ways to keep our services operational and still provide the exceptional level of service our community expects."

Jackson said the openings, which were posted in January, will offer students an opportunity to earn money while also flexibly managing their own schedule to keep a balance between work and school.

"Being able to open this position up to students is a win for everyone," Jackson said. "We will allow students to manage their



KYLE ANDERSON | PHOTOGRAPHER

Destiny Jackson, the director of transportation and logistics, said GW may add the role to the Federal Work Study program in the future.

schedule so that they can still focus on their studies."

Jackson said the job will not currently count as a Federal Work Study position, but the University might open the position under the program in the future.

Officials expanded SafeRide's boundaries to 2400 M Apartments, The Flats at Dupont Circle and the Lincoln Memorial after Student Association Vice President Kate Carpenter spearheaded legislation to expand the service in September. At the time, Jackson said the expansion would slightly lengthen waiting times for rides by a few minutes because of a national driver shortage.

Carpenter said SA members were focused last week on promoting the openings on social

media, but applications are now closed after more than 30 students applied to be SafeRide drivers – 10 to 15 more than the number officials were hoping to hire.

The University is requiring all applicants to have a driver's license, customer service skills and basic computer knowledge, according to a graphic that Carpenter posted on Instagram last week. The graphic states that GW prefers applicants to be graduate students or upperclassmen.

Georgetown University, a GW peer school that also uses the SafeRide program, hires "student guards" to drive SafeRide vehicles, according to its website. The University of Southern California, another peer school, grants

its students free Lyft rides while on campus, according to its website. GW's 10 other peer schools have some form of late-night ride-sharing service, but the websites don't specify who serves as drivers.

Carpenter said the job opportunity will allow students to earn money on a flexible schedule near campus while helping to serve the rest of the student body.

"When moving to the city, driving is a skill that many students either miss or wish they could still do," she said in an email. "This job will offer students the ability to continue a skill they already have while providing safe transportation for many in the community while being paid!"

Roy said Republicans failed to fulfill promises made to voters to reduce the federal debt, increase border security and deregulate the healthcare industry in 2017.

Roy said he does not favor eliminating the Affordable Care Act but prefers eliminating controls on drugs and giving Medicare

## GW's Swipe Out Hunger program doubles donations since 2020

SAMANTHA SERAFIN  
STAFF WRITER

The University's partnership with a nationwide program to aid students struggling with food insecurity has raised more than \$9,000 since its founding in 2020.

GW teamed up with Swipe Out Hunger in November 2020, allowing students, staff and faculty to donate the remainder of their GWorld balances to other students through The Store and the Abrahms Family Fund, which provides emergency Colonial Cash to students. The fundraising total marks a \$6,000 jump in donations in less than a year since about 150 students helped raise \$3,000 through the program last March.

University spokesperson Crystal Nosal said community members participating in the cause can donate their funds using the GET app, and the money is split evenly between the Abrahms Family Fund and The Store, which was operational through the previous academic year. She said the funds donated through the Swipe Out Hunger program have helped The Store purchase produce, meats, gluten-free, vegetarian food and dairy products.

Nosal said the University will update the program during the next academic year so students can donate meal swipes each semester.

"We highly encourage any students who have remaining balances at the end

of the semester to consider making a donation," Nosal said in an email.

Sua Cho Jung, a junior majoring in international affairs and Spanish and the president of The Store, said the number of students who use The Store typically increases as students start to run low on dining funds as the semester wears on. She said The Store does its best to stay stocked year-round for students, but supply chain shortages have caused some stocking issues during the pandemic.

"It's always a nice circle of students giving back to students in a way, and I think that's one of the most important aspects of it," she said. "And that's what makes it so special."

She said the program is necessary because of the divide between students who struggle to afford food and those who don't typically grapple with food insecurity. She said even a small amount of money that students can donate will raise funding for The Store and aid those students who are in need of direct funds.

"I feel like on campus we see a lot of both people that tend to have more GWorld money leftover, and then we tend to have another group that finds it a little more difficult to get by and to have enough funds to get by during the semesters," she said. "So I think personally, it's such a great program and idea that we have implemented in our school and our operations."

Norquist said Republican presidents should consider suspending civil servants' rights to unionize to shrink the size of the federal bureaucracy. He said labor unions can harm federal agencies related to national security and defense, like the Department of Veterans Affairs or Transportation Security Administration.

## Republicans propose reductions to taxes, federal budget during talk

AIDAN TURLEY  
REPORTER

Two prominent conservatives discussed the current state and future of the Republican Party before about 20 students at the Conservative Partnership Institute Headquarters Building Wednesday.

A Texas congressman and the president of Americans for Tax Reform – a conservative advocacy group – discussed the Republican Party's appeal and current challenges that factor into its developing platform ahead of the upcoming November general elections. GW College Republicans hosted the event alongside the Daily Caller News Foundation and the Conserva-

tive Partnership Institute, a conservative nonprofit, and Derek Hunter – a columnist for Townhall, a conservative news website – moderated the debate.

Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, said he is concerned about political bias within media organizations and called One America News and Newsmax more accurate news sources, despite criticism for their right-wing leanings. He said many media organizations have a bias against conservative policies, and he encouraged Republicans to use their time with the press and in Congress to speak directly to their constituents.

He said they should invoke antitrust legislation against media conglomer-

ates that force them to divest some of their holdings and stop collaborating.

"Our job is to get the truth out there, as a member of Congress to use those multiple channels, look at the laws of what we can do," he said. "But I don't love sticking to government – my automatic reaction isn't to have the government jump in, I think we have to look at these things to make sure there's competition."

Roy said the government should cut the federal budget by \$1 trillion and cut "nonmandatory" spending, like education and law enforcement programs. He said federal officials should reduce budgets of government agencies like the Department of Homeland

Security, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Department of Education, which administers student loan programs.

"Do away with all the civil service nonsense and allow people to come in here and fire all of these bureaucrats, clean house and return the power to the people in the states," he said.

Roy said Republicans failed to fulfill promises made to voters to reduce the federal debt, increase border security and deregulate the healthcare industry in 2017.

Roy said he does not favor eliminating the Affordable Care Act but prefers eliminating controls on drugs and giving Medicare

patients more options for their health providers to deregulate the healthcare industry. He said he was forced to change his own doctor from MD Anderson Cancer Center after he was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma in 2011 because of restrictions on his government-supplied health care plan.

Roy said his next reelection campaign will aim to increase border security, expand parents' influence in their children's classrooms, increase military strength and counter China economically and diplomatically, similar to the relationship between the U.S. and Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Grover Norquist, the president of Americans for

Tax Reform, said the Republican Party should focus on pushing legislation that would reform the tax code, criminal justice and social welfare similar to the party's agenda during the mid-1990s, called the "Contract with America." He said passing thoroughly vetted and policy-oriented legislation gave party members "credibility."

Norquist said Republican presidents should consider suspending civil servants' rights to unionize to shrink the size of the federal bureaucracy. He said labor unions can harm federal agencies related to national security and defense, like the Department of Veterans Affairs or Transportation Security Administration.

## CRIME LOG

### THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Science and Engineering Hall Garage  
1/28/2022 – Unknown  
Open Case  
A male GW staff member reported that an air conditioning unit was stolen from the facilities shop in the garage of the Science and Engineering Hall.  
**Case open.**

### DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/VANDALISM

Medical Faculty Associates Garage  
1/28/2022 – 8:40 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Open Case  
A non-GW affiliated woman reported vandalism to her vehicle while it was parked in the Ambulatory Care Center Garage.  
**Case open.**

### UNLAWFUL ENTRY

District House  
1/28/2022 – 10:44 p.m.  
Closed Case  
GW Police Department officers responded to reports of a non-GW affiliated man who refused to leave District House. GWPD made contact with the subject, who was barred and sent on his way.  
**Subject barred.**

### LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

Potomac House  
1/29/2022 – 3:39 a.m.  
Closed Case  
GWPD officers responded to reports of an intoxicated female student inside Potomac House. EMERG EMTs responded to the scene. After a preliminary medical exam, the student refused further treatment.  
**Referred to the Division for Student Affairs.**

### DRUG LAW VIOLATION

Cole Hall  
1/29/2022 – 8:52 p.m.  
Closed Case  
A residential staff member turned over contraband found in a student's dorm within Cole Hall. The contraband was found during a routine search.  
**Referred to DSA.**

### THEFT II/BICYCLES

2300 Block of H Street  
1/31/2022 – Unknown  
Open Case  
A female student reported her bicycle stolen.  
**Case open.**

### HARASSMENT, E-MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA, HARASSING TELEPHONE CALLS

Duques Hall  
Multiple – Multiple  
Open Case  
A female staff member reported receiving multiple intimidating voice messages and emails.  
**Case open.**

–Compiled by Acacia Niyogi



The team analyzed sectors like housing and law enforcement to show how social policies can fail to address racial oppression.

TYLER KRAMBEER | PHOTOGRAPHER

## Milken researchers develop framework to identify policies that deepen racial health inequity

CRISTINA STASSIS  
REPORTER

Professors from the Milken Institute School of Public Health developed a framework for local public health systems to reduce the impacts of historically racist economic policies in a report published late last month.

The model of community resilience – a community's ability to provide necessary resources to respond to adverse events like natural disasters and terrorist attacks – calls for city public health leaders to create policies that can reduce the effects of structural racism. The digital framework will help cities keep track of solutions for social issues like homelessness and high arrest rates, according to the report.

Wendy Ellis – the lead researcher and the director of Milken's Center for Community Resilience, which provides policy guidance and solutions to increase racial equity – said the team observed the social health determinants that led to the financial exclusion, concentrated areas of poverty and increased policing of communities of color.

She said the team analyzed sectors, like housing and law enforcement, which operate independently but combine to demonstrate how social policies can fail to address factors that drive the racial oppression of commu-

nities of color.

"This paper is very much highlighting the issue but also presenting solutions to the field," she said. "One of which is using group modeling and systems dynamic modeling to pinpoint specific policies, the outcomes that they're associated with and then how we get to a solution space remedy."

Ellis said researchers can use the model to assign public health leaders to become chief health strategists in hopes of understanding and addressing the root causes of systematically racist policies. She said chief health strategists analyze data from multiple sectors related to public health disparities, like law enforcement and poverty, to produce policies that address various issues impacting a specific sector.

Ellis said the model is allowing communities within Louisville, Kentucky to focus on which disproportionate outcomes, like evictions, need policy support at the legislative level.

She said community leaders are identifying additional factors, like public transportation infrastructure, that can benefit residents in poorer areas who need access to an efficient public transportation system.

She added that federal- and state-level funding can support synthesizing the data from multiple sectors to increase the capabilities

of local health departments in locating the causes of adversities like homelessness in minority communities.

"I don't understand why there seems to be such a confusion about recognizing trauma, real trauma that we should not have to sit here and defend," she said. "You can see the harmful effects and all of our health disparities, our economic disparities, our social disparities. It's clear, so why is it still a question of whether or not we have to address racism as a health issue?"

Daniel Chen, one of the co-contributors of the report and the center's associate director, said the model uses a systems dynamics framework – which organizes policy design and ideas within a computer system – to implement a role model-building approach where local health departments work with community members and experts in fields like social service and health. He said these groups then decide which issues require prioritization and create policies to address adversities, which are all compiled in a computer system to keep track and check on their progress of change.

"We're not saying racism and all these effects can be resolved in the next three to five years," Chen said. "It's long-term work, but we are so glad that we have been able to help these health departments to have a plan to

start working at it."

Community health science experts said the model urges public health officials to unite community leaders and social workers and create policies that can expand communities of color's access to public health resources.

Leslie Carnahan, a research assistant professor of community health sciences at the University of Illinois Chicago, said the report highlighted how housing policies like redlining – a New Deal policy where banks only provided housing loans to white communities – forced minorities to live near industrial sites with low air quality and high asthma rates.

Tahlia Gousse – a consulting specialist for the National Association of County and City Health Officials, a group of public health practitioners – said the model provides social and health care workers the opportunity to consistently observe aspects of community resilience, like criminal justice, and build a shared understanding of the "vicious cycles" that perpetuate racial inequities.

She said communities like Louisville, Kentucky and Leon County, Florida are using the model to investigate which health disparities impact minority communities the most and work toward issues like handling the disproportionate number of people of color who are homeless.

## COVID-19 economic effects, declining birth rates set to dock future enrollment: data

From Page 1

"It's certainly not one size fits all because there's such diversity across higher education, but I don't believe that too many people are in the work that we do, in the work that the chief financial officer does or in the work that a president does, who isn't aware of how the demographics might affect them in the coming years," he said.

Joseph Paris, an assistant professor of higher education at Temple University, said some students have reconsidered attending four-year colleges because of financial strains from the pandemic, which have lowered applications and enrollment totals.

Private four-year institutions suffered greater enrollment drops than public colleges, according to a College Board study from June. The study states that enrollment at private and public institutions fell by about 4.5 percent and 2.8 percent, respectively, from 2019 to 2020.

"COVID has presented a challenge," Paris said. "As students who may be a traditional age – going from high school directly to college – may be thinking about other plans as viable options, whether that's taking some time off to enter into

the workforce or whether it's taking time off to volunteer."

Paris said GW's enrollment decline is similar to those of other large private universities, and because GW does not receive the same amount of government aid as public institutions, officials may struggle making up for lost revenue. He said certain demographic changes, like fewer college-age people in the Northeast, are contributing to GW's falling enrollment rates.

"There are certainly a combination of factors," he said. "Some of it is demographic shifts, and for those who have been documenting it for a number of years, their continued projections beyond 2022 that suggest traditional age, undergraduate student enrollment will decline in many parts of the United States, predominantly the Northeast."

Paris said officials could try to attract more part-time students or expand virtual learning programs for students who cannot live on campus and attend in-person lectures if they want to boost their enrollment numbers. He said the pandemic changed the way people are willing to learn, which has made long-term virtual learning programs easier to run.

GW currently offers

several virtual learning and online degree programs, but most students pursuing degrees in person do not have the option to learn virtually unless they have isolated after testing positive for COVID-19.

"I would emphasize that any institution really think about how they can tap into those markets," Paris said. "I actually think COVID presents a unique opportunity to do that as well, given the proliferation of online learning."

Donald Hossler, a distinguished provost professor emeritus of educational leadership and policy studies at the University of Indiana Bloomington, said college and university officials will often receive more applications and higher enrollment rates when the economy is performing poorly or fewer jobs are available in the market because people have more time to take classes without turning down a paying job. He said as the labor market rebounds from the pandemic, fewer people will want to attend college classes if they can work instead.

"If I can go out and get a reasonably good paying job, why wouldn't I do that as opposed to going to college and actually having to pay tuition and losing these dollars

I could be making," he said. "So I think some of that has to be going on because we have known for decades about this kind of inverse relationship."

Hossler said GW's enrollment rate decline is "not catastrophic at all," but because more schools adopted test-optional models at the start of the pandemic, GW may face increased competition from students "trading up" to higher-ranked schools not requiring standardized tests.

All of GW's 12 peer schools allowed for test-optional applications in fall 2021. Only two of them instituted those policies before the pandemic. GW stopped requiring applicants to submit standardized test scores in 2015, while the number of test-optional four-year colleges more than tripled in spring 2020.

"GW is not a school where I would think for a moment there are any serious financial difficulties, but it may be one of those schools that is going to have to be adjusted," Hossler said. "I'm not saying I know this is happening, but there are going to be schools that have been relatively successful in the past who are going to have to recalibrate their notion of success and what it means for revenue and what it means for their expenditures."

## Shared governance task force assesses community feedback this spring

From Page 1

The task force also hosted a series of town halls last month, where faculty called for increased dialogue and collaboration among faculty, administrators and trustees. Officials said the task force would use the results of the town halls to create the survey they released to the three groups last week.

The survey is anonymous and will be open for two weeks, according to the task force's website. The group will use the survey to identify ways to improve communication among those involved in shared governance and with the faculty as a whole, the website states.

### Perspective from leadership

The shared governance task force is made up 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 Sciences 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 senate's executive committee and an associate professor of finance, also represent faculty on the task force.

Trustees Amr ElSawy, a task force co-chair, Mark Chichester, Madeleine Jacobs and Todd Klein also serve as members.

Cordes declined to comment on behalf of the task force and deferred to Wrighton. Board Chair Speights, who initiated discussion on shared governance last year, did not return a request for comment.

University spokesperson Crystal Nosal declined to share a copy of the shared governance survey and say how many faculty members filled out a feedback form after the town hall meetings last month.

Wrighton, who attended the town hall meetings last month, said in a January interview that he is working with "key members" of the shared governance task force regularly.

"I'm going to be very actively involved," Wrighton said. "The Board of Trustees recognizes that the president – who is, by the way, a member of the Board and delegated to be responsible for the administration and operations of the University – I will play an important role as will any president."

# Opinions

Feb. 7, 2022 • Page 6

## GW needs to recommit to historical preservation

The nondescript, three-story apartment building wedged between Gelman Library and the EMERG building on 22nd Street is easy to miss. But Staughton Hall, home to World War II servicemen, Navy nurses, a women-only residence hall and government research projects over its lifetime, is a quiet yet notable part of the University's history.

Despite its contributions to the history, architecture and character of the area, the University area's historic district neither includes nor protects the vacant Staughton, and the building faces demolition in the coming months. This isn't the University's first time demolishing a historical structure and likely won't be its last. Buildings that fail to meet questionable historic designations risk ending up in the rubbish heap alongside the University's own history. The demolition of Staughton underscores the need to preserve the University's history.

Ethan Benn  
Opinions Writer

The locally and federally recognized historic district is a collection of about 100 University and privately owned buildings ranging from pre-Civil War structures to Victorian row houses and Art Deco apartment towers. The University included a proposal to create a historic district in the area in its 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan. After review, D.C.'s Historic Review Preservation Board approved the George Washington University and Old West End historic district in 2014.

The University also successfully applied to add the historic district to the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places, giving it federal recognition. Corcoran Hall, Lisner Auditorium, Strong Hall and five other buildings have been independently admitted to the National Register of Historic Places. These structures are especially representative of the neighborhood's architectural styles and important to both Foggy Bottom and the University's history.

While these overlapping city



MAURA KELLY-YUOH | CARTOONIST

and federal historic areas recognize the historic value of the area and individual buildings, D.C.'s designation regulates the ability of individual property owners and the University to modify buildings within the historic district. D.C.'s preservation laws and design guidelines "safeguard the city's historic and cultural heritage" and "foster civic pride in the accomplishments of the past."

Yet these guidelines have a glaring flaw: they only apply to buildings within the historic district. The boundaries of the designated historic area exclude structures that are historic but arbitrarily fail to contribute enough to the area's his-

tory. These exceptions leave structures, like the former Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service building, vulnerable to demolition.

Beyond simply being old, the architectural style and roles these buildings inhabited are fundamentally important to the area and University's history. Staughton's characteristic design and varied uses should have made its historical status assured and its demolition nearly impossible.

Built as the Madeira apartment building in 1912, the University acquired Staughton in 1942. It housed servicemen during World War II before opening as the

University's second women's residence hall in 1943. After 1951, it housed independent U.S. Army psychological research and Office of Naval Research logistics projects. Staughton's affiliation with the U.S. military made it the site of anti-Vietnam War protests in 1970. GW moved its engineering administrative offices and other science and engineering programs there in 1976 and 1986, respectively.

That so little information about Staughton is readily available makes justifying its preservation all that much harder. Knowing the building's history is essential to advocate for its continued existence. Yet this catalog of Staughton's his-

tory came not from the University but the Foggy Bottom Association, a local community group. Despite being part of the University for nearly 80 years, it appears there is little institutional regard for the understated legacy of Staughton.

Though the most meaningful solution, the complex process of expanding the historic district is unlikely due to the time and cost involved. In the immediate future, the University could reverse course and salvage Staughton, finding it a new purpose and incorporating it into another structure like "The Seven Buildings" beneath the Mexican Embassy on Pennsylvania Avenue. Or like with District House, which is within the historic district, new construction could preserve the original facade of the building.

Staughton's loss can still be a lesson, though. Following the FBA's example, administrators and students should commit to a broad program of historic preservation. They can begin by creating an easily accessible, streamlined digital record of the Foggy Bottom Campus and West End area. Both the University and Foggy Bottom Association have digitally published archival material on their own, but the University can go further by bringing its resources to bear. An initiative to publicly document historic information about the hundreds of buildings that make up the neighborhood — both old and new, visually stimulating and architecturally dull — is a tangible program in line with the University's stated value of service.

No amount of nebulously defined green space or bronze plaques can make up for the loss of truly historic buildings. But a collaborative approach that engages local stakeholders for the benefit of the entire Foggy Bottom community is a great place to start.

Because if, or when, the University reaches its tricentennial, students and residents alike ought to enjoy beautifully preserved remnants of the neighborhood's past — not mourn their loss.

—Ethan Benn, a sophomore majoring in journalism and mass communication, is an opinions writer.

## GW must concretely address racism on campus

### STAFF EDITORIAL

Presumably, being a professor is hard. But avoiding the use of racial slurs when teaching should not be hard.

Yet GWTeach Professor Alicia Bitler used the N-word when teaching a course about anti-racism in STEM — and then had the audacity to dismiss it as an "oops moment." It takes an absurd and depressing parade of failures at the institutional and individual level for this to happen. But racist incidents keep happening at GW — and the University as an institution needs to make it plain that they understand the systemic problem and be clear and communicative about what they're going to do about it.

The editorial board is not going to attempt to speak on behalf of the Black community at GW — but we can and will amplify and emphasize the fact that racist incidents keep happening at GW, and there's been a lack of decisive action about it.

This fits in with a trend of Black students repeatedly having to endure racism and indignity at GW. In early 2020, then-University President Thomas LeBlanc compared theoretical support for fossil fuel divestment to "shooting all the Black people" at GW. Later that year, former history professor Jessica Krug, who is white, confessed to pretending to be Black for her entire

career. Until months ago, campus activism was housed in a building named after a segregationist. About two weeks ago, a professor refused to allow a Black student to have an approved service animal in class.

This is not an exhaustive list of the prominent racist incidents that have plagued GW's campus — which only further evidences the fact that there's a systemic and constant problem.

The response to Bitler's use of the N-word was boilerplate and slow. Students of the class who wrote a letter to administrators demanding accountability were met with responses that could have been copy-and-pasted from any previous statement on racism. Interim University President Mark Wrighton invoked GW's "stated commitment to diversity and inclusion" while Graduate School of Education and Human Development Dean Michael Feuer offered a trite promise to "do better."

GW has repeatedly leaned on "diversity and inclusion," using it as a buzzword instead of implementing long-lasting, actionable solutions. The University needs to hire a point person, or multiple point people, to evaluate the courses that are being offered each semester, the person who is teaching them and whether that professor is fit to teach

certain courses.

The University's efforts to add more faculty of color to individual departments through cluster hiring solves the University's public relation issues and also does important work to add new perspectives that people of color bring to academia. But what is lacking in the University's response to these incidents is their acknowledgement of the delicacy of course material of any kind.

The administration also needs to acknowledge its own limitations instead of providing staple responses. They should instead be open and acknowledge the complexities of the situation and describe the actions that they are planning to take and the actions they are either struggling with or are soliciting advice for.

Racist incidents keep happening and happening at GW. Administrators obviously cannot solve systemic racism with a statement, but that does not mean that they should not do every single thing they possibly can to make campus safe for Black students' education and well-being.

Officials need to act. They need to communicate. And if they can't get results, they need to, at the bare minimum, level with students and candidly acknowledge that there's a problem in a way that goes beyond buzzwords.

## Undergraduates should be able to opt out of U-Pass

Students have high expectations for the newly launched U-Pass program, which provides unlimited Metro rides to students for a semesterly fee of \$100. The program provides affordable transportation to those who commute to campus, travel to internships outside of Foggy Bottom or use Metro frequently to explore the city.

Yeji Chung  
Opinions Writer

But not all students fit into those categories. For many undergraduates who find themselves swamped in classwork and student organization commitments, there is no reason to leave the campus. The program's mandatory feature for undergraduates is unsympathetic to on-campus students who do not wish to be enrolled in the program. The University should accommodate an opt-out option or cost-adjustable rates for undergraduate students to alleviate the financial stress the program causes students.

GW's enrollment in U-Pass is the result of years-long student advocacy and the University's joint effort. When Metro delays persisted through weeks and months, thousands of off-campus students agonized commuting into and out of campus. Although U-Pass is not going to fix Metro cars that have gone off the rails, it certainly will

take a load off commuter students' shoulders with unlimited Metro rides for \$100 per semester. But on-campus students who don't have a reason to leave Foggy Bottom frequently and who cannot afford to pay \$100 for transportation are overlooked in the implementation of the program. GW should consider adding an opt-out option for undergraduate students.

A \$100 fee per semester might be a good deal for daily Metro users, but it can be burdensome to non-Metro users. For those who didn't ask for U-Pass, paying the additional cost to already expensive GW tuition is beyond frustrating. Undergraduate tuition has reached almost \$60,000, starting with the Class of 2024, and the total cost of attendance has increased by nearly 3.4 percent since fall 2020. Above all, the pandemic is driving many students into financial challenges to the extent that some are barely affording housing and food.

While the program is intended to aid students with affordable transportation, the reality for non-Metro users is that this will cost them more money. To be sympathetic about this situation, GW and WMATA should consider implementing additional options that are mutually beneficial to them and narrowly tailored to students' circumstances.

Price accommodations can be another plausible

solution. Some students travel outside of Foggy Bottom very infrequently, sometimes once or twice a month. For travels that would cost within a range of \$5 to \$10 normally, paying \$100 is more expensive to non-Metro users. A tier system with different price options to choose from, similar to GW's system for dining plan rates, could fulfill students' specific demands. Metro fare could be applied depending on the student's frequency so that students can choose their preferred Metro rate. For those students who do not want to be enrolled in the mandatory U-Pass program, accommodations like this will provide the necessary travel costs.

There is no doubt that U-Pass is a great program for the vast majority of its beneficiaries. But there are improvements to be made and room for conversation. Both graduates and undergraduates should be able to opt out of the program, and the University can propose alternative options like a cost-adjustable tier system to further offset costs. As the mandatory feature has been on the talk since the proposal of this program, it should be more thoroughly reviewed now that actual money is coming out of students' pockets. The University should consider accommodating solutions for those who want to opt out of the program.

—Yeji Chung, a junior majoring in political science, is an opinions writer.

## The GW Hatchet

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# Culture

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## THE SCENE

**VALENTINE'S DAY COOKING CLASS**  
Friday, Feb. 11 | Cookology Culinary School | \$45  
Prepare a three-course meal during an evening of social activities and mingling.

**YOGA AT RIGGS**  
Saturday, Feb. 12 | Riggs Park | \$10  
Attend an energetic yoga class to learn how to move fluidly from one yoga position to another.

**RELEASED THIS WEEK:**

**NEW ALBUM: "LAUREL HELL" BY MITSKI**

## Ideas for planning a spectacular Valentine's Day in just one week

**NORA FITZGERALD**  
STAFF WRITER

If Valentine's Day has snuck up on you, you're not alone, and with just one week left until the big day, it's time to put some plans into action.

Whether you are looking to treat yourself to a night in, wanting to do something special for a significant other or celebrating with friends, we've got you covered. Enjoy this guide to Valentine's Day in the District, including where to shop, what to eat and what to do with whoever you're celebrating with.

### Ironing out dinner plans

Reservations at District restaurants fill up fast, but if you can't plan ahead, you can always swing by your restaurant of choice and put your name in for a table about an hour before your date. Purple Patch and Daikaya are also romantic spots that don't take reservations to begin with.

Casual spots like Kramers, Duke's Grocery and Founding Farmers may still take reservations late in the game. If you prefer to keep dates fun and casual, try stopping by your favorite to-go taco spot like, Surfside Taco Stand, and take a stroll with your date while munching on tacos. For a late night dessert spot, hit up Ted's Bulletin for one-of-a-kind boozy milkshakes or Dolcezza for gelato.

If finding a reservation is too stressful, you can always ditch going out and make your own Valentine's meal with some groceries from Whole Foods. Cook with your partner for a romantic night in or prep a picnic together for an out-



Whether you're looking to make plans for a significant other or just spend quality time with a friend, there are a variety of options to plan a fun day.

door date if the weather allows.

### Finding a last-minute gift in D.C.

It can definitely be tempting to order a last-minute gift with expedited shipping, but there are plenty of locally owned shops in D.C. that need your business. Check out D.C. Shop Small for a list of small businesses split into categories like art, clothing, candles and jewelry. Be sure to check out the Black-owned

businesses section.

Shop Made in D.C. has locations in Georgetown, the Wharf and in Union Market that feature a variety of gifts all crafted here in the District. They also offer national shipping so you can send a D.C.-themed gift to a long-distance partner.

### Easy online gifts

Ordering online can be helpful to creating a memorable Valentine's Day, if you can't celebrate in person.

Send a bouquet of flowers their way and include a personal message, or opt for edible arrangements or chocolate delivery.

Edible Arrangements is offering special Valentine's Day deals that include pink and red chocolate-covered strawberries and balloons. Flowers are a timeless gift, so check out Urbanstems for all your flower-related needs, and use the code VDAY for 15 percent off. Delivering a romantic dessert is a sure way

to elevate your night, so check out Milk Bar, Levain or Goldbelly delivery services.

### Planning a date activity

Keep in mind that dates don't have to involve eating and drinking. Spend an hour or two painting pottery at All Fired Up, Paint This! or Kiln&Co. Painting pottery is a unique idea for a first date if you don't want to commit to a dinner but still want to do something fun, and it gives you an excuse to see your date again when you go to pick up your pottery.

A museum date is always an artsy idea – grab some boba at ShareTea in Chinatown and then stroll through the National Portrait Gallery for a mid-day activity. Or, stopping by Landmark's E Street Cinema or AMC Georgetown 14 for a movie and snacks is always a safe bet.

### Celebrating with friends

If you and all your single friends are looking to get together to celebrate the holiday, we can help with that too. A cute way to spice up your gathering is to dress for the theme. Plan outfits clad with pink, red and hearts to make for Instagram-worthy photos. Hit up Party City for colorful Valentine's Day-themed glasses, scarfs and hats. You can also find some festive holiday decor there to serve as a nice backdrop.

Order a Valentine's Day ice cream kit from D.C.'s own Ice Cream Jubilee to complete your night. Since Valentine's Day is about celebrating love, romantically or platonically, feel free to grab a friend and go on a date with each other.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY COLIN BOHULA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Make a plan to hit the slopes in Pennsylvania, lounge on the beach in Virginia or play the slot machines in Atlantic City for a memorable spring break.

## Nearby spring break vacation spots for every friend group

**JULIA KOSCELNIAK**  
REPORTER

With spring break just more than a month away, you and your friends may be starting to iron out vacation plans.

Luckily, the region surrounding D.C. is packed with hidden gem travel spots for those looking to cut down on transportation costs for an easy getaway. If the logistics of planning a trip has you overwhelmed, we've laid out some of our favorite destinations nearby to start nailing down plans for now.

### For the granola friend group

*Harpers Ferry, W. Va.*

Perfect for the nature-loving friend group, Harpers Ferry is home to some of the best hiking trails near D.C. About an hour-and-a-half drive from campus, this quaint getaway town boasts gorgeous views on trails like the almost 7-mile Maryland Heights Loop. Visitors can run, hike, bird watch or just enjoy the gorgeous view of the river on this trail.

There are a variety of lodging options in Harpers Ferry, from the affordable Clarion Inn starting at \$85 a night to campsites at Shenandoah National Park.

For visitors who want to experience the beautiful West Virginia views while still having a comfortable bed to sleep in, The Light Horse Inn will give you the

best of both worlds. Built in the 1770s, the inn is one of the most historic homes in West Virginia. This spot is the perfect option to get the full Harpers Ferry experience, containing seven suites with beautiful mountain views and situated between some of the area's best trails and restaurants. Suites start at \$185 a night.

### For the friend group that wants to hit the slopes

*Liberty Mountain- Carroll Valley, Pa.*

For skiers looking for a convenient spot to hit the slopes, book a vacation at Liberty Mountain Resort. The ski resort, located in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Carroll Valley, Pa., is an hour and a half from campus and accommodates skiers of all ages and experience levels with slope and equipment variety. Liberty Mountain also offers tubing and snowboarding for non-skiers who are still craving a snowy getaway.

Liberty Mountain is close enough for a day trip, but students looking for an extended getaway can stay at the resort's Alpine Lodge, starting at \$180 a night. The Alpine Lodge includes complimentary breakfast and is closest to the ski slopes, which makes it the ideal place to stay at Liberty Mountain. The resort also provides amenities like a hot tub and a sauna, a relaxing option when guests are

tired after a day of hitting the slopes.

If you find yourself craving a sweet treat, Mr. G's Ice Cream is just the place for delectable homemade ice cream. Only a 15-minute drive from the resort, the ice cream shop is both a local and tourist favorite. Its hand-churned ice cream ranges from \$2 to \$4 and serves flavors like butter pecan, fresh peach and salted caramel.

### For a classic spring break beach trip

*Virginia Beach, Va.*

For an affordable beach town and party spot, start planning your trip to Virginia Beach, Va. With fresh seafood, a fun boardwalk and lively beaches to explore, Virginia Beach is sure to produce fun spring break memories. The beach town is about a three-and-a-half-hour drive from campus, but Amtrak tickets from D.C. to Norfolk, Va. start at \$35 each way. Train rides are about five hours long, and Norfolk is just under 20 minutes outside of Virginia Beach.

While it isn't a luxury resort, The Hilton Garden Inn is an easy place to stay for oceanfront views. With indoor and outdoor pools, a fitness center and dining options like the oceanside Garden Grille for breakfast, the Hilton's amenities will keep you busy and relaxed throughout your trip. Rooms currently start at \$133 a night.

## D.C. restaurant raises awareness about China's treatment of Uyghurs

**JACKSON LANZER**  
REPORTER

Just a few steps away from the Cleveland Park Metro stop sits Dolan Uyghur Restaurant, a gateway to Uyghur culture, history and cuisine.

The Uyghur people – a Turkic, predominantly Muslim group living in Xinjiang, China, which is also referred to as East Turkistan by many Uyghurs – have been the victims of a human rights crisis, orchestrated by the Chinese government, that the U.S. State Department and many experts say is genocide. I talked with Hamid Kerim, the owner of Dolan Uyghur Restaurant, to hear about his experience escaping Xinjiang, immigrating to the United States and creating a restaurant to raise awareness about the Uyghur genocide.

Customers are greeted by tapestries, art depicting everyday Uyghur life and the herbal scent of freshly steeped tea when they first walk into Kerim's restaurant. I was served the restaurant's most popular dish, korma chop, a fried noodle dish with flavorful spices, seared beef and grilled vegetables as I sat down with Kerim to hear his story.

Before immigrating to the United States, Kerim studied to be a pharmacist at East Turkistan Medical University and created a company while in college. Kerim said he had 15 businesses and 100 employees,

and he conducted business among China, Turkey and several Central Asian countries.

"I had a very beautiful life in my country before," Kerim said. "But now everything has changed."

Kerim left China, immigrating to the United States with his wife and two children in April 2017. He said he didn't speak English when he arrived in the country, which made settling in the United States difficult.

"I always pray to God, pray to Allah, give me this new life in this free country," Kerim said.

While he managed to emigrate from China, Kerim said he still has family living in Xinjiang who are suffering from the injustices committed by the Chinese government. The Uyghurs still living in Xinjiang are spied on by a draconian system of surveillance, their culture is besieged and millions are unjustly detained, enduring indoctrination, torture and forced labor.

Kerim said one of his brothers was unfairly sentenced to 20 years in jail, and his brother's wife was sentenced to seven years in jail, leaving their three children to be raised by Kerim's mother.

Kerim said he is hesitant to contact his family members because he has spoken with media outlets about the Uyghur genocide and is afraid the Chinese police may punish his family if they know Kerim has con-

tacted them. He said when he does talk to his mother, he is fearful to talk about politics or use Muslim phrases, such as salaam alaikum, which means "peace be unto you."

"So, I don't like to really contact my family because I don't like to give my family problems," he said.

Kerim said through his restaurant he wants to be a voice for the Uyghur people and teach Americans about Uyghur culture and the genocide.

"So I do this business not just for money," he said. "I want to change my voice for Uyghur voice. I want American people to know what's Uyghur culture, what's Uyghur food culture."

Kerim said he has also helped other Uyghurs transition to the United States, giving them jobs at the restaurant while they are finishing their education or searching for opportunities in their career fields.

Kerim said raising awareness in the United States about the genocide is crucial because he said U.S. support could save the Uyghur people from complete annihilation. He said if the Uyghurs don't have America's support, the Chinese government may implement much harsher policies toward the Uyghur people.

"I am not a politician – I am a businessman," he said. "So from this point, if I can help Uyghurs keep Uyghur culture, keep Uyghur food culture, this is my job and this is my dream."



DARIA NASTASIA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hamid Kerim said he still has family back in Xinjiang facing injustices implemented by the Chinese government.

## GAMES OF THE WEEK



**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
vs. St. Bonaventure  
Saturday | 2 p.m.  
The Colonials look to shake off an eight-game losing streak.



**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
at Massachusetts  
Wednesday | 7 p.m.  
GW begins a three-game road swing against the Minutemen.

**NUMBER CRUNCH 50.5**

Women's basketball's points per game, down from its five-year average of 57.8.

## Men's basketball drops game at home after brief winning streak

**LIAM O'MURCHU**  
STAFF WRITER

Men's basketball fell to Atlantic-10 top dog Davidson Saturday afternoon in a hard-fought battle.

The Colonials (8-13, 4-5 A-10) led for 15 of 40 minutes but were ultimately unable to overcome the Wildcats (19-3, 9-1 A-10) in a 78-73 loss down the stretch. Senior forward Luka Brajkovic was dominant for Davidson, finishing with 30 points, eight rebounds, three assists, a block and a steal to hand the Wildcats their 18th victory in their last 19 games.

But GW had no answer for the Austria native, who shot 11-of-14 from the field and 2-of-3 from three point range. The Colonials' issues dealing with Brajkovic were compounded by foul trouble in their frontcourt.

Just over four minutes into the game, junior forward Qwanzi Samuels and senior forward Ricky Lindo Jr. both had two fouls, limiting their minutes for the rest of the first half. In his first game back from injury, sophomore center Noel Brown also picked up four fouls, and junior forward Hunter Dean fouled out in the last minute of the game.

Despite a 7-0 Davidson run to start the game, the Colonials managed to stay in it thanks to a terrific shooting performance from junior guard James Bishop, who had 21 first half points.

Bishop cooled off in the second half but still finished the game with 26 points to go along with

three rebounds, three steals and an assist. This was the Baltimore native's fourth consecutive game with more than 25 points, and Bishop is averaging 20.2 points per game in conference play this year.

"I was just getting good shots and the ball felt good so it went in, and I kept shooting," Bishop said.

Although Bishop's offensive performance will garner the most attention, he was phenomenal on defense as well. He held Davidson's leading scorer, junior guard Hyunjung Lee, to only six points on 1-of-8 shooting through 33 minutes. Lee had averaged 16 points per game coming into Saturday's game.

"I think the job he's done for Davidson came into the game with the fourth best 3-point shooting percentage in the country, but GW was able to limit them to only 3-of-11 from beyond the arc in the first half.

The Colonials held a consistent lead throughout the first half, with their biggest lead coming with 1:05 remaining in the half after a pair of free throws from Bamisile put them up 42-30. Bamisile was the Colonials' second leading scorer on the day with 19 points.

In the final minute of the first half, Davidson gained some momentum going into the break with a scoring spurt that pulled them to being down 8 points, 42-34.

The Wildcats continued that momentum at the start of the second half. After a basket each from Samuels and freshman guard Brayon Freeman, Davidson ripped off a 15-0 run to go up 51-47 with



RAPHAEL KELLNER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Colonials led through the end of the half and kept the game close but could not pull off a win.

14:29 remaining in the game.

Davidson looked primed to pull away with 11:14 remaining and a 61-52 lead, their largest of the day, but GW locked it down on defense, got timely baskets and kept it close. A Bamisile 3-pointer knotted the game up at 63 apiece with 7:13 remaining as the GW fans in the crowd came to life.

Bamisile put in a layup with

2:04 left to tie the game again at 73, but those would be their last points of the day. After Bamisile missed a 3-pointer and Brajkovic grabbed the defensive rebound, Davidson Head Coach Bob McKillop took a timeout and drew up a play.

Christian then took a timeout of his own with 50 seconds remaining. Bamisile drove to the basket and was fouled. He couldn't

get the original shot to fall and missed both of the free throws.

Up to that point, GW was a perfect 10-for-10 from the line.

Christian elected to foul with 26 seconds left, and senior guard Foster Loyer split a pair of free throws to put Davidson up four. Bishop then missed a contested 3-pointer with 11 seconds remaining.

## NCAA to allow national governing bodies to decide transgender athlete policy

**NURIA DIAZ**  
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

NCAA transgender participation policies will now be left to national governing bodies of each collegiate sport, the association announced late last month.

The policy change comes after controversy surrounding University of Pennsylvania swimmer Lia Thomas made the transition to the women's swimming team at the university, breaking multiple program records and qualifying for next month's NCAA championships in the 200-, 500- and 1,650-yard freestyle events. Experts in collegiate athlete and gender studies said the policy change shows a lack of leadership from NCAA officials and leaves collegiate sports without clear guidance.

About two weeks after the NCAA's announcement, USA Swimming and Diving updated its policy, adding the requirement of a 36-month testing period where transgender female athletes must obtain less than five nanomoles per liter of testosterone to compete.

"We are a member of the NCAA and recognize that this newly updated policy will impact current and future student-athletes in different ways," GW Associate Athletics Director Brian Sereno said in an email. "It will be continuously important for all member schools and conferences to continue our critical work to best support all of our LGBTQIA+ students, which

will allow them to be the best versions of themselves."

GW alumnus Kye Allums came out as the first openly transgender basketball player at the NCAA Division I level during the 2010 season.

The NCAA guidelines prevented Allums, who started out with a scholarship from the women's basketball team, from competing men's team. Allums stepped away from his position on the women's team before his senior year.

Experts said the newly updated policy shows a lack of leadership within the NCAA and will leave transgender athletes with uncertainty regarding the eligibility of transgender athletes around the nation.

Mia Fischer, an associate professor of women's and gender studies and the chair of the LGBTQ+ Faculty Assembly Committee at the University of Colorado Denver, said the updated policy's broad nature led to confusion within the sports community. She said the announcement came as a surprise for many following college sports, and the athletes that have yet to determine their eligibility.

She said the NCAA could have done a better job at communicating the possibility of the policy change and hopes the NCAA releases clarification as the policy is implemented in the next few months to address the current backlash.

Fischer said the new policy could be used to create new opportunities for more coed or mixed events

within the NCAA, opening up sports to think about more "trans nonbinary" inclusion at the NCAA level. She said this policy sets a standard among the different sports that could allow them to think beyond the sex segregation of sports.

She said the new testosterone requirement policy announced by USA Swimming is a step back from the International Olympic Committee's transgender policy, which recently eliminated its dependence on testosterone count.

Matthew Hodler, an assistant professor of sports media and communication at the University of Rhode Island, said the testosterone tests represent a long history of women's bodies being policed in professional sports to prove that they have the necessary anatomical components to be considered a woman.

He said most of the studies on testosterone levels have not specifically focused on the athlete population.

"Hodler said there's a "good chance" national governing bodies follow the policy set up by the International Olympics Committee.

Shaun Marq Anderson, an assistant professor of organizational communication at Loyola Marymount University, said he believes the new policy opens the door for acceptance since it brings the trans athlete conversation to the national level, but it remains to be seen what type of policies actually arise.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Head Coach Chrissy Schoonmaker said she is looking forward to seeing last year's underclassmen step up and help the team win another A-10 Championship.

## Softball looks to position itself for another A-10 run

**NURIA DIAZ**  
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Softball is preparing to return to the field Friday, setting their sights on a second consecutive bid to the NCAA tournament under the new leadership of Head Coach Chrissy Schoonmaker.

The Colonials are looking to build on last season's success, when they took first place in both the A-10 regular season and A-10 Championship under former Head Coach Shane Winkler, as the team heads into the nonconference slate following the end of the preseason. Schoonmaker said the team has strong potential to put themselves in the same position they were last season for a chance at the A-10 title.

"You don't control winning and losing, but we control how we prepare, how we train and how we execute," Schoonmaker said. "And those are the things we have right now in our preseason prep are constantly talking about how we do things every day, how we prepare, how we train."

Schoonmaker has prioritized creating a support system for each team member to emphasize a positive environment. She said the senior players have forged a familiar environment for new players and helped them get accustomed to life

as Division I student athletes.

Schoonmaker said the team has been working to consolidate their pitching performance on the mound. She said they have also been working on team mentality for the rest of the season to ensure a strong team effort through their offense.

"That means playing small game, bunts, hit and runs, putting batters in motion," Schoonmaker said. "And then certainly, I think in any winning softball program, you cannot ever underestimate the ability and what it means to be strong on the mound."

Schoonmaker said she looks forward to watching the underclassmen who were a part of the championship program step into more prominent roles.

Graduate utility player Sierra Lange said Schoonmaker has helped players who haven't started much yet grow into their new responsibilities. She said she is excited to find "new ways to win" and for another chance to play again.

"I know we're still in a pandemic," Lange said. "So any chance to get out there, it's a blessing, and so with all this uncertainty, any chance we get to practice and play with each other and staying healthy is the big goal of this season."

Graduate student

utility player Alessandra Ponce said the team is looking to build a culture based off of the high standards set by the success of last year. She said the team has been working to create a group mentality for all 19 players to be present on the field at some point in the season and develop everyone on the roster.

"Knowing that everyone has a role and will play a role this year, I can't imagine just seeing nine on the field for the season," she said. "I think in order to win and to compete at the highest level, we're going to utilize all 19 players here."

After key names like utility players Faith Weber and Jessica Linquist, infielders Jenna Cone and Amber Lotz and outfielder Sidney Bloomfield, graduated last season, Ponce said the team has focused on utilizing all offensive and defensive components and decreasing their reliance on power hitting as less experienced players take the field.

Ponce said the new players, freshman infielder Taylor Puig, utility player Gabby Polsky and graduate student pitcher Maddy Dwyer, have easily transitioned to the team due to the already-established culture. She said the preseason slate has allowed them to get to know each other better, which translates into their cohesiveness on the field.



FILE PHOTO BY SYDNEY WALSH | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Experts said the new policy will leave transgender athletes with uncertainty on their eligibility.