

The GW Hatchet

'YOU NAVIGATED IT ALL'



AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

SPRING CEREMONY RETURNS TO MALL

Monumental Alumni send off graduating Class of 2022

ERIKA FILTER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Elana Meyers Taylor is familiar with failure.

After failing to make the U.S. Olympic softball team roster in 2008 and learning the team would be the last to compete in the Olympic event, the GW alumna switched gears, took her parents' advice to pursue bobsledding and eventually made the Olympic bobsled team. She went on to win five Olympic medals, becoming the most decorated Black Winter Olympics athlete in history.

And as Meyers Taylor spoke in front of the 6,200 graduates and their families and friends at Commencement Sunday, she encouraged the crowd to see failure as an opportunity to bounce back.

"Now, with the grace of perspective that comes from the passing of time, I know this is one of the best things that could have ever happened to me," she said. "Had I not failed on that day, it's a virtual certainty that this girl who was born in California, raised and still lives in Atlanta, would never have found the inside of a bobsled."

Officials conferred degrees upon the class of 2022, congratulated them on their graduation and encouraged students to apply their education to their own biases amid global crises like rising hate, war and polarization to make the world a better place. Monumental Alumni Dana Bash and Chuck Todd accepted honorary degrees, and Meyers Taylor received the President's Medal, the highest honor the University can bestow.

Lia DeGroot, The Hatchet's former editor-in-chief, presented an honorary degree to Bash, CNN's chief political correspondent. Bash said in her acceptance speech that as a journalist, it is crucial to keep an open mind while traveling across the United States and the world.

Daniel Niewoehner, a graduating senior majoring in political communication, presented the honorary degree to Todd, the political director at NBC News. Todd said GW provides a unique opportunity for students to interact with political opponents as "three-dimensional" human beings, not just "two-dimension caricatures."

Interim University President Mark Wrighton conferred degrees to the Class of 2022 at the ceremony Sunday. He said students have grown "intellectually, emotionally and socially" during their time at GW despite struggles brought about by the pandemic. The class of 2022 became the first and only class to graduate after reverting from in-person to online college life and returning to the physical campus once again.

"You have engaged others very different from yourselves," he said. "You have taken bold risks and succeeded, and you have been resilient in this time of challenge associated with COVID-19," he said.

Wrighton said graduating students should maintain the aspirations they had when first starting at the University. He said a GW education has given graduating students leadership skills to help solve "the world's most pressing challenges."

"Every member of the Class of 2022 can use what you've learned at the George Washington University to uplift communities and serve the public good," he said. "I charge you to remain resilient."

Graduating students celebrate 'resilience' through pandemic

IANNE SALVOSA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Even without GW football games to attend, Class of 2022 graduate Vishva Bhatt said she forged a tight bond with her graduating class during the past four years, sharing a mutual passion to change the world.

Bhatt, the Class of 2022 speaker and an international affairs graduate, said students challenged themselves and their peers and asked "tough questions" despite the academic setbacks of the pandemic that shifted classes online for more than a year. About 6,200 graduates gathered on the National Mall Sunday for Commencement, where they said they have developed "resilience" after about one and a half years of their undergraduate or graduate education GW interrupted by the pandemic and virtual instruction.

Bhatt said students of all backgrounds and with different future plans have an innate urge to "do good" and can expose societal issues with effective solutions.

"The thing about going to school in the heart of the nation is that you are reminded every day that you are a part of something big-

ger," Bhatt said.

She said her GW education was a "privilege" as a woman of color and a first-generation American. Bhatt said she had the ability to "innovate" throughout her undergraduate career, which she sees as a privilege while still learning from the mistakes she made along the way.

"I thought that coming to college would give me all the answers," Bhatt said. "Instead, it has left me with more questions than ever before."

Juliana Lewis, a master's of public health graduate, said she started and ended her graduate school career in the pandemic. She said COVID-19 exposed a chain of public health related issues while her interest in health policy unfolded.

She said she took multiple health policy courses as a graduate public health student and enjoyed learning about the value of the Affordable Care Act to universal health coverage during the pandemic.

"The pandemic is not a good thing, but if anything, we've learned a lot of lessons and how to move forward from it," Lewis said.

Graduates attended celebrations for individual schools from Thursday

through Saturday prior to attending Sunday's ceremony on the National Mall.

Parisa Akbarpour, a journalism graduate, said the small size of the School of Media and Public Affairs allowed students to make close connections with their classmates who would support each other at any time, carrying them through the pandemic.

They said that they are looking forward to entering professional environments after spending their entire life as a student.

"I'm going to celebrate that by taking the time to relax now," Akbarpour said.

George Commissiong, a civil engineering graduate, said he struggled to stay determined when classes went online in March 2020, and the Class of 2022's ability to bounce back from the initial setback of virtual instruction allowed them to push ahead to graduation.

He said commencement was a time for him to celebrate his next step - pursuing a master's degree at GW after completing his undergraduate degree.

"The school, all of us here, we're pretty resilient," Commissiong said. "We have to push through all of it."

Trustees approve shared governance principles, still quiet on moniker change

DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a set of principles to improve shared governance and collaboration at the University, but did not give an update on the potential renaming of the Colonials moniker at its meeting Friday.

The shared governance principles - which the Faculty Senate approved in April - state that faculty should have a meaningful role in "key decision making" at GW and have primary authority over "specific areas" of academic policy. Trustees also plan to reach a decision on whether to retire the moniker by the end of the academic year in June but did not announce an update at the meeting Friday.

The principles also state that the Board should "periodically" review the University president's commitment to GW's system of shared governance through biyearly surveys, biannual meetings with the Faculty Senate executive committee and annual

evaluations of the University president.

Board of Trustees Chair Grace Speights said trustees and administrators will work together to implement the University's new shared governance principles.

"It's a very important day that we have all adopted the recommendations in the statement of principles, and we look forward to implementing those and moving forward as we start our search for a new president," she said.

Speights announced the formation of the next presidential search committee late last month, commencing the launch of the search for the 19th University president as GW prepares for the transition from interim University President Mark Wrighton's term, which will last no more than 18 months.

The Board dissolved its Shared Governance and Environmental, Social and Governance Responsibility task force after the groups recommended changes to the University's shared governance structure and en-

vironmental sustainability policies, including its recommendation to divest from the fossil fuel industry by 2025 in May 2020.

University spokesperson Tim Pierce did not return a request for comment.

Trustee Amyr ElSawy, who co-chaired the Board's shared governance task force, said the task force's work has "concluded" and its members had "stayed on track" while working to improve shared governance throughout the academic year.

"We need to make sure that we have the right education, the right transparency and the right focus on adjusting and being agile to the needs of the organ of the University as we move forward facing the challenges that are confronted by higher education," he said.

Last October, the Board formed a task force made up of faculty, administrators and trustees to evaluate GW's system of shared governance and collaboration mechanisms between the different groups.



Board of Trustees Chair Grace Speights said trustees and administrators will work together to implement the University's new shared governance principles.

The Faculty Senate passed a resolution, highlighting the same shared governance principles at its meeting in April, before they sent the principles to trustees

for their approval.

Trustees did not vote to approve the University's budget for the 2023 fiscal year, but Board Vice Chair Ellen Zane, who also chairs

the finance and investment committee, said they would meet "later this month" to review the final budget.

News

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

"NEWS FROM CENTRAL ASIA" EXHIBIT
Monday, May 16-Sunday, May 22 | 10 a.m. EDT | Elliott School of International Affairs | Free
Visit an exhibit brought to GW featuring art and designs from Central Asian artists.

GYOZA WITH THE GW ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER NETWORK
Wednesday, May 18 | 6 p.m. EDT | Zoom | Free
Learn how to fry Gyoza as part of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebrations.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Buzz Aldrin and other NASA officials discussed travel to Mars at the University Student Center, The Hatchet reported.
May 14, 2001

Tracking COVID-19

May 4 - May 12

Weekly COVID-19 cases: 209 Weekly positivity rate: 3.36% Change in cases since previous week: -16

MSSC commencement ceremony features student speakers, reflections

NICK PASION
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

Multicultural students and their families celebrated their cultures and time at GW in a commencement ceremony Thursday to kick off the week's graduation events.

The Multicultural Student Services Center event featured student speakers, MSSC leadership and dance performances from student groups for the more than 300 people in the audience. Students representing Native American, Asian American and Pacific Islander, South Asian, Black, Latino and LGBTQ+ students and cultural organizations on campus said they made friends from different backgrounds and deepened their cultural roots to find community at GW over their four years.

"I want you to see that you reflect the full breadth and range of diversity of our student body," Michael Tapscott, the director of the MSSC, said at the event. "If you're present here today I'll remind you of the progress many of you work toward by challenging the university's reactions and responses to the issues that impacted the university's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion."

Tapscott presented stoles to graduating students who were in attendance, before a dance performance by the Hawaii Club, National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Multicultural Greek Council to wrap up the event.

Students who spoke throughout the event encouraged their graduating classmates to reflect on their time at GW to look at the community and experiences they found as they make their next steps and navigate life after college.

Mia Elane, a graduate and Asian and Pacific Islander community speaker, said she found community in Philippine Cultural Society and encouraged people to find "togetherness" because of its power to build community and push an individual's limits.

"Having arrived here, which is a view from a predominantly white town, unsure of what future lies before me," she said. "I am more than pleasantly surprised at the community of fellow Filipinos that welcomed me into their organization as an Asian American who has lived in the United States for almost the entirety of my life."

Shariq Farooki, a graduate and the community speaker for the South Asian community, said he was proud of his community rebounding from the pandemic to host cultural events like GW Raas, a national dance competition at GW, or speaker events and concerts South Asian organizations hosted this year.

"Don't be afraid to be validated because this space is ours," Farooki said. "We will reclaim it. Our ability to create community with one another during a pandemic will allow us to navigate challenges with great boldness and confidence."

Collin Chen, a graduate and interfaith community speaker, said he was able to find community on campus through the faith-based groups on campus that brought him a sense of belonging while at GW.

"I felt like the jumbotron and the Smith Center of our freshman year, crashing into the floor," he said. "I know y'all remember that. Just like the jumbotron, I found myself lifted up on the floor and eventually restored."

Georgie Britcher, a graduate

and the Native American community speaker, told the story of three sisters who could never get along, so they were turned into squash, corn and beans so that they could live in harmony supporting one another. She said the story relates to the community she found on campus through her bonding with people from different backgrounds.

"I didn't understand the importance of community and the Three Sisters until I came here some of us should be grounded like beans but we need those who are centered by corn and supportive and tangling like squash," Britcher said.

Keyla Ruiz, a graduate and the Latinx community speaker, said while graduating seniors reflected on their time at GW where they may have felt like dropping out, quitting or leaving organizations they persevered and should be proud of the progress they made to reach graduation.

"As you move on to your next journey, never forget how far you come," she said. "As my mom always told me, I never want to hear you say that you can't do something because you can. You are here today proving the statistics wrong and helping young people see that it can be accomplished."

Khari Crooms, a graduate and the Black community speaker, read a poem that encouraged people to find the beauty in others after graduation as the graduating class enters the real world.

"Remember, you're not defined by what you accomplished, but instead what you leave on this earth," he said. "So let my words be a catalyst to your life's calling and move from this day forward with all the intentions to serve."



AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR
Graduating students at the ceremony received stoles before a dance performance from the Hawaii Club, National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Multicultural Greek Council.

GRADUATES CELEBRATE



AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR



AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR



AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR



JORDYN BAILER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

D.C. prepares for influx of people seeking abortions after likely Roe reversal

GRACE CHINOWSKY
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

The District is preparing to take in a potential surge of patients from nearby states driving to abortion clinics in D.C. as the country awaits the potential reversal of Roe v. Wade.

Reproductive health care officials said people needing abortions in states like West Virginia — where an abortion ban will immediately go into place if Roe v. Wade is repealed — are likely to travel to the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area to receive abortions because of their preexisting city and state laws protecting the right to choose. D.C. lawmakers will consider legislation that will make the District a "safe haven" for out-of-state patients to receive abortion care last week.

D.C. Council member Brienne Nadeau, who represents Ward 1, introduced legislation last Friday pushing

for D.C. to become a "human rights sanctuary." If passed, the legislation would prevent D.C. from aiding potential investigations attempting to penalize out-of-state patients who get an abortion in the area.

"With this legislation, I am hoping we can solidify the rights of our own residents as well as those who may now be forced to travel here to preserve their own," Nadeau said in a statement.

Emma Brennan, a volunteer abortion doula at a clinic in the DMV who organizes logistics like transportation and acts as a companion for patients during procedures, said if abortion does become illegal in the District, those who can't afford to make the commute to other states are less likely to receive a safe abortion. She said this lack of abortion access could disproportionately affect the maternal health of low-income individuals who may not be able to take time off of work

or afford childcare and transportation to travel to a clinic.

Brennan said safely getting people to and from the clinic is one of the largest priorities in protecting abortion access for people of all income levels.

"When folks come from West Virginia, the amount of work they have to do to coordinate their lives to get to our clinic is insane," Brennan said. "It is wild, people drive six hours to get through the door."

Brennan said D.C. is in a "precarious" situation as a city where Congress has the power to ban or limit future abortion access as long as the District lacks statehood. But she said D.C. benefits from the vicinity of other states like Maryland and Delaware that will likely codify Roe v. Wade because those states have passed legislation protecting the right to choose.

"To me, what's really important is that no matter what, my clinic will always



FILE PHOTO BY AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR
House Republicans passed a bill in January 2017 preventing the District from using money to subsidize reproductive care.

be like a bubble," Brennan said. "Like when someone walks through that door, the

outside world and this particular thing does not matter to the client, and it shouldn't

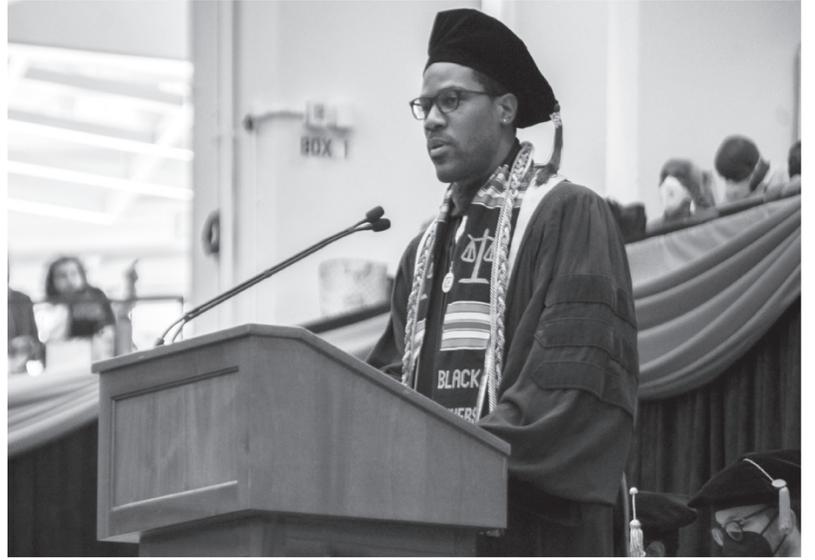
affect their experience at all, honestly — at least that's my desire."

DEANS, FACULTY COMMEND GRADUATES



KRISHNA RAJPARA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Paul Wahlbeck, the dean of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, highlighted the resilience of the graduating class through the pandemic during his remarks.



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Former Student Bar Association President Jordan Michel said through students' shared experiences in law school, the class learned humility, acceptance and inclusivity.

CCAS graduation ceremony encourages community, compassion

IANNE SALVOSA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Professor Sarah Wagner said graduates should spend their careers giving “gifts of compassion” at a Columbian College of Arts and Science undergraduate graduation celebration Saturday.

Wagner, a faculty speaker and a professor of anthropology, said graduates should regard their survival of the COVID-19 pandemic as a crucial gift given how they overcame pandemic-related isolation throughout the past two years. Speakers at the celebration echoed Wagner and said that the Class of 2022 pushed through more challenging issues during their time at GW with two years of virtual instruction, more than any previous graduating classes ever had to deal with.

Wagner said gradu-

ates should celebrate the accomplishment of persevering through their undergraduate education despite any losses they may have faced. She said the Class of 2022 should be grateful to faculty mentors and family members who assisted them throughout their time at GW.

“I want you to turn your mind to the future and imagine what gifts of labor and love will you give to your community, however you define it,” Wagner said.

Students who assisted Wagner in organizing the “In America: Remember” flag installation at the National Mall, an exhibition commemorating COVID-19-related deaths, nominated Wagner to speak at the ceremony.

She said when she was a doctoral student she realized she would struggle to pay for a cap and gown, but a friend of one of the committee members who

reviewed her dissertation gave their regalia to Wagner because they wanted to hand the graduation items down to a graduating student. Wagner said she will replicate their act of kindness and hand down her regalia to a graduating student once she leaves the University.

“I hope she, too, will treasure it not only for the silver folds, but for the opportunity she also will have at the end of her career to pass it along to another stranger just starting out,” Wagner said.

Philip Parel, CCAS distinguished scholar for the class of 2022, said the graduating class has been able to overcome any challenge, like spending about half of their undergraduate career online due to the pandemic.

“No matter the obstacle before us, I’m confident that the safest hands are still our own,” Parel said.

GW Law celebrates graduating class of law students

TARA SUTER
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

GW Law honored its graduating class of 2022 in the Smith Center Sunday.

Officials congratulated the graduating seniors, among the 3,000-person crowd, for their accomplishments during their time at law school. U.S. Rep. Susan Wild, D-Pa., a GW Law alumni and the keynote speaker, talked about her difficult experiences in her early law career as a woman and how happy she was to see a diverse graduating class.

“By that point, you can say that I felt less than confident in my career choice, especially given the fact that at that time, I was one of very few women in the profession, and I looked far younger than my 25 years,” Wild said. “Often, I was mistaken for the court re-

porter or a secretary, and let me say as I look out on this crowd today, at the diversity of faces in this audience, I feel such a sense of pride. We have come a long way in this profession.”

Wild said students should take a different view of what resilience means to them and try and push themselves through difficult tasks like challenging court cases, but should give themselves a break if they are struggling with issues like mental health crises.

“So as I leave you today, my fervent hope is this, that you are resilient,” Wild said. “But more importantly that you understand what resilience means. Be bold, be kind, be open minded and thoughtful. And most importantly, do not be afraid.”

Michael Abramowicz, the Jeffrey and Martha Kohn senior associate

dean for academic affairs and a professor of law, said law school Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew tested positive for COVID-19 so she was unable to attend the event, but Abramowicz congratulated the class for their resilience in his speech.

“Your class has overcome many obstacles and demonstrated extraordinary resilience to reach this day, and I congratulate you all,” he said.

Outgoing Student Bar Association president Jordan Michel and member of the law school Class of 2022, said he is thankful for the family members, friends and classmates, for their support throughout his law school experience.

“We appreciate you, we wouldn’t be here without you,” Michel said. “Thank you for putting up with us at our worst selves for the last three, four years.”



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Alyssa Ayres, the dean of the Elliott School, said she was “inspired” by the resilience of the Class of 2022 as students endured the COVID-19 pandemic.



JORDYN BAILER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Interim University President Mark Wrighton said he’s “delighted” about the impact that SMHS faculty made on the class that is the first to graduate in GW’s third century as a University.

Elliott School recognizes Class of 2022 at commencement ceremony

ISHA TRIVEDI
MANAGING EDITOR

The Elliott School of International Affairs celebrated the graduating Class of 2022 at its first in-person graduation ceremony since 2019 in the Smith Center Friday.

Rep. Gregory Meeks, D-NY, the keynote speaker at the event, called on graduates to “give back” to their communities using their degrees from the Elliott School as they enter the field of public service. Saad Al-Tami, the student speaker at the ceremony and a candidate for a Master of Arts in International Affairs, said he watched his classmates and professors become friends and mentors throughout his time at GW, and he is now graduating from the Elliott School with a new family.

Meeks said the “optimism and determina-

tion” of the Class of 2022 has boosted his own optimism about the United States’ ability to confront major issues like climate change.

“Our government runs on the passions, the visions and the optimism of young people like you,” he said at the ceremony.

Meeks said his parents, who paid his tuition for his law degree at Howard University despite struggling financially, asked him to “pay it forward” when he graduated. He urged the Class of 2022 to do the same.

“Now I’m calling on you, the Class of 2022, to do your jobs, to go out and lead and be the change you wish to see,” Meeks said. “And I say as my mother told me, never forget who you are. Never forget where you came from. Never forget your parents and others who

helped you accomplish your goals.”

Al-Tami said graduates have a responsibility to take what they learned during their time at the Elliott School and join the fight for a better future.

“We are the future,” he said. “We are two blocks away from the White House, just across the street from the State Department, just next to the IMF and the World Bank. And we are also a moment away from the change that we wish to see.”

Alyssa Ayres, the dean of the Elliott School, said she was “inspired” by the Class of 2022’s resilience as they endured the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Members of our graduating class gathered here today are not only prepared to tackle the world’s toughest problems, they are eager to take on the challenge,” she said.

School of Medicine and Health Sciences honors graduating class

SOPHIA GOEDERT
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Faculty of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences led the graduation celebration for the class of 2022 Saturday afternoon.

Professors from SMHS distributed four awards to graduate and undergraduate students in the class at the ceremony. Officials offered advice and wisdom to the departing class and expressed their pride for the students’ hard work despite enduring challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Barbara Bass, the dean of SMHS, said the school acknowledges the hard work of the class, especially during the past two years of the pandemic when students played key roles in administering vaccines and tests or performing laboratory research.

She said the knowledge the class gained at GW will lead the class to serve

people in a “beautifully personal” way to restore health and prevent illness.

Interim University President Mark Wrighton said despite only being at GW for four months he’s “delighted” about the impact the faculty made on the class that is the first to graduate in GW’s third century as a University.

He said he encourages each student to be a “lifelong learner” to keep up with changing times and how important the students’ work is to supporting their colleagues.

Karen Schlumpf, a professor of clinical research and leadership, said honoring the two recipients of the Ozgur Ekmekci Inter-professional Leadership Award, Yvonne Rodriguez and Edith Teng, was a “pleasure” as they both have shown their commitment to promoting collaboration and scholarship in the health sciences world.

Alexandra Davis, the

recipient of the outstanding undergraduate student award and graduating with a bachelors of science, said her time in the U.S. Navy showed her the challenges that come along with a career in health care but working in a lab drove her purpose in the field.

“Whether or not you stay in health sciences, your passion will continue to drive your decisions down new paths,” Davis said.

Wencesley Paez, the recipient of the outstanding graduate student award and a masters of science in health sciences in clinical and translational research graduate, said the challenges he encountered in his studies has taught him how to adapt to changing circumstances.

“Productivity in everything you do, make it count be productive citizens in this society, whether it be at home or at work,” Paez said.

CRIME LOG

HARASSMENT, EMAIL AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

South Hall
5/6/2022 – Multiple
Open Case
A female student reported that she was the victim of harassing text messages.
Case open.

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

Mitchell Hall
5/7/2022 – 3:00 a.m.
Closed Case
GW Police Department officers responded to an intoxicated male student in Mitchell Hall. EMeRG staff arrived on the scene and escorted the male to the emergency room.
Referred to Division for Student Affairs.

DRUG LAW VIOLATION

Mitchell Hall
5/7/2022 – 10:33 p.m.
Closed Case
GWPD officers received drug contraband, which was confiscated from a male student by a housing administrator in Mitchell Hall.
Referred to DSA.

THEFT I/BICYCLES

University Yard
5/10/2022 – Unknown
Open Case
A male student reported his bicycle stolen.
Case open.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT: HIT AND RUN

2028 G Street Garage/Law Learning Center
5/11/2022 – 8:45 a.m.- 2:45 p.m.
Open Case
A male staff member reported that his vehicle was damaged by a hit-and-run accident while parked in the 2028 G Street Garage.
Case open.

—Compiled by Acacia Niyogi

Dining hall capacity lags behind that of other D.C. universities, documents show

GRACE CHINOWSKY
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

TYLER KRAMBEER
STAFF WRITER

With only two of GW's three planned Foggy Bottom dining halls set to open in the fall, campus dining capacity is set to lag behind that of other D.C. universities.

The dining halls opening in Shenkman and Thurston halls will seat approximately 319 and 225 students, respectively, according to documents obtained by The Hatchet. Other dining halls in the District, like those at Georgetown and Howard universities, can seat more than double that amount despite hosting about 4,000 fewer students.

The documents, which were created in December, provide blueprints of the campus dining halls that will open next school year, including the vendors expected to provide food service at each location, the seating arrangements and other amenities.

Leo O'Donovan Dining Hall, the main campus dining facility at Georgetown University, seats between 1,000 to 1,150 students, and the dining halls at Howard University have space for approximately 2,300 people. The Mary Graydon Dining Center at American University can seat about 675 students.

But the undergraduate populations at those universities are all lower than that of GW. Georgetown, American and Howard reported about



FILE PHOTO BY SOPHIA YOUNG | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
University spokesperson Tim Pierce said GW's dining halls will be able to accommodate the student population next year, but he declined to say how many students each dining hall can seat.

8,000 undergraduates in fall of 2020, compared to GW's 12,000.

University spokesperson Tim Pierce said GW's dining halls will be able to accommodate the student population next year, but he declined to say how many students signed up for each of the seven new dining plans.

"Based on current projections of seats and students on meal plans, over 5,000 students will be able to be served during each meal period," Pierce said.

The ground floor of Shenkman Hall, where Potbelly

Sandwich Shop was previously located, will feature two rotating "retail concepts" and a market and juice bar with approximately 54 seats. The lower level will contain 265 seats distributed in a variety of table sizes and seating options with seven "micro restaurant" vendor stations.

Thurston Hall will hold seven vendor stations, multiple seating selections, a gaming area and community spaces designed for "student and staff interaction."

Officials announced in April that the District House dining hall, which was previously slated to open in the fall, will remain under construction until later in the

school year. At the start of the fall, undergraduates who opt to use meal swipes will be limited to the dining facilities in Shenkman or Thurston halls, which seat a total of approximately 544 people.

Eric Grynawski, an associate professor of political science and international affairs and the chair of the Faculty Senate's physical facilities committee, said he was "concerned" about GW's dining hall maps because its seating capacity is half that of other local universities.

"I am very worried about the effect that that will have on the student experience if there are one- or two-hour lines," he said.

CCAS professor helps discover new species of salamander near Gulf Coast

TALON SMITH
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

In 2008, David Beamer, a biology instructor at a North Carolina community college, trekked through the muddy swamps of the Gulf Coastal Plain to document a potentially new species of swamp-dwelling salamander.

Now 14 years later, Beamer has co-authored a study released earlier this month with R. Alexander Pyron, an associate professor of biology in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, that used genetic data to introduce *Desmognathus pascagoula* as a new salamander species. Pyron said *Desmognathus pascagoula* is the first of more than 20 new salamander species that his team has discovered using genetic data in their fieldwork in the eastern United States, which they will release in similar papers.

Pyron said he has studied dusky salamanders in the eastern United States since 2010, now leading a team of researchers investigating the animal. Biologists and researchers mistakenly referred to *Desmognathus pascagoula* specimens as *D. auriculatus* or *D. valentinei*, other species of swamp-dwelling dusky salamanders, in the past before Pyron's team identified them as genetically and physically distinct.

Desmognathus pascagoula is smaller than other dusky salamanders, which range from just under an inch to about 7 inches

in length and are distinguishable by their lateral white spots, according to the study. Pyron said *Desmognathus pascagoula*'s brown color and small size make them difficult to find and identify in the muddy swamps where they live.

Pyron said he and his researchers would wade through swamps looking for specimens of the new species in the mud under leaves and logs to take genetic samples and compare their DNA with other salamanders. Pyron said finding two or three specimens could take days or weeks.

"We're up to our waists in just thick mud, and we're basically just trying to rake through the mud and see if we see a tiny little brown salamander wriggling away" Pyron said.

He said his research team received a grant from the National Science Foundation in 2017 to use DNA sequencing data to identify how potential new species differed from others, which helped lead to their new species discoveries.

Pyron said the new species could have easily gone undiscovered by researchers for years, noting that they were found where scientists had already been exploring for centuries in the eastern United States.

"The biodiversity of the planet is extremely underestimated and poorly known," he said.

Pyron said discovering new species reveals new information about its ecosystems, allowing for

a deeper understanding of the ecology of a region. He said alpha taxonomy – the discipline of discovering new species – is the "fundamental building block" for understanding evolution and ecology and striving to protect the environment.

Researchers consider the Gulf Coastal Plain a biodiversity hotspot, a term coined to designate regions with significant amounts of unique species that are threatened by human activity. Pyron said the region's classification as a biodiversity hotspot, which researchers in the field decide based on criteria for the amount of unique species and human impact on the region, would bring more recognition from the public to the region's distinctive plants and animals.

"It's underappreciated in terms of recognizing the biodiversity that's there and really acknowledging the distinctiveness of the region in terms of its flora and fauna," he said.

Pyron said his team plans to continue releasing similar studies about the new species of dusky salamanders they have identified before studying their evolution in depth.

Beamer said identifying new species and their habitats is key for preserving the habitats of endemic species – a plant or animal species native only to a specific area – like *Desmognathus pascagoula*.

"It's easy to lose a species if its range is very small," he said. "So hopefully there'll be more interest now that we under-



COURTESY OF DAVE BEAMER
The study states that *Desmognathus pascagoula* is smaller than other dusky salamanders and distinguishable by its lateral white spots.

stand that this species is different and unique and that we understand that it has a relatively small range."

Beamer said identifying new species can also aid the development of medicine and pharmaceuticals, which often derive ingredients from living organisms. He said salamanders have been subject to studies aiming to find a human application of their unique capability as the only vertebrates that can regrow complex tissue, like limbs and even their brains.

He said increased knowledge of the southeastern United States Coastal Plain's biodiversity would raise awareness about the need to protect the region's environment.

"Once you start talking about something in a way that makes people understand that it's different, that it's special," Beamer said. "That's what alerts people to be like, 'Oh, well, maybe I should care about that.'"

Jessica Lamb, an assistant professor of biology at St. Cloud State University and co-author of the study, discovered a *Desmognathus pascagoula* salamander before working on the study while she was a doctoral student, finding that its DNA differed from other dusky salamanders. She said Pyron and Beamer reached out to collaborate with her on the study due to this documentation of genetic data that matched the *Desmognathus pascagoula* specimens they

were studying in the years prior.

She said the Pasca-goula River in Mississippi, where *Desmognathus pascagoula* can be found, has a high rate of species diversity as one of the largest undammed rivers in the United States. Lamb said conservationists should focus efforts around habitat conservation because of this connection.

Lamb said biologists could research *Desmognathus pascagoula*'s natural history, like egg-laying behaviors, larval periods and courtship rituals now that they have discovered the species.

"What I'm more interested in is figuring out those other pieces of the Pasca-goula dusky puzzle," she said.

Campus COVID-19 positivity rate surges before Commencement

SOPHIA GOEDERT
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The COVID-19 positivity rate among community members spiked this week, jumping from about two percent two weeks ago to just over three percent this week.

The University reported 292 positive cases between May 2 to 11 after about 10,000 tests were administered between students, faculty and staff. The jump in cases comes after officials loosened some COVID-19 restrictions as the spring semester closed out its final week and the families and friends of graduating seniors flooded onto campus for Commencement.

The University COVID-19 dashboard shows May 2 as the day with

the most daily total positive cases, with 50 out of 2,136 cases coming back positive, and 40 out of 1,071 cases coming back positive on May 10.

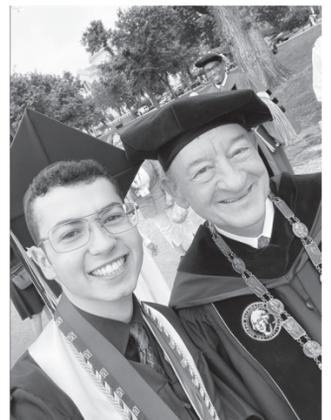
Officials implemented COVID-19 mitigation strategies like required biweekly testing and mandated vaccine and booster shots. At the start of the semester officials also reserved 250 beds as they fought to contain the Omicron variant and keep classes in person.

District officials reported about 1,000 COVID-19 cases after allegedly not reporting their total case numbers to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for weeks.

TWEETED

He's a real one
@PresWrightonGW

Justin Diamond on 05/15/2022



TWITTER/ @JUSTINDIAMONDHQ

Milken study to observe maternal health in five low-income countries

EDDIE HERZIG
STAFF WRITER

A team of professors received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to study maternal and newborn health in low-income countries to coordinate data and techniques associated with pregnancy with scientists about risks in their respective countries earlier this month.

The surveillance study includes a team of professors, three from the Milken Institute School of Public Health in the global health field and a professor of statistics from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, who will track about 20,000 pregnancies for three years in five low-income countries. The \$4.8 million funding from the Gates Foundation allows the team to collect data on maternal and newborn malnutrition, anemia and other health risks that scientists can use internationally for general data sets about maternal and newborn health

in the five countries.

Emily Smith, an assistant professor of global health and exercise and nutrition science and the principal investigator of the study, said different countries measure health vitals like blood pressure or weight differently, and the study can help harmonize the differing methods that countries use to produce more consistent global data.

She said researchers will observe the participants' health during pregnancy, labor, delivery and for one year after the child is born.

"Globally, we don't have that kind of data, generally, that estimates for women's health conditions or neonatal conditions," Smith said. "Either we don't have big global estimates, or they're really modeled, like they're based on very little empirical data."

Smith said the study will observe mothers in India, Pakistan, Ghana, Zambia and Kenya – countries with other ongoing studies centered around collecting data

about maternal and newborn health sponsored by the Gates Foundation.

She said in each of the countries researchers will go to the houses with women of reproductive age, see if they are pregnant and are willing to enroll in the study.

"This is an opportunity for learning across all of our teams, all of our country sites, so here at GW, we're excited to offer some of our experience and expertise in teaching and public health when it comes to the epidemiology and statistics," Smith said.

Interim University President Mark Wrighton thanked the Gates Foundation for the grant, which he said will assist vital research into maternal health.

"We are grateful to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for this grant, which will allow our public health and statistics researchers to conduct this critical work aimed at improving maternal and newborn health outcomes globally," Wrighton



FILE PHOTO BY GRACE HROMIN
Emily Smith, the principal investigator of the study, said the research can help harmonize the methods that different countries use to produce more consistent global data.

said in the release.

Jennifer Seager, an assistant professor of global health, said the study also evaluates how pregnancy risk factors are associated

with adverse pregnancy outcomes like stillbirths and morbidity – death by an illness or disease – in mothers and children.

"Ultimately, this data

will inform development of innovative strategies to optimize pregnancy outcomes for mothers and their newborns," Seager said in an email.

Central Asia Program hosted events, fellowships, research in first decade

IANNE SALVOSA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

The Central Asia Program – an organization that promotes research on contemporary Central Asia – has held multiple events each month and has become a pillar for Central Asian embassies and research during its first decade.

Since its founding in 2012, faculty members of the Central Asia Program said the program has created an academic journal to publish their policy research on Central Asia and became Central Asian embassies' primary platform for research on the region. Faculty said the program's fellowship opportunities and publications provided platforms for people from countries like Afghanistan and Uzbekistan to diversify research on Central Asian diasporic groups.

Marlene Laruelle, the director of the program and a research professor of international affairs, said she created the program in 2012 after receiving a \$10,000 grant from the University to enable Central Asian scholars to share policy research about their home countries in the United States. She said she launched the program a decade into the U.S. War in Afghanistan, when policy researchers were interested in expanding Central Asian research to shift conversations about the war from the political sphere into academia.

Laruelle said officials from the Central Asia Program started the Central Asia-Azerbaijan Fellowship in 2013 to teach students from Central Asia how to write policy briefs and engage with an audience on foreign policy in the United States for three to five months.

"It's like a prism, a lens through which they can study international affairs and see many things about how the new global order is being reorganized," Laruelle said.

She said the program's research on Central Asian culture and diplomacy helped them build relationships with all of the Central Asian embassies. She said the embassies regard the Central Asia Program as the primary platform for Central Asian studies because the program's policy research promotes the region, regardless of their critiques of Central Asian governments.

Laruelle said she is working with a curator from New York to bring Central Asian artwork to D.C. for an event this week that celebrates the program's tenth anniversary and educates stu-

dents on Central Asian culture through artwork.

"I never imagined it would become such a big kind of structure inside the school with so much visibility," Laruelle said.

Sean Roberts, an associate professor in the practice of international affairs and a member of the Central Asia Program, said the program created the Journal of Central Asian Affairs in 2014, the only peer-reviewed academic journal with a policy focus on Central Asian affairs. He said the English-language journal allows Central Asian scholars to extend their reach to the United States and Europe.

"The main goal of our program was to make sure that there was expert local knowledge of both Central Asian scholars and American scholars and European scholars studying the region that could inform that policy," Roberts said.

He said the program connected scholars from the United States, Europe, Russia and Central Asia for three international conferences in D.C., Europe and Russia that focused on Uyghurs – a Turkic group from China – and their homeland from 2014 to 2016. He said the inaugural conference the program held at GW in 2013 established a network of academics for Central Asian scholars focused on the region before China began forcing Uyghurs into labor camps in 2014.

Student groups launched a petition and protested in Kogan Plaza in February to urge the University to divest from companies contributing to the Uyghur genocide after the U.S. government said last year that the Chinese government is complicit in the Uyghur genocide.

"We had a community of scholars who were in contact with each other and were able to kind of coordinate our response to the mass atrocities that have since occurred to Uyghurs," Roberts said.

Eric Schluessel, an assistant professor of history and international affairs and a member of the program, said the District has the largest Uyghur community in North America because Uyghur political leaders moved to government centers in the 1950s, and Uyghurs fleeing oppression emigrated to join the established community in the District.

"GW has become sort of a home not simply for experts about Eurasia, but people from Eurasia to generate knowledge about their own home," Schluessel said.



FILE PHOTO BY LILLIAN BAUTISTA
Marlene Laruelle, the director of the program, said the program's research on Central Asian culture and diplomacy helped build relationships with all of the Central Asian embassies.

Rising tuition, financial aid can maintain graduation rates, experts say

IANNE SALVOSA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Experts in higher education said officials' efforts to adjust financial aid packages in line with a record-high jump in cost of attendance will increase graduation rates.

University Spokesperson Tim Pierce said about 70 percent of students at GW receive financial assistance like loans, grants or scholarships each academic year, and the University will continue to maintain an accessible education for students of all socioeconomic backgrounds. He said 15.2 percent of undergraduate students seeking their first degree also received Pell Grants during the 2019-20 academic year, while since 2017 about 14 percent of incoming undergraduates qualified for Pell Grants.

Officials launched a "focused initiative" last October to increase the financial aid budget for students eligible for Pell Grants by about \$2 million each year. They said future financial aid packages will be "consistent" with increases to cost of attendance, which officials said will increase from \$59,780 to \$62,110 during the next academic year in March.

The change pushes the total cost of attendance to more than \$80,000, the highest it has ever been.

Officials also said the addition of three dining halls this upcoming school year and COVID-19 expenditures like moving classes online in 2020 and COVID-19 test centers influenced the tuition spike.



FILE PHOTO BY MICHELLE LIN | PHOTOGRAPHER
Officials have said future financial aid packages will be "consistent" with increases to cost of attendance.

Provost Chris Bracey said students received larger financial aid packages to offset the financial impact of the 2008 recession, which led to a 3.5 percent increase in graduation rates for students who enrolled at GW between 2008 and 2010 and received the larger financial aid packages.

"Every year, we have students, high performing students who cannot afford to continue to matriculate at the University," Bracey said in the meeting.

Pierce said the 3.6 percent increase in four-year graduation rates from 2013-17 suggests that students are succeeding academically, and the University will consider potential fluctuations in graduation rates when determining financial aid and tuition.

Experts in higher education said universities with higher tuition rates tend to offer larger financial aid packages,

which could contribute to higher graduation rates.

Robert Toutkoushian, a professor of higher education at the University of Georgia, said universities can follow the "high price, high aid" model to spend more on financial aid packages with a larger revenue from tuition.

"If they're bringing in more external funding from other sources, or their investments are doing better, then that frees up more money that they're able to then return to students in the form of financial aid," Toutkoushian said.

He said officials' indication that they will keep financial aid consistent with tuition increases most likely means the University will increase financial aid by the same percentages as tuition increases. But he said students will likely see varying increases in financial aid as their families' expected contribution changes.

He said when cost of attendance remains constant, universities with higher acceptance rates tend to have higher graduation rates.

Officials ended GW's fixed tuition policy – a constant tuition rate through four years – for undergraduate students who entered the University during the fall 2020 or later.

Will Doyle, a professor of higher education at Vanderbilt University, said universities with fixed tuition rates may not be able to direct as much tuition revenue toward financial aid. He said rising tuition can provide "flexibility" for universities to use their revenue to fund larger financial aid packages.

"When an institution is having a difficult time, bringing in enough revenues either from private sources or from tuition, it can make it difficult for them to provide adequate financial aid," Doyle said.

Board issues finance update, dissolves task forces at May meeting

From Page 1

Zane said the University's ongoing project to renovate Thurston Hall is "on time" and will finish sometime during the summer.

"Last year, expectedly, was an excellent year for our endowment performance," she said. "Many of the larger endowed universities have enormous market returns driven primarily by venture capital. GW's endowment performed well with the pooled endowment, returning over 30 percent and the total endowment including our real estate holdings, returning close to 20 percent."

Experts in higher education administration and finance said after the recent endowment boom, the value of GW's endowment could see declines over the next few years due to nation-wide inflation and tightening markets.

The Board disbanded its Environment, Social and Governance Responsibility Task Force, two years into its five-year project to divest the University from fossil fuel companies and deliver on a

string of sustainability commitments, like increasing the amount of investments in environmentally-friendly companies and expanding sustainability instruction at GW.

Trustee Peter Harrison, who co-chairs the ESG Task Force, said CFO Mark Diaz will continue to lead the University's fossil fuel divestment and sustainability policies, while Provost Chris Bracey has committed to "holding the University accountable" for the social policies that the Board makes.

"We believe the task force has achieved our charge, and that the proposed recommendations are grounded in transparency and equity," Harrison said. "It is our expectation to entrust the administration with addressing the goals and targets proposed by the community refined by the task force and to report on their performance relative to the corresponding metrics."

Trustee Charles Bendit, who serves as the vice chair of the Board's audit and compliance committee, said officials should implement a plan to "substantially increase" the number of faculty

who complete Title IX training after finding that about one-fifth of faculty had completed the training.

"The audit and compliance committee has asked the administration to implement an action plan to substantially increase the training completion rates per faculty and to provide the Board with monthly compliance," he said. "The committee finds the reported 20 percent completion rates to be unacceptable. So we hope that we'll have more compliance in the coming months."

The Board also approved a slate of three new trustees – shrinking the Board by two seats – and re-elected Speights as chair, Avram Tucker as secretary and promoted trustee Mark Chichester to vice chair.

"To all of our trustees who are retiring from service today, we appreciate you for your outstanding service to the institution and your dedication and advancing the mission and purpose of The George Washington University," trustee and governance and nominations committee chair Donna Hill Straton said.

Opinions

WHAT THE UNIVERSITY WON'T TALK ABOUT THIS WEEK

How many students Foggy Bottom's new dining halls will seat p. 4

FROM GWHATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

"More students should recognize the difficulties of teaching during the pandemic and thank their professors who have done so with effort and empathy."

—MIA ADAMS ON 5/9/2022

GW can help student loan borrowers navigate their debt

STAFF EDITORIAL

President Joe Biden's repeated debt repayment freezes and more recent willingness to attempt debt forgiveness for some have left student borrowers confused about their own financial future. Indebted students have to decide whether they'll hold out for wholesale debt forgiveness or make the most of Biden's payment pause and what to do if or when those payments restart. As more students rely on this increasingly complex system of government, private and institutional financial aid to meet GW's rising cost of attendance, the University can and should educate student borrowers about student loans by way of online courses and public forums to ensure current and prospective students understand the true cost of student loans.

Government-backed loans can make college more accessible, especially for first generation, minority and low-income students who might otherwise lack the financial resources to attend college. Yet such loans can mire students into debt. The average student loan debt balance can total nearly \$40,000, and the average GW student graduated with \$33,305 in debt in 2018. Federal action meant to address student debt might only make their individual situations more complicated. Forgiving or freezing student loan debt can relieve student borrowers' financial burden, but it doesn't make the student loan process any easier to understand. Borrowers who don't know the basics of the student loan process need help that goes beyond relief — they need information about student loans in general.

Biden and Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona have already made some progress in addressing the \$1.7 trillion issue of student loan debt facing more than 40 million student borrowers. Addressing student loans was part of Biden's presidential campaign, and he has forgiven the debts of borrowers with disabilities and those who attended fraudulent for-profit colleges since his election. While the measures have been fairly narrow-



SOFIJA JUODAITIS | STAFF CARTOONIST

ly tailored to certain groups of borrowers, Biden has also extended a repayment freeze that his predecessor began in March 2020 six times as of April, which has saved nearly 37 million borrowers roughly \$195 billion in waived payments. But unlike forgiveness, this freeze still leaves students with the same levels of debt.

Rather than continuous repayment pauses, progressives have favored sweeping loan forgiveness. Calls for unilaterally canceling all student loan debt via executive order went mainstream during the 2020 election after Sens. Eliza-

beth Warren, D-Mass., and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., released proposals to cancel up to \$50,000 of debt and all student debt, respectively. Moderates and conservatives who favor any form of student debt relief argue that students' income or their amount of debt should determine potential debt forgiveness. This stricter approach ultimately caps relief for those above a certain income level. Between this ideological impasse and questions about whether Biden has the legal authority to unilaterally cancel student debt via executive order, government action that goes beyond re-

payment freezes to address student debt seems unlikely.

The trillion-dollar problem of student debt stems from students' lack of knowledge as much as it does predatory loan companies or out-of-control tuition costs. Teenage first-time borrowers may be making a major financial commitment without understanding how serious their decision is — the costs and benefits of student loans aren't for everyone. But combined with the societal pressure to attend college, especially at prestigious universities like GW, and the normalization of student debt, taking out student

loans is almost a right of passage if not a financial necessity for many students.

That's not to say that students aren't taking their loans seriously, but rather that student loans are extremely complicated. In turn, students need help to understand them. GW's estimated cost of attendance next year is more than \$80,000 for most undergraduates, and a likely corresponding rise in students' financial aid needs means that the University should explain the terms and conditions of that aid.

Like in 2020, the University should conduct a series of virtual and in-person town halls to address students' and their families' questions and concerns about changes to financial aid. A streamlined crash course on the basics of student loans would also help student borrowers make an informed decision about whether taking out student loans is right for them. The Office of Student Financial Assistance already provides an overview of the financial aid process, and students can visit the Student Services Hub in the University Student Center for assistance and answers to their questions, including those about student loans. But these resources aren't helpful if students aren't aware of them or when the information they provide is no longer relevant in the face of shifting federal policies. Beyond GW, students looking for more information can visit the Federal Student Aid website directly to learn the basics about the federal student loan process.

With changes to federal student loan policies on the horizon, the University should equip students with the tools to educate themselves about their individual student loans. If such loans can make education accessible, then direct, effective and consistent communication about them can help first-time borrowers avoid the trillion-dollar problem of student debt. With GW's support, its students can confidently navigate the pros and cons of such a life-changing financial decision.

GW should remove card readers in laundry rooms to fix a faulty system

Doing laundry is a necessity, but with a failing payment system, the process is much more complicated than it needs to be at GW. Students' tuition includes 34 prepaid loads of laundry, or 17 free washer-dryer cycles, before students must pay with Colonial Cash or dining dollars to clean their clothes. But when students go to pay for a fresh load, they'll often find broken GWorld card readers that leave them digging for quarters as the only possible form of payment left. It's time that the University eliminates card readers to dedicate more time to fixing broken machines in laundry facilities, and in doing so, make laundry free.

Riley Goodfellow
Contributing Opinions
Editor

Technological issues with card readers often warrant the removal of software and hardware with newly ordered replacements on top of multiple days of repair. While the card readers are down, students have to pay for laundry out of pocket, despite the free loads they are given. Eliminating the card readers altogether would not only ensure that all students can do their laundry for free but also redirect the attention spent on card

reader repair to fixing the laundry machines that fail to properly function.

The lack of a functioning card reader leaves students in the inconvenient position of paying with quarters, even if they still have free loads to use. Washing and drying a load of laundry costs \$3.50 or \$1.75 per cycle. Students must often wash or dry clothes multiple times per load when the laundry machines fail to work properly, which only raises that price.

The laundry machines of my residence hall also flooded the basement twice this academic year. The dirty water ruined students' clothes in the machines, made the building smell awful and the only option to get clothes in the laundry room was to wade through the water until it was drained after several days. Leaving machines broken or allowing water to sit in the basement of a residence hall for several days is not safe and students deserve better.

Complications with the card reader and poor machine maintenance can backlog laundry rooms with students waiting to clean their clothes. Once a maintenance issue is resolved, all the machines are consistently full of loads that students have waited to run, leaving many others without a place to do laundry for even longer.

Some are willing to pull other students' clothes out of machines after their time is up. Those who are not quick enough to remove their own belongings from machines can find them in a pile on the floor after their load is done.

Finally, GW should address where the revenue from laundry credit goes. If the money students spend on laundry is meant to enhance laundry facilities, GW most definitely is not succeeding. Seeing as it does not provide basic services like drying clothes on a constant basis, GW needs to better ensure the effectiveness of laundry facilities and communicate where students' laundry money is used.

The solution to poorly managed laundry facilities is to end the payment system that GW currently has installed in each laundry room so that there is more time to focus on the conditions of the washing and drying machines. It is in students' and GW's best interest to reevaluate the laundry system — receiving unlimited laundry loads instead of tapping a card reader would eliminate another opportunity for malfunctions and allow GW to better address rampant facility issues.

—Riley Goodfellow, a freshman majoring in Political Science, is the contributing opinions editor.

GW must provide resources to address drug abuse during COVID

The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified substance use across the country, especially among incoming college students. College students' drug-related deaths make clear that universities can intervene before it's too late to support these incoming classes who have grappled with addiction, especially as synthetic opioids like fentanyl make drug use even more dangerous.

Matthew Donnell
Opinions Writer

But the University's limited alcohol and drug programming and online modules fail to connect students to a shortage of resources. With a new wave of freshmen arriving on campus this fall while drug abuse and addiction persist in the United States, GW should improve its prevention programs and recovery resources to address the challenges incoming students will face.

While GW's current prevention plan adequately teaches new students about the dangers of drinking and general drug use, the University fails to provide readily available and updated resources that reflect the pandemic's marked effects on mental health and the country's

struggle to contain fentanyl. GW should centralize its prevention and recovery resources to address substance abuse and addiction on campus.

Resources for students suffering from substance abuse disorders at GW remain scattered, limited and primarily online. Students would benefit from a singular prevention and recovery program on campus that meshes Pathways to Recovery's intensive treatment for at-risk students with the Collegiate Recovery Community's accessibility and detachment from the disciplinary process. Prioritizing community outreach and student engagement would clarify that the newly-proposed program would remain separate from the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities' disciplinary system.

GW can look to Kennesaw State University's Center for Young Adult Addiction and Recovery for a program to model its revitalized approach to substance abuse. Students can easily access Kennesaw's resources in addition to the university's own Collegiate Recovery Community on the center's website. Like Kennesaw, GW should form a robust pool of resources that would reflect the

diversity of students' needs to encourage participation in and reduce stigmas surrounding University-sponsored programs.

GW should also invite its CARE Team to partner with the GW Hospital and the Milken Institute School of Public Health to produce meaningful research that will inform prevention and rehabilitation methods on campus. To specifically focus on the needs of its students, GW should become involved in recovery science research, a unique field that focuses on how people can recover from substance abuse.

Making naloxone available in every University building and training students and faculty to use it would also mitigate the potential for lethal overdoses on campus.

GW should recognize the educational limitations of its mostly online modules and focus more on connecting students to its more intensive resources instead of checking off its prevention and recovery resources requirement for students. GW has the resources for such a program to exist and flourish — it just needs to organize them.

—Matthew Donnell, a sophomore majoring in political communication and English, is an opinions writer.

The GW Hatchet

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Culture

THE SCENE

WALKING FRENCH IMPRESSIONISM ART TOUR
 Friday, May 20 | National Gallery of Art | \$22.50
 Explore the works of Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh and Edgar Degas.

FIESTA ASIA STREET FAIR
 Saturday, May 21 | 400 Pennsylvania Ave. NW | Free
 Celebrate Pan-Asian culture at the 17th annual festival with a variety of performers, artisans and vendors.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

"MR. MORALE & THE BIG STEPPERS"
 BY KENDRICK LAMAR

Nine GW community members honored with Pulitzer Prizes

CLARA DUHON
 CULTURE EDITOR

Nine GW community members shared in winning Pulitzer Prizes last week for coverage on the Jan. 6 insurrection and research into the fatal police shootings of unarmed individuals during traffic stops.

The recipients served as members of award-winning teams from The New York Times, the Washington Post and Getty Images that earned Pulitzers – the most coveted award in journalism – for National Reporting, Public Service and Breaking News Reporting. Several of the journalists said they're proud their comprehensive reporting on pertinent issues has been recognized, but the awards only mark the starting point of coverage needed to extensively report on these national issues in their efforts to inform the public.

National Reporting

Seamus Hughes, the deputy director of the University's Program on Extremism, was part of The New York Times staff who won the National Reporting Pulitzer for his investigative research in an article for The New York Times about police killings at traffic stops. The piece revealed that beyond 400 of more than 1,500 individuals who police killed at traffic stops in the past five years were not armed or under pursuit for a violent crime and were disproportionately Black.



Sam Corum, a Corcoran School of the Arts and Design alumnus, was one of five Getty Images photographers who nabbed the Breaking News Photography Pulitzer Prize for their comprehensive work on Jan. 6.

Breaking News Photography

Sam Corum, a Corcoran School of the Arts and Design alumnus, was one of five Getty Images photographers who nabbed the Breaking News Photography Pulitzer

Prize for their comprehensive work on Jan. 6. He said working professionals educated him during his time in the photojournalism program in Corcoran, which he found valuable because they could teach him what was happening in the in-

dustry and how to be successful in his career as a photojournalist.

Public Service

Astrid Riecken, a professional lecturer of photojournalism in the Corcoran School, was part of a

Washington Post team of more than 100 reporters who earned the Pulitzer for Public Service. Riecken said she transferred still photographs and shared observations of her experiences during the insurrection, which contributed to several Post articles.

Sarah Cahlan, a 2013 graduate from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and a video reporter for The Post's Visual Forensics team, said she had been monitoring the rumblings about Jan. 6 on extremist channels ahead of the insurrection and was "concerned" with what she saw.

Rachel Weiner, who graduated from the School of Media and Public Affairs in 2007, was reporting on the ground for the Post during the Jan. 6 riots and wrote an article in November explaining the mob mentality of the Capitol insurrectionists, part of the coverage that received recognition from the Pulitzer for Public Service.

SMPA alumna Marianna Sotomayor, who started covering the House of Representatives for The Post a few months after the insurrection, said she interviewed members of Congress to hear their experience on Capitol Hill the day of the insurrection. She reported on the security failures on Capitol Hill for an article that contributed to The Post's Public Service award win.

The Post's team also include alumni Nick Kirkpatrick, Whitney Leaming and Joy Sharon Yi.



KRISHNA RAJPARA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Student musicians said they've been able to find a community of independent artists at GW, some gathering to work in the Mount Vernon Campus' recording studio in West Hall.

Student artists find community developing music on campus

KRISHNA RAJPARA
 REPORTER

SUNDHYA ALTER
 REPORTER

Between classes and schoolwork, student musicians are cultivating their innovation and collaborating with other students to create a mix of music genres.

Five students with various degrees of musical experience said while GW's music community is relatively unknown, the campus offers a tight-knit community of artists, some of whom have worked in the Mount Vernon Campus' recording studio in West Hall to create their music.

Meet some of the students who have brought their musical ambitions to the campus scene:

Jacy Case

Graduating senior Jacy Case is an independent music vocalist for her indie band "Headcase" and the co-president of the Student Musicians Coalition – a student organization supporting the music community at GW. Case said she has planned campus performances like the Day of the Arts Festival in Square 80 this past spring and facilitated music collaboration among students through open jam sessions and live performances. She said she has grown the presence of SMC through the events it markets to connect the GW community to music on campus.

"I started hosting

open mic nights, and that would be just me and my guitar," Case said. "And it was really cool because we started getting all of these people from all over the school. It's like coming and playing, and then towards the end it would just kind of be like an open jam session."

Nyle Hutchinson

Rising senior Nyle Hutchinson, an aspiring rapper, drummer and songwriter, said he broke his way into the music scene by working with student producers on campus, adding his lyrics to pre-released tracks and experimenting with multiple genres of backtracks from rap and hip hop to jazz.

"I like to speak from a place of authentic experiences and communicate what's impactful to me and important to me," Hutchinson said.

Inspired by artists like Joey Bada\$\$ and J.Cole, Hutchinson said he is currently working to release two or three songs this summer, bringing his writing to life through genres including jazz, rock and rap.

Salah Mohammed

Salah Mohammed, a rising junior, said he creates beats and works with GW student artists including graduating senior Collin Cadet and rising sophomore Astrid Nkemla as well as other rising industry artists as a self-made producer. Mohammed said he has engaged with a "rich community" of hip-hop,

R&B and rap artists at GW, recording in studios on the Mount Vernon Campus.

Astrid Nkemla

Astrid Nkemla, an independent rapper under the stage name Mafogang, dropped her first song "1, 2, 3" in February in her hometown of Cameroon before releasing her second song "Not Hot" one month later on platforms like Spotify, iTunes and Soundcloud. While "1, 2, 3" started as an inside joke with her sister as a classic dig against men, she said "Not Hot" shows maturity in her lyrics and vocals as a musician.

She said that the song itself translates the ambitious and fearless energy she personifies as an artist. Mafogang – a traditional name in Cameroon – means brave woman, someone who is not afraid to take risks.

Collin Cadet

Collin Cadet, formerly known as BLiNK, has been releasing rap music since 2017 after kicking off his artistic journey in high school writing diss tracks against rival schools. He released his first track, "Woke," which tapped into his passion for social justice after running his high school chapter of Black Lives Matter. Cadet said he took the time to reflect on his work, learning about what art, success and future plans look like for him, which helped him understand his creative process.

An exploration into D.C.'s vibrant antique scene

JACKSON LANZER
 STAFF WRITER

From the street, D.C.'s antique stores may look like a small shop to fix anyone's curiosity, but when you step inside its doors, you are transported into a paradise of museum-quality artifacts, art and age-old furniture.

D.C. is home to a few rich antique shops where visitors can find a distinct narrative – sometimes a tale of a distant origin or a surprising find. Throughout last month, I explored D.C.'s vibrant antique scene, uncovering stories hidden within collections around the District.

Here is the history behind five memorable, foreign antiques from two shops located within walking distance from GW – L'Enfant Gallery in Georgetown and the Dupont Little Flea Market in Dupont Circle:

Golden Mandalay sitting Buddha statue

Beside the front register near the entrance of the four-floored L'Enfant Gallery, I found a sitting Buddha statue whose story winds from Myanmar to Japan and finally to America. Peter Colasante, the director of L'Enfant Gallery, said the statue was crafted from wood and bejeweled with mirror stones mimicking the appearance of precious diamonds during the 19th century in Mandalay, the capital of the Kingdom of Myanmar prior to British rule.

He said before it was a collector's item, the statue – which is priced at \$4,000 – was likely a centerpiece of a home altar in Myanmar for daily Buddhist devotions like touching the statue, which could have faded

its gold coloring. Colasante said he purchased the statue from Clyde Litton, a former Army surgeon who found the statue in a market in Southeast Asia while he was stationed abroad during the American occupation of Japan and the Korean War in the 1940s and 1950s.

Cameroonian shield

Colasante said foreign diplomats and politicians frequently visit his shop, but one of his most memorable visits came from a delegation of dignitaries who were giving a Cameroonian chief a tour of D.C. several years ago, during which he gave the chief an antique as a gift.

Colasante said the chief gave him his wooden shield out of appreciation after Colasante gifted him an antique that the chief found to be prized in Cameroon and highly valued by the people from his country.

Colasante guesses that the shield was made in the first half of the 20th century, valuing the item at about \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Congo Nkisi

When climbing the steps towards the second floor of the gallery, customers will find a several-foot-tall wooden statue from the Democratic Republic of the Congo of a dog adorned with sharp metal nails across its entire body, giving the statue a frightening, tortured appearance. The wooden dog is covered in what appears to be wiring and rope around its torso and legs, and its face is carved with a gaping mouth that reveals jagged teeth and a pink tongue.

Priced at \$2,600, Colasante said he acquired the antique from a psychiatrist in D.C., who selected the piece during travels

all over the world.

The dog is a Nkisi – an object believed to possess "magical powers" – crafted as a "guardian figure" offering protection. Colasante said other Nkisi were created to bring about longevity and reproduction.

Shah Jahan paintings

A block from the crowded streets of the Dupont Circle farmers market sits the equally vibrant Dupont Little Flea Market, which sells a wide variety of foreign antiques like sculptures, art, coins and decorative knives in addition to music records, maps and jewelry. John Harvey, a former nonprofit executive, created the market in 2019 after he realized he could sell his personal collection of antiques that he accumulated during his years in the nonprofit industry.

Harvey showed me miniature, palm-sized portraits of Shah Jahan, the Mughal emperor who built the Taj Mahal during the 1630s and 40s, and Mumtaz Mahal, Shah Jahan's wife – both of which were created in the late 19th to early 20th century.

Wall of maps

Across from the table of antiques, the Little Flea Market hosts a wall of city maps, like Paris and Jerusalem, and paintings of everyday life from around the world, dating as far back as the 17th century.

One of the paintings on the wall depicts a bustling street in Old Jerusalem and was painted in the 1960s, and another engraving from the 1600s depicts Lake Zurich in Switzerland. Antique maps of colonial Peru, 19th century D.C. and 17th century England also adorn the wall.



The antiques are all located at two shops within walking distance of campus – L'Enfant Gallery in Georgetown and the Dupont Little Flea Market in Dupont Circle.

KRISHNA RAJPARA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Sports

GAMES OF THE WEEK



BASEBALL
vs. UMass
Friday 13 p.m.
The Colonials look for a final series victory before heading to the A-10 Championships.



TRACK AND FIELD
NCAA East Regionals
May 26-28
GW's men's and women's teams head to Indiana for the NCAA East Regionals.

NUMBER CRUNCH 50

The number of points women's rowing scored at the A-10 Championships, good for second place and a program record.

Track and field notches personal records at A-10 Championships

GABE LOPEZ
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Men's and women's track and field competed at the Atlantic 10 Championships with a series of school and personal records, many coming from the team's graduating runners.

The Colonials collected three first-place finishes throughout the meet as four runners earned all-conference honors, improving upon the team's performance from last year when GW's highest finish came in fourth place. The men's squad finished second to last in the A-10 in 10th place, and the women's team finished in 11th place out of 13 in the overall championship.

Junior Miles Grant set a new GW record of 6.85 meters in the men's long jump with a fifth-place finish at 7.04 meters. He also set the school record in the men's high jump earlier this season to add to his multiple indoor and outdoor records.

"I think, particularly, it was even more so an example of that in every race, there was just something to be proud of, somebody to be proud of, whether or not they finished as high as they wanted to," graduate Margaret Coogan said in an interview.

On the women's side, graduate Kathryn Nohilly set the school record in the women's 1,500-meter event earlier this season and picked up an all-conference recognition for her performance this season.

Nohilly finished first in the steeplechase with a 10:33.01 time and third in the 1,500 meter with a time of 4:34.63.

Coogan also earned all-conference in the women's steeplechase with a second-place time of 10:33.89.

"I think it's just a reward for the hard work that we've been putting in," she said. "And it's not like it's no surprise watching your teammates get first or second or whatever because you are with them every day."

"I think one of the really big strengths of our team is, well, like Margaret said, I think we always kind of shot for championship races because we're competitive against other teams," Nohilly said. "So I think that's a big strength, but I also think that a huge strength is kind of our culture in the sense of our support for one another as well. I feel like our team is really supportive of one another, even across the guys and women's team as well."

On the men's side, junior Ryan Fowkes made the all-conference team, winning the men's 1,500 meter with a time of 3:55.33. Fowkes broke GW's program record in the 1,500 meter at the Virginia Challenge earlier this season with a time of 3:45.56, nearly 10 seconds faster than his first-place finish last weekend.

Sophomore Kevin Conlon finished in tenth place in the men's 5,000-meter event with a time of



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Assistant Coach Samantha Nadel said the team spent the weeks before the meet preparing mentally and physically at GW's track field.

14:36.78, besting his previous record from earlier this season by more than eight seconds.

In addition to the all-conference honors, three other athletes set personal records in their events.

Assistant Coach Samantha

Nadel said the team spent the weeks before the meet preparing mentally and physically at GW's track field, racing against each other to compete at their fullest potential. Nadel said the women's team will look different next season because

seven athletes will graduate at the end of this season, leaving space for many new faces.

"We were really, really happy coming off the weekend, but we're still not done," Nadel said. "We have this weekend, we'll be competing."

Sailing qualifies for national championships in first season as club team

NURIA DIAZ
SPORTS EDITOR

GW's club sailing team will compete in a national sailing tournament in New Orleans this week in its first season since it was cut as an official athletic program at GW, after qualifying in a regional regatta earlier this month.

The Colonials qualified for the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association's National Championships after placing fifth out of 18 teams at the American Trophy Regatta – the regional tournament of the Middle Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association, a division within the ICSA. GW Sailing holds the highest ICSA ranking of any club in the country and ranks 12th among the nation's college athletic teams.

The national championship berth marks sailing's continued success in its first season as a club after GW cut the athletic program alongside five other sports in 2020. The cut stripped the team of its funding and coaching staff for the 2021-22 season, but the squad held its grip on national competition, placing tenth place at the Coed National Championship in October.

The Colonials registered 151 points overall, with 92 points from the Division A boat and 59 from the Division B boat, finishing nine points behind Georgetown, who recorded 142 points in total.

During the fall semester, the Colonials placed first at the Mid Atlantic Fall Dinghy Championships, earning 121 points in total after compiling

76 in Division A and 45 in Division B and reaching its 12th ranking in the ICSA.

"Once we won conference championships in the fall, that was when we realized, 'Okay, it's time to crack down a little bit more and get the intensity up and start focusing on the fact that we will be going to nationals, and we will be one of the most competitive teams there,'" sailing captain Ruby Gordon said in an interview. "And we're one of the most competitive teams."

Gordon said student-athletes had to rebuild the program without any guidance from their past coaching staff during what was a "super scary" transition to a club team from an athletic program recognized by GW. She said she was thankful for the seniors who stuck by the team and helped them continue sailing against varsity-level competition even as a club.

Gordon said the members of the team felt anxious and "on edge" leading up to the regatta, where qualifying for the national championships was on the line, but they relied on each other to turn their mindset around and have fun sailing. She said 14 seniors to graduate this spring, so the team will look to rebuild its talent in the freshman class while a more inexperienced team will need to continue its competitive pace into the fall season.

"I see us as really laying the groundwork for a large freshman class and showing them this is how we can and we will continue to operate," she said. "And this is what we'll do until we either are

reinstated as our city or we continue to be an incredibly successful club."

Gordon said the team still practices without a coach and can't afford a coaching salary without University funding, but they will work to recruit alumni and current sailors that have previous experience to coach them during the championship season. She said since the team is student-led, there have been more opportunities to see where athletes have been making mistakes and fix them as the students themselves run practices.

"So we all came into the gym knowing that it was a chance, that we had nothing to prove ourselves," she said. "But I know especially for me, I felt like, 'Okay, every regatta counts more than ever,' which I think should always be our mindset."

Junior captain Emma AuBuchon said the team struggled organizing their trip to New Orleans for nationals, juggling with logistics with the hotel, flight schedules and their individual schedules, but they all worked together to communicate plans to ensure the team would compete at nationals.

"Another aspect that was challenging for the captains was to make a lineup of sailors for nationals that would help the team be prepared for any weather conditions or unexpected scenarios," AuBuchon said. "As a club, planning the logistics for nationals required a lot of teamwork and communication to help all the moving parts fit together."



FILE PHOTO BY SYDNEY WALSH

Sailing captain Ruby Gordon said 14 seniors will graduate this spring, so the team will look to rebuild its talent in the freshman class.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

The conversations in the videos encourage student-athletes to start open discussions about mental health while fostering a supportive environment.

A-10 introduces video series to address mental health concerns

NURIA DIAZ
SPORTS EDITOR

The Atlantic 10 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee launched a series of mental health discussions this month to promote the ongoing national conversation on mental health's impact on student-athletes.

The committee, where student-athletes collaborate with administration, coaches and NCAA representatives, will release nine-part Mental Health Series throughout the month, featuring student-athletes who interview mental health professionals on ways to work against mental health issues like depression, anxiety and stigmas surrounding the issues. The initiative comes as recent suicides coupled with an overload of stress and burnout have raised mental health concerns for student-athletes across the country.

Several NCAA student-athletes have committed suicide this spring – Stanford soccer captain Katie Meyer, Wisconsin track athlete Sara Schultze and James Madison softball player Lauren Bennett – but the NCAA has yet to respond.

The committee launched the initiative to help student-athletes understand the impact mental health can have on their well-being and to promote psychological resources around the

league. The conversations in the videos encourage student-athletes to start open discussions about mental health while fostering a supportive environment.

Student-athletes at GW said in the fall that the pandemic caused their mental health to decline as they felt removed from the college environment and struggled to find a balance between their academics, athletics and personal lives.

GW Athletics spokesperson Brian Sereno said GW connects student-athletes to clinical sports physicians and psychologists who offer mental wellness consultation, and the athletic department relays information about mental health and stress management through monthly emails from Chris Hennelly – the athletics director for student-athlete health, well-being and performance. Chris Hennelly – the athletics director for student-athlete health, well-being and performance – has discussed mental health with GW coaches in previous years in addition to offering first-aid training to support student-athletes' health and wellness.

A clinical sports physician visits each athletic program three to four times per year to discuss mental health and how to manage the stress of the season with student-athletes. Sereno said a clinical

At least half of the

schools in the A-10 post hotlines for mental health services on their website, and four advertise university mental health programs where any student can meet with psychologists or counselors.

UMass Amherst is the only A-10 member school that offers its own mental health program for student-athletes. The program, called Peak Performance, provides mental health training for student-athletes to manage the demands of being a Division I athlete through stress coping and a positive mental outlook while building quality relationships in and out of their sports.

About 33 percent of college students suffer from significant symptoms of depression, anxiety or other mental health conditions, according to research by Athletes for Hope. About 30 percent of those who suffer from mental health crises seek help, and only 10 percent have reported adequate resources.

About 35 percent of professional athletes suffer from mental health crises that manifest as eating disorders, stress, depression, burnout and anxiety.

The NCAA released the results of a league-wide survey on student-athlete mental health last May, which revealed that one in 10 students reported feeling depression levels that impacted their work "constantly" or "almost every day."