

The GW Hatchet

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Get to know Chris Caputo, men's basketball's new head coach. **Page 8**

Tracking COVID-19

April 7 - April 13

Weekly COVID-19 cases: 179

Weekly positivity rate: 1.94%

Change in cases since previous week: +21

Officials quiet on presidential search launch as spring semester nears end

DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Officials have remained silent on the search for GW's next permanent president despite previous expectations that the search would commence in "early spring."

Board of Trustees Chair Grace Speights said in September that the University would begin its search for a permanent president in "early spring," but officials have declined to provide any updates about the process as the semester nears its close. The Board hired Mark Wrighton as interim University president for up to 18 months beginning this past January, a term that will end no later than next summer.

"At this time, there is no update to share about the presidential search process," University spokesperson Tim Pierce said in an email. "The University will share information with the GW community about the presidential search in detail when that changes."

Pierce declined to say how long officials intend to continue Wrighton's contract with the University.

GW's most recent search for a permanent president started after former University President Steven Knapp announced his departure in June 2016. Officials formed a 19-member committee made up of faculty, trustees, alumni, staff and a student representative nearly three weeks after announcing the start of the search.

Pierce also declined to



FILE PHOTO BY DONNA ARMSTRONG
A University spokesperson declined to say how long officials intend to continue Wrighton's interim contract with the University.

say when the Board will create a formal search committee or when they will start accepting nominations for the position.

Months after Thomas LeBlanc announced his retirement as University president in May 2021, officials similarly remained quiet. Officials said days after they announced LeBlanc would be stepping down that trustees were discussing the search but declined to provide further details about the process in the weeks leading up to Wrighton's sudden hiring announcement.

Speights announced last September that trustees would hire Wrighton and

postpone the presidential search, citing a need to first strengthen shared governance to place GW in the best position possible to attract presidential talent amid the large number of ongoing searches nationwide.

"My principal responsibility will be to prepare for my successor," Wrighton said at a Faculty Senate meeting in January. "As you know, I'm appointed for a relatively short term as president, and I'm looking forward to preparing the University for recruitment of a truly outstanding academic leader."

The Board is expected to vote on a shared governance framework next

month after it received endorsements from the faculty senators and senior administrators, the product of the monthslong, consensus-building initiative.

Even with the framework now poised for final approval, the group spearheading its development has found remaining divisions over who should lead the presidential search.

Almost 90 percent of trustees said the Board should have control over the selection process.

The shared governance framework does not directly mention the presidential search but instead establishes a set of principles to be used for major decisions.

GW's reinstated mask mandate follows other D.C. universities

ISHANI CHETTRI
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

SOPHIA GOEDERT
STAFF WRITER

GW's reinstatement of its indoor mask mandate has fallen in line with other local universities' heightened restrictions as the spread of the coronavirus accelerates in the District.

Public health advisers at higher education institutions said recently low transmission levels of COVID-19 allowed for universities to drop more restrictions, and a small number of colleges like GW have reinstated mask mandates as experts warn of a potential case spike from the BA.2 Omicron subvariant. GW officials reinstated the mask mandate eight days after lifting the requirement, a decision made after GW's positivity rate slid up to 1.87 percent and the District reported a 54 percent increase in its weekly case rate.

Ray Lucas, GW's COVID-19 coordinator, said the campus positivity rate increased from 0.62 percent the week before spring break to 1.50 percent two weeks later, but the District's transmission rate remained low.

Lucas said the uptick in cases with the new variant wasn't enough "strong" evidence to determine if the rise in cases recorded in the weeks after spring break led to significant transmission

in indoor academic spaces or increased rates of severe illness among campus members who tested positive.

"Our strategy was to relax the mask mandate from 'required' to 'strongly recommended,' while at the same time to continue our surveillance testing program for at least several more weeks to observe if a mask policy change impacted cases on campus," he said in an email.

Lucas said the mask and testing policies are unlikely to change before the end of the spring semester, but officials will reassess their public health measures when they think cases are low enough for an overall safe campus.

Georgetown and American universities lifted their indoor mask mandates in late March but have since reinstated them. Johns Hopkins University officials also reinstated their university's mask mandate last week after lifting it in early March.

Lucas said the uptick in cases on campus was likely not the result of the temporary lifting of the mask mandate because the entire District experienced a concurrent surge in cases. The District first reported a case of the BA.2 Omicron subvariant in late March, but DC Health officials said it was unclear if the new strain was responsible for the slight increase in case rates.

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Adjunct faculty seek pay increases as they negotiate new union contract

NICK PASION
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Salary increases for full-time faculty have outpaced pay raises for part-time faculty during the past decade – a trend adjunct faculty union members said they are trying to address in part-time contract renewal negotiations.

The University pays adjunct faculty with top degrees at least \$4,467 for a three- to four-credit class – about 10 percent more than the \$3,915 course minimum they were paid in 2011 – but the increase lags behind about the roughly 19 percent jump for full professors and 17 percent jump for assistant professors in the same period. Part-time professors said the University's adjunct faculty union is wrapping up yearlong negotiations with GW in an effort to come to an agreement to increase their pay and benefits and improve academic recognition among adjunct faculty.

Associate professors have seen their average salaries grow by about 11 percent during the same period as full and assistant professors, according to

GW data.

Kip Lornell – the head of the adjunct faculty union and an adjunct professor of music, history and culture – said the contract the union is negotiating to establish "equity" for part-time faculty compensation through increased pay, professional experience recognition and added benefits for part-time faculty.

On average at GW, full-time professors earn \$186,000, associate professors earn about \$118,000 and assistant professors earn about \$101,000, according to GW's Core Indicators Report on students and faculty academic affairs. The University's regular part-time faculty – returning adjunct professors who hold the highest degree possible in their field and have additional responsibilities like advising or assisting with their department – receive a \$24,683 salary, according to the CBA between 2019-21.

Lornell said GW's individual adjunct faculty requests for pay raises are oftentimes denied, so most adjunct faculty – even those with years of experi-

ence at GW – are only paid the CBA's minimum salary or slightly above.

University spokesperson Tim Pierce declined to say how officials determine pay raises for adjunct faculty, what salary adjunct faculty members have been paid during the past five years and what non-pay benefits adjunct faculty receive.

"The University continues to appreciate all the hard work its dedicated part-time faculty provide to GW, especially during a challenging pandemic and is hopeful that resolution on a new agreement will be reached soon," Pierce said in an email.

Jill Brantley, an adjunct professor of sociology and a member of the adjunct union, said officials can more easily adjust the number of adjuncts when planning courses than full-time faculty because most adjuncts are on short contracts.

"The work is exploitative, if you measure what an adjunct faculty member gets paid for a course, and we are expected to deliver at the same quality as the full-time faculty member," she said.

Caputo arrives on campus with sights on NCAA tournament run

NICK PERKINS
REPORTER

Former Miami associate coach Chris Caputo is set to take the reins of GW men's basketball after helping lead the Hurricanes to their first-ever Elite Eight appearance in the 2022 NCAA tournament.

About two weeks after he led Miami through its unprecedented postseason run, Caputo arrived at the Smith Center for a press conference to be introduced as the 28th head coach in men's basketball history last Monday. He was named the team's head coach at the start of April – about three weeks after GW fired Jamion Christian following a lackluster showing at the Atlantic 10 tournament.

Caputo said he plans to take the team to annual NCAA tournament appearances in the years ahead with a squad of players fully committed to the program, no matter their role or performance. He said that he wants his team to represent the University in a "first-class manner" on and off the court.

"We don't talk too much about winning at all, really, some people do," Caputo said at the press conference. "I know where we all want to go. I'm going to talk a lot more about how we're getting there. This is a place that's done it that has every natural resource in terms of location and institution. I think the potential is there to be a perennial NCAA tournament team."

Caputo started his career as an associate coach under Jim Larranaga at George Mason in 2005 before following Larranaga to Miami in 2011. Caputo focused on recruiting and scouting opposing teams and served as the Hurricanes' defensive coordinator.

Caputo said his coaching philosophy comes down to three points – attitude, commitment and class. He said he would



SYDNEY WALSH | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Caputo said he built relationships with travel and high school coaches in the region.

"extract" his coaching and recruiting style while working under Larranaga, emphasizing consistency in team play with ball-handling and disciplined player behavior, which he will implement at GW.

"I've got to be myself – I can't try to be him, I would fail miserably at that," Caputo said of Larranaga in an interview with The Hatchet. "So much of what I learned every day for 19 years, I'll take with me, but I also have to put my own stamp on it a little bit and be myself."

Caputo said GW's location and the athletics department's vision for the program's student-athlete experience were primary factors in his decision to come to GW. He said he plans to emphasize recruiting locally within the DMV and capitalizing on the region's homegrown talent.

"Make no mistake, we can attract the best and brightest to GW," Caputo said. "And we will. Especially from this region, which obviously has the best basketball in the country, it's been well documented."

Caputo has successfully recruited players in the past, helping Miami bring in top-15 Atlantic Coast Conference recruit classes in both 2016 and 2017.

Three GW players announced their transfer from the program after the end

of the A-10 tournament, with sophomore guard Joe Bamisile and freshman forward Brayon Freeman committing to Oklahoma and Rhode Island, respectively.

Caputo said he wants to focus on defense, similar to the strategy of women's basketball Head Coach Caroline McCombs through her tenure at GW.

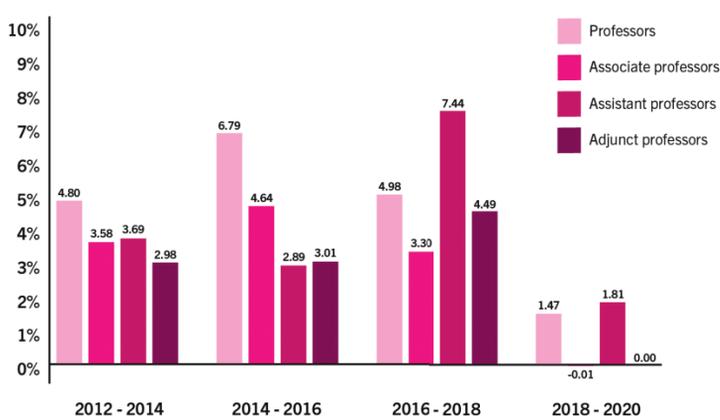
"I don't know an offense that's better when you have to take it out of the net and step out of bounds and inbound it," Caputo said. "Your offense will get better if your defense is good."

Caputo has coached future NBA players like Shane Larkin and Davon Reed at the University of Miami, who entered his program as poorly ranked prospects before getting drafted in the first and second rounds in 2013 and 2017, respectively.

Caputo said he's started organizing one-on-one meetings with the players, and his top priority is to dive into practices with the team to start building a rapport with the squad.

"We're going to build an environment with our shared behaviors that is going to allow us to compete not only with the best teams in the A-10 but in the country," Caputo said. "And I know what that looks like because I experienced it, and we did it at two other places, and I think it can happen here at GW."

Percent change of faculty salaries, 2012 - 2020



Source: Office of the Provost

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

News

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THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

WAR AND PEACE: UNDERSTANDING RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE
 Tuesday, April 19 • Noon EDT • Free
 Join Ukrainian foreign policy experts in a discussion about the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine.

2022 BROMLEY MEMORIAL EVENT
 Wednesday, April 20 • 4:30 p.m. EDT • Free
 Tune in to a keynote speech from Canada's chief science adviser for a speech about integrating science and policy.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

April 24, 1914

The Board of Trustees is set to vote on whether or not to abolish all intercollegiate athletics, The Hatchet reported.

Inside GW returns in person after pandemic pause to showcase campus to accepted students

ALEXANDRA SINGEREANU
 REPORTER

FAITH WARDWELL
 STAFF WRITER

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions resumed in-person programming for admitted students and their families this month following a two-year hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the reintroduction of in-person Inside GW programming – eight days of tours and information sessions for admitted students scattered throughout April – prospective freshmen have the opportunity to walk through campus spaces, learn about GW's academic programs and meet one-on-one with current students. More than 10 admitted students said Inside GW better connected them to the University and provided personal programming they said was absent from the college search process in previous pandemic years when they only had online options throughout their college search.

Officials shifted admissions programming – including tours and information sessions – online to accommodate COVID-19 guidelines in 2020. COVID-19 restrictions forced GW to continue the virtual programming for 2021 applicants, but student leaders said it added masked, outdoor tours for individual families in the spring as incoming freshmen struggled to commit to universities with few in-person events to guide their choice.

Ben Toll, the dean of undergraduate admissions, said Inside GW is designed to be a customizable experience for admitted students that offers access to specific schools,



LILY SPEREDELOZZI | PHOTOGRAPHER

Officials said more than 2,100 students registered for Inside GW programming this year, compared to the 2,000 students who attended virtual admitted students programming in 2021.

colleges and other areas of interest across the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses. He said while virtual programming is still available to accepted students, Inside GW enhances their experience and helps to “build energy and community” among admitted freshmen.

“Many of our admitted students have been connecting with each other virtually since their offer of admission, but Inside GW is their first time to connect in person,” Toll said in an email. “We hope students leave Inside GW with not only a better sense of the opportunities provided by GW but with true connections to the GW community.”

Toll said more than 2,100 admitted students have registered for in-person Inside GW programming this year. More than 2,000 admitted students attended virtual programs in 2021, and nearly

2,000 students attended Inside GW before the pandemic in 2019.

“Our campus and location is a unique difference that many students need to experience for themselves before making a final decision,” Toll said.

Student Association Vice President Kate Carpenter, who has worked as a tour guide since 2019, said she was able to resume bringing at least 30 students and parents into University buildings and residence halls this year after leading individual families strictly around outdoor campus spaces earlier during the pandemic last spring. She said in-person tours offer a firsthand glimpse into life at GW that's impossible to embody through online programs, like strolls around Kogan Plaza or peeks into academic buildings.

“While we're having In-

side GW events within Kogan, we have student organizations that just happened to be also having events there at the same exact time, and that's just the GW way,” Carpenter said.

Admitted students said Inside GW programming helped them decide where they would spend their next four years more effectively than past virtual college search options that were introduced at the height of the pandemic.

Shira Gilad, a recently committed freshman with plans to study political science and economics, said it was hard to understand the environment of an urban campus through virtual tours from her home in suburban Florida.

“You're in your home, probably in your pajamas,” Gilad said. “It's not much of the experience you would want in person.”

CRIME LOG

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

621 22nd St. NW
 4/9/2022 – 6:45 p.m.
 Closed Case
 GW Police Department officers responded to an intoxicated female student near the Tau Kappa Epsilon townhouse. EMeRG arrived on scene, conducted a medical evaluation and took the subject to the GW Hospital emergency room for further treatment. Referred to Division for Student Affairs.

UNLAWFUL ENTRY

1959 E St.
 4/12/2022 – 11:42 a.m.
 Closed Case
 GWPD officers responded to a report of a woman wandering around the 1959 E St. residence hall. Officers made contact with the subject, who was barred and sent on her way. Subject barred.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/VANDALISM, THEFT II/OTHER

Academic Center Garage
 4/12/2022 – Unknown
 Closed Case
 GWPD officers responded to reports from various staff who work at the Academic Center Garage, who reported damage to the garage's front gate. Officers ultimately found the woman who was the subject of the incident, who claimed she had driven through the access gate by accident. Case closed.

LEWD, INDECENT OR OBSCENE ACTS

Ross Hall
 4/14/2022 – 2:56 a.m.
 Open Case
 GWPD officers responded to a report from a female security guard at Ross Hall who said that a man had indecently exposed himself to her through the building window. Officers canvassed the area but could not find any subject who matched the complainant's description. Case open.

–Compiled by Acacia Niyogi

Study abroad enrollment starts to resurge after pandemic suspension

CAITLIN KITSON
 STAFF WRITER

Study abroad program enrollment resurged this spring but failed to bounce back to pre-pandemic levels after GW suspended programming for more than a year during the pandemic.

The number of students studying abroad this year jumped from 91 students in the fall to 297 in the spring – a roughly 220 percent increase, according to data from the Office for Study Abroad. GW-administered study abroad programs resumed in the fall while all exchange program offerings returned in the spring after officials canceled in-person study abroad during the previous academic year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The data show that total student enrollment in study abroad programs this academic year fell from 995 students during the 2019-20 academic year to 402 this academic year – a nearly 60 percent drop. But during the three academic years prior to the pandemic, study abroad enrollment increased on average by about 27 percent each year, according to the data.

Kimberly Rush, the assistant director of the study abroad office, and Jennifer Donaghue, the executive director of international education of the study abroad office, said study abroad program officials implemented strict health and safety measures like travel restrictions outside of host countries, testing requirements and mask mandates as pandemic-related precautions in the fall before relaxing their COVID-19 restrictions in the spring.

“As the conditions continue to improve around the world, we

have begun to see many programs and countries relax their pandemic-related measures and have a return to something similar to normalcy,” they said in an email.

Rush and Donaghue said the study of abroad office worked to resume programs that were not available in the fall “slowly and safely” in the spring. They said expanded programming, vaccine availability and countries' improved handling of the pandemic during the past two years made students and families comfortable with study abroad opportunities this semester.

Rush and Donaghue said more students studied abroad this semester than in the fall because events during the fall semester, like Greek life recruitment and sports games, drew students to stay on campus in the first half of the academic year.

“Historically, we have always seen greater interest in studying abroad in the spring as compared to the fall semester,” they said.

Students currently studying abroad said the pandemic did not raise concerns about enrolling in their respective programs but narrowed down the programs available for them to enroll because of COVID-19 restrictions at GW's partner universities abroad.

Phoebe Szosz, a sophomore majoring in history, said she is currently studying at the University of Chile in Santiago, Chile as part of the Global Bachelor's Program, a GW program in which students study abroad twice and choose between studying abroad a third time or completing an international internship. She said she chose to study abroad during the spring semester because she wanted to spend her fall semester in person after learn-

ing virtually her freshman year. Szosz said she was required to show proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 test to Chilean officials before traveling to Santiago at the start of the semester. She said Chile's mask mandate is still in effect and her university requires students to wear masks while attending classes but does not require them to get regularly tested.

Chile has reported more than 3,500,000 COVID-19 infections since the start of the pandemic. The average number of positive COVID-19 cases reported daily in Chile de-

creased by more than 5,800 during the past three weeks.

Szosz said Chileans have a different mindset on the pandemic than Americans because most follow their country's mask mandate without questioning it.

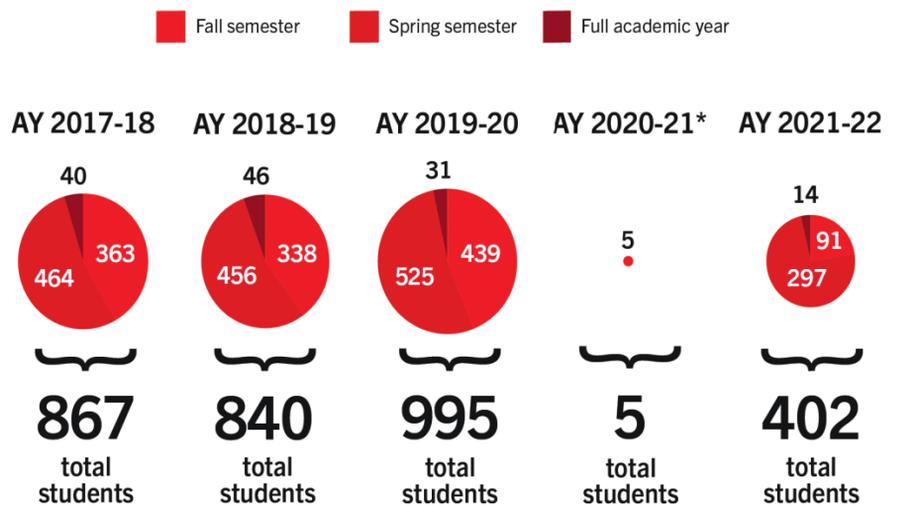
“It's also really incredible to see that there can be strict rules and people here, the mindset is so different than the U.S., they just follow them,” she said. “It's mind boggling that things can run smoothly.”

Isabelle Frasca, a junior majoring in international affairs, said she wanted to study abroad in the

fall but chose to enroll in the International Education of Students Abroad program in Rome, Italy in the spring. Frasca said she was not concerned about studying abroad during the pandemic but was worried that the program would be canceled because of the surge in COVID-19 cases caused by the Omicron variant.

“I was really worried that it was just going to get called off, and I wouldn't have housing or classes and all this stuff, but that was kind of the extent of my pandemic concerns,” she said.

Study abroad enrollment over five academic years



Source: Office of Study Abroad
 *Study abroad was cancelled for AY 2020-21

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Evans will not face federal charges for ethics violations during Council tenure

HENRY HUVOS
 STAFF WRITER

Former Ward 2 Council member Jack Evans will not face prosecution after a federal investigation into ethics violations he committed during his time on the D.C. Council ended,

his attorney announced Wednesday.

Evans – who represented Ward 2, which encompasses Foggy Bottom, beginning in 1992 – resigned in 2020 after repeated calls from Council members amid ethics investigations into his private business

dealings while in office. The District's Board of Ethics and Government Accountability fined Evans \$55,000 last July, requiring him to pay the fine in monthly \$2,000 increments over the next two years.

“The U.S. Attorney's Office confirmed yesterday

that its investigation of former Councilperson Jack Evans has been concluded and no action will be taken against him,” Evans' attorney Abbe Lowell said in a statement.

Evans faced calls for expulsion from other Council members in 2019 after it

was revealed he touted his influence as a government official to gain customers for his consulting firm, which resulted in a \$20,000 fine. Evans also crafted legislation to benefit sign company Digi Media just a month after his consulting business was given shares

of that company, which led to a \$35,000 fine.

Evans resigned just days before a vote to expel him from the Council was scheduled, and Brooke Pinto won the special election last June to replace Evans as Ward 2's Council member.

Fraternities attend Title IX trainings as part of new IFC requirement

NIKKI GHAEMI
STAFF WRITER

The Interfraternity Council required members of fraternity chapters to attend sexual assault education workshops led by Students Against Sexual Assault earlier this month.

Eighty percent of the members of each fraternity were required to participate in at least one of two sexual assault education workshops, the IFC announced on Instagram earlier this month. IFC leaders said each fraternity chapter surpassed the 80 percent figure by April 12, the day of the second and final SASA workshop.

Data provided to The Hatchet listed seven fraternities as compliant with the 80 percent attendance quota. The IFC page on GW's Student Life website lists nine fraternities as part of the IFC.

The seven compliant chapters included Phi Gamma Delta, which is not listed on the IFC's page. The compliance data did not include information about the Kappa Sigma, Phi Delta Theta and Sigma Chi fraternities, which are each listed on the IFC's page as member chapters.

He said the IFC initially charged a \$15 fine for each member who did not attend until that chapter reached

80 percent and later decided that all members of a chapter would have to redo training completely if the group did not meet the requirement.

"You know, at the end of the day, we don't need money as IFC," Tajanlangit said. "We want people to learn about the resources and how to act and how to make sure these people feel comfortable."

Tajanlangit said the IFC meets with the Multicultural Greek Council, the National Panhellenic Council and the Panhellenic Association to discuss upcoming events and new ways to support their respective communities with Brian Joyce, GW's director of fraternity and sorority life, every other week. He said discussions about the Panhellenic Association's identical sexual assault training requirement for all sorority chapters spurred his decision to implement the new workshops for fraternities.

"They had a good turnout, and I heard they thought it was useful," he said. "So I definitely wanted to implement it as well."

Tajanlangit said he wants to repeat this new requirement every semester moving forward. He said he also wants to implement responsible drinking training workshops for chapters to attend next year.

Panhellenic Association President Lloyd Woods said she made the decision to include sexual assault awareness and prevention workshops for Panhel with Cat Desouza, Panhel's vice president of internal development. She said they reached out to SASA for their education services.

"They were extremely accommodating and helpful, and we are so grateful for all of their hard work tailoring their trainings to meet the needs of the Panhellenic community at GW," Woods said in an email. "We wanted to do what we could within our power as leaders in the Panhellenic Association at GW to help our members."

Woods said Panhel also required at least 80 percent of each chapter to attend a SASA training. She said if a chapter did not meet the quota, they "addressed it on a case-by-case basis."

Beta Theta Pi President MacAlister Steckler said all new chapter members in Beta must attend a Title IX training as part of the fraternity's rush process. He said the chapter individually requires every member to attend additional Title IX and SASA training every semester.

Steckler said each SASA workshop is about an hour-and-a-half long and covers a range of topics like sexual



SKYLAR EPSTEIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IFC leaders said all fraternities met the 80 percent attendance requirement for the workshops.

harassment and bystander intervention. He said the trainings pose members with different questions, like what definitions of sexual assault they have been taught in the past.

"It's also good because it's coming from other GW students," Steckler said. "I really liked how these SASA trainings just feel a lot more relatable because a lot of times the Title IX trainings are not as engaging as the SASA trainings. So I kind of appreciate that the IFC implemented SASA trainings

for all fraternities."

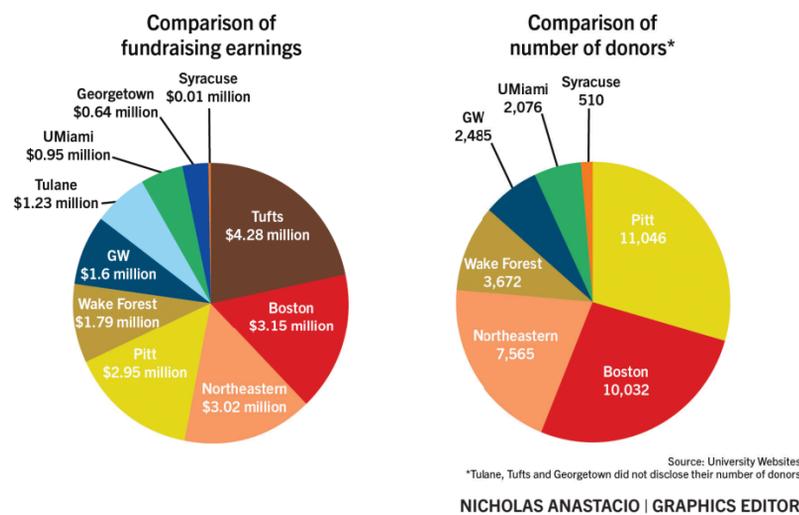
Delta Tau Delta President Jack Palaian said his chapter has also already implemented SASA training each semester, but he is glad IFC is requiring another.

"My chapter does it once a semester already," Palaian said. "But to have another one is always good because sex and sexual assault on college campuses is something that's kind of taboo to talk about, so the only way to get awareness out and spread knowledge is to talk about it."

Palaian said his chapter's members were given two weeks' notice to attend one of two workshops, both of which are the same presentation. He said it is critical that members know how to approach unsafe situations and determine whether to intervene or extricate themselves from the environment.

"We're working to help better Greek life at GW, and this is a part of our continual commitment to help maintain a safe space at GW as best we can," Palaian said.

Giving Day fundraising earnings compared to GW's peer schools



GW ranks sixth among peer schools in Giving Day fundraising

ANNIE O'BRIEN
STAFF WRITER

DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

GW's Giving Day earnings ranked sixth among the University's nine peer schools that had similar one-day fundraising initiatives so far this academic year.

Officials exceeded their goal to raise \$1 million on Giving Day, a 24-hour period where officials try to raise as much money as possible through alumni, trustees and other community members' donations, raking in more than \$1.6 million from nearly 2,500 donors earlier this month. Experts in higher education fundraising said GW's Giving Day haul of donations indicates that GW is reengaging with community members two years after the start of the pandemic.

Boston and Northeastern universities and the University of Pittsburgh did not set single donation goals, but all outraised GW, with all of their days of giving yielding about \$3 million in donations from about 10,000 donors. Wake Forest University also garnered about \$200,000 more in donations than GW during its annual Day of Giving but did not set any donation targets prior to the event.

Other peer institutions raised significantly less than GW, including Syracuse University – which raised about \$12,000 from more than 500 donors, falling short of its original goal – and Georgetown University, which raised less than \$650,000. The University of Miami and Tulane University both surpassed donor goals but raised less than GW by at least \$400,000.

New York University has not made its total Giving

Day fundraising public, but NYU officials said they received over 7,000 gifts. The universities of Rochester and Southern California have scheduled their Days of Giving for next month and will use the funds to expand student financial aid packages.

"We are thrilled with the turnout," Patty Carocci, the associate vice president of alumni relations and annual giving, said in a release. "It shows how enthusiastic and dedicated the GW community is about coming together to support student aid."

In last year's Giving Day, officials fell short of their final \$1 million goal by about \$200,000 after continuously upping their original goal of \$300,000 in donations throughout the day. This year, officials surpassed their goal of \$1 million in a 24-hour period, most of which went toward expanding aid for Pell Grant-eligible students and other GW initiatives.

Officials launched a new "focused initiative" last October, aimed at increasing the amount of scholarships and aid available to Pell-eligible students at GW.

Experts in higher education, administration and finance said this year's Giving Day allowed officials to "reconnect" with students, alumni and community members who may have felt less involved with the school throughout the pandemic.

Blake Absher – the assistant vice president of the Wake Forest Fund, a fundraising initiative at Wake Forest University – said university leaders should compare their Giving Day funding to their peers if they have similar fundraising goals. He said Wake Forest has been directing much of its fundraising toward expanding scholarship aid, similar to GW's

"focused initiative."

Wake Forest raised slightly more than GW, totaling almost \$1.8 million in donations with about 3,700 donors.

"Comparing yourself to other schools on the dollars is interesting, but it's sometimes meaningless because you're not really, really focused on the same things," he said.

Absher said Giving Days generate "urgency" to donate during a limited time and help alumni to reconnect with their universities.

Absher said Wake Forest directs its donations toward areas of greatest need like scholarships. He said his university accepted about \$600,000 in "unrestricted money" that wasn't donated to a specific college or program of the nearly \$1.8 million raised on its most recent Giving Day last fall.

During GW's Giving Day this year, alumni made 46 percent of donations, making them the largest group of donors.

Absher said Wake Forest's Giving Day took place in the fall when COVID-19 rates were lower, but schools that held their Giving Days in the spring semester saw lower turnout because of concerns from rising COVID-19 cases.

Joseph Paris, an associate professor of higher education at Temple University, said many of GW's Giving Day funds will be "unrestricted," so the University can direct the donations toward their priority targets like scholarships. He said nonprofit organizations like GW can designate unrestricted donations to any area in the University but are bound by donor intent when they receive donations with specific instructions for where the money should go.

GW fails to meet tenure requirement for third straight year

CAITLIN KITSON
STAFF WRITER

IANNE SALVOSA
STAFF WRITER

Officials have failed to meet a Faculty Code clause requiring 75 percent of regular faculty to be tenured or on the tenure track for the third straight year.

Faculty senators have asked the Board of Trustees to address officials' failure to meet the requirement after only 73.5 percent of professors were tenured or on the tenure track in 2021. Faculty senators said the shortage of tenured faculty – a figure that dropped from 75.2 percent in 2018 to 73.5 percent in 2021 – harms students' learning experience and GW's reputation because full-time, tenured faculty conducts research that improves their teaching.

Provost Chris Bracey said at a Faculty Senate meeting earlier this month that the faculty on the tenure track is an indicator of academic strength, but the Faculty Code tenure requirement is currently "aspirational" because the percentage has remained below 75 percent every year since 2019. He said officials approved 44 new tenure track searches last summer to help reach the 75 percent tenure requirement.

"I'm confident that we'll see the beginning of an upward trend with next year's data and see the re-establishment of our Faculty Code's recommended ratios in the out years," Bracey said at the meeting.

He said faculty recommends other nontenure track faculty for tenure track positions, which the Board of Trustees approves them.

"The total number of tenured or tenure track faculty is a function of the permanent resource base of

the University," Bracey said in an email.

Faculty senators said trustees should create a plan to increase the number of tenured and tenure track faculty to reach the 75 percent minimum in the code.

Harald Griesshammer, a faculty senator and tenured professor of physics, said the trustees committed to the 75 percent requirement through their approval of the Faculty Code and should grant more faculty funding for salaries to reach the requirement.

"I'm not adherent to the philosophy that you can be cavalier about what you're writing down and then just decide that it really doesn't matter that much and follow some laws more than others," he said.

Griesshammer said failure to meet the requirement limits "high impact" research at the University – which tenured and tenure track faculty often conduct.

He said recruiting new faculty members for tenure track positions also gives the University the opportunity to increase race and gender diversity among faculty.

"That is not just a mandate, we need to do this, but it's also actually a positive signal to the community," Griesshammer said. "We're not doing this just because we need to, we actually want to take this as an opportunity."

Griesshammer said tenured professors make a commitment to invest their time in the University, which encourages them to engage with students in the classroom and in research settings on a more consistent basis. He said tenured professors, who spend more time at the University, have greater insight and experience on how to properly address problems impacting their departments.

"Each one of us is a little bit of an institutionalized memory of the department and the University," he said.

Griesshammer said the physics department's "influx of new talent" during the past 10 years increased the number of tenured and tenure track faculty members from six to 19. He said the new, younger faculty members can engage with students in the classroom to "attract" undergraduates to study physics.

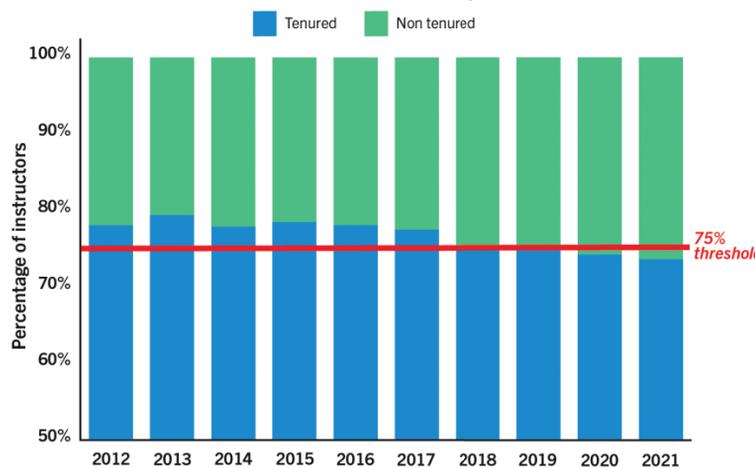
"The number of undergraduates in physics has grown in step with the number of younger faculty who actually did a really good job to talk and attract those people," he said.

Jamie Cohen-Cole, a faculty senator and associate professor of American studies, said the University needs to prioritize meeting the tenure requirement because failing to follow the Faculty Code implies that it can be "ignored" when conditions like the 75 percent requirement are disobeyed.

"GWU's ability to recruit and retain top quality researchers and teachers depends on it consistently maintaining its reputation for fulfilling its commitments to being a tenure supporting institution," Cohen-Cole said in an email.

Cohen-Cole said regardless of how controversial the subject, tenure enables faculty to teach "honestly" without fear of University chastisement. "When GWU has a declining percentage of tenure/tenure track faculty as a portion of either the regular faculty or if the nonregular faculty are allowed to grow in any significant measure, it will harm GWU's rank and reputation," Cohen-Cole said in an email.

Tenure status of GW instructors, 2012 - 2021



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

D.C. residents to vote on \$10 tipped minimum wage increase in November

ACACIA NIYOGI
REPORTER

GRACE CHINOWSKY
STAFF WRITER

D.C. residents will vote on a proposed initiative to raise the District's tipped minimum wage from \$5.05 to \$15.20 per hour before the end of the calendar year.

Initiative 82, which the D.C. Board of Elections added to the November ballot earlier this month, proposes a gradual increase to the city's tipped minimum wage for service industry jobs like servers and bartenders during the next five years until 2027. Activists supporting Initiative 82 said the proposal is a "game-changer" for student employees working in the service industry because raised wages will provide more consistent and predictable paychecks for employees who depend on unreliable tips.

The D.C. Council overturned similar legislation in 2018 when it repealed Initiative 77, a proposal passed by just more than half of the District's voters in June 2018.

Ryan O'Leary — the chair of the D.C. Committee to Build A Better Restaurant Industry, the organization backing the initiative — who proposed Initiative 82 to the D.C. Council, said Council members have "thwarted" ongoing efforts to raise the

tipped minimum wage.

The board of elections requires ballot initiatives to receive support from 5 percent of voters citywide and 5 percent from five of the District's eight wards.

O'Leary said the committee planned to get the initiative on the June primary ballot, but the bill was delayed after the Council redistricted wards 7 and 8 in the beginning of January. He said the board of elections directed the committee to restart the process of gathering signatures in those wards after the redistricting and directed them to start from scratch to ensure the bill's support was certifiable.

"It needs to get on the ballot as soon as possible, and it needs to become law immediately afterwards," O'Leary said. "I'm just very thankful that this time we have the votes on our side and on the Council, and I hope that we have the votes of the chairman and the mayor come the general election."

Voters in Ward 2, which includes Foggy Bottom, voted to approve Initiative 77 by a thin margin in the June 2018 election despite opposition from Jack Evans, the former Ward 2 D.C. Council member.

O'Leary said Initiative 82 will aid college students working in the service in-

dustry because employees will receive higher hourly rates on top of the tips they receive from customers, creating a more consistent paycheck for servers who rely on tips during busy days. He said this financial assurance would allow employees to budget and save to accommodate the expensive cost of living in the District instead of living shift-to-shift.

"If I was getting a paycheck on top of leaving every night with tips in college, I would be in such a better place now than I am currently," O'Leary said.

Zoe Carver, a freshman majoring in international affairs and peace studies who works at Tatte in West End, said her earnings have been unpredictable while relying on tips, which vary depending on the time of her shift. She said because more customers come in during her morning shifts, a later shift means she'll earn \$5 to \$10 less per hour.

"Working later shifts versus earlier shifts, you get paid less," Carver said. "Because it's a bakery, everyone comes in during the morning. Based on how you get randomly scheduled, that depends how much money you're making."

Carver said the proposed wage increase will relieve financial pressure for student workers with a steady paycheck. She said the low wag-



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Activists called the potential increase a "game changer" for students who work tipped jobs and students said the increase would ensure their paychecks would become more consistent.

es and lack of tips on slow days in combination with long hours made it a "stressful" environment for her.

"It's a lot of work and not a lot of appreciation at all," Carver said. "Just rude customers, long hours. I often am scheduled five-hour shifts, which isn't that long, but they do it on purpose. Because if it's five hours, you don't get a break the entire time."

Ian Cook, a junior majoring in international affairs and anthropology, said he

made a \$5 hourly wage without tips when he worked as a server at Pinstripes, an Italian restaurant in Georgetown with bowling and bocce ball that many college students visit at night.

Cook said his managers would sometimes assign him day shifts where he would receive little to no tips because of a lack of customers, while he would receive upwards of \$300 in tips on busier night shifts.

He said the hourly wage he received without tips didn't

feel like fair compensation for the amount of time he was working during the day.

Cook said sometimes his hourly wage paycheck would be little to nothing, even on nights with generous earnings from tips.

"Sometimes as a result, you'd walk away with no money," Cook said. "And sometimes, even if you walk away with a lot of money, your paycheck ends up being \$0. So you can't really rely on that."



AVA PITRUZZELLO | PHOTOGRAPHER

Students who participated in room renewal said the program eased the process of applying for housing, but others said it hurt their odds of getting their top residence hall choice.

Nearly 400 students use room renewal in first year of program

DUC THAN
REPORTER

HENRY HUVOS
STAFF WRITER

Nearly 400 students will remain in their current residence hall rooms next academic year as part of a new housing program that allows residents to renew their existing assignment.

The room renewal program, which officials announced in February, allowed students living in upperclassman housing for the 2022-23 academic year to reserve their current room for the next year instead of reapplying each year, as in previous years. Students who used the room renewal program said it eased the stresses of the housing selection process, but other students said the process might have limited options for students looking to move into more sought-after residence halls.

Seth Weinsel, the associate vice president for business services, said officials created the program to give students who liked their current assignment the opportunity to remain in the same room.

"Each year we look for ways to make the assignment process better," Weinsel said in an email. "Many students like the rooms that they are assigned, and we wanted to provide them the ability to stay where they are."

Weinsel declined to say how many rooms were renewed in each residence hall.

More than half a dozen students who renewed rooms in District House and South and Amsterdam halls said they appreciated the room renewal program, which eased the stress of the housing application process as they renewed their rooms.

Dylan Lyman, a sophomore majoring in international affairs who currently lives in District House, said he renewed his room because of District House's location and modern atmosphere. He said he opted to renew to avoid risking a random housing assignment in a residence hall where did not wish to live.

"It's better than rolling the dice and possibly ending up in Lafayette or JBKO," he said.

Kiera Sona, a junior majoring in political science who currently lives in Amsterdam Hall, said he and his roommates decided to renew their four-person unit because they liked living together and wanted a convenient transition into the upcoming year. He said the program "alleviated a lot of anxiety" because it allowed him to maintain consistency in his living habits.

"I know how far it gets to places. Everything I bought or we bought, we know where to put it again for next year," he said. "So it's just really comfortable knowing that."

Three students said they felt room renewal hurt their chances of getting their top choice when applying for housing.

Christine Yared, a freshman majoring in political science and communications currently living in Madison Hall, said she felt room renewal prevented her from receiving an assignment in South Hall, where a four- to five-person suite would have satisfied her Disability Support Services accommodations. She said she was placed in Shenkman Hall instead, which she speculated was because of the high number of South Hall residents who renewed their rooms.

Weinsel wrote in an email to one parent, which

was obtained by The Hatchet, that at least one resident had renewed their assignment in each of South Hall's five-person units, which prevents new groups of five students from moving into those units next year.

"Because of room renewal, every single dorm by the time they gave me my accommodations already had one person assigned to it, and so they couldn't really grant me the accommodations I needed because of room renewal," Yared said.

Yared said while she felt room renewal was beneficial "in theory," she felt GW had not made proper considerations for guaranteeing disabled students housing. She said Shenkman Hall lacks single suite-style housing similar to South Hall, and living in the building's two- and four-person units would be "difficult" for her without her desired accommodations — an issue she feels could have been avoided without room renewal.

"I can survive in a different dorm, but I shouldn't have to, and it makes my life a lot more difficult," Yared said.

Lindsay Larson, a freshman majoring in political affairs currently living in Somers Hall, said she also applied to live in a four-person unit with her friends in Amsterdam Hall, but her housing group was split into two separate doubles in JKBO Hall. Larson said she thinks room renewal negatively impacted her ability to get her top choice because she speculated many students renewed their rooms in "nicer" residence halls, like Shenkman or South Hall.

"As someone who feels like they were kind of burned by room renewal, it's definitely frustrating to see other people getting to live in the dorm that you wanted," Larson said.

EESA raises more than \$4,000 for Eritrean refugee school

LEO KEHAGIAS
REPORTER

The GW Ethiopian-Eritrean Students Association raised more than \$4,000 in donations for an elementary school in Cairo, Egypt serving a refugee population at a banquet fundraiser late last month.

The banquet, held in the Grand Ballroom of the University Student Center, was EESA's ninth annual benefit dinner and the largest dinner of the organization's history, EESA leaders said. The money raised from the banquet this year went to help Bana Eritrean Elementary School purchase supplies and pay teachers' salaries.

Senior Nedine Ahmed, the president of EESA, said the organization's executive board knew they wanted to donate to an Eritrean cause this year and came into contact with the school through the American Team for Displaced Eritreans, a public charity that assists Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers in the United States and around the world. She said the school teaches first-through sixth-graders about their Eritrean language and culture as well as brings their parents together with community events to support Eritrean refugees in Cairo.

Ahmed said the school needs money and assistance to sustain and upkeep the building so they can continue to serve the more than 150 students in the area and can expand to bring in more students.

"The money itself is going to supply school supplies that's helping them with paying the teacher, just helping them — that's the main two things," she said. "Just helping sustain a school because it is already built, it's just in its second stages of trying to bring

more people to school."

Egypt hosted more than 270,000 refugees and registered asylum seekers as of 2021, the majority from Syria, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Yemen and Somalia. UN Refugee Agency data showed more than 20,000 Eritrean refugees were living in Egypt as of 2021.

The benefit dinner included an array of cultural foods, a silent art auction, a fashion show highlighting different cultural pieces from a number of Ethiopian and Eritrean tribes and music and dance performances from EESA members, all of which helped raise funds for the school.

"Spreading word about the tickets, I feel like I was surprisingly shocked that that wasn't one of the main challenges," she said. "People really came out, and people really supported us during this."

She said the main sources of fundraising from the event came from ticket sales, proceeds from the silent art auction and donations. She said EESA also raised money through fundraisers with South Block and Roti in Foggy Bottom, separate events that donated a portion of money made on food to EESA who sent the money to the Bana school.

Kidist Cheru, EESA's social media chair, said she was thrilled with the number of people who attended the event. She said she thinks this year's benefit dinner, with more than 150 guests, was the largest dinner EESA has ever hosted.

"It's open to everybody," she said. "We also invited family members. The thing is with Ethiopian and Eritrean outside of Africa, the GW population is one of the most populated areas, so we just went around and just asked."

A promotional video for the benefit dinner filmed by Ahmed that showed the members of the EESA dance team gathering and getting prepared for the banquet gained more than 13,000 views after it was placed in the Student Life GW newsletter.

Cheru said attendees took to posting photos and videos from the event on social media platforms like Instagram and Snapchat throughout the night leading a steady stream of people to show up to buy tickets at the door.

She said the EESA chapters at the University of Maryland and Howard, Georgetown, American and George Mason universities were also invited, and each of their respective executive boards were offered three free tickets, which cost \$15 for GW students and \$20 for all non-students.

"I think what was really the big thing that I'm outside of our personal marketing, basically at the event, people the entire night were posting it on Instagram, Snapchat, etc., etc.," she said. "So the entire night we had people coming by, there wasn't a single point in the event where someone wasn't buying a ticket to come in."

EESA Vice President Hanan Kadir said the organization used social media to get in touch with various artists who were willing to donate work for the silent auction portion of the banquet.

Kadir said so many extra people came to the fundraiser that more chairs were needed to accommodate the larger-than-expected crowd.

"We expected about 100 people but a lot of people showed up so we didn't have enough chairs for people to sit on, and we have to go around and find chairs," she said.



COURTESY OF EESA

Nedine Ahmed, the president of EESA, said Bana Eritrean Elementary School needs money and assistance to sustain and upkeep their building.

Pandemic drives decline in mental health among Latino youth: study

CRISTINA STASSIS
STAFF WRITER

Latino adolescents' mental health and academic performance declined during the COVID-19 pandemic as parents' job loss and teenagers' childcare responsibilities increased, according to a study from Milken Institute School of Public Health faculty published earlier this month.

A team of four professors found that 10 percent of Latino families encountered COVID-19 hospitalization and nearly 50 percent of Latino parents experienced job and income loss, factors that caused increased stress among Latino youth. More than 60 percent of Latino teenagers took over childcare responsibilities from their parents, which contributed to low academic performance, depression and isolation from friends, according to the study.

The team surveyed more than 500 Latino students from middle schools in a Georgia school district between fall 2018 and spring 2021.

Kathleen Roche, the study's lead researcher and a professor of prevention and community health, said adolescents were more likely to report taking on childcare responsibilities if they also reported health and economic stressors like a family member's COVID-19 hospitalization.

"I will say that this study provides some of the first imperial evidence to document important harms conferred by the pandemic and having that imperial data is really important for our understanding of things to look out for in terms of areas of need for today's young people," she said.

Roche said the study can prompt other organizations to create preventive

interventions and policies to improve Latino adolescents' lives and conduct more research on how other factors of the pandemic affected Latino youths' development.

She said the study is part of an eight-year research project following the understudied Latino youth population and their mental health from middle school to early adult years, a project launched in 2018.

The team compared Latino teenagers' survey results from fall 2020 and spring 2021 to previous surveys completed in fall 2018 and fall 2019 to observe changes in mental states and childcare responsibilities before and during the pandemic, according to the study.

Roche added that prior research studies regarding Latino youths' mental health didn't factor in stressors like job and income loss and COVID-19 hospitalization.

"Taking care of kids doesn't seem like that big of a deal to ask a teenager to do, but it's important to realize that it is actually a very meaningful change in their lives that may have interfered with very important aspects of development during the teenage years that these kids didn't get to experience," Roche said.

She said shifting childcare responsibilities onto Latino teenagers during the pandemic caused heightened levels of anxiety and depression, drops in grade point averages and increased behavioral issues like aggressive tendencies in school settings. She said Latino teenagers' behavioral problems during the pandemic can make transitioning into adulthood more difficult because teachers can inappropriately label them as "problem children," which punishes them for

their actions instead of helping them.

Roche said teenagers taking more time out of school to care for family members can also contribute to a lower likelihood of attending higher education and attaining economic independence in their adult years.

"It's also important for policy and communities to be able to support families who experience health and economic and childcare strains because that can help mitigate risks to adolescents," she said.

David Huebner, one of the study's four co-authors and a professor of prevention and community health, said he helped Roche formulate questions related to COVID-19 stressors for the surveys, like the number of COVID-19 related hospitalizations within a Latino household and the surge in childcare responsibilities because of hospitalizations or other pandemic-related circumstances.

He said a greater investment in public health before the pandemic could have lessened the stress on the Latino population because public health officials would have been more prepared to respond with solutions to pandemic-related problems.

Huebner said the study can show teachers that increasing the flexibility of academic work will ease the strain some students feel because of childcare responsibilities.

"I think that the best thing we can do is to make sure the people who provide care and services to these kids are aware of the impact COVID has had on them so they can make the decisions about their care and their education in a way that is mindful of the significant impact that COVID has had," Huebner said.

Professor of international business, banking expert dies at 81

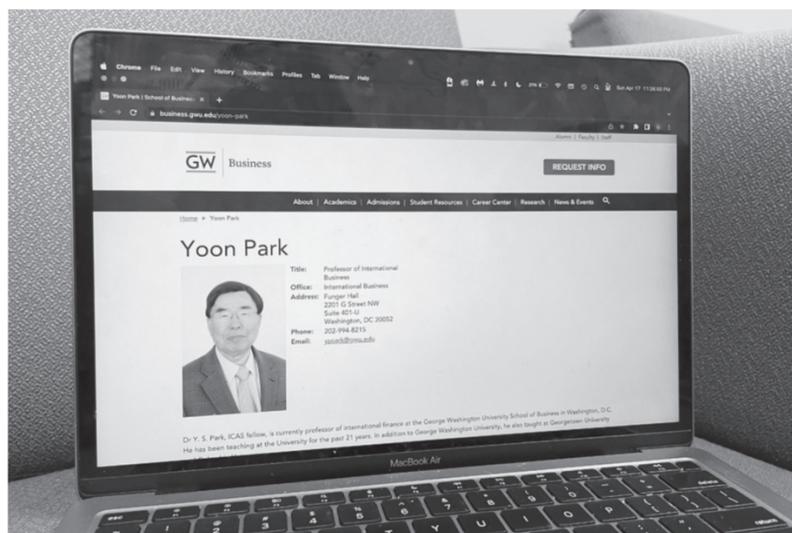


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR
Faculty who knew Park said he was a kind person who looked to the positive side of all situations throughout his decadeslong tenure in the School of Business.

NICK PASION
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Yoon Park, a professor of international business, died last month. He was 81.

Park served as a professor at GW for more than 40 years after arriving at the University as a master's student in 1970. He spent his career working in international business as a board member at the Samsung Corporation, the senior financial economist for World Bank and a board of directors member for the Korea Economic Institute for America.

Faculty who knew Park said he was a kind, respectful and open person who enjoyed focusing on the positive aspects of life.

He was born in the southern province of Jeonnam, Korea in 1940 to a family of farmers. Growing up in a tent city under difficult circumstances, he sold newspapers, polished shoes and worked other odd jobs to fund his education.

Park started his career at GW as a student when he earned a master's in economics in 1973 and then went on to graduate with a doctorate in economics from

GW in 1976. Park returned to GW as a professor in 1981 and spent the rest of his life teaching at the University.

Young-Key Kim-Renaud, a professor emeritus of Korean language and culture and international affairs, said she became close friends with Park at GW, and the two developed a "solidarity" stemming from their experiences as immigrants.

"To live as immigrants here we don't feel we abandoned the one country for another," she said. "We feel we got married into another country, so you never really forget your home."

She said they were also close friends outside of the professional setting – Park attended her granddaughter's first birthday party, while she attended his children's weddings.

Danny Leipziger, a professor of international business, said Park was "instrumental" in convincing Leipziger to join GW after leaving the World Bank. He said Park was an asset to GW's who connected the school to Korea.

"When you mentioned his name to any Korean academic or government official or people in the business world, they immediately knew who he was," he said.

Scheherazade Rehman – a former student of Park, a professor of international finance and business and the director of the European Union Research Center – said she was lucky to be both a student and colleague of Park. She said he is the primary reason she chose to become a professor.

Rehman said he lived an honorable, well-lived life and offered time to everyone he knew. "He always had time, respect and a smile for anyone who knocked on his door, always reminding them, no matter the problem, that they should be grateful for all that has gone right, solutions are at hand, and how lucky they are rather than focus on the lack off or the negative," she said in an email.

Park will be survived by his wife Heawon Park, his older brother, two sons, daughter and four grandchildren. There will be a celebration of life service for Park on April 29, followed by his burial in Fairfax Memorial Park on April 30.



SOPHIA KERR | PHOTOGRAPHER

The study is part of an eight-year project following the understudied Latino youth population and their mental health from middle school to early adult years.

TWEETED

NEWS: GW transfer Joe Bamisile tells me that he's committed to Oklahoma.

Bamisile will need an NCAA waiver to play next season since he's a two-time transfer.

Jon Rothstein on 4/11/2022



TWITTER/@JONROTHSTEIN

GW officials defend mask mandate reinstatement as District cases rise

From Page 1

While DC Health reported a 54 percent increase in its weekly case rate, public health experts said case rates are expected to rise in the next few weeks despite lower infection rates than during the original outbreak of the Omicron variant in December and January.

The District's weekly

case rate rose from 63.8 per 100,000 residents at the start of spring break to 89 at the end of spring break, 115.3 a week later and 204.2 at the start of April, according to DC Health data.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention raised the District's COVID-19 transmission level classification from "low" to "medium" risk Thursday about two months since the

last such designation.

Howard University officials announced Thursday that all classes will be held online until the end of the semester after recording a 5.67 percent positivity rate. The University held last falls' final exams online as a response to rising cases during the outbreak of the Omicron variant.

Lucas said officials identified clusters of on-campus

COVID-19 transmission in previously low transmission settings, like classrooms, which prompted them to reinstate the mask mandate in hopes of avoiding another virtual final exam session to close out the semester.

"Masking and common sense measures have kept on-campus transmission very low," he said.

Milken Institute School of Public Health Dean Lynn

Goldman, who oversees the University's public health lab which performs the community's COVID-19 testing, defended GW's decision to reinstate the mask mandate in a Washington Post op-ed Thursday.

She said the University reverted its policy after observing an increase in cases in both the District and on campus the week after officials lifted the mask man-

date. "Rather than wait for our isolation beds to fill up, rather than watch more students endure the loneliness of isolation – and rather than wait for a tragic death in our community – we decided to act preemptively against this surge," she said in the op-ed. "When case levels are dropping rather than spiking, we will revisit this policy."

Timeline of COVID-19 restrictions in the District

DC Health

Nov. 16
Mayor Bowser lifts mask mandate

Dec. 20
Bowser reinstates indoor mask mandate after increase in Omicron cases

Jan. 11
Bowser reinstates and extends public health emergency to Jan. 26

Jan. 27
Bowser extends indoor mask mandate to end of February

Feb. 14
D.C. officials announce mask and vaccine mandates will be dropped March 1

Feb. 28
Indoor mask requirement dropped for select buildings and spaces

GW

Dec. 13
Officials require booster shot by Feb. 1

Dec. 22
Officials announce spring classes will start online

Jan. 12
Officials announce in-person classes will return Jan. 18

April 4
Indoor mask mandate lifted

April 12
Indoor mask mandate reinstated

American University

Dec. 15
Booster requirement announced for spring semester

Dec. 29
Classes will be online Jan. 10 - 30

Jan. 10
In-person activities to resume Jan. 31

March 21
Masks become optional in most campus locations

April 12
Indoor mask mandate reinstated

Georgetown University

Dec. 29
Spring semester will start with virtual classes

Jan. 31
In-person activities return

March 21
Mask optional policy announced

April 6
Indoor mask mandate reinstated

Opinions

April 18, 2022 • Page 6

Reinstating the mask mandate was the right call, but GW sold it poorly

STAFF EDITORIAL

Flip-flopping on a decision in the space of two weeks is not generally seen as a good thing, but the exception is GW reinstating its indoor mask mandate just more than a week after it was dropped. With cases ticking up and Commencement on the horizon, this U-turn was the right call, but it also exposes deficiencies in GW's communication with students about pandemic-era policies.

Coronavirus cases are starting to climb in the District and at GW fueled by BA.2, the more transmissible subvariant of the Omicron variant that has become the dominant strain of the virus. American and Georgetown universities reinstated their mask mandates shortly before GW did, after nixing them well ahead of GW's decision to do so. Howard University has even taken the step to move final exams online to head off a potential surge in cases on campus.

Wearing masks is frustrating, there's no two ways about it. But GW's decision-making here was sound. If there is a potential for cases to go up, at-risk members of the GW community, like immunocompromised students, elderly faculty or anyone who is in more danger of poor outcomes, should not have to live in fear. Even beyond that, though, a surge in cases could put a significant portion of the student body in isolation right as finals are ramping up. Commencement is also approaching — graduating seniors who find themselves salty about the restoration of the mask mandate should consider that the alternative could be sitting in their apartment or GW isolation housing instead of graduating on the National Mall because someone coughed in their general direction.

But GW should have had a keener insight into what was going to happen when the mask

mandate was lifted. It's plausible to believe that cases would go up when students and professors started taking off masks as they bustled in classrooms and dining areas together, while cases ticked upward since the BA.2 subvariant took hold.

By announcing the major decision to reinstate the mask mandate in a brief email, the University re-

veals itself to be insensitive to the magnitude of the topic. Officials should release a clear, detailed report explaining why they were lifting the mask mandate, and now, why reinstating the mask mandate is necessary.

GW's communication style has been a perennial issue. Whether the University is in talks to increase governance or choosing a

new University president, GW has a history of being insular in its decision-making processes.

The University should be prepared for what happens if more measures need to be taken around final exams to prevent the kind of panic that took place last semester when exams went online at the last minute. It is crucial that officials stress the reasoning behind

reinstating mask mandate, so students are more inclined to take them seriously under administrative direction that does not seem to be completely firm currently. To avoid another semester with remote final exams or a postponed Commencement, GW should release a set of guidelines that could take in-person learning through the end of the year to avoid a spike in COVID-19 cases across campus.

In a Washington Post op-ed Thursday, Lynn Goldman, the dean of the Milken Institute School of Public Health, defended the decision to restore the mask mandate with a convincing case of how a surge in cases could be a nightmare for campus health and operations. An op-ed in The Post may be a good means of justifying the decision to those outside the GW community, but not necessarily members of the GW community itself. An eminent voice in public health was able to explain clearly to the outside world that heading off a surge in cases would avoid the havoc wreaked by much of campus needing to isolate at once, and would protect the many members of GW's faculty who are in the over-60 demographic. Students got little of this detailed justification, and there is no reason why the University should not have gone into more detail.

GW made the right call but sold it poorly. Students are going to be frustrated with needing to wear masks either way, and that should not dissuade the University from taking the most prudent public health measures. But a yo-yo-esque mask policy is not going to make sense to students unless GW does a better job explaining why it is necessary in a way that students can understand and appreciate. It would not be a heavy lift and would go a long way to ease frayed nerves.



MAURA KELLY-YUOH | CARTOONIST

Reinstating GW's mask mandate casts doubt on its pandemic response

When the University lifted its mask mandate earlier this month, officials cited D.C.'s "low" COVID-19 designation and a lack of significant transmission or serious illness after spring break as their reasoning behind the decision. But neither of these facts had changed when GW reinstated the mandate last week.

Karina Ochoa Berkley
Columnist

While lifting the mask mandate was controversial, the University's decision at the time faithfully reflected the changing science behind masking and the significant advancements made in combatting the pandemic. Reinstating the mask mandate casts doubt on GW's success in responding to COVID-19.

Early in the pandemic, we relied on social distancing, quarantining and masks to minimize coronavirus infection, but vaccines are now our primary and most effective intervention. Our toolkit for fighting this pandemic could not be more different than two years ago.

The University justified the reinstated mask mandate with rising cases, but public health experts have said case positivity is a less helpful metric for assessing risk in highly vaccinated communities. In an April 2021 article for The Washington Post, three public health experts argued that a combination of low hospitalization rates and high vaccination rates are effective measurements that public health officials can use to decide when to ease

interventions like masking.

Continuing to follow the same measures that were in place before widespread vaccination ignores the vaccine's incredible protection against transmission and serious infection. Roughly 98 percent of GW's community and nearly 75 percent of the District's residents are fully vaccinated. A study by the Peterson Center on Healthcare and Kaiser Family Foundation found fully vaccinated people ages 18-49 represented only 10 percent of all vaccinated Americans admitted to hospitals for severe COVID-19 cases between June and September 2021. For University community members who don't fall into that age range, the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines reduced the risk of COVID-19-related hospitalization by 94 percent.

Masking needed to be universal before widespread vaccination, but viral infection and severity is now largely dependent on vaccination status. The most likely form of viral transmission is from unvaccinated people to other unvaccinated people, and the least likely is transmission between those who are vaccinated.

Because vaccination increases protection from COVID-19, public health experts have embraced choosing whether to wear a mask based on individual preference. In a highly vaccinated community, one-way masking offers incredible protection from the virus for those still concerned about their health without a mask mandate.

Mask mandates are not the only way to protect those at risk from COVID-19 nor are they the most effective means

to do so. Having more options to attend classes remotely or in a hybrid format would allow those concerned about in-person classes during the pandemic to learn in comfort. Enacting lenient and forgiving attendance policies would prevent students from choosing between sitting through class while sick or tending to their health. Reporting hospitalizations on campus would also help those who are immunocompromised to decide whether it is safe for them to be on campus with or without a mask. All of these measures would better respond to the pandemic than a mask mandate.

Current scientific research does not support requiring all individuals to wear a mask independent of vaccination status, immunity or risk. Vaccinated people in highly vaccinated communities who are comfortable unmasking should feel empowered to do so without worrying that they pose an undue threat to others who are vaccinated.

The University damaged its credibility when it chose to ignore how far we have come in responding to this pandemic when it reinstated its mandate. GW's decision to reinstate a universal mask mandate implies that it lacks confidence in the vaccine, and suspending the mask mandate again would jeopardize the University's credibility further. The reinstatement of the mandate is a confusing, confidence-damaging policy of questionable efficacy for managing the threat the pandemic poses.

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

In defense of the political science major

One year into my political science major at GW, I started to wonder whether it was for me. I found the coursework interesting yet impractical — heavy on theory, light on real-world usefulness. Most class discussions ended up getting derailed by the news of the day, with the topic veering from democratic backsliding to the Democratic primary. It seemed to freshman-year Andrew like a basic or unoriginal course of study.

Andrew Sugrue
Opinions Editor

Now, approaching graduation and with the benefit of hindsight, I want to say some words in defense of the major whose utility I once questioned.

Students at GW seem to use the political science major less as an avenue for the intellectual pursuit of the theory and social science behind politics, and more as a vehicle for the experiences they have outside of the classroom — and that's okay. It allows students who are interested in politics to complement their studies with real-world experience without having to spend every waking second juggling coursework in a way most other majors do not permit.

Now, that's not to say everybody who majors in political science is in it just to check the box of studying something, coasting through classes and placing their real

focus on what they're doing outside of their courses. But there are plenty who do. My point is not to say that that's bad, but that it's actually a good thing.

Sure, the main point of college is to immerse yourself in a chosen course of study. The finger-wagging, focus-on-your-studies trope is one that most college students are familiar with, but also one that neglects the fact that there's so much more to college than just what you learn in class. In fact, if all you do at GW is shuffle between your room, your classes and the library, you're missing out.

Attending college, and especially attending GW, unlocks a whole world of new opportunities that are available uniquely to college students — securing Hillternships, interning for NGOs, working for advocacy groups, volunteering and so many more experiences unique to D.C. A lighter course load lets students have the flexibility to fill up the rest of their schedule with extracurricular activities on campus or with work off-campus — time that students might otherwise have spent in the library poring over textbooks.

GW clearly knows this, too — in fall 2020, the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences reduced the number of major-specific credits for a bachelor's degree in political science from 57 to 33 — nearly halving the number of classes students had to take. Only requiring 11 nongeneral education classes for a major is

incredibly low — for context, a major in political communication requires 19 classes, and a major in economics requires 14 classes. In fact, it is almost impossible to graduate with a degree in political science without adding on another major or receiving internship credit — GW requires 120 total credits to get a degree.

The fact that it is not even possible to just study political science on its own validates that the program is only one part of a well-rounded first step into politics and policy. Clearly, the University is doing something right, as are the thousands of students who have availed themselves of the unspoken compact of taking on a less rigorous coursework in exchange for garnering real-life experience in their intended field.

There was an extent to which I expected college to be a staid, bookish endeavor — not bifurcating my time between cracking the books and hopping on the Metro to go to a political rally with a student advocacy organization. All of this is why I was somewhat taken aback by the political science curriculum and political science students when I first got to GW. Once I realized that that was the whole point, the true value of the political science major became clear to me — and I'll graduate with more knowledge under my belt as a result.

—Andrew Sugrue, a senior majoring in political communication and political science, is the opinions editor.

The GW Hatchet

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

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Washington, D.C. 20052
gwhatchet.com | @gwhatchet

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

Culture

April 18, 2022 • Page 7

THE SCENE

EARTH DAY YOGA

Friday, April 22 | Jones Point Park | Free
Celebrate Earth Day with outdoor yoga, followed by meditation, a sound bath and optional trash pickup.

THE SATURDAY SHOWCASE (DC'S BEST COMEDY SHOW)

Saturday, April 23 | Tonic | Donate what you want
Have a laugh with the DMV's funniest comics right on campus this Saturday.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

NEW SINGLE: "SIDELINES" BY PHOEBE BRIDGERS

Students defend coffee-theft trend at University Student Center Panera Bread

MARYN LARSEN
REPORTER

MOLLIE RESNICK
REPORTER

There's no better way to start your morning than with a hot cup of coffee, and some students have found a way to get their caffeine kick without forking over any cash.

The Hatchet spoke to more than 10 students, most of whom requested anonymity, who said they steal coffee or other food and drinks from the University Student Center Panera Bread because they are either tight on GWorld funds or don't find ethical issues with snagging "free" items from the large corporation. They said stealing from the business has become a simple task because the storefront keeps the majority of its drinks at a self-serving counter accessible to anyone walking through.

Students said the phenomenon started during the past year after Panera began offering a monthly \$8.99 unlimited coffee subscription and a \$10.99 unlimited sip cup deal for rewards members. They keep coffee and clear plastic cups on hand for students to grab without having to interact with a cashier.

Thyra Roller, a sophomore who works at Panera as a cashier, said while many students seem to get away with stealing, employees nearly always notice.

"We do see you when you think



Students said they don't feel remorse for stealing from large corporations like Panera and don't usually steal from other GWorld vendors on campus.

you're being discreet," Roller said.

If they witness students stealing, Roller said managers encourage employees to "call them out." But Roller said staff lack formal training on how to deal with the sneaky trend, so they often don't

confront students when they notice them stealing.

Roller said Panera can get so crowded with students that employees are too occupied to be able to stop students from stealing, that is if they even notice them behind

the rush of dozens of students scrambling to grab a bite to eat.

Because of the ease of the petty crime, students said it's too tempting not to take advantage of.

"It's too easy – it's like they want you to," one freshman majoring in

international business said.

In addition to coffee, students said they've been stealing Panera's wide array of drink choices including soft drinks, juices and teas from the dispensers on the counter.

One student said they even go as far as stealing a pastry or two. A junior said if they notice on the receipt of the to-go orders that a pastry has been sitting out for hours and no one is coming to take it, they take the food to prevent waste.

Students also said their limited number of dining dollars each year incentivizes the pull to steal.

Freshman Emma Hearn, a neuroscience major, said she steals a drink on a daily basis when she eats at Panera. Hearn said she doesn't feel remorse for stealing from a big corporation like Panera.

"I don't feel any morals – I think they're a multimillion dollar company, and they should not be charging \$4 for a drink," Hearn said.

Panera was estimated to be worth \$7.5 billion as of 2017, Reuters reported.

Many students said they only steal from Panera among other GWorld vendors on campus. A sophomore majoring in political science and economics said she would never steal from anywhere else, only targeting Panera because of how easily she can pull it off.

"I will not steal from a small business, ever," she said. "I think that's wrong, but the GWorld is running low."



AUDEN YURMAN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Swae Lee tried to bring a few audience members on stage during his performance, but much to his – and the crowd's – dismay, security declined.

Swae Lee electrifies University Yard at Spring Fling

RACHEL BROWN
REPORTER

Swae Lee delivered an electric performance as the headliner of Spring Fling at University Yard last Saturday, bringing back the University's seasonal concert for the first time since the show was canceled in 2020 as the pandemic broke out.

Swae flew around the stage like a ball of energy sporting a GW tricorner hat and showing off his spectacular stage presence while performing crowd favorites like "Come Get Her" for roughly an hour at the show, which was hosted by Program Board. The festival kicked off with singer-songwriter Sophie Holohan and DJ Sam Feldt who rallied the slowly growing crowd of students eager to catch the main event of Swae's performance.

Spring Fling marked Swae's second campus appearance after he showed his support at a men's basketball game in 2020. He posted a tweet announcing his appearance at the concert late last month, leaking the information prior to Program Board's official statement on March 29.

After the gates opened at 3:30 p.m., the crowd was still building with only about 300 students. Stations of free food, like popcorn, snow cones and pizza, along with t-shirts and airbrush tattoos lined U-Yard.

Holohan, a 19-year-old from San Jose, California, opened up the

show with a line of covers, including a slowed-down version of "good 4 u" by Olivia Rodrigo and "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond. Holohan told the audience that Spring Fling was her first time playing a show that large, but her nerves didn't get the best of her.

"I've never done anything like this," she said in an interview. "So I'm really excited and really grateful for the opportunity."

After Sophie wrapped up her performance, Sam Feldt, a DJ from Boxtel, Netherlands, performed an hourlong set with EDM mashups of Alessia Cara's "The Middle," Ed Sheeran's "Bad Habits" and Tate McRae's "ABCEDEFU" before ending the show with Adele's "Easy on Me."

Before Swae's performance, the audience noticeably grew in size and attendees chattered in anticipation, filling up about a third of U-Yard.

As he entered the stage, Swae yelled "What's up GW!" and "This is the moment right here, GW!" into his microphone, exuding intense energy as he ran throughout the stage. He sang several songs from his duo Rae Sremmurd, including "Powerglide" and "Come Get Her." Swae dedicated "Come Get Her" to the single ladies in the crowd, which prompted fans to try to get his attention as he blew kisses to women in the audience.

But the crowd was the most enraptured at the opening of "Black

Beatles," Rae Sremmurd's top hit, which became the theme song for the Mannequin Challenge, a popular video trend from 2016 in which participants would freeze in action as the camera moved around them. As this song began to play, Swae and the audience gave their own rendition of the challenge as some students joined him standing frozen in a mid-run position for about 30 seconds.

Swae fed off the audience to fuel his invigorating performance. Occasionally jumping in front of the barrier to sing inches away from the crowd, Swae would snap pictures and film videos of the crowd using students' phones and call out the fans who sang all the words and enthusiastically danced to his songs.

At one point, he tried to bring a few audience members on stage, but much to his – and the crowd's – dismay, security declined.

Swae was not only extremely spirited but captivated the audience, immersing them in his performance. He sang nearly all of his greatest hits, and his enthusiasm and love for performing showed through his set during the intimate performance.

While students were antsy during the long wait for the headlining performance in the 45-degree weather, the openers kept the crowd engaged, and Swae put on a dynamic and lively show the attendees are sure to remember.

Seniors developing social media, music streaming service for independent artists

SHEA CARLBERG
REPORTER

Student-led music groups are conjuring up new avenues to help underground artists receive recognition and build community.

A group of four seniors are working to launch an app called Put Me On, a social media and music streaming platform for independent artists to promote their work without a label company partnership. The seniors have been developing the app since fall 2020, and the platform is currently in a limited release for beta testing before its full launch, which does not have a set release date yet.

The founders said music streaming platforms like Spotify and Apple Music neglect musicians in the making, leaving space for untapped potential to give them an accessible platform. The team said unlike other streaming platforms, PMO will offer creative ways to construct videos with snippets of songs and allow for artists to transition from creating their media to streaming their sound.

"As a company, our real goal is to connect listeners and artists in the best way possible," PMO co-founder and economics major Sam Linder said.

The team, who first met as roommates their freshman year, came up with the idea in 2020 during their junior year.

Linder said the group was looking to make a platform more suitable and distinctive for the current market, one that "fit into a niche market that hasn't been touched yet."

"It developed into 'How can we make it a platform that's easy for artists to share their work and their music and for

listeners to easily find it in a super engaging way,'" PMO co-founder Jayden Bourne said.

Crooms said he thinks of the platform as a communal service in which artists share their work with others who possess the same passion for creating music. The co-founders said the artists will be able to record their sound and upload it directly to the site, allowing them to take ownership of their art and "capitalize" on their creativity.

"They also have a space in which they can share and celebrate each other," Crooms said. "I think there's power in that, and that builds community."

The founders said they helped organize a Day of the Arts festival last Sunday in Square 80, where artists – ranging from musicians like Head Case Band to the founders' Atlanta-based musician connections – could come together and bring untapped artists "out of the woodwork."

The founders said they dedicated a year of planning to the event, which drew about 500 attendees throughout the day and ultimately included interactive pop-ups, student artwork and tabling from organizations like POP! Clothing and Sunrise GW.

Platform-user Zidane Dixon, who releases music under the name iCEYDONi, said PMO is helping independent artists get their music recognized throughout the world without feeling the need to deliver a certain number of albums on a deadline with a record deal.

He said by prioritizing student creativity on a larger scale to share with the public, PMO has inspired his work ethic, leaving him eager to stay engaged with the platform and utilize the connections he has

been searching for as an underground artist.

"The creative control – I think that's what the main thing to grab for it [is] for independent artists," Dixon said.

Wyatt Kirschner, a co-president of the Student Music Coalition, said he was approached by the PMO team after finishing a Halloween show featuring student musicians at the National Pan-Hellenic Council house on Townhouse Row when the co-founders asked to collaborate to plan a student music festival. He said he already knew Linder and Crooms as fellow music-makers on campus and quickly helped to organize the festival for a couple of months.

Kirschner said as a student organization on campus, SMC oversaw official budget allocation for the Day of the Arts festival from the Student Association – eventually receiving a sum of \$12,695 – which they used to hire sound technicians. He said from the crowd the sound was "professional," with loud volumes that felt like a concert.

As a member of a band himself, Kirschner performed at the festival with his upstate New York-based band Citrus Maxima, where he plays as the guitarist.

"It's just really cool to see some of my friends and other musicians that I really love and I know have a lot of passion for what they do, like perform or sell their art," he said.

PMO and SMC are working to create a music scene at GW that brings an array of creators together outside of the classroom space.

"I think music in particular is an interest that can really bond people, forge friendships," Kirschner said.



COURTESY OF LIAM MORGENSTERN

The app will serve as a platform for independent artists to promote their music without signing with a record label.



SOFTBALL
vs. Virginia
Tuesday | 3:30 p.m.
GW looks for a nonconference victory as they welcome the Cavaliers to the Vern.



TENNIS
vs. Duquesne
Saturday | 1 p.m.
The Colonials seek a win on Senior Day as they take on the Dukes.

NUMBER CRUNCH **67.23**

Men's basketball's points per game during Jamion Christian's tenure as head coach.

Junior shortstop breaks out as baseball's top offensive weapon



FILE PHOTO BY SABRINA GODIN | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
DiTomaso said his goal is for everyone on the team to play their best and to showcase the talent in their lineup.

GABE LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

Powering the offense with a hot bat near the top of the lineup during his first two years at GW, junior shortstop Steve DiTomaso emerged as a leader on the baseball team.

Since his first full season on the team returning from the pandemic last spring, DiTomaso recorded a .346 batting average and a .349 batting percentage in his first two seasons with 62 hits and 42 runs. This spring alone, he leads the team with a .436 batting average, .436 on base percentage and is tied for sixth most hits in all of NCAA Division I baseball.

His consistency at the dish has turned heads at both the collegiate and professional levels. He picked up the Colonial of the Week honors this season back in March and was named to the 2022 Brooks Wallace Award watch list of top shortstops in the country.

"I hope to be someone that people can look to and basically be an example of who people want to work like," he said. "And it's not really about the results – it's really about how you go put your best foot forward everyday and your full effort every day and the process of getting to the results."

He said he was

recruited as an outfielder out of high school, but after the onset of the pandemic cut his freshman season short, he moved to shortstop when four starters were injured in the 2021 season. DiTomaso, who hadn't played shortstop since he was a kid, said he had to adjust to play the position at the college level for the first time but has enjoyed it so far.

"It was a great experience, it was a lot of fun," he said. "And it's been quite the ride so far, just to keep learning and getting better at shortstop."

In his first season at the position last spring, he earned second team All-Atlantic 10 and the All-Rookie team with a .349 batting average and .425 slugging percentage.

During the current spring season, DiTomaso has started 34 of the team's 35 games as shortstop and carries a .923 fielding percentage. He said this season has allowed him to full play at the A-10 level after the pandemic cut short his first two seasons at GW.

"We never got A-10 and then last year was a weird short situation with COVID-19," DiTomaso said. "So I'm really just looking forward to playing a full season, getting a full experience of A-10 play and honestly getting closer with my team every day."

DiTomaso said

he puts his best effort forward and his teammates can look up to him. He said his goal is for everyone on the team to play their best and to showcase the talent in their lineup.

"And I think there's a lot more room and a lot left that we can show," he said. "So my biggest goal right now is just to get every single person on our team to be their absolute best and play the best baseball we can because I think it'll surprise a lot of people and show everyone how good we actually are."

DiTomaso said players on the team push each other to be better with friendly competitions within the team, like his dynamic with senior centerfielder Cade Fergus to see who can get more hits in each game. He said he would "love it" if Fergus tallied more hits each game because it helps fuel the team around him.

DiTomaso said he looks forward to playing a full season of conference games and making a run for the A-10 championship in May.

"It's a lot of fun playing conference games and bettering each other, traveling's so much fun," he said. "Just hanging out with your team and getting a chance to win an A-10 championship is what I'm most excited for."

Head coach Gregg

Ritchie said DiTomaso was originally intended to be a backup at shortstop last spring but adapted to the role quickly and earned a permanent spot for the following seasons. He said DiTomaso's calm character helps his consistency in each game and keeps him in tune with the coaches' directions.

"He doesn't play there, and we just throw him in there very first game of the year, and boom, he becomes second team All-Conference," Ritchie said. "He's growing at that spot too because he's learning the position more."

Ritchie said DiTomaso is the "epitome" of what a GW baseball player represents because he plays with the passion, honor and resilience necessary to motivate the team to work together.

"He has the ability to go from first gear, to second gear, to third gear, to overdrive in his manner of playing the game," Ritchie said. "So he plays the game with such ferocity and intent that you know everything he does. Even when it's not a high level performance day, he's still a guy who is leading the team with his actions, his intensity, his energy. He's just that engine that makes things run."

DiTomaso will look to carry his momentum through the rest of the spring.

Tracking the men's rowing lawsuit

The captain of the team filed a lawsuit against GW in the D.C. Superior Court earlier this month, calling on a judge to require the University to reinstate the team as a varsity sport.

The men's varsity rowing team was one of seven varsity teams officials terminated in August 2020 due to "growing financial concerns" officials said were caused by the

COVID-19 pandemic.

The termination went into effect following the conclusion of the 2020-21 season. After the announcement, program alumni offered to fund the program to protect its varsity status, but the University declined the alumni's offer without providing a statement.

Here's the latest on the status of the suit:

Rowing team captain sues GW to reinstate team's varsity status

April 4, 2022 at 2:23 a.m.

NURIA DIAZ
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

ZACH BLACKBURN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The captain of the men's rowing team filed a lawsuit against GW in the D.C. Superior Court Friday, calling on a judge to require the University to reinstate the team as a varsity sport.

In a 20-page complaint, Patrick George – a fourth-year student who has been a member of the rowing team since 2018 – alleged GW defrauded him, breached its contract and engaged in deceptive trade

practices in failing to renew his athletic scholarship for the upcoming academic year. The lawsuit calls for an immediate emergency restraining order requiring GW to reinstate men's rowing as a varsity sport and provide compensation for damages if George's athletic scholarship is not renewed and for attorney fees.

"Mr. George's final attempts to resuscitate the Men's Rowing Team have fallen on GW's deaf ears," the lawsuit states. "Mr. George now brings this suit to compel GW to return the Men's Rowing Team to varsity status and fulfill its promises and other legal obligations to him."

GW's lawyers move lawsuit to reinstate men's rowing before federal court

April 5, 2022 at 4:18 p.m.

ZACH BLACKBURN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A lawsuit filed by the captain of men's rowing last week to reinstate the team as a varsity sport has moved to federal court.

University lawyers filed a motion Monday to move the case from D.C. Superior Court to the D.C. District Court as GW still awaits an official summons. Patrick George – a fourth-year student and the captain of the men's rowing team – sued the University in D.C. Superior

Court Friday, alleging the University defrauded him, breached its contract and engaged in deceptive trade practices in failing to renew his athletic scholarship for the upcoming academic year.

GW's attorneys contested that the case is subject to federal court because of Title 28 of the U.S. code that establishes "diversity of citizenship," giving district courts original jurisdiction over controversies that exceed \$75,000 and involve citizens of foreign states.

Federal judge denies request to reinstate varsity status of men's rowing team

April 8, 2022 at 12:24 p.m.

ZACH BLACKBURN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A federal judge denied an emergency motion from the men's rowing team's captain Thursday afternoon that would have required the University to reinstate the varsity status of the team.

D.C. District Court Chief Judge Beryl Howell denied Patrick George's emergency motion for a temporary restraining order, which would have prohibited GW from cancelling the varsity status of the rowing team, but a broader suit against the University and a request for documents regarding the termination of the team's varsity status are still pending. The denial is

a blow to George's attempt to retain the team's varsity standing for the current season, which started with a regatta against Georgetown University Saturday.

Attorneys for the University filed their opposition to George's motion before Thursday's hearing, calling the request an "attempted abuse" of the restraining order process. The memo argues none of George's charges against the University are "viable" and that there were no grounds for an injunction from the court.

"George has not pled sufficient facts to support any viable legal claim against GW," the memo states. "Much less that he is likely to succeed on the merits of any of those claims."

Graduate golfer bids farewell to GW after career mixed with tournament runs, injuries

NURIA DIAZ
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

When graduate student Clifford Thompson completed his flight from Broederstroom, South Africa and arrived at GW as the golf team's only international student in 2017, he was on edge.

To his relief, he received an outpouring of support from his teammates to welcome him to the team upon his arrival. He said before coming to GW, a majority of the team members called him to see how he was feeling with his new transition to the United States and offer support.

"I was nervous as a whole coming to America for the first time," Thompson. "I never visited, nothing, and I had these guys reach out to me, asked me how I'm doing, what's up, asking me questions, trying to call me."

Over the course of two seasons during his freshman and sophomore years, Thompson led the team to its first Atlantic 10 Tournament win in 13 years since 2019 and a second NCAA Tournament title a few months later. During his sophomore year, he averaged a 77.4 score finishing T-13th at the Patriot Intercollegiate tournament and

garnering a top-30 finish at the Bash at the Beach tournament.

"I guess the main thing is bigger odds, and we play our best for each other, more than anything else," Thompson said. "And I've noticed that each and every one of us, every time we play poorly, we don't feel bad for ourselves. We feel bad for the team as a whole."

Thompson said he had to adapt to a more open environment where he had to be vocal in his classes and adapt to college-level professors as an international student. He said he struggled to find the perfect balance between schoolwork and golf to keep a clear mind during tournaments.

Thompson said maintaining a familial environment between players has been crucial to the program's success. He said the team's support system made him excited to come to GW and not worry about the unknown when he first arrived in the United States.

"Thanks, Chuck, for giving me the opportunity – that's the biggest thing for me," Thompson said. "I got to study at an unbelievable university, and I'm forever in his debt for that."

Head coach Scheinost said the team gave Thompson the

nickname "Clifford the Dog" after his arrival due to his fun-loving nature with the team.

"He's kind of been one of those guys that was a little bit of the glue, the fun-loving guy that everyone could always turn to and talk to and always had the fun stories to tell," Scheinost said. "And I think that really helped."

He said Thompson had taken a leadership position on the team, where he helped create a family atmosphere that was lost during the pandemic when the team could no longer live together. Scheinost said Thompson and the other seniors helped the freshmen adjust to the team and set the tone of the team's expectations for their next few years.

Scheinost said the injuries Thompson suffered throughout his time with the Colonials sidelined him after his junior year. Thompson is currently suffering from an injury that has kept him off the golf course.

"He's one of those special guys that comes along, and I think his legacy and character will live on for a long time in our program," he said. "And that's as much as scores and results are important, but those are things that live on, generally longer."