

The GW Hatchet

Opinions

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Sports

Meet the student-athlete volunteering at a D.C. middle school. Page 8

What's inside

Tracking COVID-19
April 14 - April 20

Weekly COVID-19 cases: 196

Weekly positivity rate: 1.5%

Change in cases since previous week: +17

GWPD releases second annual demographics report on pedestrian stops

HENRY HUVOS
STAFF WRITER

GW Police Department's pedestrian stops dropped in 2021 despite the University's campus reopening, but officers stopped a greater percentage of Black pedestrians than other racial demographics, according to a GWPD report issued earlier this month.

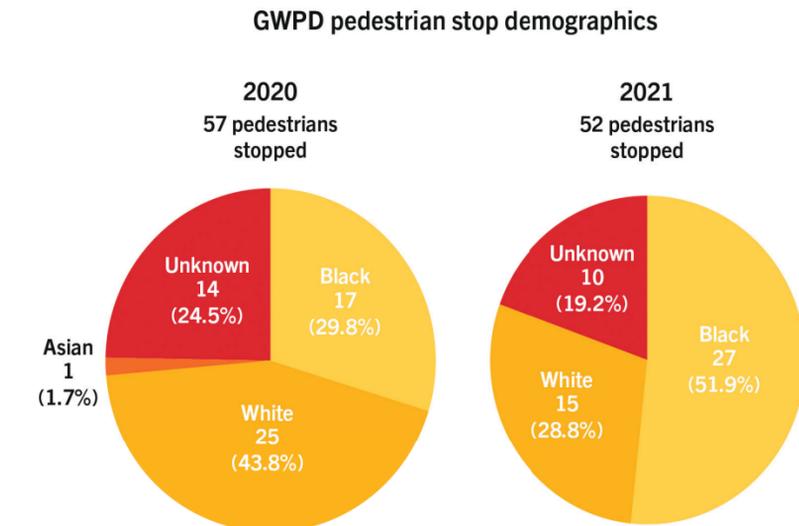
GWPD released its second annual report on the ethnic, racial and gender demographics of the pedestrians that officers stopped earlier this month, which stated that officers stopped 52 pedestrians in 28 total stops in 2021 – a drop from 57 pedestrians in 2020. The report states 27 stopped pedestrians were Black, 15 were white and the race of the other 10 were unknown.

Male pedestrians accounted for 37 of the stopped pedestrians, while officers stopped 14 female pedestrians. One pedestrian's gender was unknown to officers.

GWPD Chief James Tate said the drop in stops from 2020 to 2021 is "hard to judge" because the sample sizes are limited to those two years. He said GWPD may take about three years to better interact with the data to understand the GW community, but he was still happy to release the data on a yearly basis for transparency.

"I'm still proud of the fact that we're sharing that because I think it's important when it comes to transparency and accountability with our community," he said.

GWPD released its first demographic data report last April after demonstrations protesting the killings of unarmed Black people like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Daunte Wright



Source: GWPD

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

pushed police departments to start instituting reforms in 2020. The department released the report days before Derek Chauvin – the former Minneapolis police officer who murdered George Floyd after kneeling on his neck for several minutes – was convicted of second- and third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

The number of Black pedestrians that GWPD stopped in 2021 climbed by 10 people. Tate said searches of pedestrians who fit the description of the suspect in the G Street Garage assault in October and stops tied to unlawful entry reports at residence halls could have accounted for the jump.

"We had a number of reports of unlawful entry into the residence hall early on in the fall,"

Tate said. "And that required us to be much more vigilant in trying to find individuals that are described to us in terms of the description."

Of the 28 stops, GWPD officers used force three times, according to the report.

GWPD officers opened an investigation into one of the three incidents, stemming from a November pedestrian stop of an individual who reportedly walked in and out of traffic, which led to a foot pursuit and deployment of pepper spray before the subject's arrest. They investigated the use of force and disciplined the officer, but Tate declined to say how the officer was disciplined.

Tate said officers should have a suspicion of a crime before initiating a foot chase, and GWPD determined the officer did not

have reasonable suspicion when the officer began to chase the subject.

"You have to have reasonable suspicion that some sort of crime has been committed before you initiate the foot pursuit," Tate said. "And in that case, the supervisor that night very quickly realized that we didn't have that in that case."

Tate said when an officer uses any level of force – like forcibly putting handcuffs on a person – the officer must fill out a form that details the situation and amount of force used. GWPD's defensive tactics instructors then review the form, which the officer's captain and Tate approves if the use of force is determined to be justified.

See **GWPD** Page 5

GW's endowment could drop after rising through pandemic: experts

DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

The value of GW's endowment grew by more than a third from fiscal year 2020 to FY 2021, but experts said the endowment could decline in value over the next few years due to rising inflation and a diminishing economy.

The market value of the University's endowment grew from approximately \$1.8 billion to \$2.4 billion – a roughly 33.8 percent jump from FY20 to FY21, according to the University's financial statements. But higher education and finance experts said inflation could threaten to cut those gains in the near future – the value of GW's investments could fall because of rising inflation and declines in the stock market, possibly leaving the University with less funding for research, faculty and financial aid.

Most U.S. colleges and universities invest much of their assets in stocks and bonds to keep aside for investments in areas like campus development and public service projects. As a private university, GW has traditionally not disclosed where or how it invests its endowment funds.

University spokesperson Tim Pierce said GW has a policy to spend a portion of the endowment on its yearly operations, like research spending or building development, but reinvests the rest to guard against risks of inflation.

"The Board of Trustees establishes a spending policy that determines how endowment distributions are made," he said in an email. "The spending policy is designed to balance current and future spending requirements by ensuring that a portion of investment return is distributed to operations in the form of payout for current expenditure with the remainder reinvested to shield against inflation."

In October 2019, the Board approved a rule allowing officials to spend 4.5 percent of the endowment each year, down from the 5 percent threshold in previous years.

Experts in higher education finance said concerns about rising inflation cutting into profits on investments could force officials to spend parts of their endowment on University research and development projects now before the endowment possibly becomes less valuable over the next few years.

David Yermack, a professor of finance and business transformation at the New York University Stern School of Business, said officials should not try to spend more of their endowment now because rising inflation will affect GW's investments, and they should hold onto their assets for later on.

"The best advice is to do nothing," he said. "What an investor should do is be diversified and then just hold your position through thick and thin and don't trade in and out based on changing economic conditions."

Yermack said the gains in endowments at most universities in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic are probably an "anomaly," and GW's endowment will likely decrease in value as the economy continues to slow by the end of the current fiscal year. He said rising interest rates and inflation, coupled with "cooling" financial markets will likely harm the University's investments.

"I think a lot of universities are going to see very bad returns for the current year that will more or less offset what happened in '21," he said. "So I'd expect a big negative number for most schools for June 30, 2022, although there's still two months to go, you know, anything can happen."

Charlie Eaton – an assistant professor of sociology and economics at the University of California, Merced – said GW's endowment growth over the last year is "average" compared to other large universities around the country and all of GW's peer schools.

He said university endowments have seen unusually large growth as institutions bounce back from the pandemic, and wealthier institutions have seen comparatively larger gains because they have access to more resources and capital to make investments in their endowments.

GW's endowment grew by about 1.35 percent in FY20 – rising from \$1.779 billion to \$1.803 billion – slightly below the industry average of 1.8 percent.

Eaton said officials should use the recent gains from their endowment to expand financial aid packages for students and decrease the cost of attendance for low-income students. He said GW has a reputation for enrolling higher-income students and using its endowment to attract lower-income students could help repair its reputation for not giving out high amounts of financial aid.

"GW is kind of in that space of tending to enroll students from better-off backgrounds, rather than from low-income backgrounds," he said. "So one thing that GW can do, given that the benefits that it accrues through its endowment from tax exemptions, is they could expand financial aid and enroll more students from low-income backgrounds."

Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration returns to campus with in-person cultural events

FAITH WARDWELL
STAFF WRITER

NIKKI GHAEMI
STAFF WRITER

The Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration returned in person this month with an array of events throughout April for the first time in three years after transitioning online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Multicultural Student Services Center hosted the annual month-long event in partnership with nine Asian-American student organizations to provide 10 cultural events for students, like dumpling-making nights and open conversations in the University Student Center about the impact of Asian hate on campus communities. Student leaders said turnout dropped from pre-pandemic years, but the in-person events resulted in more "engaged" crowds and a more lively experience than the online events during the pandemic.

The APIHC co-sponsors that held events this year included the Chinese American Student Association, Taiwanese American Student Association, Chinese Students and Scholars Association, Philippine Cultural Society, Sigma Psi Zeta, Asian American Student Association, Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Japanese Cultural Association, Hawai'i Club and the Multicultural Student Services Center.

Claire Gunawan, a junior and the community outreach co-chair of the Asian American Student Association, said students were able to partake in cultural

events that aren't usually offered at GW, like AASA's Open Mic Night. She said the events promoted are not only social but also a space to have "critical discussions" about heritage through programming including AASA's "Cloud Conversations," which led discussions on serious topics, like discrimination against Asian Americans.

"I think sharing your own talents in a space within your own community is very different than just a normal open mic night that isn't identity-centered," Gunawan said. "Being able to sing a song from your family in a space that's intentionally for that is very different."

After the pandemic broke out in 2020, Asian American student organizations transformed the celebration into a social media challenge where participants posted photos of their Asian heritage as a way to virtually observe heritage month. APIHC programming took place virtually for the second straight year in 2021 and focused on the rise of anti-Asian American hate crimes during the pandemic through cultural shows and guest lectures.

The University created April's annual APIHC programming in 2004 to allow students to celebrate Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month – nationally recognized each May – before the academic year ends in May.

Gunawan said the transition from virtual programming to in-person events has been "difficult" because student organizations are still trying to find their footing after two years online.



Groups like the Chinese American, Asian American and Taiwanese American student associations held events for the month's celebrations. COURTESY OF APIHC

"This is our first time doing it in person, so I feel like there's this disconnect of what the celebration looks like because no one except the seniors has experienced it," she said.

Gunawan said she hopes students who are not directly involved in Asian American student organizations feel encouraged to attend APIHC events and learn more about Asian and Pacific Islander culture.

"The celebrations are absolutely for the community, but it's also for people not technically in the community to celebrate in solidarity and see what that looks like," she said.

Gabriel Young – a junior and the president of the Chinese American Students Association, co-cultural coordinator for the Philippine Cultural Society and program chair of Taiwanese American Student Association – said he helped organize events with the three organizations.

He said the Philip-

pine Cultural Society held Tandang, a show featuring cultural dances and a skit about Filipino identity, and the Taiwanese American Students Association held a meet-up with Taiwanese student associations from nearby universities. He said the Chinese American Students Association held a dumpling-making event, a karaoke night and a discussion with the Chinese Students Scholars Association about Chinese-American identity.

Young said organizations involved with organizing APIHC events are navigating their "historic" first month of in-person programming since before the pandemic. "Now that some of us don't know what has been done in the past or how important it is for this month to be, this year has just been a rebuilding year for us to be able to have a better one next year," Young said.

Katarina Nguyen – a sophomore and the president of Sigma Psi

Zeta, an Asian-interest sorority – said she felt excited to be considered as a co-sponsoring organization for this month's programming because she is proud to be part of an Asian-interest organization on campus. She said her sorority has held social events like cooking nights and dropped off food they made to a local women's shelter as a way to incorporate philanthropy into their cultural events.

Nguyen said although engaging is difficult after two years of online programming, it is exciting to be back in person because there are greater opportunities for social interaction and fewer limits on the types of events that can be held.

"As for cultural orgs, I think this is just such a great month for us to reflect back onto ourselves and our organizations with the values that we hold and also just think about our program then learn for the future," she said.

News

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

D.C. ATTORNEY GENERAL CANDIDATES FORUM
 Tuesday, April 26 | 6 p.m. EDT |
 Jack Morton Auditorium | Free
 Listen to the candidates for D.C. Attorney General discuss voter interest and participation at a forum hosted by GW and the League of Women Voters DC.

AN EVENING WITH HOUSE MAJORITY WHIP JAMES E. CLYBURN
 Wednesday, April 27 | 6:30 p.m. EDT |
 1957 E Street | Free
 Join GW College Democrats for a conversation with Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., the current House Majority Whip.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY
 April 27, 1970

The Student Court was at risk of being dissolved as the University community waited for the Faculty Senate to approve the renewal of its lease.

Zidouemba announces major cuts to Student Association executive cabinet

ERIKA FILTER
 STAFF WRITER

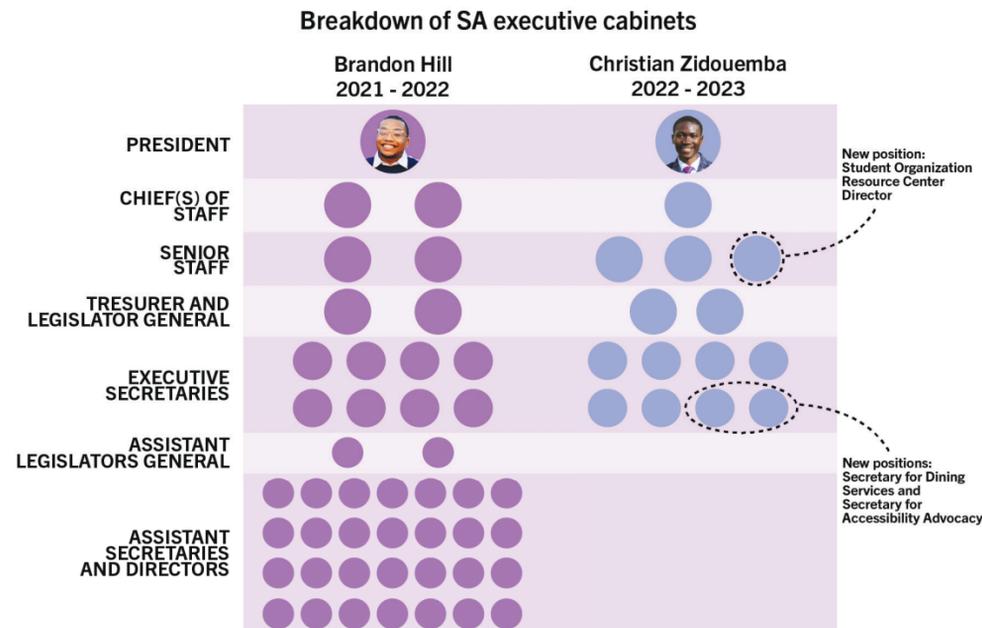
TARA SUTER
 STAFF WRITER

Incoming Student Association President Christian Zidouemba said he plans to slash this year's 44-member executive cabinet down to 14 members in the upcoming term.

Zidouemba said his planned, 14-person cabinet will focus on six "critical issues" – sexual assault prevention and response, accessibility on campus, hiring a new president, fundraising with alumni, increased student outreach and student code of conduct revisions – and will work more closely with SA senators. This year's 46-person executive cabinet advised SA senators on legislation and worked with administrators on issues like diversity, equity and inclusion, interfaith engagement and internal oversight.

"There is a range of evermore important issues that need to be addressed in the student body, and there is a temptation to create a position for every issue," Zidouemba said in an email. "However, in the past, this has created confusion in the legislative branches, where cabinet and senators worked separately on the same issues without notifying each other."

Executive cabinet members said this year's increased cabinet size created confusion over which department projects would fall un-



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

der. SA President Brandon Hill, Vice President Kate Carpenter and chiefs of staff Catherine Morris and Zachary Nosanchuk oversee the cabinet, which is split into eight departments – the treasury, internal relations, academic affairs, the legislator general, student life, campus services, community and government relations and diver-

sity, equity and inclusion. Within the departments, executive secretaries oversee between one and seven assistant secretaries who direct about 18 project assistants.

Morris and Nosanchuk said this year's larger cabinet helped members manage their workloads and allowed them to focus on more specialized work, like securing class recordings for students

who could not attend in-person classes. They said the cabinet struggled through negative "on-line remarks" and less urgency for "student action" from the student body.

Nosanchuk said enrolling students in the U-Pass program was the executive cabinet's top accomplishment this year. He said the executive cabinet also continued

the efforts of previous SA administrations and held discussions with officials to finalize GW's entry into the program.

"I think this is something that's been many years in the making, which I think is the case for a lot of projects within the SA, and I think it's easy for a project to just kind of fall by the wayside and then the next administration picks it up and kind of starts all over," Morris said.

John Hicks – the assistant secretary of LGBTQ+ advocacy under the diversity, equity and inclusion department of the executive cabinet – said SA members were often unsure which cabinet would be assigned certain work, which hindered some projects he wanted to accomplish.

"It was kind of hard to tell if somebody was already working on something," he said. "Sometimes people would already have things going, and then you try to pick up a similar issue and it would just kind of get complicated."

Hicks said although the chiefs of staff were available as a point of contact, he did not always want to reach out to them for every single departmental confusion, like differences between the web development and digital strategy sub-departments and the role of the secretary and undersecretary.

"There's just a lot of different, very niche things that are hard to differentiate in between," he said. "But I also think that that's bad for the students who are trying to find somebody and talk to them."



TYLER KRAMBEER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Rita Champagne, a Columbia Plaza Apartments resident, said she has tried to prevent the crashes, painting the median and placing cones, which has amounted to little success.

Virginia Avenue traffic median creates Foggy Bottom car crash hot spot

Duc Than
 REPORTER

Tyler Krambeer
 STAFF WRITER

Popped tires, broken bumpers and scattered hubcaps have become signs of a string of traffic crashes along Virginia Avenue this month after at least five vehicles have crashed at the same location.

Witnesses of the crashes said vehicles driving eastbound appear to be striking the center median of the 2400 block of Virginia Avenue avenue next to Columbia Plaza Apartments and Shenkman Hall. The center median bisects the street into two diverging lanes, one connecting to 23rd Street and the other continuing along Virginia Avenue with a tunnel.

Rita Champagne, a retired State Department employee and longtime Columbia Plaza Apartments resident, said she has seen more than 100 car crashes at that lane separation from her apartment since she moved there in 1976.

"Every time I hear a bang out here, I know what's happening," Champagne said.

She said the city once installed reflectors on the median, but they were destroyed one month later following a car collision, never to be replaced. She said working to alert city officials of the problem is "wasting your time" because they have never followed up on her traffic safety concerns.

Champagne said she has tried to prevent the crashes

throughout her time living in the apartment, painting the median and placing cones, which has amounted to little success in preventing the crashes. She said she cleans up debris that's often left behind from crashes because of the lack of a city response.

"You would think that when the police were there, they could pick up the trash," Champagne said.

The Metropolitan Police Department declined a request for comment about the incidents at that location.

Champagne said while the crashes happen year-round and often late at night, snow covering the median during winter months makes the median especially difficult to notice while driving.

Zhengtian Xu, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at GW, said Virginia Avenue's traffic hazard could be solved if the city installed reflectors and signs on the median or painted the road to indicate a median was up ahead. City officials haven't placed any signage or reflective material on the barrier.

"This is not difficult at all," Xu said. "You make the painting more visible and install some signs so it does not involve the restructure of the geometries of those lanes and roads."

Xu said city officials will often prioritize fixing the areas that cause the most accidents or fatalities, and because most of Virginia Avenue's crashes aren't severe – resulting in mostly vehicle damage rather than pedestrian or driver injuries – the

avenue hasn't been receiving attention from the city.

There have been no accidents with injuries recorded on the block of Virginia Avenue between the beginning of the year to present, according to the Vision Zero Fatal and Injury Crashes Dashboard.

Mayor Muriel Bowser and the District Department of Transportation launched the Vision Zero Initiative in 2015 to eliminate serious traffic injuries and fatalities in the city by 2024 with safer streets and sidewalks and dangerous driving prevention.

DDOT, which oversees the Vision Zero Initiative, did not return a request for comment.

Traffic fatalities have increased since 2012 with 40 recorded in 2021 – the highest number since 2008. Statistics like these prompted the District Auditor to begin a 10-month investigation into Vision Zero's lack of success in September 2021.

Sophomore Maddie Billet said she has witnessed at least 10 car accidents by the traffic median in the last semester from her room in Shenkman Hall, which overlooks Virginia Avenue.

Billet said she filed a road repair report with the city after the accident late last month in hopes that officials would fix the "confusing" lane split with additional signage or reflective material on the median. She said city officials promised to resolve the problem, but they painted a five-foot white line on the street outlining the median last week instead of installing signage or reflectors.

Student organizations to receive about 30 percent of SA allocations

Erika Filter
 STAFF WRITER

Student organization allocation requests for the upcoming fall semester outnumbered the Student Association's budget by about \$4 million, leaving nearly all the allocation requests only partially met.

The SA finance committee allocated roughly \$1 million in response to requests that totaled about \$5 million from nearly 270 student organizations, according to the fall 2022 proposed General Allocations budget. SA Sen. Yan Xu, ESIA-U, and the chair of the SA Senate's finance committee, said the committee prioritizes funding requests that will affect the greatest number of students.

On average, the 269 student organizations that applied for SA funding received about 30 percent of their requests from the SA's budget. The Emergency Medical Response Group, which provides emergency transportation and responds to student distress calls, received the largest share of funding with more than \$11,900 in allocations, still less than half of their total request.

J Street U at GW requested \$2,860 but only received \$30, about 1.05 percent of their request.

"I can say we provide everything we can provide," Xu said.

The SA Senate will vote to approve the proposed budget allocations at its meeting Monday.

The senate created a financial code this spring that includes informa-

tion on student organization funding policies and the appeals process. Additionally, the code adds a handbook for student organizations to explain the allocation process and changed SA policies. Xu said the SA finance committee introduced budget limitations this year, which limit funding for cultural or religious food and cap funding for decoration requests, according to the financial code.

"I want to emphasize that this is a committee, collective decision," he said of the general allocations process.

The new limitations prohibit the SA from funding guest speakers, limit their funding to cultural or religious food and set maximum allocations for decoration requests, according to the financial code. The committee rejected about 15 percent of the overall funds requested because organizations requested prohibited or limited funding, like speaker fees or non-religious food.

Xu said along with the handbook, the finance committee reached out in late March to student organizations through multiple emails and social media posts. He said "many" student organizations did not follow the SA's instruction to rank their requests in order of priority, leaving the finance committee to allocate in the order of the requests each organization submitted.

"If they genuinely want that money, they really need to read the instructions," he said.

Members of four stu-

dent organizations said they requested more funds than necessary to offset their costs because they did not expect to receive the full amount they requested from the SA. They said they plan to pursue alternative sources of funding like SA co-sponsorships and partnerships with local businesses, saying they understood it was "very difficult" for the finance committee to accommodate all requests.

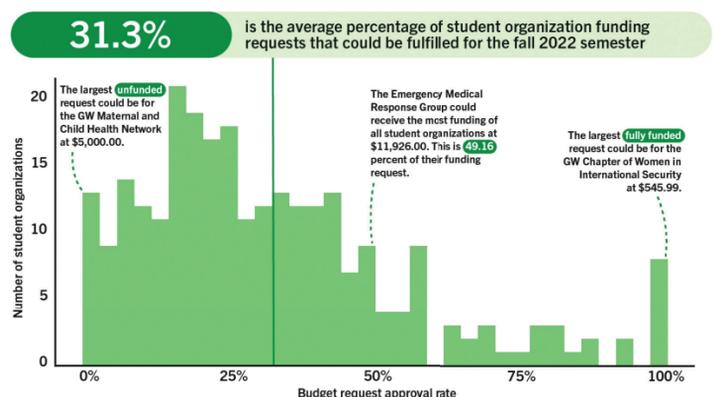
Alex Stengel, the president of GWU Esports, said his organization did not expect to receive the more than \$100,000 it requested from the SA for video games, coaching and hardware for their 660 active members but filed the request to secure funding for its quickly expanding membership. GWU Esports received more than \$7,100 for headsets, monitors, mousepads and speakers that the organization plans to set up in the University Student Center and make available to the University community.

"Because most esports equipment is expensive, it's very difficult to finance," he said.

Sally Fried – the copresident of GW RAGE, an organization advocating for reproductive anatomy and gender equity – said her organization received \$100 of the \$600 it requested for speaker events and crafting nights next semester.

"So they completely slashed the speaker budget and resources, and they gave us only part of the amount we requested," she said.

SA budget allocations for students organizations*



*for fall 2022 semester of FY 2023
 Source: Student Association proposed general allocations

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

GW Libraries grant program aids professors switching to free course materials

CAITLIN KITSON
STAFF WRITER

MAX BEVERIDGE
REPORTER

GW awarded grants to faculty who will replace their required, commercial course materials with free, open-source academic resources last week as part of a University-wide effort to lower the cost of textbooks.

GW Libraries launched the Adapting Course Materials for Equity Faculty Grant earlier this semester before awarding grants ranging from \$250 to \$1000 last week to eight professors who will switch to free, open-source materials, like online textbooks, for courses taught between fall 2022 and fall 2023. Officials said the adoption of free, open-source materials through the grant program will make courses more accessible and alleviate students' financial burden.

Geneva Henry, the dean of libraries and academic innovation, said in an interview in February that the grant program will provide students with greater access to materials they need to succeed in their courses, like textbooks and lab manuals.

"Having materials be open access does enhance equitable access to the course materials because it lowers that barrier cost," she said.

The yearly cost of course

materials for undergraduate students is about \$1,400, according to GW's financial aid website. The University is lowering the cost of course materials for students through GW Campus Store's textbook buy back program, which allows students to sell their used textbooks to the campus store where students can also purchase the donated textbooks at lower costs.

Henry said officials formed a committee made of staff like librarians, a faculty member and a student to review the grant applications, where applicants outlined plans to adopt free, open-source materials for their courses.

"The things they're going to be looking for, for successful candidates, are the potential cost savings to students, the impact on student learning and success and then the potential contributions to inclusive teaching practices and materials," she said.

The program awards faculty members up to \$500 for adopting open-source materials, like digital textbooks available through GW Libraries or other "freely available digital materials." The program also awards faculty members up to \$1,000 for adopting existing, open-source materials for their course or for creating new open-source materials, like online learning modules.

"We recognize that it's also a barrier to access to information which is what we're all about in Libraries," Henry said. "So we have been promoting for a very long time, the adoption of open education resources to increase affordability for our students."

Alexa Alice Joubin, a professor of English, said she received a grant after applying with a proposal to create a free, open-source website to replace the three textbooks for her Shakespeare, Race and Gender on Film course.

"It's not a stand-alone, self-study resource, but when used in a course like mine, or someone else can also take advantage of it, it will become very instructive," she said.

Joubin said she will use the money from the grant to cover the costs of the website, pay the student who will help develop the site and pay the copyright fees for the scenes from the films discussed in her course.

"In my research, no such resource exists in the world," she said. "So this would be a great contribution, not just into saving GW student's money, but actually allowing people a new way to learn."

Eugene Montague, an associate professor of music and a recipient of the grant, said he applied to the program with a proposal



MICHELLE LIN | PHOTOGRAPHER

The program awards faculty members up to \$1,000 for adopting existing, open-source materials for their courses or for creating new open-source materials, like online learning modules.

to adapt an existing open-source textbook and create audio, text and image-based materials for his Elements of Music Theory course.

More than half a dozen professors said they weren't aware of the grant program, but some have already taken their own steps to make required materials for their courses more affordable and alleviate students' financial burden.

Antwan Jones, an associate professor of sociology, Africana studies and epi-

demiology, said he was not aware of the grant program, but it is a "wise University investment" to incentivize faculty members to switch to zero-cost, open-source course materials.

"As a professor who sees this problem, I have two options – I can either contribute to its perpetuation, or I can do something that would economically level the playing field for students in my courses," he said.

Kim Roddis, a professor of engineering, said al-

though she did not apply for a grant, she worked with the civil and environmental engineering department chair to buy course-required textbooks to lend to students with the financial support of alumni.

"A few years ago, I worked with my department chair to have multiple copies of the book purchased by the department at the discounted price," she said in an email. "We now check out by semester copies to the students for their use."



LILY SPEREDELOZZI | PHOTOGRAPHER

Provost Chris Bracey said the Board of Trustees started 44 new tenure and tenure-track searches this academic year that prioritize female and minority candidates to increase faculty diversity.

Faculty diversity rates drop during pandemic as hiring efforts ramp up

IANNE SALVOSA
STAFF WRITER

Officials are looking to hire more full-time female and underrepresented minority professors, or URM faculty, after faculty diversity dipped during the pandemic.

The number of full-time female faculty fell about six percent from 646 to 604 faculty members, and full-time URM faculty dropped by about 10 percent from 139 to 126 faculty members between 2019 and 2021, according to the Annual Core Indicators Report. Provost Chris Bracey said at a Faculty Senate meeting earlier this month that the Board of Trustees started 44 new tenure and tenure track searches this academic year that prioritize female and minority candidates in an effort to increase faculty diversity.

"We really need to focus on URM faculty hiring, as there appears to have been a significant drop off during the pandemic," Bracey said.

The University defines underrepresented minority faculty as African American/Black, American Indian and Hispanic faculty of all genders. The Columbian College of Arts and Sciences launched an initiative last summer to hire 12 faculty members that are racially reflective of the student population.

Faculty said many female professors left their positions when the pandemic put stress on their familial roles, while underrepresented minority faculty may have opted to move to universities working to strengthen diversity in the wake of heightened calls for racial equity reforms in 2020.

From 2019 to 2021, full-time male faculty decreased from 719 to 697

professors, full-time white faculty fell from 984 to 928 and full-time Asian faculty increased from 217 to 222, according to the report.

Bracey said URM faculty experienced no major population changes, while Black faculty experienced a "non-trivial" decrease in population throughout the pandemic at a Faculty Senate meeting earlier this month.

Officials created a group of 26 students, faculty and administrators in February to review University-wide diversity. The team launched a diversity, equity and inclusion climate survey last week to gather feedback from students, faculty and staff on the University's current environment and will use the results to inform a report on GW's diversity.

Candice Chen, an associate professor of health policy and management and a member of the Diversity Program Review Team, said her department initiated faculty searches before the pandemic to potentially recruit more female and URM faculty, but the searches were paused when the pandemic began. She said the University is "failing" to achieve school-wide faculty diversity because of low numbers of female faculty and faculty of color.

"We see less faculty of color and people in leadership positions of color, and this has been a historical issue," Chen said. "It's based on structural racism and policies inside of our institutions that need to be changed."

Chen said the murder of George Floyd turned attention toward racial equity within universities and pushed URM faculty to leave for schools that are committed to ending institutionalized racism.

Black faculty members

said in 2020 that higher education and research was "rife with discrimination."

Chen said daycare closures and children at high risk of COVID-19 infection forced female faculty members to leave their jobs because they had to prioritize tending to their children over research.

"I hope those faculty members are making decisions that are good for themselves," Chen said. "And then it becomes the rest of our responsibility to change our institutions, so that other people don't have to experience it and they can be successful."

Adrienne Davis, a professor of organizational behavior and leadership and the former vice provost for faculty diversity and advancement at Washington University in St. Louis, said faculty have been moving to new institutions because of the "racial pandemic," in which faculty of color are seeking universities committed to becoming diverse rather than claiming commitment.

Davis said universities struggle to retain minority faculty because they are "overburdened" with requests from faculty and students to represent diverse voices on dissertation committees and help students write about racial issues. She said faculty will burn out and struggle to earn tenure because their other commitment requests give them less time to dedicate to teaching or research.

She said the murder of George Floyd pushed universities to follow through on goals to increase faculty diversity. But some universities are still seeing decreases in Black faculty because institutions across higher education are trying to recruit more Black professors to diversify their own faculty.

GW installs live weather-tracking systems for localized weather alerts

SOPHIA GOEDERT
STAFF WRITER

The University installed live weather tracking systems on its three main campuses to provide more accurate live weather alerts during hazardous events earlier this month.

Officials said GW partnered with WeatherSTEM, a company that builds live weather tracking units, to adopt advanced weather monitoring and to help the Division of Safety and Facilities make decisions about class cancellations and GW Alerts during extreme weather. Officials and experts said the stations capture real-time data of weather patterns in Foggy Bottom, which can also be used in courses and for research at GW.

Scott Burnotes, the vice president of safety and facilities, said the WeatherSTEM systems are equipped with wet bulb globe temperature – which measures the combination of heat and humidity to assess extreme heat – to help officials make campus safety decisions that protect faculty and students. Burnotes said the systems archive each image and data point for GW community members to retrieve from the system's website, and he "encourages" the use of the data provided on the website for educational and research purposes.

"We hope our students, faculty, staff and neighbors will see benefit in having an extremely capable weather station where they live and work to help them in everyday decisions impacted by weather," Burnotes said in an email. "We encourage everyone to explore the capabilities of the stations and the data, videos and social media posts they create on a daily basis."

Ed Mansouri, the CEO

and founder of WeatherSTEM, said the weather tracking units record temperature, humidity, wind speed, precipitation and ultraviolet radiation every eight-tenths of a second throughout the day to allow their partners to make safe decisions when extreme weather conditions arise.

He said the systems operate with two parts – hardware with the weather station's cameras that capture live photos and software holding weather data that is sent to the system's constantly-updating website and Twitter page that are both run by artificial intelligence.

"We use it to drive a web, a mobile and a social media platform where people can interact with that information and use it for purposes of decision making regarding, say, for football practice today," Mansouri said.

Mansouri said live weather systems can keep students and faculty safe from unexpected hazardous weather conditions. He said universities can use the system's data for statistics classes, and computer science courses can input their own codes to pull data from the system for computer programming purposes.

Mansouri said the company is looking to develop technology that can predict where lightning will strike and improve technology that predicts measurements for snow, rain or hail amounts. He said the GW systems are wired into the school's power, but some systems run on solar power.

The company provides backup generators to make sure they still work through extreme weather, he added.

"If you're using technology to monitor severe weather and that technology fails in severe weather, you've just shot yourself in the foot

with respect to monitoring the severe weather conditions," he said.

Mansouri said most of the WeatherSTEM systems are based in Florida where the company is headquartered, but they can also be found in Maine, Washington and NFL and NCAA football stadiums.

"We're working very hard to expand our footprint," Mansouri said. "And our project with GWU is actually our first-ever system in the District of Columbia. So we're extremely proud and excited."

Experts in meteorology and atmospheric science said the WeatherSTEM systems allow universities to advance their safety systems and create new educational opportunities through collected data.

Jon Michael Nese, a professor of meteorology at Pennsylvania State University, said Mansouri donated the four WeatherSTEM units that are on campus – located in the football stadium and by the middle, north and west areas of campus.

Nese said he uses data from the systems to teach students climatology – the scientific study of climate – and analyzes the average number of times certain weather events occur each month. He said he teaches students to pull statistical data from the systems about cold fronts, the average amount of rain days or other weather events.

Nese said the cameras on the units capture photos and time-lapses of visually-aesthetic landscapes. He said local television stations use photos that WeatherSTEM units take when referring to Penn State.

"From a safety standpoint, it's nice to have that network of observing sites that sort of covers all parts of campus," Nese said.



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The CEO and founder of Weather STEM said the tracking units collect data, like temperature and humidity, throughout the day to allow their partners to make safe decisions when extreme weather conditions arise.

Student addresses cancer treatment disparities for HIV patients in initiative

TALON SMITH
STAFF WRITER

A new initiative from School of Medicine and Health Sciences senior Allison Graeter is focusing on addressing disparities in cancer treatment for persons living with HIV.

Graeter started CancerFreeHIV in January to raise awareness about people with HIV's higher risk of cancer and higher cancer mortality rates. CancerFreeHIV shares educational content on Twitter about cancer prevention and screening and urges people with HIV to participate in clinical trials in order to create more medical understanding about how cancer affects people with HIV differently.

People living with HIV have weakened immune systems that cannot effectively fight against cancer cells. Modern treatment can strengthen their immune systems, but people with HIV still face higher cancer mortality rates and are less likely to be treated for cancer, according to CancerFreeHIV's website.

"Most people don't realize that they're still at risk, an increased risk, for cancer as compared to the general population," Graeter said. "And I think that even people with HIV don't really know that."

She said cancer research

has historically excluded those with HIV due to concerns that they would have adverse reactions to treatment, even though experts said these theories have been disproven.

Graeter said organizations like the American Society of Clinical Oncology and Friends of Cancer Research in recent years have pushed for more inclusion of those with HIV in cancer research. But she said searching "HIV" on the U.S. National Library of Medicine-run clinical trial search tool brings up clinical trials that list HIV under exclusions, makes searching for trials that include people with HIV difficult.

"There's no good reason to just blanket exclude them," she said. "And when that happens, you're impairing drugs that could be really effective to treat cancer in people living with HIV from actually getting approved to treat those patients."

She said CancerFreeHIV is currently working with Carebox, an organization that helps connect patients to clinical trials, to develop a clinical trial search tool for people with HIV to get involved in clinical trials for cancer treatment. Graeter said the search tool will be made available on CancerFreeHIV's website within the next few weeks.

Graeter said individuals

who want to help this effort can share the information posted on CancerFreeHIV's Twitter and speak up about HIV stigma and the importance of cancer screening.

"I'm very excited to work with people and get others engaged," she said. "But this is definitely something I want to grow and I want people to be engaged on and be passionate about."

Jessica Castilho, assistant professor of medicine and health policy at Vanderbilt University, said she was "really excited" when she found CancerFreeHIV's Twitter and saw young people recognizing and addressing the dangers cancer poses to people living with HIV.

"I love the content that they're putting out," she said. "I think advocacy for people with HIV to be included in cancer research is really important."

Castilho said people with HIV have always been at higher risk for certain cancers, particularly ones related to the immune system.

Brinda Emu, an associate professor of internal medicine at Yale University, said she studies why people with HIV are at a higher risk for cancer, specifically looking at the effects of chronic viral infection on the immune system's biology, and how cancer differs in people living with HIV.

She said the phenom-



FILE PHOTO BY SOPHIA YOUNG | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Medical school student Allison Graeter said cancer research has excluded those with HIV due to concerns that they would have adverse reactions to treatment, even though experts said these theories have been disproven.

enon is understudied, so researchers do not know why cancer treatment outcomes differ between people with HIV and those without. Emu said physicians often approach cancer treatment differently for patients with HIV, largely due to concerns that cancer treatments could interfere with HIV medication, but cancer treatment outcomes are still poorer for people with HIV than those without when their situations are comparable.

"I absolutely believe that

patients with HIV need to be included in all clinical trials for cancer," Emu said.

Rachel Bender Ignacio, an assistant professor of allergy and infectious diseases at the University of Washington, said the number of cancer screenings that people with HIV patients undergo has decreased because both physicians and patients expect that their lifespan will be shortened. She said CancerFreeHIV's website provides "well researched

and referenced" resources on issues including screening.

Bender Ignacio said collaboration between HIV and cancer specialists can provide solutions whenever there are concerns about drug interactions during clinical trials.

"Through conversation between specialists, somebody could have their regimen changed, or make a comprehensive plan in order to be able to get people on trial," she said.

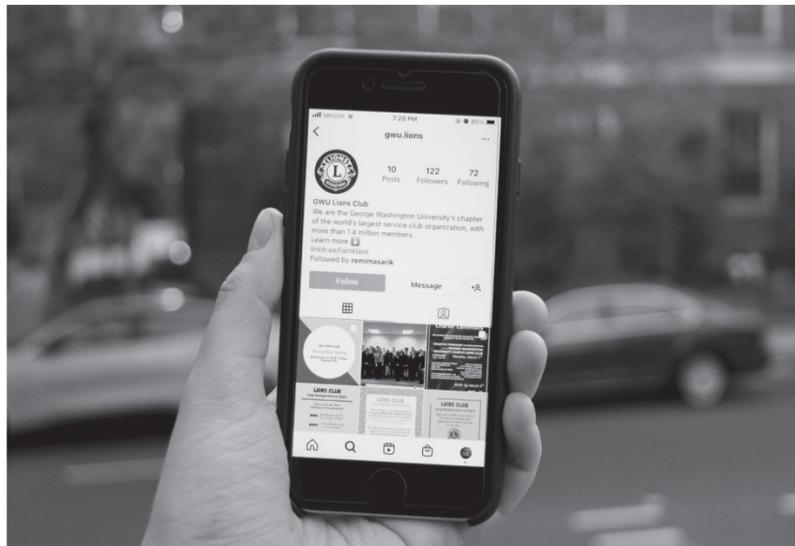


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AUDEN YURMAN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
GWU Lions Club members said they plan to contribute their own funding to Lions Club International to donate to its Displaced Persons Fund to support Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.

International service organization adds GW student chapter

ALEXANDRA SINGEREANU
REPORTER

An international service organization focused on civic engagement and professional development founded a GW chapter this spring, one of more than 46,000 chapters worldwide.

The GWU Lions Club, which was chartered as an official student organization in February, hopes to make use of global connections for planning service projects to advance the welfare of the D.C. community through projects like fundraising for the surrounding unhoused population. Lions Clubs International – the global leader of chapters across the globe – works to aid hunger, vision, diabetes, childhood cancer and the environment through their service.

Other local Lions chapters will provide funding for the GW chapter's activities fund, publicity for GWU Lions Club projects. They will also offer exclusive opportunities for GWU Lions like offering access to equipment for service projects, including an upcoming partnership that will provide the GW chapter with a machine to sort through donated eyeglasses to aid District residents living with vision disabilities.

GWU Lions Club members said they plan to contribute their own funding to Lions Club International to donate to its Displaced Persons Fund to support Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.

Arun Nimmagadda, a freshman and GW Lions' co-vice president, said the organization is looking forward to upcoming service projects, like a plastic bag drive meant to create "plann" – yarn made from recycled plastic – to provide sustainable blankets

for the District's unhoused population. He said the organization is "continuously growing" and the impact of giving back to the community through Lions Club service stays with members their whole lives.

"So it's something that sticks with you for most of your life, that idea of helping those around you and developing as a professional continuously and giving back to the community with civic engagement," Nimmagadda said.

Lions International was founded in 1917 and has since served more than 200 countries with more than 1.4 million members globally.

Nimmagadda said he was involved with a local youth chapter of Lions International in high school, which helped him connect with other GWU Lions Club founders who had also participated in other youth chapters before collaborating to bring the new chapter to campus. He said his experience as a Lion has taught him a sense of "self-advocacy" because it offers each member a chance to launch their own service projects and have a say in organization decisions.

"It was something that my parents were involved in when they were younger, something that I grew up around," Nimmagadda said. "It created such a monumental impact on me both professionally, with public speaking and things like that, but also community-wise in giving back to our community in ways that we can."

Ojas Chitnis, a freshman and the president of GWU Lions Club, said the Lions' constitutional bylaws state that the organization must invest 100% of their funding for public causes and service projects, a policy he says the group's organizers

are proud of.

"The international resources that we collect from all Lions Clubs are all mobilized for local issues, whereas traditional service groups fundraise and collect locally to mobilize international issues," he said.

Chitnis said the club's ability to utilize international resources and connections from chapters around the world, through fundraising or service opportunities like volunteering at a baseball game in support of those with vision loss, is what sets them apart from other student organizations.

Chitnis said the District hosts eight other Lions Clubs in surrounding universities and local neighborhoods. He said members hope to interact with other university and regional chapters like Howard University Lions Club and the New York Financial District Lions Club – which GWU Lions Club plans to partner with for an event with a blind baseball team next semester.

"In working with other clubs who focus on other needs, we find more avenues to become engaged," he said. "Bringing all these interests together on campus is how we plan to grow our own club."

Liam Klass, a freshman and the GWU Lions Club co-vice president, said he and other organizers saw a need for a service organization in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood because of its large unhoused population in encampments like the corner of E and 21st Street.

"Walking around just Foggy Bottom in general and seeing all of the homelessness and people in need, it really touches me from an emotional standpoint and gives me that initiative to create change and that drive to seek action," Klass said.

ANC approves resolution pushing for housing voucher reform

HENRY HUVOS
STAFF WRITER

A local governing body approved a resolution urging the D.C. Council to do away with time limit terminations on its rapid rehousing voucher program in a meeting Wednesday.

The Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission voted 6-1 to recommend the D.C. Council withdraw time limit terminations, which might force more than 900 Foggy Bottom residents off of their housing subsidies as their limited-time voucher expires and ends their housing benefits, and reform the rapid rehousing voucher program, which was introduced as a housing remedy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Interim University President Mark Wrighton outlined his goals for the University to the ANC and a representative from Mayor Muriel Bowser's office gave commissioners updates regarding the fiscal budget for 2023.

ANC urges Council to reform rapid rehousing

Commissioner Yannik Omictin introduced a resolution urging the D.C. Council to reform its rapid rehousing voucher program, which allowed about 913 Foggy Bottom residents to receive housing vouchers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Omictin said residents who received housing vouchers could face a "benefits cliff" when their subsidies expired, likely being pushed off their benefits with little wiggle room to pay for their housing.

"They would lose access to this voucher and have no means of getting a job that pays them \$10,000 more or \$15,000 more," Omictin said. "They can't do that in

the span of a few months, or even six or so. It's very difficult."

The vouchers acted as a housing subsidy for recipients, allowing them to live in housing in D.C. on the stipulation that 30 percent of their income went to paying for the housing. Commissioner Evelyn Hudson was the sole dissenting vote on the resolution, which passed 6-1. Commissioner Trupti Patel, who voted for the resolution, said the vouchers are vital housing assistance for residents with lower incomes. She said apartment buildings and landlords in the District will sometimes refuse to accept the vouchers or wait until they expire, adding to the difficulty of finding housing for the recipients.

Wrighton talks to commissioners on University-ANC cooperation

Interim University President Mark Wrighton spoke to commissioners at the meeting, introducing himself and expressing a hope for further cooperation between the ANC and GW. Wrighton said he wants to be "proactive" in community outreach for University events like basketball games and musicals, and hopes to increase the community's involvement in said events.

"I look forward to working with all of you to continue to build our community and the University itself can make very important contributions," Wrighton said.

Wrighton gave updates on GW's search for permanent office holders on various positions like vice president for communications and marketing and general counsel, and said he expected the positions to be filled "in the next several

months."

Wrighton also said he had tested positive for COVID-19, adding that he had been in isolation with mild symptoms for about 10 days.

Mayor's office gives update on 2023 budget

Lindsey Parker, the District's assistant city administrator and chief technology officer, spoke on behalf of the office of Mayor Muriel Bowser to give updates on the \$19.5 billion budget for the 2023 fiscal year, which Bowser recently proposed to the D.C. Council.

Parker said the budget includes \$114.6 million for the modernization and renovation of D.C. homelessness shelters, along with a \$31 million to Bowser's Homeward D.C. plan, which aims to increase permanent housing vouchers to the District's unhoused population.

"What this investment is going to allow us to do is really think about investing in quality housing for some of our residents that don't have stable homes today," Parker said.

Patel said she was "deeply disappointed" in the budget because of its lack of funding toward D.C. workers who are not eligible for unemployment and pandemic-related benefits. She said excluded workers had asked Bowser for \$200 million in funding last year, but had only received \$41 million, and had been "left out" of the 2023 budget.

"We thought and we'd hoped that the mayor would give us something and she didn't," Patel said. "We even requested a meeting with the mayor. So while there are some great things in this budget, a large block of people were left out."



AVA PITRUZZELLO | PHOTOGRAPHER
ANC commissioner Yannik Omictin urged the D.C. Council to reform its rapid rehousing voucher program, which allowed about 900 Foggy Bottom residents to receive housing vouchers during the pandemic.

CRIME LOG

INDECENT EXPOSURE/SEX OFFENSE

1959 E Street
4/17/2022 – 11:17 p.m.
Open Case

A female student reported that a male subject exposed himself to her while she was walking on E Street.

Case open.

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

Multiple Locations
4/18/2022 – Multiple
Open Case

A female student reported receiving multiple harassing emails, text messages and telephone calls in addition to a Craigslist post that revealed her address and other personal information.

Case open.

PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS

2100 Block of G Street NW
4/19/2022 – 11:00 p.m.
Closed Case

While on patrol, GW Police Department officers witnessed a non-GW-affiliated individual helping a stumbling, intoxicated female student. EMeRG paramedics arrived to the scene and, after a medical evaluation, sent the student to the GW Hospital emergency room.

Referred to Division for Student Affairs.

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

University Student Center
4/20/2022 – 12:35 p.m.
Open Case

A female staff member reported her wallet as stolen.

Case open.

SIMPLE ASSAULT

2200 Block of I Street NW
4/20/2022 – 2:35 p.m.
Closed Case

A female faculty member reported that a male student pushed her but ultimately decided not to proceed with criminal charges.

Case closed.

—Compiled by Acacia Niyogi

Sunrise GW rounds out year of climate action pressure with Earth Day protest

FAITH WARDWELL
STAFF WRITER

Sunrise GW marched with dozens of protesters through campus Friday pressuring officials to reject fossil fuel research funding from companies like ExxonMobil, after demanding federal investment in sustainable practices like renewable energy and GW's divestment from the fossil fuel industry throughout the academic year.

Protesters marched past Interim University President Mark Wrighton's F Street House – with what appeared to be GW Police Department officers guarding its front door – to the Office of the President, Provost, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer while chanting for climate action from officials. In 2020, officials announced their plans to divest GW's endowment from fossil fuel industry companies by 2025, but student climate activists said they are still awaiting funding transparency from officials.

Sophia Halloran – a senior and the former hub coordinator of Sunrise GW – said Sunrise GW raised awareness for their climate action over the past semester through tabling in Kogan Plaza to teach students about fossil fuel investments and meeting with the University president and vice provost. She said Friday's march was a culmination of this semester's efforts, but will not be the last event of the campaign.

"We've been building power throughout the semester in the past few years to really raise some consciousness around how much money GW is taking from the fossil fuel industry and to take a stand with students and faculty and say that's not okay," Halloran said. She said both students



SKYLAR EPSTEIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Sophia Halloran said Sunrise GW organized the march to "reclaim the radical roots" of Earth Day.

and University department heads are unaware of where a lot of their funding is coming from.

"It's confusing, but it's also devastating to know that they're taking money from this industry that is destroying our futures and has already destroyed so many people's lives," Halloran said. "So it's devastating to see that and it's devastating to not even know the extent of it."

Halloran said Sunrise GW organized the march to "reclaim the radical roots" of Earth Day, by demanding direct actions from officials and corporations rather than focusing on making sustainable, conscious decisions as consumers. She said she hopes students are motivated to take more action while demanding climate justice in the future.

"I want the students at GW to be galvanized and know that we want to reject fossil fuel money because it's destroying our future and the people we love and the places we call home," Halloran said. "And I want the adminis-

tration to know that that's our only ask – we want them to reject fossil fuel money and align with the values they've already acted on before to reject fossil fuel money and protect our futures."

Pada Schaffner – a sophomore and a hub coordinator for Sunrise GW – said this year, the organization "started from the ground up" launching a petition for divestment that garnered almost 2000 signatures and demanded climate action from officials, but the group has not seen any action from the University.

"Since that doesn't seem to work, we haven't been able to make any real commitments to bold action on climate change and climate denial on campus," he said.

Schaffner said Earth Day promotes more sustainable methods of life-like composting and recycling, which made a good opportunity to protest against fossil fuel investments. He said he hopes officials will begin to take the organization's message

more seriously going forward.

"On Earth Day, all kinds of people come out and say 'Look, we're doing all of these great, green things,'" he said. "Even fossil fuel companies. They'll say 'We're investing in green energy, building solar fields and all that.' We don't want GW to do the same thing. It's banning single-use plastics, it's increasing water refilling stations, while it's refusing to end the era of fossil fuel influence on college campuses."

Mary McManus – a freshman and a member of Sunrise GW – said while the University already agreed to divest from fossil fuel industries, they are continuing to receive funding from large fossil fuel corporations for research. She said she hopes the Earth Day protest prompts officials to recognize the impact of their actions on the climate.

"We care about our planet a lot and we want GW to acknowledge that they care about our planet too," she said.

Student-run thrift shop wins \$25,000 in prizes at New Venture Competition

DIANA CROMPTON
STAFF WRITER

A student-run pop-up thrift and consignment shop won \$25,000 at The GW New Venture Competition last Thursday after winning four awards.

Sophomore and co-founder Anna Shah said with five pop-up shop events in Kogan Plaza and the textile museum, POP!, the student-run thrift store, entered the competition looking for additional revenue to expand the business they started last spring to other universities in the DMV. Shah said she and her co-founders – juniors Maya Levine, Rachel Cohen and Stephanie Cheung – work to empower customers to make environmentally and socially conscious purchasing decisions.

She said POP! has made commuting to Virginia for a good thrift store unnecessary by selling trendy and cheap second-hand clothing. Shah said since the team runs pop-up shops around

campus, the group can function without a permanent storefront.

The four co-founders said they have been working since January to shift their business model to focus on bringing POP! to more buyers in the DMV by expanding to other campuses in the area like the University of Maryland and Georgetown and American universities.

"It was a very challenging experience, but it allowed us to grow so much closer as a team and just strengthen the team dynamic, which I think is honestly the most important thing to succeed as an entrepreneur," Shah said.

This year, the New Venture Competition awarded \$128,000 in grants to GW students pursuing new business, business technology and social venture tracks.

The competition welcomes experienced and new entrepreneurs to pitch their business plans to industry experts like professors and business

owners. POP! won \$5,000 from the viewer's choice award, which allows the public to vote for their favorite business online.

"We sent it to our high school teachers, our families, all of our different networks and I think we were able to really win that one because we're all in different circles," Shah said.

Shah, an international business major, presented the competition's judges with a scalability plan – which included clear profit projections based on past sales – and earned the group \$10,000.

"A lot of the grad school students had more projected ideas, like they weren't actually executed yet," Shah said. "It's very hard to make projections when you have nothing to base it on."

POP!'s finance plan and business plan beat out graduate student organizations in most categories, and they also won \$5,000 for best undergraduate team. They picked up



AUDEN YURMAN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The four co-founders said they have been working since January to shift their business model to focus on bringing POP! to more buyers in the D.C. area.

an additional \$5,000 for placing second in the social venture track, bringing their total earnings to \$25,000.

Shah said the group's long-term goal is to expand to universities

across the country, and expand online in order to keep their customers buying after they graduate.

For now, Shah said the co-founders will work on turning POP! into a limited liability company, a

business structure that protects its owners from liabilities or debts, so they can access their winnings. POP!'s final pop-up shop of the year will be held April 30 at the textile museum.

GWPD should expand pedestrian stop data to draw conclusions, experts say

From Page 1

"If there's a problem anywhere in the process that's concerning that our officer may have violated policy, then there is a pause and an investigation is initiated," Tate said.

Tate said GWPD has made a "tremendous amount of progress" in furthering community outreach among students and student organizations, and the department is currently planning two community outreach events, which

he said will be part of some of GWPD's largest-ever outreach initiatives.

He said students asked clarifying questions about the specifics of the race and gender breakdown of the data and appreciated the transparency of the demographics data, which he said was critical in building trust with students.

"Since 2020, I am pleased with the feedback that I typically receive regarding our transparency and efforts to work with the community and community en-

gagement," Tate said.

John Sloan III, a professor emeritus in the department of criminal justice at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, said in an email that GWPD's released data was "problematic" because the limited sample size did not allow for comparisons between stops that could reveal "larger patterns" within the data.

"These reports may seem like an attempt at increased transparency but the problems associated with the way the data

are presented results in just the opposite – continued opacity," Sloan said in the email.

Michael DeValve, an assistant professor of criminal justice at Bridgewater State University, said campus police departments regularly release demographic data about their stops, but GWPD's data should be more descriptive to align with their standards. He said he would have preferred to see more information about the reasoning behind the stops themselves.

DeValve said he would be "hesitant" to draw conclusions from the ethnic and racial elements of data because of the relatively small sample size of the people stopped. He said GWPD could use the data to ask questions and better assess their practices, but only if trust exists between students and GWPD.

"It's a place to begin, and if that conversation is a trustful one, it's a place to begin dialogue," he said. "If not, you're going to have to take a different strategy."

TWEETED

GW Student Association celebration was tonight! Proud of @katenoelle12 @gwsa @GWTweets

Dr. Cissy Petty on 4/23/2022



TWITTER/@CISSYPETTY

WHAT THE UNIVERSITY WON'T TALK ABOUT THIS WEEK

How officials disciplined a GWPD officer who violated use of force protocols p. 1

FROM GWHATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

"While keeping to ourselves is not bothering anybody, it can overlook one of the most crucial parts of college – the formation of new relationships with others – whether those last a minute or a lifetime."

—MIA ADAMS on 4/21/2022

Opinions

GW must address persistent facilities issues STAFF EDITORIAL

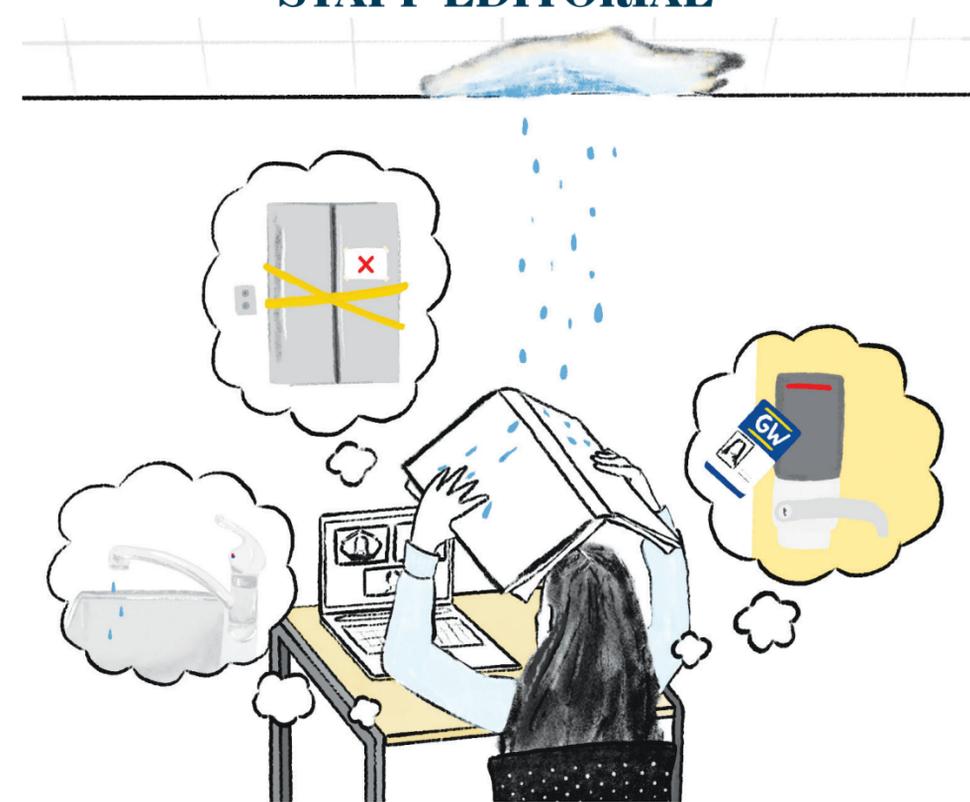
More than seven months after the University responded to mold infestations last semester, this academic year is set to end much the same way it began. At The Aston and other residence halls, students are still dealing with persistent maintenance issues and facilities problems.

Students' rooms are their safe spaces, but reports of flooding, leaks, mold, water shutoffs, elevator outages, security concerns and delayed maintenance highlight how unsafe they really are. The University must respond to these concerns more rapidly and transparently and offer more than token compensation to students facing emotional and financial stress over the state of their residence halls. Until it does so, students' persistent self-advocacy can apply pressure on GW to meet one of their most vital needs – a safe, secure living space.

GW has renovated nearly a dozen of its decades-old first-year and upperclass residence halls within the last decade. The COVID-19 pandemic and the continued search for a permanent University president have respectively interrupted and set back GW's strategic plan. Overhauls of mid-century apartment buildings have meanwhile allowed the University to continue housing thousands of students in the nation's capital.

These expensive renovations allow for dramatic ribbon cuttings, but behind-the-scenes preventive maintenance and emergency repairs are equally vital. The University's \$22 million, three-year plan to improve campus accessibility barely begins to address a \$300 million overall deferred maintenance backlog – for comparison, the ongoing overhaul of Thurston Hall cost \$85 million. It's unclear which maintenance projects the University has deferred and how long it has deferred them.

Addressing the overall condition of students' residence halls seems like even less of a priority than already deferred maintenance. And while the University's 2022



MAURA KELLY-YUOH | CARTOONIST

budget provides more than \$129 million for capital expenditures, which includes facilities improvements meant to address that maintenance backlog, the University has not clarified how it evaluates which issues are the most pressing.

Perpetually deferred maintenance poses a real threat to students' safety. Perhaps the problems facing residence halls are so severe that preventive action is no longer possible, but officials are surely aware that such problems exist.

While the context of the pandemic and the challenges involved in returning to campus explained GW's failure to properly inspect its buildings for mold at the beginning

of last semester, it's certainly no excuse for current issues. Sporadically reacting to mold, poor ventilation, pipe bursts, HVAC issues, stuck elevators and dozens of other malfunctions days or weeks after they appear is hardly fair to students and others who reside on campus, especially when the University is aware of the inconvenience and even danger they pose.

Across campus, officials' failure to respond to an array of maintenance and facilities issues means residence halls can be an unwelcoming, hazardous environment rather than a unique, comfortable and safe residential experience. GW's failure to address these con-

cerns has attracted the attention of D.C. officials, who fined the University \$1,000 in 2019 for sewage leaks in Building GG.

The University understands that maintenance issues and subsequent attempts to resolve them can hugely disrupt students' life, work and academic schedules and force them to shuffle between residence halls and off-campus living arrangements with little to no access to their personal items. In 2018, GW reimbursed residents of Guthridge Hall an unspecified amount after pipe damage, flooding and ceiling leaks temporarily displaced students living there. Compensation is one means of recourse, but it must

be more than a token gesture – earlier this month, the University has so far publicly offered only \$250 to the residents of The Aston for similar problems.

If GW is unable to provide its students with genuinely habitable conditions, it ought to reimburse them an amount more reflective of their total housing costs that can reach over \$16,000 dollars a year. The University's requirement that students live on campus for at least three years establishes an obligation to provide students with quality, affordable housing. If long-term disrepair prevents students from living in safe and secure conditions, GW ought to grant exemptions allowing them to live off campus.

Until GW is able to address these issues, the burden of reporting, pursuing and addressing them unfairly falls to the student population. Yet their persistence seems to have paid off – while inadequate, officials issued Aston residents the \$250 housing credit only after dozens of students used an email template to notify them of collective and individual problems in the building. While it shouldn't take petitioning GW en masse to address these concerns, and its response ought to be more than a \$250 credit, it's an effective strategy in the absence of clear communication and effective action from the University.

Officials have been tight-lipped about the reasons behind and their response to these facilities problems, but leaks, outages and floods are detrimental to students' lives and livelihood. A more thorough acknowledgment of this crisis and more transparent and effective communication would address students' concerns pending actual repair work.

Every student deserves access to quality, safe and affordable housing. While there may not be a quick fix to longstanding maintenance and facilities issues, one thing is clear – to enjoy the benefits of student life at GW, students need to feel comfortable living there.

Students deserve basic living essentials in isolation housing

When my at-home antigen test was positive after exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms two weeks ago, I needed to isolate. My community coordinator quickly set up a room for me in the One Washington Circle Hotel and told me to move in as soon as possible. Before I left, she texted me that I needed to bring my own bedding, but upon my arrival my room lacked toilet paper, towels, shampoo, food and water. To better take care of students during the pandemic, GW must improve its COVID-19 isolation policy to include living necessities and more effective communication.

Riley Goodfellow
Columnist

My community coordinator explained that there were not many options available for isolation housing because more students had recently tested positive amid a spike in COVID-19 cases in the D.C. area. This influx of students also meant I received a roommate who tested positive through GW. The last thing students should have to worry about is whether they will have pillows to sleep on – GW must provide the basics for its students, especially during a difficult time.

Between telling friends that I inadvertently exposed them to the virus, contacting professors about missing class and

experiencing symptoms while in isolation, I resorted to finding overpriced toilet paper and shampoo on Grubhub. Students already have a tight dining budget, so leaving an expensive food delivery app as the only option for essentials is not acceptable.

Earlier this semester, students stayed at four-star hotel Yours Truly with three daily meals sent to them for a cost of \$30 because drop offs from friends or delivery services were not allowed. Between delivery fees and Grubhub service charges at One Washington Circle, I paid upwards of \$40 a day for toilet paper and one meal that I split three ways.

GW's COVID-19 messaging, including its isolation guidelines, state that "the University has your safety and care as a top priority and has developed the necessary measures to help you recover as quickly as possible." But it did not feel like the University prioritized me or helped my recovery. I was alone. The email I received about what to expect from my isolation experience did not mention food and bedding at all. I was lucky my community coordinator even told me to grab some blankets.

GW and the hotel offered no food to me at any point even though GW's website states that officials would reach out with special instructions regarding food during isolation in hotel rooms. I ended up relying on my friends to bring me shampoo and food. I did not

want to put my friends in the uncomfortable position of walking to my hotel and dropping things off, but I had no other choice.

GW lags behind American and Georgetown universities, which distinctly outline what students need for COVID-19 isolation and what their space will supply them with. GW's communication only tells students in hotel rooms that they will receive further instructions. The University needs to detail its instructions and improve them to make sure students are receiving the meals they need in hotel room isolation.

It is imperative that students are able to focus on recovering in isolation instead of worrying about whether they will have enough food to eat. While the pandemic has taken a large toll on the University, it should have prioritized proper isolation protocol from the beginning.

More than two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, students should not be suffering from GW's troubled isolation policy. The University has had ample time to figure out how to provide basic living resources to students. There must be more guidance and resources to ensure the well-being of students. GW should not ignore them simply because they walk a block away to a hotel room to isolate.

—Riley Goodfellow, a freshman majoring in political science, is an opinions columnist.

Eleanor Holmes Norton should drop 2022 reelection bid

If reelected this November, D.C.'s Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton would enter her 16th term in office. But before the general election, Norton will face two younger challengers in this June's Democratic Party primary. While this isn't the first time that other candidates have challenged Norton, this primary contest has stark implications for the District's democracy.

Ethan Benn
Columnist

Norton's 31-year career has made her synonymous with the office she occupies, but placing D.C.'s already meager representation in the hands of one person has backfired. D.C. shouldn't let one person define its government in perpetuity. Facing younger challengers with new ideas, Norton should drop her reelection bid in an effort to pass on the baton of democratic representation.

Norton, 84, is one of the oldest members of the U.S. House of Representatives at a time when voters are increasingly aware of how poorly Congress reflects the nation as a whole. Norton's and her colleagues' age underlines how poorly Congress reflects the people it serves. Americans 65 and over make up about 35 percent and 53 percent of members of the U.S. House and Senate, respectively, but 2019 U.S. Census data indicates that the same age bracket only makes up about

16 percent of the population. For comparison, the 21 to 44 age range accounts for nearly 32 percent of the population, but only 31 members of the House and one senator were born after 1980.

Norton's challengers in the Democratic Primary – Kelly Mikel Williams, 55, and Rev. Wendy Hamilton, 53 – are from a different generation than Norton.

Whether you agree or disagree with them, their ideas are new. Novelty alone is no reason to vote for a candidate – and this is certainly not an endorsement of either of them – but they demonstrate that Norton may not be as in touch with what her constituents really want or need from their representative.

Despite Williams' and Hamilton's efforts, Norton will likely cruise to reelection because of her incumbent status and past history of electoral success. Key to Norton's campaign is her seniority, a result of her 15 terms in office, which allows her more access and influence among her Democratic colleagues within the House.

But Norton isn't just the city's representative – she's its only representation at the federal level. Her role as D.C.'s sole congressional delegate has prevented new political talent from rising.

Norton knows this. When Kim Ford, a then-37-year-old former Obama administration official, challenged Norton in 2018, The Washington Post quoted Norton as saying, "D.C.,

if you wanted to get rid of me, this wasn't the year to do it!" Norton has proven to be so vital to the District's representation, especially in times of crisis, that she knows voters won't remove her from office.

I know Norton cares deeply about the District and its residents, but the idea that she is too important to lose her election is a patently undemocratic boast.

D.C.'s marginal representation in Congress has allowed Norton to consolidate her office around herself to the point where the two are inseparable. The District's reliance on Norton to fight its battles has weakened its democratic institutions and resulted in the loss of generations of potential leaders.

After an extensive career in public service, the time has come for Norton to bow out of this year's election. Ripping the band-aid off will be painful, but it is necessary. D.C. voters deserve to truly assess their politicians, not just rubber-stamp their reelection.

I have immense respect for Eleanor Holmes Norton, but I respect the office she occupies much more – no matter how much she has done, the office of D.C.'s congressional delegate is more important than any single person in the city. D.C.'s public offices belong to the people – not the politicians they elect.

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

Culture

THE SCENE

DC CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL
Saturday, April 30 | The Embassy of France | Free
Come to the DC Chocolate Festival to learn about chocolate and enjoy samples.

GEORGETOWN FRENCH MARKET
Sunday, May 1 | Wisconsin Avenue from O Street to Reservoir Road | Free
Celebrate the first day of Passport DC programming with a French-themed farmers market.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

NEW EP: "STINKY FIA" BY FONTAINES D.C.

Corcoran seniors display their artistic theses at annual NEXT showcase

CLARA DUHON
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

ISABELLA MACKINNON
STAFF WRITER

As the school year nears its end, seniors are finalizing their art capstones – ranging from photo essays to dance performances – in preparation for NEXT, an annual showcase of more than 200 artistic theses in the Flagg Building’s atrium next month.

NEXT will open Thursday with a series of performances and interactive experiences that accompany some of the theses exhibits, which will remain on display through May 15. Half a dozen seniors said their theses communicate their love of the arts through their interests and passions — as shown through work including fine arts, dance, music and design.

Robin Fern, a dance and public health major, said her modern dance thesis explores the process of human emotions and how humans find the emotional sequence “surprisingly taboo.” Fern said the dancers in her piece called “wired: us” use their own experiences to enliven the performance and relay the emotional cycle of anticipation, response, recovery, habituation and rest through their movement.

“You can sometimes see moments of pain or moments of hope or moments of struggle, just within their body from either the way they stand or the way they lift their leg or their arm,” she said. “And that takes practice, that takes power and I appreciate them going all in because then it really tells the story to the audience.”

Shereen Ragheb, a photojournalism major, took inspiration from



SOPHIA KERR | PHOTOGRAPHER



KRISHNA RAJPARA | PHOTOGRAPHER



COURTESY OF ROBIN FERN



COURTESY OF DEVON OTT

Students said their theses communicate their love for the arts through mediums like fine arts, dance, music and design.

her own mixed cultural identity in her thesis “I Was Born a Foreigner.” The photo essay includes a blend of photographs taken of her family’s everyday life at home in Atlanta and archival photographs from her mother’s photo albums that she felt expressed her Filipino and Egyptian identity.

“I would just hope that when people view it, and even if you’re not from different cultures, I want people to see themselves in my family and be able to relate to the things that my family does because, at the

end of the day, we’re a pretty normal family,” she said.

For Laya Reddy, a political science major, the thesis project provided her an opportunity to research the experiences of Black women in music history and shed light on their contributions to the genre which she feels are “understudied and underappreciated.” She will present her thesis both as a musical performance of classical and blues pieces performed on the trumpet and as an essay piece detailing her research.

“It’s about learning how instrumental Black women have been to these genres,” she said. “I think their contributions have been so largely ignored and I just hope that more focus is put on them.”

James Dingman, a fine arts major, constructed his thesis, “Hold the Hand” after his wife was diagnosed with a “serious illness” in the winter. The idea to create a piece exploring the intimacy of hand-holding came to him as he spent time in the sterile environment of the hospital.

“The main thing I would love people to walk away from with is an appreciation for past and present relationships,” he said. “The artwork is dealing with my wife’s illness, but I’m trying to reach out to people and help them recognize that life is short.”

Chris Pino, a music and political science double major, said he will perform a voice recital called “Ruminations on Time” for his thesis that will explore the tension between how humankind measures time versus how humans experience time. He said he will perform his recital Saturday and will sing small sets of vocal works ranging from classical to jazz to show tunes. He said he uses these musical pieces as a medium for “delving deeper” into the idea of time as an enigma.

“My recital is an open invitation for those in attendance to open their mind and rethink the way that they see the world around them, especially the fundamental things that are taken for granted,” Pino said.

Devon Ott, a graphic design major, said her thesis breaks down the branding, messaging and design of Nike as a “trailblazer” among other athletic companies in their marketing approach. She said her thesis explores the deeper concepts and “emotional” approach to branding that sets Nike apart from other companies through analysis of print advertisements, store decorations and even the business’s brand lettering.

“It’s really interesting to dive into that and how they were able to build such an iconic brand and how they’re able to have an effect on their viewers and their audience emotionally,” she said. “And so it’s important as a designer to think about stuff like that, but also as an artist, and also as a consumer.”



LILY SPEREDELOZZI | PHOTOGRAPHER

Vendors said they’ve enjoyed sharing their produce and cultural food with their customers now that the farmers market is back in person.

Vendors return to Foggy Bottom farmers market

ISHA TRIVEDI
NEWS EDITOR

The Foggy Bottom farmers market has returned, bringing back local vendors who are eager to rebuild their clientele to pre-pandemic levels and connect with locals for the first time in more than two years.

The farmers market reopened at the intersection of 23rd and I streets earlier this month, where vendors have set up shop to offer a mix of goods ranging from produce like apples and potatoes to empanadas and wood-fired pizza every Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m. Vendors said they’ve enjoyed sharing their produce and cultural food with their customers again now that the market is back.

Molly Scalise – the deputy director of communications for FRESH-FARM, the organization that oversees farmers markets in the District – said customers have expressed their excitement that the market is back in Foggy Bottom, and FRESH-FARM has seen a “great turnout” so far.

“We will have several more vendors joining the market lineup as the spring harvest begins in earnest,” she said in an email. “Moving ahead, we are hoping to continue to expand the market to provide more grocery

staples to the community.”

Washingtonian reported that FRESH-FARM closed the Foggy Bottom market two years ago in the interest of public health concerns due to its proximity to the GW Hospital, but with the onset of spring and the change in weather, they’re expanding their market offerings, opening a new location near the White House and extending the Dupont Circle location’s hours and days of operation.

Jorge Barajas said he had been working at the Barajas Produce stand, a small family-owned business selling a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, at the Foggy Bottom market for 10 years. He said before the pandemic, he saw high volumes of foot traffic from customers who were heading home from work via the Metro and students who were heading back from class.

“You see a lot of different people here, and that’s the best part of it,” he said. “We love it.”

But he said the market hasn’t seen the same turnout following its return this year, given the two-year hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Hopefully more people come out, and

more people are aware that there’s a farmers market going on,” he said. “Because if not, a lot of farmers and vendors are going to start dropping off and the market is not going to work out.”

Patrice Cunningham – who runs the stand for Tae-Gu Kimchi, which sells handcrafted napa cabbage kimchi – said she started her business after she quit her job as a chef in the District at the start of the pandemic. She said operating in person has helped her connect with her customers and receive immediate feedback on her products.

“I love being outside when the weather’s nice and being able to work with other vendors too that are in the same industry,” she said.

Denece Cesceves, who works at the DMV Empanadas stand serving up empanada flavors like beef, shrimp old bay and spinach and cheese, said it has been “amazing” to see customers trying their food in person now that the market has returned during the pandemic.

“I like to speak with the people [who] know our empanadas because it is our identity, it’s our food,” she said. “And if the American people like those, oh my gosh, it’s amazing for us.”

National Cannabis Festival draws hundreds for enjoyment, education

ANNA BOONE
CULTURE EDITOR

Hazy clouds of smoke hovered over massive crowds of mellow patrons at Saturday’s National Cannabis Festival.

The tradition of the annual festival at the Robert F. Kennedy Festival Grounds in southeast D.C. began in 2016 after the D.C. Council passed recreational cannabis legislation, Initiative 71, which allows adults 21 and up to legally own up to two ounces of marijuana and grow up to two plants. This year’s festival – which ran from noon to 10 p.m. – featured more than 60 food vendors, more than 100 cannabis “exhibitors” and all-day musical performances with headliner Wiz Khalifa.

As we neared the gates, one man yelled from his car “Can we bring joints in?” to which a fellow festival-goer responded, “Joints? I’m bringing it all – flowers, papers, joints. Whatever they’ll let me bring in!”

Many, like the curious man in his car, were able to bring their own cannabis products – they were not on the list of prohibited items. Although the District prohibits public consumption of cannabis, most festival goers gripped lit joints and blunts in between their fingers.

As we walked through the tunnel separating the check-in gates from the festival, I felt like I was being transported into an alternate reality where cannabis laws weren’t a concern for

most. We should remember the incredible privilege associated with this kind of environment, especially when people are still being incarcerated and spending time behind bars in different parts of the country for non-violent cannabis charges.

We headed over to the Grow School tent where we listened to two presenters talk about natural farming concepts and philosophies relating to cannabis and hemp farming.

This tent was one of four around the festival that was focused on cannabis education with panels and presentations throughout the day. The others included a Culture Pavilion, with presentations like “Marijuana, Music & the Midterm Elections,” a Wellness Pavilion with presentations like “The Spiritual Connection to Plant Medicine” and the Policy Pavilion with presentations like “7 years after Initiative 71...Why Is DC So Far Behind?”

After sitting in on the Grow School presentation, we perused the seemingly endless lines of tents filled with the cannabis “exhibitors” situated in the middle of the grounds, featuring D.C. businesses like District Derp and Gifted Curators. Since cannabis can only be “gifted” in the District, not explicitly bought or sold, these businesses are not referred to as vendors. At these establishments, the cannabis you receive must be accompanied with a product you pay for, like art, or

else your payment must be categorized as a “donation.”

Every exhibitor I talked to was incredibly knowledgeable about the strains they were selling and could describe the flavors and typical effects in detail.

The festival also allowed for plenty of people-watching – a performative wrestling match caught our eye before we stopped and watched a pizza-eating contest for a few minutes. Some festivalgoers were even decked out in full cannabis-themed costumes, and a face painter had her entire upper body intricately painted with bright green cannabis flowers.

The array of people enjoying the festival was interesting alone – major stoners, festival geeks, hippies and some people who looked like they walked right out of their local country club were all vibing together. While taking a sun break in a shaded tent area, we sat next to an older couple who said they were here “under the radar.”

Around 7 p.m. we set up our folding chairs and watched half an hour of rapper Ghostface Killah’s performance while the sunset illuminated the wisps of smoke rising from the audience.

“I hope y’all are smoking good!” the emcee shouted at the crowd between performances.

Despite the murky laws surrounding recreational cannabis use in the District, the National Cannabis Festival provides a space for lovers of the plant to convene and enjoy its effects.



SABRINA GODIN | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

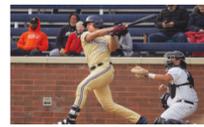
Even though the District prohibits public consumption of cannabis, most festival goers gripped lit joints and blunts in between their fingers.

Sports

GAMES OF THE WEEK



LACROSSE
vs. Saint Joseph's
Thursday | 2 p.m. EDT
The Colonials look for an A-10 quarterfinal victory against the Hawks.



BASEBALL
vs. Rhode Island
Friday | 3 p.m. EDT
GW welcomes the Rams to Arlington as the team looks for its second consecutive conference series victory.

NUMBER CRUNCH

3:45.56

Ryan Fowke's time at the Virginia Challenge in the 1500 meter, the fastest in men's track and field history.

The ins and outs of the NCAA's transfer portal

NURIA DIAZ
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Men's basketball lost two of its top three scorers from the past season when sophomore guard Joe Bamisile and freshman guard Brayon Freeman announced this month that they will transfer from GW.

The two first indicated their transfer considerations when they entered the NCAA Transfer Portal following the firing of the team's entire coaching staff, including former Head Coach Jamion Christian, at the end of the season in March.

Athletes can enter the transfer portal – known as the “notification for transfer” – minutes after informing their team and the NCAA that they are considering transferring. The model is meant to manage and facilitate the process of student-athlete transfers between member institutions, but since its launch in 2018, it has pulled away some of the team's top talent with 12 transfers during Christian's tenure.

As GW enters the summer looking to restock talent with a new head coach, here's what you should know about the NCAA's portal for student-athlete transfers:

How does it work?

The transfer process starts when a student-athlete approaches their coach and GW's compliance department – the office in charge of enforcing NCAA rules and regulations in every member institution – to declare their

intention to enter the transfer portal, the institution then has 48 hours to release the students information into the database. The portal connects students with recruiters from other schools, helping them boost their name through the NCAA.

What are the pros and cons of entering the portal?

The portal enforces stronger “ethical recruitment” in line with NCAA regulations, restricts universities from withholding aid from athletes considering transferring and requires regular conference rule reviews, according to the NCAA's information page.

If students choose to stay at the same university after entering the transfer portal, athletic departments decrease or cancel aid for athletes or refuse to readmit a student into the athletic program.

The NCAA allowed students last year to transfer once during their collegiate career without any punishment on their play time after instituting a one-time transfer exception for all basketball players. A second transfer will require a player to sit out for the remainder of a year and extend athletic eligibility by one school year.

How has the transfer portal affected GW?

Twelve men's basketball players have transferred from the University during the past four schools years since the launch of the transfer portal – 11 of which came after former Head Coach



FILE PHOTO BY SABRINA GODIN | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Twelve men's basketball players have transferred from the University during the past four school years since the launch of the transfer portal.

Jamion Christian joined GW.

Men's basketball has the highest transfer rates of any NCAA sport, with 33 percent of athletes transferring at least once in their career across the league. Teams with regular coaching changes have the highest transfer rates in the league with an average

of 14.75 players transferring each year since 2012, according to an article by the Athletic Director U.

The women's team also suffered mass player migration after the firing of Head Coach Jennifer Rizzotti last year, which pushed five players to enter the transfer portal after the culmination of

the season. Two players have announced their transfer for the 2022-23 season so far.

As next season looms, the men's and women's basketball teams look to build their rosters through the transfer portal to gain the necessary talent for an A-10 championship crown.

Tennis heads to A-10 Championship after strong regular season conference showing

LUKE WIENECKE
STAFF WRITER

GW women's tennis heads to Florida to compete in the Atlantic 10 Championship Wednesday, vying for a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

After blanking out Duquesne for the final match of the conference slate Saturday, the Colonials hold a 5-3 conference record with a .625 winning percentage on the regular season. Head coach Torrie Browning said she is confident her team will hit its stride for the championship as the conference schedule boosted the team's performance on the court.

“We did not have an easy schedule this year,” Browning said. “The first half was on purpose – we scheduled a lot of tough teams, teams that are technically ranked within the top 75 in the country. So it was all in preparation for the A-10 play, which was the second half of our season.”

Browning said in preparation for the championship, the coaching staff changed its pairing for doubles to ensure the best matchups for the championship and focused on outdoor practice for the remainder of the season to prepare for the conditions of championship play. She said the team should rank between third and sixth seed for the tournament, but seeding should not dictate the team's performance.

“Honestly, I don't think it matters where you're seeded because a lot of teams are quite even,” Browning said. “Having a higher seed definitely helps,

but it doesn't make or break you. The mindset heading into the conference tournament is you should start from 0-0.”

A-10 Championship seeding for tennis includes more factors than for other sports, gauging national rankings, head-to-head matchups records, wins against higher ranked teams and performance against mutual opponents.

Browning said the team had performed well in the final games of the season, highlighting performances by sophomore Lindsay Thompson and senior Katarina Marinkovikj after winning four straight victories this weekend to help GW defeat Duquesne 4-0.

“We want to be playing our best, and I think we're really doing that right now,” Browning said. “I think we're really peaking.”

Browning ranked sophomore Stella Wiesemann as GW's top player, followed by Marinkovikj as the number two after tinkering with the lineups throughout the season to find doubles players that can work well with each other.

“You absolutely know where the person is on the court better, you know how they move and what kind of shots they will play,” Wiesemann said. “It's really nice to have that continuous doubles partner.”

Marinkovikj said the team practices two hours each day with 20-minute warmups for drills and matches against each other. She said the team will cut down practice time on the day before the match to allow the team members to rest.

Wiesemann and Marinkovikj will face off against some of the best talent in the A-10 but neither of them plan to shy away from the competition, they said. In what could be the last competitive tennis of Marinkovikj's career, she said she's drawing on some of her past experience to push the team forward.

“We've already played so many diverse matches,” Marinkovikj said. “That really helps me personally because I've seen myself and my teammates evolve and play better and better with every match. Once you get to the point where you're playing conference, that experience really helps you.”

As a more experienced and seasoned player, Marinkovikj said she relies on her forehand to control matches, always staying on the offensive and looking to finish the point. Wiesemann said she also features a forehand down the line – a shot where the ball hits near the sidelines without crossing the centerline, one of the more impressive swings in the sport.

Marinkovikj said the tough matches in the conference slate helped the team increase its level of play with more challenging matches after adapting to the hardcourt game, which she expects to help her throughout the championship matches.

“I think I have solid grown strokes, but in every point, I look to be the offensive one and to take advantage with my forehand to dictate the tempo and potentially finish the point,” Marinkovikj said.

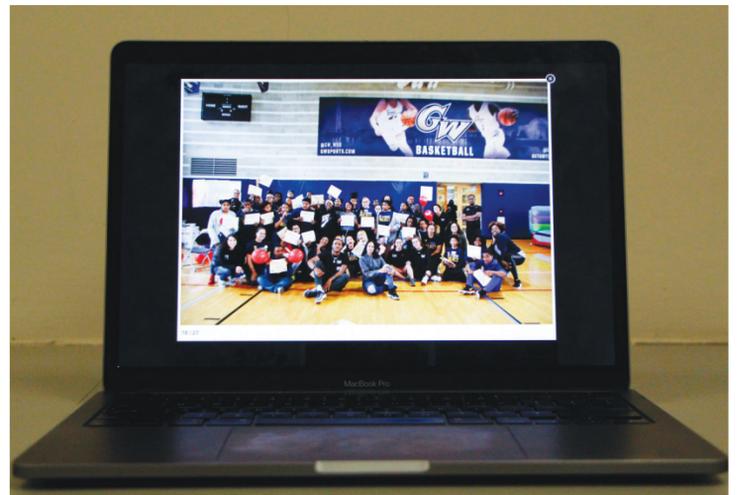


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AUDEN YURMAN | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Senior soccer player Beth Ellinport said she has helped teach middle school students about each of the project's three main focuses – mental health, sexual health and nutrition.

Volunteer program attracts wave of athletes to teach at middle schools

LUKE WIENECKE
STAFF WRITER

Senior soccer player Beth Ellinport joins eighth grade gym class at a public charter school in Northeast D.C. every Monday, where she fuses the class with mental health education.

It's been three years since Ellinport joined the Grassroot Project – a group of local alumni that train student athletes to educate middle school students on a healthy lifestyle – as a freshman. During the classes, Ellinport said she leads the students through games like boundary basketball, where students learn how to distinguish boundaries in relationships.

She said she also occasionally teaches a sixth grade class at another charter school in D.C., where students focus on pursuing nutritious diets as they develop through middle school.

“We were with sixth graders learning about nutrition,” Ellinport said. “And so we played a game called scramble where we get to learn about what choices we have as we're in middle school.”

She said she has helped teach middle school students about each of the project's three main focuses – mental health, sexual health and nutrition – and plans to work for the organization until she graduates this spring.

The Grassroot Project was founded by Tyler Spencer, a former rower at Georgetown, along with 39 other Georgetown athletes in 2009 as an eight-week HIV prevention program to teach students about sexual health. The project launched in 2009 as HIV rates in D.C. led the country with a 3 percent positivity rate – a figure that has dropped by 85 percent as of 2020.

The program has since recruited more than 1,300 Division I NCAA student athletes who have taught up to 7,000 middle school students during physical education classes.

“I know that it was way more successful and way more popular than Tyler thought,” Ellinport said. “And it was kind of his senior project at Georgetown, and he just kind of saw that there's no health programs in D.C. middle schools.”

GW celebrated 10 years of partnership with the organization in April 2019, with more than 351 students volunteering for the program. GW's presence in the program has since expanded as student athletes like Ellinport recommend incoming freshmen and sophomores join the organization.

Ellinport said more student athletes got involved in the program during the COVID-19 pandemic when it turned online because the remote setup could better accommodate

their schedules with less traveling.

D.C. Health started requiring one year of health and physical education in middle schools in 2017. The Grassroot Project has trained student athletes as health educators to help schools attain this requirement through weekly volunteering during a semester, which involves teaching one-hour courses on mental, physical and sexual health during physical education classes.

The courses are made of 30 game-based physical activities that carry “distinct” health messages while helping schools meet the physical education requirements and drive up health literacy. Ellinport said the practices work to increase physical activity and teach students to lead a well-balanced lifestyle.

The organization determines their plans for lessons about adolescent health and local caregivers based on conversations with local D.C. community members that can add diverse perspectives, according to their website. The site states students who complete the program develop health literacy and become more comfortable with topics of mental, physical and sexual health.

“I can probably dedicate a little more time to it because I won't be playing soccer,” Ellinport said. “I'll definitely stick around and be a donor.”



FILE PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WELLING
Senior Katarina Marinkovikj said the team practices two hours each day with 20-minute warmups for drills and matches against each other.