

The GW Hatchet

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2022 Student Association Elections Guide



SA campaign season enters final stretch

LAUREN SFORZA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

At this time in 2019, the last time the Student Association held a completely in-person campaign season, campus was plastered with posters and dozens of student organizations and SA members had released endorsements for candidates they backed.

But with just hours until voting opens on Tuesday for this year's election, once-coveted wall-space remains largely barren and only a few student organizations have weighed in. Fewer senate candidates are running this year than in any of at least the five most recent elections, even as the number of seats up for grabs grows again this year – largely the result of a policy change that the student body approved in a fall

referendum.

Only one senate race – the Elliott School of International Affairs undergraduate election – is contested as 17 others remain unchallenged. More senate seats won't have a declared candidate than any other year since at least 2017.

The Joint Elections Commission had extended the candidate registration period by 12 days this year for 15 senate races where not enough candidates had registered to fill all of the available seats. The number of registered candidates before and after the extension remains the same, indicating that no new students registered during the extended period.

Just two candidates each threw their hat into the ring for the presidential and vice presidential races. Candidates' platforms have

focused on strengthening relationships between the SA and the student body, collecting feedback on the new dining plan and increasing funding for student organizations.

SA Vice President Kate Carpenter, who had been preparing to run for president this year, has now decided to leave the SA once her term ends, citing cyberbullying from mostly anonymous users.

SA Sen. Dasia Bandy, ESIA-U, became the first to announce her campaign to run for SA president in late February, about a week before senior Christian Zidouemba announced his third consecutive bid for the post. SA Sen. Yan Xu, ESIA-U, and SA Sen. Alfredo Granados, CCAS-U, will face off in this year's vice presidential race.

Senior Catherine Morris, the executive branch's chief of staff, said students' lack of experience with in-person elections may have resulted in fewer interested candidates. The pandemic hit in the middle of the 2020 campaign season, and last year's campaigns were held entirely online.

Senior Drew Amstutz, who ran for SA president in 2020 when the pandemic's onset moved classes online, said remote operations made campaigns less visible and students have become less engaged from the SA as a result. He said this year and

previous election seasons look like "night and day" in comparison.

"Some of the core SA election cultures and traditions, like poster day and the debate and the election day itself, just kind of dissipated," Amstutz said. "And as students came through GW and didn't interact with the SA in these ways, I think that lost a lot of its visibility and its integral connection to GW student life."

Only two of 25 total candidates on this year's ballot attended poster day, an event that unofficially marks the start of campaign season with a crowd of candidates usually running across campus to secure coveted wall-space for their campaign posters. Years ago, the event even began with a pistol start.

The JEC held this year's SA debate on Sunday night, less than 48 hours before polls open. The debate timing has continued to push closer to the election for two consecutive years, with last year's debate occurring four days before the first ballots were cast.

Amstutz noted that the SA has become "less of a presence" on campus as other advocacy organizations, like the Black Student Union and Students Against Sexual Assault, have taken more of a leadership role within the student body.

In the two SA elections held remotely, turnout fell to

at least a 10-year low, with roughly 12 percent of eligible students voting in 2021. But even with a smaller pool of candidates, the JEC is hoping for a sharp reversal this year with students back on campus, setting a goal of 5,000 voters.

The 2019 voter turnout – the highest since 2015 – occurred when then-freshman Justin Diamond forced a runoff election after mounting a write-in campaign for SA president. Diamond campaigned on dissolving the SA and reallocating the SA president's \$15,000 stipend to student organizations.

Turnout surged to near record highs, with 4,967 students voting in the elections – about 18 percent of eligible voters. Diamond ultimately garnered about a third of the vote in the runoff, losing to SJ Matthews.

SCAN TO VOTE:



Three years later, Diamond said energy and excitement once generated by the SA has all but disappeared.

Diamond said students often resign from the SA or are uninterested in running for a position because they have found other ways to stay involved in campus life. Ten senators have resigned since the start of the senate's term in May, with many saying they did so to commit their time to matters outside the SA.



MARCH 23, 2019



MARCH 25, 2022

Here's what you need to know before election day

ERIKA FILTER
STAFF WRITER

TARA SUTER
STAFF WRITER

As the 2022 Student Association election campaign season is coming to an end, you may be wondering how to cast your ballot for the body's top spots and senate seats.

Here is everything you need about the election process before ballots open Tuesday.

When is the election?

Students can vote starting at 9 a.m. Tuesday and until 9 p.m. Wednesday.

What are the responsibilities of

the president and vice president?

The president signs and vetoes legislation that the senate passes. The president is also the student representative on the Board of Trustees, but they have no voting power on the Board itself.

The vice president manages and runs senate meetings and appoints senate staff. The president and vice president – both elected by undergraduate, graduate and degree-seeking students – represent more than 25,000 students. The two top positions also regularly meet with administrators to discuss projects, like introducing U-Pass and expanding SafeRide.

How do I vote?

Sign into GW Engage with your GW email Tuesday or Wednesday and click on the ballot at the top of the page.

Can I write in a candidate?

Yes, students can write in candidates. In the case that a write-in candidate wins an election, they will need to register as a candidate verified by the JEC, and a second election will take place.

When will results be announced?

The JEC will announce the preliminary election results Thursday at 5 p.m. Results will be available on the JEC's website.

SA campaign teams strategize for election bids

IANNE SALVOSA
STAFF WRITER

NIKKI GHAEMI
REPORTER

As students returned to campus after winter break, Student Association candidates and their campaign teams started to prepare for the first fully in-person election season in three years.

The 2020 SA election season was cut short as the onset of the pandemic forced students off campus ahead of spring break and candidates switched their campaign strategies to virtual formats. But now SA campaign teams and candidates say they are ready for election day despite a slow start to announcing their candi-

dacies and participation in traditional campaign events, like the SA's annual poster day.

Sophomore Fatima Konte, a campaign staffer for SA presidential candidate Dasia Bandy, said she meets with Bandy almost daily to prepare for endorsement meetings and discuss new strategies to gain student support. She said campaign staff set up a texting hotline for students to air their criticism of the SA, in line with Bandy's key platform point of increasing transparency within the SA.

Konte said the campaign recruited 15 of Bandy's friends with different majors to represent students beyond political science and international

affairs, who she said tend to be the most involved in the SA.

Konte said she focuses on strategic planning while other staffers focus on social media and public relations, but roles tend to be shared to increase efficiency.

Junior Natalie Jordan, campaign manager for vice presidential candidate Alfredo Granados, said she chose to campaign after spring break and not participate in annual poster day because students would not acknowledge campaign posts while on vacation.

Jordan said the campaign will focus on hosting in-person events in Kogan and posting proposals on social media rather than poster day.

President

Dasia Bandy

JARROD WARDWELL
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

Sophomore and SA presidential candidate Dasia Bandy is no quitter.

After mounting three campaigns for a spot on her high school's student government, Bandy entered college without any election wins after dropping each race. But that didn't stop her from diving headfirst into the Student Association the first chance she got at GW.

Bandy first joined the SA last fall as a freshman, serving on the SA's student engagement committee before stepping up as vice president of diversity and inclusion last January. Now with a year of SA Senate experience under her belt and a presidential bid in full swing, she has looked to spread her name across the student body, campaigning around campus about every three days.

Bandy said she has

chatted with students on her way to class to gauge their views on the SA and even stopped at the line outside of the COVID-19 testing center to remind students to vote in the election.

"The main goal is the journey – for me to have fun and yell at people while they're waiting in line for their COVID tests and to hear some of the impact that campus is having on other students and to hear the feedback whether that's good or bad."

If elected, she would become the first Black woman elected to the SA's top position.

Bandy said inclusivity is the most critical element of her platform, which she hopes can institute a University-wide diversity course requirement and ensure that training for new faculty who join GW accounts for diversity, equity and inclusion.

She said she will expand the bias reporting system housed under the Office

for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement to include unfair grading practices and insufficient SA finance allocations. She added that she will also push administrators to require bias testing for students and new faculty and staff, including the GW Police Department.

As part of her other student experience and accessibility initiatives in her platform, Bandy said she will work with Fraternity and Sorority Life officials to enlarge bathrooms and widen hallways in Greek Life housing like Strong Hall for students with disability accommodations like wheelchairs. She also committed to working with officials to increase laundry credits by \$30 each semester to accommodate students with larger loads.

Bandy considers recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic to be the largest long-term challenge facing GW as students continue to build back community ties that fizzled out during virtual operations.

Year: Sophomore
Hometown: Chesapeake, Virginia
Major: International affairs
Role model: My mom
Favorite D.C. restaurant: CIRCA



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Christian Zidouemba

CAITLIN KITSON
STAFF WRITER

Christian Zidouemba describes himself as an extrovert.

Zidouemba said he loves talking with other students as he walks around campus and attends classes, especially after more than a year of remote learning. He said the students he has met throughout his time at GW motivated him in conversations to launch his third campaign for Student Association president, which he announced earlier this month.

"I want you to remember that this election has never been about one person," he said. "It's about representation of the whole student body."

If elected, Zidouemba said he will address food insecurity issues on

campus, like ensuring that GW's new unlimited dining plan will offer international food options in all three all-you-can-eat dining halls. He said he will collaborate with administrators and the GW Alumni Association to increase donations to offer more scholarships.

"I believe that being able to increase funds will also increase the diverse group of people that we want to bring on our campus," he said.

Zidouemba said he will start school traditions, like residence hall competitions for prizes, and promote student volunteering opportunities throughout the District.

He added that as an "outsider" to the SA, having only served in it during his freshman year as a member of the diversity and inclusion assembly, and as an

international student, he brings a different perspective than

domestic students to his campaign by focusing more on international students at GW.

"This is our chance to move forward, not to go back to where we were and not to let us do the same mistake that we have done electing people within the SA over and over," he said.

If elected, Zidouemba said he will lead from "the student side, not the administration side" and work to ensure the student body feels more represented by the SA in the wake of recent allegations of racism and ableism in classrooms. He said SA members should address students' needs instead of focusing on internal reforms within the body.

"Who am I to say that every student doesn't deserve a voice in our campus when the Student Association spent countless hours debating a pointless bylaw that doesn't represent the students," he said.

Year: Senior
Home country: Burkina Faso
Major: International Business and International Affairs
Role model: My mother
Favorite D.C. restaurant: Founding Farmers



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Vice President

Alfredo Granados

SOPHIA GOEDERT
STAFF WRITER

Alfredo Granados knew he would launch his bid for Student Association vice president after feeling a sense of pride in the GW community while working at the bicentennial celebration in the fall.

Granados said he appreciated the sense of community students exhibited during the week-long event, which encouraged him to become more involved at GW as an SA senator. Granados said his status as an international student from the Dominican Republic led him to establish the International Students Cohort to connect prospective international students with current students through the admissions office.

Year: Sophomore
Hometown: Santiago, Dominican Republic
Major: Economics and international affairs
Role model: Dominican Republic Congressman Omar Fernandez
Favorite D.C. restaurant: Los Hermanos or on GWorld, Sol

"It's a joint effort to fight for the GW we love," Granados said. "I think it's my duty to help as much as I can, to build that same experience that I am having right now."

Granados said he was compelled to run for vice president after a member of a student organization told him the SA only reached out to that organization once this academic year. He said he felt "guilty" that the connection between the SA and the GW community was not made in previous years and would push to change that as vice president.

Granados said he will create a student engagement advisory group that will connect students with the SA. He said creating the advisory group will solve the "lack of communication" between the SA and the student body pro-

motes transparency and faith because it will build relationships between the two groups.

Granados said he will work with the SA Senate's finance committee to advocate for a more equitable distribution of funds to student organizations than the existing system.

Granados said he will also address accessibility issues on campus like fixing handicap buttons for doors and adding ramps to buildings that currently do not have any. He said he will also bring back the SA's yearly accessibility report, which was last released in February 2020.

The 2020 report outlined 68 areas like classrooms and ramps on campus that did not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

He said he will evaluate the tap access system with third-party contractors to increase security and make students feel safer on campus.



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Yan Xu

MAX BEVERIDGE
REPORTER

Yan Xu hadn't stepped on campus until 2021, but he's wasting no time meeting with students and exploring the District – and he has bigger plans for next academic year.

Xu announced his bid for SA vice president earlier this month, with hopes to implement his platform focused on two tenets of aiding student organizations – connecting students and administrators and making the body more accessible for student organizations. Xu said securing funding for student organizations this academic year has pushed him to continue his advocacy.

He said the vice president role would allow him to work with administrators from the Office of Student Life to increase the SA budget, which would increase allocations for student organizations.

If elected, Xu said he will advocate for reduc-

ing rental costs of Lisner and Betts auditoriums for student organizations and increasing student representation on the Board of Trustees to include more student groups.

"I realized that VP actually can help me to do more than what I already have done because it's both executive and legislative, so it will help me to do more than I would otherwise be unable to do as a senator, so then I decided to run for executive office," Xu said.

Xu currently serves as chair of the SA Senate's finance committee, which allocates \$1.5 million to student organizations over the academic year. He said he helped secure an extra \$100,000 for durable goods for student organizations earlier this month.

Xu said his two years of experience with the SA's bureaucracy qualify him to achieve his policy goals as vice president.

He said he consistently communicates with stu-

dent organizations that need help with financial matters in his role as the finance committee's chair.

Apart from financial matters, Xu said he will push officials to add more student seats to the Board to ensure that student opinion is considered when making decisions, like the selection of GW's next president.

Students overwhelmingly approved a referendum in 2020 calling for officials to add one undergraduate and graduate voting seat with voting power, but the Board has not taken any action on this proposal and Board Chair Grace Speights declined to take a position on it.

Xu said he will push for bylaw changes to require senators to hold town hall meetings in an effort to make the SA more accessible to students.

Year: Sophomore
Hometown: Harbin, China
Major: International Business and International Affairs
Role model: Parents
Favorite D.C. restaurant: Diner DC



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR



GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Graduate student Trip Johnson, this year's Joint Elections Commission chair, will oversee the first in-person elections since the start of the pandemic.

JEC worked to ramp up messaging, support in-person campaigning

HENRY HUVOS
STAFF WRITER

As the student body gears up for a Student Association election with a full student body on campus for the first time in three years, the Joint Elections Commission chair said the body has worked to bolster in-person campaigning.

Trip Johnson, the JEC chairperson and a graduate student studying environmental and green chemistry, said he aimed to increase student engagement with elections for the first fully in-person election season since 2019 through social media messaging. Candidates running for SA seats were slow to kickstart their campaigns, with only two candidates participating in the annual postering day, and the senate set to start its term with only about 43 percent of the body filled.

Here is everything you need about new initiatives before casting your ballot:

Return to in-person elections

Johnson said this spring gave sophomores and juniors – who have only experienced virtual SA election seasons during the pandemic – their first sense of a campaign season with directly engagement with candidates on campus, similar to previous years before the pandemic.

“People who have been students here for a few years, their opportunities to in-person campaign

have been curtailed by COVID,” Johnson said. “So I feel like there’s a sense that there’s going to be more in-person campaigning. People want to utilize ideas they have to make their campaign more well known.”

Only three SA election races – SA president, SA vice president and the undergraduate seats for the Elliott School of International Affairs – are contested this election season. Eight of the 18 senate seat constituencies do not have any candidates running for those seats.

Johnson said despite a lower number of candidates running for SA president and vice president, he believes more than 5,000 students will turn out for this election, which would be an increase compared to the last two elections with the student body off campus during the pandemic. In 2021, about 3,250 students voted in the SA elections – a slight decrease from the 2020 election with 3,650 students voting.

Almost 5,000 students voted in the 2019 SA elections – the last fully in-person election.

“Even if there aren’t as many candidates as there were in years past, we’re hoping to see a significant chunk of students vote so that we can set trends for future years to add to that number.”

Johnson said the JEC would not consider postponing the elections to allow for more candidates to run.

Increased messaging

Johnson said he wants the JEC to post videos featuring the candidates on social media to make the in-person return of elections more prominent on campus. As of Sunday, the JEC Instagram account has not posted any videos of candidates since the start of the election.

“We’re trying to view this election as a new jumping off point,” Johnson said. “A vast majority of students on this campus have not seen in-person elections completely. And so we’re trying to be more present and be more in the face of the students so they can become involved.”

The JEC will announce the results of the elections the day after voting closes, unlike in previous years when results traditionally were announced hours after voting closed. Johnson said this change will allow the JEC to “thoroughly” check its work and reduce potential mistakes in vote tallying.

JEC commissioners initially miscounted the votes in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences undergraduate senate race last year before correcting the mistake the day after the elections ended.

“Last year, we had to backtrack on a mistake that we made when calculating for one of the senate positions, and I just don’t want that to happen this year,” Johnson said. “I’m going to take as much as the bylaws give us, and that’s until 5 p.m.”

Transition from ranked-choice voting

Johnson said ranked-choice voting, which the JEC introduced for all races in 2020, will not remain in place for senate elections after students voted to opt for plurality voting for single-seat elections in November. Johnson said the move to plurality voting will simplify the crowded senate races to reduce potential tabulation mistakes.

Ranked-choice voting will remain in place for any single-seat senate races and the vice presidential and presidential races, but just two candidates are vying for the top positions, respectively. Johnson said the JEC’s bylaws do not allow for the commission to change the voting system of an election – a process that the SA must oversee itself.

Former SA presidential candidate Hannah Edwards filed an injunction with the Student Court last year, disputing 2021 election results and requesting a runoff election after she lost in the final round of ranked-choice voting. The court dismissed the case with prejudice because it “fails to demonstrate any merit on its face” to advance to any further court proceedings.

“There’s a lot of candidates usually in those positions, and we’re filling multiple seats,” Johnson said. “And so I think logistically, it makes more sense to have just a simple top seven, top five vote getters for the seats.”

Postering Day 2010-2020



2010



2012



2014



2016



2018



2020

Fact check: Assessing candidates’ policy ideas

PRESIDENT

Dasia Bandy

PLATFORM
● Update the Office for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement’s bias reporting to include a transparent and anonymous section for reporting professor bias

POINT
● Students are already able to report on discrimination from faculty and teaching assistants through the form

FACT
● They may also choose to report anonymously if they wish

PLATFORM
● Diversify the counselors available in Counseling and Psychological Services to relate to the experiences of students from different backgrounds

POINT
● Officials have said they plan to add six additional counselors to CAPS to keep in line with national standards

FACT
● They said the office faces a “significant challenge” in making new hires due to a limited pool of D.C.-based therapists and an increased demand for mental health services

Christian Zidouemba

PLATFORM
● Will work with Richard Jones, the president of the GW Alumni Association, to create a mentorship program to connect students with alumni in the fields they’re interested in pursuing

POINT
● Richard Jones is no longer president of the GWAA

FACT
● Christine Brown-Quinn took over in May

CHECK
● The Alumni Association also already offers a program that connects students and alumni with similar interests for networking and mentorship opportunities

PLATFORM
● Develop a Financial Aid Student Advisory Council to provide student input to the financial aid office

POINT
● The council formed last year following collaboration between officials and SA leaders

ISHA TRIVEDI
NEWS EDITOR

JARED GANS
MANAGING EDITOR

VICE PRESIDENT

Yan Xu

PLATFORM
● Will work to help pass constitutional referenda to establish senate seats for first-year, part-time and certificate-seeking students and smaller sub-schools like the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design

POINT
● Earlier this academic year, the Student Court struck down a referendum planned for the fall that sought to return first-year seats to the senate

FACT
● The court also struck down seats apportioned for smaller sub-schools last year for being inconsistent with the SA Charter and SRR

PLATFORM
● Wants to expand student representation on the Board of Trustees to increase student membership on its committees and subcommittees

POINT
● The student body voted overwhelmingly in favor of an undergraduate and graduate voting position on the Board in 2020 but Board Chair Grace Speights declined to take a position on the referendum

Alfredo Granados

PLATFORM
● Will oversee the “financial process in the Student Association” to advocate for “fair distribution” of funding for student organizations

POINT
● The finance committee is ultimately responsible for determining the allocation of funding to student organizations

FACT
● The vice president of the SA does not have direct power to oversee committees on the SA’s legislative branch, according to the SA’s constitution.

PLATFORM
● Wants to create the “first ever Student Body Engagement Advisory Group” to connect student organization leaders to the SA

POINT
● Though he would be able to create such a group as vice president, SA leaders already added a community liaison position with a similar responsibility to improve relations with student organizations

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

News

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THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

"POLITICS IN 'PURPLE' INDIANA TO DIPLOMACY IN VIBRANT INDIA

Tuesday, March 29 • 12:15 p.m. EDT • Free
Join the Leadership, Ethics and Practice Initiative in a hybrid event with former American Ambassador to India Tim Roemer.

DISCUSSION WITH VIRGINIA LT. GOV. WINSOME EARLE-SEARS

Thursday, March 31 • 9 a.m. EDT • Free
Tune into a discussion with GW College Republicans featuring Virginia Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears on American University's campus.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

April 1, 2017

An SA presidential candidate is disqualified after the Joint Elections Commission finds that members of her campaign stalked another candidate and their supporters.

Two years later: How GW has inched toward normalcy throughout pandemic

ERIKA FILTER
STAFF WRITER

One year ago, officials issued letters of acceptance to the Class of 2025 as the University apprehensively made plans to return to in-person learning after months of virtual operations.

Today, almost two years after D.C.'s first pandemic-related stay-at-home order, GW has returned to some sense of pre-pandemic normalcy. As American and Georgetown universities walk back their mask mandates, ever-changing guidance on health and safety guidelines threaten GW's ongoing return to pre-pandemic operations.

The Delta and Omicron variants escalated COVID-19 caseloads to a record daily total of 184 in early January, accompanied by constant changes in public health policies like lifted and reinstated mask mandates in the District.

After campus remained empty for about five months during the first peak of the pandemic in spring 2020, officials started to revive campus life when 500 students moved into Shenkman and South halls and District House in the fall 2020 semester. The University upped the number of campus residents to 1,500 during the following semester while the on-campus cohort remained under strict guidelines like daily symptom checks.

Officials announced a plan to gradually reopen campus last summer, holding online summer classes with an in-person component for

labs. The COVID-19 vaccine became available to the general public in late March and early April after GW Hospital workers were among the first groups of people in the country receive shots the previous December.

COVID-19 restrictions ebbed as D.C. residents got vaccinated. In May, GW allowed outdoor student gatherings up to 50 people and required on-campus students to receive monthly COVID-19 tests, a decrease from the previous weekly testing regiment.

Students complying with the deadline to receive their COVID-19 vaccines returned to campus in late August for the first time in 17 months since the outbreak of the pandemic, and faculty members expressed excitement about teaching in person.

But soon after students returned to campus, Delta cases spiked during late August and early September.

Students also took time to process losses they had suffered throughout the pandemic. Some volunteered to plant hundreds of thousands of white flags on the National Mall to commemorate the lives lost during the pandemic.

Daily caseloads skyrocketed with a peak of 102 positive cases on Dec. 15 as students prepared to take final exams. Officials moved exams held after Dec. 16 online and canceled in-person gatherings for the rest of the semester.

Just after the start of winter break, officials announced that



FILE PHOTO BY DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
As Mayor Muriel Bowser has lifted the citywide mask mandate, life for D.C.-area students is starting return to a semblance of normalcy.

classes during the first week of the spring semester would be held virtually.

Students returned to classes in person in the spring one week later after residential students remained in quarantine until they received two negative PCR tests. The University invested in 250 isolation hous-

ing units for the spring, comprising the majority of GW's pandemic-related spending for the semester.

GW returned to full in-person operations at the end of the month, allowing students to attend in-person classes.

Once again, cases declined and mandates were lifted. Bowser

dropped vaccine and mask requirements in early March.

As the seasons change and students return from spring break, GW's daily total COVID-19 positivity rate remains near 1 percent, only a slight increase from the rate before spring break, which largely remained just below 1 percent.



KRISHNA RAJPARA | PHOTOGRAPHER

Protesters have gathered at the White House and other locations throughout D.C. since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

'Pray for us': Ukrainians turn to GW community for aid, support

ABBY KENNEDY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Communication has persisted between Kateryna Pyatybratova, a staff member in GW's public leadership center, and her friends and family still living in Ukraine despite the ongoing war with Russia earlier this month.

Speaking before a congregation of interfaith leaders at a "Pray for Ukraine" service at a D.C. church earlier this month, Pyatybratova recalled hearing back from a friend hiding from invading Russian force. Her friend said they were sitting in a cellar with their children, listening to the sounds of constant shooting and watching scenes of burning cars as troops attempted to surround their home of Kharkiv in north-east Ukraine.

Pyatybratova – the director of marketing and business development in the Center for Excellence in Public Leadership – said she was born in Lviv, a city in western Ukraine, and spent her childhood in Kharkiv before immigrating to the United States when she was 12. She is now leading efforts to advocate for Ukrainians, helping raise more than \$5,000 for disaster relief in the country and organizing online forums to connect Ukrainians and refugees with resources like food and shelter.

"Thank you for not forgetting us, we are sitting in a basement, the food and water are ending, the shootings don't stop," Py-

atybratova read from her friend's message at the event. "They want to surround Kharkiv. Around our house there were burning cars. We couldn't get out. We are trying to see if we can send children to the Romanian border and stay here. Maybe the children will be spared. With a big risk, I ran back to the house to prepare hot tea for my daughter and recharge my phone, since the cellar doesn't have an outlet. Please pray for us."

Students and staff like Pyatybratova are raising donations and spreading awareness to rally support for Ukrainian residents and refugees during the war through social media campaigns, nonprofits and online articles sharing stories from the country.

Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine late last month, killing more than 2,000 civilians, displacing millions of Ukrainians and destroying their homes and towns.

Of the more than \$5,000 she has raised for disaster relief, Pyatybratova will send \$1,000 to a family center in Zhytomyr, a city in the western Ukraine, where her cousin works. She said her cousin wrote her asking for "badly needed resources" to help staff process some of the more than 100 families that they've sheltered within a "few days."

Pyatybratova runs a Facebook group called "Let's Welcome Refugees," which includes about 6,000 members who exchange in-

formation about organizations accepting donations and opportunities to help refugees from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria and other "war-torn countries." Members of the group offer free language lessons for refugees and links to donate to organizations like World Central Kitchen, a nonprofit organization that provides meals during disasters.

Ukrainian refugees have also posted in the group in hopes of connecting with people who can offer housing in nearby countries like Poland.

"Hello, I'm looking for a small apartment near Warsaw, Poland for two refugees from Ukraine for a long term stay," one post reads. "We can pay affordable price. Please, any help or information."

Leslie Grossman – the faculty director of the Executive Women's Leadership Program, a conference for women leaders in public and private sectors – said she has been working with Pyatybratova to write articles about Ukraine to tell stories of her loved ones in Kharkiv and Lviv and her own fundraising efforts.

"So much of what I hear is also coming through her and it's really heartfelt leadership," Grossman said of Pyatybratova. "How do we, as leaders over here, help and support what's going on in Ukraine and fill their needs [and] as leaders in this country have an impact that will support the stance that they're taking for freedom."

Applications reach record high, as officials plan to leverage waitlist

DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

GRACE CHINOWSKY
REPORTER

GW will release admissions decisions for regular decision applicants Monday evening after receiving a record level of new student applications.

Jay Goff, the vice provost of enrollment and student success, said admissions staff will place some students on the waitlist, a key tool officials have leveraged during the pandemic to better control the incoming class size amid shifting enrollment trends. GW's total enrollment fell slightly again this spring to 25,500 students – about a 1.6 percent annual drop – but Goff said the levels are closely aligned with their projections.

"As usual, some programs are a little bit higher than projected, and some are a little bit lower than projected, but overall, we were very close to our projections in the total enrollment plan," Goff said.

Enrollment has declined the past few years since a recent high of 28,172 total students in 2018. Administrators began implementing an initiative to cut the undergraduate population size by 20 percent in response – citing strained campus resources that detracted from the student experience – but the initiative was declared obsolete after the pandemic hit amid intense criticism from faculty.

In spring 2020, once the pandemic moved classes online, officials admitted mul-

iple rounds of waitlisted students to stabilize falling enrollment levels. Last year, officials said they could continue to accept more waitlist applicants than before the pandemic to make up for the gaps in enrollment.

"We expect to have a healthy waitlist again this year," Goff said. "Although we did not have to use it as much as we expected last year, we believe it does provide us an excellent way to provide additional access and to control our total enrollment numbers each semester."

But even with overall enrollment continuing to fall, this spring's drop has slowed from the 3 percent decline last spring.

Some of the largest proportional drops in enrollment during the pandemic have come from international students. The international student population fell by about 7 percent this spring compared to last year – more than 200 students – while the domestic population simultaneously fell by less than 1 percent.

Goff said many of the international applicants who did not enroll at GW this spring cited travel restrictions and health and safety concerns as the main reason for not attending the University.

Officials are working to implement new recruitment strategies to target international students, who increase diversity levels and boost tuition revenue since they are less likely to receive financial aid. Officials have seen a "small uptick" in international applications for next year, Goff said.

"You will see new efforts

to go into international markets that we have not previously focused on," Goff said. "We started this effort by working with virtual college fair programs in which we could have a broader global reach. And so far, we're seeing some positive results from those efforts."

To boost application levels, Goff said officials are looking to develop new high school-specific media campaigns to attract interest.

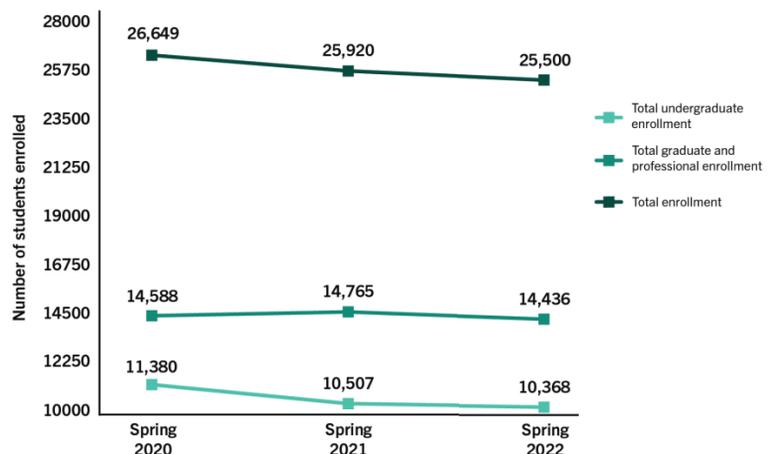
Goff said nondegree enrollment, including those taking pre-college courses, increased from fewer than 650 students last spring to nearly 700 students this semester, a 7 percent rise. Graduate and professional enrollment fell by about 2.2 percent this spring from last year.

Experts in higher education focusing on admissions and enrollment said the pandemic has likely played a role in encouraging students to reconsider enrolling in four-year colleges.

Walter Heinecke, an associate professor of educational research, statistics evaluation at the University of Virginia, said GW's recent 3.5 percent price tuition hike up from \$59,780 may cause more students to take out larger loans, which could drive some applicants away.

Heinecke said the best ways to increase future enrollment in such economically unstable times is to reduce the cost of tuition and increase the availability of need-based scholarships like Pell Grants. Officials launched a "focused initiative" in the fall to increase the amount of funding dedicated to lending aid for Pell-eligible students.

Comparison of spring enrollment, 2020 - 2022



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Source: GW IRP, Spring 2022 Census

CRIME LOG

STALKING

Smith Center
3/14/2022 – Multiple
Closed Case

A staff member reported that a former male student had attended multiple GW sporting events where the student took multiple pictures of athletes and posted them on social media without the athletes' consent.

Subject barred.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/
VANDALISM, TAKING PROPERTY
W/OUT RIGHT/OTHER,
DESTRUCTION OF FIXTURES/
VANDALISM

Mitchell Hall
3/14/2022 – Unknown
Open Case

GW Police Department officers responded to reports of destruction of property in Mitchell Hall. Upon arrival, officers made contact with GW staff members, who then reported vandalism to various areas throughout the building and multiple missing furniture items. The furniture was found in a male student's room, but the subject responsible for the vandalism and damage to the property remains unknown.

Case open.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/
VANDALISM, THEFT II/OTHER

University Student Center Garage
3/16/2022 – 4 p.m.
Closed Case

A GW staff member reported that a fellow staff member drove through the garage's access gate, causing damage to the property, in addition to not paying for parking.

Subject barred.

—Compiled by Acacia Niyogi

Former economics professor, co-director of research program dies at 68

CAITLIN KITSON
STAFF WRITER

NICK PASION
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Fred Joutz, an economics professor and the former co-director of a research program focused on forecasting economic trends, died from cancer last month after more than 30 years at GW. He was 68.

Joutz started teaching at the University in 1988 and became the co-director for the H.O. Stekler Research Program on Forecasting in 2000, where he researched economic forecasting and energy modeling. Joutz's loved ones described him as a kind, funny and intelligent person who could energize a room full of people.

Joutz started instructing at GW in 1988. He had four children – Andre, Marguerite, Dmitri and Ivan – in the following years, and Joutz lived in the DMV for the rest of his life.

Joutz's daughter, Marguerite, said he was "one of a kind" and a loving parent who was the "life of the party" and the energetic person people were drawn to.

"He asked you questions, and he remembered things and maybe you saw him at a party six months ago, and then you'd see him again – he



Joutz's colleagues in the economics department said they will remember him for the kindness he showed to faculty and his students.

COURTESY OF MARGUERITE JOUTZ

would remember what you had talked about and would pick up the conversation like nothing had happened," she said.

Faculty in the economics department said they will remember Joutz for his eagerness to help his students and his kindness toward his colleagues.

Tara Sinclair – a professor of economics and international affairs who served as Joutz's co-director of the eco-

nomics forecasting research program before succeeding him as sole director – said Joutz was "the heart and soul" of the program.

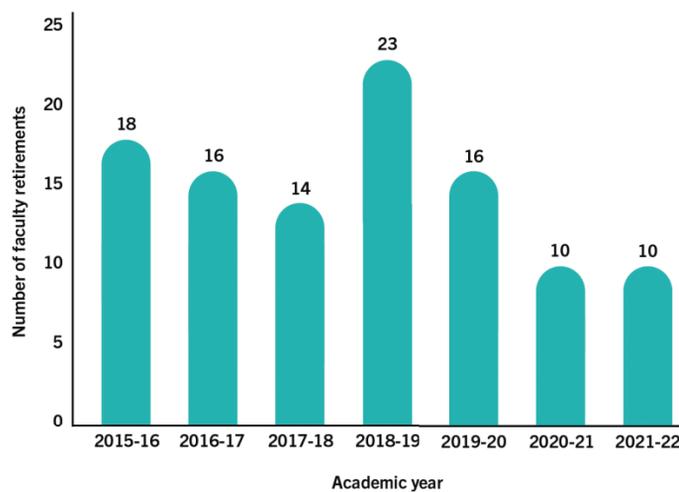
Sinclair said he connected students across the globe in Europe, Africa and Asia with mentors and gave them advice on how to succeed and advance in economics studies.

Sinclair said Joutz was an "incredibly generous and warm" person who focused

on helping junior faculty and improving student life during his time at GW. He said Joutz worked intern

Stephen Smith, the chair of the economics department, said he saw a large number of attendees at the memorial service for Joutz held earlier this month at Garrett Park Town Hall in Maryland. He said Joutz requested that his memorial service would be a "celebration of life."

Faculty retirements over past seven academic years



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Faculty retirements drop amid hiring freezes during pandemic

GRACE CHINOWSKY
REPORTER

NICK PASION
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The rate of faculty retirements has slowed since before the COVID-19 pandemic, according to institutional data.

Officials said 36 faculty retired since the start of the 2019-20 academic year, and 53 faculty retired between the 2016-2019 academic years, the three years before the pandemic. Experts said the 32 percent drop can be attributed to a widespread urge among employees to maintain economic stability in the face of economic uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Provost Chris Bracey said the decline in faculty retirements came alongside a hiring freeze and other budget mitigation efforts, which slowed part-time faculty hiring efforts throughout the pandemic. He said officials restored regular faculty hiring this academic year in response to the new faculty retirements as the University exits pandemic budget cutbacks.

"We need to continue to invest in high-performing faculty, who are our greatest asset and who are the engine that drives this University forward," he said. "The fundamental goal of our academic enterprise remains to ensure that we have a world-class faculty prepared to push the frontiers of knowledge through the production and dissemination of high quality research."

Henry Nau, a professor emeritus of international affairs, said he officially retired during the previous academic year after announcing his retirement in 2018 and more than 45 years at GW and

three years as a top adviser in the White House for former President Ronald Reagan. He said officials treated him well throughout the course of his retirement, with regular communication.

"That's something to keep in mind when you're thinking about future administration," he said. "You want it to be people who get around, get to know people who are ready to treat people as individuals rather than simply as sort of numbers."

Bracey declined to say why the number of faculty retirements at GW changed in recent years.

Experts in higher education said the uncertainty of the pandemic helped reduce the number of retirements because full-time faculty are offered guaranteed income and health insurance, which they were not guaranteed access to if they retired.

Joseph Paris, an assistant professor of higher education at Temple University, said the decline in retirements is part of a larger trend across the United States where the economic uncertainty of the pandemic led employees to continue working instead of retiring.

Paris said professors were expected to retire during the pandemic as a way to opt out of continuing their careers with on-line teaching, but health care insurance and guaranteed income for full-time faculty helped retain them throughout the pandemic, when economic futures were unknown.

Paris added that new faculty retirements can allow officials to target-hire diverse faculty, which can advance strategic planning initiatives to diversify the University community.

"One of the important

conversations happening within higher education is the diversification of the student body, and thus there's a need to have requisite diversification of the faculty – the individuals who are teaching and working alongside students," he said.

Officials said they would push to "cluster hire" minority faculty "primarily" in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences last academic year. The commitment came after more than 1,000 University community members signed a petition urging GW to hire more professors from historically underrepresented communities and bolster funding for the Africana studies program.

Michael Hayes, an associate professor of employment law at the University of Baltimore, said private universities rarely offer pensions for their faculty, which might discourage older faculty members from retiring. He said the pandemic's effect on the economy ate into many employees' retirement savings, making financial safety nets like pensions more valuable.

Hayes said private university officials cut pensions because of declining enrollment – a trend that has impacted GW and other higher education institutions in recent years. University enrollment is in the midst of a multi-year decline precipitated by the now-obsolete 20/30 plan.

He said buying annuities – long-term investment plans issued by insurance companies to ensure retired individuals don't outlive their savings – is one way to get people to retire when pensions aren't available to provide financial security.

TWEETED

Honored and excited!!!

Elana Meyers Taylor, 2022 Commencement speaker, on 3/23/2022

SEAS professors connect students to STEM research with initiative

EDDIE HERZIG
STAFF WRITER

JACKSON LANZER
STAFF WRITER

A cross-discipline initiative in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences will help undergraduate students secure research opportunities that align with their interests and skill level.

Jason Zara, the associate dean for undergraduate studies in SEAS, and Ekundayo Shittu, an associate professor of engineering management and systems engineering, will develop Research For All – a three-year, \$2 million initiative designed to ease the process of finding research projects for students. They said GW and seven STEM-focused universities like Olin College of Engineering and Valparaiso University will design research training modules and an algorithm matching students to faculty members.

"The GW effort is focused on working with SEAS faculty to integrate real research problems into required courses in the engineering curricula to ensure that all SEAS undergraduates will be exposed to research in some way during their undergraduate studies," Zara said in an email.

Zara said the initiative consists of three components that are called URCurious, URSkilled and URConnected. He said each component will improve students' research skills to cultivate "en-

trepreneurial mindset" – a way of thinking where students further develop ideas from their previous mistakes in research – in their scientific disciplines.

He said URCurious will introduce more undergraduate students to research with course learning objectives in STEM classes while URSkilled will develop training modules for students to learn skills like formulating research questions and coding. He said URConnected will create a matching tool for faculty and students that connects them with research opportunities relevant to their skills and interests.

Zara said the Keen Entrepreneurial Engineering Network – an organization of more than 50 universities that collaborate with undergraduate engineering students to incorporate scientific research in societal contexts – will split the grant between the eight colleges to implement the initiative in each institution.

Shittu, the initiative's co-principal investigator, said Research For All's three components are based on the entrepreneurial mindset, which allows students to think outside of their comfort zones and lead them to academic discoveries that are capable of advancing societal changes.

Jeff Dusek, Olin's chief investigator for the initiative and an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, said Olin and Valparaiso will conduct focus groups and

surveys with undergraduate students for them to observe research projects of interest as officials develop the matching algorithm tool.

He said they will use training materials, certifications and other skill-building methods to create an on-line environment that pairs students with researchers based on their interests and what is needed within current research opportunities.

Dusek said he's looking forward to developing some of the training modules to teach students how to build research skills and offering mentoring advice and questions to faculty and staff members to improve their students' research experience.

He said the training modules will help faculty members who have multiple undergraduate students working on various projects ease the amount of time required to train students and produce efficient progress on research projects.

"I'm excited to learn from GW and to perhaps provide my experiences to help there," he said. "I think there's a lot of value in these highly integrated teams."

Dan Maguire, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at Valparaiso, said exposure to undergraduate research is crucial because it provides an additional perspective to an educational program as students can test what they've learned in their classes in real-life situations.



Associate Dean Jason Zara (right) and professor Ekundayo Shittu (left) are developing the initiative called Research for All.

GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Dasia Bandy for SA president

STAFF EDITORIAL

The Student Association is facing a crisis of confidence, with the community often feeling poorly represented by student leaders. This year, that could change. Both candidates for SA president brought enthusiasm for rallying students and advocating for their interests.

But one candidate brings a perfect fusion of passion and policy to the table. Students should vote for Dasia Bandy for SA president this year.

When the editorial board sat down with Bandy, she enumerated clearly thought-out principles and reasons for running, paired with actionable goals. For instance, she wants to make the bias reporting system more public and accessible so that more students can use it to feel safer both in the classroom and outside of it. One way she plans to accomplish this is by advertising the bias reporting system so that more students know to use it when they need to.

In response to the incident in which a GW Teach professor said the N-word, which appeared in a painting she was showing the class, as well as the incident in which a student and a professor had an altercation over a student service dog, Bandy plans to advocate for

expanded diversity, equity and inclusion training for existing faculty members.

Bandy is also interested in increasing accessibility for those with disabilities on campus. She plans to talk with Disability Support Services, administrators and students to talk about their current concerns with DSS and what they would like to see change about accessibility on campus in the coming year. She understands specific incidents and creates actionable plans to address the issues that caused those incidents to come up in the first place.

Beyond her plans, passion and experience, the single most important thing Bandy pledged to do is surround herself with a team that complements and supplements her knowledge. In every answer to the editorial board's questions, Bandy not only talked about how she herself would approach a given issue, but how she would empower her team to advocate and lead. Not only will this help Bandy more effectively advocate for students, but it will give more people an opportunity to build skills advocating for their peers – in effect, this will help train the next group of potential SA leaders.

Bandy gave the editorial

board a platform that she plans to enact if elected – but this platform was not made public until this past weekend when she posted her main points on Instagram. Making this platform public earlier would be an important way to demonstrate that she is eager for the community to see exactly how she is attaining her goals as SA president if elected – and it would be an important means of the community holding her and her team accountable.

The other candidate in the race, Christian Zidouemba, made a compelling and charismatic case for why someone outside the SA could shake up the institution. We feel that the next SA president needs to be able to take a two-track approach to making change: standing outside of the drama that has harmed confidence in the SA while also knowing enough about how the institution works to be able to advocate for students' best interests. On that metric, Bandy comes out ahead.

Bandy has the plans, passion and people to be an effective SA president – students should cast ballots for her on March 29 and 30 and should hold her and the entire SA accountable to the promises they make.

Alfredo Granados for SA vice president

STAFF EDITORIAL

The vice president of the Student Association occupies a unique role – simultaneously acting as a lieutenant to the SA president and serving as the chief of the SA Senate. To be successful in this position, whoever occupies it needs both experience with the institution and the ability to be a visible and vibrant leader of the community.

When students go to the virtual polls later this week, they should cast their ballots for Alfredo Granados for VP.

One of Granados' most appealing qualities is that he listens to students and seems to possess an innate desire to do something about the issues that students care most about. In the endorsement interview, he enthusiastically talked about his interest in bringing people together by the SA putting on cultural events.

Granados also came prepared with concrete ideas on how to make the SA work better. His experience as a senator on the financial reform special committee and the diversity and inclusion assembly has given him insight into a variety of issues that the SA works on. It's clear that he has opinions on how to make the SA less bureaucratic and more productive for the students

it represents.

In the endorsement interview, he proposed that the SA improve visibility and accountability of committees in his capacity leading the senate as VP. He plans to do this by creating a "student body engagement advisory group" composed of community members and student organization members, which would give students and community members direct access to the work of the SA.

Granados' energetic and personable campaign points to an ability to vocally rally students and represent their interests while also being able to grind through the minutiae of being an elected SA leader. He demonstrated that he would be able to not just be able to make students feel seen and heard but also have the skills and capacity to sit in a room with administrators to lay out how University policy could be changed.

Knowing how the SA works is necessary but not sufficient to being a successful VP – Granados has demonstrated that he has a functional understanding of the institution without being caught up in the playing make-believe that often hallmarks the SA. This is a balance that is especially

crucial for the VP role, which exists as a bridge between the two main branches of the SA.

The other candidate in the VP race, Yan Xu, has excellent policies and a sterling record of experience. He has effectively managed the allocation of more than \$1 million in student organization funds as SA finance committee chair, and his platform relied heavily on this. The editorial board felt that this focus was important, but a broader platform was better-suited to the role. The GW community should be grateful for Xu's effective leadership on funding and allocation for student organizations. Many of his ideas, like cutting venue reservation costs for student organizations, can and should be implemented.

Students have the benefit of choosing between two skilled, passionate and experienced candidates for VP. A race between two extremely qualified individuals makes both candidates sharper and challenges them both to put their best foot forward when asking for students' votes. In this race between the greater of two goods, students should support Alfredo Granados this week.



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Why the editorial board makes SA endorsements

STAFF EDITORIAL

A core part of the editorial board's role is to take positions that call on someone with power and authority – be it administrators, faculty, students or even the D.C. or federal government – to take a certain action that will benefit the GW community.

For Student Association elections, students have the power. And every year, the editorial board, which operates separately from the

news team, endorses the candidates for SA president and vice president. We sit down with each of the candidates and ask them questions about their platforms, experience and vision for how to advocate for students. We make an endorsement based on how strong the candidate's plans are, how clear their vision is and how feasible it would be to make their intended policies a reality.

Endorsing a candidate also serves as an effective point of reference for holding the president and vice president accountable down the line. When candidates the editorial board has endorsed get elected, we frequently praise or criticize them depending on how they are performing. For example, after Kate Carpenter, whom the previous editorial board endorsed, was elected SA

vice president, the current editorial board wrote a piece holding up her work on expanding SafeRide as a paragon of how people in the SA should listen to student advocacy and then work with administrators to make beneficial policy happen. On the other hand, we critiqued the SA as a whole for acting immaturity around the issue of first-year senate seats.

The SA does important

work. And despite its flaws, it is the official organ representing students' interests to administrators. Running for SA president or vice president is not easy, and actually serving as president or VP is an oftentimes thankless job, involving long hours and stiff criticism. That is why it is worth putting every candidate through their paces and hearing them out. And that is why students should, no

matter which candidate they support, no matter what they think about the SA, cast their ballots on Engage later this week.

We hope you take our endorsement into consideration when you decide how you'll vote and that something you read here challenges your beliefs – or if you disagree with us, that reading our differing take helps you confirm where you stand.

Students should vote no on this year's referendum

STAFF EDITORIAL

In addition to endorsing candidates for Student Association president and vice president, the editorial board also recommends how students should vote on referenda that are on the ballot in the SA elections. In past years, there have been hot-button referenda, from gauging student sentiment about fossil fuel divestment to approving a process to more expeditiously remove

SA presidents who engage in bad behavior.

But this year, there's only one on the ballot – a pair of minor SA procedural fixes that would simultaneously overcomplicate the student organization funding allocation process and allow incumbent senators to saddle their successors with a budget even after they have left office.

We urge students to vote

no on this referendum.

The referendum would confirm a piece of SA legislation called the Financial Practice Act. If passed, potential increases to the Student Association fee would be put up to a nonbinding referendum for students, even though the University would have final say on whether or not the fee was hiked. SA funding seems like a spurious item to sub-

mit to the student body for approval. The whole point of a Student Association fee is to create a steady means of funding that does not rely on students chipping in voluntarily. This is an unnecessary step that has the potential to do little more than confuse students and make people angry about having to pay an SA fee at all – not an ideal outcome.

Passing this referendum

would also enact a fix to the SA Senate budget process that would be, in the grand scheme of things, no big deal – it would eliminate the need for the budget to be voted on both by outgoing senators at the end of the academic year and new SA senators at the beginning of the year. Essentially, the budget that senators vote on when their terms are almost up would be the budget

that their successors would be governed by. While in practice the new senate usually quickly approves the budget by voice vote, it does not seem like a good idea to let people who are leaving office saddle their successors with a budget on their way out the door. Students should vote down this referendum – but the consequences either way are fairly minimal.

Culture

March 28, 2022 • Page 7

THE SCENE

THE LEGACY OF HILDRETH MEIÈRE
Saturday, April 2 | National Academy of Scientists | Free
Watch the world premiere of the first two installments of a documentary series on muralist Hildreth Meière.

SATURDAY COMEDY SHOW IN ADAMS MORGAN
Saturday, April 2 | Copacabana Catering & Cafe | \$7
Catch D.C. comics perform at a comedy show at a laid-back venue this weekend.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

NEW EP: "LESSHOME EP" BY PHOUELISI

Cherry blossom-inspired treats to try around D.C.

ANNA BOONE
CULTURE EDITOR

If there's one thing people living in D.C. obsess over, it's all things cherry blossom, and luckily, small businesses around the District are showcasing an abundance of blossom-inspired desserts for you to try this season.

The beautiful pinkish flowers adored by D.C. residents and tourists alike will be gone by late April, so take advantage of the various cherry blossom sweets and treats being served around the city. We've compiled a list of confections you should be sure to try before you have to wait another year to see the blooms again.

Olivia Macaron
Cherry blossom macaron

Located just off M Street, Olivia Macaron exclusively sells the classic French pastry, macarons. The store carries 16 flavors daily, some of which rotate seasonally, and this spring's specialty flavors include cookies & cream, mint chocolate, lemon meringue and cherry blossom.

The cookies of the cherry blossom macaron are tinted an eye-catching light pink color with a thick and tart jammy fruit filling. You can eat this treat in two bites, so consider grabbing more than one.

Bindaas
Cherry kulfi dessert

For a cherry-infused Indian meal, stop by Bindaas in Western Market. For your entree, try out the chicken berry paulo (\$16) an



Try Ted Bulletin's Ted Tart and Mini Pie to celebrate blossom season.

aromatic basmati rice pilaf with cashews, caramelized onion, saffron and dried cherries.

But save room for the cherry kulfi (\$9) dessert, which is a traditional frozen Indian dessert resembling a popsicle, with a spiced cream base.

Ice Cream Jubilee
Cherry blossom floral flavors

This local D.C. ice cream shop-turned national chain was founded by a former presidential appointee

at the Department of Homeland Security who quit her job to pursue her passion for ice cream.

This spring, you can try four floral-inspired flavors: blackberry chamomile, orange blossom tea cake, raspberry rose and smoked vanilla cherry sakura. The smoked vanilla cherry sakura is inspired by the blossoms of the season and infused with lapsang souchong tea from Teatism and swirled with cherry preserves from Whisked! bakery.

District Doughnut
Cherry blossom donut

One of D.C.'s most popular donut chains, District Doughnut, will sell its spring menu through May 22. This gives you plenty of time to try an assortment of the 14 flavors on this season's menu.

Donuts like the lemon poppy seed, strawberry coconut and blueberry glazed scream spring with their bright and fruity fla-

vors. But you can't leave without the cherry blossom donut (\$4) with a vanilla bean dough, cherry pie filling, cream cheese glaze and a pie crust crumble.

Ted's Bulletin

Cherry blossom dessert line

For a variety of cherry blossom dessert options, head to Ted's Bulletin on 14th Street, its closest location to campus. This American fare restaurant is well-known for its gourmet "pop-tarts," which the restaurant had dubbed Ted's Tarts.

You can try out the cherry blossom Ted Tart (\$4) or sample a few of its other cherry blossom options like the cherry blossom cheesecake (\$8), sour cherry reduction, cherry compote and dried rose flowers. Or try the cherry blossom churros (\$8) with chocolate sour cherry dipping sauce, cinnamon sugar and dried flowers.

Georgetown Cupcake

Cherry blossom and cherry cheesecake cupcakes

This once TV-famous bakery may not be as trendy among locals, but you shouldn't overlook its extensive spring cupcake collection featuring two cherry-centric cupcakes.

In addition to Georgetown Cupcake's everyday classic cupcakes, the bakery sells a seasonal menu that changes monthly. April's menu features a cherry blossom cupcake (\$3.75), a madagascar vanilla cake baked with cherries with a cherry-infused cream cheese frosting and a fondant cherry blossom decoration.

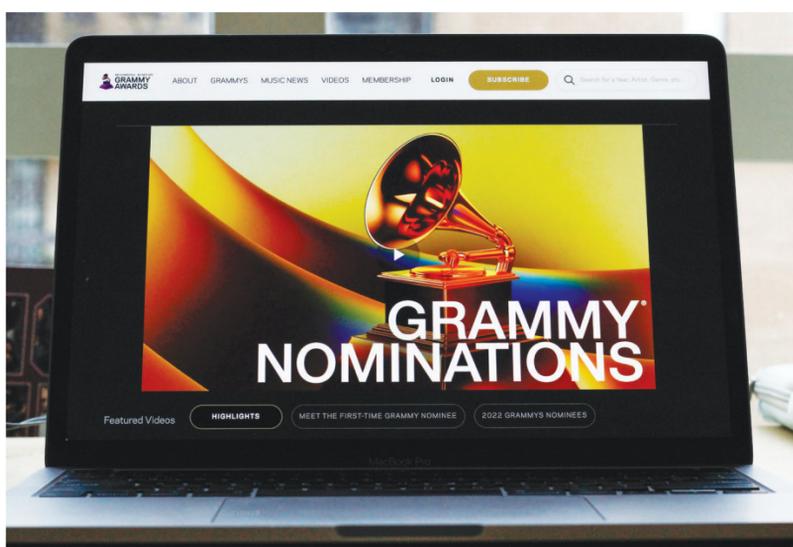


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AUDEN YURMAN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
The Grammy's air on Sunday, April 3 at 8 p.m. on CBS.

Grammy nominations Hatchet staff have on repeat

GW HATCHET STAFF

Clear your schedule Sunday night to see some of your favorite artists recognized at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards, airing at 8 p.m. on CBS.

We asked our staff which Grammy-nominated songs, albums and artists they are rooting for this upcoming awards show.

"Family Ties" by Baby Keem

Best Rap Song
Tiffany Garcia | Managing Director

This year marks Baby Keem's first Grammy nomination, and it is well deserved. The 21-year-old's entire discography, including 2021's fan favorite album "The Melodic Blue," has been defined as pushing the boundaries in rap.

"Family Ties" elevated the rapper's status as an instant banger. Keem's skill in lyricism and experimenting with different instruments in his beats is evident in every song, even as a fairly new artist on the scene. I'll be crossing my fingers for him on Sunday.

"SOUR" by Olivia Rodrigo

Album of the Year
Zach Blackburn | Metro Editor

Olivia Rodrigo's debut album SOUR dominated pop culture and smashed streaming records last May,

and rightfully so. With standout lyrics like "God it's brutal out here," the breakout album is an angsty and authentic collection of teen pop anthems.

Many of the album's songs offer different perspectives of a breakup, from vengeful bops like "good 4 u" to the sad ballad "drivers license." If SOUR is any indicator, Olivia Rodrigo will be a star for years to come.

"El Ultimo Tour del Mundo" by Bad Bunny

Best Música Urbana Album
Nuria Diaz | Contributing Sports Editor

In the Musica Urbana genre, Bad Bunny's album "El Ultimo Tour del Mundo" is his sixth grammy nomination and could help him claim his second Grammy for reggaetón artist. The album combines classic Spanish rock with the new Urbano movement of the island while also paying tribute to the traditional music he grew up with, as in "Cantares de Navidad."

"El Ultimo Tour del Mundo" not only represents the influence Bad Bunny has gained over the genre, but a new experimental phase for the reggaetón genre.

"Planet Her" by Doja Cat

Album of the Year/Best Pop Vocal Album
Molly Kaiser | Contributing Social Media Director

In polarizing times, I think there's one thing we can all agree on: Doja Cat's third studio album, "Planet Her," makes everyone want to shake their ass. Her lyrics and artistic style may be raunchy to some, but hits like "Woman," "Need to Know" and "Kiss Me More (feat. SZA)" are undeniably bangers.

"Planet Her" is also filled with unexpected soulful R&B beats like "Alone" and the melodic and other-worldly track "Love To Dream." The album oozes girl power and differentiates itself by centering ethereal femininity, making it more than worthy of a Grammy win for Best Album.

"Inside" by Bo Burnham

Best Music Film
Anna Boone | Culture Editor

Last summer, during the deceptive pandemic lull before the Delta variant surge, Bo Burnham's self-produced feature "Inside" reminded us of the unhinged and unbearable year we had just experienced.

The feature includes 21 of Burnham's original songs, which range from the lighthearted and witty "White Woman's Instagram" to "That Funny Feeling" and "Goodbye," which explore darker themes and strike more poignantly. Winning a Grammy seems like something Bo Burnham would satirize, but I think he deserves it.

National Cherry Blossom Festival returns after two years online

CLARA DUHON
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is back in person and prioritizing accessible events following pandemic delays that pushed the quintessential festival to an online format the past two years.

Meg Cohen, the festival's director of marketing and communications, said festival organizers drew on remote and hybrid events from the past two years to make this year's celebration increasingly accessible and immersive. We spoke to a collaborating musician and visual artist who said they are eager and "honored" to participate in the festival through hybrid events and experiential artwork.

"People feel really hopeful, and I think right now, everybody wants that," Cohen said. "It's something fun and light and something that brings us together. Now more than ever, we really want that sense of unity."

The four-week-long festival kicked off earlier this month, with events ranging from kite-making workshops to art exhibitions. Now that the cherry blossoms are in bloom, you can still look forward to the dozens of events to come, like the Japanese Street Festival and the classic National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade.

Cohen said one of the events to stick around from

last year's hybrid format, which accommodate COVID-19 guidelines, is Art In Bloom, a giant cherry blossom-themed scavenger hunt with statues placed all around the District.

She said in addition to continuing the outdoor scavenger hunt, the festival will put on a two-week-long Petalpalooza Art Walk of 10 "immersive" installations. The walk will display new interpretations of the blossoms across the Capitol Riverfront neighborhood, like Blossom Gazebo, a large, immersive sculpture that visitors will be able to step inside.

"We know that especially with COVID, everybody's at a different place," Cohen said. "Everybody has varying levels of comfort, but what we hope is unanimous is that everybody wants to celebrate spring and these beautiful blossoms."

Cohen said one of the festival events, The Japanese Street Festival, is the largest celebration of Japanese culture in the country and will return for two days this year for its 60th anniversary. This street festival will offer activities like a culinary arts stage and sake tasting for visitors to experience Japanese culture.

Yumi Kurosawa, a Japanese koto composer who is performing at the festival, said she was originally slated to perform in a concert celebrating Japanese painter Tomioka Tessai before the onset of the pandemic.

She said she created a special ensemble blending Japanese and Chinese instruments to honor Tessai, whose work was influenced by Chinese art, and perform at a festival event in collaboration with the Freer Gallery of Art next week.

"I decided to do Japanese songs including Chinese instrument ensemble and Chinese songs including Japanese and Western ensemble," she said. "So that's already blending different cultures and elements, which I love, like a cosmopolitan type of ensemble."

Lea Craigie-Marshall, the official artist of this year's festival, designed the festival's official artwork, including the kites at last weekend's Blossom Kite Festival and the cherry blossom-themed Metro card available for purchase at the L'Enfant Plaza and Navy Yard Metro stops.

Craigie-Marshall said her gazebo at the Petalpalooza Art Walk will allow visitors to step inside the work and supply a bench for meditation. She said the Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant sculpture offers sensory stimulation like wind chimes, lights and the scent of cherry blossoms to be physically accessible to every participant.

"The whole festival is so accessible," Craigie-Marshall said. "There's so many different options that I feel like everyone is welcome and everyone's able to enjoy it."



The four-week-long festival kicked off earlier this month.

KRISHNA RAJPARA | PHOTOGRAPHER

GAMES OF THE WEEK



BASEBALL
vs. Georgetown
Tuesday | 3 p.m.
The Colonials take on the Hoyas in a crosstown matchup.



WOMEN'S TENNIS
vs. Davidson
Saturday | 1 p.m.
GW looks to serve up a win against the Wildcats after a loss against Georgetown.

NUMBER CRUNCH **.317**

Lacrosse's shooting percentage, down from its five-year average of .401.

Men's basketball knocked out of A-10 Championship

LIAM O'MURCHU
STAFF WRITER

Following an improved season, men's basketball fell flat in their conference tournament opener against Massachusetts March 10 at Capital One Arena.

The Colonials (12-18, 8-9 A-10) fell 99-88 to the Minutemen (15-16, 7-11 A-10), who rode hot shooting to a resounding victory in a game they never trailed. The Colonials gave up the most points it had given up in regulation of a game – 99 – since a 103-77 loss to Richmond on Feb. 21, 2018 and the fourth most points ever scored in an Atlantic 10 tournament game.

Redshirt sophomore TJ Weeks Jr. paced the Minutemen early, scoring all 15 of his points in the first half.

GW had no answers for Massachusetts from 3-point range early, as the Minutemen started out 3-of-3 from beyond the arc. In the last matchup between the teams, Massachusetts made four of their first five shots from 3-point range but went 4-of-22 for the rest of the game.

But that didn't prove to be the case this time around, as the Minutemen continued their bombardment from deep throughout the game, finishing 12-of-29.

The slow start proved too much for the Colonials to overcome, and they looked sloppy on both ends of the floor throughout the first half. At halftime, GW had 12 turnovers and Massachusetts parlayed those takeaways into 21

points off turnovers at the half.

"I think we played faster than we had to," sophomore guard Joe Bamisile said. "I think that has a lot to do with our season. It was more on our end than theirs. And I think turning the ball over is just something we have to work on."

The biggest issue for the Colonials was defense. GW let up a staggering 56 points in the first half, the most they've conceded and the most the Minutemen have scored in a half this season.

By halftime, the Minutemen led 56-36.

Freshman guard Brayon Freeman, who was named to the Atlantic 10 All-Rookie Team on Tuesday, led the team at halftime with 12 points, five assists, a steal and a rebound.

Weeks spearheaded the Minutemen attack, but the team had two other players with double-digit scoring in the opening 20 minutes. Junior guard Noah Fernandes had 12 points while graduate student forward Trent Buttrick had 11 points at the break.

Fernandes finished the game with a career high 29 points along with seven assists, seven steals and a rebound.

Coming out of halftime the Colonials stepped up offensively behind improved contributions from their leading scorers during the regular season, both of whom were named to the All-Atlantic 10 Third Team earlier this week.

Bishop started the half off with five straight points before finishing the game with 15 points,



FILE PHOTO BY ELISSA DETELLIS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Days after the men's basketball season concluded, officials fired Head Coach Jamion Christian.

10 of which came in the second half.

Bamisile exploded in the second period for 17 points. The Virginia Tech transfer also had five rebounds, two blocks, a steal and an assist, ending with 25 points in his twelfth 20-plus point game of the season.

In his final game in Buff and

Blue, senior forward Ricky Lindo fouled out with 4:52 remaining but not before recording one final double double. The Maryland transfer finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds for his sixth double double of the season and 10th of his GW career.

Although the Colonials' season came to an unceremonious and

disappointing end, the team took clear steps forward in Christian's third and final season at the helm. The team earned the most league victories since the 2016-17 season and placed multiple players on the All-Conference teams for the first time since the same year despite being picked to finish 13th in the A-10 preseason poll.

Club sailing cruises in first year without varsity status

NURIA DIAZ
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

As the anniversary for their last competition as a varsity team draws closer, club sailing finished as the MAISA Fall Coed champions and was the highest ranked student-run team in the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association.

GW sailing is currently one of the highest ranked teams in the ICSA, placing 12th in the coed rankings and 16th place in the women's rankings even among teams with varsity funding. Currently, the team has almost 30 members who practice two times a week and race on most weekends.

As a varsity sport, the team earned a fourth place finish at the ICSA Sperry Women's National Championship in 2019, the highest in program history. In their final year with varsity status, GW qualified for both the 2021 College Sailing Women's Nationals and the 2021 College Sailing Coed Nationals.

Senior and President Mikaela Smith said after the varsity sailing program was cut, the team began a transition period where they attended meetings with the athletic department to discuss fundraising, the new constitution the club would need to develop and what they would need to continue competing at the same level.

"Our movement was to then, instead of spending a lot of time being angry, and spending a lot of time being frustrated, which I know like a lot of people still are, and there's still issues there, but we could move on, and we could really take this in stride

and try to deal with it," Smith said.

Smith said the team does not currently have a coaching staff due to concerns over finances but have been delegating positions of leadership to experienced members. She said alumni sometimes come help the team during their races on the weekend, but not everyone always has the spare time.

Smith said the biggest challenge during the first weeks of the fall semester was maintaining the team's competitiveness as they no longer had the strict structure brought by their coaching staff and the athletic department. She said a significant moment for the team was when the team won the War Memorial Trophy at Old Dominion Oct. 30-31 because it demonstrated just how hard the team had been working.

She said the team is open to eventually looking for reinstatement as a new president could bring a lot of opportunities for the team to prove they can gain their varsity rank again. Smith said the team's potential to become the highest-ranked team in the varsity slate and ICSA could theoretically improve their chances to be reinstated.

"We really worked on that aspect of our race – we break it down into segments," Smith said. "And I think that's helped us, we also, just as a program, are pretty cohesive. We have some breakout talent, but we have a lot of very talented sailors. And we really focused on making sure that everybody gets experience and gets learning opportunities."

Senior and Captain Sarah Hardee said new team members like freshmen and walk-ons have been integrated quickly and have been very committed to the program since, showing up to all events and training.

Senior and Captain Matt Logue said this season has been similar to previous years when the team still held its varsity status, but there is a larger emphasis on seniors and juniors taking leadership positions. He said this has forced team captains to make difficult decisions on occasion, like determining who will be competing during the weekend while also trying to maintain healthy relationships with their team members.

Logue said his two goals for the remainder of the season is for the team to qualify for nationals and helping juniors rise to leadership positions before the season is over. He said it's important for the team to keep a "good platform" to allow freshmen to have a better understanding of the sustainability the team needs.

He said the team has been working on building communication and connections with team members as boat drivers aren't allowed to communicate with the crews during racing. He said the team has been working on more drills to continue improving this as they prepare for nationals.

Though sailing became a varsity sport in 2012 after decades of being a club sport just to be relegated to club status yet again, Smith said she is hopeful sailing can become a staple of GW sports once more.



FILE PHOTO BY SABRINA GODIN | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Only two divers competed at the meet, but they said they received an outpouring of support from their teammates via texts.

Diving closes out season at NCAA Zone A Championships

GABE LOPEZ
REPORTER

Diving competed at the NCAA Zone A Championship for the fifth time in six years to close out an impressive season.

Juniors Spencer Bystrom and Jamie Doak both represented the Colonials for their first time at the Zone A Championships while competing in the one- and three-meter dives. Diving Head Coach Christopher Lane said the pair competed well for their first time at the meet.

"I wanted them to really feel like they belonged there, and they definitely showed that they did," Lane said.

Lane said practicing for the meet consisted primarily of mental preparation rather than physical.

"We talked about what the process of how their competition is going to go and what they need to do to keep themselves in a space," he said. "And I really wanted them to think about it before we even showed up."

Bystrom qualified for the meet with career-high scores of 282.35 and 325.85 in both the 1-meter and 3-meter, respectively. He also medaled in both events at the A-10 Championships in February as part of the men's swimming and diving victory.

At the Zone A Championship,

Bystrom placed 29th in the one-meter with a score of 253.85 and 32nd in the 3-meter with a score of 264.05. He said he was happy with his performance overall despite making some mistakes in the reverses category.

"Going into zones I didn't really have a whole lot of pressure on me because I knew that I, most likely, wasn't going to make NCAAAs unless I had like the best performance of my life by like 100 points," Bystrom said. "So the pressure wasn't that bad."

Bystrom said consistency was an important point for him this year to give himself a good feeling ahead of each meet, especially since he wasn't so consistent in his youth.

Lane said he was proud of the way Bystrom handled himself and that getting "a couple of eights" on his dives was "pretty incredible."

Doak also qualified for the meet after setting a program record in the 1-meter with a score of 279.23 and recording a season-high score of 282.98 in the 3-meter. She also recorded two fourth-place finishes at the A-10 Championships to help the women's team earn their victory.

At the Zone A Championship, she placed 36th in the 1-meter with a score of 240.60 and 51st in the three-meter with a score of 221.50. But Doak said

her performance was not what she hoped for.

"I mean, I was pretty content with my one-meter," Doak said. "I was a little disappointed in my three-meter, but I was injured the whole time. I have a stress fracture in my foot, so I'm currently on crutches and was just kind of dealing with that during it."

Despite the challenges she faced, Lane said he was proud of Doak's consistency given the difficulty of the meet.

Doak and Bystrom both said while they were the only two divers at the meet, they received support from their teammates in the form of texts while others watched the livestream on a website called DiveMeets. Bystrom said he still felt like everyone was there.

Lane said the support from the swimming team is indicative of the attitude the team has toward each other all year. He said he's proud to be a part of a program that values diving just as much as swimming.

Despite the season recently coming to a close, Bystrom, Doak and Lane are already looking forward to the next season.

Lane said the bigger team next year will allow for more competition among the divers and prepare the team for better finishes at meets.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Team members said club sailing was still able to make an impressive showing in its first year not being at varsity level.